

SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

Pre-High Holiday Shabbaton at Ohr HaTorah



The High Holidays bring about great awareness in the Jewish community at large. It is a time when the Jewish heart is awakened to hear the voice of its Divine soul. Every year Jews gather in the days leading up to Rosh Hashanah with special prayers and supplications asking God to welcome our requests for a good and healthy year.

Although these days are days of awe and introspection, they are days of joy as well. This is in the joyous tunes we sing during the High Holidays and is quite evident in the festive meals and sweet foods that we enjoy on Rosh Hashanah, on Erev Yom Kippur and in the break-the-fast meal after Yom Kippur.

In preparation for the majestic days of awe, Ohr HaTorah will be hosting a pre-High Holiday Shabbaton on Friday, September 7, which will set the tone for the upcoming holidays with joy and meaning. The Shabbaton event which is open to the entire Jewish community will feature delicious holiday foods and inspirational narratives about the Jewish New year.

The famed Ohr HaTorah Shabbatons have attracted many people in our community who have taken delight in the joy of Shabbat in a friendly and spirited manner. The Shabbaton program begins Friday at 7 PM with candle lighting followed by a spiritual and uplifting service. Shabbat din-

ner will follow at 8 PM. The Shabbaton event will be held at Congregation Ohr HaTorah, 6619 Sardis Road in Charlotte. For reservations or information please visit our website: www.chabad-nc.org, or call our office at 704-366-3984.

The Shabbat of September 8 is also known as Shabbat Selichot, as on this Saturday night at midnight we gather at the synagogue to recite the Selichot supplications. Given that Rosh Hashanah falls on Sunday night the 16th of September, we begin the Selichot a week earlier. ✨

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We want to thank everyone who participated in the LCC Triathlon and we are proud to have been able to lend our support to a great event!

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Temple Israel Religious School Welcomes New Education Director

We are extremely pleased to announce that we have a new Director for Temple Israel Religious School, Rabbi Tracy Klirs. This has been a thorough process which has led to a great conclusion, and we want to personally thank Alison Lerner and her committee for their



Rabbi Tracy Klirs

work in finding the right person to lead our school. Rabbi Klirs and her family will be relocating to Charlotte from Great Neck, NY, and will officially join our professional staff August 1. We hope you all take the opportunity to welcome them to Charlotte and to the Temple Israel Family.

The future of the Jewish community lies in the quality of education that we provide to our children. We believe that our national search led us to one of the most qualified Jewish educators in the country. Rabbi Klirs has a distinguished career working with Conservative congregations in Northern Virginia, Potomac Maryland and most recently Temple Israel in Great Neck. The *Shema* and *v'Ahavtah* command us "*v'shinantam l'vanecha*," teach the mitzvot to your children. Rabbi Klirs is known for her ability to form strong personal connections to religious school students, and for mentoring and developing teachers. She is also known for taking a family oriented perspective on religious education. The search committee, Executive Committee, and Board of Trustees are very excited about having Rabbi Klirs join our community and our staff. As we pray at the conclusion of every book of the Torah: *Hazak Hazak V'Nithazek!* May our congregation continue to go from strength

to strength under the educational leadership of Rabbi Tracy Klirs.



Rabbi Tracy Klirs received a bachelor's degree in Yiddish literature from the University of Chicago and attended the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's rabbinical school in Cincinnati where she was ordained in 1984. Rabbi Klirs was the first woman rabbi to lead a congregation in Canada and served congregations and Jewish educational organizations in Texas, California, Virginia and Maryland. She recently served as the Director of the Religious School of Temple Israel of Great Neck.

Rabbi Klirs is the primary author of *The Merit of Our Mothers: A Bilingual Anthology of Jewish Women's Prayers* and has published a number of articles, primarily on Yiddish literature, including a chapter entitled "Tkhines for Rosh Chodesh: Women's Prayers of Devotion" in *Celebrating the New Moon: A Rosh Chodesh Anthology*.

Rabbi Klirs is a member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Jewish Educators' Assembly, and the Women's Rabbinic Network, and recently served as co-president of the Conservative Principals' Council of Queens and Long Island. She has participated in Jewish choruses and played cello in an amateur klezmer band called Shoresh.

Rabbi Klirs and her husband, Elisha, have three children: Lior and his wife Ariella, of Nashville, TN; Carni of Washington, DC and Talya, who is moving to Charlotte along with her daughter, Callie (Rabbi Klirs granddaughter). ✨


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Photos [L to R]: Stacy Marx, the original Mitey Rider, with Harry Swimmer | Swimmer Insurance Today

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