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## Model Matzah Bakery Comes to Charlotte

Lubavitch of North Carolina has announced that it will run its highly-acclaimed Model Matzah Bakery on Sunday, March 14. The interactive experience will take place at Congregation Ohr HaTorah at 6619 Sardis Road. The Talmud Torah students of Congregation Ohr HaTorah will attend the first sessions on Sunday morning. There will also be a general session open to the entire Jewish community from 1-2 PM.

Matzah is a flat bread that is eaten in observance of Passover. It is made of only flour and water, and is rolled, perforated and baked in great haste, commemorating the ancient Hebrews' baking of matzah when they hastily emerged from Egyptian bondage.

The Model Matzah Bakery presents the ancient Jewish tradition of matzah baking by means of an interactive and participatory workshop, and is one that is always enjoyed by its participants in the Jewish community. Rabbi

Shlomo Cohen, Lubavitch of NC's Director of Programming, credits the program's appeal to its fun and experiential style. "There is nothing quite like getting your hands full of dough and rolling out your own matzah. As parents and educators, we want to get our kids hyped up about the holiday, and the Matzah Bakery does that. It's a great way for the whole family to spend some quality time before Passover."

Dressed in baker's hats, visitors make their matzah literally from scratch. They begin with natural wheat stalks and thresh and winnow the grain before it is collected in a hand-driven grinder and ground into flour. The resulting whole flour is then sifted and separated into fine flour.

Once the flour has been produced, participants are ready to add the water and knead it into dough. Making Passover matzah is a race against the clock, as from the moment that the flour and water meet until the matzah is placed in the oven, no longer than eighteen minutes may elapse. Once the timer has been set, the dough is quickly mixed and kneaded. Then the dough is rolled out and riddled with holes, before the matzahs are rushed to the oven.

Rabbi Shlomo Cohen notes that the Model Matzah Bakery appeals to very diverse age groups. "Of course, it is popular with families and school groups, but it can be equally appealing to young professionals, seniors and everyone in between. It really is a



Students get ready to thresh the wheat stalk before rolling out the dough during last year's Model Matzah Bakery.

learning experience that all generations enjoy."

Admission is free. Reservations for the general session can be made by calling Lubavitch of North Carolina at 704-366-3984 or sending an email to: info@chabadnc.org.

It is an ancient tradition to use Shmurah Matzah for the Passover Seder. Shmurah Matzah, (literally, "matzah that has been watched") is matzah prepared under exacting supervision from the time the wheat is harvested through the end of the baking to guard against the minutest moisture. These matzot are rolled out and baked entirely by hand. Their circular shape is similar to the original matzot made in Egypt, in the year of the original exodus. To purchase Shmurah Matzah by the pound for your family's Seder at home, contact Congregation Ohr HaTorah at 704-366-3984 or visit www.chabadnc.org. ☆

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## Tu B'shvat at Temple Emanuel in Gastonia

Quoting one of the teachers at Temple Emanuel Religious School "The best Tu B'shvat ever!"

This year for Tu B'shvat the T.E. students went on a field trip to Lineberger Park and took advantage of the City of Gastonia's "Talking Tree Trail." Ten of the trees in the park told the children interesting facts about themselves. They learned that most of the trees that towered above them were very young and would in time grow to 100-150 feet tall.

The trees told them which trees were the best for making baseball bats and furniture and many more



Students of Temple Emanuel with Twiggy

interesting facts. After this enlightening tour, the students returned to Temple Emanuel and were greeted by another talking tree. Dawn Carr is "Twiggy, the Talking Tree." Her presentation is sponsored by the Keep Gastonia

Beautiful campaign. She informed the children about every day products that come from trees and how to save the trees by recycling. Did you know that cinnamon sticks are actually tree bark? All in all it was a most joyous and fun day had by all. ☆



Donna de Groot Religious School Director, "Twiggy" Dawn Carr and Jonathan Shaw Religious School Chair.