



# CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

An intimate space... Grow at your pace.

February 8, 2014 ■ 8 Adar I, 5774 ■ Shabbos Parshas Tetzaveh  
Candlelighting: 5:48P ■ Shabbos Ends 6:56P

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, February 8<sup>th</sup>

- » Candlelighting–5:48P
- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos/Maariv–5:50P

### Shabbos Day, February 9<sup>th</sup>

- » 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)–4:25P
- » Chumash Shiur (for men & women)–4:35P
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos (men in shul, women at Rich home)–5:35P
- » Shabbos Ends–6:56P
- » Avos u'Banim–8:10P

## ■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

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

## ■ WHAT'S NU AT CTC

- » **Announcing the New Executive Director of CTC:** Akiva Meir Hersh has been appointed Congregation Toras Chaim's Executive Director.

Akiva Meir's experience in the nonprofit and business sector will serve CTC well as we build upon the success of Toras Chaim's history and the wealth of resources resident in our members, friends and community. As Executive Director, Akiva Meir will oversee operations of the synagogue in partnership with Rabbi Yaakov Rich and the Board of Directors, with particular emphasis on fundraising, community involvement, and member relations.

Upon accepting the appointment, Akiva Meir said, "Supporting our leaders, growing our membership, raising funds and spreading the word about CTC in the community will help advance CTC's mission of supporting individual, family, and community growth by providing access to a high level of Torah learning against a backdrop that is warm and accepting. I am truly excited to be a part of this great endeavor. Chana Rivka and I care so much for the people of Toras Chaim and are proud to serve them."

In 1990, after receiving a BS in the Behavioral Sciences and an MS in Neuropsychology, Akiva Meir started his career with the State of Texas and the Austin Community College network where he served blind and deaf populations as well as those with Intellectual Disabilities and mental health issues. In 1998, he was hired as the Director of a thriving training and counseling institution well-known across the nation. While Director, he was invited to teach several classes at ACC and the University of Texas. In a short time he acquired the institute, becoming CEO, and successfully grew the business for fourteen years.

When he lived in Israel in 2004, Akiva Meir became interested in advocacy and politics relating to Israel and worldwide Jewry. He founded a non-profit organization with the mission of educating government officials about the State of Israel and advocating for Jewish groups to state and federal congressmen and to members of President George W. Bush's cabinet.

Akiva Meir is currently employed full-time as a mental health counselor at Metrocare Services, a Dallas non-profit organization as well as CEO of Bright Mind Consulting Group. He is a published author, contributing to self-help blogs and psychology articles in various publications. His wife, Chana Rivka, is a Licensed Professional Counselor with over ten years non-profit

management and grant writing experience and is a full-time mom. They are the proud parents of two wonderful children.

- » **Liberty Institute Represents Dallas-Area Jewish Congregation: IN THE CONGREGATION** Liberty Institute is representing a Dallas-based Jewish congregation facing religious discrimination. We recently signed on to help Congregation Toras Chaim in Dallas after it was sued by a neighbor. Members of Congregation Toras Chaim have been meeting in a member's home for quite some time, meeting all safety and traffic requirements. Recently, however, a neighbor became upset about the gatherings and filed a lawsuit seeking to have the meetings stopped. Liberty Institute stepped in to defend the congregation's right to continue its religious meetings in the home. **LOCAL CONGREGATIONS UNDER ATTACK** One of Liberty Institute's four areas of concentration is stopping the growing discrimination against churches and religious ministries. We are fighting to defend and restore the right to:

- Preach and teach without legal reprisal
- Serve the community free from discrimination
- Assemble without government harassment
- Operate according to your beliefs

Alarming, houses of worship—including small bodies like Congregation Toras Chaim—have been increasingly victimized in recent years by unreasonable regulation and litigation that frequently violates their rights. **STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S BACKBONE** In city after city, town after town, for more than three centuries, local houses of worship have been the glue and backbone of American society. They permeate our communities with faith and good works. Now, they are threatened by an increasingly religion-hostile social and political environment. But they still have rights. Many of Liberty Institute's most significant victories have been defending the right of such religious ministries to exist. Recently, one pastor testified that his church would not be here today without our legal intervention several years ago. As we are with Congregation Toras Chaim, we offer legal assistance pro bono to help defend the religious freedoms of individuals, churches and other religious ministries all across the nation. We are able to do this because of you! Your generous financial support enables us to have the necessary staff to take on these critical cases. As attacks on our religious freedom increase like never before, your donations have never been more important. Remember, every dollar donated multiplies in value because of the amazing volunteer attorneys that work with us every day, selflessly donating their time to the cause of religious freedom. **STAY INFORMED** You can also do your part by staying up to date on our cases and other issues affecting your religious freedom, and sharing that information with your friends and family. If you haven't already, be sure to "like" Liberty Institute on Facebook and "follow" us on Twitter. **ABOUT LIBERTY INSTITUTE** Liberty Institute is a nonprofit legal group dedicated to defending and restoring religious liberty across America—in our schools, for our churches, in the military and throughout the public arena. Liberty's vision is to reestablish religious liberty in accordance with the principles of our nation's Founders. For information, visit [www.LibertyInstitute.org](http://www.LibertyInstitute.org).

## ■ REFUAH SHELAIMA

- » Shulamit bas Mikha'ela Tova (Shuli Bloomenstiel)
- » Refael Chanoch ben Fruma (Friend of Avi Harpaz)
- » Mattisyahu Chaim ben Ettel (HaRav Mattisyahu Solomon)
- » Ella bas Naomi (Cousin of Naomi Goldberg)