



CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

An intimate space... Grow at your pace.

November 15-16, 2013 ■ 13 Kislev, 5774 ■ Shabbos Parshas Vayishlach
Candlelighting: 5:07P ■ Shabbos Ends 6:14P

Kiddush and Shalosh Seudos this Shabbos is sponsored by Rabbi Yaakov & Rebbitzin Susan Rich, and Rabbi Yoseif Meir & Leebe Rich in honor of Shoshana's Bas Mitzvah; the birth of their new grandson and son, respectively; Chassan Torah & Chassan Bereishis this past Simchas Torah; Akiva Moshe's second birthday; and all of Hashem's many, many blessings. 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, November 15th

- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos/Maariv-5:05P
- » Candlelighting-5:07P

Shabbos Day, November 16th

- » Shacharis followed by Kiddush-8:30A
- » Junior Congregation for boys (at the Krycer home)-9:30-10:30A
- » Mommy & Me (at the Rich home)-9:45-10:45A
- » Shabbos Chassidus Chaburah (at Bloomenstiel home)-3:45P
- » Chumash Shiur (for men & women)-3:55P
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos (men in shul, women at Rich home)-4:55P
- » Shabbos Ends-6:14P
- » NEW: Avos u'Banim-7:15P

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

- » Shacharis Sunday-8:00A
- » Shacharis Monday-6:40A
- » **Maariv-9:00P** (throughout the winter)
- » Beis Medrash-every night following 9:00 PM Maariv

■ WHAT'S NU AT CTC

- » **Mazel Tov to Yoseif Meir & Leebe Rich:** Mazel Tov to Yoseif Meir & Leebe Rich on the birth of a son, and to Rabbi & Rebbitzin Rich on the birth of a grandson. May the parents merit to raise their son to a life of Torah, Marriage and Mitzvos, and bring him to the bris of Avrohom Avinu, in the proper time.
- » **CTC Evening Beis Medrash:** The CTC Beis Medrash, every night after the 9:00 PM Maariv, provides a warm and welcoming environment for Jewish learning of every level. Gemara, Mishnah, Chumash, Halacha, Philosophy, Mussar, History, Practice Your Reading, Davening or Leining. Everything is possible in the CTC Evening Beis Medrash. After a day's work refresh your soul and open your mind to Jewish learning, by yourself or with a chavrusah. The CTC Evening Beis Medrash will empower you to live an inspired Jewish life filled with the richness of Torah and the wisdom of our Sages.
- » **Hebrew: Read it, Understand it.** DATA in conjunction with Congregation Toras Chaim presents Rabbi Hanania Benklifa's Famous Hebrew Reading & Comprehension Class. Stop reading letters or mouthing words. Rabbi Benklifa will teach you how to actually read and understand sentences. The real reason most Jews want to learn Hebrew is to see with their own eyes the wonders of Torah, and not through the lens of a translator. Learn what you say, why you say it, and, more importantly, what it all means!
 - 15-week class for men & women (Price TBD)
 - Sundays, 8-9 PM, Starting November 24, 2013
 - Congregation Toras Chaim, 7103 Mumford Ct. 75252
 - Contact DATA at (214) 987-3282 or Rabbi Benklifa at (469) 348-5506
 - Please park at Torah Day School, 6921 Frankford Rd. 75252
- » **Four Week Shabbos Halacha Series for Women:** Noted Torah scholar, Rabbi Michael Bodenheimer, will be presenting a four-week Shabbos Halacha Series for women of our community. Topics include: Selecting, Cooking and Shabbos Preparation. The class will take place Wednesday evenings, 7-8 PM, beginning November 27, 2013, at their home, 17490 Meandering Way (Willow Greene Condominiums), Apt 2004. There is no cost for this class. All women are invited. Please tell your friends.
 - Week One (Wed, Nov 27): Selecting
 - Weeks Two & Three (Wed, Dec 4 & 11): Cooking
 - Week Four (Wed, Dec 18): Preparing
- » **Friday Night Catered Dinner & Oneg Shabbos for the Entire Family:** Congregation Toras Chaim is please to invite the community to a Friday night catered dinner and oneg Shabbos, November 22, 2013, for the entire family. Our special guest speaker will be Rabbi Peretz Shapiro. He

will speak Friday night after dinner, before the oneg Shabbos (which will include all types of pastries, Irish Coffees and other splendid drinks). This is an amazing opportunity to hear a wonderful speaker and Torah Scholar, plus enjoy delicious food and great company. **When: Friday night, November 22, 2013. Cost: \$36 per family (dinner & oneg) / \$18 per person (dinner & oneg)** Space is limited. Reservations will taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Your payment is your reservation. You may pay online by clicking the button below, or by giving a check to Rabbi Yaakov Rich.

- » **Tasting 36: A Premier Chanukah Event for Men:** Congregation Toras Chaim Presents: Tasting 36 – A Premier Chanukah Event for Men. Illuminating the Chanukah connection to thirty-six with a refreshing evening of learning, eating and tasting craft beer.
 - 36 Hidden Tzadikim
 - 36 Total Lights of the Menorah
 - 36 Varieties of Craft Beer to Sample
- Enjoy an evening of inspiration, delicious Chanukah favorites and an unbelievable selection of craft beer to taste.
 - Date: Wednesday, November 27, 2013 (First night of Chanukah) at 8:15 PM (Maariv 8:00 PM)
 - Location: Congregation Toras Chaim, 7103 Mumford Ct., Dallas, TX 75252
 - Cost: \$25 per person
 - Bottle Sponsor: \$100
 - Event Chair: Michael Dawson.
- » **Pre-Chanukah Lecture Series with Rabbi Michael Friedman:** Is Chanukah Just for Children? Special 2-Part Lecture Series with Rabbi Michael Friedman. **Part 2, Wed, Nov 20th,** 7:00-8:00 PM: Chanukah's Imprint – Timeless Lessons for Our Lives. Men and women invited to attend at Congregation Toras Chaim, 7103 Mumford Ct., Dallas, TX 75252. There is no cost. Please share information about this event with your friends.
- » **50-160: A fantastic, new fund raising initiative from Congregation Toras Chaim using the power of people.**

A story to explain: The famous Steipler Gaon was conscripted into the Red army. One Shabbos, on a frigid Russian night, the Steipler had guard duty. To protect the guard on duty from the freezing conditions, there was only one special coat that was passed from the outgoing soldier to the incoming soldier.

Unfortunately, when the Steipler arrived at his post, he realized that the soldier who had been there before him had hung the coat on the tree next to where he was to stand guard. The Steipler was not willing to take the coat, as it is prohibited to remove anything from a tree on Shabbos. However, he reasoned, it is certainly permitted to remove the coat in a situation of pikuach nefesh, a situation that is life-threatening.

Nevertheless, the Steipler did not don the coat to protect himself from the freezing conditions. "Yes," he said, "it is permissible in a case of pikuach nefesh, but I can certainly wait another five minutes before I will be in danger." After five minutes, he again told himself that he could last another five minutes before the situation would be deemed pikuach nefesh. He continued in this way all through the night, in five-minute increments, until morning.

Anything is possible if broken down into small enough parts. To that end, **50-160** is the shul's attempt at tackling our fund raising challenge. If 160 people would donate just \$50 per month on a recurring basis—coffee money for many—then our books would be balanced. But, isn't 160 people is too many to consider. So, our plan, like the Steipler, is to sign up only 10 people per week—a manageable amount—until we reach our goal.

■ REFUAH SHELAIMA

- » Chanoch ben Fruma (Friend of Avi Harpaz)

- » 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)

■ FILTERS: RABBI LABEL LAM

And Yaakov sent angels in front of him to Eisav his brother to the land of Seir to the field of Edom. And he commanded them saying; "So you shall say to my master to Eisav; So says Yaakov your servant; "I have lived with Lavan and tarried till now and I have oxen and donkeys and sheep and servants and maid servants and I am sending to my master to find grace in your eyes..." (Breishis 32:3-5)

And Yaakov sent angels: Real angels! (Rashi)

It's quite remarkable that Yaakov had such control over the angelic world that he could direct them to represent him and speak on his behalf. Not many people who have walked on this planet can make such a claim. It's hard enough for us to have control over our own actions, words, thoughts, and emotions. Yaakov must have been a master of his world. The truth is that we too produce angels daily and constantly.

The Nefesh HaChaim writes; "Every Jewish person should not say in his heart, heaven forbid, 'what am I and what impact do my lowly deeds have in the world?' Rather, he should understand that every minute detail of his actions, and his speech, and his thoughts, each and every moment is not lost! How powerful are his actions and very great and lofty too, for everyone according to the root of his soul, to impact and effect in the highest of heights, and the purest of lights. In truth, a man who is wise and understands this clearly, his heart will tremble within him a great shuddering when he considers his actions that are not good and how far they reach to destroy and ruin with even a slight misstep..."

Everyone has power to release angels, extraordinarily productive and destructive too! The Sefas Emes says that these are the angels sent by Yaakov, and that according to the Zohar there are angels created from both the Yetzer Hora and the Yetzer Tov! He states that the angels generated from the Yetzer Hora can have more protective powers than those created from the Yetzer Tov!

A person might just be sent into a panic mode with the power of the information provided here. After all, one of the things a person is not save from each day, the Talmud tells us, is "bad thoughts". What's a person to do?!

Here is an important life-saving point. Imagine for a moment a player for one of the famous sports teams is standing in his position, let's say, center fielder for the Yankees. A fan throws a Frisbee onto the field and he jogs over casually to toss it back into the stands so no one will stumble on it. Nobody will fault him for this Frisbee toss. However, if he starts to have a catch with the left fielder, and during live game time, he's a candidate for bench warming.

It was once explained to me by a great person, that just as there are arenas, and stages by which things come into reality, through "thought," "speech" and "action," so too in the world of thought there are levels, such as "the "thought of thought", the "speech of thought" and, the "action of thought". The same goes for the realm of speech and action as well. "I'll spare you.

Based on this we can understand a very important question. "What is the difference between crazy people and everybody else?" The answer is simple! Filters!

We don't say everything we think! We don't even develop every

thought that "pops up" on the screen of our mind. We have filters. Once something is halted at the "thought of thought" and is prevented from entering the "speech of thought" or the "action of thought", we are then spared from its harmful effects. However, a crazy person has a broken filter.

He may say whatever he thinks. Even more dangerously he can act on a wild unscreened thought. When we hear about the depraved behavior of a lunatic letting loose his fury, we can understand well that that what lost before his sanity, was his filters.

■ PARSHA Q&A: VAYISHLACH

1. What sort of messengers did Yaakov send to Esav? 32:4 - Angels.
2. Why was Yaakov both "afraid" and "distressed?" 32:8 - He was afraid he would be killed. He was distressed that he would have to kill.
3. In what three ways did Yaakov prepare for his encounter with Esav? 32:9 - He sent gifts, he prayed, and he prepared for war.
4. Where did Dina hide and why? 32:23 - Yaakov hid her in a chest so that Esav wouldn't see her and want to marry her.
5. After helping his family across the river, Yaakov remained alone on the other side. Why? 32:25 - He went back to get some small containers he had forgotten.
6. What was the angel forced to do before Yaakov agreed to release him? 32:27 - Admit that the blessings given by Yitzchak rightfully belong to Yaakov.
7. What was it that healed Yaakov's leg? 32:32 - The shining of the sun.
8. Why did Esav embrace Yaakov? 33:4 - His pity was aroused when he saw Yaakov bowing to him so many times.
9. Why did Yosef stand between Esav and Rachel? 33:7 - To stop Esav from gazing at her.
10. Give an exact translation of the word nisa in verse 33:12. 33:12 - It means "travel". It does not mean "we will travel." This is because the letter nun is part of the word and does not mean we as it sometimes does.
11. What happened to the 400 men who accompanied Esav? 33:16 - They slipped away one by one.
12. Why does the Torah refer to Dina as the daughter of Leah and not as the daughter of Yaakov? 34:1 - Because she was outgoing like her mother, Leah.
13. Whom should Shimon and Levi have consulted concerning their plan to kill the people of Shechem? 34:25 - Their father, Yaakov.
14. Who was born along with Binyamin? 35:17 - His two triplet sisters.
15. What does the name Binyamin mean? Why did Yaakov call him that? 35:18 - Ben-Yemin means "Son of the South." He was the only son born in the Land of Israel, which is south of Aram Naharaim.
16. The Torah states, "The sons of Yaakov were twelve." Why? 35:22 - To stress that all of them, including Reuven, were righteous.
17. How old was Yaakov when Yosef was sold? 35:29 - One hundred and eight.
18. Esav changed his wife's name to Yehudit. Why? 36:2 - To fool Yitzchak into thinking that she had abandoned idolatry.
19. Which three categories of people have their sins pardoned? 36:3 - One who converts to Judaism, one who is elevated to a position of leadership, and one who marries.
20. What is the connection between the Egyptian oppression of the Jewish people and Esav's decision to leave the land of Canaan? 36:6 - Esav knew that the privilege of living in the Land of Israel was accompanied by the prophecy that the Jews would be "foreigners in a land not their own." Therefore Esav said, "I'm leaving. I don't want the Land if it means I have to pay the bill of subjugation in Egypt."

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 8-9P)
- » Shabbos Chassidus Chaburah for men (10 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)
- » Gemara for Dummies-Bava Kamma for men (Thursday 7:15-8:00P)

All classes at 7103 Mumford Ct., except where indicated