

Shmoozeletter

Temple
Or Olam



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Shabbat Services: Aug. 13, 27.
- Torah Restorer Hora Galore-a helped raise nearly \$1K.
- **You have until August 15 to pick oneg days — dates will be assigned thereafter.**
- We need a media representative: Please volunteer.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Torah Restorer results	1
Aug. 13 service	1
MiLev HaPardes	2
Letter from the Board	3
Aug. 27 service	3
Birthdays, Yahrzeits	4
Contact Information	4

TORAH RESTORER HORA GALORE-A RAISES \$1K

Folks learned to swing, dance in circles, and boogie down to such oldies and evergoodies as “Heard it Through the Grapevine” and “Sister Goldenhair.” Our DJ played funk, rock, disco, and even some modern house and hip hop. We danced to “Feel It” by Naturally Seven and “Flashlight” by Parliament.

And, as promised, we scrolled through the Temple Or Olam Torah and learned about its history and special features.

Over 60 people attended our Torah fundraising event, including a special guest contingent from Trinity United Church of Christ in Concord.

Stories on the event appeared in *Cabarrus News*,

the *Charlotte Observer / Neighbors*, and the *Independent Tribune*. Announcements were published in two Huntersville papers, and on the web at charlotte.com.

We are delighted to announce that we raised some \$1000 for our Torah fund.

Many thanks to all our congregants for doing their part in helping us spread the word and sell tickets to help us with this special task. We are very grateful for all that you do!



“ LET HIM READ IN IT ALL HIS LIFE... ” – AUGUST 13 SERVICE

Parsha Shoftim includes explicit instructions for rulers. A king, the text says, may not have too many horses, or amass gold and silver in excess. A worthy ruler must read and *reread* the Torah so that he can observe the laws in the Torah. Then – and only then – can the

people be sure he will not act haughtily towards others or behave inappropriately.

At this Friday night service we will hear a tale of a certain king and ask ourselves: What, if anything, has this particular ruler been reading?

Join us for our family

service on August 13. Come prepared for sweet song, joyful community, and, as always, something to take home and think about!

Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service, August 13, 7:00 p.m. at McGill Baptist Church, 5300 Poplar Tent Rd., Concord.

MILEV HAPARDES

THE DAYS OF AWE – A TIME FOR JOY

A year ago, we entered the High Holy Days thinking about the way the Babembe (People of the Lake) of Africa react when someone in their tribe behaves unjustly or irresponsibly. The community ceases its business. Each woman, man, and child stands in a circle around that person. Then, every individual takes the time to tell that person about his or her good traits – in detail. All

that person's positive attributes, good deeds, strengths, and kindness are recited.

When everyone is finished, the villagers celebrate with great joy. The person is symbolically and literally welcomed back into the tribe.

Last year, we asked: What would it mean to call Jews to the task of *teshuva* by reminding each other of our potential for goodness? This year, I would like to

ask this question in a different way: What could occur if we approached the task of *teshuva* with joy and gratitude, not with anguish and pain?

We associate the Day of Atonement with mournful melodies, group confessions, even with tears. But consider these tales:

Rabbi Shmelke of Nikolsburg once reminded his congregation that the Day



Reb Barbara
Senior Rabbinic Student

What could occur if we approached the task of teshuva with joy and gratitude, not with anguish and pain?

FROM THE HEART OF THE ORCHARD

of Atonement is a day of joy. "God's hand is open," the rabbi said; "let the tears we shed on this day be tears of joy, for we have merited the approach and the attachment unto the Lord, we who are 'alive everyone one of us this day.'"

The Baal Shem Tov once came to a town just before the Days of Awe. He asked the townspeople:

"How does the rabbi conduct prayers?" They answered him: "He chants the confessions of Yom Kippur with joyful melodies."

The Besht sent for the rabbi and asked him to explain. "A servant cleaning the courtyard of the king, if he loves the king, is very happy cleaning the refuse from the courtyard," the rabbi told him. "He sings

joyful melodies, for he is giving pleasure to his Lord."

One year on Kol Nidre, Rabbi Meir of Apt arrived at the synagogue to find his congregation in tears: "Jews," he said, "this is not what I desired; I wish you to turn to God in joy!" And he began to chant the hymn "Majesty and faithfulness are God's who lives forever" with such enthusiasm

and pleasure that they all stopped crying and took one another by the hand and danced for an hour in a great circle. Then they began Kol Nidre.

High Holy Days, and the month of Elul preceding them, offer the gift of time

for reflection and reevaluation. Each year, we can ask ourselves anew: How can we grow into our aspirations, our hopes, our longings to be, simply, good?

Let us approach that task with joy – for in so doing, we remember that God awaits us, longs for us,

and hopes for us to enter the Divine Presence as we are and to be ever more conscious of who we want to become.

Reb Barbara



LETTER FROM THE BOARD – AUGUST 2010



Torah Restorer Hora Galore-a

Our Torah Restorer Hora Galore-a was a wonderful success and very enjoyable. We had a great turnout.

We want to thank our DJ, our very own Erik Thiede and our dance instructors – Ashley Owens for teaching us swing steps, and Lisa Boguslaw who taught us Israeli dancing. Thank-you’s also go to the Jensens, Reeves, Thiedes, and Smiths for setting up and providing snacks, as well as to Will King for bringing liquid refreshments. Jill Partridge and family manned the door and welcomed our guests. Many thanks also go to the Malins, Will King, Chris Parker, and the Reeves for helping with the clean

up. Special thanks to Reb Barbara for teaching about our Torah. Folks expressed a lot of interest and enthusiastically crowded around the table where the Torah was partially unrolled and carefully displayed.

Oneg Sign-up

Reminder – please **sign up for your Oneg Shabbat/festival dates.** Now is your chance to choose the dates that you want. **After 8/15, dates will be assigned.**

HIGH HOLY DAYS
... AND A BAR MITZVAH

High Holy Days

It’s hard to believe that the High Holy Days will be here soon. As part of our ongoing membership drive, please bring a guest to services. Reb Barbara’s extensive preparation always results in meaningful, thoughtful services involving our community.

New Members

We’ve had the pleasure of welcoming two new families recently. Please be sure to say hello to Rusty and Kristi Reeves and their children, Adam, Tristan, and Jacob; and Sergio, Heather, and Julia Chait.

pleasure of participating in a Shabbat morning service led by **Zachary Bombardier**. Please join us for Zach’s bar mitzvah ceremony and service on **August 28!**

Media Representative

Please volunteer – the position is yet vacant!

Upcoming Simcha

We will all have the

Robbin Smith, President

Please sign up for oneg Shabbat and festival dates. After August 15, dates will be assigned.

FOURTH FRIDAY SERVICE
AUG. 27

“When you have set aside in full the tenth part of your yield...”

Parsha Ki Tavo begins with the law of tithing, a law that is intended to help ensure a just society, a society that takes care of “the stranger, the orphan, the widow” so that they may be nourished and sustained.

How do we learn to give without regret? How can we make sure to understand that to give *tzedakkah* is not a simple act of charity, but an act of social justice, of tikkun olam, of healing?

Join us for our Fourth Friday service when we will explore these questions as a community, one which strives to care.

Kabbalat Shabbat Fourth Friday Service, August 27, 7:00 p.m. at McGill Baptist Church, 5300 Poplar Tent Rd., Concord.

How do we learn to give without regret?



BIRTHDAYS

Y A H R Z E I T S

08-01 Elaine Cutler, mother of Brian Cutler
08-16 Eileen Zelig, sister of Tom Jensen
08-16 Irving Sternbach, father of Robbin
Smith and husband of Janet
Sternbach



08-03 Fred Commike
08-10 Erik Thiede
08-19 Katie Klein Martinez
08-20 Jacqueline Jewel
08-25 William King
08-28 LingLing Jacobson
08-31 Alison Cutler

www.or-olam.org

C O N T A C T I N F O R M A T I O N

Dr. Barbara Thiede: rabbi@or-olam.org

Robbin Smith, president: info@or-olam.org

Religious school: religious-school@or-olam.org

Youth group: youth@or-olam.org

Schmoozeletter: editor@or-olam.org

Webmaster: webmaster@or-olam.org

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1135
Concord, NC 28026-1135

Phone: 704-720-7577

T H E B O A R D

President: Robbin Smith
Vice President: Judah Malin
Director or Religious Service: Dr. Barbara Thiede
Acting Treasurer: Arthur Kingberg
Membership Director: Jill Partridge