



Shmoozeeletter

Temple
Or Olam



**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Upcoming Services
June 10 and 25
- Rabbi on Religious
School curriculum
- Tikkun Olam report
- T-Shirts! Get them
while they're hot.
- Annual Meeting
June 12, 3-5 p.m.
- Notes from the
Religious School
and Education Plan-
ning Committee

LEARN TO BE A QUESTIONER. ASK US WHY.

Why didn't our own Sunday School teachers talk to us about the how's and why's of our Shabbat services? Why do we stand for the Amidah but sit during the Shema? How should we handle our Torah, wrap it, and hold it?

Our next service is about the Way Things Work at a Jewish service. We'll take the essential components and explore what we do and why – through stories, legends, and even Jewish jokes.

Then we can turn to greet the Sabbath bride knowing why we turned in the first place. Then we can rise for the Barchu together with the wonderfully communal intention that that act deserves.

Join us for our next Shabbat service and learn together with us!

Event: Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Date: June 10 at 7 pm

Location: McGill Baptist Church, 5300 Poplar Tent Road, Concord.

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**TEMPLE OR OLAM PRESENTS:
*RUMBLE IN THE DESERT***

Korach on one side; Moses on the other. The two face off over leadership, holiness, and God's real intentions.

Who will win the battle? The upstart Korach or the much-beleaguered Moses? Is the battle really about who has the right to lead in the first place?

Join us as we see Torah presented as we've never seen it before at our June 24th in Kabbalat Shabbat service... in 3D!

Event: Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Date: June 24 at 7 pm

Location: McGill Baptist Church, 5300 Poplar Tent Road, Concord.

MILEV HAPARDES

FROM THE HEART OF THE ORCHARD

There is nothing so inspiring as seeing a congregation care for its children.

For years, I have dreamed about what our school could be. This year, our Temple boasts an Education Committee that is sharing those dreams, expanding them, and making them their own -- for our children.

A wonderfully warm and caring group of parents and educators have started meeting this summer to plan an innovative, six-year curriculum for Temple Or Olam's Religious School. They are working, in part, with ideas that have long since been in the works, some of which were generated and worked out by our previous school director, Jody Mace.

What did we want our children to have learned when they graduate to b'nai mitzvah training?

- The purpose and rhythm of the festivals of our liturgical year.
- Components, structures, and prayers of Shabbat services.
- Exploration and understanding of critical *mitzvot*.
- Hebrew vocabulary, grammar and fluid reading skills.
- The narrative and contents of Torah.



Rabbi Dr. Barbara Thiede

You should see our calendar (and you will; it will be posted on the website when we're finished planning). The children will be studying each major festival on seven school days with hands-on activities that are appropriately divided according to age groups. Three days include major learning sessions on Shabbat services and liturgy; 19 days include songs and prayer sessions. The children have specific days devoted to mitzvot and one day for each of the eleven Torah portions of Exodus. Twenty days include Hebrew learning. Suffice it to say that there's a lot going on next year!

More importantly, the texts our team has been using to create our lesson plans are filled with ideas that help us make our lessons hands-on and fun. Here's an example:

Did you know that the rabbis compare the Tabernacle to the Garden of Eden? Now imagine the high priest and the cherubim before you, the tablets and the table with the bread, the menorah and a candlestick, the curtain before the Holy of Holies and the washstand and bowl. All these will be set before our children. The High Priest will be there in person (the cherubim will also make an appearance). The children will have a list of things found in the Garden of Eden. They will engage in a little sleuthing to match up what they could find in Eden that corresponds to what's found in the Tabernacle. In the process, they will learn about the idea of symbolism and Jewish concepts around holiness.

Don't you wish *your* Hebrew School had included that sort of activity?

So please, when you see our Education Committee members, thank them. We are working long hours to create this six-year program for our school, a program like no other. And please, thank Jody Mace, too, for the important work she put in years ago to help us move towards the fulfillment of all our dreams.

- Jessica Waldman, Religious School Director
- Terri Malin
- Keri Honeycutt
- Angela Hodges
- Robbin Smith
- Ginger Jensen

THE WORLD ITSELF RESTS UPON THE BREATH OF THE CHILDREN IN OUR SCHOOLS.

**TALMUD,
MISHNA SANHEDRIN 4:5**

THE BOARD SPEAKS! – JUNE 2011

TIKKUN OLAM

Twenty-two Temple Or Olam members volunteered at the Second Harvest Food Bank on Saturday, May 21. We organized, we joked, and we did good work. We agreed: We want to do this again! Some junior members of the congregation joined us – Ava Holtzman and Leta VanArsdale. The Tikkun Olam committee will organize more opportunities this next year; some designed for all school-aged children. Please check the TOO calendar (<http://www.or-olam.org/calendar.html>) regularly. Thank you to Allison Billings for bringing this opportunity to our attention!



TOO CALENDAR – A NEW LOOK

We've begun adding all of our events to the calendar – please be sure to check it out for service dates, Torah study dates, religious school dates, meeting dates and much more!

TEMPLE OR OLAM T-SHIRTS

Temple Or Olam t-shirts (Carolina Blue with dark blue lettering) have been ordered. Please contact Linda VanArsdale if you want one – they are \$10 each, and sold at cost. Thanks to Linda VanArsdale and Will King for making these T-Shirts possible.



ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, June 12, 3-5 pm at the church. All members are welcome. Come vote for the new slate of officers, review the budget, hear about our accomplishments and plans for the future, nosh on light snacks and shmooze.

The slate of officers presented by the nominating committee is:

Judah Malin, President
 Ginger Jensen, Director of Religious Services
 Angela Hodges, Director of Communications
 Robbin Smith, Treasurer and Director of Membership

We owe our heartfelt thanks to the board members who are stepping down from their current positions, some of whom have generously decided to stay on in other positions to serve our community. We would not be the community that we are without the dedication and time volunteered by these congregants. Please, take the time to thank them personally when you see them!

Robbin Smith, President
 Judah Malin, Vice President
 Jill Partridge, Director of Membership
 Arthur Kingberg, Treasurer

Finally, our thanks to Angela Hodges for the delightful articles in the *Charlotte Jewish News*. Check them out! She writes on all manner of all things Temple Or Olam, and the results are always enlightening and interesting.

FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Rabbi Barbara has described our exciting new Sunday school curriculum, which integrates the study of Torah and Hebrew with relevant music, tefilah and mitzvot. Below is an overview:

For the youngest children (ages 5 and 6), the focus will be on learning the stories of the Torah. They will meet the patriarchs and matriarchs, Moses and Miriam, the priests and warriors. Our goal is to establish a basic foundation of Torah literacy upon which they can build in later years.

In the 7-to-9 age group, we will use hands-on projects to help the students interact with these stories on a sensory level. Since we will be focusing on Exodus during the 2011-12 school year, study will be supplemented with activities such as baking matzoh and creating “stained glass” burning bushes.

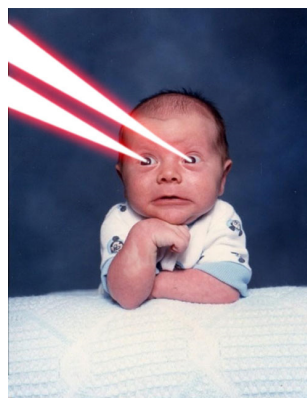
The older children (ages 10 – 12) will engage with the narrative on a level beyond storytelling. For example, during the first Torah lesson of the year, they will learn about midrashim. In order to assimilate this new tool, they will imagine an event in Moses’ early life and write their own midrash about it.

A few weeks later, when we are studying one of the Israelites’ recurrent bouts of discontent with life in the wilderness, students will hold a debate

centered on the question: Should we just go back? The students will play the roles of the people, Moses, and a beit din asked to rule on the dispute. By using similar techniques over the course of the three-year-cycle, our children will learn the fundamental precept of Jewish education: We are meant to engage with the Torah.

The Israelites accepted the gift of Torah by saying, “We will do and we will understand.” Our intention is to create a vibrant Sunday school where the students’ ability to understand will be strengthened because they have not just heard—they have done.

-Ginger Jensen, Education Committee



**WANT THIS TO BE
YOUR CHILD?**

NO?

**THEN THINK ABOUT
SIGNING 'EM UP
FOR RELIGIOUS
SCHOOL!**

The Education Planning Committee met on Sunday and had an awesome time – our three teams worked tirelessly through books and topics, and wrote lesson plans that feature all manner of hands-on activities and thoughtful exercises for all of our age groups. Then, we partied down to celebrate a hard day of work and even a birthday! We will be having our second meeting on June 26, 2011 and look forward to refining the lessons written on Sunday, and creating the last of the lessons. Please feel free to join us on June 26, we would love any questions, comments or ideas that parents might have!

- Jessica Waldman, Religious School Director

Y A H R Z E I T

06-10 Morton G. Atlas, father of Marilyn Atlas



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BIRTHDAYS

06-5 Jacqueline Louise Gordon
06-6 Jessica Waldman
06-8 Harriet Commike
06-8 Rebecca Smith
06-9 Rusty Reeves
06-13 Doris Gordon
06-14 Jillian Smith
06-17 Kim Jordan
06-27 Pasquale Quintero Jr.

KVELL CORNER

On May 29, Philip Jacobson's Middle School competed at the Science Olympiad state competition and placed second, qualifying for the national competition in Madison, Wisconsin. One of Philip's event, Dynamic Planet, hope to hear how Nationals went, soon.



placed first in the entire state. We



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Membership Director: Jill Partridge