

THE OXFORD SYNAGOGUE-CENTRE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

572

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June / July 2016

Sivan/Tammuz 5776

SHABBAT TIMES

🔔 Parasha - 🕯 Candle Lighting
🕯 Shabbat ends (Maariv & Havdalah)
For service times see page 2

24 & 25 June – 19 Sivan

🔔 Beha'alotcha
🕯 5:07 – 🕯 5:59

1 & 2 July – 26 Sivan

🔔 Shelach
🕯 5:10 – 🕯 6:01

8 & 9 July – 3 Tammuz

🔔 Korach
🕯 5:12 – 🕯 6:04

15 & 16 July – 10 Tammuz

🔔 Chukat
🕯 5:15 – 🕯 6:07

22 & 23 July – 17 Tammuz

🔔 Balak
🕯 5:19 – 🕯 6:10

29 & 30 July – 24 Tammuz

🔔 Pinchas
🕯 5:22 – 🕯 6:13

5 & 6 August – 2 Av

🔔 Mattot & Masei
🕯 5:26 – 🕯 6:16

RABBI'S MESSAGE

So winter has arrived exactly on time. It is always around Shavuot, whether it is early in the year or late as it was on this Jewish leap year. Exactly on cue, came the first real cold front of the season, accompanied by arctic, piercing winds.

In winter, we all become obsessive about keeping warm. Nobody enjoys feeling cold and we do everything we can to feel comfortable.

There are basically two ways this can be done:

By dressing warmly, we can heat just ourselves.

The other possibility is to switch on a heater or to make a fire, heating the whole room in the process.

If you are the one paying the electricity bill, you will be tempted to use the first method. Out of concern for all members of the household and occasional visitors however, it might be more sensible to heat up the entire room.

The heat of Yiddishkeit must likewise be maintained. We live in a world that is cold, because its value system is not supportive of a life lived according to Torah. We are subjected to a storm of alien notions that threaten to destroy our foundation, to uproot our Tree of Life, the Torah, and to smash our window to the world, the teachings of our Fathers. We need to keep the temperature up in order to protect ourselves.

There are obviously two options. We can worry about the preservation of self. We can make sure that our beliefs are solid, that our own observance of the precepts is sufficient, that our personal knowledge of Yiddishkeit is adequate. That is the equivalent of putting on another layer of clothing.

The other way is to heat up the whole house. It is the more costly way, and it requires more effort. It is easier to be concerned with oneself than to care about a community. But the former is the Jewish way.

When the waters of the Flood were threatening to come down from the Heavens and wreak havoc on the world, Noah built an Ark and saved his skin, and that of his immediate family. He did not attempt, in a meaningful way, to influence, and thus rescue, the entire world. He remains known as the *Tzadik in Pels* (Tzadik in a fur) who, when cold, dresses himself warmer.

In the days of Abraham a deluge of fire and brimstone threatened to engulf the valley of Sodom. Abraham, who had spent his years in Canaan trying to teach as many people as he could about the One G-d, viewed this as a personal failing. He pleaded with Hashem to save them. There had to be a way to make the Sodomites see the truth.

Abraham is the one who is called the Father of the Jewish Nation.

Have a great month and keep warm—physically and spiritually.

Rabbi Yossi Chaikin

FROM THE REBBETZIN

I need to stand up. I need to stretch and clear my head. It is only the 18th exam paper I am marking and already I am bored. Very bored and really not in the mood of marking more.

I re-count how many papers I have already marked and then count again how many papers I still have to mark. I look outside at the glorious sun-filled winter day and imagine I am the only person sitting inside and tediously marking exam papers. Then I notice a name at the top of the exam. Next to it is a cell phone number. I have told the girls that if they are anxious for results they should put their numbers on their papers and I will message them when I have completed marking. At that moment I remember that, for every exam paper, there is a girl anxiously waiting to hear her results.

My job changes. Instead of just marking papers I am whispering to myself, hoping that each girl has excelled, feeling proud with those who outdid themselves and worrying about those who struggled.

So often we look at the big picture of our lives. We make assumptions and judgments about schools, communities, shuls and even countries, without taking into account the individuals who make up the group. Each with their own story, each with their own journey, with their own challenges and triumphs. All these individuals make up the end story. Each one is a vital part.

Now I am trying to see each exam paper as a girl and I am imagining the investment each learner has made in this exam. I am also going to try to see all the individuals who make up all the different parts of my life as the special and important individuals they are.

Have a good month

Rivky

SHUL SECURITY

Safety is of the utmost importance to The Oxford Shul. Our security team is committed to ensuring the safety of all our members and visitors throughout the year, even more so on the High Holy Days. We have a permanent manned security hut on our premises and are affiliated to CSO and armed response. CSO play an active part in assisting and advising us with all security issues.

We would like to thank our shul's security team and most of all to our volunteers - our shul Marshalls – the members of our community, our "Eyes and Ears" who give of their time so willingly to protect the members of our shul.

Extra security is added on all Holy days and busy times. We feel safe and protected at all times.

Our Security roster is always looking to add new members. Please call the office in order to join this rewarding and invaluable group by assisting once a month. This will also lessen the burden for the group.

Please contact the office on 011 646-6020 between 8 – 1 pm in order to volunteer your time and join our security team.

On behalf of Oxford Shul, we thank our "Eyes and Ears Teams" for their commitment to ensuring the safety of our community.

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

Sunday and Public Holidays	8:00
Monday to Friday	7:15
<small>06/07 & 07/07 (Rosh Chodesh): 7:00</small>	
Shabbat & Festivals	9:00

MINCHA AND MAARIV (P.M.)

Sunday to Friday	5:15
Shabbat	5:00

A STORY

WORK

by Yanki Tauber (chabad.org)

Why must everything be so difficult? Couldn't G-d have designed our lives so that we wouldn't need to encounter disappointments, challenges and toil every step of the way?

This must be one of the oldest questions ever asked. The answer--that an "easy" life would also be a meaningless life--is probably just as old. And so is the parable told to illustrate the point:

A wealthy nobleman was once touring his estate and came upon a peasant pitching hay. The nobleman was fascinated by the sight: flowing motions of the peasant's arms and shoulders and the graceful sweep of the pitchfork through the air. He so greatly enjoyed the spectacle that he struck a deal with the peasant: he would give him a gold coin every day if the peasant agreed to come to the mansion and display his hay-pitching technique in the nobleman's drawing room.

The next day, the peasant arrived at the mansion, hardly concealing his glee at his new line of "work." After swinging his empty pitchfork for an hour, he collected his gold coin--many times his usual reward for a week of backbreaking labor. But by the following day, his enthusiasm had somewhat waned. Before the week was out, he announced that he was quitting his commission.

"I don't understand," puzzled the nobleman. "Why would you rather swing heavy loads outdoors in the winter cold and the summer heat, when you can perform an effortless task in the comfort of my home and earn many times your usual wages?"

"But master," said the man, "I'm not doing anything..."

MAZALTOV



BIRTH

- Mazaltov to Evelyn Kantor on the birth of a great grand-daughter.

ENGAGEMENTS

- Anette Wolk on the engagement of her grand-son Rafi.

BIRTHDAYS

- Mannie Zar on his 85th birthday on 1 June.
- Henry Ulfane on his 92nd birthday on 8 June.
- Ethel Salamon on her 60th birthday on 11 June.

- Joseph Pollack on his 95th birthday on 13 June.
- Gertie Feinstein on 85th birthday on 17 June.
- Deborah Jankelow on her 50th birthday on 20 June.
- Fanny Kampel on her birthday on 3 July.
- Sheila Saffer on her birthday on 8 July

ANNIVERSARIES

- Sam and Jill Nudelman on their 35th anniversary on 5 July
- Bram & Deborah Meyerson on their 30th anniversary on 6 July
- Alan and Gillian Bolon on their 40th anniversary on 17 July

REFUAH SHLEIMA

We wish a Speedy Recovery to



- Marion Gordon
- Melanie Jacobs
- Blima Nudelman
- Eric Mausebaum
- Selwyn Smolowitz

BEREAVEMENTS

Our condolences to the following who have suffered bereavements recently:



- Glyn Binkin, Robyn Levy and Stacey Knight on the death of their father Bernard.



PURCHASE A LEAF ON OUR "SIMCHA TREE"

to mark a happy event in your family
Cost of each leaf is R 360.00 - For details please contact the office

SPONSOR A BROCHA

at the Shul on the occasion of a personal or family Simcha, to commemorate a Yartzeit, birthday or anniversary.

For details and bookings contact Lee at the Shul office



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Oxford Shul Presents

ANNUAL CHOIR

FESTIVAL

Featuring:

- Linksfield Shul
- Sydenham Shul
- Oxford Shul
- Pine Street Shul
- Pretoria Shul
- Waverley Shul

Saturday Night

2 July 2016, 7:45 p.m.

Oxford Shul, 20 North Avenue,
Riviera | Price: R50.00

TICKETS AND INFORMATION:

011-646-6020 | info@oxfordshul.com