

Shabbat, April 24 (Iyyar 12, 5781) Achrei Mot-Kedoshim

tinyurl.com/Shabbat4-24-21

Service Times

* Sign up to attend Shabbat services at

Dortikvah.org/event/Join-Minyan

Please register by Fridays at 5 pm.

Services are held indoors and safety protocols will be in effect.

Erev Shabbat Friday, April 23 (Iyyar 11) 26th Day Omer

10:30 am - Tot Shabbat: Penny in the Pushka!

<u>Youth Parsha Activity</u>

6:15 pm - *Mincha/ Kabbalat Shabbat/ Maariv 6:34 pm - Earliest Candle Lighting 7:38 pm - Late Candle Lighting

Shabbat Saturday, April 24 (Iyyar 12) 27th Day Omer

9:00 am - *Shacharit 9:59 am - Latest preferable time to say Shema

7:30 pm - *Mincha Weekly Shiur - Notes available at this <u>link</u>. 8:36 pm - Maariv/Havdallah 9:00 pm - Havdallah & Schmooze Zoom & Facebook

Classes

- Daf Yomi with Rabbi Paul & Yoni Alon Sunday-Thursday 8:30 pm, Phone Conference.
 - Torah Study with Rabbi Davies Sunday 8 pm, Join on Zoom
 - Ketuvim with Kenny Monday 8 pm, Join on Zoom
 - Lunchtime Talmud with Rabbi Davies Thursdays 12 pm, Facebook Live & Zoom
 - Cholent & Learn with Kenny Abitbol Thursday 8 pm, Join on Zoom

Announcements

- > Congratulations to the winner of our Yom HaAtzmaut Cupcake Competition, **Benji Negal!!** See the winning cupcake HERE.
- > Services will begin at 8:30 am May 1st & 8th.
- >> See the newest **Covid Safety Update** from the Safe Services Committee <u>HERE</u>.

Dor Tikvah Events & Programs

- * Zoom Tot Shabbat: Holiday Roundup April 30th, 10:30 am

 Join Zahava for a musical Tot Shabbat with a different theme each week. Go to Dortikvah.org/youth-tots for more information and future sessions.
- * Guest Lecture with Rabbi Dr. Zvi Grumet May 2nd, 8:30 pm

Join us and speaker Rabbi Dr. Zvi Grumet, speaking on "Me'arat Hamachpelah, Burial and Beyond: The Continuation of Abraham's Legacy." Go to Dortikvah.org/event/Israel360 for more information.

* Davies Memory Book

Share messages and photos to be compiled into a special book that the Davies can take with them to remember their time in Charleston. Get details and submit at tinyurl.com/Davies-Memory.

Community Events

* The Great Addlestone Cooking Show - May 2nd, 7:00 pm

Addlestone Hebrew Academy invites you to this year's virtual spring fundraiser, a cooking show with celebrity chefs, raffle prizes, and more. For details and ticket purchase, go to addlestone.org/spring-fundraiser.

Refuah Shleima

To add or remove a name, contact charlessteinert@gmail.com.

Blooma bat Chaya Sara
(Bertha Hoffman)
Blumah Leah bat Yitzhak Dov
(Rosalind Minster)
Rahel Tzvia bat Feigel Sara
Shlomo Yoel ben Miriam
(Stanford Kirshtein)
Channah Penina bat Miriam Rochel
Nechama Chana bat Tziporah Rachel
Aron David ben Yudah Yisroel

Simcha ben Ettle Hodel bat Raozel Miriam bat Mazal Talia bat Shoshana Esther bat Alitza Yonatan ben Chana Moshe ben Esther Nechemiah ben Chanah Chaim ben Pesha Rina Bat Gisya

Life Cycle

Yahrzeits

- > Moshe Toledano, Father of Penny Bronshtein (4/27)
- > Julius Moses Katzen, Father of Marvin Katzen (4/29)
 - > Esther Sutker, Aunt of Nathan Kirshstein (4/30)
- > Isaac Solomon Oberman, Grandfather of Marvin Katzen (4/30)

Birthdays

➤ Charles Steinert (4/30)

Contributions

Walter Hus

Gerald Katz

- In honor of Rebbetzin and Rabbi Davies and family - In memory of his Father, David Katz

Contributions to CDT can be made at <u>DorTikvah.org</u>.

Donations of \$10 or more are acknowledged here.



Kedoshim

(Leviticus 16-20) All You Need Is Love





Believe it or not, there is no specific Mitzvah (Commandment) to love your parents, your spouse (although it's a good idea) and even your children. In fact, there is no specific requirement that you even like them very much. Of course, these relationships fit under the generic requirement to "Love your neighbor" (Leviticus 19:18) but the Torah does not require more from us than that. However, we are specifically commanded in this week's Parsha to love a convert (Leviticus 19:34).

At first glance, that might sound strange. Why specifically to love a convert more than anyone else, even close family? My Rabbi, Rav Noach Weinberg, of blessed memory, used to explain the meaning of love:

Love is the pleasure we get when we focus and identify with another and his virtues. When you see the virtues in people, you will most certainly love them.

This process is much more fulfilling and meaningful than even Hallmark could have envisioned. By loving we come to emulate. We in fact, **become what we love**. The process works like this: we will change our direction to become just like the virtues we admire. It may be slow and imperceptible to us, but subtly those changes will occur.

The reason the Torah does not require us to love any specific person more than anyone else, is because those people may not have virtues greater than anyone else. As much as we would like to think of them as special, maybe our loved ones have no extra special virtues, and therefore the Torah does not go out of its way to tell us to love them more than anyone else. Of course, everyone is special, and has exceptional talents and qualities, and that is why we are commanded to love them and realize those virtues. But a convert has something more than everyone else, that the Torah specifically wants us to focus on and love. Rabbi Weinberg once asked a phenomenal question. He pointed out that the distance (in spirituality) that someone who converts to Judaism has to travel is further than the distance between any one of us and one of the great sages of the Talmud (called a Tanna). In other words, it's more difficult to become a Jew, than it is for a Jew to become a Tanna. To go from a world in which you are required to keep seven commandments (the Noachide laws), to a world that revolves around 613 commandments, is an enormous leap. To become part of the Jewish people and its destiny is an immense undertaking.

So Rabbi Weinberg asked if people can do such things, i.e., convert, and can travel the distance to be a Jew, then why don't Jews travel the lesser distance to be a Rabbi Akiva?

This is only my view, but I believe it's because we don't love converts (at least not enough).

If we appreciated their emotional strength, if we understood their spiritual path, if we valued their arduous undertaking, and if we therefore loved them, we would become like them.

"When I spent Shabbat at Rabbi Winter's house a couple of months ago, there was a person staying there who was in the process of converting (under his direction) from Catholicism to Judaism. I found the person to be so inspiring that I must say that meeting this person at least in part helped focus me to try to come closer to Hashem (G-d). If this person was willing to come so far, why couldn't I take a few steps closer?" -- Oren Penn

Believe it or not, Abraham was a convert. He was called the Hebrew. Hebrew means to cross over. Abraham crossed over from the pagan world to be a monotheist. He wasn't the first monotheist, and he wasn't the only one alive at his time. He was just the first who started as a pagan and left it to become a monotheist. No one had done that.

The message of Judaism and the recipe for great success is found in this concept of converting. It's easy to appreciate a person for how they appear to us now, but maybe they were born into a loving home and that's who they have always been. The real value is to appreciate the person who traveled the longest distance. Thus the secret of becoming a Rabbi Akiva - or whomever you could possibly dream of becoming, is to identify with, and emulate a convert.

To do that, all you need is love.