

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 9-10, 2007 · 29 CHESHVAN, 5768 · SHABBOS PARSHAS TOLDOS, SHABBOS MEVORCHIM
CANDLELIGHTING 5:11 PM · SHABBOS ENDS 6:13 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by the Rutenbergs in honor of Yoni's Bar Mitzvah parsha and Abigail's mom's continued good health. 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 9th

- » Candlelighting-5:11 PM
- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos-5:10 PM

November 10th

- » **Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)-8:30 AM**
- » Chumash Class (for men & women)-3:45 PM
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos-4:45 PM
- » Shabbos Ends-6:13 PM

■ WHAT'S NU AT CTC

- » **December 14-16, 2007 is the date of our first Shabbaton, when we will be hosting the world famous speaker, Rabbi Ezriel Tauber.** He is the author of many books, including: Choose Life, To Become One, Darkness After the Dawn, as well as many more on Jewish living and self esteem. He has lectured in every corner of the world, and has reached more people than any Jewish speaker today. His message is profound, relevant and very original. We are very excited to be able to have this time together with Rabbi Tauber. **Look for the sign up for the various events be posted to the website early this week.**
- » **DATA Presents Dallas Conference for Jewish Women:** Sunday, November 11th. 10:00 AM - 2:45 PM at the Westin Park Central. Keynote speaker, Jill Kaisman. Workshops, breakout groups and lots of camaraderie. Dedicated in memory of Eleanore Rudd.

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

The average person living the average life does not think of himself as world leader able to influence destiny with his every action. Most people are content if they can just keep their own small corner of the universe in order. The Chofetz Chaim urges each Jew to rethink that assessment and realize that every act, and every failure to act, sets in motion forces that can envelop hundreds - even thousands - of lives.

For example, perhaps a man is on the verge of bankruptcy. His friend is in a position to help the man reestablish his business on a firmer footing. The friend debates with himself: Should he provide a loan and take a chance on losing his money, or should he let his friend try to find some other way out? Finally, the man decides to take the risk and help his friend.

The business survives. The 150 workers the business employs remain employed. They are saved from the grim prospect of coming home to announce they've lost a job. The marital stress that job loss might have caused in some homes never comes to pass. One worker who was on the verge of buying a house is able to close the deal and resettle his family in a safe, clean neighborhood where his children thrive. Another is able to afford a home-care aide for his elderly mother. The restaurant across the street from the business maintains its steady lunch-time clientele, as does the newspaper vendor, the drugstore and the candy shop. The friend who made loan reaps the reward for all of this, and the further, nearly infinite ways in which his good deed reverberates into the future.

A decision not to help would also have vast repercussions, for which the friend would bear some responsibility. Perhaps the business would have collapsed and the workers would have been dismissed. In many households, this would have meant a terrible rise in the level of tension. Perhaps some marriages would have disintegrated amid fighting and rancor. Perhaps a child would have fled from the turmoil and turned to unsavory friends for companionship. Some of the workers would almost certainly have suffered

health problems as a result of the strain - maybe serious of fatal problems. The employee on the verge of buying a house would have had to scuttle his plans, leaving his family in an unsafe, crime-ridden neighborhood. The man who hired the aide for his mother would have had to put his mother into a nursing home - a move she was loath to make. All these people's miseries would have landed, at least in part, upon the lap of the man who could have helped, but didn't.

In tracing the trajectory of the friend's actions in the above example, the Chofetz Chaim illustrates that there really is no such thing as a private individual, living his won, quiet life. Each person is actually an important public figure. His every deed and decision has the potential to light up the worlds of people he may never even contemplate, and his reward in Heaven takes every spark of that light into careful account.

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.

- » Belated Mazel tov to Shira Rutenberg on her recent birthday from the Rich children. *the Rich children*

■ 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 NOACH

QUESTIONS

1. Why was it important that Yitzchak look like Avraham?
2. Why does the Torah stress that Rivka was Betuels daughter and Lavans sister?
3. What are the two differences between Tamars pregnancy and Rivkas pregnancy?
4. Why was Esav named Esav?
5. Who gave Yaakov his name?
6. How did Esav deceive his father?
7. Why was Esav faint when he returned from the field?
8. Why are lentils a food for mourners?
9. What was the birthright that Yaakov bought from Esav?
10. Why was Yitzchak not permitted to go to Egypt?
11. Why did the Philistines plug up the wells?
12. Why did Yitzchak lose his sight? (three reasons)
13. At what age should one anticipate his own death?
14. Why did Rivka ask Yaakov to bring two kid goats?
15. Why did Esav leave his special garments with Rivka?
16. What fragrance did Yitzchak detect on Yaakovs garments?
17. What was the “fat of the land” promised to Esav?
18. When will Esav be freed from subjugation to Yaakov?
19. What inspired Esav to marry the daughter of Yishmael?
20. Knowing that Machalat was Yishmaels daughter, its self-evident that she was the sister of Nevayot. Why, then, does the Torah state that Esav married “Yishmaels daughter, the sister of Nevayot?”

ANSWERS

1. 25:19 - So everyone would agree that Avraham was indeed his father.
2. 25:20 - To praise her, that even though her family was evil she was righteous.
3. 25:24 - Rivka gave birth at full term to two children, one righteous and one wicked. Tamar gave birth after seven months to two righteous children.

4. 25:25 - He was born fully developed. The name Esav is based on the Hebrew word for “made”.
5. 25:26 G-d.
6. 25:27 - Esav deceived Yitzchak by asking questions that suggested that he was very strict in mitzvah observance.
7. 25:29 - From having murdered.
8. 25:30 - They are round like a wheel and mourning is like a revolving wheel that eventually touches everyone.
9. 25:31 - The right to bring sacrifices.
10. 26:2 - Through the akeida he had attained the status of a korban and was forbidden to leave Eretz Canaan.
11. 26:15 - They felt that either marauders would attack to capture the wells, or, if attacking for other reasons, they would use the wells as a water supply.
12. 27:1 - a) From the smoke of the incense offered by Esavs wives to their idols; b) From the angels tears which fell into Yitzchaks eyes at the time of the akeida; c) In order for Yaakov to receive the blessings.
13. 27:2 - When he reaches five years from the age his parents were when they passed away, until five years after.
14. 27:9 - One for Yitzchak and the other to offer as a korban Pesach.
15. 27:15 - He suspected that his wives might steal them.
16. 27:27 - The scent of Gan Eden.
17. 27:36 - Italy.
18. 27:40 - When the Jewish People transgress the Torah.
19. 28:7 - Seeing that his father despised his current wives, he resolved to take a wife from his father’s family.
20. 28:9 - To indicate that Yishmael died between her betrothal and her wedding, and that it was Nevayot who gave his sister in marriage to Esav. Knowing the date of Yishmaels death, we can determine the date of Esavs marriage and thus Yaakovs age, 63, at the time of his flight from Esav.

Good Shabbos

SHABBOS TEFILLAH TIMES

- » Candlelighting–5:11 PM
- » Friday Night, November 9, Mincha / Kabbalos Shabbos–5:10 PM

» Shabbos morning–8:30 AM

- » Shabbos Mincha–¾ hour before sunset
- » Chumash Class (Rabbi Rich)–3:45 PM for men and women
- » Mincha / Shalosh Seudos–4:45 PM / Sunset–5:28 PM
- » Maariv / Shabbos Ends–6:13 PM

WEEKLY TEFILLAH TIMES (for the week beginning November 11, 2007)

- » Sunday Shacharis–8 AM
- » Mincha / Maariv–5:10 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.