



Becoming Our Best Selves: Lessons from This Week's Torah Portion - Achrei Mos/Kedoshim

Becoming the best version of ourselves is one of the main goals of our time in this world. The Torah portions this week, Achrei Mos and Kedoshim, speak directly to how we accomplish this spiritual journey.

The first portion, Achrei Mos, explores our relationship with Hashem, the Yom Kippur service, and several other foundational topics. The second portion, Kedoshim, addresses many interpersonal relationship laws—the commandments that govern how we interact with our fellow human beings. Among these is perhaps the most famous teaching: "Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself."

A Time for Reflection and Growth

We find ourselves in a unique period:

- **A time of mourning, commemorating when the 12,000 pairs of Rabbi Akiva's students passed away**
- **The weeks between our exodus from Egypt and receiving the Torah on Mount Sinai on Shavuot—a time devoted to preparing ourselves to become perfect vessels to accept and receive G-d's wisdom**

As we've mentioned previously, our tradition encourages the study of Pirkei Avos (Ethics of the Fathers) during this time to develop our ethics and morals as Jews.

The 48 Ways to Greatness

Rabbi Aharon Kotler, of blessed memory, had a beautiful practice during the 49 days from Pesach to Shavuot. He would study one of the 48 ways to acquire Torah each day, then review all 48 ways on the 49th day to prepare for Shavuot on the 50th day.

As Rabbi Noach Weinberg, of blessed memory, taught us, these are not just 48 ways to acquire Torah—they are 48 ways to accomplish anything and everything in life. They are 48 paths to becoming GREAT!

Today's Focus: Way #26 - Know Your Place

Friday marks the 26th day of our counting, and we focus on Rabbi Weinberg's teaching on Way #26: Know Your Place.

Rabbi Noach Weinberg(48 Ways Project) <https://aish.com/48955251/>

Every person has a contribution to make in this world. Figure out your role in the grand scheme.

Imagine the accountant standing in a roomful of doctors and pontificating on medical science. How foolish he sounds!

A key ingredient in wisdom is to know who you are, and where you fit into the greater scheme of things. Arrogance is a major barrier to growth. The "know-it-all" is smugly satisfied. Don't be arrogant, don't be satisfied. Realize how little you understand. If you appreciate that wisdom is your most valuable possession, then you'll push for more.

Way #26 is *hamakir et mikomo* – literally "know your place." Do you know where you stand in relation to others? Realistically evaluate your strengths and weaknesses.

By learning how to make that calculation, you'll know when you're best suited for the job at this moment. If you are, then don't be held back by false modesty. It's your obligation to step forward and take the lead. On the other hand, it also means knowing when others are more suited, and stepping back into your place.

Sometimes, silence is golden. The Talmud teaches that, "A person should not speak in the presence of someone greater than him in wisdom." Don't be too quick to throw in your two cents worth.

You can think the world of yourself, only to walk into a room of geniuses and find out that you have a lot more to learn. Or you can be down on yourself, only to walk into a room of under-achievers and find out that you're not so bad after all.

The Sages speak about carrying two slips of paper – one in the right pocket and one in the left. On one paper is written: "The entire world was created just for me" (Talmud – [Sanhedrin 38a](#)). On the other paper is written the words of Abraham: "I am but dust and ashes" ([Genesis 18:27](#)).

Know your place. Before you begin talking, stop to think: Is this a time to step forward, or a time to step back? [to read full article click here and start from highlighted blue spot](#)

Wishing you a meaningful Shabbat and continued growth on your spiritual journey,

Noach, Miriam and The Whole Karp Family

The Newest Spartan Video

Relationships: The BIG THREE - Achrei Mos/Kedoshim What are the 3 most important relationships in life? Join the Spartan Rabbi for an exploration of the double Torah portion of Achrei Mos and Kedoshim to learn about them and how to practically apply them to our lives and toward becoming the best version of ourselves and the World.

Have an awesome Shabbos of clarifying and applying- <https://youtu.be/8RnXC99LJ-g>

#spartanrabbi #thrivenotjustsurvive #Omercount #Achreimos #kedoshim

#lovethyneighborasthyself

MJX Happenings



Join the community for an evening of S'mores, Songs & Spirits - A LAG B'omer Celebration at the home of Dan and Jessica Weiss. Thursday, May 15th @ 8:30pm. Beer - S'mores - Live Music and Kumzitz - Stories - Inspiration 21+ Only

RSVP is helpful but not required - <https://forms.gle/q2ysGj7pBaVU57Uh8>

For more info, please email: info@memphisjx.org

Sponsored by Baron Hirsch, Bat Ami, Torah Mtzion of Memphis, Young Israel of Memphis & Memphis Jewish Experience. There is no Cost for this event- Sponsorships Available
Feel free to bring your own instruments..

Newest ladies Class in town In-person and on Zoom

email mkarp@memphisjx.org for location or Zoom link



Parsha Potpourri

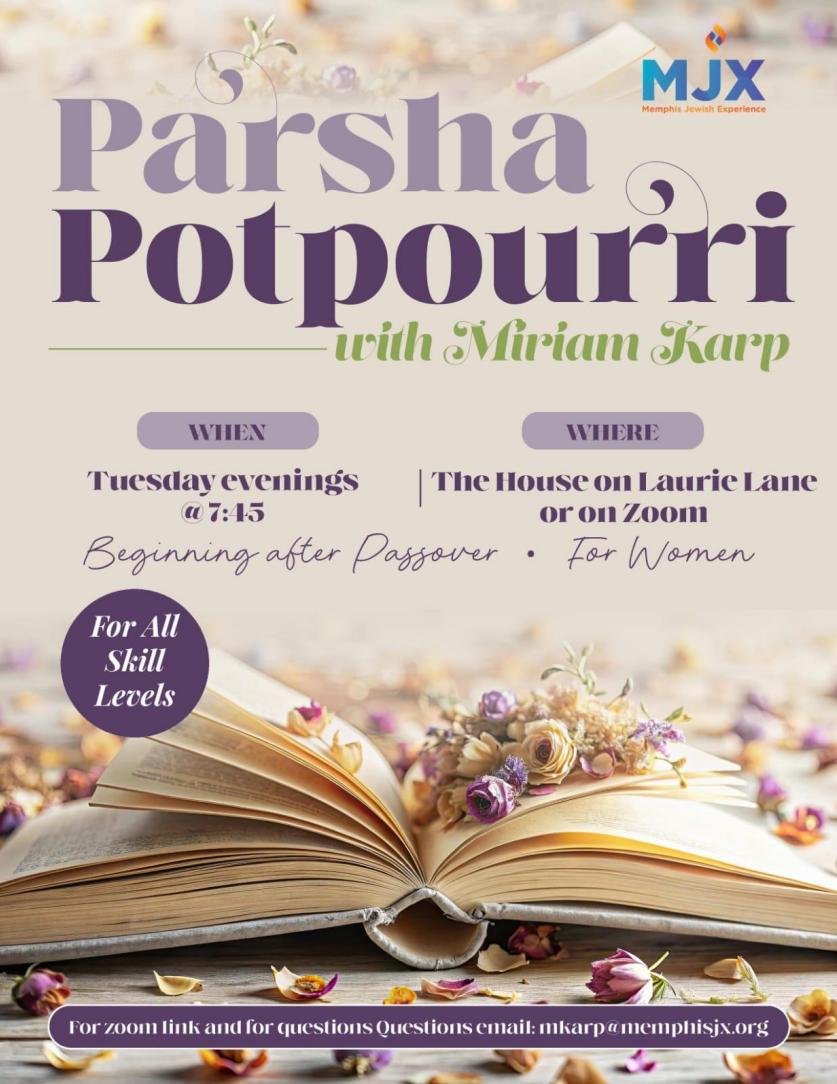
with Miriam Karp

WHEN
Tuesday evenings
@ 7:45
Beginning after Passover

WHERE
The House on Laurie Lane
or on Zoom
For Women

For All Skill Levels

For zoom link and for questions Questions email: mkarp@memphisjx.org



Special Shout out and thanks to -
*Foundation's B'nai Tzedek Grant Reception
Celebrates the Future of Jewish Philanthropy*

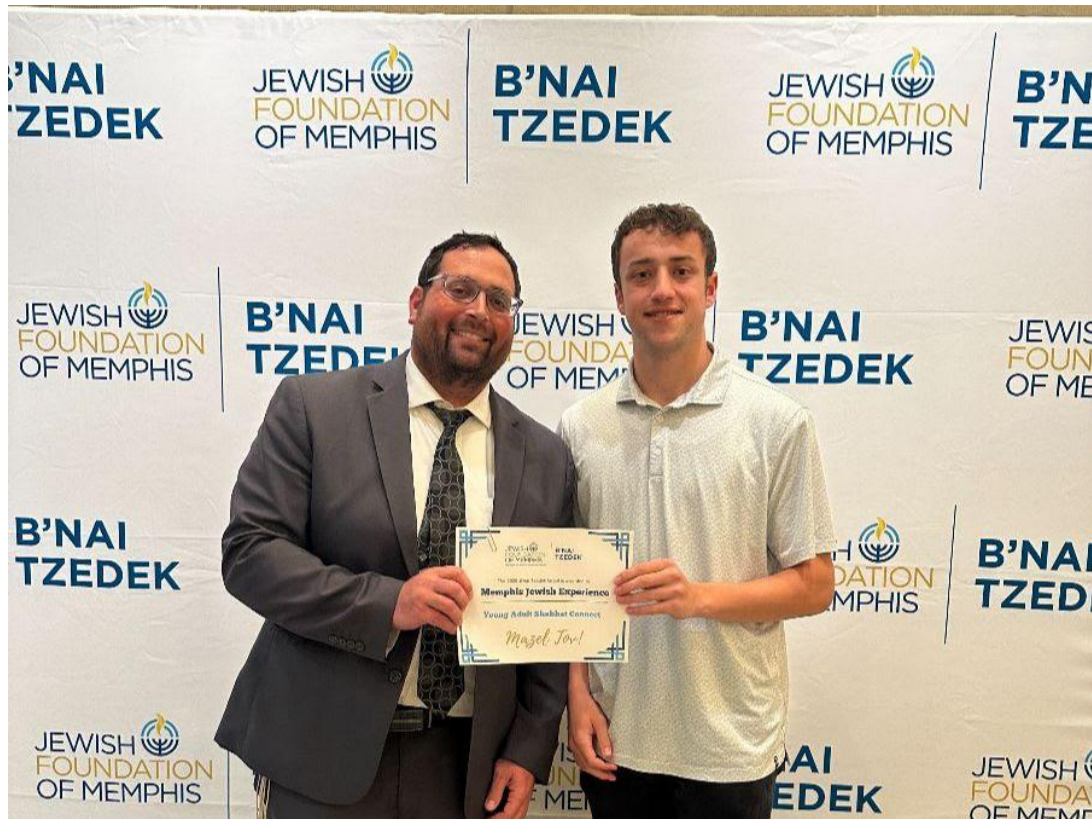
On Monday, May 5, the Jewish Foundation of Memphis hosted its 2025 B'nai Tzedek Grant Reception, celebrating the achievements of 50 Jewish teen philanthropists. The event highlighted the next generation of Jewish leaders as they awarded grants to local agencies serving Memphis' Jewish community.

This year, B'nai Tzedek teens participated in a comprehensive grant process that included application development, Zoom interviews with local organizations, and a bus tour of Memphis Jewish agencies. Visits to Temple Israel, the Morris S. Fogelman Jewish Student Center at the University of Memphis, and the Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service allowed them to see the impact of their support firsthand.

The evening concluded with grants awarded to eight local organizations, including Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service, Hillels of Memphis, Beth Sholom Synagogue, Memphis Jewish Experience, Memphis Jewish Federation, Memphis Jewish Home and Rehab, and Plough Towers.

To hear how B'nai Tzedek sparks lifelong commitment to Jewish giving, listen to Laura Kaplan Paller, one of B'nai Tzedek's first participants, share her story on Foundation's podcast *Generations of Giving* [here](#).

For more information about B'nai Tzedek, contact [Carolyn Schrier](#) or call 901-374-0400.





**B'NAI
TZEDEK**

The 2025 B'nai Tzedek Grant is awarded to

Memphis Jewish Experience

Young Adult Shabbat Connect

Mazel Tov!