

Simchat Torah at Ohr HaTorah is a Genuine Experience

The Jewish New Year begins with awe and reverence with Rosh Hashanah, when we experience with awe the greatness and kindness of God and on Yom Kippur we are granted total forgiveness with the blessings for a great New Year.

After the days of awe we enter into the days of joy with the festival of Sukkot when we experience the joy of the holiday by eating in the sukkah and shaking the lulav and etrog along with many festive celebrations.

Yet all of these festivities fit in nicely in an orderly and proscribed manner reflecting the essence of the holidays. The



exception to the rule is Simchat Torah when we go overboard in our joy and happiness in dancing with the Torah.

Simchat Torah is a creation of the diaspora when we gave focus to the last day of the holidays which is an extra day not celebrated in Israel. The celebration of Simchat Torah is a genuine expression of the essence of Jew

and his/her connection to God which brings us to an incredible expression of joy and merriment.

The Simchat Torah at Ohr HaTorah celebration will take place on Thursday September 30, at 7:45 PM. The celebration will include a variety of holiday foods with an extensive wine bar and lots of dancing with the Torah. There will be flags for the children and they will lead the pre-Hakofot service by reciting selected verses of the Torah.

Simchat Torah at Ohr HaTorah is beyond doubt a memorable and happy experience which attracts many non-members as well. No reservations needed and it is open to everyone in the Jewish community. ☆

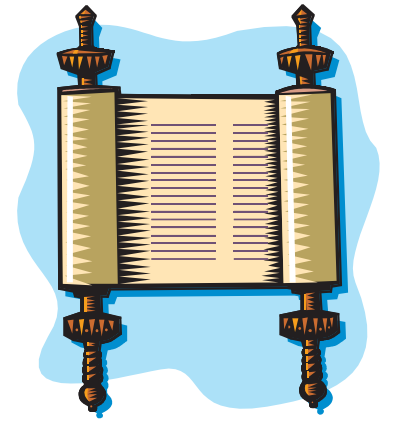
Holy Traveling!

By Rabbi Corey Helfand, Rabbi in Residence of Beth Shalom of Lake Norman

My visit to Beth Shalom in Lake Norman, last month was not a typical trip. Before leaving for the airport, I made a stop at the offices of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism in midtown Manhattan, home of the congregational arm of the Conservative Movement, to pick up a Torah. This Torah, which contains the foundation of the more than 5,000-year-old Jewish tradition, was off on a journey to its new home in Davidson. After clearing security and with special permission from the airlines, I boarded a plane, Torah in hand,

and personally delivered this sacred scroll to Beth Shalom.

On Friday afternoon, August 9, before sundown, members of the Beth Shalom family stood together and welcomed this Torah to its new home. As the ark was opened and our first Torah was removed, President Len Sadek walked into the sanctuary carrying the new Torah with him. Thus began the celebration. We danced in circles and around the room and at one point, we even hoisted past President Sally Phillips up on a chair for all to see. Before placing the two Sifrei Torah (Torah Scrolls) together side-by-side in the ark, the congregation recited the *shehecheyanu* prayer, a prayer thanking God for allowing all of us to be present for this special moment. As the scrolls were placed in the ark, the congregation joined in one final song taken from the book of Proverbs, "It is a tree of life for those who grasp it, and all who uphold it are blessed. Its ways are pleasantness and all its paths are peace. Help us turn to you Adonai our God and we shall return. Renew our lives as in days of old." After the singing and dancing concluded and pictures were taken, Beth Shalom transitioned into Shabbat, a time of peace and rest and separation from the business of the week.



The Jewish tradition teaches that one of the 613 mitzvot/commandments, is that every person is commanded to write a Torah scroll at some point during his or her life. This commandment is often difficult to fulfill because only a skilled few are able to write the Hebrew calligraphy written on parchment. Yet in our own way, the Beth Shalom family in welcoming this new Torah to its congregational home, affirmed its commitment to always support one another, to act with compassion and integrity guided by the traditions and teachings of the Torah, to live lives of tikkun olam (healing the world), and to keep strong our eternal connection to God and community through the past, present, and future generations. May this moment only lead Beth Shalom on a continued journey from strength to strength. ☆

BETH SHALOM
OF LAKE NORMAN
Affiliate of Temple Israel

**Seeing the well-being of the wicken,
I envied those boasters. They suffer no
pangs; their bodies are healthy. Not for
them ordinary human toil; they are not
stricken along with us.**

— Psalm 73:3-5

PICK A ROSENFELD

for All Your Real Estate Needs

~ Over 35 Years Experience ~



Barbara
Helen Adams Realty
704-517-1547



Marshall
Queenstowne Realty
704-517-1073

Home

704-321-0220

FOOT DISCOMFORT?

Find expertise, answers & comfort at Foot Solutions.

Our custom-molded inserts, therapeutic & specialty shoes fit *your* unique needs:

- Flat Feet • Diabetes • Sports Injuries •
- Arthritis • Uneven Leg Length •
- Heel Pain • Achilles Tendonitis •
- High Arches • Gait Problems •
- Unusual Sizes •

1235-K East Boulevard • Charlotte, NC 28203

704-335-4070

www.footsolutions.com

charlotte@footsolutions.com

~ **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** ~

aravon



FOOT SOLUTIONS
better health through your feet



“Harvey's role is one of a savvy business partner committed to my success. Revenues are up; I'm working smarter and clients are happily extending their contracts.”

Marcia Merrill,
President, Red Rover Communications
www.RedRoverCommunications.com



Harvey Smith

CarolinaBusinessCoach.com
704.604.1655