

CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

Vibrant, Relevant, Meaningful. . .and Orthodox

January 16–17, 2009 ■ 21 Teves, 5769 ■ Shabbos Parshas Shemos

Candlelighting 5:27 PM ■ Shabbos Ends 6:31 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored anonymously in honor of everyone who has donated time, money, brachos and open arms to growing the shul and helping to solidify it as a family and community. **Shalosh Seudos** is sponsored by Josh & Shoshana Chana Jacobs in honor of our brothers and sisters living and fighting in southern Israel. They fight not only for their friends, families and neighbors, but for all of Klal Yisroel. May we merit the coming of Moshiach, speedily, in our days. Please contact Shalom Abrams at 903-918-9650 if you are interested in sponsoring kiddush or shalosh seudos in the future.

■ SHABBOS SCHEDULE:

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- » Candlelighting–5:27 PM
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December 17th

- » Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)–8:30 AM
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■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE:

- » Sunday Shacharis–8:00 AM
- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40 AM
- » Mincha/Maariv–5:30 PM

■ WHAT’S NU AT CTC

- » **Great News! Congregation Toras Chaim has just passed the 1 ½ year old mark:** A big yasher koach and thank you to all our members and friends who have contributed to the spirit of Torah growth and achievement that defines the CTC family. As with any new non-profit organization, we excelled at being non-profit while struggling with the organization.

However, our foundation is strong, and our desire is great as we move forward into 2009. Our shul has been built on the following: Inspiring programming, such as Shabbatons with Rabbi Eziel Tauber and Rabbi Label Lam; Ongoing classes just about every day of the week; Jam-packed High Holidays services with world-class chazzan Rabbi Moshe Kranz (Who can forget the Avinu Malkeinu at the end of Yom Kippur?); Premium Kosher Meat at Greatly Reduced Prices offered to the community at-large; Minyan three times a day; Purchased land across the street for the future home of Congregation Toras Chaim; State-of-the-art website used to inform users of goings-on in and around the community, and the Jewish world at-large; and the dedicated efforts of so many volunteers who do what can only be described as a labor of love.

We are now ready to take the next step. No, no, no. Put your shovels and hard hats away. We’re not there yet. But, we are ready to publish our first shul directory! And, we want to be able to include all our members, friends, and occasional drop-ins in the book. All we ask is that you first commit to 2009 annual dues for either a full membership (\$700) or associate membership (\$360), and then either pay, or make arrangements for payment with Wes Sutkin, our shul president. We have purposely bench marked our dues to be extremely affordable. Stay tuned for addition communications in the coming days..

- » **Critical CTC Childcare Meeting - with PIZZA!** As you all know, our Shabbos childcare program at CTC is critical to the success of our shul as we continue to grow and thrive in 2009. Over the last 6 months, largely through the dedicated efforts of a few of our teenagers in shul, we have provided vibrant (and free) childcare for children in our shul every Shabbos - rain or shine. We plan to continue to do so going forward, but we need your help. We need to grow our corps of volunteers. Monday the 19th at 7:30 PM, we will be holding a meeting at shul (free Cafe Fino pizza provided by the shul) to discuss how we can continue to ensure our so very important childcare program continues to thrive. Please join us for pizza and a lively discussion on how we can solidify our childcare. All teenagers are invited to join us. We need more helpers, and this is a great way to show the shul your dedication - whether you want to be a leader, or just an occasional helper. Please RSVP to Tricia Sutkin at 972-267-4747 or email at veggiemom@tx.rr.com so we

know how much pizza to order!

- » **Cured Salamis from “Romanian” in Chicago:** Romanian in Chicago – a real old world deli – makes all of their meats on premises. This is not a mass-market production with preservatives and fillers. It is 100% pure quality! The best meat is always worth the price, especially when you think about the alternatives from major grocery chains.
- **Jeff W. says,** “*Romanian is not just a Kosher Deli, it is a NATIONAL TREASURE!*”
- **Asaf O. says,** “*Brisket to die for, kishke to make you swoon, salami to warm you heart, chopped liver like bubbe makes. You won’t be sorry.*”
- **Amanda P. says,** “*This is, without question, the best kosher butcher in Chicago. They make their own kosher sausages and salamis on the premises, and they’re really exceptional.*”

Our Romanian salamis are being sold on a first-come, first-served basis. They have never been available outside the Chicago area, until now. We have 60–4lb Romanian salamis that are on sale for \$10 per pound which translates to \$40 per salami. These salamis are Glatt Kosher under the supervision of the OU, and are kosher for Passover. They are perfect for a snack, to spice up the Shabbos table, and they make a great gift. Order online. Pickup is any day immediately after Shacharis or Mincha/Maariv (please check the davening times to the right).

- » **Save the Date – Feb 7th at 9 PM:** Yerachmiel and Becky Udman would like to invite all of the ladies and girls middle school age and older to join us for a dessert Melaven Malka on Motzeai Shabbos Feb. 7th at the home of Richard and Shelly Glazer, 6222 Dykes Way, to celebrate our daughter Estee’s Bas Mitzvah and hear highlights of her trip to Eretz Yisroel.

■ REFUAH SHELAIMA

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

■ TO BE CARING...TO BE DARING BY RABBI LABEL LAM

And it happened in those days that Moshe grew up and he went out to his brothers and saw their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian man striking a Hebrew man, of his brothers. He turned this way and that way and saw that there was no man, so he struck down the Egyptian man and hid him in the sand. (Shemos 2:11-12)

And he saw their burdens: He placed his eyes and his heart to be pained about them. (Rashi)

These are the first recorded steps of the mature man Moshe onto the stage of history. What did he do that was so great? He left the comfortable confines of the palace of Pharaoh. What’s so special about that? Why was it such a defining moment in the life of Moshe? Certainly he already knew of the suffering work of the Jews in Egypt? What was gained by going out to visit the painful scenes first hand? What did he see that he had not already heard about? That’s exactly the point!

Our Baale’ Musar understood well what Madison Avenue, the motor vehicle bureau, and propagandists of all stripes and allegiances have understood, “We do not act on what we hear but rather on what we see.” For that reason chronic traffic violators are forced to witness scenes of terrible crashes till it is etched into their psyches what the mind already knows, “55 saves lives”. Maybe it was twenty years ago there was a tidal wave in Bangladesh and 100,000 people lost their lives within a few moments. I went home that night and at dinner discussed the extent of the human tragedy. I was able to eat with gusto. That same year I hit a little

dog coming home one night. I had no desire for dinner that night. What happened? Isn't large scale human suffering more sacred to me than a single doggy? The answer is, "This one I only heard about and this one I saw!"

While in Israel I had occasion to spend some time with an old friend who at an earlier time in his life had been a Protestant minister. Since then he has made some great changes. When he tells his story he begins in Hamburg Germany where he and his wife had been studying for their doctorate in Protestant theology. One Sunday morning he stumbled upon an entire picturesque segment of the Hamburg newspaper that was dedicated to 50th anniversary of Kristalnacht. My friend describes his horror as he studied the vivid image of gruesome beatings of Jews on the cobble stone streets on a familiar café corner adjacent to the university where he and his colleagues had had many a discussion about love and other lofty subjects. He was curious why he had never heard any mention about these local events before. Certainly if these atrocities happened within the shadows of the university campus there must have been some official protest. His inquiries were blithely dismissed. There were no official or unofficial responses. These were only Jews being abused. What then, he wondered, the value of all this talk of love?

He began a feverish campaign to discover why the Jewish People were the ones continuously treated to the persecution. Finding no meaningful answers within his circle of professors and priests he found his way to the Jewish community and what he discovered was not in the least bit hateful, if anything it was loving and truthful and maybe that was the real rub. As a result of this search he his wife began a new path as dedicated Torah Jews.

Certainly, Asher, as he is now known, had heard of Kristalnacht. He had to visually experience the devastation to act on the message. So too Moshe went out to witness the pain of his people to be caring...to be daring.

■ 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

Path of the Just: Wednesday, 8:00-9:00 PM

Women’s Chumash: Sunday, 8:00-9:00 PM

■ PARSHA Q&A: PARSHAS TOLDOS

QUESTIONS

- 1. Why does the verse say "And Yosef was in Egypt?"
- 2. "...And they will go up out of the land." Who said this and what did he mean?
- 3. Why did Pharaoh specifically choose water as the means of killing the Jewish boys? (Two reasons.)

- 4. "She saw that he was good." What did she see "good" about Moshe that was unique?
- 5. Which Hebrew men were fighting each other?
- 6. Moshe was afraid that the Jewish People were not fit to be redeemed because some among them committed a certain sin. What sin?
- 7. Why did the Midianites drive Yitro's daughters away from the well?
- 8. How did Yitro know that Moshe was Yaakov's descendant?
- 9. What lesson was Moshe to learn from the fact that the burning bush was not consumed?
- 10. What merit did the Jewish People have that warranted G-d's promise to redeem them?
- 11. Which expression of redemption would assure the people that Moshe was the true redeemer?
- 12. What did the staff turning into a snake symbolize?
- 13. Why didn't Moshe want to be the leader?
- 14. "And Hashem was angry with Moshe..." What did Moshe lose as a result of this anger?
- 15. What was special about Moshe's donkey?
- 16. About which plague was Pharaoh warned first?
- 17. Why didn't the elders accompany Moshe and Aharon to Pharaoh? How were they punished?
- 18. Which tribe did not work as slaves?
- 19. Who were the: a) nogsim b) shotrim?
- 20. How were the shotrim rewarded for accepting the beatings on behalf of their fellow Jews?

ANSWERS

- 1. 1:5 - This verse adds that, despite being in Egypt as a ruler, Yosef maintained his righteousness.
- 2. 1:10 - Pharaoh said it, meaning that the Egyptians would be forced to leave Egypt.
- 3. 1:10,22 - He hoped to escape divine retribution, as G-d promised never to flood the entire world. Also, his astrologers saw that the Jewish redeemer's downfall would be through water.
- 4. 2:2 - When he was born, the house was filled with light.
- 5. 2:13 - Datan and Aviram.
- 6. 2:14 - Lashon hara (evil speech).
- 7. 2:17 - Because a ban had been placed on Yitro for abandoning idol worship.
- 8. 2:20 - The well water rose towards Moshe.
- 9. 3:12 - Just as the bush was not consumed, so too Moshe would be protected by G-d.
- 10. 3:12 - That they were destined to receive the Torah.
- 11. 3:16,18 - "I surely remembered (pakod pakadeti)."
- 12. 4:3 - It symbolized that Moshe spoke ill of the Jews by saying that they wouldn't listen to him, just as the original snake sinned through speech.
- 13. 4:10 - He didn't want to take a position above that of his older brother Aharon.
- 14. 4:14 - Moshe lost the privilege of being a kohen.
- 15. 4:20 - It was used by Avraham for akeidat Yitzchak and will be used in the future by mashiach.
- 16. 4:23 - Death of the firstborn.
- 17. 5:1 - The elders were accompanying Moshe and Aharon, but they were afraid and one by one they slipped away. Hence, at the giving of the Torah, the elders weren't allowed to ascend with Moshe.
- 18. 5:5 - The tribe of Levi.
- 19. 5:6 - a) Egyptian taskmasters; b) Jewish officers.
- 20. 5:14 - They were chosen to be on the Sanhedrin.

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.