

☞ *Please note new location* ☞



Great networking. Delicious food. Quality learning. It's what 'business lunch' was meant to be.

## A SPECIAL LUNCH & LEARN FOR ALL KINDS OF JEWS!

 <p><b>THE PROUD JEW</b> <i>who would like to be even more proud ...</i></p>	 <p><b>THE SKEPTICAL JEW</b> <i>who's not sure the Torah is really the word of G-d ...</i></p>	 <p><b>THE CURIOUS JEW</b> <i>who wonders what being Jewish really means ...</i></p>
 <p><b>THE MYSTICAL JEW</b> <i>who is intrigued by the idea of Torah prophecies ...</i></p>	 <p><b>THE THINKING JEW</b> <i>who likes a good, solid intellectual challenge ...</i></p>	 <p><b>THE HEBREW SCHOOL JEW</b> <i>who never thought Torah study could be fun ...</i></p>

### **'The Seven Wonders of Jewish History'**

*with Rabbi Moshe Katz*

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**Tuesday, April 8, 2008 ♦ Foley & Lardner, 321 North Clark, Chicago  
28<sup>th</sup> floor Conference Room ♦ Hosted by Harold Kaplan  
11:30 'Networking & Lunch' ♦ 12:00 'The Seven Wonders of Jewish History'**

**Cost: \$15** in advance (by Thursday April 3) ♦ **\$25** (after Thursday April 3)

**Registration:** [www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm](http://www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm)  
**Info:** [info@torahnetwork.org](mailto:info@torahnetwork.org) or 773.761.0400 x201



Home for the  
Wondering Jew™

*Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!*

## TORAH PORTION: TAZRIA (LEVITICUS 12:1 - 13:59)

*This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is dedicated in loving memory of our dear mother and grandmother, Sara Garbuz, Sarah bas Aharon z"l, on the occasion of her 7<sup>th</sup> yahrzeit, 23 Adar II. Sponsored by her family.*

### **1. When a person has the plague of 'tzara'as', he shall be brought to the priest ... (13:9)**

Jewish tradition teaches that this is not talking about the leprosy that we know of. Instead, it was a special condition brought on by spiritual causes.

And it was understood as a message. That the person had sinned against his fellow man. Especially through slander.

Slander. Gossip. *Lashon hara*.

Jewish tradition is clear: *Except for very limited cases, we're not allowed to say anything negative about others. Even if it is true.*

But sometimes it's so tempting. So difficult to stop. Especially when everyone else is doing it.

What can we do about it? ... Here's one idea:

*Imagine a person who writes a gossip column. Makes a living spreading lashon hara.*

*One day he's at a party. People are sitting around talking about someone. And it's really bad.*

*... Lashon hara at its worst.*

*The gossip columnist? He's unusually quiet. In fact he looks quite uncomfortable. Shifting around in his chair. Looking down at the floor.*

*Why? What happened?*

*Nothing. Just that the person they're speaking about is someone he loves.*

*... And it's hard to enjoy lashon hara about someone you love.*

*... And that's the key to making the battle a little easier.*

*By working on loving each other. And on recognizing that we're all brothers.*

*... Even when we disagree.*

**Rabbi Yisrael Mayer Kagan.** *Known as the Chafetz Chaim. The leading saint and scholar of pre-war Europe. He dedicated his life to teaching Jews. Especially about the evils of gossip and slander - lashon hara.*

*... The Chafetz Chaim was traveling. And Friday afternoon he arrived at a Jewish inn. Where he stayed for Shabbat.*

*The innkeeper had no idea what a special guest he had. And for the meals, he sat Rabbi Kagan at a table with some horse traders. Not the most refined people.*

*The Chafetz Chaim's Shabbat meals were usually filled with Torah discussion and Shabbat songs.*

*... But not this week.*

The other men at his table ran the show. And they spent the whole time speaking about the horses they bought and sold.

After Shabbat, the innkeeper found out who his distinguished guest was. And he felt terrible.

"Rabbi. Please forgive me. I had no idea who you were.

I'm so sorry that I put you at that table. It must have ruined your Shabbat."

Rabbi Kagan smiled: "Apologize? For what?

Talking about horses isn't a problem.

It's when we talk about people - that's when we get into trouble."

### WHAT JEWISH TRADITION SAYS ABOUT ... THE POWER OF SPEECH

"For every moment one guards one's tongue, he earns reward that is beyond the comprehension even of the angels ..."

"Man's ultimate task is to not sin with his mouth. The Sages say that one's good deeds and Torah knowledge cannot offset the damage that one does with speech ..."

"The principle way of earning the World to Come is through guarding one's mouth, which is greater than Torah learning and Mitzvahs, because the mouth is Holy of Holies ..."

(From the writings of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Lithuanian Torah giant Rabbi Elijah, known as the 'Gaon of Vilna')

### TAKE YOUR PASSOVER TO NEW HEIGHTS!



This year, take your Passover to new heights with a deeper, mystical understanding of the Holiday, the *Matzo*, the *Seder* and more.

This Monday's class with Rabbi Doni Deutsch will be a stand alone session, so whether or not you were there this past week, please join us as we explore the *Seder* rituals and their deeper meaning.

And make this your most meaningful Pesach ever!

This Monday, April 7, 2008, 7:30 pm at the CTN Center, 2832 West Touhy, Chicago.

For more information, please call 773.761.0400 x202 or email [rabbideutsch@torahnetwork.org](mailto:rabbideutsch@torahnetwork.org)



*Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!*

  
Rabbi Moshe Katz

  
Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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