

Ohr HaTorah to Host Liberty Shabbaton on Friday, July 6

On Friday, July 6, Congregation Ohr HaTorah will open their doors to the Jewish community of Charlotte for a special Friday Night Shabbaton dinner. The theme of the Shabbaton is Liberty as we celebrate our independence and thank God for the freedoms we enjoy in our country which encourages religious freedom and allows us to practice our Judaism with pride.

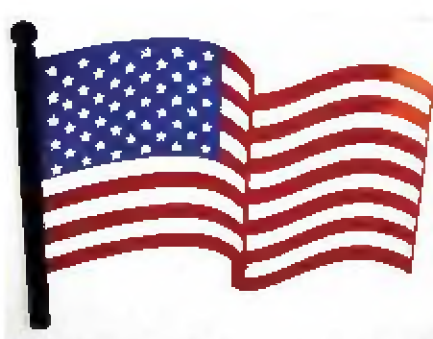
We the people of the United States and especially Jews in this country cannot take the idea of religious freedom for granted. This freedom is still elusive to many people in other parts of the world.

By Divine Providence we live in this great country, most of us by the sacrifices that our parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents made to arrive to these blessed shores. But it was not easy and much was lost in life and pos-

session in order to reach our goal of freedom and prosperity.

So it's not by coincidence that this happy and celebratory Shabbaton falls on the 17th day of the Hebrew month of Tammuz when we usher in the three weeks of mourning. It is during these three weeks that we lament the destruction of Jerusalem of old. If it were not on Shabbat this day would be a fast day and in deference to Shabbat we fast on Sunday. Since we are prohibited from displaying any sign of sadness on the Shabbat, this Shabbat is transformed to a day of hope and yearning; hope for a better future and yearning to return to our promised land and to see the rebuilding of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

We now live in comfort and are free from oppression in the Diaspora. There are periods of



peace and tranquility when Jews can find hospitable countries that allow us to live our Judaism in a serene and peaceful environment. Nevertheless, we have constant reminders that we are not totally without worry, be it the nuclear menace that is Iran or the constant threat from terrorist who wish to strike us. Yes, we are grateful that we are living in a generation that has benefited from God's kindness and have seen the fall of the Soviet

Union and the reestablishment of Israel as the Jewish homeland, yet we should never lose sight of what life could be without this freedom.

The three weeks give us pause as we reflect on the painful history of the Jewish people who have struggled to this point in our history, and we pray to God to deliver us from all the nastiness that still lurks out there in this big world we live in.

On this Shabbat we do it with joy as we thank God and celebrate our victories and freedoms and we ask God to bless all of our people and to bring freedom to the entire world with the coming of Moshiach.

At the Shabbaton we will celebrate as a community. Participants will enjoy a delicious home cooked American style Shabbat meal, and participate in special

entertaining activities during which we will learn how to appreciate and value this God-given freedom. Services will begin at 6619 Sardis Road at 7 PM, followed by dinner and activities. The cost to participate is \$50 per family, \$36 per couple, and \$18 per single. To register, go to www.chabadnc.org or send a check to 6619 Sardis Road, Charlotte, NC 28270. For more information, please call 704-366-3984. ☆



Temple Israel Adult Education

Tuesdays with Torah
9:30 AM-10:30 AM

Each Tuesday we hold a lively discussion on the weekly parsha (reading from the Torah portion). Past topics have included: Managing in Crisis Mode, Wearing "Holy Clothes," Preventing a Dark Outlook, Entering in a Relationship with God, Visiting the Sick, and

Having a Hard Heart. Join us for more great conversations to come.

Torah Sparks
Wednesdays at 12:30 PM

Using the "Pirkei Avot," The Ethics of our Ancestors as a guide, we will explore the wellspring of ethics and morality from the beginning of Rabbinic Judaism to today. Our study will include such

issues as: "The Value of a Smile," "How Honest Must We Be?" "What Age is the Best Age to Be?" and "The Best Way To Discover God."

Torah on Tap

Join us for this monthly program for young adults in their 20s, 30s, and 40s to come together, socialize, and study teachings of

Torah. We will discuss the selected monthly topic. Beer, drinks, and snacks are provided. For event locations and to RSVP, contact Denise Johnson at clergyoffice@templeisraelnc.org. ☆



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