

Over the Summer with Havurat Tikvah

A Reconstructionist Thought: The Reconstructionist process for a Jew by choice to join the community includes the traditional ritual immersion in a Mikvah, a Bet Din for both men and women, and circumcision for men. The convert is instructed by a Reconstructionist Rabbi in more than just how to be an observant Jew that includes history, observance, beliefs, and the ability to make choices. Those choices are, importantly, connected to the community to which the convert has become a part and through relationships with fellow converts. (Summarized from *Exploring Judaism*, Alpert and Staub, Reconstructionist Press, 1985, 2000.)

Our June 7-8 Shabbaton with student Rabbi Arlene Berger will focus on "Welcoming the Stranger." We will have our community service on Saturday morning at 10:30 AM, an Adult Ed program on Saturday night at 7:30 PM, and a kid friendly service on Sunday morning at 10:30 AM. We will include Yizkor service on Saturday morning.

A "challenge" for the summer from Havurat Tikvah: Try to take time this summer to welcome a stranger, someone with whom you may not be well acquainted. Say hello, have a short chat, have a

coffee, see where it takes you – you may be surprised to find a friend within that stranger, and in the Autumn will bloom all the memories of your summer.

Congregational Meeting 5768 - On June 22, from 1-3:30 PM, we will have our annual Congregational Meeting at Fellowship Hall (see below). We look forward to seeing all Havurat Tikvah members. We will be introducing the new Board for 5769 for approval and discussing topics of interest to the membership.

Our July 2008 Community Shabbat service will be held on July 12, at 10 AM.

Lunch and shop at Gleiberman's Kosher Mart on July 20 at 12 noon. Join us for this community event and fulfill our challenge to welcome a stranger and shop together – what a great way to meet.

August 8, we will hold a Friday Night service at 7:30 PM, and on August 9, we will observe our Tisha B'Av service at 7:30 PM including a discussion of the meaning of the 9th of Av through history. More to come.

We welcome you, whether you are a stranger or not, to join our warm and friendly services, a



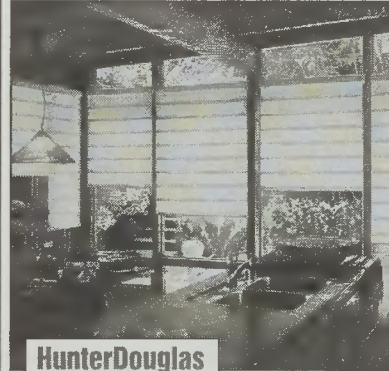
Jewish Reconstructionist Federation

relaxed family atmosphere in which all Jews can feel comfortable, and guests are always welcome. Havurat Tikvah is an affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation – please feel free to visit www.jrf.org and click on Reconstructionist Judaism to learn more about us. 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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Shavuot Celebration on June 9 at Ohr HaTorah Will Feature Ten Commandments and Delicious Dairy Foods

Shavuot is a biblical festival which commemorates the giving of the Torah by God at Mount Sinai over 3300 years ago. This Divine event is considered the most significant event in Jewish history as this is when the Children of Israel became a people. The very existence of Judaism today is directly linked to this milestone event which transformed the Jewish people forever.

This year Shavuot falls on June 9 and 10. There are many interesting rituals and customs that make this holiday memorable and meaningful. One custom that has been popularized over the years is the eating of dairy foods on Shavuot, such as cheesecake or cheese blintzes. The origin of this custom is based on the fact that Jews first began to observe kosher dietary laws with the giving of the Torah, and the most readily available foods to them at the time were milk and cheese.

As this holiday commemorates the giving of the Torah, it has become a custom to draw together as many people as possible at the synagogue for Shavuot morning services and to listen to the reading of the Ten Commandments from a Torah scroll. According to the Midrash, there were about three million Israelites in attendance at Mount Sinai who saw and heard as the Torah was given, and this included small children as

well. The Midrash also notes that the children were the stars of this Divine multimedia event, as they were the guarantors of the Torah. Even today, we enact this great historic event on Shavuot; we encourage all Jewish children to attend the synagogue for a most fantastic educational and fun experience.

Ohr HaTorah will host a Shavuot service open to the entire community on Monday, June 9, with a special program for children. The program will begin at 11 AM and will feature the reading of the Ten Commandments and delicious dairy foods for young and old. There is no charge for this event. For more information please visit our website: www.ohrhatorahnc.org. Or call our office at 704-366-3984. ☆

Congregation
Ohr HaTorah
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