

From: The Rabbis at Chicago Torah Network .

Number of pages: 3

To:

***The CTN Tribute Gala is this Sunday and we will do our best to accommodate walk-ins. See you Sunday, 11:30 am at the DoubleTree Hotel in Skokie!***



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

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

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 7 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2011 / 13 KISLEV 5772 CANDLE LIGHTING: 3:59 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 5:09 (CHICAGO)

*Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!*

## TORAH PORTION: VAYISHLACH (GENESIS 32:4 – 36:43)

*This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is dedicated by Bruce & Cheryl Leon in honor of Shimmy & Shoni Braun on the occasion of their being honored this Sunday by CTN, and in honor of Bob & Debbie Hartman who are serving as the Event Chairs. Please join us for this great event with Senator Joseph Lieberman!*

### **1. And Jacob said ... I am undeserving of all the kindness that You have shown me. (32:10-11)**

It's an important Jewish perspective.

Because maybe we've accomplished a lot. And worked very hard for it.

So we're proud. And we should be.

*But we shouldn't make the mistake of thinking we did it all on our own.*

*... A reminder, that after all is said and done, it is G-d Who helped us along the way.*

It could be things we might take for granted. Like intellect. And personality.

Maybe the kind of family we were born into. Or the role models we had.

And those 'lucky' breaks along the way.

They were all gifts. And it's important to remember that.

Especially the next time someone needs help. And maybe - just a little bit - we start thinking:

*'Who says I have to help him? Why can't he help himself?'*

... We should remember to ask ourselves a similar question:

*'Did I really do it by myself? Or did Someone help me too?'*

### **2. Jacob ... your name shall be Israel, for you struggled with spiritual beings and with people and prevailed (32:29)**

The Jewish People. We're named after Jacob. Especially his second name: *Israel*.

*It's more than just nostalgia. Keeping an old name alive.*

*It's an important piece of what the Jewish People is.*

The Torah talks about Jacob's struggles. People like Laban and Esau who wanted to harm him.

And then a mysterious story of an angel fighting with him.

And about his survival.

... And like Jacob, we too have been around – and been attacked – for a long time.

*There are the 'Hamans' and the 'Hitlers' of the world. People who try to destroy us physically.*

And then there were the enemies whose attack was more *spiritual*.

Not so much to destroy *Jews*. But to destroy *Judaism*.

... And of course we can't rely on miracles. We have to do what we can to we have to protect ourselves.

But at the same, it's important to remember G-d's promise:

*That no matter what, Judaism and the Jewish People will survive.*

*Because we aren't just 'Jews'. We are 'Israel'.*

*And like Jacob, we too "fight physical and spiritual battles – and win."*

- *When a Jewish child is given a Hebrew name, there's a traditional formula that is used: "... and may his / her name be called in Israel ...".*

*'In Israel'. It's a very meaningful prayer.*

*That as our children go through life, they be 'Israel'. That they be blessed with the strength to survive the physical as well as spiritual challenges that will undoubtedly come their way.*

### STORY OF THE WEEK

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

*It was a cold Russian winter and the Chafetz Chaim was traveling on a train. In his pocket he had an expensive pair of warm, fur-lined gloves.*

*As a rule, the Chafetz Chaim lived an extremely simple life with very few luxuries. But these were a gift. And the man who gave them had insisted. And so the Chafetz Chaim accepted them.*

*As he was walking through the crowded car, he passed by a window that had been opened. And somehow, as he brushed up against the window, one of the gloves fell out of his pocket. And out of the moving train.*

*The Chafetz Chaim immediately reached into his pocket, took out the second glove, and threw it out the window as well.*

*His students didn't get it: And he explained:*

*"Look. I no longer have the pair. Which is fine. I can manage with my old plain gloves.*

*Like I did before.*

*But somebody is probably going to find the first glove lying there.*

*And they'll probably just leave it there. Because it's just one single glove. Not a pair.*


*... And that would be such a pity. It's such a good, warm glove.*

*So I threw the other one out the window too. Pretty close to the first one. This way, hopefully, someone will find both.*

*And will get themselves a pair of warm gloves they can enjoy."*

◊  
*Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!*

  
Rabbi Moshe Katz

  
Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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