

THE OXFORD SYNAGOGUE-CENTRE

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

April 2019

Nisan 5779

SHABBAT TIMES

🔊 Parasha - 🕯 Candle Lighting

🕯 Shabbat ends (Maariv & Havdalah)

For service times see page 3

12 & 13 April – 8 Nisan

🔊 Metzora (Shabbat Hagadol)

🕯 5:37 – 🕯 6:26

19 & 20 April – 15 Nisan

Pesach Day 1

🕯 5:30 – 🕯 6:19

26 & 27 April – 22 Nisan

Pesach Day 8

🕯 5:24 – 🕯 6:13

3 & 4 May – 29 Nisan

🔊 Acharei Mot

🕯 5:19 – 🕯 6:08

10 & 11 May – 6 Iyar

🔊 Kedoshim

🕯 5:14 – 🕯 6:04

RABBI'S MESSAGE

I am really looking forward to Pesach this year. I do every year, but this time around we are going to have a house filled to (over-) capacity. Children and BH grandchildren.

Not everybody. The last time we had all our progeny under one roof (children, spouses and their offspring) was seven years ago. It was a complex task to accommodate everyone

then but TG with the ever growing size of the tribe, the logistics (not to mention the sheer cost) of making that happen would be extremely challenging.

A Seder is about the transmission of our heritage to the next generation. The theme of the night is והגדת לבנך, "You will tell it to your children." This is why everything about the evening's proceedings is about interacting with our children, allowing them to ask, query and question and being there to provide them with the answers, the explanations and the background. It is about taking our history and turning into our biography.

How do we know, as parents, if we have been successful in imparting our core values to the next generation? When we see our own children doing the same with their offspring.

In past years, the days before Pesach were about

inter-continental video calls with the little ones, and letting them share excitedly the songs and stories they learnt at school. They all attend excellent day schools in Melbourne, Miami, Baltimore and Brooklyn and are always brimming with knowledge about slavery and freedom, plagues and splitting of the sea and most of the time, happy to show off to the proud grandparents.

For the first time, this year, there will be school-going age grandchildren sitting at our Seder table. This time around, we are looking forward PG to sitting back and watching the Pesach interaction taking place between our children and theirs.

We can't wait.

Wishing you a Chag Pesach Kosher veSameach.

Rabbi Yossi Chaikin

FROM THE REBBETZIN

Last week I told every one of the girls in the classes that I teach that they needed to be in shul to see the three Torahs being taken out of the Ark on Shabbos morning. (Something that occurs pretty rarely.) I don't know yet if any of them made that special effort, but I inspired myself, and so I was there. And so pleased that I made the effort. It was truly special.

Torahs always seem so human to me. I always get emotional when the Torahs are brought out to welcome a new Torah at a Hachnasat Torah celebration. And I have shed a tear or two when a Torah has been found to be possul (unkosher) during the leining, and dressed with the belt outside and put away. I can feel the humiliation.

But when the three Torahs were taken out this week it was majestic. I felt the same emotions that I am feeling about my children coming home for Pesach. So happy to see them, so happy to greet them, so happy to spend time together again.

Now it is just two weeks to go PG. I have a long list of things to accomplish in this short space of time. I have to remind myself and all the other Jewish women out there that Pesach will come even if all the "to do"s are not done and honestly, I am looking so forward to Pesach this year PG.

May you all have a happy and kosher Pesach.

Rivky

DVAR TORAH**SOUL SCRUBBING**

by Mimi Hecht (chabad.org)

My right arm is officially a hundred times stronger than my left, still burning and smelling of bleach.

The home where I am living and studying this year, Machon Alte, had a day of cleaning yesterday, in honor of the approaching holiday of Passover. Every student was given a job around the "campus."

My job? To scrub. To scrub the floor. To scrub all 30 refrigerator racks. To scrub the counters. To scrub the dishes.

As I was removing layers of grime, mold and rotting food from the surfaces of all the items I encountered, I struggled to use my overly-exposed-to-fumes brain to tap into the meaning and purpose of all the cleaning. Learning in Tzfat, the city where the study of Kabbalah originated in northern Israel, has taught me enough to expect more from the seemingly mundane in this world.

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The Alter Rebbe is known to have spent an enormous amount of time intensely cleaning his one-room house. The commandment of checking for chametz and leavened product (after the house is already cleaned) takes about 20 minutes, but he went all through the night—carefully guiding his candle along the floor in search of crumbs.

Clearly, there is something here that goes beyond spring cleaning.

The Alter Rebbe wasn't only searching his house. He was searching his soul. He was identifying what a person's motives should be when cleaning for Passover—checking for the crumbs and layers of dirt that could possibly be covering our

soul, stopping it from shining its full light.

There are many explanations for the much dreaded Passover cleaning. But for me, the Alter Rebbe's approach stands out.

So here I am scrubbing and scrubbing. I've got my soul on my mind. And I'm talking to myself. I'm saying, "Mimi, scrub it away."

Scrub away negativity. Let your soul shine. Scrub away the suggestive powers of society. Let your soul shine. Scrub away the barriers between your brothers and sisters. Let your soul shine. Scrub away your silly insecurities. Let your soul shine. Scrub away your ego. Let your soul shine. Scrub away laziness. Let your soul shine. Scrub away meaningless distractions. Let your soul shine.

Scrub away all the layers. Reveal the light, the shine. Reveal your mission. Reveal your powers. Reveal the meaning. Reveal the light inherent in the dark. Reveal the G-dliness. Reveal redemption.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. And the whole world, too, is with me. It is Nissan, the month of redemption, and Jews of every type and affiliation are cleaning away. Soul scrubbing and world scrubbing.

The world is starting to freshen and sparkle.

Passover is on its way.

I'll see you in Jerusalem.

SERVICE TIMES**SHACHARIT (A.M.)**

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

MINCHA AND MAARIV (P.M.)

Sunday to Thursday	5:45
<i>from 14/04</i>	5:30
<i>from 05/05</i>	5:15
Friday	5:45
<i>From 19/04</i>	5:20
Shabbat	5:30
<i>From 27/04</i>	5:15

For Pesach service times see page 3

PESACH 5779 TIMETABLE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBAT
14 April 9 Nissan	15 April 10 Nissan	16 April 11 Nissan	17 April 12 Nissan	18 April 13 Nissan	19 April 14 Nissan	20 April 15 Nissan
Shacharit: 8:00 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.	Shacharit: 7:15 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:30 p.m.	Shacharit: 7:15 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:30 p.m. <i>Last day to sell Chametz Checking for Chametz in the evening</i>	EREV PESACH Shacharit: 8:00 a.m. <i>Siyum after the Service</i> <i>Eat Chametz until 9:45 a.m. - Burn & Annul Chametz before 10:45 a.m.</i> Mincha/Maariv: 5:30 p.m. <i>First Seder in the evening</i> ⌚ 5:30 p.m.	1st DAY PESACH Shacharit: 9:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:30 p.m. <i>Second Seder in the evening</i> ⌚ 6:19 p.m.*
21 April 16 Nissan	22 April 17 Nissan	23 April 18 Nissan	24 April 19 Nissan	25 April 20 Nissan	26 April 21 Nissan	27 April 22 Nissan
2nd DAY PESACH Shacharit: 9:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:30 p.m. ⌚ 6:18 p.m.	First Day Chol Hamoed Shacharit: 8:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:30 p.m.	Second Day Chol Hamoed Shacharit: 7:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:30 p.m.	Third Day Chol Hamoed Shacharit: 7:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:30 p.m.	Fourth Day Chol Hamoed Shacharit: 7:00 a.m. <i>Eruv Tavshilin</i> Mincha/Maariv: 5:30 p.m. ⌚ 5:25 p.m.	7th DAY PESACH Shacharit: 9:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:30 p.m. ⌚ 5:24 p.m.*	8th DAY PESACH Shacharit: 9:00 a.m. Yizkor: 10:15 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:15 p.m. ⌚ 6:13 p.m.
⌚ Candle Lighting -- * Light from pre-existing flame – ⌚ Shabbat or Chag ends (Havdalah)						

WHAT TO DO, AND HOW TO DO IT

★ **Sale of Chametz (Must be completed before Friday 19 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 (Thursday 18 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

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 (Friday 19 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 (Friday 19 April before 10:45 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 10:15 and 11:45 a.m.

★ **Annulment of Chametz (Friday 19 April before 10:45 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.

★ **Eruv Tavshilin (Thursday 25 April before 5:30 p.m.)**

It is forbidden to cook on a Festival for the next day. When a Festival occurs on a Friday we are allowed to prepare food for Shabbat provided the preparations begin before the Festival. For this purpose we make an Eruv Tavshilin (literally "mingling of the foods") on the day preceding the Festival.

An Eruv Tavshilin consists of a challah roll or matzah, along with any other cooked food (e.g. meat, fish or egg), that we set aside before the Festival begins and then eat on Shabbat.

The Eruv foods are taken in the hand and the Bracha is made, followed by this declaration:

BA-RUCH A-TA ADO-NAI E-LO-HEI-NU ME-LECH HA-OLAM A-SHER KI-DE-SHA-NU BE-MITZ-VO-TAV VE-TZI-VA-NU AL MITZVAT ERUV.

THROUGH THIS IT SHALL BE PERMISSIBLE FOR US TO BAKE, TO COOK, TO PUT AWAY [A DISH TO PRESERVE ITS HEAT], TO KINDLE A LIGHT, AND TO PREPARE AND DO ON THE FESTIVAL ALL THAT IS NECESSARY FOR THE SHABBAT.

The Eruv is eaten at one of the Shabbat meals.

MAZALTOV

We wish a hearty Mazal Tov to:

BIRTHS

- Mazaltov to Ygal Mencer of the birth of a grandson.

BIRTHDAYS

- Julian Kreser on his 65th Birthday on the 11th April.
- Jo-An Epstein on her 55th birthday on the 11th March.

ENGAGEMENTS

- Marion Rapp on the engagement of her granddaughter, Alexa Rapp to Gabi Bender

MARRIAGES

- Rilla & Philip Jacobson on the marriage of their grand-daughter Chasya Flax to Simcha Kozhitz.
- June Berger on the marriage of her grandson Adam Reich to Yocheved Cohen
- Raynor Brodie on the marriage of her grandson, Itai Miller to Lori Grevler

ANNIVERSARIES

- Colin & Barbara Meyerowitz on their 60th anniversary on the 6th April.

BAR/BAT-MITZVAH

- Ralph & Lynette Zulman on the barmitzvah of their grandson, Daniel Kaplan.

BEREAVEMENTS

- We wish long life to Mervyn Smith and his family on the death of his daughter, Melissa.

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



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)

DELEGATION OF POWER FOR SALE OF CHAMETZ

I, the undersigned, fully empower and permit Rabbi Chaikin to act in my place and stead, and on my behalf to sell all Chametz possessed by me, knowingly or unknowingly as defined by the Torah and Rabbinic Law (e.g. Chametz, possible Chametz, and all kinds of Chametz mixtures).

Also Chametz that tends to harden and adhere to inside surfaces of pans, pots, or cooking utensils, the utensils themselves, and all kinds of live animals and pets that have been eating Chametz and mixtures thereof.

Rabbi Chaikin is also empowered to lease all places wherein the Chametz owned by me may be found, particularly at the address/es listed below, and elsewhere.

Rabbi Chaikin has full right to appoint any agent or substitute in his stead and said substitute shall have full right to sell and lease as provided herein.

Rabbi Chaikin also has the full power and right to act as he deems fit and proper in accordance with all the details of the Bill of Sale used in the transaction to sell all my Chametz, Chametz mixtures, etc., as provided herein.

This power is in conformity with all Torah, Rabbinic and Civil laws.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address/es:

Sale of Chametz can be done:

- **In person** (ideal method) - present completed form to Rabbi Chaikin
- **By post:** ✉ P.O. Box 87406, Houghton, 2041 (post early!)
- **By fax:** 📠 011-486-2214 or **by email** 💻 info@oxfordshul.com
- **By telephone** (emergencies only): ☎ 011-646-6020

This form must reach Rabbi Chaikin by Friday 19 April 2019 April at 9:00 a.m.