



## December: Dilemma or Opportunity?

### Services

#### Friday Evenings

**December 4**  
Kabbalat Shabbat/  
Birthday Blessings 7:30 pm

**December 11**  
Kabbalat Shabbat/  
Social Responsibility Shabbat 7:30 pm

**December 18**  
Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm

**December 25**  
Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm

#### Saturdays

**December 5**  
Vayeishev 10:00 am  
Bar Mitzvah of Sam Siwak

**December 12**  
Mikeitz 10:00 am  
Bar Mitzvah of Max Blatter

**December 19**  
Vayigash 10:00 am

**November 26**  
Va-y'chi 10:00 am

Once upon a time (but it's a true story), a Jewish family moved to St. Louis and joined CRC. In their former home, this family had a ritual of purchasing a Christmas dinner, 'with all the fixins,' and donating it to a needy family. So, wanting to continue their tradition, but being unfamiliar with the area, they called me. I told them about a young man in North St. Louis who I was mentoring at the time whose family would surely benefit from a donated holiday meal.

The new family wished to be anonymous, so they asked if I would do the honor of bringing the meal over. I was in the office on the afternoon on December 24th when it all arrived—crates of food, most prominently featuring voluminous amounts of none other than baked ham. For some reason, I hadn't envisioned that as the main course and the juxtaposition of such a meal in a synagogue and the need to put it all in our refrigerator (CRC is not strictly kosher, but we are pretty clear on excluding pork) suddenly made me uneasy. I decided to take the food over right then and there, a little earlier than planned.

When I arrived, guests were already filling the house. My mentee and his family greeted me and were immediately overwhelmed when they saw the spread that had been given to them. They were gracious about the prospect of a donated Christmas dinner, but the actual meal was beyond their expectation. Tears were in everyone's eyes as I wished the gathering a "Merry Christmas." Any discomfort I had around the nature of the meal naturally vanished and I left feeling so grateful at being the messenger of a wonderful mitzvah.

In fact, I have often thought of elongating

the tale and presenting it as an untraditional version of a classic Jewish folk story, entitled perhaps, "The Rabbi who Delivered a Ham Dinner for Christmas."

American Jews have a spectrum of responses to the omnipresence of Christmas songs, displays, references, and celebrations this time of year. Many families include Christians as well as Jews, and they naturally embrace varying aspects of the December 25th holiday. Others try to willfully ignore it, complete with Chinese carry out and a movie. Though Christmas has never been much on my radar (aside from a youthful fascination with crèches on the lawns' of my friends), the year Amy and I lived in Israel, I oddly missed it's atmosphere when the time came.

In my own household, I have one teenager who is very involved in Jewish life-youthgroup, Friday night services regular, Shabbat School assistant-yet she gleefully sings Christmas songs in her youth choir. Yet, my other teen, who hasn't yet found his Jewish niche post Bar Mitzvah, demonstrably opts out (totally on his own) of the Christmas performance at his school.

I love the array of responses to the 'December Dilemma', for they are at the heart of my understanding of Hanukkah, a celebration of religious freedom in forms as infinite the flames of the menorah. Most of all, I am grateful for a holiday season-Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Christmas- that seems to always push people, like our friends who donate a meal this time of year to this day, to become their most generous, warm and joyous selves.

*continued on page 8*

### Mazel Tov

- b Madeline Blatt on her bat mitzvah
- b Dr. Raymond Slavin on being named an Ageless Remarkable St. Louisan
- b Rabbi Susan Talve on receiving a Troublemaker of the Best Kind Award from Cultural Leadership
- b Emil Thyssen on being elected president of the 2019 medical school class at Mizzou
- b Matt and Margaret Nicholson on the birth of their daughter, Maggie. Maggie joins big sister Erykah and big brother Jacob

### Sincere Condolences

- b Cindy Liebson on the death of her grandmother, Pauline McAlister
- b Jane Grady on the death of her mother, Barbara Goldmuntz
- b Janessa Hall on the death of her mother, Shirley Hall
- b Derrick Fishing on the death of his grandmother, Josie Fishing
- b Terrell Wooten on the death of his niece, Alicia Stephens
- b Amy Kanfer on the death of her father and Sam and Rachel's grandfather, Saul Kanfer.

### Welcome New Members

- b Paul Rutledge and Susan Gurwitch, and Cooper and Josephine
- b Dafna Revah and David Palatnik

### FIRST NIGHT/FIRST LIGHT

Sunday, December 6, 5:00 pm

As part of our annual CRC tradition, join us for an incredible gathering of lighting the first candle of Hanukkah in our Sukkat Shalom. We'll have latkes, dreidles, and fun. Bring your Hanukkiya (Hanukkah menorah) and light up the night with CRC. A special addition to this year's First Night/First Light is that every family will get to decorate a new Hanukkiya! This event is free and open to all ages. We can't wait to see you there!



### EDUCATION STEERING COMMITTEE LISTENING CAMPAIGN

Attention all CRC'ers! The Education Steering Committee is pleased to announce that we are launching **a listening campaign to get** feedback to help us evaluate and assess our current educational opportunities. We need YOUR help to make this a success! In the coming weeks, you will receive information inviting you to participate in surveys that our members have created, and will see committee members observing various programs and reaching out to participants or past participants. You may be contacted by committee members by phone or email to engage you in conversations around your experiences at CRC in all lifelong learning

capacities. The following are our areas of interest:

- \*Tot Shabbat-2nd Grade
- \*Religious School Grades 3-6
- \*The B'nai Mitzvah Program
- \*The Teen Program and Youth Group
- \*Adult Education and Torah Study

If you would like to be contacted by a member of the Education Steering Committee to provide feedback for our research, please contact Tristan at 314-361-1564 x 100 or at [tristan@centralreform.org](mailto:tristan@centralreform.org) with your contact information. Please indicate how you would like to be contacted, the best times to reach you, and in which areas you would be interested in providing feedback (see above for list of categories).

We are looking forward to connecting with everyone and are excited to hear your feedback, which will be invaluable in helping us continue to grow our already incredible educational opportunities!

### TRIPLE CHAI + BRUNCH AND PROGRAM (ANYONE 55 AND OVER) - THE CUBA EXPERIENCE

Sunday, December 6, 10:30 am at CRC

Anna Navarro was born in Cuba 12 years before the Communist Revolution. Her family went back and forth between the US and Cuba until Castro came to power, after which they didn't return. There were both pro and anti-Castro partisans in her family. She went back to Cuba in 2002, after a 40 year absence, returning with Harriet Blickenstaff in 2014, days after the US and Cuba announced talks to re-establish relations.

Claire Medol Hyman was in Cuba in February of 2015. She traveled with New York's Camp Kinderland supporters, many of whom had Socialist leanings and activism experience. Rich discussions were shared with guides on Cuban institutional policies and its legislative, medical, and cultural structure.

A short period will be devoted to hearing your suggestions for upcoming programs, so start thinking, folks.

Caterer Leslie Caplan is going to be preparing the entrees for the December brunch, so the food is sure to be good and plentiful. All you need to bring is a salad (last names A-L) or fruit/dessert (last names M-Z). The cost per person is \$1.25.

Please RSVP so that we can know how many will be attending. RSVP to Claire Hyman at [claire.j.hyman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:claire.j.hyman@sbcglobal.net) or Anita Wilson at [anita63146@yahoo.com](mailto:anita63146@yahoo.com) or (314) 878-3502.

### LGBT LATKE PARTY

Friday, December 11, 6:00 pm at CRC

Please join us as we celebrate Hanukkah! Or learn how to spell it!

Let's eat a lotta latkes, share a Shabbat dinner, and have good discussion.

CRC will provide the main dish and the latkes.

Please bring either wine or dessert or any other favorite Hanukkah food.

And...your menorah and candles. See ya then!

Please RSVP to [tristan@centralreform.org](mailto:tristan@centralreform.org).

### THE ISRAEL CIRCLE

Wednesday, December 9, 7:00 pm at CRC

The Torch Relay, the sufganiot (doughnuts), the big hanukkiyot (Hanukkah menorahs) set up in neighborhoods around the country -- it must be wonderful to celebrate Hanukkah in Israel. Knowing that there is a place where our Jewish history is celebrated fully and boldly while we also celebrate here connects our families to the Peoplehood of Israel. At our next Israel Circle meeting we'll light the 4th candle and rededicate ourselves to planning a series of programs we think CRC members will find intriguing. Come add your voice and ideas to our preparations. An Israel Circle meeting is a time for you to ask your questions, share your points of view and guide us to understand the interests of our congregation. You can get as involved as you choose. For information or to add your name to our mailing list, see the links on our blog at [www.israelcircle.blogspot.com](http://www.israelcircle.blogspot.com).

### CLIMATE CHANGE INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE

Tuesday, December 1, 7:00 pm at CRC

In solidarity with the UN Convention on Climate Change, we will gather together as people of faith to pray for a just, sustainable, and equitable solution to our global climate crisis.

We are witnessing first-hand the effects of environmental degradation and climate change on poor and vulnerable people around the world. Today, developing nations are prone to major devastation as a result of climate-related disasters. Homes, livelihoods, crops, livestock and human lives are being destroyed in the wake of storms and floods. Severe hunger and disease often follow these disasters at a slower but just as deadly pace.

We hope you can join us for what will be a powerful and moving event.

From November 30 to December 11, the 21st "Conference of the Parties" organized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will be held in Paris. It will be a crucial conference, as it needs to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C.



*Maggie's Corner...***FRIDAY TANAKH STUDY***Fridays, 2:30 - 3:45-ish pm*

We are now reading the Book of Judges, primarily in English, with Hebrew explanations. As usual, there is a lot of discussion that will surely take us down many interesting and fun roads!

In Rabbi Rami Shapiro's book, he asks, "Do the Hebrew prophets matter?" If you answer, "yes," it places you in direct conversation with them. It allows the prophets to speak directly to you about your life right here, right now.

The period of the Judges or Shoftim spans about 400 years. It is not so much about the Role of the Judges, but rather the Role of the Leaders. We will explore..."You were those guys."

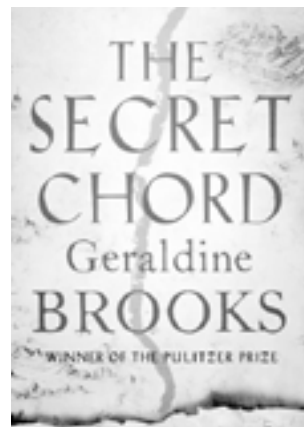
If you're thinking about joining our study and journey...this is a great time! No need to RSVP...you are always welcome.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Maggie anytime at [maggie@centralreform.org](mailto:maggie@centralreform.org).

**UDGY POTLUCK NON-BOOK CLUB***Monday, December 7, 6:00 - 8:00 pm at CRC*

Please join this new group of folks who want to read books that make us wonder, question, and learn...and maybe feel even a little bit udgy! Want to talk about them with other like-minded folks? Want to share and eat good food while we do it? We would love for you to join us! We plan to meet every other month on the first Monday of the month. Our next session will be February 1.

**The December book is...*The Secret Chord* by Geraldine Brooks.** In perhaps her most ambitious novel yet, Brooks takes on one of literature's richest and most enigmatic figures: King David, a man who shimmers between history and legend. Peeling away the myth to bring David to life in Second Iron Age Israel, Brooks traces the arc of his journey from obscurity to fame, from shepherd to soldier, from hero to traitor, from beloved king to murderous despot and into his remorseful and diminished dotage, as seen through the eyes of those who love or fear him. If you have questions, or have book suggestions, please contact Maggie Duwe: [maggie@centralreform.org](mailto:maggie@centralreform.org).

**A MESSAGE FROM ESSIE**

One of the guiding principles of Reform Judaism is the individual's right to decide whether to subscribe to this particular practice or to that particular belief. In order to decide, we need to be informed and actively continue to educate ourselves. Make choices about what makes you Jewish based on facts and knowledge. Wow! With that principle in mind, understand that Reform Jews need to be well informed

and armed with knowledge to make educated choices regarding mitzvot, sacred acts and rituals.

What does all this mean? What point am I trying to make? Being a Reform Jew means making choices and decisions about how to get and/or stay connected to Torah and K'lal Yisrael, the worldwide Jewish community. "All Jews have an obligation to study the traditions that have been entrusted to us and to observe those mitzvot that have meaning for us today..."

Choose to celebrate Holidays, lifecycle events, and being Jewish daily, mindfully. Educate, study, consider... on purpose and with purpose. Model for children the act of considering, questioning and learning with an open mind. Live with awareness and consider the wonder around you.

Religious Education ... it's not just for children! Come learn with us at CRC.

With peace and with purposeful thought,

Essie Mitchell (Religious School Director)

**WORLD PEACE DAY***Thursday, December 31, 6:00 am*

Yes, that's 6:00 am! World Peace Day is celebrated at the same time around the world (It's at 4:00 am on the West Coast.) And in St. Louis, CRC has been its annual host. The celebration is an amalgam of world spiritual practices --both reflective and joyous. CRC is transformed with prayer flags, crystals, and incense. Come early, walk the labyrinth created on the oneg floor and meditate. Stay for morning treats before heading off to work or back to bed.

**DECEMBER SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY SHABBAT - FACES NOT FORGOTTEN***Friday, December 11, 7:30 pm*

Visual artist Christine Ilewski has been making portraits of children and young adults killed by gun violence for five years. Mourning a missionary friend murdered in Guatemala, she made a portrait to process her grief. Then she talked to a Chicago mother whose son had been murdered and painted his portrait. That led to meeting more parents and to more portraits. The project grew; she now has 16 artists helping her. She continues to get overwhelmed by the numbers. They never seem to stop.

Ilewski's original goes to the family. A copy goes on a handkerchief, "symbolic of grief," she said. She never contacts the families; if they're interested, they contact the Faces project. **We will not only be hearing from Christine at our December Social Responsibility Shabbat**, but we will also have the Faces Not Forgotten exhibit in the Oneg for the rest of December.

We are very fortunate to have a second speaker for our December Social Responsibility Shabbat. **In 2008, Lois Schaffer's daughter Susan was murdered in Creve Coeur by 17-year-old burglars who shot her multiple times.** Schaffer, who just turned 80, has since dedicated her life to advocating for stricter gun laws. Schaffer said her tragedy gives her the credibility to speak any place that will provide a platform to lobby for stiffer gun control legislation and to contribute to reducing rampant gun violence. Lois is so eager to spread her message that she is flying all the way from New York (on her own dime) to speak to us. She will also be speaking at a gun violence vigil on Sunday, December 13 (see page 6 for details).

We hope that you can join us for this very special evening. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Bernstein at (314) 361-1564, ext. 117 or [jenniferb@centralreform.org](mailto:jenniferb@centralreform.org).

**JEWISH-MUSLIM DAY OF SERVICE***Friday, December 25,**9:00 am at the JCC (Staenberg) for a Welcome Breakfast**10:00 am at CRC and other sites*

CRC is excited to again host the St. Louis Muslim and Jewish community for a Day of Service on Christmas Day. Last year we packaged over 400 individual toiletry bags put together with donations from CRC congregants and members of the community that went to the Ronald McDonald House at Mercy Hospital.

The website to register for a community service site is now open. You can view the 23 service sites and register online at [www.jewishmuslimdayofservicestl.org](http://www.jewishmuslimdayofservicestl.org). You can register online through Sunday December 13.

Please also plan to attend the Welcome Bagel Breakfast prior to volunteering on Christmas Day. This year's breakfast will be held at 9:00 am at the Staenberg Arts & Education Building, Jewish Community Center, 2 Millstone Campus Drive 63146.

**We are still in need of toiletry donations!** For more information, contact Rick Isserman at (314) 807-4330 or [richardisserman@gmail.com](mailto:richardisserman@gmail.com).

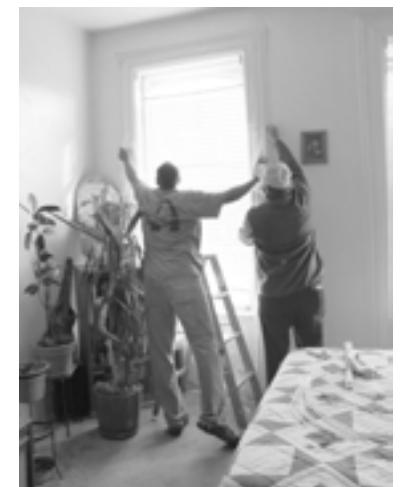
**The Jewish Muslim Day Of Service will also act as December's Mensch Makers program.** If you would like more information about Mensch Makers, please contact Amy Gage, CRC VP of Social Action, at [amygage@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:amygage@stanfordalumni.org).

**WEATHERIZATION PROJECT***Wednesday, December 2, 6:00 pm, materials prep at CRC**Saturday, December 5, 11:00 am - 3:30 pm - South City**Sunday, December 6, 11:00 am - 3:30 pm - North City*

As one of Central Reform Congregation's longest community partnerships, we have been helping weatherize in the Grace Hill neighborhood since 1990. Work with a team of other community volunteers to place plastic on interior windows of select area resident homes to keep our neighbors warm this winter. This year we will focus on elderly residents within the Grace Hill service area.

No special skills are needed, so please bring your friends or family (12 and older) and join us for this worthwhile project.

Contact: Marcy Brodsky, (314) 302-8957 or email at [marcy.brodsky@aon.com](mailto:marcy.brodsky@aon.com) to volunteer, for questions, or directions (map will be provided).



**REMEMBER, REFLECT, RESPOND  
GUN VIOLENCE VIGIL**

*Sunday, December 13, 3:00 pm  
St. John's Church (The Beloved  
Community)  
4136 N. Grand Blvd. St. Louis, 63107*

CRC is proud to be a co-sponsor of a candlelight vigil to help shine a light on the tragic toll of gun violence throughout St. Louis.

The event, called "Remember, Reflect, Respond," is sponsored by Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice. It will be one of a series of vigils at locations nationwide in early December.

**A call to action will be delivered at the end of the service by our very own Rabbi Susan.**

For additional information, please go to [www.womensvoicesraised.org](http://www.womensvoicesraised.org).

**5TH ANNUAL CULTURAL  
LEADERSHIP TROUBLEMAKER OF  
THE BEST KIND AWARD**

*Wednesday, December 2,  
5:30 pm Cocktail Reception,  
6:00 pm Program*

*Nine Network of Public Media  
3655 Olive Street, St. Louis, 63103*

We are so excited to announce that Rabbi Susan, along with Reverend Traci Blackmon, have been chosen as the 2015 Troublemaker of the Best Kind awardees!

Each year, the Troublemaker of the Best Kind Awards convenes community members across various faiths, ages, and professions in a public forum on social justice, diversity, and inclusion. Together, we recognize two local individuals whose leadership and life's passion addresses critical social issues and generates positive community change.

Both Pastor Traci and Rabbi Susan embody these traits, as exemplified in their hard work connecting faith communities, building a city-wide coalition, and inspiring others to use their voice.

We would love to see a large CRC presence at the event. To register and for more information, please go to [www.culturalleadership.org/troublemaker-best-kind](http://www.culturalleadership.org/troublemaker-best-kind).

**UNIVERSITY SERIES  
REMINDER**

There will be no University Series in December. The series will resume in January. More information to come later this month.

**SECOND THURSDAYS -- CRC MEMBER ENGAGEMENT**

*Thursday, December 10, 6:30 pm*

**The second Thursday of each month is really special at CRC!**

**Want to get involved at CRC, but don't know how?**

**Fancy a great way to get involved and want to learn more?**

**Looking to hear inspirational talks from our rabbis and occasional guests?**

**Then Second Thursdays are for you!** Most CRC committee and circles have been holding their meeting dates on the 2nd Thursday of the month. It's our way to "marry" the work of the synagogue while bonding and socializing with our fellow members. A lot of fantastic programming has emerged from these meetings, such as our new Mensch Makers program. Just come to CRC on December 10 at 6:30 pm for a brief learning, announcements, and a blessing. At 7:00 pm we will break into our committees and circles for the next hour or so. Join us in the oneg

for dessert and conversation. Because we all value our community so much, we think this is the perfect outlet to enable all of our members to stay engaged with and excited about CRC.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Bernstein at (314) 361-1564, ext. 117 or [jenniferb@centralreform.org](mailto:jenniferb@centralreform.org).

**BLESSING BUDDIES JANIE BURSE AND CAROLE ZATLIN (BY JANIE BURSE)**

I have been matched with my Blessing Buddy, Carole Zatlin, for about six months, but it seems much longer than that. I inquired about the program as my parents are no longer living and I really missed the wisdom from past generations. Her eighty-five years of life experience is definitely providing me with much guidance and knowledge. We are the perfect fit for each other in so many ways. She is a retired psychologist who worked for the St. Louis County Mental Health Department for 24 years and I am a social worker in the field of child welfare and adoptions. So we both love children, and I am learning so much from her vast professional experiences. She is also a very experienced parent, having three children, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. I am the parent of two young children, so am soaking in all of the parenting advice she has to offer.

I am very much a homebody whereas Carole loves to travel and tells me all about her adventures to places like Europe, Japan, Norway and Italy. I feel so lucky that I can learn about all of these different cultures from someone who has actually traveled there. Last time we got together, she showed me picture from her trip to Egypt. Carole is an

excellent cook and I am not, so she is going to try and teach me how to create some fabulous meals for my family. We enjoy sitting at her kitchen table talking and when the weather gets nice again we plan to start going for walks. Carole has been married for over 65 years and currently volunteers for the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program, helping recent immigrants practice their new language skills. This has truly been a rich and rewarding relationship so far and I am looking forward to this friendship lasting for a very long time—her mother lived to be 105!

**To sign up, or for more information, please contact Wendy Bell at (314) 361-1564, ext. 104 or [wendy@centralreform.org](mailto:wendy@centralreform.org).**



**Carole Zatlin**



**Janie Burse**

## tributes

TO MAKE A TRIBUTE TO A CRC FUND ONLINE, PLEASE GO TO [WWW.CENTRALREFORM.ORG](http://WWW.CENTRALREFORM.ORG), AND CLICK ON THE DONATE/TRIBUTE LINK ON THE BOTTOM OF THE MENU.

## GENERAL FUND

LISE AND LEE BERNSTEIN  
MELVYN BROWN  
EMILY COEN

IN HONOR OF THE BAR MITZVAH OF ADAM JAFFE

GARY M. WASSERMAN AND  
SHEILA GREENBAUM

IN HONOR AND CELEBRATION OF THE MARRIAGE OF BOB DUFFY AND MARTY KAPLAN

GARY BENSON

IN MEMORY OF MARTIN LEON

ROBIN RIVARD AND JANE GRADY

WITH THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WHO WORKED SO HARD TO MAKE THE DESTINATION DINNER A SUCCESS: NANCY WEIGLEY, SUZANNE EPSTEIN-LANG, CARIN THYSSEN, MICHELLE MILLS, MINDY PULTMAN, AND ANDREW BOLLINGER

WENDY AND NEIL JAFFE

TO HONOR THE AMAZING CRC STAFF, PARTICULARLY NANCY, JEN, TRISTAN AND TERRELL WHO HELPED MAKE ADAM'S BAR MITZVAH SO WONDERFUL FOR ALL

SHARON AND BOB HOLLANDER

WITH HEALING PRAYERS FOR MARVIN WINCHEL

PAULA KESSLER

IN HONOR OF HAVA POLINSKY'S BEAUTIFUL HIGH HOLIDAY VIOLIN SOLOS THAT ENHANCED THE SPIRITUAL LEVEL OF THE SERVICE

CAROLYN HYMAN

IN HONOR OF MORTON AND CLAIRE HYMAN'S WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

SYLVIA NISSENBOIM

IN APPRECIATION OF DEB MONFORT'S FRIENDSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL TALENTS

BEVERLY AND JOSEPH SCHRAIBMAN  
ROSS ADAMS

## RABBIS' TRIBUTE FUND

SYDNEY AND STEPHEN GARRETT

WITH THANKS TO RABBI RANDY FOR THEIR BEAUTIFUL AND HEARTFELT WEDDING CEREMONY

LOIS LOOMSTEIN

WITH APPRECIATION TO RABBI TALVE

LINDA BARTON

WITH GRATITUDE TO RABBI RANDY

JEANINE NEWMAN

WITH THANKS FOR RABBI RANDY'S HELP WITH THE UNVEILING OF THE STONE FOR MELVIN NEWMAN

MARILYN AND MILTON SCHRAIER

IN MEMORY OF THE FATHER, FATHER-IN-LAW, AND GRANDFATHER OF LAURA AND JON SCHNEIDER AND FAMILY

MARK M. BLATTER

WITH THANKS FOR AN AMAZING AND ENGAGING RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE AT CRC

JON ERBLICH

WITH THANKS TO RABBI SUSAN

MARTIN R. KAPLAN AND  
ROBERT W. DUFFY

WITH THANKS TO RABBI FLEISHER FOR A BEAUTIFUL WEDDING CEREMONY

FRAN AND HARVEY CANTOR

FOR RABBI TALVE TO CONTINUE TO HELP OTHERS

RHONDA AND DAVID BANFORD

WITH DEEPEST APPRECIATION TO RABBI TALVE

BETH AND DANIEL COOPER

WITH THANKS TO RABBI TALVE FOR SUPPORTING US THROUGH OUR JOURNEY TO MARRIAGE

ALEX TISCHLER

TO THANK RABBI SUSAN AND RABBI RANDY FOR BEING SO SUPPORTIVE ALONG THE WONDERFUL JOURNEY TO BAR MITZVAH

WENDY AND NEIL JAFFE

IN GRATITUDE FOR RABBI SUSAN'S AND RABBI RANDY'S INCREDIBLE PRESENCE IN HELPING ADAM PREPARE FOR HIS BAR MITZVAH FROM BIRTH TO THE CEREMONY (AND BEYOND)

KELILAH MILLER

IN MEMORY OF JANE GOLDMAN

## WHY MAKE A TRIBUTE TO CRC?

Each individual act of *tzedakah* expresses a sacred and enduring Jewish value by connecting us through the continuous pursuit to better our world.

All significant institutions of culture and learning like CRC require supplemental operating funds, and we are not exempt from these fiscal realities. Inspiring worship led by devoted clergy; educational programs for tots, children, teens and adults; as well as cultural and social action offerings; and the preservation of our Sukkat Shalom, all depend on the support of caring individuals. Each gift to CRC, no matter the size, makes possible all that we do today and prepares us for an ever more promising tomorrow.

*continued from page 1*

And you can be part of the story of this season at CRC by joining us for our annual congregational Hanukkah celebration, 'First Night; First Light' on Sunday, December 6 at 5:00. On Christmas Day, which falls on Friday this year, you can participate in the Jewish-Muslim Day of Service (details inside the MEMO) to help insure that enough people will be volunteering in St. Louis on a day when many others are taking time off to celebrate, and then come on over to Shabbat services that night (7:30, December 25'th) with a very special eggroll (no pork) oneg!

B' Ahavah (With Love),

Rabbi Randy



## yahrzeits

December 1 19 Kislev

GENE BLOCK

Father of Sheri Glantz

MURRAY MARGO

Father of Mitchell Margo

MATTHEW PENDERGRAST

Friend of Heather Lea

EDNA CECILIA ZWEIFEL

Mother of Kaaran Bowden

December 2 20 Kislev

MARVIN EHRLICH

Remembered by Sylvia Ehrlich

RUBEN EPSTEIN

Father of Stuart J. Epstein

MEYER LEVIN

Grandfather of Niki Nymark

SUSAN MARTIN

Remembered by Gil Nussbaum

\*NATALIE LOIS SIMMONS  
Our member

December 3 21 Kislev

SYLVIA EVELOFF

Mother of Vivian Eveloff

STEVE MARCUS

Cousin of Cecilia Lacks

LOUIS ROSENBLUM

Grandfather of Steven Rosenbloom

December 4 22 Kislev

GAIL ANITA ACHTENBERG

Mother of Joel Achtenberg

KIRK CASHMERE

Friend of Mark Winer

FORMAN ENGELHARDT

Uncle of Steven Engelhardt

MILDRED ETTELSON

Mother of Charles Ettelson

MILDRED KNIZE

Mother of Patricia Denlow

BEATRICE LEVENTHAL

Step mother of Joyce Leventhal Lodato

IRVIN SCHNEIDER

Father of Bruce Schneider

LAURA SCISSORS

Mother of Carla Scissors-Cohen

December 5 23 Kislev

JACK ANSEHL

Grandfather of Jennifer Fishing

ESTHER CARPEY

Mother of Dorothy Mayer

RUTH EPSTEIN

Grandmother of Daniel Davison

IRMA GREENSPOON

Mother of Julie Greenspoon

MAURICE PEPPER

Father of Sara Epstein

CLARA VITA

Mother of Orietta Kohn

December 6 24 Kislev

HENRIETTA KAHN

Mother of Rhoda Kahn Nussbaum

SOL LEVINSON

Father of Barbara Barnholtz

December 7 25 Kislev

MAX CHERVITZ

Father of Nancy Brown

LISA D'AGROSA

Sister in law of David and Linda D'Agrosa

MILTON GOLDSTEIN

Father of Alan Goldstein

RALPH KAPLAN

Father of Henry Kaplan

JAY STEPHEN KESSLER

Brother of Sheila Michaels

BESSIE NEWMAN

Mother of Burton Newman

MELVIN NEWMAN

Father of David Newman

ADA SCHNEIDER SAKOWSKY

Grandmother of Ronald Saks

SIGMUND TRATTNER

Father of Sylvia Ehrlich

December 8 26 Kislev

JACK HEXTER

Father of Christopher Hexter

JEROME D. MENDOZA

Uncle of Howard Nathanson

JOHN F. O'REILLY

Father of Erin O'Reilly

December 9 27 Kislev

MARJORIE FLOWER BLUMENHORST

Mother of Chris Blumenhorst

BRAM LEWIN

Father of Roslyn Dubinsky

ANTHONY RUFFINO

Father of Anita Stiffelman

December 10 28 Kislev

BERTHA FEIN

Aunt of Susan Schlichter

EVA GITTERMAN

Remembered by Brian Hackett

MARK GOLDSTEIN

Uncle of Risa Brown

MELVIN KAYMAN  
Father of Nancy Mohr  
LEE KRUPNICK  
Aunt of Stuart J. and Toby Epstein  
GRACE ROSENTHAL  
Grandmother of Jessica Brod

**December 11 29 Kislev**

GOLDYE HOFFMAN  
Mother of Joy Sterneck  
Grandmother of Jamie Sentnor  
AL LEWIS  
Father of Larry Lewis  
ALFRED THOMAS  
Father of Mariah Thomas

**December 12 30 Kislev**

JOSEPHINE (JO) FELDMAN  
Mother of Kathleen Sitzer  
ALBERT KNOPF  
Grandfather of Jennifer Bernstein  
ARTHUR LANDER  
Father of Cindy Wallach  
HERMAN RUBIN  
Father of Milton Rubin  
ROBERT SOKOL  
Father of Daniel Sokol  
MORRIS MEYER STONER  
Father of Bradley Stoner

**December 13 1 Tevet**

JOHN P. DOERING  
Father of Tamara Brent  
\*RALPH GERSTENFELD  
Husband of Bunny Gerstenfeld  
Father of Ellen Amarnik  
and Pamela Lester  
EUGENE KORNBLATT  
Father of Gloria Grodsky

**December 14 2 Tevet**

NANCY BENSON  
Wife of Gary Benson  
CLARICE LENEAVE  
Mother of Kathy Davenport  
NELSON NYMARK  
Grandfather of Niki Nymark

**December 15 3 Tevet**

PHYLLIS GIBBS  
Mother of Kate Gibbs  
HELEN NEFF  
Grandmother of Jane Rubin  
OLIVER SWEITZER  
Father of Sharalyn Saks  
JERRY TUCK  
Uncle of Brian Vetruba

**December 16 4 Tevet**

FLORA SILVERSTEIN  
Mother of Gloria Morgenstern

**December 17 5 Tevet**

HOWARD HARTMAN  
Father of Brad Hartman

**December 18 6 Tevet**

LISA FRIEDMAN  
Sister of Diane Friedman  
LOUIS GREENBERG  
Grandfather of Steven Engelhardt  
LOUIS LACKS  
Father of Cecilia Lacks  
GUSSIE PARMET  
Grandmother of Howard Weissman  
DICK SCHWARZ  
Uncle of Edward Kohn  
DIANE SOKOL  
Mother of Daniel Sokol  
\*SAMUEL JOSEPH ZOLL  
Infant son of Ericka Zoll  
and Daniel Zoll

**December 19 7 Tevet**

MARY HYMAN  
Mother of Morton Hyman  
Grandmother of Carolyn Hyman  
LAWRENCE M. LARSON  
Father of Margaret Weintraub

**December 20 8 Tevet**

RALPH BERG  
Remembered by Maris Berg  
ELY BORNSTEIN  
Father of Mindy Berkowitz  
HARRY ENGER  
Father of Joyce Weinstock  
NORMAN GOLDMAN  
Husband of Carol Goldman  
Father of Tami Goldman  
JEWEL KURLAND  
Mother of Stephen Kurland  
\*NANCY LAMPERT  
Our member  
ROSE MARCUS  
Aunt of Cecilia Lacks

**December 21 9 Tevet**

ALFRED H. FRAGER  
Father of Maris Berg  
JEAN GOCHMAN  
Grandmother of Rabbi Susan Talve  
GARY I. LINDER  
Uncle of Wendy Jaffe  
SHERMAN NEFF  
Father of Jane Rubin  
MAURICE REBHAN  
Father of Debbie Harris  
MARGARET SHAFFER  
Mother of Trey Shaffer

**December 22 10 Tevet**

\*CAROLYN GOSS  
Wife of Jerome Dobson  
DAVID KOGGAN  
Father of Beverly Berla  
FRANCES SEARS  
Mother of Robert Sears  
ROSE SPERLING  
Aunt of Laurie Sperling  
\*ELLEN WASSERMAN  
Our member

**December 23 11 Tevet**

ROSE CALODNEY  
Mother of Dede Berg  
THEODORA "TEDDY" HERMELIN  
Mother of Cheryl Martin  
JOHN KEPLER, JR.  
Father of John Kepler, III  
KATHERINE MARTIN  
Sister of Claire Jacobs  
SAMUEL WOLIN  
Father of Karen Blank

**December 24 12 Tevet**

DAN FRIEDMAN  
Father of Steven Friedman  
SIDNEY GOLDNER  
Father of Jesse Goldner  
REGINA PIERCE  
Grandmother of Lisa Graivier Barnes  
FRANCES ROSENBLUM  
Mother of Edith Feman

**December 25 13 Tevet**

JACK COHN  
Grandfather of Dorie Bertram  
MAXILLA EVERETT EVANS  
Mother of J. Claude Evans  
HAROLD KIRKLAND  
Grandfather of Heather Lea

JEANNE NISENSEN  
Mother of Ellen Soule  
MARJORIE ROBINSON  
Mother of Anne Hess  
GIDEON SCHILLER  
Father of Patricia Padawer  
JOSEPH WELPLY  
Father of Emma Ehll  
SHIRLEE WHITE  
Mother of Larry White

**December 26 14 Tevet**

LOTTIE GOLDNER  
Mother of Jesse Goldner  
JOEL HILLMAN  
Father of Thomas Hillman  
HERMAN KEYS, I  
Grandfather of Eva Marie Keys  
GERTRUDE SCHWARTZ  
Aunt of Laurie Sperling  
MOLLIE TURKEN  
Mother of Alan Turken  
TESS WEIL  
Aunt of Ronald Weil

**December 27 15 Tevet**

ADA COHEN NOVACK  
Cousin of Beverly and Philip Baron  
JOSEPH SHLES  
Father of Linda Glickman  
JUDITH STRAUSS  
Mother of Michael Strauss  
CASSANDRA ELAINE WENDLER-  
HARRISON  
Mother of Adalae Harrison

**December 28 16 KTevet**

RALPH BLUMENTHAL  
Father of Carol Esrock  
HERBERT KULWIN  
Uncle of Stephen Kurland

ALBERT S. ROSE  
Father of Albert Rose  
BENNETT ZARREN  
Father of Ruth Zarren

**December 30 18 Tevet**

MEYER CHAPNICK  
Uncle of Sharon Hollander  
\*IRVIN CHINSKY  
Our member  
VALERIE FELDMAN  
Cousin of Kathleen Sitzer  
SAM HARRIS  
Uncle of Edwin Harris  
\*ANN REHME  
Wife of Joel Achtenberg  
BETTY SIWAK  
Mother of Alvin Siwak  
Grandmother of Todd and Gregory  
Siwak  
LEON TANNENBAUM  
Uncle of Ronald Meyer  
ESTHER WEINBACH  
Mother of Jo Seltzer

**December 31 19 Tevet**

F. BERT BAER  
Father of Lois Miller  
Grandfather of Leslie Caplan  
FLORENCE DAVIS  
Mother of Neil Davis  
GREG FREEMAN  
Our friend  
LEON HOFFMAN  
Father of Carin Thyssen  
LEE PIERCE  
Grandfather of Lisa Graivier Barnes  
CEAL SHAPIRO  
Mother of Bruce Shapiro  
DR. LESTER WEISSMAN  
Father of Leslie Weissman-Raynsford

\*Our member



T2

# calendar: december 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 7:00 Interfaith Climate Change Vigil (Taking place of University Series)	<b>2</b> 4:00 Religious School 5:30 Cultural Leadership Troublemakers of the Best Kind Awards 6:00 Weatherization Prep 6:30 Hebrew 101 with Linda 7:00 Melton Program	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 12:30 Hebrew 102 with Maggie 1:45 Tanakh Study 7:30 Shabbat Service/ Birthday Blessings	<b>5</b> 8:45 Torah Study 9:30 Family Service 10:00 Shabbat Service/Bar Mitzvah of Sam Siwak 10:00 Shabbat School/Rainbow 12:00 Weatherization Program 12:30 Basic Judaism
<b>6</b> EREV HANUKKAH 10:00 7th Grade Class 10:00 9th Grade Class 10:00 Confirmation Class 10:30 Triple Chai 11:00 Weatherization 5:00 First Night/First Light	<b>7</b> HANUKKAH 11:30 Hebrew 103 with Maggie 1:00 Hebrew 101 with Maggie 6:00 Udry Non Book Club	<b>8</b> HANUKKAH	<b>9</b> HANUKKAH 4:00 Religious School 6:30 Hebrew 101 with Linda 7:00 Melton Program 7:00 Israel Circle	<b>10</b> HANUKKAH SECOND THURSDAYS 6:30 Brief Service Before Committee Meetings 7:00 CRC Committee Meetings	<b>11</b> HANUKKAH 12:30 Hebrew 102 with Maggie 1:45 Tanakh Study 6:30 LGBT Latke Party 7:30 Shabbat Service/ Social Responsibility Shabbat	<b>12</b> HANUKKAH 8:45 Torah Study 9:30 Family Service 10:00 Shabbat Service/Bat Mitzvah of Max Blatter 10:00 Shabbat School
<b>13</b> HANUKKAH 10:00 CRC Board Retreat 10:00 9th Grade Class 10:00 Confirmation Class	<b>14</b> HANUKKAH 11:30 Hebrew 103 with Maggie 1:00 Hebrew 101 with Maggie	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 4:00 Religious School 6:30 Hebrew 101 with Linda 7:00 Melton Program	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 12:30 Hebrew 102 with Maggie 1:45 Tanakh Study 7:30 Shabbat Service	<b>19</b> 8:45 Torah Study 9:30 Family Service 10:00 Shabbat Service 12:30 Grief Support
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 11:30 Hebrew 103 with Maggie 1:00 Hebrew 101 with Maggie	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NO HEBREW CLASS NO MELTON PROGRAM	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 Jewish Muslim Day of Service 7:30 Shabbat Service and Eggroll Oneg	<b>26</b> NO SHABBAT SCHOOL 8:45 Torah Study 9:30 Family Service 10:00 Shabbat Service
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 11:30 Hebrew 103 with Maggie 1:00 Hebrew 101 with Maggie	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NO HEBREW CLASS NO MELTON PROGRAM	<b>31</b> 6:00 am World Peace Day Ceremony	<b>1</b> OFFICE CLOSED 7:30 Shabbat Service/ Birthday Blessings	<b>2</b> NO SHABBAT SCHOOL 8:45 Torah Study 9:30 Family Service 10:00 Shabbat Service