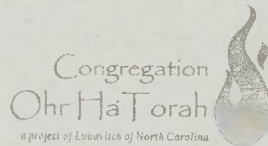


## Torahthon at Ohr HaTorah on June 8

As Shavuot commemorates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, we seek to prepare for this historic event in a proper and exciting way. A long held Jewish tradition has been to stay awake the first night of Shavuot and study Torah into the wee hours of

the morning. The reason for this custom is that our Sages have said that the Israelites overslept on the morning of the first Shavuot. This was quite disappointing, as they should have risen early in anticipation of receiving the greatest gift to mankind – the Torah.

To rectify this flaw in the otherwise fantastic event of the giving of the Torah, our ancestors decided to stay awake on the eve of Shavuot and occupy the night with Torah study. Ohr HaTorah will hold a Torahthon, which is a Torah marathon, starting on Sunday June 8 at midnight with a variety of Torah study programs. This will include halachic dissertations on Talmudic issues as well as an inner look at the mystical side of the Torah. The Torahthon is open to anyone interested in participating and is a great way to prepare for the reading of the Ten Commandments. Refreshments will be served. For more information, please call Rabbi Shlomo Cohen at 704-366-3984 or contact him via email: rabbi @earthlink.net. ☆



## Beth Shalom of Lake Norman Hosts Yom Hashoah Observance

### More than 150 Participate in Community Event

Beth Shalom of Lake Norman ([www.bethshalomlkn.org](http://www.bethshalomlkn.org)) hosted more than 150 at its Yom Hashoah Observance in Davidson.

After a welcome for Rabbi Jeremy Gerber, the congregation's rabbinical intern, the crowd was taken back to the horrors of the Holocaust by Mr. Henry Hirschmann of Charlotte and Mr. Manfred Katz of Statesville. The audience was clearly moved by the survivors' accounts of their childhoods cut short, their families decimated and their homes destroyed.

In addition, two students from STAND, an anti-Genocide Coalition umbrella organization of over 600 high school and college chapters dedicated to putting an end to genocide, Rebecca Grossman and Colleen Jose, spoke about their organization's effort to help bring an end to genocide.

The evening was capped off by candle lighting and prayer led by Rabbi Gerber.

The event was led by Beth Shalom member and Executive Vice President elect, Len Sadek. "It was a labor of love putting this event together," he remarked. Mr. Sadek's parents met when his mother was liberated from a concentration camp by his father.

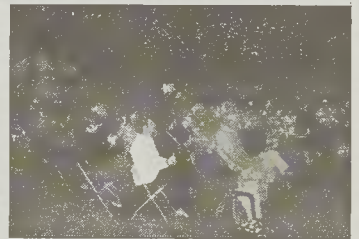
For more information about Beth Shalom, including upcoming events go to [www.bsikn.org](http://www.bsikn.org) or [www.bethshalomlkn.org](http://www.bethshalomlkn.org) or call 704-896-6556.

#### About Beth Shalom of Lake Norman

Beth Shalom of Lake Norman is a Jewish congregation serving the Lake Norman area. Beth Shalom ("House of Peace") is about family, friends and faith. We are dedicated to developing a meaningful Jewish life for our members and our community. We come from different backgrounds, traditions and practices, but we



Mr. Hirschmann recounting his Holocaust experiences.



The candle lighting ceremony.



Rabbi Gerber making his opening comments.

come together as a congregation to form an extended family. We express this dedication through our commitment to foster and fulfill the spiritual, educational and social needs of the Jewish community in Lake Norman. We strive to create inviting, participatory atmosphere that allow each of us to connect with our Jewish spirit and identity. Family. Friends. Faith – Building the foundation for future generations. [www.bethshalomlkn.org](http://www.bethshalomlkn.org). ☆



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## Temple Beth El Welcomes Sara Bryan as New Youth Director

By Beth Davis

Temple Beth El has grown its own youth director in Sara Bryan. Sara grew up in TBE religious school and Hebrew High and she is excited about this opportunity to lead our next generation of youth. "I feel lucky and blessed that I have this opportunity to serve my synagogue in such a special and meaningful way."

The experience of growing up Jewish in Charlotte made a deep impression on Sara. "We can't take our Jewishness for granted in the South. We have to make an effort to achieve our Jewish identity and I look forward to sharing that experience with TBE teens." In her own youth, she was a *madricha* and active at Temple Beth El. As a college student at NC State, she gained experience at Hillel and majored in Religious Studies. After graduation, Sara worked closely with students at Oregon Hillel.

LIBERTY, Temple Beth El's senior youth group, welcomed Sara at its May event. TBE youth and parents should look for her starting July 1. ☆



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## Mecklenburg Ministries presents Community Conversation

at Park Road Baptist Church

### "Healing Our World – Tzedakah, Zakat, and Charity – What's Next?"

June 12, 7 PM,

Park Road Baptist Church, 3900 Park Road

Panelists Rev. Russ Dean, Rahman Khan, and Rabbi Judy Schindler will discuss: By whatever name you call it, our religions share an obligation to give and to heal our world. So how can we do this? What is the next step?