

May 4, 2018

Dear BQLI Region Friends,

As a young Jewish woman of only twenty years of age, I knew that one of my most important jobs would be to establish a Jewish home. Yes, even before officially marrying Saul and having children, creating a Jewish space in which we would live was paramount. Upon reflection of this time, I now realize that those closest to me, my immediate family members and closest friends, nurtured this aspiration by gifting me with Judaica galore! Years later when Jennifer, my sister-of-my-heart, became engaged, I presented her with each piece of essential Shabbat Judaica and then some. To be honest, at the time I wasn't sure that they'd get much use, but Jennifer and her beautiful family use and enjoy it all as she, too, felt the passion to create a Jewish home!

When reading this week's parashah, Emor, it was its end that really resonated with me. God spoke to Moses saying, "speak to the Israelite people and say to them: These are MY fixed times, the fixed times of God, which you shall proclaim as sacred occasions." In this reading, God is telling us when to celebrate Shabbat, and holy days such as Passover, Shavuot, and Rosh Hashanah. By doing so, God establishes one of the things that has remained constant since ancient times...the opportunities for the entire family to come together! When we take part in the celebrations, we not only sync as individuals with the greater Jewish community, but we also create a rhythm of Jewish life in our homes. These holidays are the guideposts for Jewish women.

As I head off to Israel on Sunday, I'm already thinking about what I can buy in the Holy Land to bring home for my daughters' homes. Barrie mentioned that she and Dave NEED a home blessing to hang in their apartment! Jordan and Robert NEED about a dozen mezuzot for their new house! I can't wait to find treasurers for them to always remember came not only from their mother but also from Israel!

B'Shalom,
Grace