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May 7, 2010

22 Iyyar, 5770

Temple Or Olam



LETTER FROM THE BOARD

<p>Letter from the Board – May 2010 <u>Times Flies and Save the Date</u></p> <p>June 13, 2010 3-5 pm. Temple Or Olam Annual meeting at McGill Baptist Church</p> <p>It's hard to believe but it's almost time for our Annual Meeting. It is open to all members. Please join us for some discussion, voting, light noshing and schmoozing. Come find out about our community's accomplishments during the past year and our plans for the coming year.</p> <p>We have several hard-working members who are stepping down from the Board as their terms end.</p> <p>Ginger Jensen is stepping down as Vice President after two years of devoted work. We are fortunate that she has agreed to stay on as the Chairperson of the Ritual Committee.</p> <p>Jody Mace will be stepping down from Director of Religious School/ Director of Communications and Website Administrator after serving 1-2 years in each position. She is ready for a well-deserved break.</p> <p>Lisa Boguslaw will be stepping down from the Board after filling in as Director of Social/Adult Programming prior to Laiko Quintero accepting the role. She will be heading a committee that is close to her heart – Tikkun Olam as well as serving as our liaison to the Religious School.</p> <p>Laiko Quintero will be stepping down as Director of Social/Adult Programming. Laiko was responsible for the creation of our Tot Shabbats which have proven to be very popular.</p>	<p>We are very grateful for their devoted service to our community and we look forward to their continued contributions and advice.</p> <p>The Board reorganizes occasionally in order to take advantage of volunteers' strengths and interests. Roles for which we are looking to fill with enthusiastic team players include Vice President, Director of Religious Services and Marketing/Community Outreach. If you are interested please contact anyone on the Board.</p> <p>The hardworking folks who will continue in their roles for another year are Jill Partridge (Membership), Richard Jacobson (Treasurer) and Robbin Smith (President).</p> <p>After the meeting we will gather at a local restaurant for dinner and more schmoozing. Please save the date and join us!</p> <p>UPCOMING EVENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>May 8: 7pm Shabbat Service</i> • <i>May 9: 2pm Adult Torah Study</i> • <i>May 9: no religious school</i> • <i>May 16 : 9:45 Religious School</i> • <i>May 16: 2pm Adult Torah Study</i> • <i>May 22: Tot Shabbat</i> • <i>May 22: Saturday morning service</i> • <i>May 23: Religious School</i> • <i>May 30: Adult Torah Study</i>
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MiLev HaPardes From the heart of the orchard by
Reb Barbara, student rabbi



Baruch atah Adonai, Melech ha'Olam...

Just six words begin our blessings, blessings that punctuate almost every page of our siddur, blessings to wake up to, to begin our day with, to chant as we hear a bird sing outside our window, to utter softly when we note the first stars emerging late on a summer's night.

The rabbis say that Jews should try to say a hundred blessings a day. Why? To connect with what we so often ignore, to appreciate the world we have been given to live in, to take note of the great and gorgeous things that surround us.

Each day, the rabbis remind us, we take our happiness and our wealth for granted. In America, most of us have houses with actual flooring – not so in most of the rest of the world. In most homes, we enjoy three meals a day, surrounded by family members. Not so in places where war and violence takes the lives of innocents every day.

In her book *The Path of Blessing*, Rabbi Marcia Prager calls the *bracha* a kind of “gratitude yoga.” “It is in itself not at all strenuous,” she writes. “It doesn’t require a minyan... It doesn’t require travel; it doesn’t require that we have any special accoutrements or a special mantra.” All a *bracha* asks for is a moment of delayed gratification, a second to separate the time before we enjoy what we have before us from the moment it takes to appreciate it.

No big challenge, right? But a big reward is in the offing.

Imagine a tart, crisp apple: “Blessed are you, Source of Life, who sourced this food.” Then chomp into it and taste the tang.

Or, as you tuck your child into bed: “Blessed are You, Life of all the Worlds, who helped me give life to the child before me.” Smile at your kid, and get a smile back.

Before the sunset: “Blessed are You, Sovereign of the Universe, whose universe is filled with gorgeous, rich color. Wow!”

We probably *could* say 100 blessings a day – our worlds our so rich, so filled, and so blessed.

A challenge: Take one day this next week to say all the blessings you can. See how it feels to appreciate the world, to exercise an awful lot of gratitude yoga. At the end of the day, write down a few words about the experience. Were you connecting differently to the world that is in your charge? Did your relationship with God seem closer? Try this with the whole family and share what you all blessed and how you blessed.

You’ll be blessed!

LAG B' OMER PARTY

On Saturday, May 1st, Temple Or Olam held its first Lab B' Omer party. Thanks go to Lisa Jewel for her hard work and attention to detail on setting it up. Congregants shot arrows, enjoyed a campfire, ate delicious food, schmoozed, and participated in a lovely Havdallah service. In this case, pictures really do tell the story, so enjoy!



KVELL CORNER

Rebecca Smith is in JROTC at Hopewell High School (9th grade). Hopewell won the Superintendent's Cup for the fourth year in a row. It is a measure of student competition among CMS schools in areas such as softball, basketball, volleyball, Raider Team (physical fitness), Rifle Team (marksmanship), Drill Team (precision marching), Orienteering (map reading, compass reading, finding their way in the woods), and an Academic Team.

On an individual basis, she was awarded ribbons for Perfect Attendance, Personal Appearance, Proficiency, Communication, Good Conduct and a medal for Marksmanship.

Rebecca is the daughter of Steve and Robbin Smith and granddaughter of Janet Sternbach.

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

Birthdays

- Barbara Thiede, May 1
- Tom Jensen, May 19
- Sylvia Gardiner Holzapfel, May 19
- JingJing Jacobson, May 19
- Harriet Commike, June 8
- Rebecca Smith, June 8

Please extend your caring and condolences toward Ginger Jensen and her family. Ginger's mother, Mary Dare Roettger, passed away this month.

Also, Seth Holtzman lost his aunt, Rose LaVine, this month. Our sympathies go out to the Holtzman-Boguslaw family.

In addition, Ruth Kingberg lost her brother this month, so please offer Ruth your comfort and caring.

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