

# Dr. Nora Rubel of the University of Rochester to Speak on The Settlement Cook Book

Temple Beth El's Sisterhood invites the women of our community to take a journey back in time and back into the memories of many of our childhood kitchen experiences on Sunday, April 18 from 11 AM-12:30 PM in Gorelick Hall at the Levine JCC.

Dr. Nora Rubel, Assistant Professor of Religion at the University of Rochester, who received her PhD in 2005 from UNC Chapel Hill will give a talk entitled "The Settlement Cook Book: Matzoh Balls, Lobster Bisque, and the Transformation of

the Jewish American Kitchen." This talk will examine Lizzie Black Kander and *The Way to A Man's Heart: The Settlement Cook Book*.

An upper-class daughter of German Jews, Kander encouraged Russian Jewish immigrants to leave their particular ethnic flavors behind and learn to use New World ingredients (and New World manners). With the publication of a 1901 pamphlet that went on to become the most successful fundraising cookbook in America,

Kander created an ideal of Jewish American domestic life that influenced generations of women. Examining the cookbook as an influential example of Jewish – but not necessarily Judaic – material culture, Dr. Rubel will discuss 20th Century Jewish Americanization through a lens of culinary pluralism.


There will be time for questions and for eating as members of our




Nora Rubel



Sisterhood will be baking from a sampling of the Cookbook recipes. Dr. Rubel's lecture in Charlotte has been created in partnership with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. ☆





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## JLI to Introduce Holocaust Educational Initiative

Timed to coincide with Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day, *Beyond Never Again*, a six-part course about the Holocaust, will premiere in Charlotte among more than 300 locations worldwide. Created by the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI), the world's largest network of adult education, *Beyond Never Again* has won support from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Yad Vashem, and more than 100 centers and institutes devoted to studying the Holocaust around the world.

Envisioned as a journey into the intense realm of meaning, *Beyond Never Again* examines the universal themes that the Holocaust forces us to confront, such as the nature of good and evil, and how empathy and conscience may be nurtured. The course is formulated as a series of facilitated discussions that will enable participants to articulate their personal

responses to the Holocaust, and provides relevant angles on some of life's most difficult questions pertaining to faith and suffering.

Starting on Tuesday April 27, 7:30 PM at Lubavitch Educational Center, *Beyond Never Again* will run in Charlotte for six consecutive Tuesdays for the evening class and is expected to draw many students to its dynamic text-based and audio-visual classes.

Each of the students will receive an easy to use textbook that will accompany the class. Course fee is \$85 per person and \$150 per couple.

The course is not meant to be a historical review of the Holocaust; rather, it serves as a catalyst to discuss the spiritual response of many individual survivors to the events of the Holocaust.

The Jewish Learning Institute



(JLI) is the adult education arm of Chabad-Lubavitch. Now based in almost 300 cities nationwide, as well as Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, Holland, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom, and Venezuela, JLI's classes and programs have been attended by nearly 150,000 people since its creation in 1998.

Every course offered by JLI is offered concurrently in all worldwide affiliate locations. This unique feature has created a true global learning community. Please visit [www.myjli.com](http://www.myjli.com) for up-to-the-minute information about *Beyond Never Again*.

The JLI courses presented in Charlotte are part of the many educational programs offered by Lubavitch of North Carolina and Congregation Ohr HaTorah. For more information please visit our website at [chabadnc.org](http://chabadnc.org). ☆

## Concert Pianist to Perform at Lag B'Omer Festival in the Park

Lag B'Omer is a holiday which dates back to Talmudic times and is celebrated today by experiencing the outdoors with fun and games. Congregation Ohr HaTorah will be hosting a Lag B'Omer Festival in the Park on Sunday, May 2, at William R. Davie Park, which is located at 4635 Pineville-Matthews Road, between the Arboretum and Rea Road. This event is open to the entire Jewish community of Charlotte.

The celebration is scheduled to begin at 4:30 PM and will feature

Jewish and Israeli music played by the renowned pianist, Gershon Wachtel. Gershon is a Toronto-based virtuoso pianist, whose repertoire includes a broad range of classical, Jewish, and Broadway music. He was the pianist chosen to accompany the US Women's Gymnastic Team in the 1976 and 1980 Olympics. He has a degree in music from Fredonia State University and has toured the US and Europe, performing concerts in most large cities over the past 30 years. He has appeared on CBC Radio a number of times, as well as NBC TV and CBS Radio. Recently he appeared in Parliament in Ottawa, Canada to perform the Canadian National Anthem before a full house.

A delicious kosher barbeque will be served in the air-conditioned indoor conference center at Davie Park. After dinner, everyone will go outdoors for an open-air concert with Gershon Wachtel. Bring your blankets or beach chairs so you can enjoy the music with the cool breeze in the spirit of Lag B'Omer. There will be a nominal charge of \$15 per person and \$36 per family to help defray the cost of the event.

According to Jewish tradition, Lag B'Omer was the day on which



Pianist Gershon Wachtel

a major epidemic that afflicted the disciples of Rabbi Akiva in the days of the Talmud ended. The jubilation carries on even today as we reflect on the major impact it had on Jewish life in Israel. Lag B'Omer also marks the anniversary of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai's ascension to heaven. Rabbi Shimon is most famous and revered in the Talmud as one of the greatest leaders of the Jews in the harsh days of the Roman occupation of Israel.

The Zohar writes that Rabbi Shimon assembled his closest disciples on Lag B'Omer and taught them the secrets of Kabbalah. A fiery pillar surrounded him as he uttered the word "life" and his soul ascended upwards with the fire. It is a well-accepted tradition to light bonfires all over Israel. Many

(Continued on next page)



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