

Shmoozeeletter

Temple Or Olam



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- High Holy Days services 5771
- The new calendar is out: \$ 18.
- Caring Committee to form: Will you be on it?
- Treasurer Arthur Kingberg wants to work with you.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

High Holy Days services	1
Congregational calendar	1
MiLev HaPardes	2
From the President	3
From the Treasurer	3
Birthdays, Yahrzeits	4
Contact Information	4

High Holy Days offer Jews a special time for reflection. Most associate High Holy Days with heartfelt prayer, deep reflection, even mournful melodies. But how can we atone with joy and gratitude, not with anguish and pain?

Rabbi Shmelke of Niskolsburg once reminded his congregation that the Day 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.’

May we approach the Days of Awe with just such conviction and gratitude.

*Dr. Barbara Thiede
Rabbi*

Sep. 8: Erev Rosh Hashanah
7:00 p.m.

Central United Methodist Church, Concord;
Fellowship Hall, 20 Union St. N

Sep. 9: Rosh Hashanah
10:00 - 12:00 a.m.
followed by brunch and tashlich

McGill Baptist Church, Concord

Sep. 17: Kol Nidre
7:00 p.m.

McGill Baptist Church, Concord

Sep. 18: Yom Kippur
10:00-12:00 a.m.

McGill Baptist Church, Concord

Sep. 18: Neila
6:30 p.m.
followed by Havdalah and break fast

McGill Baptist Church, Concord

L' SHANA
TOVA!



5771 CONGREGATIONAL CALENDAR



We are reliving the seventies! And they are beautiful.

Temple Or Olam’s 5771 calendar is now available, in a lighter and glossier incarnation. As usual, the calendar includes member birthdays, yahrzeits, school

dates, services, and festivals.

The calendar is being sold this year at cost, for \$18. It will be available beginning Erev Rosh Hashana.

Enjoy finding fellow congregants beaming at you from its pages!

MILEV HAPARDES

FROM THE HEART OF THE ORCHARD

Every year on Yom Kippur, we read *Ki Anu Amecha*, a confessional text. *Ki Anu Amecha* begins with sweet language that evokes God's compassionate, loving presence in our lives. But the last four lines shine a spotlight on human failings. They read:

**We are arrogant, but You are merciful.
We are obstinate, but You are patient.**

**We are laden with sin, but You abound in compassion.
We are as a passing shadow, but You are eternal.**

Last year, I asked congregants to write their own versions of these lines, curious to see how they might rephrase this age-old text. One congregant rephrased the last four lines of *Ki Anu Amecha* like this:

**We are self-conscious and insecure but You are sympathetic and compassionate.
We are hesitant and reluctant and You are Wooing, Accepting and Persuasive.
We are wounded and live in our own sense of shame and guilt but you free us again to influence and originate a positive difference in this life.
We are reflective and sometimes dim but You**



**Reb Barbara
Senior Rabbinic Student**

**K I A N U A M E C H A
A C O N F E S S I O N A L P R A Y E R**

May we be reminded that our lives are precious and the years we have must be treasured.

are the Brilliant Original Radiance who holds no part of Your Essence from revelation forever.

Words like "arrogant" and "obstinate" were replaced with "'self-conscious" and "hesitant." The writer had not denied human frailties or failings. The congregant had acknowledged that human beings are flawed, that they

commit errors and mistakes that bring them to painful places of shame and embarrassment and guilt.

And yet.

And yet, this congregant had rewritten the last four lines of *Ki Anu Amecha* in a way that opens hearts, not hardens them. This version of the prayer is a gentle re-

minder of how much we need God's help to become the people we want to be.

May we enter the Days of Awe with that in mind, and may we seek the help we need from one another, from family and friends, and from the Holy One. May we be reminded that our lives are precious and the years we have must be



treasured. May we come to Neilah, to the moments of the gates' closing with the sure sense that we have taken note of our souls' longings, found the light shining therein, and renewed our purpose: To act as Judaism asks us to act –

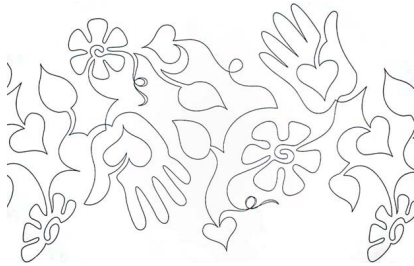
with generosity, kindness, and compassion.

Let us give to others what we long for from God in this New Year. And may we all be blessed by that gift.

Reb Barbara



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT – SEPT. 2010



Normally this space is devoted to a letter from the Temple Or Olam Board. This month, however, it is specifically from the President.

Recently, I had a conversation with a Temple Or Olam member who was in a car accident. Fortunately, the family is fine physically. I knew that the father of the family travels extensively, so I had hoped that he was in town when it happened. And again, fortunately, he was. I mentioned that my family was always available to help in a situation like that. She protested and said that she wouldn't want to bother us and that likely we had already reached home after services that evening.

This conversation bothered me for days afterwards. By virtue of Temple Or Olam, we are a community of people with Jewish values. We enjoy friendships with each other outside of temple time, and our children bond at Religious School and Tot Shabbat. It is challenging to clean up after Oneg Shabbats because everyone is enjoying their conversations with others in our community – what a great problem to have!

Our community is widespread

FORMATION OF A CARING COMMITTEE

geographically, from Charlotte to Salisbury and Harrisburg to Davidson and Huntersville. As we begin the New Year, I sincerely hope that if any one of us is in trouble or experiencing difficulties that we remember to call on someone else within our community for help and support.

Also, we can make an effort to make that process

easier by forming a permanent Caring Committee. We have had informal caring committees spring to life as needed over the past few years which provided help to folks who had surgery or experienced a death in the family. This is an area where I would like to accomplish more going forward. If anyone would like to vol-

unteer to lead such a committee, please let me know.

Robbin Smith, President



By virtue of Temple Or Olam, we are a community of people with Jewish values.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM OUR NEW TREASURER

My name is Arthur Kingberg. I am your newly elected (after volunteering) treasurer, and a member of the board. Take the opportunity to see and/or meet with me in person if you are experiencing financial difficulties in meeting your membership obligations.

Please realize that it is my obligation and responsi-

bility to the Board (and on your behalf) that I follow up that membership dues are paid.

Without paid dues, we cannot exist and gather here and experience the beautiful services and programs that our soon-to-be-ordained rabbi Barbara is providing every week for us.

Soooo, please understand my job performance is in the interest for all of you -- and I thank you.

*Arthur Kingberg
Treasurer*

My job performance is in the interest of all of you.

Y A H R Z E I T S

- 09-06 Harriett Toba Baker, mother of Jody Mace
09-11 Lena Shapiro, mother of Harriet Commike
09-12 Jeanette Lillian Jacob Horowitz, mother of
Alexander Horowitz
09-13 Pearl Commike, mother of Fred Commike



www.or-olam.org

BIRTHDAYS

- 09-04 Julie Roberts
Julia Chait
09-05 Allison Billings
09-07 Gabriel Malin
09-15 Janet Sternbach
09-19 John Partridge
09-22 Madeline Holzapfel Horowitz

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