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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March/April 2026
Nissan/Iyar 5786

ד'ק

SHABBAT TIMES

🕒 Parasha - 🕒 Candle Lighting

🕒 Shabbat ends (Maariv & Havdalah)

13 & 14 March – 25 Adar

🕒 Vayak'hel Pekudei

(Hachodesh)

🕒 6:08 – 🕒 6:56

20 & 21 March – 3 Nissan

🕒 Vayikra

🕒 6:01 – 🕒 6:49

27 & 28 March – 10 Nissan

🕒 Tzav (Shabbos HaGadol)

🕒 5:53 – 🕒 6:41

3 & 4 April – 17 Nissan

🕒 Chol Hamoad

🕒 5:46 – 🕒 6:34

10 & 11 April – 24 Nissan

🕒 Shemini

🕒 5:39 – 🕒 6:27

17 & 18 April – 1 Iyar

🕒 Tazria & Metzora

(Rosh Chodesh)

🕒 5:32 – 🕒 6:21

24 & 25 April – 8 Iyar

🕒 Acharei & Kedoshim

🕒 5:46 – 🕒 6:34

1 & 2 May – 15 Iyar

🕒 Emor

🕒 5:20 – 🕒 6:10

RABBI'S MESSAGE

I have been outed—in front of an audience of millions—by none other than Tucker Carlson. The secret is now known to all. I, along with tens of thousands of fellow Chabad chassidim, harbour the dream of seeing the Third Temple rebuilt, soon.

It is barely a secret. And it is not just Chabad. We all express this wish openly in our thrice-daily Amidah prayer: “Restore the service to the Holy of Holies in Your abode, and the fire-offerings of Israel... May our eyes behold Your merciful return to Zion. Blessed are You... Who returns His Divine Presence to Zion.”

Longing for Mashiach has been one of the foundations of our faith from time immemorial—for all Jews.

Perhaps Chabad has been more vocal about it than other streams within our religion. The Rebbe spoke about this incessantly, increasingly so as the years progressed, and entreated his followers to do all they could to bring the goal closer—more mitzvot and more acts of kindness by more people.

He described the quest to bring this about as a war. The various high-profile mitzvah campaigns that he launched over the decades were termed a *mitvza*, the Hebrew word for a military operation. The iconic RVs that dot the island of Manhattan and many other CBDs—where people can step in to put on

tefillin or just for a chat—are referred to as Mitzvah Tanks.

The drive to encourage lighting Shabbat candles is known as *Mivtza Neshek*—*neshek* means weapons in Hebrew, and *Nerot Shabbat Kodesh* (candles of the Holy Sabbath) form that acronym.

When a children's movement was formed in 1980 to encourage youngsters to take their part in the battle to bring Mashiach, the Rebbe named it *Tzivos Hashem*—the Army of G-d. Boys and girls started at the rank of private and could progress, all the way to five-star general, through learning Torah and doing mitzvot.

Isaiah famously describes the Messianic Era as a time when “they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks,” and when “nation shall not take up sword against nation; they shall never again know war.” The battles to bring this about are thus purely spiritual, involving neither air force nor navy.

Chabad is famous for its absolute acceptance of—and tolerance for—all human beings. The movement is often referred to as Lubavitch

(or the names are hyphenated) because it was headquartered for over a century in a small Russian village whose name translates as the City of Love.

Mr Carlson, thank you for acknowledging in public the formidable force that is Chabad and its global influence. But please check your facts. Other than the Chabadniks who serve in either the IDF or the US Armed Forces, none of us have participated in Operation Lion’s Roar or Epic Fury—other than through prayer.

But one thing you can be sure of, Mr Carlson. When this is over—when a half century of horror for the Iranian people is reversed and democracy returns to this noble country—there will be a Chabad House in Tehran. And in Mashhad. And in Isfahan.

Anyway, now you all know—if you did not already. I deeply long to see a Third Temple in my lifetime.

Don’t you?

Wishing you all Chag Pesach Kasher Vesameach

Rabbi Yossi Chaikin

FROM THE REBBETZIN

The very first song I was brave enough to sing to my new husband was about the stars. I have always loved looking at them.

One of the ways I managed to convince my American husband that we really needed to visit the Kruger Park (“Do we have to drive all that way just to see animals?”) was by describing the atmosphere there. I explained that it is a place where you can hear the silence, and that it has many more stars than Johannesburg does.

He patiently explained to me that there are actually the same number of stars—just that when there is less pollution you can see more of them.

Whatever...

And that is how I came to be singing the song about the stars to him.

This past Shabbos we went with the girls’ high school on their annual Shabbaton. As it got dark, I noticed with delight how full of stars the sky was. (Some of the girls appreciated my excited observation.)

I did not sing to them. But I stand by the words of Jo Amar, who eloquently sings:

Stars are just like humans. Each of us shines our own unique light that can brighten the world. All we need to do is work together to make the world a brighter place.

Sitting with a powerful group of girls, each one with her own strengths, it was obvious how each one is a star.

Sometimes we have to go to a place with less pollution to see just how bright each star is.

Wishing you all Chag Pesach Kasher Vesameach

Rivky

DVAR TORAH

All The Days Of Your Life

By Tzvi Freeman (chabad.org)

Here’s the whole debate: The Torah says to remember the story of the Exodus not just every day, but “all the days of your life.” Ben Zoma says that means it’s not enough to remember it in the daytime; you have to mention it at night as well. The rest of the sages disagree. They say you have to mention it only once in the morning. The extra “all” in “all the days of your life” is to tell you that we’ll be telling this story even after Moshiach comes.

It turns out that the rabbis are also debating another important point: In the messianic era, will there be any point in recounting the miraculous story of how we left Egypt?

Ben Zoma would tell you, “No way! After seeing the entire world enter an era of wisdom and peace, we will tell that story instead. As for miracles—we will be ever aware of all the amazing miracles constantly surrounding us!”

But the rest of the rabbis disagree. They say that even after all the incredible miracles when we leave this final exile—way beyond the miracles of Egypt—we will still make mention of the exodus from Egypt. Because that’s when it all began.

Which means that all the days since that first mass escape are really one long exodus. Every day, whatever we are doing, wherever we are doing it, is another step in leaving our personal exile, and the exile of the whole world. It’s just that leaving Egypt was the first leap forward, and ever since then, we’re running on that impetus.

All human freedom began with the Exodus.

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

Monday & Thursday 7:15
Shabbat & Festivals 9:30

MINCHA AND MAARIV (P.M.)

Friday 6:00

PESACH 5786 TIMETABLE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBAT
<p><i>Wishing You a Kosher and Joyous Passover</i></p> <p>חג פסח כשר ושמח</p>		31 March 13 Nissan	1 April 14 Nissan	2 April 15 Nissan	3 April 16 Nissan	4 April 17 Nissan
		<p><i>Last day to sell Chametz Checking for Chametz in the evening</i></p>	<p>EREV PESACH <i>Eat Chametz until 10:00 a.m. Burn & Annul Chametz by 11:00 a.m. Eruv Tavshilin Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m. First Seder in the evening</i></p> <p>⚡ 5:48 p.m.</p>	<p>1st DAY PESACH <i>Shacharit: 9:30 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m. Second Seder in the evening</i></p> <p>⚡ 6:36 p.m.*</p>	<p>2nd DAY PESACH <i>Shacharit: 9:30 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m.</i></p> <p>⚡ 5:46 p.m.*</p>	<p>CHOL HAMOED <i>Shacharit: 9:30 a.m.</i></p> <p>⚡ 6:34 p.m.</p>
5 April 18 Nissan	6 April 19 Nissan	7 April 20 Nissan	8 April 21 Nissan	9 April 22 Nissan	10 April 23 Nissan	11 April 24 Nissan
<p>Second Day Chol Hamoed <i>Shacharit: 8:00 a.m.</i></p>	<p>Third Day Chol Hamoed <i>Shacharit: 8:00 a.m.</i></p>	<p>Fourth Day Chol Hamoed <i>Shacharit: 7:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m.</i></p> <p>⚡ 5:42 p.m</p>	<p>7th DAY PESACH <i>Shacharit: 9:30 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m.</i></p> <p>⚡ 6:30 p.m.*</p>	<p>8th DAY PESACH <i>Shacharit: 9:30 a.m. Yizkor: 10:45 a.m.</i></p> <p>⚡ 6:29 p.m</p>	<p><i>Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m.</i></p> <p>⚡ 5:39 p.m</p>	<p><i>Shacharit: 9:30 a.m.</i></p> <p>⚡ 6:27 p.m</p>
<p>⚡ Candle Lighting -- * Light from pre-existing flame – ⚡ Shabbat or Chag ends (Havdalah)</p>						

WHAT TO DO, AND HOW TO DO IT

★ **Sale of Chametz (Must be completed before Wednesday 1 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 (Tuesday 31 March 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.

★ **Burning of Chametz (Wednesday 1 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 (Wednesday 1 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.

★ **Eruv Tavshilin (Wednesday 1 April before 5:45 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 piece of 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 the Shabbat meals.

MAZALTOV



We wish a hearty Mazal Tov to:

BIRTH

- Yehuda & Batsheva Glick and Rabbi Yossi & Rivky Chaikin on the birth of a daughter and granddaughter.

MARRIAGE

- Martin and Sylvia Lewison on the marriage of their son, Adam to Miri Jaffe on 10 February.

BIRTHDAYS

- Norman Hirschowitz on his 83rd birthday on the 3rd of March
- Frank Gonsenhaus on his 84th birthday on the 5th of March
- Inna Orlianski on her 70th birthday on the 11th of March
- Leah Lange on her 95th birthday on the 13th of March
- Eddie Pokroy on his 84th birthday on the 23rd of March
- Rilla Jacobson on her 80th birthday on the 31st of March
- Margot Cohen on her 81st birthday on the 8th of April.
- Judith Feinberg on her 88th birthday on the 9th of April.

- Auriel Wittert on her 90th birthday on the 19th of April
- Philip Jacobson on his 88th birthday on the 25th of April
- Robert Soicher on his 60th birthday on the 28th of April

REFUAH SHLEIMA

We wish a speedy recovery to:

- Philip Jacobson

BEREAVEMENTS

We wish long life to

- Beth Goldblatt and Michael Goldblatt on the death of their father, Walter Goldblatt.

May Hashem comfort them and their family 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 done via EFT to ABSA account 38043260534 (Branch code 632005) or by secure credit card at pay.oxfordshul.com. Please use “Pesach” as the reference.