



Dates of Interest

- Thursday, June 02, 2011
7:00pm Adult Ed- Parsha
of the Week- Rabbi
Wachsman
- Saturday, June 04, 2011
9:30am Shabbat Services
1:30pm Shabbat
Basketball
- Tuesday, June 07, 2011
7:30pm Erev Shavuot
Service, Study and Ice
Cream Social
- Wednesday, June 08, 2011
9:30 am Shavuot Day 1
Services
- Thursday, June 09, 2011
9:30 am Shavuot Day 2
Services Yizkor is
recited
- Saturday, June 18, 2011
9:30am Sam Rossum Bar
Mitzvah
3:30pm Shabbat
Basketball
- Saturday, June 25, 2011
9:30am Sterling Cohen
Bar Mitzvah
2:00pm Shabbat
Basketball
- Sunday, June 26, 2011
10:00am Congregational
Budget Meeting



Words cannot express the excitement that I feel as I sit here writing my first SOJC bulletin article. Although I have been writing Torah Sparks for several weeks now, there is something about writing a bulletin article that I find makes it all feel so much more real. Given my level of excitement at the moment, I can only imagine what it will be like when we finally make it to the moving stage and settling down in Orlando.

I am convinced, now more than ever, that the reason that my entire family feels so excited about my coming to be your rabbi is because the people of SOJC are just the kindest, warmest and nicest people we've ever met. Thank you so much for welcoming us so beautifully a few weeks ago. As we drove back to the hotel that evening, Sharon looked at me and said, "I'm really glad

Rabbi's Message

by

Rabbi Hillel Skolnik

we're moving here." And we are.

Over the coming months and years we will have many opportunities to get to know each other. Yet I am acutely aware of the fact that there is only one of me and many more of you. So I'd like to take this opportunity to invite you to come and visit me in my new office. My door is open to you and I hope that you will come by and spend a few minutes so that we can get to know each other.

This summer marks the beginning of a wonderful journey that we will all embark on together. And so I'd like to conclude with some of the words from *t'filat haderech*, "the traveler's prayer." May it be your will, Adonai, our God and God of our ancestors, to bless us with life, with joy and with peace as we journey forward. Send blessing and success to all our worldly endeavors, look upon us with generosity, mercy and compassion, and grant that others judge us kindly as well. Blessed are you, Adonai, God Who listens to prayer.

Sincerely,
Rabbi Hillel Skolnik

Dates of Interest (cont'd)

- Saturday, July 2, 2011
9:30am Shabbat Services
1:30pm Shabbat Basketball
- Saturday, July 9, 2011
9:30am Shabbat Services
Berry Baby Naming
2:00pm Shabbat Basketball
- Saturday, July 16, 2011
9:30am Shabbat Services
1:30pm Shabbat Basketball
- Saturday, July 23, 2011
9:30am Shabbat Services
1:30pm Shabbat Basketball
- Tuesday, August 9, 2011
Tisha B'Av
- Wednesday, August 24, 2011
5:30 pm First Day of
Religious School Year
2011-2012

Bar Mitzvah Samuel Rossum



Samuel Rossum son of Steven Rossum and Adina Fleeger-Rossum will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on **June 18, 2011**. Sam is currently in 7th grade at Chain of Lakes Middle School. His interests include guitar, drums, lacrosse, skateboarding and surfing.

Sam's favorite books are the Percy Jackson series, his favorite movie is School of Rock, his favorite tv show is The Simpsons, favorite band is Foo Fighters, and his favorite snack food is nachos.

Sharing in his family's simcha will be family members from Virginia and New York. Sam's Tikkun Olam project is volunteering at Give Kids the World Village. Any donations in honor of becoming Bar Mitzvah should be made to the Cantorial Corps.



From the Cantor by Cantor Doug Ramsay

Doubt is a reality of the human condition. Doubt can cause us to embark on endeavors we normally would be uncomfortable with, and doubt can cause us to freeze in our tracks unwilling to move forward. Our comfort with doubt keeps us humble, listening and receptive to new ideas as well as accepting of different people and their views. Doubt allows us to refrain from judging others too harshly. By contrast, the lack of doubt can be a cruel perversion of reality. Religious and political zealots abound in a confidence regarding their "rightness," yet the principles of their convictions can often contradict the humility, the compassion and the justice that our Torah demands from us. While seeing the world in the prism of black and white, right and wrong, may give us comfort temporarily, it is a comfort we cannot sustain. Those who eliminate the grey areas with broad sweeping "truths," find that they must continually bolster those convictions by finding people of a like mind to confirm their beliefs. While this separation can bolster unity, it can create a schism in the community or society at large that becomes difficult to bridge. Surrounding yourself only with people who agree with you is a recipe for severe blindness towards "outsiders." In our American society today it is increasingly becoming a sign of weakness to listen to those who disagree with us. We use labels and stereotypes irresponsibly to foment distrust amongst ourselves as well as between

ourselves and the rest of the world. I view this phenomenon as unfortunate and less than constructive.

Our own Talmud unabashedly portrays discourse and doubt, delving headlong into the shaded interpretations of our sacred texts in an effort to clarify how we should follow the words of those texts. Doubt, and expressing doubt, is a profound variety of bravery and strength. It is a form that is highly regarded by our sages. Highly regarded, that is, as long as doubt is used as a constructive force for growth, for compassion and for merciful justice...and not to cast a negative pallor upon humanity and the divine nature of life.

This Month we read from Parsha Shelach L'cha, the story of spies sent into the land of Canaan. Ten of the Twelve spies came back saying that the land was unconquerable because, compared to the inhabitants of the land, "we looked like grasshoppers to ourselves, and so we must have looked to them." When the populace agreed with this assertion it was obvious to the Almighty, just as it is obvious to us in hindsight, that His People were not ready for a land of their own. It was not their doubt that was the problem. It was the perception of their own self-worth, or lack thereof, and their lack of faith that God would deliver them that decided the issue. The repercussions of such an outlook cost Our People a 40 year

delay in the desert. Humility should never be confused with low self-esteem. The former is a virtue, the latter is not.

This month we also celebrate the Festival of Shavuot: the culmination of the liberation from Egypt during Pesach. We celebrate that culmination as the giving of Torah and Law to B'nai Yisrael and the beginning of redemption. Passage upon passage tells of the trials and tribulations of the people along the way. Doubt, in both its negative and positive expressions, is on full display to the reader. Had Moses allowed his own doubts to color his leadership in pessimism, the Children of Israel may well have died in the desert of unreach potential. Instead, he used his humility and compassion to defend the very people who betrayed him. A lack of doubt and humility, God knew at the burning bush, would have made Moses unfit for the leadership task at hand. Doubt can be a catalyst for change and for spiritual growth. Pessimism is a self-fulfilling prophecy for failure. Let each of us as individuals, and all of us as a community, channel our doubts and our differences towards strength. Let our dwelling together become a force towards Our Creator's glory!



Submitted by Cantor Ramsay

We had a wonderful year at the Religious School this year and we have all of you to thank for it! It takes a village to raise a child and it takes a committed Jewish community to instill Jewish identity and values into the coming generations. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my wonderful and talented staff for a fulfilling year of Jewish Education. Our teen teaching assistants were truly outstanding this year and of great help to our teaching staff. Of course, the work of our PTA in coordinating and preparing snacks, planning, funding, and putting on celebrations and events, supporting classroom events, and coordinating parent volunteers. Eve Marsel heads up the PTA. Thank you Eve!

I hope you were able to make the end of the year assembly to watch your child and his or her class present to the rest of the school some of what they learned this year. I am very proud of all of our students and what they have accomplished this year, particularly the B'nai Mitzvah class.

I wish all of you a safe, productive, and fulfilling summer with family and friends. I hope to see you on Shabbat over the summer and look forward to seeing you again when school starts again for another fabulous year!

Here is when our religious school begins the new schedule:

8/24/11 5:30pm First Day of Religious School for Grades 3-7
8/28/11 9:00am Religious School for Grades K-7

Torah Team News by Cantor Doug Ramsay

This May Yvonne Bleecker and Jules Gelade both read Torah with inspiration. Mel Marsel, Bella Katz, and Jules Gelade all chanted Haftarat beautifully. Mel Marsel, Ed Bromberg, and Alan Roufa also assisted in leading services on Shabbat mornings.

These adult Laypeople are an inspiration to us all. Some of them have honed their skills all their lives, but most have come to their mastery of these

skills during adulthood and continue to practice these skills in service to our synagogue. If you would like to learn, or want to get on the list to read Torah, Haftarah or to lead a service, or if you just want more info, e-mail me at cantor@sojc.org. It's a mitzvah, it's uplifting, and it's a wonderful experience!

Torah Team reads Torah:
Saturday, June 25th
Saturday, July 9th



Cantorial Corps News by Cantor Doug Ramsay



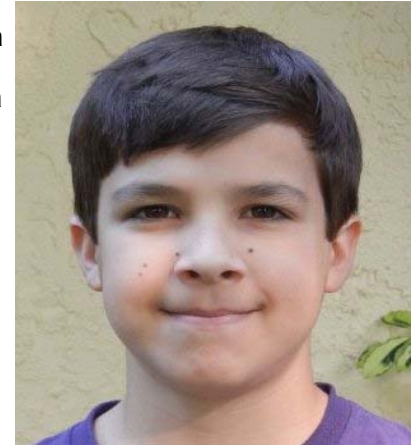
In May Shana Medel read Torah with confidence, competence, and skill. Joshua Fischer and Jacob Rubenstein and Shana Medel led Shabbat services beautifully.

Mazel Tov to Susie Bechor on the simcha of her Bat Mitzvah and to Reed Peyton on the simcha of his Bar Mitzvah. They both did a beautiful job and I look forward to their continuing involvement in their Jewish community here at SOJC.

Next Cantorial Corps Shabbat: Saturday, June 25th

L'shalom v'shira,
Cantor Doug Ramsay

B'nai Mitzvah Sterling Cohen



Sterling Cohen son/ daughter of Alan Cohen and Maria Cohen will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on **June 25, 2012**. Sterling is currently in 6th grade at South West Middle School.

His interests include Gymnastics, White water rafting, and hiking. Sterling's favorite book is Lightning Thief, favorite movie is The Italian Job, favorite TV Show is Mythbusters, favorite band is the Beatles, and his favorite snack food is ice cream.

Sharing in his family's simcha will be his parents, cousin, brother, uncle, aunt and grandma.

Any donations in honor of Sterling becoming a Bar Mitzvah should be made to SOJC.

Newsletter Sponsorship
Your Family dedication will go here!
\$100 sponsors a newsletter in your special month!

Sponsor a Kiddush for \$36
Contact the SOJC Office at office@sojc.org or call 407-239-5444



President's Message

Michele Fischer

When I was younger, we knew that summer was approaching by the TV guide. It didn't seem like there was much to watch. Some of my favorite shows would air their nail-biting cliff hangers, others were closing with a poignant series finale. Some may feel that SOJC follows this pattern. As the summer approaches, the religious school closes its doors, Shabbat dinners are put on hiatus until August, and many of our congregants go on vacation.

Nowadays, however, as I scroll through my TV guide index, I have noticed a fairly new phenomenon. Brand new shows are actually airing over the summer. That never happened when I was growing up! You could watch the same episode of Cannon or Barnaby Jones or the Mary Tyler Moore show for the third time, but never were there new shows or an entirely new series. I am sure TV execs noticed that viewership plummeted during this time and in an attempt to increase viewers and advertising dollars, a radical

idea was introduced. Why not have people pay attention to their favorite network all year and why not give the viewers something new to watch. So You Think You Can Dance, Food Network Cook-off's, as well as new primetime detective shows are becoming the norm in the summer. Things do not have to completely shut down even though it is summer!

SOJC will be following this lead. We too will be here during the summer. Every Shabbat service will offer a brand new, never before heard, sermon, new and prospective members will arrive, and some new activities will even blossom. Girls night out is one of these new ideas! Look for your Facebook invite this summer! Our new spiritual leader Rabbi Hillel Skolnik, his wife Rabbi Sharon Skolnik and their daughter Dafna will become Floridians and permanent fixtures at SOJC.

Yes, SOJC will be open every Shabbat and every holiday for your spiritual

enrichment. Get out of the heat and enjoy the air conditioned comfort of our sanctuary. Join us and bring your friends. Introduce them to the beauty and serenity of Cantor Ramsay's singing and let them be inspired by Rabbi Skolnik's words of Torah. Encourage those with small children and young families to share a Friday night Shabbat service with our congregational family. For those who enjoy a more traditional approach, come celebrate Shabbat morning with SOJC. This is a time of growth and renewal for SOJC and we are open for your spiritual pleasure all year long!

Don't wait for the new fall season. Be part of the SOJC family now and help us to grow the South Orlando Jewish community!

JUNE 2011 ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Martin & Michelle Akerman
- 2 Scott Gordon & Dianne Zullo
- 4 David & Paula Fitzer
- 7 Joseph & Pamela Jamoom
- 11 Laurence & Rosalind Beltzer
- 14 Bill & Doris Abramson
- 15 Richard & Jodi Victor
- 18 Scott & Eve Marsel
- 23 Gershon & Goldie Klein
- 28 Jonathan & Lauren Laski
- 28 Tom & Linda Nelson
- 29 Paul & Shelley Roth



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2011
at
10:00 AM**

**in the
SOJC SANCTUARY**

Donations to SOJC in May

**Yvonne Bleecker
Charlotte Wasser
Jerome & Helen Lewin**

Thank you!

June 2011 BIRTHDAYS



1	Jacob Kesten	11	Sheryl Bechor	16	Scott Marsel	25	Richard Victor
1	Virginia Kolin	11	Dan Rubenstein	17	Arthur Siegel	26	Elizabeth Mack
3	Matthew Bechor	12	Dylan Gordon	19	Alan Klavans	27	Max Geller
4	Corey Kamenoff	12	Deborah Siegel	19	Peter M oody	28	Goldie Klein
5	Rachel Bolusky	14	Tamara Kaufman	20	Jacob Gerstenblitt	28	Oscar Rubenstein
5	Matthew Marsel	14	Marissa Priceman	21	Susana Havas	29	Gerald Priceman
5	Andrew Monroe	15	Amy Imber	21	Frances Solomon	30	Phyllis Zunk
5	Lenn Myerson	15	Victoria Karen	23	Stacy Gerstenblit		
5	Samuel Rossum	15	Alan Solomon	23	Debra Goodman		
7	Marion Wolfman	16	Doris Abramson	24	Justin Brozanski		
9	Hannah Geller	16	Sterling Cohen	25	Shelly Blatt		

Lifelong Learner's Lamppost Shavuot Services

Tuesday, June 7, 2011	Facilitator	Tikkun Leyl Shavuot
7:30 pm		Services
8:00pm		First Set of Study Sessions Begin
	Ed Bromberg	"What DNA has to tell us about the history of the Jewish People"
	Rich Waldor	"Hebrew for Shavuot"
	Dan Rubenstein	Kids' Program (K-5)
8:45 PM -- 9:15 pm:		Ice Cream Social
9:15 pm		Second Set of Study Sessions Begin
	Mark Silverstein	Torah Trivia"
	Jeff Fischer	(Topic to be determined)
10:00 pm:		Adjourn

June 2011 YAHRZEIT MEMORIAL



2011/5771 DATE	DEPARTED	OBSERVER	2011/5771 DATE	DEPARTED	OBSERVER
June 1, 2011 28 Iyar	Nathan Blaweiss	Helen Lewis	June 12, 2011 10 Sivan	Robert Bolusky	Ben Bolusky
June 1, 2011 28 Iyar	Sadie Kotzin	Gordon Kotzin	June 13, 2011 11 Sivan	Bernard Cohen	Lorrie Levine
June 1, 2011 28 Iyar	Jennie Snitz	Andrew Snitz	June 17, 2011 15 Sivan	Martin Litvack	Michele Anetrella
June 2, 2011 29 Iyar	Lila Fishman	Scott Fishman	June 17, 2011 15 Sivan	Stephen Ramsay	Doug Ramsay
June 2, 2011 29 Iyar	Bella Schonbach	Miriam Lewis	June 18, 2011 16 Sivan	Nachman Kaufman	Sam Kaufman
June 2, 2011 29 Iyar	Tymoteusz Sujka	Stan Sujka	June 18, 2011 16 Sivan	Marilyn Oshman	Andra Oshman Bruce
June 2, 2011 29 Iyar	Fanny Wolarsky	Marian Bromberg	June 18, 2011 16 Sivan	Isaac Roitman	Gabriela Roitman- Geller
June 3, 2011 1 Sivan	Morris Bleecker	Yvonne Bleecker	June 20, 2011 18 Sivan	Louis Block	Phyllis Zunk
June 3, 2011 1 Sivan	Irving Gordon	Anna Gordon	June 20, 2011 18 Sivan	Aaron Kahan	Golde Finkler
June 3, 2011 1 Sivan	Frank Sandick	Flo Sandick	June 23, 2011 21 Sivan	Margot Sandick	Flo Sandick
June 4, 2011 2 Sivan	Louis Kerzner	Karen Gelade	June 24, 2011 22 Sivan	Lippo Ginsburg	Scott Regen
June 6, 2011 4 Sivan	Meyer Hartman	Paula Kotzin	June 24, 2011 22 Sivan	Jacob Kristal	Rosalind Beltzer
June 6, 2011 4 Sivan	Allen Pait	Abby Pait	June 25, 2011 23 Sivan	Arnold Salit	Rose Salit
June 9, 2011 7 Sivan	Shirley Rossum	Steve Rossum	June 29, 2011 27 Sivan	Edwin Lyon	Flo Sandick
June 10, 2011 8 Sivan	Bella Fried	Henry Fried	June 30, 2011 28 Sivan	Alexander Fried	Henry Fried
June 10, 2011 8 Sivan	Natalie Lubin	Ed Lubin	June 30, 2011 28 Sivan	Paul Rothstein	Nathaniel Rothstein
June 11, 2011 9 Sivan	Katkozoch Rothstein	Nathaniel Rothstein			

AMERICA'S LARGEST AWARD SUPPLIER

CROWN TROPHY

Cheryl K. Robbins

Ph: 407-363-7477

Fx: 407-363-7478

Email: crownorlando@bellsouth.net

Crown Trophy of Orlando

7901 Kingspointe Parkway, Suite 7

Orlando, FL 32819

www.crowntrophy.com



FLORIDA
UROLOGY

Jeffrey B. Fischer, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Zaid A. Fadhi, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Diplomats of the American Board of Urology

ADULT & PEDIATRIC UROLOGY

431 West Oak Street
Kissimmee, FL 34741

Phone: 407-933-2500
Toll Free: 800-352-8765
Fax: 407-933-2502

Ext. _____

www.LAActing.com



1575 So. Maguire Ocoee, FL 34761

Office: 407-876-0006 Studio: 407-656-0026 Fax: 407-876-6683

Television
Film
Commercials
Stage • Voice
Professionals
Adults • Teens
Children



STAN K. SUJKA, MD, FACS

ORLANDO UROLOGY ASSOCIATES
DRS. KESSEL, WELCH, SUJKA, MELCER & BAKER

41 WEST KALEY STREET
ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32806
(FX) 407-843-4519
(PH) 407-843-6645

9430 TURKEY LAKE ROAD
ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32819
(FX) 407-351-5327
(PH) 407-352-8151

SOJC Board of Directors



If you know of any unaffiliated Jews in the Southwest Orlando area, please give their name and number to the office at (407) 239-5444. We would like to invite and welcome them to attend our social events throughout the year.

Rabbi

Hillel Skolnik

Coming Soon

Cantor

Doug Ramsay.....cantor@sojc.org

President

Michele Fischerjjjfisch@hotmail.com

1st Vice President

Ellen Regen.....eregen@cfl.rr.com

2nd Vice President

Vivian Kerstein vkerstein@gmail.com

3rd Vice President

Brian Gordon gordonbbg1@aol.com

Treasurer

Cheryl Weinercheryl.nathanweiner@gmail.com

Financial Secretary

Shelly Blatt rnshelly80@aol.com

Recording Secretary

Ben Bolusky..... bbolusky@fngla.org

Directors

Ed A. Bromberg..... ebromberg@comcast.net

Harlene Matza orlandoafiac@yahoo.com

Jeff Sikora..... jgsikora@gmail.com

Joe Jamoom. cruiseconsultant@embarqmail.com

Jules Gelade sumyum@rhody.ws

Larry E. Wolfman tmiwolf@aol.com

Honorary Directors

Elias Friedman & Valerie Denner Kane

www.sojc.org 407-239-5444

11200 South Apopka Vineland Road Orlando, FL 32836



WWW.SOJC.ORG

Come visit our new website:

View the SOJC Calendar including all events and services Youth programs, Religious School dates, Family Programs... get it all!

- View our newsletters
- Download registration and membership forms
- Learn about USY, Kadima and the Cantorial Corps
- Read about our fantastic Religious School
- Contact us directly through the website
- More content and features are being added every week

Thank you to Jacob Weiner and Jeff Sikora for donating their time and efforts to bring our presence back to the web!