

From Rabbi Chaitovsky

It has been seven weeks now since we have been unable to attend services in our beloved shul. Anticipating that very first Shabbat that we would not hold services, I remember urging everyone to “make Shabbat” at home with an added intensity and energy to make up for the fact that we would not be in shul. One could still daven, one could still read the Torah portion from a chumash, one could still have a delicious lunch that starts with kiddush and motzi. A beautiful, traditional Shabbat at home, especially when we are unable to be in shul, is not only possible, but vital. Seven weeks later, that is still true.

I hope we have all made the effort to energize and elevate our personal and private shabbat celebrations. This is certainly an ideal week to do so. As I have said before, the COVID-19 pandemic has accomplished something truly spectacular. It has made the Torah portions of the Book of Vayikra/Leviticus come alive in a way we never imagined before. Sacrifice and religious devotion, serious illness, both physical and spiritual, and quarantine are among the topics in Vayikra that have taken on a relevance and meaning that we may have never noticed before.

But even for those of us that will still balk at the Torah’s presentation of these topics, this week’s second parasha - Kedoshim - should still get our attention. I think it is safe to say that amid all the isolation and distancing, we have struggled - and to a large degree, succeeded - at doing better at reaching out, showing care and concern, and being helpful in any way we can. This is true to the central verse in the parasha - ve’ahavta le’reacha kamocho - love your neighbor as yourself.

But what does this mean? How do we “love” others? How do we measure “love”?

The Ramban, therefore, would translate the phrase a bit differently. He recognized the somewhat airy quality of “love your neighbor” so he taught “be loving to your neighbor.” He thought we should be demonstrating our love for others through concrete actions.

Let’s be inspired by this Shabbat to find real-world, measurable ways to be loving to one another. That would increase the holiness quotient in our community and in the world around us.

Shabbat shalom!



Artist Martina Shapiro

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martisart@shaw.ca

Inspiration and Information

[The Ethics of Holiness](#), Rabbi Dr. Lord Jonathan Sacks

[US Forces Honor Holocaust Survivor](#), NBC News

[How to Pray in a Plague](#), Stuart Halpern

[Jewish Students Find One Another Online](#), Romi Geller

This Shabbat

May 1/2 - Iyar 7/8

Friday: Candlelighting 7:35 pm

Torah Portion - Acharei Mot and Kedoshim
(pp 636 - 672 Artscroll Chumash)

[Tot Shabbat](#) at 6:00 pm

[Kabbalat Shabbat](#) at 6:30 pm

Shabbat ends at 8:35 pm

Saturday night: [Musical Havdalah](#) with
Rabbi Chai at 8:45 pm

The code to enter the Zoom class is: ID 285-350-9174

Video Password: BMHBJ

Call in Number: 720 707 2699 or 312 626 6799

Call in Password: 498778

Virtual BMH BJ

Minyan and Davening Schedule - May 7th

Sunday - Thursday at 6:15 pm:

[Evening Minyan and Yahrzeit Ceremony](#)

Learning Opportunities and Classes - Mark your calendars!

Tuesday evenings through May 26 at 7:30 with Rabbi Chaitovsky

[The Truth, The Whole Truth and Nothing
But the Truth](#)

Join as we explore the truth behind "commonly held" Jewish beliefs and "popular" practices that "everyone" knows about. From kissing a mezzuzah to covering mirrors to fasting when a Torah scroll falls and much much more, we will separate fact from fiction and bubbeh maisehs from correct practice.

Wednesday mornings at 9:30 with Rabbi Chaitovsky

[Verse by Verse: The Book of Numbers
\(Bamidbar\)](#)

A survey of the 4th book of the Torah using classical and contemporary commentaries. Bring your bagel and some coffee and join us every Wednesday!

Thursday mornings at 11:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

[Ellyn's Parsha Class](#) for Women
Meeting ID: 922 119 870

Thursday evenings through June 11 at 7:00-7:45 with Cantor Goldstein

[Learn to Pray: An in depth course to study
the structure and concepts of daily and
Shabbat prayer.](#)

We will learn how the function and forms of prayer developed over the thousands of years that Jews have been praying both privately and publicly. We will also work on some of the practical "how to's" of praying, including wearing talit and tefillin.

Friday mornings through May 22 at 10 with Essie Fleischmann

[Parsha Class](#)

Sunday mornings through May 17 at 10:30 with Cantor Goldstein

[The Sefirot and Sefirah: Kabbalah and The
49 Days of The Omer](#)

In this class, we will delve into the meaning of the 10 Sefirot. We will discuss how they affect our lives and the messages contained in the daily counting of the Omer from Pesach to Shavuot.

Daf Yomi each weekday morning at 7:30, and every Saturday night 1 hour after Shabbat is over with Rabbi Michael Fleischmann.

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WhatsApp

Dial in number: 701-802-5213

Access code: 8622667

Online meeting ID: mfleischmann7

But, not exactly correct?

Please, WhatsApp me for adding to the group messaging of Daf Yomi for times, place in Gemoro, etc. 303-815-4882

However, for the actual shiur we use freeconferencecall.com, which is accessible by home phone or cell or computer.

Dial-in number (US): (701) 802-5213

Access code: 8622667#

International dial-in numbers: <https://fccdl.in/i/mfleischmann7>

Online meeting ID: mfleischmann7

Join the online meeting: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/mfleischmann7>

For additional assistance connecting to the meeting text "Help" to the Dial-In number above. Message and data rates may apply.