

*You know you are really frum (religious) when...  
the only pop albums you own  
are from Billy Joel.*

From "60 Ways to Appear Frumm"

## *The Temple Or Olam Shmoozeletter*

July 21, 2008 - 18 Tammuz, 5768  
Volume V, Issue 10

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.

### Hey Jews

(and all Interfaith Families and Friends)

#### Temple Or Olam's Beatles Service, Erev Shabbat July 25

This Friday night we'll be hosting Temple Or Olam's first Beatles service. We'll interpret each part of the service with a different Fab Four song. How will Kabbalat Shabbat begin? Can we create a *mi sheberach* prayer for healing with a beautiful and soft rendition of "Blackbird"? Please join us as we take a mid-summer Shabbat to travel our own Magical Mystery Tour....

**Event:** Beatles Service  
**Date:** July 25, 2008  
**Time:** 07:00 p.m.  
**Location:** [McGill Baptist Church](#)  
5300 Poplar Tent Rd.  
Concord NC 28027 -9757 [map directions](#)



### Membership

Why is this year no different than any other year? Well, we have to keep paying the rent. And the babysitters.

Our dues remain among the lowest anywhere in the region, especially given the fact that we offer more than any other congregation our size (and more than some congregations significantly larger in

size...). Temple Or Olam provides a full complement of High Holy Day services and bi-monthly Shabbat services, in addition to festival parties and celebrations, the most original and innovative Religious School we know of (our kids learn by playing games!), adult education for the (hopefully) mature set, a Rosh Hodesh group, a ton of fun and a lot of Yiddishkeit.

For 2008-2009, dues will be as follows:

Family \$1,000  
Seniors - family \$800  
Single \$500  
Senior - single / Student \$400  
Religious School per child \$300

Please consider joining us (if you haven't already). Our membership forms are easy to fill out and available on our website, at [www.or-olam.org/membership.htm](http://www.or-olam.org/membership.htm). Call us at 704.720-7577 if you'd like to talk about our congregation; we'll be happy to tell you about ourselves while we find out about you and yours!

All checks should still be made out to Havurat Olam (we are still working on formalizing our name change with the great state of North Carolina).

Please mail forms and checks to our marvelous Membership Director, Julie Gardner:

Julie Gardner  
5339 Bendix Ct.  
Harrisburg NC  
28075-3902

## The New School for All Things Jewish

Temple Or Olam's weekly religious school serves children from age 5 to 13. We will begin our new school year on September 7, 2008. Topics include Hebrew, Torah, Mitzvot, and prayer.

But what makes our religious school really different?

- Individualized, self-paced Hebrew instruction. Each child is placed in a small Hebrew study group together with a knowledgeable teacher devoted to the group. Once students learn their Aleph Bet letters, they graduate to a set of books, CDs, and game resources that allow them to work at their own pace through the lessons, with support from the teacher.
- Hands-on Hebrew materials. Our Hebrew students don't learn just from books. Our classrooms boast games, puzzles, a mini language lab, and Montessori-inspired Hebrew manipulatives.
- Thought-provoking lessons. We don't just teach our students the Torah stories and tell them how to interpret them. Our students engage in lively, challenging Torah studies with student rabbi Dr. Barbara Thiede, where they are encouraged to develop their own interpretations. In other words, we are creating scholars. We have a *maggid* time, too, for storytelling and joke-telling.



- Mixed-age, family-like classrooms. Our students enjoy warm, accepting relationships with each other, with older students acting as role models for younger students. Kind of like brothers and sisters, but with a whole lot less bickering!
- Music. Our students love to sing. And to play instruments. But especially to sing. They sing in Hebrew, English, Yiddish, and Ladino. They are accompanied by guitar, percussion, piano, and the occasional cameo accordion performance.
- Flex days. Every few Sundays, we take a break from classroom instruction, and focus on something special. The children might do a cooking project, work on crafts for an upcoming holiday, sing in a nursing home, or take a field trip.
- Weekly schedule. Because of the individualized attention we can offer, our students accomplish so much in one action-packed Sunday that we don't need a mid-week class.
- Opportunity to lead. Students from the religious school lead some prayers at every single Torah Or Olam Friday night family service. By the time our students are ready for B'nai Mitzvah preparation, they will be exceptionally well prepared to lead services.

So if you are looking for a warm, nurturing religious school where your child will be treated as an individual, join a tight-knit but welcoming band of children, and, above all, *want* to come to religious school each week, feel free to contact Parent Liaison **Jody Mace** at [jody@jodymace.com](mailto:jody@jodymace.com) for more information. Tuition is \$300 per child (third child is 50% off).

## Friday Night Services

*August 08 and 22, 2008*

We welcome Kabbalat Shabbat with joy and sweetness. This Shabbat is a tender one, just preceding Tisha B'Av, the day we commemorate the destruction of the First and Second Temples and the city of Jerusalem. This Shabbat we will sing songs and prayers of hope for peace in Israel and all the world. We'll also hear a story that will remind us how precious our heritage is.

**Event:** Second Friday Family Service  
**Date:** August 8, 2008  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** McGill Baptist Church  
 5300 Poplar Tent Rd.  
 Concord NC 28027 -9757 [map](#) [directions](#)



**Parsha Eikev** is an emotional roller-coaster. Moses reminds the people of their more obvious failings (anyone remember the Israelites having a cow?). God (re)chooses the people anyway, but why and what for? On the one hand, the Israelites must remember to befriend the stranger, on the other, they can expect wicked peoples to be dispossessed and destroyed.

Join us for a look at Parsha Eikev; it ought to be an interesting ride...

**Event:** Fourth Friday Evening Service  
 -- child care provided --  
**Date:** June 27, 2008  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** McGill Baptist Church  
 5300 Poplar Tent Rd.



Concord NC 28027 -9757 [map](#) [directions](#)

## Speaking about Services...

### *A Workshop for Those who Wonder*

*August 17, 2008*

Dr. Barbara Thiede is offering a Sunday morning workshop on the Shabbat Service. Questions to consider: Why might we consider the *Barchu* communal, the *Shema* philosophical, the *Amidah* personal? Why are there “stages” in a Shabbat service, and what do they mean?

We ask for a minimum \$18 donation to Temple Or Olam for attending this workshop. The workshop will be held if five or more sign up, so let us know if you want to attend by sending an email to [rabbi@or-olam.org](mailto:rabbi@or-olam.org) and bring some bagels!

<[RSVP](#)>

**Event:** Sunday morning Workshop on Shabbat Service  
**Date:** August 17, 2008  
**Time:** 10:30 a.m.  
**Location:** to be announced

## Kvelling About our Kids

### *Over the summer, we learned that....*

...Sixteen-year-old **Erik Thiede** earned an additional 3 AP credits (current tally is 6), again receiving the highest possible score. Hmm... is our congregation's accordion player planning to start college as a sophomore?

**Jeremy Gardner**, who has been so crucial to the success of our New School for All Things Jewish, went off to Boys State this past summer and was promptly elected mayor of his city, where he oversaw the city budget and handled hot-button problems (we wonder about the effects of the drought, actually). Jeremy was also a member of the law firm chosen as the best in the Boys' State Moot Court.



Have fun this summer!

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