

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.

NOVEMBER 14-15, 2008 · 17 CHESHVAN, 5769 · SHABBOS PARSHAS VAYEIRA
CANDLELIGHTING 5:07 PM · SHABBOS ENDS 6:10 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by the shul in honor of all the girls who do the childcare during davening. Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by: 1) Etienne and Rina Quillon in honor of the girls who do the childcare during davening; 2) Travis & Ceci Katz in honor of Travis' sister, Heather Smith, who is celebrating her 40th birthday. Please contact Shalom Abrams at 903-918-9650 if you are interested in sponsoring kiddush or shalosh seudos in the future.

■ SHABBOS SCHEDULE:

November 14th

- » Candlelighting-5:07 PM
- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos-5:05 PM

November 15th

- » Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)-8:30 AM
- » Chumash Shiur (for men & women)-3:40 PM
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos-4:40 PM
- » Shabbos Ends-6:10 PM

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE:

- » Sunday Shacharis-8:00 AM
- » Weekday Shacharis-6:40 AM
- » Mincha/Maariv-5:05 PM

■ WHAT'S NU AT CTC

- » **Attention Ladies:** Our next CTC Sisterhood Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 30, at 10:30 AM at the Shul. We have much exciting news to share, as well as a stimulating program by Ellen Gutgold, **HOW to DECLUTTER YOUR HOME - Stop the Holding on Habit and Save Money.** We hope everyone will attend to share their thoughts to benefit our Shul. The meeting promises to be informative and enjoyable. Please feel free to bring a friend.
- » **Premium Meat at Greatly Reduced Costs:** Congregation Toras Chaim will be having a meat sale for Chanukah. The sale is scheduled for Sunday, December 14, 2008 with orders needing to be placed by Monday, December 8, 2008. We will post the items, quantities available, and prices as soon as they are finalized. Stay tuned for more information.
- » **Ask the Rebbetzin:** Our first monthly "Ask the Rebbetzin" session will be held on Monday night, Dec. 1, 2008 at the shul. Questions must be submitted in advance, by phone at 972-835-0386 or email srich@toraschaimdallas.org. Privacy will be respected. Questions may be submitted at any time and will be answered promptly. Please specify if you want your question answered publicly (where there can be discussion) or privately. Subsequent "Ask the Rebbetzin" sessions will be held the first Monday night following Rosh Chodesh, whenever possible. We hope you will find this new CTC feature helpful and meaningful.

■ A PLAN CALLED "KINDLINESS" BY RABBI LABEL LAM:

He took cream and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and placed these before them; he stood over them beneath the tree and they ate. (Breishis 18:8)

My five year old son asked a question last week that gave us all a good chuckle. "Will Avraham Avinu still be known a thousand years from now?" What was so funny? I'm not so sure. Maybe it's the notion of someone so young in years thinking in such large numbers, or maybe it's because the answer is so obvious. It's as if he asked if the sun will be rising next week. Of course the answer is yes. If Avraham has been known for the past 3700 years he will certainly be known a thousand years from now. Another ticklish idea is that not many of us around today will be remembered that far in the future. That begs the question: What distinguishes Avraham from so many who have stood upright upon the planet? That's not a child's question.

The key may be imbedded in a story in the Talmud about an incident that occurred at a wedding banquet of Rabban Gamliel, where Rabbi Eliezer, Rabbi Yehoshua, and Rabbi Tzadok were sitting. "Rabban Gamliel was standing over them and serving them drinks. He offered a drink to Rabbi Eliezer but he did not accept it. When he offered it to Rabbi Yehoshua he accepted it. Rabbi Eliezer

said, "How could you do such a thing, Yehoshua? We should not be sitting while Rabban Gamliel (who is the Nasi/Leader) is standing and serving us!"

Rabbi Yehoshua replied, "We find that even a greater person than Rabban Gamliel stood and served his guests. After all, Avraham was the leading personality of his generation, and it says about Avraham, "He stood over them beneath the tree and they ate" ...Then should we not allow Rabban Gamliel to serve us drinks?"

Rabbi Tzadok said to them, "How long are you going to ignore the honor of G-d and involve yourselves with the honor of man? The Holy One, blessed be He, causes the wind to blow, the clouds to rise, the rain to fall, the earth to yield, and sets a table for each and every individual; and we should not allow Rabban Gamliel to stand and serve us drinks?"

We know that Avraham Avinu had an inquisitive mind from his early days. He had figured out that everything in the world, big and small, exhibited profound power, purposefulness, and kindness. Let us consider something as inane as eyebrows. It's interesting that everyone has differing hair patterns and yet everyone's eyebrow hairs go from inside to out. Why? We receive 80% of our information about the world through visual acuity. The eye is critical for daily function. It's no wonder it is placed in a rocky crevice between the cheek bone and the forehead and the instinct to blink is so primary. While working, "the sweat of the brow" threatens the eye. There it meets the eyebrows. Like the gutters on a roof the water is channeled to the sides of the head or down the bridge of the nose where it will do little harm. If some small droplet manages to sneak past the first line of defense, there are eyelashes like window hoods to lead the beads away.

After Avraham had stretched his mind to comprehend and categorize the genius implied in every detail of creation he must have wondered, "What is the purpose of my being conscious of it all?" It is clear that at some point he came to understand that he was mandated to emulate The Creator. Avraham, therefore, stood over his guests just like the tree under which they were seated, providing for them shelter and food and quietly serving as a living example of a plan called "kindliness".

■ 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 Shabbos Kitchen: Tuesday, 8:00-9:00 PM

There are literally thousands of halachic questions than can arise on Shabbos. Mastery of these laws is necessary to have a proper and meaningful observance of Shabbos. But, managing them all, especially with respect to Shabbos observance in the kitchen, can be daunting. This class will teach you step-by-step how to keep a halachically correct Shabbos kitchen. You will not only learn what to do, but why as well. Understanding the logic behind the observance makes keeping Shabbos easier and more meaningful. *Beginning October 28, 2008 and running every Tuesday, 8 PM at Congregation Toras Chaim, for men and women, adults and teens. The teacher will be Rabbi Yaakov Rich. There is no cost to attend this course. Congregation Toras Chaim is located at 17912 Hillcrest Rd., Dallas, TX 75252. Please call 972-248-1324 for more information. Members and*

non-members of the shul are invited and encouraged to attend.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

Placing food on the hotplate or blech / Setting up the slow cooker / Wrapping and storing hot food / Heating the water / Opening the wine bottle / Opening tin cans, soda cans. / Opening food packets and boxes. / Serving the soup / Using a wet ladle. / Serving from a pot on the gas range. / Returning the soup to the hotplate. / Putting challa into the soup. / Putting soup nuts into the soup. / Making tea / Making tea on Shabbos / Pouring hot water into a cholent / Washing the dishes / Using a sponge to wash the dishes. / Using soap and liquid soap. / Preparing the Shabbos day meal / Setting the table / Peeling the eggs / Mashing the eggs / Cutting up the onions / Mixing the eggs with oil and mayonnaise / Taking food from the freezer before the meal / Moving muktze in the freezer / Cleaning up / Sweeping the floor / Moving the garbage can / Cleaning the table / Wiping the counters / Loading the dishwasher / Loading dishes into the dishwasher / Cleaning for after Shabbos / Putting food back in the fridge / Preparing for seudah sh'lishis / Spilling oil from tuna / Mixing the tehinah / Tidying up the table

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. This is the class to attend as a couple for both husband and wife to learn and grow together. Wednesdays, 8 PM for men and women 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 VAYEIRA

QUESTIONS

1. Why did G-d appear to Avraham after the brit mila?
2. Why was Avraham sitting at the entrance to his tent?
3. What were the missions of the three angels?
4. Why did Avraham enjoin the guests to wash the dust off their feet?
5. Why did Avraham ask specifically Yishmael, and not someone else, to prepare food for the guests?
6. Why did the angels ask Avraham where Sarah was?
7. When G-d related Sarah's thoughts to Avraham, He did not relate them precisely. Why?
8. What "cry" from Sodom came before G-d?
9. How many angels went to Sodom?
10. Why was Lot sitting at the gate of Sodom?

11. Lot served the angels matza. Why?
12. Why did Lot delay when he left Sodom?
13. Why were Lot and his family not permitted to look back at Sodom?
14. Lot's wife looked back and became a pillar of salt. Why was she punished in this particular way?
15. In what merit did G-d save Lot?
16. Why did Avraham relocate after the destruction of Sodom?
17. Why did Avimelech give gifts to Avraham?
18. Why was Avraham told to listen to Sarah?
19. Why did G-d listen to the prayer of Yishmael and not to that of Hagar?
20. Who accompanied Avraham and Yitzchak to the akeidah (binding)?

ANSWERS

1. 18:1 - Avraham was sick, so G-d came to "visit" him.
2. 18:1 - He was looking for guests.
3. 18:2 - To announce Yitzchak's birth, to heal Avraham and to destroy Sodom.
4. 18:4 - He thought they were among those who worship the dust, and he didn't want any object of idolatry in his home.
5. 18:7 - To train him in the performance of mitzvot.
6. 18:9 - To call attention to Sarah's modesty, so as to endear her to her husband.
7. 18:13 - For the sake of peace.
8. 18:21 - The cry of a girl who was executed for giving food to the poor.
9. 19:1 - Two; one to destroy the city and one to save Lot.
10. 19:1 - He was a judge.
11. 19:3 - It was Passover.
12. 19:16 - He wanted to save his property.
13. 19:17 - As they, too, deserved to be punished, it wasn't fitting for them to witness the destruction of Sodom.
14. 19:26 - She was stingy, not wanting to give the guests salt.
15. 19:29 - Lot had protected Avraham by concealing from the Egyptians the fact that Sarah was his wife.
16. 20:1 - Because travel in the region ceased and Avraham could no longer find guests.
17. 20:14 - So that Avraham would pray for him.
18. 21:12 - Because she was greater in prophecy.
19. 21:17 - Because the prayer of a sick person is more readily accepted than the prayer of others on his behalf.
20. 22:3 - Yishmael and Eliezer.

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)
- » **The Shabbos Kitchen** for men and women with Rabbi Yaakov Rich (Tuesday 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.