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**What:** A unique meaningful Purim Service with explanatory reading of the Book of Esther

**When:** Saturday Evening, March 19, 8:30 pm

**Where:** The CTN Center, 2832 West Touhy Avenue, Chicago

Please join us for this unique and very meaningful Purim Service and Celebration.

As Jews all over the world have done for more than 2000 years, we will read the Book of Esther in Hebrew. But in order to make sure we all get the most out of this special day, we'll do it a little differently:

Along the way, Rabbi Katz will share some of his "Purim Torah Minutes"! Small nuggets of inspiration before each chapter of the Book of Esther that will make it all very meaningful, alive and relevant.

Then, stick around after the reading, as in good Purim tradition, we'll have a chance to schmooze while enjoying refreshments and drinks.

We hope you can make it!

If you would like further information please email [rabbikatz@torahnetwork.org](mailto:rabbikatz@torahnetwork.org) or give us a call at 773-761-0400 x201.

# THE CHICAGO TORAH NETWORK SHABBAT FAX<sup>©</sup>

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

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 22 FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2011 / 28 ADAR 1 5771 CANDLE LIGHTING: 5:23 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 6:35 (CHICAGO)

*Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!*

## TORAH PORTION: PEKUDAI (EXODUS 38:21 - 40:38)

*This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is dedicated by CTN in honor of our dear friend Rabbi Dr. Jerry Lob upon his being honored by Congregation Shaarei Tzedek Mishkan Yair this weekend. May you have the strength to continue all you do for the Jewish People!*

### **1. This is the accounting of the (contributions to) the Temple ... (38:21)**

Money was collected. Gold. Silver. Jewels. To build the Temple.

And the Torah tells us how Moses gave an accounting of every penny.

Which makes sense. Especially for a charity.

After all, it's not *their* money.

It was *given* to them. For a purpose.

So we expect them to show how they used it.

*... But there's a much broader message here as well.*

*Because Judaism teaches that life is really like that too.*

Think of the many things each of us has. Material possessions. Talents. And more.

All precious commodities.

*But they are not really ours.*

*... They were given to us. For a purpose.*

And we too should be able to give an accounting.

▪ *Rabbi Yisrael Meir Kagan. (Known as the 'Chofetz Chaim'. Leading 'saint' and scholar of pre-war Europe.)*

*His diary had an entry that was written around Yom Kippur time. He was thinking about the past year. Reviewing things he had done. Ways he could improve.*

*He got to thinking about one particular day – and found that he couldn't remember everything he had done.*

*There were a few minutes that he just couldn't place. "What did I do during that time?"*

*Eight minutes.*

*Four hundred and eighty seconds that he couldn't account for.*

*And it bothered him. It really bothered him.*

*Because he understood: Time isn't ours. To waste.*

*It's given to us. To use.*

*... Accountability.*

▪ **Got five seconds? Here's a list of some things you can do that will make a difference:**

*Give someone a big smile.*

*Wave another car on at the intersection even if you were there first.*

*Say one of these to a friend or acquaintance: "I've been thinking about you"; "Just wanted to let you know I care"; "I'm so proud of you"; "Please let me do that for you"; "You look terrific"; "Your kid did something special".*

*Dial the number of someone going through tough times. (Okay, once you get through it will probably take a bit longer than five seconds. But it will be well worth it!)*

This is a pretty random list. Give it a little more thought and we can all think of lots of other ways that five seconds can really make a world of a difference.

**THE NEXT JEWISH LITERACY CLASS**



*"God is for me nothing more than the ... product of human weaknesses, the Bible a collection of honorable, but still primitive legends which are nevertheless pretty childish. And the Jewish people to whom I gladly belong ... have no different quality for me than all other people" - Yours, A. Einstein*

You may have heard about this letter from Albert Einstein that sold a while back for \$400,000.

... You don't need a lecture where some Rabbi will express outrage at what Einstein said. Or a class to "prove" how wrong he is. Instead? Be part of an evening that will leave you uplifted and inspired.

Join Rabbi Moshe Katz and explore a fascinating "Bible legend". The kind Einstein claimed is primitive and childish. And decide for yourself what the Torah can teach us.

... About G-d. About ourselves. And even about the Big Bang!

**'Einstein, Torah and the Big Bang'**

Monday March 14, 7:00 pm at The CTN Center, 2832 W. Touhy

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

Info: [info@torahnetwork.org](mailto:info@torahnetwork.org) 773.761.0400 x201



*Shabbat Shalom and best wishes for a wonderful week.*

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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