



CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

An intimate space...Grow at your pace.

May 23–24, 2014 ▪ 24 Iyar, 5774 ▪ Shabbos Parshas Bamidbar, 39th of Omer
Candlelighting: 8:07P ▪ Shabbos Ends 9:16P

Kiddush and Shalosh Seudos this Shabbos are sponsored by the members of the Guarantee Kiddush & Shalosh Seudos Club: Shimshon Cook, Wes & Tricia Sutkin, Yaakov & Susan Rich, Ben & Lauren Nise, Bob & Charlotte Day, David Fisher, Joe & Eliana Higginbotham, Yitzchok & Tami Ellis, Ari & Naomi Goldberg, Eli Goldberg, & Rebecca Bodoff. 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, May 23rd

- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos/Maariv–7:00P
- » Candlelighting–8:07P

Shabbos Day, May 24th

- » Shacharis–8:30A
- » Junior Congregation for boys–9:30A
- » Coffee Club–Canceled
- » Chassidus Chaburah (for men at Bloomenstiel home)–Canceled
- » Chumash Shiur (for men & women)–6:55P
- » Mincha–7:55P
- » Shabbos Ends–9:16P

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

- » Shacharis Sunday–8:00A
- » **Mincha–6:00P / Maariv–9:00P (Sunday–Thursday)**
- » Beis Medrash–every night at 9:15P

■ WHAT'S NU AT CTC

- » **Thank you:** to everyone who helped make this past Lag B'Omer BBQ the most fun and best attended yet. Special thanks to Shimshon Cook, Charlotte & Bob Day, Selina Wortrich, Avrohom Moshe Rich, and last but certainly not least the amazing CTC Rebbetzin for way too much to list. Mazel tov to the Kimmels on winning the coveted horseshoe trophy. Watch out next year. Yes, in this instance revenge is permissible :-)
- » **Congregation Toras Chaim Children's Garden & Playground:** On April 10, 2014, with tremendous Heavenly help and the the assistance of our legal team, the congregation successfully defended itself in a court of law. Now It's Time to Play. Become a partner with the shul in the new Congregation Toras Chaim Children's Garden & Playground. The children need your help. The total amount we need to raise in order to fill the swimming pool, purchase the playground equipment, and the make the environment safe and secure for our children is \$25,000. Your donation will have an immediate impact on the lives of so many. Please give generously and make a difference today! Donate Online Securely
- » **NEW CTC Lost & Found,** inside the CTC Coat Room. Thank you to Ayelet Penrod for initiating this effort.

■ REFUAH SHELAIMA

MEN

- » Eliyahu Lipman bas Leah (Father of Suri Rosenblatt)
- » Yoseif Yitzchok ben Yehudis Chaya (Brother in Law of Yoseif Meir Rich)
- » Mattisyahu Chaim ben Ettel (HaRav Mattisyahu Solomon)

WOMEN

- » Ella bas Naomi (Cousin of Naomi Goldberg)

■ UNIQUE APPRECIATIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: RABBI LABEL LAM

HASHEM spoke to Moses and Aaron saying: The Children of Israel shall encamp, each man by his division, with the flag staffs of their fathers' house; some distance from the Tent of Meeting they shall encamp. (Bamidbar 2:1)

With the flag staffs: Every division shall have its own flag staff, with a colored flag hanging on it; the color of one being different from the color of any other. (Rashi)

Every division shall have its own flag staff, with a colored flag hanging on it; the color of one being different from the color of any other. Every division shall have its own flag staff, with a colored flag hanging on it; the color of one being different from the color of any other. Every division shall have its own flag staff, with a colored flag hanging on it; the color of one being different from the color of any other. Here is the ideal formation of all the tribes as they are configured by HASHEM in the desert. Every individual was included as part of a group that had its own distinct flag and color according to their family. Hmmm! What current lesson can we glean from this ancient mandate?

Every family and individual is gifted with different strengths and challenges. Therefore even if everyone is keeping the same Shabbos Holy, the flavor of their table and every person around that table also varies. How can that personal touch be emphasized and encouraged?

Here are a few activities that have worked wonderfully at our Shabbos table almost every week and we do not get bored. On Friday nights we go around the table with the same question. "What did you do this week that gave you the greatest feeling of accomplishment?" At first when we started this, admittedly, people wanted to run away rather than answer. Now, they can't wait for their chance. Somebody got up early and studied. Someone helped a friend. One week we had three guests and one said he had a nice conversation with his mother. Another said all of Tehillim each day and another made it twice to Shacharis that week. One of our children got an 80% on a math test, claiming it was hard for her and she thought she would fail. One washed a large pile of dishes in preparation for Shabbos. Somebody forgave a friend and somebody else ignored an insult. Every pronouncement is met by a bouncy song to applaud and highlight the feeling of accomplishment.

We came to realize a few important and personal truths in this pastime. People usually feel good about doing something that was hard for them to do or something they did for someone else. Each person reveals a small part of their personal struggle in declaring their individual victory. They learn over time to look forward to doing challenging things and feeling better later and they learn how to reward themselves and feel good about things that are unique to their situation rather than to aim only for generic goals that general society gives recognition to. These discussions can last quite a long time and everyone feels heard and rewarded in the process.

On Shabbos day we play "The Gratitude Game". Rather than lecture about being grateful and feeling good about what we have, we play a fun game. I start, "I am grateful for something that starts with the letter "G" (for example). Suddenly people start to guess items and categories that zero in on thing I have in my mind. Whoever gets it has the chance to state, "I am grateful for something that starts with the letter..."

Everyone should be ready with something that they feel grateful for and turns can be shared or given away to help include those who feel left out or overmatched. Eventually, people of all ages are getting into it. It makes the Shabbat table a fun and interesting place to be, besides quietly teaching us to feel good about the details in our lives.

The combo of these two activities helps us reflect on the two important questions: 1) What are we doing to improve our state of being? 2) How grateful are we for what HASHEM is doing for us?

No two weeks or discussions are ever the same and even if all families in the Jewish Nation would do the same activities at their Shabbos table, no two would ever be exactly alike. Each family and person has their own special flavor -flag and that represents their individual tastes and challenges and their unique appreciations and accomplishments.

■ HALACHIC CHALLENGES OF CHEESECAKE: RABBI YEHUDA SPITZ

The upcoming holiday of Shavuot, aside from its most common name, has several others: Chag HaKatzir (The Holiday of the Harvest), Atzeres (Assembly), Yom HaBikkurim (Day of the offering of the first fruits), and Zman Mattan Toraseinu (The Time of the Giving of the Torah). Yet, in Israel, it has gained a new moniker: Chag HaGvinah - The Holiday of the Cheese! Amazingly, and only in Israel, will you find a Jewish custom that has become so commercialized. Although no one really minds paying a lot less for all the various cheeses on sale during the weeks leading up to Shavuot, still, the idea that a "holiday" can be commercially sponsored (by the cheese companies, no less), should give us pause. Interestingly, having cheesecake on Shavuot is one minhag with which many non-practicing Jews are stringent! Have you ever met someone who turned down a piece of cheesecake? But where does this time-honored traditional custom of consuming cheesecake on Shavuot come from?

Korban Cheesecake?! It seems that the earliest mention of such a minhag is by the great Rema, Rav Moshe Isserles, the authoritative decisor for all Ashkenazic Jewry, who cites the 'prevailing custom' of eating dairy items specifically on Shavuot. Although there are many rationales and reasons opined through the ages to explain this custom, the Rema himself provides an enigmatic one, to be a commemoration of the special Korban, the Shte HaLechem (Two Loaves) offered exclusively on Shavuot during the times of the Beis Hamikdash.

However, since the connection between dairy food and a bread offering seems tenuous, the Machatzis HaShekel offers a remarkable glimpse as to the Rema's intent. The halacha states that one may not use the same loaf of bread at both a dairy meal and a meat meal. The reason for this is that there may be some (possibly unnoticed) residue on the bread, and thus one might come to eat a forbidden mixture of milk and meat. Therefore, in order to properly commemorate this unique Korban which had two loaves of bread, one should have a separate dairy meal aside from the traditional meat meal one has on the holiday. This way, he will be mandated to have separate breads for each of these meals, as the loaf meant for the dairy meal cannot be used for the meat meal and vice versa. Ergo, by having an additional dairy meal, the outcome is a suitable commemoration for this distinctive Korban, as now on Shavuot, two separate distinct breads are being served. The venerated Rav Moshe Feinstein cites this explanation as the proper one for maintaining two separate types of meals on Shavuot, one milky and one meaty.

Terrific! So now we can appreciate that by eating cheesecake on Shavuot, we are actually commemorating a special Korban! But before we sink our teeth into a luscious calorie-laden (it can't be sinful - it's commemorating a Korban!) cheesecake, we should realize that, potentially, there might be another halachic issue involved: the prohibition against baking dairy bread.

Dairy Dilemma Bread has been mankind's basic staple since time immemorial. Therefore, Chazal worried that an unsuspecting person might mistake dairy bread for plain pareve bread and eat it together with meat. He would thus inadvertently violate the prohibition of eating a forbidden mixture of milk and meat. They thereby decreed that one may not bake dairy bread unless certain criteria are met: either changing the shape of the dough prior to baking, making it instantly recognizable to all as milky, or baking dairy bread exclusively in small quantities. The same prohibition and exclusions apply to meaty bread as well, due to bread's propensity to be eaten with a dairy meal.

Although several authorities extend this prohibition to include other baked goods, such as cookies and bourekas, which, if baked milky, might be mistakenly eaten with meat, nevertheless, the prevailing ruling is that the prohibition only applies to bread. Even so, aside from the signs in the bakeries proclaiming which items are dairy and which are pareve, it is nonetheless a widespread practice throughout Israel that bakeries form the dairy baked goods (cheese bourekas, anyone?) in a triangular shape and the pareve ones in a rectangular shape as an extra safeguard against mix-ups.

Does this ruling affect our beloved cheesecake in any way? Actually, not much. In a typical cheesecake, since the cheese aspect of it is quite conspicuous, it would be considered as if produced with a changed shape from standard dough. Additionally, cheesecake is universally recognized as... containing cheese (!), and thus known world-wide as being dairy. No one would make a mistake confusing cheesecake with pareve bread. Therefore, even according to the opinions of those who feel that the prohibition of dairy bread extends to cakes, even so, they all agree it would be permissible to make plenty of cheesecake for Shavuot, even in large quantities.

Thankfully, when it comes time to indulge in a piece of traditional cheesecake on the holiday of Shavuot, we can "have our cake and eat it too," both in the literal sense as well as in the spiritual sense; knowing we have fulfilled the halachic requirements and are even commemorating a unique Korban.

■ PARSHA Q&A: BAMIDBAR

1. Why were the Jewish People counted so frequently? 1:1 - They are very dear to G-d.
2. What documents did the people bring when they were counted? 1:18 - They brought birth records proving their tribal lineage.
3. What determined the color of the tribal flags? 2:2 - Each tribes flag was

- the color of that tribes stone in the breastplate of the kohen gadol.
4. What is the difference between an "ot" and a "degel"? 2:2 - An "ot" is a flag, i.e., a colored cloth that hangs from a flagpole. A degel is a flagpole.
5. How do we see that the Jews in the time of Moshe observed "techum Shabbat" - the prohibition against traveling more than 2,000 amot on Shabbat? 2:2 - G-d commanded them to camp no more than 2,000 amot from the Ohel Moed. Had they camped farther, it would have been forbidden for them to go to the Ohel Moed on Shabbat.
6. What was the signal for the camp to travel? 2:9 - The cloud over the Ohel Moed departed and the kohanim sounded the trumpets.
7. What was the sum total of the counting of the 12 tribes? 2:32 - 603,550.
8. Why are Aharon's sons called "sons of Aharon and Moshe"? 3:1 - Since Moshe taught them Torah, its as if he gave birth to them.
9. Who was Nadav's oldest son? 3:4 - Nadav had no children.
10. Which two people from the Book of Esther does Rashi mention in this week's Parsha? 3:7 - Bigtan and Teresh.
11. Why did the levi'im receive ma'aser rishon? 3:8 - Since the leviim served in the Mishkan in place of everyone else, they received tithes as "payment."
12. Which groups of people were counted from the age of one month? 3:15, 40 - The leviim, and the firstborn of Bnei Yisrael.
13. Name the first descendant of Levi in history to be counted as an infant. 3:15 - Levis daughter Yocheved was born while the Jewish People were entering Egypt. She is counted as one of the 70 people who entered Egypt.
14. Who assisted Moshe in counting the levi'im? 3:16 G-d.
15. Why did so many people from the tribe of Reuven support Korach in his campaign against Moshe? 3:29 - The tribe of Reuven was encamped near Korach, and were therefore influenced for the worse. This teaches that one should avoid living near the wicked.
16. Why did so many people from the tribes of Yehuda, Yissachar and Zevulun become great Torah scholars? 3:38 - The tribes of Yehuda, Yissachar and Zevulun were encamped near Moshe, and were therefore influenced for the good. This teaches that one should seek to live near the righteous.
17. In verse 3:39 the Torah states that the total number of levi'im was 22,000. The actual number was 22,300. Why does the Torah seem to ignore 300 levi'im? 3:39 - Each levi served to redeem a first-born of the Jewish People. Since 300 leviim were themselves firstborn, they themselves needed to be redeemed, and could therefore not redeem others.
18. The firstborn males of the Jewish People were redeemed for five shekalim. Why five shekalim? 3:46 - To atone for the sale of Yosef, Rachels firstborn, who was sold by his brothers for five shekalim (20 pieces of silver.)
19. During what age-span is a man considered at his full strength? 4:2 - Between the ages of 30 and 50.
20. As the camp was readying itself for travel, who was in charge of covering the vessels of the Mishkan in preparation for transport? 4:5 - The kohanim.

Good Shabbos

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■ WEEKLY CLASSES (see website for more detail)

- » Morning Gemara Makkos for men (M-Fr, 6-6:35A)
- » Gemara for Dummies for men (M-Thurs, 6:15-7P)
- » 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