

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 29-MARCH 1, 2008 · 24 ADAR I, 5768 · SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYAKHEL
CANDLELIGHTING 6:06 PM · SHABBOS ENDS 7:10 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 29th

- » Candlelighting-6:06 PM
- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos-6:10 PM

March 1st

- » Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)-8:30 AM
- » Chumash Class (for men & women)-4:40 PM
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos-5:40 PM
- » Shabbos Ends-7:10 PM

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE:

- » Sunday Shacharis-8:00 AM
- » Weekday Shacharis-6:40 AM
- » Mincha/Maariv-6:10 PM

■ WHAT'S NU AT CTC

- » **Sheloshim for Valerie Mason, ob"m:** Sunday, March 2, 2008, 4:30 PM, Don & Sandy Mason will observe the Sheloshim (30th day of mourning) for their daughter Valerie, ob"m. Men and women, boys and girls, are invited to attend a program at Chabad of Plano, 3904 West Park Blvd., Plano, TX 75075, at which will be shown a video of Valerie's life and struggle with cancer. As well, Rabbis Block and Rich will speak briefly. This video is extremely inspirational and informative. All are encouraged to honor Valerie's life by attending this showing. There will also be an opportunity to help the Masons financially, as they try to recover from this tremendous tragedy.
- » **Please visit our new Audio Learning page** where you will find all recorded classes given by Rabbi Yaakov Rich. As well, please fine the Shabbos Davening pages containing mp3 recordings of the entire service, from Kabbalos Shabbos through Mussaf, and the Shabbos Zemirots pages containing all the songs traditionally sung at the Shabbos table, in many different versions.
- » **12th Annual Zayin Adar Dinner Honoring the Chesed Shel Emes Society:** March 13, 2008 at 6:45 PM, 7 Adar II 5768, Congregation Ohr HaTorah, 6324 Churchill Way. Cost: \$35 per person (Adults Only Please). Pre-paid advance reservations only by remitting payment before March 3, 2008 to Chevra Kadisha Fund" c/o Leni Hirschberg, 660 Preston Forest Center, PMB 226, Dallas, TX 75230. For additional information or if you would like to host a table please contact cseofdallas@yahoo.com.
- » **Matanos L'Evyonim (Gifts to the Poor):** 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.**
- » There will be a ladies chumash class this Sunday night.

■ AHAVAS CHESED (LOVING KINDNESS) BY THE CHOFETZ CHAIM

While many would find great pleasure in being known as a great philanthropist, there are those who would much rather keep their financial status under wraps. The Chofetz Chaim introduces

this type of person under another subdivision of the category of "fear." These are people who fear that word of their generosity will spread, and they will be accosted by representatives of every charitable cause that exists. Such a person translates the \$10,000 he loans today into tomorrow's request for money to repair the mikvah, build an addition to the yeshivah and dedicate a new wing for the hospital. He can afford the \$10,000, but not the hundreds of thousands he believes will ensue. Therefore, he refuses the first \$10,000.

Once again, there is a failure of reasoning behind this "reason." The basic flaw is in believing that by giving, one loses. The Chofetz Chaim cites the promise in Tanna D'Vei Eliyahu Zuta (Perek 4): "If you gave charity, you will merit money. If you merited money, then give charity with it." When one has money to give, one has the opportunity to create a permanent asset. Hashem is giving the person a chance to make an investment that earns principal and dividends in this world and the World to Come. By giving the money, one cannot lose. "You shall surely give him, and let your heart not feel bad when you give him, for in return for this matter, Hashem your G-d, will bless you in all your deeds and in your every undertaking," says Devarim (15:10). Even if word of the \$10,000 loan brings the lender a long line of supplicants, each is yet another opportunity. If he has more to give, he can give it, and earn yet more of the same blessing and merit.

The matter becomes much clearer when the chesed perspective is compared to the business perspective. For instance, one can imagine a scenario in which a real estate broker calls a wealthy man and says, "I have a major office building that is being offered at a fire-sale price. You need to come up with a half-million-dollar down payment tomorrow, but you'll be making millions a year from this building." It would be almost unthinkable that the man would say, "I'm going to pass this one up. I don't want anyone to know that I have a half-million to invest. The next thing you know, everyone will be offering me deals."

As foolish as this response sounds, it precisely mirrors the response of the man who is afraid to give. Because more people might ask him for money, he turns his back on the opportunity to place himself under Hashem's Wing, to connect to the Divine Presence, to bring protection and blessing to his family. Moreover, if this fear of fame is truly the only barrier to giving, the Chofetz Chaim provides a simple solution. The man can give the money to a third party, who can then make the loan. The third party gets the fame, while the real lender gets the fortune.

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.

- » Welcome home to our dear son, Avrohom Moshe who is visiting for his off-Shabbos from yeshivah. —*Mommy & Tatti*

■ 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, Te-

vilas Kalim, Pas Akum / Pas Palter, Bishul Akum / Maids, Introd. 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 TERUMAH

QUESTIONS

- 1. On which day did Moshe assemble the Jewish People?
- 2. Why is the prohibition against doing work on Shabbat written prior to the instruction for building the Mishkan?
- 3. Why does the Torah specify the particular prohibition of lighting a fire on Shabbat right after it had already noted the general prohibition of doing work on Shabbat?
- 4. What function did the “yitdot hamishkan” serve?
- 5. What function did the “bigdei hasrad” serve?
- 6. What was unusual about the way the women spun the goat’s hair?
- 7. Why were the Nesi’im last to contribute to the building of the Mishkan? How does the Torah show dissatisfaction with their actions?
- 8. Who does the Torah identify as the primary builders of the Mishkan? From which tribes were they?

- 9. What time of day did the people bring their daily contributions for the construction of the Mishkan?
- 10. For what was the woven goat’s hair used?
- 11. What image was woven into the parochet?
- 12. Why does the Torah attribute the building of the aron to Betzalel?
- 13. Where were the sculptured cheruvim located?
- 14. How many lamps did the menorah have?
- 15. Of what materials was the mizbe’ach haketoret composed?
- 16. Of what material was the mizbe’ach ha’olah composed?
- 17. The kiyor was made from copper mirrors. What function did these mirrors serve in Egypt?
- 18. How did the kiyor promote peace?
- 19. The kiyor was made from the mirrors of the women who were crowding at the entrance to the Ohel Mo’ed. Why were the women crowding there?
- 20. Of what material were the “yitdot hamishkan” constructed?

ANSWERS

- 1. 35:1 - The day after Yom Kippur.
- 2. 35:2 - To emphasize that the building of the Mishkan does not supersede the laws of Shabbat.
- 3. 35:3 - There are two opinions: One opinion is to teach that igniting a fire on Shabbat is punishable by lashes as opposed to other “melachot” which are punishable by death. The other opinion is to teach that violation of numerous “melachot” at one time requires a separate atonement for each violation.
- 4. 35:18 - The edges of the curtains were fastened to them. These were inserted in the ground so the curtains would not move in the wind.
- 5. 35:19 - They covered the aron, the shulchan, the menorah, and the mizbachot when they were packed for transport.
- 6. 35:26 - It was spun directly from off the backs of the goats.
- 7. 35:27 - The Nesi’im reasoned that they would first let the people contribute materials needed for the Mishkan and then they would contribute what was lacking. The Torah shows its dissatisfaction by deleting a letter from their title.
- 8. 35:30, 35:34 - Betzalel ben Uri from the tribe of Yehuda; Oholiav ben Achisamach from the tribe of Dan.
- 9. 36:3 - Morning.
- 10. 36:14 - It was made into curtains to be draped over the Mishkan
- 11. 36:35 - Cherubim. (See Rashi 26:31)
- 12. 37:1 - Because he dedicated himself to its building more than anyone else.
- 13. 37:7 - On the two extremities of the kaporet (cover of the aron).
- 14. 37:23 - Seven.
- 15. 37:25,26 - Wood overlaid with gold.
- 16. 38:1-2 - Wood overlaid with copper.
- 17. 38:8 - These mirrors aided in the proliferation of the Jewish People. The Jewish women in Egypt would look in the mirrors so as to awaken the affections of their husbands who were exhausted by their slave labor.
- 18. 38:8 - Its waters helped a woman accused of adultery to prove her innocence.
- 19. 38:8 - To donate to the Mishkan.
- 20. 38:20 - Copper.

Good Shabbos

SHABBOS TEFILLAH TIMES

- » Candlelighting–6:06 PM
- » Friday Night, February 29th, Mincha / Kabbalos Shabbos–6:10 PM
- » Shabbos Morning, March 1st–8:30 AM
- » Chumash Class (Rabbi Rich)–4:40 PM for men and women
- » Mincha / Shalosh Seudos–5:40 PM / Sunset–6:25 PM
- » Maariv / Shabbos Ends–7:10 PM

WEEKLY TEFILLAH TIMES (for the week beginning March 2, 2008)

- » Sunday Shacharis–8 AM

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