

From: The Rabbis at Chicago Torah Network

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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](mailto:info@torahnetwork.org) or 773.761.0400 x208

**COST:** \$10 incl. materials. Advance registration required

**REGISTRATION:** [www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm](http://www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm)



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 1 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2009 / 28 TISHREI 5771 CANDLE LIGHTING: 5:47 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 6:56 P.M. (CHICAGO)

*Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!*

## **B'REISHIS (GENESIS 1:1 - 6:8)**

***This week's Shabbat Fax is dedicated by a Shabbat Fax and Torah Minute "groupie" who looks forward to another year of learning, inspiration, and short sentences.***

### **1. In the beginning G-d created ... (1:1)**

This Shabbat, in synagogues around the world, we're back to square one.

Starting to study the Torah all over again. From the beginning.

It's always been a very Jewish approach to Torah.

One that we should appreciate. Be proud of.

And make sure we continue.

... The love for learning. The endless passion to know more.

And - most importantly - never to say: "I know that already."

Instead? "Let's take another look. Maybe I'll see something different this time."

It's what kept Torah - and the Jewish People - alive for three thousand years.

- 1950. Tens of thousands of Yemenite Jews arrive in Israel. With different customs and way of life. And that's to be expected.

But one thing is especially surprising.

... When they read a page of Hebrew writing - many of them don't bother to make sure the page is right-side up.

They just take it and read it - whatever direction it is facing.

People checked into it. And then they understood.

... The Jewish community in Yemen was very poor. They barely had the money even for necessities. Let alone luxuries.

Yet every one of their tiny, impoverished synagogues, had at least one copy of all the basic books of Torah and Talmud.

That was a priority. No matter what the cost. It was as important as food and water.

And of course they all studied and attended classes. They sat around the table. Around the one precious book. And they read.

All from the same volume. From every possible angle.

And, over the years, they did this so much, that it became natural.

... It's pretty amazing. How they lacked almost everything.

Except very Jewish priorities.

**2. G-d said: "Behold I have given you...every tree that has seed bearing fruit. It shall be yours for food". (1:29)**

Genesis is a portion that deals with some really big things.

Like the creation of the universe.

... Which means that life has a purpose.

And the creation of man in the Image of G-d.

... What can be more central than that to Jewish tradition?

*And then there are the small details. Which also have great lessons.*

*They just sometimes get lost in the big picture.*

... One example: The Torah describes G-d telling Adam what he can eat.

*'And every tree that has seed bearing fruit'.*

... Which is a pretty strange way to say it. *Why mention the seeds altogether?*

Can you picture telling a guest: *'Please help yourself to some of those fruit with seeds in them?'*

... Jewish tradition says that there's an important message here. *About fruit. And about life.*

Next time we eat a fruit, we should do more than just eat it.

*We should take a good look at it. Notice the tiny little seeds.*

*Think about how this fruit came into being.*

... *And we should say, 'Wow!'*

Because there are two kinds of miracles.

*Some that happen rarely.*

*And others that happen every day.*

... *The ones we call nature.*

**THE CTN SHABBAT FAX . . . IN MEMORY OF RAE DANIEL**

Rae Daniel was a very special person. A unique combination of scholarship, piety, sincerity, and tremendous dedication. And her passing in October 1992 (2 *Cheshvan* 5753) left an immense void in the hearts of her family, friends and students.

During the many years that she taught in Hebrew schools, she was more than just another teacher. She was that rare individual who truly inspired her students with love of Judaism, tradition and the Land of Israel. In the words of a parent of two of her students *'... she touched our lives, and opened a new world for Amy and Leah ...'*

The *Shabbat Fax* tries to represent all that Rae Daniel was. We pray that her memory be blessed, as the *Shabbat Fax* continues to bring Jewish thought and inspiration to more and more people.



*Shabbat Shalom and have a wonderful week.*

  
Rabbi Moshe Katz

  
Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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