



## Simchat Torah: Our Torah's Last Dance

On October 6th at 7pm, we'll dance our Torah around the sanctuary and through the hallways to music that is both celebratory and heartfelt.

This Simchat Torah will be our last chance to see the Torah in her entirety. If enough people attend (we need many gloved hands to hold her!), we will unroll the scroll completely.

Rabbi Barbara will show us special features of our scroll – like those mysteriously large and little letters that punctuate the text and the way the calligraphy changes to reveal several hands at work. Seven lucky congregants will be chosen to step to the Genesis column of their choice where Rabbi Barbara will find the verse meant especially for them.

And then, after our last congregational dance with our Torah, we will express our thanks and our love – for this Torah, whose many fragments come from so many communities now lost to us, has served us well indeed.

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### Did you know?

Temple Or Olam is represented on the Web by more than just its website. Our congregation has a very active [Facebook page](#) that features both videos and photos; we also have a [YouTube channel](#) and a [flickr account](#). In addition, Rabbi Barbara blogs about Jewish life on [her website](#). Find us!

## Heartfelt: Honoring Our Torah and Welcoming Her Little Sister



On Rosh Hashanah, I broke a vow. I had never made any fundraising pitch during High Holy Days. I never thought I would. And yet, even the smallest community has two essential obligations. To be able to bury its dead with honor, and to keep and maintain a Torah scroll. Every community must be responsible for making sure that our heart beats. That heart is the Torah.

Our congregation's Torah was pieced together from remnants of many Torahs whose several parts date back as far as the late 1800's. The people who heard this Torah read all over Europe were decimated by the Final Solution. Few of them survived the Shoah. Somehow, parts of their Torah did. Each time I chant, I remember the Jews who knew and revered and loved this

Torah for decades: Jews of Macedonia,

Moravia, Germany, and Lithuania. I imagine them around me, joining me at the Torah. Our children have chanted from this Torah. We have raised this Torah high for us all to see. Some of the women in our congregation first held a Torah scroll after I put this one into their arms.

Nine years ago, when our sofer, Neil Yerman, first restored our Torah, he told me she was not a healthy scroll. Who knows how she survived the conflagrations in Europe? Still, we hoped she had another thirty years of life. But over the last century, our Torah has suffered irreparable damage. The parchment has grown thick and unyielding to quill and ink. She cannot be kept kosher for reading without ongoing and expensive attention. So, as Neil told me, we will need to care for her now as we would an elder. We need to let her rest and fund her retirement by raising the money for a new Torah.

We have found a beautiful and healthy scroll written by a Mizrachi scribe. Her provenance is likely Iran or Iraq. Middle Eastern Jewish communities were the longest continuous Jewish communities in existence until the birth of Israel, when they were forced to dissolve.

We need to raise thousands of dollars to purchase this new scroll, and our first outreach has been rewarded – we are a third of the way to our fundraising goal in just two weeks! Please help us spread the word to family, friends and supporters. Anyone can make a tax-deductible donation in any amount either by sending in a check or simply clicking the PayPal button on our website. If each one of us reaches out, we will hold our new Torah in our arms much sooner than we might imagine.

Please send your tax-deductible contribution to the following address or click on the link below to our website for the PayPal link:

Treasurer:

Temple Or Olam, Treasurer

PO Box 362

Huntersville, NC 28070-0362

[http://www.or-olam.org/?page\\_id=17380](http://www.or-olam.org/?page_id=17380)

FROM THE  
HEART OF THE  
ORCHARD

# Millev HaPardes



Bryston and Emory Spivock at Temple Or Olam's picnic, May 2012.



## Bryston & Emory Spivock's bar/bat mitzvah on October 20th

Each person is responsible for every other.

Jews believe that they must care for one other and the world. Their guide is the Torah, and the ethical commandments it contains.

When our teens come of age, they prove their readiness to take on the obligations of their Jewish identity. In our congregation, they can choose one of three ways in which to do just that.

Some of our teens decide to study service leading, and most of their study time is spent learning how to lead prayers at a Shabbat service.

Teens can also choose a *tikkun Olam* track, in which they study specific *mitzvot* (commandments). Emory Spivock's interest in animal welfare led her to the study of commandments that forbid *tsar ba'alei chayim* (cruelty to animals). In addition to studying biblical and rabbinic texts, Emory also put in many hours volunteering for animal rights organizations.

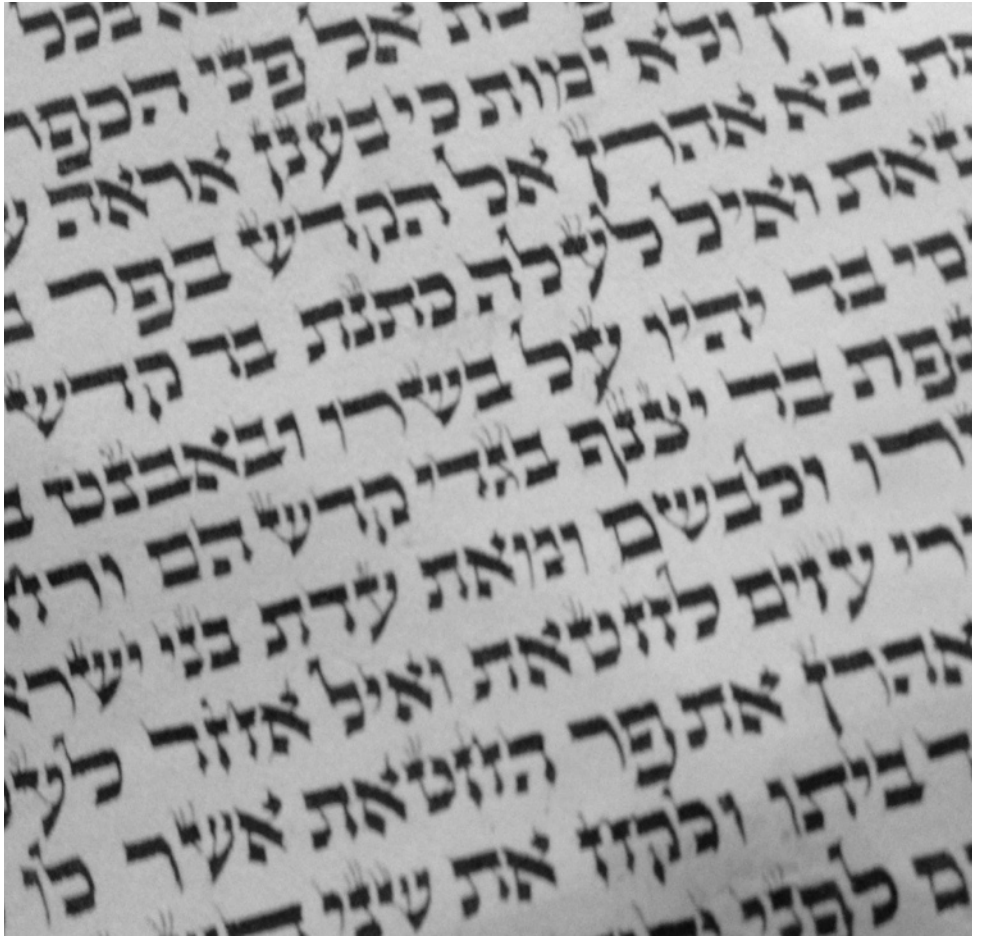
Another track offered at Temple Or Olam allows teens to focus on a specific topic of Jewish learning. Bryston Spivock's interest in Chinese culture led him to study the Jewish community of Kaifeng, China. In the coming months, Bryston will present what he has learned to the members of Temple Or Olam, giving them an opportunity to learn about a Jewish community most probably never knew existed.

All our teens participate in co-leading significant elements of a Shabbat morning service. That service is known as a *bar mitzvah* (for boys) and a *bat mitzvah* (for girls). At that service, the congregation recognizes their efforts and announces its readiness to accept them as adult members of the congregation.

For Bryston and Emory Spivock, the bar/bat mitzvah service will take place on **Saturday, October 20th at 10a.m.** The event is being held at **Irish Creek Country Club, 1196 Fairway Drive, Kannapolis NC 28081.**

The service itself will last about two hours, and a party will be occurring afterward. **If you intend to attend the party, the Spivocks ask that you RSVP by October 10th.** Please check your email for the evite, which was originally sent out on September 8th.

# New Torah



## Help wanted: the acquisition, care and feeding of TOO's new Torah

### What are we raising funds for?

- Our new Mizrachi (Middle Eastern) scroll, of course!
- A Torah mantle and, eventually, finials and breastplate for our new Torah.
- A self-contained humidity and temperature controlled storage unit for our scrolls.
- Insurance!

### The Torah is the heart of Jewish community. How do we take care of it?

- Please do not ever touch parchment with your hands or any other part of your skin; the oil on your skin can damage the letters. When using a yad (pointer), make sure the yad also never actually touches the parchment – it, too, may have oil on it from our human hands.
- Keep the Torah away from light. Don't put scrolls on an outside wall. Make sure the temperature doesn't get too hot or too cold – Torah scrolls, like people, appreciate temperatures of about 70 – 72 degrees.

- Make sure that the sweat of human bodies doesn't wick through the mantle and into the parchment when people are carrying a Torah about. Humidity is a Torah scroll's biggest enemy.
- Keep a Torah scroll dry! Did we mention humidity? Torah scrolls don't like humidity higher than 42 percent.
- Keep a Torah scroll wound as tightly as possible. (Yes, you guessed it – to avoid humidity creeping into the parchment).

### A minyan of *Shomrim* needed

Over the next months, we'll be looking for at least a minyan of congregants who want to learn how to care for, roll, and clean a Torah scroll. Our Torah *Shomrim* (guards, keepers) will be studying with Rabbi Barbara and, we hope, with Neil Yerman himself when our new Torah is brought home. Let Rabbi Barbara know if you are interested at [Rabbi.Thiede@or-olam.org](mailto:Rabbi.Thiede@or-olam.org)

October

## BIRTHDAYS

10.07  
Ellie Joffe

10.09  
Dennis Cutler  
Penny Cutler

10.11  
David Huneycutt

10.15  
Adam Roberts

10.17  
Linda VanArsdale

10.22  
Jack Commike

10.25  
John Jensen  
Bryston Spivock  
Emory Spivock

## YAHRZEITS

Morris Miller, father of Ellie Joffe

## 2012 THE BOARD

President – Judah Malin

Secretary / Director of Adult & Social Programming – Jessica Waldman

Director of Religious Programming – Ginger Jensen

Treasurer and Membership Director – Robbin Smith

Director of Public Relations & Webmaster – Angela Hodges

## Contact info:

If you need to add a date to the temple calendar or check the availability of meeting space, contact our administrative assistant at [templeadmin@or-olam.org](mailto:templeadmin@or-olam.org)

For information about Temple Or Olam's religious school, email [religious-school@or-olam.org](mailto:religious-school@or-olam.org)

Corrections or submissions to the Shmooze can be directed to [webmaster@or-olam.org](mailto:webmaster@or-olam.org)

Rabbi Dr. Barbara Thiede's email is [rabbi.thiede@or-olam.org](mailto:rabbi.thiede@or-olam.org)

## On the web

Temple Or Olam's website:  
<http://www.or-olam.org>

Please "like" us on Facebook at:  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Temple-Or-Olam/135017053202476>

## Treasurer

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Phone: 704-720-7577