

Shmoozeeletter

Temple
Or Olam



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- July 7: Game Night (6:00 p.m.)
- July 13 service
- Rosh Chodesh July 21, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- Meet the Mishpoche: Janet Sternbach
- Aug. 11 and 18 Seminar: The Days of Awe
- Implications of our No Jew Left Behind policy
- In the mail: budget, membership packets

GAME NIGHT—JULY 7 AT 6:00 P.M.

Our congregational game night is coming up shortly! We'll be starting at 6:00 p.m. We'll break off into small groups to play games, nosh, celebrate havdalah, and have a wonderful time together. Please **bring your favorite game** as well as a **snack to share**, and remember that we're starting **an hour early!**

KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE JULY 13:

Please join us for a joyful summer Kabbalat Shabbat service. We encourage everyone (but only if they feel like it) to wear summer whites.

Be prepared for another round of sweet music, sweet prayer, and sweet community feeling.

When: Friday, July 13; at 7 p.m.

Where: McGill Baptist Church, Concord NC

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HIGH HOLYDAY INTENSIVE COURSE

THE HISTORY AND LITURGY OF THE DAYS OF AWE

- ☆ Why do we joyously mark the creation of the world at Rosh Hashanah and then move into ten days of sorrowful repentance?
- ☆ 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”?

The answers would surprise us.

On August 11 and 18, Rabbi Barbara will be offering a two-week introductory and intensive course on the High Holy Days. 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.

Classes meet from 10-12 with a convivial lunch break and continue from 1-3 pm. Interested? Please let Rabbi Barbara know at Rabbi.Thiede@or-olam.org

Dates: August 11 and 18

Time: Morning session: 10 -12 am; Afternoon session, 1-3 pm

Tuition: \$72 (covers all sessions).

*If I am not for myself, who will be for me?
And when I am for myself, what am 'I'?
And 'if not now, when?'*

Rabbi Hillel the Elder

NO JEW LEFT BEHIND

At Temple Or Olam, we proudly proclaim that we have a No Jew Left Behind policy. And we are grateful. We are grateful that our congregants know why it is so important to do all they can to sustain that policy.

Why? Imagine this scenario: A family that has paid the full suggested dues each and every year needs financial arrangements this year due to extensive medical bills or to a job loss. We can respond wisely, kindly, and compassionately, because we know we can rely on others to help us make the difference.

The family that needed arrangements last year can and will pay full suggested dues this year. That family knows that others are now in the straightened circumstances they struggled with. They are returning the favor. Our members' needs for support change. What cannot change is this: Temple Or Olam has to be sustained for the long term. That way, we can meet truly critical needs.

A sustainable congregation must be able to support those who are ill, to support the education of its children, and to have the resources to celebrate the life cycle events of every single member – from baby namings to b'nai mitzvah to funerals. We need to have an income we can rely on.

So everyone does what they can to share financial responsibilities. That way, those in real need can be supported. Our children, regardless of their family's financial condition, are able to attend our Religious School. We can sustain our Temple's policy.

You all will be sent a copy of the budget that was approved at our Annual Meeting. Please take a few minutes to look at it; you will see how hard the leadership of this congregation works to sustain our congregation on a shoestring.

We hardly ever solicit or fundraise for anything other than important social action causes (CVAN, Relay for Life) or for our most essential needs – the repair of our Torah or Religious School scholarships for children in need. We manage to operate as much on love and volunteerism as possible.

Priorities: We are here to care for each other, to protect each other, to sustain and foster Jewish community. We are here to offer a place where interfaith families and couples are comfortable and welcome.

I feel blessed to be the rabbi of a congregation that is committed to taking care of its own so that no one is left behind. When you are filling out your membership forms for this year and mailing in your checks, please remember that you are giving not just for yourself, but for others – just as they have for you.

If not now, when?



Rabbi Dr. Barbara Thiede

*We are here
to care for
each other.*



Rabbi Barbara

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!)

This month's pick of the mispoche is **Janet Sternbach**. She is a long-distance member who lives in Oak Island, NC, and she is Robbin Smith's mother.

Jan and her husband (Robbin's dad) wanted to retire somewhere warm in the distant future. So they vacationed in several states including Virginia, SC, Florida, and NC. They liked Oak Island, bought a home and rented it out until they could both retire. Her husband Irving ("Itsy") retired early from IBM, and she retired from Spackenkill School district as a Speech and Language Pathologist.

They had 2 good years in their new location before he passed away. She was glad that she had taken early retirement too.

It was hard moving away from family living all over the Northeast, but she feels fortunate that her children wanted to move to NC as well. Robbin, Steve, and Jillian moved down South a year before Jan and her husband did. They wanted to live near the beach, but found jobs in Charlotte. Granddaughter Rebecca was born in Charlotte, and just two years ago, granddaughter Jillian had a son (Cameron), making Jan a great-grandmother. Son Mark and his wife Sabrina also wanted to live near the ocean, but found jobs in Clinton, NC.

Jan feels the best part of retirement is doing things that she never had time to do before. She volunteers with the *Turtle Protection Program of NC*, and at certain times of the year, this takes up a lot of her time. Jan monitors turtle nests on the beach. This includes preparing the nest, educating the public about the threatened species (loggerhead turtles), tracking its progress, and sitting with the nest every evening late into the night for 2 weeks near hatching time. When the nest 'boils' (hatches), she enlists the help of other watchers to guide the turtles safely down to the water's edge. She continues checking the nest for a couple of days afterward to ensure that the last of the turtles reach the ocean. Then, the nest is excavated to check the number of hatched eggs which is then reported to the state. She enjoys training other volunteers as well.

She also belongs to a loosely organized group of women who knit, crochet, and quilt blankets for needy children.

In addition, Jan recently attended a Citizen's Academy sponsored by the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office. This has led to her volunteering at the Sheriff's office, where her duties include administrative work such as answering the phone, filing, and entering data. This frees up the Sheriff's staff to spend more time on the road and to attend to their more urgent duties. She also volunteers at the Detention Center, checking in visitors and filing inmate-release packets. She is available for overnight transports of female patients to mental health facilities and to drug rehab centers. Jan expects to be helping to train future participants in the Citizens Academy.

She enjoys participating in Torah study, as it helps her keep in touch with members long distance.

The thing that Jan likes best about Temple Or Olam is our Rabbi. Rabbi Barbara is warmer and more personable than any rabbi that she's ever known before. Rabbi Barbara helped Jan's granddaughter Rebecca prepare for her Bat Mitzvah and helped son-in-law Steve Smith prepare for his conversion.



Leatherback turtle, Oak Island (picture by Jeff King
<http://www.oakislandnc.com>)

Robbin Smith



DID YOU KNOW . . .



It is July already and we are flying through 2012! In between your fun summer activities, please take some time out to review the membership packet you have received. Our Covenant must be signed and sent back along with your first payment to start our year off with a fiscal bang. After a wonderful annual meeting (and so very many positive things on the horizon), we want to keep the momentum going and make this year even better.

If you should have any questions about the packet, please contact Robbin Smith or me to help with the process.

Thank you for being part of our Community, and have a wonderful summer!



*Judah Malin
President*

JEWS IN THE NEWS

ROSH CHODESH – TALLIT AND KIPPOT MAKING WITH RABBI BARBARA

On **July 21 from 1-4pm**, we'll meet at Rabbi Barbara's home for a lesson on tallit and kippot making, a little noshing and some visiting. If you'd like to attend this event, please RSVP to the rabbi at rabbi.thiede@or-olam.org as soon as possible. All adult female members are welcome, and if you'd like to bring some dessert fare to go with coffee and tea, you're welcome to do so.



*Angela Hodges
Director, Public Relations*

GETTING IT – TOGETHER

ROSH CHODESH PLANNING SESSION

This past month we held a planning meeting for our Rosh Chodesh women's group. Our intention is for this to be a casual group welcoming all women who are associated with the congregation. During our planning meeting, we mapped out events that will take place over the next six months. Some of these include crafting, heading up to Lake Norman for lunch and a boat ride, dinner and a play, and Israeli dancing! Events are scheduled for a variety of times and days so that more women can take part, and notifications and RSVPs for upcoming events will be sent out well in advance of activities. Our prospective events were designed to be fun and inexpensive ways to get to know each other better and to spend some time together, just relaxing. But we also want to appeal to those with different interests. What sorts of activities appeal to you? Do you have a terrific idea or want to be on the planning committee? Contact Jessica Waldman and let her know!



*Jessica Waldmann
Director of Social and Adult Programming*

BIRTHDAYS

Y A H R Z E I T S

- 07-05 Rose Joffe, mother of the late Dr. Irving Joffe
- 07-08 Nather Meyer Shapiro, father of Barbara Thiede
- 07-11 Evelyn Thiede, mother of Ralf Thiede
- 08-16 Norman Roettger, father of Ginger Jensen
- 07-28 Richard A. Gordon, father of Jason Gordon

- 07-01 Ginger Jensen
- 07-03 Gabriel Quintero
- 07-04 Laiko Quintero
- 07-16 Matthew Leder
- 07-19 Stewart Roberts
- 07-20 Yvette Spivock
- 07-28 Yonatan Owens
- 07-30 Arthur Kingberg

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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
 Judah Malin, president: info@or-olam.org
 Religious school: religious-school@or-olam.org
 Schmoozeletter: editor@or-olam.org
 Webmaster: webmaster@or-olam.org
 Administrative assistant: 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
 Secretary / Director of Social and Adult Programming: Jessica Waldmann
 Director of Religious Services: Ginger Jensen
 Treasurer and Membership Director: Robbin Smith
 Director of Public Relations: Angela Hodges