

From: The Rabbis at Chicago Torah Network . Number of pages: 3

To:

Please Note: There's just one week left until the CTN Tribute Gala, and the ad deadline is this weekend. Please make your reservation and contribution now. Thank you!



Home for the
Wondering Jew™

Tribute Gala Brunch

Guests of Honor

Shimmy & Shoni Braun



Receivers of the CTN 2011 *Builders of the Future* Award, in recognition of their dedication and deep commitment to helping Chicago Torah Network continue to be a true 'Home for the Wondering Jew'.

Guest Speaker

Senator Joseph Lieberman



Hear the widely respected Senator Joseph Lieberman discuss his unique experience as a United States Senator, as well as his newly released book, 'The Gift of Rest: Rediscovering the Beauty of the Sabbath'.

Event Chairs: Robert and Debra Hartman

**Sunday, December 11, 2011, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
DoubleTree Northshore, 9599 Skokie Blvd, Skokie**

Reservations, Journal Ads and Contributions:
info@torahnetwork.org or 773.761.0400 x207
www.torahnetwork.org/gala.htm

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THE CHICAGO TORAH NETWORK SHABBAT FAX[©]

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

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 6 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2011 / 6 KISLEV 5772 CANDLE LIGHTING: 4:00 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 5:10 (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: VAYETZE (GENESIS 28:10 - 32:3)

This week's CTN Shabbat fax is dedicated by Bunny Wagner, in honor of a dear friend and very special husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, Jan Charman. May you have a complete and speedy recovery!

1. Leah gave birth ... she said: This time I will thank G-d; she called his name Judah. (29:35)

Jew. It's from the Latin Judea. Judah.

From the Hebrew name Yehudah. Jacob's son.

It's interesting. Jacob had many sons. And the Jewish people descend from all of them.

But we're all called Judah.

Which should constantly remind us of a very important Jewish value.

Because in Hebrew, Judah means thanks.

And in Jewish tradition, giving thanks isn't for just one day a year.

... It's an approach to life.

And it's for every single day of our lives.

It means appreciating G-d's gifts.

The big things. As well as the little things.

And appreciating the things people do for us.

... It's about saying thank you constantly.

▪ **An insight from the Hebrew language:**

In Hebrew, the words for thanks – and admit – are the same: Modeh.

Because, think about it: Why do we sometimes find it so difficult to say a simple thank you?

There are many reasons. But there is one that is often missed:

It has to do with pride. We like to think of ourselves as self sufficient.

That we don't need anyone's help.

So we fool ourselves. And think that we did it on our own.

... Every 'thank you' is an admission.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

Rabbi Abraham Pam was a great Torah scholar who passed away a few years ago. He would often encourage his students to take advantage of what he said was a very powerful tool for happiness.

... Their wedding pictures.

"Because so many couples make the same mistake. As newlyweds, they loved looking at their wedding album together.

Again and again.

And then? After a few years a marriage?

The album is left on a shelf. Collecting dust.

... Which is such a shame.

Because we know how it is. Even in the best of marriages.

How time goes by. And life gets really busy. Filled with challenges.

And somehow the excitement is not quite the same.

... You should take out your wedding pictures. And look at them carefully.

Look how happy you were. Filled with gratitude to G-d for bringing you together.

Look at the twinkle in your eyes. Your commitment to make each other happy.

Look at the joy on the faces of your parents. Grandparents. How happy they were to live to see it.

And look at the friends and relatives who came from far and near to rejoice with you.

... Every once in a while, relive the joy of your wedding.

And remain newlyweds!"

3000 YEARS OF JEWISH KNOWLEDGE AND INSPIRATION IN JUST 3 HOURS!



"Successfully Dealing with Life's Challenges - Big and Small"

Keynote Address at the Fundamentals Seminar, by very popular speaker, author, therapist and Torah scholar,

Rabbi Dr. Jerry Lob

The pre-Chanukah Fundamentals Seminar. 3000 years of inspiration and wisdom in just 3 hours. Sunday, December 18 at the CTN Center. Classes start at 9:30 am, Keynote Address at 11:30 am. Complete details & schedule at www.torahnetwork.org/fundamentals.htm or 773.761.0400 x207

"The people attending came from all different ages, philosophies and stages of life. And most importantly, we were all there for the same thing; to grow and learn as Jews and human beings. The classes were accessible and the teachers really brought everything 'down to earth' for us" (Andrea Grinberg, Musician, Chicago)

"Coming from a rather secular background, I found the seminar fulfilling and rewarding. It is nice to take the mystery out of our religion. I learned practical, Jewish ways to make me remember the important, more precious things in life." (Dr. Robert Perlmutter, Lincolnwood)

Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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