

SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

Passover Experience at Ohr HaTorah

Passover is considered by the Jewish people to be one of the most important holidays on the Jewish calendar. Our Sages see Passover as the birthday of the Jewish people and it represents one of the most momentous events in Jewish history.

Passover is rich in family traditions and ceremonial rituals. The family Seder and the involvement of children in every detail of the Seder brings us pride and reaffirms our trust in God that He will once again deliver us from the evil oppressors.

Ohr HaTorah will be providing

educational and instructive classes to help people in Charlotte prepare for this festive yet complex holiday. A Practical Guide to Celebrating Passover will encompass two sessions.

The first class will be held on Tuesday March 20, 7:30-9 PM will focus of the practical laws of Passover, how to prepare the house for the holiday and it will include laws of koshering the kitchen and helping locate Kosher for Passover items to make the transitions smoother.

The second class will be held on Tuesday March 27, 7:30-9 PM

which will focus on how to conduct a Seder. This exciting class is also a benefit for those who are not conducting the Seder but would like to learn what the dynamics of the Seder and would also benefit from understanding the whys of many of the rituals and customs that make the Seder special.

Both classes will be held at Ohr HaTorah and will be taught by Rabbi Yossi Groner and Rabbi Shlomo Cohen, respectively, and is open to everyone in the community.

It's important to note that one of

the traditions in today's times is to sell one's chametz through the Rabbi before Passover. This ensures that there is no chametz in our possession from the eve of Passover through the entire holiday. Sale of chametz forms through Ohr HaTorah will be available on our website www.chabadnc.org. The forms will need to be completed by Thursday, March 29.

On Friday, April 6, a Siyum (conclusion of a tractate of Talmud) will be conducted by Rabbi Yossi Groner at 7:20 AM at Ohr HaTorah (at the conclusion of the morning service which begins at 6:30). The purpose of the Siyum

is to help the first born avoid the fasting on this day. The logic behind this is that only a feast of Mitzvah can override the fast. When a Talmudic tractate is concluded, it triggers the need for a feast of Mitzvah.

On Friday, April 6, we may eat Chametz until 11:17 AM. We burn the chametz on Friday by 12:21 PM. ☆



Temple Israel Honors Rabbi Murray Ezring

On the weekend of May 25 and 26, we will be having a special Shabbat to thank Rabbi Ezring for his leadership, and dedication to Temple Israel and its congregants for the past 18 years. The weekend will include a fabulous Shabbat dinner at Temple following Friday Evening services as well as a Kiddush Luncheon following services on Saturday.

In order to further honor Rabbi Ezring, we have asked several religious leaders in the Charlotte community who have had the pleasure of working with him on many occasions to come and address the Congregation at both services.

We want to give everyone the opportunity to thank Rabbi Ezring and his family, and to be able to send him a special message. We will be publishing a tribute/ad journal in his honor. Prices for tributes and ads range from \$36 to \$1200. Our deadline is April 1 if you wish to be part of the tribute journal. Please contact Temple Israel for more information. ☆

Shmurah Matzah Available at Ohr HaTorah

A beautiful tradition in many Jewish communities is the use of round Shmurah Matzah for the Passover Seder. Some of the reasons for this custom include that the Shmurah Matzah is the closest replication of the original Matzah the children of Israel ate when they left Egypt in haste. This is especially true of the hand-baked Shmurah Matzah where no machinery is used and the matzah is prepared and baked by hand in the old fashioned way.

In addition the Shmurah Matzah is baked with extra care

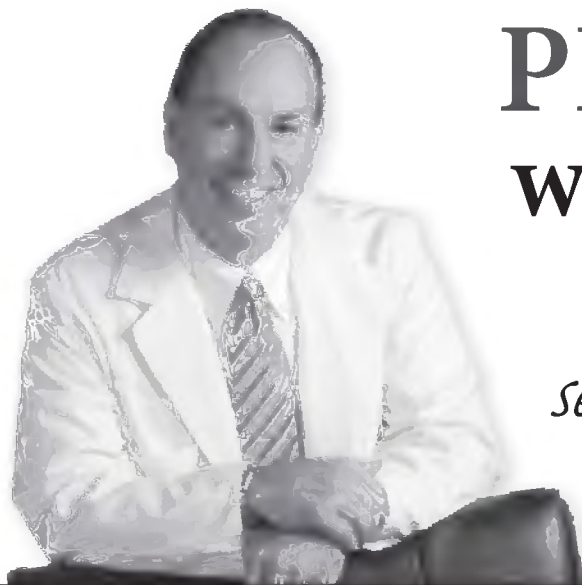
which begins from the time of selecting and milling the grains for wheat. Thus the name Shmurah which means guarded. The matzah is made of only two ingredients, natural unbleached wheat and pure well water. The entire process of baking the matzah including the mixing and kneading needs to be completed in less than 18 minutes.

The matzah is baked in an old style brick oven fired by wood logs which reach very high temperature. The average time it takes to bake the matzah is less than three minutes. The matzah bakery

shuts down production every 18 minutes and goes in to a total scrub down. After a careful inspection of all the hand equipment the bakery starts up again. The oven remains fired up all day as the intense heat helps sanitize the oven interior.

A limited amount of Shmurah Matzah will be available for sale at congregation Ohr HaTorah by special order at \$18.50 per pound. If you are interested please visit our website at www.chabadnc.org or call our office at 704-366-3984. ☆

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