

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.

DECEMBER 21-22, 2007 · 13 TEVES, 5768 · SHABBOS CHAZAK, SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYECHI
CANDLELIGHTING 5:07 PM · SHABBOS ENDS 6:10 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by Shalom & Shira Abrams in gratitude to Hashem for His gift of land to the shul, and in honor of those people who so generously donated to help us buy the property. 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:

December 21st

- » Candlelighting–5:07 PM
- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos–5:05 PM

December 22nd

- » Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)–8:30 AM
- » Chumash Class (for men & women)–3:40 PM
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos–4:40 PM
- » Shabbos Ends–6:10 PM

■ WHAT’S NU AT CTC

- » **Mazel Tov to the members of Congregation Toras Chaim:** The past three weeks were spent fundraising at a furious pace to try to raise the \$50,000+ needed for the down payment to purchase the land across the street from the shul. Baruch Hashem, we reached our goal, and today we closed on location of the future home of Congregation Toras Chaim. Thank you to all who generously gave, at whatever level, to this project. May we merit to make a great Kiddush Hashem moving forward.
- » **Rabbi Tauber Shabbaton was a great success:** Last Shabbos we had the good fortune to hear from a Torah giant and speaker of unusual talent on issues that are the most fundamental in the life of a Jew. The success, however, was due to those people who worked so hard to make the Shabbos run so smoothly. Most notably we want to extend our appreciation to Shalom & Shira Abrams. Shalom who orchestrated the entire Shabbaton, including shlepping, cleaning, and setting up the shul, and his home for two big events, and made the entire weekend run like a fine Swiss watch. And to Shira, who with a team of dedicated ladies prepared the food for the Friday night meal in shul, and for the Saturday night Melava Malka. Thanks also to the Reynolds and Abrams families for transporting the chairs Saturday night to and from the Abrams’ home.

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

Schoolchildren share a common habit. As the teacher launches into the new subject, students’ hands shoot into the air to ask the question, “Is there going to a test on this?” The prospect of a test influences how closely they will pay attention. The Chofetz Chaim lets every Jew know that in life, there are indeed going to be tests. Careful attention must be paid to the criteria for those tests, for the results go on a record that is not only permanent, it is eternal.

The Chofetz Chaim cites a Midrash (Shemos Rabbah, Parshah 31:3) that says, “There is no one Hashem doesn’t test.” A rosh yeshivah once counseled a man who had run into difficult times in the later years of his life. He told the man that life is like school, a person is tested, first at an easy level, and then at increasingly more difficult levels as he progresses through his “courses.” Even when he reaches graduation, there can be further tests—perhaps the most difficult of his life. If he passes them, he reaps the benefits forever.

Wealth and poverty are tests, the Midrash continues. With poverty, the test is simple to recognize. Deprivation and suffering clearly try a person’s faith and strength. Those who pass this test, who accept their lot without resentment, lack for nothing in the World to Come. The test of wealth is more subtle, for wealth is also a very recognizable blessing. A rich person passes his test by keeping his hand open to the poor. Through his treatment of the poor, he earns the right to keep his money and enjoy it in this world as a dividend, while the principal, the true reward, remains intact for him in the world to come.

Tehillim (41:2) further clarifies the test of wealth: “Fortunate

is the one who deals wisely with the poor. On the day of evil, Hashem will save him” The rich man is required to deal wisely with the poor—to care for him in a way that is appropriate and dignified. By doing so, he will acquire the best possible insurance; Hashem will save him from Gehinnom on “the day of evil,” his Day of Judgment.

In the final analysis, one’s wealth is defined not by what one has, but by what one has given away. In the times of Baron Rothschild, the king demanded to know exactly how much the Rothschilds’ assets were worth. The baron brought the king a ledger, in which a figure was tallied. “This is a large amount,” said the king. “But I know you are worth much more. Give me a true figure.”

“This is a list of my charities,” the baron explained. “You asked to know how much I’m worth, and this is all I really own. The rest is up in the air.”

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 (ON BREAK UNTIL JAN. 6, 2008)

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.

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

SHABBOS TEFILLAH TIMES

- » Candlelighting–5:07 PM
- » Friday Night, December 21, Mincha / Kabbalos Shabbos–5:05 PM
- » **Shabbos morning–8:30 AM**

- » Chumash Class (Rabbi Rich)–3:40 PM for men and women
- » Mincha / Shalosh Seudos–4:40 PM / Sunset–5:25 PM
- » Maariv / Shabbos Ends–6:10 PM

WEEKLY TEFILLAH TIMES (for the week beginning December 23, 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.