

CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

Vibrant, Relevant, Meaningful. . .and Orthodox

December 12-13, 2008 ■ 16 Kislev, 5769 ■ Shabbos Parshas Vayishlach
Candlelighting 5:04 PM ■ Shabbos Ends 6:07 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by the Wilson Family, in honor of: Hashem and everything He does for us; for being part of this wonderful congregation; in honor of Shoshana graduating from Collin County Community College with an associate degree; and in honor of our son Itay and his girlfriend Galit for making aliyah to Israel. Shalosh Seudos is also sponsored by the Wilson family. Thank you to everyone in this shul for helping out and being wonderful friends. We appreciate everything! Please contact Shalom Abrams at 903-918-9650 if you are interested in sponsoring kiddush or shalosh seudos in the future.

■ SHABBOS SCHEDULE:

December 12th

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

December 13th

- » 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
- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40 AM
- » Mincha/Maariv–5:05 PM

■ WHAT’S NU AT CTC

- » **Far North Dallas Eruv is Up:** Carrying on Shabbos is permissible. Please see eruv map on bulletin board for boundaries.
- » **All Meat Orders–Without Exception:** Pickup is at Congregation Toras Chaim, 17912 Hillcrest Rd., Dallas, TX 75252, on Sunday, December 14, 2008 at 10:30 AM. Please pay by cash or check when picking up order. Thank you for purchasing your meat through Congregation Toras Chaim.
- » **5769 CTC Chanukah Celebration:**
 - For the Children**
 - Arts & Crafts project
 - Fun & Games
 - Fantastic animated movie about Chanukah
 - For the Adults**
 - Chanukah Quiz with great prizes
 - Delicious Chanukah food, including: Potato Latkes, Sufganiot and “Greek” Salad
 - Chance to socialize in a relaxed atmosphere
 - D’var Torah by Rabbi Rich

All are invited Thursday, December 25, 2008, 3-5 PM at the shul | Cost: \$5 per person, or \$25 maximum per family | Please pay at the door.

- » **Mazel Tov** to Rabbi Yaakov and Suri Rosenblatt on the birth of a baby boy. Mother and child are doing well. The Rosenblatts are good friends to Congregation Toras Chaim. We wish Mrs. Rosenblatt a refuah shelaimah and may they merit to raise their son to a life of Torah study, marriage and mitzvah observance. The Shalom Zachor will be at their home, 6106 Linden Lane Friday evening and the bris will be held next Tuesday morning December 16th after 6:40 AM davening at Ohr HaTorah.

■ REFUAH SHELAIMA

- » Michal Zev ben Esther Shaindel (Risa Solomon’s nephew)

■ NOT GOOD ENOUGH: BY RABBI LABEL LAM

And Yaakov remained alone and a man wrestled with him until break of dawn. And he saw that he could not defeat him so he grabbed him in the hollow of his thigh and he dislocated the hollow of Yaakov’s thigh with his wrestling with him. And he said, “Send me because the dawn has broken.” And he said, “I will not send you unless you bless me.” And he said to him, “What’s your name?” and he said, “Yaakov!” And he said, “No long will your name be Yaakov but rather Israel, because you struggled with the Divine and man and you prevailed.” And Yaakov asked and he said, “Tell me please, what your name is?” And he said, “Why is it that you ask for my name?” And he blessed him there. (Breishis 32:25-30)

This is a very odd dialogue. After wrestling an entire night, the

man that Yaakov wrestled with became desperate to leave. Yaakov refused to let him go without first receiving his blessing. The man tells him that his name is no long Yaakov but rather Israel. Why does Yaakov demand a blessing from his opponent? Why does he accept a change of his name as a blessing? What does that mean? Who was the person with whom Yaakov struggled all night long?

I’m not such a numerologist. Numbers go through my system like diet soda. I like chunky calorie rich ideas. However with regard to Yaakov and his name change there is an amazingly instructive way of appreciating what happened with a few simple calculations. The numerical value of the name Yaakov (Yud-10+Ayin-70+Kuf-100+Beis-2) equals 182. Our sages inform us that Yaakov was victorious that night against not less the “yetzer hora”-the negative inclination. Another name for that opposing force in Hebrew is Satan. The name Satan when spelled out numerically (Sin-300+Tes-9+Nun-50) equals 359. It is a curious fact that Yaakov (182) plus Satan (359) together add up to Yisrael (Yud-10+Sin-300+Reish-200+Aleph-1+Lamed-30=541). What are we to make of this discovery, not my own?

The sages offer a curious comment on the verse, “And G-d saw all he created and behold it was very good!” (Breishis 1:31) Why did everything suddenly improve from good to “very good”?

The simple answer, we would think of, is that after all the good quality ingredients are harmoniously blended together a new synergistic whole that is greater than the sum of its parts emerges and that is what is “very good”. Our sages say, “Very good! This is the evil inclination!” Whoa! What a shocker! What does that mean? Let us try two approaches.

1)It could be that as Reb Tzadok HaKohen wrote that wherever we struggle the most, wherever the Yezter Hora has invested so much energy, there in that spot, is the where our greatest potential lies. If we would peak into the Kremlin during the cold war and observe that they have a thousand warheads aimed at some benign location on the plains of Kansas where there sits an elderly man on his front porch smoking a corncob pipe and rocking in his chair while his old hound Boo slumbers, we may wonder, “What’s he got in that pipe?” However, when we dig a few stories beneath the surface we discover America has a secret silo with thousands of weapons pointed at strategic locations in Russia.

It’s not unusual that in the overcoming of a given difficulty a person can make his greatest achievements. I know of a man of with a great record of helping people that testified that he has a cruel streak and in curing himself from that tendency he found the milk of human kindness buried beneath the shale of his callous nature.

2) Imagine that the Israeli army has chased the Syrian army to the Golan and their soldiers have abandoned their tanks as they scramble back to Damascus. Would the Israeli army just leave all that valuable equipment there? No! They would incorporate them into their own arsenal.

So too Yaakov was not going to send away his negative inclination in defeat. He was now ready to subjugate and sublimate all worldly forces in the service of HASHEM. This signals a grand expansion of potential for Yaakov, and such a major merger calls for a new name. With the surrendered weapons of the Yetzer Hora in his employment the promise for Israel is no longer a life of mild goodness. However good it is, it’s not good enough.

■ 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 VAYISHLACH

QUESTIONS

1. What sort of messengers did Yaakov send to Esav?
2. Why was Yaakov both "afraid" and "distressed?"
3. In what three ways did Yaakov prepare for his encounter with Esav?
4. Where did Dina hide and why?
5. After helping his family across the river, Yaakov remained alone on the other side. Why?
6. What was the angel forced to do before Yaakov agreed to release him?
7. What was it that healed Yaakov's leg?
8. Why did Esav embrace Yaakov?
9. Why did Yosef stand between Esav and Rachel?
10. Give an exact translation of the word nisa in verse 33:12.
11. What happened to the 400 men who accompanied Esav?
12. Why does the Torah refer to Dina as the daughter of Leah and not as the daughter of Yaakov?
13. Whom should Shimon and Levi have consulted concerning their plan to kill the people of Shechem?
14. Who was born along with Binyamin?
15. What does the name Binyamin mean? Why did Yaakov call him that?
16. The Torah states, "The sons of Yaakov were twelve." Why?
17. How old was Yaakov when Yosef was sold?
18. Esav changed his wife's name to Yehudit. Why?
19. Which three categories of people have their sins pardoned?
20. What is the connection between the Egyptian oppression of the Jewish people and Esav's decision to leave the land of Canaan?

ANSWERS

1. 32:4 - Angels.
2. 32:8 - He was afraid he would be killed. He was distressed that he would have to kill.
3. 32:9 - He sent gifts, he prayed, and he prepared for war.
4. 32:23 - Yaakov hid her in a chest so that Esav wouldn't see her and want to marry her.
5. 32:25 - He went back to get some small containers he had forgotten.
6. 32:27 - Admit that the blessings given by Yitzchak rightfully belong to Yaakov.
7. 32:32 - The shining of the sun.
8. 33:4 - His pity was aroused when he saw Yaakov bowing to him so many times.
9. 33:7 - To stop Esav from gazing at her.
10. 33:12 - It means "travel". It does not mean "we will travel." This is because the letter nun is part of the word and does not mean we as it sometimes does.
11. 33:16 - They slipped away one by one.
12. 34:1 - Because she was outgoing like her mother, Leah.
13. 34:25 - Their father, Yaakov.
14. 35:17 - His two triplet sisters.
15. 35:18 - Ben-Yemin means "Son of the South." He was the only son born in the Land of Israel, which is south of Aram Naharaim.
16. 35:22 - To stress that all of them, including Reuven, were righteous.
17. 35:29 - One hundred and eight.
18. 36:2 - To fool Yitzchak into thinking that she had abandoned idolatry.
19. 36:3 - One who converts to Judaism, one who is elevated to a position of leadership, and one who marries.
20. 36:6 - Esav knew that the privilege of living in the Land of Israel was accompanied by the prophecy that the Jews would be "foreigners in a land not their own." Therefore Esav said, "I'm leaving I don't want the Land if it means I have to pay the bill of subjugation in Egypt."

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.