



April 12-13, 2024

הניסן תשפ"ד

Candle Lighting 7:18 PM

**Parashat Tazria** – Leviticus 12:1-13:59  
Stone – p 608 Hertz – p 460 Etz Hayim - p 649

**Haftarah** - Second Kings 4:42 - 5:19  
Stone - p 1170 Hertz - p 466 Etz Hayim - p 672

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

**Shabbat** ends 8:18 PM

## **TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION**

Rabbi Seth D Gordon – Rabbi.Gordon@yahoo.com  
Marian S. Gordon, Executive Director – traditionalcong@gmail.com

### **IN-PERSON SERVICES**

Sunday - 8:30 AM

Tuesday - 6:30 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  
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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 - Tazria

Often, people like to characterize events or experiences as either positive or negative. Our brains prefer the ease and simplicity of clear distinctions. Life, however, is more complicated than that. Often, the positive and negative overlap in surprising ways; often, the greater potential for risk holds the greater potential for profit. The more potent the experience the more likely it can be either deeply traumatizing or profoundly enriching.

An interesting illustration of this principle is the Tzara'at, the mysterious discoloration, which would appear, in biblical times, on the Jewish home in the land of Israel. As the Torah describes in this week's portion:

"And the Lord spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, When you come to the land of Canaan, which I am giving you as a possession, and I place a lesion of Tzara'at upon a house in the land of your possession."

The Torah then proceeds to elaborate on the details of the discoloring and how, in some cases, it was necessary to remove the discolored stones (and, in some cases, the entire home would have to be destroyed).

Rashi, the classic biblical commentator, offers opposing explanations as to the purpose of Tzara'at. Rashi explains that Tzara'at would appear as a punishment for "Lashon Hara" for evil speech. Yet he also offers another interpretation: "because the Amorites had hidden away treasures of gold inside the walls of their houses during the entire forty years that the Israelites were in the desert, and through the lesion, he (the Israelite) will demolish the house and find them."

What are we to make of these opposing explanations? Is the Tzara'at an indication of negativity, a sign of impurity which must be removed, or is it a sign which appears in order for the Jew to take possession of the treasure behind the wall? Rashi teaches us that the Jewish home must be free of destructive speech the positive and negative explanations are both true simultaneously. The same force which the pagans used for impurity, when used correctly could, in fact, be a great treasure.

Indeed, the Amori was the name of the nation that hid the treasures in the walls. The word Amori comes from the word Amor, which means to speak. The Torah is alerting us to the power of the word. Few things can be as destructive or as constructive as the spoken word.

The Tzara'at was designed in order to lead us to a treasure. Indeed, the Jewish home must be free of the impurity of destructive speech. The stones that captured the energy of pagan speech must be removed. Yet removing the negativity is always just a first step, never the ultimate goal. The Torah teaches us that the power of speech must be used to build, to comfort, to empower. Words have a way of reaching deep within ourselves, releasing the inner treasures of our soul, and allowing us to understand, empathize and connect to the people around us.

***Shabbat shalom,***

**Rabbi Menachem Feldman**

*Rabbi Feldman serves as the director of the Lifelong Learning department at the Chabad Lubavitch Center in Greenwich, Connecticut*

# Pesach



# 5784

Wednesday, 4/17 at noon: Last opportunity for *chametz* form to be received by Marian

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

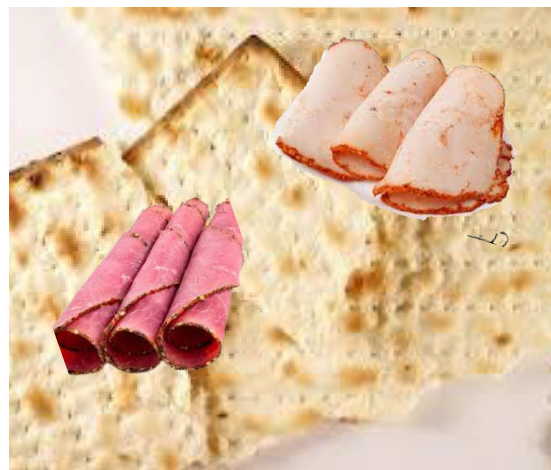
Wednesday, April 24: *Shacharit*: 9:30 AM  
*Minchah/Arvit*: 7:20 PM


*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-<br/>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 my soul, bless the Source of All  
O my Almighty God, You are indeed very great,  
Robed in glory and majesty.

*You build Your chambers amidst ethereal elements,  
Making the clouds Your chariot and riding upon wings of air.*

The winds are Your emissaries;  
Flaming fires Your agents.

*You cover Yourself in raiment of light,  
Stretching forth the heavens as a curtain  
Guiding the earth in its rounds.*

The moon You appointed to mark our times,  
The Sun to set our seasons.

*You set a boundary for the waters,  
Sending them into the valleys, and bounding  
Between the mountains;*

You give drink to every creation in the field;  
The earth is full of the fruit of Your endeavors.

*How wondrously marvelous are Your creations,  
O God, with infinite wisdom did you make them all.*

**(Psalm 104 selections)**

## **THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE**

God's delays are not God's denials.

**Robert H. Schuller**