



CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

An intimate space...Grow at your pace.

Oct 31-Nov 1, 2014 ■ 8 Cheshvan, 5775 ■ Shabbos Lech Lecha
Candlelighting: 6:18P ■ Shabbos Ends 7:25P

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by Shimshon & Danielle Cook in honor of their recent wedding and in appreciation to everyone in the CTC community for all their love and support. 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, Oct 31st

- » Candlelighting-6:18P
- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos/Maariv-6:20P
- » The entire community is invited for dessert, at the Sheva Brachos celebrating the marriage of Shimshon & Danielle Cook, at the home of Mike & Bluma Ekshtut, 7108 Bremerton Ct. - 9:30P

Shabbos Day, Nov 1st

- » Shacharis-8:30A
- » Junior Congregation for boys-9:30A at shul
- » Mommy & Me at Sutkin Home (BYOS)-9:45A
- » Chumash Shiur (for men & women)-5:05P
- » Mincha-6:05P
- » Shabbos Ends-7:25P
- » Melava Malka: Yahrzeit of Rachel Imeinu (for women)-9P
- » Turn Clocks Back to Standard Time-2A

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE (Standard Time)

- » Sunday Shacharis-8A
- » Supercharge Your Sundays-8:45A (for men)
- » Congregational Meeting-9:30A (for men & women)
- » Weekday Shacharis-6:40A
- » Mincha-6:00P / Maariv-9:00P (Sunday-Thursday)

■ REFUAH SHELAIMA

MEN

- » Yitzchok ben Klara (Mechutan to Sandy Kadish)
- » Yoseif Yitzchok ben Yehudis Chaya (Brother in Law of Yoseif Meir Rich)
- » Mattisyahu Chaim ben Ettl (HaRav Mattisyahu Solomon)

WOMEN

- » Brocha bas Sora (Mother of Hadassah Klug)
- » Yenta Leah bas Shayna (Mother of Lori Jarmel)
- » Chava Fruma bas Bryna (Mother in Law of Sandy Kadish)

■ WHAT'S NU AT CTC

- » **12th Annual Wolrdwide Event for the Yahrzeit of Rachel Imeinu (for women & girls):** "In a Time of Open Miracles, What Can We Do?" Rebbitzen Tehila Jaeger and Rebbitzen Tzipora Heller. Nov 1, 2014, 9 PM Melava Malka, Bodenheimer home, 17909 Carrollwood Dr. 75252. Contact Yael Bodenheimer (201) 527-7880. Suggested minimum donation \$5.
- » **Supercharge Your Sunday:** Start your Sunday out right by joining us for Shacharis and then participating in a new, shiur for men, with R' Noach Klug that will take place immediately after davening. Coffee and tea will be provided. The shiur will be only approximately 45 minutes, so you will still have plenty of time left in your Sunday morning (and day) to attend to other important activities in your schedule. And you will feel great, knowing that you have started out your day in the best possible way, by davening with a minyan (and helping to make a minyan) as well as filling your neshama with Torah and spending time with friends. What better way to start out 5775 and show Hashem that we really want to grow this year than with this type of schedule? **The shiur will be on Hilchos Shabbos and Hilchos Orach Chaim (rules of daily living) with an emphasis on textual learning and will finish with a mystical vort on the weekly Parsha.** The shiur will focus on those areas of Halacha that are most commonly unknown or misunderstood. It will suit learners from basic to advanced because there will be something for everyone in the shiur.
- » **Congregational Meeting, Sunday, 9:30A at CTC:** Dear Members of Congregation Toras Chaim, these past few weeks have been a

exciting time for our shul! There are new families interested in joining, there is a consistent minyan at the services, we have great Torah learning going on daily, a solid, talented board is forming to serve the shul, and with Hashem's help, funds in the form of grants and donations are in the works. With all of this change, we want our members to know what is coming and to have a say in what will be. For this reason, we are calling a congregational meeting for all members in good standing on November 2, 2014 at 9:30 AM at 7103 Mumford Ct, Dallas TX 75252. **Please note that meeting is for only members of Congregation of Toras Chaim who are currently in good standing.** There are two topics for which we need your vote: 1) It is time to elect the new board members. The Nominating Committee has put forth the following slate of candidates:

Executive Board:

- Ben Nise, President
- Wes Sutkin, Vice President
- Rabbi Michael Bodenheimer, Treasurer
- Josh Rothstein, Secretary

Advisory Board:

- Akiva Meir Hersh, VP Development
- Aiyelet Penrod
- Ehoud Wilson
- Simcha Itskovich
- Michael Ekstut

2) We also need your vote to approve an Amendment to the CTC bylaws that provides a conflict of interest policy in preparation for filing an application for a Determination Letter from the IRS recognizing that CTC has 501(c)3 non-profit status. By obtaining official recognition of our 501(c)3 non-profit status, we increase our ability to obtain funds from philanthropic organizations, make ourselves eligible to participate in some charitable employee-matching programs, and save money in sales tax for shul purchases. We are very fortunate to have non-profit organization veteran Akiva Meir Hersh on board as VP of Development, who has been tirelessly seeking donations from Jewish communities inside and outside of Dallas, applying for national grants, as well as preparing CTC's application for non-profit status recognition. (For those of you who are familiar with the paperwork required to obtain recognized non-profit status, this is a complex and gargantuan task!) We are looking forward to seeing you at the meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Ben Nise at 972.898.4237 (after 6 PM) or Akiva Meir Hersh (8:30 AM - 10 PM) at 512.751.4898. Best Regards, Ben Nise

- » **The Art of Digital Scrapbooking** with Tricia Sutkin. A Project of the CTC Sisterhood. CTC Sisterhood Kickoff Event, Sunday, November 23, 2014, Rosh Chodesh Kislev 5775. Join us for our first monthly Rosh Chodesh Schmooze.
 - When? Every Rosh Chodesh, 8:00 PM
 - Where? Tricia Sutkins home, 7335 Briarnoll
 - What? This month Tricia will teach us the simple and time-saving savvy of learning to scrapbook instantly with your Smartphone or iPad! Bring your devices with the free app, Picframe, preloaded. Join us for fellowship even if your phones aren't smart :) More details to follow.
- » **Amazon Smile:** We've been approved to receive donations from AmazonSmile! AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favor-

ite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support. When you shop at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-3677131> Amazon will make a donation to Congregation Toras Chaim.

■ THE ETERNAL PORT OF ENTRY: RABBI LABEL LAM

And Terach took Avram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter in law, the wife of Avram his son, and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees to go to the Land of Canaan, and they came as far as Haran and settled there. And the days of Terach were two hundred and five years, and Terach died in Haran. And HASHEM said to Avram: 'Go for yourself from your country, and from your birthplace, and from your father's house, to the land that I will show you. (Breishis 11:31-32 -12:1)

It's a source of great curiosity. Before Avram was told to go Lech Lecha, he had already started a journey to the Land of Canaan but the mission stalled out. What was different about the 2nd effort that delivered him and his entourage to the desired destination? In the first aborted and failed attempt they were clearly aiming for the Land of Canaan. In the successful venture Avram is not even told where to go? Why was he not informed about where it was that he should go? Oddly he arrived at that place this time without aiming! Why? What's the meaning of the message coded into those launching instructions, "Lech Lecha"? Why was he told to go to your -self? "Go" - Lech would have sufficed!

Here is the story of Lech Lecha, a current, modern version though. More than a year ago my daughter came home from a year of seminary in Eretz Yisrael. That experience woke up and lit a flame of longing for the Land of Israel that is either dormant or volcanic in every Jew's heart. She spoke about getting married and returning to Israel as if it would just happen by wishing. However, upon returning, nothing was prepared. There was no groom or job to be handed like a diploma after graduating from school. It was a process of starting a new stage of life, a blank page, with no clear map or curriculum. It was scary and overwhelming. Every choice precluded another choice and in some arenas there were no choices. I wanted to guide her somehow. With help from Heaven, I coined a phrase for her that promoted courage to start and keep going even without knowing where it might lead. "It doesn't matter where you begin! If you keep on going, you will end up where you need to be!"

I even searched for and attached a picture concretize the concept. I copied and pasted a picture of a baby taking early or first steps. The mother's arms are seen reaching out. The child clumsily and desperately strides towards her outstretched hands. I put it in a frame and hung it in her room. Within a short time she landed a job in a local medical center called Refuah Health.

After about one year, Baruch Hashem, she merited meeting her Chosson, and after they decided to give Israel a try, her American job offered her the opportunity to continue to work remotely in Israel. Now she is married and living and working in Israel while her husband continues learning Torah. Wow! Who could have foreseen of planned any part of this?! Afterwards we looked back hauntingly at that charming epithet, "It doesn't matter where you begin. If you keep on going, you will end up where you need to be."

It seems that Avram is not told to aim for a geographical location. Rather he is to rid himself of the old and safe assumptions

first and to go to himself as he moves forward. Discover you're the wellsprings of your true spiritual self and then you will magnetically be drawn to the desired place. It was not an outward journey but an inner direction that delivered Avram.

Now maybe we can find new meaning in an old bad joke. A fellow complained to his doctor of an unusual problem he was having. "Doc, every time I take one step forward, I take two steps backward!" The doctor pondered the man's curious condition. "Hm" - and then he asked with great puzzlement, "If that's the case, then how did you get here?" The man answered, "Doctor, you are absolutely right. It's a great question. Actually I have been trying to get here for years. I finally gave up and went home!"

Now, if we want to get to our "home" we need to keep going and getting to a healthier place. Avram too was frustrated getting to the Land of Israel, till he discovered an inner door leading us all through the eternal port of entry.

■ PARSHA Q&A: LECH LECHA

1. What benefits did G-d promise Avraham if he would leave his home? 12:1 - He would become a great nation, his excellence would become known to the world, and he would be blessed with wealth.
2. "And all the families of the earth will be blessed through you." What does this mean? 12:3 - A person will say to his child, "You should be like Avraham."
3. Who were the souls that Avraham and Sarah "made?" 12:5 - People they converted to the worship of G-d.
4. What were the Canaanites doing in the Land of Canaan when Avraham arrived? 12:6 - They were in the process of conquering the land from the descendants of Shem.
5. Why did Avraham build an altar at Ai? 12:8 - He foresaw the Jewish People's defeat there in the days of Yehoshua due to Achans sin. He built an altar to pray for them.
6. What two results did Avraham hope to achieve by saying that Sarah was his sister? 12:13 - That the Egyptians would not kill him, and would give him presents.
7. Why did Avraham's shepherds rebuke Lot's shepherds? 13:7 Lot's shepherds grazed their flocks in privately owned fields.
8. Who was Amrafel and why was he called that? 14:1 - Amrafel was Nimrod. He said (amar) to Avraham to fall (fel) into the fiery furnace.
9. Verse 14:7 states that the four kings "smote all the country of the Amalekites". How is this possible, since Amalek had not yet been born? 14:7 - The Torah uses the name that the place would bear in the future.
10. Why did the "palit" tell Avraham of Lot's capture? 14:13- He wanted Avraham to die trying to save Lot so that he himself could marry Sarah.
11. Who accompanied Avraham in battle against the four kings? 14:14 - His servant, Eliezer.
12. Why couldn't Avraham chase the four kings past Dan? 4:14 - He saw prophetically that his descendants would make a golden calf there, and as a result his strength failed.
13. Why did Avraham give "ma'aser" specifically to Malki-Tzedek? 14:20 - Because Malki-Tzedek was a kohen.

Good Shabbos

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- » The entire community is invited for dessert, at the Sheva

Brachos celebrating the marriage of Shimshon & Danielle Cook, at the home of Mike & Bluma Ekshtut, 7108 Bremerton Ct. - 9:30P

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- WEEKLY CLASSES (see website for more detail)
- » Morning Gemara Megillah for men (M-Fr, 6-6:35A)
- » Not Quite Daf HaYomi for men (Sunday-Thursday 8-9P)
- » Chumash for men & women (Shabbos one hr before mincha)
- » Hilchos Taaruvos for men (Sunday 6:30-8:00A)
- » Supercharge Your Sundays for men (Sunday after Shacharis for 45 mins. with R' Noach Klug)
- » Marriage Made in Heaven for men (Monday 7:15-8:00P)
- » Marriage Made in Heaven for women (Tuesday 7:15-8:00P)

All classes at 7103 Mumford Ct., except where indicated