



CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

An intimate space... Grow at your pace.

November 8-9, 2013 ■ 6 Kislev, 5774 ■ Shabbos Parshas Vayeitzei
Candlelighting: 5:11P ■ Shabbos Ends 6:19P

Kiddush & Shalosh Seudos this Shabbos is sponsored by Rebekkah Bodoff in honor of the Riches and Congregation Toras Chaim for always being a home away from home. Kiddush & Shalosh Seudos this Shabbos is also sponsored by the Simcha & Sara Itskavich in honor of their third wedding anniversary. They are very happy to celebrate it here in Dallas, and hope to celebrate many more in the true spirit of a Bayis Ne'eman B'Yisroel. 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 8th

- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos/Maariv-5:10P
- » Candlelighting-5:11P

Shabbos Day, November 9th

- » 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)-2:50P
- » Chumash Shiur (for men & women)-4:00P
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- » NEW: Avos u'Banim-7:20P

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

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

■ WHAT'S NU AT CTC

- » **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. He will speak Friday night after dinner, before the oneg Shabbos (which will include all types of pastries, Irish Coffees and other splendid drinks). He will also speak Shabbos morning during the services (in place of the rabbi ;-)) and Shabbos afternoon during Shalosh Seudos. This is an amazing opportunity to hear a world class Torah Scholar, and 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.
- » **CTC Bimonthly Meat Sale: Order Deadline November 11, 2013:** Announcing the Congregation Toras Chaim November 2013 meat sale featuring lamb and 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. Orders must be completed by November 11, 2013 at 11:55 PM. The sale will take place November 17, 2013. 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. For all information please email Shoshana Chana Jacobs at shoshana.jacobs@gmail.com or call (972) 951-9044.
- » **Pre-Chanukah Lecture Series with Rabbi Michael Friedman:** Is Chanukah Just for Children? Special 2-Part Lecture Series with Rabbi Michael Friedman. **Part 1, Wed, Nov 13th, 7:00-8:00 PM:** Surprising Chanukah Themes Seen Through the Eyes of Our Sages. **Part 2, Wed, Nov 20th, 7:00-8:00 PM:** Chanukah's Imprint - Timeless Lessons for Our Lives. Men and women invited to at-

tend 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.

We already have our first 10 donors. There is tremendous enthusiasm from the board and members alike. Josh Rothstein will be explaining all the details at the announcements before kiddush. I encourage you to ask questions, participate, by giving or asking others to give, and be a source of positive P.R. for the shul as we move forward. **50-160 is fund raising using the power of people.**

■ 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)

■ WHAT'S HOLY!?! RABBI LABEL LAM

And Yaakov awakened from his sleep, and he said, "Indeed, HASHEM is in this place, and I did not know." And he was frightened, and he said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of G-d, and this is the gate of heaven." (Breishis 28:16-17)
Yaakov found himself incidentally at the holiest site in the universe, the place where the Temple resided for almost a 1000 years and the where Avraham had been ready to yield his beloved son. He detected the holiness of that place and he declared aloud, "How awesome is the place!" Many a good searching Jew has found himself there over the years and it has become a spring board for great things. Indeed something is going on there

at “the gate to heaven”, the portal to all prayers. How can we all relate even today to the holiness of this place with our western slanted intellects?

I was thrown into the deep end of the swimming pool of public speaking a bunch of years back. If I had any fears they were either confirmed or dispelled by the following incident. I was involved with a tour consisting of a few dozen-college students who were visiting Israel for the first time. It was Friday night at the Kossel, the Western Wall, and the head of our contingency led us in a twenty-minute dance around the plaza where many had gathered to pray. By the time we had finished, our numbers had swelled to hundreds, as we swallowed up groups with energy and spirit. The one, who had so enthusiastically orchestrated the dancing, now pulled everyone close around him for a quiet word before the evening Shabbos prayer. When he had their attention, he stepped out and pushed me in suddenly and said, “Label, say something!” I was totally unprepared. The awe of that Wall and the place was plenty to strike me silent. I looked up at the faces of the now hundreds of people. I felt like that ubiquitous deer on the highway, Bambi, frozen and staring into the headlights.

With help from heaven I was able to open my mouth. I uttered Yaakov’s very words, “How awesome is this place!” Then I asked, “What are we all doing here? Are we here to talk to the wall?” I saw some heads beginning to nod. “This is the last unsullied, non-commercial, holy place in the world.

There exists within each of us also a pure and unexploited point of holiness, as well. Here on the Holy Shabbos, that remnant of holiness within us has been drawn magnetically to this hold-out of holiness. I realized quickly that the word “holy” was a hollow word for most and maybe even me. What was I saying? I needed to define and add a colorful picture to the term- “holy”. With even more continued help from heaven, it occurred to me that just days earlier I was been walking through the streets of New York City. I too was searching for holiness. I asked, “What holiness is to be found there? What do people treat as holy? Where do we find in a world of cynicism and shattered idols that there is a place where everyone universally behaves with authentic reverence? In only one place- At the ATM room.

Everyone, even in bustling NYC, enters quietly and respectfully. Each inserts their piece of plastic. The machine engages us so politely and clearly. Then we enter our PIN# and wait for the good news. Chamber music might be appropriate as the confessional screen lights up and tells us the brutal truth. We have made withdrawals, too many. We have made deposits. We are flirting dangerously with the over draft. A record is there of all our transactions if we wish. The final request and closing and we each back up three steps as if from a silent prayer, “Oseh Shalom Bimromav...” putting the receipt or money privately and deeply into our pocket. We have been touched. The same is when we approach the Wall in prayer. Although we all hold the same Prayer Book and say the same words, as the plastic card, we each have a personal identification number. We are weighing in collectively and individually and making ourselves aware of our spiritual bank accounts. We have made withdrawals. We have made deposits...etc.”

It has occurred to me that the money industry has usurped the best words for what we seek in personal relationships, Mutual, Fidelity, Trust, Bond, Interest, Provident, Security, Exchange, and even more. It’s

not a new phenomenon. King Solomon told us more than two thousand years ago, if you want to achieve authentic awe, feel it for real you must “seek it like silver”. Then you will know what’s “Holy”!?

■ PARSHA Q&A: VAYEITZEI

1. When Yaakov traveled to Charan, the Torah stresses that he departed from Beer Sheva. Why? 28:10 - The departure of a righteous person leaves a noticeable void in that place.
2. On the night of his dream, Yaakov did something he hadn’t done in 14 years. What? 28:11 - Sleep at night lying down.
3. G-d compressed the entire Land of Israel underneath the sleeping Yaakov. What did this symbolize? 28:13 - That the Land would be easy for his descendants to conquer.
4. Yaakov said “I will return with shalom.” What did he mean by “shalom”? 28:21 - Completely without sin.
5. Why did Yaakov rebuke the shepherds? 29:7 - He thought they were loafing, stopping work early in the day.
6. Why did Rachel, and not her brothers, tend her father’s sheep? 30:27 - Her brothers weren’t born yet.
7. Why did Yaakov cry when he met Rachel? 29:11 - He saw prophetically that they would not be buried together; or because he was penniless.
8. Why did Lavan run to greet Yaakov? 29:13 - He thought Yaakov was carrying money.
9. Why were Leah’s eyes tender? 29:17 - She cried continually because she thought she was destined to marry Esav.
10. How old was Yaakov when he married? 29:21 - Eighty-four.
11. What did Rachel find enviable about Leah? 30:1 - Her good deeds, thinking they were the reason Leah merited children.
12. Who was Yaakov’s fifth son? 30:5 - Dan.
13. Who was Leah’s handmaiden? Was she older or younger than Rachel’s handmaiden? 30:10 - Zilpah. She was younger.
14. How do you say dudaim in Arabic? 30:14 - Jasmine (Yasmin).
15. “G-d remembered Rachel” (30:22). What did He remember? 30:22 - That Rachel gave Leah the “signs of recognition” that Yaakov had taught her, so that Leah wouldnt be embarrassed.
16. What does “Yosef” mean? Why was he named that? 30:24 “Yosef” means “He will add.” Rachel asked G-d for another son in addition to Yosef.
17. G-d forbade Lavan to speak to Yaakov “either of good or of bad.” Why didnt G-d want Lavan to speak of good? 31:24 - Because the “good” that comes from wicked people is bad for the righteous.
18. Where are there two Aramaic words in this weeks Parsha? 31:41 - Yagar Sahaduta, meaning “wall of testimony.”
19. Who was Bilhah’s father? Who was Zilpah’s father? 31:50 - Lavan.
20. Who escorted Yaakov into Eretz Yisrael? 32:1 - The angels of Eretz Yisrael.

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 (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)
- » Gemara for Dummies-Bava Kamma for men (Thursday 7:15-8:00P)

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