



Nov/Dec — 2013

Cheshvan/Kislev/Tevet — 5774

Morgantown, West Virginia

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

RABBI

Joseph Hample

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| Austin Works | Michelle Leversee |
| Barry Pallay | |

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| Susan Brown | Social Action |
| Art Jacknowitz | Israel Committee |
| Susan Newfield | CARE |
| Rich Cohen | Ritual Committee |
| TBA | Judaica Shop |
| Sylvia Cooper | Newsletter |
| Jan Dizian | Webmaster |
| Rich Gutmann | Kitchen |

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

INSIDE HIGHLIGHTS

| | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Page 2 | Sisterhood |
| Page 3 | President's Message/Hadassah |
| Page 4 | A Culture of Gratitude |
| Page 5 | Meaning of Oneg/The Later Maccabees |
| Page 6 | Hanukkah Party |
| | Children's Ed & Adult Ed |
| Page 7 | Calendars |
| Page 8 | Toda list |
| Page 9 | Poetry Corner/Transitions |
| Page 10 | Installation: Friday night |
| Page 11 | Installation: Saturday |
| Page 12 | Yom Kippur Break-the-Fast |
| Page 13 | Community Sharing |
| Page 14 | Mazal Tov Shabbat/Empty Bowls |

A Legend for the Charm Campaign

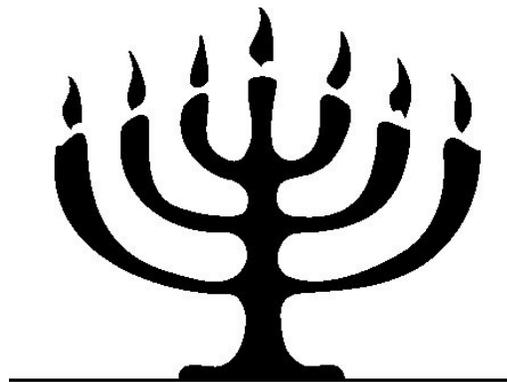
Downstairs is a tapestry of a large, glittering menorah with multi-colored candles each topped with a bright, yellow flame. This menorah tells the story of the progress our congregation is making toward fulfilling the CHARM campaign to pay off the cost for the necessary repairs that were made to TOL this past year.

Each of the candles is a pocket to be stuffed. When filled and sewn closed, each candle represents a ten thousand dollar milestone on the road towards our goal of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. When all the candles are sewn closed we will be almost halfway there.

Then we will begin to light the flames. Like the candles, each flame represents ten thousand dollars. As each flame's goal is realized, the flame will be embellished with beading. When all seven flames are decorated we will have only ten thousand dollars left to go.

When you see a Star of David appliquéd on the base of the menorah, you will know our goal has been reached.

To recognize the contributions made by our congregation, the tapestry will also be decorated with pomegranates, with the names of donors written on them.



News from Sisterhood

Rosa Becker, co-chair

On Sunday September 22nd Sisterhood hosted an arts program featuring Judaica artist / illustrator Ilene Winn- Lederer. Our "Bereshit Bagel Brunch" was a big success!

First, the children were guided in creating their own imaginative creation collages. Then everyone enjoyed a delicious brunch provided by our Sisterhood members. Following that, Ilene presented a fascinating multimedia explanation of her complex process for creating her amazing images.

Many people eagerly purchased her illuminated Torah commentary, entitled Between Heaven and Earth, as well as prints of Jewish scenes.



As a result of this event, Sisterhood gained several new members. If you have not yet joined, please join now so that we can continue our work in support of programs and projects for TOL. A form is included below for your convenience. THANK YOU!

bTree of Life Sisterhood

Devoted to Supporting the Community

Co-Presidents
Barbara Jacowitz
Rosalyn Becker
Vice President
Kathleen Abate

Secretary
Judy Cohen
Treasurer
Eva Segert-Tauger

2013-2014 Dues Statement

Attached please find a Sisterhood dues statement for 2013-2014. If you prefer, you may mail your check alone directly to the Treasurer, Eva Segert-Tauger, at the following address:
Treasurer, TOL Sisterhood
P.O. Box 4051
Morgantown, WV 26504-4051

Name _____

Preferred e-mail address _____

Dues Levels

Standard membership level: \$36.00 and above

Existing Life members: \$21.00

(New life memberships are not available at this time at this level)

TOL Sisterhood is a non-profit organization, and the entire amount of your dues may be tax-deductible, depending on your individual situation. (For more details, please consult your tax advisor.)

The Board has decided, after many years, to raise the dues to \$36.00 because Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) raised the amount we pay for each member to \$18.00. We also have been paying \$2.00 per member each year to the WRJ regional organization. This amount is likely to go up. The remainder of the dues directly benefits the Tree of Life Congregation, and the religious school in particular.

Your cancelled check is your receipt.



**Adam
Rosefsky**

The past couple months have gone by in a blur. We have done so many things at the temple, the last months. We had High Holiday services with fantastic hosted snacks and meals, our regular Oneg's, religious school and special events.

None of our events would be possible without our members and dedicated volunteers who give so freely of their busy schedules to try and make our time at the temple more enjoyable.

This year, we are going to try something new to take help share the responsibility of making our celebrations memorable. Each member will be asked to take one Shabbat and organize the Oneg. We are not asking the member to host, or supply all of the food and beverages, but rather to make sure that there will be food and beverages and to make sure that the kitchen

Hadassah

The weather was crisp and beautiful. The leaves were changing. The deck plants were enjoying a late season spurt. All of which made sitting out on Gwen's deck totally enjoyable.

After our potluck brunch, we settled in to hear Susan and Neal Newfield update our knowledge about the state of women's lives around the globe. Hearing about sex trafficking while sitting in our bucolic setting was somewhat jarring. A needed wake up call for all of us. Our thanks to Susan and Neal for preparing such a timely and informative program.

and social hall are cleaned up after the Oneg. Don't worry, we don't expect mopping and sweeping, just that garbage is thrown out, extra food is put away and dishes and serving utensils are cleaned. More details and a schedule will be coming out shortly, and I thank you in advance for helping make our Shabbats a delight (which is what Rabbi Joe tells us Oneg really means).

Having volunteered for many things myself, I know how hard it is to get everything right. Frequently things go wrong. I know that I do my best to try and keep things running correctly, but there are sometimes mistakes.

At an oneg a couple months ago, I was responsible for making coffee. I hadn't used the large percolator before, and didn't realize how long it took to actually make the coffee (give me a Mr Coffee any day). So come time for people to retire downstairs and celebrate, all we had was weak watery coffee. It was an accident (I humbly apologize) but they happen.

Please remember that when something doesn't turn out right. If we run out of herring before everyone has gotten some, or we have 10 boxes of crackers and only 1 block of cheese or

the pizza place brings us anchovy instead of plain or any number of other minor issues these are not intentional. The volunteers who take time out of their busy schedules try to make enjoyable events, do their best, but sometimes life throws us a curve. Please be patient and know that the little foibles and foul-ups are accidents. We know when they occur and we are embarrassed that they happened, they are unavoidable and they are not intentional. Except the anchovy, I really like anchovy so I ordered it ;-)

So many good things have been happening at Tree of Life, and I am excited for our future. You don't have to wait until it is your Shabbat weekend to volunteer. There are always things to be done, events to be organized, calls to be made holidays to prepare for. If you are willing or able to volunteer, let us know.

Shalom,

Adam Rosefsky

Q: What does the waiter say in a Jewish restaurant?
A: Is anything all right?

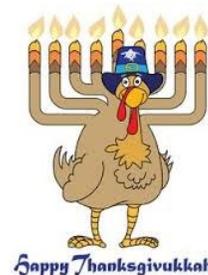


Gobble Gobble Gobble

On Tuesday evening, December 3rd, Hadassah will celebrate "THANKSGIVUKKAH" with a pot luck dinner (6:30 pm) followed by a seven candle celebration of the weird intersection of Thanksgiving and Hanukkah.

Think Turkey Menorahs and sweet potato noodle kugel. The Head Turkey, aka our hostess, will be Linda

Herbst. Details will follow. Gobble Tov!





**Rabbi
Hample**

A Culture of Gratitude

What does a good guest say? "How much trouble the host went to for me! How much meat they brought before me, how much wine they brought before me, how many cakes they brought before me! And all the trouble they went to was only for me." But what does a bad guest say? "What trouble did this host go to? I had one piece of bread, I ate one slice of meat, I drank one cup of wine. All the trouble which this host went to was only for their only family." – Talmud B'rachot 58a

Life is a mix of good and bad. We have to try and appreciate the benefits and overlook the vicissitudes. Sometimes that's easy, sometimes hard. When a business or bureaucracy lets us down, maybe it was only to be expected: but when our faith community lets us down, that's a whole different level of hurt. If we view the congregation as our refuge from the disappointments of the wider world, then an unsatisfactory synagogue experience may seem particularly devastating.

On the other hand, the synagogue has nowhere near the personnel or resources of commercial and governmental institutions. Tree of Life Congregation's minimal staff and overworked volunteers are spread very, very thin. They are liable to burn out if their hard work is met, not with smiles, but with carping and complaining.

Everything we do could be better. Every picnic could have a wider range of salads or drinks. Every service could be better organized. Every party could be better publicized. Every lesson plan could be better im-

plemented. Any project or event leaves room for improvement, but unless *you* are prepared to jump in and help, perhaps it would be wiser to focus on what was done well. The kiddush cup is half full.

As your rabbi, I am constantly offered creative programming ideas, but the visionary seldom offers to coordinate the project personally. They are too busy, but they feel strongly that "someone" should do it. Unfortunately, there is no "someone" who is not already stretched to the breaking point. We do offer a varied, vibrant program serving many different constituencies. It may fall short of what we imagine, but it is not too shabby.

A sustainable Jewish community embodies not a culture of complaining, but a culture of gratitude. What does a culture of gratitude look like? At an event, we could try to notice new amenities or significant improvements over what's been done in the past. It's easy to overlook the special food or the special decorations or the special equipment: you don't see what you're not searching for. But scrutinize more carefully! *Baruch pokeach ivrim*, blessed is the One who opens the eyes of the blind. Then ask around and find out who provided the enhancement. Tell that person how much you like the innovation. Not only will they be thrilled: they (or anyone hearing the conversation) will be more willing to volunteer again.

A culture of gratitude means graciously accepting the decisions of the meeting you didn't go to or the committee you didn't join. We need to honor our leaders or we won't have any. In Numbers 16-17, a rebellion against Moses and Aaron is suppressed, and God then works a miracle – making Aaron's walking stick sprout flowers and almonds – to show support of Moses' and Aaron's leadership. The point is not that Moses and Aaron are holier than anyone else. (They aren't.) The point is that leadership is a miracle: or rather, it's a miracle anyone wants to be a leader. Let's appreciate that miracle.

A culture of gratitude means owning the responsibility for keeping ourselves informed about synagogue events. The program is publicized in this newsletter; in the weekly e-mails; on the website and the Facebook page; and in the voicemail announcements and the live announcements in services. Still, people often complain they didn't know this or that was happening. We Jews are supposed to be the people of the book, the people who know how to read or listen to the text and learn from it. Let's reclaim that skill.

If you are a committee chair or a project leader, please keep a list of people who worked on an initiative or event. The job isn't finished till you've thanked the contributors. If you are one of those hard workers, please accept my heartfelt thanks for all you do. We wouldn't have a viable synagogue without you. If you are a regular member or visitor, I'm delighted to see you, and I hope you're delighted by the program we provide.

I do empathize with those whose needs are not being met by the liturgy or the schedule or the food. Your constructive response would be offering to help, taking on some of the organizational tasks yourself, coming to the next meeting. You don't have time, you're on the road, you live too far away? I respect that. But those who *do* come to the meeting have the most clout. That is inevitable, otherwise no one would attend meetings. Please be a good sport about this inescapable fact of life.

As Jews, we may start each day with the words *modeh ani l'fanecha*, "I give thanks before You." Three times a day we may pray *modim anachnu lach... ulcha na'eh l'hodot*, "we thank You... it is fitting to thank You." If we can cultivate gratitude to God, we can cultivate gratitude to those made in God's image, our friends and neighbors who run the synagogue – imperfectly, but with the sincere hope of pleasing us. A key part of getting what we want is appreciating what we already have. And in the words of Hillel: "If not now, when?"

All for You: The Meaning of *Oneg*

Rabbi Joshua says celebrating holidays is a religious obligation. Half of it is eating and drinking, half of it is studying Torah. In other words: half for God, half for you.

Rabbah says, surely on the sabbath it is all for you. How so? "Call the sabbath oneg, a delight (Isaiah 58:13)." – Talmud P'sachim 68b

Refreshments are part of most Jewish occasions. Wine represents holiness, probably because it makes you feel so divine! Bread represents sustenance, especially if it's *challah*, fancy braided bread. (In the Torah, *challah* is a type of sacrifice: the dough offering, Numbers 15:20.) On Passover, of course, *matzah* takes the place of *challah*. The word *kiddush*, sanctification, denotes the ritual of blessing sabbath or festival with wine or other refreshments.

On Shabbat, though, the wine and bread, songs and stories, delicacies and decorations are not just an instrument to sanctify the day. They are an independent *mitzvah*, the commandment to "call the sabbath a delight (Isaiah 58:13)." The word translated "delight" is *oneg*. According to our rabbis, whoever takes delight in the sabbath (*oneg Shabbat*) is given their heart's desire (Talmud Shabbat 118b).

Shabbat is our most important holiday. The only one that antedates Moses (Genesis 2:3). The only one mentioned in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:8, Deuteronomy 5:12). The only one that symbolizes the Covenant between God and Israel (Exodus 31:16). The only one when seven different people are invited to bless the Torah (Mishnah M'gillah 4:2). The only one that foreshadows the World-to-Come (Talmud B'rachot 57b). The only one requiring three full meals (Talmud Shabbat 117b). The only one compared to a queen and a bride (Talmud Shabbat 119a). The only one when we have an extra soul (Talmud

Beitzah 16a).

The term *kiddush* means "sacred refreshments" for sabbath or festival. The term *oneg* means "enjoyment of the sabbath," in the form of refreshments or any other amenity. It is worth maintaining the distinction, reserving the word *oneg* for Shabbat, to remind ourselves that the sabbath is our happiest holiday. Other holidays may be correctly observed even if they aren't any fun, but Shabbat is meaningless if we – if *you* – don't enjoy it. As Rabbah says, the celebration of Shabbat is all for you!



The Later Maccabees

From 167 BCE, Jewish patriot Judah Maccabee and his brothers overthrew the oppressive rule of the Seleucids (Greek-Syrians), restoring Jewish independence for a century. In 164 BCE the Jerusalem Temple, profaned by Seleucid paganism, was rededicated: that's why the holiday is called Chanukkah ("Dedication"). Our texts treat the Maccabean revolution as a miracle: the few defeated the many, the weak defeated the strong. It was history's first war for religious freedom, and it succeeded.

Judah Maccabee's nephew and grandnephew led the country into the Roman era, but they were flawed leaders little esteemed by Jewish tradition. Still, since Chanukkah coincides with Thanksgiving weekend this year, TOL will observe the holiday late – on December 8 – and focus the celebration on the later Maccabees. Who were these later Maccabees? Is there anything about them to admire?

Yochanan Horkanos, the nephew of Judah Maccabee, ran the country from 134 to 104 BCE. He reasserted a fragile sovereignty, gained

territory in both north and south, and strove for the religious unity of the people. Remarkably for the era, he minted coins without his own (or any human) image on them, presumably as a gesture against idolatry. And he cultivated friendly relations with Rome, Athens, and Egypt as counterweights to his archenemy, Seleucid Syria.

Yochanan's son, Alexander Yannai, reigned from 103 to 76 BCE. A great military leader, he further expanded the national borders, and was the first to fortify Masada, the famous hilltop redoubt near the Dead Sea. Alexander Yannai avoided defeat in an Egyptian war by exploiting divisions among the Ptolemies (Egypt's rulers). Like his father, he minted coins without human images, preferring a star emblem probably inspired by the triumphal verse, "A star shall rise out of Jacob (Numbers 24:17)."

Though these later Maccabees were brave and skillful rulers, their brutal treatment of various opponents has not endeared them to our historical memory. The Mishnah (Sukkah 4:9) recounts an incident at Sukkot, when a dissident crowd pelted Alexander Yannai with *etrogim* (citrons). The king had them massacred.

However, our sages praise Alexander Yannai's widow, who ruled as Queen Sh'lomtziyyon from 76 to 67 BCE. She embraced a policy of peace through strength, building up the army but largely avoiding war. And she mended relations with the Pharisees, the popular religious movement ancestral to Rabbinic Judaism. Few have ever achieved consensus among the notoriously quarrelsome Jewish people. Queen Sh'lomtziyyon was one of those few.

You have likely heard of Judah Maccabee and his brothers, but the later Maccabees don't get much respect. The glory usually goes to the founders of an institution, not their successors, who get stuck with the tedious but necessary job of consolidating the enterprise. This year, as TOL celebrates Chanukkah a little behind schedule, let's take time to appreciate

those who toil in obscurity to protect the achievements of their illustrious predecessors. The later Maccabees were not saints, nor are we. But the survival and reinforcement of our heritage is a quiet victory into itself

"The Later Maccabees"

(belated Chanukkah) party
Sunday, Dec. 8
5:00-7:00 pm

Bring your appetites
and your friends.

We will also have
our silent auction
and our latke brigade.

To donate for silent auction
or to join latke brigade
contact Adam Rosefsky
adam.rosefsky@gmail.com.

Adult Education

By Rabbi Joe Hample

Aric Agmon has returned from Israel and his Hebrew (native anyway) is more fluent than ever! His adult Hebrew class has resumed on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

On the second Wednesday of the month we have adult ed on diverse topics:

* Wednesday, Nov. 13, we present "Our Love-Hate Relationship with Chasidism."

* Wednesday, Dec. 11, we discuss "Religion & Tolerance."

Second Wednesday adult ed is from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Adult ed classes are enriched by a multitude of viewpoints. Please come share your perspective.

Children's Education

By Rabbi Joe Hample

We are pleasantly surprised to find we have 39 students in the TOL religious school and 17 students in the Hebrew school. We are building on last year's methodology, experimenting with homegrown Hebrew materials, a family education initiative, and written scripts for the weekly skits. We are fortunate to have a pool of ten substitutes, since our main teachers (especially those in degree programs) are sometimes unavoidably absent.

We held the first Family Shabbat service-potluck of the term on

Oct. 4, starring the preschool-kindergarten class. We will celebrate the younger elementary class on Nov. 8, the older elementary class on Dec. 13. Family Shabbat is an integral part of the religious school program, but everyone is welcome to attend. In fact, it's your golden opportunity to glimpse the Jews of tomorrow!

We also have a successful new teen program on the occasional Saturday, alternating between "Teen Movie Night" and "Teen Shmooze Night." The next "Teen Movie Night" is Nov. 9: we will see the romantic comedy *Crossing Delancey*. The next "Teen Shmooze Night" is Dec. 14.



Calendars

| NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013 | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|---|----------------|
| Date | Day | Event | Time |
| 11/1/13 | Friday | Mazzal Tov Shabbat ser- | 7:30-9:00 pm |
| 11/2/13 | Saturday | Shabbat & full Torah ser- | 10:00 am-1:00 |
| 11/6/13 | Wednesday | Hebrew for adults | 5:30-7:00 pm |
| 11/7/13 | Thursday | Rabbi's drop-in office | 1:00-5:00 pm |
| 11/8/13 | Friday | Family Shabbat & potluck | 6:30-8:00 pm |
| 11/9/13 | Saturday | Shabbat morning service & | 10:00 am-12:00 |
| 11/9/13 | Saturday | Teen movie night with the rabbi: <i>Crossing Delancey</i> | 7:00-9:00 pm |
| 11/13/13 | Wednesday | Adult ed: "Our Love-Hate Relationship with Chasidism" | 7:00-9:00 pm |
| 11/14/13 | Thursday | Rabbi's drop-in office | 1:00-5:00 pm |
| 11/15/13 | Friday | Lay-led Shabbat service & oneg | 7:30-9:00 pm |
| 11/16/13 | Saturday | Sorry, no Shabbat morning | |
| 11/20/13 | Wednesday | Hebrew for adults | 5:30-7:00 pm |
| 11/21/13 | Thursday | Rabbi's drop-in office | 1:00-5:00 pm |
| 11/22/13 | Friday | Shabbat service & oneg | 7:30-9:00 pm |
| 11/23/13 | Saturday | Shabbat morning service & | 10:00 am-12:00 |
| 11/28/13 | Thursday | Sorry, no rabbi's drop-in | |
| 11/29/13 | Friday | Sorry, no Shabbat service | |
| 11/30/13 | Saturday | Sorry, no Shabbat morning | |

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 12/3/13 | Tuesday | Hadassah: Thanks-givvukkah | 6:30 pm |
| 12/4/13 | Wednes- | Hebrew for adults | 5:30-7:00 pm |
| 12/5/13 | Thursday | Rabbi's drop-in office | 1:00-5:00 pm |
| 12/6/13 | Friday | Shabbat service & oneg | 7:30-9:00 pm |
| 12/7/13 | Saturday | Shabbat morning service & | 10:00 am-12:00 |
| 12/8/13 | Sunday | "The Later Macca-bees" (belated Chanukkah) party | 5:00-7:00 pm |
| 12/11/13 | Wednesday | Adult ed: "Religion & Tol-erance" | 7:00-9:00 pm |
| 12/12/13 | Thursday | Rabbi's drop-in office | 1:00-5:00 pm |
| 12/13/13 | Friday | Family Shabbat & potluck | 6:30-8:00 pm |
| 12/14/13 | Saturday | Shabbat morning service | 10:00 am-12:00 |
| 12/14/13 | Saturday | Teen shmooze night | 7:00-9:00 pm |
| 12/18/13 | Wednesday | Hebrew for adults | 5:30-7:00 pm |
| 12/19/13 | Thursday | Rabbi's drop-in office | 1:00-5:00 pm |
| 12/20/13 | Friday | Shabbat service & oneg | 7:30-9:00 pm |
| 12/21/13 | Saturday | Shabbat morning service & | 10:00 am-12:00 |
| 12/26/13 | Thursday | Sorry, no rabbi's drop-in | |
| 12/27/13 | Friday | Sorry, no Shabbat service | Sorry, no Shab- |
| 12/28/13 | Saturday | Sorry, no Shabbat morning service | Sorry, no Shab-bat morning ser-vice |

The TOL Board wishes to thank members and friends of our congregation as follows:

- The TOL Ritual Committee, Rabbi Joe, and Cantor Daniel Hazan for High Holiday Services
 - Ed and Donna Gerson for hosting Cantor Daniel Hazan
 - Mark Tauger & Sheila Wexler for Music at Kol Nidre
 - Nina Price for High Holiday programming
 - Sylvia Cooper, Ed Gerson and Gwen Rosenbluth for the Yizkor book
 - Barbara and Larry Jacowitz for Rosh Hashanah Flowers for Bemah and to an anonymous Donor for Yom Kippur Flowers.
 - Michelle Lerversee for flowers at entry doors for High Holidays
 - Sherry Hildebrand and Margalit Persing for fashioning a beautiful CHARM Campaign Menorah; and Adam Rosefsky for hanging it in the Social Hall.
 - Lee Kass for organizing Rosh Hashanah Oneg
 - Julie Penn for organizing Yom Kippur Break the Fast
 - Rich Gutmann for great work organizing Kitchen and helping with High Holiday set up and cleanup.
 - Marty Sippin, Bob Hunt, Nick Tsantilis, Yoav Kaddar, Austin Works, Lee Kass, for building Sukkah; Marty for taking Sukkah down.
 - Marty Sippin for his years of dedicated service as TOL house chair and for continued service when needed.
 - Margalit Persing for organizing, and Linda Jacknowitz for helping organize, the Sukkot interfaith celebration.
 - TOL neighbors Vernon and Nolajean Jamison for use of yard during interfaith Sukkot celebration.
 - Ilan Wright for Music at Sukkot.
 - Linda Jacknowitz for the years of service organizing Mazal Tov Shabbat services and Oneg.
 - Andrea and Austin Works for donating and hanging new curtains for the Social Hall
 - Sam Snider for donations made on behalf of his Bar Mitzvah to Religious School.
 - Rabbi Joe, Austin Works, and Lee Kass for TOL clean-up in preparation for Religious School.
 - Michelle Lerversee, the Transition Committee and the Ritual Committee for coordinating the October 11/12 Installation Services for Rabbi Joe.
 - Sisterhood members and friends for contributions to Rabbi's Installation Oneg, Friday Oct 11.
 - CARE committees' good work this past few months, and congregants who helped with their tasks.
 - Linda Jacknowitz for organizing the Mazel Tov Shabbat Friday evening, Oct. 18, and Rabbi Joe for his wonderful sermons and blessings to the congregation.
 - Linda Jacknowitz for setting up refreshments for the meet and greet with Israeli Consul-General Yaron Sideman on Monday afternoon Oct. 21. There was a very good turn out and a lively discussion with Israel's top diplomat for the Mid-Atlantic region.
 - Linda Jacknowitz for organizing Mazel Tov Shabbat Friday Nov 1.
 - Special thanks to those offering support to Sylvia Cooper, and to Ed and Donna Gerson during these past few weeks.
 - Congregants who helped organize and set-up/clean-up for Friday/Saturday Nov. 8/9, dish to pass and bagel breakfast.
- Please let us know if we have omitted your contribution, and we apologize for any oversight

Chanukah Lights Tonight

By Steven Schneider

Our annual prairie Chanukah party—
latkes, kugel, cherry blintzes.
Friends arrive from nearby towns
and dance the twist to “Chanukah Lights Tonight,”
spin like a dreidel to a klezmer hit.

The candles flicker in the window.
Outside, ponderosa pines are tied in red bows.
If you squint,
the neighbors’ Christmas lights
look like the Omaha skyline.

The smell of oil is in the air.
We drift off to childhood
where we spent our gelt
on baseball cards and matinees,
cream sodas and potato knishes.

No delis in our neighborhood,
only the wind howling over the crushed corn stalks.
Inside, we try to sweep the darkness out,
waiting for the Messiah to knock,
wanting to know if he can join the party.

Snow

BY FREDERICK SEIDEL

Snow is what it does.
It falls and it stays and it goes.
It melts and it is here somewhere.
We all will get there.

SOME MORE PHOTOS

**These are just
too nice
not to use!**



Transitions

Merle Stolzenberg is
retiring as
Tree of Life
Treasurer.
Tree of Life is deeply
grateful for her
thirteen years
of dedicated service.
Todah Rabah Merle!

Our new treasurer is
Al Berrebi.
Contact information
remains the same:

Treasurer
Tree of Life Congregation
PO Box 791
Morgantown, WV 26507-0791



Tree of Life
welcomes
Jan Ditzian
as our new
Webmaster.

Jan is taking over from
Sylvia Cooper
who is very grateful
he has stepped up
to do the job.

Pictures at an Installation (Friday) photos: gerson





Yom Kippur Break-the-Fast (photos: Neal Newfield)



MiShebeirach

We pray for the speedy recovery of

Ed Gerson

Our thoughts are with you and with Donna.

CHARM CAMPAIGN

Tree of Life
Building for our Future
Please join the effort

Send your
Pledge/donation
To our treasurer
Merle Stolzenberg

at
Tree of Life, PO Box 791,
Morgantown, WV 26507-0791



Remember a loved one
with a
YAHREIT PLAQUE
\$400 DONATION
Contact: Bennett Millstone

Love Our Volunteers

High Holidays: THANK YOU (*Toda*) to our wonderful Congregation. The coordinators of the TOL Erev Rosh Hashanah Oneg/Kiddush (Lee Kass) and Yom Kippur Break-the-Fast (Julie Penn) wish to offer thanks to everyone who contributed to these special High Holiday events in many ways. We appreciate the wonderful food contributions, the time and effort helping with set-up and clean-up, in addition to monetary donations for these events. Your support of our Community means a great deal to us and to the leadership of Tree of Life. Your kindness insured our synagogue's ability to meet the programmatic and spiritual needs of all of our congregants. We are grateful to you for your generosity, which is an important statement of support for Tree of Life. Best wishes to you and your loved ones for a New Year of continued good health and personal fulfillment. – Lee and Julie

Sukkot: For the success of the Interfaith Sukkot party, Sept. 20, we particularly thank Margalit Persing, without whom it would not have happened. Also Yoav Kaddar, Michelle Leversee, Lee Kass and Bob Hunt, Austin Works, Ilan Wright, Rachel Spero, Linda Jackowitz, Merle Stolzenberg, Bonnie and Steve Sharkey, Marty Sippin, and everyone who brought their joy under the sukkah.

Simchat Torah: For sponsoring the Friday evening, Sept. 27 Oneg for Simchat Torah, we thank Merle Stolzenberg, Bonnie Coradetti and Lee Kass. We also thank Michelle Leversee for providing Challah.

TOL offers many donation opportunities.

For a complete listing please visit
<http://www.etzhaim.org/aboutus/temple/>

A Note of Appreciation

Thank you to the TOL CARE COMMITTEE for the extraordinary support you have extended to me during this period of recovery. The rides, the shopping and the delicious meals have made this difficult period a lot easier.

Today! Sylvia

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.

Send information to Rabbi Joe or Margalit at nmpersing@yahoo.com

Share Your Simcha Buy a Leaf on THE SIMCHA TREE

\$250/leaf
\$2500/Small Stone
\$5000/Large Stone
Contact
**Merle Stolzenberg/
Barbara Jacowitz**



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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mazal Tov Shabbat

We will have our November honors on the first. December and January recognitions will be combined in January. Join us for a festive Oneg with lots of good cheer. Errors? Omissions? Contact Linda: ljackowitz@frontier.com

November 2012

Bob Cohen
Alan Rosenbluth
Richard Cohen
Stan Cohen
Jean DeLynn
Amy and Richard Gutmann
Larry Jacowitz
Susan Newfield
Michael Stern
Linda and Adam Rosefsky
Rebecca O'Neal
Steve Markwell
Jim Friedberg
Dan Solomon
Daya Solomon
Rabbi Joe Hample & Barry Wendell

December 2012

Kathleen Abate
Roger Abrahams
Paul Brager
Daniel Berrebi
Art Jackowitz
Robert Hunt
Martha and Norman Lass
Keith Newman
Muriel Millstone
Emily Lederman
Stephanie Savitch
Linda Rosefsky
Sheryl Grossman
David Rosen

January 2013

Erik Abrahams
Justin Addicks
Ken Mitchell
Aleeza Price
Samuel Snider
Lisa Stern
Eva Segert Tauger & Mark Tauger
Max Weber
Sheila Wexler
Rachel Works
Sylvia Cooper
Ilan Wright



Save the date: Empty Bowls Soup and Bread Luncheon February 22, 2014

Tickets are \$15 donation per person. All money goes to feeding the hungry locally.

Empty bowls is also raffling off a beautiful wood sculpture and a WV sesquicentennial Quilt.

Raffle tickets are \$5 or 6 for \$20.

If you are interested in tickets or have any questions please contact Linda Herbst at 304-599-6947 or at leherbst@gmail.com.

**EMPTY
BOWLS**



Visit <http://etzheim.org>