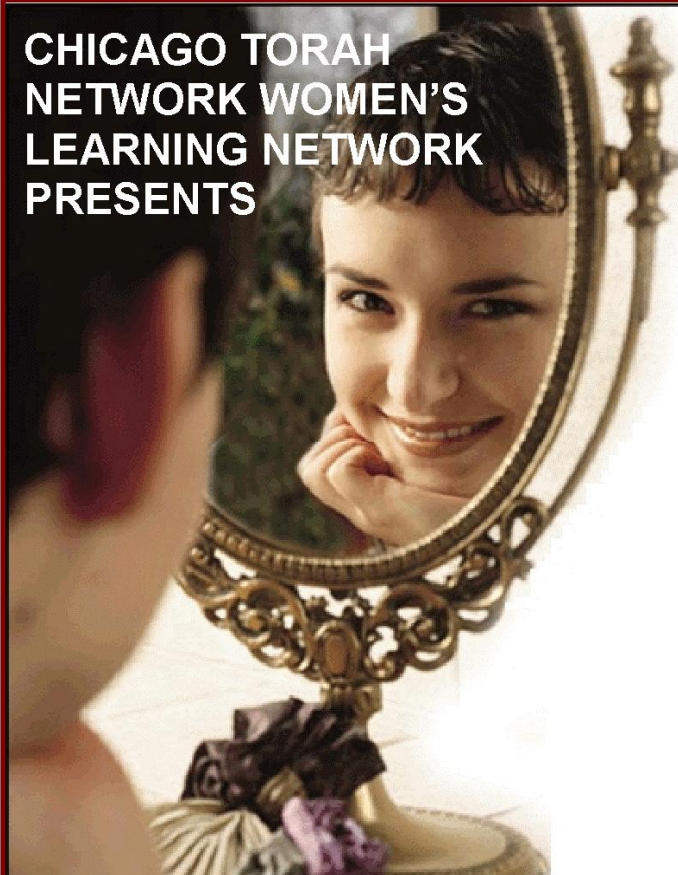


CHICAGO TORAH
NETWORK WOMEN'S
LEARNING NETWORK
PRESENTS



Who am I?

Self
awareness as
a tool for
spiritual
growth.

*A special lecture for women
by Rabbi Menachem Nissel*

Monday, December 28, 7:30 pm
The CTN Center, 2832 W. Touhy
Suggested Donation: \$10
Info: 773.761.0400 x208

Rabbi Menachem Nissel is a very popular lecturer at various seminaries in Jerusalem including Michlala, Darchei Bina and Neve Yerushalayim, and is the author of Rigshei Lev - Women and Tefillah: Perspectives, Laws and Customs (Targum Press). Rabbi Nissel's unique combination of Torah scholarship and outstanding kiruv talent has allowed him to play a leadership role in training kiruv professionals, through the Ner L'Elef Teachers Training Program. He is also a leading Rabbinical Resource for NCSY, which includes being scholar-in-residence for its *shabbatonim* five times a year, and he is invited to speak in communities around Israel and the United States, where he inspires audiences on a wide variety of topics. Don't miss this important presentation.



Home for the
Wondering Jew.™

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: VAYIGASH (GENESIS 44:18 - 47:27)

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored anonymously, in honor of CTN and its wonderful work for the community.

1. And Jacob said: 'My journey through life has been ... (47:9)

Life. In many ways it really is like a journey.

... Think of a man who takes a trip to Israel.

And it's just amazing.

After a week or two, he sits down to write a postcard to his family.

He begins by talking about the weather. The accommodations. And other things like that.

... Small talk.

But soon he remembers that there's so much more he wants to tell them.

About things that are much more important.

Like the meaningful places he's visited.

And special people he's met.

So he starts writing about them.

... And very soon he realizes that he's running out of space.

Because most of it was used up.

On things like the nice weather.

So he begins writing smaller.

And smaller.

He draws an arrow to the top. Above the address. And continues there.

Soon - he's writing on a slant. Down the side.

Filling every inch.

He thinks of something else important. And can't find a spot for it.

So he turns over the card. To the picture side.

Looking for some more writing space. Maybe the sky. Or the faces ...

... The message for us?

Our lives are hectic. Lots going on.

And it's easy to lose track of where our time goes.

And get caught up in the little things.

... But we should not lose sight of the things we know are important.

The opportunities to grow.

Things like becoming a better parent. A better child.

A better spouse. A better friend.

And a better Jew.

We've got to make sure that these are on the top of our "to do" list.

... So they'll get done.

STORY OF THE WEEK

A great Rabbi used to stand up as a sign of respect for every visitor.

Regardless of their age.

People asked him why.

"Simple. If he is older than me, he has done more Mitzvos (good deeds).

And if he's younger ... he has committed fewer sins."

DO ONE MORE MITZVAH IN 2009

Dear Friends:

We are writing to ask you to support CTN. To enable us continue to make a difference for Jewish continuity.

Through CTN classes and guest lectures, emails and faxes, Shabbat meals and Holiday programs, and so much more, this past year we have impacted the lives of thousands of Jews in the Chicago area and beyond.

And now, as 2009 comes to an end, we are asking you to please do one more *mitzvah*. Send in your generous 2009 contribution to CTN. And become our partner in building the Jewish future.

If you enjoy the Shabbat Fax, please take this opportunity to join us and help 'spread the word'.

Please respond now with a minimum contribution of \$50. You can make your donation online at www.torahnetwork.org/donate.htm

... This year-end campaign is crucial for us.

There is so much concern today about the Jewish future. About so many Jews not being involved. And about the need to make Judaism meaningful and relevant to Jews of all backgrounds. To help make them proud and knowledgeable Jews.

Some people think we can't turn things around.

But CTN believes in the power of our Torah to inspire. And we've seen it happen so many times.

You can help us continue our work.

Thank you – and have a wonderful Shabbos!



Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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