

Celebrate Lag B'Omer with Kosher Barbecue and Bonfire at Lake Norman

This month a spectacular family event will take place outdoors on Lake Norman. On Thursday, May 10, Lubavitch of North Carolina will be hosting their annual Lag B'Omer celebration in a beautiful private setting right beside the lake. Children and their families will be invited to participate in a host of outdoor activities ranging from boating and fishing to assorted beach sports. The event will include a delicious kosher barbecue with grilled hotdogs and hamburgers, as well as a vegetarian alternative by request.

Lag B'Omer marks the anniversary of the passing of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, a second century mystic who authored the Kabbalistic source text known as the Zohar. Before his passing, he instructed his students to celebrate the day as heralding the dissemination of the Torah's esoteric teachings.

Beginning this year on Wednesday evening and continuing through Thursday night, Lag B'Omer is characterized throughout the world by bonfires, outdoor celebrations, and Jewish unity parades. One highlight of this year's festive program on Thursday evening will be a huge bonfire and Kumzitz.

Participants will be invited to sit around the fire and enjoy Jewish unity songs, stories, and delicious treats.

The schedule of the May 10 events are as follows: Children's activities will begin at 4 PM. Dinner will be served starting at 5:30 PM. The bonfire and Kumzitz will start at 6:30 PM.



The location of the event is 361 Sundown Road in Mooresville, NC. To get there from Charlotte, take I-77 North. Take exit 33, then turn left onto Williamson Road, and continue for about 2 miles. Turn right on Sundown Road and continue for 1.1 miles to 361 Sundown Road. The cost per person is \$12, or \$40 per family. To make your reservation, please visit chabadnc.org or call 704-366-3984 for more information. ☆

Celebrate Shavuot with Congregation Ohr HaTorah on Sunday, May 27

This year Shavuot, which celebrates the gift of the Torah to the Jewish people, will be take place from Saturday night, May 26 through Monday night, May 28. The holiday will begin with afternoon services at 8:15 PM, and evening services at approximately 9 PM. One highlight of the night will be an all night study program, beginning at midnight and concluding early Sunday morning.

Sunday's festivities will include the reading of the Ten Commandments during the morning services at approximately 11 AM. Men, women, and children are encouraged to attend as the Torah reading reenacts the Giving of the Torah that first took place over 3,300 years ago. On Shavuot morning, the children are honored as the stars at Congregation Ohr HaTorah, as the children were the Guarantors of the Torah, the ones that God was willing to entrust

with the critical task of passing the Torah down from generation to generation. After the conclusion of the services, a festive dairy luncheon will be served, including delicious dairy desserts. This is due to the fact that on Shavuot, when the Torah was first given, there wasn't enough time to prepare kosher meat, so the only available food was kosher milk, straight from the cow.

Shavuot morning services begin at 10 AM. Monday's service on May 28 will include the memorial Yizkor service at approximately 11:45 AM. For more information about Shavuot at Congregation Ohr HaTorah, please visit chabadnc.org or call 704-366-3984. ☆



Temple Kol Ami Continues to Invest in Its Youth

As the inaugural year of Temple Kol Ami's Religious School comes to a close, parents, students, and teachers reflect not only on the school's first accomplishments, but also on the vast future that lies ahead.

The school opened in September 2011, providing for the educational needs of the youth of Temple Kol Ami. Our enrollment exceeded our expectations with 28 students enrolling for the first year. Our students range in age from four to B'nei Mitzvah. The Temple and the school both meet at Unity Presbyterian Church in Fort Mill.

Classes are taught and organized by a team of dedicated teachers and congregants, all volunteers. The teachers and students have orchestrated a Sukkot service, a Chanukkah Around the World Celebration, and created artwork and Judaic items for the Temple's first Congregational Seder.

The future is bright for the students and teachers of the Religious School of Temple Kol Ami. The Temple has recently affiliated with the Institute for Southern Jewish Life, and with this we are going to use the ISJL curriculum to enhance the already dynamic start of our Religious School. This curriculum has garnered national attention for the innovative and exciting way it approaches Jewish education in the 21st century. Developmentally appropriate, it will nurture our students' Jewish identities and equip them to live rich and meaningful Jewish lives.

Registration for next years' Religious School begins now. For more information or an enrollment packet, please contact Michelle Silva, Religious School Director at tka.religiousschool@gmail.com Or, visit Temple Kol Ami's website at www.kolamitemple.com ☆

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