

From: The Rabbis at Chicago Torah Network

Number of pages: 3

To:



**Say Hello to Jordan.
He's Jewish.**

**This year he's
attending High Holiday
services at CTN.**

CTN YJP (20's & 30's) User-Friendly High Holiday Services

'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 User-Friendly Prayer Service, is not like that at all.

Instead, you spend time with a warm approachable rabbi and other YJP's, and enjoy a short and powerful service which combines select prayers in English and Hebrew with informal and meaningful discussion. You explore, you discuss, you sing, you pray and you laugh. And you experience your most meaningful Rosh Hashanah ever.

Did we forget to mention that there's a buffet lunch afterwards, and that the whole thing costs just \$15. Yup. That's right. Just \$15!

The CTN Rosh Hashanah Service. Where

you go home inspired. Not tired.

YJP (20s & 30s) User-Friendly Rosh Hashanah Services

Saturday, September 19, 2009. 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, followed by lunch

The CTN Center, 2832 W. Touhy, Chicago. www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm

Space is very limited and advance registration is required.



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 42 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2009 / 22 ELUL 5762 CANDLE LIGHTING: 6:47 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 7:55 P.M. (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: NITZAVIM- VAYAYLECH (DEUTERONOMY 29:9 - 31:30)

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored anonymously, "with thanks to the Chicago Torah Network Rabbis, and to Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald, Rabbi Eziel Munk and Rabbi Yehudah Albin, for opening for me and so many others the doors of wisdom to the deeper beauty of Judaism."

1. 'You will take it to your heart .. and you will return to Hashem your G-d ... with all your heart ...' (26:12-15)

It's almost Rosh Hashanah. A time for self-examination. A time to step back. To see where we need to improve.

In our relationships with other people. And with G-d.

... And the truth is that it's easy to become discouraged.

Because we've been there before.

... Like last Rosh Hashanah.

And the one before that.

Sure. We may have made wonderful commitments. Like being more sensitive. More considerate.

'No more lashon hora'. Gossip.

'More chessed.' Acts of kindness.

And maybe, 'this year I'll go to that Torah class I keep putting off.

I'll become a more knowledgeable Jew. A more involved Jew.'

... And we really meant it.

Well, it's Rosh Hashanah again. And we may not feel that much different than we were last year.

So what's the point? Why go through it again?

... Think of a car wash. In the Chicago winter.

People wait on line. Get their car washed until it shines.

Then they drive out.

... Right into the slush. The salt. The grime.

And a few days later? It needs another car wash. Badly.

... So what's the point? What difference does it make?

The answer is that it makes a big difference.

... Because without the car wash, the dirt sticks. Gets caked on.

And the car corrodes. Little by little.

But if you wash it off? The car has a much better chance of lasting.

Rosh Hashanah is like that too.

Because we all make mistakes. Do things we shouldn't.

Things that can eat away at our character. Make us less sensitive. To G-d. And to our fellow man.

Or we get out of touch Jewishly. And it eats away at our Jewish identity.

Until we don't even see that we have a problem.

... We need Rosh Hashanah. And Yom Kippur.

They're our "spiritual car wash".

We resolve again to improve. And hopefully we will.

... And if we slip? Sure. We'll need to go through it again next year.

But in the meanwhile, the 'spiritual carwash' helped keep us sensitive and spiritual for the long term.

LESSON OF THE WEEK

Rabbi Yisrael Salanter. A leading 19th century Lithuanian Torah scholar, who dedicated his life to teaching Judaism's ethical lessons, and the Torah's high level of demands, both between man and G-d, and man and man.

He was the kind of person always looking for a new inspiration for self-improvement.

And often finding it in the most unlikely places.

... Late one evening, as he walked home from the study hall, he passed by a shoemaker's store.

And was surprised to see the owner hard at work. Finishing one pair of shoes. And then starting another.

... "Why are you still here working? It's so late."

The shoemaker pointed to the small stub that remained from his still burning candle.

'As long as the candle still burns, I can still get things done. Still accomplish something.'

... He was talking about shoes and candles. But Rabbi Salanter heard something else entirely.

"We have so much to do. Growth to experience.

There are people to help. Torah to learn. And Mitzvos to fulfill.

And our soul is compared to a candle.

... And we must always remember:

As long as the candle burns, we can – and must – accomplish more and more.



Shabbat Shalom and best wishes for a wonderful 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