

Registration online at www.torahnetwork.org or call 773.761.0400 x208

“Take Charge of Your Life”

Making the most out of each and every day and dealing with life's challenges.

CTN presents an Evening of Inspiration for Jewish men and women
of all backgrounds, with world renowned author and lecturer,

Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis

One of the most inspiring and sought after speakers on the Jewish scene today, Esther Jungreis came to the United States after surviving the Nazi's Bergen Belsen concentration camp. She is the Founder and President of Hineni (www.hineni.org), an international outreach organization with centers in New York and Jerusalem. In March 2006, she was appointed by President Bush to a five year term as a council member of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.



Rebbetzin Jungreis has been featured in numerous national publications, including The New York Times, Newsweek, Time, and People, is the author of four best selling books, "Jewish Soul of Fire", "The Committed Life", "The Committed Marriage" and "Life Is A Test", writes a weekly column for the Jewish Press, has a weekly television program and lectures around the world.

Please join us and treat yourself to an evening of great inspiration from a truly great and inspiring woman.

AN EVENING OF INSPIRATION WITH REBBETZIN ESTHER JUNGREIS

➤ **Wednesday, May 20, 8:00 pm at The CTN / Shaarei Tzedek Campus**
2832 West Touhy, Chicago (in the main Shaarei Tzedek Sanctuary)
Lecture will be followed by book signing.

➤ **Tickets and Sponsorships**

Sponsor / Reserved Seating: \$180 (Will be listed in event program)
Early Registration (by May 6): \$15 (\$20 at the door)
Full time students: \$10
Patrons of \$1,000 and above will be invited to a private reception with Rebbetzin Jungreis before the lecture.

➤ **Registration and Information**

www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm
773.761.0400 x208 or info@torahnetwork.org

CTN Home for the
chicago torah network Wondering Jew™

This Special Evening of Inspiration is dedicated
in loving memory of Rhoda Ross and Howard Ross,
parents of Bonnie and Vicki Ross.

THE CHICAGO TORAH NETWORK SHABBAT FAX[©]

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

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 24 FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2009 / 30 NISSAN 5769 CANDLE LIGHTING: 7:21 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 8:32 (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: TAZRIA-METZORA (LEVITICUS 12:1 - 15:33)

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored by Mitchell & Amy Rose in honor of the CTN Rabbis. "We are even more in awe of you today than we were 10 years ago when you stood with us under the chuppa. We wish you continued success in sharing the beauty of Judaism with wondering Jews everywhere."

1. When a person has the plague of 'tzara'as', he shall be brought to the priest ... (13:9)

Jewish tradition teaches that this portion is not talking about the leprosy that we know of.

Instead, it was a special condition brought on by spiritual causes. And it was understood as a message.

That the person had sinned against his fellow man. Especially through the sin of slander.

... Jewish law is clear: *Except for very limited cases, we're not allowed to say anything negative about others.*

Even if it is true.

Jewish tradition has many powerful insights about the importance of 'guarding your tongue'.

One of them goes all the way back to the Creation story. Where we find a short phrase repeated over and over.

The phrase? "G-d said.

"G-d said: Let there be light". "G-d said: Let the waters gather ...". And so on.

... Speech is G-d's tool for creation.

And that brings us to another short but extremely important phrase we find in the Creation story.

The most important and powerful description of human beings ever written.

... *"G-d created man in His Image".*

Obviously it doesn't mean G-d's *physical* image. That man looks like G-d.

Because if we taught the world anything, it's that G-d is not physical, not limited, not mortal.

... Instead, the '*Image of G-d*' means that G-d gave each of us certain qualities through which we are like G-d.

One of the most basic ways we're like G-d?

... *It's not only G-d Who has the power to create – or destroy – thorough His speech. We do as well. All the time.*

... They say, '*Sticks and Stones may break my bones, but words will never harm me.*'

It's so not true!

Sticks and stones hurt – but the hurt can go away.

Say the wrong thing– and you can destroy a person.

Say the *right* thing? Use our Divine gift of speech to build people up? To put a smile on their face?

... And we can literally create a world.

As *The Book of Proverbs* teaches: *'Life and death are in the hand of the tongue.'*

... Life and death.

Literally.

• ***And Jewish tradition has another powerful insight into the importance of proper speech.***

... It has to do with prayer.

When we try to connect with G-d.

It might be services in the synagogue.

Or a prayer we say privately. Using our own words.

At a time of need.

... Think of a carpenter. Very talented. Able to do great work.

As long as he keeps his tools in shape.

But if he lets them get ruined.

He's out of business.

... Prayer is like that too.

It's powerful. Can accomplish a lot.

And we are given the tool.

The power of speech.

But if we speak *lashon hara* ...

If we use the gift of speech to hurt others.

... Can we use the same mouth to pray?

WHAT JEWISH TRADITION SAYS ABOUT ... THE POWER OF SPEECH

"For every moment one guards one's tongue, he earns reward that is beyond the comprehension even of the angels ..."

"Man's ultimate task is to not sin with his mouth. The Sages say that one's good deeds and Torah knowledge cannot offset the damage that one does with speech ..."

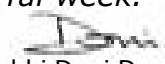
"The principle way of earning the World to Come is through guarding one's mouth, which is greater than Torah learning and Mitzvahs, because the mouth is Holy of Holies ..."

(From the writings of the 18th century Lithuanian Torah giant Rabbi Elijah, known as the 'Gaon of Vilna')



Shabbat Shalom and have a wonderful week.


Rabbi Moshe Katz


Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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