

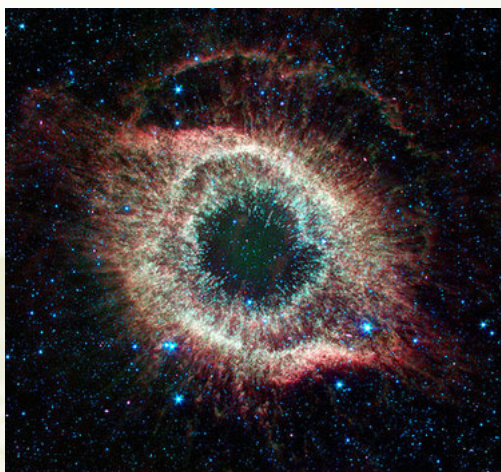
Shmoozeleter

Temple
Or Olam



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Nov. 4 and Nov. 18 Services
- New Employment Section announced
- Donations
- MiLev HaPardes: Simchat Torah
- New members



Helix Nebula [NASA/JPL-Caltech/ J. Hora (Harvard-Smithsonian CfA)]

**NOVEMBER 4:
PARSHA LECH
LECHA**

Our dreams reveal our hopes and longing. In this week's parsha, God appears to Abraham in a dream. How are we to understand the magic and the promise of that dream? Please bring your Books of Life with you (and a pen or crayons...) and we'll explore the story with the help of our children. We'll see if we can't find the answers ourselves!

Join us for an especially joyous Shabbat service as we continue to welcome in our many new members and experience the joy of being in community.

When: Friday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m.
Where: McGill Baptist Church, Concord NC

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Death and love, loss and discovery are tied together.

NOVEMBER 18: PARSHA CHAYEI SARAH

Our parsha opens with the death of Sarah and ends with the death of Abraham. Between the losses of patriarch and matriarch, the story gives us the first mention of love between partners, between Isaac and Rebecca. Death and love, loss and discovery are tied together. They are connected.

At this service, we continue to travel through the stories that describe our beginnings, our first loves, and our first losses. Our Shabbat service begins with a special love song, Yedid Nefesh, in honor of our longing for God's presence and care.

When: Friday, Nov. 18 at 7 p.m.
Where: McGill Baptist Church, Concord NC



MILEV HAPARDES

FROM THE HEART OF THE ORCHARD



*Ben Bag Bag used to say, 'Turn it, and turn it,
for everything is in it.
Reflect on it and grow old and gray with it.
Don't turn from it, for nothing is better than it.'*"
Pirkei Avot / Sayings of Our Fathers 5:22



Rabbi Dr. Barbara Thiede

Simchat Torah, which means “rejoicing in the Torah,” is an annual love fest demonstrating our abiding affection for the challenging, beautiful, sweet scroll of our stories.

This last Simchat Torah we continued our special tradition. As we roll the Torah back to the beginning, I ask members of our congregation to stand by the column of

STAND BY YOUR BLESSING

their choice in the book of Genesis. Then I look. I scan the column for the blessing they have chosen, though neither they nor I know yet where it is or what it says about their lives, their souls, their pasts and their futures.

A young teenage girl stood by a column that began with Sarah’s invitation for everyone to laugh with her, to share her joy at the miracle of Isaac’s birth. This young girl, I know, was born only after many long years of painful waiting and hoping on her parents’ part. “You are a particular blessing,” I told her. “Ask your parents to tell you the whole story sometime if they haven’t yet.” Her mom is standing nearby. She laughs. Like Sarah?

I moved to a congregant who has recently been celebrating her freedom – after decades of demands on her energy, her time, her very definition of herself. She pointed to the scroll, to the passage that describes how Joseph’s family sold him into slavery. “That’s my story,” she says.

Torah is so rich I could probably find something in every column for every congregant. Still, there is magic every year when I am blessed with the task of finding Torah within the souls of my congregants.

Torah is terrible, rich and frightening. It is tender and it is violent. It is often perplexing. It is real. It is human.

Maybe this ritual of ours is really about how much I love my congregation. Since I know the people of Temple Or Olam, I can read their stories in the ones before me on the scroll. After I went home from Simchat Torah this past year, I looked up each verse I read and emailed each congregant the specific chapter and verse number of the blessing they had received. I reflected again on the congregants that had been there to choose their own text for this next year.

And I wished that I had had everyone there, each and every member in front of our Torah, choosing their own blessings. Maybe, I thought, maybe next year?

The unfurling parchment is ancient and magical. I turn it, and turn it, and turn it again, looking for those I love, those before me, those about me.

We are black letters on white parchment, the strokes and lines of a human endeavor, of human striving. Everything is in that.

We are
black
letters
on white
parch-
ment.



Rabbi Barbara

EMPLOYMENT SECTION

Having just recovered from my third layoff, I feel like I am becoming an expert on the subject—not a happy expert, but a reluctant one, nonetheless. I would like to write an employment section occasionally in the Shmoozeletter.

After being laid off from IBM about five years ago, I had the opportunity to take outplacement classes where I received a great deal of helpful advice including resume writing, sample interview questions (questions you might be asked and questions you should ask), the importance of networking, and creating your 30 second commercial (also known as the ‘elevator speech’).

I am not trained in this field, but would be happy to provide free advice to anyone who is interested. I realize that these subjects may sound like the same old advice, and I agree; however, it has worked for me. It is disheartening when you are unemployed or underemployed. Sometimes it helps just to talk to someone who has been through it. I would also like to use this space to occasionally highlight the skills of a congregant whose services you may be interested in or alert you to members of our community who are looking for work. This will be done only with your permission.

I believe this is another way for us to support each other as part of our community and looking out for each other.

I would like to introduce the services of our own Angela Hodges, who is a graduate student at UNCC and Temple Or Olam’s webmaster and Director of Communications. She is also an experienced photographer who offers her services for special events in your life and also every day moments including family pictures. My family has a date with Angela next weekend.

Please contact me if you would like help updating a resume or if you just want to talk or if you have questions or an idea for a job-related subject to be covered in this space.

Robbin Smith



DONATIONS

Our community would like to thank the following members for donations from June through September:

- Eleanor Joffe - in memory of her mother in law, Rose Joffe
- Eleanor Joffe - in memory of her mother, Eva Miller
- Janet Sternbach - in memory of her husband, Irving Sternbach
- Steve and Robbin Smith - in memory of Robbin’s father, Irving Sternbach
- Tom and Ginger Jensen - in honor of Leanna’s bat mitzvah
- Leanna Jensen - to thank the congregation
- Tom and Ginger Jensen - for High Holy Days
- Eleanor Joffe - in memory of her father in law, Albert Joffe

Y A H R Z E I T S

11-05 Morris Miller, father of Ellie Joffe
11-17 Annadine K. Jaffee, mother of Malilyn Atlas
11-18 Wilhelm Thiede, father of Ralf Thiede
11-24 Hulda Dorzback, mother of Ruth Kingberg



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BIRTHDAYS

11-11 Brian Cutler
11-12 Richard Jacobson
11-23 Philip Jacobson
Ruth Kingberg
11-29 Samuel Leder



Temple Or Olam welcomes our newest members:

- ✧ Harriet Bogage
- ✧ Karen and Joe Carter
- ✧ Barbara Goldstein
- ✧ Sarah Mann
- ✧ The Spivock Family (William, Yvette, Bryston, and Emory)
- ✧ Ashley Tourangeau

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