

JLI Introduces Exciting Course on Biblical Reflections

New Course Takes Revolutionary Approach to Bible Study

On May 5, the Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) of Charlotte will unveil its spring course, *Biblical Reflections: Finding Yourself in the Book of Genesis*. The stories in the Bible have intrigued sages and laymen alike and have inspired thousands of artistic retellings. This six-session course examines classic stories from Genesis in a modern light, focusing on their eternal relevance to everyday life.

"These stories are in the Bible because they deal with the most powerful of human motives and feelings: the quests for love, pur-

pose, identity, and redemption," says Rabbi Eli Silberstein, the course author. "*Biblical Reflections* takes a unique and personal perspective and shows how these stories are the stories of your life, reflecting your joy and your pain, your struggles and your accomplishments."

Participants will identify with Biblical characters grappling with feelings and dilemmas that lie at the heart of the human experience. Lessons will examine a range of commentaries, and students will amass concrete tools and gain insights into how to respond more thoughtfully and effectively to

such challenges.

Rabbi Yossi Groner and Rabbi Shlomo Cohen of Lubavitch of North Carolina will be teaching this course at Ohr HaTorah for six Tuesdays evenings from 7:30-9 PM and six Wednesday mornings from 11 AM-12:30 PM. The Tuesday course will start on May 5, and the Wednesday course will start on May 6. Please visit our website www.chabadnc.org or call our office 704-366-3984 for more information.

Biblical Reflections is designed for people at all levels of Jewish knowledge. Participants without any prior experience or back-

ground in Jewish learning can attend and enjoy this course. All JLI courses are open to the entire Jewish community.

The Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) is the adult education arm of Chabad-Lubavitch. JLI's classes and programs are offered at over 300 locations in more than 250 cities nationwide and internationally (including Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, The Netherlands, South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Venezuela). Over 100,000 people have attended JLI classes since its founding in 1998. Every course offered by JLI is taught concurrently in all locations. This unique feature has helped create a truly global learning community.

Please visit www.myJLI.com for up-to-date information about *Biblical Reflections*. ✪

Shavuot Guest Speaker Coming to Chabad of Ballantyne

The Holiday of Shavuot commemorates the Giving of the Torah by God at Mt. Sinai 3,321 years ago. Each year on the first day of Shavuot we read the Ten Commandments in the Torah Scroll. The following is a parody on a conversation between God and Moses in May of 2009.

Moses to God: For the 3,321st time are you ready to visit every synagogue and give the Torah?

God to Moses: Yes, but have you completed my Southeast Shavuot tour schedule for this year?

Moses to God: Yup, but we scheduled an extra stop this year in the Ballantyne area.

God to Moses: Ballantyne?

Moses to God: Well you see Chabad of Ballantyne is serving a delicious dairy buffet dinner as well as an ice cream party for the kids. Oh and they also negotiated a really good deal for you to stop by.

God to Moses: And what would you call a good deal?

Moses to God: Free!



Join us to hear the Ten Commandments, Friday, May 29, 6 PM followed by a traditional dairy meal and ice cream party for the kids.

For more information, please contact Rabbi Yisroel and Leah

Levin, 704-910-2020, Chabad Ballantyne@gmail.com. ✪



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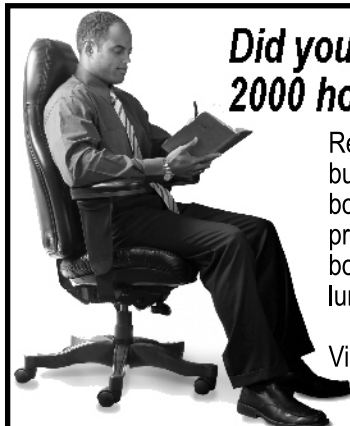
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Josh is a native Charlottean and attended the former Charlotte Hebrew Academy

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Shavuot Festivity at Ohr HaTorah to Celebrate the Children

The holiday of Shavuot commemorates the giving of the Torah by God at Mount Sinai 3,321 years ago. The giving of the Torah at Sinai is considered the most historic event in Jewish narration, and it is seen as the marriage between God and the people of Israel. The very existence of Judaism today is directly linked to this milestone event which transformed the Jewish people forever.

According to the Midrash, the superstars of this amazing event were the children. God had asked Moses for credible guarantors for the safekeeping of the Torah and accepted only the children who will ensure that the Torah will be kept, revered, observed, and most of all, transmitted from generation to generation.

Ohr HaTorah will celebrate this Shavuot with the children taking the center stage at the morning service on Friday, May 29. During the service, Yitro (Jethro) is read; it describes the story of the giving of the Torah including the reading of the Ten Commandments.

There will be a festive dairy Kiddush luncheon after the service. One of the remarkable customs that has been popularized over the years is the eating of dairy foods such as cheesecake or cheese blintzes on Shavuot. This custom is based 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.

The Ohr HaTorah Shavuot service is open to the entire community. 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.ohratorahnc.org, or call our office at 704-366-3984.

In addition to the Torah celebration on Friday morning, Ohr HaTorah will hold a Torahthon, which is a Torah marathon, starting on Thursday, May 28 at

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Milton Goldstein, CLTC
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