

SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

Giant Coin Menorah To Be Kindled at SouthPark Mall

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“Let’s light up the night and help those in need” is the rallying cry of this year’s fantastic Chanukah event at SouthPark Mall, where a giant coin menorah will be kindled at 6 PM on Sunday, December 13, which is the third night of Chanukah.

The menorah, which is being built by Congregation Ohr HaTorah, will grace the inner courtyard at SouthPark Mall near Nordstrom’s and Nieman Marcus. There will be lots of kid’s activities and entertainment as well as traditional holiday treats in honor of Chanukah.

The entire community is invited to partake in the community-wide Chanukah Coin Menorah Tzedakah project here in Charlotte which will help our Jewish community come together for a common goal, to celebrate the spirit of Chanukah with joy, while keeping our focus on helping those who are going through today’s challenges of economic hardship.

The idea is for Jewish organizations in Charlotte to participate by enlisting their members to collect coins, which will be used to create a spectacular coin menorah. The coins will be collected by the participating organizations and brought to SouthPark for the lighting ceremony on December 13. This beautiful menorah will be built with sturdy transparent Lucite materials so that the coins used to fill the branches will be visible with all their sparkle. Each branch of the menorah will repre-

sent one of eight Charlotte Jewish organizations, which will be responsible for filling its branch with coins. The project is designed primarily to encourage the involvement of students in the synagogue religious schools, Charlotte Jewish Day School, and the two Jewish preschools in Charlotte. It is a new way to bring an added excitement and a sense of fulfillment to the children in our community during the holiday of Chanukah.



The coins will be placed in the giant Menorah at a special Grand Menorah Lighting ceremony at SouthPark Mall during which a



representative from each organization will be called on to fill a branch with the coins collected by their organization. After the event, the collected coins will be donated to Jewish Family Services and Crisis Assistance Ministry, to help those in need in our community.

A huge Car Menorah Parade, which will begin at the Lubavitch Educational Center on Sardis Road at 4 PM, will lead off the festivities, as the parade will proceed to SouthPark Mall with music and with many of the participants. The event is free and open to the public. For more information on how you can participate, please visit our website at www.chabadnc.org or call our office at 704-366-3984. ☆

Temple Israel Book Club Two Upcoming Selections

THE HISTORY OF LOVE BY NICOLE KRAUSS
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 7:30 PM

A PIGEON AND A BOY BY MEIR SHALEV
JANUARY 2010, DATE TBA

With an abundance of noteworthy Jewish literature on hand, it was relatively painless for Temple Israel Book Club members to select two books to read and then discussed at the next two meetings.

Our first selection is *The History of Love* by Nicole Krauss. Described as “A beautifully constructed, frequently funny and ultimately moving tale, *The History of Love* unspools a number of disparate story lines – about a lonely Polish immigrant, a teenage girl, a grieving widow – and then delightfully pulls them together into a striking coherence.”

The novel spans a period of over 60 years and takes readers from Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe to present day Brighton Beach. The main characters are a 14 year old girl trying to find a cure for her mother’s loneliness and an old man who is trying to survive a little longer. Although he doesn’t realize it, this man who has become invisible to the world, wrote a book many years ago in Poland. The book, which has survived, crossing oceans and generations and changing lives, is at the heart of the novel.

With *The History of Love* earning the description “at least as heartbreaking as it is hilarious,” the discussion at the November 18 meeting will be quite stimulating.

Our second selection, *A Pigeon and a Boy*, by award-winning

Israeli novelist Meir Shalev, creates a mystical story of two love affairs, separated by a generation but tied together by blood and history. The novel moves from the present to a lifetime earlier, before and during the 1948 War of Independence.

Meir Shalev, “the Woody Allen of the desert ... an Israeli author one absolutely has to read,” was here a few years ago as the speaker at an event sponsored by the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center (JLRC). The TI book club discussion will be led by former JLRC Director Amalia Warshenbrot. A graduate of Hebrew University of Jerusalem, specializing in Jewish literature and Judaic studies, Amalia’s leadership will include what’s “lost in translation”— from Hebrew to English. This exciting, gripping and moving novel and the discussion an enjoyment.

Each book is 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 held at Temple Israel and open to the entire community, even those who haven’t read the selections. The January date will be selected at our November 18 meeting. For additional information contact Linda Levy at 704-366-6362/levyollie@aol.com or Sandra Hirschman at 704/867-7051. ☆



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