

CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

Vibrant, Relevant, Meaningful... and Orthodox

January 9-10, 2009 ■ 14 Teves, 5769 ■ Shabbos Parshas Vayechi

Candlelighting 5:21 PM ■ Shabbos Ends 6:25 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by Wes & Tricia Sutkin in honor of Elisheva Rochel Sutkin's 1st Hebrew birthday. Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by Josh & Shoshana Chana Jacobs in honor of our brothers and sisters living and fighting in southern Israel. They fight not only for their friends, families and neighbors, but for all of Klal Yisroel. May we merit the coming of Moshiach, speedily, in our days.

Please contact Shalom Abrams at 903-918-9650 if you are interested in sponsoring kiddush or shalosh seudos in the future.

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January 10th

- » Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)-8:30 AM
- » Chumash Shiur (for men & women)-3:55 PM
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■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE:

- » Sunday Shacharis-8:00 AM
- » Weekday Shacharis-6:40 AM
- » Mincha/Maariv-5:25 PM

■ WHAT'S NU AT CTC

- » **Great News! Congregation Toras Chaim has just passed the 1 ½ year old mark:** A big yasher koach and thank you to all our members and friends who have contributed to the spirit of Torah growth and achievement that defines the CTC family. As with any new non-profit organization, we excelled at being non-profit while struggling with the organization.

However, our foundation is strong, and our desire is great as we move forward into 2009. Our shul has been built on the following: Inspiring programming, such as Shabbatons with Rabbi Eziel Tauber and Rabbi Label Lam; Ongoing classes just about every day of the week; Jam-packed High Holidays services with world-class chazzan Rabbi Moshe Kranz (Who can forget the Avinu Malkeinu at the end of Yom Kippur?); Premium Kosher Meat at Greatly Reduced Prices offered to the community at-large; Minyan three times a day; Purchased land across the street for the future home of Congregation Toras Chaim; State-of-the-art website used to inform users of goings-on in and around the community, and the Jewish world at-large; and the dedicated efforts of so many volunteers who do what can only be described as a labor of love.

We are now ready to take the next step. No, no, no. Put your shovels and hard hats away. We're not there yet. But, we are ready to publish our first shul directory! And, we want to be able to include all our members, friends, and occasional drop-ins in the book. All we ask is that you first commit to 2009 annual dues for either a full membership (\$700) or associate membership (\$360), and then either pay, or make arrangements for payment with Wes Sutkin, our shul president. We have purposely bench marked our dues to be extremely affordable. Stay tuned for additional communications in the coming days.

- » **Dallas Welcomes Rebbetzin Tzipora Heller: Kedusha...It's Not Just For Shabbos: Seeing Hashem's Presence In Our Day-To-Day Lives.** For Women Only (Suggested Donation: \$10.00). Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 8:00 PM | Congregation Ohr HaTorah | 6324 Churchill Way, Dallas, TX 75230. (From the North Eruv: Take Hillcrest south past 635 to Churchill Way. Make a right, and half a mile down the street it will be on the left.) Individual Sponsorships are Available (Minimum Sponsor: \$100). Sponsors are invited to a luncheon with Rebbetzin Heller on Tuesday afternoon. If you are interested please contact Susan Geller at (972) 503-7070 or susan@susanbshpc.com. Sponsoring Organizations: Congregations Ohev Shalom, Ohr HaTorah, Toras Chaim, DATA, Mikvah Israel.
- » **Aishes Chayil Sisterhood Meeting:** Please join us at the shul on Sunday, January 11, 2009 at 10:30 AM for the next Aishes Chayil Sisterhood Meeting. Dr. Noa Hemstrom, PhD, Nursing, will dialogue with us about health and health related issues. Her goal

at this meeting is to learn from us what topics in particular we are interested in. She has so graciously volunteered to share her expertise with us in special health series to be presented one Sunday morning each month. Thank you, Noa! Important planning for our shul will also take place at this meeting.

- » **Critical CTC Childcare Meeting - with PIZZA!:** As you all know, our Shabbos childcare program at CTC is critical to the success of our shul as we continue to grow and thrive in 2009. Over the last 6 months, largely through the dedicated efforts of a few of our teenagers in shul, we have provided vibrant (and free) childcare for children in our shul every Shabbos - rain or shine. We plan to continue to do so going forward, but we need your help. We need to grow our corps of volunteers. Monday the 19th at 7:30 PM, we will be holding a meeting at shul (free Cafe Fino pizza provided by the shul) to discuss how we can continue to ensure our so very important childcare program continues to thrive. Please join us for pizza and a lively discussion on how we can solidify our childcare. All teenagers are invited to join us. We need more helpers, and this is a great way to show the shul your dedication - whether you want to be a leader, or just an occasional helper. Please RSVP to Tricia Sutkin at 972-267-4747 or email at veggiemom@tx.rr.com so we know how much pizza to order!

■ REFUAH SHELAIMA

- » Tehilla bas Soroh (Tehilla Vanfossen)
- » Michal Zev ben Esther Shaindel (Risa Solomon's nephew)

■ BLESSINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS IN DISGUISE BY RABBI LABEL LAM

All these are the tribes of Israel, twelve, and this is what their father spoke to them and he blessed them, he blessed each according to his appropriate blessing. (Breishis 49:28)

How did Yaakov know how to bless each child with the appropriate blessing? That's the \$64,000.00 question. If we knew the answer to that question and could bottle it we'd be rolling in Brochos. Of course Yaakov was imbued with Divine Inspiration. That always helps. However, when we look closely at the blessings we find that that in many cases the future is forecasted from some event in the past. It's never some vague promise based on wishful thinking. Evidence of what's to come is rooted in the behavior manifested in their lifetime, whether good or not. I suppose the trick, then, is to figure out what was the defining trait or choice a person made. Aha! There's the rub. That's hard to know in one's lifetime and sometimes it takes generations to determine which move one made, made the biggest difference for his future.

I remember when Jordie walked on to the campus of Ohr Somayach in Monsey. He still credits me with being one of the first friendly faces to greet him. I'm glad I was in a good mood that day. I don't know if anyone could have seen the future for this fellow or any other for that matter. One of the main keys may have already been embedded some fifty years earlier.

After being in the Yeshiva for a while Jordie, now referred to as Yaakov, went back to Toronto to be with this family. His old European grandfather took a surprise interest in what he was learning. Yaakov told him that he was learning a tractate in the Talmud called, "Bava Kama" not expecting he would know at all what he was talking about. To Yaakov's amazement, his grandfather started to rattle off the entire Mishne of "Hamaniach" and then the Gemora word for word and by heart. Yaakov asked his grandfather where he had learned all that. His grandfather told him that he had gone to Yeshiva-Cheder as a young boy in one of the capital cities

of Torah learning in Europe, in a city named Brisk.

Then, in seeming casual conversation, Yaakov's grandfather revealed a chilling piece of information. During the 2nd World War there was a Rabbi in Toronto, a Rabbi Kaminetzky that approached him about a certain matter. (Little did the grandfather know but this Rabbi that started his rabbinical career in Toronto was later to become one the most famous and influential Torah leaders and teachers of the generation.) The Rabbi knew that he was from Brisk and he therefore made a special emergency appeal to gain the money necessary to help the Brisker Rav to exit Europe. Yaakov's grandfather gave him the money and the Brisker Rav was saved from certain death.

Not only did the Brisker Rav survive the war but he was able to revive his Yeshiva and his family. It would still be a gross understatement to say that an entire generation of Torah scholarship has been brought back to life thanks to that single act of generosity by Yaakov's grandfather but it doesn't end there. This summer, after many years apart, I had the pleasure and honor to join my good friend Yaakov for an inspiring Shabbos in Texas where he is the father of a sizable family of budding scholars and the Rabbi of a burgeoning community. His influence is felt far and wide and so is his grandfather's. Sometimes in not so mysterious ways blessings are not always in disguise.

■ RECOLLECTION AND RECOGNITION

For \$18 you can sponsor a greeting in memory of a loved one, in honor of a deserving friend or family member, or in recognition of an outstanding achievement. Please call Rabbi Rich at 972-248-1324 by Thursday afternoon to place your greeting.

» Mazel Tov to Tzvi Eliezer Rich, who put on tefillin for the first time Friday morning. — *Tatti & Mommy*

■ ONGOING CLASSES

The Shabbos Kitchen: Tuesday, 8:00-9:00 PM

Path of the Just: Wednesday, 8:00-9:00 PM

Women's Chumash: Sunday, 8:00-9:00 PM

■ PARSHA Q&A: PARSHAS TOLDOS

QUESTIONS

1. Why is kindness towards the dead called "chesed shel emet" — kindness of truth?
2. Give three reasons Yaakov didn't want to be buried in Egypt.
3. How do you treat a "fox in his time" (i.e., a commoner who rules)?
4. "When I was coming from Padan, Rachel died on me... I buried her there on the way to Efrat..." Why did Yaakov say all this to Yosef?
5. Initially, why was Yaakov unable to bless Efraim and Menashe?
6. What does pillalti mean?
7. What does "Shechem" mean as used in this week's parsha? (two answers)
8. Which individual is called "the Emori"? Why? Give two reasons.
9. What did Yaakov want to tell his sons but was unable to?

10. What privileges did Reuven lose due to his rash actions?
11. What congregation from Yaakov's offspring did Yaakov not want to be associated with?
12. What did Yehuda do after he heard Yaakov rebuke Reuven, Shimon and Levi? Why?
13. What does milk do to teeth?
14. Why is Yissachar like a "strong-boned donkey"?
15. With what resource did both Yaakov and Moshe bless Asher?
16. In Yosef's blessing, Yaakov said, "They embittered him..." Who are "they"?
17. Which descendants of Binyamin "will divide the spoils in the evening"?
18. From whom did Yaakov buy his burial place?
19. What oath did Yosef make to Pharaoh?
20. Which two sons of Yaakov did not carry his coffin? Why not?

ANSWERS

1. 47:29 - Because the giver expects no reward from the recipient.
2. 47:29 - a) Egypt's ground was to be plagued with lice; b) At the time of the resurrection, those buried outside Israel will suffer; c) So the Egyptians wouldn't make him into an idol.
3. 47:31 - Bow to him.
4. 48:7 - Yaakov thought Yosef harbored resentment since Yaakov had not buried Yosef's mother, Rachel, in the Ma'arat HaMachpela.
5. 48:8 - The Shechina departed from him.
6. 48:11 - "I thought."
7. 48:22 - a) The actual city of Shechem; b) A portion.
8. 48:22 - Esav. a) He acted like an Emorite; b) He trapped his father with words (imrei pi).
9. 49:1 - When mashiach will come.
10. 49:3 - Priesthood and Kingship.
11. 49:6 - Korach and his congregation.
12. 49:8 - He drew back. He was afraid that Yaakov would rebuke him for the incident with Tamar.
13. 49:12 - It makes them white.
14. 49:14 - Just as a donkey bears a heavy burden, so the tribe of Yissachar bears the yoke of Torah.
15. 49:20 - Oil-rich land.
16. 49:23 - Yosef's brothers, Potifar and his wife.
17. 49:27 - Mordechai and Esther.
18. 50:5 - From Esav.
19. 50:6 - Yosef swore not to reveal Pharaoh's ignorance of Hebrew.
20. 50:13 - Levi, because he would carry the aron (holy ark). Yosef, because he was a king.

Good Shabbos

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■ WEEKLY CLASSES

- » **Amud Yomi:** Gemara for men with Rabbi Yaakov Rich (M-Fr, 6-6:35 AM)
- » **Chumash** for women with Rabbi Yaakov Rich (Sunday 8:00-9:00 PM)
- » **The Shabbos Kitchen** for men and women with Rabbi Yaakov Rich (Tuesday 8:00-9:00 PM)
- » **Path of the Just** for men and women with Rabbi Yaakov Rich (Wednesday 8:00-9:00 PM)
- » **Chumash** for men and women (Shabbos one hour before Mincha)

Unless otherwise noted, all classes are in the shul.