

- ▶ UPCOMING EVENTS .... 1
- ▶ RELIGIOUS SCHOOL.... 1
- ▶ MILEV HAPARDES..... 2
- ▶ YOUTH GROUP..... 2
- ▶ SHABBAT ..... 3
- ▶ BOARD MESSAGE..... 3
- ▶ BIRTHDAYS ..... 3
- ▶ YAHRZEITS..... 3
- ▶ DONATIONS..... 3
- ▶ CONTACT INFO ..... 5

July 5, 2009 13 of Tamuz, 5769

# Temple *Or Olam*



## Religious School Update

The religious school committee is hard at work planning the next year. If you have an opinion about curriculum, schedule, field trips, flex days, or anything else, and you're willing to pitch in, why not join the religious school committee? Email Jody if interested.

Also, please let Jody know for sure if your child(ren) will be attending in the fall. Official forms will go out later this summer, but since we offer such individualized attention, and since our group is small, it really is important to know this information while we're planning.

If you are willing to volunteer at the school, even if you don't have children attending, please let Jody know.

Please have your kids practice reading Hebrew over the summer!

Last, we wanted to start showing the congregation some of the religious school activities, so we will occasionally be making videos. This first one is of an 11-year-old student demonstrating the Hebrew "make a word" work. The object is to make a Hebrew word from an English phrase, and he demonstrates his understanding of Hebrew word roots, prefixes, and suffixes in order to do so.

Just click on the following link to watch it:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g80\\_keoGhzw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g80_keoGhzw).

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- *Sunday, July 5, 2PM: Adult Torah Study*
- *Wednesday, July 8PM: Prayerbook Hebrew*
- *Sunday, July 12, 2PM: Adult Torah Study*
- *Wednesday, July 15, 8PM: Prayerbook Hebrew class*
- *Friday, July 17, 7PM: Shabbat Service with Torah reading*
- *Saturday, July 18, 8PM: Youth Group "Swim Under the Stars" party*
- *Sunday, July 19, 2PM: Adult Torah Study*
- *Wednesday, July 22, 8PM: Prayerbook Hebrew class*
- *Sunday, July 26, 2PM: Adult Torah Study*
- *Sunday, August 2, 2PM: Adult Torah Study*

# MiLev HaPardes *From the heart of the orchard by Dr. Barbara Thiede, student rabbi*

*Naaseh v'nishma.* “We will do, and we will hear, understand.” According to Torah, these were Israel’s words at Sinai. A ragtag, mixed multitude, a devoted and diverse people promised to embrace a covenant of love, of responsibility, of obligation, and of faith.

*We heard, we saw, we experienced, we remember.* Jews like to pray communally, and they insist on it when it comes to reciting certain significant prayers. *The Barchu, Kaddish, Aleynu,* and reading from Torah require the presence of ten Jews.

Once upon certain congregational times, communities loathe to openly count in synagogue (it’s rude to point) used the sentence after *Ma Tovu* to check on whether a minyan was present. Each congregant would read one word from that sentence, *Va’ani b’rov chasdecha avo veitecha eshtachaveh el haichal kodsh’cha b’yirtecha* (in English: “Your great lovingkindness brings me to your house and in awe I bow down in Your holy space”). Ten words, ten voices, ten people, *gevalt!* – a minyan.

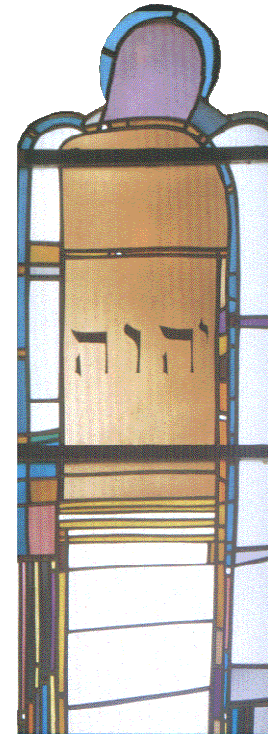
Why do we seek that tenth person for a minyan? It’s not just about the number, it’s about the principle. With at least a minyan present, we pray in and with a community around us, we pray not to “my God” but “our God.” How do you know that if ten people pray together the Divine presence is with them? Psalm 82 says: “God stands in the congregation of God.”

Our prayers, our services, our *minyans* – these things remind us that we received Torah as a community. They mandate that we pray as a community. In a minyan, in a group, we are reminded that we are not isolated – in joy or sorrow, in dilemma or in confusion. Though we stand

before God as individuals responsible for our own actions, we are aware that we are not alone and that we do not act alone. The Torah was given to *us* at Sinai.

“Religion,” writes Rabbi Reuven Hammer, “is not what we do with our aloneness, but what we do with our togetherness.” At Sinai, we accepted Torah as a community; it is our continuing (and joyous) obligation to act Torah as a community.

May it be ever so.



## Youth Group

Thanks go to Robbin Smith for planning the most recent youth group activity. We visited the swimming area at Lake Norman State Park. None of us had ever been there before, and we were all happy with what a pleasant place it was. (And it was free!) We plan to go again next year but this time bring a grill and cook hamburger and hot dogs.

The next event is a night time swim party at the Mace house. It will be on July 18th, starting at 8PM. We will have a short havdallah service, and then swim under the stars. Please bring a snack to share with the group.

Email [youth@or-olam.org](mailto:youth@or-olam.org)



# Message from the Board

## What's in store for Shabbat

A little change for our remaining summer services. The new schedule is:

- **July 17th:** Regular service, with Torah service
- **August 14th:** Family Service/Beatles Service: Come to services wearing your favorite 60's garb. And I don't mean just the Holtzman/Boguslaws! We are having a reprisal of the Beatles service. This is very much a family service.
- **August 28th:** Regular service, with Torah

## Birthdays

- Carla Eastis: July 8
- Matthew Leder: July 16
- Ava Rebekah Holtzman: July 19
- Stewart Roberts: July 19
- Sanford Tanenbaum: July 31
- Fred Commike: August 3

## Yahrzeits

Nathan Meyer Shapiro, father of Barbara Thiede  
18 Tammuz, July 10

Norman Roettger, father of Ginger Jensen  
26 Tammuz, July 18

## Donations

Bernice and Nathaniel (Buddy) Roberts, Ben Robert's grandparents, donated to the building fund in honor of Ben's Bar Mitzvah.

Evelyn Thiede, mother of Ralf Thiede, donated to the Torah fund in thanks for the prayers of the congregation for her health.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Annual Meeting. The Board appreciates that you found time in your busy schedules to attend. Thank you to Kyla Mace for babysitting and to the Board members who provided snacks and drinks.

We reviewed our covenant with Reb Barbara for the coming year and our budget. These really should not be mentioned in the same sentence as the first is extensive and encompassing and the second is very small. Reb Barbara is not being adequately compensated for all that she does for the congregation. However our plan is not to increase dues. We believe that the solution is to grow our membership - thoughtfully and carefully. We want to attract people who want to be an active and involved part of our community. Jill Patridge has agreed to lead the committee and will be assisted by Michael Serulneck and Alex Horowitz who have experience and fresh ideas in this area. Their team needs more help and as many ideas as possible. If you can't join the team please send your suggestions to Jill ([jrbrdie@yahoo.com](mailto:jrbrdie@yahoo.com)) or Robbin Smith ([robbinsmith@bellsouth.net](mailto:robbinsmith@bellsouth.net)). There aren't any ideas that are too weird or wacky to consider. Please help.

Speaking of committees, the Board has implemented a new requirement as part of Temple membership. Everyone will be asked to join one committee and help with one festival or event during the year. Too few people are doing too much work. If we all pitch in the workload will be less for all. Please join the committee that interests you the most: Religious School or Communications (contact Jody Mace), Ritual Committee (contact Ginger Jensen or Laiko Quintero), Social or Adult Programming or Tikkun Olam (contact Lisa Boguslaw), Membership (contact Jill Partridge). You can see why we need more involvement: one Board member chairing two or three committees. Festivals include Yom Kippur (break the fast), Hanukkah, Purim, Passover and Shavuot. It is a lot of work for one person but significantly less if others are helping. If you were unable to attend the meeting, someone will contact you shortly regarding your volunteer choices.

## Contact Information

<b>Barbara Thiede, student rabbi:</b>	rabbi@or-olam.org
<b>Robbin Smith, president:</b>	info@or-olam.org
<b>Religious school:</b>	religious-school@or-olam.org
<b>Youth group:</b>	youth@or-olam.org
<b>Schmoozeletter:</b>	editor@or-olam.org
<b>Webmaster:</b>	webmaster@or-olam.org
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	570 Wilhelm Place NE Concord, NC 28025
<b>Phone:</b>	704-720-7577