

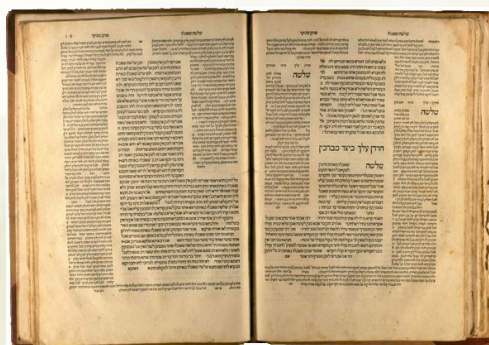
# Shmoozeeletter

Temple  
Or Olam



**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- Sep. 16 Service
- Jewish National weekend exploring the DREAM Act, Sep. 16-17
- High Holy Days—The Power of Words
- Sep. 17 Yard Sale
- Torah Study Group
- Greetings from the new vice president



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Service Announcement	1
MiLev HaPardes	2
Yard Sale	3
High Holy Days	3
Dir. of Religious Services	3
Yahrzeits, Birthdays	4
Vice President	4
Contact Information	4

**SEPTEMBER 16: TALMUDIC DISCOURSE  
IN (HONORABLE) ACTION**

*Eilu v'Eilu* — ‘These and These are the Words of the Living God’

It’s a Talmudic adage, one which reflects our rabbis’ hope that we remember, always, that there are at least two sides to every story. Often, more!

Nationwide, on the weekend of September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, Jewish communities are exploring the purpose of the Dream Act (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors). The act aims to secure conditional permanent residency to illegal alien-students of good moral character who graduate from US high schools, arrived in the US as minors, and lived in the country continuously for at least five years prior to the bill's enactment.

We will see what the rabbis might have said – on and for either side in this debate. And we’ll learn how important it is that each of us decide for ourselves, and honorably act on our conclusions: *Eilu V'Eilu*: “These and these” are worthy of our respect.

And, as usual, we’ll sing, pray, and enjoy our community’s good fortune as we celebrate the last service of this year and joyously anticipate the next. Join us for Kabbalat Shabbat on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

**When:** Friday, Sept. 16 at 7 p.m.

**Where:** McGill Baptist Church, Concord NC

## MILEV HAPARDES

## FROM THE HEART OF THE ORCHARD

Our congregation is blessed with a boy whose wide-open nature is a constant reminder of what really matters in this world. The child is autistic.

He tells us exactly what is on his mind. He is without guile. He does not know subtexts.

Recently, he led a prayer with me at a Kabbalat Shabbat service. When the last notes had been sung, he announced to the congregation: 'This was the best prayer ever.'

Everyone in the room smiled and nodded: It *was* the best prayer ever. The boy had told us so. He had spoken truly.

*Abracadabra!*

Abracadabra is an Aramaic phrase. Each word in the phrase mirrors cognate words in Hebrew. The first part of the word, *abra* means 'I create.' The second



Rabbi Dr. Barbara Thiede

## THE DAYS OF AWE – SPIRITUAL MAGIC

part of the phrase, *c'adabra*, means 'like I speak.' When you say *abracadabra*, you are saying, in effect, 'What I speak, I bring into being.'

What are the Days of Awe if not the opportunity to understand – deeply – that by speaking, we create?

In *Pri Ha'aretz*, Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Vitebsk wrote with exquisite tenderness about the power of speech. His commentary on Parsha Vayera states: 'And he who speaks, behold this person is creating new heavens and new earth like that which was at the beginning of creation: "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made" (Ps. 33:6).' Humankind is likened to the Source of All Being, though Menachem Mendel reminds us: All true speech comes from the Holy One of Blessing. True speech is holy speech. Holy speech is the manifestation of divine *shefa*, divine spirit flowing into the real world. We ourselves are channels for the Holy One.

According to *Targum Bereishit*, the birth of humanity that we celebrate each year on Rosh Hashanah was immediately accompanied with God's loving gift of our capacity for speech: 'There was in the body of Adam the inspiration of a speaking spirit, unto the illumination of the eyes and the hearing of the ears.' The Holy One fashioned humanity through divine speech in Genesis 1. God's own creation inherited the capacity to create, like God, through speech.

What would godly words sound like from human beings? Surely we know. They would be words of truth and possibility, of kindness and understanding, of forgiveness and atonement. They would be the very words of love.

This year, during Temple Or Olam's High Holy Days, we will consider the power of our words. A new year opens wide before us. Let us name the things we must make. By articulating those things, by naming them through prayer and reflection, we can make them real.

Abracadabra.

True  
speech is  
holy  
speech.  
Let us  
name the  
things we  
must  
make.

Rabbi Barbara

**YARD SALE – SEP. 17**

On September 17, Temple Or Olam will participate in a neighborhood yard sale. All proceeds from our share in that yard sale will go to our Religious School. Please save any items you think are sellable and bring them to services on Sep. 16, preferably half an hour before service begins. We will load them to transport to the Leder’s afterwards. Attach price tags; for help with appropriate pricing, you may want to consult



<http://www.garagesalestracker.com/garage-sales-guide-pricing.asp>

**H I G H H O L Y D A Y S**

September 28	Erev Rosh Hashanah, 7:00 p.m.
September 29	Rosh Hashanah Shacharit services, 9:30 a.m.
October 07	Kol Nidre, 7:00 p.m.
October 08	Yom Kippur Shacharit, 9:30 a.m.
October 08	Neila, 6:00 p.m., break-fast at 7:00 p.m.

**T H E M O N T H O F E L U L  
A N O P P O R T U N I T Y T O T R Y S O M E T H I N G N E W F O R  
H I G H H O L Y D A Y S**

Most American Jews walk into Rosh Hashanah services needing to suddenly shift their focus from the priorities of contemporary life to the goals of the High Holy Days prayers. This was not always so.

Elul, the month that precedes the High Holy Days, began on Monday evening, August 29th. During Elul, Jews traditionally studied more, prayed more, increased their contributions to tzedakah and heard the shofar blown every day (except, of course, on Shabbat). This intensification of their usual practices enabled them to arrive at Rosh Hashanah primed to turn themselves toward atonement.

Most of us do not own a shofar, and daily temple attendance is not part of our lives. Does this mean Elul no longer offers us a path to the High Holy Days?

Not at all.

In fact, the opportunities Elul creates for spiritual preparation are numerous, even today.

What if each of us chose to enrich our lives this month by adding one element of Elul’s practices?

If you are interested in learning, you could join our Torah study group, which meets “virtually” for one hour every Sunday. Participants call in to a toll-free conference call number to discuss the parshah for the coming Shabbat. No driving, no babysitting required—just interesting conversation, explanation, and the occasional wild speculation about the meaning of Torah.



If you would prefer to deepen your commitment to prayer, you might read at least one Psalm every day during Elul.

By now, some of you are thinking, ‘Study and prayer may be lovely things, but I’m a practical, hands-on person.’ Do we have a mitzvah for you! For September 17th, Sam and Shannon Leder have graciously offered to sponsor Temple Or Olam’s participation in their neighborhood yard sale. The proceeds from our items sold will be donated to our religious school.

Sometimes, the best way to prepare for the High Holy Days isn’t by adding things, but by divesting yourself of them. Empty your closets, and fill your soul!

I hope that however you spend Elul, it brings you in readiness to the High Holy Days.

K’tivah vachatimah tovah—May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year!

*Ginger Jensen*  
Director of Religious Services

## Y A H R Z E I T S

09-05 Eileen Zelig, sister of Tom Jensen  
Irving Sternbach, father of Robbin Smith and  
husband of Janet Sternbach  
09-12 Albert Joffe, father of the late Dr. Irving Joffe



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

## BIRTHDAYS

09-04 Julie Roberts  
Julia Chait  
09-07 Gabriel Malin  
09-15 Janet Sternbach

## F R O M T H E V I C E P R E S I D E N T

I'm the new Vice President of Temple Or Olam. In 2008 my family and I moved down to Charlotte and hoped to find a Jewish community to grow with, and we did at Temple Or Olam.

I've been a member here since 2008 and look forward to supporting Jewish celebration and observation with all of you. As the VP I hope to increase our membership and participation in Jewish life and to support a healthy Jewish community in Cabarrus County.

My family has been very involved in the holiday celebrations, Shabbat services, and forming relationships with new members. I hope that you will make Or Olam your Hebrew family over the next year and commit to supporting the long term goals of the board.

We need our member families to continue to move the Temple in the right direction. Please remember to sign up for Oneg, Holiday Celebrations, and Babysitting. Or Olam is only as strong as we make it, and this year I think we can do great things!

*Pasquale Quintero*

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

Dr. Barbara Thiede: [rabi.thiede@or-olam.org](mailto:rabi.thiede@or-olam.org)  
Judah Malin, president: [info@or-olam.org](mailto:info@or-olam.org)  
Religious school: [religious-school@or-olam.org](mailto:religious-school@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 362  
Huntersville, NC 28070-0362  
Phone: 704-720-7577

## T H E B O A R D

President: Judah Malin  
Vice President: Pasquale Quintero  
Director of Religious Services: Ginger Jensen  
Treasurer and Membership Director: Robin Smith  
Director of Public Relations: Angela Hodges

