

Temple Kol Ami Announces Partnership with the Institute for Southern Jewish Life

Since June 4, 2010, the vision of Temple Kol Ami has been to be a congregation that is open and welcoming to all Jews. We are "an independent, dynamic, and welcoming Jewish congregation serving the needs of York County and the surrounding area."

Temple Kol Ami is very proud of the growth it has nurtured in our nearly two years of existence. We have become a strong part of the overall community. We maintain a vibrant education program for the youth, spirited holiday and Sabbath observances, and we have just begun what is going to be an incredible and supportive partnership with the Institute for Southern Jewish Life (ISJL).

Our partnership with the ISJL is going take us to the next level of our growth. As a congregation, without full-time leadership, the ISJL will be there to support us and to offer any guidance we may

need. This includes Rabbinic, Educational, Cultural resources, and more.

As a partner of the Institute for Southern Jewish Life we will be joining a growing list of other congregations, with whom we will be able to share resources and ideas.

This is a great time to be part of Temple Kol Ami. We are here for you, your children, and your children's children. L'dor Vador, from generation to generation, Temple Kol Ami will be here.

Temple Kol Ami holds Friday night services the first and third Friday of the month at 7 PM. Our services are held at Unity Presbyterian Church in Fort Mill, SC (303 Tom Hall Street, Fort Mill, SC 29715). To learn more about Temple Kol Ami and our programs please visit us online at www.kolamitemple.com or email us at yorksynagogue@gmail.com. ☆

What a Rabbi - and a Congregation - Needs

On March 29, Temple Or Olam's Rabbi Dr. Barbara Thiede traveled to Knoxville as part of a four-member team from Davidson Centre for the Professions. The team led a one-day workshop for doctors, nurses, and chaplains from two area hospitals. This year, the Gammon/Heatherly Series was centered around "Sustaining Resilient Leaders: Tools to Build Personal and Professional Resilience." Rabbi Thiede (who received both a rabbinic ordination and smicha as a spiritual director from ALEPH, the Alliance for Jewish Renewal) is on staff at the Centre. She accompanied two life coaches and a Presbyterian minister, focusing, for her part, on bringing the wisdom of Jewish tradition to questions of spiritual self-care and growth.

An open commitment to fostering spiritual growth is characteristic of Temple Or Olam. Under Rabbi Thiede's leadership, we explore Leviticus, for example, not simply as set of legal prescriptions but in order to understand the way value is embedded in rituals both ancient and modern. Are we feeling the need to designate holy spaces in our homes and lives, just as our ancient forefathers did with the careful ordering of ritual in the Tabernacle? Can we make the recital of simple blessings into a spiritual practice, knowing, for example, that the

prayer for washing our hands actually asks us to raise them in service to humanity? Even our chagim - which we celebrate with jokes and riddles and fun - are punctuated by questions that help us understand our own spiritual path. At our community Seder this year, we asked ourselves what things we needed to leave behind and shared with one another what we needed to take with us - the ensuing discussions were rich.

Having a rabbi who brings to the table academic expertise in both Jewish history and text study is a great thing, but it's especially important to us to know that our growth as Jews is nurtured by deep attention to important spiritual questions. What do we long for? How do we experience prayer as an avenue for change and understanding? How do we make sure to encourage each other in connecting to our traditions and our heritage?

For Rabbi Thiede to be speaking with Christian clergy and Christian and secular medical personnel about spiritual health from

Jewish experience and tradition is further demonstration that our heritage is - when it comes to spiritual growth - very deep indeed. May we know it and nurture it.

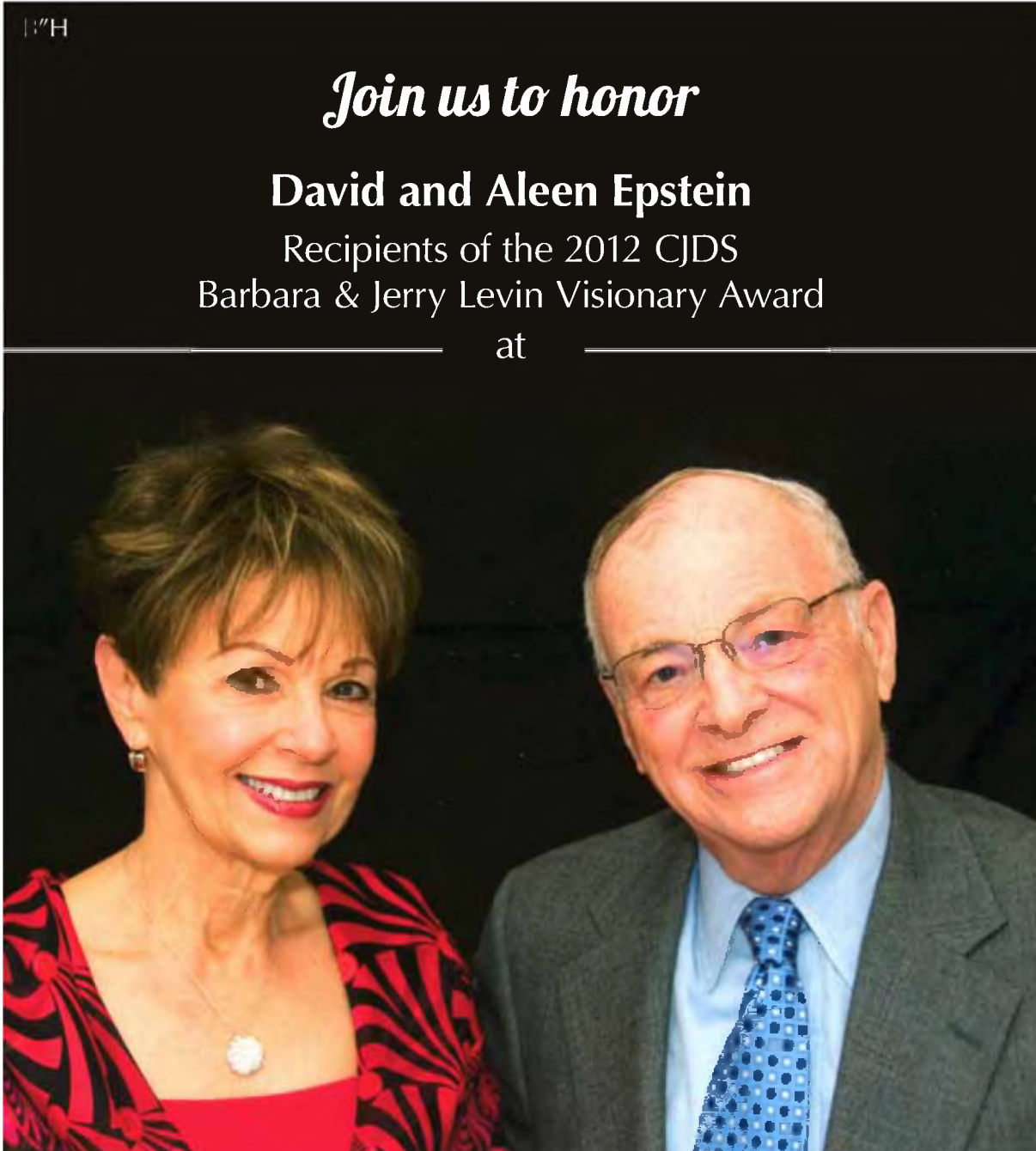
Temple Or Olam is a Jewish Renewal community that serves Cabarrus county and parts of Mecklenburg county (including University City, Davidson, and Huntersville). We encourage heartfelt, easy access to all things Jewish. For more information, please visit our website at www.or-olam.org and subscribe to our mailing list. You can also email us at info@or-olam.org, or call 704-720-7577. ☆



Shalom Y'all
שָׁלוֹם יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ

"A leader who doesn't hesitate before he sends his nation into battle is not fit to be a leader."

-Golda Meir in Joseph Telushkin, Jewish Wisdom



Join us to honor

David and Aleen Epstein

Recipients of the 2012 CJDS
Barbara & Jerry Levin Visionary Award

at

A COMMUNITY-WIDE INVITATION

Grandparents' Day

Friday, May 11

9:30-11am

Gorelick Hall, Shalom Park

A continental breakfast will be served

CJDS
Charlotte Jewish
Day School



Please RSVP by May 3 • 704-366-4558