

2 Special CTN Learning Opportunities

I



Busy during hebrew school?

Catch up now at the CTN 5 Week Hebrew Reading Crash course!


www.torahnetwork.org/hebrew.htm

This unique crash course has helped over 100,000 people around country learn to read. And it will do the same for you.

Tuesdays, Aug 23 – Sept 20, 8-9 pm.
The CTN Center, 2832 W Touhy
\$25 including workbook
Pre-registration required.

www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm

II



“☆☆☆☆”

- A Five Star Program!

Jewish Literacy and High Holidays
Fundamentals™
3000 years of Jewish knowledge and inspiration in just 3 hours.

www.torahnetwork.org/fundamentals.htm

Looking to dramatically increase your Jewish I.Q.? Long on desire but short on time? Then the Fundamentals™ Seminar is for you.

Sunday, Sept. 18, 9:30 am -12:30 pm
The CTN Center, 2832 W Touhy
Only \$10 with Advanced Registration Discount

www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm

As a person with no prior Hebrew reading knowledge, the CTN Hebrew Crash Course really fit the bill. It makes learning to read Hebrew amazingly easy. Honestly, we were reading Hebrew after 10 minutes of the first class! Our teacher, Esti Berger, was a real delight. She made the process very fun with her upbeat energetic approach.

Bob Gottlieb, Gottlieb Brothers Inc., Chicago



Home for the
Wondering Jew.™

THE CHICAGO TORAH NETWORK SHABBAT FAX[©]

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

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 38 FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 2011 / 5 AV 5771 CANDLE LIGHTING: 7:44 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 8:53 (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: DEVARIM (DEUTERONOMY 1:1-3:22)

*This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is dedicated
anonymously to the unity of the entire
Jewish People.*

Next Monday Night and Tuesday (August 8-9) is the Fast of Tisha b'Av.

Tisha b'Av: Background

The ninth day of the Jewish month of Av. The saddest day on the Jewish calendar.

According to Jewish tradition, it was destined to be a tragic day. And history has proven that tradition correct.

The destruction of both Temples in Jerusalem took place on *Tisha b'Av*. As did the expulsion of Jews from England in 1290. And from Spain in 1492.

World War I began on *Tisha b'Av*, 1914. And in many ways, it was the event that led to World War II and the Holocaust.

1. Jewish tradition has a lot of celebrations. Shabbat. Passover. Chanukah. Purim.

And the celebrations help keep the Jewish People alive.

But we also have *Tisha b'Av*.

One day. To focus on Jewish suffering. To feel the pain of Jews throughout history.

... *Tisha b'Av* is also a day to think about what the world could look like.

If we were able to live up to our mission. And truly be a "light unto the nations".

Here's what a great Rabbi wrote as a *Tisha b'Av* message in the middle of the nineteenth century.

"Think about the telegraph. Are the messages it delivers mostly about peace and joy?

Or the goods that the locomotive carries. Do they spread well-being and peace?

And science. The great triumph of the human mind. Has it discovered the formula for happiness?" (Rabbi S.R. Hirsch)

... And that was a hundred and fifty years ago.

Today? It's everything from stem cell research to electric cars and iPads and more.

... So much has changed. But the questions are the same:

Has man achieved happiness?

Is there universal peace? And the end of suffering?

Tisha b'Av is a time to look forward to that.

... *And to commit ourselves to make it happen.*

2. Bring Us in Peace from the Four Corners of the Earth and Lead Us Proudly to Our Land (From the Daily Prayers)

Here's how Moshe Amirav, a paratrooper who took part in the liberation of Jerusalem in the Six Day War, describes what happened:

"Slowly, slowly I began to approach the Wall in fear and trembling like a pious cantor going to the lectern to lead the prayers.

I approached it as the messenger of my father and my grandfather, of my great-grandfather and of all the generations in all the exiles who had never merited seeing it — and so they had sent me to represent them.

Somebody recited the festive blessing: "Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the Universe who has kept us alive, and maintained us and brought us to this time." But I could not answer "Amen."

I put my hand on the stones and the tears that started to flow were not my tears. They were the tears of all Israel, tears of hope and prayer, tears of Chasidic tunes, tears of Jewish dances, tears which scorched and burned the heavy gray stone."

REACH OUT TO SOMEONE

Jewish tradition teaches that Jerusalem was destroyed because Jews didn't get along.

... Let's face it. It's not easy. Jews are opinionated. And we're supposed to be.

But we are one People.

And we have to have a special respect for each other. And a special love for each other.

... One of the best things you can do this *Tisha b'Av*? Think of someone who sees things differently than you. Perhaps even very differently.

... And maybe things have not gone that smoothly.

Give them a call. And see what you can do.

You don't have to change your opinion.

... Just try to change your relationship.

TISHA B'AV SERVICES

This Monday evening at 8:30pm, CTN will be joining our neighbors at Congregation Shaarei Tzedek (right here at 2832 West Touhy) for *Tisha b'Av* services. It should take about an hour.

We'll do it the way Jews have done it for centuries. Sitting on the floor. The lights dimmed. And reading the 2500-year-old Hebrew Book of Lamentations. (Translations will be available.)

... We invite you to join us for this powerful and very meaningful way to connect to our heritage and history. If you can, please let us know if you are coming. That way we will be able to help make your experience as meaningful as possible. Call 773.761.0400 x201 or email

rabbikatz@torahnetwork.org

To learn more about Tisha b'Av, see <http://www.aish.com/h/9av/>



Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!

Rabbi Moshe Katz

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