

SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

Independence Shabbaton July 3 at Ohr HaTorah

A great Independence Family Shabbaton will be held at Ohr HaTorah on Friday, July 3rd in honor of two great events. One is on the secular calendar, while the other corresponds to the Hebrew calendar.

Most people are familiar with July 4, as it marks America's Independence Day. July 4 falls on Shabbat which begins Friday at sunset. On the Hebrew calendar this Shabbat is the 12th day of Tammuz, which is the day of liberty for Jews of the former Soviet Union. It was on this day in 1927 that one of the foremost leaders of Soviet Jewry gained his independence from the mighty Russian bear and brought relief to millions of Jews throughout the Soviet Union.

The Communists had wanted to use the 6th Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Joseph I. Schneerson, as an example to crush the aspirations of the Jews in the Soviet Union. As Rabbi Schneerson championed the cause of Judaism and demanded the freedom of worship for Jews in Russia, he became a defender for freedom. He set up clandestine Jewish day schools and sent rabbis to serve outlying Jewish communities and risked his life on a daily basis by supporting an underground network of Jewish activities.

Even when the communist rulers caught up with him, he was defiant and courageous with his

determination to carry on his divine mission.

It was in July of 1927 that he gained total freedom and marched to victory with his unwavering faith in God. This was considered a major turning point in Jewish life, as it encouraged his many disciples to intensify their efforts for Jewish survival in the harshest of circumstances.



This year by divine providence, July 4 and the 12th of Tammuz fall on the same Shabbat day, and at Ohr HaTorah we will make the best of it by celebrating with our famed Friday night Shabbaton.



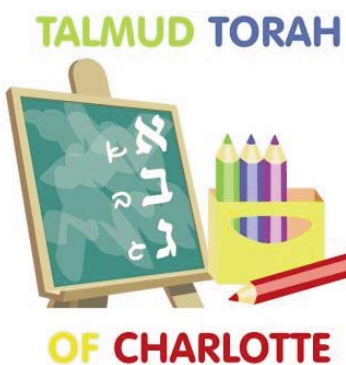
The theme of the Shabbaton will be liberty and freedom and what it means to the Jewish community today. The Shabbaton will feature delicious American cuisine and a full Friday night dinner with a great kosher wine bar and Shabbat activities in the spirit of freedom. The Shabbaton will begin with a candle lighting ceremony at 7 PM followed by the Ohr HaTorah lively Friday night service. Dinner will be served at 8 PM.

The cost for the Shabbaton is \$18 per person and \$50 per family. For more information or to make a reservation, please visit our website at: www.ohrhatorah-nc.org or call our office at 704-366-3984. ☆

Talmud Torah Student Achievement Ceremony

Another amazingly successful year of Talmud Torah at Ohr HaTorah comes to a close, and it will be celebrated with a fantastic event before the summer. Students will be showcasing some of what they learned as well as the happenings at Talmud Torah; the good, the very good, and the outstanding. On Sunday, June 7, teachers and students will recap the year in a fun and exciting way. Talmud Torah has covered a range of topics for students of grades K-7. Our curriculum includes: our Aleph Champ Hebrew reading program, Jewish daily life practices, holidays, several areas of Jewish history, and our brand new "Discovering the Treasure Within" series on the Jewish Soul.

Students will be presented with an Aleph Champ award as well as their "Discover Status" – a points and prize program launched this year called Discover Judaism. A multimedia slideshow presentation will be shown for the parents,



and refreshments will be served.

Talmud Torah has now opened registration for the 2009/10 year for grades K-7 plus an exciting new teen club for grades 8-10. For more information, visit our website at www.talmudtorah.net.

Talmud Torah is a project of Lubavitch of North Carolina and a service for Ohr HaTorah members. ☆

Annual Temple Israel Congregational Meeting and Cookout, June 14

Come join us for the Annual Congregational Meeting and Cookout at Temple Israel. Be there and be a part of Temple Israel's future. We will be voting on a new slate of officers. Your vote counts. The time will be announced in our publications. ☆



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