

Shmoozeeletter

Temple Or Olam



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- March Services
- Rabbi Thiede on Holy Listening
- Feature on Doris Gordon
- Purim March 10: Bring canned and packaged food
- May 4: Potluck in Dorton Park
- Religious School children tzedaka

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NER TAMID

MARCH 02: GOD'S (AND OUR) ETERNAL LIGHT

Our parsha for this week tells the Israelites how to create and maintain the *ner tamid*. Usually, we translate this Hebrew phrase as the 'eternal light.' But *ner tamid* really means a light that is kindled regularly – as, indeed, this light was in the ancient days of the Tabernacle.

The Book of Proverbs tells us that 'the soul of a person is the lamp of God' (20:27). It, too, must be rekindled again and again.

At this Kabbalat Shabbat service we will learn what *ner tamid* might stand for – both in the human and the divine realms!

Please join us for a joyous Kabbalat Shabbat service and bring, if possible, something to share at our oneg following services!

When: Friday, March 02 at 7 p.m.

Where: McGill Baptist Church, Concord

KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE MARCH 23:

In the very first verses of Vayikra, the book of Leviticus, God instructs Moses to speak to the Israelite people about the *olah*, the sacrifice that is a pure gift to God. The giver has made an offering without expectations, without obligations.

Why does Torah place such value on an offering to God of this sort when God, it would seem, hardly needs human offerings in the first place? More curiously, why are Moses' instructions addressed to any human being, and not just to Israelites?

Join us for the opening of a new book in our scroll and the Shabbat celebration that will accompany that lovely moment in our liturgical year.

Please join us for a joyous Kabbalat Shabbat service and bring, if possible, something fun and maybe even healthy to share at our oneg following services!

When: Friday, March 23; at 7 p.m.

Where: McGill Baptist Church, Concord NC

MILEV HAPARDES

FROM THE HEART OF THE ORCHARD



I was speaking with my own spiritual director, Rabbi Hanna Tiferet Siegel. I was speaking quietly. It was hard to talk. It took more energy than I had. I complained about the weakness of my voice. I admitted that I had been told it would take a longish while for me to talk with my usual strength and that I would be forbidden singing until nerves and muscles had had a good long time to rest after my thyroid surgery. But I was unhappy, frustrated. I wanted not to bother people with the task of hearing my soft voice. I wanted to stop having to rest all the time. I wanted. I wanted.

'It's a time for holy listening,' Rabbi Hanna Tiferet said simply.

HOLY LISTENING

Indeed, it has been such a time. Sometimes your body refuses to let you avoid the lessons you have to learn.

I have been more attentive to the squeaky noises a frustrated squirrel makes outside my office window. He sits on a birdfeeder he can't access, and he doesn't like that, not at all. He is protesting – with vigor. Birds, at various times, make their way into the sound field in the trees nearby. Sometimes chattering, sometimes warbling, they hold conversations I don't understand.

Except through holy listening. Holy listening reminds me of the wonders around me, the miracle of life itself. Holy listening allows me to soak in the sound of beloved voices, their timbre and tone. I hear the voices of my students, of our congregants and friends with an inner quiet, a sure gratitude. I am so grateful for the people in my life; they help make my work purposeful.

Holy listening is when we hear each other's joys and sorrows, when we attend to those around us, when we witness and acknowledge the unique moment, the unique soul, the unique sound of every voice around us.

I am thankful. I am grateful. I am glad that we continue to work hard to build a congregation of holy listeners, a community of wonderful, giving human beings who can address any concern by knowing how to give *each other* a caring, thoughtful, and respectful hearing.

May we continue to listen to each other's voices. May we sit with guests and friends with the *kavannah*, the intention, of taking in what we hear. May we learn much.

Then, may we speak, and share what we've learned from holy listening.



Rabbi Dr. Barbara Thiede

Rabbi Barbara

ANOTHER MOTHER OF ALL PURIM PARTIES

What happens when Esther's catering service fails her? This year's Purim Shpiel will explain all. And there's more: A special production from the kids of our Religious School, an appearance for absolute certain of the 2000-Year-Old Man, and (well, we don't want to give it all away now, don't we?)...

We'll be collecting canned goods to donate to help feed the hungry, so please join us in that tradition. All our welcome on the following condition: You must come in costume, no matter your age, to be granted admittance.

Seriously, folks, get silly. It's what Purim is all about!

When: Saturday, March 10, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Where: McGill Baptist Church, Concord NC



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!)

March's mispoche is **Doris Gordon**. Doris was born in Costa Rica and was adopted at 6 months of age. Her new parents lived in the Panama Canal Zone and saved her life. The orphanage was a terrible and unsafe place. Doris shared a crib with two other babies who died.

Her family moved to Texas, where she lived in several different towns and cities but mostly grew up in Galveston. She went to college and became a nurse. By her 35th birthday she decided that she wanted to travel and she'd better do it before she settled down. She became a traveling nurse and took assignments in different cities in the U.S including Seattle, WA, Colorado and Utah. Seattle was her first choice because of fond memories of family vacations in Seattle where her father was a radio officer on an oil tanker. Her family vacationed in Seattle every summer because it was cheaper than paying for air conditioning in Texas.



While she was in Seattle, she was surfing the net on a Jewish singles website. And so was Jason in NY. Short of going to Israel, she figured that NY was the next best place to find a nice Jewish boy. Their first phone conversation lasted 3 hours. Doris had a trip to NY already planned, and so they decided to meet in person, but Doris wasn't sure that it would happen. She needed days off from work and cheap tickets on the right dates. She figured that if those things didn't work out, then it wasn't meant to be. But it did. When she arrived at the airport in NY, Jason wasn't there, her cellphone was dead, and she had a single dollar bill. When she asked passersby for change, no one would give it to her, figuring the dollar bill was counterfeit. Jason wasn't there because he called the airline and was told that the flight was 1 ½ hrs late, but it wasn't. Jason (all 6'6" of him) appeared at the airport with 3 roses – one white, one yellow, and one red.

Jason didn't know where the relationship would go – romance, friends? But Doris knew that she was going to marry him.

Doris' next nursing assignment was in NY in November, so she asked Jason to help her move across country from Seattle. She had never driven in snow before. Jason agreed and kept her company while she drove 12 hours a day on the way back. And they never did encounter any snow.

Doris' next job was cancelled and therefore, so were her living arrangements. She was facing being homeless in NY. She stayed with Jason, continued to get jobs in NY, and never left. She and Jason were married 2 years later. Beautiful daughter Jacqueline arrived June 5, 2008.

Asked why she chose nursing, she explained that originally it was partly job security and that she had spent so much time in hospitals as a child. She works in the ICU, where people are very sick. She enjoys helping families get through trying times, and the best part is teaching people, which is a large part of nursing.

When asked what she likes best about Temple Or Olam, she said it's the socialization and the music. She does not make it to services often as she is on call all weekend, but Jason brings Jacqueline as often as possible. She enjoys the music because she has family members who moved to Israel both before and after it became a state, and they still live there. She has memories of beautiful Arabic music playing when she visited for Passover. In Israel, whole families go out at 9pm to cafes to socialize. Our music takes her back to Israel, and she can't get there often enough.

Doris provided so many more funny stories about her life than would fit in these pages. Please ask her about her world travels (including Ireland and South America), her family, and her work. And ask her what Jason knew about hunting when they first met.



Robbin Smith

DID YOU KNOW . . .



Purim is a wonderful Holiday that is almost upon us, and is a delightful time to dress like kings and queens, celebrate victories, and shout at evil politicians from the past. We must not forget a major aspect of Purim that parallels the core of Temple Or Olam itself, which is helping others. Purim is a time to donate to help feed and clothe the poor. With that said, please join in a congregational tradition of bringing **canned and packaged goods to our Purim party** that we can add to the kids' contributions. These donations will be brought to the Food Bank in Charlotte.

*Judah Malin
President*



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

POTLUCK DINNER IN DORTON PARK – MAY 4!

Those of you who attended our congregational Shabbat dinner on February 17th know what a fine experience it was to sit and visit and eat together, to hear fellow members blessing their loved ones, and to participate in a community that is interested in supporting and getting to know one another.

Well, after our rabbi got wind of the great time we all had in her absence, it was decided that this eating-together thing needed to happen more often. To that end, the May 4th Kabbalat Shabbat service has been wondrously transformed into a second congregational dinner, and this one will be educational as well.

The evening will be used to help teach congregants about the kind of rituals that are part and parcel of a Friday night *home* Shabbat. We'll learn the sequence of opening prayers, we'll set the table, light the candles, and sing Shalom Aleychem. We'll bless partners and children, recite Kiddush, and say the motzi.

And then, of course, we'll eat. After dinner, we'll sing Shabbat songs and do some fun stuff (like the icebreaker at our last dinner). In essence, we'll be learning Shabbat home ritual by doing it first in community. . . and we'll have an amazing time, too!

As the time of the dinner approaches, keep an eye out for emails ironing out the details!

*Angela Hodges
Director, Public Relations*



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

WE ENCOURAGE UNDERAGE THINKING

The last couple of weeks our focus at Religious School has been on Purim and tzedaka, and how the two are related. As you may remember, the children made their very own tzedaka boxes to keep at school a few months ago. They have been depositing money in the boxes throughout the weeks, and soon it will pay off! Next Sunday, March 4, 2012, we will be bringing the children to a local grocery store to buy canned food with that tzedaka money. Once the food has been bought, I will be bringing it to Second Harvest Food Bank as a donation from the Temple. As you may also remember, we established a relationship with Second Harvest Food Bank last year, when we did our first Tikkun Olam program. Second Harvest is an amazing operation, and we are honored to be able to contribute to their great work. I've asked the parents to accompany us on this outing. Not only will it help with crowd control, but it will be a great opportunity to work with your child reinforcing the concepts of tzedaka, and even responsible spending! I would like to encourage the rest of our congregants to please bring canned food to our Purim party on March 10, 2012. After the party, I will be bringing the children's donations to the food bank, and I would love to bring a big load full of canned food items to help those in our community who are less fortunate than we are.

*Jessica Waldmann
Director, Religious School*



Y A H R Z E I T S

03-16 Gene Frances Malin, mother of Judah Malin
Ernest Kingberg, brother of Arthur Kingberg
03-20 Betty Chembliss, mother of Julie Roberts
03-24 Robert Ray Bogage, son of Harriett Bogage

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 BIRTHDAYS

03-01 Shannon Leder
Angela Hodges
03-16 Scott Needham
03-23 Ashley Owens
03-29 Zach Bombardier
Keri Honeycutt



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