

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.

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2008 · 17 ADAR I, 5768 · SHABBOS PARSHAS KI SISA
CANDLELIGHTING 6:01 PM · SHABBOS ENDS 7:04 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:

February 22nd

- » Candlelighting–6:01 PM
- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos–6:00 PM

February 23rd

- » Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)–8:30 AM
- » Chumash Class (for men & women)–4:35 PM
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos–5:35 PM
- » Shabbos Ends–7:04 PM

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE:

- » Sunday Shacharis–8:00 AM
- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40 AM
- » Mincha/Maariv–6:05 PM

■ WHAT'S NU AT CTC

- » **Davening Commitment:** The center of life in every shul is its minyan. Without a place to daven, three times a day, a shul is nothing more than an outreach center or a social club. As members of a shul we need to show our commitment to those who need a minyan to say Kaddish, and to Hashem, to Whom we must ask and thank for all that we have.

We are not asking for a pledge of dollars, but of time. Consider which days you can accept as “your days.” This means you agree to come to minyan, Shacharis and/or Mincha/Maariv, on those days, and if for whatever reason you are unable to make the minyan, you will find a replacement. A list of minyan-aires with phone numbers will be made available.

Three things I ask everyone to remember when choosing days:

- “I pledge to come (or find a replacement) on the day(s) I choose.”
- “I pledge to come on time.”
- “I pledge to come with smile” ☺

Of course everyone is encouraged to come more often than just the pledged days, and since davening to Hashem is one of the most rewarding things one can do, I suspect that most will. However, if we can at least keep to our pledges it will go a long way toward building Congregation Toras Chaim into a vibrant center of Jewish life in Far North Dallas.

Thank you for your support of our shul.

Rabbi Yaakov Rich

- » **Yad Eliezer for Matanos L'Eveyonim:** Do your family and friends really need another Shalach Manos package this year, while so many of our brethren are going hungry in Israel? Give the same wishes and feed a hungry Jewish child by sending “In Lieu of Shalach Manos” cards. Each card is only \$5.00. All proceeds go to Yad Eliezer, the largest hunger relief organization in Israel.

Israel's neediest people are waiting for Purim, for on that day it is a special mitzvah to give gifts of money to the poor. This year, fulfil the mitzvah at its highest level. Give directly to needy Jews in Israel. 100% of money given through Yad Eliezer will be distributed directly. Last year, Yad Eliezer distributed \$220,000 on Purim day. This year, you too can be a part.

Contact: Chayamiriam Taurog at (972) 735-0274 or chayamiriam@sbcglobal.net or give directly to Yad Eliezer to fulfil your Matanos L'Evyonim (money to the poor) obligation on Purim.

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

The rich man may realize that his blessings are G-d given. Nevertheless, he may harbor the inner belief that Hashem gave these gifts to the right person—himself—a whirling vortex of energy who

achieves success by virtue of his ceaseless effort. The poor man, in the view of some successful people, does not have what it takes. He fails to go out there and “grab the bull by the horns,” and therefore, he has not achieved success. Furthermore, even if the rich man loans him money, his rationale goes, the poor man will still be incapable of making it. To this, the Chofetz Chaim answers: Be aware that Hashem invested the rich man with strengths, and Hashem formed the poor man with his weaknesses. Isn't a poor man who is without talent and drive even more worthy of mercy?

The rich man should instead examine his own flaw—his willingness to say, “I can't give,” when the reality is “I don't want to trouble myself to give.” In the previous week's lesson, the Chofetz Chaim provided an acronym representing the justifications that people use to avoid chesed. The first letter of the acronym, “yud,” and the “yirah” – fear—that it represents, is now explored in yet another form. This is the fear of one who tells himself that he cannot give because he may need the money. He fears that he will miss some golden opportunity at just the moment that the money leaves his hands.

To some extent, this fear is reasonable. The Torah teaches that a person's own welfare takes priority over that of his friend. If one has a real need for the money—one is saving for his first house, trying to start a business or has other pressing needs—he has the right to politely decline to make the loan. Often, however, these needs are not the ones being anticipated by the man fearful of lending. Instead, his mind is abuzz with “Maybes.” Maybe his stockbroker will call with a fantastic opportunity. Maybe his boss will offer to sell him an interest in the business. These are dreams the person may have harbored for years; only because someone is asking for the money do they suddenly seem like real possibilities. Chances are, they will remain dreams, even if the person keeps his money. If he loans the money to someone who needs it, however, something concrete is achieved. The borrower has the money he needs, and the lender has the merit of an act of chesed.

The “what if” justification rings even more hollow when voiced by someone wealthy and well established. One who already owns dozens of properties, already has widespread investments and business interests, is still liable to think that he must have all his money accessible. After all, how did he get to his current station in life if not by taking advantage of every opportunity? In fact, his concern is unfounded, because one more investment or purchase will not significantly alter his status. On the other hand, that same money could put another person on a whole new footing. It might get him started in business, get him out of debt, or pay his children's tuition.

The successful man must realize, says the Chofetz Chaim, that if the possibility of making another million keeps him from lending, he is ultimately impoverishing himself. He may make every penny there is to be made in this world, but he will arrive empty-handed in the World to Come.

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 Rabbi Rich at 972-248-1324 by Thursday afternoon to place your greeting.

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■ONGOING CLASSES

The Kosher Kitchen: Tuesday, 8-9 PM

The Kosher Kitchen is a course designed to help in the intricacies of what goes into the making and upkeep of a kosher kitchen. This course is for you, whether you do, or don't, have a background in kosher living. Topics to be covered include: Koshering Treif Utensils, Koshering Ovens, Sinks, Appliances and Tabletops, Tevilas Kalim, Pas Akum / Pas Palter, Bishul Akum / Maids, Intro. to Mixtures of Meat and Milk / Types of Cooking / Chanukah candles, Maris Ayin / Pareve Eggs/ Cheese / Gelatin, Serving Meat and Milk/ Waiting Between Meat and Milk, Eating on non-Kosher plates /non-Kosher Restaurant, Food Flying Around the Kitchen, Splashes During Cooking, Using the Wrong Spoon at the Wrong Time, Separating Meat and Milk, Washing Dishes/ Dishwasher Problems

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 KI SISA

QUESTIONS

- 1. How many “geira” are in a shekel?
- 2. What was the minimum age of military service in the Jewish army?
- 3. What were the three different types of terumah donated?
- 4. The Jews were counted after Yom Kippur and again after Pesach. Both times they numbered the same amount. How can this be? Didn't some 19-year olds turn 20 during that six month period?

- 5. How many ingredients comprise the incense of the Mishkan?
- 6. According to Rashi, why are sailors called “malachim?”
- 7. What is the difference between chochma (wisdom), bina (understanding), and da'at (knowledge)?
- 8. Shabbat is a “sign.” What does it signify?
- 9. When did the Jewish People begin to give contributions for the building of the Mishkan?
- 10. How many books are there in Tanach?
- 11. From where did the men take the earrings that they donated to make the calf?
- 12. Why did Aharon build the altar for the golden calf by himself?
- 13. Why did Moshe break the Tablets?
- 14. How can two brothers belong to two different tribes?
- 15. Why did Moshe ask that his name be erased from the Torah?
- 16. How has the sin of the golden calf affected the Jewish People throughout history?
- 17. In verse 33:2, G-d says that the inhabitants of Eretz Canaan would be driven out of the Land. In that verse, only six of the seven Canaanite nations are mentioned. What happened to the seventh?
- 18. How did G-d show that He forgave the Jewish People?
- 19. How did Moshe become wealthy?
- 20. How do the light rays shining from Moshe's face show us the powerful effect of sin?

ANSWERS

- 1. 30:13 - Twenty.
- 2. 30:14 - Twenty.
- 3. 30:15 - For the adanim (sockets), for the purchase of communal sacrifices, and for the building of the Mishkan.
- 4. 30:16 - Their ages were calculated based on Rosh Hashana, not based on their individual birthdays.
- 5. 30:34 - Eleven ingredients were used making the incense.
- 6. 30:35 - Because they stir (malach) the water with their oars.
- 7. 31:3 - Chochma is knowledge acquired from others. Bina is the deduction of new knowledge from what one has already learned. Da'at is holy inspiration.
- 8. 31:13 - It is a sign between G-d and the Jewish People that He has chosen them and a sign to the nations of the world that He has sanctified the Jewish People.
- 9. 31:18 - The 11th of Tishrei.
- 10. 31:18 - 24.
- 11. 32:2,3 - From their ears.
- 12. 32:5 - He hoped that by building it by himself it would take longer and in the interim Moshe would return.
- 13. 32:19 - Moshe reasoned: If the Torah forbids those who have estranged themselves from the Torah to partake in even a single commandment (Pesach sacrifice), surely the entire Torah cannot be given to a whole nation which has estranged itself from G-d!
- 14. 32:27 - Half-brothers, sharing the same mother.
- 15. 32:32 - So people shouldn't say “Moshe was unworthy to plead for mercy on behalf of the Jewish people.”
- 16. 32:34 - Whenever G-d punishes the Jewish People, part of that punishment comes as payment for the sin of the golden calf.
- 17. 33:2 - The seventh nation, the Gergashites, voluntarily emigrated.
- 18. 33:14 - He agreed to let His Shechina dwell among them.
- 19. 34:1 - Moshe carved the Tablets out of precious stone. G-d commanded Moshe to keep the leftover fragments.
- 20. 34:35 - Before the sin of the golden calf, the people would not have been afraid to look at the light rays, but after the sin they were afraid.

Good Shabbos

SHABBOS TEFILLAH TIMES

- » Candlelighting–6:01 PM
- » Friday Night, February 22nd, Mincha / Kabbalos Shabbos–6:00 PM
- » Shabbos Morning, February 23rd–8:30 AM
- » Chumash Class (Rabbi Rich)–4:35 PM for men and women
- » Mincha / Shalosh Seudos–5:35 PM / Sunset–6:19 PM
- » Maariv / Shabbos Ends–7:04 PM

WEEKLY TEFILLAH TIMES (for the week beginning February 24, 2008)

- » Sunday Shacharis–8 AM

- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40 AM
- » Mincha–6: 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.