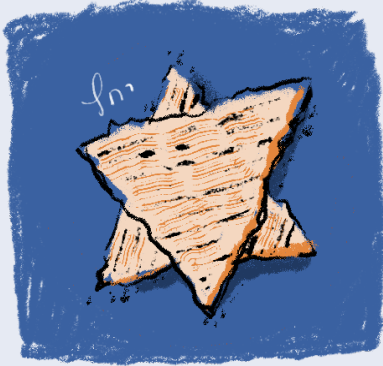


YACHATZ

Filling Our Brokenness With Hope

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What do you feel when you hear the crack of the matzah?
2. Leonard Cohen famously said that, “There is a crack in everything, that is how the light gets in.” What is the light you are letting in this season?
3. What are stories you have heard recently that inspire you?

By Lori Sagarin

Yachatz is a moment in the seder that commands attention, especially for children who experience it as the lead up to the search for the Afikoman. Traditionally symbolizing the brokenness of our world, this year, Yachatz appears to be especially relevant. Many of us feel broken after more than six months of war and captivity. The crack of the matzah hearkens to the cracks in our world.

And yet, we cannot forget that one of the broken pieces becomes a symbol of possibility, the only way we can conclude the Pesach meal. In Japanese tradition they use a process, called *kintsugi*, to repair broken pieces of pottery. Instead of trying to gloss over the cracks, they fill them with gold and a new piece emerges.

There are no silver linings in the reality of the last six months, but we can see some gold between the cracks as we attempt to rebuild. We have observed Israeli civil society mobilizing to provide for those in the Gaza Envelope and the North who have been evacuated from their homes. And we have heard countless stories of ordinary and extraordinary bravery.

As we break the middle matzah, it is impossible not to dwell in the brokenness. Still, as much as the matzah is the “bread of our affliction” as the Haggadah tells us, it is also what sustained us as we left Egypt.