Opportunities For All Ages to Engage

General Contact:

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TIKKUN OLAM STEERING COMMITTEE
Contact:
Amy Gage
amygage@stanfordalumni.org
(314) 954-2632

Our Tikkun Olam Steering Committee (TOSC) is dedicated to the fulfillment of our commitment to the holy work of tikkun olam, the repair of the world. The TOSC is comprised of members who commit to regular participation for renewable one-year terms and is the umbrella group responsible for oversight of all of CRC’s tikkun olam programming.

The TOSC works strategically to ensure that we meet the goals of our tikkun olam programming: maximizing impact on the issues that matter most to CRC members, maximizing involvement of CRC members in tikkun olam work, engaging CRC members in a way that empowers them and allows them to grow their skills, and integrate these programs in the effort to maintain our holy community.

Information on tikkun olam programming is in this section of the booklet. The TOSC meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm.

HEALTH CARE ADVOCACY
Contact:
Jennifer Bernstein, Director of Advocacy & Communications
jenniferb@centralreform.org
(314) 361-1564, ext. 117

Increasing access to health care is one of CRC’s top advocacy priorities. Nearly all of our health care work is done in coalition with Missouri Health Care for All and other secular and faith-based organizations committed to the same goal of increasing access to health care. There are three main programs involved in health care advocacy: the campaign to expand Medicaid, Affordable Care Act public education, and Affordable Care Act advocacy.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Potential volunteer activities and opportunities include: Campaign to expand Medicaid - phone banks, media work, and in-district meetings. Affordable Care Act public education - participation in/planning public educational forums. Affordable Care Act - media efforts, rallies, forums, and call-in campaigns, in-district meetings with legislators, and participation in legislative hearings.

ROOM AT THE INN
Contact:
Sherri Lyss
slyssi@earthlink.net
(314) 566-0141

Room at the Inn is a community-based program in partnership with more than 50 interfaith congregations and organizations providing emergency shelter for women and families. Room at the Inn serves up to 20 people daily, about half of whom are children. It has a unique model - operating with a single day site and more than 50 night sites. During the day, Room at the Inn provides services to participants. In the evenings, two hosting congregations create a welcoming night site environment.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: CRC provides shelter and meals for up to 10 individuals (adults and children) four times a year on the fifth Sunday of the month (in months with five Sundays). We provide transportation (pick up from and return to Room at the Inn), hospitality and fellowship, sleeping arrangements and bedding, and dinner and breakfast. CRC members can volunteer in different capacities including driving our guests, preparing and serving dinner, playing with children, or sleeping over at CRC. This is a great family activity or a wonderful b’nai mitzvah project.
CRC has continuously led the Jewish Communities entry in PrideFest for the past several years. This event is held in the last weekend of June. There are two components of PrideFest: the Pride Parade (held on Sunday) and the Pride Festival (held on Saturday and Sunday). We have had about 25 organizations and congregations join us each year with between 200-250 people marching for LGBT equality in the parade.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: We welcome both veteran and new volunteers to help with this annual effort. A majority of volunteer time is needed to help with shifts at the Jewish Communities booth at the Pride Festival, where we distribute information about Jewish organizations that are participating in Pride Fest. We also have a craft and/or service project that helps draw non-Jewish guests into the booth. It is a tremendous amount of fun and the shifts last a couple of hours. The Pride Parade is held on Sunday at noon. This is a family-friendly event and a fun way for people to demonstrate support for LGBT equality.

As one of Central Reform Congregation’s longest community partnerships, we have helped 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. No special skills are needed.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Two work dates of four hours each are scheduled each fall, one Saturday and one Sunday. CRC volunteers work in small groups with other members of the community. The project is suitable for families with children 12 and older. The work is physical, but not difficult.

Each summer, CRC members volunteer at a free pediatric clinic, run by St. Louis University Medical School students. The main volunteer activity is reading to and playing with children in the waiting room so that the med students can focus on providing care.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: The clinic is held on Saturday afternoons from July to September each year. CRC member Mindy Berkowitz has led this project for the last several years.

It was important to us to build a tzedakah (righteous sharing) element directly into the entrance of our building. Our Tikkun Closet encourages donations of new or gently used clothing and non-perishable food that can be taken by anyone who needs it. The closet is open to our neighbors anytime the building is open. Daily, individuals and families in need ‘shopping’ appear at the entrance to our Sukkat Shalom. There is also a community nurse who is available to the needy every Friday from 12:00 - 2:00 pm.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: We need clothing and non-perishable food. We can use volunteers to organize the donated food and clothes brought to the congregational closet and to regularly restock the Tikkun Closet.
LANGSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
Contact:
Jennifer Bernstein, Director of Advocacy & Communications
jenniferb@centralreform.org
(314)361-1564, ext. 117

Longtime CRC member Ariel Arpadi is the social worker at Langston Middle School, right near CRC. It's so close to us that if CRC were a home with middle school students, they would attend Langston Middle School.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: During the school year, volunteers read with and mentor members of Mrs. Jackson’s 6th grade class, either one on one or in groups. We ask that you are available at least twice a month

JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER
Contact:
Jennifer Bernstein, Director of Advocacy & Communications
jenniferb@centralreform.org
(314)361-1564, ext. 117

Since 2008, CRC has provided volunteers to the St. Louis City Juvenile Detention Center (JDC). It is the mission of the St. Louis City Juvenile Detention Center to provide a safe, non-punitive, controlled and secure custodial environment for juveniles coming within the jurisdiction of the Court when their temporary detention is necessary pending legal action in accordance with Missouri law.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: About six times a year, we provide enrichment programming for the youth staying at the JDC. Our main program is a workshop to help teens learn how to apply for jobs and write their first resumes. Once or twice a year, we hold a Field Day at the center on a day when the students are off school. We have held additional programs in the past, including “Know Your Rights” (presented by CRC attorneys), a checkers tournament, and a Haiti relief service project. This program has recently been on hiatus. CRC is looking for a champion to re-start our programming at the JDC,

BALLOT INITIATIVES
Contact:
Jennifer Bernstein, Director of Advocacy & Communications
jenniferb@centralreform.org
(314)361-1564, ext. 117

When appropriate, CRC has become involved in campaigns related to various ballot initiatives, especially those that pertain to our Tikkun Olam priorities. In recent years, CRC has been involved in several ballot initiative campaigns including, but not limited to, ballot initiatives supporting raising the minimum wage, increasing tobacco tax, and supporting the Metro Sales Tax. As a 501 (C) (3), we are permitted to take a position on ballot initiatives, but not endorse candidates.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: We have been involved in campaigns to collect signatures to put an initiative on the ballot; campaigns to pass initiatives that are on the ballot; and campaigns to stop ballot initiatives. Since we are simply not large enough to take on a statewide campaign on our own, CRC always works on these initiatives in coalition with other organizations.

HUNGER PROGRAMMING
Contact:
Jennifer Bernstein, Director of Advocacy & Communications
jenniferb@centralreform.org
(314)361-1564, ext. 117

CRC has engaged in a range of anti-hunger programming over the years, including highly successful food drives benefiting the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry. In November, 2012, we participated in a national Food Stamp Challenge, where Rabbi Susan and about 35 other CRC members lived for a week on the average food stamp allotment of $1.50 per person, per meal.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Helping Jennifer Bernstein to organize another Food Stamp Challenge, food drives and/or other hunger-related activities.
FAIR FOOD
Contact:
Jennifer Bernstein, Director of Advocacy & Communications
jenniferb@centralreform.org
(314)361-1564, ext. 117

CRC's Rabbis and various members have been working alongside Missouri Jobs With Justice to support the establishment of a living wage for fast food workers. Some recent activities include Rabbi Susan's participation in rallies to demand better pay and working conditions for fast food workers, including paying them $15/hour and allowing them the right to form a union without retaliation.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Keep a lookout for action alerts and rally opportunities. Also go to http://mojwj.org/ for more information.

MONTHLY SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY SHABBAT
Contact:
Jennifer Bernstein, Director of Advocacy & Communications
jenniferb@centralreform.org
(314)361-1564, ext. 117

On the second Friday night service of the month (7:30 pm), as part of Shabbat services, there is a presentation on an issue, cause, or movement in the world of social responsibility/social justice, what we call tikkun olam, repairing the world. Most often, the presentation includes a guest speaker and ways for people who become interested to get involved.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Attend second Friday night services to hear the presentations. Make recommendations of issues and speakers to the Tikkun Olam Steering Committee through Jennifer Bernstein.

CRC GREEN TEAM
Contact:
Jennifer Bernstein, Director of Advocacy & Communications
jenniferb@centralreform.org
(314)361-1564, ext. 117

Our Green Team works to complete the requirements to become a Green Synagogue with the larger goal of growing the environmental consciousness of our members through taking the best steps as a community. Because of our Green team, (among other initiatives) we have eliminated bottled water at our events, implemented a comprehensive recycling and composting program, planted a garden, installed bird feeders, and changed over to compostable eating-ware.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Get involved by working on projects that help us be as green as possible and will take us beyond Green Synagogue status.

HOLY GROUND COLLABORATIVE
Contact:
Rabbi Randy Fleisher
randy@centralreform.org
(314)361-1564, ext. III

The Holy Ground Collaborative consists of CRC and a group of five diverse churches within walking distance from our synagogue. Clergy and members of the congregations meet monthly to plan projects where we can get to know one another and make a positive difference in our shared neighborhood.


CRC BASKETS
Contact:
Jennifer Fishering, Assistant to the Rabbis
jenf@centralreform.org
(314) 361-1564, ext. 101

At CRC, we acknowledge certain times in our members' lives with generous baskets. To celebrate when a baby arrives, we deliver baby baskets created with love by our members. During Purim, we have members sign-up to participate in Shalach Manot. When a child loses a loved one, our Rabbis bring a grief basket generously supplied by our members.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Please contact Jennifer Fishering for information about CRC baskets.
JOINT VENTURE
Contact:
Philip Deitch
plloyd@aol.com
(314) 843-6769

The relationship between CRC and the historically African-American Cote Brilliante Presbyterian Church in North St. Louis dates back 21 years. Together, members of the two congregations mentored students at Cote Brilliante Elementary School, a project that became its own organization, Mentor St. Louis. Members of our two congregations eventually formed the Joint Venture and now sponsors an annual Martin Luther King, Jr. service and other collaborative projects. In 2015, we partnered with Christ the King UCC and its pastor, Reverend Traci Blackmon, who has been a tireless presence in the #BlackLivesMatter movement.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Attend MLK service and other Joint Venture programs, and get involved with Joint Venture dialogue groups.

MITZVAH CORPS
Contact:
Debbie Polinsky, Debby Wafer, Paula Kessler, and Susan Speigel
crcmitzvahcorps@gmail.com
(314) 361-1564, ext. 313

Mitzvah Corps is what Rabbi Susan calls “the soul of the congregation.” We help congregants and others with a variety of needs, in a very confidential manner. We often deliver soup and home-cooked meals, give rides to doctor’s appointments, visit members in retirement homes or hospitals, and help with shivas. In addition, we keep the tikun closet organized and stocked with clothing. We try to match MC volunteers with the needs of our congregants.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Our volunteer opportunities are many and varied. From one-time projects to ongoing projects, volunteers can pick their level of involvement and their projects. We need people to “tell” on others! If you know someone who could use some Mitzvah Corps love, we have a hot line to call to leave information and an email address. Join our list of MC volunteers, it will make your heart sing!

BLESSING BUDDIES
Contact:
Sylvia Nissenboim
snissenboim@yahoo.com
(314) 477-3144

The Blessing Buddies Program, one of our newest programs, has been created to establish a connection between our generations at CRC. Each Blessing Buddy visitor will be matched with an elder (typically someone who is 80 years old or older) with the hope that connections can be made on a monthly basis. A friendly visit provides elders with a sense of connection to CRC, the community and the outside world and offers a welcome variety in their routine.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: CRC’s Blessing Buddy program opportunities include becoming a Blessing Buddy volunteer or receiving your own Blessing Buddy visitor. Some of the Blessing Buddy activities have included visits, hearing stories, learning wisdom, helping them get to CRC services, and having an overall caring contact.

METROPOLITAN CONGREGATIONS UNITED
Contact:
Jennifer Bernstein, Director of Advocacy & Communications
jenniferb@centralreform.org
(314) 361-1564, ext. 117

Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU) is an alliance organization of congregations all over St. Louis City. The group leverages its many members to work on a local level for issues of urban justice - justice and more equitable housing, education, and transportation for all.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Attend MCU public meetings and working groups. Help bring MCU issues to the attention of CRC members.
**Inclusivity & Diversity**

**LGBTQ AT CRC**  
Contact:  
Maggie Duwe  
maggie@centralreform.org  
(314)361-1564, ext. 112

Our LGBTQ gatherings are for fun, good food, and community. We celebrate together with a Passover seder, a Sukkot dinner, and several shared Shabbat dinners...one even includes a chocolate fountain! All are welcome.

**PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES:** Everyone is welcome to engage as much or as little as works for them.

**JEWS OF COLOR CHAVURAH**  
Contact:  
Angela McCurry  
angela.mccurry@yahoo.com  
(314)780-6794

We are a group from very diverse backgrounds who are people of color and Jewish. We want to support each other, celebrate and mourn with one another, and learn about each other’s journey. We want to make sure we are strongly connected to the larger CRC community and that the larger community is sensitive to our presence.

**PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES:** Our main program is the Racial Diversity seder held each year during Passover in which a racially diverse group of Jews and Hebrew Israelites bring the Passover rituals to the stories of slavery of Africans in our country and the legacy of racism that continues to this day. We drum, sing, cry, share, and connect. We are also open to sponsoring speakers and programs that are of interest to Jews of Color.

**CONVERSION TO JUDAISM PROGRAM**  
Contact:  
Rabbi Deana Sussman  
deana@centralreform.org  
(314)361-1564, ext. 113

Conversion is a lifecycle event. For many, it is a journey of coming home. At CRC it involves an ongoing Basic Judaism class, a Union for Reform Judaism introduction course, getting together with the rabbis, coming to services, learning some Hebrew, taking any other classes offered, and being involved in tikkun olam projects.

**PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES:** We recommend a year long journey to experience the cycle of the Jewish holidays and truly make the decision about conversion.

**INTERFAITH ACTIVITIES**  
Contact:  
Rabbi Deana Sussman  
deana@centralreform.org  
(314)361-1564, ext. 113

At CRC we feel Interfaith couples are part of our strength and always welcome. The Interfaith Program is designed to help couples realize the commonalities between religions, come to understandings of the differences, decide what to do with their children, both intended and already here, and religion, lifecycle events, sharing a Shabbat dinner, and the opportunity to meet with a panel of “experienced” interfaith couples.

**PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES:** The initial program meets monthly for six months. We have groups that continue to meet for long after the initial time.
As part of our 30th Anniversary Celebration, we kicked off Forever CRC to build the CRC endowment to insure our future. For the past few years, the income from annual financial commitments and tuition has not quite covered all the expenses necessary to run our congregation. We are looking to raise funds to meet current and future needs of CRC.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: We are looking for dedicated volunteers who understand the mission of CRC and can help map a strategy that will provide CRC a secure financial base for the future.

We would love to have you as a Central Reform Congregation member. Our members are at the center of CRC in every way: our joyful Shabbat and holiday services, lifecycle events, our comprehensive education programs, and our social justice programs. CRC is the only Jewish congregation in the City of St. Louis, and we are committed to remaining in the City. Inclusiveness is one of our most deeply held values. We seek equal roles for men and women and welcome members of interfaith backgrounds, Jews by choice, members of the LGBTQ community, singles, and people of all ages. We understand that you may have many questions before making a commitment to membership. This member engagement booklet contains a lot of information about our community, but there is no substitute for coming and experiencing CRC for yourself. Our Sukkat Shalom is open to you. We encourage you to attend Shabbat services, holiday celebrations, and educational programming. The more you experience, the more you will see our core values at work, and it will become clear if CRC is the right fit for you.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: If you would like more information about becoming a new member at Central Reform Congregation, contact Lori Becker, VP Membership.

One of the keys to our success as community is the active involvement of our members. The Member Engagement committee is responsible for making sure members who would like to be more engaged with their CRC Community have the opportunity to do so. This committee is responsible for helping facilitate communication between staff, committees, the CRC board and volunteers.

The CRC Finance Committee meets annually to develop the budget for upcoming fiscal year to be approved by the Board. There are sometimes additional meetings to review budget goals versus actual status.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Finance Committee is mostly comprised of past CRC Treasurers, and is currently at full capacity. However, Finance Committee members always welcome any congregant’s suggestions, concerns, or interest in the Finance Committee.
CRC’s Education Steering Committee is a group of active congregants committed to mapping and evaluating CRC’s various life-long learning opportunities and on-going programs. This Committee evaluates programs for educational objectives, spiritual and textual enrichment, diversity of targeted audience and dynamic levels of engagement for the congregation and friends at large.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: If you would like more information about the work of the Education Steering Committee, contact Rabbi Deana Sussman.
Social Activity Across the Ages

TOT SHABBAT
Contact:
Jennifer Fishering, Assistant to the Rabbis
jenf@centralreform.org
(314) 361-1564, ext. 101

Tot Shabbats have become a family favorite! Join Rabbi Susan, Rabbi Randy, and Rabbi Deana one Friday per month during summer months at 6:00 pm for singing, prayer, dancing, story time, a special activity, and a kid-friendly oneg. All are welcome.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: No RSVP necessary. Contact Jennifer Fishering with questions.

TRIPLE CHAI +
Contact:
Barb Goldman
brbgldmn@sbcglobal.net
(314) 727-1318

Triple Chai Plus is a social group that meets around topics meant to engage those ages 55+ by building relationships, making connections and providing opportunities to learn and serve. Those who attend are part of the Baby Boom generation...give or take a few years.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: To date we have held monthly brunch meetings with diverse speakers presenting topics of interest. We also have scheduled dinners and evenings at the theatre. The group is open to ideas from all members for future events and/or programs.

GRIEF SUPPORT
Contact:
Rabbi Deana Sussman
deana@centralreform.org
(314) 361-1564, ext. 113
Jamie Sentnor, LCSW
sentnor@sbcglobal.net

All who have experienced the loss of a friend, family member, or loved one are invited to attend CRC’s Grief Support group. Together, we will listen and learn from one another, helping to make connections and finding ways to support one another through the grief process. The group is co-led by Jamie Sentnor, LCSW, who is a practicing therapist and grief support specialist and Rabbi Deana Sussman, who has been trained in adult and child grief support.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: The group meets on the third Saturday of every month at 12:30 pm. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Rabbi Deana or Jamie at any time.

NEXT DOR STL
Contact:
www.nextdorstl.com
info@nextdorstl.com

Located literally next door to CRC, Next Dor is a vibrant center of activity for adults in their 20s and 30s interested in building Jewish community. Their mission is to strengthen the Jewish community by providing a space for young adults to network, socialize, learn, celebrate holidays and become advocates. In addition to formal programming, the Next Dor house, located at 5062 Waterman Blvd, has also gained popularity as a casual hangout spot for lifelong St. Louisans, transplants, and “re-plants.” The organization offers a free residency program to enthusiastic young adults who help craft inspiring community-driven programming.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Each month Next Dor hosts a free communal Shabbat dinner, casual social gatherings, learning opportunities, and activities that help connect young adults to each other and to the City of St. Louis. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please find them on Facebook as “Next Dor St. Louis,” visit their website www.nextdorstl.com, or email info@nextdorstl.com.
CRFTY is our synagogue Youth Group that is open to all high school students in CRC affiliated households. The Youth Group tries to hold monthly social events. In addition, there are three regional weekend Youth Group conclaves available to our youth each year that meet in synagogues as close as St. Louis (CRC hosted one in the fall of 2013!), and as far away as Denver, Peoria, and Kansas City.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Attend our social events. Attend one, two, or three conclaves. Hang out in our Youth Lounge. Become involved in CRFTY leadership.

The Women’s Retreat is a wonderful way to take some time for yourself, learn and grow from amazing teachings, spend some quiet time in nature, and be filled by community.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: The Women’s Retreat is held annually at Toddhall retreat center in Illinois. It is always an incredible experience for all attendees. Please join us this year!

Each year CRC hosts a men's retreat in a camp near St Louis. It’s a great opportunity for CRC men to bond, enjoy a spiritual weekend, and maybe do a little howling at the moon.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Typically we have anywhere from eight to 12 men who enjoy a weekend together. The weekend consists of discussions, possibly a sweat lodge, campfires, and lots of fraternal opportunities to know other CRC men.

Generally in the fall, CRC members take to the woods of nearby Camp Wyman. The retreat goes over Shabbat, from Friday dinner through late Saturday afternoon. We enjoy a campfire, some separate activities for children and adults, and other activities for everyone together. We conclude with havdalah.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Sign up and tell your friends!

Everybody knows that CRC’s challah is the best in town! The dedicated challah bakers are a group of six to seven CRC members who bake challah on a weekly basis. They are then available for sale, first come first serve, in the CRC office. In addition, they bake ceremonial challot for bar/bat mitzvahs and for Shabbat services. For the High Holidays, they offer round plain and raisin challah. They also take special orders from CRC members.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: They would be happy to discuss baking opportunities with anyone interested. In order to volunteer, you MUST be willing to commit to baking on a regular basis.
HIGH HOLIDAY HONEYCAKES
Contact:
Jennifer Fishering, Assistant to the Rabbis
jenf@centralreform.org
(314) 361-1564, ext. 101

You may or may not know that at CRC, we have a special tradition of having couples who were married by our Rabbis during the year bring a honey cake (or two) to Rosh Hashanah services at the Chase Park Plaza. We place all of the honeycakes under a chuppah and encourage members looking for that special someone to go to the “Honeycake Table.” It’s a nice way to share your love and encourage others to find love too. Even if you have been married for years, you are welcome to bring a honey cake to spread the love. You may bake or purchase your honey cake, either way is great. Simply bring it with you to Rosh Hashanah services and place it on the table beneath the chuppah.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Questions? Want a good recipe or want to know where you can buy honey cake? Contact Jennifer Fishering, Assistant to the Rabbis.

MOVIES WITH OUR RABBIS
Contact:
Rabbi Randy Fleisher
randy@centralreform.org
(314) 361-1564, ext. 111

In the winter (December-March), we host a movie series one Sunday a month. Each movie session includes popcorn and a discussion facilitated by one of our rabbis.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Please check our website, www.centralreform.org or read our weekly e-announcements for titles and times. Past years’ movie topics have included the issue of education in America, food and economic inequality, and Israel.
Observing and celebrating holy days, merging the traditional with the innovative.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Weekly: Musical, joyous, socially aware, inclusive, diverse, and spiritual Shabbat services, every Friday at 7:30 pm and every Saturday at 10:00 am. Family services are every Saturday (except in July) at 9:30 am.

Fall: S’lichot - just before the new year with our choir and our spiritual intentions. Rosh Hashanah - PM service at the Chase; AM services at the Chase and CRC; PM Children’s services at CRC followed by walking from CRC to Forest Park for Tashlich; Second day service at CRC with Neve Shalom. Yom Kippur - Kol Nidre PM service at the Chase; AM service and Concluding service all at the Chase. Sukkot - Various dinners in the sukkah hosted by Men’s and Women’s groups, Torah Study chevurot, and LGBT chavurah; Friday PM service of Sukkot partially outside in sukkah. Simchat Torah - live klezmer band, circling with Torah scrolls, unrolling scroll with children running underneath, ending with caramel apples!

Winter: Chanukah - "First Night, First Light“ on the first night of the holiday, bring your menorah and we’ll sing, light candles together, and eat latkes. World Peace Day - CRC hosts a worldwide universal faith observance, 6:00 am on December 31. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - our annual service with our Joint Venture partner on the Wednesday before MLK Day and with mystical and spiritual content. Purim - Shaloch Manot gift exchanges with other members; evening reading of the Megillah with shtick and hi-jinx, Children’s Carnival on Sunday.

Spring: Passover - match congregants looking for first night seder home with hosts; congregational second night seder at CRC, theme seders on middle nights including Women’s, Men’s, LGBT, and Diversity seders. Lag B’ Omer - Nighttime campfire on the grounds of CRC.

Summer: Shavuot - We co-sponsor a multi-denominational late night study session held at Bais Abraham congregation in University City. Tisha B’Av – We sit in a circle to light candles and remember our loses, both personal and communal. Tu B’Av - ice breaking activities to foster community and deep friendships.

We sing at the High Holiday services at the Chase. Best seats in the house!

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: We start rehearsing during the summer, usually about two months before the holidays. Rehearsals are on Thursday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.
Oneg Shabbat includes the blessing over wine and bread and a social gathering immediately following the Shabbat service, both on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. Central Reform Congregation welcomes and, yes, encourages members to share the planning and buying responsibilities associated with the Oneg Shabbat. It is a wonderful way to celebrate a special occasion, to celebrate being a part of CRC, or just to celebrate being alive! You can sponsor (or cosponsor) an Oneg in honor of any simcha - birthday, anniversary, graduation, new baby, loved one’s accomplishments, any happy occasion. We also welcome you to remember a yahrzeit by sponsoring an Oneg. We’d love to have your sponsorship either on a one-time basis or you can arrange for an “annual plan” to honor all your simchas and yahrzeits. You will be recognized for your generosity in the Shabbat Bulletin.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: If you have questions, or if you would like to sign up for a date, please contact Jennifer Fishering, Assistant to the Rabbis.
Youth Education

RAINBOW
Contact:
Shannon Rohlman
srohlman@mirowitz.org

Essie Mitchell, Religious School Director
essie@centralreform.org
(314) 361-1564, ext. 118

Rainbow is an educational program for parents and children who will be younger than four years old by July 31. Together, parents and their children learn about the holidays and Judaism through art, music, and more. This program meets on the first Saturday of every month at 10:00 am during the school year.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: To enroll your student, please contact Essie Mitchell.

SHABBAT SCHOOL
(Pre-K to Grade 2)
Contact:
Essie Mitchell, Religious School Director
essie@centralreform.org
(314) 361-1564, ext. 118

Shabbat School is for our children that are in pre-kindergarten through 2nd grade. Students meet every Saturday 10:00 am – 12:00 noon during the school year to begin to learn Jewish holidays, build a Jewish community, and become familiar with basic Jewish concepts/stories.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: To enroll your child, please contact Essie Mitchell. She will make sure that you get the appropriate paperwork and are walked through the process of enrollment.

RELIGIOUS (HEBREW) SCHOOL
Contact:
Essie Mitchell, Religious School Director
essie@centralreform.org
(314) 361-1564, ext. 118

Religious School is for our students in grades 3 - 6. These students meet on both Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings. They build on their Shabbat School education, learn Hebrew letters, and to read Hebrew. Students master reading Hebrew words found in prayers used during holidays, special events, and Shabbat services. Students study Jewish texts, stories, history, and Jewish values.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: To enroll your child, please contact Essie Mitchell. She will make sure that you get the appropriate paperwork and are walked through the process of enrollment.

TEEN PROGRAMS
Contact:
Jennifer Fishering, Assistant to the Rabbis
jenf@centralreform.org
(314) 361-1564, ext. 101

7th Grade: Putting the Mitzvah in B’nai Mitzvah
Students build community during their bar/bat mitzvah year. Students actively work on Tikkun projects in the community and study the Jewish texts that support the work. This teen program is led by Rabbi Randy and typically meets two Sundays per month.

8th Grade: Building Community
After a very eventful 7th grade year with b’nai mitzvah and Rabbi Randy’s class, students in the 8th grade continue to get to know each other and build community. In the 8th grade year, students typically meet every several months and participate in social activities, like ice skating and hayrides.

9th Grade: Ani V’Ata: We can Change the World
Students in the 9th grade class will strive to learn the importance of advocacy and why, as Jews, it is important to take an active role in the political process. This class is taught by Rabbi Deana Sussman and Jennifer Bernstein, and typically meets two Sundays per month during the school year. The 9th grade year includes a life-changing advocacy trip to Washington, D.C.

10th Grade: Confirmation
During the 10th grade year, students prepare for Confirmation. This year is the first step to life-long adult learning. Rabbi Susan teaches and challenges students on difficult, but important issues. The class typically meets two Sundays per month during the school year. 10th grade students go on a once-in-a-lifetime Jewish exploration trip to New York City.
(Teen Programs, Cont)

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: To enroll your child, please contact Jen Fishering. She will make sure that you get the appropriate paperwork and are walked through the process of enrollment.

At CRC, our school thrives when parents are involved. Throughout the years, parents have been involved to varying degrees, often helping with things like snacks, grade-level Shabbat dinners, and teachers’ special requests. The more our parents are involved, the better!

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: If you would like to volunteer as a parent volunteer, please contact Essie Mitchell.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS
Contact:
Essie Mitchell, Religious School Director
essie@centralreform.org
(314) 361-1564, ext. 118
Nearly every Tuesday from 7:00 - 8:30 pm, you can attend an adult education class at CRC. There is a new topic and teacher every month. Our teachers include all the rabbis in the CRC universe and other fantastic members, and the topics are very diverse.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Attend the classes - you do not have to commit to the entire month of Tuesday nights, just show up when you are able and you will surely learn and share. Feel free to suggest topics to us as well.

Basic Judaism is for anyone who wants to learn more about the what and why of our Jewish holidays, the movements within Judaism, the platforms that have formed Reform Judaism, kippah, tallit, mezuzah, etc.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: We meet once a month, typically on the 3rd Saturday after services.

On the first Saturday of each month, 12:30 pm after the Shabbat morning services, one of the rabbis in our community will teach a spiritual text of their choosing. Teachers include Rabbis Susan Talve, Randy Fleisher, Deana Sussman, Dale Schreiber, and Justin Kerber.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Attend, participate, and learn!

CRC continues to grow after 30 years as a Jewish presence in the City of St. Louis. Joy Lieberman, Miriam Raskin, and a group of volunteers make sure that we are organized and remember CRC’s history through articles, photos, documents, and other treasures.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Questions? Contact Joy Lieberman or Miriam Raskin.

The Bible was written in Hebrew. Hebrew is a doorway into Judaism. Whether you wish to know enough to read the Hebrew in our siddur or become fluent, this is a place to start. Our program is predominantly Biblical Hebrew. We begin with the alphabet and go from there.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: The very beginning class is 12 weeks and meets weekly. From there, we move into more involved grammar, vocabulary, and the siddur.

This class explores contemporary Jewish observance using Maimonides’ list of 60 positive mitzvahs that “a Jew in the ordinary course of life generally has the opportunity to fulfill.” These mitzvahs relate to Shabbat, the Jewish year, personal relationships, being a mensch, eating, spirituality, Jewish customs, and study.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Please join us in the CRC library every second Saturday of the month at 12:15 pm.
This class is the Friday afternoon (2:30 pm) Torah/Tanakh class taught by Maggie Duwe. This class which has been meeting for five years so far and spends a lot of time questioning parts of the readings, discussing contemporary contrasts, trying to understand the past, and thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to meet together and discuss. The class, until recently, has had between six and ten people who have attended. It has grown in size and the additional people have just entered the class.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: People interested in studying the Torah from the beginning may want to find a beginning class. This class will continue but will not be studying the five books of Moses.

Each week we study some aspect of the week’s Torah portion. The sessions are led by Rabbi Deana Sussman, Rabbi Dale Schreiber, Michael Getty, and Mem Movshin. Rabbi Randy and Rabbi Susan are occasionally able to lead a session. No knowledge of Hebrew is necessary and no preparation is required. If you have a Chumash (Torah in book form) that you like, feel free to bring it; otherwise, we have plenty in the library. Be ready for some lively discussion!

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Show up in the Library at 8:45 am on Saturday morning. If you’ve got an idea about a particular portion, talk to us about leading that session.

Our building, our Sukkat Shalom, is home to a beautiful library filled with books for all ages. Our librarian and long-time CRC member, Miriam Raskin, maintains it beautifully and keeps the database up-to-date so that members can easily check out books. We encourage you to stop in to enjoy books in the space or check them out to enjoy in the comfort of your own home.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Questions? Contact Miriam Raskin or stop-in during regular building hours.

Our adventurous rabbis periodically lead trips to Israel and other countries, such as India, with Jewish histories and peoples. There is currently one trip scheduled - Cuba with Rabbis Susan and Jim, in the fall of 2015. Make sure to check our publications for the other opportunities to travel with CRC rabbis.

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES: Check our website and our publications for opportunities to travel with CRC rabbis. If you have questions, contact the Assistant to the Rabbis, Jennifer Fishering.