

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road
Baltimore, MD 21209

www.chabadshul.org



May 11 2024

Kedoshim

3 Iyar, 5784

Clean Air, Clear Mind

Over 50 years ago, the United States Environmental Protection Agency established the Clean Air Act Amendments. Twenty-six years ago smoking was banned on all commercial passenger flights in the United States, and/or by American air carriers. As of January 2014, 28 states have enacted statewide bans on smoking in all enclosed public places, including all bars and restaurants.

But, can smokeless, cleaner air lead to a clearer head? less murky thoughts? spotless behavior?

An old Jewish custom (about 1700 years old) begins once again last Saturday afternoon. It's the tradition of studying the Mishna "Ethics of the Fathers" during the weeks between Passover and Shavuot. Many have the custom to continue studying these teachings throughout the summer months as well, until Rosh Hashana.

These "ethics" have a lot to say that are relevant to us today, in our interpersonal relationships both business and pleasure.

"Receive every person with a cheerful countenance," suggested Shammai. Say "hello" with a smile and see how that starts your day off right. If you run into someone you don't particularly like, look at the whole person, find his good qualities and then you will be able to greet him with a cheerful countenance.

Joshua ben Perachyah said, "Judge every person favorably." Put yourself in the other person's shoes and think how you would react or what you would have done in the same situation. And remember that when the "Final Judgement Day" comes, you'll be judged as harshly or lightly as you judge others!

And for the generation that New York magazine called the "greed" generation, we have Hillel's comment: If I am only for myself, what am I? Can a person really be effective when only concerned for himself? A person wrapped up in himself makes a pretty small package!

Rabban Gamliel, Hillel's son, counseled, "Provide yourself with a teacher and free yourself of doubt." Get an advisor for yourself, maybe even more than one. You'll need a financial advisor, a medical advisor (if there are, G-d forbid, health problems), and someone to help you explore your relationships. Of course, most importantly, provide yourself with a spiritual guide - someone you can look up to, learn from and hope to emulate.

Take a deep breath (now that the air indoors is cleaner). Doesn't your head feel clearer already?

(from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)

Do it Because I am Holy

The parsha this week is Parshas Kedoshim. "Be holy, because I am holy, Hashem your G-d." It sounds like a tall order. However, if G-d expects it from us it means we can do it. For many of the commandments we perform, we recite a blessing first. The text begins "You are the Source of all blessing Hashem, King of the world, Who made us holy with His commandments, and commanded us to..." Our holiness is through the performance of the mitzvos, the commandments. Let's see a selection of the commandments of this week's parsha.

1. "Each person should fear his mother and father." What is fearing parents? Don't sit in their place, don't contradict them, don't judge the correctness of their words, don't call them by their first name. A parent is permitted to forego this obligation we have toward them.
2. Leave a corner of a field of standing crops for the poor. This applies to any food which keeps in storage, grows from the ground, is harvested at one time, and is stored. There is no minimum amount to leave, but the Rabbis said one should not leave less than 1/60th of one's crops.
3. Don't deny owing money. This applies to deposits left with you, loans, wages, stolen money, articles of others which you found.
4. Don't hold back the wages of a worker. Even when one agrees to the debt, one should not hold the wages from the employee past the conventional or agreed upon time.
5. Don't put a stumbling block before the blind. This is a commandment (mitzvah) not to cause others to fall through deliberately giving bad advice. It also includes causing another person to sin, such as serving him non-kosher food, or causing him to desecrate the Sabbath.
6. Judge with righteousness. Both plaintiffs should be treated equally, not one standing and the other seated, or one speaking at length and the other given a short time to explain his side. Included in this mitzvah is to give people the benefit of the doubt.

(continued on the other side)

7. One may not speak negatively about another person, or tell someone something negative someone else said about them, even if it is true.
8. One may not hold back from saving another person from danger. We must even try to help a person avoid a monetary loss.
9. One may not hate his fellow in his heart. The way to avoid transgressing this mitzvah is by expressing your anger to the person for what he did to you.
10. One may not embarrass others. This applies especially in public.
11. No taking revenge, and not holding a grudge. Revenge is "you didn't lend me your saw, and so I won't lend you my hammer." Holding a grudge is "here's my saw. I'm not like you."
12. Love your fellow. One must try to relate toward his fellow as he would relate to himself. For example, he should defend his fellow from others who seek to embarrass him, hurt him financially, or physically just as he would do for himself. It is a serious transgression to raise one self up by knocking others down.
13. Stand before age. This mitzvah even includes wise people who are not elderly, and elderly people even if they are not wise.
14. Weights and measures must be exact. This means that people who sell by weight and volume must have counterbalances, and other measurements which are correct by objective standards.

These are some of the mitzvos of parshas Kedoshim. They are the fabric of a holy people. We have a unique relationship with G-d. He tells us to be holy – why? – because I am holy.

(by Rabbi Dovid Green from Project Genesis at www.torah.org)

Mr. Daniel Schechter sponsored Kiddush last Shabbat
in memory of his father, **Moshe ben Yehuda Tzvi**,
whose yahrzeit was the 30th of Nissan.



We extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to **Rochelle Rubin**
on the loss of her mother, **Mrs. Judith Glick**.
The Levaya was on May 2, 2024 in Enfield, England

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Yahrzeits This Week:

Bracha Siff	3 Iyar - Friday night / Shabbat	for father	Rav Aaron ben Rav Gedaliyahu
Rabbi Fred Lewin	8 Iyar - Wednesday night /Thursday	for brother	Yoel ben Shmuel

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DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Friday, 5/10 — 2 Iyar
Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat 5/11 — 3 Iyar
Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:27 a.m.
Minchah — 7:40 p.m.
Shiur — after Minchah
Ma'ariv — 8:53 p.m.

Sunday, 5/12 — 4 Iyar
Shacharit — 8:00
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:00 p.m.

Monday, 5/13 — 5 Iyar
Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, 5/14 — 6 Iyar
Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 5/15 — 7 Iyar
Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, 5/16 — 8 Iyar
Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:00 p.m.

Friday, 5/17 — 9 Iyar
Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Candles — 7:57 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.