

From: The Rabbis at Chicago Torah Network

Number of pages: 3

To:

YJP Event
of the Year



The Art of Love

Surviving the Dating Scene and Creating Meaningful Relationships

Fun, food and insight for YJP (22-32), with noted author and lecturer,

Gila Manolson

What: Sushi Dinner and Workshop for YJP's (ages 22-32)

When: Sunday, Nov. 11, 2007 (4:30 - 7:30 pm)

Where: 3200 North Lake Shore Drive (party room)

Cost: \$15 in advance (by Monday Nov. 5); \$25 after November 5.

Info: yjp@torahnetwork.org or 773.761.0400 x201

Register: www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm

Event Committee: *(in formation)* Vicky Alkhovsky, Tatum Brenner, David Elyashar, Sharon Ganger, David Jelenko, Jodi Lazar

About Gila Manolson: Her down-to-earth, funny and thought-provoking style, have made Gila Manolson a very popular lecturer in Israel and across North America, as well as a spiritual guide to men and women around the world. Author of The Magic Touch: A Candid Look at the Jewish Approach to Relationships and other books and articles on relationships, Gila graduated Yale University (magna cum laude), and currently lives and teaches in Jerusalem.



Home for the
Wondering Jew.™

THE CHICAGO TORAH NETWORK SHABBAT FAX[©]

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

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 3 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2007/ 14 MAR-CHESHVAN 5768 CANDLE LIGHTING: 5:33 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 6:42 P.M. (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbat is coming!

TORAH PORTION: VAYAIRA (GENESIS 18:1 - 22:24)

This week's Shabbat Fax is dedicated in memory of Wilfred Lefkovich, by his daughter and son in law, Jo and Jonah Bruck. May his 'neshama have an aliyah' - may his soul be elevated.

1. And Abraham was sitting at the entrance of his tent, in the heat of the day. And he saw three men ... (18:1)

A simple story. With a powerful lesson.

'Abraham was sitting at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day.' Why? What was he doing there?

Jewish tradition says that he was looking for tired and thirsty travelers.

So he could care for their needs.

Imagine. Abraham is old. Weak.

Recuperating from his circumcision.

And it's very hot out.

... And the one thing on his mind?

Helping others.

Abraham teaches us the Jewish concept of *chessed* - kindness.

That there's more to it than just doing *chessed*. Responding when we see others in need.

... Our tradition talks about *love of chessed*.

Going through life looking for opportunities to help others.

And feeling like we missed out on something, if we don't get that opportunity.

... Imagine what kind of world this would be if we all followed Abraham's example.

2. The people of Sodom were extremely wicked and sinful to G-d. (13:13)

Sodom and Gomorrah.

It brings to mind things like hedonism. And immorality.

A society with no moral constraints.

... Which is what they were.

But in Jewish tradition, the people of Sodom are the symbol of something else.

They're infamous for another reason.

... They didn't give *tzedaka*. Charity.

The people of Sodom were very wealthy.

But they kept it to themselves. Wouldn't share it with others.

And in Jewish tradition, that's right up there with immorality.

Because the Torah teaches that tzedaka isn't just a nice thing to do.

... It's an obligation.

And not being charitable, is evil.

▪ *A friend asked Baron Rothschild how much money he had.*

The Baron took out a ledger, opened it and started adding up the numbers.

His servant corrected him: "Sir. You took out the wrong book.

That's the list of charities you've contributed to. The other book lists all your assets and investments."

"I know", Rothschild told him. "But he wanted to know how much I have.

The assets and investments? Sure I have them now. But who knows what tomorrow will bring?

But what I've given to others will be with me forever. Those I can never lose."

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Mondays, November 5 – December 3. 7:30-9:00 pm.

At the CTN Center, 2832 W. Touhy, Chicago.

info@torahnetwork.org 773.761.0400 x208.



Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!

Moshe
Rabbi Moshe Katz

Doni
Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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