



# TREE OF LIFE CONGREGATION

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

**"KOL T.O.L." — THE "VOICE OF THE TREE OF LIFE"  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

DECEMBER 2011 / KISLEV – TEVET, 5772

## DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

### Friday, Dec. 2

6:30 p.m. Potluck Shabbat Dinner  
7:30 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service led by  
*Kitah Hey* (5<sup>th</sup> level Hebrew class)  
*Torah Reading: Vayeitsei, Gen. 28:10 – 32:3*

### Friday, Dec. 9\*

6:45 p.m. KIDZ Shabbat  
7:30 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service  
*Torah Reading: Vayishlach, Gen. 32:4 – 36:43*

### Saturday, Dec. 10

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Bat Mitzvah Service of  
Stephanie Carr

### Friday, Dec. 16

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service with Rabbi Marcus  
*Torah Reading: Vayeishev, Gen. 37:1 – 40:23*

### Friday, Dec. 23 Shabbat of Chanukah

6:00 p.m. Chanukah Dinner & Candle Lighting  
7:00 p.m. Special Family Service  
*Torah Reading: Mikkeitz, Gen. 40:1 – 44:17*

### Friday, Dec. 30

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Eve Service  
*Torah Reading:*  
*Vayiggash, Gen. 44:18 – 47:27*

### Saturday, Dec. 31

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Bar Mitzvah Service of  
Gabe Contino

### Friday, Jan. 6, 2012

7:30 p.m. Shabbat Evening Bat Mitzvah Service of  
Sarah Shtessel  
*Torah Reading: Vayeichi, Gen. 47:28 – 50:26*

\*childcare available

We wish everyone a very  
Happy Chanukah!  
May your candles burn bright  
during this Festival of Light!



First Night of Chanukah is  
Tuesday, Dec. 20.  
Last Day of Chanukah is  
Wednesday, Dec. 28.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Temple News</i>	2
<i>From the Rabbi</i>	3
<i>Religious School</i>	4-5
<i>Youth News</i>	6
<i>Sisterhood &amp; Green Team</i>	7
<i>Chanukah</i>	8-9
<i>Brotherhood &amp; Social Action</i>	10
<i>Member News</i>	11
<i>Community News</i>	12
<i>Yahrzeits</i>	13
<i>Contributions</i>	14
<i>Calendar</i>	15

## TEMPLE NEWS

### **TOL BUCKS BACK FUNDRAISER PROGRAM**

**Need gifts for the holiday? Make it easy for yourself by buying gift cards through TOL's Bucks Back Program which in turn raises money for the temple!**

The holidays are right around the corner, and it's time to think about gifts for family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and teachers, as well as holiday travel (airline, hotels, rental cars, gas cards)! Our Bucks Back Program helps raise money for many areas within the Tree of Life Congregation. It's such an easy way to help out! You can order gift cards for others or use them with a retailer to purchase the gifts you'll be giving.

The deadline for the last order of the year is **Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00 p.m. For your convenience, PrestoPay orders can be made any time on Sunday.

**Where:** Submit order form (at <http://www.tolsc.org/>) with your check (made payable to Tree of Life Temple, Memo: Scrip Order) to the Temple office.

**Receive Order:** Available for pick-up by Friday, December 9, 2011.

**Thank you for your support!**

### **Giving to Make a Difference**

Please join the Tree of Life Religious School in helping families at the **Family Shelter of Columbia** enjoy a happy holiday season. Here is what to do in three easy steps:

1. **Simply choose** a family member or members' card (one or more!) from the different families that we have adopted.
2. **Write out info** on the list near the display board (across from Sanctuary).
3. **Return by December 13** with a wrapped (generic winter wrap is fine) gift with adopted person's name attached.



**Tzedakah** is a commandment that all Jews share to provide for those in need. Thank you for sharing with others in our community during this winter season.

**Questions?** Please call Religious School Board Chairperson Kim Moses at 807-1074 or Risa at 787-2182.

**For more info about the Family Shelter of Columbia go to [www.columbiafamilyshelter.org](http://www.columbiafamilyshelter.org)**



**Save the Date!**  
**TOL Annual Wine Tasting**  
**Saturday, February 18, 2012**

**Mark your calendars for the TOL Annual Wine Tasting, an evening of food, fun, and – of course – wine!**

**The festivities will kick off at 7p.m. at the Gregg Park clubhouse. In addition to the delicious wines and heavy hors d'oeuvres, this FUNdraiser will include a silent auction and dessert table.**

**More details to come in the 2012 newsletters, but add this event to your social calendar now!**



### **WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS SUMMER?**

Believe it or not, it is not too early to begin thinking about a Jewish summer sleep away camp for your child. There are three wonderful Union for Reform Judaism camps – **Camp Coleman** and **6-Points Sports Academy** for elementary and middle school students and **Kutz Camp** for high school students – that offer an invaluable Jewish living experience for youth. Our congregation is committed to helping provide our children with this type of summer opportunity. Last year 14 children enjoyed a URJ Jewish summer sleep-away camp. For more information, please speak with Rabbi Sherman or Risa Strauss. Financial aid is available!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

**THE BIG NOSH**  
**Tree of Life Congregation's Annual Jewish Cultural and Food Festival**  
**Sunday, April 22, 2012**

The BIG NOSH will be even bigger and better this year, as we build on last year's success. Please plan on helping out and supporting TOL's biggest event of the year. Lots of volunteer opportunities are available and needed. More details to follow soon!

TOL Welcomes to Shabbat Services

### **MAGEVET**

*The premiere co-ed Jewish, Hebrew, and Israeli  
A Cappella group at Yale University.*



Magevet will join us for services on Friday evening, **Dec. 30 at 7:30pm**. After participating in our Shabbat Eve worship, they will perform at the Oneg Shabbat. Please plan on joining us for this very special evening.

If you would be interested in hosting a Magevet student for Shabbat, please contact Rabbi Sherman.

Visit [www.magevet.com](http://www.magevet.com) for more info.

## FROM THE RABBI



### PREPARING FOR & CELEBRATING CHANUKAH

By Rabbi Daniel M. Sherman

Like most of us, I, too, look forward to Chanukah every year. What's not to like? The menorah, lighting the candles, stories of miracles, victory of the few over the many, celebrating freedom of religion, the songs, decorations, playing dreidel, the foods, chocolate gelt – they make for a very nice Jewish holiday. They bring back memories from my childhood. And now it's exciting to watch as our kids look forward to and talk about Chanukah. No, it's not the most important Jewish holiday of the year. But it is one of the most enjoyable for the entire family and a good time to spend together as a family.

So I thought I would include a few tips for preparing for and celebrating Chanukah this year. Please also refer to the information on pages 8-9 in this newsletter. Looking for more Chanukah resources? Check out the URJ website: [www.urj.org](http://www.urj.org) for more holiday ideas, traditions, and explanations.

#### Gifts on Chanukah

The traditional Jewish holiday on which gifts were exchanged was actually Purim. Gift giving on Chanukah, a relatively recent tradition (keep in mind, we've been celebrating Chanukah for over 2,100 years), has become a reflection of the society in which we live and the time of year in which Chanukah falls – the “winter holiday season” (when everything is on sale).

While it has become a part of the contemporary celebration of Chanukah, gifts should be kept modest, with the real meaning of the holiday – religious freedom – being emphasized. As part of our celebration of this Jewish Festival of Lights, it is especially appropriate and nice when some of the gifts over the eight days of Chanukah include gifts with a Jewish connection. Jewish books, music, art, toys, games, and ritual objects make great Chanukah gifts. Donna Magaro has the Treasures of the Tree Judaica Shop at TOL stocked and ready to go – there are lots of great gift ideas available in the shop. There are also catalogs and websites with even more. And each year, more Chanukah “stuff” seems to be available around town.

Another wonderful Chanukah gift is to make a gift of *tzedakah* or a contribution to a Jewish or worthwhile cause in honor of someone – or even a gift to the Temple, just as the Maccabees brought long ago as they rededicated the Holy Temple in Jerusalem (tax-deductible gifts before the end of the year – everyone wins!).

I'd like to make the following suggestion as a way of bringing even deeper meaning to your Chanukah observance this year and bringing light and joy to others. On one night of Chanukah, instead of opening another gift, take your children to the store and let them select/buy a gift or gifts for a needy youngster or for an adult who might be in a local shelter. Wrap the gifts and deliver them. Not only will you brighten someone's holiday time, you will be teaching and living the value of *tzedakah* – which can have a lasting impact on your celebration of Chanukah. Another way to do this is to participate in our annual “Giving to Make a Difference” drive for the Columbia Family Shelter (see page 2 for more details). *Gemilut chasadim* – acts of loving kindness – make great Chanukah gifts for both the giver and the recipient.

#### Lighting the Chanukah Candles

Each night we add one more candle to our menorah/*chanukiyah*. Candles are customarily placed in the *chanukiyah* from right to left. We always begin with the newest candle. We use the *shamash* candle to light all the others. On the first night of Chanukah, we recite three blessings, concluding with the *shehecheyanu* as we give thanks to God for giving us life, sustaining us, and enabling us to reach this joyous time of year.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful Chanukah. Please plan on joining us for a special night at Temple on Friday, December 23. We will begin with our annual Chanukah dinner at 6:00pm. A huge *todah rabbah* goes to the men of our Brotherhood who will once again prepare dinner with their famous latkes. Please remember to RSVP in advance. Bring your favorite *chanukiyah* and candles so that we can light the Chanukah lights all together on the 4<sup>th</sup> night of Chanukah this year. Afterwards our special Family Service for the Shabbat of Chanukah begins at 7:00pm. *Chag Sameach!*



### CHRISTMAS & CHANUKAH: LET'S KEEP THEM SEPARATE By Risa Strauss

I love shopping – not always to make a purchase, but also as a form of therapy. It is especially helpful on airplanes when I have a copy of “SkyMall” magazine in my hands. As I browse through the pages and pages of items that are usually priced way outside of my budget, all thoughts of heavy turbulence gently fade away. So, knowing this about me, you can imagine how irritable I became when I came across “one of life’s newest solutions,” the amazing “*Menorahment*” on page 25. Advertised in the “Inventor’s Corner” section, this patented design and so-called “Hanukkah Tree Topper” is priced at ... you guessed it, \$19.99 and, according to the ad, is a must have for interfaith families. And to “top” it all off, this *menorahment* was not even in the form of a menorah: it was a Star of David affixed atop a pine tree.

Really? A *Menorahment*? For me this advertisement was a complete double “oy!” Let me explain.

Commercializing the Christmas and Chanukah holidays is not a new phenomenon in our American free market economy. So seeing an ad for holiday decorations in SkyMall magazine is not at all surprising. I love celebrations and, quite honestly, look forward to the winter season and all that it entails: decorations, food, parties, music, lights, PRESENTS, vacation, and the spending power of my credit card. However, joining the two holidays, mixing the two as if they go together like peanut butter and jelly, or inferring that Christmas and Chanukah have anything in common religiously or historically is just plain wrong. It only creates more confusion as we confront the “December Dilemma” syndrome that affects so many of us at this time of year.

A Christmas tree is not a generic holiday symbol; it is a Christian ritual object that has nothing to do with Chanukah. There are a number of stories associated with the origin of the Christmas tree. One of the earliest (722 CE) relates back to Germany when Saint Boniface told of an encounter he had with some pagans who were about to sacrifice a child at the base of a huge oak tree. He cut down the tree to prevent the sacrifice, and a fir grew up at the base of the oak. He then told everyone that this evergreen, with its branches pointing to heaven, was a holy tree, representing Jesus as the messiah and a symbol of the promise of eternal life.

Another explanation asserts that Martin Luther was responsible for the origin of the Christmas tree. The legend describes his walk through the snow-covered woods and how he was struck by the beauty of the snow-glistened trees. Their branches, dusted with snow, shimmered in the moonlight. When he got home, he set up a small fir tree and shared the story with his children. He decorated the Christmas tree with small candles, which he lit in honor of the birth of Jesus.

We understand that the “Christmas Tree” is not a secular icon but instead a true Christian religious symbol that historically honors Jesus as the Christian messiah.

The Jewish menorah or *Chanukiyah* has a meaningful but very different history and origin. The *Chanukiyah* reminds us of the triumph of the Maccabees over the Greco-Syrian king, Antiochus, in the Jewish fight for liberty and religious freedom. The nine-branched candelabra (one branch is for the helper candle) represents the eight days of the miracle of Chanukah. Legend has it that when the Maccabee soldiers came to the desecrated Holy Temple in Jerusalem, there was only enough oil to last one day. The small band of Hasmonean soldiers (including the famous Judah Maccabee) went out to search for more oil. When they returned eight days later, the menorah was still miraculously aglow.

In the Book of Maccabees the symbolism of “eight” appears in another way. “Judah Maccabee’s men made a new menorah and lit its lamps... it was rededicated with songs, harps, lutes, and cymbals. All the people fell on their faces and blessed heaven, which had prospered them. They celebrated the rededication of the altar for eight days.”

Many lovely Christmas traditions, like Santa Claus, stockings, ornaments and the tree, have been merged in the marketplace with Chanukah traditions to create items for sale that make absolutely no sense in a Jewish or Christian home where the respective religious holiday is being observed. Many of these items are not only illogical, but also potentially offensive. Truly, Santa should not be lighting a *Chanukiyah* on a Hallmark card, Chanukah Harry does not need to pay any Jewish family a visit putting presents under a “Chanukah bush,” and Bubbies and Zaides would not live in a Jewish suburb of the North Pole making eight days of presents for Jewish children. Let *dreidles* be *dreidles*; we should not need to feel insecure because they aren’t dangling from a tree in a snow globe, and the word “Chrismukkah” may sound cute but really just adds to all the confusion.

Appreciating the words of our holiday, “*Nes Gadol Haya Sham – A Great Miracle Happened There*,” and the story of the Maccabees helps us to value and embrace the significance of Chanukah for the Jewish people, and learning about the history of Christmas and Christian symbols helps us to understand the value and significance of Christmas for those of the Christian faith.

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

Religious School has been in “super-busy” mode this past month and, looking forward to December, it seems that things won’t really calm down in the Temple until at least after Chanukah! November started off with the Confirmation Class trip to New York City. This trip is an annual group-building, educational, and truly enjoyable tour of Jewish New York and the sights, sounds, and smells of Manhattan. All of the students, staff, and chaperones would agree that a wonderful time was had by all. *Todah Rabah* to all the RS staff who made Sunday School work so beautifully in my absence.

Our first “Kidz Shabbat” of 5772 was held late calendar-wise because of the High Holydays this year, but we had a great turnout and a lot of fun for our younger children and their parents. Our 7-10<sup>th</sup> graders recently went on a “road trip” to Jewish downtown Columbia. With the help of Ann Posner and Henry Nechemias of the Historic Columbia Foundation, our students enjoyed visiting the Big Apple (once Beth Shalom Synagogue), the Hebrew Benevolent Society cemetery, and the community Holocaust Memorial. Thanks to all the parents and teachers who drove and chaperoned.

Just before the Thanksgiving vacation, we were very lucky as a school to enjoy a special treat. Cantor Rosalie Boxt worked with all of our classes, teaching us new tunes, prayers, songs and so much more. A special *todah* to our TYG’ers for all the help with childcare during the Saturday evening event. It was great to be able to work with Cantor Boxt and then with Cheryl Layton during Hebrew learning some Israeli Dances. Many thanks as well to Marvin Bienstock, Mark Crawford, and Cheryl Nail who led music and Binah Book club this month.

December is packed full of programming, including our “Back to the Future” evening for Grades 4-7, our first class service of the year, a TYG Bagel Breakfast, Brotherhood-sponsored lunch, two B’nai Mitzvah, as well as our annual Chanukah Happening for TOL children and their friends and family! Please make note of our yearly social action “Giving to Make a Difference” present collection for the families at the Family Shelter. From December 2-12, you will be able to make a difference for a family in need in the Columbia area.

Also in December I will be attending my first URJ Biennial Convention, a conference and learning event that I am looking forward to very much. There will be NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLASSES on December 18, 25, and January 1. Have a joyous Chanukah and a Happy New Year!



### Important Religious School Dates in December

- 12/2: Kitah Hey Class Potluck Supper (6:30pm) and Services (7:30pm)
- 12/3: “Back to Your Jewish Future” program for Grades 4-7 at Beth Shalom Synagogue
- 12/4: RS, 9am; TYG Bagel B’fast, Brotherhood Lunch;
- 12/9: Kidz Shabbat, 6:45pm with childcare. Shabbat Services following at 7:30pm
- 12/10: Bat Mitzvah of Stephanie Carr, 10am. Mazal Tov to the Carr Family!
- 12/11: RS, 9am; Chanukah Happening, 11am-1pm, with a latke and hot dog lunch, the 4 Fathers, Marvin, games, arts and crafts, prizes, and much, much more! Maccabeats Performance in Charlotte, 6pm
- 12/12: Chanukah Party at the Waterford Retirement Residence, 4pm
- 12/17-12/18: TYG All-Carolina Lock-In/Shabbat at TOL!
- 12/18: No Religious School
- 12/20: First Night of Chanukah, Waterford Candle Lighting at 6:30pm
- 12/21-27: Candle Lighting at the Waterford at 6:30pm
- 12/23: Chanukah Dinner and Service at Temple, 6pm
- 12/25: No Religious School
- 12/31: Bar Mitzvah of Gabe Contino, 10am. Mazal Tov to the Contino Family!
- 1/1/12: No Religious School



### **TOL Religious School Chanukah Happening Sunday, December 11, 2011, 11am-1pm For all children, their families and friends!**

Come and enjoy pre-Chanukah candle lighting, games, crafts, music (featuring the 4 Fathers and Marvelous Marvin Beinstock), skits, cookie decorating, and more. Festivities begin at 11AM with a Brotherhood-sponsored latke and hot dog lunch. Religious school begins at 9AM. We will dismiss as usual at 1PM. RSVP to Risa at Temple if your child is in Tree Tumblers or does not attend Religious School (so that we may prepare).

## YOUTH NEWS



### **Stephanie Anne Carr**

Stephanie is the daughter of Jill and David Carr and is the younger sister of Elena. Stephanie has lived in Columbia her entire life and is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Blythewood Middle School. Stephanie plays on her school's volleyball team and also enjoys softball and football and supporting the Gamecocks. She also

plays flute in the Blythewood Middle School band. Stephanie spent two weeks last summer at the URJ 6 Points Sports Academy. For her Mitzvah Project, Stephanie is collecting cleaning supplies that she will donate to the Columbia Family Shelter. Please support her project by bringing new household cleaning supplies to the Temple (look for the special box).

*We invite you to join us in honor  
of our daughter  
Stephanie Anne  
As she is called to the Torah as a  
Bat Mitzvah  
Saturday, the tenth of December  
Two-thousand eleven  
At ten-o'clock in the morning  
Tree of Life Congregation*

*David and Jill Carr*



### **Gabriel Jesse Contino**

Gabe is the son of Nina and Patrick Contino and the younger brother of Nick. Gabe and his family moved to Columbia this past summer. Gabe is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Kelly Mill Middle School. Gabe loves to play the drums and enjoys sports, including ultimate Frisbee and soccer. Gabe also likes playing video games with his friends. Gabe has spent part of the last six summers attending the URJ Camp Coleman, where he has made many friends and always has a great time. For his Mitzvah Project, Gabe will be collecting breakfast foods and serving breakfast on Christmas morning

at the Columbia Family Shelter. Gabe encourages everyone to drop off nonperishable breakfast items in the special receptacle at TOL.

*Share in our joy  
as we celebrate the Bar Mitzvah  
of our beloved son  
Gabriel Jesse  
Saturday, December 31  
Ten o'clock in the morning  
Tree of Life Congregation*

*Kiddush luncheon  
following the service*

*Nina and Patrick Contino*



### **TEMPLE YOUTH GROUP NEWS**

COFTY recently got back from a fabulous weekend in Atlanta at the NFTY-SAR Fall Kallah! It was hosted by another youth group called MAFTY, and all who went had a great time. The weekend included attending a Bar Mitzvah service at The Temple in downtown Atlanta, a trip to the zoo, and a "Jersey SAR" themed dance. We have our next Kallah coming up during Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend in January, and we're working hard on getting as many members to attend as possible.

On a more local level, we have lots of upcoming events including a bagel breakfast on Sunday, December 4, and a Havdalah service and sub-regional Lock-In at TOL on Saturday, December 17. The Lock-In is for all the

South and North Carolina youth groups. It's open to all 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders, and we have a lot of really amazing activities planned!

We're all really excited about these approaching events and getting to spend some time with members of our own community as well as members of our neighboring communities.

– Naomi Nudelman, COFTY President

## WRJ / SISTERHOOD NEWS

The Sisterhood Board wishes all members and friends a wonderful Chanukah, a super holiday season, and the best ever New Year. We encourage all women to be part of this wonderful organization that does much in and for our community. You can attend every event or none at all and still feel the satisfaction that you took part in contributing to a great many Mitzvot, including Sistercare, Harvest Hope Food Bank, Cooperative Ministries, plus a host of others, as well as, of course, our own Tree of Life Congregation – for which we purchased many items in the kitchen and, to commemorate our 100 years, the Ark curtain.



The program, “Be a Sugar Artist,” was a fun learning experience. We thank our own super chef, Marcia Geers, for the instruction and look forward to more fascinating programs.

Forthcoming events in 2012:

Jan. 10 – Book Club

Jan. 22 – 9:30-11am Programming event during the annual Blood Drive



=====  
The TOL Book Club, sponsored by TOL WRJ, focuses on books with a Jewish or Israeli theme. We have been meeting the second Tuesday of every *other* month at 7PM in the TOL Library. **Beginning in March, we will meet on the second Thursday of the month** in hopes that Thursdays will work better for more people. The following is the current schedule:

Tuesday, January 10, 2012      *The Tattoo Artist* by Jill Ciment

Thursday, March 8, 2012      *The Invisible Bridge* by Julie Orringer

There is no charge to attend and no registration – just show up! New members are encouraged. All are welcome. Please come! Questions or comments or to suggest future books, please contact Book Club Chair Amanda Hamilton or Ilene King. Happy Reading!

## GREEN TEAM UPDATE

### Aiding our Birds

#### Please consider helping to provide for them.

Tree of Life is a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat. We earned this recognition because we have food and water sources for wildlife, as well as shelter. Animals spotted on our property include a variety of birds, butterflies and moths, insects, spiders, lizards, snakes, mice, possums, raccoons, and foxes. Though nature provides for the wildlife, we have been feeding seeds to the birds as well. Kim Bannister and her Religious School students have been making sure that our feeder is full. We just received a new feeder that will keep the seeds fresher and will be easier to keep clean. We will also put out a birdhouse, and we hope to attract some of the bluebirds that frequent our property. The birdhouse has a roof that can be opened to allow viewing of eggs and babies.

We can use more birdhouses and birdbaths, so if you have either or these in good condition that you are not using, please consider donating it. In spring we could also use short pieces of yarn to put out for nesting material. Fresh, good quality birdseed is welcome too.

Our TOL Brotherhood has built a compost bin for yard waste and plans to add another one. This will allow us to recycle weeds, plants, and grass clippings into fertilizer.

**RECYCLING NEWS:** Arcadia Lakes is now accepting more materials for recycling. At TOL please recycle all cardboard (flattened); paperboard (flattened); aluminum cans; glass bottles and jars (except for blue); plastic bottles, jugs and jars; steel cans; empty aerosol cans; magazines, newspapers and junk mail. These can go into our large blue recycling bin or directly into the Arcadia Lakes boxes behind the building. We are also recycling office paper in a container behind the building. Also please bring six pack rings, plastic bottle caps, batteries, and cell phones to our collection sites in the lobby or hall.

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR MORE PARTICIPATION!** We do not have meetings, and we consider everyone who helps in any way to be a member. If you can help maintain our rain garden, please send us an email at [greenteam@tolsc.org](mailto:greenteam@tolsc.org) and let us know which Sundays you can help. Also, indicate whether mornings or afternoons are better for you.



Remember to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

# CHANUKAH

## Chanukah Concepts

Chanukah, meaning "dedication" in Hebrew, refers to the joyous eight-day celebration during which Jews commemorate the victory of the Maccabees over the armies of the Syrian/Greeks at around 165 B.C.E. and the subsequent liberation and "rededication" of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. The modern home celebration of Chanukah centers around the lighting of the *chanukiyah*, a special menorah for Chanukah; unique foods, such as *latkes* (potato pancakes) and jelly doughnuts; and special songs and games, like dreidel, and of course, presents.

**Chanukah:** (*pronounced with a CH, back of throat*) Literally, "dedication" – also known as the "Festival of Lights" that celebrates the victory of a small band of Jews over the Greco-Syrian army and Hellenism (those who followed Greek ways and culture) in 165 BCE and their fight for religious freedom

**Chanukiyah:** The 9-branched *menorah* (lamp), candelabra or candleholder used on Chanukah

**Gelt:** "Money" (from Yiddish), sometimes in chocolate candy form given to children on Chanukah for eating and playing dreidel

**Maccabees:** Meaning "hammer" in Hebrew – the small group of Jewish rebels led by Mattathias Hasmonean who fought and defeated the Greco-Syrian army

**Judah Maccabee:** Son of Mattathias, who led the band of Maccabees to victory

**Antiochus:** Intolerant and power hungry Syrian-Greek king who came to power in 175 BCE

**Latkes:** (from Yiddish) Potato pancakes fried in oil

**Soofganiyot:** Jelly doughnuts (Hebrew) – Israeli Chanukah tradition

**Ner:** (Hebrew) Candle

**Shamash:** (Hebrew) Helper candle used to light other candles in the Chanukiyah

**Chag Sameach:** "Happy Holiday" in Hebrew

**Dreidel:** (from Yiddish; *Sevivon* in Hebrew): spinning top with 4 Hebrew letters – *nun, gimel, hey and shin* – that stand for "*nes gadol haya sham*, a great miracle happened there." In Israel, the dreidels have the letters *nun, gimel, hey and pay*, which stand for "*nes gadol haya po* – a great miracle happened here."

## SHABBAT OF CHANUKAH

### TOL CELEBRATION

Friday, December 23, 2011

Come and welcome the Festival of Lights with your Temple Family!

**6:00 p.m. Chanukah Dinner & Candle Lighting**

**7:00 p.m. Special Family Service**

The TOL Brotherhood is preparing a Chanukah feast including chicken, salad, challah, and their world-famous Latkes!

**Bring your own menorah and candles to light!**

Costs: \$7.50/adult, \$5/child (ages 5-12)

Maximum cost per family: \$25

Please call the Temple office or return this form to make your reservation.

**All reservations must be in by Friday, December 16.**

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**TOL CHANUKAH DINNER RESERVATION FORM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

# of Adults \_\_\_\_\_ # of Children (5-12) \_\_\_\_\_ # of kids under age 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost: \_\_\_\_\_ Please make checks payable to Tree of Life Congregation

# CHANUKAH

## TRADITIONAL POTATO LATKES

12 large potatoes, grated  
3 medium onions, grated  
4 eggs, beaten lightly  
5 tbsp. flour

3 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. pepper  
oil for deep frying

The secret to great latkes is to remove as much liquid from the potatoes and onions as possible. Put the grated potatoes in a clean tea towel and squeeze the liquid out of the mixture. Do the same for the grated onions. Combine all the ingredients and mix together well by hand.

In a heavy skillet, put a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " deep layer of oil. Heat until sizzling. Form individual pancakes by hand and carefully slide into the pan using a slotted spatula. Fill the pan, but leave room between the pancakes. When the latkes are nicely browned on one side, turn carefully and cook until browned on the other side and crisp on the edges. Remove with a spatula and place on paper towels. Let the excess grease drain onto the paper towel. Serve immediately for the best taste. You can keep the latkes hot in a warm oven. Serve with sour cream or applesauce.

Another option is to use a box of potato pancake mix – but making latkes from scratch is more fun, and they taste better, too!

## THE GAME OF DREIDEL

The spinning game of dreidel has been popular for centuries. The dreidel ("top") has four sides, each with an imprinted Hebrew letter. The letters on the dreidel stand for "*NEIS GADOL HAYAH SHAM* – A Great Miracle Happened There."

Begin the game by giving all players an equal number of pieces (coins, candies, etc.). Each player must "ante up" any time the pot in the middle is empty. Players take turn spinning the dreidel until it lands on one of the following:

NUN: "None" – get nothing  
HEY: "Half" – take half of the pot

GIMMEL: "Get" – take the entire pot  
SHIN: "Share" – put one in the pot

The player with the most pieces at the end of the game wins. Good luck!

## CHANUKAH SONGS

### **I HAVE A LITTLE DREIDEL**

I have a little dreidel, I made it out of clay  
And when it's dry and ready then dreidel I shall play  
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel  
I made it out of clay  
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel  
Now dreidel I shall play

It has a lovely body, with leg so short and thin  
And when it gets all tired, it drops and then I win  
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel ...

My dreidel's always playful, it loves to dance and spin  
A happy game of dreidel – come play, now let's begin!  
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel ...

### **ROCK OF AGES / MAOZ TZUR**

*Mah-oz tzur ye-shu-a-ti, le-chah nah-eh le-sha-bei-ach,  
Ti-kon beit te-fi-la-ti, ve-sham to-dah ne-za-bei-ach.  
Le-eit tah-chin mat-bei-ach, mi-tzar ha-me-na-bei-ach.  
Az eg-mor, be-shir miz-mor, cha-nu-kat ha-miz-bei-ach.*  
{2x}

Rock of Ages, let our song  
Praise Your saving power;  
You, amid the raging foes,  
Were our sheltering tower.  
Furious they assailed us,  
But Your arm availed us.  
And Your word broke their sword,  
When our own strength failed us. {2x}

### **LIGHT ONE CANDLE (Peter Yarrow)**

Light one candle for the Maccabee children, give thanks that their light  
didn't die.  
Light one candle for the pain they endured, when their right to exist  
was denied.  
Light one candle for the terrible sacrifice justice and freedom demand.  
And light one candle for the wisdom to know when the peacemaker's  
time is at hand.

#### **Chorus:**

Don't let the light go out, it's lasted for so many years.  
Don't let the light go out, let it shine through our love and our tears.

Light one candle for the strength that we need to never become our  
own foe.  
Light one candle for those who are suffering the pain we learned so  
long ago.  
Light one candle for all we believe in, let anger not tear us apart.  
And light one candle to bind us together, with peace as the song in our  
heart.  
(Chorus)

What is the memory that's valued so highly, that we keep alive in that  
flame?  
What's the commitment to those who have died, when we cry out:  
'They've not died in vain'?  
We have come this far, always believing, that justice will somehow  
prevail.  
This is the burden, and this is the promise, and this is why we will not  
fail!

(Chorus)

## BROTHERHOOD NEWS



### **Brotherhood Bike Rides**

**Sunday, January 8th** is the next Brotherhood bicycle ride, leaving from the Temple at 9:30 am. The course will be from the Temple to Fort Jackson and back. We will ride

approximately 25 to 30 miles at a 15MPH pace. All riders are welcome. It is recommended you contact David Carr at [TreeofLifeBH@gmail.com](mailto:TreeofLifeBH@gmail.com) if you are interested in riding so he can communicate any changes or updates.

### **Brotherhood Membership**

The Brotherhood membership drive is underway. The Brotherhood is a support organization for the Temple, and 100% of dues are used in supporting Temple activities. As always, we need your financial contributions so we can continue to provide the Temple with valuable support. We can also use your time to aid in the various events the Brotherhood hosts. Please watch the Brotherhood website and e-mails for volunteer opportunities.

### **Religious School Lunches**

The Brotherhood will be providing lunches for the Religious School on the following Sundays: December 4, January 29, and March 11. Watch for reminder e-mails and don't forget to sign-up on our website at [www.tolsc.org](http://www.tolsc.org).

### **Blood Drive**

Tree of Life will be holding our annual Red Cross blood drive on Sunday, January 22, 2012 from 9:00 am to 1 pm. To be eligible to give, your last donation must be before November 22, 2011. Please visit the temple website [www.tolsc.org](http://www.tolsc.org) for information on scheduling your donation time.

### **Latke Hut**

You may have noticed a flurry of activity behind the Temple in recent weeks. Construction of the Latke Hut is underway with our goal being to have our inaugural use during this year's Chanukah Happening on Sunday, December 11. There is no better time for the unofficial Latke Kings of Columbia to use the hut for the first time than for our annual Chanukah Happening. As has become the custom, the Brotherhood will be preparing a variety of latkes for your dining pleasure. We hope to see you there.

## SOCIAL ACTION

### **Mobile Kitchen Project**

An exciting new TOL "mitzvah" effort is underway, spearheaded by Ed Hertz and the TOL Brotherhood, and endorsed by the TOL Board of Directors and the TOL Social Action Committee, to involve Tree of Life Congregation in a Jewish community-wide disaster relief Mobile Kitchen Project. We hope to get broad-based TOL involvement in this ambitious, significant, meaningful Columbia-based social action project that, if successful, could expand to other communities in the state and region.

In a nutshell, the main plan involves purchasing and equipping a mobile kitchen unit that will be available for emergencies and disasters. It is envisioned that this joint Jewish community project will entail no start-up cost to TOL – a grant proposal is in the works – but, instead, the project will require a commitment from volunteers to be trained and be available to provide relief services. Members of TOL and other Columbia Jewish congregations and Jewish community organizations would provide the volunteers to operate the mobile kitchen. In the event of disasters or emergencies, the mobile kitchen unit would be ready to be deployed to feed disaster victims upon the request of the Red Cross or other hunger relief organizations with whom we may wish to partner. When the Mobile Kitchen is requested to a location by the Red Cross, the Red Cross pays for the food. Other opportunities to utilize the mobile kitchen may also arise. As you will see on the Volunteer Opportunities checklist located on the TOL website, there are also other areas where interested persons may volunteer, but our main focus will be the mobile kitchen and feeding those in need.

Volunteers for the Mobile Kitchen Project will need to go through Red Cross volunteer training courses. The next training will take place in January. In order to gauge potential interest, **a Volunteer Opportunities checklist is posted on the TOL website: [www.tolsc.org](http://www.tolsc.org). Please copy the form, fill it out and send it to [isking@earthlink.net](mailto:isking@earthlink.net) or fax it to 803-252-9273.** This is not a sign up for the training – just to gauge interest. **If you have any interest in this project, please fill out this form.** Even if you are not available for the January training, let us know if you are interested in the project by filling out this form. Interested persons will be contacted at a later time with more details. Questions should be directed to Ed Hertz.

## MEMBER NEWS

### Refuah Shleima

Get well wishes to TOL members recently hospitalized or at home recovering: **Frank Baker, Phillip Bernath, Hal Birch, Ron Garber, Charles Geffen, Eleanor Hack, and Elsie Wolff.**

### Condolences to

**Debbie & Allan Brett** and family, on the loss of her father Irving Levine

**Naomi & Carl Freedman** and family, on the loss of her mother Ruth Goldberg

**Jane & Samuel Friedman** and family, on the loss of her mother Marion Breyer

**Annette Goldstein and Barbara & Bill Rast** and families, on the loss of their mother **Muriel Masur**

**Barbara & Shahram Novinbakht** and family, on the loss of her father Monroe Greene

**The Reyner Family**, on the loss of their cousin Wendy Reyner

### Honor Roll

**We salute and thank our wonderful volunteers!**

- **Office** – Joan Amado, Eleanor Bornstein, Sandy Hertz, and Sheila King
- **Religious School Office** – Joan Tucker
- **Hospital Calls** – Sandy Hertz

### Welcome to Our New TOL Members

Karen & Russell Haber

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Rick Mendel	Dec. 1	Hannah Rapport	Dec. 12	Helga Cohen	Dec. 23
Marilyn Barkan	Dec. 4	Janna Sherman	Dec. 12	Lance Thompson	Dec. 24
Annabelle Bennett	Dec. 4	Harvey Helman	Dec. 14	Irwin Boxt	Dec. 25
Ned Strauss	Dec. 4	Joan Tucker	Dec. 14	Rabbi Leah Doberne-Schor	Dec. 25
Joan Amado	Dec. 6	Steve Cohen	Dec. 15	Judith Kalb	Dec. 25
Sam Selig	Dec. 6	Andrew Beattie	Dec. 16	Hannah Amado	Dec. 26
Benjamin Ginsberg	Dec. 7	Al Cohen, Jr.	Dec. 16	Ed Rothschild	Dec. 26
Anselle Blackmon	Dec. 8	Rosann Canady	Dec. 17	Boris Veytskin	Dec. 26
Max Miller	Dec. 8	<b>Belle Fields</b>	<b>Dec. 17</b>	Violette Chartock	Dec. 27
Jeffrey Moses	Dec. 8	Carolyn Hudson	Dec. 17	Nathaniel Cason	Dec. 28
Leeds Barroll	Dec. 9	Robertta Friedland	Dec. 18	Bessie Garber	Dec. 28
Gabe Contino	Dec. 9	Walton Selig	Dec. 18	Marcia Medway	Dec. 28
Sara Schwebel	Dec. 9	Barbara Levy	Dec. 19	Jennifer Friedman	Dec. 29
Karen Beattie	Dec. 10	Pam Feuerstein	Dec. 20	Avraham Maryanov	Dec. 29
Abby Crawford	Dec. 10	Keya Novinbakht	Dec. 20	Abby McConahay	Dec. 30
Brian Glavey	Dec. 10	Irina Volynets	Dec. 20	Allen Alexander	Dec. 31
Lee Williams	Dec. 10	Riyler Coffman	Dec. 21	Matthew Scully	Dec. 31
Neil Parks	Dec. 11	Roger Kuperman	Dec. 21		

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Barbara & Bill Rast	Dec. 14	Kay & Ira Radin	Dec. 22
Cheryl & Allan Nail	Dec. 18	Arline & Jerry Polinsky	Dec. 26
Gwen & Sid Sasiene	Dec. 19	Cyndi & Greg Katz	Dec. 27
Sandy & Ed Hertz	Dec. 20	Morgan & Rabbi Daniel Sherman	Dec. 28
Janet & Michael Paul	Dec. 21	Terry & Ron Garber	Dec. 31

## COMMUNITY NEWS



### Ronald McDonald House and Jewish Family Service Need You!



JFS is looking for people to help staff the Ronald McDonald House during the Christmas holiday so that the staff may enjoy the holiday with their own families. Ronald McDonald House is a place where families find strength and hope among each other while dealing with what is sometimes the most difficult situation of their lives.

**There are three days for volunteer opportunities!**  
**Saturday December 24, Sunday December 25, Monday December 26**

JFS needs volunteers who can stay at the house two hours at a time starting at 8 am on the 24th and ending at 5 pm on the 26th. You *may* reserve two shifts at a time, and overnight shifts are from 10 pm-8 am on December 24 and 25.

This is a great way for students to earn volunteer hours while providing a Mitzvah at the same time!  
 Please contact Laney Cohen 787-2023 ext 220 for more information.



### Join Tree of Life at a "Chanukah Celebration" for all Waterford Senior Living Community residents!

**When: Monday, December 12, 4:00-5:00 pm**  
**What: A Chanukah party with potato pancakes, music, stories, candle lighting, dreidel and more! Come with your friends and share in this lovely tradition.**

In addition to our annual Chanukah party at the Waterford, we are also organizing a nightly candle lighting for the Jewish residents at the Waterford and their friends. We will be lighting from December 20-27 at 6:30pm. Please call Risa Strauss at 546-1099 or email her at risatol@bellsouth.net if you are interested in helping out with any of these Mitzvah opportunities!

### This Hanukkah, Connect to Israel with the Katie & Irwin Kahn JCC

Winter Camp Hanukkah Days - December 19- December 30, 2011  
 Members: \$30 per day / Non-Members: \$40 per day

Annual Hanukkah Program: Hanukkah and Israel  
 Sunday December 25, 2011 - 6:00pm  
 This is a Free Event for the whole family

For more information visit us at [www.jcccolumbia.org](http://www.jcccolumbia.org)



Katie & Irwin Kahn JCC at the Gerzy See & Norman Arnold Jewish Community Campus  
 306 Flora Drive, Columbia, SC 29223 • 803-787-2023 • [www.jcccolumbia.org](http://www.jcccolumbia.org)



Sunday, December 11, 2011 - 6:00pm  
 Joint Annual Meeting of the  
 Columbia Jewish Federation &  
 Katie & Irwin Kahn JCC



People who would like to be considered for either Board as new additions should submit interest to:

Erica Serbin, Federation Executive Director or  
 Benjamin Kranitz, JCC Executive Director at (803) 787-2023

### The Big Nosh 2011 Silver Sponsors

Abacus Planning Group, Inc.  
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 in memory of Marvin Selig  
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### The Big Nosh 2011 Gold Sponsors

Jim Hudson Lexus  
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 Anne and Alan Reyner, Jr.

## Yahrzeits

**December 2** – Robert Allen Levy\*, Jim Frea, Betty Lefkowitz\*, Charles Reyner, Sr.\*, Trudy Selig, Carol Barkan, Robert S. Friedman, Sadye C. Green\*, Pauline Karp Schulman, Claire Boxt\*, Honey Halpern, Beatrice Perl Lindau\*, Tillie W. Kaufman\*, Viola W. Levenson, Jeannette Rosichan\*, Roma Arov

**December 9** – Selma Levin, Laura Zaidman\*, Theodore Kole\*, Max Krautler\*, Ben Stern, Minnie Brown, Sam Cohen, Giza Nisenholz, Louis Burger\*, Joseph George Helman\*, Al Kordon, Clyde F. Quick, Mamie K. Tolochko\*, Max Gordon, Louis Kohn\*, Sonya Rabinovich, Sophie Goldblatt\*, Hershel Hark\*, Henry Hennig\*

**December 16** – Libby Paul\*, Jack Sullivan, Lena W. Hennig\*, Russell Sheckler, Julia Merlin, Sheila Nudelman, Helen Spencer, Pauline Wheeler, Betty Lee Schlager, Louis Burns Simmons\*, Julius Winter\*, Jack Lapine\*

**December 23** – Sarah Bazerman\*, Margaret Jill Coggeshall, Meyer Loeb\*, Clara Blick, Joseph Harold Ginsberg, Arnold David Lutz\*, Morris Rubenstein, Hyman Rubin, Sr.\*, Georgianne Schwartz, Jacob Blick, Anna Chaves Halprin\*, Yefim Khaim Krupnik, Paul Southard, Eleanor Lerner Bush, Richard Herzog, Myron Bernard Kahn\*, Albert Schwartz\*, Alfred Brauer, Eugene Kreiselman, Stephen Mendel\*, Sylvia Savitz\*, Tzila Arov, Israel Merlin, Ida Read Savitz\*

**December 30** – Solomon Lourie, Charles Bradford, Jr., Ina Chernoff, Murray King, Bertha M. Kole\*, Joseph Nifoussi, J.T. Pearlstine\*, Rona Russ, Marian V. Waxelbaum\*, Herbert Young, Marvin Selig, Rhea S. Wittenberg\*, David E. Cohn\*, Philip Turner, Jacob J. Freedman, David Moss, Goldie Slone, Hilde Brauer, Julian Hennig, Jr.\*, Abraham Nisenholz, Sarah Plavin, Hugo Wolf Turner\*

\*name memorialized by a plaque in the sanctuary

## Bimah Flowers

### November 4

Benjamin, Jean, & Jack Ginsberg, in memory of  
Bessie Fine Ginsberg

Richard & Ellen Helman, in memory of Jean Helman

Marc & Ann Posner, in memory of Arlene Simons

Jan Rivers, in memory of Arthur Park

Elsie Wolff, in memory of Louis Wolff

### November 11

Marguerite Shugar Brill, in memory of  
Evelyn Shugar Brauer

Cathie Freibert, in memory of Simon Belasco

Karen & Mark Goldenfield, in memory of Pearl Atran

Jeff & Peggy Miller, in memory of Marion Miller

The Reyner Family, in memory of Jeffrey Love Reyner

The Reyner Family, in memory of Alan Jay Reyner

The Reyner Family, in memory of Tobae Love Reyner

The Feliks & Sarra Rabinovich Family, in memory of  
Volf Volfson

Irina Volynets, in memory of Hilya Luchina

Howard Weiss, in memory of Nettie Weiss

### November 18

Jennifer & Hans Mykytyn and Matthew Train, in memory of  
Lena Goldblatt

The Reyner Family, in memory of Samuel Reyner

Gwen, Sid, & Matt Sasiene, in memory of

Mary C. Hagenbuch

Aileen Sunshine, in memory of Min Swartz

### November 25

Alan & Marcia Geers, in memory of Herbert Stern

Karen & Mark Goldenfield, in memory of Rae Goldenfield

Arthur & Yuliana Iskhakov, in memory of Iosif Iskhakov

Lewis & Maryann Lapine, in memory of Selma Lapine

Ron Prinz, in memory of Erwin Prinz

Gary Silverfield, in memory of Mildred Silverfield

## TREASURES FROM THE TREE TOL's Judaica Shop

Come see all the new and wonderful items in the Judaica Shop. Special displays and gifts for Chanukah are available now: *chanukiyot* (Chanukah menorahs), candles, dreidels, chocolate gelt, and more. It's the best place in Columbia to shop for Chanukah or for any of your Judaica needs. Check out the shop before Friday evening services and on Sunday mornings. Stop by or call Donna Magaro (781-9791) with questions or to make an appointment!

## CONTRIBUTIONS

*We gratefully acknowledge the following thoughtful donations:*

### **General Fund**

Leon & Connie Ginsberg  
Harriet Posner, Get Well wishes to Arline Polinsky  
Harriet Posner, in memory of Irving Levine  
Sandra Stanley  
Tree of Life Brotherhood  
Tree of Life Sisterhood, in memory of Helen Slone

### **High Holy Days Fund**

Marshall C. Fields  
Joshua Goldfarb

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Debbie & Allan Brett and Shirley Levine, in appreciation &  
in memory of Irving Levine  
The Carr & Stompler families, in memory of Israel Nezvesky  
Ann Gatton, in appreciation of High Holy Day honor  
Steve & Ellyn Schilit, in memory of Staci Allen  
Wendy & Joe Sharnoff, in memory of Irving Levine  
Bill & Risa Strauss, in memory of Clara Helfer  
Bill & Risa Strauss, in memory of Israel Nezvesky

### **Religious School**

Colonel Richard & Marie Gimmi, in honor of the  
2011 Consecration Class

### **Religious School Neil Cartiff Memorial Fund**

Bill & Risa Strauss, in memory of Khaya Dobrushkina  
Bill & Risa Strauss, in memory of Irving Levine  
Bill & Risa Strauss, in memory of Monroe Greene

### **Youth Activities Fund**

Allan & Cheryl Nail, in honor of the B'nai Mitzvah of  
Jared Kerner, Oliver Chartock, Stephanie Carr, &  
Gabe Contino  
Harriet Posner, in memory of David Weiner  
Amy Scully, in appreciation of High Holy Day Honors  
Rob & Amy Scully, in honor of Risa Strauss receiving the  
Grinspoon-Steinhardt Award for Excellence in Jewish  
Education  
Rob, Amy & Matthew Scully, Happy Birthday to our dear  
friend Donna Magaro  
Rob & Amy Scully, in memory of Israel Nezvesky  
Rob & Amy Scully, in memory of David Weiner  
Rob, Amy & Matthew Scully, in memory of Irving Levine  
Bill & Risa Strauss, in memory of Israel Nezvesky

## ONEG SHABBAT HOSTS

**December 2 – Chair: Deb Tedeschi**, Maxine & Rayton Fisher, Nard & Pam Fleischman, Roberta & Steve Friedland, Daniella Friedman & Michael Dojc, Jane & Sam Friedman, Terry & Ron Garber

**December 9 – Chair: Suzy Herzog**, Jill & David Carr, Nancy Cartiff, Dana & Chris Cason, Leah & Paul Cherney, Rebecca & Michael Coffman, Pam & Dennis Cohen, Laney & Keven Cohen

**December 16 – Chair: Rick Cohn**, Raymond Cohen, Myrna & Richard Cohen, Helga & Steve Cohen, Debbie & Rick Cohn, Carolyn & Alan Conway, Pam & Mark Crawford

**December 23 – Chair: Stacy Duty**, Beth & Greg Crawford, Elaine Cypress, Sandy Daniel, Doris & Fred Davidson, Carla & Dan Davis, Stacy Duty, Alexa Claremont & Elliot Echlov, Marilyn & Michael Ehmke

**December 30 – Chair: Richard Cohen**, Nina & Pat Contino, Judi & Jerry Emanuel, Sandy & Jerry Euster, Pam & Eric Feuerstein, Rebecca & Andy Fields, Irene & Fred Fields

*Note: If you are unable to bake or purchase Oneg Shabbat refreshments, you may donate \$20.00. Homemade goods are always preferable. Checks need to be sent to the temple office **two weeks prior to your Oneg Shabbat date.** Thank you for your support.*

## WRJ SHABBAT SERVICE REPS

**Dec. 2 – Jeannie Rubin**  
**Dec. 9 – Joy Parks**

**Dec. 16 – Nancy Cartiff**  
**Dec. 23 – Cheri Alexander**  
**Dec. 30 – Julie Strauss**



# December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 6:30pm Potluck Dinner  7:30pm Shabbat Service Kitah Hey Students	3
4  TYG Bagel Breakfast  Brotherhood RS Lunch	5	6	7  6:00pm Executive Board  7:00pm Board of Direc- tors	8  6:45pm Sisterhood Board Meeting	9  6:45pm KIDZ Shabbat  7:30pm Shabbat Service	10  10:00am Stephanie Carr Bat Mitzvah
11  9:00am Religious School & Chanukah Happening  3:30pm Travel to Charlotte (Maccabeats)	12  Newsletter Deadline For January edition	13	14  URJ Biennial begins (Potomac MD)  7:00pm Big Nosh Committee Meeting	15	16  7:30pm Shabbat Service   Deadline to RSVP for Dec 23 Chanukah Dinner	17    TYG Lock-in
18  No Religious School  URJ Biennial ends (Potomac MD)  TYG Lock-in	19	20  First Night of Chanukah  	21	22	23  6:00pm Brotherhood Chanukah Dinner  7:00pm Chanukah Family Service	24
25  No Religious School	26  Temple Closed	27	28  Last Day of Chanukah	29	30  7:30pm Shabbat Service	31  10:00am Gabe Contino Bar Mitzvah



Tree of Life Congregation  
6719 North Trenholm Road  
Columbia, SC 29206

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6719 North Trenholm Road Columbia, SC 29206

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Website: [www.tolsc.org](http://www.tolsc.org) Email: [tolcong@bellsouth.net](mailto:tolcong@bellsouth.net)

Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday 8:30 am - 4 p.m.

Closed daily 12 noon - 1 p.m.

**RABBI Daniel M. Sherman**  
[rabbisherman@bellsouth.net](mailto:rabbisherman@bellsouth.net)

**RABBI EMERITUS Sanford T. Marcus, D.D.**

**Risa Strauss, RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR**  
[risatol@bellsouth.net](mailto:risatol@bellsouth.net)

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