



May—June 2012  
Iyyar/Sivan/Tamuz - 5772

Morgantown, West Virginia

It is a Tree of Life to  
those that hold fast to it.

#### **RABBI**

David Feder

#### **OFFICERS**

President Joan Addicks  
Immediate Past President Ed Gerson  
Vice President Al Berrebi  
Treasurer Merle Stolzenberg  
Secretary Deva Solomon

#### **BOARD**

Joan Addicks Adam Rosefsky  
Al Berrebi David Rosen  
Ed Gerson Marty Sippin  
Monique Gingold Deva Solomon  
Lee Kass Merle Stolzenberg  
Barry Pallay

#### **COMMITTEES**

Marty Sippin House  
Brian Lemoff Education  
Susan Brown Social Action  
Art Jacknowitz Israel Committee  
Susan Newfield/Kathy Abate CARE  
Neal Newfield Ritual Committee  
Joan Addicks. Judaica Shop  
Sylvia Cooper Newsletter/Webmaster

#### **ASSOCIATES**

Barbara Jacowitz Sisterhood  
Heidi and Deva Solomon Hillel  
Merle Stolzenberg Hadassah  
Edith Levy WV Holocaust Ed. Center

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## **Soul Train: Between Me & My Friend**

Appearing at Tree of Life for

**Mother's Day**

**5:00 pm, Sunday, May 13th**

**We will**

**be serving**

**Pasta Dinner**

**Members  
Free**

**Nonmembers  
\$15**



**Featuring  
OFER GOREN  
a family friendly Mime**

**PLUS ...**

**FLOWERS**

**FOR**

**OUR**

**MOMS!**

**Ofer Goren** was born in Jerusalem in 1965 and raised in Beit Shemesh. As a child he began to communicate through pantomime because of a speech impediment, and thereafter pantomiming became a hobby of his. He grew up in Bnai Akiva movement, and after serving in the army, he began to study pantomiming with a private teacher. At the age of 23 he began his performing career as a pantomimist in Israel and abroad. He specializes in pantomiming within the frame-work of the school system, especially in the religious sector, using his art as a way of transmitting Jewish educational values.



**Joan  
Addicks**

It has been a very busy beginning to my term as president! I have a lot of people to thank for making it a productive one.

Our Passover seder was very well received and there were over 60 people in attendance. I want to thank all of the helpers from sisterhood and the community who assisted me in preparing our kitchen for Passover: Barbara Jacowitz, Linda Jacknowitz, Kathy Abate, Lee Kass, Alyse Cores, Sharon Hildebrand, and Anita Levin. It was an enjoyable afternoon. Rabbi Feder led us all in a very nice community seder and Mrs. Berrebi, Al's mother, was the winner of our first Charoset contest! My vision for our synagogue is to rees-

tablish the 'Ruach' within our community. I ask that all of our members look deep within themselves and let me know how you can help the congregation thrive and prosper. We will need the help of all our congregants as we look to revitalize and reinvigorate the Jewish community of Morgantown. We have opportunities on many committees for you to assist and lend a hand.

It is crucial that we have the ability to attract young families and invigorate our Sunday School. I think it is important to have creative family programming and instruction to help attract these families to our synagogue. We also need more adult learning opportunities to attract new members, and Sisterhood has agreed to support this idea. The Rosh Hodesh program was well received. Many thanks to Judith Stizel for speaking about her new book, *Shaping and Transforming Loss: Field Notes from Grief*. Also a special thanks to Roz Becker for hosting this event and agreeing to be co-president

of Sisterhood.

Soul Train is returning from Israel! Soul Train is a group that brings Jewish and Israeli enrichment from Israel to small communities. This will be on Mother's Day and we will be providing a pasta dinner and flowers for our moms. Ofer Goren, an engaging mime will provide entertainment for all.

I want to send a special thanks to Adam Rosefsky, leader of the rabbinical search committee and the committee members for all their efforts. As the search committee looks for our future rabbi we must not look to this spiritual leader to provide all the answers; instead we must also look within ourselves to see how we can serve our synagogue. Your energy and investment in our temple will be returned many times over and will be much appreciated!

L'Shalom,

Joan Addicks, TOL President

## HADASSAH

Shalom y'all. We hope you have been making your lists and checking them twice. No, we don't mean the lists for that overweight guy with the fake beard. We mean your lists about the inspiring and stimulating books you have read in the last year. Barbara Jacowitz, the hostess with the mostest, has once again agreed to host our annual **Book Brunch & Pool Party**. Mark your calendars and save the date: **Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>** at Barbara's home. We will have a diary-veggie brunch where you get the opportunity to show off your culinary skills. Weather cooperating, we will finish the afternoon with a splash in Larry and Barbara's pool. See you there!

## Mazal Tov Shabbat



**Maddie and David**



**April 20, 2012**



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# Calendars & Religious School Celebrates

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MAY 2012			
Date	Day	Event	Time
May 2	Wednesday	Hebrew School	5:00 pm
		Judaism: The Basics	7:00 pm
May 4	Friday	Family Shabbat Service	6:30 pm
May 5	Saturday	Torah Study	10:00 am
May 6	Sunday	Religious School	10:00 am
May 9	Wednesday	Hebrew School	5:00 pm
May 11	Friday	Shabbat Evening Service	7:30 pm
May 12	Saturday	Shabbat Morning Service	10:00 am
May 13	Sunday	Mother's Day/Soul Train	5:00 pm
		No Religious School	
May 16	Wednesday	Hebrew School	5:00 pm
May 18	Friday	Mazal Tov Shabbat	7:30 pm
May 19	Saturday	Torah Study	10:00 am
May 20	Sunday	Religious School	10:00 am
May 23	Wednesday	Sisterhood Dessert Mtg	6:00/7:00 pm
May 25	Friday	Shabbat Evening Service	7:30 pm
May 26	Saturday	Shabbat Morning Service	10:00 am
		Erev Shavuot Service	7:00 pm
May 27	Sunday	Shavuot Morning Service	10:00 am
May 28	Monday	Memorial Day	
JUNE 2012			
Date	Day	Event	Time
June 1	Friday	Family Shabbat Service	6:30 pm
June 2	Saturday	Torah Study	10:00 am
June 3	Sunday	Hadassah Book Brunch	11:00 am
June 8	Friday	Shabbat Evening Service	7:30 pm
June 9	Saturday	Shabbat Morning Service	10:00 am
June 15	Friday	Mazal Tov Shabbat	7:30 pm
June 16	Saturday	Torah Study	10:00 am
June 22	Friday	Shabbat Evening Service	7:30 pm
June 23	Saturday	Shabbat Morning Service	10:00 am
June 29	Friday	Shabbat Evening Service	7:30 pm
June 30	Saturday	Shabbat Morning Service	10:00 am



## Congratulations

to

### Judith Gold Stitzel

on the publication of her memoir

#### "Field Notes from Grief: The First year."

You can learn more about the book by visiting

[www.fieldnotesfromgrief.com](http://www.fieldnotesfromgrief.com).

In addition, you are invited to a presentation on

**Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**

**6:30-9:30 pm,**

**at the MAC.**

The gallery will open at 6:30 with the original artwork Claudia Giannini created for the book on display. Claudia will discuss her art and Judy will read selections from the book from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.



Remember a loved one  
with a

### Yahrzeit Plaque

\$400 DONATION

Contact: Bennett Millstone

## Mazal Tov

### Art Jacknowitz

who was inducted into the  
**WVU Health Sciences  
Center Academy of  
Excellence in  
Teaching & Learning**  
on March 26th.

Art, together with  
seven colleagues,  
was recognized for  
"...excellence in education."

### Mark Brazaitis

the winner of the  
**University of  
Notre Dame's  
2012 Sullivan Prize**  
for his collection of stories,  
"The Incurables."

### David Lederman

recipient of

**2011 WVU  
Benedum Scholar Award**

*We note with sorrow  
the passing of*

*Stephen D. Tanner*

*Life Long Member*

*and*

*Past President*

*of TOL*

*and*

*Harry Berman*

*A Jewish Leader for*

*Clarksburg and*

*West Virginia*

*May their memory  
be a blessing*



Share Your Simcha  
Buy a Leaf on

### THE SIMCHA TREE

\$250/leaf

\$2500/Small Stone

\$5000/Large Stone

Contact

Merle Stolzenberg/

Barbara Jacowitz

## MI SHEBEIRACH / WELLNESS PRAYERS

Please remember to consult with those who are in need of healing, before publicly adding their names to the Mi Shebeirach list. With their permission, we would like to add whatever support we can to their recovery and healing.



### Rule #1 by Ed Gerson

One Friday night the guest speaker was a Rabbi Kahane. No, not THAT Rabbi Kahane, i.e., the JDL guy. Half of Morgantown showed up just in case. Our Kahane was a little rabbi from the old UAHC (now the URJ). He excitedly addressed us concerning small congregations' fund-raising. Very intense speaker, he'd jerk and scrunch in his shoulders, elbows and hands, repeatedly causing his yarmulka to pop off and roll down an arm where he'd catch it and place it back on his head while speaking. It never hit the ground.

The evening lengthened, the yarmulka trick never evolved. Stephen and Rita had been sitting in front of Donna and I. Stephen appeared to have had a very good, full, sociable dinner before services. Rabbi Kahane's talk finished, everyone stood up, and Stephen clearly remarked, "Well, if that was food for thought, I think we overindulged." There was stifled laughter and a few glares. It's been 20 years, and I still treasure that comedic timing.

He observed that when TOL was built in 1948 people didn't live much past 65 so now those beautiful entry steps outside had become barriers. We needed American Disabilities Act compliance. As executor of his parents' estate he could release the Mabel DeVries and Louis F. Tanner Fund if congregants matched it dollar for dollar. The Building Fund would be the other one third funding. We needed an elevator, safety doors, fire alarms, new accessible restrooms and part of the basement floor had to be ripped out and replumbed. One year later, 1996, the project was complete. Instead of an over 65 person getting a lift, the first passenger was then 13-year-old Naomi Gingold, who had a dance class knee injury and was on crutches.



Photo: Ed Gerson

It was always fun talking to Stephen, as his humor was driven by keen intelligence and purpose. Here's a Stephen D. Tanner composite c.1995: he's wearing a yarmulke (that word again), it's inside out maybe for hygienic reasons, or maybe because it's Stephen. Attached to his right trousers pocket is a "Ross Perot for President" button. We strike up a conversation: "So Stephen, what's with all the kvetchers driving me nuts. It's the paint, the social hall, or it's the rabbi. They find fault with everything. The regulars. Even complete strangers." He says: "Little blue cards Ed. Carried a stack of them when I was

president. I listened, then handed anybody, member or non-member, those little blue cards and a pencil. Told them to write down their name and pledge to fund the changes." "Stephen, you were that blunt with strangers? Jewish tradition says treat the stranger kindly." "Get to know the stranger sooner Ed so they're not strangers anymore." "So Stephen, you've always been Reform?" "Well you do know the difference don't you Ed? I mean between Reform and Orthodox? One of them can identify the shrimp fork."

Which brings us to Rule #1: Never shoot dice with a guy who plays with loaded Rubik's cubes.

### from Stan Cohen

When Judy and I arrived in town four decades ago, we were warmly welcomed by Stephen and Rita Turner. Their hospitality and caring quickly made us lasting members of the tree of Life "family." Stephen, of course, was never without conversation on any topic. I particularly remember in the early years talking outside the temple, taking a respite from a New Year service. He would always remark about the prayer book, "Too much repetition." His comment never



never changed over the several new editions and versions of the prayer book. Stephen is one-of-a-kind and truly missed by everyone he touched.

### from Art Jacnowitz

I remember Stephen Tanner for his many and diverse contributions to Morgantown and WVU, but wanted to mention his unique role in the genesis of the Pi Lambda Phi Jewish Lectureship series on campus. This series which has brought notable Jewish educators, artists, playwrights, media personalities and scientists to the campus has enriched us all. It was Stephen who had the temerity to demand that the national organization return unspent funds/dues/pledges to WVU when the fraternity was dissolved, and it was his persistence that persuaded the national administration to do so. This endowment began the lecture series, which has continued to this day. The academic community as well as the Jewish community of Morgantown has benefited from Stephen's vision and on their behalf, I wanted to acknowledge this often unheralded contribution.

### from Sylvia Cooper

Stephen won a community award and was recognized in our Newsletter. After publication, I received an e-mail from Stephen thanking me for the recognition and gently pointing out that he spelled his name the "Jewish" way—with a "ph" in the middle, not a "v."

Startled I revisited the newsletter and discovered, to my surprise, Microsoft insists on converting **Stephen** to **Steven**. Stephen was greatly amused when I told him of my on-going "Stephen" battle with Microsoft. Indeed, I must confess I only recently figured out the real fix.

Keep that in mind as you read these memories — just in case a stray "Steven" escaped my efforts to thwart the Microsoft demons.

## Remembering Zelda

It was 1964. We had moved from New York/Philadelphia to Morgantown, West Virginia (wherever that was). Attending our first Friday night service at the Tree of Life, we made our way down to the social hall for the Oneg Shabbat. At some point a discussion took place on some problem with many members voicing their opinions. One woman stood up and very quietly summed up the situation and offered what seemed to be an intelligent solution. I remember I turned to my husband and said "That is one smart woman." I later learned that this was Zelda Weiss and in the years that followed, working with her on many projects, I never found reason to change my first impression of her.

*Frances Ness*

## Poetry from Cheryl

### Blue Bird

On the kitchen  
counter

the goat-eyed  
cat  
carries a blue-feathered  
bird  
already dead  
the beak still  
in a pincer grip  
on a pomegranate twig

each of us holds  
something  
in our mouths.

*Agi Mishol*

**Tree of Life Congregation**  
PO Box 791  
Morgantown, WV 26507-0791  
(304) 292-7029  
<http://etzheim.org>

## FIRST CLASS MAIL



### MAZAL TOV SHABBAT

On the third Friday of every month, we recognize, honor and bake a cake for all congregants who celebrate a birthday or anniversary in that month. The honorees for May and June-July are:

#### May 18, 2012

Joan and Bill Addicks  
Laurie and Paul Brager  
Ben Addicks  
Helene and Jim Friedberg  
Olivia Kaddar  
Millie and Al Karlin  
Lee Kass  
Al Karlin  
Sharon Hildebrand  
Leonard Simmons  
Heidi Solomon  
Reis Snyder  
Reed Tanner  
Nathan Tauger

#### June 15, 2012

Alex Behr  
Judy and Stan Cohen  
Alex Berrebi  
Lily Bailey  
Elana Gutmann  
David Lederman  
Nicholas Lemoff  
Susan Brown and Lee Petsonk  
Gwen and Alan Rosenbluth  
David Pariser  
Leah and Franc Stern  
Merle and Alan Stolzenberg  
Cindy and Reed Tanner  
Andrea Works  
Austin Works  
Andrea and Austin Works

#### July 15, 2012

Hanna Behr  
Rich and Laura Cohen  
Bob Cohen and Kathy Abate  
Laurie Brager  
Jean Gould  
Jack Golden  
Carole Hart  
Linda Herbst

Heather Meit  
Marilyn Manilla  
Max Meit  
Ruth and Paul Siegel  
Terry and Marty Sippin  
Heidi and Deva Solomon  
Eva Segert Tauger  
Franc Stern

### ONEG VOLUNTEERS

April 27th

Laura & Richard Cohen

May 9th

Roger & Linda Abraham

June 22nd

Sherry Hildebrand

**Would you like to  
sponsor an  
Oneg Shabbat?  
Contact Linda Jacknowitz  
304-292-1777  
[ljacknowitz@frontier.com](mailto:ljacknowitz@frontier.com)**

Visit <http://etzheim.org>