

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.

MARCH 28-29, 2008 · 22 ADAR II, 5768 · SHABBOS PARSHAS SHEMINI, PARAH
CANDLELIGHTING 7:27 PM · SHABBOS ENDS 8:31 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by Josh & Lisa Rothstein in honor of Super Bubbie and Lisa’s parents, Andrea & Steve Eisenstein. 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:

March 28th

- » Candlelighting–7:27 PM
- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos–7:00 PM

March 29th

- » Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)–8:30 AM
- » Learner’s Service with Rabbi Chanoch Oppenheim–9:30 AM
- » Chumash Class (for men & women)–6:00 PM
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos–7:00 PM
- » Shabbos Ends–8:31 PM

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE:

- » Sunday Shacharis–8:00 AM
- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40 AM
- » Mincha/Maariv–7:30 PM

■ WHAT’S NU AT CTC

- » **3 Critical Not-To-Be-Missed Classes for Pesach:** Join Rabbi Yaakov Rich for 3 classes aimed at helping us all prepare for the upcoming holiday of Pesach.
 - Sunday, March 30, 8-9 PM: **Kashering Vessels, Appliances, Sinks & Counters**
 - Sunday, April 6, 8-9 PM: **Bedikas Chometz - How to Look, Where to Look, & What to Look For (including how to proceed with Shabbos falling on Erev Pesach, like this year!)**
 - Sunday, April 13, 8-9 PM: **Laws of the Seder**
For men and women. No charge. All classes will be at Congregation Toras Chaim, 17912 Hillcrest Rd., Dallas, TX 75252
- » **Final Notice: Round Hand Shmura Matzoh Order:** Pesach is rapidly approaching! One of the main Mitzvos of the Seder is the eating of matzah. To properly fulfill this mitzvah, one must use “Shmura Matzah,” matzah that has been watched and made especially for the fulfillment of the mitzvah. Many people prefer to use the traditional round Shmura Matzah made by hand. We have arranged the purchase of these Matzahs from the Shatzer Matzah Bakery in Brooklyn. When placing your order please keep in mind that there should be enough for approximately 2 matzahs per person, with each 1 lb. box containing 8-9 matzahs. Please fill in the order forms available in the shul, and return to Rabbi Yaakov Rich or Shalom Abrams with a cash or check payment, (credit cards can not be accepted), by Sunday, March 30th. Please make checks payable to Congregation Toras Chaim. Orders may also be mailed to Congregation Toras Chaim, 17912 Hillcrest Rd., Dallas, TX 75252. Please keep in mind that Sunday, March 30th is a hard deadline. Orders received after this date will not be accepted.
- » **From Rachel Leah Rosenberg:** “I am once again this year collecting for a former classmate of mine who lives in extreme poverty in Israel. She and her husband are both orphans and therefore have no family to turn to. Although they both work, they have high medical expenses and can barely get by. Anyone wishing to donate any tzeddakah before Pesach may do so giving a check to Rabbi Rich made out to Congregation Toras Chaim, who will then issue a check from the shul based on everyone’s collective donations. Thank you very much. Rachel Leah.”

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

A person prays for what he needs. He turns to Hashem for his sustenance, hoping that Hashem will take care of him. It would seem, then, that the efficacy of the prayers rests with Hashem, but that is not an accurate picture. It is the petitioner who determines the extent to which his prayers are answered. Commensurate with

the degree to which he takes care of others, Hashem will answer his prayers and take care of him. The Chofetz Chaim cites Midrash Shocher Tov (Parasha 65) that relates the formula for having one’s prayers answered: In the words of R’ Ben Azai and R’ Akiva, “Of one who is engaged in acts of kindness, let it be known that his prayers are answered. Plant your charity and you will reap it according to kindness,” says Hoshea (10:12). The verse continues: “Now is the time to seek of Hashem and you will be answered,” in proportion to the kindness shown toward others. Thus, one who wishes to stake a claim on Hahem’s loving care can do so; if he puts chesed into the world, he can draw chesed from Heaven.

The claim one stakes through kindness is even greater if the recipient is one who is occupied with Torah learning of his own acts of chesed. The Chofetz Chaim explains that when one helps such a person, he enables him to continue his occupation. The vast merit the recipient earns through his learning and his chesed becomes a credit for the person who helped him.

Ultimately, this person will have enough merit to claim a seat in the Heavenly Academy in the company of scholars and sages – not on the basis of his own learning, but on the basis of his chesed, which smoothed the way for the scholars and sages to fulfill their roles. He will bask in the same Divine glow that bathes these exalted figures, simply because he provided a Torah scholar with the support he needed to continue learning. The reason he earns this great status, according to the Talmud (Pesachim 53b), is that “in the shadow of wisdom is the shadow of money” (Koheles 7:12). This is interpreted to mean that someone who utilizes his money for the proper purpose is rewarded like someone who uses his intellect for the proper purpose.

One who gives support to a Torah scholar actually forms an association with the Divine Presence – a force far too powerful for a human to even approach. “For Hashem, your G-d, is a consuming fire,” says Devarim (4:24). Even so, the fire does not consume one who draws close in order to stoke the blaze of a Torah scholar’s learning. The Talmud (Kesubos 111b) relates that a connection with the Divine Presence comes from marrying one’s daughter to a scholar, which also encompasses any support one provides from his family or assets to bring the scholar the peace of mind he needs to immerse himself in study. The answer to prayers, the Heavenly company of sages and scholars, a connection to the Divine Presence itself – all are rewards the average person may fear he will never merit. Nonetheless, one who dedicates his life to chesed can claim them as his own.

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, 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.

■ PARSHA Q&A: PARSHAS SHEMINI

QUESTIONS

1. What date was “yom hashemini”?
2. Which of Aharon’s korbanot atoned for the Golden Calf?
3. What korbanot did Aharon offer for the Jewish People?
4. What was unique about the chatat offered during the induction of the Mishkan?
5. When did Aharon bless the people with the birkat kohanim?
6. Why did Moshe go into the Ohel Mo’ed with Aharon?
7. Why did Nadav and Avihu die?
8. Aharon quietly accepted his sons’ death. What reward did he receive for this?
9. What prohibitions apply to a person who is intoxicated?
10. Name the three chatat goat offerings that were sacrificed on the day of the inauguration of the Mishkan.
11. Which he-goat chatat did Aharon burn completely and why?
12. Why did Moshe direct his harsh words at Aharon’s sons?
13. Moshe was upset that Aharon and his sons did not eat the chatat. Why?
14. Why did G-d choose Moshe, Aharon, Elazar, and Itamar as His mes-

- sengers to tell the Jewish People the laws of kashrut?
15. What are the signs of a kosher land animal?
 16. How many non-kosher animals display only one sign of kashrut? What are they?
 17. If a fish sheds its fins and scales when out of the water, is it kosher?
 18. Why is a stork called chasida in Hebrew?
 19. The chagav is a kosher insect. Why don’t we eat it?
 20. What requirements must be met in order for water to maintain its status of purity?

ANSWERS

1. 9:1 - First of Nissan.
2. 9:2 - The calf offered as a korban chatat.
3. 9:3,4 - A he-goat as a chatat, a calf and a lamb for an olah, an ox and a ram for shelamim, and a mincha.
4. 9:11 - It’s the only example of a chatat offered on the courtyard mizbe’ach that was burned.
5. 9:22 - When he finished offering the korbanot, before descending from the mizbe’ach.
6. 9:23 - For one of two reasons: Either to teach Aharon about the service of the incense, or to pray for the Shechina to dwell with Israel.
7. 10:2 - Rashi offers two reasons: Either because they gave a halachic ruling in Moshe’s presence, or because they entered the Mishkan after drinking intoxicating wine.
8. 10:3 - A portion of the Torah was given solely through Aharon.
9. 10:9-11 - He may not give a halachic ruling. Also, a kohen is forbidden to enter the Ohel Mo’ed, approach the mizbe’ach, or perform the avoda.
10. 10:16 - The goat offerings of the inauguration ceremony, of Rosh Chodesh, and of Nachshon ben Aminadav.
11. 10:16 - The Rosh Chodesh chatat: Either because it became tamei, or because the kohanim were forbidden to eat from it while in the state of aninut (mourning).
12. 10:16 - Out of respect for Aharon, Moshe directed his anger at his sons and not directly at Aharon.
13. 10:17 - Because only when the kohanim eat the chatat are the sins of the owners atoned.
14. 11:2 - Because they accepted the deaths of Nadav and Avihu in silence.
15. 11:3 - An animal whose hooves are completely split and who chews its cud.
16. 11:4,5,6,7 - Four: Camel, shafan, hare, and pig.
17. 11:12 - Yes.
18. 11:19 - Because it acts with chesed (kindness) toward other storks.
19. 11:21 - We have lost the tradition and are not able to identify the kosher chagav.
20. 11:36 - It must be connected to the ground (i.e., a spring or a cistern).

Good Shabbos

SHABBOS TEFILLAH TIMES

- » Candlelighting–7:27 PM
- » Friday Night, March 28th, Mincha / Kabbalos Shabbos–7:00 PM
- » Shabbos Morning, March 29th–8:30 AM
- » Learner’s Service with Rabbi Chanoch Oppenheim–9:30 AM

- » Chumash Class (Rabbi Rich)–6:00 PM for men and women
- » Mincha / Shalosh Seudos–7:00 PM / Sunset–7:46 PM
- » Maariv / Shabbos Ends–8:31 PM

WEEKLY TEFILLAH TIMES (for the week beginning March 30, 2008)

- » Sunday Shacharis–8 AM
- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40 AM
- » Mincha–7: 30 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.