



'High Holiday Services'. Does just hearing the words make you think of expensive tickets, formal seating, being a spectator at a service that isn't all that meaningful and listening to a sermon?

... A really long sermon.

*Well, the CTN YJP Rosh Hashanah Experience is not like that at all.*

Instead, you spend some time on Rosh Hashanah with a warm approachable rabbi and other YJP's, you ask questions and get answers, you explore, you discuss, you sing, you pray and you laugh.

*And you experience what will probably be your most meaningful Rosh Hashanah ever.*

Did we forget to mention that it costs just \$15. Yup. That's what we said. Just \$15!

This year try the CTN YJP Rosh Hashanah Experience.

*Where you'll go home inspired. Not tired.*

**Young Jewish Professionals (22-32) Rosh Hashanah Experience**

This Tuesday, September 30, 2008. 10 am . 12:00 pm

At the CTN Center, 2832 West Touhy, Chicago.

[www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm](http://www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm)

*Space is limited and advance registration is required.*



Home for the  
Wondering Jew™

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# THE CHICAGO TORAH NETWORK SHABBAT FAX<sup>©</sup>

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

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 46 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2008 / 26 ELUL 5768 CANDLE LIGHTING: 6:20 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 7:28 (CHICAGO)

*Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!*

## TORAH PORTION: NITZAVIM (DEUTERONOMY 29:9 - 30:20)

*This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored by Doris and Ron Lazarus, with love and gratitude to our children Matthew and Jennifer Seidner who brought the gift of their first daughter, Talia Mirabelle, into our lives. Talia turns one on Rosh Hashanah and we wish her a life filled with good health, happiness and Torah. She is a blessing and brings indescribable joy to us all.*

*We also express our sincere appreciation to Esti Deutsch for her teachings, her wisdom and her continuous guidance. Her words inspire us all. From our family to yours, l'shana Tova.*

### **1. G-d your Lord will bring you to the land that your forefathers possessed ... to observe His commandments and decrees that are written in this Book of the Torah ... (30:5-10)**

*Shalom Nagar, 65, is an Israeli who, in May 1962, physically carried out the execution of Adolf Eichmann, the Nazi architect of the Final Solution.*

*For more than 40 years, Mr. Nagar's identity was kept secret to protect him from the wrath of Germans and neo-Nazis.*

*Eventually his identity as Eichmann's executioner was made public. And German television tracked him down for a story they were doing about the mass murderer.*

*Mr. Nagar agreed to be interviewed. With one condition.*

*But he insisted the filming take place at the Yeshiva where he learns Torah daily.*

*The German broadcasters suggested a studio. But Mr. Nagar was adamant: He would consent to do the interview only if the filming would take place in the Yeshiva near his home in Israel.*

*Finally, the Germans agreed. And the cameramen photographed the Torah study, before the actual interview.*

*When it was over, the German journalist asked Mr. Nagar why it was so important to him to be interviewed "in this cramped House of Study instead of a studio where we would have all been more comfortable."*

*His answer was powerful.*

*"I knew that the film would be broadcast on German television. Seen by millions of people. And I want the German people to know that not only did the Jewish people survive physically and are here in Israel, but also that we are still learning Torah. You could not destroy us.*

*I want them to see Jews alive and learning Torah. Because the Jewish people live, and the Torah lives, too."*

### **2. Rosh Hashanah.**

Think about New Years. January 1st. It brings to mind things like parties. Football games. And drinking.

*Which makes it no surprise that New Years resolutions don't often last.*

*... In Judaism, we do it differently.*

*Rosh Hashanah is about getting in touch with reality. Not escaping from it.*

*Think of the symbol of Rosh Hashanah. The Shofar.*

*It's an ancient ritual. Thousands of years old.*

*With a message that's more relevant than ever.*

*Because we know how it is. How our lives are so busy. So hectic.*

*Email. BlackBerrys. Cell phones. And so much more.*

*It's so easy to lose sight of our priorities.*

*... The Shofar is a wake-up call.*

*It challenges us to stop and think.*

*About life. What it's all about? And about what it means to be Jewish.*

*What are values I want to transmit to my kids? And how am I going to do it?*

*... Getting in touch with our real selves. That is the point of Rosh Hashanah.*

▪ *There's an old Jewish story about a simple villager who visits the big city. And is absolutely amazed by everything he sees.*

*One day he hears a loud trumpet. And asks what that was.*

*They tell him: 'Someone sits on a tower all day. His job is to look out for fires.*

*If he sees one, he blows the trumpet. Real loud.*

*People hear it. And they realize there's a fire.*

*And then before you know it, the fire is out.'*

*... The villager can't believe it.*

*'Wow. We sure could use that in our town.*

*We have lots of fires. And by the time we get to put them out, half the town burns down.'*

*So he buys one of the trumpets. And brings it back home.*

*And the next time a fire breaks out, he tells everyone to relax. 'Don't worry. I'll just blow my trumpet!'*

*He does. And they all stand there and watch. Waiting for something to happen.*

*... And of course the town burns down.*

*It's something to think about as we hear the Shofar:*

*... Alarms are great.*

*But only if they motivate us to act.*



*Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!*

  
Rabbi Moshe Katz

  
Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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