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April 11, 2010

27 Nisan, 5770

Temple Or Olam



LAG B'OMER CELEBRATION

Temple Or Olam's religious school will be having its first Lag B'Omer Celebration and would like for you to attend! All temple members will receive an email. Please RSVP to Lisa Jewel at 704-962-1039.

Who: Adults and kids in the congregation

What: Lag B'Omer Celebration. Professionally supervised Archery (age 8 and up; \$7 cost), bonfire, games, singing

Where: Fisher Farm, 21215 Shearer Road, Davidson.

When, Saturday, May 1st. Archery and lawn games from 4:30pm to 6pm. Bonfire 6pm until 8pm. Hot dogs, s'mores, etc.

Bring your favorite lawn games! Please let Lisa Jewel know if you'd like to organize special games or activities for kids too young to participate in archery.

Please bring cash (\$7 for each archery participant) the day of the event.

Note: This event is in lieu of religious school. There will be no religious school Sunday, May 2nd.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- April 18: 9:45 religious school
- April 18: 12:00: religious school parents meeting
- April 18 : 2:00pm Torah study
- April 25: 9:45 Religious School
- April 25: 2pm Torah study
- May 1: 4:30pm: Lag B'Omer party
- May 2: NO religious school
- May 2: 2pm Torah study

There is the one who sings the song of his soul, discovering in his soul everything – utter spiritual fulfillment.

There is the one who sings the song of his people... he strives for fierce heights, clinging to the entire community of Israel in tender love. Together with her, he sings her song, feels her anguish, delights in her hopes. He conceives profound insights into her past and her future, deftly probing the inwardness of her spirit with the wisdom of love.

Then there is the one whose soul expands until it extends beyond the border of Israel, singing the song of humanity...

Then there is the one who expands even further until he unites with all existence, with all worlds, singing a song with them all...

There is the one who ascends with all these songs in unison, the song of the soul, the song of the nation, the song of humanity, the song of the cosmos – resounding together, blending in harmony, circulating the sap of life, the sound of holy joy.

*From **The Essential Kabbalah***

Why should we stop to sing the song of our people?
Why not go straight from self to humanity, from individual soul to cosmos?

Why, in short, live Jewishly when the songs of humanity and eternity so badly need to be sung? This month, as we remember the Holocaust on Yom Hashoah we acknowledge that we live in a world marked by genocide. Humanity has not abandoned mass murder – far



from it.

Neither does it take aggression to explain the deaths of millions. We lose life from sheer care-less-ness. Five million of children will die this year as they did last year – from preventable causes.

Why not tend to the needs of all humanity first and foremost? If we are sympathetic to our Jewish text, Judaism, and Jewishness are clearly not our ultimate goal.

If we only studied what belongs to us just a little more often; if we only knew what we possess.

It is that selfsame Jewish tradition that insists on teaching us, again and again how to be human beings. Hardly any one of our texts does not enjoin us, entertain us, even bother us with questions and observations that demand that we think of those around us first (rather than ourselves), that we look to see if our neighbors need our attention and help (not just our families), that we give to our communities for everyone's sake, that we justify our own carbon footprints by contributing to the planet rather than mostly taking from it. Only so can one become, as my Grandma Becky used to tell me, "a person."

Living Jewishly – if we take that task seriously – is to live humanly. Be willing to learn from your tradition, and you will give to the world.

May we do so, so that we may sing the song of the soul, the song of Judaism, the song of humanity, the song of the cosmos. So may we make the sound of holy joy.

LETTER FROM THE BOARD

The letter this month is in the spirit of spring cleaning and giving thanks.

Thank You

First of all, thank you to the folks who made our Community Passover seder so successful. It was a beautiful service made even more so being led by Reb Shulamit and the wonderful music of Ralf Thiede. Thank you to Laiko Quintero who organized it and Ginger Jensen who helped plan it and shopped for it (including the chocolate candy for the children who found the afikomen). Thank you to the people who helped set up: JingJing Jacobson, Mindy Sanchez, Kim Jordan, Jessica Waldman and Teresa Malin. Also thank you to the helpers who toiled in the kitchen and helped clean up afterwards: Will King, Dr. Horowitz (in charge of dishwashing), Lisa Jewel, Lisa Boguslaw, Jin Mei Jacobson, Doris and Jason Gordon and the Smith family. We hope that no one was overlooked.

Lag B'Omer*

Every year the Religious School chooses a minor or less well known holiday to celebrate and this year it is Lag B'Omer. This holiday connects Pesach (Exodus) to Shavuot (giving of the Torah). According to the Torah, we are obligated to count the days from Passover to Shavuot. In the days of the Temple, an omer (unit of measure) of barley was made as an offering and this was counted as well. The counting is a reminder of the link between Passover and Shavuot. It reminds us that the liberation from slavery was not complete until we received the Torah. Plans are being made for our own Lag B'Omer celebration on May 1. The entire congregation is invited. Save the date!

Parents of Religious School Students

There will be a meeting for Religious School parents (and anyone else who is interested) immediately following school on Sunday, 4/18 at the Jacobson's house. This will be to review options for Religious School for next year and plan next steps. An email will go out to all current school parents.

Annual Meeting

Our Temple Annual Meeting is rapidly approaching. It will be scheduled for a Sunday in June. Please plan to attend. If you are interested in volunteering for any of the Board positions please speak with anyone on the Board. We appreciate new ideas and can always use more help.

* Lag B'Omer information is from Judaism 101 - www.jewfaq.org

KVELL CORNER

Congratulations to Philip Jacobson, who participated in the regional Science Olympiad. His 2-person team one first place in Battery Buggy, fourth place in ecology, and a fifth place in road scholar. His school, Piedmont Middle School, came in 3rd over all and will proceed to the state level competition.

And congratulations to Kyla Mace, who won a scholarship for the Oxbridge Program. She will be spending 4 weeks at Oxford University in July, studying a variety of topics.

Please send your Kvell Corner tidbits to editor@or-olam.org.

Birthdays

- Jody Mace, April 12
- Robbin Smith, April 16
- Karen Cutler, April 28
- Shulamit Thiede, May 1

Yahrzeits

Suzie Shapiro, sister of Shulamit Thiede

7 Iyar, April 21, 2010

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