



CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

An intimate space... Grow at your pace.

October 18-19, 2013 ■ 15 Cheshvan, 5774 ■ Shabbos Parshas Vayeira
Candlelighting: 6:32P ■ Shabbos Ends 7:26P

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by Yael Bodenheimer in honor of her husband, Michoel, for passing his Licensed Professional Counselor certification. 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 18th

- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos/Maariv-6:30P
- » Candlelighting-6:32P

Shabbos Day, October 19th

- » 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
- » Shabbos Chassidus Chaburah (at Bloomenstiel home)-4:10P
- » Chumash Shiur (for men & women)-5:20P
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos (men in shul, women at Rich home)-6:25P
- » Shabbos Ends-7:26P

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

- » Shacharis Sunday-8:00A
- » Shacharis Monday-6:40A
- » **Maariv-9:00P** (throughout the winter)

■ 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, 9:40-10:40A. 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 9:40A. Simcha will escort the boys back to the main services (two blocks away) at 10:40A 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, 9:40-10:40A (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: 9:45-10:45A 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 Sundays 7:15-8:00P
- Where: 7103 Mumford Ct., Dallas, TX 75252
- Telephone: 972-835-6016
- Teacher: Rabbi Yaakov Rich.

■ 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 Ettel (HaRav Mattisyahu Solomon)
- » Ella bas Naomi (Cousin of Naomi Goldberg)
- » Baruch Tzadik ben Chava (Relative of Jill Lichtenstein)

■ WAYS TO ENSURE THE FINANCIAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF OUR SHUL

There are a number of ways you can help to support the ongoing programming and growth of our shul.

- » Dues (Early Bird: \$800, Regular: \$900)
- » Rosh Hashana/Yom Kippur Seats
- » Yom Kippur Appeal
- » Simchas Torah Auction
- » General Donation
- » Shabbos Kiddush Sponsorship (\$150)
- » Shabbos Shalosh Seudos Sponsorship (\$50)
- » Week of Learning Sponsorship (\$180)
- » Ongoing Meat Sales
- » Purim Mishloach Manos Program

■ TO FOUND A WORLD: RABBI LABEL LAM

And they said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "Behold in the tent." And he said, "I will surely return to you at this time next year, and behold, your wife Sarah will have a son." And Sarah heard from the entrance of the tent, and it was behind him.

Behold in the tent: She is modest. (Rashi)

Why did the angel that was dialoguing with Avraham have to ask about Sara before announcing the great news that Sarah was to have a child next year at this time? Why was that a crucial inquiry? What does it add to know that Sarah was a modest woman at that very moment?

I once heard from Rabbi Shimshon Pincus ztl. that the Vilna Gaon wrote on his wife's tombstone, "She left no peers in her generation!" Asked Reb Shimshon, "We have no record of her Torah thoughts or teachings! In which way did she excel all others in the generation? Was her kugel or kishke so superior?" How do understand the statement of the Vilna Gaon regarding his deceased wife? Rabbi Shimshon Pincus explained with a verse in Tehillim that we say on Shabbos, "A righteous person (A Tzadik) sprouts like a (Tamar) Palm tree." How does a person sprout like a Tamar- a Palm tree? The unique quality of a Palm tree is that it only goes as high as it is deep! If you see a Palm tree tower 100 feet high that means that its roots are reaching 100 feet downward. The Vilna Gaon was saying that he was only able to reach the heights of Torah that he did because his wife had that very same depth, albeit hidden from view, and undetectable.

Now we can understand something valuable about Avraham and Sarah and the need of the angel to ask of her whereabouts exactly at that moment? The world was destroyed and scattered because of rampant selfishness and if a new world order was to be established, it must be founded on kindness, as King David says, "I said the world is founded on kindness!" The only question is who will be worthy to be that solid foundation on which the world will be built.

The angels stumbled upon the tent of Avraham and in spite of his infirmities and the extreme heat he puts on a major display of kindness, with loads of food pouring out of the tent and his running back and forth

and waiting upon them. For certain this must be the home that can serve as the corner stone for a new and more hopeful future. Yet there remains one question, one untested assumption. Maybe this was all one big show and Avraham was interested in impressing people like an actor! Appearances can be deceiving. How do we know he's for real?

They ask Avraham, "Where is Sarah your wife?" He answers, "She's in the tent." Rashi explains that she was a modest woman! Modest doesn't only mean that she covered her elbows and knees but it does mean that that she understands and appreciates the value of things without the need for external recognition and applause. After that superior demo of kindness by Avraham and the abundance of food production, maybe the women of the house wants to come out for a curtsy and a bow, but no, she's a modest woman. She does not need credit from without because her true locus of self-worth is within. She is that hidden root of the Tamar tree that feeds the quiet energy to her husband so that his limbs can reach out to the world.

No wonder when we sing the praise of a Jewish woman, Eishes Chayal we say, "Her husband is known in the gates when he sits amongst the elders. We are praising the woman of valor! Why do we switch now to her husband? Because behind every truly great man is a truly valorous woman. This was therefore proof positive of a reliable home on which to found a world.

■ **RAV OVADIA YOSEF-A TORAH GIANT IN EVERY SENSE:
RABBI REUVEN LAUFER**

It is hard to even begin to fathom the enormity of the passing of Rabbi Ovadia Yosef. Rav Ovadia (as he was affectionately known throughout the Orthodox world) was ninety three years old when he passed away last week – certainly a ripe age and one that most people would regard as a long life. So why the vast outpouring of grief among all sectors of the Jewish Nation? And what was it about Rav Ovadia's life that caused an unprecedented eight hundred thousand people to attend his funeral?

To put it simply, Rav Ovadia was a giant in every single dimension of Torah. He knew everything. His encyclopedic knowledge was certainly enhanced by his phenomenal memory. It is hard to even try to quantify that knowledge. He knew intimately every single one of the over ten thousand scholarly works in his library. But his real strength in understanding Torah came from his exceptional powers of concentration. He was renowned for being so engrossed in his studies that he was completely unaware of what was happening around him. Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of Israel, related that on several occasions he came to discuss extremely weighty matters with Rav Ovadia and he would wait until Rav Ovadia became aware that he was there. Sometimes it would take a few minutes and often much longer, but the Prime Minister would not interrupt the Rav's studies because he felt that Rav Ovadia was dealing with the past, the present and the future of the Jewish People as he learnt his precious Torah.

Rav Ovadia was considered to be the final word in all matters of Jewish Law. Of course, being conversant with all the myriad authorities of Jewish Law over the generations meant that he was able to rule on all matters, but there was something so much deeper than "just" knowledge. Rav Ovadia was able to relate to every single person according to who he was. He did not remain ensconced in the Ivory Tower of academia. Rather, he went out to the people. Rav Ovadia would travel the length and breadth of the country to teach Torah to anyone and everyone and he had an uncanny ability to be able to understand immediately not just what was being asked but why it was being asked as well. His ability to rule on all matters that were brought to him (and questions flooded in each and every day from all four corners of the world!) was based not just on his unparalleled accumulation of wisdom, but also on his unparalleled concern and love for the Jewish People. Just ask any one of the multitudes who received Rav Ovadia's trademark pat on the cheek – a sign of his true affection for the person. He positively radiated warmth and love for all Jews regardless of what their spiritual levels, and that love was reciprocated in

the numbers of Jews who came to bid him a final farewell.

Our Sages teach us that the passing of a righteous person leaves a gaping hole, and that we are supposed to learn a lesson from their passing from this world. How much more so when that righteous person also happened to be the spiritual leader of so many countless people! Is it possible to take just one message from the passing of Rav Ovadia – is it possible to take just one facet from such a multi-faceted personality? Personally, I think that the simplest and perhaps the most important lesson that we can take from Rav Ovadia's passing is the value of time. I truly believe that in a certain way Rav Ovadia is irreplaceable, but I also truly believe that we can all learn from his time-management. We all manage to get from one end of the day to the other, but the real question is how much time do we lose on the way. Even if a person manages to "rescue" only a few minutes each day due to being touched by Rav Ovadia's passing, then a lesson of immeasurable worth has been learnt.

With the passing of Rav Ovadia we have lost one of the greatest scholars and role-models of the last several generations. It is not for me to measure and to judge, but I feel that Rav Ovadia – that giant of Torah and of Fear of Heaven – is someone that cannot be replicated, which means that we have just slipped into a slightly lower level than we were in prior to his passing. This loss is very disturbing, and I believe that it carries with it enormous repercussions for us – the generation that is left orphaned from one of our greatest leaders. Rav Ovadia could rule on anything at any time. But it wasn't just "religious" matters. He made enormous decisions in the societal spheres that were completely unhindered by anything aside from the Torah that he cherished and loved without any limits.

What will be now? I do not know. But I do know that our world will not be quite the same with Rav Ovadia's passing.

■ **PARSHA Q & A: VAYEIRA**

1. Why did G-d appear to Avraham after the brit mila? 18:1 - Avraham was sick, so G-d came to "visit" him.
2. Why was Avraham sitting at the entrance to his tent? 18:1 - He was looking for guests.
3. What were the missions of the three angels? 18:2 - To announce Yitzchak's birth, to heal Avraham and to destroy Sodom.
4. Why did Avraham enjoin the guests to wash the dust off their feet? 18:4 - He thought they were among those who worship the dust, and he didn't want any object of idolatry in his home.
5. Why did Avraham ask specifically Yishmael, and not someone else, to prepare food for the guests? 18:7 - To train him in the performance of mitzvot.
6. Why did the angels ask Avraham where Sarah was? 18:9 - To call attention to Sarah's modesty, so as to endear her to her husband.
7. When G-d related Sarah's thoughts to Avraham, He did not relate them precisely. Why? 18:13 - For the sake of peace.
8. What "cry" from Sodom came before G-d? 18:21 - The cry of a girl who was executed for giving food to the poor.
9. How many angels went to Sodom? 19:1 - Two; one to destroy the city and one to save Lot.
10. Why was Lot sitting at the gate of Sodom? 19:1 - He was a judge.
11. Lot served the angels matza. Why? 19:3 - It was Passover.
12. Why did Lot delay when he left Sodom? 19:16 - He wanted to save his property.
13. Why were Lot and his family not permitted to look back at Sodom? 19:17 - As they, too, deserved to be punished, it wasn't fitting for them to witness the destruction of Sodom.
14. Lot's wife looked back and became a pillar of salt. Why was she punished in this particular way? 19:26 - She was stingy, not wanting to give the guests salt.
15. In what merit did G-d save Lot? 19:29 - Lot had protected Avraham by concealing from the Egyptians the fact that Sarah was his wife.

Good Shabbos

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» **Maariv-9:00P** (throughout the winter)

■ **WEEKLY CLASSES** (see website for more detail)

- » Morning Gemara Makkos for men (M-Fr, 6-6:35A)
- » Daf HaYomi for men (Sunday-Thursday 8-9P)
- » 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 7:15-8:00P)
- » Marriage for women (Tuesday 7:15-8:00P)
- » Mesilas Yesharim for men (Wednesday 7:15-8:00P)
- » Gemara for Dummies-Bava Kamma for men (Thursday 7:15-8:00P)

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