

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 2-3, 2008 · 28 NISSAN, 5768 · SHABBOS PARSHAS KEDOSHIM
CANDLELIGHTING 7:52 PM · SHABBOS ENDS 8:56 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by Shalom & Shira Abrams in honor of Zev & Tamar Reynolds & family and Ehoud & Shoshana Wilson & family; a very warm welcome to Congregation Toras Chaim. Shalosh Seudos is also sponsored by Shalom & Shira Abrams in honor of Elliot Litoff's 70th birthday. Please contact Shalom Abrams at 903-918-9650 if you are interested in sponsoring kiddush or shalosh seudos in the future.

■ SHABBOS SCHEDULE:

- May 2nd
- » Candlelighting–7:52 PM
 - » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos–7:00 PM

- May 3rd
- » Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)–8:30 AM
 - » Learner's Service with Rabbi Chanoch Oppenheim–9:30 AM
 - » Chumash Class (for men & women)–6:25 PM
 - » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos–7:25 PM
 - » Shabbos Ends–8:56 PM

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE:

- » Sunday Shacharis–8:00 AM
- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40 AM
- » Mincha/Maariv–7:55 PM

■ WHAT'S NU AT CTC

- » **Mazel Tov** to the members of Congregation Toras Chaim, as we mark the One Year Anniversary of the shul this Shabbos.
- » **Welcome to the shul:** We would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome Zev & Tamar Reynolds & family to the shul, attending the daily minyan and Shabbos & Yom Tov davening. We also welcome to the neighborhood and to the shul, Ehoud & Shoshana Wilson & family. Lastly, but certainly not least, we welcome Ted & Shelly Gruber as new members of the shul. We look forward to seeing everyone in shul, davening, learning and growing together.
- » **Happy Birthday** to Elliot Litoff who became 70 years young this past April 25.
- » **Meat Sale:** The meat sale last month before Pesach was a tremendous success. The shul ended up selling over 1,000 lbs of meat. Many thanks to Rabbi Yaakov Rosenblatt for supplying the meat and arranging for transportation, and to Shalom Abrams who ran the whole event. Everyone who had Rabbi Rosenblatt's meat this past Yom Tov commented about its superior flavor and quality, not to mention the tremendous savings in cost. Please G-d, we look forward to repeating this before Shavuos. Watch your email for details.
- » **Daily Tznius Email:** Congregation Toras Chaim is proud to begin a new daily email called *Attitudes and Laws Concerning Tznius of Conduct & Dress*. Tznius is often translated as modesty, but it means so much more. It really has to do with the sanctity and self esteem that comes from seeing oneself as created in the image of G-d, and what it means to uphold that personification in this world. Once a day a short inspirational thought or relevant law (halacha) on tznius will be sent. This endeavor is designed for married men and women (married or not)–although anyone may register. We promise that this will be an eye opening study, will generate much discussion and provide a wonderful opportunity for growth. You may not personally be aligned with everything written here, and that's okay. File it away for a time and place down the road. If you have interest in *Attitudes and Laws Concerning Tznius of Conduct & Dress*, then please submit your name or a friend's name Toras Chaim website on the home page. This email is based on the classic, *Modesty - An Adornment for Life* by Rabbi Pesach Eliyahu Falk.

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

Most people envision charity as something one gives to strangers. It seems especially laudable to share one's money with people outside one's circle of family and friends. Certainly, supporting charitable causes wins the giver a great deal of appreciation and

admiration. The Chofetz Chaim points out, however, that charity should first be directed toward immediate relatives and then the extended family. Only after their needs are met should one pursue outside philanthropies.

In recent times, this point was illustrated most graphically by the Kapishnitzer Rebbe. One morning, he called a prominent member of his community at his business office in Manhattan. He explained that he would like to visit the man to discuss an opportunity to give tzedakah. The man, out of respect for the Rebbe, insisted that he would go to Brooklyn rather than cause the Rebbe to take the subway to Manhattan. "No," the Rebbe replied. "I want to come to your office, and I want you to set aside a few moments for me to talk to you."

He arrived. The man cut off all phone calls, barred any interruptions, and left customers sitting in the waiting room. He invited the Rebbe into his office. There, the Rebbe detailed the dire financial situation of a family with many children. The breadwinner had lost his job, his health was suffering and financial pressures were crushing the family's spirits. Something needed to be done immediately.

The man didn't hesitate for a moment. "I'll write a check for a thousand dollars right now," the man said. "But I still don't understand why you had to trouble yourself to come all the way here for this." Pen poised above his checkbook, the man asked, "For whom is the check?" The Rebbe stared at the floor for a few long moments, then answered, "For your brother."

The "charity" due one's own family is not always money. A young man once visited the Steipler Rav and complained bitterly, "I don't know which way to turn. My house is in a constant state of chaos. I come home Erev Shabbos to find diapers on the floor, dishes in the sink. My wife is just not managing. I can't live like this anymore."

"You don't know where to turn?" asked the Rav. "I'll tell you. Turn to the closet and take out a broom. Has it occurred to you to help?"

While it is unlikely to win anyone a plaque of recognition or a spot on the board of directors, the chesed one does for one's family is uniquely altruistic. There is no honor, sometimes there is not even an adequate thank-you, but there's a message in this kindness. It says that one's giving is not for display only; it is an integral part of one's true, private, inner nature.

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, 8:30-9:15 PM
(Resumes Tuesday, May 6)**

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, 8:30-9:15 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.

■ PARSHA Q&A: PARSHAS KEDOSHIM

QUESTIONS

- 1. Why was Parshat Kedoshim said in front of all the Jewish People?
- 2. Why does the Torah mention the duty to honor one’s father before it mentions the duty to honor one’s mother?
- 3. Why is the command to fear one’s parents followed by the command to keep Shabbat?
- 4. Why does Shabbat observance supersede honoring parents?
- 5. What is “leket?”
- 6. In Shemot 20:13, the Torah commands “Do not steal.” What does the Torah add when it commands in Vayikra 19:11 “Do not steal?”
- 7. “Do not do wrong to your neighbor” (19:13). To what “wrong” is the Torah referring?
- 8. By when must you pay someone who worked for you during the day?
- 9. How does Rashi explain the prohibition “Don’t put a stumbling block before a sightless person?”
- 10. In a monetary case involving a poor person and a rich person, a judge is likely to wrongly favor the poor person. What rationale does Rashi give for this?
- 11. When rebuking someone, what sin must one be careful to avoid?
- 12. It’s forbidden to bear a grudge. What example does Rashi give of this?

- 13. The Torah forbids tattooing. How is a tattoo made?
- 14. How does one fulfill the mitzvah of “hadarta p’nei zaken?”
- 15. What punishment will never come to the entire Jewish People?
- 16. What penalty does the Torah state for cursing one’s parents?
- 17. When the Torah states a death penalty but doesn’t define it precisely, to which penalty is it referring?
- 18. What will result if the Jewish People ignore the laws of forbidden relationships?
- 19. Which of the forbidden relationships listed in this week’s Parsha were practiced by the Canaanites?
- 20. Is it proper for a Jew to say “I would enjoy eating ham?”

ANSWERS

- 1. 19:2 - Because the fundamental teachings of the Torah are contained in this Parsha.
- 2. 19:3 - Since it is more natural to honor one’s mother, the Torah stresses the obligation to honor one’s father.
- 3. 19:3 - To teach that one must not violate Torah law even at the command of one’s parents.
- 4. 19:3 - Because the parents are also commanded by Hashem to observe Shabbat. Parents deserve great honor, but not at the “expense” of Hashem’s honor.
- 5. 19:9 - “Leket” is one or two stalks of grain accidentally dropped while harvesting. They are left for the poor.
- 6. 19:11 - The Torah in Vayikra prohibits monetary theft. In Shemot it prohibits kidnapping.
- 7. 19:13 - Withholding wages from a worker.
- 8. 19:13 - Before the following dawn.
- 9. 19:13 - Don’t give improper advice to a person who is unaware in a matter. For example, don’t advise someone to sell his field, when in reality you yourself wish to buy it.
- 10. 19:15 - The judge might think: “This rich person is obligated to give charity to this poor person regardless of the outcome of this court case. Therefore, I’ll rule in favor of the poor person. That way, he’ll receive the financial support he needs without feeling shame.
- 11. 19:17 - Causing public embarrassment.
- 12. 19:18 - Person A asks person B: “Can I borrow your shovel?” Person B says: “No.” The next day, B says to A: “Can I borrow your scythe?” A replies: “Sure, I’m not stingy like you are.”
- 13. 19:28 - Ink is injected into the skin with a needle.
- 14. 19:32 - By not sitting in the seat of elderly people, and by not contradicting their statements.
- 15. 20:3 - “Karet” -- being spiritually “cut off.”
- 16. 20:9 - Death by stoning.
- 17. 20:10 - Chenek (strangulation).
- 18. 20:22 - The land of Israel will “spit them out.”
- 19. 20:23 - All of them.
- 20. 20:26 - Yes

Good Shabbos

SHABBOS TEFILLAH TIMES

- » Candlelighting–7:52 PM
- » Friday Night, May 2nd, Mincha / Kabbalos Shabbos–7:00 PM

- » Shabbos Morning, May 3rd–8:30 AM
- » Learner’s Service with Rabbi Chanoch Oppenheim–9:30 AM

- » Chumash Class–6:25 PM for men and women
- » Mincha / Shalosh Seudos–7:25 PM / Sunset–8:11 PM
- » Maariv / Shabbos Ends–8:56 PM

WEEKDAY TEFILLAH TIMES (for the week of May 4, 2008)

- » Sunday Shacharis–8 AM
- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40 AM
- » Mincha–7:55 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)

Unless otherwise noted, all classes are in the shul.