



# CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

An intimate space... Grow at your pace.

January 18 – 19, 2018 ▪ 13 Shevat, 5779 ▪ Shabbos Beshalach  
Mincha: 5:30P / Candlelighting: 5:28P ▪ Shabbos Ends 6:37P

**KIDDUSH** this Shabbos is sponsored by the members of the Guarantee Kiddush Club: Pinchas & Tricia Sutkin, Yaakov & Susan Rich, Ben & Lauren Nise, Eli Goldberg, Yerachmiel & Shira Martin, Josh & Lisa Rothstein. **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 18<sup>th</sup>

- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos/Maariv-5:30P
- » Shabbos Candle Lighting-5:28P

### Shabbos Day, January 19<sup>th</sup>

- » Mishnayos shiur with Rabbi Reuven Wortrich-Canceled
- » Shacharis followed by Kiddush-8:30A
- » Beis Medrash Learning for Men-4:45P
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos for men-5:15P
- » Maariv/Shabbos Ends-6:37P

## ■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

- » Sunday Shacharis-8:00A
- » Sunday Mincha/Maariv-5:30P
- » Weekday Shacharis-6:40A
- » Weekday Maariv-8:15P

## ■ REFUAH SHELAIMA

### Men

- » Matan Rafael Nasanel ben Esther (Matan Elfenbein)
- » Yehoshua Yisroel ben Rivka Devorah (Brother of Gail Bacharach)
- » Itai ben Shoshana (Son of Ehoud & Shoshana Wilson)

### Women

- » Leah Bracha bas Yosefa Eshka (Daughter of Irwin & June Harris)
- » Tikva bas Salima (Tikva Zbolon)
- » Rivka Basya bas Devorah (Rebekkah Bodoff)
- » Necha bas Leah (see Irwin Harris)
- » Leah Esther bas Yenta Leah (Lori Jarmel)
- » Yenta Leah bas Shayna (Mother of Lori Jarmel)

## ■ WHAT'S NU

- » **New Shiur for Men: The Menuchah Principle for Life:** Dedicated to the goal of enlightening our community about the precious gift of menuchas hanefesh. Whether you are simply struggling with the challenges of daily life or dealing with a major crisis, the power of menuchas hanefesh will enable you to not just "manage" but to overcome all the obstacles in your path. The Menuchah Principle draws upon centuries of Chazal's wisdom to teach you how to acquire the transforming and life-enhancing gift of menuchas hanefesh — a gift with the power to bring your life harmoniously together while deepening your commitment to Hashem. When you learn to integrate menuchas hanefesh into your way of thinking, you'll lead a healthier, more fulfilling life. Menuchas hanefesh provides solutions to many of life's problems and is the key to living a life of joy. This study/discussion group will be based on the book "The Menuchah Principle for Life" by Shaya Ostrov, L.C.S.W. (Noted Marriage & Relationship Therapist). This group is for men, will be led by Rabbi Yaakov Rich, and will meet at Congregation Toras Chaim, 7103 Mumford Ct., Dallas 75252, Thursday evenings, 7:15-8:15 PM. Every man can benefit from the study group, and is encouraged to attend. Interested? Please call Rabbi Rich at (972) 835-6016, or email rabbi@toraschaimdallas.org for more details.
- » **New Shiur for Women:** 8:30P at home of Ariella Bush, She'arim B'Tefillah (Gates of Prayer) by Rabbi Shimshon Pincus with Rabbi Yaakov Rich. Meaningful discussion that will inspire.
- » **CTC Professional's Kollel:** Reminder to men for CTC Professional's Kollel, a program of skills-based learning for men with careers. Monday through Friday, 9-11 AM, the daily schedule includes mussar, Mishna Berura and Gemara with Rishonim and Achronim. If this program sounds like the opportunity you never had, but wish you did, or, has piqued your interest, please email Rabbi Yaakov Rich at rabbi@toraschaimdallas.org or call (972) 835-6016.

## ■ HASHEM IS WITH US: RABBI LABEL LAM

His glorious honor was revealed to them and they pointed with a finger. (Shemos Rabbah) A maidservant by the sea saw what was not shown to the prophets. (Mechilta - Rashi)

For many years I have been involved with seminars demonstrating with lock-down logic the veracity of Torah. Many people have walked away

with a conviction that the Torah is true and there really is a G-d! They may have adopted Shabbos and Kashrus based on their new understanding of things. However, I know that deep inside lurks a gnawing question, "Sure I know there's a G-d, but does He think about me?" We all certainly feel it to a greater and lesser degree! That is not something that can be proven in the abstract. It must be experienced and learned on a personal level.

More than 33 years ago I heard something stunning directly from the mouth of the Tzadik of Monsey, Rabbi Mordechai Schwab ztl. Quoting Rabbi Samson Rafael Hirsch, it is written in Adon Olam, "Master of the Universe before any creature was created ... He was, He is, and He will be in glory. He is One and there is no second to compare to Him to associate (with Him). Without beginning, without end, Power and dominion are His. He is my G-d and my living Redeemer!" Rabbi Schwab emphasized that last line and etched into my psyche! "He is My G-d" he said touching his own chest. That is how one relates to HASHEM, not as a distant entity but as a great and personal G-d who is deeply interested in the details of your life. So how do we know?

A month ago, while teaching a class in seminary, I deviated from the planned topic and swerved into the subject of Hashgacha Pratis- Divine Providence. I shared some of my most incredible stories, personal episodes that I lived through, experienced, and witnessed.

Now I know they were thinking like my kids always say, "How come these things only happen to you?" My answer is that that happen to everyone but you have to be alert to notice it when it happens. I told the girls that if they will look they will see amazing things. I promised them that I would purchase for each of them these little personal notebooks for recording Hashgacha Pratis.

Right after the class I looked at my phone and saw I had received a message from my wife during the class. I listened to the recording right away, "Label, can you do me a favor and pick up for me one of those Hashgacha Pratis journals." Wow! That's exactly what I was talking about. Now we became tuned in again to keep our eyes open for Hashgacha Pratis.

Less than two weeks ago my wife and I were taking a long trek deep into Long Island for the funeral of my beloved mother. I found myself reminiscing about my first Shabbos experience. How after the Shabbos, the mother of the family that hosted me was washing dishes and I was sitting and writing personal notes. She had the radio on in the background. It was a Jewish station and the song was by the Megama Duo Band, with Moshe Yes.

The lyrics struck me. "Zeidy made us laugh and Zeidy made a Kiddush Friday night... Zeidy Oh my Zeidy how I loved him so..." I was thinking about my great grandfather, who fit that bill. The song concludes with Zeidy dying and the refrain, "Who will be the Zeidy of our children? Who will be their Zeidy if not we?" I was crying like and baby.

I turned to my wife and told her that now that my mother, Bubby, is with us no more, then you are now the grand "Bubby" of our grandchildren. Just then my wife pointed to a car passing us on the left hand side with a license plate that read, "BUBBYZEE" We were both amazed. More than ever we needed to know, even if it's a brief wink, HASHEM is with us!

## ■ TORAH TOTS: BESHALACH

When the Bnei Yisroel sang Az Yashir, they had a lot of miracles to sing about - 50 to be exact! Hashem turned the laws of nature topsy-turvy in this final feat of revenge upon Pharoh and the Mitzriyim (Egyptians). Here are some sea-splitting highlights of their watery adventure:

Everyone knows that the sea split, but did you know that there were actually twelve paths - one for each shevet (tribe) of Bnei Yisroel! Now, you'd expect to find a mucky, yucky, mirky sea bed at the bottom, but, believe it or not, the sea bed became a dry level path for the Bnei Yisroel to walk upon. If there was a deep spot, the water hardened allowing the Bnei Yisroel to walk on the water!

The sea walls were solid as a rock and formed a roof-like protection over their heads. But say, you, your child or your animal got a little thirsty, you could just push a cup into the walls and the salt water sea would give you a fresh, sweet cup of water! When children began to cry, Hashem made the walls of the tunnel produce fruit and sweetness to comfort them. Vegetation grew out of the sea bed for the animals to eat. The path was perfumed with pleasant fragrances from Gan (Garden of) Eden.

Leave it to Hashem to think of under-water interior decorating at a time like this! The watery walls formed a mosaic pattern and the fish swam freely. And you could even wave to a friend over in the next shevet, because the walls were perfectly transparent! The light from the pillar of fire illuminated the path like sparkling chandeliers.

On this seventh day of Pesach, all the waters of the world split; Rivers, cisterns, pits, and even water in pitchers, barrels and bottles. The exception was the Jordan River, which reversed its course, leaving its bed dry. The walls of water at the Red Sea were so high that they were seen from a great distance, terrifying all the surrounding nations. The sound of the splitting sea could be heard all over the world.

Now, the Mitzriyim didn't exactly have the same first-class sea-crossing experience: Remember that perfectly dry path? Well, it did indeed make a murky, muddy finish for the Mitzriyim the moment those chariots touched the sea bed! The mud became boiling hot from the pillars of fire making the horses lose their hooves. Hashem caused one wheel to be removed from each chariot. When the panicked horses pulled these disabled war chariots, the heavy vehicles swung back and forth, breaking bodies as they went. Many Mitzriyim fell from their chariots, and were not able to get up again. Although it was virtually impossible for the chariots to move with a single wheel, the chariots were able to ride toward the closing waters. Even though the sea bed was like mud, when the Mitzriyim fell on it, it was like stone, breaking their bones. Stones, hail and fiery coals rained down on the Mitzriyim from the sky, confusing the Mitzriyim. Even their arrows and missiles misfired and boomeranged back at them!

It was then that the walls of water came tumbling down! The Mitzri soldiers who were most wicked were thrown violently into the air and back into the depths of the sea, tossing and turning in the churning seas. Those who were deserving of a more merciful death sunk like lead to the bottom of the sea, quickly ending their lives. Not a single Mitzri survived - and not a single Bnei Yisroel was harmed.

There was a great dispute between the sea and the land, neither of which wanted to retain the bodies of the Mitzriyim. They kept on throwing the Mitzriyim back and forth from sea to land to sea to land like a rubber ball. Hashem finally convinced the land to accept the Mitzriyim. Finally, the sea cast the corpses of the entire Egyptian army - thousands of bodies - upon dry land for all of Bnei Yisroel to bear witness. Hashem raised up the land of Mitzrayim so that the survivors at home could see the downfall of their armies. Though Mitzrayim is several days' journey from the sea, those at home were able to see the faces of those who were drowning. The Mitzriyim didn't die right away, they were washed up on the beach half alive, to see the truth, that the Bnei Yisroel had been delivered from the sea, alive and healthy. Every Bnei Yisroel was able to spot his former master there on the beach.

Although Pharoh was at the head of his troops, he was spared by Hashem so he would be able to tell all the world of Hashem's greatness. He did Teshuva, and split from Egypt. He settled in Nineveh, where he became an important leader, influential in their doing Teshuva in the time of Jonah.

Even the sick, weary and crippled Bnei Yisroel were able to keep pace with the entire group. Not only were the lives of the Bnei Yisroel spared, but they did not lose any of their belongings in the sea. And here's a dividend that no one would expect...when the sea washed up the Mitzriyim, it also washed up all the treasures they had taken with them into battle. Bnei Yisroel gained even more treasure than they had taken when they left Mitzrayim. Now the promise that Hashem made to Avrohom was complete: Bnei Yisroel now had ALL the riches of Mitzrayim.

Hashem restored Yaakov Avinu back to life to witness the miracle of the Red Sea. Hashem showed him the Mitzriyim lying there. Others say, Hashem resurrected ALL three Avot, and stood them at the bank of the Red Sea to see the great miracle. The Bnei Yisroel were carrying all 12 of Yaakov's sons with them to bury in Eretz Yisroel. All 12 sons were resurrected to see the miracle of the Red Sea.

Hashem resurrected all three Avot - Avraham, Yitzchok and

Yaakov - and all twelve of Yaakov's sons to bear witness to the fulfillment of the promise He made to them so long ago. Indeed, Hashem had taken these strangers out from a strange land where they had toiled for so many years and made them a free (and very wealthy) nation!

These great miracles by the sea inspired the Bnei Yisroel. They recognized the greatness of Hashem. They had a true belief in Hashem and His Prophet Moshe. All the Bnei Yisroel attained the level of prophecy and through Ruach HaKodesh (Divine Inspiration) sang the divinely inspired Az Yashir along with Moshe, word by word, letter by letter. Even children and the simplest people attained the spiritual level of individuals who had been prophets for many years. Nursing children stopped breastfeeding to sing. Even children in the womb joined in.

#### ■ 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 mashiah .
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 satiety.
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.

# Good Shabbos

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#### ■ CLASSES

- » Gemara Yevamos for men (M-Fr, 6-6:40A)
- » Professional's Kollel-9:00A-11:00A
- » Gemara Nazir for men (Sunday-Wednesday 8:30P)
- » Gates of Prayer for Women: 8:30-9:15P at Ariella Bush's home
- » Chumash for men & women (Shabbos: Check Schedule)
- » Beis Medrash Learning for men including "Shabbos Malkusa" Chaburah-(Shabbos: Check Schedule)