



# CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

An intimate space... Grow at your pace.

January 10-11, 2014 ■ 10 Shevat, 5774 ■ Shabbos Parshas Beshalach  
Candlelighting: 5:20P ■ Shabbos Ends 6:29P

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored in honor of Rabbi Avraham Chaim Bloomenstiel for the tremendous work he did to bring us to our new home during his term as President of the shul. 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, January 10<sup>th</sup>

- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos/Maariv-5:20P
- » Candlelighting-5:20P

### Shabbos Day, January 11<sup>th</sup>

- » Shacharis followed by Kiddush-8:30A
- » Junior Congregation for boys-9:30A
- » **Mommy & Me (in the Rich home)-9:45-10:45A**
- » Shabbos Chassidus Chaburah (at Bloomenstiel home)-4:00P
- » Chumash Shiur (for men & women)-4:10P
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos (men in shul, women at Rich home)-5:10P
- » Shabbos Ends-6:29P
- » Avos u'Banim-7:45P

## ■ 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

- » **From the CTC President:** As a members of Congregation Toras Chaim, my family and I have felt fortunate and privileged to be able to daven, learn Torah, and grow in the quality of our relationship with Hashem and with each other. Over time, we have come to rely on the availability of quiet and respectful services, inspirational and crystal clear shiurim, the quick availability of critical halachic advice, and the support and encouragement of a Rabbi Rich.

It is beyond me how our little shul has merited to become a center for serious Torah learning. There is chabura that gathers at Rabbi Rich's dining room table every Sunday morning at 6:30 AM to learn Hilchos Ta'aruvos from the Gemara to the Shuchan Aruch. There is another group learning Mesechtas Megilla that attends a 6 AM shiur and then reviews b'chevrusa after Maariv until 10 PM. And this is in addition to those who have committed to learn Daf Yomi. There is also a group of men who meet with Rabbi Rich and a group of woman who meet with Susan Rich to learn Torah-based guidance on how to improve and strengthen their marriages, and during the Shabbos Chumash shiur, both men and woman have gathered together since the inception of the shul to learn every single Rashi in the Chumash.

Other Rabbis have joined in the effort to bringing serious Torah learning to our community. Rabbi Avi Bloomenstiel has attracted quite a following for his Chassidus class on Shabbos as well as his Sunday "Back to Basics" class. Many women are strengthening their knowledge of Hilchos Shabbos with the Shabbos Halacha class given by Rabbi Bodenheimer at his home every Wednesday. Rabbi Shapiro has recently started a very popular Tanya class given every Thursdays, and people are leaning Lashon HaKodesh in earnest with Rabbi Benklifa every Sunday. There is even a Junior Congregation for the boys Shabbos morning.

All of this is in addition to the wonderful family/social atmosphere that permeates everything at the shul through such programs as: the Shuli Bloomenstiel led Mommy & Me and Coffee Club for women & children on Shabbos mornings, in addition to special women's only and children's only events during Chanukah and Purim; Learn and Burn and Tasting 36 programs for men; Friday night catered dinners, Oneg Shabboses, and Shabbatons; and our famous community wide Non-Holiday party and Lag B'Omer BBQ. Oh, and who can forget our incredible Purim Seudah open to all.

We must keep in mind that this explosion in Torah learning and programming growth did not occur by chance. Rather, we have arrived at this point as a result of many individual commitments to make a fixed time for learning, to daven in a minyan, and to grow in observance of Torah and. We have also made this journey because of Rabbi Rich's ceaseless commitment to our shul and its members.

In addition to our commitment to learn and to grow is our obligation to financially support the tzibbur, or congregation, to ensure that we and our families and our community may continue to benefit from

what Congregation Toras Chaim has made possible. One important way to support CTC is through membership.

**This year's membership rates are \$1200 per family**, which includes high-holiday tickets for all immediate members of the family, members-only pricing on shul events, preferential pricing on various sponsorships, as well as the ability to participate in and vote in congregational meetings and be eligible to participate in a leadership role in the congregation. For example, the member in good standing cost of sponsoring a Kiddush going forward will be \$150, while the non-member cost will be \$250. Please speak with me, or Wes Sutkin concerning convenient ways that membership may be paid.

I encourage everyone who has personally benefitted from what CTC has to offer, and everyone who has been inspired by the strength and commitment to Torah learning that Rabbi Rich and CTC has brought to North Dallas, to join me in supporting the CTC by renewing and/or establishing a membership.

Ben Nise, CTC President

- » **CTC Art Sale:** The art fundraiser at Congregation Toras Chaim is an opportunity to acquire meaningful Jewish art while supporting both artist and community. Our prices are far, far below and other retail dealers, whether sold through a bricks and mortar store, or online. But don't take our word for it. Visit the art site at <http://toraschaimart.weebly.com/index.html> to see our offerings and compare our prices with others. Or call 818.445.1941 for inquiries. Our stock will be constantly rotating as we sell what we have and replace them with others. If you see a picture you like today, it may not be here tomorrow!
- » **Rabbi's Reflections:** CTC Winter Speaker Series: A Bi-Weekly Conversation with Leading Dallas Rabbonim. Listen to the insights and outlooks of our local Torah scholars as they share with us the Talmudic wisdom necessary to build a vibrant, strong and growing Jewish community.
  - **Wednesday, January 22, 2014: Rabbi Ranaan Broderick, shlit"א** – **Shechita: Business or Avodas HaKodesh (Holy Service).** An insider's view of the world of shechita, including a show-and-tell of real specimens. Rabbi Broderick, who is a practicing shochet, is known as a serious Talmid Chacham and a real cut-up!
  - **Wednesday, February 5, 2014: Rabbi Yerachmiel Fried, shlit"א, Rosh Kollel, DATA - From Jerusalem with Love.** Rabbi Yerachmiel Fried, a student of the greatest Roshei Yeshiva of our generation, including the venerable Gadol HaDor, HaRav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach, zt"l, began DATA as a center of outreach and inreach, including teaching the next generation of rabbis at the highest level of Torah scholarship. Talmud Torah combined with love of every Jew has made DATA into one of the primary engines that drives the growth of Judaism in our community.
- ... more speakers on the horizon
  - Wednesday evenings (see dates), 8-9 PM (Except Rabbi Fried's talk will be 7:30-8:30 PM)
  - For men and women
  - No charge
  - Congregation Toras Chaim, 7103 Mumford Ct., Dallas, TX 75252
- » **Tanya: Likutei Amarim – "Collected Discourses":** Discover the inner resource that could help you resolve the most troubling, vexing and intimate human dilemmas: Why is life such a struggle, a constant challenge? Why is my inner life so full of contradictions? How does one deal with anger, anxiety, unwholesome desires, jealousies, stress and emotional, mental and spiritual blockages? What is the secret to developing loving and lasting personal relationships? How does one attain genuine joy, satisfaction, and a general sense of wholesomeness?
  - The Tanya (aka Likutei Amarim – "Collected Discourses") was authored by Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi 5505-5573 (1745-1812), Founder of the Chabad-Lubavitch Chassidic Movement.
  - Rabbi Peretz Shapiro will illuminate this enigmatic work and teach practical lessons for real personal growth and spiritual development.
  - Taught by: Rabbi Peretz Shapiro
  - When: Thursday evenings, 8:00-9:00 PM
  - Where: Congregation Toras Chaim, 7103 Mumford Ct., Dallas, TX 75252

- Who: For men and women
- No Charge

#### ■ REFUAH SHELAIMA

- » Masha Hinda bas Gittel (Friend of Kalman Russ)
- » Rafael 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)

#### ■ THOSE WHO HELP WITH MITZVOS: RABBI LABEL LAM

Miriam, the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women came out after her with timbrels and with dances. And Miriam called out to them, "Sing to HASHEM, for very He is exalted; a horse and its rider He cast into the sea." (Shemos 15:20-21)

After all the spontaneous song over the destruction of the Egyptian army and the splitting of the Red Sea we finally are treated to a snippet of the small sample of the concert performance of Miriam and the women folk. It's a little curious why these specific words are chosen. Out of the entire grandiose experience of witnessing the amazing salvation of the entire Nation via the direct hand of G-d, Miriam's choir is caught up with the refrain about the horse and its rider being tossed into the sea. Why is that point in particular singled out by the female singers?

There is curious Mishne in Makkos that analyzes why the Torah needed to add that three witnesses are valid to put a perpetrator to death. If two witnesses do the job then what value is there in adding a third?

In order to properly appreciate Rabbi Akiva's solution it is first important to know that what a zomeim witness is. When witnesses give testimony, they are imposing a judgment on the person being testified about. It might cost him money or it might cost him his life, depending on the nature of the accusation. There is a reflexive clause in Torah that puts the witnesses themselves equally at risk. If it is found out that they, the witnesses were in place so distant from the event they claim to have seen that it is impossible for them to have actually witnessed anything of the sorts, then they are visited with whatever they are trying to do to the accused, whether it is money or lashes or life itself. The third witness is not necessary for the establishment of the testimony but his joining in puts him at risk and he shares the exposure with the first two claimants. There is an inherent and perhaps object lesson implied here.

About this "Rabbi Akiva says that the third witness in the group only comes to be stringent on him and that you would make him a zomeim (even though the third person in the group is not necessary for forming a valid group of witnesses). And if so the Torah punishes those that assist transgressors like transgressors. All the more so, reward will be paid out to those who assist in the performance of Mitzvos like those that perform Mitzvos." (Makkos 1:7)

The women who are exiting Egypt now are excited by the splitting of the sea because the seeing largest impediment has just been removed and they are one giant step closer to Mount Sinai and the reception of the Torah. The only problem is that the men are absolutely required to study the Torah while the women are not saddled with that obligation.

The Talmud asks and answers: "What is the great merit of our women? That they educate their children, encourage their husbands to go out and learn Torah and wait for them until they return from the study hall." (Berachot 17a) Women play a critical role in assisting their husbands and children to learn Torah. What value, what benefit do they get? Miriam alerted the women about this point and about that they were cheering. What had the horses of the Egyptians done so wrong that they deserved to

be thrown into the sea? They were only helping their masters. Well, they were punished too for that assistance. How much more so is there a reward for those who help with Mitzvos.

#### ■ PARSHA Q&A: BESHALACH

1. What percentage of the Jewish People died during the plague of darkness? 13:18 - Eighty percent (four-fifths).
2. Why did the oath that Yosef administered to his brothers apply to Moshe's generation? 13:19 - Yosef made his brothers swear that they would make their children swear.
3. Why did the Egyptians want to pursue the Jewish People? 14:5 - To regain their wealth.
4. Where did the Egyptians get animals to pull their chariots? 14:7 - From those Egyptians who feared the word of G-d and kept their animals inside during the plagues.
5. What does it mean that the Jewish People "took hold of their fathers' craft" (tafsu umnut avotam )? 14:10 - They cried out to G-d.
6. How did G-d cause the wheels of the Egyptian chariots to fall off? 14:25 - He melted them with fire.
7. Why were the dead Egyptians cast out of the sea? 14:30 - So that the Jewish People would see the destruction of the Egyptians and be assured of no further pursuit.
8. To what future time is the verse hinting when it uses the future tense of "Then Moshe and Bnei Yisrael will sing"? 15:1 - Resurrection of the dead during the time of mashiach .
9. Why are the Egyptians compared to stone, lead, and straw? 15:5 - The wickedest ones floated like straw, dying slowly. The average ones suffered less, sinking like stone. Those still more righteous sunk like lead, dying immediately.
10. The princes of Edom and Moav had nothing to fear from the Jewish People. Why, then, were they "confused and gripped with trembling"? 15:14 - They felt horrible seeing Israel in a state of glory.
11. Moshe foretold that he would not enter the Land of Israel. Which word in the parsha indicates this? 15:17 - "T'vi-aimo ..." -- "Bring them" (and not "bring us").
12. Why is Miriam referred to as "Aharon's sister" and not as "Moshe's sister"? 15:20 - Aharon put himself at risk for her when she was struck with tzara'at . (See Bamidbar 12:12 )
13. The Jewish women trusted that G-d would grant the Jewish People a miraculous victory over the Egyptians. How do we see this? 15:20 - They brought musical instruments with them in preparation for the miraculous victory celebration.
14. Which sections of the Torah did the Jewish People receive at Marah? 15:25 - Shabbat, Red Heifer, Judicial Laws.
15. When did Bnei Yisrael run out of food? 16:1 - 15th of Iyar.
16. What lesson in derech erez concerning the eating of meat is taught in this week's Parsha? 16:8 - One should not eat meat to the point of satiation.
17. How did non-Jews experience the taste of the manna? 16:21 - The sun melted whatever manna remained in the fields. This flowed into streams from which animals drank. Whoever ate these animals tasted manna.
18. The Prophet Yirmiyahu showed the Jewish People a jar of manna prepared in the time of Moshe. Why? 16:32 - The people claimed they couldn't study Torah because they were too busy earning a livelihood. Yirmiyahu showed them the manna saying: "If you study Torah, G-d will provide for you just as he provided for your ancestors in the desert."
19. Which verse in this week's parsha alludes to the plague of blood? 17:5 - "And your staff with which you smote the river..."
20. Why did Moshe's hands become heavy during the war against Amalek? 17:12 - Because he was remiss in his duty, since he, not Yehoshua, should have led the battle.

# 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)
- » 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 Made in Heaven for men (Monday 7:15-8:00P)
- » Marriage Made in Heaven for women (Tuesday 7:15-8:00P)
- » Shabbos in Halacha for women with Rabbi Bodenheimer (Wed 7-8 PM)
- » Tanya for men & women with Rabbi Shapiro (Thur 8:00-9:00P)

All classes at 7103 Mumford Ct., except where indicated