

- ▶ UPCOMING EVENTS 1
- ▶ SUKKOT 1
- ▶ MILEV HAPARDES..... 2
- ▶ YOUTH GROUP 2
- ▶ BOARD MESSAGE..... 3
- ▶ BIRTHDAYS 3
- ▶ YAHRZEITS..... 3
- ▶ CONTACT INFO 4

October 11, 2009 23 Tishrei 5770

Temple *Or Olam*



Thank you!

A big thank you is owed to the Malins, who hosted the Sukkah party. Not only did they allow our Sukkah to be built in their yard, but they opened up their kitchen to us, and were just amazing hosts. Thanks also go to Judah and Seth for their heroic last minute hunting-and-gathering (that is, buying cream cheese and egg salad.) Finally, the religious school kids did a fantastic job creating decorations for the Sukkah made entirely from reclaimed material. It's safe to say that Temple Or Olam had the only Sukkah in town with a disco ball made of CDs, a map of Concord on the wall, and Mezuzahs made of egg cartons.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Oct. 11 9:45AM: Religious School
- Oct. 11 1:30PM: Simchat Torah Celebration
- Oct. 18 9:45AM: Religious School
- Oct. 18 2PM: Torah Study
- Oct. 23 7PM: Shabbat Service
- Oct. 25: 9:45AM: Religious School
- Oct. 25: 2PM: Torah Study

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

We have just ended a time of *teshuva*, a time of assessment, spiritual cleansing, and recalibration. We have taken the time to reflect on our past mistakes, reassessed who we want to be, and remade ourselves in the light of our resolution to live a sweeter, better life this next year. High Holy Days are past, Simchat Torah and Chanukkah are just around the corner.

But *teshuva* (return) is not actually a once-a-year experience for Jews. In fact, Yom Kippur is the culmination of a reflective process that cycles through the whole year.

How does that cycle work?

Daily. Weekly. Monthly.

The process is not bitter and self-critical, but hopeful, kind, forgiving, and transformative.

Imagine that you begin saying the Shema twice a day – once every morning and once every night as you lie down. *Hear O all you God-wrestlers. God is a unity.* Our people's name is *Israel*: "God wrestler." Imagine that use that brief evening moment to think about how the day went. Did careless things come out of your mouth? Were there things you wish you'd done differently?

You write down a few notes to Self about the challenges you are facing, you assess who you really want to be (more of your best self), and you say the Shema, praying to and for a unity we all hope for.

Every Thursday night, before the next day and the beginning of Shabbat, you take a moment to reflect with a friend, a partner, a spouse. How did this week go? Before Shabbat, are there things we need to say to each other, to our friends, to our children? Can we usher in that day of rest with a reflective, thoughtful sense of how we plan to refresh our souls for the challenges to come? Would we face those chal-

lenges differently if we did?

The moon tells us the month is over. It's Rosh Chodesh, the beginning of a new month. Why not do as Israelites did in ancient days, and think about the month that has passed and the month to come. It is almost Cheshvan, a fall month without festivals (so we can take the time to process all the change we went through during High Holy Days in Tishrei?). It could be the beginning of the win-



ter month Kislev, a month in which we will notice the increasing darkness and our real need for the Chanukiah candles that remind us of the life and hope awaiting us in spring.

During this year, I will ask our congregants to take out their *teshuva* notebooks and reflect as Judaism so beautifully suggests we can – all year round. Let us continue to reconnect with our highest aspirations for ourselves, our families and friends, and our community. Let us take the glow from Yom Kippur, the glow we felt emerging in our newly-made selves through the entire year.

May everyone know the sweetness of *teshuva*. It can change us, and thus, we can change our world.

Youth Group

Thanks go to Carole Bombardier for planning the September youth group activity, a movie night.

The youth group's next activity is being planned for Saturday evening, October 17th. It will be a visit to a spooky corn maze. Ginger Jensen is planning this, so you should hear details from her very soon!

Message from the Board

Reb Barbara also asked us who we wanted to bless, who we needed blessings from, what blessing we needed most from God, what mistakes we could say we were finished making, and which were still a challenge for us to work with. Lots to think about!

Visitors commented on the reflection and thought given to everything from the music to the sermons. They got to know us, too.

Birthdays

- Dennis Cutler October 9
- Penny Cutler October 9
- Adam Roberts October 15
- Kelly Bombardier October 15
- Charli Bombardier October 22
- John Jensen October 25
- Phyllis Herschenfeld October 29
- Lisa Schwartz Jewel October 30

That in mind, I want to mention that we had many guests this year that we hope to see again. I'd like to remind our congregants to make sure that they introduce themselves to new faces and help get to know our visitors. Taking time to get to know our newest members will help them feel at home and part of our community. Let's all remember that at every get-together.

I'd also like to announce that a congregational member has made a very significant donation to our plan to buy High Holy Day prayerbooks on the model of our Shabbat prayerbooks. That donation will pay for half of the prayerbooks we need, and we plan to buy between 75 and 100 to make sure that everyone has a beautiful, accessible book in their hands!

Proceeds from our calendar sales and donations to High Holy Days services from our guests will also be used for this project. Next year, we know we will have plenty of books for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur! Many thanks to our anonymous donor. We deeply appreciate this generous gift.

May everyone have a beautiful and sweet new year – we certainly are beginning well!

Yahrzeits

Dewey Mace, father of Stan Mace
14 Cheshvan, November 1

Wilhelm Thiede, father of Ralf Thiede
21 Cheshvan, November 8

Contact Information

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