

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.

NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 1, 2007 · 21 KISLEV, 5768 · SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYEISHEV
CANDLELIGHTING 5:03 PM · SHABBOS ENDS 6:05 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored Rabbi Yaakov and Susan Rich and family in honor of Eliyahu Switzer and Rachel Offenberg, on their recent engagement. 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:

November 30th

- » Candlelighting–5:03 PM
- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos–5:05 PM

December 1st

- » **Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)–8:30 AM**
- » Chumash Class (for men & women)–3:35 PM
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos–4:35 PM
- » Shabbos Ends–6:05 PM

■ WHAT’S NU AT CTC

- » **Tuesday, December 4, 2007:** Chanukah begins in the evening.
- » **Wednesday, December 5, 2007:** At Maariv, we begin to include “ותן טל ומטר” into the Shemoneh Esrei.
- » **Mazel Tov to Rachel Offenberg & Eliyahu Switzer** on their engagement. Rachel is in her second year as a teaching intern at Mesorah High School for Girls. Eliyahu is the son of CTC member, Chayamiriam Taurog. Mazel Tov to Chayamiriam and Joel Taurog on this great simcha. We wish the Chasan & Kallah, and their families much Brocha V’Hatzlocha, and that the wedding should be B’Sha’ah Tova U’Mutzlachas.
- » **We are very pleased to announce that on Monday, November 20, 2007, a contract was executed to purchase the property located directly across the street from our current shul.** The property consists of two adjoining vacant lots which side on Hillcrest and face Winding Rose Trail and Windrock. This is the proposed site for our new shul building. **Update:** A shul meeting has since taken place. The room was full. Members and Friends of Congregation Toras Chaim were in attendance. Everyone was very excited about the possibility that Hashem has presented us with. The vote was unanimous to purchase the two adjacent lots. We have already actively started fundraising for at least the down payment, if not the entire cost of the land. Best case scenario would be to turn the two lots into one lot. But this will require city approval, and neighborhood passivity. With Hashem’s help we will have Brocha V’Hatzlocha in moving forward, buying the land and building our new home.
- » **Here is a list of the speeches Rabbi Tauber will deliver during the upcoming CTC Shabbaton:**
 - **Friday Night, Dec. 14th,** as part of the Shul Dinner (By Reservation Only): Appreciating Life — Happiness Under Any Circumstance (\$50 per person)
 - **Shabbos Morning, Dec. 15th,** After Kiddush: Marriage — How to Build a Happy Home
 - **Shabbos Afternoon, Dec. 15th,** at Shalosh Seudos: Trust in G-d vs. Trust in Man — How to Find the Proper Balance
 - **Saturday Night, Dec. 15th,** Melava Malka (By Reservation Only): Crucial Actions for Critical Times — Understanding the Uniqueness of Today’s World (\$10 per person, adults only)
 - **Sunday Morning, Dec. 16th,** Breakfast (By Reservation Only): A Comprehensive View of the Days of the Moshiach (Messiah) (\$10 per person, adults only)There are a limited number of seats available and all will be sold, through this website, on a first-come, first-served basis. Clicking on the Register Now button on the website will enable you to register for any or all of the events listed above. Any questions, please email Rabbi Yaakov Rich at yrich@toraschaimdallas.org or Shalom Abrams at shalomabrams5761@aol.com. This promises to be a life-changing event.

■ AHAVAS CHESED (LOVING KINDNESS) BY THE CHOFETZ CHAIM:

When one refuses to do a chesed, he may believe that he is doing nothing wrong. Rather, he may think he is simply bypassing the opportunity to do something right. There is, however, a designation for such a person that denotes just how wrong his omission is. The Chofetz Chaim quotes the verse in Devarim (15:8) that calls someone who averts his eyes from the needs of the poor a “bli-al.” This, says the Chofetz Chaim, is a true badge of shame, a nametag no one should wish to wear. A “bli-al,” directly translated, is a person “without a yoke.” This is someone who has squirmed out from under the yoke of Torah to live a life dedicated to his own personal gains. It is someone others cannot trust, for he does not bind himself to the Torah’s definition of right and wrong. He is not perceived as a basically good person making a mistake; he is actively vilified. The Torah urges a Jew to stay away from such a person (Gittin 36a). Furthermore, the Chofetz Chaim urges a Jew to stay away from becoming such a person and to understand just how low a character this “bli-al” is seen to be. He traces the Torah’s disdain to the verse from the Talmud (Kesubos 68a) that equates the person who turns away from chesed with an idol worshipper: “The person who hides his eyes from the opportunity to give tzedakah, it is as if he serves idols.”

One must stay away from those who do not wish to lend money. This applies especially to the time preceding the Sabbatical year, for in that year, all debts are forgiven. The “bli-al” cynic, at a time when the communal responsibility to provide support is heaviest, will find reasons to ignore others’ needs to protect his own capital. Having done that, the verse continues, he will go out among the people and convince them to worship idols.

Obviously, no Jew wants to fall into a category the Torah deems worthy of ostracism. No one wants his reputation tarnished with the dishonorable title of “bli-al.” Nonetheless, there are those who find chesed and inconvenient intrusion into their real agenda, and to them, the Chofetz Chaim is sending a message: If the agenda doesn’t list chesed as its first priority, the yoke of Torah is not being properly worn, for chesed is the purpose of a Jew’s existence.

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.

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■ ONGOING CLASSSES

Recipe for Spiritual Greatness
Path of the Just–Mesilas Yesharim: Wednesday, 8-9 PM

Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzato, better known as the RaMCHaL, authored a book on spiritual and character development that is widely considered to be the quintessential book of its kind. In fact, the Vilna Gaon said of himself that he would crawl across Europe to learn in the dust of the RaMCHaL’s feet.

Spend an hour each week with Rabbi Yaakov Rich, developing a Torah approach to personal growth using the ultimate self-help book. Discover qualities and potential you never knew you had, as you climb the ladder toward spiritual greatness.

There is no cost for the class, but participants will need to purchase a copy of Path of the Just, which is available by Feldheim in Hebrew with an English translation. Books are available for purchase from Lone Star Judaica, at the corner of Hillcrest and Frankford. This class is for men and women, from beginner to advanced. The class is taught every Wednesday, 8 PM at Congregation Toras Chaim, 17912 Hillcrest Rd., Dallas, TX 75252.

Women’s Chumash: Sunday, 8-9 PM

Even if you have never attended, feel free to join, as we are at the beginning of new Parsha. There is no cost. All Hebrew is read from the original source and translated. Various commentaries are presented, primarily Rashi’s, and a lively discussion ensues, as we try to understand the profundity of the text. For women beginner to advanced. Please bring a chumash that contains at least the text of Shemos (Exodus) preferably with Rashi’s commentary.

■ PARSHA Q&A: PARSHAS VAYEISHEV

QUESTIONS

1. “These are the offspring of Yaakov: Yosef....” Give three reasons why Yosef is considered Yaakov’s main offspring.
2. What was praiseworthy about the fact that Yosef’s brothers did not speak to him in a friendly manner?
3. How do we see from Yosef’s dream about the sun, moon and stars that all dreams contain some untrue element?
4. Who brought Yosef down to Egypt?
5. Where was Reuven when Yosef was sold?
6. In addition to the brothers, who else knew that Yosef was alive?
7. Why didn’t G-d reveal prophetically to Yaakov that Yosef was alive?
8. For how long did Yaakov mourn the loss of Yosef?
9. Verse 37:35 states “his father wept.” To whom does this refer?
10. Who was Tamar’s father?
11. In what merit did Tamar deserve to have kings as her descendants?
12. Why is the word “hand “ mentioned four times in connection to the birth of Zerach?
13. Why does the Torah relate the incident with Potiphar’s wife immediately after the incident of Yehuda and Tamar?
14. How did Potiphar “see” that G-d was with Yosef?
15. Who in this week’s Parsha pretended to be sick?
16. Why were the butler and the baker imprisoned?

17. For how long were the butler and the baker in prison?
18. How did the baker know that Yosef had correctly interpreted the butler’s dream?
19. What prompted the butler and baker to tell Yosef their dreams?
20. How was Yosef punished for asking the butler for help?

ANSWERS

1. 37:2 - (a) Yosef was the son of Rachel, Yaakov’s primary wife. (b) Yosef looked like Yaakov. (c) All that befell Yaakov befell Yosef.
2. 37:4 - They did not act hypocritically.
3. 37:10 - The moon represented Rachel. Since she had already died, it was impossible for that element of the dream to come true.
4. 37:28 - A caravan of Midianites.
5. 37:29 - He was attending to Yaakov.
6. 37:33 - Yitzchak.
7. 37:33 - Because the brothers had issued a ban against revealing the truth to Yaakov, and G-d, so to speak, abided by their ban.
8. 37:34 - Twenty-two years.
9. 37:35 - Yitzchak, who wept because of Yaakov’s suffering.
10. 38:24 - Shem.
11. 38:26 - In the merit of her modesty.
12. 38:30 - To allude to his descendent, Achan, who sinned with his hand by taking four things from the spoils of Jericho.
13. 39:1 - To teach us that just as Tamar acted with pure motives, so did Potiphar’s wife.
14. 39:3 - Yosef mentioned G-d’s name frequently in his speech.
15. 39:11 – Potiphar’s wife.
16. 40:1 - The butler was imprisoned because a fly was found in the king’s goblet, and the baker was imprisoned because a pebble was found in the king’s bread.
17. 40:4 - Twelve months.
18. 40:5 - The baker dreamed the interpretation of the butler’s dream.
19. 40:6 - Yosef asked them why they looked troubled.
20. 40:23 - He remained in prison an additional two years.

Good Shabbos

SHABBOS TEFILLAH TIMES

- » Candlelighting–5:03 PM
- » Friday Night, November 30, Mincha / Kabbalos Shabbos–5:05 PM
- » **Shabbos morning–8:30 AM**
- » Shabbos Mincha–¾ hour before sunset
- » Chumash Class (Rabbi Rich)–3:35 PM for men and women
- » Mincha / Shalosh Seudos–4:35 PM / Sunset–5:22 PM
- » Maariv / Shabbos Ends–6:05 PM

WEEKLY TEFILLAH TIMES (for the week beginning December 2, 2007)

- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40 AM
- » Beginning Wednesday morning, davening will be at 6:25 AM

during Chanukah

- » Sunday Shacharis–8 AM
- » Mincha / Maariv–5:05 PM Standard Time

WEEKLY CLASSES

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

Unless otherwise noted, all classes are in the shul.