

Ohr HaTorah to Host Global Web Lecture in Honor of the High Holidays

Ohr HaTorah is pleased to announce that it will be the Charlotte host for an upcoming global satellite broadcast in honor of the High Holidays.

The esteemed Rabbi Dr. Abraham J. Twerski will address this Unity Lecture entitled, "Together We Can Fill the World with Light."

The lecture is scheduled for Sunday, 24 Elul, September 13, at 3 PM EDT. Rabbi Twerski will speak on the meaning of the High Holidays and Unity.

The broadcast will be seen at Congregation Ohr HaTorah on Sardis Road. The lecture is free and is open to the entire Jewish community. Rabbi Twerski is a well known American rabbi and psychiatrist. He is the founder and Medical Director Emeritus of the Gateway Rehabilitation Center in Pittsburgh, which has been cited as one of the top substance abuse rehabilitation clinics in the country. He also founded the Sha'ar Tikvah Rehabilitation Center in Jerusalem and is the recipient of many awards for his service in the field. He is the author of more than

60 books on Torah and self-help topics.

Dr. Twerski, an ordained rabbi, held a pulpit until 1959 when he graduated from Marquette University Medical School and went on to complete his psychiatric residency at the University of Pittsburgh Western Psychiatric Institute. For 20 years, he served as Clinical Director of the Department of Psychiatry at St. Francis Hospital, Pittsburgh, and was an associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Dr. Twerski is recognized as an international authority in the chemical dependency field. He began the first Pennsylvania program for nurses with alcohol or drug problems, "Nurses Off Chemicals"; served on the Governor's Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse, and was Chairman of the Pennsylvania Medical Society Committee on the Impaired Physician. He also appears frequently as a radio and television guest, speaking to audiences worldwide. Scientific contributions and community efforts



have earned him honorary degrees from St. Vincent's College, Duquesne University, and Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Twerski has received numerous awards during his career including the Nelson J. Bradley Life Time Achievement Award from the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers (NAATP) and the Pennsylvania Medical Society's greatest honor, the Distinguished Service Award.

Rabbi Twerski has also published numerous books on Torah and spirituality including commentary on the Chumash, Prayer, the Pesach Haggadah, and Pirkei Avot, as well as profiles of Chassidic Masters including his own grandfather. For more information, please visit www.unitylecture.com or call our office at 704-366-3984. ☆

OHT to Usher in High Holidays in a Meaningful Way

The Jewish New Year begins with the Days of Awe and culminates with the Days of Joy. These special days are filled with meaning and substance that speak to the core of our soul. If observed in the right way, they can have an everlasting impact on our lives and our Jewish destiny.

The High Holidays at Ohr HaTorah have come to represent to its many congregants a time for connection with God and with community. The wonderful melodies which are expressive of the traditional liturgy led by Rabbi Binyomin Weiss and his melodious voice have inspired both synagogue members and visitors alike.

This amazing period will be ushered in with the midnight Selichot service on Saturday, September 12, when the feeling of the Days of Awe envelop the community with a sincere call to God. A pre-Selichot presentation will begin at 11 PM. This event is open

to everyone in the community.

The High Holiday service at Ohr HaTorah is a voyage of the soul to the inner elements of the Jewish experience. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur encapsulate the entire year, and they present an extraordinary opportunity to bond with God and with community in a momentous and spiritual way.

Those who are searching to explore the deeper meaning of the High Holidays and seek to touch the Divine will find the Ohr HaTorah experience truly rewarding. The High Holiday service is in a sense a learning activity, as Rabbi Yossi Groner provides short and succinct commentaries on the liturgy and expounds on the mystical significance of many of the rituals observed on Rosh Hashanah. The atmosphere in the synagogue reflects the spirituality of the Holy Days and helps shape the total experience.

Ohr HaTorah is a welcoming synagogue which helps congregants form friendships and excels with its joyous and uplifting service. One of the distinctive advantages at Ohr HaTorah is that it allows for worshippers to engage in their prayers at their own pace and to truly connect to God in a meaningful way.

Rosh Hashanah begins on the evening of September 18 and ends on September 20. The service schedule at Congregation Ohr HaTorah is as follows: Evening services at 7 PM and morning services at 9 AM. Yom Kippur begins on September 27 and ends September 28 at nightfall. Kol Nidrei service begins at 6:30 PM and morning service is at 9 AM. Neilah service begins at 5 PM. Tickets are not required to attend services. For more information, please call our office at 704-366-3984 or visit our website www.ohratorahnc.org. ☆

Temple Israel Book Club

The Septembers of Shiraz by Dalia Sofer

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 7:30 PM AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

Sofer's much acclaimed historical novel *The Septembers of Shiraz* takes place in Iran after the Iranian revolution, follows a prosperous Jewish family, including Isaac - a rare-gem dealer - wrongly accused of being a spy, his terrified wife, daughter - who is trying to stop the wave of baseless arrests, and son, who had been sent to live in an orthodox Jewish community in New York before the rise of the Ayatollahs.

You may recall that this discussion originally was scheduled for January, but was postponed due to snow.

So many different voices are heard in *The Septembers of Shiraz*: the life left behind that the various segments of the population had experienced during the Shah's reign; what the Communists had hoped for; the claims of the servants, the son who emigrates to the US, and sees what a religious Jewish life entails; the hopes of the revolutionaries compared to what post monarchy life had become under the corrupt government.

With critics noting that "Dalia Sofer documents the forced conversion of an entire vibrant civilization to the strictures of a black-

and-white totalitarianism," our discussion of this powerful, engaging book is sure to be stimulating.

Copies of the book are available at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library, the public library and at local book stores or on-line for under \$15.

Temple Israel Book Club meetings are open to the entire community, even those who haven't read the book. Drop-ins are welcome. For additional information contact Linda Levy at 704-366-6362/levyollie@aol.com or Sandra Hirschman at 704-867-7051. ☆

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