

THE OXFORD SYNAGOGUE-CENTRE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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April 2014

Nissan 5774

SHABBAT TIMES

🕒 Parasha - 🕒 Candle Lighting

🕒 Shabbat ends (Maariv & Havdalah)
For service times see page 2

11 & 12 April – 12 Nissan

🕒 Acharei (Shabbat Hagadol)

🕒 5:38 – 🕒 6:26

18 & 19 April – 19 Nissan

Chol Hamoed Pesach

🕒 5:31 – 🕒 6:20

25 & 26 April – 26 Nissan

🕒 Kedoshim

🕒 5:25 – 🕒 6:14

2 & 3 May – 3 Iyar

🕒 Emor

🕒 5:19 – 🕒 6:09

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

One week to go till Pesach and what a month it's been at Oxford.

We celebrated a 99th birthday this past month, Mazaltov Mrs Copelowitz and many more in good health and simchas. It brought home to me the impact of community and the people within the community. Oxford is no ordinary community! A week or two ago an ex-member who grew up in the Shul and emigrated to Australia many years ago, was visiting in Johannesburg and popped in to the Shul to say 'hi'. Why would someone do that? It is home to so many people, whether they are at home or not! It really is quite incredible.

Enough rambling! We had an amazing Purim this year, the highlight of which was the

party we had on the Sunday. It was a combined function with the members of West Street Shul. We were around 250 people with entertainment galore... Sand art, jumping castles (yes castles!) and Darrin the Magician for the kids and Michael Abrahamson for the adults. Even the Chief Rabbi popped in to address us.. The food was excellent (by the Grill) but most amazing was the atmosphere! I would like to thank the West Street kehila for joining us and PG we will share many more events together.

Speaking of which, we have another shared event coming right up. Stan and Pete is catering a Friday night supper in the Hall the Friday night before Pesach. Please join us and contact the office to book.

We unfortunately (for us) say farewell to Amir Livneh. Amir has been an integral part of the community. For many many years he has been running the CSO arm of the Shul and has been an active member of our committee. We will certainly miss you Amir and we wish you every success in your future... it will be an exciting and fulfilling one for sure! Thank you for everything you have done for Oxford.

I wish you all a Chag Pesach kasher v'Sameach.

Brian

RABBI'S MESSAGE

Some years ago I had the unforgettable experience of travelling to the USA via Air Egypt. Upon arrival in Cairo airport an arrogant border official demanded my passport and onward ticket. Both were unceremoniously dumped into a drawer, and I was informed that I should come back to this same desk half an hour before departure. I was obviously greatly relieved to find later that they had not misplaced the documents. It was only two days after Simchat Torah, but as the airplane began to increase its speed on its way to take-off from Mitzrayim words from our Pesach Seder immediately came to mind: "In every generation it is man's duty to regard himself as though he personally has come out of Egypt."

Pesach is the Festival of Freedom, Zman Cheruteinu, when we celebrate being released from bondage under the despotic rule of King Pharaoh. Servitude restricts the captives' freedom, preventing them from realising their full potential and from achieving what they really want. As long as the slave is restrained, the yoke of captivity weighs heavily on his shoulders, and he endeavours in every way possible to achieve freedom.

What is true when we speak of enslavement at the hands of a cruel dictator is equally applicable to internal servitude: the Prison of the Mind. Self-imposed restrictions can be

crippling and damaging, impeding us from being who we really are (or at least should be). We are limited by inhibitions and fears, most of which are only perceptions and worries.

Think back to all the things you would already have accomplished in life, if a small voice inside you had not stopped and said:

“Am I really ready to do this?”

“I’m too old / too young / too rich / too poor to...”

“My spouse would never go along with...”

“That, I’ll never do!”

This form of subjugation is even more dangerous than physical confinement. When an outsider constricts your liberty, you rebel, resist and do not rest until you have emancipated yourself. But when you have put up the barbed wire and watchtowers inside your own mind, you do not feel at all imprisoned and hence you have no desire whatsoever to liberate yourself.

“In every generation it is man’s duty to regard himself as though he personally has come out of Egypt.” If you have travelled Air Egypt recently, perhaps you can understand this precept in the geographical sense. Otherwise you might prefer the interpretation of the Sages. They point out that the word Metzrim, which means limitations, is a homonym with Mitzrayim or Egypt. The Festival of Freedom celebrates liberation from all restraints, external and internal.

This Pesach, break free! Smash down the walls and barriers you have built around your own personality and enjoy liberty as you never have before.

I wish you all a Kosher, happy and truly meaningful Festival of Liberation.

Rabbi Yossi Chaikin

FROM THE REBBETZIN

By now you all know how the Chaikin family loves technology. However, I am not the source of these genes at all. A while ago we were travelling towards Sandton. Of course, the GPS was on (why not?) but we were not going the route it was advising.

Lucky I was not the driver because, as we got onto the highway, a nagging voice kept urging us to “execute a U-turn.” When it “realised” that we would not, it went PING PING (thinking for a machine?) and recalculated. Then it began to give instructions from the place we were.

I feel a bit like a GPS this week. At the beginning of the week I made a list of everything that had to be done and when to do it. A list too long to be realistically possible.

I spend each day giving myself instructions. At the end of the day I often need to recalculate and figure out the directions for tomorrow from where I am up to then.

Life is much like that too. We often have preset directions, plans of where to go, what to do and how to do. It doesn’t always work the way we planned. Sometimes we need to stop and recalculate and find our way from where we are now.

Just as we get to Sandton, using the recalculated route and we get to Pesach with that recalculated route, we also find our way in life, albeit with a recalculated route. Wishing you all Chag Kasher Vesameach and a good month.

Rivky

DVAR TORAH

By Tzvi Freeman (chabad.org)

This Matzah that we Eat

We ran out of Egypt. Because we were liberated by an outside force, it was only a partial liberation. You’re really free only when you achieve freedom from within.

But in messianic times, we won’t have to run. That liberation will be achieved by our own hard work and suffering over these many years of exile.

So it will be real, through and through. There will be nothing left from which to run. Everything of this world will remain, and it will all be good.

Because everything G-d made is inherently good. It’s just that it’s up to us to reveal that good.

In Every Generation...

The Egyptians ruled over our bodies and our spirits. When we left Egypt, our spirits were eternally liberated. Whatever others may inflict upon us, we retain the power at any moment to connect to the Infinite and be free.

That is a mitzvah—a connection to the Infinite, available at all times, in all places.

SHACHARIT (A.M.)

Sunday and Public Holidays	8:00
Monday to Friday	7:15
Shabbat & Festivals	9:00

14/04 (Erev Pesach): 7:00
 15/04 & 16/04 (Pesach): 9:00
 17/04 (Chol Hamoed): 7:00
 21/04 & 22/04 (Pesach): 9:00
 30/04 (Rosh Chodesh): 7:00

MINCHA AND MAARIV (P.M.)

Sunday to Friday	5:45
from 20/04	5:30
from 04/05	5:15
Shabbat	5:30
26/04	5:15
from 03/05	5:00

PESACH 5773 TIMETABLE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBAT
13 April 13 Nissan	14 April 14 Nissan	15 April 15 Nissan	16 April 16 Nissan	17 April 17 Nissan	18 April 18 Nissan	19 April 19 Nissan
Shacharit: 8:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m. Last day to sell Chametz Checking for Chametz in the evening	EREV PESACH Shacharit: 7:00 a.m. <i>Siyum after the Service</i> Eat Chametz until 10:00 a.m. - Burn & Annul Chametz before 11:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m. ⚡ 5:35 p.m.	1st DAY PESACH Shacharit: 9:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m. Second Seder in the evening ⚡ 6:23 p.m.*	2nd DAY PESACH Shacharit: 9:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m. ⚡ 6:23 p.m.	First Day Chol Hamoed Shacharit: 7:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m.	Second Day Chol Hamoed <i>Public Holiday</i> Shacharit: 8:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m. ⚡ 5:31 p.m.	Shabbat Chol Hamoed Shacharit: 9:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:30 p.m. ⚡ 6:20 p.m.
20 April 20 Nissan	21 April 21 Nissan	22 April 22 Nissan	23 April 23 Nissan	24 April 24 Nissan	25 April 25 Nissan	26 April 26 Nissan
Fourth Day Chol Hamoed Shacharit: 8:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:30 p.m. ⚡ 5:29 p.m.	7th DAY PESACH <i>Public Holiday</i> Shacharit: 9:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:30 p.m. ⚡ 6:18 p.m.*	8th DAY PESACH Shacharit: 9:00 a.m. Yizkor: 10:30 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:30 p.m. ⚡ 6:17 p.m.	Issru Chag Shacharit: 7:15 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:30 p.m.	Shacharit: 7:15 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:30 p.m.	Shacharit: 7:15 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:30 p.m. ⚡ 5:25 p.m.	SHABBAT Shacharit: 9:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:15 p.m. ⚡ 6:14 p.m.

⚡ Candle Lighting -- * Light from pre-existing flame – ⚡ Shabbat or Chag ends (Havdalah)

WHAT TO DO, AND HOW TO DO IT

★ Maot Chittim

It is an old and widespread custom to give Tzedakah during the first part of the month of Nissan to enable the less fortunate to celebrate Pesach in an adequate and dignified manner. This is in keeping with the declaration we make at the beginning of the Seder, "all who are hungry, let them come in and eat." Collections are thus taken up by our welfare organisations, and in particular by the Chevra Kadisha, specifically for this purpose. To assist those in need within our community, now is a good time to make a contribution to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This can be sent to the Shul office or deposited directly into ABSA account 38043260534 (Branch code 632005)

★ Sale of Chametz (Must be completed before Monday 14 April at 8:30 a.m.)

During the eight days of Pesach one may neither eat nor own any Chametz (leavened food). It is not practical to consume or to physically get rid of all Chametz before the onset of Pesach. One may however sell all Chametz to a non-Jewish person - if the sale is valid according to Jewish law then the Chametz is not 'owned' during Pesach.

The technical details of this sale are involved because the goods do not physically change hands. It is highly recommended that you appoint a rabbi as your proxy to sell your Chametz before Pesach. The rabbi will also re-purchase your Chametz from the Gentile at the completion of Pesach

★ Bedikat Chametz (Sunday 13 April in the evening)

This is the traditional search for Chametz (leaven and leavened products), using a candle, wooden spoon and feather. It is customary to hide ten pieces of bread around the house. These are then "found" when the search is performed.

Before starting recite the following Bracha: בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ עַל בִּיעוּר חָמֶץ

BARUCH ATA ADO-NAI ELO-HEINU MELECH HA-OLAM ASHER KIDESHANU BEMITZVOTAV VETZIVANU AL BI-UR CHAMETZ.

When the search is complete, recite the following formula to annul any Chametz that you have not found (original Aramaic text can be found in the first pages of most Haggadot):

ANY FORM OF LEAVEN THAT IS IN MY POSSESSION WHICH I HAVE NOT SEEN OR HAVE NOT REMOVED, OR HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF, SHALL BE NULL AND DISOWNED AS THE DUST OF THE EARTH.

★ Siyum (Monday 14 April after the morning service)

All male first-born are obligated to fast on the day before Pesach to commemorate the miracle of their salvation from the plague of Death of the First Born. There is one way that this obligation is waived: if the first-born takes part in a festive Mitzvah-meal, such as the meal after a Bris, or after a Siyum (the completion of a tractate of the Talmud). A Siyum will be made in Shul after the morning service.

★ Burning of Chametz (Monday 14 April before 11:00 a.m.)

Any Chametz found in the course of the previous evening's search and any other leftover Chametz is burnt at this stage.

There will be a fire available at the Shul's service entrance (North Avenue side) for burning of Chametz between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m.

★ Annulment of Chametz (Monday 14 April before 11:00 a.m.)

The second formula for annulling the Chametz is recited after the Chametz has been burnt (Here again the original Aramaic text can be found in the first pages of most Haggadot.)

ANY FORM OF LEAVEN THAT IS IN MY POSSESSION WHICH I HAVE SEEN OR HAVE NOT SEEN, WHICH I HAVE REMOVED OR HAVE NOT REMOVED, SHALL BE NULL AND DISOWNED AS THE DUST OF THE EARTH.

MAZALTOV

We wish a hearty Mazal Tov to:

BIRTHS

- Yehudah and Batsheva Glick and Rabbi and Rivky Chaikin on the birth of a son and grandson

BAR/BATMITZVAH

- Doris Samson on the barmitzvah of her grandson
- Solly & Sylvia Jossel on the barmitzvah of their great grandson

ENGAGEMENTS

- Tzvi Gudelsky and Tanya Kramer on their engagement

MARRIAGES

- Philip and Rilla Jacobson on the marriage of their grandson, Aharon Markovitz to Tamsi Welcher on 1st April

- Clive and Carole Strimling on the marriage of their daughter, Romy, to Dave Levy on 10th April

BIRTHDAYS

- Valerie Bloom on her 65th birthday on 2nd April
- Julian Kreser on his 60th birthday on 11th April
- Jo-An Epstein on her 50th birthday on 11th April
- Solly Smith on his 92nd birthday on 12th April

ANNIVERSARIES

- Colin & Barbara Meyerowitz on their 55th anniversary on 6th April

REFUAH SHLEMAH

We wish a Speedy Recovery to:



- Ralph Zulman
- Vladimir Bakman

BEREAVEMENTS

Our condolences to the following who have suffered bereavements recently:



- Gladwyn, Russell & Darryll Leiman on the death of their mother, Edith
- Raynor Brodie on the death of her husband, Mackie
- Allen Chafkin and Jennifer Cohen on the death of their father, Meyer (Mike) Chafkin
- Joyce Dubb, Barry Dubb and Shirley Leader on the death of their husband and father, Phineas

May Hashem comfort them and their families among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem and grant them long life.

KASHERING FOR PESACH

Kashering facilities will be available at the back entrance to the Shul (parking lot side) on Friday 11 April from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Metal objects (other than frying and baking pans) may be koshered. Please make sure that all items brought for Kashering are spotlessly clean and that they have not be used for 24 hours prior to the Kashering.

EREV PESACH DINNER

The Shul will be having a Friday night communal dinner on Friday 11 April. Catering is by Stan & Pete.

Booking is essential

Please call the office on 011-646-6020.

R 235.00 per person (Children under 6 free)

