

# Temple Israel Wishes You and Your Family a Happy Hanukkah

Hanukkah begins in the evening of Saturday, December 8. Every night during this joyous festival of rededication, we will have candle lighting at Temple Israel before minyan begins each evening, except for Shabbat.

Temple Israel Hanukkah Events

**December 9**

Temple Israel Religious School Hanukkah Program

**Sunday, December 16**  
Temple Israel Social Club Hanukkah Party, 12:30 PM  
Temple Israel Sisterhood Judaica Gift Shop

We have a wonderful selection of gifts for the holiday season.

Call Temple Israel at 704-362-2796 for more information other upcoming Hanukkah events. ✪



# “Dancing Under the Stars” Event Held at Temple Israel During Sukkot



## Temple Israel Men’s Club News

Sunday, November 18 - Dinner for Men’s Shelter Statesville Avenue

Feeding the hungry in our community - Sustain the whole world with kindness and compassion.

Volunteer to help prepare and serve dinner to 300 men living in the shelter donations of warm clothing needed - new or gently used coats, sweaters, hats, and gloves.

Contact: Jon Berger - berger.jonathan@yahoo.com.

**Save the Date**

TI Men’s Club Father/Daughter Dance December 15 ✪

## Alternative Services

Are you looking for something different on Shabbat? Temple Israel invites you to attend our Alternative services.

November 16 - Rock HaShabbat Service, 5:30 PM. Rock out with the TI Shabbat Band.

November 3 and December 1 - Java & Jeans, 10 AM - Come get some coffee and talk Torah with Rabbi Raucher.

November 17 and December 15 - Kavanah Service, 10 AM - Rabbi Raucher gives you some Shabbat soul. ✪

## Children’s Services

Torah Tots

November 9 and 30 and December 8 and 14 at 5:45 PM

Join us for music, singing, dancing and prayer for your preschooler and the kid in you.

Mini Minyan

November 3 and 17 and December 1, 8, and 15 at 11 AM.

Join us for songs prayers and stories for K-2nd graders. ✪



# Nationally Known Scribe and Artist Neil Yerman to Visit Temple Or Olam

The first obligations of any Jewish community are to have a place to honor and bury their dead and to possess a handwritten Torah scroll, which contains the Five Books of Moses. The scroll is the only ritual item that is essential to Jewish communal existence. Every child chants from it to mark the passage to adulthood, adults hold it high, carry it, and kiss its mantle as it passes by. There is no object more central to Jewish worship than the Torah.

Even though Cabarrus County’s first and only Jewish congregation has fewer than 40 families, we now find ourselves in possession of two different Torahs that deeply connect us to the faith and the sufferings of past congregations far away.

Most Torahs are written by one scribe (“sofer” in Hebrew). Temple Or Olam’s first Torah was written at least a century ago by at least four scribes who came from Moravia, Macedonia, and Eastern Europe. Fragments written by each of these scribes were stitched together to make one scroll sometime in the middle of the last century – likely just after WWII. The many communities who produced them were destroyed in the Holocaust. Somehow these fragments survived. And the Torah made from the remnants ended up in North Carolina – first in Weldon, now in Concord.

Coming to Temple Or Olam on November 18, the second scroll, which uses Sephardi script, was likely written in Iraq or Iran

around the time that the modern nation of Israel was founded. Many Jewish communities in those countries were forced to dissolve in retaliation for that event.

To both fund and celebrate the arrival of the new Torah, we are hosting a major interfaith event — another first for Cabarrus County. Nationally known scribe and artist Neil Yerman will speak to interested people of all faiths on “The Five Books of Moses – First Edition.”

Why an interfaith event for something that is so essential to Judaism? Because both these Torahs represent hope after despair. Together, they represent the diversity of the Jewish people. Despite the painful past they survived, learning about these scrolls can be a pathway to future understanding between religious traditions.

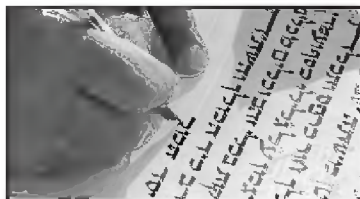
If you are interested in attending this interfaith, family-friendly event (Sofer Yerman is fabulous with children; they are encouraged to participate in the presentation), tickets are available for purchase through PayPal or by mail at \$10 each. Children under 12 are free. Proceeds from the event will act as tax-deductible donations to our congregation’s Torah fund, and we will be very grateful for your support.

The event will take place at 2 PM on November 18 at McGill Baptist Church, 5300 Poplar Tent Rd., Concord, NC.

To purchase tickets via PayPal, please visit [www.or-olam.org](http://www.or-olam.org) and follow the signs. To purchase tick-

ets by mail, send a check for the entire amount to: Temple Or Olam, PO Box 362, Huntersville, NC 28070-0362. Please don’t forget to include a return address.

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 about our congregation, please visit our website at [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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