

MARCH 1975

NEWSLETTER

NISAN 5735

OF THE

BUSHEY & DISTRICT SYNAGOGUE

NUMBER 10

The job of putting together this Newsletter has always been one of 'compiling' rather than 'editing', and at times one finds oneself devoid of anything new to say. Supported by the theory 'two heads are better than one', you will no doubt be pleased to learn that the Editorial Board has now doubled in size! With some years of experience in running the Newsletter for the High Wycombe congregation, COLIN FLUK will be a valuable asset - especially if he whips up a number of our members to send 'Dear Sir' letters to the Editor.

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The Festival of Passover is almost upon us, and it brings with it many lessons relating to our lives as Jews. It is a Festival of Freedom - and it should serve to remind us of our good fortune to be living in a land where we are free, not only in a secular sense, but also free as Jews to practise our religion without fear of oppression.

In traditional Judaism, the woman has a very important role to play. Whereas the father is duty bound to perform certain deeds during the course of the day, the mother is freed from all those observances which are related to a specific time of day. Part of the reason for this is that the woman's major contribution to Judaism is in the home: and it is when Pasach is just a few days away that the mother carries perhaps her greatest burden. The searching for, and burning of, Chometz is, nowadays, purely symbolic, in that the father does not doubt the extent to which his wife has ensured the complete cleanliness of the house. In this way, there is a partnership between a man and his wife in the carrying on of our many traditions. What we need to give some thought to is the extension of this kind of partnership into the community.

'You only get out of it what you put in' is a phrase which is applied to a great many activities in life. It is equally applicable to community life in Bushey. One hears many muttered criticisms of what is being done, or what is not being done: if these criticisms were spoken out loud, or aired through the columns of the Newsletter, not only would the critic have 'got it off his/her chest', but he/she might also serve to better the lot of other people within the community.

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PLEASE let us know of any births, marriages, or deaths within the community; also of any Jewish families who might move into the area.

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Members are reminded that the Synagogue Secretary - Mrs Susan Sperber - is at the Synagogue every Sunday morning, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Tel: 950 7340. Mrs. Sperber will be pleased to receive payment of any overdue accounts; also to assist you with any queries you may have regarding your membership. Would members please note that all enquiries regarding the Gan Aviv Kindergarten should be made, either by telephone or by letter, to the Synagogue Secretary.

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We are delighted to see some 'new faces' not only coming to Shul on a reasonably regular basis but also supporting our social activities. There is quite a lot going on in Dushy - if you are not already taking part in something, perhaps now is the time to start. And if we don't already cater for your particular 'hobby', why not let us know what it is and see if we can't help get the ball rolling.

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Ronald Cole  
32 Listree Road  
Dushy Heath  
Tel: 950 3566

Joint editors

Colin Fink

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SOME SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN YOU MIGHT WISH TO CONTACT:

Membership	Paul Epstein	950 5217 or Godfrey Kaye 950 2450
Functions	Harvey Burton	950 4209
Social Calendar	Geoffrey Silver	92 34064
Youth & Education	Brian Silverman	

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SELECTED LAWS appertaining to PASSOVER:

1. Passover begins Wednesday, 26th March at 7 p.m.  
The eating of Chometz is forbidden from 10.15 a.m. Wednesday morning.
2. The search for Chometz must be conducted on Tuesday evening, 25th March. Before commencing the search the following blessing should be said: 'BORUCH ATU A-JO.DY L-LOHEINU HALECH HU-OLAM ASHER KIDESHINU BE'ITZVOISOV VETSIVOKU AL BIUR CHOMETZ', and the search made with the use of a candle in every place where crumbs could possibly have fallen. Pockets of clothes, particularly of children, should be brushed out.
3. Any type of food which has leavened content may not be kept in the house during Passover unless such food is sold before Passover. The correct procedure for selling the Chometz is to do this through a Rabbi who makes a legal contract with a non-Jew who buys all the Chometz of those signatories on the contract for the duration of Passover, after which it is resold to those concerned.
4. Any vessel normally used during the year must be scrupulously cleaned and stored away in a place which will not be used during Passover. Cookers must be properly 'kashered', and utensils especially kept for Passover must be used.
5. Only food and drinks bearing the seal of approval of a competent orthodox body may be eaten and drunk during Passover. A "Kosher for Pesach" label alone is NOT SUFFICIENT. Only Matzos especially prepared for Passover should be used.

### The Selling of the CHOMETZ

Certainly, no other sphere of Jewish Law has been the subject of so much misinterpretation as has the traditional act of selling one's chometz (all manner of leaven) before Passover. It is, therefore, very important to explain briefly the purpose and method of executing this law.

**Purpose:** the Bible states explicitly that during Passover no Chometz may be seen or found in the possession of a Jew. The Bible being concerned with the welfare of people realises that a great economic loss would result through the destruction of chometz, and therefore allows us to sell it to a Gentile (who is not obliged to keep the Passover laws). Inasmuch as there are sure to be chometz items in every home before Passover, every household is vitally concerned.

**Method:** by the legal transfer of chometz property we are no longer the owners of it. The popular misconception that would dismiss this act as mere ritual or baseless ceremony has caused many families to transgress the laws of Passover and violate its stringent rules. The transaction is not a mere formality but but is affected according to true business procedure. The entire transaction is absolutely legal and binding upon both the seller and the buyer. The legal intricacies covering this transfer are many, and involved, and only one who is thoroughly trained in Torah law should be entrusted with its execution. The Rabbi acts as our intermediary and our representative to the Gentile. The basic principle to bear in mind in connection with the sale of the chometz is that chometz is sold to the Gentile through the Rabbi for the entire eight days of Passover. After Passover, the chometz is bought back (through the Rabbi).

The Contract for the sale of the Chometz must be at Lubavitch House by Sunday, 23rd March AT THE LATEST. Complete the form and send it off NOW.

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR :

Dear Sir,

On reading the information sheet entitled "deeds of Covenant" which was circulated to members together with the last Newsletter, I was at first confused and then amazed. From reading this document it became clear to me that it was written between April 1972 and March 1973 for use during that period, and its relevance to today's tax position in explaining the cost of a Covenant to a member is negligible. I appeal to you to see that things are checked more thoroughly in future, since this information sheet has probably only confused people.

To set the picture straight: I would point out that the cost of a Covenant to a member paying tax at the standard rate is Nil, and that the Synagogue gets a tax rebate of 50% of the member's fee (excluding the Funeral Expense Scheme contribution). Thus, for the current Synagogue fees less F.E.S. of £22.50, the Inland Revenue will pay the Synagogue £11.25, making a total received by the Synagogue of £33.75 - all at no additional cost to the member.

I hope that this clarifies the situation a little, and encourages more members to take out Covenants.

Yours faithfully,  
LIONEL FINKELSTEIN

Dear Sir,

May I, through the columns of the Newsletter, say 'thank you' to those members of the community who came to see my Mother, Brother, Uncle and myself when we were recently sitting Shiva.

I would be discourteous if I did not say a very special 'thank you' to those gentlemen who came along in the mornings, ensuring that we had a minyan each day for Shachris, and thereby allowing us to say Kaddish.

We took it as a positive indication of the strength of the community spirit which is growing in our area; and we are, and always will be, most grateful to all of those concerned.

Yours faithfully,

RONALD COLE

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from the Chairman of the FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE

The arrangements for our Dinner & ball on Saturday, 13th December 1975, at the Royal Majestic Suite, Willesden, are well under way. The Functions Committee are now collecting Tombola gifts and also Brochure advertisements.

It would be very much appreciated if members who are able to assist with regard to Tombola gifts would kindly contact Mrs. Barbara Kaye ( ) so that the necessary arrangements can be made for the gifts to be received.

As for the Brochure: this is being organised by Mr. Lionel Finkelstein (950.1088) and Mr. Henry Saunders (950.4290) and members are asked to get in touch with either of these gentlemen who will be pleased to supply them with Brochure application forms.

The results of our February cash Draw were:

1st prize : £25 : no 97 - D.F. Wilkins, 31 Claybury, Bushey  
2nd prize : £15 : no 111 - Harry Shulman, 21 Orchard Court, Edware  
3rd prize : £10 : no 29 - Ronald Cole, 32 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath

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We extend a hearty Mazeltov to

- Ruth & Laurence Geller on the birth of a son, Guy, a brother for Tanya
- Ruth & Harold Geller on the birth of a grandson
- Truda & Michael Gershon on the birth of another grandchild
- Bernice & Keith Gordon on the birth of a son, David, a brother for Rosalyn and Elliott
- Paula & David Pereira-Blendoza on the birth of a daughter, Deborah, a sister for Marc
- Willicent & Martin Wolmark on the birth of a son, Andrew, a brother for Simon

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Please make a note of these dates in your DIARY.....

Friday	21st March	Shabbat starts at 7 p.m. Afternoon and Evening Service at 7.15 p.m.
Saturday	22nd March	Shabbat Hagadol. Service at 10 a.m. in the evening: The Search for Chometz.
Tuesday	25th March	Fast of the First Born. Chometz may not be eaten after 10.15 a.m.; any leaven remaining in the house must be sold or given to a non- Jew, or destroyed.
Wednesday	26th March	Festival of Passover starts at 7 p.m. Afternoon and Evening Service at 7 p.m. First Seder Night.
Thursday	27th March	First Day Passover. Service at 10 a.m. Afternoon and Evening Service at 7 p.m. Second Seder Night. The Counting of the Omer begins.
Friday	28th March	Second Day Passover. Service at 10 a.m. Shabbat starts at 7 p.m. Afternoon and Evening Service at 7.15 p.m.
Saturday	29th March	Shabbat Chol Hamoed. Service at 10 a.m. Shabbat ends at 8.11 p.m.
Tuesday	1st April	Seventh Night Passover, starts at 7.15 p.m. Afternoon and Evening Service at 7.15 p.m.
Wednesday	2nd April	Seventh Day Passover. Service at 10 a.m. Afternoon and Evening Service at 7.15 p.m.
Thursday	3rd April	Eighth Day Passover. Service at 10 a.m. Yizkor. Afternoon and Evening Service at 8 p.m. Festival ends at 8.20 p.m.
Friday	4th April	Shabbat begins at 7.15 p.m. Afternoon and Evening Service at 7.15 p.m.
Saturday	5th April	Shabbat morning service at 10 a.m.
Friday	11th April	Shabbat starts at 7.30 p.m. Afternoon and Evening Service at 7.15 p.m.
Saturday	12th April	Special Shabbat morning Service at 10 a.m.; Rabbi Doctor Dev Zakheim will preach; Special Kiddush. Afternoon and Evening Service at 7 p.m.; there will be a Shalosh Seudot, and Rabbi Zakheim will give a discourse. Shabbat ends at 8.39 p.m.
Tuesday	15th April	Yom Ha'atzmaut Service and Party, begins at 8 p.m.

N.B. Whilst there will be no service in our Shul in the morning of Wednesday, 26th March (Fast of the First Born), we would advise you that the service at Stanmore Synagogue begins at 7 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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..... do you want to advertise in the Newsletter? circulation is just about at the two hundred mark. rates are: £5 per full page, £2.50 per half page, etc.

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from the Chairman of the LADIES' GUILD

The 'Good As New' shop was open again recently, and another £30 was raised. Our thanks to those who came along and helped.

The Purim Party was a great success: some of the parents certainly came up with highly original ideas for the fancy dress! Prizewinners were :

Juniors :

1st	Heloise & Gemma Lampert	"A Land Flowing With Milk And Honey"
2nd	Michelle Cole	"A Flower"
3rd	A.N.Other (Danielle Freyd's cousin)	"Parsley The Lion"

Seniors:

1st	Nicolo Beller	"Hello Dolly (Doiley)"
2nd	Jacalyn Joseph	"Puppet On A String"
3rd	Joanine Kaye	"Got The Sack And Drawing The Dole (Doll)"

A donation of £30 has been sent to the Stepney Bnai Brith 'Meals On Wheels' to pay for four Pesach parcels for the poor. We have received a very nice letter from them, thanking us for our support. We were able to make this donation as a result of the success of the Fashion Show, put on by Ricky of Bushey Heath. In addition to raising £97 for the Guild's funds, the evening was also a very successful social affair.

An outing is being organised for Thursday 22nd May - a trip to Stratford. The cost will be about £2 per head, to cover the coach fare. For those interested in visiting the Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company are putting on "Henry V" with a matinee performance at 2 p.m. Otherwise, there is plenty to do and see. Please contact Betty Segalov (950.3485) for further information.

There will be a 'Coffee Bring & Buy' at the home of Shirley Epstein (7 Coldharbour Lane, Bushey) on Tuesday 22nd April, from 10.30 a.m. The proceeds (entrance will be 25 p per person) will go towards buying a slide or a wendy house or some other piece of equipment for the Gan Aviv Kindergarten.

Please make a note of our next meeting : Wednesday, 16th April, at the home of Mrs. Jacobs - 6 California Lane, Bushey Heath.

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PLEASE MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY :

On Saturday, 12th April, Rabbi Doctor Dov Zakheim will preach at the Synagogue. The Service will begin at 10 a.m. It is not often that we are honoured with the presence of a visiting Rav, and as this promises to be a most interesting occasion, all members are urged to attend.

Rabbi Doctor Zakheim obtained Semicha in America; subsequently he studied in England, getting his M.A. from the London School of Economics and his Ph.D. at Oxford.

There will be a special Kiddush after the Service, in honour of our guest, and all members and their families are cordially invited to attend.

In the afternoon, there will be a Mincha Service at 7 p.m., followed by a Shalosh Seudot. Rabbi Doctor Zakheim will give a discourse; there will be a Maariv Service when Shabbat terminates.

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\*\*\*\*\*Wednesday 16th April is YOM HA'ATZMAUT. On Tuesday 15th April there will be a special Service and Party to celebrate Israel's Independence Day. 8 p.m.

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A RECIPE FOR PESACH

"ALMOND SQUARES" - Sylvia Fink

**Ingredients:**

- |                     |                   |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 4 oz margerino      | 4 oz potato flour | 4 oz caster sugar |
| 2 oz ground almonds | 2 eggs            | icing sugar       |

**Method:**

cream the margerino and the caster sugar until soft;  
 beat in the eggs, a little at a time;  
 fold in the sieved potato flour and ground almonds;  
 spread the mixture in a shallow greased tin;  
 bake for 20 minutes - regulo 6 (400 degrees);  
 cover with icing sugar;  
 cut into squares when cold.

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- We wish a very happy
- fifth birthday to Reuven Back
  - sixth birthday to Debra Harris
  - ninth birthday to Jacalyn Joseph
  - fourth birthday to Gemma Lampert
  - sixth birthday to Heloise Lampert

are you a frustrated writer ?  
 are you an adventurous cook ?  
 why don't you let us have your  
 articles, your recipes, you jokes,  
 your comments ?  
 this is YOUR Newsletter, and we  
 would welcome your contributions.  
 please get in touch with either  
 of the Editors .....

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The Festival of Passover calls for early and elaborate preparations to make the Jewish home fitting for the great Festival. It is not physical preparedness alone that is required of us, but also spiritual preparedness - for in the life of the Jew the physical and spiritual are closely linked together, especially in the celebration of our Sabbath and Festivals.

On Passover we celebrate the liberation of the Jewish people from Egyptian slavery and, together with it, the liberation from and negation of the ancient Egyptian system and way of life. Thus, we celebrate our physical liberation together with our spiritual freedom. It is said "in every generation each Jew should see himself as though he personally had been liberated from Egypt". That is to say, the story of Passover always has a timely message for the individual Jew. The story is that of the special Divine Providence which alone determines the fate of our people, which is and always has been regulated by the degree of our adherence to G-d and his Torah.

Another important aspect we must remember in celebrating the Festival of Freedom is connected with the Commandment: "Thou shalt relate it to thy son". The formation and existence of the Jewish home, as of the Jewish people as a whole, is dependent upon the upbringing of the younger generation, both boys and girls: the 'wise' and the 'wicked' (temporarily), the 'simple' and the 'one who knows - not what to ask'. Just as we cannot shirk our responsibilities towards our child by the excuse that 'my child is a wise one, he will find his own way in life, therefore no education is necessary for him', so we must not despair by thinking 'the child is wicked, and no education will help him'.

There is a lesson to be learned from the Haggadah: that it is our sacred duty to ensure that our children receive a kosher Jewish education in full adherence to the Torah. It is to be hoped that everyone will reflect, during the season of Passover, on how they and their children can take a more involved interest in the growth of spiritual awakening. In this connection, we would appeal to you to ensure the fullest possible participation in, and support of, the Gan Aviv Kindergarten, the Cheder (which is due to start within the next 12 months), and the Synagogue Services. We live in a growing community where all work is done on a voluntary basis: those who conduct the Services and those who give of their time to organise the various activities within the community rely on the support and encouragement of the other members of the congregation. And it is the duty of each and every one of us to see that the size of the Shul's membership is over on the increase, by attempting to recruit members from amongst those Jewish families already living in, or who might move into, Bushey.

The Message of Passover is much influenced by the fact that the Festival falls within the season of Spring. In Nature, this is the time when there are revealed all the natural forces which were dormant and hidden during the Winter: the grass grows, and the trees blossom. The same idea may be applied to our community: for there can be a state of 'Winter' or apparent unproductivity. However, given the proper inspiration and stimulus, this can easily be changed into 'Spring' and blossom time. It is hoped that each and every member of the Community will be inspired by the Festival of Passover in the ways indicated.

( adopted, by kind permission of the author, from an article written by Mr Leon Ruskin for the Newsletter of the High Wycombe Hebrew Congregation, Pesach 5733 )

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We wish a very hearty Mazeltov to

- Diana & Brian Atkins, and Rachel and Natalia
- Ruth & David Coffor, and Lisa

on their recent moves to new homes.