

Shavuot Festivity on May 24 at Ohr Ha-Torah Will Celebrate the Gift of Children

The holiday of Shavuot celebrates the giving of the Torah by God to the people of Israel at Mount Sinai 3,327 years ago. The giving of the Torah at Sinai is considered the greatest and most significant event in Jewish history as it changed the mission statement of the Jewish people and it is seen as the marriage between God and the people of Israel. The very existence of Judaism today is directly linked to this milestone event which transformed the Jewish people forever.

According to the Midrash and the Talmud the superstars of this amazing event were the children. God had asked Moses for credible guarantors for the safekeeping of the Torah. At first Moses offered the Jewish leaders, patriarchs, and matriarchs as guarantors but they were not accepted. God only accepted the children as guarantors as they will ensure that the Torah will be kept, revered, and observed and most of all transmitted from generation to generation.

Ohr HaTorah will celebrate this

Shavuot with the children taking the center stage at the holiday morning service on Sunday, May 24. The children will march into the sanctuary at 11 to witness the special reading in the Torah scroll in the portion of the Torah that describes the story of the giving of the Torah including the reading of the Ten Commandments.

There will also be a festive dairy Kiddush luncheon after the service. The children will be treated to a variety of kosher ice cream delights during the Kiddush. One of the remarkable customs that has been popularized over the years is the eating of dairy foods like cheesecake or cheese blintzes on Shavuot. The origin of this custom is based on the fact that Jews first began to observe kosher dietary laws with the giving of the Torah and the most readily available foods to them at the time were milk and cheese.

The Ohr HaTorah Shavuot service open to the entire community. The program will begin at 11



AM and will feature the reading of the Ten Commandments and delicious dairy foods for young and old. There is no charge for this event. For more information please visit our website: www.chabadnc.org. Or call our office at 704-366-3984.

In addition to the Torah celebration on Sunday morning, Ohr HaTorah will hold a Torahthon which is a Torah marathon starting on Saturday night May 23 at midnight with a selection of Torah study programs. This will include halachic dissertations on Talmudic issues as well as an inner look at the mystical side of the Torah. The Torahthon is open to anyone interested in participating and is a great way to prepare for the reading of the Ten Commandments. Refreshments will be served. ✪

Lag b'Omer Barbeque and Community Celebration

Lag b'Omer is one of those spring holidays which is well known in Israel for its huge bon fires and outdoor barbeques. This two thousand year old holiday originates in the days of the Talmud when Israel was under Roman rule and its main characters were famous Talmudic Sages, Rabbi Akiva and Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, author of the Zohar.

The theme of the holiday is Jewish unity through love and

Jewish independence through Torah. Today the spirit and teachings of these great Rabbis lives through the colorful celebrations on Lag b'Omer. When Lag b'Omer falls on a Thursday, the celebration is a nice lead in to Shabbat.

Ohr HaTorah will be hosting a community Lag b'Omer picnic and barbeque on Thursday May 7, 6 PM. The celebration will include a *kumzits* with music and traditional bonfire. A full delicious kosher barbeque dinner will be served as well. There is a fee of



\$15 per person and \$36 per family.

The Ohr HaTorah picnic will take place 8385 Providence Road. Advance reservations are required. Please visit our website www.chabadnc.org for more information or call 704-366-3984. ✪

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The Young and Young at Heart (and Everyone in Between) Find a Home at the Lake

Why Every Jewish Family Should Move to Lake Norman

In a span of just four weeks, our Temple phone has rung or someone has walked in our doors looking to find a spiritual home nearly every single day.

We have had calls from young expecting couples in Charlotte who have made the decision to make their Jewish home at the Lake. We have received calls from individuals and couples who are retiring, selling their home in Charlotte, and moving to the Lake. Last week alone, we received calls from Houston, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Atlanta, Tennessee, and California; all Jews and their families looking to make their Jewish home at Temple Kol Tikvah.

The Jewish Community of the



Lake serves the Lake region, and Concord but also large swaths of Charlotte, as well. In addition, many find their way here seeking a community shul much like the bar from "Cheers," where everyone knows your name.

Lake Norman Living is attractive and here are just some of the reasons why:

- ♦ Jewish hub with a full-time rabbi and educator, 210 households, active retiree population, 150+ children in the religious

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