

Hanukkah Class at the Charlotte Torah Center

Rabbi Roizman will be giving a class on Monday, December 17 at 7:00 PM on deep concepts that Jews connect to on this holiday. Discover the often-overlooked rituals and their meaning. Free. ☆



Krispy Kremes Fund Raiser at Charlotte Torah Center

The word on the street is that Charlotte is the first city in North Carolina to offer kosher Krispy Kreme Doughnuts. Here is a chance to both help Torah study and observe an age-old custom.

Please help the Charlotte Torah Center Fundraising Drive by ordering your dozen hot doughnuts by calling 704-367-1225. The festival of Hanukkah commemorates the miracle of the oil and it is

customary to eat oily foods on these eight days. Doughnuts will be available for pick up on Monday, December 22 or Tuesday, December 23 from 5:00-7:00 PM. ☆

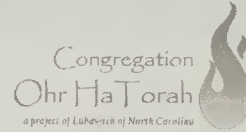
Quality Jewish Learning and Warm-Hearted Services at Ohr HaTorah

Jewish learning is in full swing at Congregation Ohr HaTorah with the popular Jewish Learning Institute, which will focus on Talmudic Ethics during November and December. Over 65 people are registered for this thought-provoking course that taps into the classical Jewish sources and literature. The winter course, which begins on January 27, will cover Meditations in Prayer. More information will be forthcoming on this course in the next issue of *The Charlotte Jewish News*.

A variety of miniseries courses will take place at Ohr HaTorah throughout the year. Some of the exciting upcoming classes are "The Joseph Story - A Deeper Look" on December 15 and "Hanukkah 101 and Beyond - All You Want To Know about Hanukkah" on December 4 and 11. The Hebrew Class - Level 2 with Dr. Jeff Poelvoorde has been very successful, as it provides students with a base on which they are able to structure their Hebrew language knowledge. There is also an ongoing class in Tanya on Monday nights, in which the ancient text of Jewish mystical wisdom is studied and analyzed.

The famed Australian mystic, Rabbi Laibl Wolf, will present "Yoga for the Mind" with his dis-

course on Kabbalah and how to apply the ancient wisdom to modern times. He will be speaking at Ohr HaTorah on Sunday, December 14 at 7:00 PM.



We will also be taking a look at Kashrut from the kosher inspector's viewpoint. Two of the rabbis at Ohr HaTorah are official representatives of several major national kosher organizations which serve the Carolinas. Rabbi Yossi Groner and Rabbi Binyomin Weiss have extensive experience in the field of Kashrut and visit dozens of food manufacturing plants in the Carolinas each month. Come and hear some of their amazing stories and finds on January 8.

Shabbat and daily services have grown at Ohr HaTorah, with many new members joining at the beginning of the Jewish New Year. There is a special feeling of warmth that envelops participants at Ohr HaTorah services and which is especially evident at the Shabbat services and Kiddush luncheons. Shabbat has become a time for excellent camaraderie and learning that is both inspiring and invigorating.

Ohr HaTorah uses the Internet

to present Jewish life at its fullest. Its highly-acclaimed website has links to a huge repository of Jewish information along with many informative sites. You can visit the website at www.ohrha-torahnc.org.

Grand Hanukkah Celebration at Phillips Place Mall with Real Ice Menorah

Hanukkah is unique in that the miracle of lights is to be shared with everyone, even those outside the Jewish home. Lubavitch of North Carolina will be hosting a community-wide celebration at the Phillips Place Mall on the second night of Hanukkah, Saturday, December 20, at 7:30 PM, with an Ice Menorah Extravaganza.

As the audience watches, the menorah will be sculpted from a huge block of transparent ice. Once completed, the menorah will be kindled with songs and blessings. The light will light up the night as the menorah sparkles like a crystal candelabra. There will be music and dancing and wonderful holiday treats for children and adults.

A large menorah will also be set up at the Hilton Charlotte and Towers at the Union Grille restaurant on Sunday, December 21. This is the night of the Kosher Dining Project, co-hosted by the Hilton Charlotte & Towers and Ohr HaTorah. The dining project is by reservation only. Please call 704-331-4360 no later than Monday, December 15. ☆

Havurat Tikvah Takes "Trip" To Portugal

November proved a busy month for Havurat Tikvah members who jammed at the first musical party, or created bead and wire kippot at a women's Rosh Hodesh gathering, or listened to Estelle Spike's unusual journey into Jewish history in Portugal.

Estelle, who is new to Charlotte and the havurah, spoke November 8 at the home of Debbie Langsam and Joal Fischer. During her 17-year stay in Portugal, she was re-exposed to Judaism through a synergy of people, places and events.

While working as a counselor at an English-speaking school and as a psychotherapist, she learned Portuguese and began to appreciate the country's handicrafts. One day, by chance, as she was selling antique buttons at a village market in the historic city of Sintra, she met a Canadian woman who wanted help finding out about Jewish life in Portugal.

"I had not been involved in Jewish life as an adult," Estelle recalled. "But the experiences I


was soon to have led me back to my roots."

The encounter at the market led to interviews with Benjamin Levi, whose home in Lisbon served as a sort of museum for Sephardic Jews. His ancestors had left Portugal during the Inquisition and lived in the Ottoman Empire for hundreds of years, passing on the key to the family home until the time they could return. Others Jews escaped the Inquisition by fleeing to remote and mountainous regions in the Northeastern Portugal where Judaism was practiced in secret.

With Levi's connections, Estelle was able to visit old synagogues being uncovered and restored in Castelo D'Vide and Tomar. She learned about Portugal's role in World War II as a refuge for exiles from Germany.

Gradually, she became intrigued, and by the early 1990s, when Portugal formally apologized to Jews for its role in the

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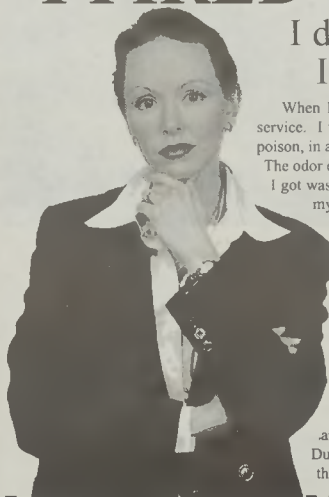
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When I found mice running around my kitchen floor last fall I hired a pest control service. I thought that would be the end of my problem. He came and put out some rat poison, in and under my house. About a week later a mouse died inside my bedroom wall. The odor or rotting rodent was terrible for about two weeks. Instead of no more mice - all I got was excuse after excuse why my bugman couldn't keep those nasty rodents out of my life. I had to call him back over 10 times and the mice still never left my house.

The last straw was when I walked into the kitchen and found my three year old about to put some of the poison in his mouth. I couldn't believe it, that poison looked just like candy! That was enough! I would rather live with the mice than poison my kids. Then my sister told me about an amazing new system developed by Budget Pest Prevention. It's called the DuraProof® System. *It's not pest control, IT'S PEST PREVENTION!* They developed a different approach to solving tough pest problems. Budget eliminates the entryways and harborage areas that mice and other pests use to invade our homes in the first place. They catch the mice and remove them. Then, there's no more problem and no need to use toxic rat poisons. When my sister told me about the DuraProof® 365 Day Challenge I had to call. Here's how it works. Budget install the system in your home. Then, if their DuraProof System does not live up to everything "you" expect, Budget will refund every penny you've paid for one full year. If the mice come back Budget will too, at no additional charge or give you a 100% refund, it's your choice. Now that's a guarantee. I took the DuraProof® challenge, being very skeptical. I had the system installed in my home. It takes about three hours, but it's been a year and I've never been so relieved. Plus, I haven't seen a bug or mouse inside my home since. Budget even gave me 12-month financing at 0% interest! So, if you have a pest problem or your bugman isn't living up to your expectations, don't waste your time and money on pest control. Call Budget and take the DuraProof Challenge!



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