

# Shmoozeletter

## Temple Or Olam



**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- Friday Night Service July 8th
- Tikkun Olam in Review
- Annual Meeting
- Membership Packages
- Education Committee
- New Website
- Kvelling Corner

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Temple Or Olam Introduces...

**A Red, White, and Blue *Feelin' Groovy* Kabbalat Shabbat**

Our July 8 service will include melodies from Woody Guthrie, Simon and Garfunkel, Cat Stevens, the Beatles, and more. We won't change the words much, if at all, because we've chosen songs to reflect on the themes expressed in our traditional liturgy -- feeling grateful for the gift of Shabbat, celebrating our community, and resolving to help heal our world.

Besides, we'd like you to sing along!

Per request from one of our beloved youngsters, please wear Or Olam T-shirts. Feel free to match up their radiant blue tones with red and white. Or just wear American colors. As you wish, of course.

Please join us for a Kabbalat Shabbat feelin' altogether groovy.....

**Date:** July 8

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Location:** McGill Baptist Church, 5300 Poplar Tent Rd, Concord

**PLEASE DRESS  
APPROPRIATELY**



## MILEV HAPARDES

## FROM THE HEART OF THE ORCHARD



Rabbi Dr. Barbara Thiede

*And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and stranger; I am the Lord your God (Leviticus 19:9-10).*

*Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy (Proverbs 31:8-9).*

*Defend the poor and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and needy (Psalm 82:3)*

*You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat (Isaiah 25:4).*

Can you imagine spending hours marking packages of toilet paper and paper towels, sorting out diapers, and taping cartons back together – and, what’s more, enjoying every minute?

That’s what happened last May, when a team of twenty-two Temple Or Olam Tikkun-Olamers headed to the Metrolina Food Bank in Charlotte. About half a dozen members of the UNCC Interfaith Alliance, a student group I advise on campus, joined us.

Before we got started, we encircled Ginger and Leanna Jensen. We took a few moments to mark the yahrzeit of Ginger’s mother, Mary Dare Roettger. Our Mourner’s Kaddish was sweet and heartfelt, connecting us with the students among us, and reminding us how easy it is to care for one another.

Then we received instruction on our tasks, divided into two groups, and set to work.

One group stayed serious. The other immediately made its nature known by joking, teasing, and generally giggling its way through the mountain of paper goods. Both groups worked very hard indeed.

Toilet paper packages flew through the air, tape machines whirred, and everyone got their hands covered in the black ink of Sharpie markers. You could not imagine how much fun we had.

Why?

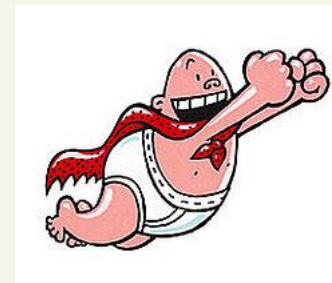
We were working together at a task that mattered to us all – caring for the homeless and hungry. The fellowship, the instant sense of community that moved us was immediately apparent.

We had fun because some of our children were there; adults felt that they were teaching our children well. We know that there are many more human beings out there that need our help than we can possibly imagine. We know that the world is filled with need and brokenness. But we also know that we are not so helpless, that we can act.

We plan to go back to the Food Bank. We thank Ally Billings for arranging our day there.

We *want* to sort and organize donations, repair broken cartons, and know that we are helping to make it possible for even the poorest parents to have diapers and baby food for their infant.

Our Torah reminds us, again and again, to care for those in need. May we take every opportunity to do just that.



**IT WAS  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THIS.**

**LETTER FROM THE BOARD - JULY 2011****Board Notes****Annual Meeting**

Temple Or Olam's annual meeting took place on June 12th. All who attended had a wonderful time noshing and laughing, and we all experienced what it is to be part of a group that truly cares about one another.

Despite our enjoyment, however, we did manage to get our work done. Our new board was voted in, the new budget was approved, and we heard from the director of the school. Jessica Waldman discussed the school's educational goals and briefly touched on the six-year curriculum plan. We also saw a working schedule for the upcoming school year.

Ginger Jensen, our new Director of Religious Services, discussed plans to move Kabbalat Shabbat services from second and fourth Fridays to first and third Fridays. Next year's service calendar is currently being worked out in cooperation with McGill Baptist.

**Membership Packages**

Members will shortly be receiving renewal packages in the mail. These packages will be accompanied by a letter from Rabbi Barbara as well as a note from Judah Malin, our new president (who gave a truly rousing acceptance speech during the annual meeting). The package also includes an updated version of the membership covenant.

**Education Planning Committee**

As several of the board members (and our rabbi) are also involved in the planning committee for the school, we can report without hesitation that our curriculum planning sessions are progressing more quickly than anticipated. The group plans to meet once more this summer (probably toward the end of August) and perhaps once or twice more after school starts. Just a reminder: If you would like to attend these planning committee meetings, you are welcome to do so and may contact Jessica Waldman for more information.

**T-Shirts**

Our beautiful Carolina blue Temple Or Olam t-shirts have arrived and are available for pick-up. The shirts are \$10 each (this is our cost--the shirts are not a fundraiser) and we do have some extras. For more information, contact Linda VanArsdale.

**Website**

If you checked your email this past week, you probably noticed a note from Director of Public Relations Angela Hodges. Temple Or Olam's website has gotten a facelift, and everyone is encouraged to visit and have a look around. The website will be updated frequently and features pictures of our members (and their brilliant children) looking just as beautiful as they are.

## K V E L L C O R N E R

What could be better than spending the summer discovering? That's exactly what Rebecca Smith is doing at Discovery Place Kids. Rebecca was accepted into a highly competitive program that gives teens a chance to learn about museum-related fields, science and education and build critical job skills. Rebecca will be working closely with museum professionals during her 80 hours of volunteer work before school begins again in August.

And if that's not enough to kvell about, read on! Rebecca was also accepted into a week-long program at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police High School Academy for one week in August. There, Rebecca will participate in physical training, classroom instructions and demonstrations by the SWAT team, the canine unit and more. After a week she should be able to tell us all about police work. Expect some interesting conversations about investigative work, forensics, connecting with the community and making split-second and critical decisions that can change and save lives.

Mazeltov to Rebecca for so many wonderful achievements! Temple Or Olam is proud, and has reason to be.



UNFORTUNATELY, THESE DO  
NOT COME WITH THE TEMPLE  
OR OLAM LOGO.

...YET.

## JEWISH JOKE OF THE MONTH:

A Jewish couple in their late eighties is seeing a divorce lawyer... who is a bit nonplused: 'Now, at your age, you are going to file for a divorce? You couldn't have figured that out years ago?' 'Nu, we had been thinking about a separation many years ago.' 'So?' 'We wanted to wait until the children are dead.'

## Y A H R Z E I T

07-17 Rose Joffe, mother of the late Dr. Irving Joffe  
07-20 Nathan Meyer Shapiro, father of Barbara Thiede  
07-23 Evelyn Thiede, mother of Ralf Thiede  
07-28 Norman Roettger, father of Ginger Jensen



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

## BIRTHDAYS

07-1 Ginger Jensen  
07-3 Gabriel Quintero  
07-4 Laiko Quintero  
07-16 Matthew Leder  
07-19 Ava Rebekah Holtzmann  
07-19 Stewart Roberts  
07-28 Jonathan Owens  
07-30 Arthur Kingberg  
07-31 Sanford Tanenbaum

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

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Treasurer and Membership Director: Robin Smith  
Director of Public Relations: Angela Hodges

