

Shmoosze Letter



April 2014



Apr. 04 Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 7:00

Leviticus, Rabbi Barbara says, is one of her favorite books. A book about skin disease and sacrifice, about cleansing the sanctuary and observing complicated laws around the Jubilee year? Say what?

But at this family-friendly Kabbalat Shabbat, we will learn how and why understanding Leviticus can enrich our lives in immeasurable ways. We meet at **McGill Baptist Church** in Concord (5300 Poplar Tent Road).

Community Passover Seder April 19, 3:30

The world we live in is filled with constraints. Many suffer from the domination and cruelty of other ethnic groups. Millions of children still die of preventable diseases. We have yet to accord all Americans the right to marry the loved one of their choice. Our challenges include far too much work, persistent health concerns, and worries over our financial future.

Consider what you might be struggling with. Imagine yourself walking out of narrow, confined spaces. Vision a future without the burdens you have been carrying, a future in which you can rededicate your life to the pursuit of freedom – for you and for those around you. Temple Or Olam invites you to join our community seder for the inspiration to do exactly that.

ctd. on p. 10

in this issue:

Service Apr 04, Seder Apr. 19	1
MiLev HaPardes	2
Board of Directors' Meeting	4
News for the Jews	4
Kvelling Corner	6
Geh gezunt	7
Precious Moments	8
Calendar	9
Birthdays, Yahrzeits	10

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!

Dream for the Unfree



Every year I worry about the impediment of ease. I wonder how I am going to be able to make the themes of our Passover seder real. After all, at our community seder, we eat well, we sing happy songs of freedom, we include humor and silliness in everything from our plague decorations to our skits and storytelling. Most of us live fairly comfortable lives. We neither hunger nor thirst. We are

blessed to have roofs over our heads.

We do not live in the middle of drought or war, as many other peoples do. Our fields are not filled with landmines, as so many around the world are. We have eradicated many diseases here that still rage in other countries.

So how do we make certain that people understand the point of a story that includes sorrow and loss as well as hope? How do we make the festival real in more than its celebratory aspects? How do we take something from it that is fresh and new and meaningful, and helps us rededicate ourselves to tikkun olam, to healing the world?

The Jewish liturgical year asks us to consider the trajectory of our lives, to look at what makes us human. It asks us to stop at critical points of the year and to reexamine our hearts and souls. It asks us to look beyond ourselves.

No more so than at Pesach, where we invite *all* who are hungry to come and eat with us. At this festival we are given a mandate: *Everyone* must try to understand what it would be like to be enslaved, Jew or non-Jew, young or old.

All of us know some kind of enslavement. Who among us has not been shut down, abused, oppressed, harmed? Who among us has

Millev Harperdes

From the
Heart of the
Orchard

not known the fear of disease, the shame of depression, or a sudden inability to cope with life? Who does not know what it is to mourn, to grieve, to feel exhaustion and pain, to doubt the future? Enslavement comes in many forms.



I was at Religious School this past Sunday, teaching seder songs like *Avadim Hayyinu* (We Were Once Slaves) and *Dayenu* (It Would Have Been Enough).

We talked about what the songs meant: The first is simply celebratory, a song that describes the fact of our servitude and the fact of our present freedom. The second asserts that it would have been enough just to have that freedom, or just the gift of Torah, or just the joy of Shabbat. Obviously, since we have all that and more, we have plenty of reason to be grateful.

All the children had things to say about those songs, about their themes and their joy. But I would like to quote Colin Kanofsky, who told us what these songs mean to him.

“We think about people who are unfree so we can dream about them becoming free,” Colin said. And then he added: “God is always with us. God is always with *everyone*.”

May we dream of freedom. May we keep God near us, to help us realize those dreams. May we be conscious that we are blessed, and may we do all we can to extend our blessings to those around us. May this Pesach be one where we can live the festival’s message and retain it all year long.

Rabbi Barbara

Millev HaPardes

Board of Directors' Meeting

March 23, 2014

7:00 p.m., via conference call

[Earl Greenwald, Cheryl Greenwald, Charlotte Miller, Ginger Jensen,
Michael Filkoff, Michael Berkowitz, and Arlene Filkoff]

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

- ✧ Heard of initial interest in forming a B'nai B'rith Youth Organization group for our young members. More detail at a later date.
- ✧ Heard plans for our community seder to be held at Piedmont UU Church on April 19.
- ✧ Heard an update on the Yom HaShoah candle project for the congregation sponsored by the Men's Group.
- ✧ Heard the first reading of four constitutional amendments to be put to the membership at Kabbalat Shabbat service on April 4 and the seder on April 19.
- ✧ Discussed the Venue Committee's report on a calendar for 2014-15 that can be used in cooperation with Piedmont UU Church and Advent Lutheran Church.

Is it That Time Again?

Yes, fellow members, it is Or Olam **annual meeting** time again. Our catered dinner/meeting/Kabbalat Shabbat evening will be June 6. We have LOTS to discuss and vote on, so make your voice heard as we ratify a contract for Rabbi Barbara, approve the budget and four amendments to the constitution, decide on venue issues, and hear annual reports from our very successful committees. This is your chance to be in the know without having to ask.

Friday, June 6

6:00 catered dinner (donations accepted but not required)

6:45 annual meeting

7:30 service

News for the Jews

News for the Jews

We Need your Attention on April 4 and at the Seder

Four possible amendments to the Or Olam constitution will be available for discussion and approval at the Kabbalat Shabbat service on 4/4 and at our seder on 4/19. Please pay attention to these suggested changes to the governance of your community.

Suggested changes:

- 1) Exchange the defined membership categories for a general statement. Our membership composition has changed. Membership categories and financial commitment plans will then be defined in membership guidelines approved at the annual meeting.
- 2) An easy change to the description of the membership application, from “form” to “package.”
- 3) Exchange the Membership Director position description for a general statement. Other Director positions are general in nature with some suggested duties. The Membership Director description has detailed duties, some of which are now done by other director positions. Membership Director duties are defined in the Guidelines for Membership.
- 4) Make a change to the description of “in good standing.” Exchange the reference to the Membership Director position for a reference to the Guidelines for Membership. Approving #3 above would necessitate that correction.



Kvelling Corner

Look, is it a bird, is it a plane? No, it is **Cheryl Greenwald** and **Arlene Filkoff**, the Temple Or Olam dynamic duo! Faster than speeding bullets, they put together a fantastically fun, profitable, and charitable dinner and dancing event. Who else has a member of their congregation who, like Cheryl, for a charity auction jumps up on a table and does a tap dance? Who has a member of their congregation like Arlene, who not only helps coordinate the Israeli dancing but is also a fabulous dancer herself? We are so blessed to have Cheryl and Arlene as well as all the other members of TOO who were on the fund raising committee, made contributions and volunteered at the DDD event. We have really become as Rabbi Barbara says a "sacred community."





Gluten-free / Wheat-free Matzo Balls

provided by Marilyn Atlas

- ☆ 4 large eggs
- ☆ 2 teaspoons sea salt
- ☆ ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- ☆ 2 cups of blanched almond flour

In medium bowl, whisk eggs, 1 tsp. salt, and pepper for 2-3 minutes. Stir in almond flour and refrigerate mixture for about 3 hrs.

Fill a stockpot with water and bring to a boil. While waiting for the water to boil, scoop 1 heaping teaspoon of "matzo ball" mixture and roll into an 1.5-inch ball; repeat. Makes about 12-15 balls.

When water is boiling, add the second tsp. of salt and drop the "matzo balls" into the boiling water. Decrease heat, cover, and simmer for 20 minutes. Put matzo balls in your delicious, hormone-free chicken soup. I thought the matzo balls were delicious and very healthy — and so did my family.

Elana Amsterdam, who published the Gluten-free Almond Flour Cookbook, is Jewish. She also has a recipe for Gluten-Free Almond Flour Hamentaschen. Perhaps, some of you great cooks in our congregations can help me make it next year.

Geh gezunt

share and enjoy

Precious Moments



Part of the proceeds from our Dancing, Dinner, and Dessert event went to The Dove House Children's Advocacy Center. From left to right: Rabbi Barbara, Dove House Executive Director Ken Wooten, Cheryl Greenwald, and Or Olam President Earl Greenwald. If you think the check was large, you should have seen the ATM machine where it was deposited.



Our younger students getting ready to show the older students how to sing 'Dovid Melech Yisrael.' It got so fast and furious that pictures became too blurry to print after this.



CALENDAR

- Fr Apr. 04 7 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat at McGill Baptist Church
- Sa Apr. 05 10 a.m. Torah Study
 11 a.m. Adult Hebrew
- Su Apr. 06 Religious School
 10 a.m. Yom HaShoah yellow candle packing, Men's Group at Filkoff home,
 8620 Laurel Run Dr., Charlotte
- Sa Apr. 12 10 a.m. Torah Study
 11 a.m. Adult Hebrew
- Su Apr. 13 Religious School
- M Apr. 14 Erev Pesach (7:36 p.m.); First Seder
- Sa Apr. 19 3.30 p.m. Community Seder, Piedmont Unitarian Universalist Church
 no Hebrew, no Torah study
- T Apr. 22 Passover Day 8
- Sa Apr. 26 10 a.m. Torah Study, 11 a.m. Adult Hebrew
 11 a.m. Cabarrus County Relay for Life (Events Center)
- Su Apr. 27 Yom HaShoah Remembrance Day begins at sundown—yellow candle
 lighting

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Before our seder begins, we will gather at long tables in groups to write down all those many things constraining us. We will post them on the walls around us. These are our own plagues. When we name them, we can free ourselves from them. We will also name the things we want to take with us into freedom, and walk PUUC's beautiful sanctuary prepared to celebrate new beginnings and rededicate ourselves to creating the freedom we all long for.

Our Passover seder will include terrific food, interactive discussions, a really cute skit, and the all-important search for the afikomen. Please join us for a wonderful afternoon celebrating hope and freedom and the joy of community!

We do have lots of supplies to purchase for our seder—from brisket to chocolate. All monies raised are used to help defray the costs of the seder and to support the education of TOO children and of ongoing advanced training for TOO's Religious School teachers.

We will meet at the **Piedmont Unitarian Universalist Church** in Charlotte (9704 Mallard Creek Rd.)

☆ **\$ 36.00 per adult** ☆ **\$18.00 per student** ☆ **\$ 12.00 per child over 3**

April BIRTHDAYS

04-16

Robbin Smith

04-20

Marilyn Atlas

04-26

Jason Gordon

04-26

Arlene Filkoff

YAHRZEITS

04-01

Robert Ray Bogage
son of Harriett Bogage

04-03

Marie Berkey
great-aunt of Arlene Filkoff

Temple administrator:

templeadmin@or-olam.org

President:

president@or-olam.org

Religious school:

school@or-olam.org

Membership coordinator:

membership@or-olam.org

Submissions to the Shmoozeletter:

editor@or-olam.org

Rabbi Dr. Barbara Thiede:

rabbi.thiede@or-olam.org

Caring Committee:

caringcommittee@or-olam.org

Outreach Committee:

outreach@or-olam.org

Treasurer:

treasurer@or-olam.org
P.O. Box 362
Huntersville NC 28070-0362

Phone: **704-720-7577**