



Parshas Tazriah

Candle Lighting 7:24p Havdalah 8:27p Torah Reading Vayikra 12:1-13:59 Haftarah Melochim II 4:42-5:19 Candle Lighting 4/19 7:31p

Tazriah: Finding Forgiveness *Rabbi Shmuel Silber*

God spoke to Moshe and Aharon, saying: If a man has on the skin of his body: A white blotch or a bright spot The Priest shall pronounce him ritually impure, for this discoloration is Tzaraas. (Vayikra 13:1-6)

It was a gift. Not the type of gift that makes you feel loved and appreciated; but the kind of gift that opens your eyes and heart to the realities of life. The gift to which I refer was the gift of *Tzaraas* (loosely translated as leprosy). *Tzaraas* was a physical manifestation of a spiritual malady. The Talmud explains that if one spoke *Lashon Hara* (slander against another), they would be stricken with a strange skin disease. One would have to appear before the kohen (priest) to have the discoloration or blotch examined. If the spot met certain criteria, the kohen would declare the individual *tamei* (impure). The afflicted individual would then be exiled and sent out from the community. His punishment was *middah k'neged middah*, reciprocal in nature. He sought to isolate another through negative and slanderous speech and therefore, we punish him in kind by isolating him from the community. Yet, despite the difficulties this punishment brought upon the sinner, it was a gift. It was through this sickness that the sinner was made aware of his negative and deleterious behavior. It was through *Tzaraas* that the slanderer was given an opportunity to fix himself and right his wrongs. During the days of isolation, the sinner was able to reflect on his behavior and begin to take the necessary substantive, rehabilitative steps.

The Torah then proceeds to discuss the purification process. *"This shall be the law of the person afflicted with tzara'ath, on the day of his cleansing: He shall be brought to the kohen (Vayikra 14:2)."* Yet, the very next verse reads, "The kohen shall go outside the camp, and the kohen shall look, and behold, the lesion of tzara'ath has healed in the afflicted person (Vayikra 14:3)." At first glance, it appears the verses are contradicting one another. Is the *Metzora* (person afflicted with *Tzaraas*) brought to the Kohen? Or is the Kohen brought to the *Metzora*?

The answer is – both. As a result of his behavior the *Metzora* was rejected by the community. The verse states, *"All the days the lesion is upon him, he shall remain unclean. He is unclean; he shall dwell isolated; his dwelling shall be outside the camp (Vayikra 13:46)."* The Talmud explains that even others who were themselves ritually impure had to avoid contact with the *Metzora*. He was away from his family, distanced from his community, cut-off from his people. All this to impress upon him the severity of his actions, *"You created a distance between one man and his fellow, therefore, you must sit alone outside the camp (Arachin 16b)."* The *Metzora* was taught a harsh, yet profound lesson – there is no room within the camp and community for those who sow the seeds of hatred and animosity within our ranks. But along with this lesson came a fear - a fear that this feeling of rejection would forever isolate the *Metzora* and make him think that he would never reintegrate. In fact, the Midrash comments, *"And he shall be brought to the Kohen; on the day that he becomes pure he should not delay ... even if we must bring him against his will."* Could we imagine a scenario in which the *Metzora* was reticent to return for his purification process? Would he not want to be reunited with his family? Would he not yearn to resume his normal life? Yet, the Torah tells us that this concern does in fact exist. He may not want to come back – why? Because the *Metzora* may say, *"Look what I have done to myself. Look how I have sullied my soul and reputation. I have hurt others and how will they every forgive me? I have fractured relationships, caused heart-break - I don't think I can ever go back."*

The Torah tells us that on the day he is to be purified, he should come to the Kohen on his own. He has paid the price for his negative behavior; he has repented, learned his lesson, and will hopefully be more vigilant in his inter-personal conduct. But God tells the Kohen, *"If you see he is not showing up - go get him. Run to him, embrace him, bring him back, tell him we, the community, love, care and forgive him. Make him feel wanted. Remind him that we do get second chances."*

There are times when people wrong and hurt us. Often, because of the emotional pain endured, I want nothing to do with the person who hurt me. Truth be told, after a difficult or hurtful interaction, a little distance (sometimes for a long time) is what is needed to heal the wounds and rebuild the self. But we must learn from the *Metzora* the need to give second (third, fourth ...) chances. We must remember that if the person who harmed me is truly penitent, understands what he has done, and has demonstrated a desire to do things differently going forward – I must leave my heart and the door open to reconciliation. People aren't perfect and I must allow those around me to find their interpersonal redemption in the aftermath of relationship failure. But there is another lesson as well. We must learn to forgive ourselves. We all make mistakes. There are some who carry the pain of their mistakes with them every moment of every day. There are people who cannot let go of the pain of personal failure. The laws of *Tzaraas* teach us that we must forgive the other; but we must also learn to forgive ourselves.

	12/13 FRI/SHABBOS	14 SUNDAY	15 MONDAY	16 TUESDAY	17 WEDNESDAY	18 THURSDAY	19 FRIDAY
WEEK AT A GLANCE 4/12 - 4/19	SHABBOS NIGHT 6:30p Toameha 7:00p Mincha followed by Kabbolas Shabbos 7:24p Candle Lighting	7:15a Shacharis 7:55a Daf Yomi 9:00a Shacharis 2:00p Mincha 6:10p Plag Mincha 7:35p Mincha/Maariv	5:50a Daf Yomi 6:45a Shacharis 9:00a Shacharis 6:10p Plag Mincha 7:35p Mincha/Maariv 7:50p Hilchos Shabbos Chabura 8:00p Teen Boys Learning (HS) 8:40p Amud Yomi 9:00p Maariv	5:50a Daf Yomi 6:45a Shacharis 9:00a Shacharis 6:10p Plag Mincha 7:35p Mincha/Maariv 7:45p Women's Tehillim Chabura - ON BREAK 8:00p Teen Boys Learning (5th-6th) 8:40p Amud Yomi 9:00p Maariv	5:50a Daf Yomi 6:45a Shacharis 9:00a Shacharis 6:10p Plag Mincha 7:35p Mincha/Maariv 8:00p Teen Boys Learning (7th-8th) 8:40p Amud Yomi 9:00p Maariv	5:50a Daf Yomi 6:45a Shacharis 9:00a Shacharis 6:10p Plag Mincha 7:35p Mincha/Maariv 7:40p Amud Yomi 8:00p Chassidus Chaburah 9:00p Maariv	5:50a Daf Yomi 6:45a Shacharis 9:00a Shacharis 6:30p Toameha 7:00p Mincha followed by Kabbolas Shabbos 7:31p Candle Lighting
	SHABBOS DAY 7:00a Hashkama Shacharis 8:45a Shacharis (KS - 9:50a) 9:15a Teen Minyan 9:30a Junior Congregation 5:00p Women's Learning Group 6:05p Early Mincha 6:30p Daf Yomi 7:20p Mincha 8:27p Maariv/Havdalah						

MEMBER NEWS

MAZEL TOV

Shaan & Stacie Elbaum on birth of their son, Yaakov Amichai. Mazal tov to the grandmother, **Shirley Elbaum**.
Yoni Frager and **Leora Khaver** on their engagement.
Adam & Phran Edelman on the marriage of their daughter Ella to Moshe Deutsch.

BIRTHDAYS

Shira Berry, Michelle Czinn, Ariella Erez, Dalia Feldman, Ne'ima Fogel, Miri Fogel, Tova Gershowitz, Yerachmiel Meir Goff, Elisha Raanan Goldman, Shoshana Grossman, Mason Kaplan, Debbie Langer, Micah Lehmann, Larry Marder, Shmuel Pepper, Deborah Rapoport, Yitzy Schleifer, Noam Schoenfeld, Yehuda Ephraim Shor, Scott Sperling, Zahava Toporowitz, Avraham Yashia, Gershom Werdesheim, Ora Zalesch

UPCOMING YAHRZEITS

Sharon Benedek, Louis Berman, Leonard Feldman, Sherwood Goffin, Ted Hamburger, Rae Levin, Ruth Mendelowitz, Sol Pollack, Esther ShemTov, Gedeon Sisovic, Reverend Irvin Stern

An Open Letter from Selma Woolf:

In a world driven by negativity and fear, our shul is building holiness. I was overwhelmed by the kindness of our kehilla who eased my hospitalization and transition home with their prayers, calls, visits, and dinners. My wish for our members and their families is the gift of good health and the appreciation of all that is still beautiful in our world.

- Selma Woolf

SPONSORSHIPS & DONATIONS

TALMUD TORAH

Sæed & Sima Haken to show their Hakarat Hatov to Hashem for all of his Nisim and Niflaot, May Hakadosh Baruch Hu redeem all of the hostages and bring complete Hatzlacha to Eretz Yisrael and Am Yisrael.

WEEK OF LEARNING

Paul & Kathy Pollack in memory of Paul's father, Shmuel ben Zechariah z'l and great grandmother, Tziil bas Dov z'l who were both niftar on Rosh Chodesh Nisan.

DAY OF LEARNING

Paul & Kathy Pollack in honor of their granddaughter Tikvah Esther Pollack of West Orange, NJ on the occasion of her 21st birthday.

DAF YOMI

The Daf Yomi Chevra wishing a mazel tov to Yoni Frager on his engagement to Leora Khaver.

Steve Goloskov in honor of Yoni Frager's half-birthday and on his engagement to Leora Khaver.

WOMEN'S TEHILLIM CHABURA

Davida Barr leilui nishman her father, Avraham Yehoshua ben Aharon Moshe z'l.

CHASSIDUS- LAST WEEK

Eli Brum for the safe return of the hostages.

SHABBOS DRASHA

Richard & Sharon Buck in honor of Rav and Rebbetzin Silber and with deep appreciation for the entire kehilla for the outpouring of love and support during the shiva for Richard's father Martin, Motle ben Chaim Lee HaKohen z'l.

KIDDUSH

Adam & Phran Edelman in honor of the marriage of their daughter Ella to Moshe Deutsch.

SIDDURIM DEDICATION

Yehuda & Chana Neuberger in memory of Martin Buck z'l, Father of Richard (Sharon) Buck.

SPONSORSHIPS & DONATIONS

DONATIONS

Ezra & Melissa Gordon to the Building Fund in honor of Rabbi Silber.
Ira & Miriam Grossman in memory of Martin Buck, Motle ben Chaim Leib HaKohen, z'l, father of Dr. Richard Buck.

Andrea Lavine in memory of Eliezer Aharon Raphael ben Ze'ev Shmuel Ziv z'l.

Allen & Susan Myrowitz in memory of Richard Buck's father, Martin Buck, Motle ben Chaim Leib HaKohen z'l.

The SOTC book club in honor of Mildred Shapiro Bashevkin.

Kenneth & Eileen Creeger in honor of Mildred Shapiro Bashevkin's special birthday! Mazal Tov, Mildred!

Selma Woolf to the Building Fund.

Myron and Gail Esterson in memory of Martin Buck z'l.

Matthew & Diane Marks in memory of Richard Buck's father, Martin Buck z'l.

Bonnie Pesacov in memory of Martin Buck, Motle ben Chaim Leib HaKohen z'l, father of Richard (Sharon) Buck.

Brian & Karyn Gold in memory of Martin Buck, Motle ben Chaim Leib HaKohen z'l, father of Richard Buck.

Seth & Rachel Rotenberg in memory of Martin Buck, z'l.

SOTC UPDATES

WOMEN'S TEHILLIM FOLLOWING SHABBOS DAVENING

Please join the women of the shul after davening before kiddush to complete sefer Tehillim in the z'chus of the Eretz Yisroel.

WOMEN'S SHABBOS TEHILLIM- 5:45pm

Will meet on Shabbos at 5:45pm the Lerner home (3302 Northbrook Rd).

SOTC BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the Suburban Orthodox Book Club will be on Tuesday, May 14, 2 p.m. at the Shul. Selection: "One Hundred Saturdays," by Michael Frank (non-fiction).

JBI: Free Haggados for Disabilities

If you or someone you know needs a large print, braille, or audio format Haggadah this year, please visit JBI's website at www.JBILibrary.org or call JBI toll free at 1-800-999-6476 before April 11 and they will be happy to send you your Haggadah, completely free of charge.

Capital Campaign Message from the SOTC Board

Baruch Hashem, through the generous support and partnership of our members, friends, and extended community, we have made tremendous progress toward meeting our building campaign fundraising goal. Each day, as we enter (or pass by) the Shul, we observe the exciting advances in the new building. Thanks to your commitments, we are inching closer and closer to actualizing our dream of "Building Holiness!"

As of this message, we have raised \$8.4 million toward our goal through the donations and/or pledges of more than 250 individuals and/or families.

In an effort to celebrate the generous commitments and support we've received to date, **we will be displaying the names of our donor families and/or individuals, listed according to giving tiers (e.g. Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc.), on a digital screen outside the sanctuary.**

Please note, **if you have not yet had a chance to participate in this exciting project or would prefer to not have your name displayed on the list, please email office@suburbanorthodox.org.**

Thank you!