

April 5, 2019 /29 Adar II 5779

Dear chevreh,

20thc. scholar and rabbi Louis Finkelstein is quoted as having said, “When I pray, I speak to God, when I study, God speaks to me.” For many of us, prayer feels more opaque than study because we may not understand the Hebrew, be familiar with the tunes or words, and may have mixed feelings about God. I encourage you to attend rabbinic intern Miriam’s class for the next two Sundays from 10:00 am to noon, to seek out meaning in Jewish prayer and to engage in exploration of how the Jewish tradition conceives of prayer. (See e-bulletin for more details.) You may or may not connect with prayer, but studying about it can help you understand more about it, and possibly find a way in.

As for Jewish text study, we may feel intimidated by it because we feel that we don’t know enough. However, there is an equalizing quality about Torah study in that whatever knowledge or lack thereof you come with, any question, observation, challenge or insight you bring can expand the meaning of what is being studied. Or simply your quiet, attentive presence. Tomorrow morning at Zimra, Anne Pettit will be leading a study session entitled, A Moment For Her exploring themes from this week’s Torah portion, *Parashat Tazria*.

Prayer, tefillah, and study, *talmud torah*, are two areas that our KHN community engages in regularly. We are aware that not all times work for everyone. If there is something you would like to learn about that is not being offered, please let me know and we can try to find additional times to learn.

Chodesh tov! We are entering the month on Nisan in which Passover falls. May we all find liberation.

Shabbat shalom,

Rabbi Diana