

## January Calendar of Events

- Wed. Jan. 4—"Current Events" with Helman Brook, 7:30pm
- Thurs. Jan. 5—Religious School, 4:00pm; Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class, 6:30pm
- Fri. Jan. 6—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm
- Sat. Jan. 7—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation Class, 11:00am
- Sun. Jan. 8—Israeli Guide Dog Presentation, 2:30pm
- Mon. Jan. 9—Adult Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am; Lunch & Learn, 11:30am; Hebrew Practice & Review, 7:30pm
- Tues. Jan. 10—Religious School, 4:00pm
- Thurs. Jan. 12—Religious School, 4:00pm; "Wisdom Literature" Class, 7:30pm
- Fri. Jan. 13—Shul Talk, 7:15pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm
- Sat. Jan. 14—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation Class, 11:00am
- Sun. Jan. 15—GN Clergy Association Martin Luther King Jr. Service, 3:30pm at St. Paul's AME Zion Church, 119 Steamboat Rd.
- Tues. Jan. 17—Religious School, 4:00pm
- Thurs. Jan. 19—Religious School, 4:00pm; Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class, 6:30pm; "Wisdom Literature" Class, 7:30pm
- Fri. Jan. 20—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm
- Sat. Jan. 21—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation Class, 11:00am
- Mon. Jan. 23—Adult Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am; Hebrew Practice & Review, 7:30pm
- Tues. Jan. 24—Religious School, 4:00pm
- Thurs. Jan. 26—Religious School, 4:00pm; "Wisdom Literature", 7:30pm
- Fri. Jan. 27—Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:15pm
- Sat. Jan. 28—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Shabbat Morning Service, 10:30am, Bagel & Nosh collation
- Mon. Jan. 30—Adult Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am
- Tues. Jan. 31—Religious School, 4:00pm (early dismissal)

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**Just go to [www.giftcents.com](http://www.giftcents.com) and check the Merchant List to see all the stores that participate in this program.** Then call Terry Joseph (466-2971) or the office (487-5373) and let us know what cards you would like to order. Or email your order to [isaiahgn@yahoo.com](mailto:isaiahgn@yahoo.com)

**It's as simple as that!**

**Chanukah Dinner  
Pictures on Page 7**

## **RABBI'S COLUMN**

### **The "God Particle"**

For those who may not be up-to-date on the latest intense interest among physicists these days, it's the discovery – or validation of the existence – of the sub-atomic particle known as the Higgs boson. Don't fret if you didn't catch the occasional articles in the New York Times recently about this latest quest among particle physicists who concentrate on the atomic and sub-atomic world of matter and energy. The Higgs boson is a *hypothetical* elementary particle that is predicted by the Standard Model (SM) of particle physics. The Standard Model postulates the fundamental basis of all matter (and energy) and is based on a set of particles at the atomic and sub-atomic level that constitutes everything. When most of us went to elementary school, we only were taught about electrons, protons and neutrons, the latter two forming the nucleus of an atom with electrons flying in orbits around it. That was the beginnings of the Standard Model. In the years since the original conception of the SM, a goodly number of sub-atomic particles have been predicted – and proven to exist through experiments – that provide further clarity of the nature of the atom and the universe. We now include particles called Neutrinos, Bosons, Mesons, Photons, Gravitons, etc. in the SM. How wonderful is the human mind, and how capable it is of imaging a world that behaves according to the laws of physics and mathematics! As a rabbi, I can only believe that the secrets of the universe are accessible to human intellect and human comprehension by the *grace* of God. Scripture suggests that there are things that are unknown and things that are made manifest to humans. The fact that the natural world seems to behave in a predictable and consistent manner is evidence (at least to me) of a Divine desire to make the world understandable to us and therefore subject our control to some degree.

Currently, the Higgs boson remains a hypothetical (ie. unproven) elementary particle that is predicted by the SM of particle physics. The existence of the Higgs boson would help explain why and how other particles (protons, neutrons, electrons, etc.) have *mass*. If the Higgs boson is shown to exist, it would validate the SM as essentially correct – a large leap forward in humankind's mastery of the world as Adam was commanded to do during the days of Creation. In short, the Higgs boson is the last particle needed to complete the theory of all matter and energy that exists in the universe. Accordingly, experiments are currently underway to find out whether or not the Higgs boson exists at the newly constructed Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN in Geneva, Switzerland. Last month, physicists at the LHC at CERN sifted through the debris from high-energy proton collisions in an effort to detect the Higgs boson. As with any complicated endeavor, the results of the analysis still awaits a definitive answer. The experiments narrowed the range of the search for the particle, but still left open any clear answer. However, physicists around the world are excited in anticipation of a definitive result by the end of summer, 2012.

The Higgs boson particle is sometimes referred in the popular media as the "God particle," after the title of Leon Lederman's popular science book on particle physics, *"The God Particle: If the Universe Is the Answer, What Is the Question?"* While the use of this term may have contributed to increased media interest, many scientists dislike it, since it overstates its importance, because there are remaining fundamental questions related to the SM that need to be yet resolved – not the least the effects of gravity at the atomic level – and the ultimate origin of the universe. The good news is that physicists seem to be on the verge of a breakthrough that will confirm empirical evidence with mathematically based theory.

With all of this, I am reminded of the words of our High Holy Day Machzor that we read at the conclusion of the Yom Kippur afternoon service: *"When I consider the heavens, the work of Your hands, and when I gaze at the measureless sea of space and the endless host of stars that sail in it; and when I set out to understand this marvel and its tremendous Maker – then Your greatness and power overwhelm me; Your infinite majesty makes me tremble with awe. For the worlds beyond count are but a breath of Your spirit, the lucent suns only beams of Your light. O what are we, that You have given us eyes to see something of Your truth? What am I, that You have given me thought to fathom something of Your purpose?"* (GOR p 520) In truth, every part of us and the world around us contains a part of God, so we are each a "God particle." Having been created in the *"b'tzelem Elohim,"* a shadow of God, we are endowed with a spark – a particle – of God.

With much love to you on the beginning of the secular year 2012,

*Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka*

## **CANTOR'S COLUMN**

### **The Evolution of Jewish Sacred Music**



What is music in the Reform tradition and how does it fit into the history of Jewish music? Well, let's go back to the beginning. The musical tradition of the synagogue -- for all the branches of Judaism -- was born during the time of the original Temple in Jerusalem. Huge groups of Levite choirs and instrumentalists assembled to intone the Psalms. Then, in 70 C.E., the Temple was destroyed and the practice of sacrifices ended. The service was changed to include the chanting of liturgy and Bible cantillation. We continue these customs to this day, and the liturgy with its storehouse of music has developed and increased dramatically over the past two thousand years.

When the Temple was destroyed all instrumental music was banned, as it became a time of national mourning for the loss of state independence and the right to worship at a Temple service. Synagogues gradually emerged in place of the Temple and prayer became a substitute for sacrifices. Vocal music alone remained, which took the place of the Levite instrumentalists and choirs.

The musical tradition that we hear in today's synagogue is comprised of four main elements. The first element developed over several centuries. Jews chanted many special liturgical melodies, which became so cherished and traditional, they became known as *mi-sinai* tunes, as if they were handed down from Mt. Sinai. Some of these melodies can be found in music that we sing in our own services.

The second major contribution to Jewish synagogue music is the tradition of using modes as a basis for cantorial music. A mode is a group of tones arranged on a scale and each Jewish mode carries a characteristic mood. The modes form the substance of *nusach*, the musical characteristic of the prayer.

The third element that helped form the core of liturgical musical tradition is cantillation, which is actually the oldest of the three. This is the term we use to describe the manner of chanting the Bible.

The fourth component, and probably the Reform Movement's greatest contribution to Jewish music, is choral music. The development of synagogue choral music happened much later than the other three elements (cantillation, modes and *nusach*, and *mi-sinai* melodies) and in the past two centuries an enormous treasury of Jewish choral music has been composed. Originally written for the Reform congregations, much of this same music is now standard in Conservative synagogues as well.

All of our sacred music is an expression of our Judaism, no matter how these different strands evolved.

*Cantor Leslie Friedlander*

### **Rabbi's Class: Wisdom Literature beginning 1/12**

The last third of the Tanach, the Jewish Bible, otherwise known as Ketuvim, contains a variety of literature that addresses the everyday needs of everyday people. Among the selections of Ketuvim include the megillot of Esther (Purim), Ruth (Shavuot), and Echah (Tisha B'Av), and Kohelet (Sukkot). In addition to these books is a selection of literature that address the needs and hopes of the everyday person. They are known as "Wisdom Literature," and comprise an amazing compilation of epithets and verses that help guide us in navigating the world in which we live: a world of uncertainty and contradiction. Over the next 5 weeks, we will be exploring the wisdom of those writers who comment on the daily circumstance of the world and suggest an overriding philosophy that makes sense out of contradiction. We will begin the journey together on Thursday, 1/12 at 7:30 with an examination of the definition of "Wisdom" and views of Kohelet

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### New Year's Message

By now, all the gifts have been opened, and have been returned to their respective stores, and it's time to look forward to the new year.

I am grateful for all the good that is in my life and towards the top of my list (and I hope yours) is my relationship with the Temple. Most Friday nights, and now the last Saturday of the month, I attend Temple, and unlike the gym, I don't have to break a sweat to get energized and feel I'm doing my body good, both spiritually and physically.

The new Siddur is a little heavier than the last prayer book, but we are learning to manage it and the material it contains.

I'm also pleased to hear the voice of our new Cantor. Not only is her voice outstanding, but she explains some of the passages we read and puts her own spin on the music we've traditionally heard and sung. Of course Rabbi Ted adds his own warmth and scholarly perspective to his services, and I always look forward to his sermons. Whether you agree with his point of view or not, you know much time and research went into his preparation.

Temple Isaiah is a unique place - if you have not taken full advantage of all the programs and events that are offered, let 2012 be a new beginning. The temple is at its strongest when the seats are full and the sounds reverberate.

Best wishes for a happy and health new year. I look forward to seeing you soon and often.

*Martin Secofsky*

### MARCIA NULL'S Recipe for Sweet Potato Soufflé (from 2011 Chanukah Dinner)

Several attendees at the Chanukah Dinner requested the recipe I used for my Sweet Potato Soufflé. I found the recipe at [www.foodnetwork.com](http://www.foodnetwork.com), and the recipe is credited to Mike Greene at Matthews Cafeteria in Tucker, GA. Please NOTE that I altered the recipe (see my notes after recipe).

Prep Time: 15 min.

Cook Time: 1 hr.

Serves: 4 to 6 servings

#### Ingredients

3 pounds sweet potatoes, cubed	1 tspn salt	1 ½ cups softened butter	6 large eggs
½ cup self-rising flour	3 cups sugar	¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon	1/8 tspn nutmeg

#### Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Boil the potatoes in water with 1 teaspoon of salt until tender. Drain the potatoes and cool to room temperature. Process the potatoes with remaining ingredients in a blender and pour into a greased 9 by 13-inch casserole pan.

Bake in the oven for 1 hour or until set and lightly browned.

#### Marcia's Notes:

After reading the many reviews available at the website, I opted to add just 1 cup sugar instead of the listed 3 cups (which I think worked very well). Also, I doubled the recipe for the Chanukah Dinner and used 1 very deep disposable pan (which I had to support on a cookie sheet while baking). (Also, when I transported it, I slipped another empty deep disposable pan under it for additional support.) Because of that, I had to bake it for 2 hours (I was checking with a toothpick constantly), and the top got a darker shade than "lightly browned". Also, I learned after processing the first amount (and trying to get it all into my blender at one time and getting a mess), that it worked best by putting HALF the original recipe into my blender and processing it and then doing it again. GOOD LUCK!

# January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <b>Happy New Year!</b>	2	3 Religious School, 4:00pm  Board Meeting, 7:30pm	4 “Current Events” with Helman Brook, 7:30pm	5 Religious School, 4:00pm; Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class, 6:30pm	6 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	7 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am Cantillation class, 11:00am
8 <i>Israeli Guide Dog</i> Presentation, 2:30pm Come meet Ginger, a puppy in training	9 Adult Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am; <i>Lunch &amp; Learn</i> , 11:30am; Hebrew Practice & Review, 7:30pm	10 Religious School, 4:00pm	11	12 Religious School, 4:00pm  New Rabbi Class: “Wisdom Literature”, 7:30pm	13 Shul Talk, 7:15pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	14 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am Cantillation class, 11:00am
15 (Rain Date For Guide Dog Program)  GN Clergy Assn MLK Service, 3:30pm	16 <b>Martin Luther King Day</b>	17 Religious School, 4:00pm	18	19 Religious School, 4:00pm; Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class, 6:30pm; Wisdom Literature Class #2, 7:30pm	20 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	21 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am Cantillation class, 11:00am
22	23 Adult Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am  Hebrew Practice & Review, 7:30pm	24 Religious School, 4:00pm	25	26 Religious School, 4:00pm; Wisdom Literature Class #3, 7:30pm	27 Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:15pm	28 Torah Study, 9:30am Shabbat Morning Service, 10:30am, Bagel & Nosh Collation
29	30 Adult Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am	31 Religious School, 4:00pm (Early Dismissal)				



# Religious School News

The students of our Religious School raised over \$250 on a bake sale to support American Friends of Mier Panim – an organization based in Israel that provides food and nourishment to indigent Israelis in a restaurant-like setting that maintains their dignity and feeling of self-worth. Thanks are due to the families that baked goods for the sale and for all those who bought their products.

As we enter the last 5 months of our school year, we are looking forward to a productive and educational year for our students. Most importantly, we are striving to instill within our students a strong sense of Jewish identity – what it means to be Jewish and the what it means to live a Jewish life.

*Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka*

## Meet Ginger from the Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind



**Ginger is a golden retriever currently being trained to help blind people in Israel achieve independence and mobility at no cost to the individual.**

**Come see Ginger and her trainer Jeff Lambert in a demonstration, short video and discussion of the various mitzvah projects available through the Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind program.**

**Sunday, January 8th 2:30pm  
(No charge)**

# General Donations

## *In Loving Memory Of:*

Peter Alpert, Son of Beatrice & Irving Alpert  
 Seymour Alpert, Brother of Irving Alpert  
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## *Tree of Life:*

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 Corinne Coe

## *21st Century Fund:*

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 Willa Lewis & Edward Moulin  
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 Alisa & Martin Secofsky  
 Shelley Sherman  
 The Temple Isaiah "Bulletin"  
 Haruno Tsuruoka

## *Rabbi's Chanukah Appeal:*

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## *Prayerbook Fund:*

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## *President's Wall:*

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## *Chanukah 2011*





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 Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism  
 Issue No. 124 Published Monthly

*Deadline for submissions—10th of the Month*

## ***On-Line Edition***

### **BULLETIN**

President: Martin Secofsky  
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 Cantor: Leslie Friedlander  
 Production: Cathy Reibstein  
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