

It Takes a Village

Starting an organization is no easy task. Even more difficult is a non-profit without any money. Now, make that a Temple and it gets even more complicated. For Temple Kol Ami it took the help of many to help our congregation to grow. As a Jewish congregation we had needs for particular ritual items. Without money it is difficult to get what is needed. Our members stepped forward to give us what we needed. Some with donations of money, other with items and a few with their hands.



Gail Danberg hold the Torah Mantel quilted by Helaine Yancey.

One such member whose hands have sparked beauty is Helaine Yancey, an accomplished quilt artist also known as the "Quilt Maven." Seeing the needs of Temple Kol Ami Helaine got to work. The first item that she made was a Bima cover. The cover was designed not only to be a place that we could rest our Torah but, also as a symbol of the who we are. Kol Ami meaning "All My

People" is represented by the figures holding each other's hands. The cover was a collaboration of not only design, but designers. It was quilted by Helaine and embellished with Swarovsky crystals by Eleanor Wirth, renowned bead artist and Temple member. As Helaine continued to attend services in our borrowed space she realized our need for an eternal light. Having a light installed was not an option so, she began work on another quilt to give us a symbolic light. The quilt with its brilliant flame sits visible for all to see at the head of all of our services. The designs did not stop there. Items to embellish and welcome all to our services continued. A wonderful wall hanging designed with a person holding a Torah and the word Shalom greets everyone as they walk through the door. For candle lighting a colorful quilt was made with the Shabbat blessing printed in the center. As High Holidays approached it was realized that we did not have a proper Torah Mantel. Again, Helaine got to work. She designed a Mantel that signified the beauty and brilliance of our new congregation. Helaine has also made art quilt hangings that were sold to help raise money for the congregation. Making art quilts has been a pas-



The Bima cover.

sion of hers for many years. She has made them for fundraisers and has been commissioned to make them for special occasions, such as weddings and baby births. It has been a wonderful gift to have such talent in our congregation. We feel honored to have her work adorn our walls and our congregation. Please join us for Friday night services and see the all of the wonderful work that Helaine has created. Temple Kol Ami has services the first and third Friday night of the month at 7 PM. Our services are held at Unity Presbyterian, 303 Tom Hall Street, Fort Mill, SC in the Historic Sanctuary. Contact us at yorksynagogue@gmail.com with any questions. ☆

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The Shalom quilt.

High Holiday Services at Ohr HaTorah Focuses on the Spirituality of High Holidays

High Holiday service at Ohr HaTorah is a journey of the soul to the inner dimension of the Jewish experience. The two days of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur encapsulate the entire year and they present an exceptional opportunity to bond with God and with each other in a meaningful and spiritual manner.

For people who are searching to delve into the deeper meaning of the High Holidays and seek to touch the Divine will find the Ohr HaTorah experience truly rewarding. The High Holiday service is in a sense a learning activity as Rabbi Yossi Groner provides short and succinct commentaries on the liturgy and expounds on the mystical significance of many of the rituals observed on Rosh Hashanah.

The mood at the synagogue reflects the spirituality of the Holy Days and it helps shape the total experience. A major component of the High Holiday experience is the melodious and emotion filled voice of Rabbi Binyomin Weiss who leads the services with passion and feeling.

Ohr HaTorah is a welcoming synagogue which helps congregants form friendships and excels

with its joyous and uplifting service. One of the unique advantages at Ohr HaTorah is that it allows for worshippers to engage in their prayers at their own pace and to genuinely connect to God in a meaningful and deep manner.

It is a moving scene when the moment of sounding the Shofar. The bima is surrounded with children of all ages. The Torahs are held firmly and the crowd of worshippers is focused and concentrating on the power of the moment. It is at this time that worshippers sense the significance of the day for at this moment they feel as if they surge upwards towards the heavens and enter the inner domain of God. The Shofar service envelops young and old as their voices penetrate the heavens and together with the delicate sound of the Shofar they are face to face with God.

Yom Kippur at Ohr HaTorah one can sense the sacredness of

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