

CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

Vibrant, Relevant, Meaningful. . .and Orthodox

December 5-6, 2008 ■ 9 Kislev, 5769 ■ Shabbos Parshas Vayeitzei
Candlelighting 5:02 PM ■ Shabbos Ends 6:06 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by Joseph Saka in honor of Ken & Lori Jarmel who hosted him for Shabbos. Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by Josh & Lisa Rothstein, in honor of our superb web designer and the wonderful people who put together Kiddush and Shalosh Seudos every week. Please contact Shalom Abrams at 903-918-9650 if you are interested in sponsoring kiddush or shalosh seudos in the future.

■ SHABBOS SCHEDULE:

December 5th

- » Candlelighting–5:02 PM
- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos–5:00 PM

December 6th

- » Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)–8:30 AM
- » Chumash Shiur (for men & women)–3:35 PM
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos–4:35 PM
- » Shabbos Ends–6:06 PM

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE:

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

■ WHAT’S NU AT CTC

- » **Reminder:** This past Thursday night in maariv we began saying V'Sein Tal U'Matar in Shemonah Esrei.
- » **Premium Kosher Meat At Greatly Reduced Prices: Just Three Days Remaining to Place Your Order. Don't Miss Out!**
 - Chicken prices sky-high.
 - Gas prices projected to be \$1 per gallon by next year.
 - You owe more money on your house than it's worth.

This is an upside down world, and there isn't a better time to buy 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. Go to the www.toraschaimdallas.org to place your order right after Shabbos.

■ REFUAH SHELAIMA

- » Chaya Miriam bas Soroh (Chaya Miriam Cajas)
- » Michal Zev ben Esther Shaindel (Risa Solomon's nephew)

■ WHAT’S A META-PHOR? BY RABBI LABEL LAM

And he dreamt, and behold a ladder was standing towards the earth and its head was striving towards the heavens and angels of Elokim were going up and down on it. And behold Hashem is standing upon it... (Bereishis 28:12-13)

Why was Jacob given a picture of a ladder as a parting vision, before marching off to a prolonged exile? How does that ladder offer comfort, consolation, or guidance to the beholders of the vision?

There are many important ideas buried in the metaphor of the ladder as described in the dream.

- 1)There are rungs on a ladder indicating that there is a reasonable program for reaching even the loftiest goals.
- 2)The climber needs to know where he is at any moment maintaining a healthy tension between the “is” and the “ought”, striving for the next available rung.
- 3)The ladder connects two points, in this case heaven and earth. There is a continuum between the physical and spiritual realm, between the temporal and the eternal.
- 4)All is supervised by and emanates from The Primary Source standing firm on the top of the ladder. Everything else is in flux and is uncertain.
- 5)Angels going up first and then down on the ladder show that what we do here impacts and reverberates in worlds above and ripples directly to the earth below.
- 6)We see the ladder has traffic going either up or down but not standing still. Life is not a snap shot. It’s a moving picture. If one

is not growing or climbing then by definition he is shrinking or falling.

7)Moving upward requires energy to overcome gravity. The natural tendency is to fall down. If a bird stops flapping its wings it does not remain in the same place.

8)One can measure on a ladder how far he has traveled and how far he has yet to go, gaining some encouragement while remaining humbled by the enormity of the task ahead.

9)The ladder itself is rooted neither on this earth nor planted firmly above. It is model of a bridge between worlds. This stands in contradistinction to the Tower of Babel whose builders sought to put the head of the tower permanently in the heavens while planting the building firmly on the earth. The ladder is a vehicle and cannot be institutionalized or idolized as an end in itself, disassociated from the true goal.

10)Yakov’s ladder is a vertical orientation. Free will is an “up” or “down” choice, moving closer to or further from The Almighty. When the conversation is about “left” or “right” then the field of choices we entertain are on a horizontal plane and we have somehow lost our center of self.

11)We see that some from above are falling down and others from below are striving upward. Traffic is moving in both directions. It matters less where we start on the ladder and more in which direction we are currently going.

12)The ladder reaches to the highest place. Everyone is encouraged to go to his or her highest station. The Arizal says that what knocks a person out of this world ultimately is a vision of one’s true potential.

A friend of mine who got into health food years before it was popular sat in the Yeshiva dining room mixing his green health-shake while others were layering white toast with cholesterol dense butter and drinking caffeine-packed coffee. Some strong specimen leaned over to my friend and asked him point blank, “Do you think with all that health food you’re healthier than we are?” My friend answered cleverly, “No! But I’m a lot healthier than I used to be! Climbing the ladder makes us holier than we used to be or better than we would have been had we not striven with our own unique abilities and circumstances.

Yakov’s ladder is not just an abstract idea; a vague dream but rather a profound visual tool for gaining and maintaining a powerful and enduring focus. After all what’s a meta-phor?

■ 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.

- » Refuah Shelaima to Chaya Miriam bas Soroh (Chaya Miriam Cajas) — *Wes & Tricia Sutkin and family*

■ 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 Oc-*

tober 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 TOLDOS

QUESTIONS

1. When Yaakov traveled to Charan, the Torah stresses that he departed from Beer Sheva. Why?
2. On the night of his dream, Yaakov did something he hadn't done in 14 years. What?
3. G-d compressed the entire Land of Israel underneath the sleeping Yaakov. What did this symbolize?
4. Yaakov said "I will return with shalom." What did he mean by "shalom"?
5. Why did Yaakov rebuke the shepherds?

6. Why did Rachel, and not her brothers, tend her fathers sheep?
7. Why did Yaakov cry when he met Rachel?
8. Why did Lavan run to greet Yaakov?
9. Why were Leahs eyes tender?
10. How old was Yaakov when he married?
11. What did Rachel find enviable about Leah?
12. Who was Yaakovs fifth son?
13. Who was Leahs handmaiden? Was she older or younger than Rachels handmaiden?
14. How do you say dudaim in Arabic?
15. "G-d remembered Rachel" (30:22). What did He remember?
16. What does "Yosef" mean? Why was he named that?
17. G-d forbade Lavan to speak to Yaakov "either of good or of bad." Why didn't G-d want Lavan to speak of good?
18. Where are there two Aramaic words in this weeks Parsha?
19. Who was Bilhahs father? Who was Zilpahs father?
20. Who escorted Yaakov into Eretz Yisrael?

ANSWERS

1. 28:10 - The departure of a righteous person leaves a noticeable void in that place.
2. 28:11 - Sleep at night lying down.
3. 28:13 - That the Land would be easy for his descendants to conquer.
4. 28:21 - Completely without sin.
5. 29:7 - He thought they were loafing, stopping work early in the day.
6. 30:27 - Her brothers weren't born yet.
7. 29:11 - He saw prophetically that they would not be buried together; or because he was penniless.
8. 29:13 - He thought Yaakov was carrying money.
9. 29:17 - She cried continually because she thought she was destined to marry Esav.
10. 29:21 - Eighty-four.
11. 30:1 - Her good deeds, thinking they were the reason Leah merited children.
12. 30:5 - Dan.
13. 30:10 - Zilpah. She was younger.
14. 30:14 - Jasmine (Yasmin).
15. 30:22 - That Rachel gave Leah the "signs of recognition" that Yaakov had taught her, so that Leah wouldn't be embarrassed.
16. 30:24 "Yosef" means "He will add." Rachel asked G-d for another son in addition to Yosef.
17. 31:24 - Because the "good" that comes from wicked people is bad for the righteous.
18. 31:41 - Yagar Sahaduta, meaning "wall of testimony."
19. 31:50 - Lavan.
20. 32:1 - The angels of Eretz Yisrael.

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.