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February 7, 2010

23 Sh'vat, 5770

Temple *Or Olam*



PURIM PARTY

Put on your 3-cornered hat if you dare. This year's Purim party will be in the style of a coffee house. There will be entertaining acts and good things to eat.

Wear a costume! Wear a silly hat! Come as you usually aren't, and join us on **March 6 at 3 p.m.** at McGill Baptist Church for Temple Or Olam's Purim festivities....

If you would like to propose a skit, song, or dance, let us know. We'll take the first ten offerings from our members. A caveat: Each performance must be limited to 2-3 minutes, be appropriate for children, and well-rehearsed beforehand. Just let us know!

Members: Bring a basket of baked goods to share. In keeping with the tradition of Mishloach Manos, one should give a gift of two different types of food, one of which is prepared (cooked or baked). .

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Save these dates:

March 20, 1pm to 3pm: Pesach cooking

March 28: Community Seder

- Feb 14: No religious school
- Feb 14: 2PM: Torah Study
- Feb 20: 10AM Tot Shabbat
- Feb 20: 10AM Youth group cooking
- Feb 21: 9:45AM: Religious School
- Feb 21: 2PM Torah Study
- Feb 28: Religious School Field Trip
- March 6: 3PM Purim party
- March 13: 10AM Tot Shabbat
- March 13: 10:40AM Saturday morning service

MiLev HaPardes

From the heart of the orchard by
Reb Shulamit student rabbi

And she called the Lord who
spoke to her: “You are El-roi”
by which she meant:
“Have I not gone on seeing after
He saw me?”
Genesis 16:13.

Our Hebrew Bible has a thing about names. God names – and so do humans. Sometimes, as Hagar does in the quote above, humans name God!

Both Abraham and Sarah laugh at the idea that they can have a child at their age. God, with a divine sense of humor, names their son “laughter” – Yitzhak. His son, Ya’akov, is given a name that can be translated “sneak-thief.” (This is the guy who made off with his brother Esav’s blessing, after all.) In the Book of Ruth, Naomi renames herself from “pleasant one” (Naomi) to “bitter one” (Mara) after she loses her husband and sons. We could go on and on, naming names.

The Hebrew Bible attributes enormous importance to names. Names given to cities, places, and offspring all denote emotions and hopes of the name givers. Jewish tradition gives us the opportunity to name our children for those whose memory we want to preserve. We also name them with qualities we hope they will carry. We name them to connect them – to their Jewish heritage, their Jewish ancestors, their Jewish soul. We call Jews to Torah with their Hebrew names. We say specific prayers for healing using our Hebrew names. The Hebrew prayer for the dead – *El Ha’Rachamim* – inserts Hebrew names of those we have lost.

When I go to a hospital to see a Jewish patient, I ask for his or her Jewish name so that I can say beautiful



prayers for healing in my *siddur*. Often, they’ve forgotten their Hebrew names, though they usually know they had one. Sometimes, if we can’t find out what name they were given, we decide on a new one and have a little naming ceremony right there in the hospital room.

I’ve always called our congregation’s children by their Hebrew names. They explore their Jewish identities in our community. They learn to be proud and thankful for their heritage. I hope they explore their names, think about what they mean, and grow into those qualities.

For this reason, we’ve decided that my own Hebrew name should be used not just by the children – who know it very well indeed – but by the adults, too.

And where will you find *Shulamit*? The name is in Hebrew Bible! What does it mean? It comes from the root for the word *shalom*, which means “peace,” “wholeness,” “completeness.”

Our Hebrew names are a part of our identities, and hearing them, exploring them, and using them is one more way to enjoy our Jewish heritage and Jewish identities.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NOTES

On February 28th, the religious school students will be sharing their Purim enthusiasm with the Carriage House, a retirement community in South Charlotte. They will bring Hamtashen that were baked by the youth group, and will be performing some songs. If your child would like to play an instrument, just let us know. We’ll be meeting at the Jacobsons’ house at 9:45am and carpooling down to the Carriage House for our performance at 10:30.

On February 7th, the religious school held the first Temple Or Olam Tu B’Shevat Seder in recent memory. Jill Partridge planned and led the Seder, and the students really enjoyed it. They loved trying all the different fruits, especially. We expect this to be an ongoing tradition now. Thanks, Jill! Look for pictures in next month’s Schmoozeletter.

KVELL CORNER



Ava Holtzman and her friend, Alli, worked on a science fair project together, and were one of the 6 winners at their school, Overton Elementary, in Salisbury -- they will go on to the county-wide level of judging next! Congratulations Ava!



If you visit the Levine-Sklutt Library in Shalom Park, you will see the work of some wonderful artists—our religious school students. Lisa Jewel taught them about Jewish art, and Marc Chagall in particular, and then led them in creating their own Chagall-like collages. The work will be displayed in Shalom Park for the remainder of the month, so please go check it out. Thank you, Lisa!

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Getting to Know You

Our members and guests seem to really enjoy our Oneg Shabbats. It's fun to come together and schmooze after services – talking, laughing, sharing stories, enjoying desserts and snacks provided by members of our community. Sometimes it's even difficult to get started cleaning afterwards because everyone is having a good time. We'd like to encourage everyone to take the time to meet new people at each Oneg Shabbat – not just the new members although we want to make them feel especially welcome. Share a table with a new member or a long time member – you'll be pleasantly surprised at what you'll learn about them. It's another way to make a community.

Check Out Website

Be sure to check our Temple Or Olam website frequently. It is updated regularly with dates and new events. Occasionally we plan an event or activity that turns out to conflict with something going on at the church and so a date must be changed. Sometimes changes are weather-related. Please check it frequently for updates.

Or Olam Emergency Fund

Please remember that we recently established a Temple Or Olam Emergency Fund. If you are in need of temporary emergency assistance (financial or otherwise), please contact Reb Shulamit (Hebrew name for Reb Barbara). It will be kept confidential.

The members of Temple Or Olam would like to extend our sincerest condolences to Seth Holtzman, whose father, Abraham Holtzman (Avraham ben Moishe), passed away January 18th. May his memory always be a blessing to Seth, his wife, Lisa Boguslaw, and daughter Ava Holtzman.

Birthdays

- Stephen Smith, February 1
- Charlie Mace, February 2
- Michael Serulneck, February 7
- Jason Roberts, February 10
- Bennett Leder, February 13
- Shannon Leder, March 1
- Seth Holtzman, March 11

Yahrzeits

Robert Henry Horowitz, father of Alexander Horowitz

13 Adar, February 10, 2010

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