

## Two Unique, Amazing CTN Programs Coming Up!



Indulge yourself in a day of Jewish learning, growth and sharing, with women from across the spectrum of the Jewish community, at the Chicago Conference for Jewish Women, Sunday, May 23, 2010.

This special day 'by women for women' will allow you to choose from a variety of classes and workshops led by an outstanding faculty of Jewish women scholars, educators and community leaders. Past CCJW participants have raved about the energy, the camaraderie and the learning of the Conference ... and this year promises to be our best yet!

Sunday, May 23, 2010, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm, at the CTN Center-Shaarei Tzedek Campus, 2832 West Touhy Ave. Chicago. \$40 advance paid reservations. [www.torahnetwork.org/ccjw.htm](http://www.torahnetwork.org/ccjw.htm)

Featuring classes and workshops by outstanding scholars, authors and community leaders, including: Rebbitzin Feige Twerski, Slovi (Jungreis) Wolff, Kochava Yizchak, Esti Deutsch, and more.

For more info. please email [ccjw@torahnetwork.org](mailto:ccjw@torahnetwork.org) or call 773.761.0400 x207



This is a terrific opportunity to combine a great kosher lunch with quality Jewish learning, while at the same time giving dignity and respect to developmentally challenged young adults.

Lunch will be provided by the KJ Café - a truly unique cafe, staffed by young adults of Keshet, which provides educational, recreational and vocational programs for Jewish children and young adults with special needs. And lunch will be followed by Rabbi Katz's popular workshop, "Living Life to its Fullest": Judaism's powerful tools for getting greater pleasure and meaning out of life.

Please join us for a great lunch, great learning and a great mitzvah!

Wednesday, May 12th, 2010, At the Northbrook JCC, 300 Revere Drive  
11:30 am – Networking & Lunch / 12:00 – Workshop. \$20 (includes lunch)

Advance registration required. Space limited. [www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm](http://www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm)

*Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!*

## **Torah Portion: EMOR (LEVITICUS 21:1 - 24:23)**

*This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored by  
Alan & Elisa Mansfield, in honor of their wonderful children.*

### **1. When you reap your land's harvest, do not completely cut the corners of your fields ... You must leave them for the poor and the stranger ... (23:22)**

One of the many times the Torah teaches us about charity. And it's interesting.

*Not, 'give a portion to the poor'.*

*But, 'leave it for them'.*

*Because it is not yours. It's theirs.*

In Hebrew, we call charity, 'Tzedakah'. From the word *Tzedek*. Justice.

*Because Judaism teaches that we are only custodians of our Tzedakah money.*

And, if we keep it for ourselves – if we are not conscientious about giving it to the needy – it's more than just 'not doing a nice thing'.

*It's doing an injustice.*

### **Many Jewish communities had a beautiful tradition. A very special way of doing Tzedakah.**

*It was done during 'shiva' – the mourning period following the death of a close relative.*

*A very difficult time.*

*And the last thing the family needs then, is the added burden of financial pressures.*

*So the community would send a large box to the home. In it – a significant amount of money.*

*No one knew how much. Because it was never counted.*

*And in the privacy of its home, each family had a choice.*

*They could either take what they needed.*

*Or put in what they could afford.*

### **2. Six days you may work, but Saturday ... wherever you live, it is G-d's Sabbath. (23:3)**

*'Wherever you live'.*

It turned out to be an accurate description of Jewish history. Because we've certainly lived in many places.

Time after time, Jews had to pick up and start again.

Sometimes, it was very difficult.

Lack of opportunity. Struggle. Poverty. And worse.

At others times, things were much better.

Freedom. Acceptance. Success. And wealth.

The Torah gives us a tool. A way to deal with both.

*The tool? Shabbat.*

Think of the Jews of the *shtetel*. How tough their life was. In so many ways.

And how hard they worked – to just barely make it.

But when Shabbat came – everything changed.

They wore the best clothes they had. Made their meals a little more special.

They lit candles. Sang songs. And celebrated being Jewish.

*And it worked.*

Whatever their weekdays were like – on Shabbat their home was a castle.

*For most of us, it's a very different story. Thank G-d.*

But Shabbat is no less meaningful. Because it has a powerful message for us as well.

It reminds us: *True. Freedom and success are wonderful.*

*But we can get caught up in them. And lose sight of what's really important in life.*

Shabbat tells us to step back. And focus.

*To get in touch with our family. Our heritage. Our priorities.*

*And ourselves.*

**Ellis Island.** *Today, it houses a fascinating museum. Documenting the waves of immigration in the early 1900's. One of the things you'll see in it is a copy of a note written by a child. About his family's journey to America.*

*"The most important thing my mother packed for the voyage, were her Bible, and her Sabbath candle sticks ..."*

#### THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

*'Aishes Chayil' ... 'A Woman of Valor who can find? Her worth is greater than precious stones ...'*

It's a beautiful song from the Biblical Book of Proverbs. Traditionally, men sing it each Friday night as they sit down to the Shabbat meal.

In it, the man speaks in glowing terms about his wife and about how special she is. Let's her know that there's no one like her in the entire world.

If you're a man and are married it's a beautiful tradition. Guaranteed to make your marriage and your Shabbos more special. If you aren't yet married - it's certainly worth practicing. Until you find your *Aishes Chayil*. (Read about it and hear it at [www.torahnetwork.org/eish.htm](http://www.torahnetwork.org/eish.htm))

As Rabbi Benjamin Blech writes in *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Being Jewish*:

*"Just because men will never ask for directions when they're lost, doesn't mean they're exempt from expressing their appreciation for what they've found."*



*Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!*

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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