

## Innovative Music is at the Heart of Or Olam's Friday Night Services

The gentle drumming of fingers on the darbouka drum accompanies the lilting singing of a wordless melody. The "nee-goon" is at once relaxing and mesmerizing. By the time the prayer begins, congregants have been drawn into a spiritual frame of mind. Now, they are truly ready to welcome the Sabbath. This is the power of music.

Throughout our Jewish history, music has been used to praise, reflect, rejoice and pray together. The psalms were meant to be sung, not recited responsively. Temple Or Olam honors Jewish musical traditions by incorporating music into all services, holiday parties, and events. Sephardic, Ashkenazi, Mizrahi, Israeli, and American Jewish music are all part of the repertoire.

We also create new traditions. In addition to the hand drum and singing, Friday night prayers are usually accompanied by a couple of guitarists, a teenage bassist who plays Pink Floyd songs when she's not playing at services, and, often, a teenage accordionist or piano player. Some other instruments you might hear at services are banjo (have you ever heard a bluegrass version of Hiney Mah Tov?) violin, and flute. The music sets the mood, alternately



Ralf Thiede playing the darbouka drum at a Havdallah service.

joyful and contemplative.

But music is not a spectator sport at Temple Or Olam. Before many services, a basket of rhythm instruments is passed around, and children and adults alike grab tambourines, maracas, and the ever-popular "shaky eggs," all of which turn upbeat melodies into a party. Of course there is also the instrument that each congregant brings with him or her — the voice. This is not a congregation that sits silently while a rabbi or cantor sings prayers. Voices ring out, often in rounds taught by the children, who learned them at reli-

gious school. It doesn't matter if your voice is opera quality or "singing in the shower" quality; it's welcome here.


Torah portions are chanted on the fourth Friday of every month. (On the second Friday we hold a shorter, child-centered service.) Sometimes the melody is the familiar trope that you hear at many American synagogues, but other times you might hear Baghdadi trope, a Middle Eastern melody with a very different sound, exotic to western ears.

Coming up in July 25, at 7 PM, will be Temple Or Olam's first Beatles service. The spirit or sentiment of each part of the service will be interpreted and expressed through a Beatles song. Come prepared for something new.

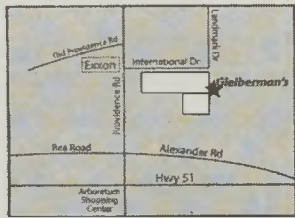
If you're interested in hearing more of the music of Temple Or Olam, there are two CD's available for purchase: "Likrat Shabbat," a collection of Shabbat songs, and "Musika Olam," a selection of Jewish world music.

But the best way to experience the music is to join us for a service. Services are held the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month, at 7 PM at McGill Baptist Church in Concord.

For information on services, or to order CDs, please visit our website, [www.or-olam.org](http://www.or-olam.org), email us at [info@or-olam.org](mailto:info@or-olam.org), or call 704-720-7577. ☆



**Grocery Store, Fresh Meat Department & Deli/Take Home Food Department**  
Our Restaurant serves Lunch daily and full service dinner on Sunday.



**704-563-8288**      [gleibermans.com](http://gleibermans.com)  
5668-D International Drive  
Providence Square Shopping Center  
**CATERING AVAILABLE!**  
Let us take care of all your small or large events.

## Giving Charlotte something to smile about for over 22 years.



Drs. Tri-D Rodney & S. M. Menaker

A member of the Charlotte Jewish Community for 39 years, Dr. Scott Menaker has become an active volunteer and leader in our community.

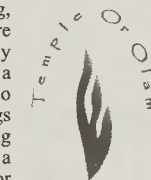
- Past President- Charlotte Jewish Preschool
- Past President-Levine JCC. Current board member for over 15 years
- Board member of Federation and Foundation of Shalom Park
- National JCC Association Board member
- Proud charitable supporter of all Jewish and many community organizations
- Fellow Academy of General Dentistry

General dental care for all ages • Personalized treatment  
Invisalign Orthodontics Certified • Tooth colored fillings  
7:00 AM appointments every day • Custom financing options  
Caring, compassionate, and friendly doctors and staff  
CEREC single-visit crowns Certified

New Patients are always welcome!

Call today and join your friends who already experience dental care at its finest.

**SmileCharlotte.com**  
Drs. Menaker & Rodney, DDS  
2711 Randolph Rd., Suite 205  
704.377.2503



## WOMEN'S NEWS

### CHAPTERS to Discuss "Seven Days to the Sea"

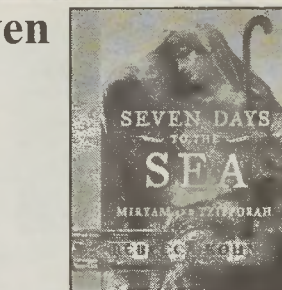
CHAPTERS invites you to join us for our final book group meeting this year on Sunday June 29 at 3 PM in the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center: *Seven Days to the Sea: An Epic Novel of the Exodus* by Rebecca Kohn.

This book, about Miriam (Moses' sister) and Tzipora (Moses' wife,) introduces us to some of the rivalries and bridges

that might have needed crossing between these two women from different backgrounds whose relationships to each other and with Moses had great complexity.

Amalia Warshenbrot, whose educational background is in biblical literature, and says this book is "better than *The Red Tent*," will be our discussion leader that day.

To reserve a copy or for the Center's hours, please call 704-



944-6783 Amalia purchased two copies, available for our use. ☆

## Community News

### By the Numbers: The 2008 Charlotte Jewish Film Festival

- \* 4th - Year
- \* 11 - Fascinating films
- \* 1,294 - Total number of attendees
- \* 36% - Increase in attendance from 2007
- \* 39 Pounds of Love - Film receiving the highest audience rating
- \* 2 - Prize winners. Out of 589 audience survey respondents, two people won all-access passes to next year's Festival. Mazel tov to Ruth Goldberg and Becky Bamford!
- \* 17.3 - Percent of audience survey respondents who said they first heard about the Festival from a friend. Thank you for helping us spread the word!!

- \* 60 - Volunteers. The Charlotte Jewish Film Festival is volunteer-driven.
  - \* 100s - Hours of planning
  - \* 41 - Patrons
  - \* 24 - Company and Corporate Sponsorships
  - \* 9 - Community Partnering Organizations including Presenting Sponsors the Levine JCC and the Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah
  - \* 1 - Arts & Science Council grant
  - \* 5th Anniversary the Festival will be celebrating next year. Please join us! Mark your calendars for February 28 - March 8, 2009.
- Do you want to get involved

with the 2009 Festival? Please see [www.charlottejewishfilm.com](http://www.charlottejewishfilm.com), email us at [info@charlottejewishfilm.com](mailto:info@charlottejewishfilm.com) or contact our Volunteer Coordinator Ellyn Gross, [ellyngross@aol.com](mailto:ellyngross@aol.com). ☆

