

**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 22 FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2009 / 2 NISSAN 5769 CANDLE LIGHTING: 6:50 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 8:01 (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: VAYIKRA (LEVITICUS 1:1 - 5:26)

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored by Yra Harris and Family, "in memory of Brinah bas Avrohom haKohain, whose wisdom, guidance and compassion are greatly missed, but enjoyed by Hashem in Olam Habah."

1. If a person ... commits a robbery ... he must return the stolen money ... (5:21-23)

Robbery. Theft.

What comes to mind, is taking someone else's money.

Something that is obviously wrong.

But Jewish tradition takes it a lot further.

... One example? Suppose I'm having 'one of those days' at the office.

I'm up against a very tight deadline.

Everything seems to be going wrong.

And I'm going crazy.

And then? In walks a stranger.

He says hello.

I hear him. But I'm too busy.

Too involved with my work.

And I don't respond.

The Talmud says that not returning a greeting is also theft.

Why?

Because every person is entitled to be treated with dignity. And respect.

I owe that to him. And I have no right to take it away.

And the Talmud tells us more.

That in a sense, this type of theft is worse.

Because I can always return money.

But it's so difficult to restore a person's dignity.

- *A poor man approached Rabbi Baruch Ber Leibovitz (leading Rabbi in pre-war Europe) for a donation.*

But the Rabbi himself was poor. And really couldn't help much.

The man got up to leave.

And the Rabbi also got up. And walked along with him.

And because he did, a number of his students came along.

... And the poor man actually felt pretty good about the escort he was getting.

Someone asked Rabbi Leibovitz why he did that. And he explained.

"He was probably very embarrassed to ask for charity. And then I couldn't even help him. The least I could do, was help him get back some of his honor.

STORY OF THE WEEK

Rabbi Israel Salanter. One of last century's leading Torah scholars.

Each year before Passover, he personally supervised the baking of the Matzah.

The kneading. The rolling out of the dough. He made sure it was all done perfectly. And quickly.

Otherwise it would become 'chametz'. And not fit for Passover.

... One year he was sick. And his students had to take care of it.

They asked what things to look out for.

What to be extra careful about.

To make sure they got it right.

His answer? "One thing is especially important.

... You know the older woman who kneads the dough at the matzah bakery?

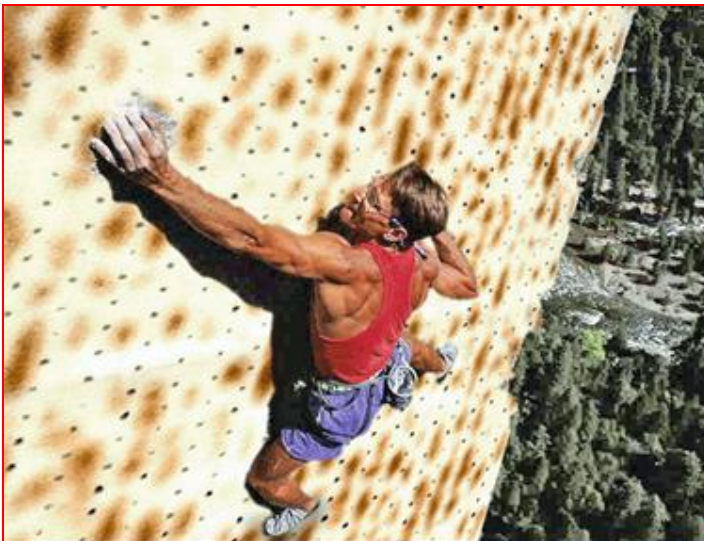
She is a widow. All alone in the world.

So no matter how hectic things get, you must remember one thing.

She has had a very tough life.

And it is absolutely forbidden to raise your voice at her."

FREE PESACH UPGRADE



Join Rabbi Moshe Katz and a great group of CTN participants, this Wednesday evening, for a special pre-Pesach Torah study session, and get a deeper understanding of the Holiday, its rituals and its messages.

**This year, take your
Passover to new heights!**

This Wednesday, April 1, 2009, 8:15 -9:15 pm
At the CTN Center, 2832 W. Touhy Ave., Chicago
773.761.0400 x201 info@torahnetwork.org

Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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