



Shmoozeeletter

Temple
Or Olam



**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Upcoming Services
- Renewal through Torah Study
- T-Shirts! Contact Linda VanArsdale.
- Tikkun Olam project May 21
- Annual Meeting June 12
- The Mamas without Papas recruiting

MAY 13TH: SHABBAT SERVICE

*It shall be a jubilee for you...
Leviticus 25:10.*

In this week's parsha, B'har, the Israelites are given a vision of a world of equals. According to the laws of this parsha, no human being can be condemned to perpetual servitude, there are provisions for the forgiveness of debts, and every fifty years all land returns to its original owners. Since all the earth and its inhabitants belong to God, no one can lay exclusive and permanent claim to land or people. The rabbis say that this parsha teaches us that all human beings deserve the respect and care that prevents their utter degradation. But to care for each other, we must know that we are connected. At this service, we'll hear a story that tells us why understanding that we are connected is the key to our survival, our freedom, and our chance at a jubilee of our own.

When: Friday, May 13 at 7 p.m.
Where: McGill Baptist Church, Concord NC

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MAY 27TH: SHABBAT SERVICE

*Do this with them, that they may live and not die...
Numbers 4:19.*

B'midbar, the first parsha of the book of Numbers, opens with Moses' injunction to take a census of the Israelites. But it ends with detailed instructions for Aaron and his sons regarding the Kohathites, the group of priests responsible for transporting sacred objects. The text tells us that this job is a dangerous one. Aaron and his sons are to follow specific steps to ensure that the Kohathites will be able to perform their duties safely. What made the Kohathites' task so dangerous? Does this brief passage hold a message for us?

Join us for a joyous Shabbat service and see!

When: Friday, May 27 at 7 p.m.
Where: McGill Baptist Church, Concord NC

MILEV HAPARDES

FROM THE HEART OF THE ORCHARD

Every Sunday, some of our congregants gather in virtual, but sacred space. At 5:00 we telephone in to a free conference call line. We go around our virtual room and check in with each other. We say a blessing together: *Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Ha'Olam asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu la'asok b'divrei Torah*. It's a sweet commandment. The Hebrew text, after all,

asks us to *la'asok* (immerse) *b'divrei* (in words) of Torah.

Our group has been meeting for almost two years. Every year we pass through the vibrant and familiar stories of family dysfunction in Genesis (*Bereishit*), the tales of our liberation in Exodus (*Shemot*), the challenging legal codes of Leviticus (*Vayikra*), the narrative of our time in the desert in Numbers

(*Bemidbar*), and Moses' extended speech to his people in Deuteronomy (*D'varim*).

Every week I ask the participants what spoke to them, troubled them, made them curious or just plain dumbfounded. Every week we find that the words we immerse ourselves touch us in some way.

It's easy to relate in some way to the pain Esau feels



Rabbi Dr. Barbara Thiede

STUDYING TORAH...

when he finds his brother has stolen his blessing. Many times, we discover the things that touch and move us in the first five minutes of our study time together. Sometimes, it takes longer.

Recently, we read how Leviticus decrees a Sabbath rest every seven years for the land of Israel. The same text mandates that every

fiftieth year, all land reverts back to its original owners. Legislation that advocated recreating economic equality for all seemed far off and unattainable for all our group's members.

But then we began thinking about what the Sabbath rest and a Jubilee year could mean for us? What would it mean to think about ways in which we can provide land

the rest it needs or to help establish a world in which the gulf between haves and have-nots contracts rather than expands?

What would be our definition of a "Jubilee year"? One member of our study group mentioned that she felt her Jubilee year occurred the year she retired. Now

she can spend all the time she wants volunteering for causes she supports. Another participant thought her Jubilee year would be one in which she could maintain daily mindful-

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ness about matters spiritual – for her, a mindfully led spiritual life leads to engaging in healing the world.

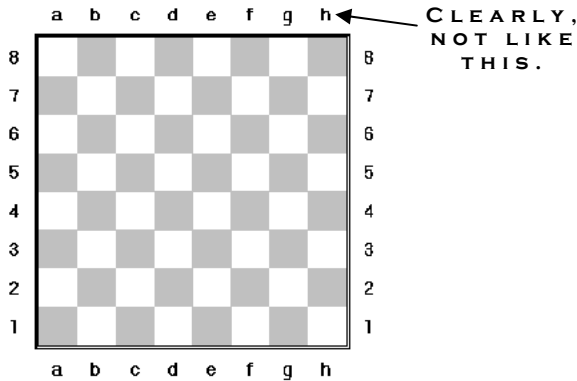
Our Torah study group is open to anyone who wants to call in at 5 pm on Sundays. Please consider joining us and immersing yourself in the rich mother lode of learning our Torah provides us – year in, year out. You'd be surprised what Torah can teach you!

Rabbi Barbara

(ACCORDING
TO OUR
CALENDAR)

Please send an email to info@or-olam if you would like to be added to our Torah study email list. The conference dial-in number: (218) 339-4600; you will be prompted for the participant Access Code: 662964#

LETTER FROM THE BOARD - MAY 2011



TIKKUN OLAM - MAY 21

The Tikkun Olam committee has organized a volunteer effort to bring 20 members to volunteer at the Second Harvest Food Bank on May 21 from 9a.m. to noon. We will support that organization's ongoing work to distribute food to people in need. We need additional volunteers for this effort. Allison Billings, who lives just ten minutes from the Food Bank, has offered to provide babysitting for children aged 11 or younger. We strongly encourage children aged 12 or older to join their parents and the community in this project. Please RSVP to Allison Billings as soon as possible at afbillings@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer. We hope to see you there!

PASSOVER THANK YOU

Many thanks to the people who organized our wonderful Passover seder. Thank you to Rabbi Barbara for leading the seder and to Ralf Thiede for the musical accompaniment. Thank you to Teresa Malin for setting up and bringing her team of high school students from Beta Club to help. Thank you to Ginger Jensen and Leanna for providing seder plates and Will King for providing Sundrop soda. Thank you to Fred and Harriet Commike and Angela Hodges for helping with set up. There are too many names to thank for helping with clean up but please know that it was very much appreciated.

And a final thank you to Armin Desch and his staff from Armin's Catering in Huntersville, NC. The food was delicious, the service was excellent and there was a lot of positive feedback about having it catered this year. He accommodated several special requests. Armin caters all types of events including Bar/Bat Mitzvahs.

SAVE THE DATE

Our Annual meeting will be on Sunday, June 12 at McGill Baptist Church from 3-5pm. Please join us in voting for the new leadership team and the upcoming fiscal year budget that begins on July 1, 2011. Find out about our proudest accomplishments and our goals and plans for the future.

TEMPLE OR OLAM T-SHIRTS

Temple Or Olam t-shirts are available in all sizes (including youth, small, medium, large and adult, small, medium, large, x-large - whatever needed). The cost is \$10 each (this is not a fundraiser). Please contact Linda VanArsdale to place an order and send her your check. We hope to have the first batch by the date of our Tikkun Olam project on May 21.

NO TALENT REQUIRED

The Mamas Without the Papas are now an ongoing group. This is an open casting all - if other women are interested, please let us know if you want to join in the fun. Best of all, no talent required. There are occasional rehearsals.

ONEG SET UP

We have extra wine from our Passover seder so for folks who have Oneg set-up responsibilities for the next couple of months, wine will be provided. Reminders are emailed 8 days before the scheduled service.

THANK YOU FROM HABITAT COLLEGE STUDENTS

We received a very gracious thank you note and picture from students at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, MN. This was one of the group of students who volunteered during Cabarrus County's Habitat for Humanity's Collegiate week. Temple Or Olam with the help of Will King and his contacts provided snacks for three groups of college students.

Y A H R Z E I T

05-11 Suzie Shapiro, sister of Barbara Thiede
05-21 Mary Dare Roettger, mother of Ginger Jensen
05-27 Ralph D. Dorzback, brother of Ruth Kingberg



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BIRTHDAYS

05-1 Barbara Thiede
05-6 Kristi Reeves
05-12 Judah Malin
05-18 Tom Jensen
05-19 Sylvia Gardiner Holzapfel
05-19 JingJing Jacobson
05-20 Noah Huneycutt
05-29 David Michael Jordan

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Membership Director: Jill Partridge

