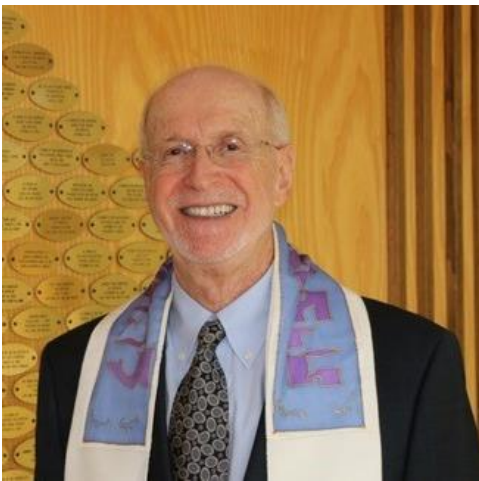


LEVITICUS XIX - THE “HOLINESS” CODE WHY THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT CHAPTER IN THE *TORAH*!

A YOM KIPPUR AFTERNOON DISCUSSION

September 19, 2:30 - 3:30 pm

WITH RABBI EMERITUS PETER E. KASDAN



The High Holy Days force us into a “face to face” discussion of our Jewish tradition’s required ethical teachings and, by implication, goading us to admit to ourselves, to our family, to our neighbors, to our God that, sometimes, even we fail to follow most, if not all, of those requirements. On *Yom Kippur* Afternoon, in an attempt to remind us of our obligations as Jews, the *Torah* reading is taken from the *parasha K’doshim*, specifically from the Book of Leviticus, chapter XIX.

Best known as the “Holiness Code,” this single chapter is, without doubt, the most important chapter in the entire *Torah*. Here, in just 37 verses, the entire ethical and moral structure of Jewish life is set out: rules governing theology, idolatry, family interaction, ritual sacrifice, social welfare and ethical behavior, personal ethics, social justice, sexual ethics, rules for personal appearance, including the clothing we are permitted to wear, the structure for an agricultural society, how to treat the “stranger” and the immigrant and how to properly conduct business.

What better way to spend some quiet hours on *Yom Kippur* afternoon! Confronting our innermost beliefs, wrestling with what are, perhaps, unanswerable questions, sharing our certainties and our uncertainties with “fellow travelers!” This will be an “interactive” study session utilizing the “original” text with an eye towards preparing us for the central themes of the Afternoon Service to follow.

