

CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

Vibrant, Relevant, Meaningful. . .and Orthodox

January 23–24, 2009 ■ 28 Teves, 5769 ■ Shabbos Parshas Vaeira
Candlelighting 5:34 PM ■ Shabbos Ends 6:37 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by Rabbi Yaakov & Susan Rich in honor their son, Tzvi Eliezer, who is celebrating his Bar Mitzvah this Shabbos. Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by Rabbi Yaakov & Susan Rich in honor of Tzvi Eliezer having completed the learning of tractate Makkos. Please contact Shalom Abrams at 903-918-9650 if you are interested in sponsoring kiddush or shalosh seudos in the future.

■ SHABBOS SCHEDULE:

January 23rd

- » Candlelighting–5:34 PM
- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos–5:35 PM
- » Oneg Shabbos (for men & women at the Rich home, 7119 Bremerton Ct.)–8:45 PM

December 24th

- » Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)–8:30 AM
- » Chumash Shiur (for men & women)–4:00 PM
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos–5:00 PM
- » Shabbos Ends–6:37 PM

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE:

- » Sunday Shacharis–8:00 AM
- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40 AM
- » Mincha/Maariv–5:35 PM

■ WHAT’S NU AT CTC

- » **Mazel Tov to Tzvi Eliezer Rich on his Bar Mitzvah:** The Riches would like to invite the community to share in their simcha to celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Tzvi Eliezer. All events will take place at Congregation Toras Chaim, 17912 Hillcrest Rd. except for the Oneg Shabbos, which will take place at the Rich home, 7119 Bremerton Ct.
- » **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.

- » **Cured Salamis from “Romanian” in Chicago–Only 8 Left:** 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 Romainian 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 FIX OUR ATTENTION: BY RABBI LABEL LAM

So says HASHEM, “Through this shall you know that I am HASHEM; behold with the staff that is in my hand I will strike the waters that are in the River and they will change to blood. The fish-life that is in the water will die and the River will become foul. Egypt will become weary of trying to drink water from the River. (Shemos 7:17-18)

Pharaoh is getting his first introduction to HASHEM. It’s hard not to notice that the method is a little rugged. Maybe, because Pharaoh is extra hardnosed and living in deep denial and therefore he needs an extra dose of reality. It makes sense to shock him with a plague or ten. However, we understand that the plagues were not meant to convince Pharaoh alone, but the entire Jewish Nation as well. How and why does this method of muddying the waters of Egypt work so well?

A city council hired an artist to make a statue for the central park. The artist was offered a handsome sum of money for his work. He labored to create a marvelously lifelike image of a horse. It was such a perfect replica that passersby would hardly notice that it was statue. This became a point of contention for the city council that had commissioned the artist and promised him generous recompense for his craft. After all, as politicians, they wanted to gain some reflected glory for their efforts to beautify the park and all was going completely unnoticed. The artist, they complained, had done too good of a job. The horse was too real in appearance and casual observers were incapable telling the difference between it and the real thing. They complained to the artist threatening to halt his payment unless he made some correction. What was he to do? His statue was perfect. What improvement could he possibly make? After a short period of time he arrived at a solution. He went to the park with a hammer and chisel in hand and surgically he stuck at and knocked off the nose of his beautiful statue rendering it seriously and obviously flawed.

Soon small crowds gathered in the park and were seen taking serious notice of the statue. One was heard saying to another,

“What a beautiful statue of a horse!” The other one answered, “Too bad the nose is broken!”

The Chovos HaLevavos in his introduction to Shaar HaBechina, the Gate of Investigation, lists three reasons one may naturally fail to recognize the great goodness woven into every detail of creation. The summary of the second reason is that HASHEM makes the world run in a predictable and orderly fashion. It is precisely because the goodness is so reliable and consistent that we are rocked to sleep by the steady rhythm of its delivery. A baby is formed from a single cell and after nine months is a marvelous composite of three trillion cells. The first year of life the weight doubles. By the time the child has achieves full stature there are approximately 60 trillion cells running to perform their individual tasks below the radar of our conscious mind. We might tend to call it nature. Nature really means repeating miracles. When something occurs once in history, like the splitting of the sea, then we call it miraculous. If it happens every day and twice on Sunday as a matinee then few would ever take notice.

That’s the problem. The good is too darn good. How is The Creator to grab the attention of man? Well, it seems that the sometimes the only way interrupt the habit of living habitual and shallow is a subtle shock treatment that arrests the attention of individual or the entire world. When one small group of cells fails to cooperate, G-d forbid, the person finds themselves praying for mercy, while seeking treatments at Sloan Kettering. When a plane fails to reach its destination in one piece then everyone is amazed that anyone emerges whole. When the Nile River, the main economic artery in Egypt clots with blood, even for a week, then we and even Pharaoh have a better chance of knowing that there is a G-d. Too bad it has to be broken first to fix our attention.

■ 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.

» Tzvi Eliezer, we are very proud of you, your accomplishments, and the example you set for your brothers and sisters.

— Tatti & Mommy

■ 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 VAEIRA

QUESTIONS

- 1. Did G-d ever appear to Avraham and say "I am G-d"?
- 2. What cause did the forefathers have to question G-d?
- 3. How was Moshe commanded to act towards Pharaoh?
- 4. How long did Levi live?
- 5. Who was Aharon’s wife? Who was her father? Who was her brother?

- 6. Why are Yitro and Yosef both referred to as "Putiel"?
- 7. After which plague did G-d begin to "harden Pharaoh's heart"?
- 8. Why did Pharaoh go to the Nile every morning?
- 9. Give two reasons why the blood was chosen as the first plague.
- 10. How long did the plague of blood last?
- 11. Why did the frogs affect Pharaoh's house first?
- 12. What did Moshe mean when he told Pharaoh that the frogs would be "in you and in your nation"?
- 13. What are "chamarim"?
- 14. Why didn't Moshe strike the dust to initiate the plague of lice?
- 15. Why were the Egyptian sorcerers unable to bring lice?
- 16. What were the Egyptians likely to do if they saw the Jews slaughtering lambs?
- 17. Why didn't the wild beasts die as the frogs had?
- 18. The dever killed "all the cattle of Egypt." Later, boils afflicted their cattle. How can this be?
- 19. Why did Moshe pray only after leaving the city?
- 20. What was miraculous about the way the hail stopped falling

ANSWERS

- 1. 6:9 - Yes.
- 2. 6:9 -- Although G-d swore to give them the land, they never actually had control over it.
- 3. 6:13 - With the respect due a king.
- 4. 6:16 - 137 years.
- 5. 6:23 - Elisheva, daughter of Aminadav, sister of Nachshon.
- 6. 6:25 - Yitro fattened (pitem) cows for idol worship. Yosef scoffed (pitpet) at his evil inclination.
- 7. 7:3 - After the sixth plague -- shechin.
- 8. 7:15 - To relieve himself. Pharaoh pretended to be a god who did not need to attend to his bodily functions. Therefore, he secretly used the Nile for this purpose.
- 9. (a) 7:17 - Because the Nile was an Egyptian god. (b) 8:17 - Because an invading army first attacks the enemy’s water supply, and G-d did the same.
- 10. 7:25 - Seven days.
- 11. 7:28 - Pharaoh himself advised the enslavement of the Jewish People.
- 12. 7:29 - He warned that the frogs would enter their intestines and croak.
- 13. 8:10 - Piles.
- 14. 8:12 - Because the dust protected Moshe by hiding the body of the Egyptian that Moshe killed.
- 15. 8:14 - The Egyptian sorcerers' magic had no power over anything smaller than a barley kernel.
- 16. 8:22 - Stone the Jews.
- 17. 8:27 - So the Egyptians would not benefit from their hides.
- 18. 9:10 - In the plague of dever only the cattle in the fields died. The plague of shechin affected the surviving cattle.
- 19. 9:29 - Because the city was full of idols.
- 20. 9:33 - The hailstones stopped in mid-air and didn't fall to the ground.

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.