

THE OXFORD SYNAGOGUE-CENTRE

20 North Avenue, Riviera

✉ P.O. Box 87406, Houghton, 2041

☎ 011-646-6020 📠 086-580-2624

🌐 www.oxfordshul.com 📧 info@oxfordshul.com

📘 facebook.com/oxfordshul

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

July 2021

Tammuz/Av 5781

SHABBAT TIMES

🕒 Parasha - 🕒 Candle Lighting

🕒 Shabbat ends (Maariv & Havdalah)

For service times see page 3

2 & 3 July – 23 Tammuz

🕒 Pinchas

🕒 5:10 – 🕒 6:02

9 & 10 July – 1 Av

🕒 Matot & Masei (*Rosh Chodesh*)

🕒 5:13 – 🕒 6:05

16 & 17 July – 8 Av

🕒 Devarim (*Chazon*)

🕒 5:16 – 🕒 6:08

23 & 24 July – 15 Av

🕒 Va'etchanan (*Nachamu*)

🕒 5:19 – 🕒 6:11

30 & 31 July – 22 Av

🕒 Ekev

🕒 5:23 – 🕒 6:14

RABBI'S MESSAGE

Driving a Tesla was never on my bucket list. But I am not going to lie, it was quite a treat. On my recent trip to the US, my son, who lives in South Florida, borrowed the vehicle from a friend for the morning and made me get into the driver's seat. It is a beautiful car, and I enjoyed the smooth, silent driving and many of its amazing features.

A recent Model 3, it was fitted with the Full Self-Driving module. I obviously had to experience this. I pulled down twice on the gear selector stalk and it was operational. Wow! The car kept at the speed limit, perfectly in lane, stopped at red lights and stop signs. Despite the traffic, it

observed an adequate following distance at all times; changed lanes when I requested this by way of the indicators, as soon as it was safe to do so; braked gently when the vehicle in front slowed or stopped. It even halted rather abruptly for a jay-walking pedestrian who had run in front of it (whom, truth be told, I had not noticed myself).

To be honest, I did not enjoy this feature much. Although I knew I should feel safe, I felt totally and absolutely out of control. I admit there were times I was afraid, keeping my foot hovering above the brake pedal. Not easy to hand over control to a higher power... I felt far more in charge with the module disabled and both hands firmly on the steering wheel, enjoying the luxury of South African Elon Musk's beautiful creation. In fact, researchers are saying that designing a fully self-driving vehicle will be the easier part of the challenge—changing human nature to adopt the technology will be more difficult. We love getting behind the wheel and feeling in charge.

For the past 18 months, we have not felt like we were behind the steering wheel of our destiny. In theory, we

have always known that there was a Higher Power running the world. In practice we deluded ourselves into thinking that we held the controls. Along came a minuscule organism, wreaking havoc upon humanity, making us feel absolutely and totally not in charge. Faith may be telling us that Hashem is keeping the pace and direction of our lives. But it is scary, really scary. And there is no brake pedal.

Yet thousands are prepared to allow an onboard computer and a battery of cameras to take over their commute. Hashem's Master Plan for each of us and for the world is surely far more reliable. We need to continue to pray, give Tzedakah, recite Psalms, do mitzvot and acts of kindness. Then we need to double flick the switch and leave the rest to G-d.

Maybe, with more time, I would become accustomed to a motorcar driving me, rather than the opposite. For now, a Tesla is outside my budget. But the morning I spent driving around Hallandale and Hollywood remains etched in my memory. For the experience of the few hours in a real luxury vehicle and for the powerful life lesson it taught me.

Rabbi Yossi Chaikin

FROM THE REBBETZIN

Last Wednesday afternoon our school sent a message telling us the vaccination roll out for teachers has begun and we should go today, immediately and hopefully be vaccinated. I left everything I was doing and went. The Discovery building was all ready for the many teachers who got the same message, and with super efficiency, half an hour later I walked out, with tears of gratitude streaming down my face, vaccinated.

When you are little you long to be older, then you long to stay young. But now 50 something is a silly age—old according to the younger people but too young for a vaccine. I watched all around me as people got vaccinated, the health workers legally, the front line workers legally, then the over 60 legally. But it seemed to me that all around people were managing to push their way through the queue and get their vaccine. They either signed that they were health workers, they got “left over” ones or they paid for them. “This is Africa” one friend told me. “This is the only way we will get it.” I wondered if that was true, and then I got the message.

I am so grateful. And pray that things will move faster now and all who want will be able to get their shot, legally and efficiently too.

I pray that Hashem watches over and protects us all.

The vaccine is only one of the things we can do to try and protect ourselves. We still need to continue vigilantly with all the Covid protocols and most of all we need to pray, beg and plead with Hashem to protect us, and to end this horror.

Have a good, safe and healthy month.

Rivky

As of 1 July, registration for Covid-19 vaccination is open to all persons 50 and older. Register at vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za (Ed.)

DVAR TORAH

SQUEEZED

By Yanki Tauber (chabad.org)

Three weeks is a long time when you're waiting for an e-mail. But take all the pain and torment, all the sins and sorrows of a 4,000-year-old nation and squeeze them into a space of three weeks—and three weeks are a narrow space indeed.

When does something “happen”? We can say that a war occurs during the years it occupies of a particular century. We can say that a change in the situation of a people transpires over the course of a generation or era. Or, we can look at the root-causes of these events and processes.

A single traumatic moment in an individual's life—particularly in the person's infancy or childhood—can enfold within it numerous “future”

occurrences, thoughts and feelings, and can shape the person's state of mind and the circumstance of his life over many decades. The same is true of our life as a people. The events of two fateful days in our formative years encapsulate a large chunk of our history and set the trajectory of our journey through millennia to come.

What are these two days, and what happened?

The 17th of Tammuz

On the 17th day of the Hebrew month of Tammuz, in the year 2448 from creation (1313 BCE)—forty days from the Giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai—Moses descended from the mountain to meet with the sight of the Children of Israel the worshipping a Golden Calf. In his hands he carried the Tablets of the Covenant incised with the Ten Commandments. Upon witnessing the people's betrayal of their newly-forged covenant with G-d, Moses “threw tablets from his hands and shattered them under the mountain.”

G-d forgave His people, but He also said, “On the day of My accounting, I shall account [for this as well].” Our sages explain: every sin of Jewish history contain something of the sin of the Golden Calf; every catastrophe of Jewish history contain something of the

catastrophe of the breaking of the Tablets.

The 9th of Av

It was a wounded yet recovering people who decamped from Mount Sinai to resume their trek toward the Promised Land. And then, on the eve of ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av—a year and three weeks after the breaking of the Tablets—the journey of Israel stopped dead in its tracks.

It was on that tragic night that our ancestors, discouraged by the negative report brought back by the Spies, lost faith in the Divine promise of the Land. In the end, Moses once again secured G-d's forgiveness and the journey was resumed; but once again the nature of the journey was profoundly altered. Moses and the entire generation that left Egypt and stood at Sinai died in the desert. Their children wandered for 40 years in the wilderness — setting a pattern that would repeat itself in the later exiles of Israel.

The Three Weeks

Nearly 1,400 years later, these two days of betrayal and despair again made their mark in Jewish history, framing the infamous "three weeks" that saw the destruction of Jerusalem and its Holy Temple and the onset of our most recent, longest

and most bitter galut (exile).

On the 17th of Tammuz of the year 3829 from creation (69 CE), the Roman armies besieging Jerusalem broke through the city's walls. For three weeks the battles raged through Jerusalem's streets, until the entire city was vanquished and the Holy Temple—the heart of the city and of the Jewish people—was set aflame on the 9th of Av.

Numerous other tragedies of Jewish history—both before and after the destruction of the Temple—occurred on Tammuz 17, Av 9, and during the three weeks that join these two dates. To this day, these two days are observed as fast days, and the "Three Weeks" as a period of mourning and repentance.

The prophet Jeremiah, in his lamentation of the destruction of Jerusalem, proclaims of the people of Israel: "all her pursuers overtook her between the narrow straights." The "narrow straights" explains the Midrash, are the "twenty-one days between the 17th of Tammuz and the 9th of Av."

Lift Off

What happens when so much turmoil and foment are squeezed into such a narrow space?

Ask a gardener what happens when you pinch a garden hose. Ask a laser engineer what happens a beam of light is focused on a singular point. Ask a historian what happens when the pent-up passions of a people channel through the person of a charismatic leader. Ask a rocket scientist what happens when a million pounds of thrust are squeezed through a nozzle.

Ask our sages: they will tell you that the Moshiach was born on the Ninth of Av. They will tell you that it is our generation's task to squeeze four thousand years of yearning and striving through the narrow straight of galut and blast our world into a higher orbit—into the state of divine goodness and perfection promised by the prophets of Israel.

The 17th of Tammuz was observed on Sunday 27 June. The 9th of Av is on Sunday 18th July.

SERVICE TIMES

All in person services are currently suspended due to Lockdown regulations. PG these resume soon. All services will then be by prior booking. Please call the office.

SHACHARIT (A.M.)

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Sunday & Public Holidays | 8:00 |
| Monday to Friday | 7:15 |
| Shabbat & Festivals | 9:30 |

MINCHA AND MAARIV (P.M.)

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|----------------------|------|
| Sunday to Thursday | 5:15 |
| Friday (Maariv only) | 6:00 |
| Shabbat | 5:00 |

MAZALTOV

We wish a hearty Mazal Tov to:

BIRTHS

- Doris Samson on the birth of a great grandson in Israel.

BIRTHDAYS

- Stanley Wolpe on the occasion of his 94th birthday on the 13th July.
- Isidore Bronstein on the occasion of his 94th birthday on the 15th July.

- Maish Brenner on the occasion of his 90th birthday on the 16th July.
- Donald Krausz on the occasion of his 91st birthday on the 17th July.
- Ygal Mencer on the occasion of his 70th birthday on the 30th July.

ENGAGEMENTS

- Philip & Rilla Jacobson on the engagement of their grandson Zevi Fox to Shani Shaw.

BEREAVEMENTS

We wish long life to

- Keith Kirschner on the death of his wife, Shirley.

- Geoff & Barry Melamet and Suzanne Caro on the death of their mother Enid.
- Dahlia Gordon on the death of her sister Tobie Rieback.
- Rosalie Solarsh on the death of her mother, Bella Bricker.
- Colin Sundelson on the death of his father, David.
- Dennis Tannenbaum on the death of his wife, Corrinne.

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

STAY HOME.
STAY SAFE. SAVE LIVES.