

TREE OF LIFE CONGREGATION

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

“KOL T.O.L.” — THE “VOICE OF THE TREE OF LIFE”
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE - JULY 2011 / IYAR – SIVAN – TAMMUZ, 5771

JUNE & JULY WORSHIP SERVICES

Friday, June 3 6:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	First Summer Shabbat Picnic Supper Family Service for Shabbat Torah Reading: <i>Naso</i> , Num. 4:21 – 7:89
Tuesday, June 7 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Erev Shavuot Shavuot Dairy Dinner Festival Service & Torah Study
Friday, June 10 7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Eve Service Torah Reading: <i>Behaalotecha</i> , Num. 8:1 – 12:16
Friday, June 17 7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Eve Service Torah Reading: <i>Shelach Lecha</i> , Num. 13:1 – 15:41
Saturday, June 18 10:00 a.m.	Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
Friday, June 24 7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Eve Service Torah Reading: <i>Korach</i> , Num. 16:1 – 18:32
Friday, July 1 6:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Summer Shabbat Picnic Supper Family Service for Shabbat Torah Reading: <i>Chukat</i> , Num. 19:1 – 22:1
Friday, July 8 7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Eve Service Torah Reading: <i>Balak</i> , Num. 22:2 – 25:9
Friday, July 15 7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Eve Service Torah Reading: <i>Pinchas</i> , Num. 25:10 – 30:1
Friday, July 22 7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Eve Service Torah Reading: <i>Matot</i> , Num. 30:2 – 32:42
Friday, July 29 7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Eve Service Torah Reading: <i>Masei</i> , Num. 33:1 – 36:13

HAVE A WONDERFUL
SUMMER!

And don't forget:

- Special Shabbat Dinner and Service on the first Friday of the month
- Shavuot begins Tuesday evening, June 7.
- Farmer's Market every Thursday morning at TOL beginning June 16.
- There will be no July Newsletter.

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TEMPLE BOARD NEWS

MAZAL TOV TO OUR TOL OFFICERS FOR 2011-2012

President	Stephen Savitz
First Vice President	Rick Cohn
Second Vice President	Lisa Helfer
Secretary	Bill Strauss
Treasurer	Paul Westfall
Finance Chair	Debra Tedeschi
Immediate Past President	Jeff Selig

TOL BOARD MEMBERS 2011-2012

Michelle Bowen	
David Carr	
Laney Cohen	
Richard Cohen	<i>Thank you to everyone who attended last month's TOL Congregational Annual Meeting. A special thank you to the TOL Brotherhood for preparing the Deli Dinner before the meeting.</i>
Annette Goldstein	
Bruce Greenberg	
Debbie Greenhouse	
Donna Magaro	
Kim Moses	
Arline Polinsky	
Marc Rapport	
Amy Scully	
Julie Strauss	

SUMMER SHABBAT SERVICES

SUMMER SHABBAT EVE PICNIC & SERVICES

June 3, July 1 & August 5

6:15 p.m. Picnic Supper

7:00 p.m. Family Service

Please join us this summer on the first Friday of the month in June, July, and August for a special Shabbat dinner and service as we enjoy a casual summer Sabbath Eve. We will begin at 6:15 p.m. with a picnic dinner. Bring your own meal – the Temple will provide challah and beverages, along with plates and flatware. Afterwards we will have a more informal Family Service beginning at 7:00 p.m. and followed by an Oneg Shabbat.

**All are invited!
Bring the whole family!**

SEEDS OF HOPE

TOL's Seeds of Hope Farmers Market

We would love your help for this annual social action project at Tree of Life! We meet on **Thursday mornings, from mid-June-August from 8 a.m.--12 noon.**

- Help our farmer, Louis Reed, sell fruits and vegetables from the front of the Temple in the parking lot!
- This is a *tikun olam*/community service endeavor for ages 11 through 111!
- We need baggers, “weighers,” cashiers....

Join us for all or part of the morning. Volunteer as often as your schedule permits! Please call the Temple office (787-2182) today if you can help! Thank you!

TREE OF LIFE “BUCKS BACK” FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

Our next Bucks Back order deadline is Sunday, June 12.

The easiest way to order is on-line. All checks need to be in the Temple office by 1:00 p.m. Order forms are outside the Temple office or on the TOL website. Orders should be available for pick-up by Friday, June 17.

If you are new to the Temple or to this program, go to <http://www.shopwithscrip.com/> and click on the "Shop" tab to see the hundreds of retailers participating in this program. Our temple receives a percentage of each dollar spent on all gift cards. Our enrollment code is ELLL34F52L571 (letters are capitalized).

Don't forget – you can order ScripNow! any time during the month for participating retailers and print the coupons at home right before you walk out the door to shop.

SPECIAL DEALS

Go to <http://www.shopwithscrip.com/> and click on the “What's New” tab to see the current specials.

Remember to mark your calendars for the 2011 Bucks Back Program. The deadline to order is the **second Sunday of each month.** Order forms are available outside the temple office. Upcoming summer deadlines: June 12, July 10, August 14, and September 11.



REPORT FROM OUR ANNUAL MEETING

By Rabbi Daniel M. Sherman

At our Annual Congregational Meeting this year, I chose to focus on some of the highlights of the 2010-2011 programmatic year. It has been in so many ways a wonderful year for the Tree of Life. It has been a very busy year with more programs and more activities than we have seen in quite some time. Even with budget constraints and hard times, we have been able to do so much. None of this, however, would have been possible without the hard-work, support, time, and talents of so many people in our congregation.

It was hard to identify just a few highlights. We had a very busy fall season. Immediately following our beautiful High Holy Day services and observances, we moved into a very memorable Sukkot. Following a first night of Sukkot dinner and service in the Temple Sukkah, we welcomed our largest Consecration Class during a special Shabbat service. The next day was the Forest Acres Green Festival that TOL helped to sponsor and host. That Sunday TOL volunteers helped to build a new “green house” for Habitat for Humanity. It was a great project for our congregation – thank you to everyone who contributed to the project and lent a hand, as well – and brought us even closer to our neighbor congregations here on Trenholm Road. To conclude the fall holidays, we had an uplifting and festive Simchat Torah service.

Other Fall Highlights included: Teacher Appreciation Shabbat, a special Sunday School for Adults session, our Community Pre-Thanksgiving Service (which TOL will host this year on Sunday, November 20, 2011), and our congregational Chanukah dinner, candle-lighting, and service.

The winter was memorable for much more than just snow this year (though we had plenty of that for South Carolina). In January, we celebrated the Tree of Life’s 115th Birthday. The next week we held a special Tu Bshvat Shabbat Service and Seder. At the seder, TOL was honored for being named the first “Green Congregation” in Columbia. I want to express our appreciation to Carolyn Hudson and the TOL Green Team for making this possible and for leading the construction and maintenance of our raingarden and improved recycling program. The following week the TOL Brotherhood hosted its annual Red Cross blood drive as we came together to save lives.

In February, TOL hosted a meeting of the Reform Rabbis of South Carolina. Later that week Rabbi Brian Zimmerman, the Union for Reform Judaism’s South District Regional Rabbi, spoke at services and updated us on what’s going on within the URJ. Two weeks later we hosted Josh Nelson as our Artist-in-Residence. What a spectacular weekend that was! Everyone who attended our Shabbat service and Saturday evening concert was moved and had just a wonderful experience. We were very fortunate to welcome Josh and his band to TOL – people are still talking about his visit and looking forward to similar events in the future.

And things didn’t slow down after that. We had a remarkable March as TOL hosted the NFTY-SAR Hatikvah Kallah – which was another great experience for our Temple Youth Group, for all of our families who participated and hosted, and for the congregation as a whole. Two weeks later we had an extremely fun and enjoyable Purim Extravaganza. All of this gave us just enough time to get ready for April and The Big Nosh – another outstanding opportunity and experience for our congregation.

Other Spring Highlights included: our Congregational Passover Seder, the Community Yom HaShoah Observance hosted by TOL this year, the Israel Bonds event honoring Ruth & Rabbi Marcus, and our fabulous Sisterhood Shabbat and Israel Weekend with Rabbi Miri Gold as we celebrated Israel’s 63rd birthday.

I could list much more. Again there is so much we can be proud of, including the variety of worship services we offered this year, our 4 B’nei Mitzvah students, the baby-naming ceremonies, our outstanding Religious School, and much much more. As I wrote in the beginning, I feel it has been a wonderful year in so many ways for the Tree of Life Congregation. I want to thank everyone who has helped make it possible: our talented and creative Religious School Director, Risa Strauss – who does so very much for our congregation; our hard-working staff; our president, Jeff Selig, and the officers and members of our TOL board; our committees and volunteers; the TOL Sisterhood and Brotherhood (who has had a fantastic year); and, of course, all of the members and families who make up the TOL Congregation. I thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as your rabbi these past five years. I am excited about the year we conclude this summer – and I can’t wait for next year!

Don’t forget: there’s lots going on at TOL this summer, too. I look forward to seeing you at Temple!



A PLAN FOR SUCCESS

By Risa Strauss

Once upon a time, a long, long time ago during the 1st and 2nd centuries of the Common Era, after the destruction of the Second Temple, there

lived a man named Rabbi Akiva. Though you may not recognize his name, he is arguably one of the greatest and most beloved figures in Jewish history. It has been said that, whatever one says about Rabbi Akiva, one can never say enough. And even in the Talmud he is compared favorably to Moses, which in the Jewish world is quite a compliment.

Rabbi Akiva was born in Judea after it had been conquered by the Romans. He did not descend from Jewish aristocracy or nobility, but came from a family of converts – which, at the time, was considered a “handicap” in terms of becoming a great scholar. He was the bearer of another handicap, as well – Akiva was illiterate until the age of 40. Not only was he lacking in education, but according to legend he was most resentful of those who did possess the ability to read and write.

It was not until he started to go to school as a father with his own son that he learned to read the Hebrew alphabet. But something needed to turn around his negative attitude. One day after despairing that he would never comprehend the Torah, he saw a boulder with a hole in it. Water was slowly dripping onto the rock; and even though the water fell drop by drop, it had eroded the rock. This vision evolved into the soon-to-be great Rabbi Akiva’s motto:

“If water can wear down a stone, Akiva can become a great scholar. If water can wear down a stone, then every Jew can and will study Torah. If water can wear down a stone, the Jewish people can overcome Rome. If water can wear down a stone, then the Temple can be rebuilt.”

Akiva’s wife Rachel believed in her husband and encouraged him to leave their home to go and study Torah. After 24 years he returned home with over 24,000 students (or so the story goes) as head of the largest Yeshiva in the Land of Israel. He had studied with some of the greatest rabbis, but because of his tenacity he rose to become their equal.

Now life for Jews in Judea was not so easy during this period. Living under Roman rule was difficult and inconsistent, and Jews were not always allowed to study

or teach Torah – and if they did, it had to be done in secret. There were many rabbis, including Rabbi Akiva, who refused to follow these laws. So in order to teach Torah, he came up with a plan. Everyday he told his students to take bows and arrows and picnic lunches out into the fields as if they were going hunting. When the Roman soldiers saw the Jews on their way to “hunt,” they let them pass. But as soon as the students reached the fields, Rabbi Akiva met them and they had class. Whenever they saw soldiers approaching, the students would pretend to hunt or play games. Many of these students became soldiers as well as scholars, fighting against Roman rule for years.

Even in modern times, it is generally agreed upon that Rabbi Akiva was one of the greatest teachers of the Jewish people. Many lessons are attributed to him including: “Without Torah, we would be like fish without water” and “Love your fellow man as yourself – that is the great rule of Torah.” And today many of the traditions that we have incorporated into our *Lag B’Omer* festivities emanate from the legends of Rabbi Akiva, including picnicking and playing games outside.

Now I honestly don’t know if we have any budding Rabbi Akiva’s on our teaching staff. However, as a school, our staff is a true mosaic of teachers. We come from all backgrounds and walks of life – some teachers bordering on greatness, with most acknowledging their limitations, but each dedicated to passing on the joy of being Jewish to his/her students. And while we do not live under Roman rule, we do face threats in the classroom from a variety of areas including secular over-programming and extracurricular activities, budgetary restrictions, the marginalization of religion in family life, and lack of “enough time” with our students.

So, you may ask: what is our plan? What can we as teachers and as a congregation do to combat these “viruses” to our program? I offer these 10 suggestions:

1. Remain committed to Tree of Life as a Reform Jewish house of worship, study and assembly.
2. Through love and education, encourage our children, young adults, teachers, and congregants to embrace their Jewish identity.

(Continued on page 7)

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

It is so hard to believe that the Religious School year has ended and that summer is here. I thought it would be a good opportunity to review the past 10 months and express our gratitude to all those who make our Sunday School experience possible.

For the year 2010-2011, we enjoyed programming and classes that were creative as well as motivating and inspiring. We were responsible for 92 students between Nursery and 9th grade. This does not include our 0-3 year olds and the Chai-School students that we worked with throughout the year. We joyfully welcomed into our school this year the Weissman-Reddy, Koller-Schmidt, Miller, Cason, Fields, and Davis families.

Our staff is comprised on any given Sunday of 10-15 congregants, 7 college/graduate school students, 9 returning 11th and 12th graders, and our 9th grade teaching assistants. Our curriculum was comprehensive with our classes running the gamut from Jewish history to life cycle to leadership to the American Jew in the 21st Century. Our programs included: 29 days of Religious School; Shabbat suppers and services led by our five Hebrew classes; Family Life Programming for Grades 3-9; music and arts & crafts and cooking for all holidays; all-school assemblies, where the focus was on prayer, Jewish values, celebration and community; monthly birthday recognitions; Israeli Dance classes; holiday celebrations and commemorations; High Holiday services for our pre-K and elementary children; monthly Kidz Shabbat and bi-monthly Tree Tumbler Programming; *Binah* Book Club for Grades 3-6; *Tikkun Olam* and *Tzedakah* facilitations (this year highlighted by our association with JNF, the Family Shelter here in Columbia, Seeds of Hope Farmers Market, Harvest Hope and JFS Food Banks, and Cooperative Ministry School Supply Drive); B'nai Mitzvah inservices and tutoring; and 11th & 12th Grade programming. We have forged positive relationships with Brotherhood and Sisterhood, collaborating together on a number of events including: the Pancake Breakfast, numerous fundraiser lunches for Religious School, and the Sisterhood Shabbat and Israel weekend last month. As a Religious School, we have also been the main audience and impetus for our in-house band, "The 4 Fathers," featuring Fred Davidson, Gregg Helman, David Reddy, and Billy Strauss.

Our Temple Youth Group was a wealth of strength this year, organizing a number of activities including the hosting and coordinating of the *HaTikvah Kallah*—a 7th and 8th Grade NFTY-SAR

Convention for 150 "tweens" and their advisors that was held here in March. It would not have been possible without the enormous help from advisors Nora Budman and Jennifer Friedman, the School Board, Brotherhood, and the entire congregation. *Todah Rabah* to Debra Stomblor and Billy Strauss for all the work they put into making this special weekend happen.

Many thanks go to Kim Moses and the entire school board, our Religious School staff that always goes above and beyond, our volunteer administrator Joan Tucker, the Temple staff and board, our families and congregants, and to Rabbi Sherman for all the help and support that you have given profusely throughout the year.

We have two new programming initiatives this summer. The first is a "Summer Play and Learn" for 2-4+ year olds that will be held on eight Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning June 21. The second is a mini-camp specifically for children in grades 4-7. This camp is sponsored by Tree of Life Congregation, Beth Shalom Synagogue, the Columbia Jewish Day School and the Columbia Jewish Federation. This will be an experiential, hands-on program that will explore the wonders of Jewish life – yesterday, today, and tomorrow. It will be facilitated by me, Alon Segal and the Religious School staffs of Tree of Life and Beth Shalom. The dates and times for this unique experience are August 3-5, 9:30am-2:30pm. More information is available in this newsletter and on-line at www.tolsc.org.

We also invite you to assist us in our *tikun olam* initiatives over the summer. The Seeds of Hope Farmers Market begins its annual appearance in the TOL parking lot on June 16. Farmer Louis Reid will bring his produce to sell every Thursday morning through August. Help is always needed from grades 7 through adults. We will also engage with the Cooperative Ministry School Supply Drive that provides children in need with school supplies in elementary and middle schools in the Richland and Lexington School districts.

We are thrilled that so many of our TOL kids are attending URJ summer camps this year. We thank everyone who contributed to the Youth Activities Fund and to Sisterhood. Your generous donations have helped many of our students make summer overnight camp a reality.

Have a wonderful and safe summer! And mark your calendars – the first day of Religious School is Sunday, September 11, 2011.

TYG NEWS

MAZAL TOV

TO THE COFTY OFFICERS FOR 2011-2012!

PRESIDENT	Naomi Nudelman
PROGRAMMING VP	Hannah Amado
MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNICATIONS VP	Elena Carr
RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS VP	Julien Katz
SOCIAL ACTION VP	Simi Rodgers
10 TH GRADE REPRESENTATIVE	Bethany Smith
9 TH GRADE REPRESENTATIVE	Justin Stomler

Tree of Life Religious School Presents SUMMER PLAY AND LEARN

Who: Children 2-4+ years old

What: A twice weekly pre-school experience geared for inquisitive and enthusiastic children, 2-4 years of age. We will meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings 9:30 a.m.--12:30 p.m. Our aim is to provide our congregants and their friends with a small group summer program for their children in a secure and nurturing setting while promoting cognitive learning focused on Jewish and secular content, music and arts and increased socialization.



When: June 21, 23, 28, 30 and July 12, 14, 19 and 21

Where: Tree of Life Congregation

Teachers: Risa Strauss, TOL Religious School Director and Robyn Bader, TOL Kindergarten Teacher

Tuition: \$240 for 8 sessions
BYO lunch (drinks, snack and all materials included)

***Call Risa at 787-2182 to register your child or for more information today! A 50% discount is available for the 2nd child as well as a weekly payment option.

BACK TO YOUR JEWISH FUTURE A "Hands-On Heritage" Mini Camp

WHAT: An experiential Jewish mini-camp designed to explore the wonders of Jewish life of yesterday, today, and tomorrow

WHO: Kids in Grades 4-7

WHEN: August 3 – 5, 2011 — 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

WHERE: Beth Shalom Synagogue

TUITION: \$80 for first child / \$50 for second child (includes lunch, snacks, and all supplies)

FACILITATED BY: Alon Segal, Risa Strauss, and the Religious School staffs of Beth Shalom Synagogue and Tree of Life Congregation.

SPONSORED BY: Beth Shalom Synagogue, Tree of Life Congregation, the Columbia Jewish Day School, and the Columbia Jewish Federation



† COFTY youth group members enjoyed a fun day of adventure and white water rafting at the US National White Water Center in Charlotte, NC.

SHAVUOT 5771

CELEBRATE SHAVUOT!

Tuesday, June 7, 2011

6 p.m. Dairy Dinner

7 p.m. Festival Service & Torah Study

Please mark your calendars for the Festival of Shavuot, one of the most important holidays of the year, which we will celebrate on Tuesday evening, June 7. Shavuot marks the anniversary of our receiving God's teachings at Mt. Sinai long ago and is one of the three Pilgrimage Festivals – along with Passover and Sukkot. Known as “the Festival of Weeks,” Shavuot takes place seven weeks after the beginning of Passover. In place of our Confirmation Service (there is no Confirmation Class of 5771), we will celebrate with a dairy dinner beginning at 6 p.m. Our Shavuot Eve Service and Torah Study will follow at 7 p.m. Please join us as we stand once again at Mt. Sinai and read The Ten Commandments from the Book of Exodus. *Chag Sameach!*

(Continued from page 4)

3. Promote the study of Torah as the covenant between God and the Jewish people through the practice of *mitzvot*.
4. Affirm our historic bond to the Land of Israel and strengthen a modern connection to all of *Am Yisrael* (the Jewish People) in the present and for the future.
5. Encourage the study and protection of Hebrew as the language of our *t'fillah* (prayer) and the universal language of the Jewish people.
6. Advance causes of social justice, freedom and peace by pursuing *tzedek* (righteousness), *mishpat* (justice), and *chesed* (loving deeds).
7. Transmit “Jewish Life Skills” to our young people, so that as adults they are better able to make life decisions that are guided by Jewish principles.
8. Insure that the Temple is a safe place spiritually, physically, socially, and emotionally for all ages, but in particular for our youth.
9. Celebrate with *kol sasson ve kol simcha* – complete joy and happiness all holidays and life cycle events.
10. Commit resources and brainpower to guarantee that there are appropriate personnel to retain and manage all programs and services.

Perhaps if we adhere to and maybe even expand upon the above plan, we can adopt part of Rabbi Akiva's motto: If water can wear down a stone, then as a congregation and school we will continue to survive and thrive despite whatever it is that we are up against.

BIMAH FLOWERS

May 6

Allen & Cheri Alexander, in memory of
Jason Oxhorn
Eleanor & Barry Bornstein, in memory of
Simon Goldenberg
Harry Gindman, in memory of Fanny Gindman
Gerald & Arline Polinsky, in memory of
Helen Rudman Polinsky
The Reyner Family, in memory of
Sidney Elfman Reyner

May 13

Emmanuel Farber, in memory of Ruth Wilma Farber
Naomi Farber, Stephen & Sam Grosby, in memory of
Ruth Wilma Farber
Bessie Garber, in memory of Tillie M. Garber
Meri Gergel and Richard & Belinda Gergel, in
memory of Rose Friedman
Stuart & Marion Goodwin, in memory of
Roslyn Goodwin
Simone & Michael Kozlov, in memory of
Gregory Kozlov
Jennifer & Hans Mykytyn and Matthew Train, in
memory of Leo David Goldblatt
Jewel Rotholz, in memory of Esther Rotholz
Jeannie & Hyman Rubin, Jr., in memory of
Rose Rudnick Rubin
Svetlana Tsukhay & family, in memory of
Sholim Perchonok

May 20

Marvin & Gail Bienstock, in memory of
Samuel Bienstock
The family of Max Dickman, in his memory
Jane & Sam Friedman, in memory of John Breyer
Art & Barb Levy, in memory of Fred Levy
Judy & Fred Thibault, in memory of
Maurice Fischman
Revera Wayburn, in memory of David Kahn
Irwin Zucker, in memory of Beatrice Zucker

May 27

Barry & Eleanor Bornstein, in memory of
Leonard Bornstein
Nancy Cartiff & family, in memory of Neil Cartiff
Gaynell Gavin & Charles Geffen, in memory of
Albert Haegele
Beth Helman, in memory of Geraldine Musarra
Phyllis Houghton, in memory of Sam Bogo
Jeff, Ian, & Nathan Picow, in memory of
Lilyan Picow
Jack & Linda Sterne, in memory of Lela M. Kuntz

THANKFUL FOR SISTERHOOD

By Linda Ackerman

Tree of Life Sisterhood President, 2010-2011

Thank you to all of you that joined us on May 13 for the Sisterhood Shabbat and Scholar in Residence programs held throughout the weekend. Rabbi Miri Gold from Congregation Birkat Shalom in Israel as our special guest made it a memorable weekend.

Our 2010-2011 Sisterhood year is coming to an end. It's been another dynamic, busy and successful year. When I started preparing this presentation, I was amazed at the scope of activities undertaken this year. I want to thank this year's Sisterhood Board for all of their hard work, creativity, and support, and all Tree of Life Sisterhood members and volunteers for their participation and dedication to our Temple and the Women of Reform Judaism.

It has been an honor to serve as Sisterhood president over the past year. I've had an opportunity to work with and get to know so many dynamic, strong and wonderful women – I was inspired! I look forward to remaining actively involved with Sisterhood, and I hope all the women of the TOL Congregation will consider joining me!

Let's look back at some of our activities and accomplishments during 2010-2011:

- We helped send TOL youth to Jewish summer camps
- Co-sponsored the Membership Ice Cream Social at the end of last summer
- Coordinated, set-up and provided for the Rosh Hashanah Oneg Yom Tov
- We hosted Sisterhood Shabbat
- Provided gifts for special celebrations from our Judaica Shop
- Purchased new tablecloths for Temple events
- Annual Bulb Sale – this was the 58th year Sisterhood coordinated this event
- Lovingly provided bereavement meals and donations
- Set up the Sisterhood webpage on TOL web site

Some of our programs for Sisterhood members and guests included: TOL Sisterhood Members' Meetings, a Monthly Book Club, the Mahjonn Madness community get-together, an increased recycling program, an informative internet safety session, a discussion on Sexual Trauma, our Chai Tea "Non-event" Fundraiser, and a very successful Women's Seder during Passover.

Sisterhood has also been very active in projects for the greater community. This year we made donations to

support the WRJ YES fund, URJ Camp Coleman, World Union for Progressive Judaism, the Columbia Jewish Federation, Jewish Braille Institute, Jewish Family Services, Selden Smith Foundation for Holocaust Education, Columbia Jewish Film Festival, Tree of Life Congregation, TOL Religious School, Cooperative Ministries, Epworth Children's Home, Harvest Hope Food Bank, Sistercare, and Woodyard Fund. We also contributed blankets and non-perishable food items to Columbia Jewish Family Services.

I would like to offer special thanks to **Risa Strauss**, for developing and conducting the Sisterhood Seder and for working with Sisterhood to make this special Shabbat and Israel weekend a reality; **Suzy Herzog**, for working with Rabbi Sherman and Rabbi Gold to coordinate the Sisterhood Shabbat service; and the **Sisterhood Choir volunteers** for adding the beautiful music to our service. Next I would like to thank the **Sisterhood Board** for your support, hard work, and assistance in everything we undertook this year.

VP Ways & Means/Programming: Melanie Baker, Beth Helman, Ilene King, Joan McGee

VP Membership: Amanda Hamilton

Treasurer: Yuliana Iskhakov

Recording Secretary: Marcia Geers

Corresponding Secretary: Beverly Kaplan

Special Funds: Jeannie Rubin and Eleanor Bornstein

Bulbs and Critical Issues: Cheri Alexander

Judaica Shop Manager: Donna Magaro

Bereavement: Donna Magaro and Annette Goldstein

Sisterhood Webmaster: Natassia Pils

Immediate Past President: Daniela Friedman

And finally I would like to thank all of the **Sisterhood Members** for participating in the many activities and always responding tirelessly and quickly whenever help was needed.

DON'T FORGET ... IT'S NOT TOO LATE

The deadline for ordering Holland Bulbs has been extended to June 15.

Order forms are available on-line or in the Temple office.

Please support this important fundraiser.

Thank you!

BROTHERHOOD

Brotherhood Bike Rides

Sunday, June 12, July 10 and July 24 are the dates for the next Brotherhood bicycle rides. We will leave at **9:30a.m.** from the Temple. The course will be from the Temple to Fort Jackson and back; we will ride approximately 20 to 30 miles at a 15MPH pace. All riders are welcome. It is recommended you contact [David Carr](mailto:DavidCarr@TreeofLifeBH@gmail.com) at [TreeofLifeBH@gmail.com](mailto:DavidCarr@TreeofLifeBH@gmail.com) if you are interested in riding so he can communicate any changes or updates.

Brotherhood Membership

Watch your mail for this year's membership information. 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 the support we have grown accustomed to.

The Latke Hut

The Latke Hut pad has been poured, and the Brotherhood continues with plans for the beginning of construction of the "Hut." You can help provide the self-proclaimed "Latke Kings of Columbia" with a safe place to cook our Latkes by making a donation to the Latke Hut. For as little as \$18 you can buy a board for the hut and make our dream a reality while at the same time improving the Temple. Please consider making a donation so the Brotherhood can build this hut and have a great place to cook our famous Latkes. Donations may be made by check payable to Tree of Life and write Latke Hut in the memo line or online by visiting our Donation page on the TOL website.

Theater at Tree of Life

Unfortunately, the play that was scheduled to take place at TOL June 9-12 has been postponed. We hope to have more shows in the future, beginning perhaps at the end of the summer. Please check the website for more details. Thank you for your support!

GREEN TEAM UPDATE

Arcadia Lakes Annual Town Picnic

The Green Team showed off the rain garden to Arcadia Lakes residents at their annual picnic on May 15. The Town received the funding to create the rain garden and was our partner in its creation. We featured our display as well as the rain garden. Mary Nevins from Carolina Clear returned with the watershed model that was so popular at the Big Nosh.



Recycling Program

We have two new folding recycling containers for outdoor events such as the Big Nosh. Many Big Nosh visitors asked for them this year, so they will be a nice addition in future years.



Remember to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

MEMBER NEWS

MAZEL TOV TO

- **Feliks & Sarra Rabinovich**, celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 18
- **Robyn Bader**, on her graduation from the University of South Carolina
- **Abby Magaro**, daughter of Donna & Ernie Magaro, on her graduation from the University of South Carolina
- **Matthew Scully**, son of Amy & Rob Scully, on his graduation from Tulane University
- **Kiber Selig**, daughter of Walton & Jeff Selig, on her graduation from Franklin College in Lugano, Switzerland
- **Bradley Wile**, son of Ilene King, on his graduation from the University of South Carolina

REFUAH SHLEIMA

Get well wishes to TOL members recently hospitalized or at home recovering: **Hal Birch, Ethel Brody, Dan Davis, Khaya Dobrushkina, Dennis Kaplan, and Ron Maris.**

HONOR ROLL

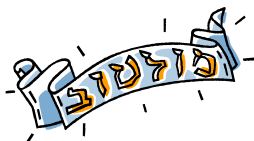
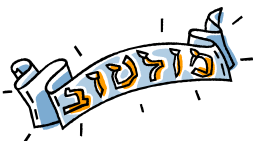
We salute and thank our wonderful volunteers!
Office – Sandy Hertz, Mary Helen Baum, Ann Gaton, & Annette Goldstein
Religious School Office – Joan Tucker
Hospital Calls – Sandy Hertz



MAZAL TOV
Our Class of 2011
High School
Graduates



Shayna Bannister
Andrew Beattie
Rebecca Bellino
William Greenberg
Samuel Grosby
Emily Levinson
Abigail McConahay
Jason Mohn
Adam Mullis
Adam Ritter
Nathan Rubinger
Benjamin Strauss
Jessica Volin



BABYNAMING

& COVENANT CEREMONY

ELLA MAE DOBERNE-SCHOR

Friday, June 17

During our Shabbat Evening worship service on Friday, June 17, we will hold a Covenant Ceremony for Ella Mae Doberne-Schor, daughter of Rabbi Leah Doberne-Schor and Dr. Adam Schor.

HAVE YOU SENT IN YOURS YET?

2011-2012 Membership Pledge Forms are due in the temple office.
It's very important for our budget planning purposes to have these pledge forms ASAP.

Thank you in advance from the
Finance Committee.

MEMBER NEWS

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Faith Nudelman	June 1	Addison Blackmon	June 14	Bruce Becker	June 21
Shayna Bannister	June 2	Chris Cason	June 14	Dennis Kaplan	June 21
Dana Fisher	June 3	Stephen Friedland	June 15	Valerie Wheeler	June 21
Steven Kerner	June 3	Jillian Marcus	June 15	Deb Tedeschi	June 22
Howard Jolles	June 4	Kristi Oberman	June 16	Janet Paul	June 25
Fred Medway	June 4	Maxine Garber Fisher	June 17	Jason Peavy	June 25
Jerry Rothstein	June 4	Nard Fleischman, Jr.	June 17	Cole Stout	June 25
Katie Bell	June 5	Alan Jolles	June 17	Carol Glass	June 26
David Blue	June 5	Mark Magaro	June 17	Darryn Russ	June 26
Daniel Tedeschi	June 6	Janis Mitchell	June 17	Arya Novinbakht	June 27
Joanne Hafter	June 8	Zachary Paul	June 17	Sid Sasiene	June 27
James Brown	June 9	Jessica Artz	June 18	Elisa Westfall	June 28
Steve Merlin	June 9	Barbara Becker	June 18	Lorelei Bennett	June 29
Ian Picow	June 9	Michelle Bowen	June 18	Charlene Bernstein	June 29
Renee Bland	June 11	Zackary Kaplan	June 18	Annabelle Mischner	June 29
Lennie Mullis	June 13	Ira Radin	June 18	Suzanne Abrams Roper	June 30

JULY BIRTHDAYS

David Bowen	July 1	Eric Bland	July 11	Marina Volynets	July 23
Ann Diamond	July 2	Kelly Stein-Marcus	July 11	Sarra Rabinovich	July 24
Marvin Bienstock	July 3	Sandi Euster	July 12	J. B. Sobel	July 24
Murray Politis	July 3	Pam Fleischman	July 12	Rebecca Coffman	July 25
Lois Gibson	July 4	Naomi Farber	July 13	Nancy Reeves	July 25
Barbara Rast	July 4	Bill Rast	July 13	Jhian Novinbakht	July 26
Alvin Steingold	July 4	Carol Reyner Barnett	July 14	Terry Garber	July 27
Frank Baker	July 5	Thalia Birch	July 14	Ayla King	July 27
John Baker	July 5	Kelsey Marom	July 14	Julie Strauss	July 27
Emily Kerner	July 6	Sam Grosby	July 15	Barbara Volin	July 27
LA Miller	July 6	Dale Morris	July 15	Suzy Herzog	July 28
Elizabeth Prinz	July 7	Eric Feuerstein	July 16	Hugh Wheeler	July 28
Steven Grosby	July 8	Bob Blenner	July 18	Jan Barkan	July 29
Phil Savitz	July 8	Sagan Cantor	July 18	Bailey Koller-Schmidt	July 29
Marjorie Cooper	July 9	Abby Magaro	July 18	Kim Bannister	July 30
Howie Weiss	July 9	Lisa Wheeler	July 18	Shelby Feirstein	July 30
David Blackmon	July 10	Jeff Miller	July 19	Rich Mellitz	July 30
Ernie Magaro	July 10	Daniel Kline	July 23	John Higgins	July 31
Dena Wessinger	July 10	Brian Sorenson	July 23	David Reddy	July 31
Melanie Baker	July 11	Andy Tucker	July 23		

JUNE & JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Tirza & William Leader	June 2	Yulianna & Arthur Iskhakov	June 16	Anne & Alan Reyner, Jr.	July 8
Rachel & Jason Peavy	June 2	Nancy & Richard Wassermann	June 17	Audra & Paul Feirstein	July 13
Melanie & Frank Baker	June 6	Sarra & Feliks Rabinovich	June 18	Mindy & Andy Tucker	July 13
Diane & Sheldon Kall	June 7	Adele & Herman Salzberg	June 19	Maryann & Lou Lapine	July 15
Ann & Marc Posner	June 7	Lonnie & Steve Stout	June 20	Valerie & Michael Wheeler	July 15
Gail & Bob Bell	June 9	Sara & Andrew Thide	June 20	Elizabeth & James Brown	July 17
Leah Doberne-Schor & Adam Schor	June 9	Maxine & Rayton Fisher	June 22	Barbara & Frank Volin	July 20
Barb & Art Levy	June 10	Donna & Ernie Magaro	June 22	Brian Glavey & Eleanor Stein-Glavey	July 22
Jennifer & Hyman Rubin, III	June 10	Jan & Phil Savitz	June 26	Kathy & Stan Kessler	July 28
Julie & Ned Strauss	June 10	Kim & Samuel Moses	June 29	Janis & Gary Mitchell	July 29
Debbie & Rick Cohn	June 12	Carole & Jerry Rothstein	June 30		
Kelsey & Eric Marom	June 13	Lea & David Weiner	July 3		
Jane & Samuel Friedman	June 14	Lennie & Charles Mullis	July 8		

YAHREZEITS

June 3: Rita Anbinder, Izrael Anbinder, Mortimer A. Cohen, August Kohn, Sr.*, Mary Magaro, Maie Park, Nathan Sheftman*, Tillie B. Fleischman*, Buster Nachlinger, Gail Reiser, Louis Silber*, Meyer Zellman, Julian Brown, Freda Kornblut, David Schwartz*, Harriet Volin, Ruth Becker, Fanny Kronrad*, Andrew Schwebel, Harold Starr*, Ben Swartz, Gerald Tucker*

June 10: Janet Barkan, Donald J. Bedford*, Nathaniel Gabriel, Julius Kronrad*, Sam Posner, Samuel Weinberg, Marcelle Serfaty Rodgers, Isaac Spector*, Betty Donen*, Simon Polinsky, Earl J. Womersley*, George Nathanson, Max Revelise*, Richard Wayburn II*, Joseph Frank Cohen*, Shirley Hertz*, Abdollah Novinbakht, Esther K. Baker*, Frances S. Benenson*, Louis Birch*, George Bor, Elizabeth Carlson, David Hein

June 17: Herbert Bass*, Mamie Burger*, Richard Eugene Halford, Sally Reisman, Joe Goldstein*, Robert Hurwitz, Nora Helman Robinson*, Ivan Miller, Rita Trantham, Henry Geers, Ruth Werblum Love*, Morris Leon Garber, Iloean Shultz, Jack Silk, Carolyn Everett

June 24: Lynn Fleischman Milman*, Joseph Sorenson, Harris Fried, George Goldberg, Anne Cartiff, Rachel Davidson, Robert N. Love*, George Altman, Alvin M. Block*, Helen Kasiniak, Florence Plotkin, Sheppard Morris, Kittie Simmons*, Joseph Welsh Strauss*, Fay Reyner Aroneck*, Dora Bornstein, Gustav Carlson, Jules W. Lindau, IV*, Ruth B. Love*, Gail Riley, Rose Stein*, Jerome Blau*, Dorothy Ritter

July 1: Harold H. Eschen, Sylvia Gottlieb*, Mollie Q. Vigodsky*, Ray Pearlstine Wolff*, Jadzia Stern, Valeriy Volynets, Henry Bogatin, Eva Sasiene, Clara Goldsmith, Mary Raphael Helman*, Jerry King*, Edward Charles Lilly, Isaac Quatinetz*

July 8: Joseph Rubenstein, Jack Bazerman*, Ida Friedman, Ida Korash, Jack Rosenberg, Betty Loeb*, Bertha K. Nowitz*, Fannie Reyner*, Rose Blumberg*, Betty Conway*, Lewis E. Littmann, Charlotte Rosin, Isadore Schreiber*, Lawrence L. Burger*, Bella Circus*, Ruth Kaufman, Mitchell Jay Paul Troy

July 15: Jules Seideman*, Eva Strasburger*, Russell Hertz*, Marilyn Freed*, Barry Jasper, Morris Kuntz, Sophie Troyansky, Alan Berry, Edward Brenner, Nat Love, Rebecca Friedman*, Ray Benator Fisch*, Albert A. Salomon*, Neil Sharitz, Hyman Cohen, Irene Goldsmith Kohn*, Donald Koon

July 22: Rose Alion Goldman, Bernard Klein, Samuel Monroe Wittenberg*, Sara Savitz Linett*, Rose Madoff, Henry Bedinger, William Goodwin

July 29: Samuel Milecofsky, Harold Samuel Cantor, Bessie L. Euster*, Herbert Racoff, Ruth Arnold, Murray Irwin Linett*, Jennie Baker Ravdin*, Lillian Rochelle Troy*, Esther Duni*, John Hertz*, Jeanette W. Birch*, Ilias Jikhadze, Greta Levy Bruck*, Abe Euster*, Lina Strasburger*

*name memorialized by a plaque in the sanctuary

ONEG SHABBAT HOSTS

June 3 – Chair: Michelle Bowen, Harvey & Beth Helman, Richard & Ellen Helman, Ed & Sandy Hertz, Suzy Herzog & Harvie Nachlinger, Norma & John Higgins, Fred & Marcia Medway

June 10 – Chair: Deb Tedeschi, Alan & Bonnie Horn, Carolyn Hudson, Ellen Humphries, Arthur & Yuliana Iskhakov, Rebecca Jacobson, Ericka Johnson

June 17 – Chair: Debra Stompler, Diane & Sheldon Kall, Dennis & Beverly Kaplan, Scott & Lisa Kaplan, Greg & Cyndi Katz, Steve & Linda Kerner, Stan & Kathy Kessler

June 24 – Chair: Richard Cohen, Liza & Talap Khasiyetova, Ilene King, Sheila King, Peter & Sheryl Kline, Warren & Carol Kohn, Phil & Marisa Kornblut

July 1 – Chair: Jeff Selig, Rich & Diane Mellitz, Rick & Sandy Mendel, Steve Merlin, Bruce & LA Miller, Jeff & Peggy Miller, Marvyn Milman

July 8 – Chair: Debbie Greenhouse, Gary & Janis Mitchell, Michael & Dale Morris, Jeff & Lorraine Moses, Lennie & Charles Mullis, Allan & Cheryl Nail

July 15 – Chair: Rick Cohn, Ken & Myra Nelson, Paul & Karen Beattie, Shahram & Barbara Novinbakht, David & Dori Nudelman, Bruce & Kristi Oberman, Alex Ogden & Judith Kalb

July 22 – Chair: Peter Kline, Neil & Joy Parks, Michael & Janet Paul, Jason & Rachel Peavy, Irina Plotkin, Donald & Karen Portnoy, Marc & Ann Posner

July 29 – Chair: David Carr, Aleksandr & Marina Rabinovich, Feliks & Sarra Rabinovich, Kim & Raisa Rabinovich, Ira & Kay Radin, Marc & Mia Rapport

*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.*

CONTRIBUTIONS

We gratefully acknowledge the following thoughtful donations:

Choir Fund

Marci & Fred Medway, in memory of Estelle Morino

General Fund

Lois & Jerry Gibson, in honor of Ruth & Sandy Marcus
Donna Johnson, in honor of Marvyn Milman
Families of Irina Plotkin & Rimma Brandin, in honor of
the 50th Wedding Anniversary of
Feliks & Sarra Rabinovich
Sarra & Feliks Rabinovich, in memory of Hilda Fischman
Sandra Stanley, in appreciation
Tree of Life Sisterhood

Memorial Plaque

Barb & Art Levy, in memory of Robert Allen Levy

Rabbi Marcus's Discretionary Fund

Nancy Cartiff, in honor of Ruth & Rabbi Sandy Marcus
receiving the Star of David Award
Sylvia Cremer, in honor of Ruth & Rabbi Sandy Marcus
receiving the Star of David Award

Rabbi Sherman's Discretionary Fund

Ann Gaton, in honor of Matthew Scully's graduation
from Tulane University

Religious School

Judaism on Campus, in appreciation

Neil Cartiff Memorial Religious School Fund

Barbara & Bruce Becker, in loving memory of Neil Cartiff

Sisterhood Courtesy Fund

Tree of Life Sisterhood, in loving memory of
Gorman Garber
Tree of Life Sisterhood, in loving memory of
William Campbell McLain, Jr.

Jonathan Train Youth Group Endowment Fund

Hans and Jennifer Mykytyn, in memory of Janet Cohn
Hans and Jennifer Mykytyn, in memory of
Gorman Garber
Hans and Jennifer Mykytyn, in honor of
Ruth and Rabbi Sandy Marcus
Hans and Jennifer Mykytyn, in memory of Estelle Morino
Amy Scully, in appreciation to Hans and Jennifer Mykytyn
for their hospitality during Passover

Youth Activities Fund

Jocelyn & Bob Burg
Nancy Cartiff, in honor Matthew Scully's graduation
from Tulane University
Nancy Cartiff, in honor of Abby Magaro's graduation
from the University of South Carolina
Richard & Myrna Cohen, in honor of the college
graduation of Abby Magaro
Richard & Myrna Cohen, in honor of the college
graduation of Matthew Scully
Helen Silver, in memory of Sidney Krauss
Tree of Life Sisterhood, in memory of Florence Feirstein
Tree of Life Sisterhood, in memory of Sid Krauss
Tree of Life Sisterhood, in memory of Estelle Morino

WRJ REPS

June 3 – Laura Becker

June 10 – Linda Ackerman

June 17 – Risa Strauss

June 24 – Melanie Baker

July 1 – Barbara Becker

July 8 – Eleanor Bornstein

July 15 – Debbie Cohn

July 22 – Cheryl Kline

July 29 – Jill Carr

URJ DISASTER RELIEF

The Union for Reform Judaism is currently accepting donations to its Disaster Relief Fund in the aftermath of the deadly tornadoes that recently swept through Joplin, MO and the Southeast, killing hundreds of individuals. Donations can be made online at www.urj.org, or checks can be dropped off at the TOL office. Thank you for your support!

June 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 6:15pm Picnic Dinner 7:00pm Shabbat Service	4
5	6	7 7:00pm Shavuot Service	8  שבועות SHAVUOT (Temple Closed)	9	10 7:30pm Shabbat Service	11
12 9:30am Brotherhood Bicycle Ride	13	14 7:00pm Sisterhood Book Club	15 6:30pm Executive Board 7:30pm Board of Directors	16 9:00am Seeds of Hope Farmer's Market (TOL parking lot)	17 7:30pm Shabbat Service	18 10am Shabbat Morning Service & Torah Study
19	20	21 9:30am Pre-School Summer Play & Learn	22	23 9:00am Seeds of Hope Farmer's Market (TOL parking lot) 9:30am Pre-School Summer Play & Learn	24 7:30pm Shabbat Service	25
26	27	28 9:30am Pre-School Summer Play & Learn	29	30 9:00am Seeds of Hope Farmer's Market (TOL parking lot) 9:30am Pre-School Summer Play & Learn		



July 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:15pm Picnic Dinner 7:00pm Shabbat Service	2
3	4 Independence Day (Temple Closed)	5	6	7 9:00am Seeds of Hope Farmer's Market (TOL parking lot)	8 7:30pm Shabbat Service	9
10 9:30am Brotherhood Bicycle Ride	11	12 9:30am Pre-School Summer Play & Learn 7:00pm Sisterhood Book Club	13	14 9:00am Seeds of Hope Farmer's Market (TOL parking lot) 9:30am Pre-School Summer	15 7:30pm Shabbat Service	16
17	18	19 9:30am Pre-School Summer Play & Learn	20	21 9:00am Seeds of Hope Farmer's Market (TOL parking lot) 9:30am Pre-School Summer	22 7:30pm Shabbat Service	23
24 9:30am Brotherhood Bicycle Ride	25	26	27	28 9:00am Seeds of Hope Farmer's Market (TOL parking lot)	29 7:30pm Shabbat Service	30
31	1	2	3	4 9:00am Seeds of Hope Farmer's Market (TOL parking lot)	5 6:15pm Picnic Dinner 7:00pm Shabbat Service	6



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

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TREE OF LIFE CONGREGATION

Established 1896

6719 North Trenholm Road Columbia, SC 29206

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Website: www.tolsc.org Email: 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
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RABBI EMERITUS Sanford T. Marcus, D.D.

Risa Strauss, RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR
risatol@bellsouth.net

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....Jeff Selig
jhselig@bellsouth.net

1ST VICE PRESIDENT.....Debra Tedeschi

2ND VICE PRESIDENT.....Annette Goldstein

TREASURER.....Paul Westfall

SECRETARY.....Bill Strauss

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT.....Amy Scully

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David Carr	Donna Magaro
Laney Cohen	Kim Moses
Richard Cohen	Arline Polinsky
Richard H. Cohn	Marc Rapport
Deborah Greenhouse	Julie Strauss

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Stephen Savitz
Howard Weiss

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Finance.....	Debra Tedeschi
Fundraising.....	Scott Kaplan
House & Ground.....	G. Todd Weiss
Membership.....	Laney Cohen
Outreach.....	Debra Tedeschi
Religious School Board.....	Kim Moses
Ritual.....	Richard Cohen
Social Action.....	Ilene King
Temple Youth Group.....	Bill Strauss

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Brotherhood President.....	David Carr
Sisterhood President.....	Linda Ackerman
COFTY President.....	Jessica Volin

TOL NEWSLETTER

Design.....	Morgan Sherman
Proofreader.....	Marc Rapport

TEMPLE STAFF

Office Manager.....	Linda Frederico
Custodian.....	Demitris Gilmore

TEMPLE MUSICIANS

Music Director.....	Sharon Witherell
Music Director Emeritus.....	Jackie McNeill