

Passover Enthusiasm at Ohr HaTorah

Passover is undoubtedly one of the most important holidays on the Jewish calendar. Judaism considers Passover to be the birthday of the Jewish people and it represents one of the most momentous events in Jewish history.

Passover is rich in family traditions and many interesting rituals. The focus of the Passover Seder is transmission to the next generation which is seen by the involvement of children in every detail of the Seder. The Seder reaffirms our trust in God that He will once again deliver us from the evil oppressors.

Young Professionals Seder at Chabad of Uptown

Chabad will once again be hosting a Young Adult Seder this coming Passover on both nights of Passover, Friday, April 22 at 7:30 PM and Saturday night April 23, 8 PM. The young adult Seder was a hit with young people over the past few years.

The Seder will be led by Rabbi Motti and Chaya Groner and promises to be an interactive, inspiring, and fun experience and appealing to Jewish young adults in our community.

Participants will learn how the Passover story is applicable to their contemporary lives and will help them deal with the tough stuff life has to offer.

Those joining are encouraged to bring questions with them as a group discussion on the Jewish perspective on personal freedom and liberty will emerge from the Passover readings.

The Seder will be held at Chabad of Uptown, 410 North Smith Street, Suite 1B in Uptown Charlotte. Reservations are required. To reserve please visit thechabadofuptown.com or text Motti Groner at 704-562-3573. ✪



Ohr HaTorah will be providing an educational and instructive class to help people in Charlotte prepare for this festive yet complex holiday. A Practical Guide to Celebrating Passover will be held on Tuesday April 12, 7:30-9 PM. The class will cover practical laws of Passover, and give tips on how to conduct a Seder. This exciting class is also a benefit for those who are not conducting the Seder but would like to learn what the dynamics of the Seder and would also benefit from understanding the whys of many of the rituals and customs that make the Seder special.

It's important to note that one of the traditions in today's times is to sell one's chametz through the Rabbi before Passover. This ensures that there is no chametz in our possession from the eve of Passover through the entire holiday. Sale of chametz forms through Ohr HaTorah will be available on our website www.chabadnc.org. The forms will need to be completed by Thursday April 14.

On Friday, April 22, a Siyum (conclusion of a tractate of Talmud) will be conducted by Rabbi Yossi Groner at 7:20 AM at Ohr HaTorah (at the conclusion of the morning service which begins at 6:30). The purpose of the Siyum is to help the first born avoid the fasting on this day. The logic behind this is that only a feast of mitzvah can override the fast. When a Talmudic tractate is concluded it triggers the need for a feast of Mitzvah.

On Friday, April 22, we may eat chametz until 11:08 AM. We burn the chametz on Friday by 12:14 PM. ✪



Shmurah Matzo Available at Ohr HaTorah

A rich Passover tradition in many Jewish communities is the use of round Shmurah matzo for the Passover Seder. One of the reasons for this custom is that the Shmurah Matzo is the closest replica of the original Matzo the Israelites ate when they left Egypt in haste. This is especially true of the hand-baked Shmurah Matzo where the matzo is prepared and baked by hand in the old fashioned way.

In addition the Shmurah Matzo is baked with extra care which begins from the time of selecting and milling the grains for wheat. Thus the name Shmurah which means guarded. The matzo is made of only two ingredients, natural unbleached wheat and pure well water. The entire process of baking the matzo including the mixing and kneading needs to be completed in less than 18 minutes.

The matzo is baked in an old style brick oven fired by wood

logs which reach very high temperature. The average time it takes to bake the matzo is less than three minutes. The matzo bakery shuts down production every 18 minutes and goes in to a total scrub down. After a careful inspection of all the hand equipment the bakery starts up again. The oven remains fired up all day as the intense heat helps sanitize the oven interior.

A limited amount of Shmurah Matzo will be available for sale at congregation Ohr HaTorah by special order at \$20.50 per pound. If you are interested please visit our website at www.chabadnc.org or call our office at 704-366-3984. ✪



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