

Lag B'Omer Barbeque and Community Celebration

Lag B'Omer is one of those spring holidays which is well known in Israel for its huge bonfires and outdoor barbeques. This two thousand-year-old holiday originated in the days of the Talmud when Israel was under Roman rule, and its main characters were famous Talmudic Sages, Rabbi Akiva and Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, author of the Zohar.

The theme of the holiday is Jewish unity through love and Jewish independence through Torah. Today the spirit and teachings of these great rabbis lives through the colorful celebrations on Lag B'Omer.

Ohr HaTorah will be hosting a community Lag B'Omer picnic and barbeque on the eve of Lag B'Omer, Thursday, May 22, at 6

PM. The celebration will include a *kumzits* with music and great entertainment for the children. A full delicious kosher barbeque dinner will be served as well. There is a fee of \$12 per person and \$25 per family.

On Lag B'Omer it is a tradition to take the children outdoors as a reminder of Rabbi Shimon and his son Elazar who hid from their Roman oppressors in the beautiful hills of the Northern Galilee in Israel. Today, hundreds of thousands make a pilgrimage to the resting place of Rabbi Shimon in the town of Miron which is located not far from the ancient Northern city of Safed. Rabbi Shimon is the father of Kabbalah and was a fierce supporter of Israel's independence from



Roman rule. In addition to authoring the Zohar, he was a brilliant author of many Halachic decisions mentioned in the Mishna and was well respected by his peers.

The Ohr HaTorah picnic, which will take place on the grounds of our Sardis Road campus, will include storytelling and many family fun activities. Please visit our website www.ohratorahnc.org for more information or call 704-366-3984. ☆

JLI Will Examine Talmudic Ethics Starting in May

Sooner or later, it happens to almost everyone. You face a tough ethical decision, and you have to pick a course of action that will let you live with yourself. You feel like you are lost in a maze of possibilities, unsure which courses of action will lead you out of your turmoil, and which will leave you in a dead end of regret and self-recrimination.

Traditionally, Jews have looked to the Talmud to help them unravel tangled instincts. The simple fact is that life is complicated. Most days people hesitate and agonize over difficult decisions. The Talmud recognizes that the subject of ethics is complex and subtle, and it knows that complicated questions cannot be answered with a simple yes or no. While the technology may have changed over time, the rabbis of the Talmud have grappled with the same kinds of ethical concerns that we worry about today.

This May, the Jewish Learning Institute in Charlotte is proud to



launch "Talmudic Ethics," an innovative approach to facing life's most challenging dilemmas. Participants need no prior knowledge of the Talmud and no formal legal training. There are no prerequisites other than an open mind.

Talmudic Ethics tackles big issues such as abortion, euthanasia, freedom of expression, and fair business practice. Students will learn how the best Jewish minds struggled with hard choices, and trace their search for satisfying resolutions. And they will discover how Judaism offers a

moral compass to help them find direction through the maze of life.

The classes will be held at the Lubavitch Educational Center at 6619 Sardis Road in Charlotte. Tuesday classes will begin on May 13, from 7:30-9 PM. Wednesday classes will begin on May 14, from 11 AM-12:30 PM. The classes will be taught by Rabbi Yossi Groner (evening) and Rabbi Shlomo Cohen (morning). To register or for more information, please visit our website: www.ohratorahnc.org or www.myJLI.com. Registration fee is \$80 person and \$145 per couple.

We are pleased to inform our legal community that the North Carolina State Bar has approved our upcoming JLI course on ethics for legal CLE ethics credit for North Carolina attorneys. This is a unique opportunity for lawyers interested in learning about Jewish thought to claim continuing legal education credits while being able to engage the most brilliant minds of Jewish history. ☆

Beth Shalom of Lake Norman May Events

Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Thursday, May 1, 7 PM at Davidson Village Green for a candlelight vigil with first-hand accounts from survivors. Open to the public to remember those that perished and bring awareness to the horrors of genocide in an effort to end such tragedies. Speakers include:

Mr. Manfred Katz was born in a small village in central Germany, the second of three children. He attended the local public school for four years and spent an additional three years in a Jewish day school in a nearby city. In 1941 at the age of thirteen, Mr. Katz was deported to Latvia along with his parents, younger sister, and various relatives. Liberated by the Russian army in March 1945, he is the sole survivor of his family, except for his older sister who had



departed Germany for the USA in 1940. Mr. Katz is now retired and living with his wife of fifty-seven years in Statesville, NC.


Mr. Henry Hirschmann came to America from Germany in 1939. He volunteered for the military after Pearl Harbor. He was part of a American unit in Austria. Mr. Hirschmann was in the Dachau Concentration Camp shortly after the war and personally saw the atrocities that the Germans left behind. He currently lives in Charlotte.

Rabbi Jeremy Gerber, Beth

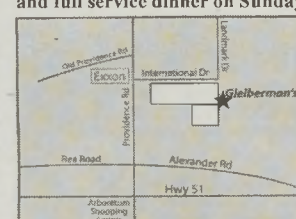
Shalom's rabbinical intern speaking on the Holocaust, tolerance and the hope for acceptance for all.

The weekend continues on Friday, May 2, 6:15 PM at the Student Union at Davidson College. Services are followed by a catered dinner, \$12 for members, \$15 for nonmembers and children under 13 are free. If you are not able to come to dinner but still wish to attend services, you do not need to make reservations.

Saturday, May 3, 9 AM in The Chapel at Davidson College Presbyterian Church. Our celebration of Shabbat will continue Saturday morning with traditional readings from the Beth Shalom Torah. We will have a Tot Shabbat service separate from the adult service. Following services, we will have an Oneg luncheon. ☆




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Drs. Tricia Rodney & Scott Menaker

A member of the Charlotte Jewish Community for 39 years, Dr. Scott Menaker has become an active volunteer and leader in our community.

- Past President- Charlotte Jewish Preschool
- Past President-Levine JCC. Current board member for over 15 years
- Board member of Federation and Foundation of Shalom Park
- National JCC Association Board member
- Financial/charitable supporter of 40 Jewish community organizations
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