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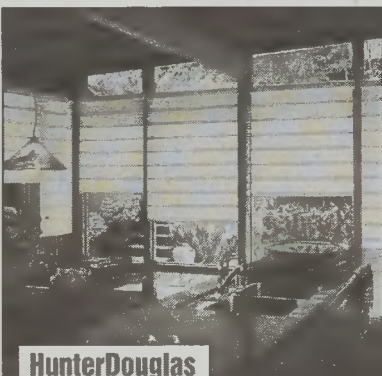
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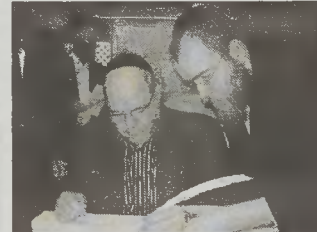
**A Shade Above**  
Window Fashions

Showroom Hours: Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sunday & Evenings by appointment

**New Torah to Honor Life and Legacy of Israel Schwartz**

**Torah Dedication on December 7**

A new Torah scroll will be completed and dedicated at 12 noon on Sunday, December 7, at Congregation Ohr HaTorah in Charlotte. The Torah, which was inscribed in the holy city of Jerusalem, was launched by Larry Schwartz in memory of his father Mr. Israel (Lou) Schwartz. Lou Schwartz was the founder UCS Track and Field, which is now headquartered in Lincolnton, NC.



*Larry Schwartz inscribing letters in the new Torah at its launching*

Mr. Lou Schwartz was a known philanthropist in New Jersey, where he founded his company which is now headed by his sons Jeff and Larry Schwartz. Lou was an excellent craftsman who descended from a long line of tailors back in what was then called Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic). Lou had particular expertise in pattern-making, cutting, and sewing. Together with his wife Margaret and his sons, he expanded the company to manufacture track and field equipment and strength and speed equipment, as well as gym mats, seating, and shelters.

Today UCS is headquartered in a 130,000 square foot facility in

Lincolnton. Jeff and Larry lead a dedicated team of more than 70 professionals there and in Carson City, Nevada, which is the hi-tech home of the Spirit Vaulting Poles. Together, they carry on Lou Schwartz's heralded UCS legacy of innovation, evolution, and excellence.

Lou had a love for his Jewish heritage and as a Holocaust survivor, he cherished Jewish continuity. It was his son Larry who wanted to perpetuate his father's good name in a meaningful and spiritual way and came up with the idea of writing a community Torah. Many in our community



have answered the call and have helped the project by sponsoring one of the five complete Torah books or one of the 54 Torah portions.

The Torah completion ceremony is a festive one which includes the inscription of the final verses of the Torah and dancing with new Torah in a joyous *hakofot* ceremony similar to Simchat Torah. The new Torah is led like a bride under the chupah in a special procession to the outdoors. As a symbolic welcome to the new Torah, all the Torahs are brought out from the ark to join in the procession and dancing.

A delicious festive luncheon will follow the ceremony. The Torah will make Ohr HaTorah its new home and will be read on special occasions at the synagogue. This event is open to the public and is free of charge. If you are interested in being a sponsor of this new Torah, please contact Rabbi Yossi Groner via email: sardis@earthlink.net. ☆

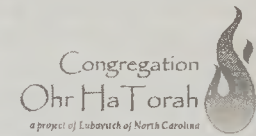
**SouthPark Menorah Lighting to Begin with Menorah Parade on Sunday, December 21**

Charlotte will usher in the first night of Hanukkah with an exciting and spectacular event at SouthPark Mall in the Circle Court (between Nordstrom and Neiman Marcus) where a huge menorah will be kindled at 6 PM. There will be lots of Hanukkah entertainment and children's activities as well.

A magnificent car menorah parade will precede the SouthPark lighting as over 60 Menorah vehicles will travel from the Lubavitch Educational Center on Sardis Road and bring the Hanukkah joy

to Charlotte streets with music and light. There will be a stream of specialty cars and a Friendship Circle limousine in the parade. This is an incredible opportunity for Jewish children to display real Jewish pride on an evening filled with fun and exciting activities.

The theme of this year's Hanukkah parade and SouthPark menorah lighting is "To light up the Charlotte night with the spirit of Hanukkah." Menorah cars will assemble in the Ohr HaTorah parking lot at 4 PM. There will be a police escort to ensure traffic



safety. The parade will depart at 5 PM, and loop around the uptown area, ending at SouthPark mall. The lighting of the menorah will take place between 6 and 6:30 PM. Refreshments will be served at the mall. If you are interested in participating or acquiring your own car menorah, please contact Ben Tzion Groner at 704-366-3984 or via email at bgroner@shluchim.org. ☆

**Temple Israel Welcomes the Shabbatoners**

**Thursday, January 8, 6:45 PM**

Dinner 6 PM; \$6 per person  
Founded in 2001, The Shabbatoners is the student-run Jewish cappella group at the University of Pennsylvania. Shabbatoners members come from a variety of Jewish backgrounds, unified by a love of Jewish music. They perform a mix of Jewish, Israeli and contemporary American music and are currently recording their fourth CD.

They have performed across the



US and internationally, having toured most recently in California (2007) and England (2008). ☆



*The Shabbatoners*

The staff and board of *The Charlotte Jewish News* wish you a Happy Hanukkah and a Happy New Year.