

This Tuesday at CTN

A special CTN Jewish Living & Learning Workshop with Rabbi Moshe Katz

Living Life to its Fullest

Judaism's Powerful Tools for Getting Pleasure and Meaning out of Life.



Jewish tradition has amazing tools that will make a real difference in your life. Guaranteed.

Short, simple things to say, think and do, that will help you appreciate and enjoy all of life's gifts. And will help bring real spirituality into your busy life. In just seconds a day!

... Little things. That will make a big difference.

Now this is the Judaism you wish they would have taught you about in Hebrew School!

WHEN: Tuesday, July 21, 7 pm (*please note correct date*)
Followed by refreshments, drinks & schmoozing

WHERE: The CTN Center, 2832 West Touhy, Chicago.

INFO: info@torahnetwork.org or 773.761.0400 x208

COST: \$10 incl. materials. Advance registration required

REGISTRATION: www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm



Home for the
Wondering Jew.™

THE CHICAGO TORAH NETWORK SHABBAT FAX[©]

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

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 34 FRIDAY, JULY 17 / 15 TAMUZ 5769 CANDLE LIGHTING: 8:02 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 9:12 (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: MATTOS - MASEI (NUMBERS 30:2 - 36:13)

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is dedicated by Fred and Charlotte Broitman, in honor of their children Ben & Nina, and their grandchildren, Ovadyah, Shayna and Levi Meir. We pray that G-d bless them as they make aliya to Israel. "We will really miss you but are very proud of your decision".

1. These are the journeys of the Jewish People ... Moses wrote down their stops along the way ... They left ... and camped in ... They left ... and camped in ... (33:1-48)

Journeys. People traveling from one place to another.

It's a pretty good way to describe Jewish history.

Name a country. Any country.

Odds are we've been there.

... At least for a while.

Because not only have we lived in almost every country in the world.

We've also been expelled from many of them at one time or another.

But somehow we survived. And flourished.

It made no sense.

But it happened.

Historians have struggled to understand it. How did we survive all that?

Our take on it? That there's really only one answer.

... We're an Eternal People.

Because G-d guaranteed it.

... But He did more than promise it. He gave us the tool to make His promise come true.

The Torah.

Wherever we've gone we've taken it with us.

... We sing about it every Shabbat morning. It's a central point of the Synagogue service.

We open the Ark. Take out the Torah. And sing these words:

'Vayehee Binso'a Ha'aron ...' "Whenever the Ark traveled (leading the Jewish People through their travels in the desert), Moses said: Arise G-d, and let Your enemies be scattered ..."

It's a pretty powerful moment. The words are three thousand years old.

And they still have a very important message.

... About our past. And our future

Think of the words: "When the Ark traveled." This symbolizes our past.

The times we were expelled. Forced to run. And start all over.

And the great empires that tried to destroy us. Egypt. Babylon. Ancient Greece. Rome. And others.

... They're gone. And we're still here. ... Somehow, we had the strength to survive.

It's something to think about as the Torah is brought out.

Because the Torah is the secret of our survival.

We never stopped learning it. Being inspired by it. And living it.

... Today? Things are different.

We're free. We feel secure. Thank G-d.

But with all that freedom – and all that security – we're still worried.

Worried about our future. About Jewish continuity.

Because there's one thing we cannot survive.

Jewish illiteracy.

... Which is why Torah study is more important today than ever.

STORY OF THE WEEK

... A senior scientist at a major pharmaceutical company got an e-mail message from the company's chief patent lawyer.

Documents have to be signed at different locations. All at the same time.

The designated time? Late Friday afternoon.

The scientist is a Shabbat observant Jew. A highly respected professional, who skillfully balances tremendous responsibility with his religious observance.

... And he's got to leave before that meeting to make it home for Shabbat.

He asks the attorney if the time could be changed. The attorney says no. Can't do it.

He tries to explain about Shabbat. To no avail. The lawyer doesn't get it.

... Finally the scientist asks him: "Listen. When did they schedule this meeting?"

"Yesterday."

"Well, I have a previous commitment."

"And when was that made", asks the attorney?

"... 3000 years ago"!

The attorney thinks for a minute. ... And reschedules the meeting.



Shabbat Shalom and have a wonderful week!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Moshe Katz".

Rabbi Moshe Katz

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doni Deutsch".

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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