



April 19-20, 2024

יב ניסן תשפ"ד

Candle Lighting 7:25 PM

Shabbat Hagadol שבת הגדול

Parashat Metzora – Leviticus 14:1-15:33 (מצורע)
Stone – p 620 Hertz – p 470 Etz Hayim— p 660

Haftarah – Malachi 3:4-24
Stone – p 1220 Hertz – p 1005 Etz Hayim – p 1296

Join us following services for **Kiddush**
sponsored by the Congregation

Shabbat ends 8:25 PM



PESACH:

1st Day: Tuesday, April 23

Exodus 12:21-51 – p 1123; Stone p 354; Hertz p 257; Etz Hayim p 385
Maftir: Numbers 28:16-25 - p 1124; Stone p 892; Hertz p 695; Etz Hayim p 931
Haftarah: Joshua 5:2-6:1; 6:27 – p 1125; Stone p 1221; Hertz p 1009; Etz Hayim p 1300

2nd Day: Wednesday, April 24

Leviticus 22:26-23:44 - p 1126; Stone p 680; Hertz p 518; Etz Hayim p 723
Maftir: Numbers 28:16-25 – p 1124; Stone p 892; Hertz p 695; Etz Hayim p 931
Haftarah: II Kings 23:1-9; 21-25 – p 1128; Stone p 1222; Hertz p 1012; Etz Hayim p 1304

TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION

Rabbi Seth D Gordon – Rabbi.Gordon@yahoo.com

Marian S. Gordon, Executive Director – traditionalcong@gmail.com

SHABBAT & YOMTOV SERVICES

Sunday - 8:30 AM

Monday - 7:20 PM

Tuesday - 9:30 AM & 7:20 PM

Wednesday - 9:30 AM & 7:20 PM

Thursday - 7:00 AM

Shabbat - 9:30 AM

Board of Directors:

Governance Committee: Florence Schachter, Chair; Marty Levy, Vice-Chair;

Ken Bohm, Ellis Frohman, Ron Green, Dina Rinder

Ellis Frohman, Financial Vice President

Mark Weinstein, Ritual Vice President

Marty Levy/Mindy Strauss, Education Co-Vice Presidents

Chris Brown, Membership Vice President

Steven Puro, Administration Vice President

Steve Roufa/Justin Zeid, Building & Grounds Co-Vice Presidents

Ron Green, Fundraising Vice President

Barbara Levin, Treasurer

Mimi Levy, Secretary

Past Presidents:

Kenneth H. Bohm

Phil Brick

Boaz Roth

Members at Large:

(terms end in July of year indicated)

Maureen Brodsky (2024)

Stanley Estrin (2026)

Bill Gold (2025)

Gary Golden (2026)

Stan Greenberg (2024)

Jack Heller (2024)

Sid Levin (2025)

Ari Levy (2024)

Carol Max (2025)

Florence Schachter (2026)

Lori Tesser (2026)

We welcome new members!

*If you or someone you know would like to receive membership information,
please contact Chris Brown, Membership VP, at 636-288-5356*

On This Week's Torah Portion - Metzora

Parshat Metzora continues with the themes from last week's parsha, including the process of purification for tzara'at, the decay that causes skin disease in humans and discolouration in garments and the walls of houses.

The Sages identify tzara'at – the condition that affects human skin, the cloth of clothes, and the walls of a house – not as an illness but as a punishment for the specific sin of lashon hara, evil speech.

The question is why is this harsh condition a punishment for evil speech and not some other sin? Why is speaking evil worse than, say, physical violence? There is an old English saying: "Sticks and stones may break my bones/but words will never harm me." It is certainly upsetting to hear bad things said about you, but is it really that terrible?

There is no direct mitzvah against evil speech in the Torah but there is a prohibition against gossip: "Do not go around as a gossip among your people" (Vayikra 19:16). Lashon hara is an example of this command. The Sages go to remarkable lengths to emphasise its seriousness. It is, they say, as bad as all three cardinal sins together – idol worship, bloodshed, and forbidden sexual relations. Whoever speaks with an evil tongue, they say, it is as if he or she denied God. They also say: it is forbidden to live near someone with an evil tongue, and all the more to sit with them and to listen to their words. Why are mere words treated with such seriousness in Judaism?

The answer to this question touches on one of the most basic principles of Jewish belief. Ancient peoples worshipped "the gods" because they saw them as powerful: lightning, thunder, the rain and sun, the sea and ocean, and sometimes wild animals. However, Judaism is not a religion that worshipped power, even though God is more powerful than all of these "gods".

Judaism, like other religions, has holy places, holy people, holy times, and holy rituals. What makes Judaism different, however, is that it is first and foremost a religion of holy words. With words God created the universe: "And God said, Let there be...and there was." Through words He communicated with humankind. In Judaism, language itself is holy. That is why lashon hara, the use of language to harm, is not merely a minor offence. It involves taking something that is holy and using it for purposes that are unholy.

There once was an old man who loved to gossip. He would often be found shuffling around town whispering gossip to his friends.

One day, he just couldn't resist telling the Rabbi the latest news he had just heard. The Rabbi ran into his house and brought out a feather pillow. He told the old man to rip open the pillow. Puzzled, he did as the Rabbi asked.

As the wind picked up the feathers and blew them all over the village, a smile crossed the man's face as he began to enjoy the spectacle. "Right. Now go and collect all the feathers from my pillow!" said the Rabbi. "But Rabbi, that is impossible! I can't get them all back. They are spread all across the village and beyond!" the man exclaimed.

The Rabbi looked him in the eye and with a satisfied look said, "It is exactly the same with your gossip. Once it has crossed your lips it cannot be controlled or taken back. The words are out of your grasp forever and spread across the world. Think carefully about that, the next time you are tempted to gossip about a neighbour!"

Shabbat shalom,
Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks zt"l

Pesach



5784

Sunday, 4/21: Last opportunity to sell *chametz* in person with Rabbi Gordon - 9:15 AM
B'dikat Chametz (search for *chametz*) - at dusk

Monday, April 22: Fast of the First-Born/Siyyum *B'chorim* - 7:30 AM on Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85378970750?pwd=S2VXZzRMQWdoYm5aRFp1eDVFcW1udz09>
Meeting ID: 853 7897 0750 Passcode: 844008

Monday, April 22: Latest time to eat *chametz*: 10:44 AM
Latest time to dispose of/nullify *chametz*: 11:52 AM
Candle lighting: 7:26 PM Seder begins: after 8:16 PM

Tuesday, April 23: *Shacharit*: 9:30 AM
Minchah/Arvit: 7:20 PM
Candle lighting: 8:17 PM Seder begins: after 8:17 PM

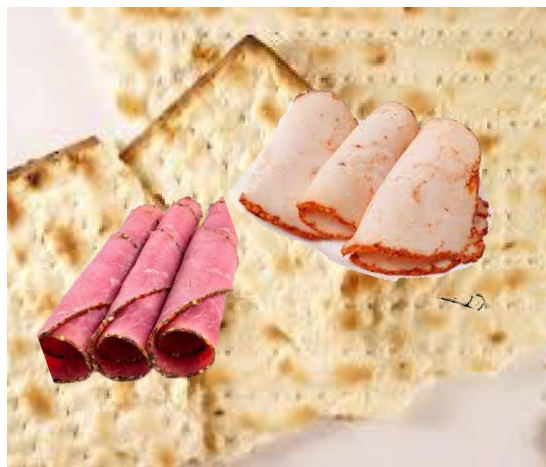
Wednesday, April 24: *Shacharit*: 9:30 AM
Minchah/Arvit: 7:20 PM


Shabbat, April 27: Services 9:30 AM. Chanting of *Shir haShirim*.
Pesach Kiddush is sponsored by Louise & Mel Saltzman.

Sunday, April 28: *Shacharit*: 8:30 AM
Minchah/Arvit: 7:20 PM
Candle lighting: 7:33 PM

Monday, April 29: *Shacharit*: 9:30 AM
Minchah/Arvit: 7:20 PM
Candle lighting: after 8:24 PM

Tuesday, April 30: *Shacharit*: 9:30 AM with *Yizkor*
Minchah/Arvit: 7:20 PM
Pesach concludes 8:24 PM; ***chametz* may be used after 8:54 PM**





**Mark Your Calendars:
Gift Bag Assembly Day is
Sunday, April 28 @ 10:00 AM!!**

**We are collecting for the 2024
Florence Gaponoff Mother's Day
Gift Bag Project!**

**These items are needed for
women in shelters:**

***Monetary donations so
needed items can be purchased**

***Travel-size shampoo,
conditioner, body lotions,
soap/body wash, deodorant,
toothpaste, toothbrush, dental
floss, etc.**

***Travel brush/comb**

***Women's necklaces and
bracelets in GOOD wearable
condition (*NO earrings or
broken/tarnished items*)**

**To donate \$\$, send a check to
Traditional Congregation or
go to:**

**[https://www.traditional-
congregation.org/donate](https://www.traditional-
congregation.org/donate)**

**To donate travel-size items, bring
them to Traditional and place in
the wicker bin near the office.**

Thank you!

PRAYER

O Guardian of Israel, we ask Your blessings
Upon the people of Israel and the Land of Israel.

*Bless them with peace, tranquility, and achievement,
Bless them – even as they have been a blessing to us.*

For they have nurtured our pride,
And renewed our hopes

*They have gathered in our homeless;
They have healed the bruised and the broken.*

Their struggles have strengthened us;
Their sacrifices have humbled us.

*Their victories have exalted us;
Their achievements have enriched us.*

They have translated into fulfillment
The promises of Your ancient prophets:

*“They shall build up the waste cities and inhabit them;
They shall plant vineyards and drink their wine.”*

Truly, they have made the wilderness into Eden,
And the desert like the garden of God.

*Watch over the Land, we pray;
Protect it from every enemy and disaster.*

Fulfill the prophetic promise
Which still awaits realization;

*“Violence shall no more be heard in your land
There shall be no more desolation within your borders.”*

*“Zion shall be redeemed through justice.
And that they dwell therein through integrity.”*

Author Unknown

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE

Every child, woman and man should possess license to speak or sing in his or her true voice.

Joyce Maynard