

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.

AUGUST 22-23, 2008 · 21 MENACHEM AV, 5768 · SHABBOS PARSHAS EIKEV
CANDLELIGHTING 7:44 PM · SHABBOS ENDS 8:46 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored in honor of our parent’s and grandparent’s, Sara and Ed Ruttenberg’s 40th wedding anniversary, by Abe, Yoni, Abigail, Shira, Aliza, Uri, Arwen and Naomi. Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by Yitzchok Elchonon Rich in honor of all those who work so tirelessly to make the shul the wonderful place that it is.

Please contact Shalom Abrams at 903-918-9650 if you are interested in sponsoring kiddush or shalosh seudos in the future.

■ SHABBOS SCHEDULE:

August 22nd

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- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos–7:00 PM

August 23rd

- » Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)–8:30 AM
- » Chumash Shiur (for men & women)–6:15 PM
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- » Shabbos Ends–8:46 PM

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE:

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

■ WHAT’S NU AT CTC

» Annual Congregational Meeting / High Holiday Seats

Elections: The Annual Congregation Toras Chaim meeting to elect its new officers and board members will be held Sunday, August 24, 2008 at 9 AM (immediately after morning minyan). At this time the membership will also be updated with respect to the shul’s financial needs and prospects. All members are strongly encouraged to participate in this very important meeting. Nominees include:

Officers

Wes Sutkin: President
Etienne Quillon: Vice President/Secretary
Larry Elewitz: Treasurer

Advisory Board

Eliot Litoff
Gavin Kam

High Holidays, Seats and Child Care

Rosh Hashana and Yom HaKippurim will, please G-d, be very uplifting. The shul has two exceptional chazzanim joining us—one from Israel and one from Lakewood, NJ—for Rosh Hashana and spending the entire ten days, through Yom HaKippurim, with us. They are not charging the shul a fee. Rather they are offering to lead our services out of their desire to daven with a young, growing, energized congregation. We are very grateful to Rabbi Moshe Kranz and Rabbi Tzvi Teitelbaum for their services.

We want everyone to feel that davening at CTC is comfortable and affordable. We expect many people to be joining us for the High Holidays, and therefore, we have decided to rent space at Torah Day School of Dallas for our services. Child care, however, will still be at the shul, which is only one block from TDSO. The shul leadership has set the following prices for High Holiday seats (includes Rosh Hashana and Yom Hakippurim):

Early Bird Price: \$150/seat (tickets paid for by 08/31/08)

Regular Price: \$175/seat (tickets paid for by Rosh Hashana)

Child Care Price: \$20/day/child

You may pay by check, made out to Congregation Toras Chaim, or use the *online payment interface*. Please indicate in the “Special Instruction” box how many men and women’s seats are being purchased, and how many children are being registered for child care. We wish everyone a happy, healthy, sweet new year, filled with growth in all areas of one’s relationship with Hashem.

- » **Our Deepest Condolences:** It is with great sadness that we inform the congregation of the passing of Chaya Zahara Backer this past week in France. The funeral took place this past Thursday morning, August 21, 2008 at Har Haminuchos, Yerushalayim. Dov Zvi Backer, his mother-in-law, and sisters-in law are planning to sit shiva in Yerushalayim, and can be reached at 011-972-2-678-7028. A fund has been set up to help the family at both Ohev Shalom

and Chabad of Dallas. When contributing by check please note on the memo line “The Backer Fund.” May the Backer family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

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

Hashem has given the Jewish people three pathways to holiness. One is the study of Torah, the second is “avodah,” service, which encompasses prayer, and the third is chesed. The second pathway, prayer, is in reality a detour route, a necessary alternative to the primary “avodah,” which is the service in the Beis HaMikdash. With the destruction of the Beis HaMikdash, the Jews’ access to the earth’s most concentrated source of holiness was closed off. The remaining pathways—prayer, study of Torah and acts of kindness—are therefore all the more vital to the neshamah’s earthly journey.

The Chofetz Chaim illustrates that acts of kindness possess the power to achieve, at least in part, what the Beis HaMikdash achieved for the Jewish people. He cites the Talmud (Berachos 5b) discussing the verse in Mishlei (16:6), “Through kindness and truth iniquity will be forgiven.” Kindness, says the Talmud, refers to one who pursues opportunities to give charity and help others; truth refers to the Torah.

A scene depicted in Midrash Yelamdinu strengthens the link between chesed and atonement: Rabbi Yehoshua ben Chananyah is walking with Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai past the ruined Temple Mount. Rabbi Yehoshua says, “Woe is to us! The Temple, the source of forgiveness for our sins, has been destroyed.” Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai replies, “My son, don’t despair. We have another source of atonement, and that is acts of kindness.” Another verse (Hoshea 6:6) goes even further, declaring that Hashem says, “For I desire kindness, not a sacrifice.”

It is clear from these verses that, although the absence of the Beis HaMikdash cuts off a crucial “express route” to holiness, acts of kindness can take a Jew to the same spiritual destination.

One must realize, however, that for kindness to have a power parallel to that of the Beis HaMikdash, one must adhere to standards that are parallel to those of the Beis HaMikdash. There, the fire of the altar burned constantly. The Kohanim brought sacrifices constantly because sin is constant in the world, and the atonement the sacrifices afforded was always needed. For chesed to achieve the same level of power to bring forgiveness, it too must be a constant.

Torah, service to Hashem and acts of kindness are the only three real nutrients for a Jew’s neshamah. They provide its nourishment, its energy and its protection from corrupting forces. With one of these three essential elements compromised, the only way to stay in “good health” is to absorb more nourishment from those that remain. Even with the Beis HaMikdash in ruins, forgiveness and kindness still rule Hashem’s world

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

Path of the Just: Wednesday, 8:30-9:30 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 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 EIKEV

QUESTIONS

1. What must the Jewish People do to ensure that Hashem will fulfill His promise to do good for us?
2. What were the: (a) wonders (b) strong hand (c) outstretched arm that the Jewish People saw in Egypt?
3. When a group performs a mitzvah, whose name is attached to the mitzvah?
4. How did the Jewish People do their laundry in the midbar?
5. How did the Jewish People obtain clothing for their growing children in the midbar?
6. How many days did Moshe spend on Mt. Sinai altogether?
7. On what day did Moshe come down from Mt. Sinai having received complete forgiveness for the Jewish People?
8. How was Aharon punished for his role in the golden calf?
9. Who made the ark in which Moshe placed the second set of tablets? What special function did it later serve?
10. Which sin of the Jewish People was prompted by the death of Aharon?
11. Why were the levi'im chosen by Hashem?
12. Why do the levi'im have no portion in the land?
13. All aspects of man's life are in Hashem's "hands" except one. What is this?

14. What is the "added benefit" of observing the mitzvot?
15. What is meant by circumcising one's heart?
16. What are the sources of water for the fields of Egypt and Eretz Yisrael?
17. What path does the Torah prescribe for gaining new knowledge?
18. Which activity is "serving Hashem with the heart"?
19. When the Jewish People sin, why are they considered worse than the generation of the flood?
20. How does one "cleave to Hashem"?

ANSWERS

1. 7:12 - Guard even the "light" commandments.
2. 7:19 - The: (a) Plagues; (b) Pestilence; (c) Slaying of the firstborn.
3. 8:1 - The person who finishes it.
4. 8:4 - The ananei kavod (clouds of glory) cleaned and bleached their clothes.
5. 8:4 - As their children grew, their clothing grew with them.
6. 9:18 - 120 days.
7. 9:18 - The tenth of Tishrei, Yom Kippur.
8. 9:20 - His two sons died.
9. 10:1 - Moshe. This ark would accompany the Jewish People into battle.
10. 10:6-7 - When Aharon died the ananei kavod departed, causing many Jews to fear war with the King of Arad and to retreat toward Egypt.
11. 10:8 - Because they did not participate in the sin of the golden calf.
12. 10:9 -- Since they served in the Temple, thus they were not free to work the land.
13. 10:12 - Fear of Heaven, which is dependent upon the person.
14. 10:13 - There is reward.
15. 10:16 - To remove those things that block the words of Torah from entering.
16. 11:10 - Egypt is irrigated by manually carrying water up from the Nile. Eretz Yisrael is supplied by rainwater requiring no work on the part of its inhabitants.
17. 11:13 - By repeatedly reviewing what one knows, one more easily acquires new knowledge.
18. 11:13 - Prayer.
19. 11:17 - Because the generation of the flood had no one from whom to learn.
20. 11:22 - Attaching oneself to Torah scholars.

Good Shabbos

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■ 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)
- » Path of the Just for men and women with Rabbi Yaakov Rich (Wednesday 8:30-9:30 PM)
- » Chumash for men and women (Shabbos one hour before Mincha)

Unless otherwise noted, all classes are in the shul.