

## Experience the Ten Commandments at Ohr HaTorah

A fantastic experience will be happening on Wednesday, May 15, at Ohr HaTorah. It is the holiday of Shavuot when we relive the monumental event that changed the Jewish landscape forever - the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. The Sanctuary at Ohr HaTorah will be transformed into a spectacular setting which will replicate the scenery from the original Mt. Sinai, where the Israelites received the Torah from God, 3,325 years ago.

All children attending this event will be invited as the guests of honor. They will march in to the sanctuary and be positioned in front of the Bimah as the Ten Commandments are read from the Torah scroll. Just like the first time Moshe proclaimed the children to be the guarantors of the Torah, so it is today, that the children guarantee the Torah will be studied and observed.

The Ten Commandments event begins at 11AM at Ohr HaTorah, 6619 Sardis Road in Charlotte. A delicious dairy feast awaits all guests and there will be an exciting ice cream party for the children. This event is open to the entire Jewish community.

The festival of Shavuot is mostly recognized for its delicious dairy foods such as blintzes and cheesecake. The reason for

this is that on Shavuot the people of Israel received the Torah. One of the first commitments the Jews made to God upon entering this special covenant was to observe the Kasher laws. They were not yet familiar with Kashrut and only ate dairy until they were proficient in their new life style. Thus, it has been a tradition for thousands of years for Jews to feast on dairy foods during the festival of Shavuot in commemoration of this mitzvah.

Another Shavuot tradition is to study the Torah all night long on the first evening of Shavuot. According to the Midrash, the Jewish people slept such a peaceful sleep on the morning when the Torah was to be given that they had to be awakened by God. To make up for this relaxed attitude to this great gift from God, we study the entire night preceding the reading of the Ten Commandments on Shavuot. Many people read the book Tikkun Leil Shavuot, which contains selections from both the Written and Oral Torah. Ohr HaTorah will conduct Torah study classes throughout the night starting at midnight. For more information about our Shavuot programs, please visit our website at: [www.chabadnc.org](http://www.chabadnc.org). ☆

## Havurat Tikvah Springs into Discussion

The summer is rolling in, and Havurat Tikvah is looking to celebrate. We enjoyed a wonderful Lag B'Omer family picnic on April 28, and now we are ready to continue with many more exciting activities. This month's programming features a series of group discussions designed to promote thoughtful discussion among Havurat Tikvah members and guests.

On May 14, we will be joined by Dr. Thomas Kaplan for a Shavuot night of study focused on "Jews of the 19th Century." Dr. Kaplan, an Associate Professor of History at Davidson College, is the author of *The Language of Nazi Genocide*. He also has research interests in linguistics, mass media, and Holocaust history. Feel free to join us for this evening of thoughtful discussion. For more information on time and location, contact us at the information listed below.

On June 19, Rabbi Steve Sager, who returns for a final session in our year-long exploration of "hospitality," will be joining us for a Jewish evening of reflection. Previously, Rabbi Sager has talked about tzedakah, Chesed, and the

importance of being a charitable Jew. Rabbi Sager draws on ancient and modern stories, poems, and teachings to prompt discussion on this fundamental Jewish concept. This fourth session with Rabbi Sager promises to be yet another fascinating exploration of this topic.

To culminate our group studies in the month of May, an Adult Education program will take place on June 1. The presentation will be led by Havurat member Dr. Saul Brenner, Professor of Political Science at UNC Charlotte. Our discussion will stem from the book *Respecting the Wicked Child*, written by Mitchell Silver, a Philosophy professor at the University of Massachusetts. The book focuses on many Jews being modern, secular, and liberal, leading people to ask, "Why be a Jew?" Join us to discuss this question as well as other similar issues of Jewish identity in 21st century America.

To get more information on any of these upcoming events, please visit our Havurat Tikvah website ([havurattikvah.org](http://havurattikvah.org)) and take a look at our calendar.

Our community service groups,



such as the Dilworth Soup Kitchen, Project Linus, and Room at the Inn have also been very active. Room at the Inn especially had a busy few months as they provided many people with shelter from the cold winter.

Havurat Tikvah is an affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, providing a comfortable, family atmosphere where all Jews can feel welcome. If you are interested, we invite you to visit, get to know us, and to become part of our congregation of nearly 60 households.

For more information about any of our other activities, check out our website, [www.havurattikvah.org](http://www.havurattikvah.org), or contact our new member chair, Brian Feinglass, either by email ([membership@havurattikvah.org](mailto:membership@havurattikvah.org)) or by phone (980-225-5330). You can also find Havurat Tikvah and Havurat Tikvah Teens on Facebook. ☆



**Like us on Facebook:  
Charlotte Jewish News**

## An early childhood education is a Smart Investment!

The most rapid phase of a child's development occurs in their first five years of life. These early years are when the brain grows the most — 85% of children's core brain structure is developed by the age of four — **providing the foundation for children's future health, academic success, and social and emotional well-being.**

At CJP, our educational approach values learning experiences through play, with activities and materials that encourage creativity, self-expression and inquiry. Our well-qualified staff, combined with low student-teacher ratios, enables teachers to discover the uniqueness within each child and to help each child develop a sense of mastery and self-confidence in their abilities.



**Charlotte  
Jewish Preschool**

LEARN • GROW • CONNECT

CJP is a partnership of Temple Beth El, Temple Israel & Levine JCC

Register Now for Fall!

- Age 1 thru Pre-K
- Full / Half Day Options
- Located on Shalom Park

To schedule a tour, call 704-944-6776  
or email [akalik@shalomcharlotte.org](mailto:akalik@shalomcharlotte.org)

[www.cjpkids.org](http://www.cjpkids.org) • 704-944-6777 • [facebook.com/The-Charlotte-Jewish-Preschool](https://www.facebook.com/The-Charlotte-Jewish-Preschool)

