

Lubavitch of North Carolina

B"H

A Wedding at The Jewish Preschool on Sardis

This is to formally announce the marriage of the letter Q and the letter U. The ceremony and formal reception took place at the gorgeous Jewish Preschool on Sardis with all 4-year-olds in attendance. After the beautiful traditional Jewish wedding, with a chupah and lively dancing, the children sat down and had refreshments prepared by 4-year-old chefs. The refreshments consisted of apple juice and pineapple upside down

cake, which was enjoyed by all. For your enjoyment, below are the wedding vows that were recited.

"I, Q, promise to always go first to make the 'qu' sound with 'u.' I will not be afraid or quiet with 'u' beside me. Together we can make words like quack, quilt, and quartz."

"I, U, promise to always be



At the wedding of "Q" and "U."

beside Q when Q wants me to, so we can make the 'qu' sound. Together we can make words like quarter, quick, and queen." ☆

Lag B'Omer Draws Hundreds to Ohr HaTorah Event

They came by the hundreds to celebrate a holiday that is mostly known in Israel - Lag B'Omer. This day marks the passing of one of Jewish history's greatest leaders, Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, who lived in the Mishnaic era in the Galilee in northern Israel.

This day also marks the ending of a deadly plague that struck down many of Rabbi Akiva's disciples. On this day the emphasis is on love, friendship, and camaraderie, which caused an end to the plague.

Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai was the ultimate spiritualist who saw God in every aspect of creation. As the barbaric Romans oppressed Israel, he alone stood up to them, not in a military way, but rather in a defiance that encouraged Jews to follow the ways of the Torah rather than the immoral ways of Rome. The Rabbi hid in the mountains of the Galilee with his son for many years, thus the tradition of going outdoors on Lag B'Omer and enjoying a family picnic with friends.

That is what so many Charlotte families did on Tuesday, April 30

at the Lubavitch Educational Center on Sardis Road. They enjoyed a kosher barbecue with all the trimmings. Lots of people camped out with blankets or just



Crowds enjoying Lag B'Omer celebration at Ohr HaTorah with magic show by "Razzle Dazzle."

sat around on the grass.

Rabbi Yossi Groner introduced a group of children who led the crowd in the recitation of twelve verses selected from the Torah. He also spoke of a time of unity with Jews in Israel.

The children at the picnic were entertained by "Razzle Dazzle" and his magic show. ☆

New Torah Inaugurated

A fascinating moment in the history of the Charlotte Jewish community took place in early spring as a scribe began to etch the first words of the Torah on a new parchment. The new parchment will eventually become part of a new Torah that is being written for the Jewish community in Charlotte.

Over 50 sponsors of the Torah gathered at the home of Boaz and Tali Ramon on the evening of April 14 to experience the new beginning in an auspicious and elegant manner. It began with a reception where people joined for L'Chaim and delicious hors d'oeuvres.

At the appointed hour, the scribe stepped forward and explained the process of writing a Torah. Using props and actual skins and parchment, Rabbi Yehuda Clapman revealed his skill in this awesome age-old task of hand manufacturing a Torah scroll from formation to completion.

Rabbi Clapman displayed the actual parchment to be used for the Torah and in the presence of all the guests began to write the first paragraph of Torah. Rabbi Clapman's skill in Hebrew calligraphy was truly amazing. There



Rabbi Clapman begins to write the Torah on clean parchment.

was silence in the room as the mood reflected the holiness of the moment.

As a thank-you to the sponsors of Torah books and Torah portions, Rabbi Clapman presented customized certificates indicating the particular book or portion dedicated by the sponsors with their Hebrew names inscribed in Hebrew calligraphy.

Each of the Torah books has been sponsored for a dedication of \$18,000 per book. The sponsors are Boaz and Tali Ramon, Michael and Jody Molinari, Jerry Segal,

The Lerner Family in memory of Sam Lerner, and Drs. Eric and Judy Laxer. In addition, 28 of the 54 Torah portions have been dedicated for \$1,800 per portion. Many in the community have been dedicating verses, words and letters for this special communal project.

Rabbi Yossi Groner, who launched this project, gave the initial introduction to the evening. "We live in extraordinary times for Jews and for freedom, and when writing a Torah we bring a new measure of peace to the world." He added, "We hope that everyone in the community will join us in this auspicious project and have at least a verse or letter in the Torah."

Lubavitch of North Carolina plans to mail a brochure to the entire community, explaining this monumental project and inviting everyone to join in this campaign. There will be several events throughout the year that will give everyone an opportunity to see the scribe in action as he visits Charlotte and continues to write the Torah.

The Torah should be completed by May 2003. There will be a major event to welcome the Torah at the Lubavitch Educational Center on Sardis Road.

Rabbi Clapman lives in New York and has been featured on Public Radio. In addition, Rabbi Clapman was the main character in a book published by KTAV on how to write a Torah. In this book, there is an extensive photo display of Rabbi Clapman at work in his Crown Heights studio. ☆

Rainy Day Trike Ride

The Jewish Preschool on Sardis held its second annual Trike-A-Thon on May 3 one of the rainiest days this Spring. It didn't matter.



Four-year-olds on the inside track.

The parents, teachers, and administrators in charge put their heads together and turned the hallways into an indoor track. Perhaps the reason everyone decided to carry on is that the event was such a smashing success last year that they had to do it again, rain or shine.

The Trike-A-Thon is a fundraiser, an education, and a fun way to get exercise. As a mitzvah,

children donated new toys to the children's wing of a local hospital. Family and friends who "sponsored" their tricycle rides did so with a donation to the Preschool. Officer Friendly came to the 2s, 3s, 4s, and TK classes to speak about road safety. He spoke about traffic signs and the importance of wearing a bike helmet. Police officers even rode along with the first group of riders, who braved the grey weather to use the beautifully painted outdoor course before it rained.

Although the children received a safety coloring book and police badge from the officer, the cutest keepsake of the day was their "trike license." A parent fashioned oversized photo IDs, complete with eye and hair color, and expiration date, for each child.

After riding, each group of children played and moved to music provided by the local Disney radio station, 1140 AM. Many parents showed up to cheer on the children as they rode, turned, stopped, and took breaks to fill up with gas in the hallways. A big thanks goes out to all the people who helped make the event another big success, rain or shine. ☆

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