



CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

An intimate space...Grow at your pace.

February 1 – 2, 2018 ▪ 27 Shevat, 5779 ▪ Shabbos Mishpatim
Mincha: 5:40P / Candlelighting: 5:41P ▪ Shabbos Ends 6:49P

KIDDUSH this Shabbos is sponsored by Josh Rothstein in honor of Lisa's birthday. **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, February 1st

- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos/Maariv–5:40P
- » Shabbos Candle Lighting–5:41P

Shabbos Day, February 2nd

- » Mishnayos shiur with Rabbi Reuven Wortrich–Canceled
- » Shacharis followed by Kiddush–8:30A
- » Beis Medrash Learning for Men–4:55P
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos for men–5:25P
- » Maariv/Shabbos Ends–6:49P

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

- » Sunday Shacharis–8:00A
- » Sunday Mincha/Maariv–5:45P
- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40A
- » Weekday Maariv–8:15P

■ REFUAH SHELAIMA

Men

- » Refalal Tevya ben Sara (Uncle of Rebekkah Bodoff)
- » Yechezkel Yehuda ben Asnah Shaynah (Howard Denmark)
- » 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

- » **Welcome** to the boys from Yeshivas Ohr HaTorah of Baltimore.
- » **Meet the Candidates:** Congregation Toras Chaim is proud to host a Meet & Greet the candidates for Dallas City Council, 12th District. All members and friends are invited to attend Sunday, February 17, 3:00-5:15 PM. All three candidates will have the opportunity to speak with and meet the congregation at staggered times between 3-5:15 PM. We will allot each candidate 45 minutes for speech and meet and greet, which can be used in any way the candidate sees fit. For example, one might want to focus more time on the speech, while another might want to focus more time on personal one-on-one discussions. We are grateful to have the opportunity to hear from our candidates for Dallas City Council, 12th District and look forward to the event. Using alphabetical order to determine placement gives us the following schedule of talks:
 - 3:00-3:45 PM Cara Mendelsohn
 - 3:45-4:30 PM Carolyn "Cookie" Peadon
 - 4:30-5:15 PM Daniel Powell
- » **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.

■ MAKE YOURSELF-AT HOME: RABBI LABEL LAM

You shall not abuse a stranger and you shall not oppress him, for you were strangers in Egypt. (Shemos 22:20)

And you shall not oppress him: If you abuse him then he too can abuse you and say to you, "You too came from strangers!" Do not accuse your friend of a flaw that you yourself possess. Any use of the term stranger refers to a person who was not born in that country but rather came from another country to sojourn there. (Rashi)

For some reason the Torah wants us to remember what it feels like to be a stranger. It is no accident then that the experience of exile is almost the most constant theme of our existence. The Prophet forecasted, "And they will know that I am HASHEM when I scatter them among the nations and disperse them over foreign lands." (Ezekiel 12:15)

Leschzinsky records in "The Jewish Dispersion": "When we scan the Diaspora of Jewry over the entire globe and throughout the entire civilized world, we are surprised to see that this Nation, which is almost the most ancient in the world, is in truth the youngest in terms of the land under its feet and the sky above its head. To be more exact: according to the land beneath its feet and the skies above its head.

As a result of the relentless persecutions and forced expulsions, most Jews are but recent newcomers to their respective lands of residence. Ninety percent of the Jewish People have lived in their new homes for no more than 50 or 60 years! The Jewish People are dispersed over 100 lands on all five continents."

The story is told about a suburban Synagogue somewhere down south that sold its building of twenty years after a majority of its membership had married and moved out and "the neighborhood had changed". With the funds they gained from the sale to a Baptist church they designed and built a new building many more miles away from the urban sprawl.

Twenty years later they were selling their Synagogue to the same Baptist church for the same reasons. While laying the groundwork for the new building the minister of the church approached the Rabbi and asked if he could have some input on the building committee, anticipating that when that building would be sold to them again it should better match their specifications.

Perhaps the reason for all this is because as the Talmud says, "The Torah was only given to purify humanity." The Torah wants us not to just pity or sympathize with others but to empathize and commiserate with strangers. When one is too long in a place the illusion of permanence sets in and we are left with an impression, "Born on third base and thinks he hit a triple". Even the stranger must be wary of the intoxicating powers of the delusion- "Stole third base and thinks he hit a triple."

The Chovos HaLevavos in the Chapter on Introspection offers thirty powerful points to ponder. Number thirty suggests that a person consider himself as if a stranger in a foreign land where the ruler has bestowed the mercy of his protection and provided for his daily sustenance. For this reason he is entirely dependant upon and beholden to this ruler. He obeys his laws with extra care and diligence and is fearful of and obedient to no one else. He is constantly thinking into and preparing for what he might need as he readies himself for that moment of departure he knows can arrive with little notice at any time.

It is not only for the benefit of relations between people that we retain the taste of temporality but it is also the soberest of realities to enhance that ultimate journey whenever it is that we are called to depart

from this place. Perhaps that's why when we comfort a mourner we say, "HaMokom, (Literally- "The Place" in reference to HASHEM) – that should comfort us amongst the mourners of Israel", because only in the context of all contexts can you hope to truly make yourself- at home.

■ TORAH TOTS: MISHPATIM

Let's face it...when man mixes with spirits, the only result there can be is drunken fear! Take Matan Torah for example. The first two commandments are given by Hashem Himself and what happens? After each commandment, the entire nation falls dead. See, we're just not equipped to handle the heavy duty strength of the spiritual realm. That's why Moshe was shaking like a leaf when Hashem commanded him to come on up to the spiritual world to receive the luchot (tablets) containing the Aseret Hadibrot (Ten commandments).

Moshe asked the Bnei Yisroel to fast, pray and beg Hashem for his safe return. He knew that the "fiery beings" of the celestial kingdom could blast him to kingdom come! On the seventh day of Sivan, Moshe packed out of the camp and headed towards the mountain with Yehoshua. At the base of the mountain, Yehoshua bid his Rebbe farewell.

Before Moshe could enter the spiritual world, he had to be prepped and purified in the Cloud Of Glory. Six days later he emerged from the darkness and entered the "Heavenly Camp."

Well, the Malachim (angels) took one look at Moshe and complained to Hashem in disgust. "What's the mere mortal doing up here in Shamayim (heaven)?"

"He has come to receive the Torah," was Hashem's reply.

This opened up a major debate between Moshe and the Malachim, who weren't completely convinced that this precious gift belonged in the hands of man. Hashem commanded Moshe to answer these celestial beings, but (talk about needing a cool minty mouth freshener) Moshe was afraid that these fiery beings would scorch him with their breath. Easily fixed, Hashem allowed Moshe to cling to the Kisei Hakovod. That put the punch back into the limp leader.

Moshe started out with a few simple pot shots like this double-decker pop:

"It says in the Torah 'I am Hashem, your G-D who brought you out of Mitzrayim from the house of bondage.' Were you in Mitzrayim? Were you a slave to Pharaoh?" And how about "You shall have no other gods.' Do you live surrounded by idolatrous nations?"

From here on in it was rapid-fire rhetorical give and take:

"Remember the Shabbat' - do you Malachim need a day of rest?"

"You shall not say Hashem's name in vain' - do you make business deals that require swearing?"

"Honor your father and mother' - Do you have parents?"

"You shall not murder' - Do you have gun-slingers in Shamayim?"

Well, Moshe proved his words packed more heat than a Malach's breath. The Malachim admitted that his arguments made a lot of sense, and once they dropped their defenses, turned out to be a real bunch of swell fellows. Each Malach revealed a different secret healing formula hidden in the Holy Names of Hashem scattered throughout the Torah. Even the Malach of Death revealed a startling tidbit: a plague could be stopped by burning Ketoret (incense).

Moshe hung out in Shamayim for forty days where he learned the Torah and its secrets. While a brew-ha-ha brewed below, only Moshe understood the value of this precious gift that would soon make its debut in the world of mortal man.

■ PARSHA Q&A: MISHPATIM

1. In what context is a mezuzah mentioned in this week's parsha? 21:6 - If a Hebrew slave desires to remain enslaved, his owner brings him "to the doorpost mezuzah" to pierce his ear.
2. What special mitzvah does the Torah give to the master of a Hebrew

maidservant? 21:8,9 - To marry her.

3. What is the penalty for wounding one's father or mother? 21:15 - Death by strangulation.
4. A intentionally hits B. As a result, B is close to death. Besides any monetary payments, what happens to A? 21:19 - He is put in jail until B recovers or dies.
5. What is the penalty for someone who tries to murder a particular person, but accidentally kills another person instead? Give two opinions. 21:23 - (a) The murderer deserves the death penalty. (b) The murderer is exempt from death but must compensate the heirs of his victim.
6. A slave goes free if his master knocks out one of the slave's teeth. What teeth do not qualify for this rule and why? 21:26 - Baby teeth, which grow back.
7. An ox gores another ox. What is the maximum the owner of the damaging ox must pay, provided his animal had gored no more than twice previously? 21:35 - The full value of his own animal.
8. From where in this week's parsha can the importance of work be demonstrated? 21:37 - From the "five-times" penalty for stealing an ox and slaughtering it. This fine is seen as punishment for preventing the owner from plowing with his ox.
9. What is meant by the words "If the sun shone on him"? 22:2 - If it's as clear as the sun that the thief has no intent to kill.
10. A person is given an object for safe-keeping. Later, he swears it was stolen. Witnesses come and say that in fact he is the one who stole it. How much must he pay? 22:8 - Double value of the object.
11. A person borrows his employee's car. The car is struck by lightning. How much must he pay? 22:14 - Nothing
12. Why is lending money at interest called "biting"? 22:24 - Interest is like a snake bite. Just as the poison is not noticed at first but soon overwhelms the person, so too interest is barely noticeable until it accumulates to an overwhelming sum.
13. Non-kosher meat, "treifa," is preferentially fed to dogs. Why? 22:30 - As "reward" for their silence during the plague of the first-born.
14. Which verse forbids listening to slander? 23:1 - Targum Onkelos translates "Don't bear a false report" as "Don't receive a false report".
15. What constitutes a majority-ruling in a capital case? 23:2 - A simple majority is needed for an acquittal. A majority of two is needed for a ruling of guilty.
16. How is Shavuot referred to in this week's parsha? 23:16 - Chag Hakatzir -- Festival of Reaping.
17. How many prohibitions are transgressed when cooking meat and milk together? 23:19 - One.
18. What was written in the Sefer Habrit which Moshe wrote prior to the giving of the Torah? 24:4,7 - The Torah, starting from Bereishet until the giving of the Torah, and the mitzvot given at Mara.
19. What was the livnat hasapir a reminder of? 24:10 - That the Jews in Egypt were forced to toil by making bricks.
20. Who was Efrat? Who was her husband? Who was her son? 24:14 - Miriam, wife of Calev, mother of Chur.

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)

» Menuchah Principle for Men: 7:15-8:15P in shul

» 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)