

## Chicago Torah Network Tribute Gala Brunch

Guests of Honor

**Shimmy and Shoni Braun**

Special Guest Speaker

**Senator Joseph I. Lieberman**

Event Chairs

**Robert and Debra Hartman**

December 11, 2011, 11:30 a.m. ~ 1:30 p.m.  
DoubleTree Northshore, 9599 Skokie Boulevard, Skokie, Illinois

### *Event Committee (in formation)*

Mendy and Aviva Berger	Bruce and Cheryl Leon
Tomer and Jennifer Bitton	Ted and Razel Lerman
Yishai and Bluma Broner	Aveeshi and Tami Lev
Jeffrey and Helena Cohen	Bob and Sue Mednick
Craig and Gail Darlow	Chaim and Rikki Rajchenbach
Eli and Chasi Davis	Ami and Aviva Robinson
Shuie and Elana Davis	Mitchell and Amy Rose
Nesanel and Perl Davis	Mickey and Myra Sanderman
Moshe and Chevie Davis	Nachy and Huvie Shabat
Michael Farah	Ronny and Faith Shabat
David and Chaya Tova Hartman	Dan and Debbie Shmikler
Yochanan and Dana Hunter	Yair and Dina Zuckerman
David and Jill Kantor	Sholom and Lizzy Zupnick
Kenneth and Phyllis Klein	

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Dear Friends - Please show your support of CTN and appreciation of the Shabbat Fax and Email, and help us to continue and increase our work for the Jewish future, by participating in this vitally important annual fundraising campaign. Thank you



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

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

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 2 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2011 / 30 TISHRI 5772 CANDLE LIGHTING: 5:21 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 6:30 (CHICAGO)

*Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!*

## TORAH PORTION: LECH-LECHA (GENESIS 12:1-17:27)

*This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is dedicated anonymously, in honor of Rabbi Louis and Rebbetzin Saretta Lazovsky, on the birth of their grandson, Shmuel Yitzchak.*

### **1. And G-d said to Abraham ... (12:1)**

Abraham. One of the most influential people in human history.

He taught the world so much about G-d.

That there's a G-d Who demands morality. And ethics. A G-d who cares about how we live.

And Abraham taught the world so much about man.

About human dignity. How every human being is created in the Image of G-d.

... Yes it's true. Abraham changed the world.

But he did something else. Just as important. And just as hard.

*... He changed himself.*

Because Abraham did not grow up a rabbi. Or in some rabbinic family.

*Far from it.*

Abraham's father was a pagan. A well-known idol maker.

And Jewish tradition tells us that Abraham himself was an idolater.

Until the age of forty!

Then Abraham did something that is hard to do. Very hard.

He began to question his assumptions. To reassess things.

He looked at the world around him.

The beauty. The complexity.

And decided he was wrong.

*There must be a Creator. One G-d Who brought everything into being.*

... Abraham changed his life. And set out on a mission.

To teach and inspire the world about G-d.

...We may not be in the position to change the world.

But we should still look at Abraham and be challenged.

*... Because we can change ourselves.*

### **As it's been said:**

*"There are many people who are out to change the world ...*

*But they don't want to roll up their sleeves and help with the dishes."*

**2. G-d said to Abraham: 'I will bless Sarah your wife ... and she will bear you a son ... Abraham fell on his face and laughed ... G-d said: 'You must name him Yitzchak (Isaac)'. (17:16-19)**

It seemed so absurd. Even Abraham couldn't help but laugh.

He's a hundred. She's ninety. They never had any children. But now they will.

Not only that, but he will become a great nation.

*Laughable.*

But G-d tells him that it will happen.

In fact, He tells him to call his son *Yitzchak* (Isaac). It means to laugh.

*Let that be his name. Always remember that laughter. Because that will be the destiny of this nation.*

*G-d guarantees our survival. Every time it seems that there is no future for the Jewish people. That we are about to disappear. We are reborn.*

*Just like the first Jewish child.*

### STORY OF THE WEEK

*Nervously, the man approached Baron Rothschild for a significant loan.*

*'It would be my pleasure – but you must have a co-signer who will guarantee payment.'*

*The man was quiet. Finally, he said: 'I can't think of anyone. In fact, the only one who may trust me is the Almighty Himself.'*

*'Very well. That name will be fine!' Rothschild drew up a note and wrote: Endorsed by the Ruler of the world.*

*The man signed it and received the money.*

*Six months later, the thankful borrower came to repay the loan. The Baron refused to take the money.*

*He smiled and said: 'The loan has already been paid by the co-signer.'*



*Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!*

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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