

NEWSLETTER  
OF THE  
BUSHEY & DISTRICT SYNAGOGUE  
NUMBER 7

Here we are again, this time with a "magazine" style edition: and we thank those whose contributions have helped to fill our pages.

We are especially grateful for permission to reproduce Reverend Hardman's article on Bar-Mitzva, and the extract from Rabbi Wageschal's book on Kashruth. We would like to mention that there were a number of footnotes to the extract, which we omitted: those interested in looking further into the subject of Kashruth can obtain Rabbi Wageschal's book from any bookshop or direct from J. Lehmann, 20 Cambridge Terrace, Gatehead 8.

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Have you any suggestions as to what you would like to see in future issues of your Newsletter? We are most grateful for the complimentary remarks which reach our ears - please rest assured that criticism, preferably constructive, would be equally welcome.

Ronald Cole - Editor  
8 Swallow Close  
Bushey  
Tel: 01-950 3566

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PLEASE NOTE: Dwing to unforeseen circumstances the Social Calendar Committee have been obliged to postpone the Film Show due to have been held this Sunday, 8th April.

They apologise for any inconvenience caused: and will announce the revised date in due course.

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TIMES OF SERVICES DURING PESACH

<u>1st Night</u>	Monday, 16th	7.15 pm :	<u>7th Night</u>	Sunday, 22nd	7.15 pm
<u>1st Day</u>	Tuesday, 17th	10.00 am :	<u>7th Day</u>	Monday, 23rd	10.00 am
<u>2nd Night</u>	Tuesday, 17th	7.15 pm :	<u>8th Night</u>	Monday, 23rd	7.15 pm
<u>2nd Day</u>	Wednesday, 18th	10.00 am :	<u>8th Day</u>	Tuesday, 24th	10.00 am
<u>Erev Shabbat</u>	Friday, 20th	7.15 pm :			
<u>Shabbat Morning</u>	Saturday, 21st	10.00 am :			

Whilet no service will be held in our Shool on the Morning of Monday, 16th, we would advise that the service at Stanmore Synagogue commences at 7.00 a.m. May we remind you that all first-born males should attend this service in order to absolve themselves from the Fast.

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## LAWS CONCERNING CHOMETZ ON PESSACH

From approximately one-and-a-half hours before midday on Erev Pessach, until nightfall of the eighth day of Pessach, one may neither derive benefit from nor even own, any chometz. The prohibition of eating chometz comes into force approximately two-and-a-half hours before midday - with the exact time to be determined annually for every individual location.

### WHAT IS CHOMETZ?

Any wheat, barley, rye, oats or spelt which has been in contact with water or other liquids, must be considered as chometz, since fermentation may have set in. This applied where water came into contact either with the actual grain or with the flour or any other product of the grain. Only where special conditions are observed and conscientious supervision is exercised, as in the baking of matzoth, may water and flour be mingled for the use of Pessach foods.

### EXAMPLES OF CHOMETZ

**FLOUR PRODUCTS:** Flour noodles, vermicelli, spaghetti, farvel, semolina, porridge, custard, bread, cake, biscuits, cookies, matzo and matzo-meal not specially prepared for Pessach.

**CEREALS:** Cornflakes, Shredded Wheat, Puffed Wheat, Weetabix and all other varieties.

**MALT PRODUCTS:** All malt and yeast products, vegetable extracts, mustards and other condiments.

**BEVERAGES:** Beer, whisky and other spirits, malt-vinegar and pickled foods containing malt-vinegar, flavouring essences, Lucozade, glucose.

**MEDICINES:** Most medicines are suspect of containing chometz. In case of need, medicines should be especially prepared without chometz ingredients by a chemist, on doctor's instructions. Where this is not possible, a sha'alah must be asked.

**ANIMAL FOODS:** Many of these contain chometz.

**FOOD PREPARED IN CHOMETZ VESSELS:** All such food prepared before Pessach is to be treated as chometz.

The above list is not comprehensive and should merely be taken as a guide.

### PULSES

Although pulses, such as beans and lentils do not come within the category of chometz, it is nevertheless a custom having the force of law not to eat them on Pessach, owing to their similarity to grain. However, they may remain in Jewish persons' possession during Pessach.

Examples of pulses: beans, peas, lentils, rice, soya beans, maize, cornflour, rice flour.

Where pulses need to be eaten for health reasons, a rabbinic authority should be consulted for a ruling.

#### DRIED FRUITS AND READY-MADE PRODUCTS

Since exceptional care is required in the preparation of foodstuffs for Pessach it is the established custom to eat only food prepared under rabbinic supervision.

This applies, for instance to prunes, dates, figs, raisins, dried apples and apricots, tinned fruits and vegetables, cheese, pickled meat, herrings, sardines and other fish-tins, smoked salmon, jam and honey.

#### CHOMETZ UTENSILS

Baking, cooking and eating utensils used during the year may not be used for Pessach. Although many utensils may be made fit for use on Pessach through kashering, most people find it more practical to obtain separate sets of milky and meaty dishes for Pessach, which are to be kept well out of the way during the year.

All chometz utensils have to be cleaned thoroughly and put away before Pessach. They should preferably be stored in a room which will not be entered during Pessach. Where this is not possible, they should either be locked away or put out of reach, e.g. on top of a cupboard or shelf.

#### PREPARING THE HOUSE FOR PESSACH

##### CLEANING THE HOUSE

In order to ascertain that one should have no chometz in one's possession during Pessach, an extensive house-cleaning is carried out before Pessach. All rooms and parts of the house into which chometz may have been brought at any time during the year, must be thoroughly cleaned. This applies to attics, pantries, cellars, offices, shops, garages, cars, wardrobes, drawers, pockets, handbags, shopping bags and travelling-cases. The cleaning operation naturally requires time and effort and most housewives find it expedient to commence it as early as possible, usually soon after Purim.

##### CLEANING THE KITCHEN

The kitchen needs to be cleaned with particular care, especially the tables, shelves, cupboards, sinks with their draining boards. Even after they have been scrubbed and cleaned, they are to be kept covered for the duration of Pessach with some suitable material such as wooden boards, hardboard, tin-foil, lino, Formica or plastic sheets.

The cooking surface of the gas or electric oven requires thorough cleaning.

If possible, all parts of it which usually come into contact with the pots and pans, should be replaced. If this cannot be done, the tops of all those parts must be covered with tin or tin-foil. Where it is possible to make these parts red-hot, there is no need to cover them. As regards the preparation for Pessach of a gas or electric oven normally used for baking, a qualified authority should be consulted.

The particular care with which it is customary for Jewish housewives to prepare their kitchens for Pessach cannot be adequately described in the present context.

#### SALE OF CHOMETZ

Since a Jewish person may not own chometz during Pessach, he will either have to give or sell to a non-Jew all chometz not used up before Pessach. The act of giving away or selling must take place not later than approximately one-and-a-half hours before the true midday of Erev Pessach. In order to avoid the trouble of actually transferring all the chometz to the houses of the non-Jew who acquires it, one arranges the sale in a manner whereby the places where the chometz is lying are either included in the sale or are let to the non-Jew.

#### COLLECTIVE SALE BY QUALIFIED RABBONIM

In order to ensure that the sale of chometz will have legal validity, it has become the custom to entrust this transaction to a competent Rav, who will arrange a collective sale. Since the Rav has to be appointed as agent by each individual seller of chometz, and since particulars of the items to be sold have to be given to him, a representative of each household in question has to visit the Rav during the days preceding Pessach to arrange this matter. The authorisation of the Rav as agent for the sale of chometz is effected through the signing of a document to this effect and the traditional act of acquisition on his part.

The formulation of the Contract of Sale makes it clear that the sale is an absolute one, and that the non-Jewish buyer is under no obligation to return or resell the chometz. The re-buying of chometz by the Jewish seller after Pessach is enterely dependent on the free decision and goodwill of the non-Jewish purchaser.

#### SEARCHING, ANNULING AND BURNING OF CHOMETZ

##### SEARCHING

However well a Jewish house has been cleaned before Pessach a final search during the evening preceding Erev Pessach is still required. This search is conducted with the aid of a wax candle or a similar light to enable the searcher to look into all nooks and crannies. A berachah is recited before the search.

Where a Jewish person will be away from home during Pessach he must carry out the search for chometz during the night prior to his departure. No berachah is recited in such a case.

## FIRST ANNULMENT

After completion of the search, the chometz has to be annulled by a declaration that all chometz which may have been overlooked shall be considered as non-existent, valueless and ownerless. Persons who do not understand the Aramaic text of the declaration as printed in the Siddur or Haggadah should make it in the language they understand.

Such chometz as is to be left over for the next morning must be stored safely so that none of it will be scattered.

## BURNING

Next morning, approximately two hours before the real midday, all remaining chometz must be burned until it turns into ashes. After the burning, the chometz is annulled again as before, but the declaration now includes the words: "All chometz which may still be in my possession, whether known or not". This annulment should not be said later than approximately one-and-a-half hours before midday but in any event not later than one hour before midday.

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Reproduced by kind permission of Rabbi S. Wagschal being an extract from his book "A Practical Guide to Kashruth" published by the Gateshead Foundation for Torah.

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## RECIPES FOR PESACH

from Betty Segalov -

### Boiled Fowl With Lemon Sauce:

Cover fowl with water, bring to boil and skim. Add 1 onion cut into quarters, 3 large sliced carrots, salt and pepper (1 bay leaf optional). Simmer between 2 to 4 hours, depending upon size of bird.

Remove fowl and correct seasoning of soup (add 1 Telma chicken cube if necessary). Section fowl, place in casserole or oven proof serving dish and squeeze over juice of a lemon.

Pour 1 pint of the soup into a small saucepan, mix together with juice of 1 lemon, 2 egg yolks and a little sugar. Heat gently, stirring constantly until thick. DO NOT BOIL THIS SAUCE. Pour enough of the sauce to cover the fowl and serve the remainder in a sauce boat separately. Serve hot; decorate with thin slices of lemon.

### Potato Maison:

Slice into rings 6 good sized potatoes and 1 or 2 large Spanish onions. Place alternate layers of potatoes and onion finishing with a layer of potatoes in a medium size casserole or oven proof serving dish. In between each layer season with a little salt and pepper and 2 or 3 small knobs of margarine. Put a generous knob of margarine on top layer and bake in slow oven for about 1 hour. Serve hot.



Orange Pudding:

Ingredients - 1 pint orange juice, 2 tablespoons potato flour, sugar, 2 eggs, juice of a lemon, diced fresh fruit.

Method: Bring orange juice to the boil. (This can be a diluted concentrate, canned juice, or the juice of 4 fresh Jaffa oranges, brought up to 1 pint with water). Add the lemon juice and potato flour mixed with a little cold water. Mix well and boil for one minute. Remove from heat and mix in the fruit and enough sugar to taste.

Separate the yolks and whites of two eggs. When the orange mixture is cool, mix in the yolks. Whisk the whites until firm and blend into the mixture until it is clear.

Pour into small glasses and decorate with fruit, nuts or grated chocolate. Store in the refrigerator until cold. Serves 4 - 6.

Avocado Salad:

Ingredients - 2 ripe avocados, 2 hard boiled eggs, salt, pepper, 1 clove garlic, juice of a lemon.

Method: Mash together the eggs and the peeled avocados with salt, pepper, crushed garlic and the juice of a lemon. Mix well together and serve either as an appetiser or a side salad on lettuce leaves. Serves 4 - 6.

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from Barbara Kaye -

Hazelnut Cake:

Ingredients - 4 eggs, separated; 4oz caster sugar; 4oz hazelnuts, minced.

Method: Mix the egg yolks with the sugar and hazelnuts until smooth and then fold in the stiffly beaten egg whites. Bake in the centre of the oven, gas regulo mark 4, for approx. 30 mins. When cake is cool, it can be split in half and filled, or decorated on top, with whipped double cream. (N.B. If a mincer is not available, a cheap mouli mincer is ideal).

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

On Thursday June 7th polling will be taking place in Bushey to elect a new District Council. Unfortunately, polling day itself coincides with the second day of Shavout and there will doubtless be some members of the congregation who would not wish to mark their ballot paper on Yomtov.

If anyone will be unable to cast their vote for religious reasons but still wishes to fulfil their civic duty by helping to elect the new authority which comes into existence on June 7th then it will be possible to arrange for them to have a Postal Vote.

If any Bushey elector in this situation will write to me at the address below I will be pleased to organise a Postal Vote for that person, regardless of their political allegiance.

Yours sincerely,  
Laurence Brass (Pr. Liberal Candidate, St. James Ward, Bushey)  
"Wayside House",  
La Wayside Avenue,  
Bushey Heath, Herts.

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POEMS by Michael Solomons

Michael Solomons is a spastic. He has never been able to walk, and his hands and speech are also affected. His disposition, however, is an extremely happy one and his time is never wasted. He lives with his fiancée, Gillian, in a home for the handicapped called Eldridge House, in Feltham, where he paints, writes music and poetry, and does a little specialised work every morning.

'HANDICAPPED'

I know we're handicapped, so what!  
And may be confined to a chair,  
But there are pleasures in our lives  
That everyone of us can share.

The seasons as they come and go,  
The people that we hold so dear.  
We can enjoy the stars that shine  
And our sweet life that we have here.

It can bring so much joy to us  
To see the setting of the sun.  
We must begin to realise  
That there is good in everyone.

A ride into the countryside  
To see the fields so fresh and green  
Can mean a great deal to us all,  
As we recall the happy scene.

The garden in the summer time  
With trees and flowers all in bloom.  
There is so much we can enjoy,  
The treasures we have in our room.

The music that we love to hear,  
It may be classical or pop.  
It's fun to hear the hit-parade  
And see what record's at the top.

The programmes that are on T.V.  
A Play, a talk or even art,  
Each famous painting that we see  
Will always gladden someone's heart.

We may be handicapped, so what!  
If we don't grumble and don't grouse,  
We will enjoy these lovely things  
Our lives right here in Eldridge House.

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'THE LITTLE THINGS'

The little things in life please me  
The things that people just pass by;  
A couple strolling happily  
Beneath an ever-changing sky.

A robin hopping in the snow  
The lovely blossom on the tree;  
The joy to watch a baby grow  
These are the things I love to see.

I like to smell a Summer Rose  
And see each bud begin to flower  
And sometimes read a little prose  
I thank God for each lovely hour.

I get a thrill to see the sun  
Each morn when I begin to rise;  
Another lovely day's begun  
The wonder of it fills my eyes.

I play my records every day  
Sweet music fills my little room;  
The World's composers make me gay  
With music there's no time for gloom.

I try to give a little cheer  
To anyone who's feeling down,  
And make up jokes for them to hear  
And wipe away that silly frown.

There's purpose in my life I'm sure  
And that's to make somebody smile;  
For sadness there's no better cure  
Than cheer a person all the while.

So, when my life draws to an end  
I'll know the happiness it brings,  
Whatever's waiting round the bend,  
I thank God for the little things.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Message to Johnny Back'

Dear Johnny Back,  
There is a lack,  
Of Siddurim with our labels.

If you can't stick them in,  
We'll have to 'phone the Beth Din  
To find someone else who's able!!

Three years have gone by  
Since you started to try  
To stick labels in our Siddurim.

We know time goes fast  
But now look what's past -  
Yet another Purim!

You will agree  
That years in number three  
Is more than time enough.

So come on, John  
Please get a move on  
And go and do your stuff!

Our next Simcha is soon  
And we'd deem it a boon  
If you'd take yourself off to the Shool

And when you see to those books  
You'll get such grateful looks  
From your two friends, Shirley and Paul!

R.S.V.P.

Shirley Epstein

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## "SIGNIFICANCE OF BEING BAR-MITZVA"

by Rev. L. Hardman; an extract from 'Tzibbur', the Hendon Synagogue Newspaper.

The Bar-mitzva ceremony is so far as the boy "chanting his portion" and the subsequent sumptuous reception are concerned come and go, but the boy himself - the son of the commandment - goes on to the end of his mortal days. The very nomenclature "Bar-Mitzvah" stays with him at all times.

It is therefore imperative that everything possible within the limits of modern life and the circumstances surrounding him should have been done prior to him reaching the age of 13 so as to ensure that he feels the significance of being Bar-Mitzva. Unless he is enrolled in a Jewish Day School, the other alternative is his attendance at a recognised set of classes, at least three times a week from the age of 5 or 6, or in special circumstances, private tuition by a qualified teacher for 3 hours a week.

### Parent's Duty

Whatever he learns - and with good teachers it could be quite substantial - it should not be forgotten however, that the greater teachers are his parents. The biblical injunction is as relevant as ever it was . . . "And thou shalt teach them diligently to your children . . . V'dibarrtah Bam by way of the parents "speaking" and "acting" in the manner the Torah demands of them.

This involves, inter alia, that mothers maintain a Jewish home, viz: Kosher foods, separate milk and meat dishes; lighting the Sabbath and Yomtov candles; the week of Pasover; fathers putting on Tefillin, making Kiddush and Havdala, reciting Hamotzee and Grace after Meals at least on Shabbat; attending Synagogue Services as regularly as possible. One assumes that there is a loyal, devoted and happy relationship between mother and father.

If the father is unable to read Hebrew in consequence of which he fails to make Kiddush, or put on Tefillin, he should nevertheless encourage his son to do these things. (There is an Adult Class for those who desire to improve their Hebrew reading.) He should neither feel guilty nor embarrassed.

Six months before his Barmitzva, every boy should be bought a new pair of Tefillin and attend our Sunday Morning Youth Service. He should also attend our Youth Service every Shabbat morning.

It is most sad when I learn of boys losing sight of this noble title Bar-Mitzva, the main causes of which are due to

- a) not having had a regular education before 13,
- b) poor teaching;
- c) lack of encouragement and sound example on the part of parents.

### A Simple Test

Provided a boy has been attending regularly a Jewish Day School or Synagogue Hebrew Classes for four years prior to his Bar-Mitzva he will be entitled to read Maftir and Haftarah by passing a simple test.

1. Fluent reading of Hebrew.
2. Translation of Parasha.
3. Translation of Shema, Amidah for Shabbat Shacharit; Friday night Kiddush; Grace after Meals.
4. Ability to locate familiar prayers in Siddur.
5. Dinim relating to Tefillin.

This is such a simple test much of which will have been covered sometime or other during the four years that no parent should feel apprehensive or concerned. I would however, strongly advise all parents to insist on their sons practising their Hebrew reading aloud at home.

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#### REPORT OF THE LADIES' GUILD

Purim Party - a Purim party for the children was held in school on Sunday 18th March. As usual, the children had a wonderful afternoon, and the judges of the fancy dress competition had a very difficult task to choose the winners, as can be seen from the photographs. A delicious, well-catered tea was provided, followed by a film show.

Bring and Buy - on 28th March was held a Bring and Buy at the home of Shirley Epstein, our co-chairlady. This was well-attended, and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Lavish buffet refreshments were served, and over £12 was raised, some of which is being donated to the Bnei B'rith Pesach Appeal. As this was such a social and financial success we hope to hold more in the near future - keep watching this column for details! We were very happy to see some new faces at the Bring & Buy, and hope that they will support us at future functions.

Pesach Talk - a talk on Pesach was held at the home of Judi Back on 2th April, organised jointly with Bushey Wizo. The talk, attended by about 26 ladies, was given by Mrs. Newman of the Jewish Marriage Education Council (Mrs. Newman is the wife of Rabbi Newman of New Barnet Synagogue). Mrs. Newman's talk was very interesting, many questions were asked, and much knowledge was gained. Refreshments were served afterwards, and the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Forthcoming Events - ASCOT - Hurry! Hurry! Hurry! Tickets for the mass onslaught by the ladies of Bushey (and their friends) are in great demand. For tickets and all information vis-a-vis prices, times, etc. please contact Betty Segalov (950-3485).

For your diary - an outing to Luton Hoo to see the fabulous house and gardens is being planned. This will probably be mid-July, the exact date and other details to be confirmed.

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#### REPORT FROM OUR FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

Hello, once again, sporting fans!! Sunday 1st April was the last practice game for the football team aspirants. And what a practice it turned out to be! At half-time the team captained by David Segalov was winning by six goals to three. Final score was seven all, and all seven goals on Ronald Cole's side were scored by Jeffrey Epstein. I might add that Paul Epstein (that's me) was ref., and that must mean SOMETHING! The team to play Elstree and Borehamwood next Sunday is: Melville Shone, David Segalov, Laurence Schenk, Johnny Back, Laurence Brass, Ivan Gold, Brian Soames, Jonathan Nash, Melvyn Harris, Jeffrey Epstein, Jonathan Fields; Reserves to Travel: Murray Epstein, Steve Fields, Richard Segalov. Kick off is 2.30 p.m. at Tempsford Avenue, Borehamwood. Anyone who is not sure of the way - just follow the crowds. (If you can't find a crowd phone Johnny at 950-1327 for directions).

There will probably be a match on Sunday 22nd April against one of the Stanmore Jewish Youth Club Teams. All those interested, practice is at 2.00 p.m. on 15th. Usual place.

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JANINE KAYE  
"MISS QUALITY STREET"  
1st Prize - Under 6



DAVID KAFETZ  
"INFLATION"  
1st Prize - Over 6



A group of Under 6's



A group of Over 6's



Another group of Under 6's



The youngest news-crier  
in Bushey?



.....We are pleased to announce the start of the KEEP FIT CLASS which we mentioned in our last issue. The Class will start on Monday 30th April and then every following Monday, weekly from 8.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. Ladies should wear clothing which will allow them plenty of room for movement: physical jerks etc. Response to our first report of the Class was very good: all other Ladies interested please contact Mrs. Jenny Baum (950-2064) or Mrs. Pamela Kay (954-1728).....

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We extend sincere condolences to:

- Sally Brooks (nee Kaner), on the loss of her father Harry
- David Mandel, on the loss of his brother Morris
- John Nash, on the loss of his father Jack
- Carole Zatman (nee Halpern), on the loss of her father Max

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We are pleased to welcome to the community

Aryen & Louise Sager

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We wish a heart mazeltov to:

- Ivan & Philippa Gold, and Marc and Simon, on their move into their new house Mazeltov and best wishes also to:
- Alan & Dorienne Carmel on the birth of their daughter, Liza - a sister for Michael and Marc

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OTHER LOCAL ACTIVITIES (Not under the auspices of the Synagogue)

BUSHEY WIZO is certainly going from strength to strength. Since its superb Card & Games Evening it now has the reputation of being a friendly go-ahead group trying to interest and please its members with a varied programme of activities.

At the Biennial Conference at the Bloomsbury Centre Hotel on the 26th/27th March, Bushey WIZO's Delegate, Mrs. Myra Graye, attended for the Group to vote on their behalf on such subjects as 'more help for the Russian Jews' and 'different ways of raising money for Israel' which is, after all, our insurance as Jews for the future.

For news of our most recent meeting, a talk on "The Woman's role in the house at Pesach" organised in conjunction with the Synagogue Ladies' Guild, please see under their report by Mrs. Peggy Davis, to be held on May 2nd. Mrs. Davis will explain how the money which we raise is used to help in Israel.

Please note that WIZO Ladies will be calling during the week of May 10th: please greet them with a smile and give as generously as possible.

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A SHIUR will be held at the home of Judy & Neville Nagler (14 Marsworth Avenue, Pinner. Tel: 01-428 7885), with the accent on Pesach: its origins and traditions. Would all those interested please contact Judy & Neville, or Ronald Cole (01-950 3566): Lifts offered.....

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The WATFORD & DISTRICT LEAGUE OF JEWISH WOMEN are holding their Annual Function on June 26th. A Luncheon & Bazaar will be held at the home of Mrs. Miriam Kays, "The Grove Lodge", Chandlers Cross, at 12.00 p.m. Children will be most welcome. Tickets: £1.25 (children - 50p.) For further information, please contact Mrs. Rose Mitchell (01-950 5496).

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