

Shmooze Letter



March 2014




Children of Temple Or Olam's **Religious School** with purchases of food for the homeless and hungry, purchased from their own tzedakah collection.

Mar. 07 Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 7:00

We very much hope to see you at **Piedmont Unitarian Universalist Church** for Kabbalat Shabbat Service. It's very important for our leadership to have your input on the setting at PUUC. The service itself will feature storytelling by Rabbi Barbara, children of the Religious School helping to lead prayers, and the shared joy and anticipation of spring. Please remember to ask friends to join us. This service can serve as a beautiful introduction to Temple Or Olam for anyone who wants to see what we are about.

Mar. 21 Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 7:00

This service will be at **McGill Baptist Church**. We will be reading from a difficult passage in Torah, one that tells a challenging story. But we are called *Israel*, 'God-wrestlers,' for a reason. During this Kabbalat Shabbat Service, we will explore what it means to bring God 'strange fire.' We will also celebrate Shabbat with beautiful and heartfelt prayer.

 Please remember, when you come to our services, to bring something to share at our Oneg Shabbat.

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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.com. Explore, participate, have fun!

Choose Life — Honor the Sacred



Moses gathers all the people. All the congregation of the children of Israel. God has charged the Israelites with the gift of the Sabbath.

The Sabbath is not about doing nothing; it is about having. It is not about forbidding; it is about gifting. It is not about everyday. It is about what is sacred.

We need time not to be about ourselves and about stuff and about our tasks, and about our jobs. Trust me: You won't remember the stuff you insisted you had to do three months after you made that claim. You will have forgotten it.

But you will not forget the deepest insights you experienced at Torah study that Shabbat morning in February. You will not forget the rich exchange and connectivity you gained with your community at a Shabbat service. You will not forget holding hands with your beloved walking on a path you made sacred because you were expressing your gratitude for the life you were living in that moment. These are the things of life. These things are sacred – they are sacred to us and to God.

Torah also reads: Those who do work on the Sabbath shall suffer death.

It seems like the kind of thing we dislike most in Torah: God is a mean bully in the sky, threatening doom and destruction for violating His commandments.

But there is hidden truth in this: Jobs and errands and responsibilities – we can *bury* ourselves in such things; we can kill ourselves with our doing and running and tasking. We kill our spirit. We kill the things that give us life. We waste away our lives in *doing*. We suffer a death of soul and spirit.

Millev Harperdes

From the
Heart of the
Orchard

Mil'ev HaPardees

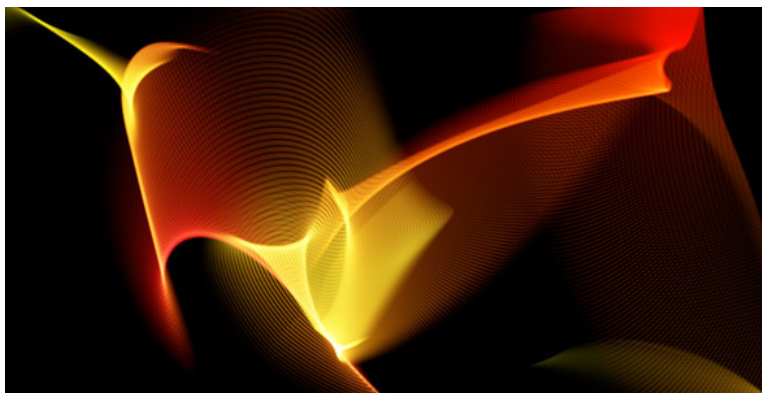
Start with the smallest steps. Light candles and say the blessings to bring in and honor the gift of Shabbat on Friday night. Bless your children. Go to services whenever they are offered. Consider joining Torah study now and then; you will be absolutely amazed at what happens in that sweet hour every Saturday morning. Take a walk. Ask yourself if you will remember the task you said you had to do just six weekends from now. Ask yourself if you will remember the joy you had in appreciating, again, the love your spouse has for you, the sweet time you took with your children, the moment you said a silent prayer of thanks to God for the crocus blooming in the garden, the scent of rain falling, the sight of a wren at the birdfeeder.

Eventually, you will want more and more of the sacred. You will long for it. The sacred gives meaning. The sacred gives life. Shabbat is sacred.

Shabbat is not about doing nothing. It's about practicing your consciousness of the divine. It's about acknowledging the sacred. It's about choosing life, acknowledging the preciousness of life itself.

Bless and keep the Sabbath and it will keep you.

Rabbi Barbara



Board of Directors' Meeting

February 23, 2014

7:00 p.m., via conference call

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

The TOO Board of Directors met via conference call on Sunday, February 23, at 7 p.m. Below are highlights from that meeting:

- ✧ Accepted Robbin Smith's resignation as treasurer; appointed Michael Berkowitz as treasurer; and approved Robbin's move into an at-large position on the Board.
- ✧ Announced a very successful Dinner Dancing & Dessert 2014. See report below.
- ✧ Approved a committee that will plan ISJL dates and weekends next year. Desired members will be contacted.
- ✧ Heard plans for Purim and Passover.
- ✧ Heard a report from Michael Berkowitz of the Ad Hoc Venue Committee on its recommendation to investigate venues closer to the University City area of Charlotte. New committee to work on what we want in a venue and what questions to ask.

Dinner, Dancing, and Dessert: A Success

If you were not able to join the revelers at Dinner Dancing & Dessert on February 8, don't despair. There will be one next year – and we want to make it better, bigger, and even more fun. The Fundraising Committee's celebratory dinner and debriefing session has already taken place, and ideas for improvements for next year are in the computer.

The net proceeds total comes to just about \$7,500. We are dividing that success with Dove House Children's Advocacy Center of Statesville, who lent their fundraising expertise in upgrading our event to a truly outstanding evening. Although stellar, we can do better... and we will! Want to have some fun while also contributing to TOO's future? Join us on the fundraising committee.

Send a message to Cheryl Greenwald, cg@greenwalds.net.

Some observations from your reporter on the roam at 3D:

- ✧ Some people really look great when they get dressed up! We should do this more often.
- ✧ Who knew Rachel Filkoff was a floral designer??
- ✧ There are a lot of suppressed competitors out there who got tough when the silent auction bidding was ending.

News for the Jews



Keri Huneycutt dances with her dad at Dinner, Dancing, and Dessert on February 8.

- ✧ There are also a lot of women wearing new jewelry!
- ✧ Who knew that Jack Grossman could give Eric C. a run for his money??
- ✧ TOO volunteers would rather work than eat pizza. Twenty people managed to eat only one pizza out of five while setting up.
- ✧ Our next fundraiser effort will be gladly taking any and all inducements to keep the dance contest video off the website. The twist faceoff was quite professional, though might have needed some Aleves the next day. The macarena was hilarious.
- ✧ Young parents enjoying an evening out together without a pacie or whimper in sight.
- ✧ Everybody having so much fun that it took Rabbi Barbara to ultimately quiet the crowd for announcements. Power truly does come in small packages.

ISJL Weekend

Our last weekend with our ISJL (Institute for Southern Jewish Life) intern, Elaine Barenblat, was on March 1-2. We had business meetings in the afternoon, then a rollicking good time on Shabbat Eve with a havdalah service, potluck dinner, and lots of games. All events took place at McGill in the fellowship hall or large classroom. The children had a morning with Elaine on Sunday at Religious School.



Calling all elegant Queen Esthers, horrible Hamans, and clueless King Ahasueruses! We need you to appear on Saturday, March 15, to make our Perfect Purim Party complete.

We are celebrating the craziness of Purim with our friends at Advent Lutheran Church. Who knew Jews could be so silly? Well, they will now! Wear a costume for the contest! Be ready to join some Israeli dancing! Meet the 2,000-year-old man! Make a mask or finger puppets!

Win the **Outrageous Kippah Contest!** Eat, drink, and be merry!

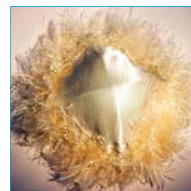
Saturday, March 15, 2:00-6:00 pm

Advent Lutheran Church, gymnasium

8840 University City Blvd, Charlotte, NC 28213

Bring a generous fruit/snack/heavy hors d'oeuvres to share

Donation bowl on the greeting table to cover dancing instruction fee



Passover

Purim isn't here yet and we are already thinking about Passover and the congregational seder. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 19**, in the afternoon/evening. This year we will be serving some potluck and some prepared dishes from a composed menu. A sign-up sheet will be available the first of April. Venue to be announced later.



Kvelling Corner

Psst.... **Marilyn Atlas** missed the editorial deadline for her kvelling column. We could not think of a better time for this to have happened, because she absolutely deserves to be toasted in this very forum herself! Have you noticed her positive posts on Facebook? Are you aware that she was one of the sponsors for Dinner, Dancing, and Dessert? Don't you love sitting next to her at an oneg and taking in all that positive energy she brings to the table? Have you seen her move on the dance floor? Marilyn, here's to you! We hereby declare you to be the Or Olam Feelgood Queen!



With a small hiatus due to the Dinner, Dancing, and Dessert event, we are now back to work on events that will be educational, fun, and thought provoking! First up, we will present again, on March 15th, Israeli Dancing. See the Purim Party event information on p. 5 for time. We welcome all dancers who are willing to just take the first step!

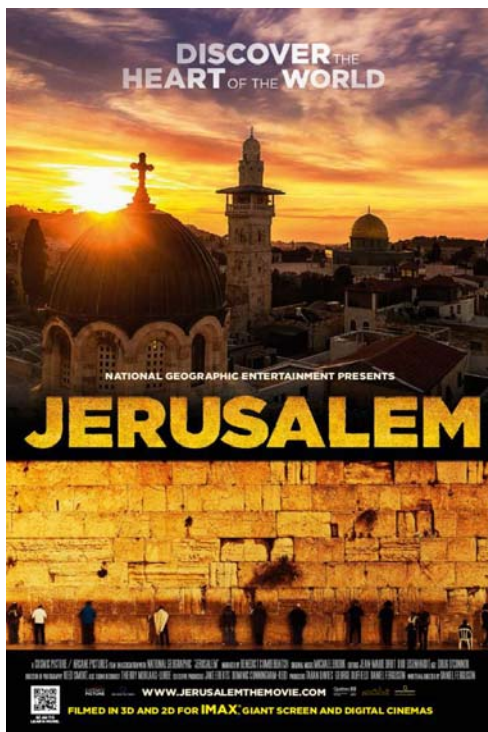
Next on our schedule is the Movie *Jerusalem*, at the Discovery Place Imax Theater. We are very excited about the group rate we have been offered. Bring your friends and family. This is definitely appropriate for those of all faiths! See the flier in this *Shmooze* for further details.

Next, we are setting our sights on planning several more events and would love to have additional members on our committee to help decide what is next, when, and where! So if you have an interest in serving on that committee, please let me know, as we are getting ready to set the next committee meeting date! You may contact me at (704) 875-2353.

Chag Purim Sameach! (Happy Purim!)

Arlene

Learning Legacy



Saturday, March 29, 2014
 The Temple Or Olam
 Adult Education Committee
 Invites you to

Jerusalem: Discover the Heart of the World

From the official description:

Destroyed and rebuilt countless times over 5000 years, Jerusalem's enduring appeal remains a mystery. What made it so important to so many different cultures? How did it become the center of the world for three major religions? Why does it still matter to us? JERUSALEM attempts to answer these questions by following three young Jerusalemites and their families – Jewish, Christian, and Muslim. Through their eyes, audiences will learn what it means to call Jerusalem home and experience celebrations and events that mark the high points of a year in the life of the city.

Showtime: 3:30 pm Please arrive by 3:00 to pay for tickets, get seats, etc.!

Discovery Place offers discounted tickets to its members (we will all pay at the door).

	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER
Adult (14-59)	\$5.00	\$10.00
Child (2-13)	\$5.00	\$9.00
Senior (60+)	\$5.00	\$9.00

If we have a group of 15 people or more, they will give us a group rate of \$7 for adults, \$6 for children and seniors. **Please RSVP** so we know if we can secure the group rate. Please plan to pay cash that day, so we can walk in and secure the group rate for all if we qualify.

Carpool Option: We plan to try to form a carpool for those who want to leave from the University Area, pickup point to be determined. For this option, please RSVP that you are coming and if you have extra seats in your car, or if you will want a ride. Also, please indicate if you are interested in connecting with others for dinner after the show.

RSVP to either Arlene Filkoff (704) 875-2353 or Marilyn Atlas (704) 746-4499 by March 22.

Know your ALEPH-BET

Kaf (or dekaf?)



Kaf, the eleventh letter, is most probably derived from the pictograph of a hand; the word still means ‘palm’ or ‘grip’ both in Hebrew and in Arabic today. It can also refer to anything that is bent or hollow. By etymology or lucky coincidence, I do not know which, the word for ‘palm’ (כף) supplies the first two letters to the word *kippah* (just add ה), so the next time you put one on your *keppi*, recall the words of Psalm 139:5: ‘you have placed your palm over me’ (וַתִּשֶׁת עָלַי כַּפְּךָ). The *kippah* symbolically reminds us of God being our Palm Pilot. (Then again, *kaf* is also the beginning of the words *Kafka* and *kaftan*.) The frequent assertions that *kippah* is the Hebrew source for the English word *cap* are, alas, not true; we have that word from Latin *cappa* ‘cap, hood, cape.’

There is an itsy *kaf* in the Torah. When Sara passed away prematurely at age 127, Abraham came to mourn ‘and to weep for her’ (וּלְבַתָּהּ, Gen. 23.2). The smaller *kaf* is said to serve as a reminder to show restraint in our grieving. But why begrudge a man copious tears *after* one hundred years of marriage? The small *kaf* could also be a hedge, allowing a double reading: Without it, the word could be read *u’lbita* ‘and for his daughter’ – and, so that reading goes, Avraham did lose a daughter, Bakol, at the same time as Sara (this is from Rabbi Shalom Shachana M’Lublin). Then again, Rabbi Shalom Shachana may have been grasping at straws here, and we are well advised to separate the wheat from the *kaf* (as they do in a *kafeteria*). It is just as likely that the Hebrew ‘and God blessed Avraham with Bakol’ (Gen. 24:1) means ‘and God blessed Avraham in everything’ (בְּכֹל).

As we are blessed with a Torah that makes us wrestle with the vowels, just as Jacob wrestled with that angel. And guess where that angel touched him, dislocating Jacob’s hip: בְּכַף יָרֵךְ *b’chaf yerech* in the *kaf* (hollow) of the thighbone.

Ralf



Chocolate Almond Passover Cake

Gluten free, of course. Plus it's never too early to start planning.

- ✧ 1 cup sliced or slivered almonds, toasted
- ✧ 1 tablespoon plus 1 cup sugar, divided
- ✧ $\frac{3}{4}$ cup (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ sticks) butter
- ✧ $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cocoa
- ✧ 5 eggs, separated
- ✧ $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon salt
- ✧ additional sliced almonds

Optional: apple slices and honey

Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease bottom of a 10-inch tube pan.

Place toasted almonds and 1 tablespoon sugar in a food processor and process to near dust.

Melt butter, stir in cocoa, and cool.

Beat egg yolks in large bowl with $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar until pale yellow. Add cocoa mixture and mix well. Add ground almonds.

Beat egg whites until foamy. Gradually add remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar, beating whites until stiff but not dry.

Add $\frac{1}{4}$ of egg whites to cocoa mixture, and stir to blend. Fold in remaining egg whites.

Pour into pan and bake until set (40-45 min.) Cool.

Optional decorations/toppings:

Apples slices - drizzle with honey

Another good option is a topping of strawberry jam and defrosted raspberries, cooked till thick with a bit of cornstarch (this is delicious, by the way, with the dark chocolate).

Strawberries and fresh whipped heavy cream.

Geh
gezunt

share and enjoy

Precious Moments



Children of Or Olam's School for All Things Jewish saved and pooled tzedakah money to go shopping for food for the poor and homeless. It turned out to be a trunk full of goodness.



Julie Robinson and friend Ricky, Joe Hunter and friend Nancy, and Robbin and Stephen Smith on the dance floor at the February Dinner, Dancing, and Dessert fund raiser with The Dove House. Romance was definitely in the air.



CALENDAR

- Sa Mar. 01 10 a.m. Torah Study
ISJL weekend family night: havdalah, potluck, games
- Su Mar. 02 Religious School with Elaine Barenblat
1 p.m. Farewell lunch for Arthur Kingberg, Restaurant Forty-Six, Kannapolis
- W Mar. 05 7 p.m. Adult Hebrew
- F Mar. 07 Kabbalat Shabbat, Piedmont Unitarian Universalist Church
- Sa Mar. 08 10 a.m. Torah Study
- Su Mar. 09 Religious School
- Sa Mar. 15 10 a.m. Torah Study
2 - 6 p.m. Purim Party at Advent Lutheran Church
- W Mar. 19 7 p.m. Adult Hebrew
- F Mar. 21 7 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Torah Service, McGill Baptist Church
- Sa Mar. 22 10 a.m. Torah Study
- Su Mar. 23 Religious School
- W Mar. 26 7 p.m. Adult Hebrew
- Sa Mar. 26 10 a.m. Torah Study
- Su Mar. 30 Religious School

Thank you!

Temple Or Olam wishes to thank the following friends and family and local businesses for their support of our Dinner, Dancing and Dessert fundraising event with Dove House:

- ✧ Anderson Family Chiropractic
- ✧ Atlas Counseling
- ✧ Bestco
- ✧ Ferrucci's Old Tyme Market
- ✧ K-2 Sports
- ✧ New Mentality
- ✧ The Enchanted Olive

- ✧ Nancy and Carolyn Aubitz
- ✧ Barbara and Martin Barna
- ✧ Joseph Hunter
- ✧ Marcia and Ronald Lebold - in honor of the Greenwalds
- ✧ N. Worth Mitchell
- ✧ MaryBeth Mitchell-Alameida
- ✧ Gale and Ken Spatz

- ✧ The Filkoff family (Arelene, Michael, Rachel and Michelle) for decorations and flowers.
- ✧ Earl and Cheryl Greenwald for the pearl necklace used in the "Guess the Number of Pearls" raffle and for flowers.
- ✧ A special thank you goes to Jack and Kristie Grossman – for the donation of beer and wine, for their advice and guidance, and for so much more, including an original painting by Jack.
- ✧ We are grateful to all the families who purchased the 6-ticket packages that they were sent to help with ticket sales and to the families who purchased more tickets beyond the 6-ticket package – and to the families who purchased tickets even though they could not attend. The same thanks go to all of the attendees who purchased auction items and raffle tickets.
- ✧ Many, many thanks to the hard-working fundraising committee whose members have been planning and working since the day after last year's DD&D. The event was a huge success and so much fun!

- ✧ Michael Berkowitz
- ✧ Arlene, Michael, and Michelle Filkoff
- ✧ Cheryl and Earl Greenwald
- ✧ Charlotte Miller
- ✧ Mark Prince
- ✧ Bill Spivock

And a big thank you to the **Dove House** and its members for their volunteer work and support of the event.



March BIRTHDAYS

03-01

Shannon Leder

03-22

Sage Kanofsky

03-16

Scott Needham

03-29

Keri Huneycutt

Yahrzeit

03-24

Ernest Kingberg

brother of Arthur Kingberg

Board members

President:	Earl Greenwald
Vice President and Temple Administrator:	Charlotte Miller
Director of Religious Service:	Ginger Jensen
Director of Outreach and Community Relations:	Cheryl Greenwald
Membership Director:	Michael Filkoff
At large:	Robbin Smith
Treasurer:	Michael Berkowitz

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

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