



Climb higher this Passover!

Join Rabbi Doni Deutsch for this special three-part series of classes that will help you gain a deeper understanding of this most important Holiday and its relevance to your life as a Jew. Based on Torah, Talmud, centuries of commentary and the writings of Jewish mystics, this unique series is guaranteed to add meaning to your *Seder* – and to your life.

Each week is a stand-alone session so 'perfect attendance' is not required!

Wednesdays, March 30 – April 13, 8:15 pm
The CTN Center, 2832 West Touhy, Chicago
info@torahnetwork.org 773.761.0400 x207



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 26 FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2011 / 26 ADAR 2 5771 CANDLE LIGHTING: 6:55 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 8:06 (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: TAZRIA (LEVITICUS 12:1 - 13:59)

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored by Rochelle & Joseph Rogowin, in loving memory of their mothers, Sara Garbuz, Sarah bas Aharon z"l, on the occasion of her 11th yahrzeit, (23 Adar II), and Fay Rogowin, Tziporah bas Yosaif z"l, on the occasion of her 18th yahrzeit (7 Nissan). May their memories be a blessing.

1. When a son is born ... on the eighth day you shall circumcise him. ... (12:3)

Circumcision. The oldest Jewish ritual.

Observed by Jews throughout the centuries.

It's not done for health. Or hygiene.

And it's not just a cultural thing. A Jewish way of celebrating the birth of a son.

In Hebrew, it's a *Bris*. A covenant. Between the Jewish people and G-d.

A deep expression of commitment to our Jewish heritage.

... And throughout history, it wasn't just Jews who knew how important the *bris* was.

Our enemies knew it too.

... The Greeks. The Romans. They outlawed circumcision.

Today? They're gone.

... And we're still here.

Still keeping the sign of our covenant.

We've kept it for 3500 years.

And it has kept us.

▪ **Masada.**

The final stronghold in the ancient Jewish revolt against Rome.

Jerusalem had been destroyed in the year 70 CE. Most of its inhabitants were killed or sold into slavery.

About one thousand of them escaped to Masada. And survived there for three years.

The Israeli archaeologist Yigael Yadin excavated Masada. And found some amazing things.

... Like the Synagogue used by the defenders.

They also found something else. Of tremendous significance.

"... It fell to a lad from a Kibbutz in Western Galilee, to discover fragments of a scroll ...

Parts of the fragments had been eaten away. But those that were undamaged had been very well preserved.

And we could immediately identify them as several chapters from the Book of Leviticus. Chapters eight through twelve.

It was absolutely identical with the traditional text of Leviticus."

... Including the verse "And on the eighth day, you shall circumcise him ..."

*It's something to think about this Shabbat.
It's two thousand years later. We are back in Israel.
Finding ancient Torah fragments. And recognizing them.
As things we still study. And still live by.
... Because the Torah is eternal.
And so is the Jewish People.*

WHAT JEWISH TRADITION SAYS ABOUT ... THE POWER OF SPEECH

"For every moment one guards one's tongue, he earns reward that is beyond the comprehension even of the angels ..."

"Man's ultimate task is to not sin with his mouth. The Sages say that one's good deeds and Torah knowledge cannot offset the damage that one does with speech ..."

"The principle way of earning the World to Come is through guarding one's mouth, which is greater than Torah learning and Mitzvahs, because the mouth is Holy of Holies ..."

(From the writings of the 18th century Lithuanian Torah giant Rabbi Elijah, known as the 'Gaon of Vilna')

MAKE THIS YOUR MOST MEANINGFUL SEDER EVER!

Chicago Torah Network presents



LUNCH, LEARN & MITZVAH:
"Make This Your Most Meaningful Seder Ever"

Wednesday, April 6, 2011
500 Skokie Blvd., Northbrook
Lower Level Conference Room

Networking and Lunch: 11:30 am
Workshop: 12:00 pm

Advanced Paid Registration:
\$15 (includes lunch)

At the Door:
\$20 (includes lunch)

info@torahnetwork.org or 773-761-0400

**This Month at
New Northbrook
Location**

**Lunch, Learn
&
MITZVAH**
1st Wednesday of the month

A unique opportunity to combine a great kosher lunch with quality Jewish learning, while at the same time giving dignity and respect to developmentally challenged young adults.

Enjoy Rabbi Moshe Katz's popular workshop, **"MAKE THIS YOUR MOST MEANINGFUL SEDER EVER"** – A fascinating look at the Passover holiday, its rituals and its message.

The Lunch, Learn & Mitzvah Series is dedicated by the Hartman Family Foundation in memory of Wilfred Lefkovitch



Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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