

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, exciting and meaningful. The goal of Congregation Toras Chaim is to create a center for Jewish living that is built on these principles.

MAY 30-31, 2008 • 26 IYAR, 5768 • SHABBOS PARSHAS BAMIDBAR
CANDLELIGHTING 8:11 PM (NOT BEFORE 7:01 PM) • SHABBOS ENDS 9:15 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by Shalom and Shira Abrams in honor of Sarah's graduation from Torah Day School of Dallas, and Shalom's mother, Lorraine Feith, who is visiting from Los Angeles. 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 30th

- » Candlelighting–8:11 PM (Not before 7:01 PM, Preferably with the shul by 7:25)
- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos–7:00 PM

May 31st

- » Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)–8:30 AM
- » Chumash Shiur (for men & women)–6:45 PM
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos–7:45 PM
- » Shabbos Ends–9:15 PM

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE:

- » Sunday Shacharis–8:00 AM
- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40 AM
- » Mincha/Maariv–8:15 PM

■ WHAT’S NU AT CTC

- » **Welcome:** Congregation Toras Chaim would like to extend a warm welcome to Mrs. Lorraine Feith, mother of our shul president, Shalom Abrams.
- » **Welcome:** Congregation Toras Chaim would like to extend a warm welcome to Rabbi & Mrs. Zecharya Kraines, Rebbi at Torah Day School of Dallas, who recently moved into the North Eruv.
- » **Meat Pickup:** Please remember that the meat pickup is this Sunday, 10:30 AM at the shul. Please pay by check at the time you pickup your meat.
- » **Deluxe Shavuos Luncheon–No Charge:** Members and Friends of Congregation Toras Chaim are invited to a Deluxe Shavuos Luncheon on the second day of Yom Tov in the shul. There is no cost for this luncheon. The meal is being sponsored by David and Leslie Wiseman in honor of their 25th Wedding Anniversary. Mazel Tov to the Wisemans and much thanks for their generous support. This will be a dairy meal. There are only 75 tickets (seats) available, and tickets are being offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Everyone is encouraged to sign up for this great opportunity to come together as a shul in honor of the Yom Tov, and the Wisemans. We are looking forward to everyone's participation.
- » **Lag B'Omer / Memorial Day BBQ:** Thanks to all who helped to make this year's BBQ such an incredible enjoyable event. Especially thank you to Travis Katz who spent the entire day helping me cook the food. Some of our conversation was...Yes...Close to the Edge!
- » **Graduation:** 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.
- » **Graduation:** Mesorah High School for Girls cordially invites you to graduation, Thursday, June 5, 2008, 6 PM at Congregation Ohr HaTorah.
- » **Mazel Tov to Michael & Susie Geller:** Mazel Tov to our very dear friends, Michael and Susie Geller, on the birth of a baby boy. Mother and son are doing well. We also send a mazel tov to their extended families. May this little boy be a source of pride and nachas to all. The bris will, please G-d, be Tuesday at 1:00 PM at their home, 5944 Willow Ln., Dallas 75230.

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

Good health allows a person to use his faculties to their fullest. His limbs, organs and senses all operate at peak capacity, allowing him to accomplish all he can. Without his health, he may have all the same limbs, organs and senses, but they cannot fulfill their potential. In exactly the same way, a person can become “sick” with his wealth so that all his assets have no power to help him.

In Koheles (5:12), King Solomon says, “There is an evil sickness that I have seen under the sun.” This terrible malady is evident when “riches are hoarded by their owner to his misfortune.” The Zohar explains why this particular illness is defined with the word “evil” — a word that would seem to apply to any sickness; it reveals that there are tangible forces in this world that insinuate themselves into a person's nature. They manifest themselves as a deep-seated fear of letting go of money. A person controlled by these forces is not even generous with himself; he won't make a purchase today, because he might need the money for something else tomorrow. He won't give to one poor man, because perhaps tomorrow there will be someone who needs the money more. It is as if he is paralyzed in regard to using his money. His wealth is like the body of a terribly sick person; it lies there, unable to accomplish anything.

The most tragic element of this malady is that the victim brings it upon himself. Just as physical illnesses attack where immunity is compromised, the forces about which the Zohar speaks are also opportunistic. They vest themselves where an opening has been provided for them, in the heart of someone who sees his wealth as his alone, to use solely for his own personal benefit. Heaven helps him along the path he has chosen, making him so watchful of his money that he cannot even enjoy spending it on himself. Wealth accomplishes nothing positive for his person, and eventually, he passes into the Next World, leaving his carefully guarded treasure behind.

Ultimately, his wealth goes to others—people who will allow it to be utilized as an active, positive force. These are people who will loan the money, donate the money, offer their home, their time and other assets to those in need of help. They are able to rally the inner strength to overcome the evil illness King Solomon described. They become masters over the money, rather than slaves to it. The Chofetz Chaim urges every Jew to build this strength within himself. If one's wealth is to lead to blessing rather than ruin, one must bend in the opposite direction of “tzar ayin” (stinginess). One can and should consciously train oneself in the art of giving, until it becomes a way of 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 Ela Wilson, Sarah Rivka Abrams, and Chava Miriam Rich upon their graduation from Torah Day School of Dallas.

—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, Sepa-

rating 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. Why were the Jewish People counted so frequently?
2. What documents did the people bring when they were counted?
3. What determined the color of the tribal flags?
4. What is the difference between an "ot" and a "degel"?
5. How do we see that the Jews in the time of Moshe observed "techum Shabbat" - the prohibition against traveling more than 2,000 amot on Shabbat?
6. What was the signal for the camp to travel?
7. What was the sum total of the counting of the 12 tribes?
8. Why are Aharon's sons called "sons of Aharon and Moshe"?
9. Who was Nadav's oldest son?
10. Which two people from the Book of Esther does Rashi mention in this week's Parsha?
11. Why did the levi'im receive ma'aser rishon?
12. Which groups of people were counted from the age of one month?
13. Name the first descendant of Levi in history to be counted as an infant.
14. Who assisted Moshe in counting the levi'im?
15. Why did so many people from the tribe of Reuven support Korach in his campaign against Moshe?
16. Why did so many people from the tribes of Yehuda, Yissachar and

Zevulun become great Torah scholars?

17. In verse 3:39 the Torah states that the total number of levi'im was 22,000. The actual number was 22,300. Why does the Torah seem to ignore 300 levi'im?
18. The firstborn males of the Jewish People were redeemed for five shekalim. Why five shekalim?
19. During what age-span is a man considered at his full strength?
20. As the camp was readying itself for travel, who was in charge of covering the vessels of the Mishkan in preparation for transport?

ANSWERS

1. 1:1 - They are very dear to G-d.
2. 1:18 - They brought birth records proving their tribal lineage.
3. 2:2 - Each tribes flag was the color of that tribes stone in the breastplate of the kohen gadol.
4. 2:2 - An "ot" is a flag, i.e., a colored cloth that hangs from a flagpole. A degel is a flagpole.
5. 2:2 - G-d commanded them to camp no more than 2,000 amot from the Ohel Moed. Had they camped farther, it would have been forbidden for them to go to the Ohel Moed on Shabbat.
6. 2:9 - The cloud over the Ohel Moed departed and the kohanim sounded the trumpets.
7. 2:32 - 603,550.
8. 3:1 - Since Moshe taught them Torah, its as if he gave birth to them.
9. 3:4 - Nadav had no children.
10. 3:7 - Bigtan and Teresh.
11. 3:8 - Since the leviim served in the Mishkan in place of everyone else, they received tithes as "payment."
12. 3:15, 40 - The leviim, and the firstborn of Bnei Yisrael.
13. 3:15 - Levis daughter Yocheved was born while the Jewish People were entering Egypt. She is counted as one of the 70 people who entered Egypt.
14. 3:16 G-d.
15. 3:29 - The tribe of Reuven was encamped near Korach, and were therefore influenced for the worse. This teaches that one should avoid living near the wicked.
16. 3:38 - The tribes of Yehuda, Yissachar and Zevulun were encamped near Moshe, and were therefore influenced for the good. This teaches that one should seek to live near the righteous
17. 3:39 - Each levi served to redeem a first-born of the Jewish People. Since 300 leviim were themselves firstborn, they themselves needed to be redeemed, and could therefore not redeem others.
18. 3:46 - To atone for the sale of Yosef, Rachels firstborn, who was sold by his brothers for five shekalim (20 pieces of silver.)
19. 4:2 - Between the ages of 30 and 50.
20. 4:5 - The kohanim.

Good Shabbos

SHABBOS TEFILLAH TIMES

- » Friday, May 30th
- » Candlelighting-8:11 PM (Not before 7:01 PM, should preferably light with shul before 7:25 PM)
- » Mincha / Kabbalos Shabbos-7:00 PM
- » Shabbos, May 24th
- » Shacharis-8:30 AM
- » Chumash Class (men & women)-6:45 PM
- » Mincha / Shalosh Seudos-7:45 PM / Sunset-8:30 PM
- » Maariv / Shabbos Ends-9:15 PM

WEEKLY TEFILLAH TIMES (for the week beginning June 1, 2008)

- » Sunday Shacharis-8:00 AM
- » Weekday Shacharis-6:40 AM

- » Mincha/Maariv-8:15 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.