

From: The Rabbis at Chicago Torah Network

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To:

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



**The Ilene C. Leon  
Chicago Conference  
for Jewish Women**

*Jewish Growth -  
by Women, for Women.*

Indulge yourself in a day of Jewish learning, growth and sharing, with women from across the spectrum of the Jewish community, at The Ilene C. Leon 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 at the Conference ... and this year promises to be our best yet!

Featuring classes and workshops by outstanding scholars, educators and community leaders, including:

**Rebbetzin Feige Twerski  
Slovie (Jungreis) Wolff  
Kochava Yitzchak  
Esti Deutsch  
and more...**

(See back of card for the complete CCJW schedule)

*Get ready  
to pamper yourself  
from the inside out.*

For registration and more information, please go to [www.torahnetwork.org/ccjw.htm](http://www.torahnetwork.org/ccjw.htm), email [ccjw@torahnetwork.org](mailto:ccjw@torahnetwork.org) or call 773.761.0400, x208.



*Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!*

## TORAH PORTION: BAMIDBAR (NUMBERS 1:1 - 3:51)

*This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored by Josh Goldstein, thanking Chicago Torah Network and the Deutsches, Katzes and Hochbergs, for all the inspiration, knowledge and great friendships they have brought into my life.*

### SPECIAL SHAVUOT HOLIDAY ISSUE

#### **1. *This coming Tuesday evening, (May 18), we begin celebrating the Holiday of Shavuot. Commemorating the giving of the Torah at Sinai.***

It seems like almost everyone knows about Rosh Hashanah. Yom Kippur. And Passover. *But Shavuot?*

Somehow, it doesn't seem to get as much press. Not as popular.

... Which is a shame.

*Because in a way Shavuot is our most important Holiday.*

It commemorates the day we received the Torah at Mount Sinai. 3300 years ago.

... *And we – and the world – haven't been the same since.*

Because more than anything else, it is the Torah that made us a People.

It gave us an identity. And a mission.

*And it is the Torah that has preserved us.*

... It's interesting. How sometimes our enemies know us better than we know ourselves.

The ancient Greeks. The Romans.

*They made the study of Torah a capital offense.*

They knew that without the Torah – there will be no Jewish People.

The former Soviet Union? It almost succeeded in destroying the Jewish identity of millions of our people.

How? By closing the Jewish schools.

... They understood ...

*And it is so important that we understand this too.*

*As individuals. And as a community.*

And what better time than *Shavuot*?

To make a commitment to study the Torah.

To understand its message.

And to make it a more important part of our life.

## FROM THE JEWISH MYSTICS

*Think of a baby learning to walk. The mother holds out her arms.*

*"Come to Mommy. Come on. You can do it."*

*And finally the big moment arrives. He takes his first step. Right into his mother's arms.*

*Everyone is thrilled. They clap. They cheer. And they get it on video.*

*... He tries it again. And again. And again.*

*When suddenly, he sees mommy step back. Moving away from him.*

*He's shocked. Feels betrayed. And starts crying.*

*... What's the mother's problem? Nothing.*

*Except that they have different agendas.*

*The baby wants to get to his mother's arms.*

*The mother? She wants him to learn how to walk.*

*... Spiritual growth is like that too.*

*Sometimes we try to get closer to G-d. And we feel we're getting somewhere.*

*When suddenly, a new challenge comes, and we blow it.*

*And it's so frustrating!*

*"I was really connecting to G-d. Why did He pull away when I was finally getting there?"*

*... The answer?*

*Different agendas.*

*The spiritual person longs for G-d's embrace.*

*... G-d wants us to keep growing.*

*To learn how to walk – spiritually.*

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Rabbi Yisrael Salanter used to tell his students:

*"Don't forget the priorities of a Jew.*

*Focus on the spiritual.*

But remember: Providing others with their material needs – is a *spiritual* act."



*Shabbat Shalom, and best wishes for a meaningful & joyous Shavuot and a great week!*

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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