

Shmoozeletter

Temple Or Olam



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Hanukkah Party Dec. 05 at 5:00 p.m.
- December 10 service at 07:00 p.m.
- Feb 12, 2011 party for our Rabbi
- Suzie Feldberg teaches Sunday School
- Specify fund on memo line on checks sent to our treasurer
- Check with Ginger Jensen to schedule events at McGill Baptist Church.

CAPTURING THE MOON

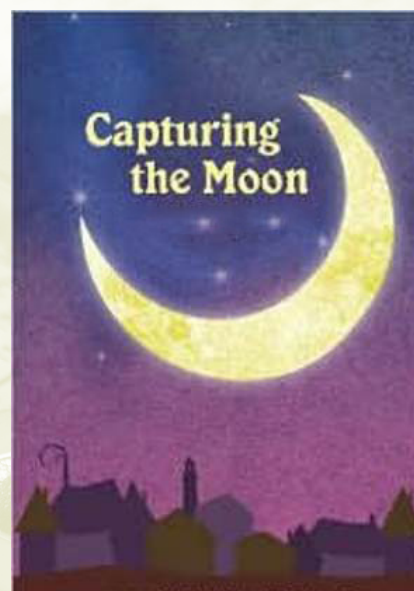
It's the darkest night of the year. And not only that, the longest night of the year. What are the people of Chelm to do? Why, capture the moon!

At this Kabbalat Shabbat service, we will sing and pray in cozy communal space, and we will ask how the Jews of Chelm overcame their sadness and fear when gloomy and long, black nights took away the light.

Join us for a service of sweet song and joyous prayer.

Dr. Barbara Thiede, Rabbi

Kabbalat Shabbat Service
December 26
 7:00 p.m.
 McGill Baptist Church,
 5300 Poplar Tent Road
 Concord



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MILEV HAPARDES

FROM THE HEART OF THE ORCHARD

Most Jews can tell you something about Reconstructionism, Reform Judaism, the Conservative Movement, and Jewish Orthodoxy. Equations are easily made (though they simplify, of course).

Reconstructionist Judaism rejects the personal, anthropomorphized God of much of Jewish tradition.

Reform Judaism is about social action. Conservative

Judaism stresses halakha, Jewish law and practice; Orthodox Judaism lives by it.

In about 40 days, I will be ordained as a rabbi by ALEPH, the Alliance for Jewish Renewal. Why did I choose this non-denominational seminary? Why not choose an ordination that would make it easy for people to make their own equations about my training and education?

Jewish Renewal is not, after all, a denomination. The movement describes itself as 'a worldwide, transdenominational movement grounded in Judaism's prophetic and mystical traditions.'

That's a piece of it, of course. Here's more: ALEPH is deeply committed to feminism, environmentalism and pacifism. ALEPH's teachers – rabbis ordained by all four denominations – un-



Reb Barbara
Senior Rabbinic Student

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ALEPH – THE ALLIANCE FOR JEWISH RENEWAL

Understand that *halakha* is, in fact, integral to Jewish life. Jewish law is a living, evolving, vibrant discipline that teaches us to speak justly, to act with sensitivity and to learn – above all else – what it is to be a *mensch*.

As an ALEPH student, I was given the flexibility I needed to build a program that served me and the people I serve. Because I am

called upon to do so much interfaith work, for example, I took more than one course on interfaith dialoguing.

Last spring, I attended a weekend conference on social justice. Students from all across the denominational spectrum attended. Some had not studied Hebrew and Aramaic the way I had; instead, they had focused

more on mastering the skills to lead important life cycle events. Others had buried themselves in Talmud but had never heard of Jewish spiritual direction. We were a diverse crew. Students had been marked by the priorities of their seminars.

But my fellow ALEPH graduates and I do not share a single perspective on

A TRANSDENOMINATIONAL MOVEMENT

much more than this: Judaism is a gorgeous treasure-trove of rich and valuable learning and practice. What we want most is to renew Jews and Judaism by opening the treasure box,

Ordination party:

February 12.

unpacking the gifts inside, demonstrating how they sparkle and shine.

The Alliance for Jewish Renewal offers programs, retreats, teachers, and literature that do exactly that. I am grateful to the program for gifting me with so much to pass on.

May we all be touched and moved by this project: To renew Judaism and support its growth in us and our families. To gift our community with Jewish learning. To respect and acknowledge our diverse Jewish identities.

May it be so.

Reb Barbara

LETTER FROM THE BOARD - DEC. 2010

HANUKKAH PARTY

Happy Hanukkah! How beautiful the lighted menorah looks in the window. For planning purposes, be sure to respond to the Evite for the Temple Or Olam Hanukkah party on Sunday, December 5. Please bring one of the suggested dishes to share and also a wrapped Hanukkah gift or canned goods to be donated to Jewish Family services.

MEET THE TEACHER

For those of you who do not have students in the Religious School, you may not know that we have a wonderful new teacher. Here is how she introduced herself to our Religious School families:

‘My name is **Suzie Feldberg** and I am very excited to be working with you this year. Growing up in Roanoke, Virginia, I know what it is like to be a Jewish child in a small Jewish community in the South. Of all the Hebrew and Sunday school lessons, what I remember to this day are the Jewish life cycle events that I hold dear to my heart. These will be a big part of our curriculum this year. Hopefully, integrated into learning Hebrew and Torah lessons, these exciting Jewish events will be something your children can look forward to and cherish forever.

‘As for myself, I am currently a 2nd grade teacher at Lincoln Charter School in Lincolnton, NC. This is my 2nd year teaching and I could not enjoy it more! I love to read, hike and cook.’



Suzie Feldberg

Suzie’s helpers and volunteers at school include Angela Hodges, Ginger Jensen, and Richard Jacobson as well as all the parents pitching in to teach and help with special projects. Reb Barbara also teaches approximately two times per month.



NUTS AND BOLTS

When sending checks to our Treasurer, Arthur Kingberg, please specify the purpose on the memo line. We have various sub-accounts that must be tracked such as school, general fund, Torah repair, building fund, emergency fund (for use by members), and special donations such as the UNCC Hillel; Helping Ourselves,

Helping Others (CVAN); and ALEPH. It is the Board’s responsibility to be excellent stewards of these funds, and your help is appreciated.

If you plan to use McGill Baptist Church for a life cycle event or any other event, please check the date with Ginger Jensen from the Ritual Committee who is also our liaison to the church. You might be surprised at the number of activities that take place there. And a donation to the church is always appreciated.

THANK YOU S

Thank you to Jason and Doris Gordon who have donated bottles of wine for our Oneg Shabbats. If you are responsible for Oneg set up during the next few months, please contact Robbin Smith who is storing them and will bring to services on the date that you need wine.

Thank you to Angela Hodges who continues to write wonderful columns for the Charlotte Jewish News. She writes about a wide variety of interesting topics.

Many thanks to Sam Leder who continues to help us with accounting and tax issues and IRS/NC Dept. of Revenue questions.

The Board would like to again thank the folks who have made contributions to Aleph in honor of Reb Barbara’s ordination. A group check will be mailed in December. At this point, if you still wish to participate please consider making a donation to the Torah Repair Fund or the Building Fund.



How beautiful the lighted menorah looks in the window.

Y A H R Z E I T S

12-05 Dr. Irving Joffe, husband of Ellie Joffe
12-20 Chelle Ramsey, sister of Lisa Boguslaw



www.or-olam.org

BIRTHDAYS

12-03 Caleb Malin
12-08 Kyla Mace
Ralf Thiede
12-11 Alex Partridge
12-14 Jinmey Jacobson
12-28 Sergio Chait

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