

Havurat Tikvah in the Community

A Reconstructionist Thought: The past has a vote, not a veto. This sentiment is echoed throughout the Reconstructionist world. In our push forward through self-determinism, we consider thoughtfully the manner in which we choose to proceed. Tradition and observance are matters of personal relevance and revelation. Community standards and practice are guided by the community's collective expectations for Jewish behavior and ethics. Many

Reconstructionist communities and households practice a more involved level of observance, and carry forward traditional practices for cultural, social, historical and religious reasons.

One such practice that Havurat Tikvah observes is to support our Jewish community in a very real way by shopping and lunching at Gleiberman's Kosher Mart and Restaurant every other month - next date is January 6 at 12:30 PM - feel free to join us. These

outings are fun for the Havurah and benefit the community.

The Havurah also supports various organizations in Charlotte, like Samaritan House, Friendship Trays and Project Linus through service as well as Project Heifer, Jewish Family Services, The Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center through tzedakah. We serve up "Chicken Soup," both moral and physical, to our own members and their families who are in need.

Upcoming Havurat Tikvah events include Havdalah and a Movie January 12, our monthly community Shabbat service January 19 featuring a Tu B'Shevat seder, Havdalah and Jewish crafts



Jewish Reconstructionist Federation



sections of the service and reading the Torah. Prospective new members are welcome; we are a growing congregation of 49 households as of December 2007.

Havurat Tikvah is an affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist

Federation. We celebrate all services and many events in the Fellowship Hall of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 2201 Springdale Ave. (at Magnolia) in the Dilworth neighborhood of Charlotte.

For an updated calendar and information for Havurat Tikvah, visit our website at www.HavuratTikvah.org or call 704-545-0894. ☆



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As a Jew, What Do You Believe?

As American Jews living in the South, we are constantly asked by our neighbors and co-workers what we believe in as Jews. What is the central theme of the Jewish belief system? What are the most important core values in Judaism? Many Jews answer with their gut feeling, which may or may not be correct.

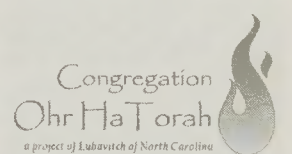
The Jewish Learning Institute of Charlotte is presenting a fantastic primer on Jewish beliefs entitled Beyond Belief. The six-week course is based on the 13 principles of faith that the great Jewish teacher Maimonides introduced as core values in Judaism. Maimonides identifies these thirteen keys as a set of building blocks upon which we construct a deep foundation and understanding of what it means to believe.

In this course, participants will examine the logic and role each

principle plays in shaping the Jewish view on the world. They will have the opportunity to grapple with ideas that have shaped and formed Jewish thought over the centuries. It will allow participants to encounter classic primary texts and engage in thoughtful, open discussion.

These principles have been the guiding light of Jewish thinking and have helped preserve the integrity of Jewish life through its many challenges, both from outside and from within.

The course will examine the role God has in our daily lives and how the Torah has shaped the Jewish worldview, even among secularists. Furthermore, it will speak to the role of the human being as steward of the land, what our obligations are, and what our view is of a perfect world. Most importantly, this course will also



address the inner struggle that many people feel when considering issues of faith.

The evening classes will begin on Tuesday, February 5, from 7:30-9 PM, led by Rabbi Yossi Groner. The morning classes will begin on Wednesday, February 6, from 11 AM-12:30 PM, led by Rabbi Shlomo Cohen. All classes will be held at the Lubavitch Educational Center on Sardis Road. Fee is \$80 per person or \$145 per couple and includes the textbooks. For more information, please visit www.myJLI.com or call our office at 704-366-3984. ☆

New Torah Scroll Launched at Ohr HaTorah

A new Torah scroll was commissioned for Congregation Ohr HaTorah and Lubavitch of North Carolina on November 29, 2007. The Torah was initiated by Larry Schwartz in memory of his late father, Mr. Israel (Lou) Schwartz, of blessed memory.

It has been a tradition in Judaism for many centuries to write a community Torah when we are in need of extra blessings from God, especially when it comes to the security and welfare of the community. The Torah provides an excellent opportunity for anyone in the Charlotte Jewish community to participate in this special mitzvah which is of merit and benefit to all, as everyone can have a part in this new Torah by sponsoring a book, portion, verse, word, or even a letter.

The launching of the new Torah took place at Congregation Ohr HaTorah where a special reception was held with a scribe from New York who wrote the first verses of Genesis on a new parchment. It was a great moment to see the Hebrew words etched on the parchment and to know that within a year they will be part of a new Torah for Charlotte.

The bulk of the Torah scroll

will be written in Israel and will be completed in Charlotte in October of 2008. The completion and acceptance of the new Torah will be accompanied by a grand celebration and dancing with the Torah. The date will be announced well in advance. There are still sponsorship opportunities available. Please visit our website at www.ohrha-torahnc.org or call our office at 704-366-3984. ☆



Torah scribe Rabbi Yochanan Klein assists Larry Schwartz in writing a letter in the new Torah

Chavurat Keshet Presents the Annual Hamantaschen Sale

Chavurah Keshet would like to thank Stephanie Starr for her very inspiring speech about the poverty in the Jewish community at Temple Beth El's 2006 Inclusion Shabbat. It was an interesting, eye-opening, and informative presentation.

Purim is coming, which means that the annual Hamantaschen sale will be starting soon. Watch for

our order forms so you will not miss out on our homemade Hamantaschen. This is our annual fundraiser that supports Inclusion Shabbat. Chavurah Keshet also donates a portion of the proceeds from the Hamantaschen sale to the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library & Resource Center and Tikvah Charlotte. Thank you all for your continued support. ☆