



Service

Feb. 21 Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 7:00

McGill Baptist Church

On six days work may be done, but on the seventh day you shall have a sabbath of complete rest, holy to the LORD; whoever does any work on it shall be put to death (Ex. 35:3).

Seem just a little over the top? How do we read a text that suggests the death penalty is the right response to someone who refuses to rest on the Sabbath? What does the Torah define as “work” in the first place?

Exploring the meaning, purpose, and gift of Shabbat will be our focus of study at the February 21 service. We’ll ask why generations of Jews have claimed that ‘more than the Jews keep Shabbat, Shabbat keeps the Jews.’

Join us for our Kabbalat Shabbat Service (and prepare to leave the work world behind when you do).

in this issue:

Service February 21	1
MiLev HaPardes	2
Ten Years of Temple Or Olam	4
Board of Directors’ Meeting	7
Dinner, Dancing, and Dessert	8
Kvelling Corner	8
Know your Aleph Bet: ’	9
Our Building Fund	10
Geh Gezunt	11
Calendar	12
Birthdays, Yahrzeits, Donations	13

Did you know?

Temple Or Olam has a [web presence](#). Our [Facebook page](#) features videos and pictures; we also have a [YouTube channel](#) and a [Flickr account](#). Rabbi Barbara blogs on Jewish life on [adrenalinedrash](#). Explore, participate, have fun!

For Love of God. For Yiddishkeit. For us.



I had just gotten the phone call. I had just heard that my application for rabbinical school with ALEPH, the Alliance for Jewish Renewal, had been accepted. It was August 2005.

It was just one year and eight months after six families had registered as a “church” – (yes, that was our only option!) by the name of *Havurat Olam* (now, *Temple Or Olam*). It was just months after an evening at McGill Baptist Church, when I re-

alized that I had been on my feet answering questions about Judaism for well over an hour and a half after I’d given a twenty-minute presentation on the topic.

Why did I become a rabbi?

Because of love.

I loved what happened when our community came together. Many of us had felt lonely, bereft of Yiddishkeit in Cabarrus County. Many of us had been raised in secular homes with Jewish cultural reference points; we yearned for more knowledge, more understanding. All of us felt that we had a purpose greater than our individual hopes.

We were going to create Jewish community where there had been none. We were going to give our children the gift of their heritage. We were going to live out our love of all that Judaism has to offer: learning, joy, investing each day with a sense of the sacred.

For years I had taught Jewish history. For years I had wrestled with the pain and sorrow our people has known.

To become a rabbi was to embrace joy, to reach out to Jews and to interfaith families with a message of hope, of light. I had to learn to balance the need to remember those we have lost with our generation’s mandate: We must create a Jewish future.

When I applied for seminary, I was asked for writing samples – texts that told the story of my relationship to God. So I decided to start with the weekly newspaper columns I had written for eleven years.

God was everywhere.

Millev Hapardes

From the
Heart of the
Orchard

My sister, Suzie, died of breast cancer when she was just 42. I wrote about the way God cried for us because we spent so much energy on entertainment and leisure but had yet to spend enough on finding the cure for cancer.

When our son, Erik, was six, he asked me if I had ever seen God. No, I told him, I'd never actually seen God. But I'd felt God. I wrote about our conversation.

The schoolchildren who listened to my talk on Hanukah and decided they wanted to be Jewish? I wrote about them and joked that I had effected the first mass conversion to Judaism in North Carolina's history. The African-American Kannapolis church that I visited, whose members made me feel welcome and accepted me for who I was? I'd written about them, too. Skimming eleven years of weekly writing was an act of discovery: Faith and conviction and ethics were themes, intertwining threads winding their way through years and years of writing.

I began to read more deeply. Had I treated other people's faith with care when I wrote about mine? Had I respected agnostics, atheists? Secular humanists act on behalf of the world; their standpoint, too, must be given its due. Had I represented my own religion intelligently? Had I contributed to creating a common ground for discussion?

I went to rabbinical school to study God, to study what Jewish scripture and prayer and texts and law and literature and song say to God, say about God.

Everything changed. I became responsible for representing my religion to a community that had never possessed a Jewish congregation until Havurat Olam was born.

Nothing changed. After all, I had tried to study God since I was three years old.

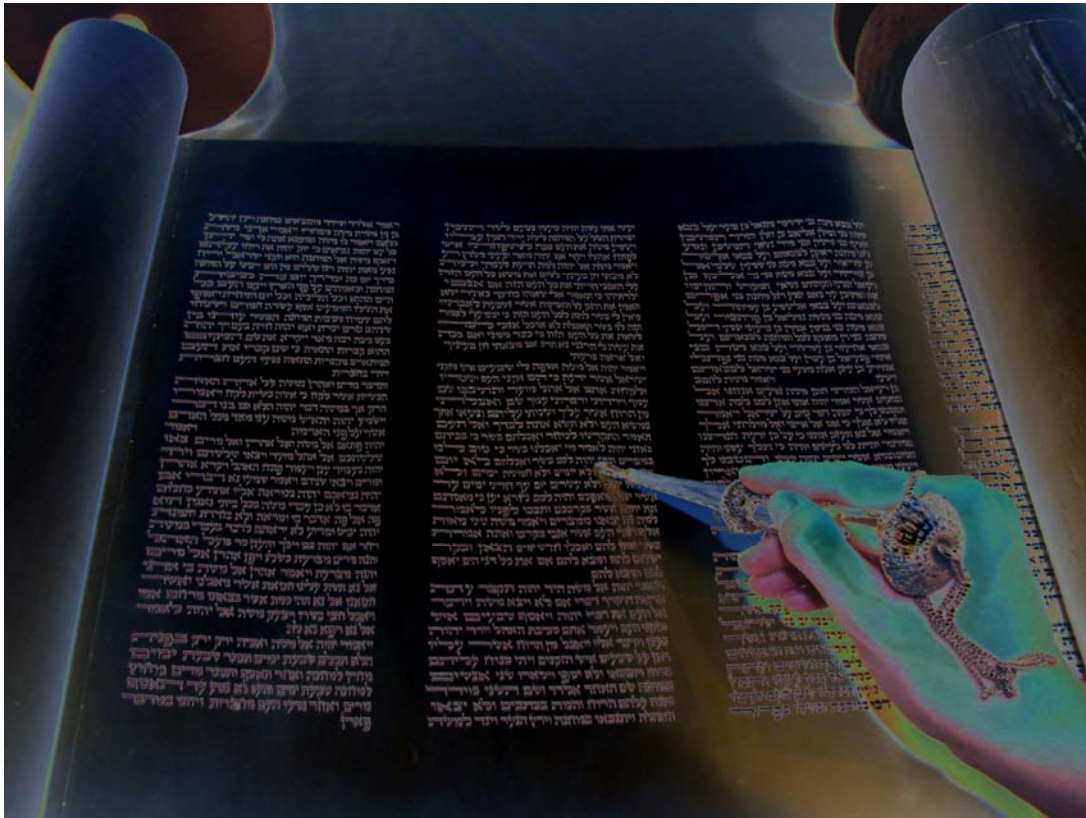
I became a rabbi out of love: love for Judaism, for Jewish heritage and tradition. Love for my community of fellow-seekers; they had asked me to learn so that I help them do the same. Love for the Holy One of Blessing, who seems to have known all along what I sought.

More love for Jews and from Jews in the world. More love.

It is now our tenth year: May it be filled with love.

Rabbi Barbara

Ten Years of Temple Or Olam



On March 23, 2003, Barbara Thiede’s column in the Charlotte Observer’s *Cabarrus Neighbors* was entitled ‘Are you a fish out of water? Let me know.’ That year, Cabarrus County’s first Jewish congregation formed—Havurat Olam. Some of the founding members from that year are still members of Temple Or Olam today: Sam Leder and family, Arthur Kingberg, Brian Cutler, and Phyllis Herschenfeld.

- Spring 2003 first gathering as a havurah
Brian Cutler is president, and Barbara Thiede is director of religious services for several years.
- Jan. 2004 incorporated as Havurat Olam; Barbara Thiede begins religious school instruction at the Thiede home
- Oct. 2004 The havurah obtains a Torah from Weldon, NC, the Temple Emanu-El Torah. Read for the first time at Erik Thiede’s bar mitzvah.
- Sep. 2005 Barbara Thiede accepted to ALEPH Rabbinic School
- 2007 Our religious school is renamed New School for All Things Jewish, adds teachers, and meets in members’ homes.



- Jan. 2008 introduction of the chocolate fundraiser and the chocolate fountain
- April 2008 Ginger Jensen becomes Vice President
- June 2008 Ralf Thiede oversees the transition from havurah to Temple Or Olam
- July 2008 Brian Cutler moves to Canada
first Beatles Shabbat service
- Aug. 2008 Havurah Olam officially becomes Temple Or Olam
Building Fund begun for future space
new website published: www.or-olam.org
Karaoke night fundraiser for the religious school at Purim Party. Where is that tape??
- Jan. 2009 Another chocolate fountain fundraiser!
- May 2009 website redesigned, Shmoozeletter redesigned, Rabbi Barbara's column renamed
- June 2009 Robbin Smith becomes president
- Aug 2009 second Beatles Shabbat service
- June 2010 Ginger Jensen becomes Director of Religious Services
- July 2010 Torah fundraiser with Neil Yerman
new Facebook page introduced
- Jan 2011 Rabbi Barbara's ordination as a rabbi at Ohalah conference in Colorado
- June 2011 Judah Malin elected president
- July 2011 "Feelin' Groovy" Shabbat
Rabbi Barbara's blog, adrena-linedrash.com, comes on line
- Jan 2012 Rabbi Barbara ordained as a spiritual director
- June 2012 First annual Love Song Shabbat
- July 3, 2012 Our first Or Olam baby, Anderson Everhart, is born.
- Aug 2012 We get the word that the Emanu-El Torah is too fragile to be used on a regular basis. The search for another Torah and the funds to purchase it begin.
- Sept 2012 TOO wins the Lenora Stein grant for our special needs students in religious school
Religious school makes the big move from member homes to Advent Lutheran Church
Simchat Torah is last time the Emmanu-El Torah is used regularly
- Oct 2012 Neil Yerman finds another Torah in great shape and we are able to purchase it with the generosity of members, friends, and angelic strangers. More than \$18,000 is raised for its purchase and future care.



- Nov 2012 New Torah dedication and public event with Neil Yerman. TOO members each add a crown to the scroll as a permanent reminder.
- Jan 2013 "Multi-mitzvah" (b'not, that is) with three women reaching a lifetime milestone
- Feb 2013 First Dancing & Dessert fundraiser
- April 2013 Religious school begins curriculum from the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute for Southern Jewish Life (ISJL)
- June 2013 Earl Greenwald becomes president
Our first real contract with Rabbi Barbara!
Second annual Love Song Shabbat
- July 2013 Ruth Kingberg, our matriarch and a founding member, dies.
- Aug 2013 Our tenth year!
congregational dinner and Shabbat as kickoff for year-long celebration
Ruth G. Kingberg Children's Education Fund established
- Sept 2013 New Torah ark and *ner tamid* arrive from Israel.
new white Torah mantles for both Torahs used at Erev Rosh Hashana
new sukkah used at an interfaith event with Advent Lutheran on Sukkot
new "everyday" Torah mantles introduced at Simchat Torah at Piedmont UUC
- Nov 2013 Our first bar mitzvah at the NASCAR Hall of Fame! John Jensen's.
- Feb 2014 our tenth anniversary Dinner Dancing & Dessert gala



Board of Directors' Meeting

January 26, 2014

7:00 p.m., via conference call

[Earl Greenwald, Cheryl Greenwald, Charlotte Miller, Michael Filkoff, Ginger Jensen, Robbin Smith, and Rabbi Barbara Thiede]

The TOO Board of Directors met via conference call on Sunday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. Below are highlights from that meeting:

- ✧ After discussion, voted to donate the proceeds of the Jan. 24 service collection to benefit the homeless to the Urban Ministry Center of Charlotte, an experienced interfaith organization that works to end homelessness 'one life at a time.' We will continue to accept donations for this cause.
- ✧ Announced and voted on several changes in Board positions:
 - Announced Shannon Everhart's resignation from the at-large position as she tends to her new baby and to her young family. She is open to a return to that position at some later date.
 - Announced Robbin Smith's resignation as treasurer and her willingness to stay on the Board in the vacated at-large position. The change was approved unanimously.
 - President Earl Greenwald proposed that Michael Berkowitz fill the position of treasurer. That vote will be conducted via e-mail after Michael's willingness to serve has been confirmed. [update: Michael agreed, and was approved unanimously].
 - The Board expressed to Robbin our appreciation for her commitment, through thick and thin, in her roles as President, as Treasurer, as Membership Director, and as all-round mensch. Her experience and value is beyond price and humbling to us all.
- ✧ Charlotte Miller introduced a new item for the 2014-15 budget. Costs for the web site, message service, blog, and Rabbi Barbara's congregational phone number have been carried by the Thiede's personally lately. It is time to move those expenses back into the budget. Ralf will compile the annual cost and present the figures to the Board by March.

E-mail Charlotte Miller at
templeadmin@or-olam.org

News for the Jews

DINNER, DANCING, AND DESSERT
7:00—10:00 P.M.
CHARLES MACK CENTER, MOORESVILLE
215 N. MAIN STREET

Not to be Missed

We are close to a full house, but you can still sell tickets to our fundraising event (an early Valentine's treat, maybe?) featuring a buffet dinner, live music, dance floor, silent auction, live auction, raffles, and beer and wine. The total value of all auction items and raffle prizes exceeds \$15,000. They include Southwest Airline tickets, Disney World passes, amethyst jewelry, a cruise, an ocean resort vacation, and yet more amazing items. It will be an unforgettable night, and the proceeds will benefit both our Temple and the Dove House Children's Advocacy Center.

We still need volunteers to manage the auction tables and to help clean up. Please be involved—we need the help. Contact Cheryl Greenwald (cg@greenwalds.net) or Arlene Filkoff (afilkoff@gmail.com) to offer your kind assistance.



Dancing, Dinner, and Dessert
February 8

Kvelling Corner

I want this month's kvell to honor Charlotte Miller, our administrator. Charlotte stepped up to the plate of being the Temple Or Olam administrator even before she decided to pitch her tent with our tribe. I doubt there are many congregations who can say that. Charlotte is there to organize our very unique congregation. She is so special and we love her dearly. Thank you, Charlotte, for being there for us and being you.

Remember kvelling is good for the soul. At every service, let's make it a tradition to "kvell" about someone else.

Marilynaf@aol.com

Know your ALEPH-BET

The Littlest Letter in Torah: Yod

Yod is a useful word to know in a game of Scrabble (and legal, too). As a letter in the aleph bet, it is unique: It is the only letter suspended in mid-air. It probably derived from a pictograph of a hand, which seems plausible given that the Hebrew word for 'hand' is *yad*. And who knows, maybe that is how two hands (י) came to symbolize a heavenly Creator, *Adonai*. Since the letter kaf כ is understood as an open or cupped hand, *yod* is often seen as a closed or working hand.

Today, the little letter more widely symbolizes attention to the last, minute detail – as in a task completed *kotso shel yod*, 'to the tip of a yod.' It also stands for humility. And for those who know Yiddish, it represents a *yid* – a Jew.

Besides its unusual size and position, the letter *yod* has another unusual property: It stands for a vowel. The Semitic alphabets contain only consonants, yet we pronounce *yod* as the vowel /i/, for example, in the name Amir אִמִּיר. Something must have happened over time in scribal practice. Being pressed into service as vowels happened to other consonants as well: to the *aleph*, to the *hey*, and to the *vav*. The practice predates the use of the diacritics (the little dots and lines representing vowels in Hebrew writing) and apparently prevented misreadings; a consonant letter so used to represent a vowel sound is known as a *mater lectionis* ('mother of reading').

The numeric value of Yod is 10 – the number of the Commandments as well as of the Plagues. Ten form a minyan; there are ten days of repentance and the ten *sefirot*. And ten is the base of the decimal system, which has yet to be fully adopted in these silly United States of America.



Ralf

Our Building Fund











For many years, our congregation has been graciously hosted by McGill Baptist Church. Indeed, as we scraped together the resources to first restore the Temple Emanuel Torah, we were invited as guests and told to apply what we would have paid as rent towards the Torah fund. And over the years, a deep friendship has grown between the congregations.

And yet. A place of our own. Over just as many years, we have dreamed and planned, started a building fund and visited potential sites, crunched the numbers and put in a lot of footwork. And then the banks pulled back on mortgages. So here we are. Still dreaming about a place of our own. Members are still donating to the building fund (so feel free if you can't think of a better tax-deductible donation). There is every reason to support that vision.



Buckminster Fuller, inventor of the Jew-o-desic Dome and of the Mitzvah Mobile.

The Diet Guide to Jewish Holidays

ROSH HASHANAH		feast
TZOM GEDALIA		fast
YOM KIPPUR		more fasting
SUKKOT		feast
HASHANNAH RABBAH		more feasting
MONTH OF HESHVAN		no feasts or fasts for a whole month—get a grip on yourself
HANUKKAH		eat potato pancakes
TENTH OF TEVET		do not eat potato pancakes
TU B'SHEVAT		feast
FAST OF ESTHER		fast
PURIM		eat pastry
PASSOVER		do not eat pastry
SHAVUOT		daily feast (cheesecake, blintzes, etc.)
17TH OF TAMMUZ		fast (definitely no cheesecake or blintzes)
TISH B'AV	 	very strict fast (don't even think about cheesecake or blintzes)
MONTH OF ELUL		end of cycle

Enroll in Center for Eating Disorders before Holidays arrive again.

Geh
gezunt

share and enjoy



CALENDAR

- Su Feb. 02 5 p.m. Torah Study

- W Feb. 05 7 p.m. Adult Hebrew

- Sa Feb. 08 10 a.m. Torah Study
 7 p.m. Dinner, Dancing, and Dessert—10th-Anniversary Gala
 Charles Mack Center, 215 N. Main Street Mooresville
- Su Feb. 09 9:30 a.m. Religious School
 5 p.m. Torah Study
- W Feb. 12 7 p.m. Adult Hebrew

- Sa Feb. 15 10 a.m. Torah Study

- Su Feb. 16 9:30 a.m. Religious School

- W Feb. 19 7 p.m. Adult Hebrew

- F Feb. 21 7 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service, McGill Baptist Church
 Setup: Jensens Takedown: Smiths Oneg: Malins
- Sa Feb. 22 10 a.m. Torah Study

- Su Feb. 23 9:30 a.m. Religious School
 7 p.m. Board of Directors meeting, via conference call

February BIRTHDAYS

02-01

Stephen Smith

02-13

Bennett Leder

02-18

Teresa Malin

02-27

William Spivock

YAHARZEIT

02-22

Gene Francis Malin

Mother of Judah Malin

Donations

We would like to thank the following members, friends, and families for donations to Temple Or Olam:

- ✧ Arlene and Michael Filkoff—to the Ruth G. Kingberg Children's Education Fund.
- ✧ Phyllis Herschenfeld—Supporter of the Jewish Community.
- ✧ Stephen Smith—donation for continuity of Hebrew classes.
- ✧ Arlene Filkoff—donation for continuity of Hebrew classes.
- ✧ Many anonymous donations collected at Shabbat services on January 24 to help homeless people through the Urban Ministry Center, an interfaith organization dedicated to bringing the community together to end homelessness, one life at a time.

If you need to add a date to the temple calendar or check the availability of meeting space, please contact:

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