

COVID-19 Restrictions Update

The SKC and SKC office will be closed to all until February 22, 2021, except for prayer services. If you need to reach the office, please do so by e-mail at social@kehilacentre.com rather than telephone to ensure a timely response. Payments should be mailed to the synagogue or put in the drop-off box in the lobby.

Megilat Esther Reading Sign-up

Please click the links below to sign up to our multiple Megilat Esther reading services. Members of the SKC or the Iraqi Community may sign up. Please make sure to input your full name, email address and phone number for tracking purposes.

Men use this link: <https://signup.com/go/JMpJNkZ>

Women use this link: <https://signup.com/go/FXBSGfQ>

Prayer Restrictions and Registration

We are using a registration system for all minyanim and you must register in advance to attend Tefila services at SKC. If you need help registering or do not have a computer, please call Sulty in the office at 905-669-7654 x200 for help. People who do not register, will not be allowed to pray in the building.

We would like to remind everyone that masks are mandatory from the moment that you step into the building and should not be removed or lowered while you are praying. If you cannot wear a mask, we recommend that you pray at home. We also ask that everyone respect social distancing restrictions at all times in order to minimize any risks and preserve safety. Please do not congregate in the building or in front of the building after Tefila. Not only does this increase the risk to all but people have reported our congregants to the authorities because of this.

Weekly Shiurim

Monday - Mishle/Proverbs (men and women all ages)

Tuesday - Halacha (university-aged boys)

Wednesday - Parashat HaShavua (Post-Seminary Girls)

Thursday - Parashat HaShavua (men and women all ages)

All classes at 8:00pm.

Sunday - Gemara Masechet Sotah 7:15am

Link <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/450150709>

Weekly Shiur by Zachary Benatar

Join us weekly for inspirational words of wisdom on Judaism by Zachary Benatar. Only half an hour weekly. Gain a deeper understanding of the world through Hashem's eyes. We look forward to having men and women tune in.

Every Monday at 2:45 p.m.

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75974587379?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75974587379?pwd=bDVhZlZlRn===huckVITE1NYnBxa2R6QT09)

[pwd=bDVhZlZlRn===huckVITE1NYnBxa2R6QT09.](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75974587379?pwd=bDVhZlZlRn===huckVITE1NYnBxa2R6QT09)

Meeting ID is 759 7458 7379 - Passcode 12345

Torah Bites By Rabbi Kadoch

Mishpatim - Bullying: The epidemic

גרים הייתם בארץ מצרים. (כג:ט וגר לא תלחץ...כי)

"Do not oppress a stranger...for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." (23:9)

Embedded in the civil laws found in this week's Parasha is a special commandment describing the proper treatment of converts to Judaism. The Torah reminds us of our own past, as an oppressed people in the land of Egypt and the way we were treated unfairly. As a result, Rashi explains that we must not vex the convert with harsh words, reminding him of his past life as a gentile or robbing him of his money if he is ignorant of Jewish monetary laws. The moral of the command is simple. Don't do to others what you didn't like be done to you.

I'll be honest, until this year, I never thought anything more of this pasuk. The average Jew comes across maybe a dozen or two converts in their lifetime. Treat them nicely, show them "the way," and move on with life. But then I came across the commentary of the Rabenu Behaye and it hit me like a ton of bricks; BULLYING. What he writes is incredible and must be spread! There are many times in our Torah that we are warned about the treatment of converts. In essence a convert is a person who finds himself in a foreign land, unable to make a connection with the people around him. He writes that the word for convert in Hebrew is "Ger" which comes from the word "Gargir" - - The cress or berries on the top of the tree that sticks out noticeably from the rest of the branches. People mock him, belittle him, isolate him and make him as if he doesn't exist; verbal abuse, mental abuse, physical abuse, all these horrible things fall into the definition of a bully.

Bullying is something that unfortunately is an all too common occurrence in today's schooling system. It happens in the classroom and on the playgrounds. I wish it would end there, but bullies who aren't stopped bring their attitude to the workplace, places of worship and even into their home. Thankfully, day schools and modern day media create tremendous awareness to the problem. With programs such as "Anti-Bullying Awareness week" and harsher punishments being handed down to the culprits, we are on the right track to removing bullying once and for all and avoid what could be catastrophic consequences.

In the same verse, yet again, we are reminded that "we knew the soul of the convert." The word nefesh (soul) in that verse exclaims that we knew how it felt. In as much that we suffered a physical slavery in the hands of the Egyptians, it was an emotional/mental slavery above all.

In ending, I echo the words of the Rabenu Behaye when he imparts his message to all the victims of bullying and oppression. God is with you. God will take vengeance for your abuse. God will defend you and fight your battle. God will have mercy on you like he had mercy on the Jewish people who were BULLIED in Egypt. Never give up. And to the offender, the Torah stuck a memo on your desk for you to see, "Remember where you came from." May we merit to treat everyone the way we wish to be treated so that bullying see its end once and for all.