

CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

Toras Chaim means a Torah of life and a living Torah, a Torah which permeates every part of our existence, and is relevant to all that we do. It is vibrant, exiting and meaningful. The goal of Congregation Toras Chaim is to create a center for Jewish living that is built on these principles.

AUGUST 31–SEPTEMBER 1, 2007 · 17 ELUL, 5767 · SHABBOS PARSHAS KI SAVO
CANDLELIGHTING 7:34 PM · SHABBOS ENDS 8:36 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by the shul. Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by the shul.
Please contact Shalom Abrams at 903-918-9650 if you are interested in sponsoring kiddush or shalosh seudos in the future.

□ SHABBOS SCHEDULE:

August 31st

» Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos–7:00 PM

September 1st

- » Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)–9:00 AM
- » Chumash Class (for men & women)–6:05 PM
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos–7:05 PM
- » Shabbos Ends–8:36 PM

□ WHAT’S NU AT CTC:

- » **Selichos:** Saturday, September 8, 2007 begins selichos for this year. The halacha is that we don’t start until after chatzos (mid-night), therefore, we will begin with a shiur at 12:45 AM, followed by selichos at 1:15 AM. All men and women are strongly encouraged to attend, as this sets the tone for the entire Yomim Noraim (Days of Awe).
- » **Machzorim:** We are looking forward with great anticipation to the High Holiday season. As we are a new shul with limited resources we will not be able to provide machzorim (High Holiday prayer books) for all who will be attending services during Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. We want the experience to be as positive and uplifting for everyone as possible. Therefore, please make sure that you have your own copy for use. We recommend the ArtScroll Hebrew / English or Interlinear Machzorim. We will be calling out pages based on the Artscroll Hebrew / English Machzor. Please call Harold Wolf at Lone Star Judaica at 469-467-4759 to order your copies. Mention that you are from Congregation Toras Chaim, and the shul will benefit with a financial contribution based on the cumulative order. **All orders must be placed no later than the end of business, Monday, September 3, 2007.**
- » **Kittels:** The custom of the shul is that all married men wear a kittel—a long, white, cotton garment—the entire day of Yom Kippur. Please, order one for yourself, if you don’t already own one, from Lone Star Judaica as well.
- » **Lulav & Esrog Sets:** Please use attached flyer to purchase a Lulav and Esrog set from our very own David Wiseman and Zaide Reuven’s Esrog Farm. **Must order no later than September 9, 2007.** David has announced that all profits from orders originating from Congregation Toras Chaim will be given back to the shul. Thank you very much, David.
- » **CTC Board Elected:** Mazel Tov to the shul and the following members, who were unanimously elected, at the first congregational meeting and vote, to serve on the CTC Executive and Advisory boards.

Executive Board

- » President – Shalom Abrams
- » Treasurer – Ken Jarmel
- » VP/Sec – Travis Katz

Advisory Board

- » Ellen Gutgold Shelly Newman Tamar Reynolds
- » Lauren Lucks Joel Taurog Abigail Ruttenberg
- » Gavin Kam Trish Sutkin

□ AHAVAS CHESED (LOVING KINDNESS)

Only Hashem can make miracles, but the Jewish people—by keeping Hashem’s Presence before them— can elicit miracles. The way to make Hashem an active presence in one’s life is through acts of chesed. The Chofetz Chaim relates that chesed is the currency with which the Jewish people acquire redemption. Chesed was the catalyst for the redemption from Egypt, and it will set in motion the process of the Final Redemption as well.

In Egypt, under harsh circumstances that could easily have stripped the Jewish slaves of their humanity, they remained humane and caring toward each other. The Sages relate, “They made a covenant among themselves to do chesed with one another.” Even in their state of exhaustion and despair, they would periodically gather to reinforce for each other the legacy of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They never lost sight of their obligation to serve Hashem and help each other in any way possible. On the surface, the Exodus appears to have been brought about by the plagues Hashem brought upon the Egyptians and miracles he performed for the Jews. Beneath the surface, however, chesed was the operating force that set the redemption in motion. The Jews’ compassion for one another brought Hashem into their presence. Because they kept Hashem in the picture, Hashem could use His supernatural power on their behalf.

In the jubilant song, “Az Yashir,” that the Jews sang upon the splitting of the Red Sea, the primacy of chesed comes to the forefront. “You have guided us through mercy. You have redeemed this people,” the song exclaims. The Chofetz Chaim teaches that the Sages find further meaning in the verse “With Your kindness You guided this people that You redeemed.” Hashem’s guiding hand was activated not only by His own trait of mercy, but by the compassion the Jews showed to one another. Through chesed they kept Hashem before them, and therefore, He was there to guide them.

This dynamic opened the channels of miracles and wonders for the Jews in Egypt, and it has remained in force throughout every exile. As chesed strengthens among the Jewish people, Hashem’s Presence strengthens as well. Ultimately, through this means, Hashem will be present in full force once again to guide His people, fight their battles and lead them to the Final Redemption.

From the Appel Edition: Chofetz Chaim Loving Kindness by ArtScroll

□ 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 Ellen Gutgold at (972) 818-4021 by Thursday afternoon to place your greeting.

□ ONGOING CLASSES

- » All ongoing classes are on hold until after Succos.

QUESTIONS

1. When did the obligation to bring bikkurim begin?
2. Bikkurim are from which crops?
3. How does one designate bikkurim?
4. Who shakes the basket containing the bikkurim?
5. What does “v’anita v’amarta” mean?
6. Which Arami “tried to destroy my father?”
7. When during the year may bikkurim be brought? Until when are the special verses recited?
8. Someone declaring that he separated terumah and ma’aser says: “And I didn’t forget.” What didn’t he forget?
9. What were the Jewish People to do with the 12 stones on Mt. Eval?
10. Six tribes stood on Mt. Eval and six on Mt. Gerizim. Who and what were in the middle?
11. Who “causes the blind to go astray?”
12. How does one “strike another secretly?”
13. Eleven curses were spoken on Mt. Eval. What is the significance of this number?
14. Why are sheep called “ashterot”?
15. How is the manner of expressing the curses in Parshat Bechukotai more severe than in this week’s parsha?

ANSWERS

1. 26:1 - After the Land was conquered and divided.
2. 26:2 - The seven species for which Eretz Yisrael is praised.
3. 26:2 - When he sees the first fruit ripen on a tree, he binds a piece of straw around it to mark it as bikkurim.
4. 26:4 - The kohen places his hands under the hands of the one bringing it, and they wave the basket together.
5. 26:5 - Speak loudly.
6. 26:5 - Lavan.
7. 26:11 - Bikkurim are brought from Shavuot until Chanukah. The verses are recited only until Succot.
8. 26:13 - To bless G-d.
9. 27:2 - Build an altar.
10. 27:12 - Kohanim, levi'im and the Holy Ark.
11. 27:18 - Any person who intentionally gives bad advice.
12. 27:24 - By slandering him.
13. 27:24 - Each curse corresponds to one of the tribes, except for the tribe of Shimon. Since Moshe didn’t intend to bless the tribe of Shimon before his death, he did not want to curse them either.
14. 28:4 - Because they “enrich” (m’ashiroi) their owners.
15. 28:23 - In Bechukotai the Torah speaks in the plural, whereas in this week’s Parsha the curses are mentioned in the singular.

Good Shabbos

WEEKLY TEFILLAH TIMES

- » Sunday morning: 8 AM
- » Weekday Shacharis: 6:40 AM
- » Mincha for the week of Sept. 2, 2007: 7:25 PM

SHABBOS TIMES AND SCHEDULE

- » August 31-September 1, 2007 - 18 Elul
- » Mincha / Kabbalos Shabbos: 7 PM
- » Shacharis: 9 AM
- » Chumash Class (Rabbi Rich): 6:05 PM for men and women
- » Mincha / Shalosh Seudos: 7:05 PM / Sunset: 7:51 PM
- » Maariv / Shabbos Ends: 8:36 PM

WEEKLY CLASSES

- » Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:45 PM: Mincha, followed by Learn to Learn the Talmud for men with Rabbi Yaakov Rich, followed by Maariv. (On hold until after Succos)
- » Tuesdays 8 PM: Tefillah for women with Mrs. Suri Rosenblatt (Please call 972-392-9949 for starting date and details) (On hold until after Succos)
- » Wednesdays 8 PM: Path of the Just for men and women with Rabbi Yaakov Rich (On hold until after Succos)
- » Shabbos one hour before Mincha: Chumash for men and women
- » Sundays after Shacharis: Laws of Tefillin for men
- » Sundays 8 PM: Chumash for women (On hold until after Succos)
- Unless otherwise noted, all classes are in the shul.