

# SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

## Temple Beth El – Building Bridges of Understanding

Temple Beth El likes to build bridges; not the physical kind that require money, but bridges of friendship across lines of faith that require understanding. On Friday evening, November 21, at Shabbat services, Beth El will be partnering with Myers Park Baptist Church and Masjid Ash-Shaheed for an opportunity to further

build up the foundations for inter-faith work in Charlotte. The focus of the sermonettes, woven throughout the Jewish worship service, will be "Confronting Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism Together as Three Abrahamic Faiths." Imam Khalil Akbar will reflect on confronting Islamophobia, Rabbi Judy Schindler will reflect on confronting anti-Semitism, and Dr. Steve Shoemaker will respond to their words and reflect on how we can, as three faith communities, combat both. Following the service, opportunities for continued conversation will be created at the Oneg Shabbat.

This challenging discussion builds upon more than a decade of existing dialogue and partnership between Temple Beth El and Myers Park Baptist Church. For the past two years, that circle of conversation has been expanded to

include the Islamic congregation, Masjid Ash-Shaheed. Their efforts to move towards peace through understanding and dialogue here in Charlotte will be mirrored throughout the country. This program is part of a broader effort by The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding which is planning a historic event with dozens of mosques and synagogues across the continent, from California to New England, that are all linking up for a weekend of twinning.

The three faiths of Islam, Christianity and Judaism have so many commonalities: we all embrace God, we all base our lives on sacred texts, some of which are shared, and we all embrace a desire the bring healing to our broken world. As Jews and Moslems especially, we share the challenges of living as minorities in a Christian majority and we share the painful memories of discrimi-

nation because of our practices and fundamental beliefs. On this unique Shabbat, we will come together to offer solutions for combating such religious prejudices. On this night of dialogue we hope to share something more—we hope that all three of our communities will share a sense of healing and hope for the future. ☆



## Get Primed for Chanukah

Come join Temple Emanuel in Gastonia for a Silent Auction and light Israeli supper on Saturday evening, December 6 at 6:30 PM. After a short Havdalah service, which begins at 5:30, we will enjoy feasting our eyes on the unique items to be auctioned and feasting our bodies on latkes and other delicious Israeli style foods.

Bring your kids. Bring friends. Find unique theme-filled baskets such as a wonderful selection of children's books, veterinary or chiropractic goodies, gift certificates from surrounding local communities, donations of beautifully handcrafted items (one of our congregants has work exhibited at Red Sky Gallery), tickets to events. Enjoy a week in Cape Cod in a vacation home that sleeps twelve. Fun stuff for kids and for kids to buy for you.

Adults -\$10, Children - \$5. All proceeds benefit Sisterhood and all the things we support within our Temple.

We look forward to meeting y'all! ☆

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**The Temple Israel Social Club, for active couples and singles, invite you to join or social group.**

Meet new people and enjoy our interesting programs and trips.

For information, call Janine Rosner, 704-366-5631.

Something Different - Tuesday, November 11, at 9:30 AM, a tour of the International Culinary School at Art Institute of Charlotte, followed by a delicious "gourmet" lunch at their award winning Artisan Restaurant. Cost will be \$18, members - \$22, nonmembers, all inclusive.

Meet at the Temple Israel parking lot to car pool, returning about 2:30 PM. Send check by November 5, to Douglas Mann: 137 N. Canterbury Rd., Charlotte, NC 28211.

**For questions call Irv Swartz, 704-969-3149.**