

Shabbat HaGadol - Metzora

April 13, 2019 (Nisan 8, 5779)



Service Times

Friday, April 12

7:00 pm – Mincha
7:30 pm – Candle Lighting

Saturday, April 13

9:00 am – Shacharit
(10:06 am – Latest preferable time to say the shema)
10:00 am – Shabbat Morning Youth Groups
10:30 am – Youth Tefilah Begins
6:10 pm – Parsha Shiur: **Special Shabbat HaGadol Edition**
6:55 pm - Mincha
8:27 pm – Shabbat Ends (Havdallah)

Kiddush Sponsor:

Picnic and a Play Date sponsored by the Zucker Family in memory of Jerry Zucker, Yehoshua Mordechai ben HaRav Aryeh Tzvi, z"l. on his yahrzeit

Apr 20 – Shabbat Pesach Day 1 – Edie and Joe Ruben in honor of their children and grandchildren visiting for Pesach and in honor of Congregation Dor Tikvah.

Apr 21 – Pesach Day 2 - Barry Warren in honor of Ruth's new title of CPA Emeritus and her going from slavery to freedom

Apr 26 Pesach Day 7 - **Available**

Apr 27 Pesach Day 8 - **Available**

Please consider marking a special event in your life by sponsoring a Kiddush. Contact Lenny Zucker at lenbarbz@alum.mit.edu. Regular Kiddush is \$150. **Pesach Kiddush is \$175.** Shabbat Academy Kiddush/Lunch is \$275.

Weekday Services

Mincha/Maariv on Monday and Wednesday at 6:05 pm at Dor Tikvah

Regular Classes

- Torah Study – The Avraham Stories – **Sunday at 7:30 pm** at the Dor Tikvah house
 - Lunchtime Talmud – **noon at the Dor Tikvah house**
Facebook Live access
- Learning Shir HaShirim with Kenny Abitbol - **Mondays following services at approx. 6:30 pm** in the Gilston Chapel *with Facebook Live.* We will be diving into Song of Songs.

Dor Tikvah Youth Programs

Information about our youth programs is available at dortikvah.org/youth



Upcoming Events

Apr 13 – Picnic and a Playdate. Join us for an outdoor, family Shabbat lunch with pre-Pesach games and activities for kids - all ages welcome. RSVP at DorTikvah.org

Passover

- Sale of Chometz forms must be turned in to Rabbi Davies by 4/19 @ 9 am
- Shacharit & Siyum for the Firstborn is 4/19 at 7:30 am. RSVP to Charles Steinert
- Interested in Seder hosting or hospitality? Contact Rabbi Davies

Community Events

Holocaust Proclamations - Each year, local city councils issue Proclamations that commemorate the Holocaust and honor Holocaust victims. In very moving ceremonies, a member of the Council reads a Proclamation, followed by a candle lighting ceremony. Show support by attending the remaining Proclamations:

- Apr 16 @ 6 pm, Sullivan's Island City Council | 2056 Middle St.
- Apr 23 @ 5 pm, Charleston City Council | 80 Broad Street
- Apr 25 @ 7 pm, James Island City Council | 1122 Dills Bluff Road

May 5, 2:30 – Yom HaShoah – Holocaust Remembrance Program at the Charleston Gaillard Center. Reading of names, Keynote Speaker Henry Fenichel followed by the silent march to the Holocaust Memorial.

Refuah Shelema

Robert Levinson
Hodel bat Raozel (Linda Kirshstein)
Yehudit Elisheva bat Miriam Leah Claret (Kate Kalin Tobakos)
Laella bat Simcha
Talia bat Shoshana
Bloom bat Chaya Sara (Bertha Hoffman)
Miriam bat Mazal
Yisrael ben Chaya
Yocheved Koplowitz
Valerie Armour
Tovah Rivka bat Esther
Aryeh Chaim Simcha ben Yael Bracha (Teddy Mocle Levine)

Elijah Myer ben Malkah
Yisrael Haynu Ben Shimon Avraham
Netanel Ilan ben Shaina Tzipora
Sheva bat Hensa Freyda (Lolita Hasid)
Liba Doba Borer bat Yael Bracha (Josephina Mocle Levine)
Baruch ben Yehudit Basha
Bear Phillips
Etta Tzivvia bat Leila
Eliezer ben Miriam (Larry Goodman)
Chaiah Leah bat Shier
Yaara Ami Bat Nechama (Jeremy Shecter)
Bettina Sands

Life Cycle

Birthdays

- Ben-Zion Bronshtein (4/14)
- Dina Schager (4/15)
- Nechama Alon (4/19)
- Jacob Frankel (4/19)
- Toby Frankel (4/19)

Yahrzeit

- Helen Kramer, mother of Eddie Kramer (4/14)
- Clara Rogovoy Yarus, grandmother of Greg Yarus (4/14)
- Joseph Chase, brother-in-law of Leah Chase (4/19)

Contributions

Discretionary Fund

In Memory of Jerry Zucker, OBM, by Debbie, Truere and Greg Rothschild

The Power of Speech: *What is the connection between speaking badly and contracting this skin disease?*

(Excerpt) By Rabbi Shraga Simmons | Aish.com

One of the most difficult sections of the Torah to understand is this week's parsha which discusses Tzarat, a skin disease commonly mis-translated as "leprosy." In truth, Tzarat is a physical manifestation of a spiritual deficiency. The Talmud (Arachin 16) says that Tzarat comes specifically as a consequence of "Loshon Hara" — negative speech about another person. For example, we see that when Moses' sister Miriam spoke Loshon Hara, she contracted Tzarat (Numbers, chapter 12). What is the connection between speaking badly — gossiping about another — and contracting this skin disease?

To Build or to Destroy

Speech is the tool of creation. Through it we can build individuals and the world. We can praise, encourage, and give others confidence. By making others feel important, we build them up, as if to say, "Your existence is necessary." This is life-giving and life-affirming.

One of the great American rabbis of the past generation, Rabbi Shlomo Freifeld zt"l, was known to have brought a neighbor back to Torah observance simply by caring enough to say "good morning."

On the other hand, speech can also be used to destroy. Words like "you're worthless" wipes out a person's self-esteem. As King Solomon says, "Life and death are in the hands of the tongue" (Proverbs 18:21). The Talmud (Arachin 15b) explains that negative speech is even worse than a sword — since it kills many people, even at great distance. Remember the expression "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me"? This was clearly not said by a Jew!

Beyond the individual destruction, we have all seen the power of gossip — a vicious rumor — to tear apart relationships, families, and even entire communities. Of course, just as the Torah prohibits speaking Loshon Hara, we are prohibited from even listening to it. (Which makes sense — if I can't listen, then you can't speak it!) By listening to negative talk, we fuel the viciousness and become desensitized to its effect on others.

From here we can understand a section of this week's parsha, Leviticus 13:45-46. The Torah says that when someone has been diagnosed as having Tzarat, they must go outside the boundaries of the city and shout "Contaminated!" to anyone who approaches. The punishment is measure-for-measure: If you promote divisiveness amongst others, then you will also suffer the divisiveness of separation from community.

Limits of Loshon Hara

Many people make the mistake of thinking that the Torah prohibition of negative speech is limited only to saying falsity and untruth. But this is not so. Lying falls under a separate prohibition, expressed in Exodus 20:13, 23:7. Loshon Hara, meanwhile, is the prohibition against saying anything negative or derogatory about another person — even when it's true!

Often, Loshon Hara will couch itself in a cloak of rationalizations. It doesn't even matter whether the words are spoken implicitly or implied. If the message can be construed negatively, then it is a violation of Loshon Hara. Be aware of potential Loshon Hara situations and stop them before they start. For instance, reunions are particularly rife with gossip: "Oh, did you hear about so-and-so..."

Here are some commonly-spoken forms of Loshon Hara to watch out for:

"But it's true!"

"But I didn't even mention his name!"

"I wouldn't care if someone said the same thing about me."

"Everyone knows about it already, anyway."

"He wouldn't mind."

"I'd say it even to his face."

"Just kidding!"

All these qualify as Loshon Hara.

"There he goes again... "

(Saying nothing...but rolling your eyes!)

"People from that city are so..."

"It's all in the name of business competition!"

"This may be Loshon Hara, but..."

"C'mon, you can tell me..."

There is one exception to this rule, however. We may speak or listen to negative information if we are absolutely sure it is for the constructive purpose of preventing future damage. But before you go ahead and use this exemption, make sure the following conditions apply:

The information must be objectively true, not a matter of taste or opinion.

You must have first-hand information, not hearsay.

You must first give the perpetrator a chance to respond to the allegations.

You can have no ulterior motive or personal gain from what you say.

You must avoid mentioning names whenever possible.

Why Do People Gossip?

What would motivate one person to speak badly about another? Low self-esteem. When a person feels down about himself, there are two ways to feel better — either 1) make the effort to work and build oneself up (this is a lot of hard work!), or 2) put others down. The reasoning being, if I can lower others, then I don't look so bad by comparison! But that's the easy way, the "quick high." And is that the kind of person you want to be?

The media has built an empire around knocking down big targets — like movie stars, politicians and business leaders. For the average person who may see himself languishing in mediocrity, it is a source of aggravation to see others' success in life! So, knock them down — and problem solved!

This may explain some basis as well for anti-Semitism. The nation that holds itself to a higher standard is a constant reminder of the human potential for sanctity and morality. Why is the world so eager to point out every misstep taken by Israel? Because by eliminating respect for that higher standard, the obligation to strive for that standard likewise falls away.

The first step in avoiding Loshon Hara is to recognize our own faults and commit to improving on them. When I accept that I alone am responsible for my inadequacies, then I will similarly be less critical and more tolerant of others.