

Shmoozeeletter

Temple
Or Olam



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Jan. 28 service at 7:00 p.m.
- Feb 12, 2011 party for our Rabbi
- Tallit collection started by Florence and Sheldon Hyman
- ALEPH's use of congregational e-mail addresses
- Call for scrapbook materials and talents for ordination party

THESE ARE THE RULES THAT YOU SHALL SET BEFORE THEM

Almost half way through the Jewish year, we come upon the first body of Torah legislation. Narrative is set aside. Here, we learn how to create a just society. Arson, lending, caring for the stranger and the needy among the people – all this and more is treated in this parsha. The Hebrew Bible treats these and other matters of social justice in detail.

At this service, we'll see how, and why. Please join us and learn how deeply our ancient forebears thought about human needs and human rights.

Dr. Barbara Thiede, Rabbi

Kabbalat Shabbat Service
January 28
7:00 p.m.
McGill Baptist Church,
5300 Poplar Tent Road
Concord



Ava Holtzman

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WHO IS TEMPLE OR OLAM'S RABBI?

By Angela Hodges

Back in 2003, six families got together to form the first Jewish community of Cabarrus County. Who knew that havurah would eventually become Temple Or Olam? Certainly, Barbara Thiede would not have predicted what would happen. Nevertheless, she has continued to grow along with the congregation that she helped found.

So who is our rabbi? Dr. Barbara Thiede holds a doctorate in history. She teaches in UNC Charlotte's Religious Studies Department, where she provides courses on Tanakh, Judaism, the Holocaust, the history of anti-Semitism, and the role of women in Ancient Near-Eastern societies. She has published scholarly work in two languages, written children's plays and an outdoor drama, and she has worked as a peace activist. She is also a volunteer chaplain at Northeast Medical.

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MILEV HAPARDES

FROM THE HEART OF THE ORCHARD

Last August, when we celebrated Zachary Bombardier's bar mitzvah, his great uncle, Sheldon Hyman, came up to read the Torah aliyah, the blessing chanted before the Torah text itself is read. I was a little surprised that he was not wearing a tallit.

A reminder: Prayer shawls are worn in the following ways and times.

✧ During all morning services, including, of course, Shabbat morning. Wearing a prayer shawl is a morning mitzvah, not a nighttime one unless you are leading a service or chanting the Torah blessing.

✧ During the Mincha (afternoon service) on Tish B'Av.

✧ During Kol Nidre: The one nighttime service of the year when everyone is asked to wear their tallitot (and even then, the tallit must be put on before sundown so the blessing can be said while there is still light).

For this reason, I fully expected for our honored guest to have brought his own tallit.

But Sheldon quite understandably expected that our little congregation would have, as most congregations do, a collection of tallitot ready for just this purpose. If you go to a Saturday morning service in an established synagogue, tallitot are usually hanging right by the entrance to the sanctuary.



Rabbi Dr. Barbara Thiede

Thanks to
Carole
Bombardier's
uncle and aunt,
Florence and
Sheldon
Hyman, we have
a minyan of
prayer shawls!

A COLLECTION OF TALLITOT FOR
CONGREGATION OR OLAM

After the service, Sheldon told me how much he enjoyed the service. He and Florence were justifiably proud of Zach (weren't we all!).

"May I ask a question?" he asked.

"Of course!" I answered.

"Why were there no tallitot?"

"We're a very young congregation," I said, "so we haven't had the resources to buy extra prayer shawls. In fact, we only recently began having any morning service where my congregants would have a reason to wear one."

Sheldon and his gracious wife, Florence, returned home. We began to correspond.

In the past six months, Sheldon and Florence have made two donations to help us buy extra prayer shawls for congregants and guests to wear at morning services. We have received six such prayer shawls, added one that was donated some time ago by one of our congregants and two I recently donated. We now have a minyan of prayer shawls!

JANUARY BAT MITZVAH

May we use this gift well. May we see our guests picking up our extra prayer shawls when Leanna Jensen becomes bat mitzvah late in January. May we, if we forget or do not have our own, put a prayer shawl around our own shoulders at Shabbat morning services. And may we be thankful to have such friends.

Many heartfelt thanks to Carole Bombardier's uncle and aunt, Florence and Sheldon Hyman, for their generosity. As my own grandmother used to say to me, "Wear it well."

Rabbi Barbara



LETTER FROM THE BOARD – JAN. 2011

SAVE THE DATE:

FEB. 12, 2011

Plans are under way for our community celebration of our soon-to-be Rabbi Barbara Thiede’s ordination. She and Ralf and Erik will soon be traveling to Boulder, CO for ALEPH’s Ohalah conference as well as the ordination ceremony on 1/09/11. Several members of the congregation will be attending this important event in support and celebration. This will be a milestone in Reb Barbara’s life and that of her family as well as for our congregation. We wish her a heartfelt Mazel Tov!

An Evite will be sent shortly to congregants and other

friends of the Thiede family containing details. It will be a Saturday evening celebration including a brief Havdalah service and a renewal of vows between Reb Barbara and our congregation. Please bring music CDs for dancing and healthy snacks to share.

The Board has suggested creating a scrapbook of the celebration as a gift to Reb Barbara. Please feel free to send notes, poems, pictures, or anything else that you would like to have included.

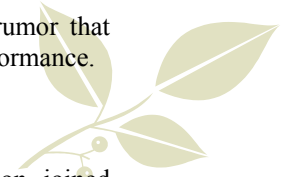
We all know how much Reb Barbara enjoys performances by our congregation, so if you have a talent that you would like to share, please contact Robbin Smith at 704

-948-0911. There is a rumor that there may be a harp performance.

E-MAILS FROM ALEPH

When our congregation joined ALEPH earlier this year, they were asked to not send emails directly to our congregants, as we did not want everyone inundated with emails. However, the Board is aware that this has happened anyway, and ALEPH was contacted about it again.

We’ve been told that everyone’s email address listed on our directory is in their database so that members may freely access the ALEPH website. If you do not wish to receive emails directly



from ALEPH, please unsubscribe. Here is their explanation:

“Please let me explain how your members came to be on our email list. As you may know, all of our member services are now provided electronically through our web site. We need your members’ email addresses in our database, so that they are recognized as members in good standing when they log onto our web site for Kol ALEPH quarterly newsletter, discounts of books and CDs,

applications for retreats and Kallah, distance learning courses, etc.

“Please be assured that we NEVER share their email information with any other entity. However, those addresses do get ‘poured’ into our own Constant Contact emailing list, which we use about once a month – usually to convey program opportunities, very occasionally to request contributions, as in the recent letter.

“Here’s the good news: as with any Constant Contact mailing list, anyone who

doesn’t want to receive our mailings can opt out with the click of a button. It will filter them out from EVER getting another mailing from us (‘couldn’t reinstate them if we wanted to!), but it will NOT remove them from our website database, and they will still be able to access all other benefits.”

THANK YOU

Thank you to Stan Mace and Ralf Thiede for updating our beautiful web site.



On Shabbos, Rosie puts on tefillin.

[Geraldine Doyle, the face of Rosie the Riveter, passed away Dec. 25, 2010.]

Plans are under way for our community celebration of our soon-to-be Rabbi Barbara Thiede’s ordination.

Y A H R Z E I T S

01-03 Jack Schwartz, father of Lisa Jewel
01-25 Henry Dorvback, father of Ruth Kingberg



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BIRTHDAYS

01-01 Carole Bombardier
01-03 Alexander Horowitz
01-06 Benjamin Roberts
01-08 Pamela Partridge
Stephen Billings
01-11 Jill Partridge
01-12 Leanna Jensen
01-15 Jake Reeves
Paige and Sarah Billings
01-16 Heather Chait
01-18 Kendall Rose Jordan

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In 2006, Barbara was accepted into the ALEPH (Alliance for Jewish Renewal) Rabbinic Program, and this January 9 marks her ordination as rabbi. In addition, in 2012 she will receive her ordination as a spiritual director.

But what kind of leader is she? Well, she loves to sing, and she brings her love of music to every service she leads. She encourages the children to participate as much as possible, and she seems, at times, to always be surrounded by them. She makes our services participatory and accessible, particularly for those who have not had

much congregational experience in their lives. She wants the face of Judaism to be a welcoming one, especially for interfaith families. Ginger Jensen, who has been a part of the congregation almost from the beginning, has this to say: "Barbara is a leader who offers an amazing balance of touching people's hearts and minds. She has the scholarship to teach us history and theology, and the empathy to make us all feel part of a big family."

Ultimately, it doesn't seem that we could ask for more.

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