

## Jewish Topics, Kosher Meals, Blue Ridge Mountains, August 16-19

By Maxine Ershler Carr

Wildacres Retreat, an annual B'nai B'rith Institute of Judaism, now in its 63rd year, features kosher meals, three speakers, live music, patio discussions, and fresh mountain air. The dates are August 16-19, and the place is Wildacres Conference Center, heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains, in Little Switzerland, NC. Guest rooms are two bedded with private baths, housed in twin modern lodges, both with rocking chair porches overlooking spectacular mountain views.

Wildacres speaker Jodi Magness frequently appears on Discovery Channel archaeology programs. TV viewers have also seen her on the series, "Secrets of Herod's Reign," and on "Power of Ideas: Jodi Magness." Prof. Magness is the UNC Kenan Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence in Early Judaism, the author of four books, and the co-director of excavations at Masada as well as at two other sites in Israel. Her topics for Wildacres include Masada, Ancient Jewish Tombs, and Qumran.

Other speakers are Chicago Professor Emeritus Stephen Z. Cohen and Jonina Duker, a founder of Kulanu, an organization reaching out to dispersed Jewish communities. Dr. Cohen's topics explore and analyze Jewish

humor. Jonina Duker's topics include Lost and Dispersed Jewish Communities, Jewish Exotica, and today's alternate forms of rabbinic ordination.

But intellectual stimulation does not preclude fun at Wildacres. Live music is provided by North Carolina Bandana Klezmer at evening socials on the bluestone patio, with dancing, singing, and refreshments under the stars. Nature trails, a library, horseshoes, ping-pong, free tennis lessons, cards, and mahjong add to the fun. For many, Wildacres' jewel in the crown is schmoozing in a rocking chair while enjoying spectacular views of Mt. Mitchell.

The all-inclusive cost is \$340 per person for two in a room and \$475 for a single. Discounts of \$10 per person are offered when paid registrations are received by June 15; these should be sent to Nina Hammer, 2724 Cottage Circle, Raleigh, NC 27613.

Golf cart transportation to and from the dining hall is available and meals to accommodate special needs are available by pre-arrangement.

If paid registration is received by June 15, rates are discounted by \$10 per person.

For more information and registration forms, go to [www.wildacres.org](http://www.wildacres.org), or contact Bill Carr at [bcarr@ipass.net](mailto:bcarr@ipass.net), or 919-781-4207. ☆



The lodge at Wildacres Retreat.

## SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

### Temple Beth El Service of Confirmation on Shavuot

**You are invited...**

It is with great pleasure that the parents and confirmation class of Temple Beth El request the honor of your presence at the service of confirmation on Shavuot.

Tuesday, the 17th of May at 7:00 in the evening in the Sam Lerner Center.

Elliot Bear, Nicholas Berman, Brian Blanco, Jason Blanco, Jillian Bokenek, Jordan Cassell, Ashley Chesler, Deena Cronson, Benjamin Davis, Max DePietro, Abigail Ditesheim, Sarah Garfinkle, Nicole Hamilton, Sarah Kaplan, Eli Kronovet, Steven Kufert, Jake Laxer, Noah Lieberman, Max Malter, Andrew Marx, Ari Menaker, Madison

Sadinsky, Jeremy Samarel, Ben Schine, Jennifer Shapiro, Laurel Tobias, Alex Weiner, Benjamin Weinrib, Daniel Wicker, Kyle Worrel

Each year, Beth El confirms impressive numbers of students. This year is no different. What motivates so many of our Beth El students to continue on to Confirmation? The great experiences they have in becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, the great feelings they have as madrichim (teaching assistants) in our Religious School and in our B'nei Mitzvah program, the amazing social circles they build throughout the years, the fun times they have in LIBERTY (our Senior

Youth Group), the desire to learn more about their Judaism in Hebrew High and to explore what Judaism has to say about issues relevant to their lives, and finally, to learn about themselves and their own faith as they visit the temples, churches and mosques of other traditions.

The Prophet Joel taught: "The old shall dream dreams and the youth shall see visions." Come and be inspired by the visions of our 10th graders as they lead us in Shavuot and Confirmation Services that will lift your spirit, move your soul, make you proud and give you faith in the future of Judaism. ☆

### Temple Beth El Mitzvah Day 2010 ... Pick Your Passion

Come join Temple Beth El and make a difference in our Jewish, local and global communities. On May 16, families will participate in our annual Mitzvah Day of social action, healing the sick, caring for the Earth, honoring the elderly, caring for the stranger, teaching our children, loving Israel and fulfilling many other mitzvot that will elevate the lives of others as well as our own.

The opening event will begin at 9 AM at Camp Mindy. There are projects on the Shalom Park site and many other community locations and many ways to help. Get involved in projects that support

the Alexander Children Center, Battered Women's Shelter, Darfur, U.S. Troops, Sterling Elementary School, Sunrise Assisted Living, Family Practice and many other organizations and causes in need of assistance.

If you have electronics that need to be recycled, there will also be a

truck in the Shalom Park parking lot that will take all of your outdated and broken electronic equipment.

Check out our website [www.beth-el.com/mitzvah-day2010.html](http://www.beth-el.com/mitzvah-day2010.html) to register or donate, or for more information. ☆



### Temple Beth El Honors the Graduating Class of 2010

Temple Beth El will be honoring the class of 2010 at the May 14 8 PM service.

Please join us as we welcome all our graduating seniors into our service with the singing of Shecheyanu as they are robed in an array of colorful caps and gowns from area high schools. We look forward to this opportunity to launch our graduates into the next step on their journey, with blessings from the clergy and congregation. A special Oneg Shabbat

Schmooze for graduating seniors will follow the evening service.

Graduates, please RSVP to Sara Bryan: [sbryan@beth-el.com](mailto:sbryan@beth-el.com). Note to all: Please arrive on time for the 8 PM May 14 service so you won't miss our graduates. ☆



The next meeting of the Temple Beth-El/St. Peter's Catholic Church Dialogue will be on May 2 at the Clubhouse of the Essex Condos, 4900 Sardis Rd., Charlotte. The topic will be Pentecost/Shavuot. Please bring your own beverage and a snack to share. All are welcome.

For info/directions call 704-362-2724 or 704-365-3313.

### Free Course at Temple Beth El – "Taste of Judaism"

**Taste of Judaism**

Dates: Saturdays, June 5, 12 and 19

Time: 9-10:30 AM

Three classes exploring the foundations of Jewish traditions for those who may want to recon-

nect or who may be searching for an entrée into Jewish life. The course covers the Jewish perspective on spirituality, values and community. Our clergy will use traditional and modern Jewish texts to discuss the ways that

Judaism addresses issues in our personal and professional lives. There is no cost for these classes, but registration is required by contacting Shari Hackman, Membership and Outreach Director, at 704-749-3051. ☆



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