

## Discover Temple Emanuel

Since 1913, Temple Emanuel has served Gastonia, NC and the surrounding area as a house of worship and study. A small, friendly Reform congregation, the Temple warmly welcomes Jews of all backgrounds, interests and experiences. Also, we invite non-Jewish spouses and friends to join in our services, programs and activities. Please call, visit or drop in on our website for more information.

*Become a part of our tradition.*

www.TempleEmanuelgaston.org

320 South Street / Gastonia, NC 28052 / 704-865-1541

PO Box 550085 / Gastonia, NC 28055-0085



Temple Emanuel



## Or Olam Brings Light to the World

As the days get shorter we can use all the light we can get. This is the first winter since Havurat Olam became Temple Or Olam. We like to interpret our name as "light to the world" and in a small way, that's what we're doing this winter. The students at our religious school are raising money by doing extra chores to help local families keep their power on during the difficult economic times this winter. They are challenging themselves to see how many families they can help with eight days each of power, in remembrance of the miracle of Hanukkah.

Temple Or Olam also celebrated the Festival of Lights with its annual Hanukkah party, which featured a talent show, singing, dancing, dreidels, a play by the students, and lots and lots of latkes. At the party, our religious school students also got their first look at the completed "dreidels out of clay" that they made at Mudslingers Pottery in Concord.

In other December happenings, we held our second Shabbat morning sing-along. The congregation is becoming more familiar with the songs from the Shabbat morning service and is looking forward to eventually holding regular Saturday mornings services in

addition to the two Friday night services a month that we hold now.

On January 31, Temple Or Olam is holding a fundraising event called "Cha Cha Chocolate." As the name implies there are two important components to this event: dancing and dessert. A DJ will be teaching line dancing (requests will be accepted!) and our resident Israeli dance expert will be teaching us some new moves too. All that

dancing will give you a good excuse to partake in the extensive dessert bar. All forms of chocolate will be on hand, and a few non-chocolate desserts as well. Guys: you'll get your Super Bowl party the next day. Take your lady out for an evening of dancing and sweets the night before.

Cha Cha Chocolate will be held at McGill Baptist Church, 5300 Poplar Tent Road, Concord, January 31, at 7 PM. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors, college students, and kids under age 12. (Kids under five are free.)

Shabbat services are held on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month, at McGill Baptist Church, at 7 PM. For more information please call 704-720-7577, email info@or-olam.org, or visit our website www.or-olam.org. ☆

## The Charlotte Torah Center's Spectacular New Location

Located minutes from Shalom Park on Providence Road, the CTC's spectacular new center is situated on a thirteen acre hilltop amidst a forest of trees with an expansive open area that overlooks breathtaking views. The sky-lit sanctuary is lined at the front by floor-to-ceiling windows. Within the facility is a library that has a comfortable reading area, kitchen amenities, a large and bright children's playroom filled with toys and books, and accommodations for overnight guests. A large parking lot is adjacent to the facility. Ready in time to welcome Rabbi Oppenheim who is leading the CTC to new heights of growth, this center inspires everyone who sees it.



The magnificent new sanctuary at the Charlotte Torah Center.

If you have not yet heard about or been to the CTC, you should know that it is an organization that serves as a community resource for traditional Jewish education at all levels for people of all backgrounds. Through group classes, one on one study, special seminars and explanatory learning worship

services, students are exposed to the wealth of knowledge accumulated over centuries. The Center fosters life-long study, appreciation for Judaism and pride in one's heritage.

For more information about the Charlotte Torah Center, please visit us at www.charlottetorahcenter.com, send an email to info@charlottetorahcenter.com, or call 704-367-1225. We hope to meet you soon at the new center. ☆



## JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES



### From Seniors to J-Tots, Jewish Family Services Touches Lives

#### Memories of Past Projects

Bea Gibbs, senior outreach specialist at Jewish Family Services, teamed up with Dr. Lynn Kirk's



The tireless Bea Gibbs.

English Composition class at Central Piedmont Community College to create a Memories of the Past book project. Throughout the three month semester, nine students worked with fifteen residents at Sunrise Assisted Living, visiting with the residents, working on various projects together and getting to know each other. Students conducted a minimum of five interviews with each participant covering different areas that person's life – significant moments, turning points, memories, family history and stories. The result of all these conversations was a book, Memories of the Past written by the students. They then published and presented a copy to each of the participants at a gala reception held at Sunrise. Residents, students, Dr. Kirk, Bea Gibbs, family and friends all shared a special celebration of these precious memories captured in a timeless keepsake.

#### Mindful Parenting Workshop

Five UNC-C Interns under the guidance of Stephanie Starr in collaboration with the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center presented a short workshop on Mindful Parenting discussing how to handle the moment to moment stress management parents are called upon to master everyday while the children enjoyed a story hour in a separate area. Participation was lively and plans are underway to bring more such programming to parents. In the coming months Libby Rains, JFS child and adolescent clinician, will be presenting other parenting workshops including special needs issues. The next workshop will be held January 20. For more information on this and other upcoming workshops call Talli at 704-944-6780 or tdippold@shalomcharlotte.org.

During their stay, the group looks at the history of the country, current events, its relationship to the United States and Israel. They explore the various religions practiced in the country, its culture, sights, art and music. One of the favorite activities is sampling the food of the country. Members are also encouraged to bring items they may have gotten when visiting the country and share some stories of their travels there. "The community has really gotten involved and we're having a lot of fun with this series," says Nicole Vagnone.

The group meets the first three Mondays of every month and meetings are free. For more information, call Linda Bass at 704-944-6735.



Nicole's traveling Oasis group.



Visiting JFS to do mitzvot.

#### Travels with Nicole: Oasis Takes an Arm Chair World Tour

Jewish Family Services Clinician, Nicole Vagnone and clinical UNC-C intern, Clark Bridges are leading a series of travel sessions with the JCC Oasis group. So far the group has "visited" Greece and Israel. Each participant is given a passport and an itinerary of the activities planned for their visit to that country.

#### Tzedakah Starts Early

The food pantry at Jewish Family Services is a popular training ground for our community's children to begin practicing tzedakah. Like all pantries in this unstable economy, the JFS pantry is hard pressed to keep up with the growing demand for food. From J-Tots, to the Jewish Preschool, Charlotte Jewish Day School and

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## JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

Please join Jewish Family Services for our

### 2008 Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation

Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts  
Thursday, January 15 - 7:30 PM  
Dessert Reception

*"True salvation can come only to a person who renders service to the community."*

- Yisrael Salanter, Rabbi and Founder of the Mussar Movement

