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November 10, 2009 23 Cheshvan 5770

Temple *Or Olam*



YOUTH GROUP

The word is that the October youth group event, a walk on a haunted trail, was perhaps a little scarier than expected! But it sounds like those who went had a great time despite the thrills and chills.

The November activity will take place on Sunday, November 22nd, at 6PM at the Mace house. The kids will be creating their own Havdallah candles from beeswax sheets.

If you know of any Jewish teens or pre-teens (grade 5 and up) who might be interested in joining us, please let Jody know. They do not have to be members of Temple Or Olam for this event.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Nov. 13 7PM Shabbat Service
- Nov. 15 9:45AM: Religious School
- Nov. 15 2PM: Torah Study
- Nov. 22 9:45AM: Religious School
- Nov. 22 2PM Torah Study
- Nov. 22 6PM Youth Group event
- Nov. 27 7PM Shabbat Service
- Nov. 29: No Religious School
- Dec. 6 9:45AM: Religious School
- Dec. 6 2PM Torah Study
- Dec. 11 7PM: Shabbat Service
- Dec. 13 9:45AM: Religious School
- Dec 13 2PM: Torah Study
- Dec. 19 3PM: Hanukkah Party

HANUKKAH PARTY

Temple Or Olam is having its annual Hanukkah party on Saturday, December 19th, from 3PM to 5:30PM at McGill Baptist Church. We will be in the sanctuary so there will be plenty of room. Laiko is planning this event, so you can expect to hear from her soon with more details.

The religious school students will be performing an original Hanukkah play, the likes of which have never been seen before anywhere. Rumor has it that some characters in the play are a horse, Joseph with his coat of many colors, and Albert Einstein. There will also be plenty of music and dancing, latke eating, and more. The party will end with a Havdallah service.

Please RSVP to the temple's phone number: 704-720-7577.

Cost: Members are free

Non-Members: families: \$36; individuals: \$18; students: free

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

A bar or bat mitzvah ceremony. Reciting Mourner's Kaddish. Marking the anniversary of a parent's death with a *yahrzeit* service. Lighting Sabbath candles.

Now, true or false: Our Torah is the source for these traditions.

True or false: Talmud is the source for these traditions.

The answer to both questions?

False.

In fact, the real answer to these questions is another question: What does "traditional" actually mean when it comes to Jewish observance?

Most of the rituals we observe are only a few hundred years old. Much of the time, they stem from practices Jewish communities developed in the Middle Ages. Some of our traditions, like betrothal rings and brides circling grooms at a Jewish wedding ceremony, were actually borrowed from Christian neighbors.

Some chanting and meditative practices popular in certain Jewish circles date back to, say, 900 C.E. They were acquired from Sufi neighbors of ours in the Middle East.

Our traditions provide rich evidence of our history living in and among many cultures; what we have made our own is often younger and more "multicultural" than we could ever have imagined.

Sometimes a congregant asks why we aren't singing a "traditional" melody. But the question presumes there is such a thing! Actually, most of our "traditional" melodies really refer to whatever we grew up with at our childhood shuls. Many of the tunes folks think of as "traditional" are just a few decades old.

Jews are constantly innovating, changing, adjusting, and tinkering with their rituals and practice. They invent new ideas to explain old

customs; they create variations on venerable old themes.

Take the canopy we associate with a Jewish wedding, for example: The *huppa*.

The word *huppa* can function as a verb to refer to the actual marriage ceremony (not the thing overhead). In late antiquity, the word *huppa* referred to a wedding chamber. By medieval times, *huppa* referred to the tallit that was held or



draped over a bride and groom during the marriage ceremony. When did a four-posted wedding canopy become "traditional"? About five hundred years or so ago.

Could a Jewish couple imagine being married without that four-posted canopy today? It's traditional, isn't it?

And yet, a garden arbor filled with roses can be today's *huppa*. For some couples, the sky itself is their *huppa*. Or stars, twinkling overhead.

We keep creating and recreating, finding new ways or reviving older ones with one beautiful intention: to bask in our sense of permanence, to feel ourselves part of a long line, a long history. To know that there is such a thing as tradition, after all, and that we ourselves can be part of its creation for the next generation.

Who will sing their own tunes, use their own canopies, and ask their own questions.

That's tradition.

Message from the Board

Birthdays

- Brian Cutler, November 11
- Richard Jacobson, November 12
- Lisa Boguslaw, November 15
- Philip Jacobson, November 23
- Stanley Mace, November 24
- Samuel Leder, November 29
- Amy Notarius, December 5
- Ralf Thiede, December 8
- Kyla Mace, December 8
- Alex Partridge, December 11

The Board would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest members to the Temple Or Olam community. We welcome the Gordons- Doris, Jason and baby Jacqueline. They have been with us since the summer. Doris is originally from Texas and Jason grew up in Freeport, NY. We also welcome William (Chuck) and Cynthia Raburn who usually attend services with Cynthia's brother, Joel. They are long time residents of Concord. We are pleased to welcome Fran Walshin who lives in Davidson and is originally from Long Island. We are happy to welcome Janet Sternbach (Robbin Smith's mother) who will be joining us long distance from Oak Island, NC. We are excited to welcome two students from UNCC. Jessica Waldman is in her second year of teaching at our Religious School, is President of Hillel at UNCC and is majoring in criminal justice. Ashley Owens is majoring in Fine Arts at UNCC and studies other languages such as Japanese, Spanish and Hebrew. She recently started teaching at our Religious School.

Yahrzeits

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

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

Gertrude Resnick, mother of Phyllis Herschenfeld
14 Kislev, December 1

Robert Lawrence Hozapfel, father of Madeline
Holzapfel Horowitz
16 Kislev, December 3

John Jensen, father of Tom Jensen
18 Kislev, December 6

As you are aware, one of our main goals for this year was to grow our membership in a careful and thoughtful manner. The Membership Committee led by Jill Partridge with enthusiastic help from Kim Jordan and Carole Bombardier and also Reb Barbara are to be congratulated on all their hard work since Rosh Hashanah in making follow up phone calls, answering questions from potential members and helping new members feel welcome at services and our Oneg Shabbats. They are doing a lot of work behind the scenes by preparing welcome packets for potential members, alerting local real estate agents to what Temple Or Olam has to offer and brainstorming ideas for the coming year.

On a final note, we want to wish Mazel Tov to Reb Barbara who has attained senior status in her quest toward ordination. This occurred sooner than expected and means that she is on track to be ordained as a Rabbi within one to two years.

Contact Information

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