

From: The Rabbis at Chicago Torah Network

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To:

Back by popular demand...

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, October 27, 7 pm
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 45 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2009 / 14 TISHREI 5770 CANDLE LIGHTING: 6:10 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 7:18 P.M. (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

SPECIAL SUCCOT ISSUE

*This week's Shabbat Fax is dedicated by a friend of CTN,
wishing everyone a wonderful, joyous Succot Holiday!*

1. *During these seven days, you shall live in huts (Succot) So that future generations will know that the Jews lived in huts when I brought them out of Egypt (Leviticus 23:42-44)*

The Jewish future. It's on our minds.

An important thing to remember?

A nation that has a past – has a future.

And the Jewish People has an amazing past.

And if we connect to that past – we will have a powerful future.

... One of the most beautiful rituals that helps connect us to our past?

The Succah.

For thousands of years, the *Succah* was a family project. Young and old.

Everyone was involved in building and decorating it.

A beautiful – yet simple – hut.

It commemorates the huts that the Jews lived in as they left Egypt and traveled through the desert.

And the *Succah* is not only a connection to our past.

It also has a powerful message for today.

Because it reminds us of the things that are really important in life.

Not the fancy houses. The luxuries.

But things like family.

Community.

And G-d.

- *"Many of the hundred or more countries which became independent after 1945 had to borrow institutions and traditions from their former colonial rulers.*

Or invent them from a past which was largely unrecorded.

Israel was fortunate because her past was the largest and richest of all ...

The Jews had survived precisely because of their rituals ..."

Paul Johnson; A History of the Jews

SIMCHAT TORAH

Simchat Torah. Next Saturday night and Sunday (Oct. 10-11).

It marks the completion of the yearly cycle of Torah reading.

And we sing and dance in celebration.

▪ **World War II.** *The Holocaust.*

The darkest time in Jewish History.

It looked like there was absolutely no future for the Jewish People.

One night, five concentration camp inmates had a meeting.

About what?

About the survival of Judaism.

"Who knows if the Jewish People will survive?

And even if it does – what about Judaism?

Will there be any Torah scrolls left?"

... So they made a pact.

"There are five of us.

And there are five Books of the Torah.

We're each pretty educated. Know the Torah pretty well.

Let's each memorize one Book. Review it. Get it just right.

Maybe we'll survive.

And that way, if there are no Torahs left – we'll write one.

From memory."

... All five survived the war. Settled in Israel. And lived in the same neighborhood.

And then it was Simchat Torah. And the dancing began.

And suddenly, something amazing happened.

Someone lifted up one of those survivors on his shoulders.

And began to dance.

They lifted up another. And another.

And soon everyone in the Synagogue was dancing.

Around their five living Torah's.

... CTN will celebrate Simchat Torah on Saturday evening, October 10th, at 9:00 pm at 2832 W. Touhy, Chicago. Please call 773.761.0400 x201 for complete information.



Shabbat Shalom and best wishes for a wonderful week and a meaningful Succos.

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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