

Shmoozeeletter

Temple
Or Olam



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- April 07 Seder
- April 20 Service
- Rabbi Thiede on kosher for Pesach
- Feature on Hillary Fleming
- Community commitment
- Caleb Malin decorated for his art work
- Religious School's Purim food donation

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OUR PASSOVER SEDER—MAKING IT REAL

Consider what you might be struggling with – we all have our constraints, our challenges. What would you like to free yourself from? Imagine yourself walking in a narrow space, seeing a future without the burdens you are carrying, a future in which you feel able to rededicate your life to the pursuit of freedom – for you and for those around you.

The world we live in is filled with constraints. Many suffer from the domination and cruelty of other ethnic groups. Children still die of unnecessary causes – to the tune of millions every year. We have yet to accord all Americans the right to marry the loved one of their choice.

Our challenges include far too much work, persistent health concerns, and worries over our financial future.

So join our seder and walk with us as we break through the Sea of Reeds to freedom. Before our seder begins, we will gather at long tables in groups to write down all those many things constraining us. We will post them on the walls around us. These are our own plagues. When we name them, we can free ourselves from them.

We will eat the food our own congregation has prepared. We will do some journaling in our Books of Life. Our children will lead the singing. We will celebrate our freedom and our joy. We will be inspired to go out into the world and help create the freedom we all long for.

Join us, and help us make our stories (and yours) real.

Saturday, **April 07 at 5:30 p.m.**, McGill Baptist Church - RSVP to info@or-olam.org.

KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE APRIL 20:

It is a strange and difficult moment. Nadab and Abihu, two of Aaron's sons come into the Tabernacle and offer incense on the inner altar. Fire comes forth from YHVH and the two men are consumed by it. Moses then tells Aaron, "This is what YHVH meant when this was said: "Through those near to Me I show Myself Holy, and gain glory before all the people."

Aaron, so Torah tells us, was silent.

How can we respond to this terrible scene? Is there any explanation or justification for the death of Nadab and Abihu?

Join us as we explore this enigmatic passage at our Third Friday Kabbalat Shabbat Service. If you can, please bring something fun and maybe even healthy to share at our oneg following services! 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, April 20; at 7 p.m.

Where: McGill Baptist Church, Concord NC

MILEY HAPARDES

FROM THE HEART OF THE ORCHARD



Let's Talk Turkey (or Rather, Partaking at Pesach)

Let's set some records straight. Exodus 13:3 simply tells the Israelites that they may not eat *chametz* during Pesach (Passover). *Chametz* is leaven made from five grains known at the time: *chitim* (wheat), *seorim* (barley), *kusmin* (rice wheat), *shibolet shual* (millet, oats, or two-rowed barley), and *shifon* (spelt wheat or oat).

KOSHER FOR PESACH

Torah tells us that Jews should not be eating *chametz*. That's wheat, barley, rye, oats, and spelt if they have been sitting in water for more than 18 minutes. Water exposure for longer than 18 minutes will result in leavening. Some grains are processed using water. If you want to eat oatmeal for breakfast, look for the designation 'kosher for Pesach' or 'kasher l'pesach,' and you should be fine.

But what about kasha or quinoa or rice? What about corn, peas, lentils, and beans?

These items are classed as *kitniyot*, which all Jews can have in the house during the *hag* (festival), but which Ashkenazi Jews do not eat.

Why? European rabbis may have ruled against eating *kitniyot* because they are often made into edible items that look like *chametz* (e.g. cornbread). Another explanation: These items were stored in the same sacks as five grains, and rabbis were afraid the one would be contaminated by *chametz* from the other. And finally, the rabbis worried that if farmers alternated *kityinot* crops with forbidden *chametz* grains, the two could get mixed together.



But in recent decades, rabbis have questioned Ashkenazi practice in that regard. In 1988, Rabbi David Golinkin noted that the many additional prohibitions observed by Ashkenazim were not that old in the grand scheme of Jewish history. Before the 13th century, the Jews of Europe appear to have had no compunction whatsoever about eating *kityinot* during Pesach. Sephardi and Mizrachi Jews never joined their Ashkenazi brethren in expanding the list of prohibited foods.

Rabbi Golinken noted that the prohibitions detracted from the joy of the holiday by limiting the number of permitted foods. He added that prohibitions against eating *kityinot* caused exorbitant price rises, that they emphasized the insignificant at the expense of paying attention to the significant (*chametz*), and that they caused unnecessary divisions between Israel's different ethnic groups.

Does it make sense to prohibit food items that were entirely unknown in Torah times? Can we imagine the Ancient Israelites worrying about whether they could eat soybeans and sweetcorn? These items were unknown to the medieval authorities that some Ashkenazi rabbis claim to be following when they proscribe them from our Pesach diet.

It's really this simple: Why insist on meaningless restrictions when Torah permits us to eat *kityinot*?

We don't.

So if you see kasha or soy or rice at Temple Or Olam's Passover seder, please be aware that our congregation cares about observing the festival as Torah asks us to. Joyfully. Sanely. Appropriately.

What you won't see is *chametz*, because that is what Torah prohibits. No more. No less.



Rabbi Dr. Barbara Thiede

Rabbi Barbara

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, we'd like to focus on the health of our congregants. First, we would like to make sure we continue putting in good thoughts and prayers for Ruth and Arthur Kingberg. Arthur is recovering from emergency gallbladder surgery, and, as we know, Ruth is still regaining her strength after a serious bout with pneumonia. We wish the Kingbergs the patience to 'shake it easy,' and a *refuah shlema*, a complete healing. We miss you!



We hope everyone has gotten to know Linda Sands and her daughter Hillary, who joined our congregation when Hillary was still battling cancer. I am sure many of you noticed how Hillary's beautiful daughter, Khalilah, has been dancing to our Kabbalat prayers whenever she was with us. And who could miss the smiles of Keegan, the amazing miracle baby boy born to Hillary during her cancer treatments?

We've been thrilled to see Khalilah opening up at Religious School. We've also enjoyed watching Hillary's son grow stronger all the time.

So, finally, the news we've been waiting for and praying for: Hillary recently received word that she is now cancer free! By coincidence, Khalilah sang a solo for the very first time at services the week that Hillary received the news. What better way to welcome the new life and freedom represented by the arrival of spring and Passover!

We wanted to give you an idea of the joy the family is radiating, so we asked our

lay cantor and in-house photographer, Angela Hodges, to try and capture the good feeling.

We would like to wish Hillary continued good health and happiness. We would like to bless her with sweet and peaceful times ahead, with freedom from fear. In the traditional response to one who has recovered from grave illness, we say, 'May God grant you all that is good.'

And may all our Temple family be healthy and strong!



Robbin Smith

DID YOU KNOW...

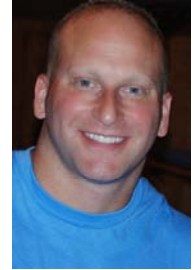


It takes efforts from every member of a community to sustain the group, whether it be through labor efforts, emotional support, or fiscal responsibility.

Sustenance of Temple Or Olam means that we all contribute to the best of our abilities to support our community, because the same characteristics that make us comfortable and close also make us vulnerable to complacency and to eroding funds. Our short- and long-term stability for Temple Or Olam rest on the commitments and efforts of all of our members as a whole.

When we join together to clean up after a meal or pay our membership on time, we are not only helping each other accomplish tasks but also helping each other live Jewishly in a safe environment where we are always welcome and always family.

Please continue to contribute to our family because it is all of ours.



Judah Malin
President

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



It turns out that the future isn't quite as bleak for artists as Caleb Malin's father led him to believe. Recently, Caleb's art piece was chosen by his art teacher as the best in the 2nd grade and then chosen again by Dr. Barry Shepard (Cabarrus county school superintendent) as the best in the county. His artwork was then purchased for an undisclosed amount (\$100) and will be framed and permanently hung at the education building.



Caleb's father, Judah, is certainly proud and happy about his son's win; however, he is currently engaged in lengthy talks with Caleb about his future career choices. 'I had some back peddling to do after this big win,' Judah said. 'I still believe he should be CEO Malin who likes to paint, but I have a lot of work to do.'

Whatever direction Caleb decides on in the future, we certainly cannot dispute that he has a talent worth kvelling about. (In fact, I may just be commissioning some art of my own pretty soon...)

Congrats, Caleb! We're proud to call you our own!

Angela Hodges
Director, Public Relations

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

WE ENCOURAGE UNDERAGE THINKING

Purim has been a holiday of true giving at our Religious School this year. The children made tzedaka boxes and started saving up money months ago in order to go on a shopping trip for non-perishable food items to be donated to those in need. When we started this project, I really didn't know how far we could take it. I was amazed to find out that the children of our school saved (and then spent) \$96.93, and with a little help from the teachers the total was pushed over \$110! After collecting even more food items from congregants at the Purim celebration, we took the donation down to Second Harvest Food Bank, home of our Tikkun Olam project from last year, and ended up donating a total of 136 POUNDS of food!! It's amazing to see the spark that seven young children can ignite among the group. Thank you so much to all of the parents and congregants who made this possible!



Jessica Waldmann
Director, Religious School

Y A H R Z E I T S

BIRTHDAYS

04-03 Abraham Shapiro, father of Harriet Commike
04-29 Suzie Shapiro, sister of Barbara Thiede

04-16 Robbin Smith
04-20 Marilyn Atlas
04-26 Jason Gordon
04-28 Karin Cutler

www.or-olam.org



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