

Coverage by **Devorah Klein**

AROUND THE COUNTRY

DALLAS

Shop Local Initiative

In many Jewish communities, movements have been launched, encouraging Jewish community members to shop local and support their local Jewish businesses. With lockdowns due to COVID and as many individuals prefer to stay at home, combined with other factors, people are opting to shop online, or just not to shop at all, especially for non-essential purchases. Consequently, many Jewish businesses are suffering greatly. In an attempt to help *acheinu Bnei Yisrael*, Shop Local initiatives have been founded.

In Dallas, Rabbi Yaakov Rich of Congregation Toras Chaim and editor of *DOJLife*, has launched a Shop Jewish Dallas movement.

“A number of weeks ago, I was sitting with one of our local shopkeepers, and he commented to me that it would be so good if we could start a

buy-local movement. I thought it was a great idea, so we created a poster, logos for all local companies, and an online directory of local Jewish businesses.”

There is a wide range of Jewish businesses in Dallas, including but not limited to restaurants, caterers, doctors and other medical providers, retail establishments, and other service providers, all of whom would appreciate increased business from their local community members.

Rabbi Rich is also trying other initiatives to enhance the *parmassah* options of his fellow Jews in Dallas. For example, on February 2 and 3, there will be an Amazon Bootcamp in Dallas, given by the Orthodox Jewish Chamber of Commerce in New York. The event is co-sponsored by several organizations in the Dallas community.

Coinciding with the Shop Local Dallas, Rabbi Yerachmiel Fried, *Rosh Kollel* of the Dallas Area Torah Association (DATA), delivered a special *shiur* for the community on “The Torah Viewpoint on Sup-

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porting Local Jewish Businesses During COVID-19,” on Thursday, December 31.

Rabbi Fried discussed the various aspects of the relevant *halachos* and concluded that there is indeed a strong obligation to help support Jewish businesses, especially if they are faltering. For example, even if one was not planning to buy food at a restaurant, doing so just for the sake of assisting the business would be a fulfillment of the *mitzvah* of “*v’hechezakta bo.*”

As Rabbi Fried explained in the *shiur* and wrote in a subse-

quent email to the community, “It is truly our obligation to support our local Jewish businesses, especially when they are the source of livelihood of their owners. We need to recognize that our local businesses are a tremendous source of strength to our communities. We gain much by them being with us and owe a debt of gratitude to them for their dedication to us, and tonight is an opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to them for all they do for us. Our appreciation requires us to go out of our way to ensure their survival.”

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ש"ק פרשת בא, תשפ"א

City	Hadlakas Neros	Motzaei Shabbos	Rabbeinu Tam	City	Hadlakas Neros	Motzaei Shabbos	Rabbeinu Tam	City	Hadlakas Neros	Motzaei Shabbos	Rabbeinu Tam	City	Hadlakas Neros	Motzaei Shabbos	Rabbeinu Tam
Antwerp	4:58	6:11	6:29	Denver	4:50	5:59	6:21	Los Angeles	4:56	6:05	6:27	Passaic	4:44	5:53	6:15
Atlanta	5:41	6:50	7:12	Detroit	5:16	6:25	6:47	Melbourne	8:22	9:24	9:52	Philadelphia	4:50	5:59	6:21
Baltimore	4:58	6:07	6:29	Edison NJ	4:46	5:55	6:17	Miami	5:39	6:48	7:10	Pittsburgh	5:08	6:18	6:40
Boston	4:28	5:37	5:59	Haifa	4:33	5:43	6:19	Milwaukee	4:33	5:43	6:05	Seattle	4:38	5:47	6:09
Chicago	4:35	5:45	6:07	Jerusalem	4:29	5:44	6:23	Minneapolis	4:49	5:59	6:21	St Louis	4:54	6:03	6:25
Cincinnati	5:30	6:39	7:01	Lakewood	4:46	5:55	6:17	Monsey	4:43	5:52	6:14	Tel Aviv	4:43	5:45	6:19
Cleveland	5:12	6:22	6:44	Liberty	4:44	5:53	6:15	Montreal	4:29	5:39	6:01	Toronto	4:58	6:07	6:29
Dallas	5:33	6:42	7:04	London	4:19	5:30	5:48	New York	4:43	5:52	6:14	Waterbury CT	4:38	5:47	6:09

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