

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 23-24, 2008 · 19 IYAR, 5768 · SHABBOS PARSHAS BECHUKOSAI, CHAZAK
CANDLELIGHTING 8:07 PM · SHABBOS ENDS 9:11 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:

May 23rd

- » Candlelighting–8:07 PM
- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos–7:00 PM

May 24th

- » Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)–8:30 AM
- » Chumash Shiur (for men & women)–6:40 PM
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos–7:40 PM
- » Shabbos Ends–9:11 PM

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE:

- » Sunday Shacharis–8:00 AM
- » Monday (Legal Holiday) Shacharis–8:00 AM
- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40 AM
- » Mincha/Maariv–8:10 PM

■ WHAT’S NU AT CTC

- » **Lag B’Omer / Memorial Day BBQ:** This is a wonderful opportunity for members and friends of Congregation Toras Chaim to gather in a relaxed social atmosphere.

- **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.
- **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.

- » **Premium Kosher Meat - Open for Business:** Congregation Toras Chaim is offering, as a service to the Dallas Jewish community, a limited selection of quality kosher beef produced by A. D. Rosenblatt Glatt Kosher Meat. These larger cuts are being bought at reduced prices with the savings being passed on to our Jewish friends and families. This meat received “rave reviews” from those who participated in our Pre-Pesach order. We anticipate double the response this time, so don’t delay, sign up today.

- “I have never had such tender meat.” –J.R.
- “Lean, tender, juicy and tasty.” –S.A.
- “I have had a lot of meat, this was just the best. I’ll be buying double next time.” –D.W.
- “My guests loved it. I loved it. And, I saved so much money.” –T.K.

Cuts for Sale

- Shoulder Roast (netted) \$5.50 per pound / 8 pound piece
- Whole Trimmed Brisket \$6.00 per pound / 10 pound piece
- Boneless Chuck \$4.80 per pound / 25 pound piece
- Minute Roast \$7.00 per pound / 8 pounds (twin 4 lb packages)
- Shank Meat (for stew) \$ 4.25 per pound / 15 pound piece
- Rib Eye Roast (netted) \$ 9.95 per pound / 13 pound piece
- Rib Eye Roast (bone-in) \$ 7.99 per pound / 16 pound piece
- Flanken Short Ribs \$ 6.90 per pound / 10 pound bags

- All weights are only approximations.
- Supervision by OU and CRC.
- Meat comes vacuum sealed for freshness and cleanliness
- Only safe United States beef is used: no imports

Pickup is at Congregation Toras Chaim, 17912 Hillcrest Rd., Dallas, TX 75252, on Sunday, June 1, 2008 at 10:30 AM. Orders must be received no later than Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at 12 PM. All selections will show as “No Fee” or “\$0.00” on the order form to save you from paying online costs, and will reflect the number of “tickets” or quantities of meat remaining for sale. Please pay by cash or check when picking up order. For more information call Shalom Abrams at 903-918-9650.

- » **Graduation:** Mesorah High School for Girls cordially invites you to graduation, Thursday, June 5, 2008, 6 PM at Congregation Ohr HaTorah. Torah Day School of Dallas cordially invites you to graduation, Wednesday, June 4, 2008, Mincha 7:15 PM, ceremony 7:30 PM at Torah Day School of Dallas.

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

Hashem is the protector of His people. The Torah (Shemos 20:20) prohibits a Jew from turning to “gods of silver and gods of gold,” and there is probably no one walking the earth today who could say he has ever seen a Jew worship such a god. To modern minds, it is almost inconceivable that one could ascribe any protective power to a golden idol.

When one looks beneath the surface, however, one sees gold-and-silver worship alive and well. It is present in the person who consults his online banking system every night before bed. Balances growing, investments paying off, dividends accruing, he feels he can sleep soundly. In his mind, the gold and silver have the power to protect him from troubles.

Rather than acting as his protector, however, his gold is in reality a test. “The test of a rich person is greater than that of a poor person,” says (Chovos Halevavos Shaar Hachniah 4). As wealth increases, so does the necessity for compassion. The more one is able to help others, the more he must train himself to see and tend to their needs. For one whose outlook is based on “tzar ayin,” (stinginess) the test is impossible to pass, and consequences of failure can be dire.

The lack of compassion is a greater sin than theft, as is illustrated in an encounter between King David and the prophet Nathan. The prophet wished to reprimand the king regarding his callousness. He conveyed his point with a parable: There was a poor man who had nothing but one lamb. With great difficulty, he managed to raise it, and by shearing a little bit of wool, he could earn enough to avoid starvation. Someone stole the lamb from him and slaughtered it.

David ruled that, as punishment for the theft, the thief had to pay the owner four times the value of the lamb. That was not all, however. “The one who did this deserves death,” he declared, “because he had not mercy on another person.”

Even one who generally has a giving nature can fall into “tzar ayin” when difficulties in his own life mount. He may express his tension by slamming the door on other people’s needs, telling himself, “I’ve got my own problems right now.” For the person who is selfish by nature, these justifications arise at every occasion in which help is requested. Often his own abhorrence of giving leads him to discourage others from chesed as well. He may mock those who make pledges at a fundraising event, or denigrate the cause to which they are giving. In turning others away from chesed, he becomes a “rasha,” a wicked person (Avos 5:16). Ultimately, his closed fist deprives not only those in need, but himself and his own household. Parting with the money becomes so difficult that he can no longer even enjoy what he has.

The Chofetz Chaim illustrates that the gold worshipper has

chosen a god that will quickly lure him onto a path of spiritual poverty and worldly poverty as well. Only when the idol is smashed does the gold regain its value and luster, because then it can be utilized for its real purpose. As an instrument of chesed, it can buy true joy in this world, and true security in the World to Come.

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

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 BECHUKOSAI

QUESTIONS

1. To what do the words “bechukotai telechu” (walk in My statutes) refer?
2. When is rain “in its season?”
3. What is the blessing of “v’achaltem lachmechem l’sova” (and you shall eat your bread to satisfaction)?
4. What is meant by the verse “and a sword will not pass through your land?”
5. Mathematically, if five Jewish soldiers can defeat 100 enemy soldiers, how many enemy soldiers should 100 Jewish soldiers be able to defeat?
6. How much is “revava”?
7. Which “progression” of seven transgressions are taught in Chapter 26, and why in that particular order?
8. What is one benefit which the Jewish People derive from the Land of Israel’s state of ruin?
9. What was the duration of the Babylonian exile and why that particular number?
10. How many years did the Jewish People sin in Israel up till the time the northern tribes were exiled?
11. In verse 26:42, the name Yaakov is written with an extra “vav.” From whom did Yaakov receive this extra letter and why?
12. What positive element is implied by the words “and I will bring them into the land of their enemies?”
13. In verse 26:42, why is the word “remember” not used in connection with the name of Yitzchak?
14. Why does the Torah say in 26:46 “Torot” (plural) and not “Torah” (singular)?
15. What happens when a poor person dedicates the value of a man to the Beit Hamikdash and doesn’t have sufficient funds to fulfill his vow?
16. If a person says “The leg of this animal shall be an olah offering,” the animal is sold and sacrificed as an olah offering. What is the status of the money received for the animal?
17. If a person dedicates his ancestral field to the Beit Hamikdash and fails to redeem it before yovel what happens to the field?
18. Where must “ma’aser sheini” be eaten?
19. When a person redeems “ma’aser sheini” what happens to the food? What happens to the redemption money?
20. How does a person tithe his animals?

ANSWERS

1. 26:3 - Laboring in Torah learning.
2. 26:4 - At times when people are not outside (e.g., Shabbat nights).
3. 26:5 - You will only require a little bread to be completely satisfied.
4. 26:6 - No foreign army will travel through your land on their way to a different country.
5. 26:4 - Two thousand.
6. 26:4 - Ten thousand.
7. 26:14,15 - Not studying Torah, not observing mitzvot, rejecting those who observe mitzvot, hating Sages, preventing others from observing mitzvot, denying that G-d gave the mitzvot, denying the existence of G-d. They are listed in this order because each transgression leads to the next.
8. 26:32 - No enemy nation will be able to settle in the Land of Israel.
9. 26:35 - 70 years. Because the Jewish People violated 70 shemita and yovel years.
10. 26:35 - 390 years.
11. 26:42 - In five places in the Torah, Yaakov’s name is written with an extra “vav” and in five places the name Eliyahu is missing a “vav.” Yaakov “took” these vavs as a pledge that Eliyahu will one day come and announce the redemption of Yaakov’s children.
12. 26:41 - G-d Himself, so to speak, will bring them into their enemies’ land. This means that even when the Jews are in exile, G-d will supply them with leaders who inspire them to keep the Torah. This guards the Jews from assimilating into the host culture.
13. 26:42 - Because the image of Yitzchak’s ashes (who was prepared to be brought as an offering) upon the altar is always before G-d.
14. 26:46 - To teach that both the Written Torah and the Oral Torah were given to Moshe on Har Sinai.
15. 27:8 - The person whose value was donated goes before the kohen, who sets the obligation according to the poor person’s ability to pay.
16. 27:9 - The money is “chullin,” meaning it does not have “holy” status, except for the value of the animal’s leg which does have “holy” status.
17. 27:16 - It becomes the property of the kohanim who are on rotation at the beginning of yovel.
18. 27:30 - In Jerusalem.
19. 27:31 - The food becomes permissible to him outside of Jerusalem. The redemption money must be brought to Jerusalem and used to purchase food to be eaten there.
20. 27:32 - He passes them through a door individually and every tenth animal he marks with a rod smeared with red dye.

Good Shabbos

SHABBOS TEFILLAH TIMES

- » Candlelighting–8:07 PM (Should preferably light with shul before 7:20)
- » Friday Night, May 23rd, Mincha / Kabbalos Shabbos–7:00 PM
- » Shabbos Morning, May 24th–8:30 AM

- » Chumash Class (men & women)–6:40 PM
- » Mincha / Shalosh Seudos–7:40 PM / Sunset–8:26 PM
- » Maariv / Shabbos Ends–9:11 PM

WEEKLY TEFILLAH TIMES (for the week beginning May 25, 2008)

- » Sunday Shacharis–8:00 AM
- » Monday (Legal Holiday) Shacharis–8:00 AM
- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40 AM

- » Mincha/Maariv–8:10 PM

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 8:40-9:30 PM)
- » **Kosher Kitchen** for men and women with Rabbi Yaakov Rich (Tuesday 8:40-9:30 PM)
- » **Path of the Just** for men and women with Rabbi Yaakov Rich (Wednesday 8:40-9:30 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.