



# Shmoozeeletter

Temple  
Or Olam



**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- Dec. 4 Service
- Dec. 16 Hanukkah Party
- New Columns
- MiLev HaPardes: prayers by children
- Arthur Kingberg's story

**DECEMBER 4:**

**PARSHA VAYETZEI**

Jacob is a dreamer, a bargainer, a trickster. Jacob is renamed Israel. His name is our name.

Why is our people named after someone whose reputation is, no matter how you shake it, a mixed one?

Join us for a joyous Shabbat service as we discover what it is to be Israel.

**When:** Friday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m.

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

**DECEMBER 16: HANUKKAH PARTY**

**GIVING OUR BLESSINGS – THE BEST HANUKKAH GIFT**

No matter that Purim is Judaism's traditional time for bestowing presents, gift giving has become part and parcel of the Hanukkah experience. But we don't have to limit our gift giving to the exchange of material things, and when it comes to community, it's more important for us to share our affection and connection with one another.

In our own community, everyone who attends our Hanukkah party will be stopping at a small table first. On the table will be strips of paper, pens and pencils beside them. A large bowl will stand at the ready. Each of us – young or old – will write a blessing on our strip of paper, fold it up and drop it in the bowl. Later that evening, each of us will have the chance to pick a blessing out of the bowl.

*May your home be filled with light this holiday season.*

*May you be blessed with crispy latkes, lots of applesauce and sour cream, and a generous heap of laughter.*

*May you feel God's loving presence fill the room as you light the candles of the chanukiah.*

We can bless each other with health, joy, and abundance. Perhaps we will write about the blessings that we most wish to receive. When we write blessings for others, we learn what we need. To give a blessing is to receive one.

Of course, this year's Hanukkah party will feature our annual talent show, the crispiest latkes in five counties, songs and games. But we also want to take the time to deepen our connections with each other, to strengthen our community, and to confirm our purpose. We are together because we want to be. We bless each other because we care. We celebrate together to make memories that we can carry with us.

Hanukkah reminds us that we ourselves make the light of God manifest in the world. There is no better gift we could give each other than a blessing which does exactly that.

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

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

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## MILEV HAPARDES

## FROM THE HEART OF THE ORCHARD



Please god let this be a good day  
 Rise above us  
 And make it good.  
 Yes we know we make mistakes  
 Encourage us to do better  
 Relise that we try to be good

*Shaya (Charlie)*



Rabbi Dr. Barbara Thiede

**P**ayer. In our Religious School, it matters.

Our children will learn to read Hebrew, of course, and discover that they can identify key words in the liturgy. By the time they are ready for bar and bat mitzvah training, they will be able to tell me how they know that the V'ahavta is written in the second person singular. (Answer: The singular second-person pronominal suffix, a final kaf!).

## FROM TEMPLE OR OLAM'S CHILDREN (SPELLING ORIGINAL)

Remember the words? 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your might.'

Please let me have your hands.  
 Raise my spirit.  
 And you love us.  
 Yes, and we love you.  
 Energy is what I need.  
 Reach my hopes.

*Yitzhak (John)*

In the V'ahavta, we are asked to take God's teachings and pass them on to our children. We are told to remind ourselves of them when we wake up and when we go to bed. We follow the V'ahavta's mandates by hanging our beautiful mezzuzot. "You shall inscribe them (these words) on the doorposts of your home."

We pass, perhaps we touch and kiss this very text, when we take leave of our homes and when we reenter.

In the passage that follows the V'ahavta in our prayer book, a text taken from Deuteronomy 11:13-21, we are given the same instructions. This time, they are written in the second person plural. 'Take these words, y'all. Everyone! Teach them to

your children.'

Our children will be able to see and identify the second-person plural pronominal suffix, the kaf-mem ending. Most importantly, they will be able to puzzle out why we say the same thing twice, but in slightly different forms.

We receive our teachings as individuals. We are responsible for acting as ethical individuals.

We receive our teachings as a community. We are responsible for acting as an ethical community.

This kind of knowledge is critical. Our children need to understand how the service works, why they read the texts they do.

But they must also learn to cultivate the prayer that comes from their own hearts. As the Baal Shem Tov said, 'Because where your thoughts are, there you are, all of you.'

Recently, our children learned about acrostic prayers. In an acrostic, the first letter, syllable, or word of each line can spell out a name, a word, or even a message. Some of our prayers, like the Ashrei (also known as Psalm 145!) give us a way to remember the Hebrew alphabet; the acrostic is functioning as a neat mnemonic device.

The children had two words to work with: *Prayer* and *Tefilla*, the Hebrew word for prayer. What they produced were prayers that took the breath away.

Simple, heartfelt, open and kind.

I give you some here with their authors revealed. Two additional original prayers can be found on page 4 of our Shmoozeletter. Please take the time to read them, and to appreciate their sweetness and their innocence.

May we all achieve the ability to pray as our children do.

The day will start  
 Every time  
 For a kindness  
 In each others  
 Love and  
 Loyalty  
 Amen

*Tzipporah (LingLing)*

*Rabbi Barbara*

E M P L O Y M E N T S E C T I O N

I would like to introduce one of our newest members, a recent UNC Charlotte graduate (August 2011) named Ashley Tourangeau. Ashley came to us through long term member Ashley Owens, who is also a student at UNC Charlotte. The first time I met Ashley T. was when she babysat for us during Rosh Hashanah.



Ashley is searching for her first post-graduate job. She holds a baccalaureate with a major in Psychology and a minor in Sociology. She is looking for an administrative role, a trainee position, insurance or customer-service related. Previously, she has worked at McDonald’s (beginning at age 14), in retail and retail management, building management, and at an account management internship.

She was born in Brooklyn, NY and grew up in Raleigh. If you have any contacts in her areas of interest, please contact her at [adtourangeau@gmail.com](mailto:adtourangeau@gmail.com) or at 919-795-6384. Ashley says she’s very loyal and a hard worker. Any help is appreciated.

*Robbin Smith*  
*Treasurer and Membership Director*

M E E T T H E M I S H P O C H E

THIS COLUMN IS ABOUT OUR CONGREGANTS AND WHAT THEY DO FOR A LIVING OR THEIR HOBBIES OR THINGS THEY’VE DONE FOR THE CONGREGATION (AND MISHPOCHE MEANS FAMILY!)

Both age-wise and as a member of our congregation, **Arthur Kingberg** is one of our senior members. Where do I begin? Arthur shared so much fascinating information that this is going to be a 2-part series that will continue in the next *Shmoozeletter*.

The patriarch of our mishpocha is 87 years old and came to this country on 9/21/47. His mother and his stepfather escaped from Germany in 1936. His stepfather was anti-Nazi, and the Gestapo were looking for him. Arthur was placed in an orphanage, and his two brothers were placed in a different Jewish orphanage. They were separated because Arthur was given the last spot in his. The only country the parents could go to was Switzerland, and from there they proceeded to China. In 1938, Japan invaded China.



Arthur’s parents now needed to get out of China but could not enter the United States due to the limited number of visas issued by the US. Instead, they went to the Philippines, which at the time was a commonwealth of the United States. Visas were not needed, but other paperwork was required to get Arthur and his brothers out of Germany, too. It took 3 months for all that paperwork to be completed, and on 3/27/39, Arthur left Germany for Manila (the capital of the Philippines) and then on to Mindanao. Arthur’s stepfather had planned to farm there, as the soil was fertile. Those plans did not last long when Japan invaded the Philippines on the same day that they invaded Pearl Harbor in Hawaii (on 12/7/41).



Arthur Kingberg at age 7

Tune in next month to find out what happened after Arthur came to the United States and how he met Ruth and what he likes best about Temple Or Olam.

*Robbin Smith*

## D I D Y O U K N O W . . .



Diaspora is the movement, migration, or scattering of people away from their common homeland. The Jewish diaspora is documented to have occurred in 586BC after the first temple was destroyed and there was an expulsion of the population from the Kingdom of Judah.

Although we were probably not forced from our previous communities, many of our Congregants are not from this area. As Jews with mutual interests we have regrouped in a place that is not our original home and created a strong community. We now have a core group of wonderful people who assemble to worship, learn and socialize without any malignant behavior. This makes us a healthy Congregation that is less vulnerable than most groups.



The next step is becoming fit. A fit Congregation enables us to continue to live Jewishly with focus on our community and on growing with Congregants who possess the same ideals as our current Friends. These shared values will not only make us stronger as a group but also resonate throughout our area to make us magnetic for more Congregants and more accepting people of different faiths.

Let us continue to be healthy....

*Judah Malin  
President*

Please help the people in need,  
Raise us up  
And make life peaceful  
Yes, we love you god.  
Empower us to be great people  
Respect each other greatly

*Leta*

Please help my family stay happy and healthy  
Redeem the world and make less violence  
And let me reach my favorite dream in reality  
Yes, help us make peace and happiness  
Enjoy all lives  
Rejoice our families and friends

*Asher (Evan)*

## S C H O O L O F T H O U G H T

### WE ENCOURAGE UNDERAGE THINKING

During the month of November, our Religious School weaved its way through the Reed Sea, sang their way through portions of the Saturday morning Shabbat service, and studied the eight levels of tzedaka.

This month, our children studied the Torah portion of Beshalach. During this lesson, we discussed rebellion and miracles, and we created our own artistic interpretation of the crossing of the sea of Reeds, in the form of a mosaic.

The students also had the pleasure of Rabbi Barbara coming in to teach a Tefillah lesson. We learned about the structure of morning prayers and about the first prayer section of services on Shabbat morning, P'sukey d'Zimra - Verses of Praise. The children were then asked to create their own acrostic prayers, using the first letter in the word PRAYER or TEFILLAH as their guide. These prayers were lovingly showcased at our last third Friday service, and can be found in this month's MiLev HaPardes, the Rabbi's column.



Finally, we rounded out our month with a lesson on Tzedaka. Morah Rivka, our own Ginger Jensen, discussed the eight levels of Tzedaka with the children and even discussed the use of acronyms in Judaism with them, using the great Rambam and Rashi as perfect examples. The kids have decorated Tzedaka boxes that will be used to collect money over the weeks, culminating in a class trip to the grocery store to buy canned food for a local food bank. All of this on top of our weekly Hebrew lesson and song and prayer — we are doing our part in encouraging underage thinking.

*Jessica Waldmann  
Director, Religious School*

## Y A H R Z E I T S

12-10 Gertrude Resnick, mother of Phyllis Herschenfeld  
12-14 John Jensen, father of Tom Jensen  
12-19 Beno Chait, father of Sergio Chait  
Belle Gantwerk, mother of Roz Gantwerk  
12-24 Dr. Irving Joffe, husband of Ellie Joffe



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

## BIRTHDAYS

12-03 Caleb Malin  
12-08 Ralf Thiede  
12-14 Jinmey Jacobson  
12-20 Roz Gantwerk  
12-28 Sergio Chait



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