

*"What would we do with this field?" asks Building Committee Member #1
 "Goats," says Member #2.
 "Llamas," says Member #3.
 "Elephants?" says the pres*

The Temple Or Olam Shmoozeletter (formerly known as the *Havurat Olam Shmoozeletter...*)

**April 06, 2008 - 1 Nissan, 5767
 Volume V, Issue 7**

[[New Officers](#)] [[Our Philosophy](#)] [[Erev Shabbat Service](#)] [[Pesach](#)] [[Tikkun Olam](#)]

•

A Warm Welcome to...

Our New Vice President Ginger Jensen and Membership Director Julie Gardner

We'd like to thank Ginger Jensen for agreeing to take on the responsibilities of vice president for Temple Or Olam and Julie Gardner for stepping up to bat as our Membership Director. Both women, as most of know, are awesome contributors to our Sunday School. Julie has also recently agreed to head our fundraising committee, ,has recently raised over \$700 from our Krazy Karaoke night.

A warm welcome to both women! See you both at the next Board Meeting....

What's Behind the Name?

by Jody Mace

If you're used to seeing the news from Havurat Olam in this space, you'll notice that we have a name change. Reflecting our growth from a Havurah to a fully operating Jewish congregation, we polled our members for suggestions on a new name. The winning name, Temple Or Olam, means "light of (or to) the world."

The next major step for our congregation will be to secure our own permanent location in Cabarrus County. Our building committee is hard at work, trudging down muddy paths, examining buildings, and debating over bagels and lox. As we settle into a new name, and, we hope, a new space, it's reasonable to ask: Who are we? What's important to us?

The core of Temple Or Olam is community. A sense of community permeates everything we do – from the Friday services where everyone really does know your name, to the karaoke parties where kids and adults (and one memorable gorilla) croon together without fear, knowing that they're among friends.

We value inclusiveness. Non-Jewish spouses feel



comfortable. So do guests and friends of the family. We welcome the gifts that every member can bring from his or her background. Our religious leader, Barbara Thiede, takes special care to make our religious services accessible and meaningful to everyone: Those raised Jewish, Jews by choice, and "friends and family" of Jews.

One of the first questions many people ask about Temple Or Olam is "What is the congregation's denomination?"

The answer: Jewish. We are one of a growing number of congregations throughout the United States and Canada that have chosen not to affiliate with any one denomination. Why? We want to be free to express our Jewishness in the ways that are most meaningful to our members, no matter what their background. While we honor and value the importance of each denomination, as the only congregation in Cabarrus County, we want to be a place where Jews of any background can find something familiar and feel comfortable.

Our services restore the spiritual vitality characteristic of the Hassidic movement of pre-war Europe through our involved and even exuberant prayer. We engage in spirited Torah study. We also believe, alongside the Reconstruction movement, that Judaism is an evolving religious civilization. We do a lot of our praying in Hebrew, as Conservative Judaism does, and we emphasize social action and egalitarianism as Reform Judaism does.

Dr. Thiede, who teaches at UNC-Charlotte's Department of Religious Studies, is also studying for rabbinic ordination with the Alliance for Jewish Renewal, whose faculty includes ordained rabbis from every major Jewish denomination. So our services draw on the energy, musical variety, and joyous spirit of Jewish Renewal as well.

Maybe the best way to answer the question of who we are is with an invitation. Come and see for yourself! Please join us for one of our Friday evening services, and we will make you feel at home, and, we hope, help you begin your Shabbat with the sweetness it deserves.

For information, please call 704.720.7577 or e-mail us.

Friday Erev Shabbat Family Service

April 11, 2008

When we prepare for Shabbat, we clean house, set things in order, create a space for rest. When we prepare for Passover we do all those things big time. (And Passover is just a week away!)

During this week's service, we'll ask our kids why it makes sense to create order of all kinds – in our prayers, in our souls, in our hearts, in our homes, and in our lives. We'll teach parents what we've learned about the order of our service, from Kabbalat



Shabbat to Barchu and Shema, from Shema to Amidah.

Join us as the kids from the Religious School show us that there is, in fact, a prayer for each purpose and a purpose for each prayer.

Event: First Friday Family Service
Date: April 11, 2008
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: McGill Baptist Church
 5300 Poplar Tent Rd.
 Concord NC 28027 -9757 [map](#) [directions](#)



Pesach as You've Never Known it!

*Whaddya Know Passover Quiz, Passover Charades,
 and a Whole Lotta Food for Yummy Thoughts*

April 27, 2008



Our Community Passover Seder, scheduled for April 27, will offer our usual fare – both expected and unexpected. We'll find out what our parents really know about Passover. We'll play Passover Charades. (Imagine acting this one out: Parting the Reed Sea. And no, that is not a typo.)

Then there are those origami frogs (one of our Passover traditions). And the sunglasses (for the plague of darkness, of course). And the locusts... And the hail...

There will be music and storytelling and an awful lot of extraordinary food.

So let us know if you'd like to show by sending an [R.S.V.P.](#) by April 21.

Event: Community Passover Seder
Date: April 27, 2008
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Fees: Members: \$10 / person, \$25 / family
 Non-members: \$15 / person, \$30 / family
Location: McGill Baptist Church
 5300 Poplar Tent Rd.
 Concord NC 28027 -9757 [map](#) [directions](#)



Tikkun Olam

Temple Or Olam's Confirmation Students and Relay for Life

So many of us know someone who has battled cancer. Our confirmation students have decided: They are sponsoring a



team for this year's Relay For Life, scheduled for May 3 and 4. Relay for Life is a wonderful annual fundraising event to help support the American Cancer Society. We know it's early yet, but we want to encourage you to make a donation or join us as we walk to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. Just press control and click on the link below if you would like to help us out with your donation. Thanks!

[Click here to view the team page for Temple Or Olam](#)

Hag sameach!

Print this Newsletter