



**Date:** October 28, 2009

**For Immediate Release**

**CELEBRATE CHANUKAH AT THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN**

**WHAT:** “Chanukah: Festival of Lights”  
**WHEN:** Sunday, Dec. 6 from noon to 4 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd., south St. Louis  
**COST:** Included with Garden admission (\$8 adults; \$4 St. Louis City/County residents) or membership. Free children ages 12 and under.  
**INFO:** [www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org); (314) 577-9400, 1 (800) 642-8842 toll free

(ST. LOUIS): Visit the Missouri Botanical Garden on **Sunday, Dec. 6** to experience the traditions of **“Chanukah: Festival of Lights.”** Storytelling, festive Israeli music and dance, and a **ceremonial menorah-lighting** will mark the annual Jewish holiday.

Festivities begin at noon with the symbolic lighting of one of eight candles on a menorah, which represents the first of eight evenings that the miraculous oil jar burned in the temple. Immediately following are student performances by the Reform Jewish Academy School, the Solomon Schechter Day School, and the Epstein Hebrew Academy chorus. The St. Louis Jewish Women’s Choir and the Circle of Jewish Music Group will also perform.

At 2 p.m., listen to traditional Jewish and Chanukah festival music performed by the female quartet Shir Ami (Song of My People). At 3 p.m., the group HaShemesh (The Sun) will sing and play contemporary Israeli folk music.

Visitors can browse a traditional “shuk” (marketplace), with merchandise from B’rith Sholom Keneset Israel, The Silver Lady, and B’nai El Congregation Gift Shop, or stop by the Garden Gate Shop for Chanukah-themed merchandise.

**(over)**

### **ADD ONE: Chanukah**

“Chanukah: Festival of Lights” will be held from noon to 4 p.m. in the upper level of the Ridgway Visitor Center at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Activities are included with Garden admission of \$8; St. Louis City and County residents enjoy discounted admission of \$4 and free admission on Wednesday and Saturday mornings until noon. Children ages 12 and under and Garden members are free.

The Missouri Botanical Garden is located at 4344 Shaw Blvd. in south St. Louis, easily accessible from Interstate 44 at the Vandeventer exit. Free parking is available on-site and at two blocks west at the corner of Shaw and Vandeventer.

For general information, visit [www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org) or call the recorded event line at (314) 577-9400 or toll-free 1 (800) 642-8842.

The Missouri Botanical Garden is the oldest continually operating botanical garden in the nation, celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2009. *Missouri Botanical Garden: Green for 150 Years*.

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**NOTE: A digital color image is available by request. Download media materials at [www.mobot.org/press](http://www.mobot.org/press).**

The Missouri Botanical Garden’s mission is “to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment, in order to preserve and enrich life.” Today, 150 years after opening, the Missouri Botanical Garden is a National Historic Landmark and a center for science, conservation, education and horticultural display. *Missouri Botanical Garden: Green for 150 Years*.

**The Missouri Botanical Garden is located at 4344 Shaw Blvd. in St. Louis, just south of I-44 at Vandeventer-Kingshighway (exit #287B). Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Dec. 25. Grounds open at 7 a.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays. Admission is \$8; free children ages 12 and under and Garden members. St. Louis City and County residents are \$4 and free Wednesdays and Saturdays until noon (exception: special admission rate events). Park for free on site and two blocks west at the Shaw-Vandeventer intersection. The Garden is easily accessible by taking the MetroLink commuter rail line to the Central West End station and picking up a Metro bus ([www.metrostlouis.org](http://www.metrostlouis.org)). For general information, log on to [www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org) or call the 24-hour recording at (314) 577-9400 or 1 (800) 642-8842. For membership information, call (314) 577-5118 during weekday business hours. For volunteer opportunities, call (314)-577-5187 or visit [www.mobot.org/volunteer](http://www.mobot.org/volunteer). The Missouri Botanical Garden is a tobacco-free environment.**

(Note: A section of the I-64/U.S. 40 highway is under construction through 2009. Before traveling, check [www.thenewi64.org](http://www.thenewi64.org) for updates or visit [www.GetAroundStL.com](http://www.GetAroundStL.com) for other helpful information.)