



CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

An intimate space... Grow at your pace.

January 17-18, 2014 ■ 17 Shevat, 5774 ■ Shabbos Parshas Yisro
Candlelighting: 5:27P ■ Shabbos Ends 6:36P

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by the shul. Shalosh Seudos this Shabbos is sponsored by the shul. Please contact Rabbi Yaakov Rich at 972-835-6016 if you are interested in sponsoring kiddush or shalosh seudos in the future.

■ SHABBOS SCHEDULE

Friday Night, January 17th

- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos/Maariv-5:25P
- » Candlelighting-5:27P

Shabbos Day, January 18th

- » Shacharis followed by Kiddush-8:30A
- » Junior Congregation for boys-9:30A
- » **Mommy & Me (in the Rich home)-9:45-10:45A**
- » Shabbos Chassidus Chaburah (at Bloomenstiel home)-4:05P
- » Chumash Shiur (for men & women)-4:15P
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos (men in shul, women at Rich home)-5:15P
- » Shabbos Ends-6:36P
- » Avos u'Banim-7:50P

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

- » Shacharis Sunday-8:00A
- » Shacharis Monday-6:40A
- » **Maariv-9:00P** (throughout the winter)
- » Beis Medrash-every night at 9:15P

■ WHAT'S NU AT CTC

From the CTC President: As members of Congregation Toras Chaim, my family and I have felt fortunate and privileged to be able to daven, learn Torah, and grow in the quality of our relationship with Hashem and with each other. Over time, we have come to rely on the availability of quiet and respectful services, inspirational and crystal clear shiurim, the quick availability of critical halachic advice, and the support and encouragement of a Rabbi Rich.

It is beyond me how our little shul has merited to become a center for serious Torah learning. There is a chabura that gathers at Rabbi Rich's dining room table every Sunday morning at 6:30 AM to learn Hilchos Ta'aruvos from the Germara to the Shuchan Aruch. There is another group learning Mesechtas Megilla that attends a 6 AM shiur and then reviews b'chevrusa after Maariv until 10 PM. And this is in addition to those who have committed to learn Daf Yomi. There is also a group of men who meet with Rabbi Rich and a group of women who meet with Rebbetzin Rich to learn Torah-based guidance on how to improve and strengthen their marriages, and during the Shabbos Chumash shiur, both men and woman have gathered together since the inception of the shul to learn every single Rashi in the Chumash.

Other Rabbis have joined in the effort to bringing serious Torah learning to our community. Rabbi Avi Bloomenstiel has attracted quite a following for his Chassidus class on Shabbos as well as his Sunday "Back to Basics" class. Many women are strengthening their knowledge of Hilchos Shabbos with the Shabbos Halacha class given by Rabbi Bodenheimer at his home every Wednesday. Rabbi Shapiro has recently started a very popular Tanya class given every Thursday, and people are leaning Lashon HaKodesh in earnest with Rabbi Benklifa every Sunday. There is even a Junior Congregation and Shalosh Seudos for the boys every Shabbos led by the very popular Simcha Itskavich.

All of this is in addition to the wonderful family/social atmosphere that permeates everything at the shul through such programs as: Mommy & Me and Coffee Club for women & children on Shabbos mornings led by Shuli Bloomenstiel, Shalosh Seudos every Shabbos afternoon at the Rich home, and special women's only and children's only events during Chanukah and Purim; Learn and Burn and Tasting 36 programs for men; Friday night catered dinners, Oneg Shabboses, and Shabbatons; and our famous community wide Non-Holiday party and Lag B'Omer BBQ. Oh, and who can forget our incredible Purim Seudah open to all.

We must keep in mind that this explosion in Torah learning and programming did not occur by chance. Rather, we have arrived at this point as a result of many individual commitments to make a fixed time for learning, to daven in a minyan, and to grow in observance of Torah and mitzvos. We have also made this journey because of Rabbi Rich's ceaseless commitment to our shul and its members.

In addition to our commitment to learn and to grow is our obligation to financially support the tzibbur, or congregation, to ensure that we and our families and our community may continue to benefit from

what Congregation Toras Chaim makes possible. One important way to support CTC is through membership.

This year's membership rates are \$1200 per family, which includes high-holiday tickets for all immediate members of the family, members-only pricing on shul events, preferential pricing on various sponsorships, as well as the right to participate in and vote in congregational meetings and participate in a leadership role in the congregation. For example, the member in good standing cost of sponsoring a Kiddush going forward will be \$150, while the non-member cost will be \$250. Please speak with me, or Wes Sutkin concerning convenient ways that membership may be paid.

I encourage everyone who has personally benefitted from what CTC has to offer, and everyone who has been inspired by the strength and commitment to Torah learning that Rabbi Rich and CTC has brought to North Dallas, to join me in supporting CTC by renewing and/or establishing a membership.

Ben Nise, CTC President

- » **CTC Art Sale:** The art fundraiser at Congregation Toras Chaim is an opportunity to acquire meaningful Jewish art while supporting both artist and community. Our prices are far, far below and other retail dealers, whether sold through a bricks and mortar store, or online. But don't take our word for it. Visit the art site at <http://toraschaimart.weebly.com/index.html> to see our offerings and compare our prices with others. Or call 818.445.1941 for inquiries. Our stock will be constantly rotating as we sell what we have and replace them with others. If you see a picture you like today, it may not be here tomorrow!
- » **Rabbi's Reflections:** CTC Winter Speaker Series: A Bi-Weekly Conversation with Leading Dallas Rabbonim. Listen to the insights and outlooks of our local Torah scholars as they share with us the Talmudic wisdom necessary to build a vibrant, strong and growing Jewish community.
 - **Wednesday, January 22, 2014: Rabbi Ranaan Broderick, shlit" a - Shechita: Business or Avodas HaKodesh (Holy Service).** An insider's view of the world of shechita, including a show-and-tell of real specimens. Rabbi Broderick, who is a practicing shochet, is known as a serious Talmid Chacham and a real cut-up!
 - **Wednesday, February 5, 2014: Rabbi Yerachmiel Fried, shlit" a, Rosh Kollel, DATA - From Jerusalem with Love.** Rabbi Yerachmiel Fried, a student of the greatest Roshei Yeshivah of our generation, including the venerable Gadol HaDor, HaRav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach, zt"l, began DATA as a center of outreach and inreach, including teaching the next generation of rabbis at the highest level of Torah scholarship. Talmud Torah combined with love of every Jew has made DATA into one of the primary engines that drives the growth of Judaism in our community.
- ... more speakers on the horizon
 - Wednesday evenings (see dates), 8-9 PM (Except Rabbi Fried's talk will be 7:30-8:30 PM)
 - For men and women
 - No charge
 - Congregation Toras Chaim, 7103 Mumford Ct., Dallas, TX 75252

■ REFUAH SHELAIMA

- » Shmuel ben Rina (Friend of Bruce Dunn)
- » Malka Shulamis bas Leah (Mother of Ari Goldberg)
- » Yael Miriam bas Chaya (Niece of Hillel & Jill Lichtenstein)
- » Mattisyahu Chaim ben Ettel (HaRav Mattisyahu Solomon)
- » Ella bas Naomi (Cousin of Naomi Goldberg)
- » Baruch Tzadik ben Chava (Relative of Jill Lichtenstein)

■ SNOWBALLS ON SHABBOS: RABBI YEHUDA SPITZ

With the after-effects of the Yerushalayim Asarah B'Teves / Erev Shabbos "Blizzard" of 5774 [seemingly the worst since 5547 (1787), or at least 5717 (1957)] still lingering, and the 'Arctic Vortex' or 'Polar Blast' recently causing record-breaking freezing temperatures all across the Eastern United States (when Niagara Falls freezes over and Polar Bears prefer to stay indoors, you know it's C-O-L-D), there is one specific Halacha sheilah that readily comes to mind. The very same one that my kids asked me several times over that snowed-in Yerushalayim Shabbos several weeks ago: Is

making snowballs permitted on Shabbos? And if not, why?

Truthfully, the question is far more complex than one might think with, quite interestingly, no clear-cut consensus as to the proper rationales and reasons, even among those who deem it prohibited.

HOTZA'AH Yet, one very important fact is clear. If the Eruv is down, or in a locale that does not have an Eruv, outdoor snowball fights (unless in a walled-in Reshus HaYachid) would certainly be forbidden, as throwing snowballs would transgress the prohibition of Hotza'ah, Carrying.

However, to define which actions or set of actions define snowball making, and whether or not it is prohibited, is not so simple. Let us explore these issues further.

MUKTZEH First of all, is snow actually Muktzeh? Is one allowed to move it?

The common consensus is that rain is not Muktzeh, even if it fell on Shabbos, as proven by Tosafos, as the moisture existed beforehand in the form of clouds.

Many poskim, including the Chavos Yair, Even HaOzer, Maamar Mordechai, and the Butchatcher Rav, as well as many contemporary authorities including the Minchas Shabbos, Rav Tzvi Pesach Frank, Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach, Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv, the Debreciner Rav, Rav Ovadia Yosef, Rav Chaim Kanievsky, the Nishmas Shabbos, and Rav Pesach Eliyahu Falk, define snow similarly, maintaining that the same rationale permitting utilizing rain on Shabbos applies to snow as well, and it is not Muktzeh.

However, Rav Moshe Feinstein held that snow is indeed considered Muktzeh, as nowadays people generally do not have a real use for it, and is akin to gravel, in that its main use is simply to walk on it. Additionally, he held that snow would be prohibited due to another concern as well. In Rav Feinstein's assessment, snow would be considered Nolad (came into existence on Shabbos) if it fell on Shabbos, since, as opposed to rain, people do not associate snow with being carried in the clouds.

An interesting upshot of this shitta is that although he held snow to be Muktzeh, Rav Moshe did not ascribe any other prohibition to making snowballs. Accordingly, Rav Moshe would hold that if one gathered snow on Erev Shabbos and set it aside for a snowball fight on Shabbos (within an Eruv, of course) then one may make and throw those snowballs on Shabbos!

BONEH On the other hand, many other authorities, although maintaining that snow itself is not Muktzeh, nevertheless held that making snowballs on Shabbos is problematic for other reasons, chief among them Boneh, Building. The Rambam, cited as halacha by the Mishna Berura, discussing cheese-making, rules that anytime one takes separate parts and joins them together to make a new item, it is 'similar to Boneh' and therefore prohibited on Shabbos.

The Chavos Yair, Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach, and Rav Chaim Kanievsky, as well as others, apply this rule to the formation of snowballs, prohibiting them. Although by making snowballs one is not actually creating something new, he is still giving form to something new, which gives the appearance of and is akin to building.

Yet, other poskim, including Rav Moshe Feinstein, the Debreciner Rav, and the Nishmas Shabbos disagree, maintaining that the prohibition of Boneh can only apply when someone builds something which has at least a semblance of permanence. Snowballs, they argue, which have a transient and ephemeral existence, lasting a grand total of several seconds from time of throwing, cannot be included in the 'building' category. Nonetheless, they concede that when it comes to building snowmen, which generally are meant to stick around until they melt several days later, it would be proscribed due to Boneh.

RISUK Another potential prohibition involved with making snowballs on Shabbos is Risuk, mashing or crushing, related to the prohibition Sechita, squeezing (as in squeezing out juice from a fruit). The Shulchan Aruch regarding washing one's hands on Shabbos with icy or snowy water rules that one should be careful not to rub his hands together with the ice as

it may crush the ice, causing it to melt and his unwittingly transgressing the prohibition of Risuk.

Several authorities, including the Chavos Yair, and the Debreciner Rav, apply this ruling to making snowballs. In the formation of a snowball by applying direct pressure to it, one cannot avoid crushing the snow, causing a bit of it to melt. Ergo, they explain, snowballs would still be prohibited to make on Shabbos for this reason.

However, Rav Moshe Feinstein and the Nishmas Shabbos disagree. They aver that any miniscule amount of water that is possibly melted while forming a snowball outdoors in the freezing cold is definitely not noticeable, and in no way would it constitute crushing or squeezing out a liquid.

MORE MELACHOS? Other potential prohibitions in the formation of snowballs mentioned by some authorities and rejected by others include: Ma'amar, gathering (i.e. gathering the snow to make the snowballs), Uvda D'Chol, weekday activities, and Soser, destroying (i.e. when the thrown snowball hits its target and consequently falls apart).

In the final analysis, although there are some poskim who give a dispensation to allow young children to make and throw snowballs on Shabbos; nevertheless, the vast majority of authorities rule that it is assur, period. In fact, the Chavos Yair states that if one sees children throwing snowballs at each other, one should attempt to stop them.

Although they do not see eye to eye in their rationales, and there is no clear cut consensus as to the singular reason why it should be prohibited, all the same, the hachra'as haposkim is indeed that making snowballs on Shabbos, and certainly making snowmen, is assur. Just another reason to stay and play indoors when a 'Polar Vortex' comes a' knocking.

■ PARSHA Q&A: YISRO

1. Yitro had 7 names. Why was one of his names Yeter? 18:1 - Because he caused a parsha to be added to the Torah. Yeter means addition.
2. News of which two events motivated Yitro to come join the Jewish People? 18:1 - The splitting of the sea and the war against Amalek.
3. What name of Yitro indicates his love for Torah? 18:1 - Chovav.
4. Why was Tzipora with her father, Yitro, and not with Moshe when Bnei Yisrael left Egypt? 18:3 - When Aharon met Moshe with his family on their way down to Egypt, Aharon said to Moshe: "We're pained over the Jews already in Egypt, and you're bringing more Jews to Egypt?" Moshe, hearing this, sent his wife and children back to Midian.
5. Why does verse 18:5 say that Yitro came to the desert — don't we already know that the Bnei Yisrael were in the desert? 18:5 - To show Yitro's greatness. He was living in a luxurious place; yet he went to the desert in order to study the Torah.
6. Why did Moshe tell Yitro all that G-d had done for the Jewish People? 18:8 - To draw Yitro closer to the Torah way of life.
7. According to the Midrash quoted by Rashi, how did Yitro respond when he was told about the destruction of Egypt? 18:9 - He grieved.
8. Who is considered as if he enjoys the splendor of the Shechina? 18:12 - One who dines with Torah scholars.
9. On what day did Moshe sit to judge the Jewish People? 18:13 - The day after Yom Kippur.
10. Who is considered a co-partner in Creation? 18:13 - A judge who renders a correct decision.
11. "Moshe sat to judge the people, and the people stood before Moshe..." What bothered Yitro about this arrangement? 18:14 - Yitro felt that the people weren't being treated with the proper respect.
12. Why did Yitro return to his own land? 18:27 - To convert the members of his family to Judaism.
13. How did the encampment at Sinai differ from the other encampments? 19:2 - The Jewish People were united.

Good Shabbos

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■ WEEKLY CLASSES (see website for more detail)

» Morning Gemara Makkos for men (M-Fr, 6-6:35A)

» Daf HaYomi for men (Sunday-Thursday 8-9P)

» Shabbos Chassidus Chaburah for men (10 mins before Chumash shiur)

» Chumash for men & women (Shabbos one hr before mincha)

» Hilchos Taaruvos for men (Sunday 6:30-8:00A)

» Back to Basics with Rabbi Bloomenstiel for m&w (Sun 8:45-9:45 AM)

» Marriage Made in Heaven for men (Monday 7:15-8:00P)

» Marriage Made in Heaven for women (Tuesday 7:15-8:00P)

» Shabbos in Halacha for women with Rabbi Bodenheimer (Wed 7-8 PM)

» Tanya for men & women with Rabbi Shapiro (Thur 8:00-9:00P)

All classes at 7103 Mumford Ct., except where indicated