

# Friday Night Shabbaton on October 29 at Ohr HaTorah

You can turn Friday night into an amazing Shabbat experience by participating in the exciting and uplifting liveliness at the Ohr HaTorah Shabbaton. The Shabbaton has already earned a reputation for fine Jewish gourmet and excellent atmosphere and a great place to meet new friends.

The Fall Shabbaton is a good way to bring light to the coming winter nights by being warmed with a divine sense of purpose which permeates the soul as participants savor the engaging taste of great kosher wines and are inspired by the mystical meaning

of Shabbat as experienced at the Ohr HaTorah Shabbaton.

The Shabbaton will be held on Friday October 29, 6 PM at Congregation Ohr HaTorah. The evening will begin with the lighting of the Shabbat candles followed by a lively Shabbat services and a full delicious Shabbat meal.

The Shabbaton is open to all Jewish families in Charlotte for a nominal fee of \$18 per person or \$50 per family. For more information or reservations please visit our website at [www.ohrhaTorah-nc.org](http://www.ohrhaTorah-nc.org) or call our office at 704-366-3984. ✧

# Jewish Traveler

By Maxine Silverstein

## ANTWERP, BELGIUM

Antwerp is one of our favorite European cities. Our son, Scott, did an international study program here when he was in college and we got to visit often. It's been at least 15 years since our last visit so we were delighted to return to Antwerp again. Our river cruise on the Uniworld Amalegro stopped in Antwerp this past April. Unfortunately, quite a few Jewish sites were closed since our arrival was during Passover holiday.

Located in what is known as Flanders, in the northern part of the country, Antwerp has a population of approximately 500,000 inhabitants making it the second largest city in the country. The language here is Flemish. Our ship docked right on the Scheldt River. This river provides access to the port of Antwerp, Europe's second largest port.

Antwerp is a city with many faces and a lot of different aspects of every-day life. A unique feature of the city is the presence of a large Jewish hassidic community.

The Jewish community of Antwerp consists of around 15,000 Jews. Before the Second World War, the Jewish community of Antwerp consisted of more than 55,000 inhabitants. Most of these Jews are Orthodox and tend to live in the city center in an area close to the Antwerp Central railway station. This area is also sometimes known as "Jewish Antwerp." Its main attraction is the close proximity to the diamond center. The Jewish community in Antwerp has maintained a strong and active presence in the local diamond trade. After World War II, Belgium Jewish survivors as well as others from Eastern

Europe settled in Antwerp and built up an influential and highly successful stake in the diamond business. Whether through established diamond trading offices, cutting and polishing factories, or as diamond brokers, Antwerp's Jews established themselves as capable businessmen. There are several diamond showrooms within the diamond center that give tours of this amazing industry.

Do find time to visit the



Maxine in center city.



Maxine at one of the shuls in the Diamond District.

Antwerp Zoo. This is definitely one of our favorite zoos in the entire world. You'll probably need at least half a day to see everything. This amazing zoo was founded in 1843. There are lots of areas where the animals can walk around more or less freely - really amazing for a facility right in city center. The 19th century design and architecture are wonderful to see. There are over 900 species of animals including polar bears, Siberian tigers, gorillas and pandas.

We found wonderful shops,

food and souvenirs in all the small streets surrounding the main square. Chocolate in Belgium is a must. What makes Belgian chocolate unique is the quality of the ingredients and an almost fanatical adherence to Old World manufacturing techniques. Most Belgian chocolate is still made by hand in small shops using original equipment. Belgian beer is also a treat and there are over 1,000 types of beer all served in their own unique glass. Another favorite food is the Belgian waffle and French Fries. Fries are a special treat and are served with mayonnaise on top instead of ketchup. The shopping is great. Unfortunately, because it was Easter Monday, most shops except for the souvenir shops were closed. Kloosterstratt, a mile long stretch of quirky antiques shops, all-day cafes and ethnic restaurants is a great place to spend lots of time and money.

We love this wonderful city and can't wait to return and spend more time here. It is very centrally located within Europe. Antwerp is filled with lots of great things to do, wonderful restaurants, fabulous sights to see, excellent shopping and charming people.

Hopefully, we'll be back soon. ✧



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## Mazel Tov & Congratulations

### Dr. Susan Cernyak-Spatz to Receive Award from University of Ludwigsburg

On November 9, Dr. Susan Cernyak-Spatz will be awarded the title of Honorary Senator from the Universitaet of Ludwigsburg, in the state of Baden Wuerttemberg, Germany.

Dr. Cernyak-Spatz, Professor Emerita in the Department of Languages and Culture at UNCC has been guest lecturer at that university since 1993. In expressing their gratitude for her many years of speaking engagements at their institution, the University of Ludwigsburg has expressed their wish to honor Dr. Cernyak-Spatz's achievements in the education of their students concerning the events of the Holocaust.

Not only a scholar of Holocaust history, but also a survivor of Auschwitz-Birkenau and Ravebsbrueck extermination and concentration camps, Dr. Cernyak-Spatz has authored many scholarly articles, translated and edited several Holocaust diaries and has written her autobiography,



Dr. Susan Cernyak-Spatz

"Protective Custody Prisoner 34042." She has recounted her experiences to countless schools, colleges, and community groups since 1975. ✧

