

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 7-8, 2008 · 1 ADAR II, 5768 · SHABBOS PARSHAS PEKUDEI, ROSH CHODESH, SHEKALIM
CANDLELIGHTING 6:12 PM · SHABBOS ENDS 7:15 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by the Switzer & Taurog families in honor of Eliyahu Switzer's aufruf, and his upcoming marriage to Rochel Offenberg. Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by Richard & Risa Solomon for the yahrtzeit of Risa's father, Ze'ev ben Avrohom Wolf.

Please contact Shalom Abrams at 903-918-9650 if you are interested in sponsoring kiddush or shalosh seudos in the future.

■ SHABBOS SCHEDULE:

March 7th

- » Candlelighting-6:12 PM
- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos-6:10 PM

March 8th

- » Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)-8:30 AM
- » Chumash Class (for men & women)-4:45 PM
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos-5:45 PM
- » Shabbos Ends-7:15 PM
- » We turn the clocks forward one hour-2:00 AM

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE:

- » Sunday Shacharis-8:00 AM (Daylight Savings Time)
- » Weekday Shacharis-6:40 AM (Daylight Savings Time)
- » **Mincha/Maariv-7:15 PM (Daylight Savings Time)**

■ WHAT'S NU AT CTC

- » **Special For Women Control:** When to Use It, When to Lose It - The life of Queen Esther. Rebbetzin Judy Abrams, Sunday, March 16th, 11:00 AM at DATA Far North Dallas, 16818 Thomas Chapel Road, Coffee and Cake Refreshments: \$10
- » **NCSY Valerie Mason Bowl-a-thon:** Our NCSY friend, Valerie Mason, recently passed away. Three years ago she was diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma, a virulent form of cancer. Her parents are still struggling to repay the medical expenses incurred. Our goal is to raise money, through this Bowl-a-thon, to help Valerie's parents with their challenges going forward. **Time and Place of Bowl-a-thon: Date:** Sunday, March 23, 2008, **Time:** 1:30pm - 4:00 PM, **Location:** Plano Super Bowl, 2521 K Ave, Plano, TX 75074 Plano, TX. Everyone is invited to attend. We are collecting donations on a per pin basis or a flat rate. If you have questions or would like to be a sponsor please contact Liora Cohen at (214) 395-2226 or happiness_in_a_smile@yahoo.com.
- » **Concert Charity Event:** Concert Pianist Linda Eisenberg will play a charity event in memory of Valerie Mason, ob"m. Saturday, March 8, 2008, 8 PM, Chabad of Dallas-The Shul. \$36.00* per person / Hors D'Oeuvres 8:00 PM / Recital 8:30 PM. RSVP to 214-446-8810. The Mason Family is trying to put back the pieces from the recent passing of their beloved daughter Valerie. With their hearts broken, the family is left with nothing but tremendous bills they are committed to paying. Please, join the community for a fabulous night of classical music with friends, and know your *tax deductible contribution will go fully to the Mason Family. Chabad of Dallas - The Shul, 6710 Levelland Road, Dallas, TX 75252.
- » **Fast of Esther (March 20 AM / 13 Adar II):** The day before Purim, the 13th of Adar, or Thursday, March 20, is a fast day, the Fast of Esther. The fast starts 6:17 AM and ends 8:19 PM.
- » **Mitzvos of Purim (March 20 PM-21 AM / 14 Adar II):** The four main mitzvos of the day are: 1) Megillah: Listening to the public reading, usually in synagogue, of the Book of Esther in the evening and again in the following morning. 2) Mishloach Manos: Sending food gifts to friends. 3) Matanos L'Evyonim: Giving gifts to the poor (matanos l'evyonim). 4) Eating a festive meal (seudas mitzvah). **1) Megillah:** Listen to every word as the whole story of Purim is read from a hand-written scroll of parchment called a Megillah. The megillah is read once on Purim eve and a second time the next morning, Purim day. Men, women and children who are able to listen to pay attention are obligated to attend both times. **2) Mishloach Manos:** Send a gift of at least two ready to eat food-types to at least one friend on Purim to be given on Purim day. Men send to men and women send to women. **3) Matanos L'Evyonim:** Give a monetary or food gift to at least two poor people. This must

be distributed on Purim directly to the needy. Rabbi Rich will be collecting this money and can be your agent for this mitzvah, if you like. Money will be distributed to local needy in our community. **4) Eating Festive Meal:** Because Purim is Erev Shabbos, one should wash for a meal before chatzos (midday), 1:35 AM Purim day. There will be a Purim seudah in the shul. Everyone is invited. A sign-up form and details will be arriving via the website at the beginning of next week. The cost will be \$7/person or \$25/family.

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

Reuven walks down the street, preoccupied with his mountain of financial woes. "If someone could just loan me a thousand dollars..." he thinks.

Shimon, a prominent businessman, is walking up the street. As the two men approach each other, Reuven lifts his gaze from the concrete and recognizes his old friend. An inspiration suddenly lightens his heart: Maybe Shimon would help me out."

At this moment, Shimon has the opportunity to perform a direct commandment of the Torah. "When you lend money to My people, to the poor person who is with you, do not act toward him as a creditor; do not lay interest upon him," says Shemos (22:24). Just as the Torah commands a Jew to hang a mezuzah on his doorpost, or bless a lulav and esrog or eat matzah, it mandates the loaning of money to those in need. The mitzvah is a gift—a means Hashem has given mortal man to serve Him and earn the eternal rewards that it brings.

One might think, then, that Shimon would pull out his checkbook with a joyous smile and write a check on the spot. It would seem that his heart should be as full and proud as it is when he writes a \$300 check for a choice esrog. He doesn't grumble about the expense then; he relishes it.

The mitzvah of loaning money, however, elicits no joy from Shimon, and that is because he falls within the next of the Chofetz Chaim's categories in the verse. "The lazy one shall be wounded." The next letters, "hei" and "yud," represent "helem yediah," an absence of knowledge. This person rests upon the belief that giving is a "nice thing" for nice people to do but certainly not an obligation. If he finds a loan request inconvenient or uncomfortable, he feels free to exempt himself, something he would never do if the same obstacles were to come between him and a "real mitzvah."

Such a person might say. "I don't have any cash on me today. Why don't you come by my office tomorrow and I'll see what I can do." He thereby leaves the person to wallow in his troubles, unsure of how much help he will receive, certain only that he must make yet another humiliating appearance, yet another request.

If Shimon understood the nature of his obligation, he would greet Reuven as the bearer of a wonderful opportunity. He would feel an urgency to do the mitzvah, no matter what the logistical problems might be. Rather than delivering an excuse, he would act as if Erev Succos had arrived and he needed to buy s'chach at the only outlet in town, which was about to close. There's no doubt that, in that case, Shimon would run to the store: "Can you stay open for just another half-hour while I get some money out of the bank?" He would race to the bank, race back to the store and bring the s'chach home with the appearance of a conquering hero.

Someone who sees chesed in its true light, who does not fall victim to "helem yediah," offers his help with just such energy and focus. His climb over the logistical obstacles is not draining, but revitalizing. In his drive to get the job done, he finds joy and purpose. The Chofetz Chaim cites Mishlei (21:21), which makes the case:

“One who pursues tzedakah and chesed will find life...”

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.

» Mazel Tov to Eliyahu Switzer and Rochel Offenberg on the occasion of his aufruf and their upcoming wedding in St. Louis on Monday.
— Yaakov & Susan Rich

■ **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, 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. Why is the word Mishkan stated twice in verse 38:21?
2. Why is the Mishkan called the “Mishkan of Testimony”?
3. Who was appointed to carry the vessels of the Mishkan in the midbar?
4. Who was the officer in charge of the levi'im?
5. What is the meaning of the name Betzalel?
6. How many people contributed a half-shekel to the Mishkan? Who contributed?
7. Which material used in the bigdei kehuna was not used in the coverings of the sacred vessels?
8. How were the gold threads made?
9. What was inscribed on the stones on the shoulders of the ephod?
10. What was on the hem of the me'il?
11. What did the Kohen Gadol wear between the mitznefet and the tzitz?
12. What role did Moshe play in the construction of the Mishkan?
13. Which date was the first time that the Mishkan was erected and not dismantled?
14. What was the “tent” which Moshe spread over the Mishkan (40:19)?
15. What “testimony” did Moshe place in the aron?
16. What function did the parochet serve?
17. Where was the shulchan placed in the Mishkan?
18. Where was the menorah placed in the Mishkan?
19. Who offered the communal sacrifices during the eight days of the dedication of the Mishkan?
20. On which day did both Moshe and Aharon serve as kohanim?

ANSWERS

1. 38:21 - To allude to the Beit Hamikdash that would twice be taken as a “mashkon” (pledge) for the sins of the Jewish People until the nation repents.
2. 38:21 - It was testimony for the Jewish People that G-d forgave them for the golden calf and allowed His Shechina to dwell among them.
3. 38:21 - The levi'im.
4. 38:21 - Itamar ben Aharon.
5. 38:22 - “In the shadow of G-d.”
6. 38:26 - 603,550. Every man age twenty and over (except the levi'im).
7. 39:1 - Linen (See Rashi 31:10).
8. 39:3 - The gold was beaten into thin plates from which threads were cut. (See Rashi 28:6).
9. 39:6, 39:7 - The names of the tribes.
10. 39:24,25 - Woven pomegranates and golden bells.
11. 39:31 - Tefillin.
12. 39:33 - He stood it up.
13. 40:17 - Rosh Chodesh Nissan of the second year in the desert. For seven days before this, during the consecration of Aharon and his sons, Moshe erected and dismantled the Mishkan. (Rashi 39:29)
14. 40:19 - The curtain of goatskin.
15. 40:20 - The Luchot Habrit.
16. 40:21 - It served as a partition for the aron.
17. 40:22 - On the northern side of the Ohel Mo'ed, outside the parochet.
18. 40:24 - On the southern side of the Ohel Mo'ed opposite the shulchan.
19. 40:29 - Moshe.
20. 40:31 - On the eighth day of the consecration of the Mishkan.

Good Shabbos

SHABBOS TEFILLAH TIMES

- » Candlelighting–6:12 PM
- » Friday Night, March 7th, Mincha / Kabbalos Shabbos–6:10 PM
- » Shabbos Morning, March 8th–8:30 AM
- » Chumash Class (Rabbi Rich)–4:45 PM for men and women
- » Mincha / Shalosh Seudos–5:45 PM / Sunset–6:30 PM
- » Maariv / Shabbos Ends–7:15 PM

WEEKLY TEFILLAH TIMES (for the week beginning March 9, 2008)

- » Sunday Shacharis–8 AM

- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40 AM
- » Mincha–7: 15 PM Daylight Savings 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.