

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.

SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2008 · 27 ELUL, 5768 · SHABBOS PARSHAS NITZAVIM
CANDLELIGHTING 6:58 PM · SHABBOS ENDS 8:00 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by Shalom & Shira Abrams and family in honor of the seventh anniversary of their geirus. Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by Rachel Abrams. Please contact Shalom Abrams at 903-918-9650 if you are interested in sponsoring kiddush or shalosh seudos in the future.

■ SHABBOS SCHEDULE:

September 26th

- » Candlelighting–6:58 PM
- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos–7:00 PM

September 27th

- » Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)–8:30 AM
- » Chumash Shiur (for men & women)–5:30 PM
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos–6:30 PM
- » Shabbos Ends–8:00 PM

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE:

- » Sunday Shacharis–8:00 AM
- » Friday Shacharis–6:10 AM
- » Sunday Mincha/Maariv–7:00 PM

■ROSH HASHANA SCHEDULE:

Erev Rosh Hashanah, Monday, Sept 29

- » Selichos/Shacharis/Annulment of Vows: 6:00 AM
- » Candlelighting: 6:54 PM (Special Note: On Yom Tov one may light candles after sunset, but only from a pre-existing flame.)
- » Mincha: 6:55 PM followed by interactive Torah class
- » Sunset: 7:12 PM
- » Maariv: 7:50 PM

Rosh Hashanah, Tuesday, Sept 30

- » Shacharis: 8:00 AM
- » Speech/Shofar: Not before 10:00 AM
- » Conclusion of Mussaf: 1:00 - 1:15 PM
- » Mincha: 6:00 PM
- » Tashlich (meet in shul): 6:30 PM
- » Sunset: 7:12 PM
- » Candlelighting (From a pre-existing flame): Not before 7:49 PM
- » Maariv: 7:50 PM

Rosh Hashanah, Wednesday, October 1

- » Shacharis: 8:00 AM
- » Speech/Shofar: Not before 10:00 AM
- » Conclusion of Mussaf: 1:00 - 1:15 PM
- » Mincha: 6:40 PM followed by interactive Torah class
- » Sunset: 7:11 PM
- » Maariv: 7:48 PM
- » Havdallah on glass of wine, no candle or spices.

Tzom Gedalya (Fast Of Gedalya), Thursday, October 2

- » Fast Begins: 6:11 AM
- » Selichos/Shacharis: 6:10 AM
- » Mincha: 6:40 PM
- » End of Fast: 7:47 PM

■ A HIGHER HOLIDAY: RABBI LABEL LAM

Remember us for life, O King Who desires life, and inscribe us in the Book of Life- for Your sake O Living G-d. (Inserted into Prayers during the Ten Days of Repentance)

A young lady asked me a question after a class the other night, “Rabbi, what do I ask for on Rosh HaShana?” It was a very sincere and honest question that deserved a direct answer, so I told her, “Nothing!” She was a little stunned and that gave me an opportunity to explain. On Rosh HaShana many critical things are scripted that effect all aspects of and life itself. The livelihood of a person is determined on Rosh HaShana. Who will live and who will die? That too is reckoned on the awesome day of Rosh HaShana. How do ready ourselves? It could well be that Rosh HaShana is more like a job interview than anything else. We want desperately to gain an active role in G-d’s universe and accordingly our appeal is to be organized. There is a secret to the art of prayer that advises us how to maximize our bargaining position when so much lies in the balance.

If one wants to succeed in any field they would be well advised to seek out someone who has already achieved in that endeavor. If you want to know how to golf better stalk the Tiger (Woods) and if you want to know about investing chart the moves of Mr. Buffet. If you want to know how to pray then study the words uttered from the holy lips of Chana. From the excellence of a single prayer she was granted a child, Shmuel that altered landscape of Jewish History for all time. The Talmud therefore analyzed carefully the many details and factors surrounding that episode we read about on Rosh HaShana. It’s no surprise then that many of those features are fixtures in our daily prayers. The verse testifies, “She was feeling bitter and she prayed to HASHEM weeping continuously. She made a vow and said, “HASHEM, Master of Legions, if You take note of the suffering of Your maidservant, and give Your maidservant male offspring, then I shall give him to HASHEM all the days of his life, and a razor shall not come upon his head.” (Shmuel 1:10-11) Chana made what may amount to an irresistible prayer. What did she say that was so magical? She dedicated her son before he was ever to be born. Chana requested a child not for herself but for HASHEM’s sake.

When my son Shmuel was born 19 years ago on the eve of Rosh HaShana I was reminded of Chana’s words when speaking at his Bris. When the Talmud Chulin wants to rank the greatness of Avraham and Dovid and Moshe they order them according to their words. King David said, “I am a worm and not a man”. Still a worm is a living thing. Avraham said, “I am dust and ashes”. He considered himself something much less. Moshe said about himself and his brother Aharon, “We are what”. “What” is substance-less and therefore they are considered greater in selflessness. The Talmud tells us, though, that Shmuel was equal in stature to both Moshe and Aharon because the verse states, “Moshe and Aharon with His service and Shmuel with the calling of his name.” Shmuel means two things. “I requested him (Shoel M)-from HASHEM.” His name, his sake is for HASHEM (SHMO-E-L) Moshe and Aharon shrunk through service but Shmuel was dedicated and nullified prior to conception and with the calling of his name.

When Chana’s child was yet a child she delivered on her promise. She brought her son Shmuel to Eli the Kohen showing that she meant business. Anyone’s prayer for a child, a spouse, a house, or whatever is certainly amplified by a sincere desire to serve HASHEM- This life, these resources are pre-dedicated. This may be the secret of the irresistible prayer and the key to a Higher Holiday.

■ 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, 8:00-9:00 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, 8:00-9:00 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 NITZAVIM**

QUESTIONS

1. What is the connection between the verse “atem nitzavim” and the curses in the previous parsha?
2. Who were the wood-choppers and water-carriers?
3. Why can Hashem never “swap” the Jewish people for another nation?
4. One who ignores the Torah’s warnings “adds drunkenness to thirst.” What does this mean?
5. What two cities were destroyed along with Sedom and Amorah?
6. “The hidden things are for Hashem, our G-d, and the revealed things are for us...” What does this mean?
7. According to Rashi, how will the day of the ingathering of the exiles be “great and difficult?”
8. Where is the Torah not to be found? Where is it to be found?
9. When and where did the Jewish People become culpable for each other’s sins?
10. How do the earth and sky remind us to keep the mitzvot?

ANSWERS

11. What is the connection between the verse “atem nitzavim” and the curses in the previous parsha?
12. 29:12 - The Jewish People asked, “Who can survive such curses?” Moshe responded, “You’ve done a lot to anger Hashem, and yet “atem nitzavim” you’re still standing before Him.”

13. Who were the wood-choppers and water-carriers?
14. 29:10 - Canaanites who joined the Jewish People under false pretenses.
15. Why can Hashem never “swap” the Jewish people for another nation?
16. 29:12 - Because Hashem swore to their ancestors that He would never do so.
17. One who ignores the Torah’s warnings “adds drunkenness to thirst.” What does this mean?
18. 29:18 - He causes Hashem to reckon his unintentional sins alongside his intentional ones, punishing him for all.
19. What two cities were destroyed along with Sedom and Amorah?
20. 29:22 - Admah and Tsevoyim.
21. “The hidden things are for Hashem, our G-d, and the revealed things are for us...” What does this mean?
22. 29:28 - There is collective culpability only for “open” sins, but not for “hidden” ones.
23. According to Rashi, how will the day of the ingathering of the exiles be “great and difficult?”
24. 30: 3 - It will be as if Hashem needs to take each individual by the hand and lead him out of exile.
25. Where is the Torah not to be found? Where is it to be found?
26. 30:12-15 - The Torah is not found in heaven nor across the ocean. Rather, it is “very close to you, in your mouth and in your heart.”
27. When and where did the Jewish People become culpable for each other’s sins?
28. 30:28 - When they crossed the Jordan and accepted the oath on Mt. Eval and Mt. Grizim.
29. How do the earth and sky remind us to keep the mitzvot?
30. 30:19 - The earth and heavenly bodies, although receiving neither reward nor punishment, always obey Hashem’s will. How much more should we, who stand to receive reward or punishment, obey Hashem.

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 8:00-9:00 PM)
- » Path of the Just for men and women with Rabbi Yaakov Rich (Wednesday 8:00-9:00 PM)
- » Chumash for men and women (Shabbos one hour before Mincha)

Unless otherwise noted, all classes are in the shul.