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**CTN Women's Learning Network
event this Thursday, March 11**

Tapping Life's Potential

An Evening of Insight for Women with Rebbetzin Holly Pavlov

Jewish tradition teaches that G-d has given us women unique qualities and potential that can help us – and those around us – achieve true greatness. Our job? To discover what they are and how to best use them.

**CTN Women's Learning Network
invites you to join one of Jerusalem's most popular and insightful teachers**

Rebbetzin Holly Pavlov

**as she draws on Torah and centuries of classical commentary
to help us learn how to tap life's potential.**

**Thursday, March 11
7:30 pm**

**Followed by informal discussion
and question and answer session
with Rebbetzin Pavlov.**

**The CTN Center
2832 W. Touhy**

**Suggested Donation: \$10
773.761.0400 x208
info@torahnetwork.org**

Rebbetzin Holly Pavlov is an international acclaimed educator, speaker, and teacher of Midrash, Jewish Philosophy, and Ethics. She has a unique ability to present the deep and often mystical writing of Torah commentaries in a way that makes them accessible and inspiring to Jews of all backgrounds and levels of knowledge. Rebbetzin Pavlov is the founder of She'arim College of Jewish Studies for Women and author of *Mirrors of Our Lives: Reflections of Women in Tanach*, and *Water from the Well: Reflections of a Jew at the End of History*.



Home for the
Wandering Jew™

THE CHICAGO TORAH NETWORK SHABBAT FAX[©]

A WEEKLY PRESENTATION OF JEWISH THOUGHT PUBLISHED IN MEMORY OF RAE DANIEL

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 20 FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2010 / 19 ADAR 5770 CANDLE LIGHTING: 5:25 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 6:36 (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: KI SISA (EXODUS 30:11 - 34:35)

*This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is dedicated by a friend,
"wishing a happy birthday to Howard Zvi Green ... Like
Jacob you have lived many days!"*

1. Moses came down the mountain with the Tablets in his hand. They were written on both sides, with the writing visible from either side. (32:15)

We have the picture in our minds.

Moses comes down from Mount Sinai with the Tablets.

The Ten Commandments.

And he presents them to the people.

... But the Torah tells us something very interesting.

That the writing could be seen from both sides.

That means, that the very same words faced Moshe.

And were directed to him.

An important lesson for Moshe. The teacher of the Jewish People.

And for each of us. Because we are all teachers.

Whether it's to our children. We try to teach them Jewish values. Encourage them to be involved Jews.

We want them to be honest. Generous. And considerate of others.

Or when we sometimes correct a friend. Because we care.

Whenever we teach. We must first be sure of one thing.

That we are not just preaching.

But that we make the same demands of ourselves.

And that we live up to them.

Because let's face it. No one listens to preaching.

But most people are willing to follow a good example.

2. G-d gave Moses two tablets of stone ... (31:18)

The Ten Commandments.

The basis of Western values and morality.

Think about what we are told about them.

What were they written on?

Stone tablets.

Where were they kept?

In the Jewish Temple. Inside the Ark.

Made of wood.

It's symbolic.

Stone represents that which is unchanging. Constant.

Wood on the other hand? From trees. *It's symbolic of growth. Change. Adaptability.*

It's a very important message.

Because, Jewish values aren't always popular. And they aren't always easy.

But they are absolute.

And they challenge us to change. To improve.

▪ *One example: Take gossip. Lashon hara.*

It's everywhere.

The media. The boardroom. And the simple telephone call to a friend.

Sometimes it's hard to resist.

And left to ourselves, we would probably justify it:

"After all: It's true ... everyone knows about it ... I don't mean anything by it ..."

... But the Torah says: No! It's wrong.

And that it doesn't matter what society has accepted.

There are absolutes.

STORY OF THE WEEK

A Rabbi was about to give an informal class on Jewish ethics and values to his students.

The group met in his office. And as the students walked in carrying their chairs, he told them the following:

"... When you bring in a chair for yourself, what are you?

A 'shlepper'. A guy carrying something from one place to another.

... But what about, if each of you would bring in a chair for someone else?

It's the same amount of effort. And each of you still ends up with a chair.

But now, you're doing a chessed. An act of kindness."

... It's an interesting thought.

How sometimes we can take a simple act.

And make it something special.



Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

Chicago Torah Network <http://torahnetwork.org>
2832 West Touhy Avenue, Chicago, IL 60645

Phone: 773.761.0400 Fax: 773.761.9262 e-mail: info@torahnetwork.org