

From: The Rabbis at Chicago Torah Network

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To:



Oy! Is That What Yom Kippur Makes You Say?
Try the CTN YJP (20's & 30's) Service.
... We'll Make Yom Kippur A Joy.

Here's what a participant at CTN's Rosh Hashanah service says about it: *(Please see page 3 for more feedback)*

"At a co-worker's recommendation, this year I attended Rosh Hashanah services at the Chicago Torah Network.

Rather than a rote repetition of the prayers I've said every year, but barely understood, we delved into the meaning of them, why we say them, what they mean to us, not as a people, but as individuals.

In the two hour long service, I learned more than I remember gleaming from years of Hebrew school. *I look forward to learning more, and becoming more involved with the community.*

Sara Wolfson
Production Business Manager, DDB Chicago

The CTN YJP (20's & 30's) Yom Kippur Service
This Monday, September 28, 10:30 am - 1:00 pm
At The CTN Center, 2832 W. Touhy, Chicago.
\$15. Advance registration required.
<http://www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm>
info@torahnetwork.org 773.761.0400 x201



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 44 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2009 / 7 TISHREI 5770 CANDLE LIGHTING: 6:22 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 7:30 P.M. (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

YOM KIPPUR

This week's Shabbat Fax is dedicated by Doris and Ron Lazarus, in honor of their granddaughter, Talia Seidner. "Happy Birthday dear neshameleh (precious soul)! Bubbie and Poppa love you more than words can say. You are a gift from Hashem and bring happiness and joy into our hearts."

1. **Yom Kippur.**

In English it's called the *Day of Atonement*.

And there's something interesting about that word: *Atonement*.

... Break it up, and it reads 'At-one-ment'.

Which is more than just a cute play on words. *It's what Yom Kippur is all about.*

A day of becoming *at-one*. Of reconnecting.

First of all, reconnecting with G-d.

Because over the course of the year, we may have done a little too much of what we want.

... And not enough of what *He* wants.

Yom Kippur is the time to try to change that.

... And Yom Kippur is also about reconnecting with others.

Doing whatever we can to right the wrongs we've done.

And allowing others to right the wrongs they've done to us.

By not being cruel and unforgiving.

... And ultimately, Yom Kippur is about getting back in touch with ourselves.

Our *real* selves.

Because human beings are made up of two parts.

... *The physical. And the spiritual.*

And often, we seem to identify a little too strongly with the physical part of us.

And not enough with the spiritual. The soul.

... Like when we tend to be a little too self centered.

Or a little too materialistic.

... And we forget that there's a whole other part of us.

That's into other things. Like spirituality. Caring for others.

Growth.

And G-d.

... Yom Kippur is also the time to get back in touch with *that* part of us.
Becoming at one with G-d. With our fellow human beings. And with ourselves.
It's what Yom Kippur is all about.

▪ *Think of a teenager who rebels. Rejects his parent's values.*

And runs away from home.

Years go by. He makes no contact with the family.

... But the mother?

She doesn't forget.

Every time the phone rings, she hopes...

More years go by. The teenager is an adult. The mother is old.

... But she doesn't forget.

In fact, she hangs up flyers in public places. With her picture. And a message.

"I'm your mother. I still love you. Please come home."

... One day her son sees a flyer. Recognizes his mother.

And something finally clicks.

... It's not easy. But he decides to go home.

It's late at night. He's very nervous. "Will my mother really be able to forgive me?"

He knocks on the door.

And when he does, it flies open by itself.

... And there is his mother.

"Mom, it's me. I'm sorry for barging in. The door must have been open."

The mother hugs him. And says what only a mother could say.

"Since the day you left, I never shut the door!"

... Yom Kippur is the time to knock on the door.

SOME MORE FEEDBACK FROM THE CTN ROSH HASHANAH SERVICE

"I was grateful for having the opportunity to attend services. Rabbi Katz reached out to those in attendance through questions and anecdotes in order to ensure a more focused understanding of not only the prayers and why they are said, but also to help show how they apply to our everyday lives. It was a unique and enlightening experience." (Brad Hansher)

"Rabbi Katz did a wonderful job of illustrating the beauty of Judaism as he led us through an exploration of Rosh Hashanah." (Jonathan Rutman)



Shabbat Shalom and best wishes for a wonderful week and a meaningful Yom Kippur.

Moshe
Rabbi Moshe Katz

Doni
Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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