



## **READ HEBREW BY ROSH HASHANAH!**

This unique five week Hebrew Reading Crash Course has helped over 100,000 people around country learn to read. And it will do the same for you. Guaranteed.

*Sign up now! And this year, celebrate the Holidays from right to left!*

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**Tuesdays, August 23 – September 20, 8-9 pm.**

**At the CTN Center, 2832 West Touhy, Chicago.**

**\$25 incl. materials. Pre-registration required.**

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

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“ 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<sup>©</sup>

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

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 38 FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2011 / 27 TAMUZ 5771 CANDLE LIGHTING: 7:02 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 9:01 (CHICAGO)

*Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!*

## TORAH PORTION: MASEI (NUMBERS 33:1 - 36:13)

*This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored by Rabbi Moshe & Bracha Katz, in memory of his mother, Mrs. Eleanor Katz, on the occasion of her yahrzeit. 'Your commitment to Torah and Judaism inspired Dad to begin a life of Torah and together you raised a beautiful family of Rabbis, educators and deeply committed Jews.'*

### **1. These are the journeys of the Jewish People ... Moses wrote down their stops along the way ... They left ... and camped in ... They left ... and camped in ... (33:1 -48)**

Journeys. People traveling from one place to another.

It's talking about the Jewish travels through the desert after they left Egypt.

But it's also a pretty good way *to describe Jewish history.*

... Name a country. Any country.

*Odds are we've been there.*

... At least for a while.

Because not only have we lived in almost every country in the world.

*We've also been expelled from many of them at one time or another.*

But somehow we survived.

And flourished.

*... It made no sense.*

*But it happened.*

Historians have struggled to understand it. How did we survive all that?

Our take on it? That there's really only one answer.

*... We're an Eternal People.*

*Because G-d guaranteed it.*

**China. 1923.** *Among the few Jews living there is a very wealthy man.*

*He became a well-known philanthropist.*

*And then he has a dream. He sees his late father. Who tells him that he should do something for Jewish causes.*

*But the Jewish community in China is tiny. And he doesn't know what to do.*

*He asks the advice of the community's elderly Rabbi.*

*His suggestion? "Build a Synagogue. A large one. That can seat a few hundred people."*

*It makes absolutely no sense.*

*There's no one there to use it!*

*But he can't get the dream out of his mind. And so he builds it.*

*And for twenty years it sits there. Used by only a handful of Jews.*

Until 1940.

*When in one of the amazing stories of the war, thousands of Lithuanian Jews are saved by a Japanese Consul.*

*Who defies orders. And issues visas that allow these Jews to escape.*

*Among them?*

*Hundreds of students of the world famous Mir Yeshiva.*

*After going to Japan, the Yeshiva students are sent to Shanghai.*

*Waiting for them?*

*A large beautiful study hall.*

*Just waiting to be used.*

*... And it was. The Yeshiva functioned in Shanghai until the end of the war.*

*And many of the students of the Mir Yeshiva played a major role in the rebirth of Jewish life after the war.*

### THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

*"My father ... in the Warsaw Ghetto opened his windows to throw scraps of bread to the starving, crying children outside. ... The Germans were happy to see Jewish children dying of hunger. But my father was determined to help them stay alive with the hope that they would somehow survive.*

*... In a slave labor camp in Poland, under German rule, I can testify how Jews baked matzos in the 2,000 degree smelting ovens, with the rare cooperation of our German overlord who was not a real Nazi.*

*I remember his incredulous look when he asked us how we could be worrying about Hashem's commandments in the situation we were in.*

*"Didn't your G-d forsake you?" he asked.*

*One of the elders of our group, humbly, but with inner pride responded, "Sir, not totally, and not forever."*

*The astonished German took a step back and said: I'm afraid the Fuhrer will never be able to defeat such a people."*

*... This man who had the courage to proclaim our eternity: wasn't he a true hero?"*

Rabbi Joseph Friedenson, Holocaust Survivor and Editor of Yiddish Newspaper, [Dos Yiddishe Vort](#)



*Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!*

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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