

Dear Friends,

At this very important time in the Jewish year, we turn to you, readers of the Shabbat Fax, to ask for your help.

In just over a week, on Wednesday September 15th, CTN will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary with a Gala Dinner at the Hyatt. More than just a celebration of CTN's accomplishments in spreading Jewish knowledge, inspiration and growth, this Dinner fund raising campaign is what will help CTN continue its vital work for the community.

If you appreciate what we do and have enjoyed and grown from CTN in any way, we ask you to please join in this extremely important effort. Please make your reservations for the Dinner, place an ad in the Dinner Journal, or to make your generous contribution ASAP at www.torahnetwork.org/dinner.htm.

Please do it now, and go into the new year knowing you did something important for the Jewish People and will be a partner in our work to help Jews connect with Torah.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. May you be written and inscribed for a wonderful new year filled with all of G-d's blessings.

Moshe and Doni

CTN User-Friendly High Holiday Services

This year featuring two different user-friendly options. Pick the one that's right for you.



See Complete Details on Page 3

THE CHICAGO TORAH NETWORK SHABBAT FAX[©]

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

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 44 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2010 / 24 ELUL 5770 CANDLE LIGHTING: 7:01 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 8:09 (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: NITZAVIM- VAYAYLECH (DEUTERONOMY 29:9 - 31:30)

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored by the CTN Rabbis wishing all our readers and the entire Jewish community a most meaningful Rosh Hashanah. May Hashem hear our prayers and may the new year bring only blessings.

ROSH HASHANAH

- 1. 'It is Your way, our G-d, to be patient with both the bad people and the good people ...' (From the Special Selichot Service, recited during the High Holiday season.)**

It's an important theme to remember during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

We remind ourselves that G-d is understanding.

That not only do we have faith in Him, but He has faith in us. He waits for us to return. To improve.

... There's something a little strange about this line from the prayers.

We talk about how G-d is patient. With bad people. And with good people.

... Patient with the bad people? That we can understand.

After all, they need it. They're bad!

But *'patient with the good people'*?

What's wrong with them? They're good! Why do they need G-d's patience?

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur should be a breeze for them!

... It's a very powerful Jewish message.

Because there is a real danger that faces a good person.

Complacency. Being comfortable with where we are. Not looking to grow further.

... The High Holidays and their self-improvement message aren't just if we're bad.

They're just as important if we're good.

If we are connected to G-d. And we really care about others.

... They tell us: Don't stop! Don't get comfortable with where you are at.

Always look to grow. To accomplish even more.

Use each day and every opportunity to become a better person. And a better Jew.

... Because in Judaism, self-improvement is for everyone.

- *Rabbi Yisrael Salanter. A leading 19th century Lithuanian Torah scholar, who dedicated his life to teaching Judaism's ethical lessons, and the Torah's high level of demands, both between man and G-d, and man and man.*

He was the kind of person always looking for a new inspiration for self-improvement.

And often finding it in the most unlikely places.

... Late one evening, as he walked home from the study hall, he passed by a shoemaker's store.

And was surprised to see the owner hard at work. Finishing one pair of shoes. And then starting another.

... 'Why are you still here working? It's so late.

The shoemaker pointed to the small stub that remained from his still burning candle.

'As long as the candle still burns, I can still get things done. Still accomplish something.'

... He was talking about shoes and candles. But Rabbi Salanter heard something else entirely.

"We have so much to do. Growth to experience. There are people to help. Torah to learn. And Mitzvos to fulfill.

And our soul is compared to a candle.

... And we must always remember: As long as the candle burns, we can – and must – accomplish more and more.

LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE ROSH HASHANAH SERVICE?

CTN User –Friendly High Holiday Services

This year featuring two different user-friendly options. Pick the one that's right for you.

OPTION 1: The CTN Learner's Service, with informal and meaningful discussion, some prayers in both English and Hebrew prayers and more. You explore, you discuss, you pray, you sing and you even laugh. And you have the most meaningful Rosh Hashanah ever!

Register for the 'Learner's Service' at www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm

OPTION 2: For those who would like a complete traditional service but can't completely follow it on their own, we have a limited number of tickets (for just \$25!) for the beautiful traditional service at Congregation Shaarei Tzedek right here on the CTN Center Campus. The great part is we'll provide a CTN volunteer sitting right next you to help you follow along, as well as an English / Hebrew 'Art Scroll' Machzor (Holiday Prayer Book) to use.

For further information about the 'Traditional Service' please call Rabbi Moshe Katz at 761.0400 x202 or email rabbikatz@torahnetwork.org



Shabbat Shalom and best wishes for a great week. May you be written and inscribed for a sweet new year filled with all of G-d's blessings!

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

Chicago Torah Network <http://torahnetwork.org>

2832 West Touhy Avenue, Chicago, IL 60645

Phone: 773.761.0400 Fax: 773.761.9262 e-mail: info@torahnetwork.org