

# THE OXFORD SYNAGOGUE-CENTRE

20 North Avenue, Riviera

✉ P.O. Box 87406, Houghton, 2041

☎ 011-646-6020 📠 011-486-2214

🌐 [www.oxfordshul.com](http://www.oxfordshul.com) 📧 [info@oxfordshul.com](mailto:info@oxfordshul.com)

📘 [facebook.com/oxfordshul](https://facebook.com/oxfordshul)

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March & April 2018

Nissan & Iyar 5778

### SHABBAT TIMES

🔊 Parasha - 🕯 Candle Lighting  
🕯 Shabbat ends (Maariv & Havdalah)  
For service times see page 3

16 & 17 March – 1 Nissan

🔊 Vayikra

🕯 6:05 – 🕯 6:54

23 & 24 March – 8 Nissan

🔊 Tzav (*Shabbat Hagadol*)

🕯 5:58 – 🕯 6:46

30 & 31 March – 15 Nissan

*First Day of Pesach*

🕯 5:50 – 🕯 6:39

6 & 7 April – 22 Nissan

🔊 *Eighth Day of Pesach*

🕯 5:43 – 🕯 6:31

13 & 14 April – 29 Nissan

🔊 Shemini

🕯 5:36 – 🕯 6:25

20 & 21 April – 6 Iyar

🔊 Tazria & Metzora

🕯 5:29 – 🕯 6:18

27 & 28 April – 13 Iyar

🔊 Acharei & Kedoshim

🕯 5:23 – 🕯 6:13

4 & 5 May – 20 Iyar

🔊 Emor

🕯 5:18 – 🕯 6:08

### RABBI'S MESSAGE

Leshana Hab'ah  
Biyerushalayim—Next year  
in Jerusalem. Twice a year  
we call out this heartfelt  
plea. It is not an advertising  
slogan for El Al (although  
they use it freely, and why  
not?). It is the culmination of  
two of the most important  
religious ceremonies that  
virtually every Jew in the  
world observes every year.

The first occasion is at  
the end of the Yom Kippur  
service. Having spent the  
better part of the twenty-four  
hours in prayer and  
repentance, we reach, at the  
end of Neila, the greatest  
spiritual high. At that point  
we are in a state of ultimate  
joy, celebrating the release  
from sins, G-d's forgiveness  
and absolute purity.

A similar level is reached  
at the end of a Pesach  
seder. In this case, it is not  
through fasting but rather  
through feasting. Through  
eating, singing, celebrating  
and rejoicing we elevate  
ourselves to spiritual purity  
paralleled only by the end of  
Yom Kippur.

Let us keep this in focus  
as we prepare to sit down  
with our families and friends  
to our respective Pesach  
sedorim. Being together with  
family is important and  
enjoyable (well, in most  
cases...). Great food is nice  
even if not great for the  
waistline. The nice new Yom  
Tov clothes will add to the  
joy, as will the beautiful  
table ornaments and ornate  
cutlery and crockery.

But a Seder is first and  
foremost a sublime spiritual  
experience. A celebration of  
Judaism, of the story of our  
birth as a nation and also of

our ultimate destiny. It is far  
more than just singing a few  
traditional songs, partaking  
in traditional foods and  
catching up on the latest  
gossip in the community.

So here is some advice:  
Before Pesach, make a  
point of visiting one of the  
Jewish booksellers and get  
yourself a nice Hagadah.  
There are so many on the  
market nowadays that you  
are sure to find one that will  
appeal to you. At the seder,  
follow the Hagadah and  
allow it to be your guide  
throughout the evening.  
Share its insights with your  
fellow seder participants.  
Stimulate them with  
questions and discussion.  
Read the instructions and  
observe the Mitzvot of the  
night: eating matzah, maror,  
drinking wine, reclining etc.

At the end of the evening  
you will feel elevated and  
fulfilled—just like the end of  
Yom Kippur, but on a full  
stomach instead.

I wish each one of you a  
Chag Pesach Kasher  
Vesameach—a joyous and  
kosher Passover.

*Rabbi Yossi Chaikin*

1<sup>st</sup> SEDER FRI 30 MARCH  
2<sup>nd</sup> SEDER: SAT 1 APRIL

**FROM THE REBBETZIN**

I put my R20 into the machine, and it spat it right back at me. I turned it over, turned it around, tried over and over again – but the machine just kept spitting it out at me. By now there was a queue of about 4 or 5 people waiting to pay their parking, and all getting annoyed at me (!!!) for delaying them.

The lady behind me suggested I go downstairs and get my card stamped. "Then you don't have to pay at all", she told me. But I didn't buy anything in Pick n Pay, and the sign clearly says it is free parking for Pick n Pay customers and pensioners. She was unimpressed by my honesty and went ahead of me to "click" her card and leave.

I recognised the man behind her and tried to ask him if he had change for a R20 note. He was careful not to make eye contact with me. And also went ahead to pay and go.

I also knew the man behind him, who answered my greeting, but ignored my question. I wondered what he thought I was asking for.

A domestic worker, walking past, witnessed the whole exchange, opened her purse and without any question walked over to the machine, put in a R5 coin, wished me a good day and continued walking.

"Oh, did you need money for parking", the young man asked me.

Too late.

I wonder how many easy good deeds we give away all the time. I wonder why we are so wary of other human beings. I wonder why we don't stop to listen or see how we can help. I wonder why we don't realise that often helping doesn't cost a cent or a minute.

I will be looking harder from now on

Have a good month

*Rivky*

**DVAR TORAH****WHERE IS MOSES?**

*By Shlomo Yaffe (Chabad.org)*

The Haggadah—the text we read in the course of the Passover Seder—gives us a thorough description of the Egyptian slavery and Exodus.

One key subject, however, is missing from the narrative: Moses. In the Torah, it is Moses who is the emissary and actor in each of G-d's miracles that lead to and through the Exodus. The figure of Moses looms large in the story of the Exodus.

In the Haggadah, however, barring one reference to Moses repeating something that happened, he appears not at all. Why? Are we not leaving out the most important individual in the whole Exodus?

The answer, I think, lies at the very end of the recital of magid, the long account that precedes the eating part of the Seder. We're usually quite hungry by the time we get to this part, which may be the reason why it's often overlooked...

We begin the final part of magid by saying, "...In every generation a person is obligated to see himself as having himself come out of Egyptian bondage." We need to understand that Passover is not about a redemption long ago, but about the fact that redemption is an ongoing endeavor.

Talking about Moses fixes the Exodus as a point in history. But Passover is not about what was—it's about what is, now. Every year, Passover gives us the power to escape personal bondages of habit and inclination. Every year, Passover teaches us that G-d can help us redeem others from their prisons, both

physical emotional and spiritual. And most of all, we believe that G-d can and will redeem the world—with our participation—from darkness and conflict, and bring about a world where there is no want, conflict or ignorance.

Talking about Moses also fixes the Exodus as an accomplishment of an extraordinary individual. "Moses can accomplish such things," we're tempted to say, "not me. Who am I to aspire to change existence from patterns entrenched for millennia? I know my shortcomings and Moses' incomparable greatness."

Perhaps this is why the Haggadah doesn't talk about Moses. G-d alone is the redeemer of the Jewish people and all of humanity. Moses was great because he committed himself, totally, to G-d's agenda. If we, now, commit ourselves in our own totality, every one of us can be the conduit for G-d's transformation of existence from the bondage of all that is dark, changing our world into a realm of light.

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

<b>Sunday and Public Holidays</b>	8:00
<b>Monday to Friday</b>	7:15
<small>03/04, 04/04 &amp; 05/04 (Chol Hamoed): 7:00 16/04 (Rosh Chodesh): 7:00</small>	
<b>Shabbat &amp; Festivals</b>	9:00

**MINCHA AND MAARIV (P.M.)**

<b>Sunday to Thursday</b>	6:15
<i>from 26/03</i>	6:00
<i>from 01/04</i>	5:45
<i>from 23/04</i>	5:30
<i>from 30/04</i>	5:15
<b>Friday</b>	5:45
<i>from 04/05</i>	5:20
<b>Shabbat</b>	6:00
<i>from 24/03</i>	5:45
<i>from 07/04</i>	5:30
<i>from 21/04</i>	5:15

## PESACH 5778 TIMETABLE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBAT
<p><b>חג פסח כשר ושמח</b></p> <p><i>Wishing you a</i></p> <p><i>Chag Pesach Kosher veSameach</i></p>				29 March <b>13 Nissan</b>	30 March <b>14 Nissan</b>	31 March <b>15 Nissan</b>
				Shacharit: 7:15 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 6:00 p.m. Last day to sell Chametz Checking for Chametz in the evening	<b>EREV PESACH</b> Shacharit: 8:00 a.m. Siyum after the Service Eat Chametz until 10:00 a.m. - Burn & Annul Chametz before 11:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m. First Seder in the evening ⚡ 5:50 p.m.	<b>1<sup>st</sup> DAY PESACH</b> Shacharit: 9:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m. Second Seder in the evening ⚡ 6:39 p.m.*
1 April <b>16 Nissan</b>	2 April <b>17 Nissan</b>	3 April <b>18 Nissan</b>	4 April <b>23 Nissan</b>	5 April <b>20 Nissan</b>	6 April <b>21 Nissan</b>	7 April <b>22 Nissan</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> DAY PESACH</b> Shacharit: 9:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 6:00 p.m. ⚡ 6:38 p.m.	<b>First Day Chol Hamoed</b> Public Holiday Shacharit: 8:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m.	<b>Second Day Chol Hamoed</b> Shacharit: 7:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m.	<b>Second Day Chol Hamoed</b> Shacharit: 7:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m.	<b>Fourth Day Chol Hamoed</b> Shacharit: 8:00 a.m. Eruv Tavshilin Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m. ⚡ 5:44 p.m.	<b>7<sup>th</sup> DAY PESACH</b> Shacharit: 9:00 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:45 p.m. ⚡ 5:43 p.m.*	<b>8<sup>th</sup> DAY PESACH</b> Shacharit: 9:00 a.m. Yizkor: 10:30 a.m. Mincha/Maariv: 5:30 p.m. ⚡ 6:31 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 Friday 30 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 (Thursday 29 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.

## ★ Siyum (Friday 30 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 (Friday 30 March 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 (Friday 30 March 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 (Thursday 28 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 the declaration below. The Eruv is eaten at one of the Shabbat meals.

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.

**MAZALTOV**

We wish a hearty Mazal Tov to:

**BIRTHS**

- Mazal Tov to Clive & Rhona Gilbert on the birth of a grandson.
- Mazaltov to Gerald & Shoshana Kaplan on the birth of a grandson.
- Mazaltov to Annette Wolk on the birth of a great grandson in Melbourne.

**BIRTHDAYS**

- Natasha Kramer on her 35<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 1<sup>st</sup> March.
- Clive Strimling on his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March.
- Lynne-Anne Moch on her 65<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 6<sup>th</sup> March.

- Esther Manne on her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on the 9<sup>th</sup> March.
- Michael Rothschild on his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 20<sup>th</sup> March.
- Charlene Wingrin on her 45<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March
- Frank Wilks on his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 5<sup>th</sup> April.
- Judith Feinberg on her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 9<sup>th</sup> April.
- Stuart Buxbaum on his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 9<sup>th</sup> April.

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- Kenneth & Cecilie Marks on their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the 12<sup>th</sup> March.
- Lewis & Carole Neuburger on their 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the 24<sup>th</sup> March.
- Stanley & Jennifer Smidt on their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the 31<sup>st</sup> March.

- Maurice & Rose Oskowitz on their 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the 8<sup>th</sup> April.
- Anthony & Danielle Fobel on their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the 26<sup>th</sup> April.

**REFUAH SHLEIMA**

We wish a Speedy recovery to:



- Stan Smidt

**BEREAVEMENTS**

- We wish long life to Stan & Norma Wolpe on the death of their daughter Lynn Fine in Dallas.
- We wish long life to Beulah and Joshua Spark on the death of their husband and father, Greg.

