

THE OXFORD SYNAGOGUE-CENTRE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

20 North Avenue, Riviera

✉ P.O. Box 87406, Houghton, 2041

☎ 011-646-6020 📠 011-486-2214

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

📘 facebook.com/oxfordshul

March 2013

Nissan 5773

SHABBAT TIMES

🕒 Parasha - 🕒 Candle Lighting
🕒 Shabbat ends (Maariv & Havdalah)
For service times see page 2
For Pesach service times see page 3

15 & 16 March – 4 Nissan

🕒 Vayikra

🕒 6:06 – 🕒 6:54

22 & 23 March – 12 Nissan

🕒 Tzav (Shabbat Hagadol)

🕒 5:59 – 🕒 6:47

29 & 30 March – 19 Nissan

Chol Hamoed Pesach

🕒 5:51 – 🕒 6:39

5 & 6 April – 26 Nissan

🕒 Shemini

🕒 5:44 – 🕒 6:32

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

With Nissan fast approaching it's time again to get ready for Pesach and we will be hosting a communal seder again this year. As we did with our first seder, two years ago, we will be hosting it in the hall and Stan and Pete will be catering as well as assisting with serving etc.

These are very enjoyable, informative and relaxed evenings. We will be finished by 11p.m, and best of all you don't need to prepare anything, either at home or for the function!! Please bring your families and friends and join us, you really won't be sorry.

Pesach is the time everyone uses to "spring clean". We've been doing a bit of "spring cleaning" in and around the shul and nursery school in the form of

maintenance. There is quite a bit to sort out but we are making progress.

Shekeiach to the Rabbi and Rivky for organising and pulling off an amazing Purim. Starting off with the Megilla Saturday night, followed by Hamentashen and coffee in the beautiful garden. The next day again started with Megilla followed by a braai and then the most amazing show with fire eating and juggling (sometimes at the same time!), tightrope walking and juggling (at the same time), balancing various things including snakes and then the thing that got the kids active... a 50kg python which must have been at least 3 to 4 meters long. Shekeiach again to the Rabbi for being brave enough to try it on as a tallis! (I hope the Rabbi includes a picture of this in the newsletter)

All in all it was a very lekker day... oh nearly forgot to mention our visit and inspirational talk by the Chief.

Wishing everyone a Chag Kosher Pesach v'Sameiach.

Brian Levy



RABBI'S MESSAGE

Have you bought a new outfit to wear for Pesach? Why bother with new clothes, I ask you? What is wrong with the suit or dress that you wore at last year's Seder?

"What a naive rabbi," you must be thinking, "does he not know that clothes go out of fashion? Does he not realise that the same attire that made me look absolutely stunning a year ago would now make me look like an absolute idiot in Shul. He could perhaps be forgiven for not having noticed that last season's finery would be most unflattering on me today."

All right, I concede, you are entitled to a new outfit for Yomtov. But, I ask, why are you then content with last year's Seder experience? Other than minor adjustments to the menu, will your Seder not be a virtual duplication of last holiday's? Same songs; same Haggadah readings; same Matzah, Maror, Charoset; same Four Questions asked and same answers given?

Clothes, as we know, enhance a person's appearance. Well-tailored garments can make a person look glamorous. But an outfit only beautifies if it fits. If we wear a suit or dress that we

have outgrown, it will make us objects of ridicule rather than of admiration, even if the value of the garment exceeds our charge card's credit limit. As children grow into youths and then into adults, their wardrobe must constantly be upgraded.

Mystics refers to Mitzvot as the *Garments of the Soul*. Mitzvot enhance and beautify our spiritual appearance. In the same way that our body grows in a physical sense, our Soul grows spiritually.

Our religious growth is an ongoing experience. We never remain at a constant level; we always strive to extend our horizons and to reach greater heights. The clothes that our Soul wore last year no longer fit. They will not enhance our countenance. They are out of style, too small or too tight and make us look clumsy and sloppy.

Last year's Seder is now out of style. The same way you go out shopping for a new outfit to wear, spend time preparing for your spiritual Seder experience. Go out and shop for a new Haggadah with different commentaries and insights. Read up and discover new dimensions to Pesach that you will share with the other participants. Learn a new song; find a new Pesach related story. Whatever you do, don't just recycle last year's Seder. You will look funny.

Have a Kosher and Happy Pesach.

Rabbi Yossi Chaikin

DVAR TORAH

CAN I SKIP THE BORING PARTS?

*Rabbi Shimon Apisdorf
(aish.com)*

The reading of the entire Haggadah is the way in which one fulfills his or her obligation to speak about the exodus from Egypt on the night of Passover. In order to realize the full benefit of this mitzvah, one must both read and understand the complete text of the Haggadah. This means that if you don't understand Hebrew, then you shouldn't read it in Hebrew. This also implies that -- beyond understanding the words -- you should strive to discern their deeper meanings and messages.

Let your imagination loose for a moment and picture this: you have just concluded a marvellous encounter with the most adorable extra-terrestrial you could ever hope to meet. A conversation transpired (though no words were actually spoken) and clearly your rendezvous was with a being of superior intelligence whose understanding penetrated the many layers of life and the universe. As a parting gift, you are left with a book, but there's one catch - in twenty-four hours it will mysteriously vanish. Now ask yourself: over those next twenty-four hours, how much time will you spend preparing and eating meals, watching television, or sleeping?

Or... imagine that while rummaging through a long-neglected corner in your attic you were to find a dusty, handwritten manuscript authored by your great-

grandfather. Wouldn't you be curious to see what he wrote? And what if the opening lines read: "To my dear children, this is the most important book you will ever read. It is about Jewish life and the wisdom of living written by a Jew who dedicated his life to the pursuit of wisdom. Countless hours have been devoted to finding the words and the thoughts which I trust will serve as a faithful guide in life, and as a key to your freedom..."

The yellowed pages of that manuscript are the timeless folios of every Haggadah. That great-grandfather is the collective wisdom of our greatest sages. You are the heir who happened upon those lost words. A multilayered message about the meaning of Jewish existence, about life, and, most of all, about freedom. And all you've got is one night.

The legacy of freedom is yours to discover.



SHACHARIT (A.M.)

Sunday and Public Holidays	8:00
Monday to Friday	7:15
Shabbat & Festivals	9:00
<small>12/03 (Rosh Chodesh): 7:00</small>	
<small>10/04 & 11/04 (Rosh Chodesh): 7:00</small>	

MINCHA AND MAARIV (P.M.)

Sunday to Thursday	6:15
from 17/03	6:00
from 31/03	5:45
Friday	5:45
Shabbat	6:00
from 23/03	5:45
from 06/04	5:30

PESACH 5773 TIMETABLE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBAT
24 March 13 Nissan	25 March 14 Nissan	26 March 15 Nissan	27 March 16 Nissan	28 March 17 Nissan	29 March 18 Nissan	30 March 19 Nissan
Shacharit: 8:00 a.m. Koshering of dishes 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mincha/Maariv: 6:00 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 10:15 a.m. - Burn & Annul Chametz before 11:15 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 6:00 p.m. ⛔ 5:56 p.m.	1st DAY PESACH Shacharit: 9:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 6:00 p.m. <i>Second Seder in the evening</i> ⛔ 6:44 p.m.*	2nd DAY PESACH Shacharit: 9:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 6:00 p.m. ⛔ 6:43 p.m.	First Day Chol Hamoed Shacharit: 7:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 6:00 p.m.	Second Day Chol Hamoed <i>Public Holiday</i> Shacharit: 8:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m. ⛔ 5:51 p.m.	Shabbat Chol Hamoed Shacharit: 9:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m. ⛔ 6:39 p.m.
31 March 20 Nissan	1 April 21 Nissan	2 April 22 Nissan	3 April 23 Nissan	4 April 24 Nissan	5 April 25 Nissan	6 April 26 Nissan
Fourth Day Chol Hamoed Shacharit: 8:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m. ⛔ 5:49 p.m.	7th DAY PESACH <i>Public Holiday</i> Shacharit: 9:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m. ⛔ 6:37 p.m.*	8th DAY PESACH Shacharit: 9:00 a.m. Yizkor: 10:30 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m. ⛔ 6:36 p.m.	Issru Chag Shacharit: 7:15 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m.	Shacharit: 7:15 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m.	Shacharit: 7:15 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m. ⛔ 5:44 p.m.	SHABBAT Shacharit: 9:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:30 p.m. ⛔ 6:32 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 25 March 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 24 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: 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 25 March 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 25 March before 11:15 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 11:15 a.m.

★ Annulment of Chametz (Monday 25 March before 11:15 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.

MAZAL TOV

We wish a hearty Mazal Tov to:

ENGAGEMENTS

- Anne Simon on the engagement of her grandson Joshua Goodman to Jessica Schneider

MARRIAGES

- Simon and Nan Woolf on the forthcoming marriage of their son, Kyle, to Sarah Berkenfeld

BIRTHDAYS

- Natasha Kramer on her 30th birthday on 1st March
- Clive Strimling on his 65th birthday on 2nd March
- Lynne-Anne Moch on her 60th birthday on 6th March
- Morris Zev on his 97th birthday on 15th March
- Kitty Goldstone on her 101st birthday on 29th March

ANNIVERSARIES

- Kenneth and Cecilie Marks on their 35th anniversary on 12th March

**REFUAH SHLEMAH**

We wish a Speedy Recovery to:

- Israel Gordon
- Lewis Freeman
- Maureen Meyerson
- Willie Wittert

**BEREAVEMENTS**

Our condolences to the following who have suffered bereavements recently:



- The family of Solomon Kay on his death
- Sonia Genn and family on the death of their husband and father, David
- Anthony Stein and Louise Stein on the death of their son, Russell

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

DON'T MISS OXFORD'S COMMUNAL SEDER

TUESDAY 26th MARCH

Catered by Stan & Pete
in the Simon Kuper Hall

Adults: R295

Children (12 & under) R80

BOOK NOW! 011-6466020

KASHERING FOR PESACH

Kashering facilities will be available at the back entrance to the Shul (parking lot side) on Sunday 24 March from 10 a.m. to 1 p.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 been used for 24 hours prior to the Kashering.