



CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

An intimate space... Grow at your pace.

March 29-30, 2019 ■ 23 Adar II, 5779 ■ Shabbos Shemini, Parah
Mincha: 7:00P / Candlelighting: 7:27P ■ Shabbos Ends 8:36P

KIDDUSH this Shabbos is sponsored by Myron & Malka Lurie in honor of Rabbi Yaakov Rich. **KIDDUSH** this Shabbos is co-sponsored anonymously. **SHALOSH SEUDOS** this Shabbos is sponsored by Rabbi Reuven & Selina Wortrich in honor of Barak Krengle for the learning he does at Toras Chaim, and his friendship. 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, March 29th

- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos/Maariv-7:00P
- » Shabbos Candle Lighting-7:27P

Shabbos Day, March 30th

- » Mishnayos shiur with Rabbi Reuven Wortrich-8:00A
- » Shacharis followed by Kiddush-8:30A
- » Chumash Shiur for Men & Women-6:15P
- » Beis Medrash Learning for Men-6:45P
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos for men-7:15P
- » Maariv/Shabbos Ends-8:36P

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

- » Sunday Shacharis-8:00A
- » Weekday Mincha/Maariv-7:30P
- » Weekday Shacharis-6:40A

■ REFUAH SHELAIMA

Men

- » Refalal Tevya ben Sara (Uncle of Rebekkah Bodoff)
- » Yechezkel Yehuda ben Asnah Shaynah (Howard Denemark)
- » Matan Rafael Nasanel ben Esther (Matan Elfenbein)
- » Itai ben Shoshana (Son of Ehoud & Shoshana Wilson)

Women

- » Zvika bas Chana Esther (Aunt of Josh Rothstein)
- » 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

» FOR PESACH

- » **Shabbos Hagadol in Shul:** Shabbos HaGadol, April 12-13, 2019, Looking to change over your kitchen more than one week before Pesach? Interested in pampering yourself and your family in advance of the Chag? Would you enjoy full-service, delicious, catered meals together with others in a relaxing, social environment? If you answered yes to any one of the above questions, then this event is for you. Congregation Toras Chaim invites you to participate in Shabbos Hagadol in Shul Dinner & Lunch. The finest catered cuisine, full-service meals, with great ambiance. We tried to be mindful of the expense without sacrificing luxury. **Cost: \$36 per adult, \$18 per child, per meal. (No family max)** We need commitments well in advance to make this program work. Your payment is your commitment. If you are interested...Email Rabbi Rich rabbid@toraschaimdallas.org and let him know. Second: Make your payment a) by check or cash in person to Ben Nise or Rabbi Rich, or b) by credit card here. We are excited about this event and look forward to celebrating Shabbos Hagadol in Shul together with you.
- » **Pre-Pesach Car Cleaning by Nechemyah Rich:** Call or Text (469) 925-9033. Sedan \$30 | Mini van \$40 | Van \$50. \$3 extra/car seat, \$7 extra windows/Console area.
- » **Elegant Endings Desserts for Pesach by Shoshana Rich:** 1) **9 x 13 Chocolate Cake- \$18.** Pamper your sweet tooth. A delicious, decadent dessert. 2) **9 x 13 Strawberry Ice Cream- \$18.** A refreshing end to any great meal. 3) **12 Meringues- \$12.** You can't help but go *mmm* when you eat our meringues. 4) **12 Pieces of Mandel Bread- \$15.** An old family favorite. Made with shmura matzo meal. 5) **12 Chocolate Chip Cookies- \$12.** Traditional chocolate chip cookies. Unusually good. Made with shmura matzo meal. 6) **9 x 13 Mango Ice Cream- \$18.** Fresh, fruity and slightly tangy. Perfect palate cleanser.

Please have your orders for Pesach in by Sunday, April 7. For the rest of our menu please visit our website elegant-endings.com.

■ BEING HIS: RABBI LABEL LAM

For I am HASHEM your G-d, and you shall sanctify yourselves and be holy, because I am holy, and you shall not defile yourselves through any creeping creature that crawls on the ground. (Vayikra 11:44)

For I am HASHEM your G-d: Just as I am Holy, I am HASHEM your G-d, so too you shall make yourselves holy (i.e.) sanctify yourselves below on earth. ...and be holy: before Me, for I shall make you holy in the World to Come. (Rashi)

In the context of this call for holiness the Chumash is speaking of refraining from disgusting foods. How does that express holiness? How does that make us holy? What is holiness? How can we define it in pedestrian terms?

This is a scene from more than 36 years. I can recall it now like it happened this morning. I just exited the Yeshiva where I was teaching English. My main classroom management tool was to have candy in each pocket. As I approached the street I noticed a frightening scene. Two little boys were on the other side of a crazy busy intersection waiting to cross. They 6 or 7 years old and I recognized one of them to be the young son of one of my Rebbeim. I couldn't let these kids cross by themselves.

I signaled to them to wait for me. I ran across the street and took each one by the hand with a candy in each hand. When we got to the other side of the street one boy thanked me and left with the candy in hand and smile on his face.

Tzvi Elimelech, my Rabbi's son asked me, "What's the Heksher?" I took the two clear cellophane bags out of my pocket. Both tops were already removed. I told him they were either Paskesz or Blooms and I bought them both at the one Kosher store in Monsey at that time, Nagels. Everybody goes there even his parents. He stood there and with perfect poise, handed me the candy.

He politely thanked me and proceeded to happily skip home. I was stunned. He knew me! I was just giving these candies out in the Yeshiva across the street. Nobody questioned me there. What a great beginning for a future Ben Torah.

That's holiness! Effortless self control, beyond the battle ground where the elements are controlling and tempting us, to be that free and able to easily and happily say "No!" That's a portrait of a kid with a candy! How many other battle grounds with the "permissible" do we "adults" struggle with daily?!

This is excerpted from a newsletter Doresh L'Tzion: "The Mashgiach of Lakewood, R' Nosson Wachtfogel zt"l. related: I heard from Maran R' Aharon Kotler zt"l that he had a tradition passed down from the Chofetz Chaim that the "Last Battle" will be the "Beginning of the Geulah", and that a true Ben Torah who will be completely disconnected from the nations will not be dominated over. In this vein, the Mashgiach said that he himself has a tradition handed down from one person to another from R' Yehoshua Leib Diskin zt"l, the Seraph of Brisk, that "In the Last Battle before the coming of Moshiach all the Ehrl-iche Yidden will be saved". What is the definition of "Ehrl-iche Yidden"? Those who are separated from the nations! He explained that this is not referring to being one of the Thirty-Six Hidden Tzaddikim, but rather about whoever separates himself from the customs of the nations and has no connection to their culture, their manner of dressing, their newspapers or music or books, and is completely disassociated from them - then to him Hakadosh Boruch Hu says, "You are Mine!" And he is under a completely different authority and there is no dominion over him!"

Holiness is first claiming dominion over one's self! The Torah invites us all and declares us capable of Being His!

■ TORAH TOTS: SHEMINI

At a glance, this Parsha spells trouble! That's because it starts off with that worrisome word "Vayehi." Now, literally, "vayehi" is harmless. It means "and it came to pass." Simple enough! But when "Vayehi" comes at the beginning of a Perek (chapter) it translates to doom and gloom! Usually, "Vayehi" is paired off with "bimay" as in "and it happened in the days." But don't let that double dose trick you - "Vayehi" is trouble enough when it appears alone! "Vayehi" is a contraction of the words "vay" and "haya" (a bad event happened). In Parshat Shmini, the zing zooms in on Aharon's two sons, Nadav and Avihu. They get caught up in the dedication celebrations, and in a drunk stupor, light the Mizbayach with their own fire. Well, those two zealous Kohanim get fired.... literally! Hashem sends a swoop of Heavenly fire and burns them inside out.

Here are some more examples of tough times on the "Vayehi" front:

1. "Vayehi Bimay Amrafel" - "And it came to pass in the days of Amrafel" (Bereishit 14:1). Even if you don't know Amrafel, you can be sure that there's trouble a-brewing! In this Perek, it's the four kings vs. the five in a major canaanite war that puts Lot right in the center of the battle. During the course of this war, Lot is captured. Tragic, huh? Well, anyone who knows Lot knows that he might be worth a "Va" but not a "vayehi bimay!" The real tragedy lurks around the bend as Lot is used as bait to draw Avrohom into the conflict. The true intention is to kill Avrohom. Now that would be a tragedy! Little do these gentile kings realize that Avrohom is the light of the world. It goes to show us readers the greatness of Avrohom - a true "vayehi-worthy" tzadik!

2. "Vayehi bimay Achaz Ben Yosam...."- "And it came to pass in the days of Achaz, son of Yosam, ..., King of Yehuda, that Retzin, king of Aram, and Pekach, son of Rimalyahu, king of Israel, went up to Yerushalayim, to wage war against it..." (Yishayahu 7:1). Well, so much for the obvious! True, waging war on Yerushalayim is tragic, but Chazal (our sages) attribute the "Vayehi bimay" to a sign of the times: Achaz was one wicked idol-worshipping king! He was bent on driving the Shechinah away from the Jewish people. Achaz locked up all the Yeshivas, houses of learning and Batei Midrash. Learning Torah was forbidden. He especially made sure that the children remained ignorant. That way the next generation of Torah leaders wouldn't know Adam from Adam.

Baruch Hashem, his plan failed and Torah triumphed. Still, the unbroken chain of tradition was weakened and much Torah was lost in the process... a terrible tragedy!

3. Then there's the most famous "Vayehi Bimay": "Vayehi Bimay Achashverosh" - "And it came to pass in the days of Achashverosh." Surely you recognize the opening line to Megillat Esther! Haman plotted to destroy the Jewish people on the 14th of Adar. And he almost succeeded! Unfortunately for him, Hashem planted Esther in the palace and Haman's plan went kaploowie!

Now, the "Vayehi (Bimay)" connection is a good general rule for tracking tragedy. But be warned that some sages say that it doesn't have a 100% track record. Rabbi Yishmael, however, is a firm believer in the "volatile Vayehi." And so, when some sages challenged him to explain the tragic score of "Vayomer Hashem

Yehi Ohr, Vayehi ohr" ("and Hashem said let there be light, and there was light"). Where's the tragedy in the light of creation?, they wondered.

Well, Rav Yishmael was well prepared. He explained that the light of "vayehi ohr" never made it to the sixth day of creation. This light was deemed to be too wonderful for this world. One day into creation, Hashem has already determined that mankind is not going to be worthy of greatness! (How do you like that? Doomed before the first man even makes an appearance!). So Hashem took away this heavenly light and replaced it with a dimmer bulb. The original light is reserved for Tzadikim to enjoy in Olam Habah (the next world).

Okay, that clears up "Vayehi ohr." But why does each day of creation wind up with a "vayehi" (as in "vayehi erev, vayehi boker yom revii; and it was night and it was day, a fourth day")?

Rav Yishmael explained that these "vayehis" teach us that this world was not created in a state of perfection. For example, grains grow from the ground, but you've got to grind and bake them before you can eat them.

When Hashem zapped Nadav and Avihu, the heavenly fire burnt them from the inside, sparing their bodies and the clothing of the Kehuna that they wore. Like clockwork, the dedication continued on. Perhaps this hints at the true meaning of "vayehi." In every case of calamity, there is always a hint that hope looms on the horizon: Avrohom defeated the kings and rescued Lot; Achaz could not extinguish the light of Torah; As hard as he tried; Haman's plot was foiled; Hashem will once again reveal His wondrous light in the future when Moshiach comes; and finally, although this world is not perfect, Hashem has revealed the secret to achieving perfection - Torah, the light of all creation!

■ PARSHA QUESTIONS: SHEMINI

1. What date was "yom hashemini"? 9:1 - First of Nissan.
2. Which of Aharon's korbanot atoned for the Golden Calf? 9:2 - The calf offered as a korban chatat.
3. What korbanot did Aharon offer for the Jewish People? 9:3,4 - A he-goat as a chatat, a calf and a lamb for an olah, an ox and a ram for shelamim, and a mincha.
4. What was unique about the chatat offered during the induction of the Mishkan? 9:11 - It's the only example of a chatat offered on the courtyard mizbe'ach that was burned.
5. When did Aharon bless the people with the birkat kohanim? 9:22 - When he finished offering the korbanot, before descending from the mizbe'ach.
6. Why did Moshe go into the Ohel Mo'ed with Aharon? 9:23 - For one of two reasons: Either to teach Aharon about the service of the incense, or to pray for the Shechina to dwell with Israel.
7. Why did Nadav and Avihu die? 10:2 - Rashi offers two reasons: Either because they gave a halachic ruling in Moshe's presence, or because they entered the Mishkan after drinking intoxicating wine.
8. Aharon quietly accepted his sons' death. What reward did he receive for this? 10:3 - A portion of the Torah was given solely through Aharon.

Good Shabbos

Fri-

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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: Thursday nights in shul

» Gates of Prayer for Women: TBD at Ariella Bush's home

» Chumash for men & women (Shabbos: Check Schedule)

» Beis Medrash Learning for men including "Shabbos Malkusa" Chaburah-(Shabbos: Check Schedule)