



“Darwin, Dawkins, Dinosaurs, and the Torah”

Join us for a special evening in Lincoln Park with Dr. Nathan Aviezer of Bar Ilan University.

This Monday, December 7
 2020 North Lincoln Park West, Party Room
 Registration & Refreshments: 7:00 pm, Program: 7:30 pm

Richard Dawkins is not only a famous scientist ... and not only an atheist - he's plain anti religious. In his book, The G-d Delusion, Dawkins sets out to destroy religion and to do away with the need for G-d. And he's quite blunt about it. According to Dawkins, anyone who thinks we need G-d to explain how we got here ... and how such a complex and beautiful world came into existence ... just doesn't know their science!

Now that we know what Dawkins thinks, it's really worth meeting and hearing Professor Nathan Aviezer of Bar Ilan University. A world renowned scientist and a believing and practicing Jew, Dr. Aviezer is brilliant, clear and funny. Don't miss this special event!

The Ultimate Chanukah Party
CTN Chanukah Party 2009
 Tuesday, December 15, 7:30 pm
 The CTN Center, 2832 W. Touhy

A fun, food, inspiration and prize filled evening, featuring ...

Live Musical Entertainment

Play fun Jewish trivia game ... win great prizes!

JEW PARDY

Candle lighting, inspiration and plenty of holiday spirit ...

Lots of great food and drink

Win raffle & game prizes, including Bulls tickets, luxury hotel stay, gift certificates and more ...

CHICAGO BULLS

and much more!!!

“The CTN Ultimate Chanukah Party”

An evening of fun, inspiration, music, food & drink and valuable prizes! Don't miss this great Chanukah celebration!

Tuesday, December 15, 7:30 pm
 The CTN Center
 2832 West Touhy, Chicago

Register for both events online at www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm
 Info: 773.761.0400 x201 or info@torahnetwork.org

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: VAYISHLACH (GENESIS 32:4 - 36:43)

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is dedicated by the Taussig and Katcher Families, "in memory of our parents, Ernst & Thekla Taussig and Archie & Molly Katcher."

1. Rachel died and was buried on the road to Efrat, now known as Bethlehem. (Genesis 35:19)

Rachel. One of the four Jewish Matriarchs.

Great women who were the spiritual mothers of the Jewish People.

Who created and inspired a nation that brought ethics, morality and G-dliness to the world.

... Her tomb has held a very special place in Jewish hearts for thousands of years.

In fact, over the centuries, many Jewish homes have had a picture of Rachel's Tomb hanging on the wall.

And whenever possible Jews went there to pray.

And to be inspired.

... The Talmud tells us something fascinating about Rachel's Tomb.

About why Jacob chose to bury her right there.

On the side of the road.

It's a beautiful tradition. One that Jewish men and women throughout the ages learned as children.

... That Jacob did it with an eye to the future.

When the Temple in Jerusalem would be destroyed. And the Jews exiled.

... And as they left Jerusalem, with their spirits broken, they would pass Rachel's Tomb.

And Rachel's memory would inspire them.

... They would pray for the Jewish future.

And Rachel would pray for her children.

... As Jews all over the world read on Rosh Hashanah, from the Prophet Jeremiah:

"Rachel cries for her children and refuses to be comforted ..."

... She cries over our suffering throughout the difficult times.

And she also cries for what happens to us during the better times.

When the exile seems to treat us well.

When Jews are accepted in society.

And given almost unlimited opportunities.

But unfortunately that comes with a price.

... The risk of a lessening of Jewish knowledge. Involvement. And pride.

It's something to think about. As we read about Rachel.

What better time for each of us to take the next step in our Jewish growth?

To see what we can do that will help us – and our children – become more committed Jews.

... We should do it for the Jewish People.

For ourselves.

And for Rachel. Our mother.

STORY OF THE WEEK

Rabbi Yosef Chaim Sonnenfeld (1848-1931). He was one of Jerusalem's leading Rabbis.

Rabbi Sonnenfeld was close to eighty. And he was still extremely active.

Someone once said to him: 'You're amazing. Such energy! May I ask your age?'

The Rabbi looked at the man with a smile. 'I'll tell you the truth. I really don't know my exact age.

I've stopped keeping track.

And I'll tell you why.

... Think about a person who pays for an item in a store.

When he gets the change – he counts it. To make sure he got the right amount.

But when he receives a gift of money from someone – what does he do?

He says 'thank you'. And puts it away.

Without counting it. Why? Because it's a gift.

And it's not nice to count a gift.

Especially in front of the person who gave it.

Well, life is like that too. Each year – each day and each moment – is a precious gift.

So I stopped counting.'

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'The Jewish People without the Torah is like a body without a soul.'

(Saadiyah Gaon, 882-942)



Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!

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