

Shmoozeleter

Temple
Or Olam



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- November 13 service at 10:00 a.m.
- November 26 service at 7:00 p.m.
- Feb 12, 2011 party for our Rabbi
- Board meetings open to members
- Talents needed for the 5771 Hanukkah Talent Show.

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SURELY GOD IS IN THIS PLACE, AND I DID NOT KNOW IT (GEN 26:18)

Anxiety makes us fearful. In our vulnerability, we call on God. It is in such moments that we are forced to admit that we need help, to confess – even to ourselves – that we don’t want to be left alone.

Fleeing from his enraged brother, Esau, Jacob dreams of the divine. God’s own angels traverse the way between heaven and earth before him. God, Jacob decides upon waking, was “in this place.” He himself had no idea, no clue.

During this service, we will focus on our own questions about God’s presence in our lives. Who and what is God? Why does God seem absent, or uncaring? When does God seem to be involved with the actualities of human existence?

Join us for Tot Shabbat on Nov. 13 at 10 a.m.; Shabbat Shacharit service follows at 10:30.

Shabbat Morning Family Service
November 13
10:00 a.m.
10:30 Shacharit Service
Kabbalat Shabbat Service
November 26
7:00 p.m.
McGill Baptist Church
5300 Poplar Tent Road
Concord

‘SHE IS MORE IN THE RIGHT THAN I...’

(GEN 38:26)

Tamar, a Canaanite woman, shows her Israelite father-in-law, Judah, how to follow the Torah’s commandments. In the end, Judah has to admit that an outsider has fulfilled mitzvot he has willfully ignored.

Tanakh surprises us, again and again, with depictions of outsiders who demonstrate the righteousness Israelites ascribe to. Jewish history is filled with similar stories – of the ancient “God-fearers” who worshipped alongside Jews in the synagogues of late antiquity to non-Jewish spouses of today who support and sustain Jewish congregations across the country.

At this Thanksgiving service, we’ll explore the historic role of the righteous non-Jewish resident in our shared history. We’ll give thanks, too, for all those who continue to support and sustain our project of building a sacred community.

And we’ll continue our Temple Or Olam Thanksgiving tradition: Bring your leftovers of all kinds for oneg! We’ll be grateful!

Dr. Barbara Thiede, Rabbi



MILEV HAPARDES

FROM THE HEART OF THE ORCHARD

Recently, I offered our congregation a learning service. Those who attended heard jokes and stories about the way Jews pray, about the components of the service, and even about how we carry our Torah. They also heard answers to questions they didn't even know they had. Examples?

- ☆ Why do we stand during the last verses of Lecha Dodi?
- ☆ Why does a song of tri-

umph (Mi Chamocha) follow paragraph after paragraph of injunctions and reminders to study the mitzvot and practice them?

- ☆ Why do we stand for the Amidah without having a clue why we *don't* stand for the Shema? Isn't the latter the central creed of Judaism?

I was surprised (and delighted) by the feedback.

One congregational member insisted that we offer just such a service at least twice a year. Another said he had never known one bit of what he'd learned that day -- and he'd been given a yeshiva education. Everyone seemed to feel happier about what they were doing during the service.

It isn't really so surprising. When you get the *why* instead of just the *how* things just make more



Reb Barbara
Senior Rabbinic Student

SO WHY LEARN TO BE A QUESTIONER?

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sense. Acting out a form without knowing how it's intended to function seems meaningless in any venue. To participate fully, people have to have some reason to engage.

The rabbis who put together our liturgy had a schema in mind that we fail to understand for a simple reason: Most of us are not literate in their language,

and can't see the transitions and the intentions that are embedded in the script. Ironically, my b'nai mitzvah students typically end up



knowing lots more about the *whys* than their parents because even if they don't understand Hebrew, the educational process we go through helps them understand what they are singing, and why.

I'm planning on offering this service again. I like to imagine all of you understanding the intentions behind the pages in your

hands. I promise that if you learn more about those intentions, your own will become much clearer, your participation more joyous, and your prayer deeper and more rewarding.

So please keep a look-out for our next learning-the-service Shabbat. Learn to be a questioner. Find out why.

B'shalom,

Reb Barbara



LETTER FROM THE BOARD - NOV. 2010

HELPING YOURSELF,
HELPING OTHERS
UPDATE

The Board hopes that you are making good progress on your *Helping Yourself, Helping Others* initiative. We hope that you have received support and encouragement from your buddy, whether it was another congregant or a family member. One member of the board lost weight and saw her blood pressure reach a healthy level. It's time to send in your tzedekah collection to Arthur Kingberg. While we would like to make a group dona-

tion to CVAN - Cabarrus Victims Assistance Network - Domestic Violence Program of Cabarrus County NC Safety Shelter and Support for Battered Women and Their Children, feel free to make a notation on the memo line of your check if prefer to donate to another organization (and provide address for Arthur). Many thanks to Kristi Reeves for creating and organizing this worthwhile project.

LET'S PLAN A PARTY

Reb Barbara (soon to be Rabbi Barbara) is rapidly approaching her ordination on January 9, 2011. We

want to plan a grand celebration for February 12, 2011. If you would like to help with the planning, please contact any of the Board members. It will be a special evening. The Board would like to thank the folks who have made contributions to Aleph in Reb Barbara's honor. A group check will be mailed in December, so there is still time to donate if you wish.

BOARD MEETINGS
OPEN TO MEMBERS

A reminder that Temple Or Olam's board meetings are open to members. Some meetings are held

in person at McGill Baptist Church and some are by conference call. Generally they are held on the first Sunday evening of the month unless there is a conflict with a holiday or Temple event. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 12/12 (due to the Hanukkah party on 12/5) at 7pm via conference call. If you would like to "attend" please contact any board member for the conference call-in number.

A couple of guidelines to make this easier and to respect the time of the board members...

1. Please notify the President or Vice President of the board of the subject matter at least one week in advance, so that they can make sure it is added to the agenda. Note: You can attend without having a specific subject matter, but please still notify the President or

Vice President that you will attend.

2. Members who attend may speak on other agenda items as well, with a limit of 3 minutes per agenda item.
3. There may be matters discussed at a board meeting that must be kept confidential in order to protect individual's privacy. In that case, members would be asked to leave during that part of the discussion.

Robbin Smith, President



*Yolt leben un
zein gezunt!
(translation into
Southern: 'Y'all
live and be healthy
now, hear?')*

HANUKKAH - LOOKING FOR
TALENT

Hanukkah is but a month away, and 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 with a description of your performance.



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Y A H R Z E I T S

11-04 Hulda Dorvback, mother of Ruth Kingberg
11-14 Robert Boguslaw, father of Lisa Boguslaw
11-21 Gertrude Resnick, mother of Phyllis Herschenfeld
11-23 Robert Lawrence Holzapfel, father of Madeline
Holzapfel Horowitz
11-25 John Jensen, father of Tom Jensen
11-30 Beno Chait, father of Sergio Chait



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BIRTHDAYS

11-11 Brian Cutler
11-12 Richard Jacobson
11-23 Philip Jacobson
Ruth Kingberg
11-24 Stan Mace
11-29 Samuel Leder

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

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