

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.

JANUARY 18-19, 2008 · 12 SHEVAT, 5768 · SHABBOS PARSHAS BESHALACH, SHABBOS SHIRA
CANDLELIGHTING 5:29 PM · SHABBOS ENDS 6:33 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by Elliot & Carol Litoff. 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:

January 18th

- » Candlelighting–5:29 PM
- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos–5:30 PM

January 19th

- » Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)–8:30 AM
- » Chumash Class (for men & women)–4:05 PM
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos–5:05 PM
- » Shabbos Ends–6:33 PM
- » **Mincha/Maariv (for week beginning January 20th)–5:35 PM**

■ WHAT'S NU AT CTC

- » **Father & Son Overnight:** We will be departing on the overnight right after Shabbos, and we are all looking forward to a wonderful time. Please don't forget to compensate Shalom Abrams \$25 per family for expenses.
- » **New Course at CTC: The Kosher Kitchen** The initial class was very well attended, but we can always accommodate so more. It is not too late to join. Please sign up at www.toraschaimdallas.org.
 - Taught by: Rabbi Yaakov Rich
 - When: Tuesdays, 8 PM (Starting January 15, 2008)
 - Course Length: Approximately 25 Weeks
 - Location: Congregation Toras Chaim, 17912 Hillcrest Rd.
 - Prerequisites: None. No background in Hebrew reading or translation required.
 - Cost: Your commitment of one hour per week, but free of charge
 - Reserve your spot: Online at www.toraschaimdallas.org
- » **Ask the Rabbi** The newest addition to the Toras Chaim website is the "Ask the Rabbi" page, <http://www.toraschaimdallas.org/ask-the-rabbi/>. This form makes it easy for one to ask questions and get a timely written response. Please take advantage.

■ 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.

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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.

■ PARSHA Q&A: PARSHAS BESHALACH

QUESTIONS

1. What percentage of the Jewish People died during the plague of darkness?
2. Why did the oath that Yosef administered to his brothers apply to Moshe’s generation?
3. Why did the Egyptians want to pursue the Jewish People?
4. Where did the Egyptians get animals to pull their chariots?
5. What does it mean that the Jewish People “took hold of their fathers’ craft” (tafsu umnut avotam)?
6. How did G-d cause the wheels of the Egyptian chariots to fall off?
7. Why were the dead Egyptians cast out of the sea?
8. To what future time is the verse hinting when it uses the future tense of “Then Moshe and Bnei Yisrael will sing”?
9. Why are the Egyptians compared to stone, lead, and straw?
10. The princes of Edom and Moav had nothing to fear from the Jewish People. Why, then, were they “confused and gripped with trembling?”
11. Moshe foretold that he would not enter the Land of Israel. Which word in the parsha indicates this?
12. Why is Miriam referred to as “Aharon’s sister” and not as “Moshe’s sister”?
13. The Jewish women trusted that G-d would grant the Jewish People a miraculous victory over the Egyptians. How do we see this?
14. Which sections of the Torah did the Jewish People receive at Marah?
15. When did Bnei Yisrael run out of food?
16. What lesson in derech erez concerning the eating of meat is taught in this week’s Parsha?
17. How did non-Jews experience the taste of the manna?
18. The Prophet Yirmiyahu showed the Jewish People a jar of manna prepared in the time of Moshe. Why?
19. Which verse in this week’s parsha alludes to the plague of blood?
20. Why did Moshe’s hands become heavy during the war against Amalek?

ANSWERS

1. 13:18 - Eighty percent (four-fifths).

2. 13:19 - Yosef made his brothers swear that they would make their children swear.
3. 14:5 - To regain their wealth.
4. 14:7 - From those Egyptians who feared the word of G-d and kept their animals inside during the plagues.
5. 14:10 - They cried out to G-d.
6. 14:25 - He melted them with fire.
7. 14:30 - So that the Jewish People would see the destruction of the Egyptians and be assured of no further pursuit.
8. 15:1 - Resurrection of the dead during the time of mashiach.
9. 15:5 - The wickedest ones floated like straw, dying slowly. The average ones suffered less, sinking like stone. Those still more righteous sunk like lead, dying immediately.
10. 15:14 - They felt horrible seeing Israel in a state of glory.
11. 15:17 - “T’vi-aimo...” -- “Bring them” (and not “bring us”).
12. 15:20 - Aharon put himself at risk for her when she was struck with tzara’at. (See Bamidbar 12:12)
13. 15:20 - They brought musical instruments with them in preparation for the miraculous victory celebration.
14. 15:25 - Shabbat, Red Heifer, Judicial Laws.
15. 16:1 - 15th of Iyar.
16. 16:8 - One should not eat meat to the point of satiation.
17. 16:21 - The sun melted whatever manna remained in the fields. This flowed into streams from which animals drank. Whoever ate these animals tasted manna.
18. 16:32 - The people claimed they couldn’t study Torah because they were too busy earning a livelihood. Yirmiyahu showed them the manna saying: “If you study Torah, G-d will provide for you just as he provided for your ancestors in the desert.”
19. 17:5 - “And your staff with which you smote the river....”
20. 17:12 - Because he was remiss in his duty, since he, not Yehoshua, should have led the battle.

Good Shabbos

SHABBOS TEFILLAH TIMES

- » Candlelighting–5:29 PM
- » Friday Night, January 18, Mincha / Kabbalos Shabbos–5:30 PM
- » Shabbos Morning, January 19–8:30 AM

- » Chumash Class (Rabbi Rich)–4:05 PM for men and women
- » Mincha / Shalosh Seudos–5:05 PM / Sunset–5:48 PM
- » Maariv / Shabbos Ends–6:33 PM

WEEKLY TEFILLAH TIMES (for the week beginning January 20, 2007)

- » Sunday Shacharis–8 AM

» Mincha / Maariv–5:35 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.