

The Sale of Hametz

We are pleased to offer you the opportunity once again to sell hametz through the synagogue. [Click here to fill out the form](http://www.synagoguehamptons.org/give-to-csh/sale-of-hametz) or go to <http://www.synagoguehamptons.org/give-to-csh/sale-of-hametz>

In order to be included in the sale, your form must be received by **Wednesday April 13.**

CSH Shabbat Service Schedule

April 16 | Parashat Achrei Mot / Shabbat HaGadol

April at a Glance

Saturday April 2	Shabbat HaChodesh (Announcing the new month)
Tuesday April 5	Rosh Chodesh Nisan
Saturday April 16	Shabbat HaGadol
Monday April 1	Fast of the First Born (Ta'anit Bechorot)
Monday April 18	Erev Pesach (First Seder in the evening)
Tuesday April 19	Pesach Day I (Second Seder in the evening)
Wednesday April 20	Pesach Day 2
Thursday April 21-Sunday April 24	Chol Hamoed Pesach
Monday April 25	Pesach Day 7
Tuesday April 26	Pesach Day 8

Friday, April 8, 2011 Candle Lighting 7:04 pm (Sag Harbor)

This week's Torah reading: **Metzora**

Annual: Leviticus 14:1 – 15:33 (Etz Hayim, p. 649)

Triennial Cycle: Leviticus 14:1 – 32 (Etz Hayim p. 649)

Haftarah: II Kings 7:3 - 20 (Etz Hayim p. 676)



Musings on Metzora -- "Take two live birds, cedar wood, scarlet and hyssop. Have one bird killed in an earthen vessel over running water. Dip the remaining items (including the other live bird) in the blood of the first bird. Sprinkle the mixture on the one being purified, then let the live bird go free." (14:4-7)

"We seem to have lost the ability to discern the difference between being in a state of ritual purity and being in one of ritual defilement... The Bible is, of course, keenly aware of these modes of being and here prescribes a ritual for returning to a state of purity from the inevitable contamination to which we are all condemned. It grows on the walls of our bedrooms like mold, and in the interior of our psyches, an alien growth. It's immune to cleansers and medicines because it is not evil, dirt, or illness. But it's still there. Isn't that what organized religion is supposed to do? With water and blood and birds, hyssop and cedar-wood and sacrifice (or whatever) – to make our homes fit again for habitation."

From Kushner and Mamet, *Five Cities of Refuge: Weekly Reflections on Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy* (New York: Schocken Books, 2003), p. 90.



This week's parshah of METZORA begins with the highly picturesque ceremony with which the healed leper begins his process of purification so as to be able to return to normal life "in the camp" with other people....

Can you imagine how hard it was to catch the sparrows in the first place in order to carry out the ceremony? As cats and anyone else who has ever tried to catch a sparrow all know, it is terribly easy for sparrows to fly away. This is why the Hebrew name of the sparrow is DROR, "freedom". The very difficulty of catching these birds, which are notorious chatterers, comes to impress upon the METZORA the great importance of catching our speech and chatter BEFORE they fly off. We must learn to take control over what we say, in order to use words intentionally, productively, lovingly, to good effect. Rashi in his commentary on our parshah explains that the wood of the lofty cedar tree was brought "because leprous plagues come on account of arrogance. What is the remedy? The person must lower himself down from his pride like a worm [from whose blood the red dye of the wool thread was derived] and a hyssop" (Rashi on Lev. 14:4).

The use of the two birds in the ceremony is bound up with the double-edged nature of speech, which can be used for either good or evil. The METZORA had to watch as one of the chattering birds was slaughtered in front of his very eyes, teaching him that he must simply kill his evil talk for all time. However, this does not mean that he may not speak at all in future. On the contrary, once he has learned the lesson of humility contained in the cedar, the hyssop and the scarlet thread, the second bird goes free! When we release ourselves from the bonds of pride and arrogance that enslave us, we are freer than ever to explore the great power of pure speech -- "over the face of the field".

<http://www.azamra.org/Parshah/METZORA.htm>



When you are come into the land of Canaan, which I give to you for a possession, and I put the plague of tzaraat in a house of the land of your possession; then he that owns the house shall come and tell the priest, saying: 'There seems to me to be as it were a plague in the house.' Lev. 14:34-35

Rashi: [the tzaraat] is a means of conveying of good news! For the Amorites hid treasures of gold in the walls of their houses all 40 years that Israel was in the desert, and because of the plague the owner would tear it down and would find the treasure.

Israel challenges us. When we engage in it, we often do so from the comfort of walls that we inhabit. Our intellectual and emotional walls shape our understanding of the situation, letting in certain ideas and feelings while blocking out others. But what treasures are we denying ourselves by putting up these walls? What would happen if we tore them down, even for a moment? What might we discover about Israel? About ourselves?

- What are the walls we have as a community around Israel?
- Are they walls that shut out the voices of a younger generation?
- Are they walls that block out a religious inspiration for Israel?
- Are they walls that block the voices of those who disagree with us?

<http://chaghaatzmaut.wordpress.com/sermon-sparks-for-rabbis/metzora/>



Additional Readings for the Passover Seder

EGYPT INSIDE

This I confess to myself:
I have taken Egypt with me.
I've kept myself a slave to grief and loss,
Fear and anger and shame.
I have set myself up as task master,
Driving my own work beyond the limits
Of reasonable time and common sense.
I've seen miracles from heaven,
Signs and wonders in my own life,
And still wait for the heavens to speak.

G-d of redemption,
With Your loving and guiding hand leaving Egypt is easy.
Leaving Egypt behind is a struggle.
In Your wisdom You have given me this choice:
To live in a tyranny of my own making,
Or to set my heart free to love You,
To love Your people,
And to love myself.

G-d of Freedom, help me to leave Egypt behind,
To hear Your voice,
To accept Your guidance,
And to see the miracles in each new day.

Blessed are You, G-d of wonder,
You set Your people on the road to redemption.

<http://tobendlight.com/2011/04/02/passover-prayers/>

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### **If the Earth Could Speak, It Would Speak with Passion.**

As you dip the beauty of greens into the water of tears, please hear my cry. Can't you see that I am slowly dying? My forests are being clear cut, diminished. My diverse and wondrous creatures -- birds of the sky and beasts of the fields -- small and large are threatened with extinction in your lifetimes. My splendid, colorful floral and fauna are diminishing in kind. My tropical places are disappearing before us, and my oceans are warming. Don't you see that my climate is changing, bringing floods and heat, more extreme cycles of cold and warm, all affecting you and all our Creation? It doesn't have to be! You, all of you, can make a difference in simple ways. You, all of you, can help reverse this sorrowful trend.

May these waters into which you dip the greens become healing waters to sooth and restore. As you dip, quietly make this promise:

*Yes, I can help protect our wondrous natural places. Yes, I can try to use fewer of our precious resources and to replant and sustain more. I can do my part to protect our forests, our oceans and waters. I can work to protect the survival of creatures of all kinds. Yes, I will seek new forms of sustainable energy in my home and in my work, turning toward the sun, the wind, the waters. I make this promise to strive to live gently upon this Earth of ours for the good of all coming generations.*

[http://www.coejl.org/~coejlor/celebrate/pass\\_stone.php](http://www.coejl.org/~coejlor/celebrate/pass_stone.php)

Check out — How Matzah Became Square <http://haggadot.com/browse?page=28>



**Baruch Dayan Emet**

Howie Jablow, z'l -- a dear friend and a pillar of our community. His death leaves a gaping hole in our hearts and in our congregation.

On behalf of all of us, we extend our deepest sympathies to his loving wife, Pat, and to the whole Jablow family. We pray that they find as much comfort, support and strength as Howie brought to so many of us through the years.

**End Quote**

We are born into a vast room whose walls consist of a thousand doors of possibility. Each door is flung open to the world outside, and the room is filled with light and noise. We close some of the doors deliberately, sometimes with fear, sometimes with calm certainty. Others seem to close by themselves, some so quietly that we do not even notice. Terry Teachout

Shabbat Shalom.

Stacy