

HAVURAT TIKVAH

Havurat Tikvah Goes to Gastonia for Joint Service

Taking the next step in communal friendship, Havurat Tikvah in Charlotte and Temple Emanuel in Gastonia held their first joint Kabbalat Shabbat service March 22 in Gastonia. An Oneg Shabbat, with desserts from members of both groups, followed services.

The two groups have had informal links for several years. A few Havurat Tikvah members from Gastonia and Belmont Abbey also attend Temple Emanuel, a Reform congregation with a small-scaled synagogue building just blocks from downtown Gastonia. In addition, the current leader of religious services and cantor at the temple is Charlie Brown, a Charlotte-based Havurat Tikvah member. A havurah member, Rachel Offerdahl, held her bat mitzvah at Temple Emanuel in January.

The joint service was organized by dual-member Bill Gross of Gastonia and the havurah's Religious Committee, led by

Gwen Offerdahl.

February and March have been busy months for Havurat Tikvah members and Laura Kaplan, rabbinic intern, who facilitated several services, events and classes. A Kabbalat Shabbat for Tu B'Shevat, including a meaningful Seder, was held February 1. Daniel Fleming and members of the Kaplan and Offerdahl families helped out at the Community Purim Carnival at the JCC on February 24.

Havurah members of all ages packed the spacious living room of the Cornerstone House on Erev Purim, February 25, for a lively Megillah reading (in English) by teen members, as adults and Religious School students mimed various characters in the story. The cast rotated during Purim songs, led by Charles Kaplan, so that anyone who wanted to participate was given a role to play and the hat or prop that "belonged" to

the role. Members shared homemade hamentaschen with traditional and innovative fillings and other good desserts.

Sharon Wilson has compiled a preliminary guide for parents and teens planning a bar or bat mitzvah with Havurat Tikvah. The Religious Committee will be reviewing this draft. Another task force will study replies to a survey on preferences and expectations for high holiday services. Ellen Myers again served as Passover matchmaker to pair havurah members looking for a seder with hosts willing to welcome another guest at the table.

Laura and Charles Kaplan plan to attend the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation workshop "Kehillah Builders: Jewish Values-Based Approaches to Building Sacred Community" on April 14 and 15 at Beth Shalom in Naperville, IL, near Chicago. ☆

UNCC Profs View Interpretation and Immigration

Two UNCC professors recently gave Havurat Tikvah members interesting insights into different aspects of Jewish religious thought and social history.

On February 16, Dr. John Reeves, Blumenthal Professor of Jewish Studies, spoke about traditional and contemporary ways of interpreting the Tanach. He began with a review of the traditional approaches to interpretation that were codified during the medieval period and referred to by the acronym "pardes" for the Hebrew words for simple, indirect, homiletic and secret.

With printed handouts, Professor Reeves showed examples of how (and why) the Targum, which began as an oral translation of Torah readings into Aramaic, modifies the Masoretic text with extra details and explanations.

While some Biblical scholars look to archeological finds or historic texts to deepen understanding, Reeves takes a literary approach, studying the structure of given stories and comparing similar structures of different stories.

At the March 23 gathering, Dr. Donna Gabaccia, Charles H.

Stone Professor of American History, examined differences and similarities in the immigrant experiences of Jews and Italians who came to America. Her research is partially based on interviews (in Yiddish and Italian) with elderly first-generation Americans and, in Sicily, with the families they left behind.

Respective hosts were Penni Wallas and Steve Powell in February and Sharon Kugelmass in March. The talks were part of an Adult Program series put together by Saul Brenner. ☆

Havurat Tikvah Calendar of Events

April

April 6: Adult Education. Jewish Mystical Philosophies: Who is God? Instructor: Laura Duhan Kaplan. 10 AM, Kaplan home, 2900 Somerset Drive. (Last in a series of four classes.)

April 13: Yom Hashoah Observance. 7:30 PM. This program for adults begins with a havdalah service. Location to be announced.

April 19 to 21: Shabbaton with Rabbi Daniel Brenner, Charlotte native, Senior Teaching Fellow at CLAL (National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership) and rabbi for String of Pearls, a Reconstructionist havurah in

Princeton, NJ. All Friday and Saturday events will be at Cornerstone House, 1535 Queens Rd. at Oxford Place.

Kabbalat Shabbat at 6:30 Friday evening, with a potluck dinner (kosher dairy or pareve) and service. Shabbat morning services at 10 AM followed by kiddush/lunch (kosher dairy or pareve). Saturday night havdalah and program for adults, 7:30 PM.

Call for details on Friday and Saturday night, babysitting and a Religious School program.

May

May 3 to 5: Havurat Tikvah Annual Retreat at Camp Cheerio, a YMCA facility in the Blue Ridge

Mountains. Lag B'Omer will be celebrated. Fees include a double room for two nights and five meals with vegetarian options: adults, \$110; kids 6 to 16, \$52; kids under six, free. Enjoy Shabbat services, activities for all ages, and wonderful mountain views. Reservations must be made prior to April 19.

Havurat Tikvah is an affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation. Visitors are welcome to attend services and events. For more information, please call Jessica Saxe, new member chair, at 704-333-9106 or Dael and Brenda Waxman, co-presidents, at 704-544-2241. ☆

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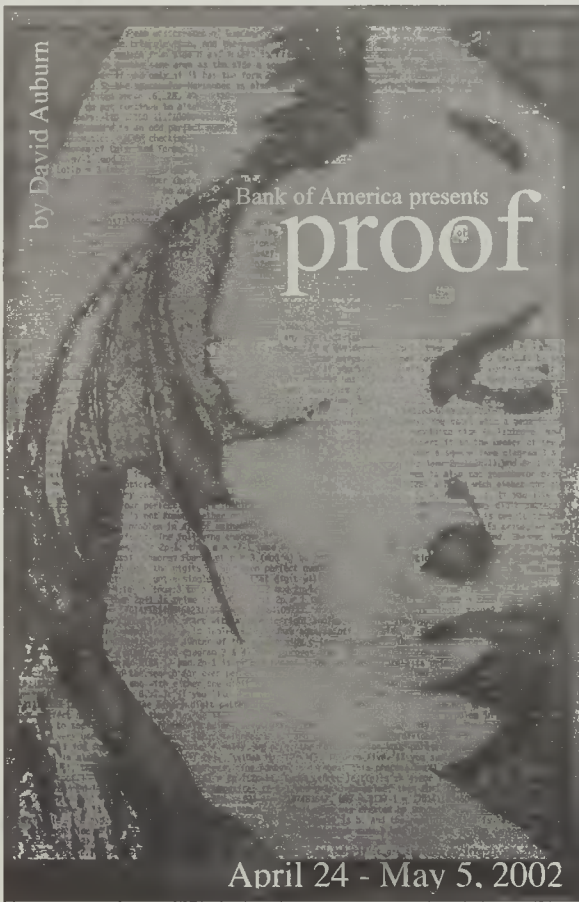
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