

*But if two sit together and words of Torah are uttered,  
God's indwelling presense, the Shechina, abides between them.*

Mishnah 2

## *The Temple Or Olam Shmoozeletter*

November 09, 2008 - 11 Cheshvan, 5768  
Volume VI, Issue 2

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### **And Yet...**

#### **A Note from Reb Barbara**



We can pile up the reasons for cynicism, for exhaustion, for a life lived in a precious celebration of individuality. We can make it all about ourselves, and pursue comfort, security and personal contentment.

"And yet," as [Elie Wiesel](#) says. And yet, most of us figure it out at some point in our lives: We need more than the satisfaction we gain with our jobs well done, our homes kept warm and our stomachs full. We need to be a part of something grander, something that gives us the opportunity to be better human beings.

Recently, I got an email from one of our congregants, who wrote: "I am very selfish when it comes to Or Olam. My involvement with the congregation is something that I need... [it] makes me a better person."

Our congregants include folks born Jewish, individuals who came to Judaism later in life, and spouses whose Jewish partners have brought them into our midst. Our Jewish congregation includes many a *ger toshav*, a righteous non-Jew living alongside Jews. We are grateful for their full and welcome participation in our community.

This email came from just such a person.

This congregant believes that who we are and what we aspire to be at Temple Or Olam fills a critical *human* need – a need for community and moral purpose, a need for expressing a connection to God or, simply, the godly in us.

*Keyn y'hi Ratzon* – May it (ever) be so.

*Shalom,*

*Reb Barbara*

## Welcome to Our Newest Members

### *The Jacobson Family, the Quintero Family, Kim Jordan, and William King*

We would like to issue a warm welcome to our newest members. In addition to the enthusiasm it takes to help at the school (or dance at our celebrations), the Jacobson family has brought us three thoughtful new students to the New School for All Things Jewish (Phillip, Jing-Jing, and Ling-Ling) and the Quintero's have brought us a new baby to cuddle and coddle (who hasn't delighted in Gabriel's dimples, his sweet smiles, and his open arms?). Will and Kim have brought dedication and commitment we are grateful to receive. May we deserve you all!

## Friday Night Services

### Second Friday Family Service: *Baruchim Haba'im*

**Blessed are they that have arrived...**

*November 14, 2008*

"Looking up, he saw three men standing near him.. As soon as he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them..." (Genesis 18:2)

*Parsha Va'yera*: Abraham demonstrates the enormous importance of hospitality to strangers. Tonight's service will center around this mitzvah. As we welcome Shabbat, how do we learn to welcome those who come to us, those who need our help, those who look for our support?

**Event:** Second Friday Family Service  
**Date:** November 14, 2008  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** McGill Baptist Church  
 5300 Poplar Tent Rd.  
 Concord NC 28027 -9757 [map](#) [directions](#)



### Fourth Friday Adult Service: Thanksgiving Potluck and Parsha Toldot

**But what big eyes you have, Grandma...**

*November 29, 2008*

*Parsha Toldot* certainly does evoke the little girl and the wolf. "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau," Isaac quavers. No wonder the patriarch is confused. Jacob shows up dressed as Esau with food prepared by Rebecca. Esau comes in to visit with his father bringing his own measure of half-truths and bitter burdens.

It's another typical family gathering -- filled with drama and comic tragedies. Join us as we chant through scenes of confusion and despair and sit down to a little Torah study thereafter. Who really deserved to be blessed?

It's also our annual Thanksgiving service. So please, bring your leftover sweet potato pie and green bean casserole and we'll all give thanks once more for all that we have.

**Event:** Fourth Friday Adult Service  
 -- child care provided --  
**Date:** November 28, 2008  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** McGill Baptist Church

5300 Poplar Tent Rd.  
Concord NC 28027 -9757 [map](#) [directions](#)



## The New School for All Things Jewish ...heads to Mudslinger's Pottery

### *What a year we are having!*

What an incredible year we've been having. Our Torah Study has produced a number of oversized drash pages (check them out at services, please). We've been watching delightedly as our children sailed through their independent Hebrew learning, enjoyed a delicious taste of a modern version of Jacob's stew, and enjoyed our Jewish ethics and tzedakkah project (the children are raising money to help pay someone's power bill this December as their Hanukkah gift to the community).

This November, the kids are taking a flex day to head to Concord's [Mudslinger's Pottery](#) to make their own clay dreidels. Really. We're hoping to display their work at one of our Hanukkah celebrations in December. Another something to look forward to from the kids at The New School for All things Jewish!

## Hillel Beatles Service at UNC-Charlotte

*November 21, 2008*

Visit a Jewish worship service, and you may feel utterly unsure of what's happening. People are singing in a language you've never heard, inexplicably standing up to say some prayers and sitting during others.

Still: There's an extraordinary order and beauty underlying the order of the Friday night service welcoming the Jewish Sabbath.

[UNC-Charlotte's Hillel](#) has asked Temple or Olam to deliver its inventive approach to making sense of the Jewish worship service on November 21. We'll be interpreting each part of the service with a different Fab Four song. Imagine a *mi sheberach* prayer for healing with a soft rendition of "Blackbird," a decision to interpret God's commandment to love the godly with ... well, we'll let you guess which tune seemed right to us.

The public is invited to the event, and we will send out more information on location a.s.a.p. But you can already mark your calendar!



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.

Please join us as we take one Shabbat for traveling on our own Magical Mystery Tour....

**Event:** Beatles Service  
**Date:** November 21, 2008  
**Time:** 8:00 p.m.  
**Location:** To be announced



## Delicious December

### Upcoming Events

Including our annual Interfaith holiday bash with McGill Baptist Church, our own Happy Hanukah Hoe-down and Talent Show, a singalong Shabbat morning Shabbat (yes, there will be bagels and lox), and more....

Keep your eyes, please, on our home page for updates.

## Yahrzeits for November

### *Cheshvan 5769*

If you would like to make donations in the memory or in honor of someone you love, please send them to:

Julie Gardner  
 5339 Bendix Ct.  
 Harrisburg, NC 28075-3902



**Dewey Mace (father of Stan Mace)**

**Wilhelm Thiede (father of Ralf Thiede)**

**Hulda Dörzbach (mother of Ruth Kingberg)**

## November Birthdays

November 11	Brian Cutler
November 12	Richard Jacobson
November 15	Lisa Boguslaw
November 23	Philip Jacobson

November 24	Stan Mace
November 26	Alyssa Rose Gardner
November 29	Samuel Leder

Where to click

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



[see our videos](#) on  
YouTube

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