

## Shabbat Vayakhel P'kudei - Shabbat HaChodesh

Candle Lighting: 5:41 PM / Shabbat Ends: 6:44 PM

Torah Reading: Exodus 35:1-40:38 Maftir: Exodus 12:1-20

The special Haftarah for Shabbat HaChodesh: Ezekiel 45:16-46:18

### Shabbat HaChodesh - "Tell me your story!"

If you want to know someone, you inquire about their story. The same is true for nations. The Jewish story par excellence is found in the Passover *Hagaddah*, or telling.

It's composed in the seemingly free-wheeling, discursive style of the Talmudic Midrash. One paragraph we're back with the slaves in Egypt, the next we're with five sages and their disciples in the Second Century in B'nei Brak, a Talmudic Center. One paragraph is a declaration, the next a song, the next an explanation. Archetypes like the four sons are introduced and then quickly disappear. Symbolic actions come up in non-chronological or illogical sequence, like the famous Matzah (liberation) followed by Maror (bitter slavery).

The Rabbis in the Babylonian Talmudic, Tractate Pesachim, try to find themes and patterns. In describing the words and symbolic actions taken by the Seder leader, Mishna Pesachim 10:4 states: "They poured out for him the second cup. And here the child asks his father (Mah Nishtanah, the Four Questions). The father then teaches the child according to his level of knowledge. He begins with the shameful tale and ends with the praiseworthy tale. He expounds from 'My ancestor was a wandering Aramean' until he concludes the whole passage (that is, Deuteronomy 26:6-9)."

What does it mean to go from shame to praise? Two Talmudic giants of the third century, Shmuel and Rav, disagreed: Shmuel understood it to mean going from physical slavery to the liberation at the Exodus. Rav believes that shame, or degradation refers to the idol worship of the world surrounding our patriarchs and matriarchs, and praise refers to Israel's ultimate election for Torah at Sinai.

Our election is to do and understand the Mitzvot of Torah. For this reason the Hagaddah includes, even before the Four questions, the story of five Talmudic sages and their students who stayed up all Seder night discussing “Biy’tzi’at Mitzryaim - matters about the Exodus.” Could it be that they spent the whole night telling the story of the Exodus? Rather, a commentary on the Mishna informs us “they were studying the laws of Passover. (Tosefta Pesachim 0:8).

In other words, our liberation, and our story about it, are rooted and sustained by the law. Praise is preceded by practice, and stories are built on religious discipline. This is a uniquely Jewish position. Without expressing the meaning of the Exodus in our daily practice, we would also lose the story. A lawless existence is not only a sign of spiritual degeneration; it’s also a state without imagination. The story only resonates because it is rooted in the fidelity of a people to its G-d and mission.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of the British Empire, in an essay about this Mishna from Pesachim, writes, ““There is –there can be – no tragedy Judaism. That is not because there are no disasters, crises, and catastrophes. Manifestly, there are. Jewish history, as often as not, has been written in tears. Nor is it because in a Jewish story there is always a happy ending. That... is the structure of myth, not Judaism. But there is always hope, grounded hope, justified not by optimism, innocence or a “Whiggish” theory that sees history as constant progress, but by the terms of the covenant between heaven and earth. Judaism is the principled rejection of tragedy in the name of hope...A people whose narrative “begins with the shame and ends with the praise” is one which, knowing in its bones the reality of evil did not cease wrestling with the angel of death until it discovered the path from suffering to hope”.

Shabbat Shalom

Chag Kasher V’samei’ach - A joyous and Kosher Passover



## Family Program

March 21 3-5 PM

Join us for a free family Pesach Program

Flyer attached! Or go to [www.kanestreet.org](http://www.kanestreet.org)

## Tikkun Olam / Social Justice

### **Kane Street Food Rescue (KSFR)**

The KSFR helps our congregation fulfill the commandment of me'achal re'evim, feeding the hungry, and the commandment of ba'al tash'chit, not wasting food, by "rescuing" leftover food from kiddush and other Kane Street events and delivering it to a local homeless shelter. Volunteers are needed on a regular basis after kiddush to pack and on Sunday mornings to deliver. Join the KSFR volunteer roster by emailing [ksfoodrescue@gmail.com](mailto:ksfoodrescue@gmail.com).

### **NEXT Cobble Hill Health Center Visit March 20**

Join the Social Justice Committee at the Cobble Hill Health Center, as we spend an hour with Cobble Hill residents of all ages schmoozing, conversing about current events, telling stories, and singing songs.

Place: 380 Henry St. (corner of Congress St.), Recreation Room

Time: 10:00am-11:00am All ages welcome!

## Community News

### **LEARN ABOUT LINKEDIN!!!**

Introduction to Professional Online Social Networking

Monday, March 15, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Kane Street Synagogue

236 Kane Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231

### **BRING YOUR LAPTOPS WITH YOU!!**

## Hebrew School

If you have any questions or would like a registration form for your child, please contact Rabbi Valerie Lieber at 718-875-1550 x123 or [vlieber@kanestreet.org](mailto:vlieber@kanestreet.org)

## Kane Street Kids

We have a wonderful Preschool/Daycare Center called Kane Street Kids. For more information, call Joyce Heller at 718.875.1550, or email [kids@kanestreet.org](mailto:kids@kanestreet.org)

### **Website**

To find out all that Kane Street Synagogue has to offer, please visit our new website at [www.kanestreet.org](http://www.kanestreet.org). Features include the KSS calendar, listing of weekly services and leaders, upcoming events, contact information, educational programs, application forms for new members and school enrolment, directions to our facilities and cemeteries, donation forms for giving online or by fax, a link to Amazon.com that

supports the synagogue, access to our publications and so much more. Add [www.kanestreet.org](http://www.kanestreet.org) to your Favorite's List today. Visit us often.

**DISCOVER KSS** at [www.kanestreet.org](http://www.kanestreet.org)

**SUPPORT KSS** - Buy Amazon products through Kane Street. The synagogue benefits when you connect through our homepage.

Submissions to the Kane Yirbu should be emailed to Kane Yirbu editor Barbara Speregen at [KaneYirbu@kanestreet.org](mailto:KaneYirbu@kanestreet.org) by the Monday preceding publication.

**Kane Street Synagogue**

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## MECHIRAT CHAMETZ - THE SALE OF CHAMETZ

As every year, we now remind you to arrange for the sale of your *Chametz*, leavened foods before Passover. Formally, we are bound to remove or destroy all *Chametz* from our possession before Passover. However, because of the financial and logistical difficulties of such divestment, *Halacha*, Jewish law, created the practice of *Mechirat Chametz*, the sale of *Chametz* to a non-Jewish friend. Essentially, what occurs is that a price is set and a token down payment is made by the buyer. The balance is considered to be a loan. The contract stipulates that the sale must be completed by the day after Passover. After Passover, the buyer "decides" not to pay the balance, and effectively resells the *Chametz* to the seller.

The sale of *Chametz* is as critical for the observance of Passover as cleaning our kitchens and purchasing Kosher for Passover foods. Please complete and return this form to the Synagogue Office, 236 Kane Street, Brooklyn, New York 11231. We ask that you return with your form a donation for *Ma'ot Chittim*, a special Passover fund to enable needy Jews to observe the holiday. We support the work of the New York Board of Rabbis, whose Passover Campaign enables Jews who are institutionalized, in hospitals, prisons, nursing homes, etc. to celebrate the Seders properly. Your contribution will be used entirely to provide Passover support for these Jews.

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I hereby authorize Rabbi Samuel H. Weintraub to sell all of the *Chametz* in my/our household's possession at the following address (es): (include all homes, offices, automobiles, boats, etc.)

Names of all adult household members:

Please Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

In consideration of this transaction, I enclose the following amount to help needy Jews celebrate Passover (checks payable to Kane Street Synagogue - Passover Fund)

PLEASE PRINT THIS FORM AND RETURN BY  
MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2010