

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 21-22, 2008 • 24 CHESHVAN, 5769 • SHABBOS PARSHAS CHAYEI SOROH
CANDLELIGHTING 5:04 PM • SHABBOS ENDS 6:07 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by Yehudah Reynolds in honor of his brother's 14th birthday. 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:

November 21st

- » Candlelighting–5:04 PM
- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos–5:05 PM

November 22nd

- » Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)–8:30 AM
- » Chumash Shiur (for men & women)–3:35 PM
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos–4:35 PM
- » Shabbos Ends–6:07 PM

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE:

- » Sunday Shacharis–8:00 AM
- » Friday Shacharis (Rosh Chodesh Kislev)–6:25 AM
- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40 AM
- » Mincha/Maariv–5:05 PM

■ WHAT'S NU AT CTC

- » **New and Improved:** We are pleased to let all our members and friends know that the CTC website has received a "Total Makeover." Besides what you see, there are many improvements to the code as well, enhancing the automation of picture placing and resizing. The site now truly functions — from front and back — as a state-of-the-art content management system. We hope you will find the "look and feel" pleasing and that the new design will improve the useability of the site. Don't forget to explore for a while in order to learn the new navigation system and placement of information.
- » **Ask the Rebbetzin:** CTC's Aishes Chayil Sisterhood is beginning a brand new series called "Ask the Rebbetzin." During these sessions, Rebbetzin Susan Rich will answer questions that run the gamut of being an aishes chayil. This means you can have your questions about tznius, childrearing, taharas hamishpacha (laws of family purity) and many more answered. Questions must be submitted in advance, by phone at 972-835-0386 or email srich@toraschaimdallas.org. As well, there is a form on our website — we recommend that you use it — where questions may be submitted directly to Rebbetzin Rich. Questions may be sent at any time and will be answered promptly. Please specify if you want your question answered publicly (where there can be discussion) or privately. The names of those who ask the questions for public discussion will not be announced. The result will be that all of us will have answers to questions we were too embarrassed, busy or did not even think to ask! Our first monthly "Ask the Rebbetzin" session will be held on Monday night, Dec. 1, at the Shul. 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.
- » **Sisterhood Meeting:** Ladies, please note: The next sisterhood meeting was announced for Sunday, November 30, in error. **The actual date is this Sun., Nov. 23, 10:30 AM at the shul.** We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and look forward to seeing you all there.
- » **Premium Kosher Meat at Greatly Reduced Prices:** Congregation Toras Chaim is offering, as a service to the Dallas Jewish community, a limited selection of quality kosher beef produced by A. D. Rosenblatt Glatt Kosher Meat. These larger cuts are being bought at reduced prices with the savings being passed on to our Jewish friends and families. Pickup is at Congregation Toras Chaim, 17912 Hillcrest Rd., Dallas, TX 75252, on Sunday, December 14, 2008 at 10:30 PM AM. **Orders must be received no later than Monday, December 8, 2008 at 12 PM.** See website for details. For more information call Shalom Abrams at 903-918-9650.
- » **Path of the Just Cancelled Wednesday, November 26:** Will continue the following week.

■ FOUND GREATNESS: BY RABBI LABEL LAM

And he said, "HASHEM, G-d of my master Avraham, may You so arrange it for me this day that You do kindness with my master Avraham. See, I stand here by the spring of water and the daughters of the townsmen come out to draw. Let it be that the maiden to whom I shall say, 'Please tip over your jug so I may drink' and who replies, 'Drink and I will even water your camels,' her will You have designated for Your servant, for Yitzchok; and may I know through her that You have done kindness with my master." (Breishis 24:12-14) ...the world is built on kindness... (Tehillim 89-3)

Eliezer, the servant of Avraham, had very specific criteria in mind when selecting a wife for Yitzchok. His profile seems to be centered on the trait of kindness. Maybe it's obvious already, but still the question must be asked. Why does he focus his entire test on that single indicator?

Midrash Rabba tells us about the world conqueror Alexander of Macedonia and his travels beyond the mountains of Mountains of Darkness. There he befriended the King of Cassia who offered to show him their system of justice. Two men came before the court. One man had bought a vacant lot from his neighbor and then found treasure buried in it. He claimed that he intended to buy land and not treasure, and therefore he insisted that the treasure belonged to the original owner. The other man argued that he sold the land and all that it contained and the treasure should go to the buyer. The King of Cassia addressed the two litigants and asked them if they had sons or daughters. It happened to be that one had a daughter and the other a son of marriageable age. The King's decided that the children should marry so that the treasure remains in the family.

When he saw Alexander's surprise reaction to the case and its verdict the King said to him, "Have I not judged well?!" How would you have decided such a case in your country?" Alexander replied, "We would have put both parties to death and confiscated the property."

The King of Cassia asked, "Does the sun shine in your country?" "Yes" answered Alexander. "Do you have animals?" enquired the King. "Yes!" replied Alexander. "Now I understand," said the King of Cassia, "If you have rain and sunshine it is not in your merit; it is in the merit of the animals; as it says, 'Save O' G-d, man and beast' (Tehillim 36:7) Man is saved in the merit of the beast!"

Rabbi Eliahau Eliezer Dessler ztl. comments; "When the two givers brought their case before the King of the Givers, neither wanting to take from his neighbor, more than he had given, the decision was, "Unite!" This is the characteristic of "givers"... The King of the Takers held very different views. He would have condemned to death the virtuous givers as destroyers of the established order of society. Even their property would not go to their children; it would be confiscated by the government.

Why all the grandiose talk of political philosophy? Are we not dealing here with something as simple as a mate for the man, Yitzchok? What's the big deal? The girl should be nice enough in order to promote an atmosphere of congeniality at home. OK, but Eliezer was not just shopping for Yitzchok. He was like a contractor sent by the architect to find the strongest building materials for the tallest of edifices. From long ago it was made clear that the "selfish gene" does not survive" while the selfless ones persist from generation to generation. Eliezer was sent to find and to found greatness.

■ 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 BECHUKOSAI

QUESTIONS

1. Name the four couples buried in Kiryat Arba.
2. What did Sara hear that caused her death?
3. What title of honor did the Bnei Chet bestow upon Avraham?
4. Where was Avraham born?
5. How were Avrahams camels distinguished?
6. What is meant by "all the good of his master in his hand"?
7. What special character trait did Eliezer seek when choosing a wife for Yitzchak?
8. Why did Avrahams servant, Eliezer, run toward Rivka?
9. Why did Lavan run to greet Eliezer?
10. When Lavan told Eliezer that the house was cleared out, what did he remove?
11. Who did Eliezer want Yitzchak to marry?
12. Aside from Eliezer, to which other people did Rivka offer to give water?
13. Lavan answered Eliezer before his father, Betuel, had a chance. What does this indicate about Lavans character?
14. What did Rivka mean when she said "I will go?"
15. What blessing did Rivkas family give her before she departed?
16. Who was Ketura?
17. What gift did Avraham give to Yitzchak?
18. How old was Avraham when he died?
19. For how many years did Yaakov attend the Yeshiva of Ever?
20. How many times is Eliezer's name mentioned in this weeks Parsha?

ANSWERS

1. 23:2 - Adam and Chava, Avraham and Sara, Yitzchak and Rivka, Yaakov and Leah.
2. 23:2 - That Yitzchak was almost slaughtered.
3. 23:6 - Prince of G-d.
4. 24:7 - Ur Kasdim.
5. 24:10 - They were muzzled, so they wouldn't graze in the fields of others.
6. 24:10 - Eliezer carried a document in which Avraham gave all he owned to Yitzchak so that people would want their daughter to marry him.
7. 24:14 - He sought someone who excelled in performing acts of kindness.
8. 24:17 - He saw that the waters of the well rose when she approached.
9. 24:29 - Lavan coveted his money.
10. 24:31 - Idols.
11. 24:39 - His own daughter.
12. 24:44 - To the men who accompanied Eliezer.
13. 24:50 - That he was wicked.
14. 24:58 - I will go even if you don't want me to go.
15. 24:60 - That the blessings given to Avraham would continue through her children.
16. 25:1 - Hagar.
17. 25:5 - The power of blessing.
18. 25:7 - 175 years old.
19. 25:17 - 14 years.
20. None!

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.