

Mark your Calendars:

The Chicago Conference for Jewish Women
April 25, 2010



April 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 CCJW at CTN	26	27	28	29	30	

**A day of learning, inspiration and community,
for Jewish women of all backgrounds.**

Watch for details.



Home for the
Wondering Jew.™

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: TERUMAH (EXODUS 25:1 - 27:19)

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is dedicated by Richard Hanus and family, in loving memory of his father, John Hanus, Moshe Yehuda ben David, ha'levi, on the occasion of his yahrzeit. May his memory be a blessing and inspiration to his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and future generations.

1. They shall make for Me a Temple ... make an Ark (for the tablets of the Ten Commandments) ... two and a half by one and a half by one and a half ... (25:8-10)

It was after the Exodus. The Jews are traveling through the desert.

And they build a Temple. With a *menorah*. An altar.

And the Ark. Containing the Ten Commandments.

The Torah tells us the exact size of each one.

And Jewish tradition sees a lesson in these details.

... Because it seems a little strange.

How each of the measurements uses whole numbers: 'x' by 'y' by 'z'.

Except the Ark.

... It's all fractions. 2½ by 1½ by 1½.

Why do it that way?

The answer is that the Ark held the two tablets of the Torah. And there's a message here.

... About Torah study.

Because sometimes we say to ourselves:

'Sure it would be nice to study Torah. But I have so little time.

And what's the point of starting now? After all these years?

And let's face it. I can't possibly learn all there is to know.

So why even start?'

... It may sound reasonable.

But it's wrong.

Because the measurements of the Ark tell us something.

... That it's important to start. To do what we can.

Because the Torah has so much wisdom.

So much to teach us about everyday life.

That even if we won't get the whole thing. We'll get a fraction.

... And the fractions are valuable.

And they add up.

2. Make an Ark ... in the Ark place the Testimony (the Ten Commandments) ... Make two golden Cherubs ... And the Cherubs shall be have th eir wings spread upwards ... and they shall face one another. (25:10 -20)

It's got to be one of the most mystical Mitzvahs in the Torah.

In the holiest part of the Jewish Temple ... right on top of the Ark with the Ten Commandments ... there were two golden cherubs.

It's mystical. But Jewish tradition also brings it down to earth.

Explains its symbolic meaning with a very powerful lesson.

... The Cherubs – on top of the commandments – were a reminder to us of what it means to be holy.

That it's not just about "wings pointing upwards".

About the 'laws between man and G-d.' Prayer. Study. And rituals.

... It's also very much about how we deal with others.

"And they shall face one another."

Because holiness is also about how we look at someone else.

The smile. The love and compassion. And the friendship that shows on our face.

CELEBRATE A JEWISH HOLIDAY – THE JEWISH WAY

The Holiday of *Purim* is coming up, next Saturday evening, February 27 & Sunday, February 28.

How do we celebrate? We read the Book of Esther. Send gifts of food to friends. Eat a festive meal.

... *And we give charity to the poor.* As Maimonides writes:

"There's no greater or more glorious joy than bringing happiness to the poor ... By doing so, a person emulates G-d, because G-d "raises the spirit of the lowly, and the heart of the depressed."

... The Chicago Torah Network can help you be a part of this great mitzvah.

Make your generous tax-deductible contribution to help needy Jewish families celebrate Purim. Go to www.torahnetwork.org/donate.htm to make a secure online donation, or use the form below.

The money will be distributed on Purim to the Jewish poor. *And you'll not only celebrate a Jewish holiday. You'll do it in a very Jewish way.*

**→→→ Please complete and fax to 773.761.9262 ASAP
or contribute online at www.torahnetwork.org/donate.htm ←←←**

Name: **Visa /Master Card #**

Exp:/..... **Amount:** **Signature:**



Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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