

April 27, 2018

Dear BQLI Region Friends,

We're all familiar with the concept of "the grass is always greener on the other side." You may not drive the latest model car or carry the latest style purse, but do you ever take a moment to look beyond the grass? We all have abundant blessings, if only we would take notice.

In this week's Torah parashah, *Kedoshim*, we learn how to harvest our fields. We are told to leave the edges unharvested, and we are told that we cannot go back to collect any fallen produce that we have reaped. We leave these uncollected crops, the gleanings, as an offering to those who are less fortunate, those without fields of their own. It is interesting to note that there is no minimum size field mentioned, leading to the assumption that even those with the least can spare a little.

This past Wednesday was our annual BQLI Region Helen Cytryn Study Day. It was a wonderful time, spent learning about several engaging and interesting topics...all of which began with the letter *Kuf*. Coincidentally, *Kedoshim*, our portion this week and Hebrew for Holy Ones, begins with *Kuf* as well. *Kedoshim* also teaches us what is probably the portion's most famous line, "Love your neighbor as yourself." This may not always be possible, but it sure is a lofty goal to have.

Life is all about your perspective. Sometimes, we want more, better, faster, bigger. Always, we should be content to reflect that others, who are less fortunate, would be content with what we seek to replace. So, is it enough to merely give leftover scraps? The Torah pushes us to feel a responsibility to provide for the gleaners and we should take the nudge seriously! *Tzedakah*, what we think of as charity but what is actually righteousness or justice, will lead us to become *Kedoshim*.

I wish you contentment with what you have and the generosity to share it with those who don't.

B'Shalom,
Grace

PS: I'd like to thank our Study Day Scholars, Cantor Carol Chesler, Rabbi Ian Jacknis, Rabbi Dr. Joel Levenson, and Rabbi Uriel Romano for accepting our invitation to lead our study sessions. Their commitment to Jewish learning is passionate, evident, and appreciated!