

Shmoozeletter



Temple Or Olam



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Feb. 03 Service
- Rabbi Thiede on Eleaor Joffe
- Feature on Carole Bombardier
- Chicken Soup Committee formed
- Congregational Dinner Feb. 17
- Religious School children to perform at the next service



Jindo Sea-Parting Festival, Korea

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Service Announcement	1
MiLev HaPardes	2
Meet the Mishpoche	3
Did you Know?	4
Jews in the News	4
School of Thought	4
Birthdays, Yahrzeits	5
Contact Information	5

FEBRUARY 03:

PARSHA BEHALOTECHA-

IF YOU WANT TO BE FREE, BE FREE!

This week's parsha marks a defining and dividing moment for the Israelites. Pharaoh and his legions pursue them, eager to catch their former slaves. Before them is the sea, blocking the way to freedom.

A midrash tells us that Moses prayed, and that God rebuked him. God insisted that it was not the time for prayer. The midrash goes on to say that while Moses prayed for divine intervention, one Israelite began walking into the water, insisting on making a miracle.

The sea parted.

Prayer and action, speaking to God and acting godly. Who was that Israelite and what does his story tell us? Join us for a Kabbalat Shabbat of special sweetness, and find out!

When: Friday, Feb. 03 at 7 p.m.

Where: McGill Baptist Church, Concord NC

MILEV HAPARDES

FROM THE HEART OF THE ORCHARD



Some years back, we were celebrating our annual Shavuot picnic in the park. A couple I did not know joined us that day. He was a soft-spoken and gentle man; she was elegant, quiet, and gracious.

We got to know Dr. Irving Joffe and his wife, Eleanor that sweet spring day. Dr. Joffe told me that he was a radiologist, that he had been president of a congregation in Salisbury in earlier times, but that he and Ellie had come to live in Concord just recently. We spoke about Temple Or Olam and about their visits to Israel.

I didn't know then that Dr. Joffe had earned two doctoral degrees: the first in organic chemistry, the second in medicine. I didn't know that he had worked as a professor of Radiology at Tufts University, at the University of Rochester, and at the Yale School of Medicine. He had been chief radiologist at hospitals in Massachusetts, Connecticut,

BLESSINGS OF CARE AND INHERITANCE

Nevada, North Carolina. He could boast both publications and patents. He was licensed to practice medicine in four states.



Dr. Irving B. Joffe
April 18, 1920—Dec. 17, 2009

Dr. Joffe and his wife Ellie were unassuming, gentle people. They enjoyed watching the children play. He was solicitous about making sure his wife was comfortable; she was a gracious listener, mostly.

Dr. Joffe died in December, 2009; it was then that I learned how much he had done to care for others in his life; it was then that I began learning more about Ellie. Ellie lives near the church where we meet, but is not able to join us for services due to her own health challenges.

Those are not insignificant. In recent years she has fallen badly. She was recently hospitalized and is now regaining strength. She is not always able to find words as quickly as she would like.

She regularly donates to Temple Or Olam in the honor and memory of her loved ones. She welcomes me with gracious kindness every time I can visit. She is always hopeful and positive. She delights in the Shmoozeletter we send her each month by snail mail. I have never heard her say anything than the most lovely things about everyone she knows. She is what we used to call 'a great lady.'

I visited her just last week because I wanted to see her before my surgery. She welcomed me into the little parlor room at the front of the house, making her way with her

walker.

We sat down together, and almost before I could find out how she was, she gestured to the little coffee table in front of the small sofa.

'I want you to have that tallis,' she said. 'It belonged to my husband.'

The tallis was folded neatly, its clear blue and turquoise bands shot through with a silver thread. The wool was soft and lay easily in my hands. I thought of the man it had belonged to, a man who had taken care of so many human beings with such dedication, a man who had supported Jewish congregational life wherever he was, who had given of himself with grace and kindness.

Ellie told me the story of the tallis. She had chosen it for Irving when they were in Israel. She had decided on it because blue and white are the colors of the Israeli flag.

'Ellie,' I said, 'I want to wear this tallis the Friday before my surgery, when I lead our next service. I want to tell the congregation where it came from. It is an honor. To have this tallis around my shoulders will be a blessing. It will be like having Irving watch over me.'

There was a long pause. Ellie was trying to speak. 'Sometimes I can't find the right words,' she said.

'We find the right words in each other's eyes,' I said.



Rabbi Dr. Barbara Thiede

ctd. on p. 5

MEET THE MISHPOCHE

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!)

This month's mishpoche is the family of **Carole Bombardier**. She has been a member of Temple Or Olam for many years. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and is certified in hypnosis. She has a private practice and provides psychotherapy and hypnotherapy. Carole considers hypnosis to be a powerful self-help tool. Besides helping with weight loss and quitting smoking, it can help reduce stress, lower anxiety, and increase self esteem. She recently hired someone whose specialty is working with kids with autism.

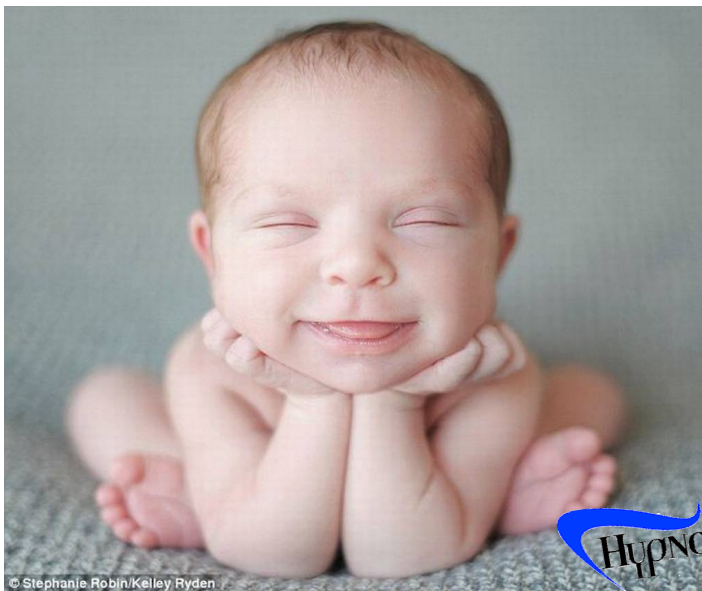


She also teaches a complete childbirth preparation class using hypnosis that is called Hypnobabies. She describes it as a comfortable and joyful birth experience without the use of drugs.

She has partnered with the Prenatal and Postpartum Center of the Carolinas to treat perinatal mood disorders including postpartum depression and other postpartum adjustment issues.

Congregants are welcome to talk with her about counseling and hypnosis; however, she is restricted from providing psychotherapy for people she knows due to ethical guidelines. Referrals are welcome. The Hypnobabies Childbirth course is open to any pregnant congregants that are interested.

She and her husband Kelly recently celebrated their 20th anniversary. They are parents to son Zachary (age 16 ½) and daughter Charli (age 11). They met in college in upstate NY and moved to this area looking for better weather and job opportunities (and followed Kelly's brother and parents).



Carole does not have a lot of free time, but when she does, she enjoys "girlie girl" activities such as shopping, spas, having her nails done, walking, hiking and movies.

When asked what she likes best about Temple Or Olam, she said "the people".

Carole is beginning the college application process with Zach and has asked that if anyone in our Mishpoche is familiar with the process to please let her know. They have a lot of questions and could use some advice.

Robbin Smith



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DID YOU KNOW . . .



We have a wonderful group of people who have a confident sense of themselves. This is what makes it possible for them to be so receptive to those around them and either pay compliments or offer compliments. Recently Heather Chait expressed the desire to lead the ‘Chicken Soup Committee.’ She has followed through. When one of our Friends needs help, whether it be for a life-altering event or a sickness, we as a community can volunteer to supply meals for that family so that they can focus their energies on healing. It just so happens that the first recipient of this meal train is our own Rabbi Barbara, who will be undergoing surgery in about a week. The small effort of delivering a meal to the Thiede family will eliminate the burden of planning meals – and we let them know that we care and are thinking of them. Please continue being wonderful... If you would like to sign up, you can access the meal schedule by visiting TakeThemAMeal.com and locating the schedule by recipient last name (Thiede) and password (8691).



If you would like to be on the Chicken Soup Committee, please contact Heather Chait at heschait@yahoo.com.

*Judah Malin
President*

J E W S I N T H E N E W S

CONGREGATIONAL DINNER FEBRUARY 17!

Everyone who has ever had the task of cleaning up after oneg knows how it works: It’s always a task to get folks moving away from their tables and conversations when 9 p.m. approaches. We’re having such a good time catching up and laughing with one another that no one is ever ready to go a half an hour after sitting down.

Well, it so happens that we have a wonderful event coming up for anyone who has ever been disappointed by our lack of visiting time. On February 17th at 7pm, we’ll meet for food and visiting rather than our regular Kabbalat Shabbat service. While Rabbi Barbara recovers her voice and strength, we’ll be spending ours in the joyful acts of singing Shabbat songs and noshing with our community. Husbands will praise their wives (and probably praise them some more when the first time misses the mark), and we’ll have plenty of time to visit and catch up.

There will be a signup sheet available at the February 3rd service on which you can list whether you would like to bring an entree, appetizer, or dessert. Alternatively, you can email our illustrious president, Judah Malin (jmalin@trimarkusa.com), with your preference.

It’s going to be a fun night – we hope to see you there!

*Angela Hodges
Director, Public Relations*



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

WE ENCOURAGE UNDERAGE THINKING

January was a short month for our Religious School kiddos. Coming off our generous winter break, we only had two class sessions. Our first class back was an eventful one, with a visit from Rabbi Barbara! Rabbi Barbara did a Hebrew assessment for the students and spent some time discussing the order of our Shabbat service. She also worked with the children on some songs and prayers we are hoping to have the kids perform with the Rabbi at our next family service. Our Torah study from both classes revolved around the themes of sacredness and holiness, with discussion ranging from how something personal can be considered holy, to why certain Judaic items are considered sacred. Along with our usual Hebrew lessons, and song and prayer, the students are getting back into their religious school groove!

*Jessica Waldmann
Director, Religious School*



Y A H R Z E I T S

02-03 Brad Billings, father of Stephen Billings
 02-13 Henry Dorzback, father of Ruth Kingberg



BIRTHDAYS

02-10 Jason Roberts
 02-13 Bennett Leder
 02-18 Teresa Malin
 02-27 William Spivock

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ctd. from p. 2

I will see Ellie after I am recovered from my surgery. I hope that some of you might join our new Chicken Soup Committee and might think of making a visit to Ellie and to others in our congregation who can't get to us nearly as easily as we can get to them.

We can bless each other. We can wrap each other in our commitment to care, to connect, to support a community that deserves our affection. May we honor each other and be honored by that commitment.

In the blessing over the tallis, we read a portion of Psalm 104:

My soul praises You, Adonai.

Vast beyond our imagination.

You are robed in majesty and glory.

You clothe Yourself in beams of light.

You drape Yourself with the heavens.

May we drape ourselves in that holy white light, in the blue of the sky, in the silver of stars. May we wrap ourselves in them like we wrap ourselves in a tallit.

Thank you, Ellie. We shall, with many others, make Irving's memory be for a blessing.

Rabbi Barbara

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