

**Now after-work! A great all-new Jewish networking and learning opportunity.
Space is limited so make your reservation now.**



Great networking. Terrific food.

Quality learning. Now that's what we call Happy Hour.

Stem Cell Research. ... Is it Kosher?



It's one of the clearest indications that things have changed in Washington. President Obama lifting the Bush administration's restrictions on federal financing of embryonic stem cell research. A fulfillment of his campaign promise to "restore science to its rightful place."

Because science hopes that this research may lead to treatments for a wide range of degenerative diseases.

But stem cell research – which destroys the embryo – raises profound moral, ethical and religious issues. And much of the opposition to it has come from what's called the "religious right".

... What does Torah and Jewish tradition have to say about these issues?

Join Rabbi Moshe Katz for a fascinating 40-minute presentation of Torah, values, science and modern life. At the all-new, after-work 'Food for Thought'.

... Great networking. Delicious food. Quality learning.

Tuesday, March 31: Networking and Dinner: 5:30-6:10 pm

Presentation: 6:10-6:50 pm

Crowne Plaza-Chicago Metro: 733 West Madison, Chicago

Cost: \$25. Space limited. Advance registration required.

Registration: www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm

Info: info@torahnetwork.org 773.761.0400 x201

Event Hosted by Harold Kaplan



Home for the
Wondering Jew.™

THE CHICAGO TORAH NETWORK SHABBAT FAX[©]

A WEEKLY PRESENTATION OF JEWISH THOUGHT PUBLISHED IN MEMORY OF RAE DANIEL

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 21 FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2009 / 24 ADAR 5769 CANDLE LIGHTING: 6:42 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 7:53 (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: : VAYAKHAIL - PEKUDAI (EXODUS 35:1 - 40:38)

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored by Michelle and Matt Kanter, with much gratitude and blessings to Hashem, on the occasion of their second wedding anniversary.

1. Six days you shall work, but the seventh day is Shabbat to G-d. (35:2)

Think of a man hired to manage a company. The owner gives him complete control.

The manager works hard. Becomes very successful. And very busy.

He doesn't have a free minute.

And each time the owner calls to talk to him, he gets the same message:

"I'm sorry. The manager is tied up right now.

He asked if you could call back later."

... Sure the manager is busy.

But no time for the boss?

Not a very good idea!

... And that's exactly the point of Shabbat.

Judaism teaches that G-d created the world.

And then He gave it to us.

To perfect it. And to enjoy it.

... So we get busy. Very busy.

And then somehow, we get so busy – that we forget about G-d.

Shabbat says: Remember that G-d is the Boss.

Take one day a week – and get in touch with Him.

... And it's not only about connecting to G-d.

There's a book written by two marriage counselors.

They were writing about something that really surprised them.

And really disturbed them.

They found that very often, surprisingly early in married life?

The magic starts wearing off. It's just not the same any more.

And they thought a big part of it had to do with how busy our lives have become.

That we don't even have time to talk to our spouses!

So here's the idea they came up with.

"Pick a 24 hour period. No work. Don't even talk about work. No matter what!

And spend time together”.

Does that sound familiar?

It should.

Because we’ve known about it for 3000 years!

... It’s amazing.

Experts look for ways to address challenges of life in the 21st century.

And what do they come up with?

Shabbat!

STORY OF THE WEEK

It was about sixty years ago.

The Israeli town of B'nei Brak got its first electric streetlights.

For most people, it was a convenience. Something that made walking through the streets at night easier.

But for Rabbi Abraham Karelitz – one of Judaism’s foremost Torah scholars and leaders – it was more.

It was an opportunity to be inspired. And to be reminded about an important lesson in life.

And the next morning he told his students:

“Did you notice what happens to your shadow as you walk towards the light?

When you are far away – your shadow is large.

But the closer you get to the light – the smaller you become.

... And that’s exactly what growth in Torah is all about.

The closer a person gets to Torah. The more he learns. And understands.

The smaller he will be in his own eyes.

The more he will focus on the need – and the opportunities – to grow.”



Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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