

Join Temple Kol Ami for Purim Celebration and Adult Education

For the second year in a row, Temple Kol Ami of Fort Mill, SC was awarded a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's Impact and Innovation Fund. With this grant money, Temple Kol Ami will continue to host quarterly Shabbatons for the York County and South Charlotte Jewish communities. TKA is pleased to invite you to attend our

first Shabbaton of 2017 the weekend of March 17-18. Rabbi Ana Bonnheim will be with us on March 17 for Friday night Shabbat service, and on the evening of March 18, TKA will host a Purim dinner costume party/Havdalah. The theme for the evening will be Purim Wars: The Jews Awaken, and there will be prizes for best Star Wars costume as well as tra-

ditional Purim costume. Also that weekend, Camryn Elder will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on the morning of March 18. For more information, please consult the Temple Kol Ami website at www.templekolamisc.org. All events related to the Shabbaton are always free and open to the public thanks to the generosity of the Federation.

Temple Kol Ami is also pleased to be offering an Adult Education class called Synagogue 101. The first class met in February to discuss the tallit. The March class will meet on March 11 at 10 AM at Temple Kol Ami, 303 Tom Hall Street, Fort Mill, SC. Refreshments will be served. The third and last class will be held on the second Saturday in April. For more information, check the TKA website or e-mail us at yorksynagogue@gmail.com. Once again, this is free and open to the public.

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 Reform 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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Chabad to Celebrate "Hard Hat" Purim

Purim, the happiest day on the Jewish calendar, comes this year on Sunday, March 12. The festivities at Ohr HaTorah will begin on Saturday evening, March 11, with a Purim and Megillah service at 7:30 PM. The Purim theme this year is "Hard Hat Purim" as Chabad will soon be entering the pre-construction stage of their new center which will be located on their existing property at 6619 Sardis Road. "Hard Hat Purim" will invite everyone to come with a hard hat and dressed as construction workers, as they celebrate the future of Chabad while rejoicing in the festivities of Purim.

Purim celebrates Jewish survival and although it took place in Ancient Persia in the 4th century BCE, it still resonates with us today. There was a reason that Mordechai and Esther established Purim as an eternal holiday to commemorate the amazing events of their time. It was the prophetic vision of Esther who realized that Jews will be languishing in the Diaspora in future generations and that they will face similar challenges as did the Jews in Persia. By recording the story of Purim in the Book of Esther (also known as the Megillah), and enacting special observances on Purim day, she ensured that the lesson she and Mordechai learned would never be forgotten and will be a source of encouragement for thousands of years to come. What better way to celebrate our resilience throughout history than to celebrate the bright future of Chabad in Charlotte with a pre-construction Purim party and feast?

Jews worldwide celebrate Purim on the 14th of Adar, while residents of walled cities – like Shushan or

Jerusalem – celebrate on the 15th of Adar. The five mitzvot of Purim are: 1) Reading or listening to the reading of the Megillah (evening and morning); 2) Reciting prayers of thanksgiving; 3) Sending at least two ready-to-eat food items to a friend; 4) Giving tzedaka to at least two poor people; 5) Rejoicing with a Purim feast at the end of the day.

Purim is a time of joy and fun - costumes, sweets and hamantaschen are very much part of the fabric of this holiday and will be in great abundance at Ohr HaTorah. The celebration will continue with a grand "Hard Hat Purim" feast on Sunday at 6 PM. The dinner will be held at Sam Lerner Center at Shalom Park. Call 704-366-3984 for more information. The feast will feature gourmet pizza of various varieties/toppings, music, and a costume contest for the best "Jewish Bob the Builder" award. There will be beer and l'chaim for the adults, and lots of fun for everyone. In addition to the Sunday, 9 AM Megillah reading at the morning service, there will be another Megillah reading at 5 PM for those who prefer a later time. The Purim feast is open to all in the community. The cost is \$18 per adult and \$10 for children under Bar or Bat Mitzvah age. Reservations can be made online at www.chabadnc.org or by sending a check to Chabad of NC, attention - Purim Dinner, 6619 Sardis Road, Charlotte, NC 28270. ☆



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