



CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

An intimate space... Grow at your pace.

October 11-12, 2013 ■ 8 Cheshvan, 5774 ■ Shabbos Parshas Lech Lecha
Candlelighting: 6:42 PM ■ Shabbos Ends 7:35 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by the Nise, Russ, Sutkin, Krassnoff, Goldberg, Itskavich, Day, Wilson, Rothstein and Rich families in honor of Bruce Dunn who celebrated his 46th birthday this past Thursday. Shalosh Seudos this Shabbos is sponsored by the shul. Please contact Rabbi Yaakov Rich at 972-835-6016 if you are interested in sponsoring kiddush or shalosh seudos in the future.

■ SHABBOS SCHEDULE

Friday Night, October 11th

- » Candlelighting-6:42P
- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos/Maariv-6:40P

Shabbos Day, October 12th

- » Shacharis followed by Kiddush-8:30A
- » Junior Congregation for boys (at the Krycer home)-9:40-10:40A
- » Mommy & Me (at the Rich home)-9:45-10:45A
- » Chumash Shiur (for men & women)-5:25P
- » Mincha followed by Shalosh Seudos (men in shul, women at Rich home)-6:25P
- » Shabbos Ends-7:35P

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

- » Shacharis Sunday-8:00A
- » Shacharis Monday-6:40A
- » Mincha/Maariv-6:35P

■ WHAT'S NU AT CTC

» **Junior Congregation at CTC:** Boys love Junior Congregation at Toras Chaim because of its fun program and interactive services. Parents love Junior Congregation at Toras Chaim because their boys are learning Jewish prayers and developing an appreciation for coming to Shul. Taught by our own Simcha Itskavich, a teacher at Torah Day School of Dallas, and a great lover of children, the boys are taught the Shabbos prayers in a fun, interactive way, followed by stories and lessons from the weekly Torah portion and the season of the year. Junior Congregation will take place in the home of Zlati Krycer (or should we say Yaakov Zevi Krycer :-)) Shabbos mornings, 9:40-10:40 AM. Simcha will leave from shul with any boys already there. Otherwise, parents are invited to drop off their sons at the Krycer home, 7004 Halprin St., Dallas, TX 75252 by 9:40 AM. Simcha will escort the boys back to the main services (two blocks away) at 10:40 AM where parents can join them for the end of davening and kiddush.

- What: Junior Congregation
 - Who: Boys, 1st-5th grade
 - Where: Krycer home, 7004 Halprin St., Dallas, TX 75252
 - When: Shabbos mornings, 9:40-10:40 AM (Beginning this Shabbos, October 12, 2013)
 - Cost: Free. Starting Soon: Sunday morning learning for girls. Look in your inbox for details.
- » **Mommy & Me at CTC:** Please join us on Shabbos morning to relax, chat, and watch the kids play in a warm and welcoming environment! For mothers and children of all ages, including toddlers and infants. BYOS! (Bring Your Own Snacks). In addition, the sisterhood is currently arranging, although not yet available, an adjunct drop-off program for mothers who would like to attend shul. Note: Once a month, the Mommy & Me program will be hosted at the Bloomenstiel home (7331 Kirkham Drive) as part of the CTC Sisterhood Shabbos M'vorchim Coffee Club. Our drop-off program will not be available on Shabbos M'vorchim.
- When: 9:45-10:45 on Shabbos Day
 - Where: The Rich's House, 7119 Bremerton Ct., Dallas, TX 75252
 - What: Drop-in playtime
 - Cost: None

» **Shabbos Chassidus Chabura with Rabbi Avraham Chaim Bloomenstiel:** What started as an informal schmooze on Shabbos has grown into a popular shiur. Rabbi Bloomenstiel hosts an in-depth discussion and learning of Likutey Moharan – the magnum opus of Rabbi Nachman of Breslov (1772 – 1810). Rabbi Nachman was an early Chassidic master and one of the deepest thinkers

in Jewish history. Mystical and moving, his Likutey Moharan provides powerful inspiration and penetrating insight into some of life's most intriguing mysteries. Every Shabbos, 1 hour and 10 minutes before Rabbi Rich's Chumash Shiur. Chabura lasts 1 hour. Held at the Bloomenstiel home : 7331 Kirkham Dr. Dallas, TX 75252. For men only.

» **Class in Tehillim for Women . . . Sunday Nights at CTC:** The Sunday night, weekly Tehillim shiur for women with Rabbi Yaakov Rich . . . Sunday Nights at CTC. Each Sunday night we will examine another psalm, study the poetic language used and delve into its significance & meaning, and most importantly, how we, in the 21st Century, can grow from its message. The class aims at not only familiarizing the participants with the history behind each of the psalms studied, but also to bring to the forefront practical teachings, as well as halachic rulings and customs that are derived from each of the psalms, or kapitelach .

- Who: Open to all Jewish women of every level and background
 - Cost: There is no charge for this class
 - When: Class is held Sunday evenings (Changing with sunset. Check website each week for schedule.)
 - Where: 7103 Mumford Ct., Dallas, TX 75252
 - Telephone: 972-835-6016
 - Teacher: Rabbi Yaakov Rich.
- » **Announcing the CTC Bimonthly Meat Sale featuring Lamb & Beef:** Congregation Toras Chaim is offering, as a service to the Dallas Jewish community quality glatt kosher lamb and beef for purchase on a bimonthly basis. We will be offering both large and small cuts of meat at greatly reduced prices. You won't find prices this low anywhere. We are currently putting the final touches on the pricing and selections. The order form will be available in a couple of days. In the meantime, we wanted to let you know about this exciting news so you can plan for all of your upcoming special occasions and holidays. The sale will take place November 17, 2013. Check back in a day or so for the posted order form. We will also let you know by email. Tell your friends about this exciting event. In anticipation of the sale, and by popular demand, we have prepared special for you a guide to understanding meat, which will greatly help you when choosing what to buy and in cooking all your favorite dishes. **Getting to know your meat — Download a user's guide to buying and cooking the best meat for every occasion. (See the website).** For all information please email Shoshana Chana Jacobs at shoshana.jacobs@gmail.com or call (972) 951-9044..
- » **Rochel Imeinu Yartzeit Video for women and girls:** Where Am I Headed? Connecting To Our Spiritual GPS. Congregation Ohev Shalom, Tuesday, October 15th, 8 PM. Sponsored by Jackie Shafron in memory of her father Chaim Yom Tov ben Meshulem. All women and girls are encouraged to attend this important event

■ REFUAH SHELAIMA

- » Zev Yisrael ben Esther (Friend of Risa Solomon)
- » Malka Shulamis bas Leah (Mother of Ari Goldberg)
- » Yael Miriam bas Chaya (Niece of Hillel & Jill Lichtenstein)
- » Mattisyahu Chaim ben Ettl (HaRav Mattisyahu Solomon)
- » Ella bas Naomi (Cousin of Naomi Goldberg)
- » Baruch Tzadik ben Chava (Relative of Jill Lichtenstein)

■ LOT'S AND LOTS OF OPPORTUNITIES: RABBI LABEL LAM

And HASHEM said to Avram: 'Go for yourself from your country, and from your birthplace, and from your father's house, to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation,

and I will bless thee, and make your name great; and you will be a blessing. And I will bless those that bless you, and those that curse you will I curse; and through you shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' So Avram went, as HASHEM had spoken to him; and Lot went with him; and Avram was seventy and five years old when he departed from of Haran. And Avram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had made in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came. And Avram passed through the land until the place of Shechem, until Elon Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land. And HASHEM appeared to Avram, and said: 'Unto your seed will I give this land'; and he built there an altar to HASHEM who appeared to him. (Breishis 12:1-7)

Two things are described in the beginning of Avram's journey. One of them seems superfluous. The verse tells us that Lot joined in and went along with Avram. The very next verse informs us that Avram took "Lot his brother's son". Why did the Torah have to tell us then and there that Lot was his brother's son? That was spelled out clearly just before. Also, why does the narrative tell us that the Canaanites were then in the land before HASHEM promised him and his children the land?

If the Torah was just listing for us who went on the trip why then it would be unnecessary to repeat Lot's name on the captain's manifest. However, the Torah is teaching us a few important points. Lot tagged along for his own motive and Avram had his own reason for including his nephew. Lot, it seems knew of the promise given by HASHEM of all the future blessings of wealth, fame, and family. Avram had no children from his barren wife Sarai. Perhaps he saw himself as the heir apparent to all those goodies. Therefore he came along.

Avram knew better. HASHEM's promise is real. He took Lot for a different reason because he was his brother's son. Who was his brother? What happened with him? The verse at the end of Parshas Noach simply tells that "Haran died on the face of his father!" What happened to him? When Avraham was captured by Nimrod for sedition, for the heresy of believing in a Single G-d, he was cast into a furnace but Avraham understood that the same G-d that could make fire burn could make fire not burn. There is none other than Him! That's what happened. Avraham was miraculously spared.

Haran was offered the same ultimatum of acquiescing to idolatry or going into a fire. He opted like Avraham but for a different reason. Since it worked for his brother it would work for him. It didn't work. He was consumed by and died in that fire.

The Sefas Emes explains that even though Haran's belief was not enough to save him he was still included in the great Kiddush Hashem of dying for the highest ideal. He evokes the sagely principal that "Hashem never fails to pay the reward to any creature". Since Lot was his progeny, Avram understood well that he is the bearer of all that future greatness. It is no mistake then that from Lot and his daughters would come out Moab and Ammon and the two doves, Rus and Naomi who would weave their way into the Davidic Dynasty more than seven centuries later.

Avram arrived in the land where the imposing Canaanites that scared the spies and intimidated an entire nation impressed with miracles and he was visited by HASHEM who informed him of the fact that his children would inherit the land. Avram had no

children then, the Canaanites were dominating the land but still he made a Kiddush because he saw with his mind's eye what HASHEM had promised him. That way of looking through to the future—beyond the tangible present, of seeing what will be in what is, is the same vision that informed him of Lot's and lots of opportunities.

■ PARSHA Q & A: LECH LECHA

1. What benefits did G-d promise Avraham if he would leave his home? 12:1 - He would become a great nation, his excellence would become known to the world, and he would be blessed with wealth.
2. "And all the families of the earth will be blessed through you." What does this mean? 12:3 - A person will say to his child, "You should be like Avraham."
3. Who were the souls that Avraham and Sarah "made?" 12:5 - People they converted to the worship of G-d.
4. What were the Canaanites doing in the Land of Canaan when Avraham arrived? 12:6 - They were in the process of conquering the land from the descendants of Shem.
5. Why did Avraham build an altar at Ai? 12:8 - He foresaw the Jewish People's defeat there in the days of Yehoshua due to Achans sin. He built an altar to pray for them.
6. What two results did Avraham hope to achieve by saying that Sarah was his sister? 12:13 - That the Egyptians would not kill him, and would give him presents.
7. Why did Avraham's shepherds rebuke Lot's shepherds? 13:7 Lot's shepherds grazed their flocks in privately owned fields.
8. Who was Amrafel and why was he called that? 14:1 - Amrafel was Nimrod. He said (amar) to Avraham to fall (fel) into the fiery furnace.
9. Verse 14:7 states that the four kings "smote all the country of the Amalekites". How is this possible, since Amalek had not yet been born? 14:7 - The Torah uses the name that the place would bear in the future.
10. Why did the "palit " tell Avraham of Lot's capture? 14:13- He wanted Avraham to die trying to save Lot so that he himself could marry Sarah.
11. Who accompanied Avraham in battle against the four kings? 14:14 - His servant, Eliezer.
12. Why couldn't Avraham chase the four kings past Dan? 4:14 - He saw prophetically that his descendants would make a golden calf there, and as a result his strength failed.
13. Why did Avraham give "ma'aser " specifically to Malki-Tzedek? 14:20 - Because Malki-Tzedek was a kohen.
14. Why didn't Avraham accept any money from Sodom's king? 14:23 - G-d had promised Avraham wealth, and Avraham didn't want Sodom's King to say, "I made Avraham wealthy."
15. When did the decree of 400 years of exile begin? 15:13 - With the birth of Yitzchak.
16. What did G-d indicate with His promise that Avraham would "come to his ancestors in peace"? 15:15 - That his father, Terach, would repent and become righteous.
17. How did G-d fulfill His promise that Avraham would be buried in "a good old age"? 15:15 - Avraham lived to see his son Yishmael repent and become righteous, and he died before his grandson Esav became wicked.

Good Shabbos

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■ WEEKLY CLASSES (see website for more detail)

- » Morning Gemara Makkos for men (M-Fr, 6-6:35A)
- » Daf HaYomi for men (Sunday-Thursday)
- » Shabbos Chassidus Chaburah for men (70 mins before Chumash shiur, at Bloomenstiel home)
- » Chumash for men & women (Shabbos one hr before mincha)
- » Hilchos Taaruvos for men (Sunday 6:30-8:00A)
- » Back to Basics with Rabbi Bloomenstiel for M&W (Sun 8:45-9:45 AM)
- » Marriage for men (Monday)
- » Marriage for women (Tuesday)
- » Mesilas Yesharim for men (Wednesday)
- » Gemara for Dummies for men (Thursday)

All classes at 7103 Mumford Ct., except where indicated elsewhere