

Temple Or Olam Immerses in Nature for the New Year

The Torah tells us to protect nature and sustenance – even when we are at war: “When in your war against a city you have to besiege it a long time in order to capture it, you must not destroy its trees, wielding the ax against them. You may eat of them, but you must not cut them down. Are trees of the field human to withdraw before you into the besieged city?” (Deuteronomy 20:19). To do so,

our sages say, would be to engage in *bal tashchit*, what Talmud calls needless destruction.

Needless destruction plagues our world, from the devastation of our environment to the enslavement and genocide of whole peoples. This past year, we have all seen the terror wrought by fanatics of every stripe. Innocent lives have been lost.

Needless destruction can de-

stroy a family’s security and a community’s peace.

In Genesis, we read of two trees: The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Bad, and the Tree of Life. In Proverbs, we read that our Torah is “a tree of life to all who grasp it, and whoever holds on to it is happy; its ways are ways of pleasantness, and all its paths are peace” (Proverbs 3:17-18). Torah is our source of wisdom and understanding, a source of life itself.

This year at Temple Or Olam’s High Holy Days, we will explore ways in which we can dedicate ourselves to planting and nourishing wisdom and life in ourselves, in our community, and in our world. If we were blessed with a single tree of life and wisdom, what kind of revelation could we expect to receive? What kind of spiritual fruit could it bear for us and for our congregation?

To that end, we will begin our High Holy Day season with a *S’lichot* service in the midst of nature; our havdalah will, of course, take place under the stars. On Rosh Hashanah, when we celebrate the birth of the world, we will reflect on the nature of awe and the awe of nature. Our Rosh Hashanah *Shacharit* services will conclude in a nearby park.

TOO has recently decided to devote increased energy to the care of our environment during

our next year. Over the Days of Awe, we will ask: When we get in touch with our sense of wonder about the created world, how are we led to protect and care for the world we live in? What promises and vows can we be sure we can keep? We will be sharing our reflections on Yom Kippur afternoon at a special communal study session. And at Neilah, we’ll conclude our spiritual travels with a service of renewal, one based on our commitment to integrate sources of life and wisdom in our lives.

Feel free to join us for a musical, rich, and reflective experience of the Days of Awe. ☆

Temple Or Olam High Holy Day Service Schedule

* September 13: Erev Rosh Hashanah Service, 7 PM: McGill Baptist Church, 5300 Poplar Tent Road, Concord, NC

* September 14: Rosh Hashanah Morning Services, 10 AM-12 noon followed by brunch and Tashlich at Dorton Park: McGill Baptist Church, 5300 Poplar Tent Road, Concord, NC

* September 22: Kol Nidre Service, 7 PM: McGill Baptist Church, 5300 Poplar Tent Road, Concord, NC

* September 23: Yom Kippur Morning Service, 10 AM-12 noon: McGill Baptist Church, 5300 Poplar Tent Road, Concord, NC

* September 23: Neilah Service: 6:30 PM, Havdalah, and break fast: McGill Baptist Church, 5300 Poplar Tent Road, Concord, NC

Temple Or Olam does not require tickets for attendance at our services. Suggested donations for guests to defray our rental costs are below:

- * Families: \$216
- * Individuals: \$108
- * Students: gratis

Please visit www.or-olam.org for more information. ☆





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MISSION DETAILS



Community Trip to ISRAEL 2016

Travel as a community • Personalize the Experience

DATES

March 27* - April 4, 2016
(option to extend through April 7)

COST

\$2,000** per person, double occupancy *(Land only)*
 Extension: \$1,990 per person, double occupancy *(Land only)*

ACCOMMODATIONS

Dan Carmel Hotel, Haifa *(2 nights)*
 Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem *(5 nights)*

EXTENSION ACCOMMODATIONS

Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv *(3 nights)*

FOUR TRACKS TO CHOOSE FROM

Adventure Lovers
 Politics and Security
 History and First Timers
 High Tech, Art and Culture

CONTACT

Tal Stein, 704.944.6751, tal.stein@jewishcharlotte.org

* Flights should be scheduled to depart Charlotte no later than March 27 to arrive in Israel in time to join the mission on the ground on March 28

**includes a \$500 subsidy from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

Temple Solel Blazing a Path for Reform Jewish Education in Fort Mill

Temple Solel is the home of the only Reform Jewish education program in Fort Mill, SC. Partnering with the Goldring Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL), Temple Solel offers an innovative religious education program for the entire family, from ages 3-103. This year, we are adding opportunities for Confirmation and Adult Education through our program. We offer our students the opportunity to be life-long learners in the teachings of the Torah on Sundays during

the school year from 10 AM-12 noon at Blooming Einsteins, 2752 Pleasant Road, Suite 103, Fort Mill.

The ISJL Education Curriculum includes the key content areas: Community, Culture and Symbols, God, Hebrew and Prayer, Israel, Jewish History, Jewish Holidays, Lifecycle Events, Mitzvot, Jewish Values, and Torah. Our teachers will share their love of what it means to be Jewish through a variety of face to face and online activities, which

will appeal to multiple learning styles, while fostering communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity.

Our religious education program is based on these three big ideas from the ISJL:

1. Celebrating the Jewish holidays is an essential aspect of Jewish identity.
2. The Torah contains stories that teach us how to live our lives.
3. Hebrew is the language of the Jewish people.

Education Director, Mara Cobe, brings more than two decades of experience as a teacher and administrator. She has an extensive background in language education, curriculum, assessment, and educator’s professional development. In addition, our teachers attend annual training from the ISJL, and return each year renewed and energized, ready to share with Temple Solel family. We’re looking forward to a wonderful year. We’d love to have you join us “Pathfinders” as we start this year’s religious education journey at Temple Solel.

For more information on enrollment, please contact us at info@templesolelsc.org. ☆

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