

From: The Rabbis at Chicago Torah Network

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To:

Prayer services don't do it for you?



**No problem. We've got a great alternative.
The CTN Shabbat Experience.**

This Saturday, July 17, 9:30-11 am. At the CTN Center, 2832 W Touhy.
Registration: www.torahnetwork.org/shabbatservice.htm

The CTN Shabbat Experience, led by Rabbi Moshe Katz, is not your typical, long Shabbat service. *(If you regularly attend a full service, that's great ... keep it up!)*

Instead we take select prayers and discuss their meaning and relevance.

You'll hear short insights, inspiring stories and nuggets of inspiration. *(And maybe a few good jokes!)*

We guarantee you will not be passive while a Rabbi "conducts the service". You'll be engaged, stimulated and inspired.



Home for the
Wondering Jew.™

THE CHICAGO TORAH NETWORK SHABBAT FAX[©]

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

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 37 FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2010 / 5 AV 5770 CANDLE LIGHTING: 8:03 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 9:12 (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: DEVARIM (DEUTERONOMY 1:1-3:22)

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored in honor of Dana Gersten and Laura Greer and the many other wonderful volunteers who helped make the Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis event such a success. Through your efforts, over 450 men and women were treated to an amazing evening of inspiration and growth!

Next Monday Night and Tuesday (July 19 – 20) is the Fast of Tisha b'Av. Literally, the ninth day of the Jewish month of Av. The saddest day on the Jewish calendar. According to Jewish tradition, it was destined to be a tragic day. And history has proven that to be so correct.

The destruction of both Temples in Jerusalem took place on *Tisha b'Av*. As did the expulsion of Jews from England in 1290. And from Spain in 1492. World War I began on *Tisha b'Av*, 1914. And in many ways, it was the event that led to World War II and the Holocaust.

Jewish tradition has a lot of celebrations. Shabbat. Passover. Chanukah. Purim. And the celebrations help keep the Jewish People alive. And then we have a time of mourning. *Tisha b'Av*.

One day. To focus on Jewish suffering. To express our bond with – and feel the pain of – Jews all over the world, throughout history.

... Here are four suggestions to make this time of the year more meaningful.

1. Make this Shabbat special.

Whatever you usually do for Shabbat – this week do something extra.

Because it's true that Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed. But we still have Shabbat. *... And that became our Temple.*

Wherever Jews went throughout our long and difficult history, they took Shabbat with them.

In the darkest times we kept Shabbat special. We got together with friends and family. Ate a festive meal. Sang songs.

Connected to G-d. To family. Reminded ourselves of our values. And celebrated being Jewish.

... We kept Shabbat. And Shabbat kept us.

2. Fast on Tish'ah b'Av. *(The fast starts Monday 8:22 pm and ends Tuesday, 9:11pm).*

It's not always easy to relate to the suffering of others, to feel their pain. As much as we'd like to.

Observing a fast day can help us connect to the pain of fellow Jews. *Even if only in a small way.* And especially this year, with so many Jews in Israel going through difficult and uncertain times.

... Maybe we can't be there with them in person. But we can try to be there with them with our love and concern. And try to truly feel their pain.

3. Participate in a traditional Tisha b'Av service.

You are welcome to join CTN as we have services together with our neighbors at Shaarei Tzedek, next Monday night, 9:00 pm, at 2832 West Touhy.

We'll do it the way Jews have done it for centuries. Sitting on the floor. The lights dimmed. And reading the 2500-year-old *Book of Lamentations*.

... It's a very powerful way to express our bond with all Jews.

Jews in all places. And in all times.

4. Reach out to someone.

Jewish tradition teaches that Jerusalem was destroyed because Jews didn't get along.

... Let's face it. It's not easy. Jews are opinionated. And we're supposed to be.

But we are one People.

And we have to have a special respect for each other. And a special love for each other.

... One of the best things you can do this *Tisha b'Av*? Think of someone who sees things differently than you. Perhaps even very differently.

... And maybe things have not gone that smoothly.

Give them a call. And see what you can do.

You don't have to change your opinion.

... Just try to change your relationship.

STORY OF THE WEEK

- *1947. A group of Jewish activists were granted a meeting with New York's Mayor LaGuardia. They were seeking his support for the establishment of the State of Israel.*

Then they realized that they had a problem. The meeting was scheduled for the week before Tisha b'Av. A time they would not normally shave as a traditional sign of mourning.

They debated what to do. 'Considering the importance of this meeting, we certainly would be permitted to shave. After all, we can't meet with the Mayor looking unkempt. Especially if we want his help. But on the other hand - how can we not mourn for Jerusalem?'

They decided to go without shaving. And to explain.

They began the meeting with an apology. 'Please forgive our appearance - but we're in mourning.'

'Oh I'm sorry! What happened?'

'We are mourning the destruction of Jerusalem, in the year 70.'

The Mayor was amazed. 'Now I understand!

To tell you the truth, it really made no sense to me. After two thousand years you expect to go back to your Land?

But now I understand. If you can mourn for two thousand years - you can expect to go back.'

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Shabbat Shalom and have a wonderful week.



Rabbi Moshe Katz



Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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