

Purim Weekend at Temple Beth El

Friday – Sunday, March 14-16

Celebrate Purim at Temple Beth El at several dazzling events surrounding the legendary holiday of Purim. The fun begins Friday, March 14 with Community Shabbat Worship and Star Trek Spiel. On Saturday, March 15 from 7-11 PM, put on a costume if you want (no jeans) and join family and friends for Mordechai's Masquerade, a masked ball extravaganza. Refreshments include heavy hors d'oeuvres with beer, wine and specialty drinks being served. Dance the evening away to DJ music in your most extravagant disguise. There will be live and silent auctions throughout the evening. On Sunday, March 16 at 3:30 PM, we will finish our Purim weekend with the Megillah reading.

Purim commands us to bring family and friends together to party and celebrate. Spend the

weekend with us at Temple Beth El. Ticket prices for Mordechai's Masquerade are \$65 each or \$50 for TBE families with kids under age 12. RSVP by March 7 at www.beth-el.com/masquerade or 704-749-3070. ☆



Major Trent Player Presents Temple Beth El with Special Gift

It was on Veteran's Day 2012 that we offered Major Trent Player a blessing on the Beth El bimah before he was deployed to Afghanistan for a year. This was his second deployment. We thank God that he arrived home safely and that he survived a brush with an IED that exploded underneath his vehicle. As we were praying



Major Player's gift.

for him and for peace in our world on this past Rosh Hashanah, he was acting on our behalf in Afghanistan.

He flew an American flag in honor of Temple Beth El over the headquarters of the Second Marine Expeditionary Force. Then, he brought the gift of that American flag and a plaque from the United States Marine Corps to our congregation. This gift will serve as a constant reminder of our gratitude to all our soldiers who have, who are, and who will in the future serve our country. We are indebted to him and his family for the sacrifices



The Trent family.

they have made. Welcome home, Trent. ☆



Arthur Tirsun Teachers Appreciation and Education Shabbat

March 8, 11 AM Shabbat Service in the Temple Beth El Bluementhal Sanctuary

Join us for a special Shabbat service as we celebrate our religious and community educators. This beautiful service will feature the voices and music of our tal-

ented Temple Beth El Religious School students and teens. We are thrilled to showcase and share their talents at this Shabbat service as we honor and thank our dedicated educators. Students are encouraged to invite their secular teachers to attend and be included as we show our appreciation. ☆



Jazz Shabbat Late at Eight Worship Experience

March 7 – 8 PM

Join the TBE community for a Jazz Shabbat worship experience led by the clergy and our outstanding jazz pianist, Bill Ward. This Late at Eight Worship Experience will be filled to the brim with Jewish jazz just for Shabbat. Unwind from the week with great music, spiritual teaching, meaningful community, and refreshments. You are welcome to bring a bottle of wine to share with your table. While the liturgy for Jazz Late at Eight will be creative and flexible, there will be an opportunity to say both Mi Shebeirach and Kaddish. ☆



Temple Or Olam Celebrates Ten Years in Cabarrus County

Who would have thought that a meeting of two Jews in Charlotte would turn into a congregation in Concord – the first ever, in fact, in the county's history?

When Barbara Thiede met Brian Cutler in spring 2003, both of them began to dream that there might actually be a minyan who could gather periodically where they lived, in Cabarrus County. Could they find enough Jews to celebrate the holidays with, to share knowledge and

build Jewish community in a very Christian part of the world? Barbara was already writing a column entitled "On Common Ground" for the *Observer*, a perfect venue for finding out. On March 23, 2003, Barbara's column in the *Cabarrus Neighbors* was entitled "Are you a fish out of water? Let me know." And they did. That year, Cabarrus County's first Jewish congregation formed — Havurat Olam. Some of the founding members from that year are still

members of Temple Or Olam today. Has it been an easy ten years? Certainly not; no startup venture is. Has it been a labor of love all around? Absolutely. That small group of Cabarrus Jews were dedicated to gathering Jewish and interfaith families, to give them a spiritual home. They were going to create Jewish community where there had been none. They were going to give their children the gift of their heritage. They were going to live out

their love of all that Judaism has to offer: learning, meaningful ritual, the practice of investing each day with a sense of the sacred.

They wanted services that reflected the loveliness of blessings and prayers that could be experienced by everyone, whatever their previous experience. They wanted celebrations and holidays that pulsed with the community's joy. They wanted everyone to grow in their

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