

# Shmoozeleter

Temple  
Or Olam



**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- March 11 and 25 services at 7:00 p.m.
- Purim Party March 20, 3-5 p.m.
- Please volunteer for skits etc.
- Donation to CVAN
- Tikkun Olam projects
- Additional Onegs: Please sign up

**INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:**

March services	1
MiLev HaPardes	2
From the Board	3
Birthdays, Yahrzeits	4
Contact Information	4

**Kabbalat Shabbat Service Mar. 11**

**THE LORD CALLED TO  
MOSES... (VAYIKRA 1:1)**

Leviticus begins with a charming reminder. In our Torah, the aleph of the first word (call) is written half the usual size. Why? Because Moses and God had a difference of opinion over whether Moses should write ‘the Lord called’ or ‘the Lord appeared/happened upon Moses.’ Leviticus begins by noting the value of humility.

At our service, we’ll hear the story of a very special king who understood how important it is not to take yourself so very seriously. In keeping with our theme and the nature of Shabbat, the music will be joyous, the instruments will multiply, and we’ll all have fun.

Kabbalat Shabbat Service  
**March 11**  
7:00 p.m.  
McGill Baptist Church,  
5300 Poplar Tent Road  
Concord

**Kabbalat Shabbat Service Mar. 25**

**AND FIRE CAME FORTH  
FROM THE LORD AND  
CONSUMED THEM...  
(LEV. 10: 2)**

In this parsha, Aaron’s sons Nadab and Abihu die after making an offering to the LORD. When Moses appears to offer an explanation, Aaron is silent.

Did Aaron’s sons offend God or simply attempt reach too high? How do we account for the rabbis’ efforts to explain what seems both cruel and inexplicable? What is this story trying to tell us?

Join us for a Shabbat service in which we explore these and other questions, reflecting our own people’s name of *Israel*, ‘God-wrestlers.’

*Dr. Barbara Thiede, Rabbi*

Kabbalat Shabbat Service  
**March 25**  
7:00 p.m.  
McGill Baptist Church,  
5300 Poplar Tent Road  
Concord

In true Temple Or Olam tradition, we are asking our congregants to provide part of the Purim entertainment. Do you play an instrument? Can you sing a song? How about a magic trick? We will take contributions of three to five minutes a piece. [Let us know](#) by March 17 if you plan to perform.



## MILEV HAPARDES

## FROM THE HEART OF THE ORCHARD



What is Purim, really? Have American Jews lost the point of this festival in a world that seems magically bereft of danger? Or should we just give in to making it all so very simple: It's a variation on a theme: 'They tried to wipe us out, they didn't succeed. Let's eat!'

*They  
tried to  
wipe us  
out.  
They  
didn't  
succeed.  
Let's eat.*

For many of us, Purim has become little more than a children's dress-up party. Too bad, because the Megillah is filled with surprises, turnabouts, ironies and subtleties that are worth exploring. The Book of Esther asks us to deal with the outermost limits of human behavior – passive acquiescence competes with courage, virtue and evil stand side-by-side. They even change place before our eyes.

In the Book of Esther, the reader takes a crazy ride in a literary carnival ride that turns left, then right, upside down, and right-side up.

Example: Vashti just says no to the king. Her behavior not only insults the king, it threatens male power across the entire empire. 'The ladies of Persia and Media, who have heard of the queen's behavior, will cite it to your Maj-



Rabbi Dr. Barbara Thiede

## SKITS, SONGS, JOKES, AND TALES...

esty's officials, and there will be no end of scorn and provocation!' Forthwith, the king must confirm for all the men of the kingdom that they are still in charge. He sends a message to every home in the land: 'Every man should wield authority in his home.'

So the men of Persia are concerned about their masculinity. But the Book of

Esther also tells us that Haman is counseled by his wife, the king by his, and Mordecai by his slip of a niece. Hmm.

Turnabout is not only fair play, it is the book's defining feature. Haman's honor becomes Mordecai's, Mordecai's end becomes Haman's. The Persians are out to wipe out the Jews.

The Jews wipe out their enemies.

The Book of Esther provokes many questions: Who are we? Who are they? Will there ever be way to restore order or is order an illusion to begin with?

This year, our Purim Party will include skits and songs, jokes and tales. Our

... AND EVEN A STUDY SESSION.  
MARCH 20, 3-5 P.M.

children will dress up and Farida, the fortune teller may be persuaded to come back and look into palms and their futures.

But I would also like to invite those in our congregation who want to look more deeply into this book of inside out and upside down to join me for a study session in the hour before our celebration begins. I'll

send links and questions out in advance to those who sign up.

Let me know if you'd like to delve into the source of our Purim revelry and study the Book of Esther. Right afterwards, I promise, we'll all play dress up.

*Rabbi Barbara*



## LETTER FROM THE BOARD – MAR. 2011

A RABBI  
FOR TEMPLE  
OR OLAM

Hopefully you were able to attend the celebration in honor of Rabbi Shulamit's ordination. There was dancing, food (lot's of food), schmoozing, and a renewal of vows between Rabbi Shulamit and our congregation. The rabbi was escorted into the room by Ruth and Arthur Kingberg underneath a chuppah. In addition to our congregants, many clergy friends attended including Reverend Steve Ayers from McGill Baptist Church. His church was presented with a check to CVAN in the church's honor, thanking them for their years of support. Our Religious School students performed songs during the ceremony and the par-

ty under the guidance of Lisa Boguslaw (after practicing at school with their teacher Suzie Feldberg). A congregational gift was presented to Rabbi Shulamit – a beautiful scrapbook containing well wishes, photos of our families, and pictures drawn by our students. It was creatively compiled by Teresa Malin, with help from Judah Malin. Special thanks to the Social Team who made a beautiful setting for the festivities. It was certainly a night that we will all remember.

TIME FOR TIKKUN  
OLAM

Our Tikkun Olam Team has been hard at work researching projects that we can help with as a congregation. Led by Linda VanArsdale and also members Allison Billings, Will King, and

Robbin Smith, they are looking at events that we can join and not have to do all the planning and events where our children can participate. While people under 18 cannot help build with Habitat for Humanity, we can still help in small ways by providing meals or snacks for the workers. Other projects being pursued are helping at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter, walking in or sponsoring congregants for Relay for Life, Clean Sweep, and helping McGill Baptist Church during their spring clean up day. The team plans to order t-shirts so that we can be identified as the Temple Or Olam Team wherever we go to help. Watch for further details. If Tikkun Olam is your passion, please join the current team for planning (it doesn't involve much time) and join the whole team when work dates are announced.

ONEGG SHABBAT  
VOLUNTEERS

(PLEASE READ, DON'T  
SKIP)

An email went out recently asking for additional volunteers for Oneg Shabbat. Three Friday evening services have been added to the schedule. The roles needed are set up, clean up, and a back-up babysitter to our paid teen sitter, a few slots for the Purim party and for Passover. None of the roles are difficult – written instructions are provided and while Passover has usually been a lot of

work for a few people – this year it will be catered (for a fee). It is easy to [sign up on line](#). You can see the entire schedule as well as the remaining openings highlighted in yellow. As you know if we can't get help from enough volunteers then folks will be assigned. Please sign up for a date that works for you

## SAVE THE DATE

Our Purim party is Sunday, 3/20, 3-5 pm at the church. Lots of song, jokes, skits and (of course) hamentashen! This

will be your one and only opportunity to hear the President sing.



## THANK YOU

Many thanks to Rabbi Shulamit and Ralf Thiede for the incredibly beautiful services they lead along with their music. We are grateful for your talents that you share with us.

*Please volunteer for skits, jokes, performances at our Purim Party —  
let us know by March 17.*

## Y A H R Z E I T S

No yahrzeits in this happy month.



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

03-20 Purim Party

## BIRTHDAYS

03-01 Shannon Leder  
Angela Hodges  
03-10 Christopher Parks  
03-11 Seth Holtzman  
03-16 Scott Needham  
03-23 Ashley Owens  
03-29 Zach Bombardier  
Kery Huneycutt

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

Dr. Barbara Thiede: [rabbi.thiede@or-olam.org](mailto:rabbi.thiede@or-olam.org)  
Robbin Smith, president: [info@or-olam.org](mailto:info@or-olam.org)  
Religious school: [religious-school@or-olam.org](mailto:religious-school@or-olam.org)  
Youth group: [youth@or-olam.org](mailto:youth@or-olam.org)  
Schmoozeletter: [editor@or-olam.org](mailto:editor@or-olam.org)  
Webmaster: [webmaster@or-olam.org](mailto: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 of Religious Services: Dr. Barbara Thiede  
Treasurer: Arthur Kingberg  
Membership Director: Jill Partridge

