



# CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

An intimate space...Grow at your pace.

November 11-12, 2016 ▪ 11 Cheshvan, 5777 ▪ Shabbos Lech Lecha  
Candlelighting: 5:09P ▪ Shabbos Ends 6:17P

**KIDDUSH** this Shabbos is sponsored by Rabbi Yaakov & Rebbetzin Susan Rich in appreciation of Ben & Lauren Nise, who graciously honored Rabbi Rich with Chassan Torah this past Simchas Torah. **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 11<sup>th</sup>

- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos/Maariv – 5:10P
- » Candlelighting – 5:09P

### Shabbos Day, November 12<sup>th</sup>

- » Shacharis followed by Kiddush–8:30A
- » **NEW:** Mommy & Me with Tricia Sutkin–10:15A-End of Service
- » Chumash/Pirkei Avos Shiur (M&W)–3:55P
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos for men in shul – 4:55P
- » Shalosh Seudos for women & young children at the Rich home – 4:55P
- » Maariv/Shabbos Ends–6:17P
- » Avos U'Banim–7:15P

## ■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40A
- » Mincha–5:10P
- » Gemara Shiur (Kesuvos)–8P
- » Maariv followed by 5-min halacha shiur–9P

## ■ REFUAH SHELAIMA

### MEN

- » Aryeh Laibel ben Leah (Friend of Suzanne Luftig)
- » Yisroel Michoel ben Shulamis (Father of Chani Tkatch)
- » Zoosav ben Lipke (Father of Suzanne Luftig)
- » Yechiel Mordechai ben Devorah (Brother of Ken Jarmel)
- » Itai ben Shoshana (Son of Ehoud & Shoshana Wilson)

### WOMEN

- » Chaya Gittel bas Shandel (Friend of Suzanne Luftig)
- » Leah Esther bas Yenta Leah (Lori Jarmel)
- » Yenta Leah bas Shayna (Mother of Lori Jarmel)

## ■ WHAT'S NU AT CTC

» **Rochel Imeinu's Yahrzeit Video/Melava Malka Next Motzei Shabbos:** Location and details to be announced. Look for email.

» **Mommy & Me at CTC (Started Last Shabbos):**

- Teacher/Group Leader: Tricia Sutkin
- When: Every Shabbos morning (Starting Shabbos, Nov 5), 10:15-10:45 AM (or until the end of davening, whichever is later)
- Where: Congregation Toras Chaim, 7103 Mumford Ct., Dallas, TX 75252
- What: Davening and Parsha Stories & Discussion
- For: Young Boys & Girls
- Cost: None

» **Rebbi Michoel Bodenheimer (Starting This Shabbos)**

Sometimes sitting quietly in shul for an extended period of time can be challenging for our younger members.

We, at CTC, are introducing a new program to address this critical issue. Rabbi Michoel Bodenheimer, a Talmid Chacham and mechanech (educator), will engage your sons in stimulating learning, enlightening discussion and enjoyable activities. Friday night between Kabbalos Shabbos and Ma'ariv, Shabbos morning during the Rabbi's sermon, and Shabbos afternoon during Shalosh Seudos, your sons will have a break from adult centered learning. They will have the opportunity to participate in programs designed just for them, giving them the recharge to return to davening.

Of course, should your son decide to remain with the adults for any or all of the above times, he is more than welcome.

» **Avos U'Banim 5777 (Starting This Shabbos)**

Avos U'Banim, or Father/Son Learning takes place on on Motzei Shabbos 60 minutes after Shabbos ends. The children are rewarded with Pizza, Cocoa and Prizes for their efforts. All boys are invited to attend with their father or another adult. We are asking

for a contribution of \$5 per attending family per session, to help allay the costs to the shul. A small cost for infinite rewards!

**Special Avos U'Banim Overnight being planned for November 19-20 to Lake Murray. Stay tuned for exciting details.**

Those who would like to dedicate a learning session for just \$54, for any special purpose (in memory of a loved one, a refuah shleima, or in honor of a simcha) can do so as well. For details contact Rabbi Yaakov Rich at 972-835-6016.

## ■ A GIANT IN GENEROSITY: RABBI LABEL LAM

And Sarai said to Avram, "Behold now, HASHEM has restrained me from bearing; please come to my handmaid; perhaps I will be built up from her." And Avram hearkened to Sarai's voice. (Breishis 16:2)

What does Sara mean that she will be "built up" from raising a surrogate child? In which way will she be "built up"?

A good many years ago when my wife returned to work from maternity leave after having given birth to our first child and she was greeted by a senior co-worker, Esther, who was already raising a large family. She had a heart for my wife's situation. What Esther told her was more than a little puzzling. After a little discussion we think we figured out what might be the meaning to her riddle-like statement.

She said empathetically, "Dear, I know how you feel. When you have one child it's very hard. When you have two it gets even harder. However, when you have three it gets easier and when you hit seven then you're really flying."

We reasoned that when you have one child, it's hard because you still want to do the things you did when you didn't have that cute little bundle to care for. You want to go shopping and eat lunch with friends but you need the help of Bubby or a local babysitter. It's a huge inconvenience.

When you have two it gets even harder to do all the things you want to do. You can strap one and leave one at a baby sitter. You can make a round-robin play group with a couple of friends so you can go out foot loose and fancy free at the cost of having to care for a some other kids including your own.

Here comes the brain teaser. When you have three kids though it gets easy because then you would need a real professional babysitting service and even Bubby won't answer your calls anymore. So what do you do?

You have one choice and that is to accept that this is your new role as a mommy and the luxury of going out care free like the "old days" is over. Then miraculously, and paradoxically, it gets easy!

When you get to seven and more then you're really flying because it's not about "you" anymore. You become so absorbed in the enormity and the constancy of the task that your identity is subsumed by the greater cause. You only pause long enough to regain strength to be able to give even more.

The Mesilas Yesharim spells out a program for developing hidden potentials. It goes like this, "Outward movements awaken an inner desire!" It's a little like but much more than, "fake it to you make it" or maybe not. You are actually making it.

The exercise of spiritual muscles builds and strengthens those valued traits. If someone practices kindness enough then they are literally transformed from being a reluctant "doer of kindness" to a passionate "person of kindness."

It was years after digesting well Esther's theory that we were driving to Boston as a family and we were at that stage where it was promised that my wife we should be already flying. I was

casually observing the whole way how true it was.

There wasn't one uninterrupted moment in the four hour drive that my wife was not washing a face, putting cheese on a cracker, changing a tape, reading a book, filling a drinking and even changing a diaper and more. There I was just driving and watching all the while this wondrous phenomenon.

Sara dedicated her entire life to feeding and teaching the world. However, what she longed for more than anything was that fixed responsibility that accompanies raising a child to spiritual heights which results in the mother's metamorphosis into ... a giant in generosity.

#### ■ PARSHAS LECH LECHA: ABARBANEL ON THE PARSHA

Abarbanel offers three reasons why Avram had to leave Haran.

1. First of all, the region was full of heretics who did not recognize G-d's existence.
2. Secondly, these idolaters — who were his friends, neighbors and relatives — were opposed to his "proselytizing". They saw what had happened to him in Ur Kasdim, where he was miraculously saved from a fiery furnace, and forbade him from continuing his teaching.
3. Thirdly, Avram was reluctant to correct the behavior of his father and brother who were manufacturers of idols. G-d does not tell him explicitly where to go, in order to prevent his family from following him.

Realizing that such a drastic move would be difficult for Avram, G-d assures him that he will make him "a great nation", meaning that he will have offspring who will be dearer to him than his father and brother, upon whom he had always relied. Secondly, to replace the friends and associates who had helped him to prosper, G-d assures him that "I will bless you and make your name great." G-d is the ultimate source of all prosperity. G-d also assures him that "I will bless those who bless you, and he who curses you I will curse". "Those who bless you" is in the plural, indicating that they will be far more numerous than those who curse. Finally, not only will Avram benefit from the new Land, but those who accept his teachings will benefit as well — "and all the families of the Land will be blessed through you."

How then does Avram know where to go? Abarbanel offers five reasons:

1. Avram knew that Canaan had been the ultimate destination of the family when they had left Ur Kasdim.
2. Avram knew that the very air of Canaan imparted wisdom.
3. Avram knew that Canaan was in the portion bequeathed to Shem, the most righteous of Noach's sons and that part of it was ruled by Malchizedik, a man committed to monotheism.
4. Avram knew that Canaan was under G-d's direct Divine Providence.
5. Given that there was a tradition that Adam was buried there, it makes sense that Avram would be drawn to that area..

#### ■ 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.
14. Why didn't Avraham accept any money from Sodom's king? 14:23 - G-d had promised Avraham wealth, and Avraham didn't want Sodom's King to say, "I made Avraham wealthy."
15. When did the decree of 400 years of exile begin? 15:13 - With the birth of Yitzchak.
16. What did G-d indicate with His promise that Avraham would "come to his ancestors in peace"? 15:15 - That his father, Terach, would repent and become righteous.
17. How did G-d fulfill His promise that Avraham would be buried in "a good old age"? 15:15 - Avraham lived to see his son Yishmael repent and become righteous, and he died before his grandson Esav became wicked.
18. Why did the Jewish People need to wait until the fourth generation until they returned to Eretz Canaan? 15:16 - They needed to wait until the Amorites had sinned sufficiently to deserve expulsion.
19. Who was Hagar's father? 16:1 - Pharaoh.
20. Why did Avraham fall on his face when G-d appeared to him? 17:3 - Because he was as yet uncircumcised.

# Good Shabbos

#### ■ SHABBOS SCHEDULE

Friday Night, November 11<sup>th</sup>

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

» Candlelighting - 5:09P

Shabbos Day, November 12<sup>th</sup>

» Shacharis followed by Kiddush-8:30A

» **NEW:** Mommy & Me with Tricia Sutkin-10:15A-End of Service

» Chumash/Pirkei Avos Shiur (M&W)-3:55P

» Mincha/Shalosh Seudos for men in shul - 4:55P

» Shalosh Seudos for women & young children at the Rich home - 4:55P

» Maariv/Shabbos Ends-6:17P

» Avos U'Banim-7:15P

#### ■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

» Weekday Shacharis-6:40A

» Mincha-5:10P

» Gemara Shiur (Kesuvos)-8P

» Maariv followed by 5-min halacha shiur-9P

#### ■ CLASSES

» Before Shacharis Gemara Yevamos for men (M-Fr, 6-6:40A)

» NQ Daf HaYomi Kesuvos for men (Sunday-Thursday following Maariv)

» Pirkei Avos/Chumash for men & women (Shabbos 60 mins before mincha)

» Marriage Chaburah for women (Tuesday 7:15-8:00P)

» In-Depth Hilchos Shabbos for women (TBD)