

From: The Rabbis at Chicago Torah Network

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

The CTN Center, 2832 W. Touhy, Chicago

Advance registration is required.

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 43 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2009 / 29 ELUL 5762 CANDLE LIGHTING: 6:34 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 7:43 P.M. (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

ROSH HASHANAH

*This week's Shabbat Fax is dedicated by
Steve and Debbie Dresner, with prayers
for a 'shana tova' and for a better world.*

1. 'It is Your way, our G-d, to be patient with both the bad people and the good people ...' (From the Special Selichot Service, recited during the High Holiday season.)

It's an important theme to remember during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

We remind ourselves that G-d is understanding.

That not only do we have faith in Him, but He has faith in us. He waits for us to return. To improve.

... There's something a little strange about this line from the prayers.

We talk about how G-d is patient. With bad people. And with good people.

... Patient with the bad people? That we can understand.

After all, they need it. They're bad!

But *'patient with the good people'?*

What's wrong with them? They're good!

Why do they need G-d's patience?

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur should be a breeze for them!

... It's a very powerful Jewish message.

Because there is a real danger that faces a good person.

Complacency. Being comfortable with where we are. Not looking to grow further.

... The High Holidays and their self-improvement message aren't just if we're bad.

They're just as important if we're good.

If we are connected to G-d.

And if we really care about others.

... They tell us: Don't stop! Don't get comfortable with where you are at.

Always look to grow. To accomplish even more.

Use each day and every opportunity to become a better person. And a better Jew.

... Because in Judaism, self-improvement is for everyone.

STORY OF THE WEEK

Rabbi Shneur Kotler was the Dean of the largest Yeshiva in the world.

The school had a huge budget. Which fell on his shoulders. In addition, he occupied leadership positions in numerous communal organizations. He rarely had a moment to himself.

It was the Yeshiva's annual fund-raising banquet.

Months and months of preparation went into it. And well over a thousand people attended.

Rabbi Kotler was in the hotel lobby. Personally greeting each guest.

The next morning he went over to one of the Yeshiva's new students.

"I want to apologize.

Last night your father introduced himself to me.

And at first I didn't recognize your name.

I feel bad. I hope that he wasn't offended ..."

... Think about it. Having so much on his mind.

Yet not allowing himself to forget about someone else's feelings.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

Rosh Hashanah. It's the Jewish form of "New Years".

... With one major difference.

At New Years' parties, people try to lose themselves.

And on Rosh Hashanah, we are supposed to find ourselves.

YOU CAN STILL REGISTER FOR CTN'S UNIQUE AND INSPIRING ROSH HASHANAH SERVICE

"I had recently moved back to Chicago after nine years of being in other cities, and largely disconnected to Judaism. I had heard that there would be a Rosh Hashanah special service, and after pondering spending yet another year twiddling my thumbs and spacing out in a large synagogue, I figured the special service could only be better than the alternative!


I walked into a warmly-lit room ... as soon as Rabbi Katz told a joke to start the morning I knew I had come to the right place! That morning, I actually felt connected to the service, and recognized a depth in what I learned that I had not found anywhere else.


I began to attend events regularly, and I know this sounds very cheesy, but I never realized that Judaism has so much to offer us as individuals and as a community.

The following year, I found myself in a synagogue on high holidays, but the difference is that I wanted to be there. I am human- I got tired of standing occasionally and on Yom Kippur I was hungry at times. BUT, I connected with the importance of the service, and the opportunity for growth and introspection each of these days provided." (S.G. Lawyer, Chicago, IL)

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Shabbat Shalom and best wishes for a wonderful week.


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