

Temple Kol Tikvah Inaugural Adult B'not Mitzvah

On June 17, the Kabbalat Shabbat service at the temple, located near Lake Norman, was indeed very special. To a standing room crowd, the congregation partici-

pated in a celebration marking the graduation of the first adult B'not Mitzvah course of study.

Five women, in the presence of a host of relatives and friends —



Rabbi Shields (left) with the Adult B'not Mitzvah class.

some traveling from hundreds of miles away—along with many regular members of the Temple, were called to the Torah affirming an ancient tradition of pledging allegiance to the Torah, God-given commandments, and the Jewish people. As stated by one of the participants, this was a “better late than never” event because not too many years ago only males were “Bar Mitzvah-ed” depriving young women from this intense and profound experience.

Before being called to the Torah, the women led the congregation by conducting the traditional Friday evening service including communal chanting. Also, each woman chanted a por-

tion of the weekly Parasha from the Torah scroll.

A special highlight of the event was the collection of five insightful Divrei Torah presented by the celebrants and drawing from the weekly Torah portion. They covered a variety of Jewish traditions, values, and teachings such as kashrut, compassion to the poor and the stranger, and the concept of being God’s chosen people.

The ceremony marked the culmination of many months of attending the Temple Kol Tikvah Adult B'nai Mitzvah class. Guided by Rabbi Michael Shield and taught by Lynn Calnek, Director of Lifelong Learning, the graduates met weekly enjoying the

learnings and the camaraderie. Not resting on its laurels, the Temple is making preparations for setting up the next Adult B'nai Mitzvah class. We invite all who are interested to join us in this spiritual and social uplifting experience. Call the Temple office at 704-987-9980 or click www.templekoltikvah.org

Temple Kol Tikvah is the Jewish congregation in Lake Norman. With more than 200 families, we are inclusive, egalitarian, innovative and fun. Affiliated with the Reform movement, we welcome all who seek to explore, learn, and practice the rich traditions, heritage and spirituality of Judaism. Interfaith couples – in fact, families of all forms – are welcome with open arms at Temple Kol Tikvah. Our mission is to provide a spiritual home for our members while effecting positive change in our community. We believe that social, intellectual, and spiritual development is connected to political and social activism. Therefore, we strive to help our members and our community deal with today’s challenges authentically, honestly, and in accordance with Jewish ethics. Guided by Rabbi Michael Shields, we encourage practices that bring joy, peace, and deeper spiritual connections, through fellowship, education and soulful prayer. ✧



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Free Ice Cream Social/Open House at Temple Kol Ami August 28

It has been a hot summer, but it's about to get even hotter at Temple Kol Ami of Fort Mill, SC. Our amazing religious school teachers have been planning a new curriculum and are excited to welcome back our awesome stu-

dents! Last year, we had almost 40 students enrolled and successfully implemented a Torah Tots program. We are looking forward to seeing our returning kids as well as welcoming new faces for another year of wonderful Jewish education and friendships. Is your child ready for Hebrew School? No matter where they are on their path of Jewish learning, we can accommodate their needs and get them up to speed. Our Religious School meets three Sundays per month from 10 AM-12 noon at Ivybrook Academy in Fort Mill, conveniently located near the Greater York County/Ballantyne/South Charlotte area. Please join us on August 28 for a free Ice Cream Social/Open house at Ivybrook, 873 Dave Gibson Blvd., Fort Mill, SC. Meet the teachers, tour the facility and find out why, at TKA Religious School, Sundays are fun days. It is not too late to enroll your child for the 2016-2017 school year which starts on September 11. For more information, please contact us at tka.religiousschool@gmail.com or go to the website www.templekolamisc.org and see the ad on page 10.

Temple Kol Ami is also excited to welcome Rabbi Aft of Congregation Adat Reyim, Springfield, VA back to Fort Mill for another educational, spiritual, and cultural Shabbaton weekend August 26-28. Rabbi Aft has been with us two times previously and has been well received by all. He brings a passion for Jewish learning and is extremely engaging with all demographics. We are pleased to be able to sponsor these Shabbatons



due to the generosity of a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte Impact fund. Each Shabbaton generally consists of Friday night Shabbat service, Saturday morning Torah study, Saturday night Havdalah, and a visit to our religious school on Sunday. With the recent passing of Elie Wiesel, there will be programming dedicated to his memory and vision. There will also be a special Jewish naming ceremony on Friday night in conjunction with Shabbat service, so if you would like to be a part of this, please contact us at yorksynagogue@gmail.com. All events related to the Shabbaton are free and open to the public. For more details, check our website.

If you live in York County or the Ballantyne area, Temple Kol Ami might be the place for you. We are a warm and inclusive congregation comprised of Jews from diverse backgrounds. There are so many wonderful advantages to being a member of TKA, not the least of which is being a part of the revitalization of the Jewish community of this area. We hope you will come play and pray with us sometime soon. ✧

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To take advantage of the special pricing, patients must pay in full on Thursday, Aug. 11 or Friday, Aug. 12. Procedures may be scheduled on either of those days or at a later date. Patients may not buy additional product for future office visits.