

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.

JUNE 27-28, 2008 · 25 SIVAN, 5768 · SHABBOS PARSHAS KORACH, MEVORCHIM
CANDLELIGHTING 8:21 PM (NOT BEFORE 7:09 PM) · SHABBOS ENDS 9:24 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by Ehoud & Shoshana Wilson in honor of Itay, Oded, and Ehoud's birthday. We are very lucky to have their birthdays all on the same day, spanning 30 years! Thank you for our wonderful family members and guests that came today. A special thank you to Rabbi and Mrs. Rich, and Shira and Shalom Abrams for helping us with everything. Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by Haiim & Ellen Gutgold in memory of Haiim's mother, Leah bas Haiim, whose yahrtzeit is on Shabbos. Please contact Shalom Abrams at 903-918-9650 if you are interested in sponsoring kiddush or shalosh seudos in the future.

■ SHABBOS SCHEDULE:

- June 27th**
- » Candlelighting–8:21 PM (Not before 7:09 PM, preferably with the shul by 7:25)
 - » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos–7:00 PM
- June 28th**
- » Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)–8:30 AM
 - » Chumash Shiur (for men & women)–6:55 PM
 - » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos–7:55 PM
 - » Shabbos Ends–9:24 PM

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE:

- » Sunday Shacharis–8:00 AM
- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40 AM
- » Thursday, Friday Shacharis (Rosh Chodesh Tammuz)–6:25 AM
- » Mincha/Maariv–8:25 PM

■ WHAT’S NU AT CTC

- » **On Vacation:** Please note: Rabbi Rich will be on vacation from July 7 through July 23, 2008. All classes will be cancelled during that time period. In case of great need you may contact Rabbi Rich at 972-835-6016.
- » **Our Obligation to Others:** One member of our shul recently got up from shiva. He must have a daily minyan to fulfill his obligation, and only our participation can ensure that he will. Attending shul when our friend is in need is the highest form of Gemilus Chassadim (Act of Kindness), for there is no way one man can count as ten. He needs us, an ultimately, we will need him. By belonging to a shul and community we affirm our duty to be there for others, and others to be there for us. We will daven Mincha/Maariv this week at 8:25 PM and Shacharis at 6:40 AM (Thursday & Friday it will be at 6:25 AM). Please consider making a daily commitment to the minyan, one or more days per week. We have an awesome congregation, and this will only strengthen an already great, great thing!

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

When a person owns a fertile tract of land, he may seem to have the key to bounty in his hand. Soil alone, however, will not produce anything of value. King Solomon described a field he observed, which bore all the indications of the laziness of its owner. It was covered not with ripening crops, but with rocks, thistle and weeds. Its potential was gradually diminishing as it became increasingly matted with stubborn undergrowth.

Why did this field produce nothing of value? The Chofetz Chaim explains that a field must be plowed and planted; only then does the soil produce life. Life grows from the carefully prepared soil, and still more life is sustained from the produce it yields. Once a person plows and plants, he must protect his field with a fence so that wild animals will not intrude and destroy what his work has produced. In contrast, the lazy person's field—this potential spawning ground of life—lies in ruins, covered in thorns and weeds.

The lazy man might one day look around and say to himself, “This is such a waste. I’m going to plant this field.” By that time, however, his task will be enormous. He will have to cut through the deeply embedded roots, remove the rocks, turn the soil, rebuild the gate, His energy will be drained before he even begins to plant.

This scenario, says the Chofetz Chaim, describes one who puts off Torah learning, self-improvement and kind deeds to another day. His effort to catch up will be hobbled by the thick tangles of unholiness that, through neglect, have taken root. Learning and

kind acts are the means by which one plows the field to ready it for spiritual growth. By grasping each day's opportunities to serve Hashem, a person builds a fence around his field that keeps the opportunistic, life-draining weeds away. Within this protected field, wisdom, fine character traits and inner beauty can sprout and blossom. Ultimately, once a person has put in his effort, Hashem takes over the work, blessing the field with the ability to grow on its own.

The Chofetz Chaim quotes the Talmud (Berachos 32b) which states that there are four areas in which one needs constant strengthening: learning Torah, performing kind acts, praying and treating others with respect. The ability to do good does not sprout on its own; it requires training and effort. Laziness is the normal “default” mode of human nature. If a person allows himself to drift into that mode, he will fail to cultivate good deeds, and he will be unable to reap their merit. At some later time when that merit is needed, the storehouse will be empty. The Talmud (Berachos 63a) explains that this principle affects not only individual lives, but the Jewish people as a whole. In times of crisis, Hashem's agents of compassion scour the world for kind acts in order to bolster the cause of mercy. By refusing to put off chesed for tomorrow, each person has the ability to assure that Hashem will be powerfully moved by the myriad kind acts, small and large, that blossom forth continually from each Jewish home.

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, 8:45-9:30 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

Path of the Just: Wednesday, 8:45-9:30 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 transla-

tion. 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, 8:45-9:45 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 KORACH

QUESTIONS

1. Why did Datan and Aviram join Korach?
2. Why is Yaakov’s name not mentioned in Korach’s genealogy?
3. What motivated Korach to rebel?
4. What did Korach and company do when Moshe said that a techelet garment needs tzitzit?
5. What warning did Moshe give the rebels regarding the offering of the incense?
6. Did Moshe want to be the kohen gadol?
7. What event did Korach not foresee?
8. What does the phrase rav lachem mean in this week’s Parsha? (Give two answers.)
9. What lands are described in this week’s Parsha as “flowing with milk and honey”?
10. When did Moshe have the right to take a donkey from the Jewish community?
11. What did Korach do the night before the final confrontation?
12. What sin did Datan and Aviram have in common specifically with Goliath?
13. Before what age is a person not punished by the Heavenly Court for his sins?
14. What happens to one who rebels against the institution of kehuna? Who suffered such a fate?
15. Why specifically was incense used to stop the plague?
16. Why was Aharon’s staff placed in the middle of the other 11 staffs?
17. Aharon’s staff was kept as a sign. What did it signify?
18. Why are the 24 gifts for the kohanim taught in this week’s Parsha?
19. Who may eat the kodshei kodashim (most holy sacrifices) and where must they be eaten?
20. Why is G-d’s covenant with the kohanim called “a covenant of salt”?

ANSWERS

1. 16:1 - Because they were his neighbors.
2. 16:1 - Yaakov prayed that his name not be mentioned in connection with Korach’s rebellion (Bereishet 49:6).
3. 16:1 - Korach was jealous that Elizafan ben Uziel was appointed as leader of the family of Kehat instead of himself.
4. 16:1 - They laughed.
5. 16:6 - Only one person would survive.
6. 16-6 - Yes.
7. 16:7 - That his sons would repent.
8. 16:7,3 - Rav lachem appears twice in this week’s Parsha. It means “much more than enough greatness have you taken for yourself (16:3)” and “It is a great thing I have said to you (16:17).”
9. 16:12 - Egypt and Canaan.
10. 16:15 - When he traveled from Midian to Egypt.
11. 16:19 - Korach went from tribe to tribe in order to rally support for himself.
12. 16:27 - They all blasphemed.
13. 16:27 - Twenty years old.
14. 17:5 - He is stricken with tzara’at, as was King Uziyahu (Divrei HaYamim II 26:16-19).
15. 17:13 - Because the people were deprecating the incense offering, saying that it caused the death of two of Aharon’s sons and also the death of 250 of Korach’s followers. Therefore G-d demonstrated that the incense offering was able to avert death, and it is sin, not incense, which causes death.
16. 17:21 - So people would not say that Aharon’s staff bloomed because Moshe placed it closer to the Shechina.
17. 17:25 - That only Aharon and his children were selected for the kehuna.
18. 18:8 - Since Korach claimed the kehuna, the Torah emphasizes Aharon’s and his descendants’ rights to kehuna by recording the gifts given to them.
19. 18:10 - Male kohanim may eat them and only in the azara (forecourt of the Beit Hamikdash).
20. 18:19 - Just as salt never spoils, so this covenant will never be rescinded.

Good Shabbos

SHABBOS TEFILLAH TIMES

- » Friday, June 27th
- » Candlelighting–8:25 PM (Not before 7:09 PM, should preferably light with shul before 7:25 PM)
- » Mincha / Kabbalos Shabbos–7:00 PM
- » Shabbos, June 28th
- » Shacharis–8:30 AM
- » Chumash Class (men & women)–6:55 PM
- » Mincha / Shalosh Seudos–7:55 PM / Sunset–8:39 PM
- » Maariv / Shabbos Ends–9:24 PM

- WEEKLY TEFILLAH TIMES** (for the week beginning June 29, 2008)
- » Sunday Shacharis–8:00 AM
 - » Weekday Shacharis–6:40 AM

- » Thursday & Friday Shacharis (Rosh Chodesh Tammuz)–6:25 AM
- » Mincha/Maariv–8:25 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 8:45-9:30 PM)
- » **Kosher Kitchen** for men and women with Rabbi Yaakov Rich (Tuesday 8:45-9:30 PM)
- » **Path of the Just** for men and women with Rabbi Yaakov Rich (Wednesday 8:45-9:30 PM)
- » **Chumash** for men and women (Shabbos one hour before Mincha)

Unless otherwise noted, all classes are in the shul.