

SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

Professor Michael J. Broyde will be Scholar in Residence at Ohr HaTorah on March 8



Michael J. Broyde

Jewish Americans or American Jews: The Role and Place of Jews in America

Michael J. Broyde, a professor of law at Emory University and a senior fellow of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion (CSLR), and has been named one of America's top 50 rabbis by Newsweek magazine.

One of the most important issues on the agenda of American Jewish leadership today is the destiny of Jewish America. This is in light of the recent finding of the Pew Research Center inde-

pendent study of American Jews which leaves many of us perplexed on where American Judaism is today and where it's headed to in the future.

The findings could have major implications on many of the Jewish institutions in our community and most of all on the survivability of Judaism in America outside of the insular Orthodox communities. In order to come up with solutions we need to get to the root of the issue.

The JLI course presently being presented at Ohr HaTorah entitled "To Be A Jew in the Free World" has been examining this idea from a historical perspective.

We are fortunate to have one of the greatest legal minds of today visit Charlotte as a scholar in residence at Ohr HaTorah on March 8. Professor Michael J. Broyde of Emory University has lectured and written extensively on Jewish religious law within the context of American secular law. Broyde will present a discourse on Jewish Americans or American Jews: The Role and Place of Jews in America.

Jews living in the free world

cherish their freedom and don't take it for granted, yet this freedom also presents challenges to Jews of how not to assimilate and lose their Jewishness in a free and open society. In addition, there is the question of Jewish loyalty to our country. Does that preclude our loyalty to Israel, the Jewish homeland? There are similar questions that face Jews in America in regards to the difference between American secular principles to traditional Jewish principles.

Rabbi Broyde will address these issues and much more at the Kiddush luncheon following the morning service at Congregation Ohr HaTorah. Shabbat morning services begin at 10 AM and the Kiddush luncheon begins at 12:30 PM. This program and luncheon is open to the entire community and is free. The presentation will not be recorded as it is being held on Shabbat. Congregation Ohr HaTorah is located at 6619 Sardis Road in Charlotte. For more information please visit our website at www.chabadnc.net. Or call our office at 704-366-3984. ✡

Purim Spiel and Feast on Sunday March 16

A fantastic Purim Feast will be hosted by Ohr HaTorah on Purim Day which falls on Sunday, March 16 this year. The feast will feature a full Purim Spiel written and acted out by members of Ohr HaTorah.

Purim has been an annual celebration for Jews all over the world for thousands of years as it is a day of thanksgiving and extraordinary cheerfulness. As recorded in the Scroll of Esther, that Mordechai and Esther requested that Jews of all generations should celebrate this festive day of Purim by giving gifts to the poor and sending food gifts to friends, listening to the reading of the scroll of Esther, and enjoying a festive feast at the end of the day.

The Purim feast will also feature delicious cuisine and a full kosher wine bar. It is set to begin at 6 PM at Congregation Ohr HaTorah. Celebrants are encouraged to come dressed in costume, but it is not mandatory.

The festivities will begin with the reading of the Megillah - Scroll of Esther on Saturday night, March 15, at 8:20 PM. Traditional

Purim treats like Hamantaschen will be served after the Megillah reading.

Sunday, March 16, the Megillah will be read as part of the morning service which begins at 8:30 AM (the reading of the Megillah will be at about 9 AM). The Megillah will be read once more at 5:00 in the afternoon for those who cannot attend the morning reading.

The Purim feast is open to the entire community. The fee to attend the Purim Feast: \$18 per person and \$10 per child. The services and Grand Purim feast will be held at Congregation Ohr HaTorah, 6619 Sardis Road in Charlotte. For more information and for reservations please visit our website at www.chabadnc.org. Or call our office at 704-366-3984. ✡



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