



CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

An intimate space... Grow at your pace.

November 22-23, 2013 ■ 20 Kislev, 5774 ■ Shabbos Parshas Vayeishev
Candlelighting: 5:04P ■ Shabbos Ends 6:11P

Kiddush and 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, November 22nd

- » Candlelighting-5:04P
- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos/Maariv-5:05P

Shabbos Day, November 23rd

- » Shacharis followed by Kiddush-8:30A
- » Junior Congregation for boys (at the Krycer home)-
CANCELED
- » Mommy & Me (at the Rich home)-9:45-10:45A
- » Shabbos Chassidus Chaburah (at Bloomenstiel home)-3:40P
- » Chumash Shiur (for men & women)-3:50P
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos (men in shul, women at Rich home)-
4:50P
- » Shabbos Ends-6:11P
- » Avos u'Banim-7:10P

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

- » Shacharis Sunday-8:00A
- » Shacharis Monday-6:40A
- » **Maariv-9:00P** (throughout the winter)
- » Beis Medrash-every night at 9:15P

■ WHAT'S NU AT CTC

» **CTC Art Sale:** Browse the art that is adorning the walls of the shul. These paintings are being sold by the shul as a way to support our ongoing programming. For details and pricing please speak with Avi Harpaz, Director of CTC Art Sales, (818) 445-1941 or harpazinc@gmail.com. Thank you for your interest.

» **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 Tzadikkim
- 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.

» **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
- » **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.

■ 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)

■ JUST AS PROMISED: RABBI LABEL LAM

Now it came to pass when Yosef came to his brothers, that they stripped Yosef of his shirt, of the fine woolen coat which was upon him. And they took him and cast him into the pit; now the pit was empty there was no water in it. (Breishis 37:23-24)

Now the pit was empty-there was no water in it: Since it says: "now the pit was empty," do I not know that there was no water in it? For what purpose did the Torah write, "there was no water in it"? [To inform us that] there was no water in it, but there were snakes and scorpions in it. now the pit was empty-there was no water in it: Since it says: "now the pit was empty," do I not know that there was no water in it? For what purpose did the Torah write, "there was no water in it"? [To inform us that] there was no water in it, but there were snakes and scorpions in it. [From Shab. 22a, Chag. 3a]

Yosef is stripped of his special coat by his own brothers and he is tossed into a pit surrounded by snakes and scorpions. What might we presume he is thinking at that very moment? It would be hard for to know exactly but I think I have a very good idea.

More than 28 years ago my wife and I were flooded out of our basement honeymoon apartment by hurricane Gloria which slammed against the eastern seaboard of the United States. My newlywed bride was extremely nauseous and we were essentially homeless which is well within the spirit of the holiday of Sukkos. We needed a serious dose of spiritual courage so we made our way to visit someone who was known as the Tzadik of Monsey, Rabbi Mordechai Schwab ztl.

He listened with perfect concentration as we wove our tale of woe. After we had finished and he expressed his empathy, he repeated a few time, "Reish Lamed (#230) in Shulchan Aruch Orach Chaim", "A person should accustom himself to say, 'All the Merciful One does, He does for the good!'" It doesn't mean he even has to understand how it's for the good at that moment but the required is to be in the habit of saying those words when applicable. Then

Rabbi Schwab punctuated our encounter with the following stunning statement: “There’s a promise that whoever says this, that “All the Merciful One does, He does for the good!” will live to see the good that comes out of the situation. He then pointed to picture of his family that had escaped a Europe on fire with anti-Semitism.

I always wondered and I regretted having never asked about the source of this promise. Who says? Not that I question it even a little in sober moments but it would be more than nice to know! After a little cogitation I do believe that I have discovered the source of the source of the promise.

Last year when “Gam Zu L’Tova” - this too is for the good” was our Pitgam HaShevua (phrase that pays) in school, one of the Rebbes helped the repetition of the statement 101 times, as is our custom, with a really catchy tune. It wasn’t the standard Uncle Moishy bouncy version. Rather it was to the tune of Gum zali zali zali gum zali zali.” with an English refrain, “This too is for the good!” It’s really catchy. Destined to be an all-time hit!

In a spontaneous lesson of song and serious Toraha son of his old age: Heb. - בן זקנים, for he was born to him in his old age (Pirkei d’Rabbi Eliezer, ch. 38). Onkelos rendered: for he was a wise son to him. Whatever he had learned from Shem and Eber he gave over to him. Another explanation: for his (Joseph’s) features (זיו איקונין) resembled his own (those of Jacob). [From Gen. Rabbah 84:8], I began to retell the story of the trials and tribulations of Yosef’s life’s journey with that Talmudic chorus echoing in the background. “Gam zu l’tova!”

Yosef tells his brothers his dreams and again and they see him more and more as an egotist and a danger. What must he be saying? “This too is for the good!” His brothers strip him of his special coat and toss him into a snake and scorpion filled pit. What must he be saying to himself? “This too is for the good!” He is pulled out and transported to Egypt in a spice caravan to be sold as a slave. What must he be saying to himself? “This too is for the good!” He is falsely accused with trumped up charges and tossed into prison in Egypt. What must he be saying? “This too is for the good!” He is forgotten about by the butler whose dream he had interpreted, his last and best earthly hope! What must he be saying? “This too is for the good!”

After two long years he is suddenly delivered from jail to interpret Pharaoh’s dream and forestall a world famine and to save his family. All his brothers and father are ultimately dependent upon Yosef which was the thrust of his own original dream. It all came true. The family was spared and HASHEM’s plan of bringing the Children of Israel to Egypt was furthered, and hey, it all turned good, just as promised.

■ PARSHA Q&A: VAYEISHEV

1. “These are the offspring of Yaakov: Yosef...” Give three reasons why Yosef is considered Yaakov’s main offspring. 37:2 - (a) Yosef was the son of Rachel, Yaakov’s primary wife. (b) Yosef looked like Yaakov. (c) All that befell Yaakov befell Yosef.
2. What was praiseworthy about the fact that Yosef’s brothers did not speak to him in a friendly manner? 37:4 - They did not act hypocritically.
3. How do we see from Yosef’s dream about the sun, moon and

stars that all dreams contain some untrue element? 37:10 - The moon represented Rachel. Since she had already died, it was impossible for that element of the dream to come true.

4. Who brought Yosef down to Egypt? 37:28 - A caravan of Midianites.
5. Where was Reuven when Yosef was sold? 37:29 - He was attending to Yaakov.
6. In addition to the brothers, who else knew that Yosef was alive? 37:33 - Yitzchak.
7. Why didn’t G-d reveal prophetically to Yaakov that Yosef was alive? 37:33 - Because the brothers had issued a ban against revealing the truth to Yaakov, and G-d, so to speak, abided by their ban.
8. For how long did Yaakov mourn the loss of Yosef? 37:34 - Twenty-two years.
9. Verse 37:35 states “his father wept.” To whom does this refer? 37:35 - Yitzchak, who wept because of Yaakov’s suffering.
10. Who was Tamar’s father? 38:24 - Shem.
11. In what merit did Tamar deserve to have kings as her descendants? 38:26 - In the merit of her modesty.
12. Why is the word “hand “ mentioned four times in connection to the birth of Zerach? 38:30 - To allude to his descendent, Achan, who sinned with his hand by taking four things from the spoils of Jericho.
13. Why does the Torah relate the incident with Potiphar’s wife immediately after the incident of Yehuda and Tamar? 39:1 - To teach us that just as Tamar acted with pure motives, so did Potiphar’s wife.
14. How did Potiphar “see” that G-d was with Yosef? 39:3 - Yosef mentioned G-d’s name frequently in his speech.
15. Who in this week’s Parsha pretended to be sick? 39:11 - Potiphar’s wife.
16. Why were the butler and the baker imprisoned? 40:1 - The butler was imprisoned because a fly was found in the king’s goblet, and the baker was imprisoned because a pebble was found in the king’s bread.
17. For how long were the butler and the baker in prison? 40:4 - Twelve months.
18. How did the baker know that Yosef had correctly interpreted the butler’s dream? 40:5 - The baker dreamed the interpretation of the butler’s dream.
19. What prompted the butler and baker to tell Yosef their dreams? 40:6 - Yosef asked them why they looked troubled.
20. How was Yosef punished for asking the butler for help? 40:23 - He remained in prison an additional two years.

Good Shabbos

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