

CONGREGATION AHAVATH ACHIM

April 2021 Newsletter

17 Adar 18 Nisan 5781

Torah & Haftorah Readings and Page Numbers				
	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24
Torah Reading	Pesach (VII)	Shmini	Tazria-Metzora	Acharei Mot-Kedoshim
	Exodus 13:17 - 15:26, Numbers 28:19 - 28:25	Leviticus 9:1 - 11:47	Leviticus 12:1 - 15:33	Leviticus 16:1 - 20:27
Pages	265-274, 695-696	443-454	460-477	480-508
Haftorah	II Samuel 22:1 - 22:51	II Samuel 6:1 - 7:17	II Kings 7:3 - 7:20	Amos 9:7 - 9:15
Pages	1017-1022	454-458	477-479	509-510

Minyan Times are in the monthly calendar and on the Ahavath Achim web site, www.ahavathachim.org

Dear Friend,

I hope this message finds you well.

As we enter the month of April together, I want to look at a pasuk in the Torah that we will be reading this calendar month.

As part of our yearly cycle of Torah readings, we will be reading the parashiyot of Shemini, Tazria, Metzora, Acharei Mot, and Kedoshim this month.

In Parashat Kedoshim we read the following prohibition: "Do not turn aside to false gods, and do not make yourselves gods out of cast metal. I am God your Lord (Leviticus 19:4)."

Why is the Torah so opposed to fashioning "gods out of cast metal"?

The essence of the Jewish faith is the idea of "brit", covenant. We are in a covenantal relationship with the Almighty. No one wants to be in a relationship with a heap of metal. The essence of a relationship is constant striving, constant action and reaction, constant improvement as we work to better our standing in relation to the other party with whom we share our relationship.

Our relationship with the Almighty behooves us to constantly strive to better ourselves and better our relationship with Him, with the expectation that He will respond in kind. While the prophet tells us that the Almighty does not change, that statement merely means to say that the Almighty's attributes and His statutes can not be altered. It does not mean to say that he is not a god of Divine pathos, whose brit-covenant obligates Him to respond in kind to our good deeds and supplications, just as we must constantly work to be in response to Him.

This covenantal relationship, of us humans being obliged to constantly strive and grow, and never see ourselves as being locked into place and unable to progress, is only viable with a Living God. An inanimate chunk of silver or gold can only be an absurd and cheap substitute. The eternal covenant that exists between the Creator and His nation obligates us in a lifetime of constant davening, communing with Him, and seeking to better ourselves in the ways of kedusha, holiness. If we achieve this goal, then the Living God will certainly respond in kind. Indeed, this in essence is the message of the entire Parashat Kedoshim.

Wishing you a wonderful month,

Rabbi Peretz Robinson

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Refuah Shelemah to David Gordon, and Diane Sheinbaum.
May G-d grant each a speedy and complete recovery.

Yahrzeits for April 2021

<p>Friday, April 2- Bertha Dimand (Mother to Jay Dimand) Sunday, April 4- Samuel Kosowsky (Father to Seymour Kosowsky) Tuesday, April 6- Helen Katz Gomberg (Mother to William Gomberg) Saturday, April 10- Rebecca Zimmer (Grandmother to Pamela Zimmer) Sunday, April 11- Irwin Milstein (Father to Ellen Rothwax) Wednesday, April 14- Leon Cohen (Father to Arnold Cohen) Tuesday, April 20- Sarah Konovitch (Mother to Sarah Risch) Wednesday, April 21- Charlotte Basch (Mother to David Basch)</p>	<p>Wednesday, April 21- Samuel Karelitz (Grandfather to Seymour Kosowsky) Sunday, April 25- Reni Lynn Zabol (Sister to Peggy Sue Schwarzmer) Monday, April-26- Norma A. Zimmer (Mother to Pamela Zimmer) Wednesday, April 28- Samuel Anflick (Brother-in-Law is Betty Anflick) Wednesday, April 28- Moses Tobias Eliovson (Father to Lionel Eliovson) Friday, April 30- Etkies Family (Family to Roslyn Fishman) Friday, April 30- Sanford N. Green (Father to Stacy Mintz)</p>
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