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| Candle Lighting 7:27p | Havdalah 8:30p | Torah Reading Vayikra 12:1-15:33 | Hafforah Melachim 2: 7:3-7:20 | Candle Lighting 4/23 7:34p |
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Tazria/Metzora: Finding Forgiveness
Rabbi Shmuel Silber

SHABBOS SCHEDULE

Shabbos Night

7:00p Mincha followed by Kabbolas Shabbos
7:27p Candle Lighting

Shabbos Day

7:00a Hashkama (Main Shul)
8:45a Shacharis (9:47 KS)
9:15a Shacharis - Outdoor/Beis Midrash

Kiddush following Davening in honor of the completion of Daf Yomi Maseches Shekalim.

Back this Week! Mishnayos for kids with Rabbi Silber following the Kiddush.

7:15p Mincha
7:35p Daf Yomi
8:30p Maariv
8:30p Havdalah

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday 4/18 - Iyar 6

7:15a Shacharis
9:00a Shacharis
6:15 Plag Mincha Minyan
7:40p Mincha/Maariv
Mon-Fri
6:45a Shacharis
9:00a Shacharis
6:15a Plag Mincha Minyan
7:40p Mincha/Maariv

WEEKLY SHIURIM

Sun 7:55a Daf Yomi
Mon-Fri
5:45 Tzidkas HaTzaddik
5:55a Daf Yomi
Mon-Wed
Online Emunah Minute
Mon
8:30p Semichas Chaver Program
Online Perek Shira
Wed
Online Perek Shira
Thurs
Online Virtual Shabbos Drasha

**BIKUR CHOLIM - LIFE BRIDGE HEALTH
COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC
Sunday-Thursday at Ner Tamid Synagogue**

To pre-register for a vaccine appointment, please using the following link:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdg4QhInHgmC24-e6Nk6RpV2Ac8iJghcMLR14xp2iKLeSHwmw/viewform>

To sign up to volunteer at the clinic (both clinical or non-clinical), please use the following link:
<https://volunteersignup.org/HRA4Y>

"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, and 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 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 ever forgive me? I have fractured relationships, caused heartbreak. I don't think I can ever go back."*

The Torah tells us, 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 that 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 us 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. I 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.

MEMBER NEWS:

Shloshim in memory of Rabbi Marc H. Messing ז"ל will take place Sunday April 18, 2021.

Mincha/Maariv will be at 7:40pm. Siyum and program to follow shortly after 8:00pm.

For those who are fully vaccinated we welcome you to join indoors at Suburban Orthodox Congregation, 7504 Seven Mile Lane Baltimore, MD 21208.

Masks required.

Weather permitting, screens will be available outside for those who wish to join and feel more comfortable being outdoors or for those who are not fully vaccinated. Masks required.

Virtually via Zoom:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81586503906?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81586503906?pwd=d0J2dGIOTVB1eGRsM0FQZsA1OWhBZz09)

[pwd=d0J2dGIOTVB1eGRsM0FQZsA1OWhBZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81586503906?pwd=d0J2dGIOTVB1eGRsM0FQZsA1OWhBZz09)

Meeting ID: 815 8650 3906

Passcode: Messing

Dial in: 1 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 815 8650 3906 Passcode: 5721493

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kb8wrjaLE3>

BIRTHDAYS:

Golda Cane, Michelle Czinn, Miri Fogel, Chana E. Fogel, Ephraim Goldenberg, Shoshana Grossman, Benjamin Grossman, Ben Grossman, Avraham Grossman, Jonathan S. Hackam, Dara Hoffman, Shoshana Kaplan, Dovid Korobkin, Sara Leah Kovacs, Micah Lehmann, Elsa Lustman, Diane Marks, Lillian Mayer, Bryna Nirenberg, Yona Openden, Shira Reches, Phil Rosenfeld, Tania Shichtman, Chava Simha, Ilana Sol, Scott Sperling, Bracha Strimber, Lawrence Ziffer, Gavriel Zirkind, Aliza Zirkind

Yahrzeits:

Chaya Malka Barkai, Rebecca Bayuk, Hyman J. Cohen, Bess Crane, Pauline D. Goldberg, Rose Laurie Goldenberg, Israel Goldstein, Gertrude Kalish, Ruth Levin, Dena Minkove, Yoseph Nussbaum, Evelyn Rudo, Faye Simkin, Louis Smith

SPONSORSHIPS:

TALMUD TORAH:

Yona & Shushie Ehrenfeld in loving memory and l'zecher nishmas their grandfather, Yosef ben Shmuel Aron z'l.

WEEK OF LEARNING:

Jack Bennett in memory of Sgt. Nikolai Rappaport of the Givati brigade, who was killed in Lebanon in a Hezbollah ambush on Feb. 7, 1998.

DAY OF LEARNING:

Seth & Rachel Rotenberg in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Seth's sister, Naomi, Naomi Tova bat Ze'ev z'l, and in honor of Seth's completion of the Daf Yomi cycle.

SHABBOS DRASHA:

Jon & Jen Kaplan and Family in commemoration of the yahrzeit of Jen's father, Steven L. Friedman z'l, אשר לייב בן, שמואל לייב בן, אשר ורבקה.

DAF YOMI:

Yehudah & Bracha Buchwalter with thanks to Hashem on the 76th anniversary of the liberation of the Buchenwald concentration camp by the US 3rd army on 4/11/1945, כ"ח ניסן תש"ה.

Bobby & Lisie Lillianfeld in honor of the yahrzeit of Bobby's mother, Madelyn Lillianfeld, Migdal bas Velvel z'l.

Hillel Soclof in memory of his mother, Chaya Bracha bas R' Tzvi Hirsch Halevi.

Zevi and Shoshi Daniel l'zchus refuah sheleimah for Yaakov ben Chava Rochel.

DAF YOMI SIYUM:

Saeed & Sima Haken for generously sponsoring the breakfast Daf Yomi Siyum on Maseches Shekalim.

DONATIONS:

Ken & Eileen Creeger in memory of Mr. Bernhard Kiewe of blessed memory.

Shirley Elbaum in honor of Rabbi and Aviva Silber for their devotion to our shul and for all they do for us.

Judy Sykes in memory of Bernhard Kiewe z'l.

Eliezer Schaap in honor of the Zalesch Family.

Dawn Williams of Lutherville Lab in memory of Bernahrd Kiewe z'l.

Milton & Eleanor Marder in memory of Bernahrd Kiewe z'l.

Stella Gold in memory of Bernhard Kiewe z'l.

Gilda Lessans in memory of Bernhard Kiewe z'l.

Malcolm & Dianna Van Blerkom in memory of Bernhard Kiewe z'l.

Allen & Sue Myrowitz in memory of Bernard Kiewe z'l, Barbara Friedman z'l, and Reverend Irvin Stern z'l.

Seth & Rachel Rotenberg

Meir & Chava Weinheber in memory of Shimmy Messing's father, Rabbi Marc H. Messing z'l, and Mr. Kiewe z'l.

BOOK CLUB:

Next meeting of the SOTC Book Club will be on Tues., May 11, at 2 pm. At that time we will discuss "The Peacock Emporium" by JoJo Moyes. We will meet at the home of Selma Woolf, social distancing on her screened-in porch. For more info, please email Eileen at ebcreeger@gmail.com.

SHABBOS MEVARCHIM CARE PACKAGES:

We wish to express our gratitude to **Leah Sol and Patty Leve** for their dedication in spearheading and designing the beautiful weekly and Shabbos Mevarchim Care Packages throughout the entire year of COVID. Their devotion to the members of our kehilla is truly inspiring.

Beginning Rosh Chodesh Iyar, packages will be sent monthly for Shabbos Mevarchim. Sponsorships are available using the following link: <https://www.suburbanorthodox.org/sponsor>. Dedicate our Shabbos Mevarchim Care Packages in the merit of a choleh/cholim, in honor or memory of a loved one, in celebration of a simcha or other important milestone.