

From: The Rabbis at Chicago Torah Network

Number of pages: 3

To:



presents



Lunch & Learn, Tuesday August 14

“Let’s Shmooze About Gossip”

with CTN’s Rabbi Moshe Katz

At this unique and powerful workshop you will:

- Explore just how important proper speech is in Jewish tradition.
- Learn what you can and cannot say about others.
- What to do when you have information that someone else needs to know.
- Discover tools we can use to help us overcome the temptation to gossip. And more.

**Tuesday, August 14, 2007 ♦ Speaker: Rabbi Moshe Katz
11:30 - Gourmet Lunch & Networking ♦ 12:00 - Lecture**

*At DrinkerBiddleGardnerCarton, 191 North Wacker Drive,
37th Floor Conference Room. Hosted by Harold Kaplan*

Cost: \$15 in advance (by Tuesday, August 7) ♦ \$25 (after August 7)

Advance Registration: www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm



Judaism. It’s not just about synagogue and Holidays. It’s about life.™

THE CHICAGO TORAH NETWORK SHABBAT FAX[©]

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

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 35 FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2007 / 5 AV 5767 CANDLE LIGHTING: 8:00 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 9:10 P.M. (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbat is coming!

TORAH PORTION: DEVARIM (DEUTERONOMY 1:1-3:22)

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is dedicated by Heshy & Debbie Wengrow, in honor of Mitch & Amy Rose, on the occasion of the birth of their son, Shimon Zev, the newest member of the Chicago Torah Network family.

1. Next Monday Night and Tuesday (July 23 - 24) is the Fast of 'Tisha b'Av'.

Background:

'Tisha b'Av' - the ninth day of the Jewish month of Av. The saddest day on the Jewish calendar. According to Jewish tradition, it was destined to be a tragic day. And history has proven that tradition so correct.

The destruction of both Temples in Jerusalem took place on *Tisha b'Av*. As did the expulsion of Jews from England in 1290. And from Spain in 1492.

World War I began on *Tisha b'Av*, 1914. And in many ways, it was the event that led to World War II and the Holocaust.

Insight:

The Year 70. The Roman army drove us out of the Land. But it was always in our hearts. Our minds. Our memories.

Think of our prayers. Three times a day. Seven days a week.

In each prayer? *'May our eyes behold Your return to Zion ...'*

And in the Grace after meals: *'Rebuild the holy city of Jerusalem soon, in our days.'*

We've been saying these things every day. At every meal. And every time we prayed.

For two thousand years.

Think about how one day a year – the ninth of the Hebrew month of Av – we sat on the floor.

And mourned the destruction. Of the Jerusalem we never saw.

But never forgot.

Our baby boys were circumcised. One of the prayers at the *Bris*? *'May this child merit being in Jerusalem.'*

The child grew up. And got married. And at the wedding ceremony a glass was broken.

To remember the destruction of Jerusalem.

Or when there was a death in the family. And people sat *shiva*. The traditional Jewish consolation?

'May you be comforted among the mourners of Jerusalem ...'

There is an eternal bond between the Jewish people and Jerusalem.

... That can never be broken.

- **New York, 1947.** A prominent Rabbi, along with a group of Jewish activists, was granted a meeting with Mayor LaGuardia. They were seeking his support for the establishment of the State of Israel.

Then they realized that they had a problem. The meeting was scheduled for the week before Tisha b'Av. A time they would not normally shave as a traditional sign of mourning.

They debated what to do. 'Considering the importance of this meeting, we certainly would be permitted to shave.

After all, we can't meet with the Mayor looking unkempt. Especially if we want his help.

On the other hand - how can we not mourn for Jerusalem?'

They decided to go without shaving. And to explain.

They began the meeting with an apology. 'Please forgive our appearance - but we are in mourning.'

'Oh I'm sorry! What happened?'

'We are mourning the destruction of Jerusalem, in the year 70.'

The Mayor was amazed. 'Now I understand!

To tell you the truth, it really made no sense to me.

After two thousand years you expect to go back to your Land?

But now I understand. If you can mourn for two thousand years - you can expect to go back.'

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The Talmud tells us why the Temple was destroyed.

... Because Jews hated other Jews for no reason.

Which means that the Temple won't be rebuilt until we fix that problem.

Until we learn how to love other Jews no matter what.

Even when we have no reason to." (Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook)

TISHA B'AV SERVICES

This Monday evening at 8:45, CTN will be joining our neighbors at Congregation Shaarei Tzedek (right here at 2832 West Touhy) for *Tisha b'Av* services. Led by CTN's Rabbi Moshe Katz.

We'll do it the way Jews have done it for centuries. Sitting on the floor ... the lights dimmed ... reading the 2500-year-old Book of Lamentations by candlelight.

... We invite you to join us for this powerful and very meaningful way to connect to our heritage and history.

Please let us know if you plan to come. That way we will be able to take care of you and help make the experience as meaningful as possible. Call 773.761.0400 x201 or email rabbikatz@torahnetwork.org



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