

SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

Jewish Renaissance at Ohr HaTorah New Meaning to Holiday Rituals that Enrich Jewish Life

Shavuot, also known as the festival of weeks, is a time for Jewish renaissance at Ohr HaTorah. The holiday brings with it its own set of rituals and customs that bring to life the historic significance of this wonderful holiday. Shavuot, which begins this year on the evening of May 22 and concludes at the nightfall of May 24, is most-ly known as the cheesecake holiday. Of course, there is much more to this holiday than delicious cheese blintzes.

Shavuot today is centered on the theme of the giving of the Torah by God at Mt. Sinai. All the rituals and customs are geared to reinforce the recognition of this theme and the Jewish connection to Torah.

An all-night Torahthon which will begin at midnight will be held at Ohr HaTorah on the evening of May 22. This is one of the wonderful customs of this holiday, to study the Torah all night on the first evening of Shavuot. According to the Midrash, the Jewish people slept late on the morning of the first Shavuot, the day that Torah was handed down to Moses, so that they had to be awakened by God. To show that we are eager to receive the Torah and to know its commandments, we stay up all night and study Torah as a way to properly prepare for the reading of the Ten Commandments which are read during the morning service on Shavuot. Many people read a book

called *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*, which contains selections from each book of both the Written and Oral Torah.

The festival of Shavuot is also unique for its delicious dairy foods such as blintzes and cheesecake. The reason for this is that on Shavuot the Children of Israel received God's greatest gift to humanity, the Torah. One of the first commitments the Jews made to God upon entering this special covenant was to observe the kosher laws. They were not yet familiar with Kashrut and only ate dairy until they were proficient in their new lifestyle.

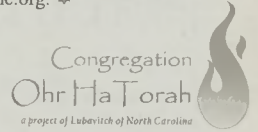
It has thus been a tradition for thousands of years for Jews to feast on dairy foods during the

festival of Shavuot in commemoration of this mitzvah. It has been a tradition at Congregation Ohr HaTorah to celebrate the festival with a scrumptious dairy Kiddush luncheon, after morning services on the first day of Shavuot.

A newer tradition for Shavuot is the gathering of all children, even the very young, to the reading of the Ten Commandments. Services at Ohr HaTorah begin at 10 AM on Wednesday, May 23. An exciting children's program and service will take place as well beginning at 11 AM, during which the children will engage in an interactive Junior Congregation and prepare for their role in the reading of the

Ten Commandments. The children are the guarantors for the Torah, as they are the key in the passing of the Torah to the next generation, and this role is celebrated in grand style at Ohr HaTorah.

Services for the second day of Shavuot begin at 10 AM, and will include the Yizkor service. For more information, please contact one of the rabbis at 704-366-3984 or go online to www.ohrhatorah-nc.org. ☆



Temple Israel Book Club

A Tale of Love and Darkness: A Memoir by Amos Oz

TUESDAY, MAY 29 - 7:30 PM, TEMPLE ISRAEL

"Tragic, comic, and utterly honest, *A Tale of Love and Darkness* by Amos Oz is at once a family saga and a magical self-portrait of a writer who witnessed the birth of a nation and lived through its turbulent history."

The Oz memoir is the story of a boy growing up in the war-torn Jerusalem of the forties and fifties, the story of an adolescent whose life changed forever when his

mother commits suicide, and the story of a man who leaves his family to join a kibbutz, change his name, marry and have children. Above all, it is the story of a writer who becomes an active participant in the political life of his nation.

No repertoire of Jewish book readers is complete without at least one work by this prolific, award-winning writer of fiction

and essay collections.

Borrow *A Tale of Love and Darkness* at the public library, the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center, or purchase it at a local book store or on-line for under \$20. Come to the Temple Israel Book Club discussion on May 29 and enrich your Judaic literary experience.

Temple Israel Book Club meetings are open to all community members. For additional information call Linda Levy 704-366-6362 or Sandra Hirschman 704-867-7051. ☆

Temple Israel Sisterhood Judica Gift Shop

Hours are 10 AM-1 PM on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and from 11 AM-1 PM on Friday. A 10% discount on all gift shop items (except books) will be offered from May 6-20. ☆

Temple Israel Social Club

May 10 - Thursday - Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens

We will tour these magnificent gardens, then we're off to a delicious lunch.

There will be a car pool from Temple Israel. Watch for more information or call Gale Halverson-704-365-8851, or Janine Rosner - 704-366-5631.

May 20 - Sunday - Enjoy the wonderful, melodious "Carolina

Voices."

It will be a matinee and dinner afterward. More information will follow or call Gale Halverson-704-365-8851.

The Temple Israel Social Club is for active adult couples and singles ages 60+. We invite you to join us to meet new people and enjoy our interesting programs and trips. For information call Janine Rosner - 704-366-5631. ☆

CMS Superintendent to Speak at TBE

Peter Gorman, Superintendent of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System, will speak to the Jewish community at Temple Beth El, on Wednesday night, May 16 from 7:30-9 PM. The format will be question-and-answer. Following the program, a dessert reception sponsored by the TBE Brotherhood will be held in the Silverman Social Hall.

Please RSVP (so there are enough desserts) to andywayne@carolina.rr.com or hermz@bellsouth.net.

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CCFA Spring Fling Gala & Silent Auction

Saturday, May 12, 2007

Carmel Country Club

\$150/person

\$280/couple

\$1050/table of 10

- Ticket includes cocktails & dinner
- Old-fashioned carnival games
- Silent auction



2007
SPRING Fling
CROHN'S & COLITIS
FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

American Jews are three times more likely to develop Crohn's Disease than the population as a whole.

Crohn's Disease & Ulcerative Colitis, known as IBD (Inflammatory Bowel Disease), affects more than 1.4 million Americans & 30,000 North Carolinians.

While there is no cure, there is hope! Attending the event will raise funds for much-needed research, education and supportive services for patients in the Carolinas.

Presented at the 2006 annual meeting of the American Gastroenterological Association.

Call Alisha Glaser at 704-442-0815 for ticket information.