

“ Our teacher Esti Berger was just absolutely fantastic ... the first time we came to CTN we sat around a big table ... and within ten minutes we were actually reading Hebrew. Literally reading Hebrew! ”

Bob Gottlieb, Gottlieb Brothers, Inc., Chicago



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Home For The  
Wondering Jew™

# THE CHICAGO TORAH NETWORK SHABBAT FAX<sup>©</sup>

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

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 33 FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 2010 / 6 TAMUZ 5770 CANDLE LIGHTING: 8:08 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 9:18 (CHICAGO)

*Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!*

## TORAH PORTION: BALAK (NUMBERS 22:2 - 25:9)

*This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored by Sam & Mimi Seleski, in memory of Mordechai ben Nechemia Mendlovitz, on the occasion of his yahrzeit.*

### **1. How good are your tents Jacob, your sanctuaries, Israel ... (24:5)**

*'How good are your tents ...'. In Hebrew, Mah Tovv.*

It may sound familiar.

It's often sung at weddings. As a Jewish couple begins to build a home together.

And in many communities, it's also part of the synagogue service.

... A synagogue and a Jewish home have something in common.

Of course they're both very important.

But it's more than that. Judaism teaches that they have something else in common.

*... They can both be holy.*

A synagogue being holy is obvious.

*... It's a place for prayer. For connecting to G-d. And other 'holy' activities.*

But Judaism teaches that a home can also be holy.

*Can also be a place to connect to G-d.*

*In many ways.*

... We make our homes holy by having a Shabbat meal. And making it special.

With things like Shabbat candles. And meaningful conversation.

Like discussing Torah. And avoiding *lashon hara*. Gossip.

And Judaism teaches us that there's another way to make our homes holy.

By doing *Chessed*. Acts of kindness.

... Because in Jewish tradition kindness is holiness.

Think about the traditional Jewish wedding ceremony.

It takes place under a *Chuppah*. The wedding canopy.

Which is supposed to symbolize a home. The new home the couple will build together.

... And how does the wedding ceremony end?

*With the breaking of a glass.*

Because Jewish tradition teaches that there's something we need to remember.

Even at our happiest times.

And even a bride and groom.

*We need to remember the destruction of Jerusalem and of the Jewish Temple.*

... It's not just about a building in Jerusalem that was destroyed.

*It's how so much spirituality is missing from the world.*

... And that's why the bride and groom think about it.

*Because they are the ones who can do something about it.*

... *They're building their own home.*

*Which is the time to remember that not everyone has a home.*

*And it's not just people who need a home.*

... *Even G-d Himself needs a home!*

*A bride and groom starting their home can make it a special place.*

*A holy place.*

... *They can make it a home for G-d.*

### A DAY FOR JERUSALEM

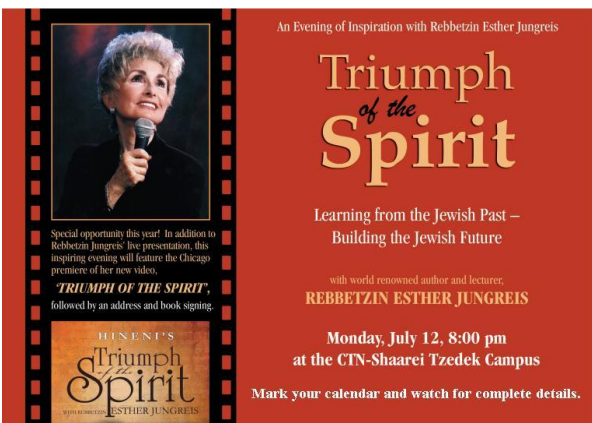
*Next Tuesday, June 29, is a traditional fast day. The '17th of Tammuz'. (No eating or drinking from daybreak until nightfall, 9:15 pm). It commemorates the breaching of the walls of Jerusalem, by the Roman legions in the year 70 CE.*

... *It's something we should always remember:*

*Of all those laying claim to Jerusalem, there is only one nation that has mourned and fasted over its destruction. ... Or for that matter, broken a glass at every wedding.*

*For almost two thousand years.*

### RESERVE A SPACE NOW FOR 'AN EVENING OF INSPIRATION' ... MONDAY, JULY 12



An Evening of Inspiration with

Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis

Monday, July 12, 8 pm

Complete details and registration at:

[www.torahnetwork.org/jungreis.htm](http://www.torahnetwork.org/jungreis.htm)



*Shabbat Shalom and have a wonderful week.*



Rabbi Moshe Katz



Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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