

*In the beginning there was nothing.
 God said: 'Let there be light!'
 And there was light.
 There was still nothing,
 but you could see it a whole lot better.*

Ellen DeGeneres

The Temple Or Olam Shmoozeletter

September 01, 2008 - 23 Iyyar, 5768
 Volume V, Issue 11

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A Note from Reb Barbara

Elul and our Time for Renewal



Elul begins as you receive this month's Shmoozeletter. If, by chance, you should hear a loud and wild sound during the early hours one morning, it just might be Ralf Thiede sounding Temple Or Olam's 56"-long *shofar*. As tradition demands, the shofar will be blown every day during the month of Elul – the last month of the Jewish year – to remind Jewish residents near and far to begin preparing themselves for the spiritual and personal journeys we take during High Holy Days – the Days of Awe.

During the month of Elul, we begin a process of deep self-reflection – this process does not wait for the ten days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, but anticipates and prepares us for that time. Called by the shofar to awaken, to open our eyes to ourselves and one another, we consider the *teshuva* we surely owe to loved ones, friends, and colleagues. We ask for compassion and redemption from the Source of Life because we know the truth of the past year: There have been promises forgotten, hurtful words exchanged, failures of understanding.

We have completed a year and look forward to the next. We reflect on our hopes and dreams of the last year while looking ahead. We have inspiring and exciting work ahead: Continuing our work at establishing Jewish life and community where there once was none, offering each other the support and the care that helps us all grow our understanding and our commitment to Torah and *mitzvot*, exploring our commitments to deepened prayer and practice, and most importantly, planning our future around our children.

I look forward to seeing you all this month – wide awake, imagining (maybe even hearing) the call of the shofar.

L'shalom,

Reb Barbara

The New School For All Things Jewish

Opens September 7

with Torah Discussion for Adults, too

We're thrilled about the first day of religious school this Sunday, September 7. If you're a parent of a student in religious school, you'll be receiving a more detailed email about the Torah/mitzvot lesson plan for each week. If you aren't a parent of one of our amazingly bright and beautiful children, you can still participate.

This year, our school has extended its reach; we are holding a weekly Torah discussion designed for teens and adults. If you're interested in learning more about this class, please let Parent Liaison Jody Mace know or write Reb Barbara.

This week (as an example) we'll be talking about the story of Cain and Abel (Beresheet 1:1-6:8.) in all our classes. The text says the two brothers spoke with one another – and then, no more information is forthcoming. The next thing we hear, Cain has slain his brother, and no one explains why. What happened? What could have happened? What are the lessons this story tells us about our relationships with one another, and with God?

Then there's Hebrew. This year, Hebrew will be taught with more hands-on activities and games than ever – from memory games to build-a-word fun to tossing our own aleph bet dice in a game of alphabet chance, and more. Our students will also be learning conversational Hebrew each Sunday, as well as hearing and telling stories, and learning plenty of new songs and prayers.

Let us know if you would like more information about our school.

Jody Mace - Reb Barbara



Family Friday Night Service

September 12, 2008

It is just days before Rosh Hashanah. What do our stories say?

If you ignore your small evils, your bad habits, if you believe you can hide them or discard them, be forewarned: They make grow in the dark and in secret, and they may threaten your very soul. During our service we will hear the story of someone who learned that lesson – thankfully, just in time. We will share our thoughts– children to parents, parents to children – what can we look forward to changing about the way we are living in the coming year?

Join us for an intimate, family-friendly Shabbat for storytelling and learning and song.

Event: Second Friday Family Service
Date: September 12, 2008
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: McGill Baptist Church
 5300 Poplar Tent Rd.
 Concord NC 28027 -9757 [map](#) [directions](#)



Temple Or Olam's Fourth High Holy Day Services

Please, mark your calendars! High Holy Days Services begin this year with our Erev Rosh Hashanah service on September 29 (see calendar below).

As usual, we plan for musically and spiritually accessible High Holy Days featuring a range of Very Interesting Musical Instruments which include (of course) a shofar nearly four feet long...

We look forward to experiencing the Days of Awe in a community that cares deeply about creating joyous Jewish life. For those of you who wonder what that means, feel free to join us and find out!

Non-members will need to reserve seats with a donation of \$100 per person or \$250 per family to cover all High Holy Day services; members, please consider making a \$18 chai donation this year.

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

<p>Julie Gardner 5339 Bendix Ct. Harrisburg NC 28075-3902</p>
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Erev Rosh Hashanah September 29, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah September 30, 2007, 9:30 a.m. - noon

followed by brunch and
tashlich

Kol Nidre October 8, 2008, 7:30 p.m.

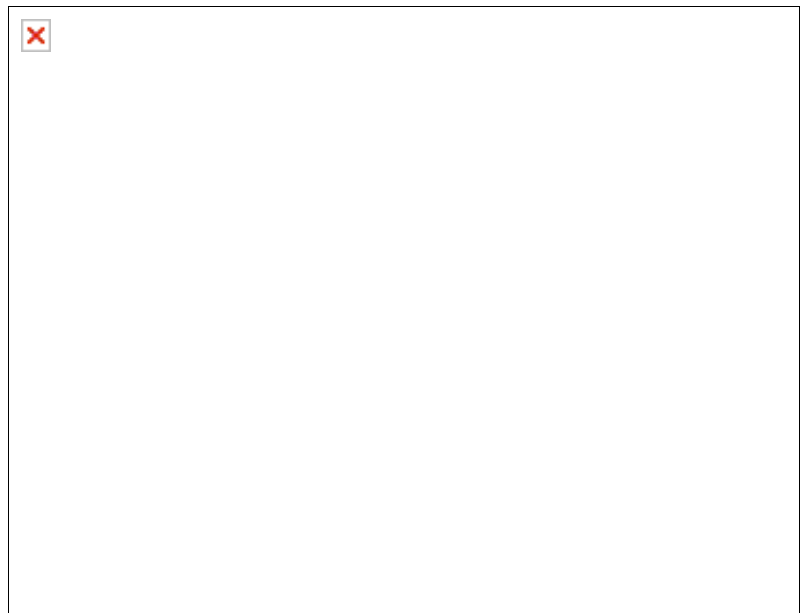
Yom Kippur October 9, 2008, 9:30 a.m. -
noon

Neilah and Break Fast October 9, 2008, 6:00 p.m.
(Break-Fast: 7:00 p.m.)

Temple Or Olam's 5769 Calendar

We are standing on that little bridge, tossing edibles into the creek for tashlich (and with them, our sins and mistakes). Turn the page and you'll find some of us dancing at our annual Simchat Torah celebration. Then there's the page with so many faces of our children -- some merrily stuffing down matzah balls during our Shavuot matza ball eating contest...

This year's Temple Or Olam calendar is ready and available. It includes all our services, festival celebrations, birthdays and yahrzeits. We will need a donation to at least cover our costs, but ask that those who oder consider offering something more than the \$20 it will take to print all those very



lovely color
pictures....

Please mail
checks to Julie
Gardner and do let
her know how many
calendars you would
like to reserve.

Musika Olam's First DVD



Temple Or Olam's band, *Musika Olam* (Hebrew for Music of/for/to the world/universe/eternity), has created a DVD recording from our first Beatles Service.

So if others want a copy, we're ready for a mere \$18. Let us know if you're interested by replying to this email and we'll be happy to oblige.

Yahrzeits for September / Elul

First, we would like to acknowledge donations made in the memory of Irving Sternbach, Robbin Smith's father from Robbin and her mother, Janet. If you would like to make donations in the memory or in honor of someone you love, you know by now who they go to (Julie Gardner, address above).



**Harriett Toba Baker (Jody
Mace's mother)**

**Eileen Zelig (sister of Tom
Jensen)**

Yahrzeits for October / Tishre

**Lena Shapiro (Harriet
Commike's mother)**

**Esther Handelman
(grandmother of Julie Gardner)**

**Jeanette Lillian Jacob Horowitz
(mother of Alexander Horowitz)**

Temple Or Olam Funds

If you are interested in making a donation to a particular fund, feel free to choose one mentioned

below and let us know where you would like your donation to go. We do provide receipts for your donations.

- Religious School Fund ("I've Been Reading Fund"): Books, supplies, and scholarships for individual students enrolled in The New School for All Things Jewish
- Torah Fund (Pays for the upkeep of our Torah)
- Building Fund (Pretty obvious, right?)
- Rabbinic Discretionary Fund (Rabbinic intern's courses and educational materials)
- General Fund (Congregational supplies – i.e., to pay for our congregationally designed succah, child care at services, etc.)

The links again, for your convenience - click

to learn more about our New School For All Things Jewish: [Jody Mace](#), [Reb Barbara](#)
[to inquire about High Holy Day tickets](#)
[to reserve a calendar](#)
[to order a Musika Olam DVD \(Beatles Service\)](#)

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