

Shmoozeeletter

Temple
Or Olam



**SPECIAL
POINTS OF IN-
TEREST:**

- August 03 Service
- TOO receives Lenora Stein Grant
- Love Song Service August 17
- Meet the Mishpoche: Yvette Spivock
- Keri Huneycutt, Terri Malin to direct Religious School
- Religious School relocated to University City
- High Holy Days Intensive Seminar with Rabbi Thiede Aug. 11 and 18

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

Lenora Stein Grant	1
Service Announcement	1
MiLev HaPardes	2
Meet the Mishpoche	3
Religious School	4
High Holy Day Seminar	4
Birthdays, Yahrzeits	5
Contact Information	5

TEMPLE OR OLAM RECEIVES LENORA STEIN GRANT

Earlier this year, Temple Or Olam education committee members put together a grant proposal and applied to the Lenora Stein Fund for Community Creative Learning. The grant application asked for funding to help our Religious School provide resources for special-needs children. In July, we got the news that we had been chosen as one of two recipients of the award (split with the other recipient). Needless to say, we are thrilled to have new resources to devote to our kids!

Currently, we have about half of the monies we need to implement new computer and curricular technologies. Our own Arlene Filkoff has been scouring the country for financial contributions and has thus far raised in excess of \$400 to put toward the equipment that we need. If you are interested in contributing to our effort, please keep in mind that you can earmark money you donate to our community for the Religious School. Please contact our treasurer if this appeals to you!



THE MAN WHO COULD NOT READ

Many Jews do not understand Hebrew. Many do not read the Hebrew letters. Yet they pray in that language. At this service, we will hear the story of what happened on High Holy Days to the man who couldn't read Hebrew and yet discovered a way to pray with complete *kavanah*.

Our Kabbalat Shabbat service is especially joyous this Friday as we are celebrating much in the way of wonderful news – a new school location, the birth of our newest member, Anderson Storch Everhart, the fact that we are one of two recipients this year of the Lenora Stein Fund for Community Creative Learning, and more.

Please join us for a sweet Kabbalat Shabbat!

When: Friday, August 03; at 7 p.m.

Where: McGill Baptist Church, Concord NC

All that you do, do only out of love.
Sifre

MILEV HAPARDES

FROM THE HEART OF THE ORCHARD

Every summer, we plan a service around this goal: taking an innovative look at what a Kabbalat Shabbat service is all about.

It's about love, actually.

Most of the prayers we are chanting are love songs of a sort. We sing of God's love in *Ahavat Olam*, and God commands our love in the *V'ahavta*. We respond with our gratitude for God's gifts to us in *Mi Chamocha*.

Sometimes it's hard to know how to speak to God. Sometimes, it seems impossible from the start. Who and what is God, and what can we believe in?

There are places in our services to honor doubt or sadness. Love of any kind is subject to challenge and change.

Other times we acknowledge the gift of peace. We are content. We've tapped into some beauty around us – a soft note, a vibrant percussion, a child dancing behind the chairs.

We want to take the time to be thankful.

On August 17th, we will experience Kabbalat Shabbat service as a series of beloved love songs.

We asked congregants for their favorite love songs, the kind they imagined singing to God.

The results were crafted into the service we will be offering. They include songs from Don McClean, Cat Stevens, the Animals, Elvis Presley, the Eagles, Van Morrison, the Beatles, and more.

We will be singing songs that express the love song of creation found in the *Barchu*, the hopeful love of *Aleynu*, the loving commitment of *Adon Olam*.

We will also admit to the challenges in forging spiritual relationships. In a world of war and hunger, in a world where so many people die of completely preventable causes, God can seem distant, even absent. How can we access God's love when reality seems bereft of it?

God is not an easy concept.

But neither is love.

At this Kabbalat Shabbat service, we will sing of all aspects of our relationship to both, God and love.



Rabbi Dr. Barbara Thiede

God is not an easy concept.

But neither is love.

THE SOUL CANNOT
CELEBRATE ALONE
Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel



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's mispoche pick is **Yvette Spivock**. Yvette is originally from a small farm town of 600 people south of Chicago. She attended University of South Florida in Tampa and majored in Communications with a minor in Cultural Anthropology. After college, she worked in New Orleans for a patent attorney and watched the cruise ships come into port right by her office. She called and joined the cruise line and stayed on board with various cruise companies for seven years doing everything from Social Hostess to Shore Excursions to Cruise Director.

She debarked in Ft. Lauderdale and started leasing interior mall space (kiosks, coffee carts, etc.) and was eventually transferred to Las Vegas. Her office was next to Bill, her future husband, who worked in commercial real estate (his own business). When the real estate market started to go bad, they decided to start a new venture.

They moved to Tampa and owned and operated a USA Baby store for 4 years. It was a hard time to open a new store as it was shortly after 9-11. Yvette calls 2004 the Year of the Hurricanes – there were 5 hurricanes that year, and four of them headed their way. During the hurricanes, they had evacuated to Charlotte where Bill's parents were living, where "the sky was blue" and the weather was beautiful.

A year later, Yvette and Bill moved to Charlotte with their children, son Bryston (age 8 at the time) and daughter Emory (age 6 at the time). Both "kids," who are now ages 16 and 14, are studying with Rabbi Barbara to become Bar and Bat Mitzvah in October. The family will send out more information later, but for now they want everyone to "Save the Date" of 10/20/12.

Bill went back into real estate and Yvette stayed home with the children. Once the kids were in middle school about a year ago, Yvette was ready to work outside the home again. She started working at Discovery Place and then started a job at Emory's school – Charlotte Preparatory School.

In their spare time, Yvette and Emory volunteer with the Carolina Waterfowl Rescue (for four years now). After a recent windstorm, the group needs donations of construction materials such as fencing and chicken wire to replace damaged cages and fences. This waterfowl rescue group is one of the largest in the southeast region. Charlotte also has one of very few exotic birds rescue groups in the country, called Parrot University. Birds are flown in from around the country.

Yvette and Emory also volunteer with Animal Rehabilitators of the Carolinas (ARC). This group specializes in small animal rescue such as bunnies, squirrels and chipmunks. In NC they do not handle raccoons, skunks, foxes or bats due to the possibility of the animals' carrying rabies. ARC has a huge network, and the volunteers specialize in different animals. The laws are different in NC and SC, so there are "raccoon people" in SC.

Yvette and her family like to hike at DuPont National Forest, which is about two hours from Charlotte, near Brevard. This is a favorite day trip because it has three waterfalls, easy hiking, good camping, and it's a fast and easy trip. It's near Hendersonville, which offers restaurants and cute shops. The family likes to kayak on Mountain Island Lake.

Yvette also likes to read, write and play piano. She will be starting a day tripper blog about day trips in the Charlotte area. She likes to blog about nifty places in the area – within a couple of hours of Charlotte. However, it will probably not be up and running until after the family's B'nei Mitzvah.

When asked about what she likes best about Temple Or Olam, she quickly rattled off – the rabbi, the people, the music and the services. Then she said that what she really likes best is that her kids will forego sleepovers with friends and other fun activities in order to go to the Temple.



Yvette and Bryston Spivock





TOO'S RELIGIOUS SCHOOL—WELL STAFFED AND NO LONGER HOMELESS

We've had some amazing news in the past few weeks.

First and foremost: after much investigation, we have a new meeting place for the school! Beginning in September, the religious school will be held at Advent Lutheran Church in University City. The location is central for the majority of our school kids, there is ample room for both age groups to meet, and we'll even have a closet in which to store our supplies! Many thanks to Rabbi Barbara for investigating and securing the location, and to everyone else who hunted for possible meeting spaces over the summer.

We also have great news on the Director of School front: Terri Malin volunteered to be Director of School in the Spring of the upcoming school year, and Keri Huneycutt has agreed to take on the role for the Fall. Suffice to say we are thrilled to have such brilliant and qualified women overseeing the managerial side of things, and as always we're happy to have their great energy and commitment on the education planning committee.

Things are looking good!

HIGH HOLY DAYS INTENSIVE COURSE WITH RABBI BARBARA

For some of us, the liturgy surrounding the High Holidays can be problematic. Does it speak to the way we actually live or to the way we really understand God? Does it have to be so painful?

On August 11th and 18th, Rabbi Barbara will be offering an intensive course on the architecture of the High Holy Days. Participants will be exploring what Torah says about the Days of Awe and what the rabbis and Jewish communities later made of them. The class will also 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.

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. There will then be a break for lunch, and study will continue 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. The afternoon will be spent wrestling with the history and liturgy of Yom Kippur.

If you're interested in attending these two classes (and perhaps helping to craft part of the message for this year's High Holidays), please email Rabbi Barbara as soon as possible.

VITAL INFO

E-mail: Rabbi.Thiede@or-olam.org - Reserve your spot now!

Dates: August 11th and 18th

Times: 10am-12pm and 1-3pm (both days)

Tuition: \$72 (covers all sessions)

*Angela Hodges
Director, Public Relations*

BIRTHDAYS

Y A H R Z E I T S

- 08-07 Eva Miller, mother of Ellie Joffe
- 08-09 Elaine Cutler, mother of Brian Cutler
- 08-24 Eileen Zelig, sister of Tom Jensen
Irving Sternbach, father of Robbin Smith and
husband of Janet Sternbach
- 08-30 Sandra Greenwald, sister of Earl Greenwald
- 08-31 Albert Joffe, father of the late Dr. Irving Joffe

- 08-01 Leta VanArsdale
- 08-09 Andrew Chait
- 08-10 Erik Thiede
- 08-15 Evan VanArsdale
- 08-25 Will King
- 08-27 Phil VanArsdale
- 08-28 LingLing Jacobson
- 08-31 Alison Cutler

www.or-olam.org



CONTACT INFORMATION

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

THE BOARD

President: Judah Malin
 Secretary / Director of Social and Adult Program-
 ming: Jessica Waldmann
 Director of Religious Services: Ginger Jensen
 Treasurer and Membership Director: Robbin Smith
 Director of Public Relations: Angela Hodges