

# Shmoozeletter

Temple  
Or Olam



**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- October 22 service at 7:00 p.m.
- New calendar still available: \$ 18.
- New Teams forming—please make yourself available.
- Talents needed for the 5771 Hanukkah Talent Show.

**LEARN TO BE**

**A QUESTIONER**

(... FIND OUT WHY...)

Judaism is a religion replete with ritual. Why do we touch the mezuzah before we leave or enter a home? Why do we have braided bread on Shabbat?

Our rituals tell us a great deal about who we are and what we are trying to do Jewishly. So why didn't our own Sunday School teachers talk to us about the how's and why's of our Shabbat services?

Why do we stand for the Amidah but sit during the Shema? How should we handle our Torah, wrap it and hold it?

Our next service is about the Way Things Work at a Jewish service. We'll take the essential components and explore what we do and why through stories, legends, and even Jewish jokes.

Then we can turn to greet the Sabbath bride knowing why we turned in the first place. Then we can rise for the Barchu

together with the wonderfully communal intention that that act deserves.

Join us for our next Shabbat service and learn together with us!

*Dr. Barbara Thiede*  
Rabbi

Friday Evening Kabbalat Shabbat  
Service  
October 22  
7:00 p.m.  
McGill Baptist Church  
5300 Poplar Tent Road  
Concord

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**5771 CONGREGATIONAL CALENDAR**

STILL AVAILABLE

Temple Or Olam's 5771 calendar is still 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.

Enjoy finding fellow congregants beaming at you from its pages!



5771 Temple Or Olam

## MILEV HAPARDES

## FROM THE HEART OF THE ORCHARD

*I am 85. I remember. After the synagogue in Göppingen was burned down I went and saw our Torahs burned to ashes. Everything was in ashes.*

*That's why I was determined to carry the Torah. It was the biggest blessing for me. I was practically in tears when I was carrying it.*

*I am 85 and when I think back what happened to our folks and our family,*

*to carry our Torah – it's a mitzvah.*

*Ruth Kingberg*

The last letter of the Torah is the *lamed* that ends the word *Yisrael*. The first letter of the Torah is the *bet* of *Bereishit* (“in the beginning”). Together, *lamed* and *bet* spell the word *lev*, heart.

How does it feel to take the Torah into your arms? How is it to hold the heart

of Judaism in one's hands?

It is this scroll that is the foundation of all our many books. The first Five Books of Moses are followed by a wealth of stories and histories, poetry and psalms. The Torah provides a rich beginning for a range of scriptural literature, from the wisdom literature of Proverbs to the ribald comedy of the Book of Esther, from the passionate outpourings of the



**Reb Barbara**  
Senior Rabbinic Student

## A COMMUNITY WHOSE HEART IS TORAH

*How does it feel to take the Torah into your arms? How is it to hold the heart of Judaism in one's hands?*

prophets to the thoughtful introspection of Ecclesiastes. When we hold our Torah in our arms, we cradle our culture, our world views. We hold the right to our humanity, flawed and promising as it is.

Just before we began our joyous procession of seven circles around the sanctuary on Simchat Torah, I asked whoever led a circle to end

their turn by looking for the person whose arms were reaching out, whose eyes were asking. I knew that the Torah would be passed to the person who longed most, who needed most. Our expressions are so easy to read when we open our souls to community. Our faces fill with wonder and hope, surprise and delight.

It was a sight to see our

Simchat Torah procession. So many women stepped forward. One woman who carried the Torah that night had never held a Torah before. Another had to assure a worried husband that she could carry it – no problem! Women of Temple Or Olam danced with our Torah, sang with the Torah, and led a long line of TOO members from four to eighty-four



(and more!) with joy and freedom such as Miriam must have known at the Sea of Reeds.

It was a healing sight – especially when we are still living in a world in which Jewish women can be arrested for carrying a Torah at the Western Wall in Jeru-

salem.

May we protect our Torah in memory of those whose lives were lost because they loved it so. May we celebrate what we ourselves are creating: A community whose heart – and soul – is Torah.

B'shalom,

*Reb Barbara*

LETTER FROM THE BOARD - OCT. 2010

The Board would like to extend a big thank you to Reb Barbara, Ralf Thiede, Erik Thiede, Seth Holtzman and Stan Mace for our beautiful High Holy days services. It was a joyous celebration as well as an introspective one thinking about and praying about each of our own Torah. Our musicians add a special feeling to Reb Barbara's meaningful and thoughtful words.

The Board would also like to thank Angela Hodges for the articles

that she has written for the Charlotte Jewish News each month. She has a special way with words and we appreciate her sharing her talents on behalf of our community.

Many thanks to Ginger Jensen of the Ritual Committee for creating B'nei Mitzvah guidelines for our community in conjunction with Reb Barbara. This year we are in the happy position of preparing for five of our students to become Bar or Bat Mitzvah. The guidelines will be

published shortly and answer many questions but if you have further questions, please contact Ginger.

TEAMWORK

In the Board's ongoing effort to create manageable volunteer roles and improve communication, Teams will be established and responsibilities will be limited. Each team can meet as often as needed (conference calls are fine) and can request ad-

MANY REASONS FOR THANKS THIS MONTH

vice and provide updates to one member of the Board. Currently the Teams under consideration are Ritual/Caring Team, School Team, Tikkun Olam Team, and Social Team.

Very shortly, "job descriptions" for each team will be published so that we may all understand the goals

and responsibilities of each team and find the one that is the right fit for each of our talents and interests.

We are looking for full participation in small slices so that we may continue to offer festival celebrations and other programs.

*Robbin Smith, President*



Ritual/Caring Team  
School Team  
Tikkun Olam Team  
Social Team



HANUKKAH - LOOKING FOR TALENT

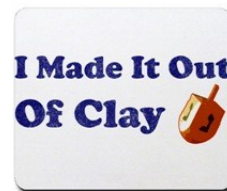
Hanukkah may be almost two months away, but we hope our congregants will start thinking about contributing to our celebration now.

In past years, our congregants have volunteered to take part in an annual talent show. We have enjoyed everything from magic tricks to tales from the town of Chelm.

We know that Temple Or Olam is a treasure house of hidden talents. So please consider what you could contribute to this year's Festival of Lights.

We ask that each contribution be limited to three minutes so we can enjoy a great variety of talents. Let

us know if you are willing and able to participate by writing an e-mail to [info@or-olam.org](mailto:info@or-olam.org) with a description of your performance.



We have enjoyed everything from magic tricks to tales from the town of Chelm.

## Y A H R Z E I T S

10-16 Morris Miller, father of Ellie Joffe  
10-22 Dewey Mace, father of Stan Mace  
10-29 Wilhelm Thiede, father of Ralf Thiede



[www.or-olam.org](http://www.or-olam.org)

## BIRTHDAYS

10-09 Dennis Cutler  
Penny Cutler  
10-11 David Huneycutt  
10-15 Adam Roberts  
Kelly Bombardier  
10-17 Linda VanArsdale  
10-22 Charli Bombardier  
Jack Commike  
10-25 John Jensen  
10-29 Phyllis Herschenfeld  
10-30 Lisa Schwartz Jewel

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

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