

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.

MAY 16-17, 2008 · 12 IYAR, 5768 · SHABBOS PARSHAS BEHAR
CANDLELIGHTING 8:02 PM · SHABBOS ENDS 9:06 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by the Charles & Sharon Michaels, in memory of Sharon's father, Yekusiel ben Mattisyahu. Thank you to the Michaels Family and all others who contributed to the kiddush this Shabbos. Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by Yehudah Reynolds in recognition of his father's birthday. Please contact Shalom Abrams at 903-918-9650 if you are interested in sponsoring kiddush or shalosh seudos in the future.

■ SHABBOS SCHEDULE:

We welcome our special guest speaker for Shabbos, Rosh Kollel of DATA, Rabbi Yerachmiel Fried, shlita, and his wife Miri. The theme of Shabbos is **The Days of Sefira: Preparing for Receiving the Torah.**

May 16th

- » Candlelighting–8:02 PM (Should preferably light with shul before 7:20)
- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos–7:00 PM

May 17th

- » Shacharis (followed by Deluxe Kiddush)–8:30 AM
- » Speech by Rabbi Fried: The 60th Anniversary of the State of Israel: What Does It Really Mean For Us?–11:30 AM
- » Speech by Rabbi Fried: The Need for the Second Day of Shavuos: A Halachic and Philosophical Perspective into the Meaning of Yom Tov and the Thinking of Our Sages–6:35 AM
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos–7:35 PM
- » Speech by Rabbi Fried: Lag B'Omer: Its Real Mystical Significance–8:15 PM
- » Shabbos Ends–9:06 PM

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE:

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

■ WHAT'S NU AT CTC

» **CTC Lag B'Omer-Memorial Day BBQ** It was one year ago that we had the first CTC Lag B'Omer BBQ in our backyard at our old home on Jamestown Rd. Much has been accomplished since then, and we have reason to feel pride in the growth of our shul. Once in a while it is nice to gather for no other reason than to be social, enjoy a hamburger and fries, share a memory and have a good time. To this end, all members and friends of Congregation Toras Chaim are invited to attend our second annual Lag B'Omer BBQ. In order to best prepare for the event it is very helpful if those planning to attend could pre-register and pre-pay (see our website). This gives us a good idea of numbers to prepare for and helps the shul's cash-flow. We tried to keep the registration fee for attending as low as possible, hoping to make it affordable for everyone to come. \$30 family maximum includes a full meal for everyone in the family plus great entertainment for the children — which means a relaxing dinner for the parents. However, the registration fee will not cover the costs completely. Please consider a donation in addition to your registration fee, if possible. See the last option on the registration page. Looking forward to great time!

- **What:** Great BBQ — hamburgers, hotdogs, fries, corn on the cob, all kinds of salads and much more, plus fun stuff for the kids (including face painting and balloons in all shapes and sizes) and magic show, music and more.
 - **When:** Monday, May 26, 2008, from 5-8 PM
 - **Where:** Will take place in the very spacious backyard at the Rich Family home, 7119 Bremerton Ct., Dallas, TX 75252. A brand new bike riding trail/park was just built in the easement in back of the house. Rollerblade, play frisbee, football or soccer. Lots and lots of room.
 - **Cost:** \$6 per child under 12, \$9 per adult, or \$30 family maximum. There is also an option to make a donation to help Congregation Toras Chaim cover the costs for this great event.
 - **Contact Us:** Please call 972-248-1324 with any questions or comments.
- » **All Night Learning on Shavuos:** Please G-d, we will have a very

full program of learning for the night of Shavuos. At least one of the Torah Day School rebbis will be spending the Yom Tov with us, and hopefully two. Watch your email for details.

- » **Baruch Dayan HaEmes - Blessed is the True Judge:** It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our very dear friend, Rivka Jacobs, beloved wife of Asher and devoted mother of Eli-sheva, who currently attends Mesorah High School for Girls. The Jacobs will sit Shiva at their home at the Citadel, 6104 LBJ Frwy. #1102, Dallas, TX 75240 through Thursday morning May 22nd. May the Jacobs family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

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

The realm of "patur"—the belief that one is exempt from the obligation of giving—rests on many supports, most of them wobbly. Among these faulty supports is the idea that one who has been "burned" giving a loan has the right to refuse to take that risk again. While in some instances this assumption may be correct, in many instances it is not. The Chofetz Chaim emphasizes the need to examine each situation individually to determine the likelihood of another default.

Neglecting or refusing to repay a loan when one is capable of making payment is a grave matter. In Tehillim (37:21) King David refers to such a person as "the wicked one (who) borrows but repays not." The term "rasha" wicked person, is applied in only the most extreme circumstances; it is a separate category, a person other are allowed—in fact, encouraged—to despise. Even if that term were aptly applied to a person who failed to repay a debt, every other Jew in need of help should not be forced to bear his guilt. The one who refused to repay may indeed be a "rasha" and a person may truly be exempt from a requirement to help that one person. nonetheless, the next person to request a loan cannot be painted with the same brush. He must still be treated as a fellow Jew, to whom the obligation of chesed applies.

Even one who fails to repay a debt does not usually fall within the category of "rasha." The average person will pay if he can. If he fails to repay, it is simply because he lacks the means. This person's imperfect credit history does not disqualify him from deserving the kindness of his fellow Jews. In such a situation, the lender might protect himself by taking some form of collateral. In that way, if the borrower is unable to return the money, the lender's loss is mitigated.

There are, however, people who will not pay back, will not turn over collateral if it becomes due and will feel no compunctions about causing misery to the person who attempted to help them in a time of need. If one knows that the potential borrower is such a person, and one knows that collateral will ultimately be of no practical use, one is permitted to refuse to make the loan.

"Patur," as the Chofetz Chaim explains, does have a legitimate place in the realm of chesed, but only under very limited circumstances. Having lost money once, twice, or even a dozen times does not, in itself, exempt the lender from ever opening his checkbook again. Ones' orientation must be toward wanting to give, hoping to have assets to give, and looking for ways to make even a risky situation suitable for giving. If a person's heart is inclined toward finding opportunities to give, he will not see before him a long line of exemptions; he will see a fellow Jew in need of his generosity.

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.

- » It is a great honor to welcome the Frieds to Congregation Toras Chaim. We look forward to spending more Shabbosim together in the future. —Rabbi Yaakov & Susan Rich

■ ONGOING CLASSES

The Kosher Kitchen: Tuesday, 8:30-9:15 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: Wednesday, 8:30-9:15 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, 8:30-9:30 PM

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 BEHAR

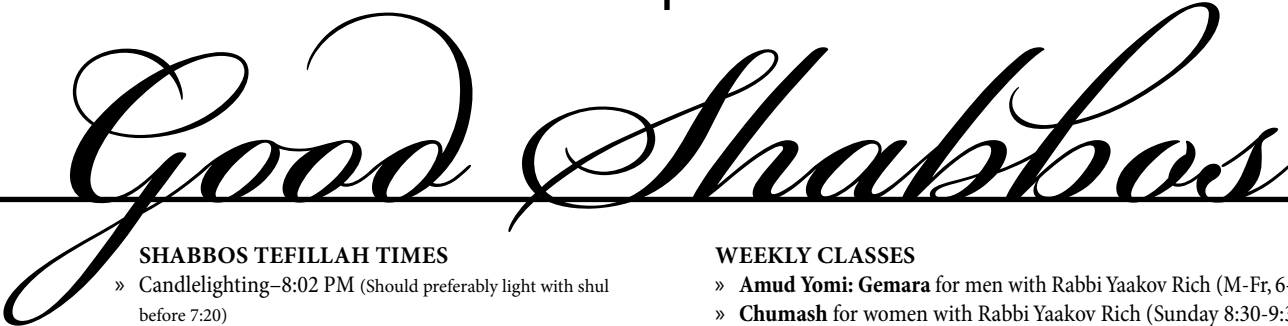
QUESTIONS

- 1. Why does the Torah specify that the laws of shemita were taught on Har

- Sinai?
- 2. If one possesses shemita food after it is no longer available in the field, what must he do with it?
- 3. The Torah commands, “You shall sanctify the fiftieth year.” How is this done?
- 4. Which two “returns” are announced by the shofar during yovel?
- 5. From where does the yovel year get its name?
- 6. What prohibitions are derived from the verse “v’lo tonu ish et amito -- a person shall not afflict his fellow”?
- 7. What is the punishment for neglecting the laws of shemita?
- 8. If shemita is observed properly, how long is the crop of the sixth year guaranteed to last?
- 9. After selling an ancestral field, when can one redeem it?
- 10. Under what circumstance may one sell ancestral land?
- 11. If a home in a walled city is sold, when can it be redeemed?
- 12. What does the word “days” mean in this week’s Parsha?
- 13. What is considered a walled city?
- 14. What is the definition of a “ger toshav”?
- 15. To what is one who leaves Eretz Yisrael compared?
- 16. Why does Rashi mention the plague of the firstborn in this week’s Parsha?
- 17. List three prohibitions which demonstrate the dignity with which one must treat a Jewish indentured servant.
- 18. Who supports the family of the Jewish indentured servant during his years of servitude?
- 19. If a Jew is sold as a servant to a non-Jew, does he go free after six years?
- 20. Where is it permitted to prostrate oneself on a stone floor?

ANSWERS

- 1. 25:1 - To teach us that just as shemita was taught in detail on Har Sinai, so too, all the mitzvot were taught in detail on Har Sinai.
- 2. 25:7 - Remove it from his property and declare it ownerless.
- 3. 25:10 - At the beginning of the year the Beit Din declares, “This year is kadosh (sanctified).”
- 4. 25:10 - The return of the land to its original owner, and the “return” (freedom) of the slave from slavery.
- 5. 25:10 - From the sounding of the shofar. A ram’s horn is called a yovel.
- 6. 25:17 - One may not intentionally hurt people’s feelings, nor give bad advice while secretly intending to reap benefit.
- 7. 25:18 - Exile.
- 8. 25:21,22 - From Nissan of the sixth year until Sukkot of the ninth year.
- 9. 25:24 - After two years following the sale, until yovel. At the beginning of yovel it returns to the family automatically.
- 10. 25:25 - Only if one becomes impoverished.
- 11. 25:29 - Only within the first year after the sale. Afterwards, even in yovel, it does not return.
- 12. 25:29 - The days of an entire year.
- 13. 25:29 - A city that has been surrounded by a wall since the time of Yehoshua.
- 14. 25:35 - A non-Jew who lives in Eretz Yisrael and accepts upon himself not to worship idols.
- 15. 25:38 - To one who worships idols.
- 16. 25:38 - The prohibition against taking interest is accompanied by the phrase, “I am the L-rd your G-d who took you out of Egypt.” Rashi explains that just as G-d discerned in Egypt between those who were firstborn and those who were not, so too will G-d discern and punish those who lend with interest, pretending they are acting on behalf of others.
- 17. 25:39-43 - 1.Do not make him perform humiliating tasks 2.Do not sell him publicly 3.Do not make him perform unnecessary jobs
- 18. 25:41 - His master.
- 19. 25:54 - No. If he is not redeemed with money, he must wait until the yovel to go free.
- 20. 26:1 - In the Mikdash.



SHABBOS TEFILLAH TIMES

- » Candlelighting–8:02 PM (Should preferably light with shul before 7:20)
- » Friday Night, May 16th, Mincha / Kabbalos Shabbos–7:00 PM
- » Shabbos Morning, May 17th–8:30 AM

- » Speeches by Rabbi Fried–11:15 AM, 6:35 PM & 8:15 PM
- » Mincha / Shalosh Seudos–7:35 PM / Sunset–8:21 PM
- » Maariv / Shabbos Ends–9:06 PM

WEEKLY TEFILLAH TIMES (for the week beginning May 18, 2008)

- » Sunday Shacharis–8 AM
- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40 AM
- » Mincha–8:05 PM Standard Time

WEEKLY CLASSES

- » Amud Yomi: Gemara for men with Rabbi Yaakov Rich (M-Fr, 6-6:35 AM)
- » Chumash for women with Rabbi Yaakov Rich (Sunday 8:30-9:30 PM)
- » Kosher Kitchen for men and women with Rabbi Yaakov Rich (Tuesday 8:30-9:15 PM)
- » Path of the Just for men and women with Rabbi Yaakov Rich (Wednesday 8:30-9:15 PM)
- » Chumash for men and women (Shabbos one hour before Mincha)
- » Laws of Tefillin for men (Sunday morning after Shacharis)

Unless otherwise noted, all classes are in the shul.