

## Temple Or Olam Member Spotlight: Judah Malin

Temple Or Olam's new president has a vision for our community that is several years in the making. When Judah and his wife Teresa began looking for a temple three years ago, they did so with their two young sons in mind. The boys were four and one at the time, and their parents wanted them to grow up in community, to know what being Jewish means. When the Malins chose Temple Or Olam, they chose to do more than affiliate to an existing structure – they chose to participate in the creation of a Jewish presence in the area. They knew their decision would demand a deep and lasting

level of commitment.

They embraced that fact. Terri Malin, a teacher by profession, became part of the Education Committee. When Judah accepted the nomination to be our president, he brought his positive energy, his commitment, and his vision of Jewish community with him. "I want everyone in our community to focus on what matters," he said. "What matters are our families, our sustenance and our commitment to each other. That means we all get along and deal with one another directly and respectfully."

"When we first visited," Judah

says, "it was kind of overwhelming. I mean, here were all these people from different places, different backgrounds." In fact, for a small community, Temple Or Olam is amazingly diverse. Its members transcend ethnicity, including folks from Latin, African, Asian, and European backgrounds, representing both Ashkenazi and Sephardic traditions.

"At the beginning," Judah says, "you don't know how to react to anybody or anything. But then, after a while, you're all family. You're all friends. You care about one another. My hope is that we can continue to grow that and to

extend it to whoever joins us." Certainly, Judah has his own way of maximizing the good energy the community feels at services and get-togethers, from joking about getting some kazoo played at every opportunity to regaling the congregation with advice given to him by his Uncle Morty. May what he calls his "eternal optimism" continue to help our community grow.

Temple Or Olam is an independent, egalitarian congregation that serves Cabarrus county and parts of Mecklenburg county (including University City, Davidson, and Huntersville). For information on our services,



Judah Malin

please visit our website, [www.or-olam.org](http://www.or-olam.org) and subscribe to our mailing list. You can also email us at [info@or-olam.org](mailto:info@or-olam.org), or call 704-720-7577. ☆

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## Temple Kol Ami Marks Its First Year

Temple Kol Ami marked a major milestone as it celebrated its first year as the only Jewish congregation in York County. The congregation held its first annual meeting since its formation in 2010. The highlights of the meeting were presented in two segments with a "Where have we

been" summary and "where we plan to go" segment. For a congregation that was operating in a gym, and then a rented church sanctuary, to conduct Shabbat services, hold a significant fundraiser, bring in major guests, and observe major holidays, this past year's events are impressive accomplishments.

Temple Kol Ami has grown from a stream on City-Data to an organizational meeting to now a vibrant congregation that holds services bi-monthly, has an active Sisterhood, as well as a part time Rabbi. In a short time span Temple Kol Ami has come a long way. The congregation has provided a home for many life cycle events as well. From baby namings to its first Bat Mitzvah Temple Kol Ami is meeting the need of the Jews of York County and the surrounding area. With a committed team of officers, directors, and committees the board of Temple Kol Ami has set its goals high for the future. Under the

leadership of founding President Jonathan Shaw, Temple Kol Ami promises to continue its growth and provide a Jewish home for all who need one. Temple Kol Ami has appointed a long range planning committee to assist it in reaching the goals of the congregation. Fred Glickman and Stan Smith will lead this committee as it assists the congregation in its growth and sustainability. One of the first goals was to begin a Religious school. That process has already begun. If you are interested in Temple Kol Ami's Religious school please contact us at [yorksynagogue@gmail.com](mailto:yorksynagogue@gmail.com) and you will hear from someone immediately. School will begin in September. With a commitment to its members, to the community, and to our faith Temple Kol Ami promises to be a prominent member of the North and South Carolina Jewish community. For more information about Temple Kol Ami please go to our website [www.kolamitemple.com](http://www.kolamitemple.com). ☆

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## Temple Kol Ami Celebrates 2nd Annual High Holiday Services

Temple Kol Ami will be holding its 2nd High Holiday Services at Unity Presbyterian Church, 303 Tom Hall St, Fort Mill, SC. For more information on dates and times please consult our website at [www.kolamitemple.com](http://www.kolamitemple.com), email us at [yorksynagogue@gmail.com](mailto:yorksynagogue@gmail.com), or call us at 803-701-0149. Seats are \$50 for members and \$100 for

non-members. If you are interested in learning more about Temple Kol Ami please contact us so that a member of our membership committee can contact you. Temple Kol Ami welcomes Jews of every level of observance and would love to share our vibrant congregation with you. ☆

### E-Edition of The Charlotte Jewish News Available Soon

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