

# Shmoozeeletter

Temple  
Or Olam



**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- Pick a song for Love Song Service
- Administrative Assistant Charlotte Miller
- June 15 service
- Aug. 11 & 18 seminar 'Days of Awe'
- Meet the Mishpoche: Sergio Chait
- Annual Meeting June 3 at 4:00
- Game Night July 14
- Rosh Chodesh July 21
- School venue for Religious School

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**WE HAVEN'T HAD ENOUGH SILLY LOVE SONGS...**

In the past, we've done services centered around the Beatles and American folk music. This year, we would like to do a 'love songs to God' service. (For example, the rabbi might sing 'Night and Day,' and the lay cantor would perhaps pick something like 'And I Love You So.')

We would like to ask you for your favorite love songs, and inasmuch as we can sing them, we'll be incorporating them into a love song service at some point in the relatively near future. Please send your ideas to [anhodges@yahoo.com](mailto:anhodges@yahoo.com).



**CHARLOTTE MILLER: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO TEMPLE OR OLAM**

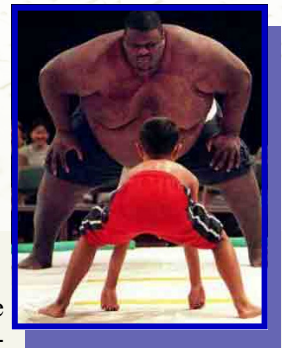
Temple Or Olam was fortunate to win Charlotte Miller for taking on day-to-day administrative functions for the congregation. Charlotte has been a part of our community for some time now, so many of you know her well. We are grateful for the generous offer of her time and services. Please feel free to welcome her in this new capacity at [templeadmin@or-olam.org](mailto:templeadmin@or-olam.org).

**KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE JUNE 15: PARSHA SH'LACH L'CHA**

In this week's parsha, Moses sends spies to Canaan to scout out the land. They come back with frightening tales, and the children of Israel find that they cannot trust in the vision of a return to the land promised their ancestors. What is it that they really feared? What is it that any of us really fear?

At this Kabbalat Shabbat service, we will celebrate trust. Join us to explore the revelation this parsha offers and to discover strength we did not know we had. It will be, as always, a night of music, prayer, and joy.

**When:** Friday, June 15; at 7 p.m.  
**Where:** McGill Baptist Church, Concord NC



**H I G H H O L Y D A Y I N T E N S I V E C O U R S E**  
**T H E H I S T O R Y A N D L I T U R G Y O F T H E**  
**D A Y S O F A W E**

**W**hy do we joyously mark the creation of the world at Rosh Hashanah and then move into ten days of sorrowful repentance?  
 Why do we associate Yom Kippur with self-inflicted punishment when this day was most likely understood as a time for celebration in Ancient Israel?

Why do we believe that atonement is or should be a painful process?

Why do we think that *Unetannah Tokef*, which declares that God will decide who will die and how in the coming year, is “traditional”?

Most importantly, why *not* ask these questions?

The answers would surprise us.

Late this summer, I will be offering a two-week introductory and intensive course on the architecture of the High Holy Days. Participants will be exploring what Torah tells us about the Days of Awe and what the rabbis and Jewish communities later made of them.

We will explore the prayers that are unique to the season and (re)discover what our intentions might be as we enter the month of Elul and the days of reflection and consideration.

Participants in our High Holy Day intensive will, if they wish, become part of a planning team for this year’s Days of Awe; they will partner with me on choosing themes for us to explore, and they will help create the forums for their exploration.

We will meet on August 11 and 18. Day One’s morning session, from 10-12 noon, will present an overview of Jewish service structures and what the Torah actually says about Rosh Hashanah. We will break for lunch and continue our study in the afternoon from 1-3 pm, delving into the actual liturgy of Rosh Hashanah. Day Two’s morning hours will cover Elul and S’lichot. Our afternoon will be spent wrestling with the history and liturgy of Yom Kippur.

Let’s discover what the Days of Awe have to offer us in Jewish understanding, knowledge, and practice. We will learn that our traditions are far richer and more deeply relevant to how we can choose to live our daily lives than we ever imagined.

We will come to know the Days of Awe in utterly new ways. We will learn that these days are meant to offer us a joy we might not have imagined possible.

We will polish our souls in the process.

Please indicate your interest by e-mailing [Rabbi.Thiede@or-olam.org](mailto:Rabbi.Thiede@or-olam.org)

**Dates:** August 11 and August 18  
**Time:** morning session 10 - 12 a.m.  
 afternoon session 01 - 03 p.m.  
**Tuition:** \$72 (covers all sessions)



**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 MISH-POCHE MEANS FAMILY!)

This month's pick of the mispoche is **Sergio Chait**. Sergio was born in Sao Paulo, Brazil. He has always enjoyed traveling and learning about other cultures and wanted to obtain an MBA in the United States. He was interested in international business and applied to the University of Dallas because of the program's focus in that area. He attended school from 1998-2000.

Upon graduation, Sergio considered returning to Brazil. However, he got a job in Charlotte and currently works for Flextronics as a Senior Supply Chain Manager. His company is a contract manufacturer, which means his company makes products sold by other companies. In his role, he manages the relationship with key customers.

He met his wife Heather through mutual acquaintances over half-price chicken wings at Midtown Sundries in the University area. Heather previously lived in NYC but moved to NC for warmer weather. Sergio and Heather are the proud parents of 5½-year-old Julia (who loves to dance at services) and 21-month-old Andrew (who gets around well at services also).

Sergio's job involves a lot of travel, and he has an upcoming trip to Malaysia and China. He likes managing people from different places also visiting those places and seeing their operations. He works typical work hours, plus he also has many late-night conference calls that can turn into 12-hour days or longer.

Sergio is fluent in Portuguese, English, and Spanish. He also took Hebrew classes until college but believes he is forgetting a lot of it due to not using it.

In his spare time, Sergio likes to play soccer and is an assistant coach for Julia's team.

When asked about what he likes best about Temple Or Olam, he said that it's the relaxed and welcoming atmosphere – especially for interfaith families. He said that Rabbi Barbara does a great job reaching out to the kids and that she 'reaches out in a unique way,' not like anywhere else.

He is often asked about being from Brazil and also about being Jewish, as Brazil is overwhelmingly Catholic. His father's family is first-generation Brazilian. His parents emigrated from Poland before the war. His mother's parents were Holocaust survivors and living in Hungary. In 1956 there was a revolution in Hungary and life became difficult for Jews. His grandparents wanted to leave and move to a warmer climate – they chose South America.

Sergio said that it's important to remind people of that time in history. His grandparents' generation is almost gone, and we need to keep that information alive.



*Robbin Smith*

## DID YOU KNOW . . .



Our 2012 **annual meeting** is on Sunday, **June 3rd at 4pm**. This is a time for our Congregants to gather their thoughts, gather their smiles, and join together to learn about the inner workings of Temple Or Olam. Our Board works extremely hard all year to maintain a group that is healthy and functional. The annual meeting is one of the few times a Board meeting is open, so we encourage you to join us to give your input or just to listen. There is also a party after the meeting because we at Temple Or Olam do not need a huge excuse to snack and shmooze.

We hope to see you there . . .



*Judah Malin  
President*

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

## THOSE SUMMER NIGHTS (AND DAYS)

We have tentatively scheduled a congregational **game night** for Saturday, July 14. We'll do havdalah before we begin, and then we'll play all manner of games—from twister to chess to card games. You bring it, we'll give it a shot!

An inaugural **Rosh Chodesh** has also been tentatively scheduled for Saturday morning, July 21. According to the Talmud, women are exempt from work on Rosh Chodesh, and that work usually includes sewing (since it's one of the skills women employed in helping to construct the Tabernacle). Nevertheless, we're pretty sure this particular sewing will be nothing but joyous, fun, and utterly woman-empowering. We plan to spend the morning celebrating ourselves and one another, and constructing kippot and tallitot that we might wear whenever we're inclined to do so. Look for more info as the time approaches!



*Angela Hodges  
Director, Public Relations*

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

## WE ENCOURAGE UNDERAGE THINKING

This summer the leadership of the Religious School is in the market for . . . well, a school! While we do have a never-ending appreciation for the families who have hosted the school in their homes for so many years, it is time that we have our children start reading at, sitting at, and writing on real desks! In an attempt to make our school a little more structured than it has been in the past, we are looking for available spaces where the school can meet. We are in the process of contacting local elementary schools and inquiring about pricing of spaces available. I'd like to charge the rest of the congregation with putting some thought into this! If you know of any space that would be reasonable (both in location and price) where our school can meet, please say the word! This space is not limited to elementary schools; it could be office space, for example. You can contact me via email at [jlwaldma@uncc.edu](mailto:jlwaldma@uncc.edu). Thank you all so much for your continued dedication to the Temple Or Olam Religious School!



*Jessica Waldmann  
Director, Religious School*

# BIRTHDAYS

## Y A H R Z E I T S

- 06-06 Eugene Greenwald, father of Earl Greenwald
- 06-07 Audre Spivock, mother of William Spivock

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

- 06-05 Jacqueline Louise Gordon
- 06-06 Jessica Waldman
- 06-08 Harriet Commike  
Rebecca Smith
- 06-13 Doris Gordon
- 06-14 Jillian Smith
- 06-27 Pasquale Quintero, Jr.

## THANK YOU

Thanks to all who made it possible for Temple Or Olam to acquire Shiva Minyan books—we are so grateful for your generous donations:

- Heather and Sergio Chait
- Michael and Arlene Filkoff
- Barbara Goldstein
- Earl and Cheryl Greenwald
- Angela Hodges
- Heidi Yalowitz-Lasser
- Samuel and Shannon Leder
- Judah and Terri Malin
- Steve and Robbin Smith
- Janet Sternbach
- Jessica Waldman

## C O N T A C T I N F O R M A T I O N

- Dr. Barbara Thiede: [rabbi.thiede@or-olam.org](mailto:rabbi.thiede@or-olam.org)
- Judah Malin, president: [info@or-olam.org](mailto:info@or-olam.org)
- Religious school: [religious-school@or-olam.org](mailto:religious-school@or-olam.org)
- Schmoozeletter: [editor@or-olam.org](mailto:editor@or-olam.org)
- Webmaster: [webmaster@or-olam.org](mailto:webmaster@or-olam.org)
- Administrative assistant: [templeadmin@or-olam.org](mailto:templeadmin@or-olam.org)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 362  
 Huntersville, NC 28070-0362  
 Phone: 704-720-7577

## T H E B O A R D

- President: Judah Malin
- Vice President: Pasquale Quintero
- Director of Religious Services: Ginger Jensen
- Treasurer and Membership Director: Robbin Smith
- Director of Public Relations: Angela Hodges