

shmooze
Letter

October 2014

October Services Schedule

Kol Nidre

October 3, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Yom Kippur

October 4, 10:00 am - 12:30 morning service
 4:30 reading of 'The Gates are Closing' by
 Merle Field, followed by discussion
 6:30 pm Neilah
 7:15 Havdalah, followed by Break-Fast

Simchat Torah

October 17, 7:00 pm
 Please bring your best oneg offerings—we expect guests.

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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!

Yizkor: Remember, Sanctify, and Bless.



Once upon a time, Yizkor was recited only on Yom Kippur. On that day, a day of deep reflection, Jews remembered their loved ones, honored them with prayer.

Yizkor comes from the shoshon (root) *zakhor* 'remember.' Yizkor means 'may God remember... .' But memorial services are also designed to help us recall and reconnect, to create space for our loved ones.

Judaism asks us to make space in our hearts four times a year:

Yizkor services are traditionally held at Succot, Pesach, and Shavuot as well as at Yom Kippur. Yahrzeits, the annual anniversary of the death, are a fifth.

We remember...

Every year, congregational leaders in the Charlotte area gather for a memorial service at the Hebrew Cemetery. The service always takes place between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur; rabbis from all denominations are present and take part.

This year, I was honored with giving the sermon at the service. The night before the service, I woke up at 2 a.m., awakened by memories. I was reliving the day I helped bury my sister, Suzie. She was only 42 when she died of metastasized breast cancer. Her youngest child was just three.

I don't think I will ever forget the depth of the hole we had to fill. I can't forget the way I kept touching earth on my spade before dropping it, wanting it to touch her by proxy, to hold her and enfold her one last time.

In the morning, before we left for the service, I rewrote the sermon.

I did not speak when we buried her. I did not know how.

In the immediate aftermath of death, life is undone. The world of the living persists but its existence is surreal. We long for our beloved; we are conscious only of our loss. Our mourning takes place in a ruin. No language suffices.

And yet, we must speak in order to heal. Centuries ago, when mourners appeared in synagogue, heads and faces covered, the service leader turned to congregants and insisted: 'Demand the

Millev Hapardes

From the
Heart of the
Orchard

reason!' 'Demand the reason!' Mourners were asked to speak, to explain.

It is easy to retreat from the face of pain. But this ritual made turning away an impossibility. We may not ignore those wrapped in grief.

Listening, we help a mourner open the heart. We honor longing and despair. We acknowledge denial and anguish. Demand the reason.

I believe that when we sanctify the memory of our loved ones with memory, we sanctify and honor life. We must never forget to make space for that endeavor – in our synagogues, in our life, in our stories of those who helped form us.

May loss be honored, pain acknowledged, and hope sustained. May this be a year of health and life for us all.

Rabbi Barbara



From right to left (of course): Rabbi Dr. Barbara Thiede, Hebrew Cemetery President Brian Yesowitch, Or Olam's Vice President Charlotte Miller, and Dr. Ralf Thiede in front of the newly dedicated chapel at the Hebrew Cemetery in Charlotte.

Yom Kippur

Haunting melodies and sweet ones will accompany our prayer; we'll find our own words given back to us during Rabbi Barbara's Sha-charit service sermon. We'll hear a story about the Dalai Llama and have the opportunity to listen to a reading of Merle Feld's play 'The Gates Are Closing.' We'll conclude the day with Neilah, havdalah, and breakfast!

Setup and Takedown for High Holy Days

There are still vacant spaces on the SignupGenius for Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur, especially around break-fast food. Your best dishes will be most appreciated. Connect through your email link and see if you can make one space less empty. Questions? Contact templead-min@or-olam.org.

Childcare for High Holy Days

We will have adult care givers for our High Holy Days. If you know you will be attending and need childcare, please let us know that by e-mailing the temple administrator.

- ✧ Oct. 03 Kol Nidre 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
- ✧ Oct. 04 Yom Kippur 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. / 3:30 - 8:00 p.m.

High Holy Days Play: 'The Gates are Closing'

On Yom Kippur afternoon, prior to the evening closure and break-fast, Or Olam will present a dramatic reading of 'The Gates Are Closing' by Merle Feld. The action 'takes place in a synagogue on Yom Kippur evening, the following morning, and late that afternoon. [We follow] 10 main characters spanning a wide range of ages, backgrounds, and professions as they grapple with issues of identity, meaning, repentance, and forgiveness on this most somber of days.'

'The Gates' has been performed repeatedly worldwide and has won several awards since its debut at the Jewish Repertory Theatre in 1986. Its exploration of the universal themes of atonement and forgiveness is accessible and deeply personal. Interesting also is that its author, Merle Feld, and her husband, Rabbi Edward Feld, were instrumental in the formation of the Reconstructionist movement, which has strong ties to our Renewal movement.

You are welcome to invite everyone you know to attend; there will be no ticket charge, though we will take donations if offered. The suggested audience is b'nai mitzvah and older, mostly for thematic understanding.

News for the Jews

News for the Jews

Simchat Torah October 17 at 7:00 pm

Ben Bag Bag used to say: 'Turn it, and turn it, for everything is in it. Reflect on it and grow old and gray with it. Don't turn from it, for nothing is better than it.'
Pirkei Avot / Sayings of Our Fathers 5:22

Simchat Torah, which means 'rejoicing in the Torah,' is an annual love fest demonstrating our abiding affection for the challenging, beautiful, sweet scroll of our stories.

We have many special traditions for this festival. We chant from the beginning and the end of our Torah scrolls, we roll the Torah back to the beginning, while looking at its beautiful and special features, we dance to upbeat *niggunim* and songs everyone can sing. A lucky few members of our congregation stand by the column of their choice in the book of Genesis. Then Rabbi Barbara scans the column for the blessing they have chosen, though they have no idea where it is. That's *her* job.

Our Torah and its unfurling and winding parchment is ancient and magical. We turn it, and turn it, and turn it again, looking for new understanding, new revelation, new knowledge in our new year.

Join us for our Simchat Torah celebration!

TOO in the Press: Charlotte Jewish News

Who has been reading their *Charlotte Jewish News*? It is delivered every month and TOO has an article about our activities in *CJN* every month. If you want to know what is going on Jewishly around the Charlotte region, this is the place.

That's a lot of writing. Do you have an interesting opinion or perspective on Yiddishkeit or what we do at the Temple? Want to write an article of no more than 750 words? They love pictures too. Let us know if you want to try your hand. Also, if you read this, send an email to templeadmin@or-olam.org with the subject line 'Alert Shmoover!' You might win a prize.

Time for Tots

Our new Religious School sessions for preschoolers started on September 7. Singing, dancing, and storytelling with Rabbi Barbara is always fun. There will be three such events. You are welcome to invite friends who may be contemplating joining our congregation and enrolling a child in our Religious School in the future.



Tot Time at TOO
With Rabbi Barbara

- ☆ December 7
- ☆ February 4
- ☆ April 12

11:30 - 12:30, Advent Lutheran Church, University City Blvd., across from UNC Charlotte



Come under the Sukkah with us!

Or Olam's first Sukkot in the great outdoors is October 11 - 12. Come celebrate together as a community in the sukkah under the trees. Decorate it, eat inside, sleep in it, watch the campfire, sing, tell stories, walk with the ranger.

Everyone received an evite a couple of weeks ago. You may attend for Saturday's activities only or stay overnight with us through Sunday morning. Don't miss our last two fun events of this month's holiday cycle: Sukkot and then Simchat Torah on Oct. 17.

Temple Or Olam Sukkot Campout

T. N. Spencer Park, Concord, NC

Saturday, October 11, 3:00 pm - 8:00 pm (gates close at 8:00)

Sunday, October 12 until 11:00 am

Rabbi Barbara's Work to Appear in a Ten-volume Series on Jewish Spirituality

Last year, Rabbi Barbara was invited to submit an article for an important project. Contributors to the project include some of the most well-known writers in the world on Judaism, Jewish culture, and Jewish practice. They include Chief Rabbi of Great Britain Jonathan Sacks; internationally recognized authors like Elliot Dorff, Aviva Zornberg, Sid Schwartz; and many, many more.

Rabbi Barbara learned this week that her article on the Mourners Kaddish was accepted. Editor Rabbi Martin Cohen, himself a prolific writer, wrote that her piece was 'lyrical.' He also wrote that 'The essay is beautiful: heartfelt, moving, very interesting. And your use of sources is really very clever and very well done... it's a wonderful piece of work and I'm very proud to include it in our book.'

Mazel tov, Rabbi Barbara!

Donations for July, August, and September

Jeff and Sarah Adin

Jessye Brick

Michael and Arlene Filkoff

Martha Free

Earl and Cheryl Greenwald

Phyllis Herschenfeld

Ellie Joffe

Heidi Lasser

Annd and Mitchell Levine

Brenda Marshall and Bill Jetton

Lauren Parker

David Rosenfeld

Jesse Sachnin

Rubin Salant

Steve and Robbin Smith

Bill and Yvette Spivock

Janet Sternbach

Ralf and Barbara Thiede

Myles and Mary Martha Weiner


Kvelling Corner

Marilyn Atlas

The October *kvell* is for the September 20 article in the *Charlotte Observer* written by Tim Funk about our TOO congregation. I want to thank the rabbi and all the TOO congregants who were instrumental in the formation and publication of this article. I thought that the description of our congregation was excellent. Rosh Hashana is the birthday of creation. All ends and all begins. So let's celebrate this year in our congregation with our sights on the stars so that we can become the miracles that we are!

Know your ALEPH-BET

Open Ayin

 *Ayin* means 'eye' and derives from an ancient pictograph that looks like one. (English has it as the letter **O**). It is thus appropriate to contemplate this letter around the time of Yom Kippur, at which our eyes were always to be open. In part, to behold scenes of celebration, it seems:

Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel said: Israel had no greater days of joy than the fifteenth of Av and Yom Kippur. On these days the daughters of Israel would go out dressed in white which were all borrowed in order not to shame anyone who didn't have.... The daughters of Jerusalem would go out and dance in the vineyards. And what would they say? 'Young man, lift up your eyes and see what you choose for yourself... Don't set your eyes upon beauty; rather, set your eyes upon family...' (Ta'anit Ch.4 Mishna 8).

In our congregation, our eyes see the divine in each other. Our rabbi usually reminds us that God has seventy faces, and that you will see some of them looking at each other, standing as we prepare to recite the Barchu. It should not come as a surprise, then, that the numeric value of *ayin* is 70.

In anticipation of declaring the Shema together, we might remind ourselves that the *ayin* of the word *shema* is written enlarged in our Torah scroll. So is the final *daled* of *echad*. *Ayin-daled* spells *ayd* 'witness' – when we recite the Shema, the enlarged letters remind us that we are witnesses to our central creed: Our God is a Unity.



Ralf



CALENDAR

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|-----------|---|
| Fr Oct 03 | 7 p.m. Kol Nidre (no oneg—fasting begins) |
| Sa Oct 04 | 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Yom Kippur morning service
4:30 reading of ‘The Gates are Closing’ by Merle Field / discussion
6:30 p.m. Neilah
7:15 Havdalah, followed by Break-Fast |
| Sa Oct 11 | 10:00 a.m. Torah Study
11:00 a.m. Adult Hebrew
03:00 p.m. through Sunday Oct. 12, 11:00 a.m. Sukkot Campout |
| Fr Oct 17 | 07:00 p.m. Simchat Torah |
| Sa Oct 18 | 10:00 a.m. Sierra Kanofsky’s bat mitzvah |
| Sa Oct 25 | 10 a.m. Torah Study
no Adult Hebrew |

TEMPLE OR OLAM

October BIRTHDAYS

10-05 Ellie Joffe	10-08 Rachel Filkoff	10-09 Dennis & Penny Cutler	10-11 David Huneycutt	10-17 Linda VanArsdale
10-25 John Jensen	10-25 Bryston Spivock	10-25 Emory Spivack	10-29 Phyllis Herschenfeld	

YAHREZEIT

10-05
Samuel Tepper
father of Anna Garcia

Rabbi:	rabbi.thiede@or-olam.org	Barbara Thiede
Temple administrator/secretary:	templeadmin@or-olam.org	Charlotte Miller
<u>Committees:</u>		
Caring Committee:	caringcommittee@or-olam.org	Heather Chait
Men's group:	mensgroup@or-olam.org	Stephen Smith
Religious school:	school@or-olam.org	Keri Huneycutt
<u>Board:</u>		
Adult Education director:	adult-education@or-olam.org	Marilyn Atlas
at large:	brenda@or-olam.org	Brenda Marshall
at large:	robbin@or-olam.org	Robbin Smith
Membership director:	membership@or-olam.org	Michael Filkoff
Outreach director / Fundraising:	outreach@or-olam.org	Cheryl Greenwald
President:	president@or-olam.org	Earl Greenwald
Community chaverah:	chaverah@or-olam.org	Ginger Jensen
interim Treasurer:	templeadmin@or-olam.org P.O. Box 362 Huntersville NC 28070-0362	Charlotte Miller

Phone: **704-720-7577**