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June 14, 2010

2 Tammuz, 5770

# Temple *Or Olam*



## LETTER FROM THE BOARD

Letter from the Board – June 2010

Board Positions

We are pleased to announce that Judah Malin has volunteered to run for Vice President. Voting will take place at the Annual Meeting.

Currently no one is running for Marketing/Outreach or Director of Religious Services. If anyone is interested, please contact any member of the Board.

Annual Meeting

Please join us for Temple Or Olam’s Annual Meeting. Sunday, June 13, 3-5 PM at McGill Baptist Church. You will be joining the community to hear about our accomplishments over the past year and our goals for the coming year, vote on the slate of officers, nosh on light snacks and meet for dinner at e-noodles afterwards for more schmoozing. Babysitting will be provided during the meeting.

**Save the Date**  
**Torah Restorer Hora Galora**

Join Temple Or Olam for a summer dance fundraiser for the congregation’s Sefer Torah – the handwritten scroll containing the Five Books of Moses in handwritten script.

Join us for an evening of music and dance and learn how scribes have preserved bible texts that date back over two centuries!

Our program will include light snacks.  
7 – 8:30 p.m. Salsa and Swing

8:30 – 9 p.m. Learning about Temple Or Olam’s Sefer Torah

9 p.m. Refreshments, Israeli dances, and yet more dancing to great tunes from the forties on up!

Time: Program begins at 7 p.m.

Date: July 31st  
Location: McGill Baptist Church, 5300 Poplar Tent, Concord, NC

Tickets:

\$5 for students  
\$12 for senior couples  
\$ 25 for families

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- June 20: 2pm Torah study
- June 27 :2pm Torah Study
- July 24: Shabbat morning service
- July 30: Torah Restorer Hora Galora
- August 13: Family service
- August 27: Friday night service

*MiLev HaPardes* From the heart of the orchard by  
Reb Barbara, student rabbi



The Talmud describes a famous debate between Rabbi Eliezer and Rabbi Joshua over matters of purity. The question was this: What is the role of God's authority and will when it comes to interpreting the Torah?

On one side stood Rabbi Eliezer, who had the power to invoke miracles. To demonstrate that God sided with him, he demanded that the very walls of the study hall testify on his behalf. Rabbi Eliezer had God's approval in his argument; the walls threatened to crumble.

Rabbi Joshua, who spoke for the rabbis opposing Rabbi Eliezer, was outraged. He refused the right of the study hall's walls to testify. The walls, confused by the demands of Rabbi Eliezer and Rabbi Joshua, remained inclined, unable to commit to either rabbinical authority. Rabbi Eliezer, the story goes, then demanded the testimony of a *bat kol*, a voice from heaven. But when the *bat kol* tried to speak, Rabbi Joshua had the temerity to refuse to listen.

How could Rabbi Joshua refuse to listen to a voice from heaven, a messenger of Divine will and Divine authority?

Because, he argued, God had given humanity Torah and that meant that human beings alone had to determine what Torah meant. The other sages sided with Rabbi Joshua and refused to admit miracle as evidence. Human beings alone had the right and the responsibility to argue their way to truth.

Humanity, the rabbis insisted, not God, is given the charge of understanding Torah. No one can argue from a miracle – even if God grants it. In the end, decisions have to be made by human beings. And while we assume that the majority wins, our Talmud also records minority decisions. You never know – in another generation, the minority may turn out to have been right, and conclusions will need to be revised.

The story doesn't actually end with the majority's decision. The Talmud provides an intriguing postscript.

Later, a Talmudic sage chanced upon the prophet Elijah who, according to our legends, regularly makes an appearance in earthly realms to check on what Jewish folk are doing. The sage asked Elijah how God had reacted to Rabbi Joshua's insistence that divinely inspired miracles were unacceptable as proof or testimony, and that humanity was instead responsible for interpreting Torah.

Elijah described the *Riboyno Shel Olam*, the Master of the Universe, smiling in enormous pleasure. "My children have been stronger than I am!" God proclaimed. "My children have been stronger than I am!"

As so we must be.

## Birthdays

- Harriet Commike, June 8th
- Rebecca Smith, June 8th
- Jillian Smith, June 14th
- Pasquale Quintero Jr., June 27th
- Ginger Jensen, July 1st
- Gabriel Quintero, July 3rd
- Laiko Quintero, July 4th
- Carla Eastis, July 8th

## Yahrzeits

- Nathan Meyer Shapiro, father of Barbara Thiede, 18 Tammuz, June 30th, 2010
- Norman Roettger, father of Ginger Jensen, 26 Tammuz, June 8th, 2010

## Contact Information

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