

shmooze

TEMPLE
OR OLAM

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Don't Miss It – A Special Gift For Our Members on November 18

We've kept this under wraps, but now it's time to let our members know what awaits them on November 18. As you all know, nationally-known [sofer Neil Yerman will be offering a wonderful program for all comers at 2 p.m.](#) We expect folks from Christian, Muslim and Jewish communities to attend.

Here's the additional and extraordinary experience he has offered our Temple Or Olam members:

After the first program, we will move to the fellowship hall and dedicate our new Torah in a special ceremony that will give congregants the opportunity to write Torah *themselves*. For those of you who have never known what it is to put a crown on a letter with a scribe's

guidance, we can say this much with authority: To write in a Torah is an unforgettable experience that no member of the tribe – whether child or adult – should miss.

This may be your only opportunity to write in a Torah in your lifetime. Don't miss it! So please everyone, set aside the afternoon of Sunday November 18th from 2-5 to be able to participate in an experience you will never forget.

Matching Our Money!

Through an amazing word-of-mouth twist of fate, an anonymous donor in California is matching — DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR — every cent we collect from now on for our new

Torah. This gracious friend to our congregation will match up to \$6000 in donations.

This means every \$50 will mean \$100 to the fund, every \$100 will mean \$200, and every \$500, \$1000.

If you haven't donated yet or find yourself able to donate again, please do. The causes.com page he made is [here](#).

[Just a reminder: donations can also be mailed to the treasurer at P.O. Box 362 Huntersville, NC 28070 or made online through Temple Or Olam's [PayPal account](#).]

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ALL AGLOW – WITH TORAH



The week before Emory and Bryston Spivock were bar and bat mitzvahed, a woman was arrested at the Western Wall for chanting the Shema while wearing a tallit.

That woman was Anat Hoffman, a leader of the Women of the Wall, an organization that has striven, for almost three decades, to get the Israeli government to realize that the Wall should be open to prayer on terms that are not solely defined by Orthodox Judaism.

Currently, women are not allowed to pray at the Wall while wearing a tallit prayer shawl or tefillin. They may not read aloud from Torah.

Hoffman wants Israel's courts to allow her group to pray for one hour per month at the Wall. She would like for the Wall's council to allow some time for prayers without a mechitza – the divider separating women and men.

She's not asking for much.

Hoffman has been detained by police before. This time she was arrested. According to Hoffman, she was strip searched, her legs were chained together, and she was dragged across the floor of a police station before being imprisoned overnight in a cell without a bed. She lay, she says, only in her tallit.

Imagine that somewhere else in the world a Jewish woman was arrested for chanting the Shema and wearing a tallit. How would any Jew – here or in Israel – react to such news?

The days before our last simcha, rabbis on my list serve were asking what we could possibly do on Shabbat to acknowledge how we felt at this outrage. Some suggested that we all chant the Shema without our tallitot, since women at the Wall are not allowed to pray with one. Some suggested sermons or messages.

The morning of Bryston and Emory's bar and bat mitzvah arrived. Emory wore a tallit of many brilliant colors, a tallit of planets and stars. She was radiant.

I had still not decided what to do. I was afraid to disturb the joy we wanted to feel. For years I have encouraged the women of our congregation to wear tallitot and kippot. Wrap yourselves in God's wings, I would tell them. Let a kippah be God's blessing on your head.

At the beginning of our Shabbat service, after we had celebrated coming together by singing joyous opening prayers, I asked Emory to stand and turn in front of her congregation and guests. I asked everyone to look at her in her tallit. Then, I asked everyone to pray with me.

May our daughters know a world of complete freedom. May they reach with joy and love for any Jewish practice they delight in without hesitating for one single moment. May we all make it clear that women have the right – no matter their faith tradition – to pray in freedom, and to become holy representatives and spiritual leaders.

May all our girls be aglow. May our women be strengthened. May we all pray together in perfect love.

And may we all say, Amen.

FROM THE
HEART OF THE
ORCHARD

Millev HaPardes

[WHAT WAS, IS, AND WILL BE HAPPENING AT TOO]

Jews in the News



Bryston & Emory Spivock

November 16th service

The November 16th service will be the last time we chant from the Weldon Torah during a Shabbat service. To celebrate her retirement, several congregants—teens and adults—will chant, one after the other from her text. Don't miss our goodbye to our much-beloved Torah; come and hear your fellow congregants speak and sing her words with love.

Hanukkah Party help

Our Hanukkah party is scheduled for December 15th from 5:00-8:30. If you think you'll be able to help set up or clean up for the party, please sign up on the website [here](#). We need all the roles filled up so no one ends up doing all the work and everyone can enjoy the festivities!

Torah fundraising update and a reminder to sell those tickets!

Our treasurer reports that as of the 21st of October, our Torah fundraising efforts have resulted in the collection of \$8431.62 toward our \$18,000 goal. So far, so good!

Please keep in mind that we have tried to make it very easy for everyone to share the information about our cause. There are TWO informational pages on our website that give people a way to donate through PayPal, (one on [our Torah](#) and one on [Neil Yerman's "Five Books of Moses" interfaith presentation on November 18th](#)) and our [Facebook page](#) also links the information (which you can then "share" to your own page or your friends' pages).

Also, all members have been sent 10 tickets to sell for the fundraiser on November 18th. The tickets are \$10 each. Remember, you can ask your friends, family, and acquaintances for that \$10 donation even if they can't make it to the event — our new Torah is worth it!

Planning underway for February fundraiser

Temple Or Olam's fabulous fundraising committee met on October 27th to discuss an event scheduled for February 2nd, which is likely to include chocolate, a DJ, and dancing.

Currently, the event doesn't have a name, but several are under consideration by committee members, who are determined to make the event sound as wonderful as it is bound to be.

The fundraising committee also has members who have agreed to devote time to figuring out ways to promote the event locally, including possibly making an ad book that would feature paid for ads from businesses in the area.

Other ideas on the table include a raffle and a silent auction. The committee meets again on November 3rd. If there is anyone who would still like to join, please contact Cheryl Greenwald or Arlene Filkoff for more information.



Emory – Aglow!



Rabbi Barbara & Bryston (finding his place)

Note: The beautiful pictures on the left were taken by Jackson Sveen, a journalist from the Huntersville Herald who attended the Spivock b'nai mitzvah in the course of doing his story about our congregation's Torah. They absolutely capture the joy and beauty of the event, and we're most grateful that he shared them!



INTERVIEWS
WITH OUR
TOO FAMILY

meet the mishpooche

Mishpoche means “family”. Each month, Robbin Smith interviews members of our congregation—new and old—in an ongoing effort to build our community through joy, love and understanding.

This month’s interviewee is Ginger Jensen who is on our Temple Board as the Director of Religious Services and who is also a teacher at our Religious School. She is the organizer of our Torah Study which occurs by conference call on Sunday afternoons. She is also the facilitator when Rabbi Barbara cannot attend. Her family was a member of our religious community when we were a chavurah called Havurat Olam. She laughed when she remembered the occasional times that they needed to count members to see if they had reached a minyan (ten). Sometimes they proceeded with a chavurah minyan (5) which she is not sure was halachically correct (according to religious law) or with the Torah counted as one of the ten.

In the beginning....Ginger met Tom through mutual friends and the first time that they actually spoke was at a concert by The Clash. It was a group of ten guys and Ginger. Tom and Ginger started out in Philadelphia but moved to Arizona for her job as a personal financial planner. Tom got a job at a company that owned many business newspapers. He developed a good reputation for fixing newsrooms so his company moved him around the country about every two years for 10-12 years until they landed in NC. Eventually he switched to a company that owns auto racing publications.

Ginger attended Duke University and double majored in French and German literature. She explained that when she went to college people could major in liberal arts and still get a job upon graduation. However it was also a time when women did not go directly into management jobs. If that’s what they wanted to do, they started in clerical jobs and worked their way up to management. Ginger still speaks French and German (her French is better than her German).

Ginger became a proud stay-at-home mom with the arrival of her children – Leanna will be 15 in January and John just turned 12 on October 25. Both of the children were born in NC. She laughed when asked what she likes to do in her spare time. When she’s not writing Religious School lesson plans she loves to read. She likes all kinds of reading material but for fun her favorite is old fashioned murder mysteries (not today’s gory stories).

She became Director of Religious Services when Rabbi Barbara wanted someone with whom she could bounce around ideas about services and other areas of congregational life. Ginger’s wide experience in this area came from moving around the country so often and joining many different congregations over the years. At Religious

School, her specialty is teaching Hebrew along with Angela Hodges. She also teaches Torah and life cycles along with the other teachers.

When asked about her favorite thing about Temple Or Olam she explained that it’s small enough to feel like a family but big enough not to be limited in the programs offered to our members. She attributes this to Rabbi Barbara’s accomplishments – Rabbi Barbara saw a need for others within the congregation to be able to teach Hebrew and so Ginger learned how to read Hebrew.

Ginger is eagerly looking forward to attending more congregational Bar and Bat Mitzvahs of our young members. She mentioned how much she enjoyed JingJing Jacobson’s Bat Mitzvah and Emory and Bryston Spivok’s B’nei Mitzvah this past weekend and spoke about that bringing back happy memories of Leanna’s Bat Mitzvah.

When you see Ginger, Tom, Leanna and John setting up, cleaning up, attending Oneg Shabbats, religious school, festivals and services, please ask them about Leanna’s Bat Mitzvah, their plans for John’s Bar Mitzvah and other things they like to do.

school days

SPOTLIGHT ON
TEMPLE OR
OLAM'S HEBREW
SCHOOL AND ITS
AMAZING
CHILDREN.



One day in Temple Or Olam's Hebrew school

The Temple Or Olam Religious School is offering a wealth of Jewish learning to our children this year. Our youngest students (ages 4 - 6) attend for one hour, typically twice a month. They are introduced to subjects they will explore in depth in future years: stories from Torah, Jewish songs, mitzvot, festivals, and learning Hebrew.

The older children study those topics for 2 ½ hours on Sunday mornings. One Sunday in October looked like this:

Jewish song and prayer – We learned to sing Elohai N'shama and Ashrei.

Hebrew – We have two levels of instruction. The primary class is getting comfortable sight-reading Hebrew. The advanced class is in the third year of a planned curriculum, and this

year they are learning the components of the Torah service. This particular Sunday, they studied Av haRachamim, one of the prayers which precede the Torah being removed from the Ark.

Torah/Mitzvot/Festivals – The mitzvah of Ma'achil Re'evim (feeding the hungry) was the focus for both hands and minds. The children made tzedakah boxes to which they will contribute each week, using the proceeds at Purim to buy supplies to donate to the food bank. While doing that, they considered the ethical implications of modern food distribution. You'd be impressed how many home gardens there are in our congregation!

Life cycles – As part of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah unit, we learned the lyrics to Hava Negilah and the steps of the hora.

Finally, every schoolday offers at least one opportunity to talk about something never thought of for the curriculum. We call these unplanned moments "Jewish Literacy," and this week's started with a reference to jokes. From there, it was just a short hop to Minsk and Pinsk.

Another jam-packed, wonderful day with the children of the Or Olam Religious School!

TOO in the news

The Huntersville Herald recently published an article on our fundraising efforts and Neil Yerman's visit to our congregation, which you can read [here](#). The Charlotte Observer will also be printing a piece about our Torahs, so keep an eye out for it.

November

BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 11
Brian Cutler

Nov. 12
Richard Jacobson

Nov. 23
Philip Jacobson
Ruth Kingberg

Nov. 29
Samuel Leder

YAHREZEITS

Nov. 5 – Annadine K. Jaffee, mother of Marilyn Atlas

Nov. 6 – Wilhelm Thiede, father of Ralf Thiede

Nov. 12 – Hulda Dozback, mother of Ruth Kingberg

Nov. 17 – Goldie Barna, mother of Cheryl Greenwald

Nov. 28 – Gertrude Resnick, mother of Phyllis Herschenfeld

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

For information about Temple Or Olam's religious school, email religious-school@or-olam.org

Corrections or submissions to the Shmooze can be directed to webmaster@or-olam.org

Rabbi Dr. Barbara Thiede's email is 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

2012 THE BOARD

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