

shmooze

TEMPLE
OR OLAM

JAN 2013
VOL X, ISSUE 1



Leta VanArsdale and Julia Chait lulav-ing it up at Sukkot this year.

Congregational Dinner on January 18th

We're getting pretty practiced at eating together here at Temple Or Olam, and our next service provides yet another opportunity for noshing, visiting, and welcoming Shabbat.

The **dinner starts at 6:00 pm**. We'll try to wrap up about 7:30 to begin our Friday night service. (We should be done about the same time since we won't be having an oneg afterward.)

Everyone who plans to attend is asked to bring two food items to share. **The dinner is entirely potluck**, so we are not keeping a list anywhere of what folks plan to bring or how many people are coming.

Grab a few of your favorite eats and join us for our next service; we look forward to seeing you there!

in this issue:

Congregational Dinner	1
MiLev HaPardes	2
Jews in the News	3
Dancing & Dessert	4
Birthdays / Yahrzeits	5

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!

Sabbath Dreams



“More than the Jews have kept the Sabbath, the Sabbath has kept the Jews.” ~Asher Zvi Hirsch Ginsberg

It’s not really so.

Many Jews have grown up with little to no Shabbat observance of any kind. They shop, pay bills, run errands, answer email, catch up on house projects, go into the office. Saturday is a day like any other. The Sabbath is unknown.

Jews and Judaism have survived the dismissal of Shabbat.

Some folks have no choice, given the work they do. Others have a choice, but don’t know it. Still others associate the observance of Shabbat with onerous rules that make no sense in this age. Why not enjoy a shopping trip to the mall?

Why not use the weekend to catch up –

finally, on all the things scribbled on post-it notes or refrigerator whiteboards? Why not mow the grass and weed the garden?

After all, most of us are working at breakneck speed all week long. There’s no time for laundry or vacuuming or shopping trips or yard work until the weekend.

No wonder Shabbat is the go-to time for taking care of the task list.

Our ancestors thought differently, though I suspect they worked just as hard as we do. The Zohar, the 13th century mystical text beloved of all Kabbalists, calls the Sabbath *shalom*, “wholeness,” “peace.”

Talmud says the Sabbath is a taste of the world-to-come. (The rabbis also list romance and a sunny day as two other ways to anticipate that heavenly time... =)). Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote, simply, that the “Sabbath is a day for the sake of life.”

A day for the sake of life. A day for prayer and contemplation and appreciation of the earthly beauties we have been gifted. A day for long walks if the weather is fine and hot cocoa and books and board games and more contemplation and prayer if it isn’t. A day when we would eat wonderful food, when we would study and learn and enjoy what it means to nourish the soul, the mind, and the heart – all at once!

All week we are pressed and worried. We find little time for the rest our bodies and souls crave. Who prays even for five minutes each day? Who meditates? Who stays still long enough to quiet the worries and the fears? There’s too much to do and too much interference; who among us can quiet the desperate noise in the world?

In Genesis 1, Torah tells us that God completed work on the seventh day and “re-ensouled Godself.” The rabbis ask: What was created on this seventh day? Their answer is *menukha*, “tranquility.” God, they say, created serenity on and for the seventh day. God created peace and repose.

I know that the Sabbath no longer keeps most Jews.

But still, I imagine what might happen if each and every congregant began to carve out, at least, a Sabbath hour, a Sabbath morning, to sanctify life. How might it feel to sanctify the time we need for *menukha*, for tranquility and to take it for ourselves?

“The Sabbath is the presence of God in the world, open to the soul of man,” Heschel writes. Would that we knew it as such.

FROM THE
HEART OF THE
ORCHARD

Millev Harperdes

Jews in the News

Multi-mitzvah January 26th

On **January 26th at 10am**, Temple Or Olam will have a somewhat out-of-the-ordinary bat mitzvah for three of its adult members.

Robbin Smith, Terri Malin, and Angela Hodges have been studying with Rabbi Barbara for several months now, and they're finally ready to make the leap into adulthood and responsibility to their community. Oh, wait: They've already done that part! Instead, the women being bat mitzvah-ed on the 26th ask you to come and join them for the culmination of years' worth of learning and joy, and to celebrate with them as they demonstrate their knowledge in a thoughtfully crafted and musically rich service.

The women will honor several members of the congregation as well as their family and friends in the course of the service, and all members are asked to be in attendance to bask in the happy glow!

A larger-than-usual oneg will be provided following the service, and those who would like to attend are asked to **please RSVP** as soon as possible when the Evite comes around later this week.

Beginning Hebrew Class Reminder

This winter, Rabbi Barbara will be offering Hebrew lessons using the same children's books our kids use in our Religious School. That means that we will all learn how to read Hebrew AND learn about Shabbat prayers and what they mean as we go.

The class will be help on-line so that no one has to leave their house and graduates are eligible for the Biblical Hebrew class Rabbi Barbara will offer in the summer. That second class will focus on teaching students how to begin reading Torah in its original language.

If you are interested in learning Hebrew, please let Rabbi Barbara know ASAP at Rabbi.Thiede@or-olam.org.

Success: A full match on the causes.com website

We've completed a major part of our Torah fundraising effort and will have reached the \$12,000 goal set by Mr. Klawans when he completes his last round of matches. The debt of gratitude we owe to Ken Klawans and his generous effort on behalf of a small congregation all the way across the country will never be adequately repaid, and we are so very grateful.

While our fundraising for the Torah itself is now complete, we are still raising money for both the continued maintenance and well-being of our Torahs and their safe storage. Currently, our fundraising committee is hard at work planning our next big event — details on the next page!

Terri Malin takes the Director's chair at TOO's Religious School

In [September's Shmooze](#), we introduced the incoming staff for Temple Or Olam's Religious School. We heard all about Keri Huneycutt (Fall director), Rabbi Barbara, Arlene Filkoff, Ginger Jensen and Angela Hodges.

It seems only fitting that we should do the same for our incoming Spring director Terri Malin (who can, incidentally, be reached at duffster218@hotmail.com should parents have any questions.)

Teresa has a Bachelors degree in Secondary Education, with a minor in Human Development. She is currently pursuing a Masters in Library Information Science from ECU. Meanwhile, she is an elementary school Media Specialist in Cabarrus County. Serving on the Education Planning Committee since 2009, she looks forward to directing TOO's Religious School this spring. She loves to travel in her free time and spend down time with her family when possible.



dancing & dessert

We have fulfilled the causes.com website challenge but we're not done! Our two Torahs need shelter and a fund for future maintenance, so there is some work left to do. Our second and, hopefully, last fundraising effort will be **Dancing and Dessert, A Valentine's Celebration, on February 2nd.**

The TOO Fundraising Committee has been working for the last two months to assemble an evening of dancing, delicious desserts, silent auction selections, and a raffle. The morsels we nibbled at the Torah event were just a sample of the selections from local bakeries and our own cooks. Dancing to a DJ in a Valentine-themed setting while bidding on interesting auction items completes the evening.

To make this event a success, the Fundraising Committee needs two things from TOO members: auction items and your attendance along with your neighbors and friends. Do you use a service provider who is worthy of publicity? Maybe a hairdresser or a book store that knows your preferences? We would love for them to garner some exposure at the event through their purchase of a sponsorship or ad space or an auction item or gift certificate.

Most importantly, our efforts will be in vain if we have no participants. We need you to attend and invite your neighbors and friends. We would like to have 150 people, more than TOO alone can provide. We also need volunteers to keep the evening running smoothly.

Dancing and Desserts is not just another fundraising event. It is a chance to do something not available very often, that of enjoying an evening of dancing and noshing in the company of friends and neighbors and new people too. We will have tickets available at every TOO service and festival until the event date and at the door. Help us make those tickets bring in a full and fun crowd on February 2.

For info on the silent auction, sponsorship, and ad space, contact Cheryl Greenwald: cg@greenwalds.net.

For info on volunteer opportunities, contact Mark Prince: storyteller.mp@gmail.com.

To donate auction items and/or make dessert source suggestions, contact Arlene Filkoff: afilkoff@gmail.com.

Dancing and Dessert, A Valentine's Celebration
Saturday, February 2, 7-10 pm
Ages 13 and over, holiday dress
\$18 each

January

BIRTHDAYS

01.06
Benjamin Roberts

01.12
Leanna Jensen

01.08
Stephen Billings

01.15
Paige & Sarah Billings

01.16
Heather Chait

YAHRZEITS

01.08 – Toby O’Callaghan, sister of Cheryl Greenwald

01.21 – Brad Billings, father of Stephen Billings

01.31 – Henry Dorzback, father of Ruth Kingberg

2013 THE BOARD

President – Judah Malin

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

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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