

@ Chabad

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Chabad of Nashville is offering a free Tzedakah box for your home or office, that can be used to fulfill the Mitzvah of giving Tzedakah daily.

The Tzedakah box is a free gift for the first 50 people to contact the Chabad of Nashville office at rabbi@chabadnashville.com

The Questions That Kept Jewish Communities Awake at Night

Rabbi Tiechtel Brings the Drama of Jewish History to Life in New Winter Course

Imagine living centuries ago and facing a life changing dilemma. There is no internet, no search engine, no quick answers. Instead, you write to a rabbi and wait, sometimes for months, for guidance that could shape your future.

This winter, Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel of Chabad of Nashville invites the community to step into those moments through a new six session course, Captivating Cases in Rabbinic Responsa, beginning Wednesday evening, January 21 at 7:00 PM.

Drawing on a remarkable archive of real letters and responses preserved across generations, the course explores the very human questions Jews have brought to their spiritual leaders across history. Through thirty true stories, participants will encounter moments of crisis, courage, compassion, and creativity that reveal how Jewish law has guided real lives in real time.

"You see the entire range of Jewish experience in these cases," Rabbi Tiechtel says. "There are communal disputes, heartbreaking personal choices, encounters with antisemitism, and everyday questions like 'Is my chicken kosher?' What makes them so powerful is how thoughtfully rabbis responded to new and often unprecedented situations."

Developed by the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute, the course opens a window into Jewish life across eras and continents, showing how timeless values met the pressures of changing cultures, technologies, and moral challenges. Along the way, students gain rare insight into how Jewish law actually works, not as a rigid code, but as a living system shaped by empathy, reason, and deep responsibility.

The program is approved for Continuing Legal Education in the state of Tennessee, making it especially appealing to attorneys and professionals interested in legal reasoning, ethics, and precedent.

"Jewish law has never been static," notes Steven F. Friedell, JD, professor of law at Rutgers University Law School. He explains that the course reveals how rabbis responded to dramatic changes in science, politics, and economics while preserving the integrity of Jewish law and the cohesion of Jewish communities.

According to Suzanne Last Stone, JD, professor of Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization at Yeshiva University, students will encounter striking examples of how rabbinic scholars balanced technical legal demands with emotional sensitivity, ethical concerns, and social change.

Whether participants are new to Jewish learning or lifelong students, Captivating Cases in Rabbinic Responsa promises lively discussion, meaningful reflection, and surprising discoveries. Classes will be held in person, with a Zoom option available.

Course at a Glance

Course: Captivating Cases in Rabbinic Responsa

Instructor: Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel

Start Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 7:00 PM

Format: Six sessions, in person or via Zoom

Developed by: The Rohr Jewish Learning Institute, offered in 1,600 locations worldwide

CLE Approved: State of Tennessee

Registration is now open at myjli.com/learn/nashville. For more information, visit chabadnashville.com or call 615 646 5740.

Rabbi Scientist to Challenge Minds and Inspire Hearts at Chabad of Nashville

NASHVILLE, TN - Can ancient faith withstand modern science? Can the Big Bang and the Book of Genesis speak the same language?

Chabad of Nashville will invite the community to explore these big questions when it hosts Rabbi Yechiel Krisch, a rabbi, biomedical scientist, and international lecturer, as Scholar in Residence for the weekend of January 23 and 24, 2025.

Known for his rare ability to make complex ideas both accessible and entertaining, Rabbi Krisch brings together the worlds of laboratory science and Jewish philosophy with clarity, humor, and insight. His talks do not just present information. They spark conversation.

Rabbi Krisch will speak at the TGIS Friday night dinner on Friday, January 23, following Shabbat services beginning at 6:30 p.m., and again at the Shabbat lunch on Saturday, January 24, at 12:30 p.m. Both events are open to the community.

A respected biomedical scientist and science communicator, Rabbi Krisch's work has appeared in The New York Times, Scientific American, and other leading publications. At the same time, he is a rabbi deeply versed in Jewish law, medical ethics, and Hasidic philosophy. This combination allows him to tackle some of today's most fascinating and challenging questions with intellectual honesty and spiritual depth.

Over the course of the weekend, Rabbi Krisch will explore how Judaism engages with modern science, medicine, technology, and ethics, not as an opponent, but as a partner in the search for truth. His lectures have captivated audiences at universities, synagogues, and conferences across the United States and around the world, including London, Spain, Australia, and Israel.

Among the featured topics are A Scientist's Rational Proof for G d and Torah, a

compelling look at belief through the lens of logic and scientific reasoning, and The Age of the Universe, which examines how a 13.7 billion year old universe and a 4 billion year old Earth can be understood alongside the opening chapters of Genesis.

"Rabbi Krisch does not ask people to choose between faith and reason," said Rabbi Yitzchok Tiechtel of Chabad of Nashville. "He shows how they strengthen one another and he does it in a way that is engaging, approachable, and deeply inspiring."

The weekend is designed for students, professionals, skeptics, seekers, and anyone curious about how ancient wisdom continues to speak to modern life.

For more information, visit chabadnashville.com.

Make 2026 a Year of Meaning and Renewal with Scholar in Residence Rabbi Mendel Shmotkin

NASHVILLE, TN — In a time when so many people are searching for deeper meaning, stronger relationships, and a greater sense of balance in their lives, Chabad of Nashville is inviting the community to step back, reflect, and reconnect during a special Scholar in Residence weekend with Rabbi Mendel Shmotkin on January 9 and 10, 2026.

The weekend will explore themes that speak directly to the challenges and opportunities of modern life, including relationships, identity, purpose, and inner growth. Through soulful teachings rooted in Jewish wisdom and presented with warmth and clarity, Rabbi Shmotkin will offer perspectives that feel both timeless and strikingly relevant.

The program begins Friday night, January 9, with a communal Shabbat dinner, creating space for connection and community. Following the meal, Rabbi Shmotkin will present "The Mystical Marriage and the Divine Union," an exploration of how Jewish mysticism understands partnership not only between husband and wife, but between body and soul, action and intention, and the human being and the Divine. In an era when many relationships feel strained or transactional, this talk offers a deeper vision of unity, meaning, and sacred connection that applies to all of us, married or not.

On Shabbat morning, January 10, after services, the community is invited to a communal Shabbat lunch at 12:30 PM. During the lunch Rabbi Shmotkin will deliver a timely and empowering lecture titled "Harnessing the Ego to Serve the Soul in 2026." Rather than viewing the ego as something to suppress or eliminate, Rabbi Shmotkin will explore how Jewish thought teaches us to refine and redirect it. In a world driven by self-promotion, comparison, and constant noise, this session offers practical tools to transform ambition, drive, and self-expression into forces for purpose, growth, and good.

The afternoon will continue with a Torah and Tea study session, a women's learning gathering led by Mrs. Esther Tiechtel from Chabad of Nashville, together with Mrs. Dvorky Shmotkin of Chabad of Glendale, Wisconsin. This session will provide a warm and open environment for women to reflect, share, and draw inspiration from Jewish teachings that speak to contemporary life.

Rabbi Mendel Shmotkin serves as the Executive Vice President of Chabad of Wisconsin, where he oversees 20 institutions and more than 80 programs. Under his leadership, Chabad of Wisconsin has grown into the largest Jewish educational outreach organization in the state. Together with his wife Dvorky, he also directs Chabad of Glendale, Wisconsin. Known for his engaging style and ability to translate deep ideas into accessible insight, Rabbi Shmotkin captivates audiences with teachings that resonate long after the talk ends.

Organizers at Chabad of Nashville describe the weekend as "an opportunity to pause from the pace of daily life and engage with ideas that strengthen the mind, nourish the soul, and uplift the heart." The program is designed for individuals and families at every stage of their Jewish journey.

The Nashville Jewish community is warmly invited to take part in this inspiring Shabbat of learning, connection, and renewal. For more information and to RSVP, please visit: Chabadashville.com



@ Micah

Congregation Micah - an inclusive, innovative synagogue exploring and celebrating Jewish life - is committed to building community and repairing the world! We offer creative and diverse ways to live a Jewish life in Tennessee and beyond, using the rich beliefs and practices of Progressive Judaism as our foundation. Visit our 30+ acre campus or access our virtual programs from our website, www.congregationmicah.org. Like us on socials: Facebook, and Instagram @MicahNashville; learn and pray with us in-person, or livestream our service on our website, YouTube, or Facebook. In our tent, there is room for everyone!

Weekly Events

Sanctuary Shabbat Services: Fridays at 6 PM

At Micah, we approach God in many ways: the inspiration of words, the beauty of sacred space, the authenticity of our intentions, and through the power of music and song. Join us in-person or virtually for services this month that will be as diverse as they are engaging, as moving as they are participatory. Come early and schmooze with us starting at 5:30 PM! Light refreshments are served.

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