

Purim - Pesach

5770



Adar - Iyar 5770
March - May 2010



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Dear Friend,

Purim, one of the happiest days in the Jewish Calendar is also one which often passes by unnoticed by so many. Judaism is often associated with lengthy prayer services and serious ceremonies.

Purim is a day long period of celebration and joy, parties and the exchanging of gift with friends. Its purpose is to remind us of the salvation of the entire Jewish nation, observant and assimilated many centuries ago.

The purpose of the celebrations which focus on friendship and promoting community feeling is to remind us all that it is only when we stand together as one that we have a chance of surviving as a nation.

Let us all resolve to play our part in the future of the Jewish nation by writing Purim boldly into our diaries. Ensuring that Judaism is associated in our minds with celebration and vibrancy not only with seriousness and sombre occasions.



Rabbi Yehuda Pink

Mishloach Monos

This translates as the sending of gifts of food. One of the laws associated with Purim is the giving of gifts to friends.

The source for this is found in the Megillah where we are told that Mordechai and Esther instituted this practice. They wished to remind the Jews that even amidst their celebration of their miraculous salvation they must also think of others.

One should give a gift to at least one friend of at least two types of ready to eat food or drink.

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HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR PLACE AT THE PURIM SEUDAH ??



Sunday February 28th

4.00 pm

Adults £ 10.00

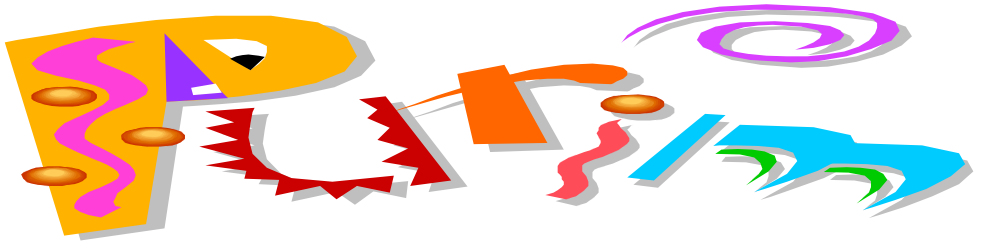
Teenagers £5.00

Children £2.00

Limited places available

**To book a place send a cheque for the appropriate
amount marked - Purim Meal to:**

3 Monastery Drive, Solihull, B91 1DW



How to Celebrate Purim

Listen To The Megillah

To relive the miracle of Purim, we listen to the reading of the Megillah. When Haman's name is mentioned we twirl 'graggers' and stamp our feet to 'drown out' his evil name. **The Megillah will be read on Saturday 27th February at 7.00 pm and on Sunday 28th February at 9.30am and 3.30 pm at the Shul.**

Give Gifts To The Needy

Concern for the needy is a year-round responsibility for every Jew. On Purim, particularly, it is a special mitzvah to remember the poor. It is customary to donate money to at least two charities which work directly with poor people on Purim,

Send Gifts of Food

On Purim we emphasise the importance of Jewish unity and friendship by sending gifts of food to friends. Send a gift of at least two kinds of ready-to-eat foods, to at least one friend.

Eat The Festive Meal

As on all Festivals, we celebrate Purim with a special festive meal, when family and friends gather together to rejoice in the Purim spirit. **There will be a communal Purim Seuda on Sunday 28th February at 4.00 pm in the Shul Hall.**

The History of Purim

Jewish morale was at an all time low. The Temple in Jerusalem had been destroyed, the nation conquered, and for almost 70 years, had been dispersed in foreign lands. The prophesied end of Exile had not materialised, and the blight of assimilation had set in.

Just then, the enemy arose to carry out his evil plans. This time it was Haman. Descended from the Jew-hating tribe of Amalek, Haman devised his scheme to solve 'the Jewish problem' once and for all, by annihilating every Jew, men, women and children, throughout the world, in a single day.

And it almost worked. Were it not for Mordechai. A descendant of King Saul, and advisor to King Achashverosh. Mordechai sensed the danger. Donning sackcloth and ashes, he went to the gate of the palace, crying aloud, rallying the Jews to return to the Torah.

His cousin, Queen Esther, her that she must go to her people. Officially in go, but saw that she had no three day fast of penitence, whole Jewish people to do to the King...

It is a story of great courage and foremost by Queen and ultimately by the For throughout the year, not one single Jew chose to convert, even to save his life. The nation was awakened to a wholehearted return to Torah and Mitzvot, and throughout the year strengthened their faith and observance.

And in the merit of this, they were able to rise up against their enemies and destroy them, on the 13th of Adar, the very day destined for the 'final solution'.

The Jewish people had shown their true character. They had earned the right to leave exile, return to the Holy Land, and rebuild the temple.



called for him. He told the King and plead for disfavour, she feared to choice. She undertook a and called upon the likewise. Then she went

and self-sacrifice—first Esther and Mordechai, whole Jewish nation. duration of the whole

ספר תורה

SEFER TORAH UPDATE

At the dedication ceremony for our new Sefer Torah in June 2008, I announced that we had almost raised sufficient funds to purchase a second Sefer Torah.

We have just taken delivery of our second Sefer Torah, this is a special light-weight, small format Torah, only 16 inches tall. This will allow older members of the community to perform Hagbah, and to carry the Sefer Torah on Simchas Torah.

We are also commissioning a specially designed mini Ark to allow the Sefer Torah to be transported to other venues.

There are still some verses available for sponsorship. If you were unable to participate in the writing of the first Sefer Torah and would like to share in this special mitzvah, please contact Rabbi Pink as soon as possible. Donations may be made by cash, cheque, charity voucher or Electronic Transfer.

Cheques and charity vouchers should be made payable to:
Solihull Sefer Torah Fund, reg. charity no. 1100938
and sent to
Sefer Torah Fund, 3 Monastery Drive, Solihull, B91 1DW.

Payment may be made by electronic transfer to:
Account Name: Solihull Sefer Torah Fund
Sort Code: 20 77 62
Account No.: 40168998

If you have any other queries please feel free to contact me by phone, email, letter or in person. Thank you for participating in this unique communal project.

The dedication ceremony for the new Sefer Torah will take place on **Sunday 2nd May**. Those who were present at the dedication of our first Sefer Torah will know that this is an occasion not to be missed. Please pencil this date in your diary. Further information will be circulated in the next couple of weeks.

The Executive & Council of Solihull Hebrew Congregation
Invite you to a
Civic Service
in the presence of the Mayor of Solihull

Shabbat Hachodesh
Saturday 13th March 2010

The service will start promptly at 9.30 am followed by a special
kiddush

As space is limited, please reserve your place in advance.

www.virtualpurim.com

Rosh Chodesh Breakfast Minyan

Join the Minyanaire's Club - Join us for a short service followed by a delicious breakfast once a month. The Service starts at 9.00am* and usually lasts about 35 minutes.

The dates for the next four breakfasts are :

Sunday 14th February* (8.45 am)

Sunday 14th March

Sunday 11th April

Sunday 9th May

**Use our webshop to help us raise money
Save yourself money and help the Shul at the same time**

When shopping online, you can access over 100 leading retailers - such as Tesco, Thorntons, Marks John Lewis - using our you use our webshop to site and subsequently buy automatically earn money You don't pay anything webshop, indeed you will so please try to use it Please spread the word.



& Spencer and webshop. Every time go to a retailer's web something, you'll for us! extra by using our find many discounts whenever you can. Thank you!

**Find our webshop at
www.buy.at/solihullshul**

Recipes

Low Fat Chicken Soup

2 CHICKENS
5-7 CARROTS
1-2 LARGE ONIONS
4 LARGE POTATOES
2 ZUCCHINI
1-2 TABLESPOONS SALT

Clean chickens and remove skins. Place in 8 quart pot with water to cover and bring to quick boil. Drain off water and clean all scum from pot.

Fill pot with fresh water. Peel and slice all vegetables and add in with salt. Cook for 45 minutes.

Variation: For creamier consistency, peel and grate 1 large carrot. Add to soup with the juice of 1 lemon (3 tablespoons) ten minutes before end of cooking.

Marinated Chicken

2 CHICKENS, QUARTERED
1/2 CUP WINE
JUICE OF 2 ORANGES
JUICE OF 2 LEMONS
2 TABLESPOONS OLIVE OIL
2-3 LARGE ONIONS, SLICED
10 POTATOES, HALVED

In a 4-quart pot boil white potatoes in salted water. Clean chickens and place in large pot, upside down. Mix wine and juice and pour over chickens. Cover and marinate in refrigerator overnight.

Remove chicken from pot. Pour juice into container and set aside.

Coat bottom of Dutch oven with olive oil. Add layer of sliced onions and potatoes.

Top with chicken. Pour half of marinade

over chicken. Cook over low flame, checking frequently and adding water as necessary, to prevent sticking.

Mix remaining marinade with 1/2 cup water and pour over chicken ten minutes before end of cooking. May also be baked in oven, following the above instructions, at 350° for 1 1/2 hours.

Serves 6-8

Test Your Knowledge

1. The events of Purim took place in:
 - a) Iraq
 - b) Israel
 - c) Persia
2. The villain of the Purim story was called:
 - a) Antiochus
 - b) Haman
 - c) Vashti
3. On Purim we read:
 - a) The Haggadah
 - b) The Machzor
 - c) The Megillah
4. On Purim it is customary to eat:
 - a) Hamentashen
 - b) Latkes
 - c) Cheesecake
5. Purim falls in the Hebrew month of:
 - a) Nissan
 - b) Tishrei
 - c) Adar
6. The heroine of the Purim story was called:
 - a) Miriam
 - b) Esther
 - c) Sarah
7. On Purim it is a Mitzvah to:
 - a) Hear the Shofar
 - b) Give Charity to the Poor
 - c) Dress up in Fancy Dress
8. Chametz is the Hebrew word for:
 - a) Matzah
 - b) A young child
 - c) Bread

Answers: 1)c 2)b 3)c 4)a 5)c 6)b 7)b 8)c

Community Matters

Mazel Tov - to Raena Green on the marriage of her grand-daughter Sian Jacobs to Gerrard Beenstock

Mazel Tov - to Yetta Wine on the marriage of her grandson, Joshua Mazin to Esther Coren

Mazel Tov - to Dr Henry Warson on the marriage of his grandson Gideon Sireling to Rivka Goldberg.

Mazel Tov - to Harold & Rowena Kay on the batmitzvah of their grand-daughter, Zoe Kay.

Mazel To - to Charles Woolf on his 70th birthday.

Mazel Tov - to Sammy & David van Dellen on the birth of their son Joshua

Condolences to - Judith Gershon on the death of her father, David Shaw.

Thank You - Judith Gershon and her brother Joyaa would like to thank everyone very much for their wishes of sympathy and for their support following the death of their dear father, David on 29th November 2009. You have been of great comfort to us at this very difficult time.

Friday Night Service- From Friday 2nd April the time for the Friday Night Service will change to 8.00 pm. It will remain at this time throughout the summer.

Pesach Seder - I receive numerous requests before Pesach from people looking for a Seder, we are limited in how many we can host at the Communal Seder and some people are looking for a different format. If you are making a seder and are willing to host a guest please contact me on 0121 706 8736 or rabbipink@gmail.com

Do you have any announcements that you would like to be included on this page in future issues of Hakol or anything else that you would like to see featured in Hakol? Post it to: Hakol, 3 Monastery Drive, Solihull, B91 1DW or Fax it to: 0121 706 8736 or email to hakol@solihullshul.org

Nissan 15th, the First Day of Pesach, is the day that G-d revealed himself to Moses at the burning bush to tell him to lead the Jewish People out of Egypt.

Did You Know?

On the 3rd of Adar in the year 349 BCE the construction of the Second Beis Hamikdosh (Temple) was completed.

~~~~~  
Moshe Rabbenu (Moses) was born on the 7th of Adar. He also passed away on the very same day exactly one hundred and twenty years later.

~~~~~  
In 1991 Saddam Hussein threatened to destroy Israel with long range chemical missiles. All his plans came to an end three months later on the 14th of Adar - Purim, when his armies were defeated by the Western allied forces led by the U.S.A.

~~~~~  
The Book of Esther was written on the 13th of Adar. On the same day the ten sons of Haman were hanged. This day is called Taanis Esther, the Fast of Esther.

~~~~~  
The Jewish calendar is linked to the cycle of the moon, it is called a lunar calendar. However in order to ensure that the Yom Tovim will always fall in the correct season it is also linked to the cycle of the sun called the solar calendar.

This is achieved by adding an extra month to the year 7 times every 19 years. The extra month is added between Shevat and Adar and is called Adar Rishon, the first Adar. The regular month of Adar is called Adar Sheni, the second Adar. Next year will be a Jewish leap year.

~~~~~  
Nissan 15th is the day that Hashem appeared to Moshe Rabbenu in the burning bush to tell him to lead the Jewish People out of Egypt.

~~~~~  
Nissan 15th is the first day of Pesach. It can never fall on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday.

~~~~~  
The three angels visited Abraham on the 15th Nissan to tell him and his wife Sarah the good news that they would be blessed with a son. Exactly a year later Yitzchok was born on 15th Nissan 2048.

~~~~~  
The three Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were all born in the month of Nissan.

~~~~~  
The prophet Daniel was thrown in the lions den for refusing to renounce his religion on 15th Nissan 372 BCE

# Communal Seder



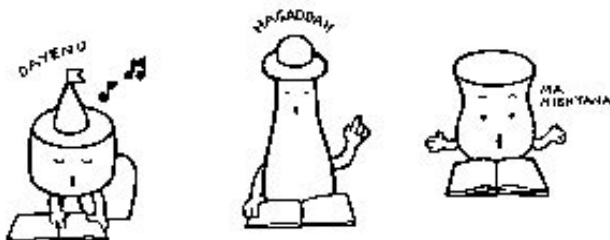
Monday 29th March - 8.00 pm  
At the home of Rabbi & Mrs Pink  
7 Granby Close

Adults £22 Children £12

Limited Places available

Book early to guarantee a place

**Please Phone Rabbi Pink on 0121 706 8736 To Reserve a Place  
or email rabbipink@gmail.com**



# **YOU MAY NOT LIVE UNTIL 120 BUT YOUR NAME CAN LIVE ON FOREVER.**

Over the past decade our activities have increased exponentially. This has resulted in our annual budget increasing four fold. Approximately 40% is covered by membership fees, the balance is covered by fundraising from individuals and charitable trusts. Historically we have received very little funding from legacies. In order to secure the future of our community it is vital that members consider leaving a legacy to the Congregation in their will.

## **The Gift of a Lifetime**

Have you considered including a gift to the Shul in your will? As the largest single source of income to UK charities, legacies make a vital difference to good causes across the country. A legacy allows you to make a significant contribution to the future of the community. Free of inheritance tax, a donation made in your will can also help reduce the tax burden on your estate.

## **How does it work?**

A charitable legacy could be a gift of money or of any other assets that you leave behind. While there are a number of options to consider, there are two main types of charitable legacies; pecuniary and residuary. Pecuniary legacies specify a sum of money or item of value to be donated, whilst a residuary legacy allows you to donate a percentage of the net value of your estate or the remaining sum after you have provided for family and friends.

## **What do you need to do?**

To leave a legacy to charity, you simply need to include details of the donation in your will. This can be done by writing a will, by making an amendment or 'codicil' to an existing will or by setting up a Trust.

**Contact your solicitor or professional adviser to tell you more about how you can leave a legacy to Solihull Hebrew Congregation today.**

# *A smile a day keeps the doctor away*

## SICKDAYS

We will no longer accept a doctor's certificate as proof of sickness. If you are able to get to the doctor, you are able to come into work.

## SURGERY

Operations are now banned. As long as you are an employee here, you need all your organs. You should not consider having anything removed. We hired you intact. To have something removed constitutes a breach of employment.

## HOLIDAYS

Each employee will receive 104 holidays per year. They are called Saturday and Sunday.

## BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

This is no excuse for missing work. There is nothing you can do for dead friends or relatives. Every effort should be made to have non-employees to attend to the arrangements. In rare cases where employee involvement is necessary, the funeral should be scheduled for the late afternoon. We will be glad to allow you to work through your lunch-hour and subsequently leave one hour early, provided your share of the work is done.

## LUNCH BREAK

Skinny people get an hour for lunch as they need to eat more so they can look healthy, normal size people get 30 minutes for lunch to maintain their average figure. Fat people get 5 minutes for lunch because that's all the time needed to drink a Slimfast and take a diet pill.

## DRESS CODE

It is advised that you must come to work dressed according to your salary. If we see you wearing designer clothing we will assume that you are doing well financially and therefore do not need a pay rise.

Thank you for your loyalty to our company. We are here to provide a positive employment experience. Therefore, all questions, comments, concerns, complaints, frustrations, irritations, aggravations, insinuations, allegations, accusations, contemplations, consternations or input should be directed elsewhere.

PS - please charge the time spent reading this email to ANNUAL LEAVE.

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# Do you want to improve your Ivrit?

Conversational Ivrit Class

Every Sunday 12.15 - 1.00 pm during Cheder Term Time  
at Solihull Jewish Community Centre



מה נשמע?  
הכל בסדר

כמה זה עולה?  
מה השעה?

To register contact Rabbi Pink  
on 0121 706 8736 or rabbipink@gmail.com

# Kiddush Sponsorship



We offer six menus that you can choose from at a fixed price. These prices assume a maximum of 30 people. Prices will increase proportionally for more than 30 people.

## *Menu A £25*

Wine & Grape Juice  
 Cookies  
 Cake  
 Crisps  
 Pretzels

## *Menu B £40*

Wine & Grape Juice  
 Cookies  
 Cake  
 Crisps  
 Pretzels  
 Crackers  
 Dips

## *Menu C £45*

Wine & Grape Juice  
 Cookies  
 Cake  
 Crisps  
 Pretzels  
 Fresh Fruit  
 Soft Drinks

## *Menu D £50*

Wine & Grape Juice  
 Cookies  
 Cake  
 Crisps  
 Pretzels  
 Fishballs  
 Smoked Salmon  
 Crackers

## *Menu E £75*

Wine & Grape Juice  
 Cookies  
 Cake  
 Crisps  
 Pretzels  
 Fresh Fruit  
 Soft Drinks  
 Fishballs  
 Smoked Salmon  
 Crackers

## *Menu F £110*

Wine & Grape Juice  
 Cookies  
 Cake  
 Crisps  
 Pretzels  
 Fresh Fruit  
 Soft Drinks  
 Fishballs  
 Smoked Salmon  
 Crackers  
 Dips  
 Herring  
 Olives  
 Pickles

*These prices include the purchase of all items and setting up and clearing away the kiddush by the Ladies Guild. Alcohol, other than kiddush wine, (whisky etc.) is not provided by the Ladies Guild.*

*It is the responsibility of the host to deliver this to Shul before Shabbos if they wish this to be served at the kiddush. On most weeks we provide a hot cholent as a free bonus, however this is not guaranteed.*

*For a large kiddush there will be an additional charge to cover the cost of a waitress to clear up after the kiddush. To book a kiddush contact Henrietta Gouldman on 0121 744 3571 or [henrietagouldman@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:henrietagouldman@tiscali.co.uk)*

# Kiddush Sponsors



The following people have sponsored a kiddush over the next few months. Please show your support and appreciation of these sponsors by attending the Synagogue on these occasions.

|               |                           |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| 20th February | Esther & Monty Marks      |
| 27th February | Hilary & David Fine       |
| 6th March     | Lyndey & Maurice Nathan   |
| 13th March    | Helena & Charles Woolf    |
| 20th March    | Adrienne & Gerald Langman |
| 17th April    | Harvey Williams           |
| 22nd May      | The Littlestone Family    |
| 5th June      | Rabbi & Mrs Pink          |
| 20th June     | Adrienne & Gerald Langman |
| 26th June     | Jon Gouldman              |

**Why wait for a phonecall?**

**Contact Henrietta today on 0121 744 3571 or email [henrietagouldman@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:henrietagouldman@tiscali.co.uk) and book a date to sponsor a kiddush.**

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**Don't forget to return your Sale of Chametz Form before 28th March**

# The Thursday Club

Solihull Jewish Community Centre  
3 Monastery Drive, Solihull, B91 1DW

Every Thursday 11.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.

## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 5TH MARCH - 21ST MAY

|               |                                                         |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 18th February | Action Against Burglary                                 |
| 25th February | CLOSED                                                  |
| 4th March     | Shirley Gardens - A Talk by Ted Rudge                   |
| 11th March    | Ask the Rabbi with Rabbi Pink                           |
| 18th March    | Countries & Islands, A Musical Journey, John Smith      |
| 25th March    | CLOSED                                                  |
| 1st April     | CLOSED                                                  |
| 8th April     | CLOSED                                                  |
| 15th April    | The work of the Fire Department, By Phil Plant          |
| 22nd April    | Art & Charity in 1800 - Arthur Hilyer                   |
| 29th April    | Hidden Histories of the National Trust by Joyce Wallace |
| 6th May       | A Talk about Tea - by Nina Jowett                       |
| 13th May      | Singalong with Maureen Berger                           |

***For More Information Contact Ruth Abrahams 0121 705 5287***

- Delicious and nutritious hot lunch every week.
- Meet old friends, make new friends. • Read the papers.

# Pesach Timetable

|                         |                                                                                                                                                            |                                                       |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday<br>28th March    | Search for Chometz in evening after                                                                                                                        | 8.15 pm                                               |
| Monday<br>29th March    | <b>Erev Pesach</b><br>Shachris & Siyum<br>Chametz may be eaten until<br>Burn Chometz before<br>First Seder Night<br>Light Candles<br>Maariv (Granby Close) | 7.30 am<br>11.04 am<br>12.07 pm<br>7.18 pm<br>8.00 pm |
| Tuesday<br>30th March   | <b>First Day Pesach</b><br>Shachris<br>Children's Service<br>Second Seder Night<br>Light Candles                                                           | 9.45 am<br>10.45 am<br>8.20 pm                        |
| Wednesday<br>31st March | <b>Second Day Pesach</b><br>Shachris<br>Children's Service<br>Mincha & Maariv<br>Yom Tov Ends                                                              | 9.45 am<br>10.45 am<br>7.30 pm<br>8.28 pm             |
| Friday<br>2nd April     | Light candles before<br>Mincha & Maariv                                                                                                                    | 7.25 pm<br>7.30 pm                                    |
| Saturday<br>2nd April   | <b>Chol Hamoed Pesach</b><br>Shachris<br>Children's Service<br>Shabbos ends                                                                                | 9.45 am<br>10.45 am<br>8.34 pm                        |

|                      |                                                                                                       |                                                       |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday<br>4th April  | <b>Chol Hamoed Pesach</b><br>Shachris<br>Light Candles<br>Mincha & Maariv                             | 9.00 am<br>7.29 pm<br>7.30 pm                         |
| Monday<br>5th April  | <b>Seventh Day Pesach</b><br>Shachris<br>Children's Service<br>Light candles after<br>Mincha & Maariv | 9.45 am<br>10.45 am<br>8.31 pm<br>7.30 pm             |
| Tuesday<br>6th April | <b>8th Day Pesach</b><br>Shachris<br>Children's Service<br>Yizkor<br>Mincha<br>Maariv & Pesach Ends   | 9.45 am<br>10.45 am<br>11.00 am<br>6.30 pm<br>8.39 pm |



**Would you like to perpetuate the memory of a loved one by dedicating a plaque on the Memorial Board?**  
**The plaque will be illuminated on the day of the yartzeit and a memorial prayer recited in Shul to mark the yartzeit.**

FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO DEDICATE A PLAQUE  
 CONTACT HAROLD KAY ON 0121 705 3870



**News roundup** reporting by Martyn Ellis, Jon Gouldman, Stephanie Sandler and Helena Woolf

### **The Thursday Club**

Despite the poor weather conditions the Solihull Thursday Club has continued to operate on an almost normal footing, with only two sessions cancelled due to the snow.

Despite the pressure of rising food costs, the dedication and skill of our catering team and volunteers has enabled us to continue to offer delicious and nutritious three course meals for the token charge of £6.00. This, together with a varied and stimulating programme of activities has cemented the Thursday Club's position as the highlight of the week for many of the senior citizens within the community. In recent weeks we have had fascinating talks from Harold Kay about his visit to Buckingham Palace, Naveem Shama about the anti-racism work of the Police and of course Danny Harouche's ever popular Karaoke session

The excellence of our work has recently been recognized once again by Age Concern, who have chosen the Thursday Club as a regional partner in their Action against Burglary campaign.

We are always delighted to welcome new faces. For more information contact Ruth Abrahams, 0121 705 5287

### **The Old Kichel & Kuchen Pub Opening**

It was a dark and stormy night and probably not the best time to open the newest public house in Solihull. Nevertheless on Sunday, 29th November a number of people braved the elements to attend the opening of Solihull's first kosher pub. Yes, that's right, the doors of the Old Kichel and Kuchen Pub opened at 7 o'clock to a large number of members and visitors.

Included in the activities were darts, backgammon, scrabble, dominoes, Rummikub and many more. However, we also discovered a new talent within our midst as Clive Stone took centre stage and proved himself to be a natural 'bingo' caller.

There was plenty of pub food on tap during the evening i.e. hot dogs, chips and of course there was plenty of booze - our guests wanted for nothing.

Of course, this event did not just happen - it was through the hard work and imagination of organisers Jon Gouldman and Judith Fine who did a great job of pulling it all together and making it so successful. We owe them a vote of thanks - the evening proved to be great fun for people of all ages and was certainly worth all the hard work that went into it.

And finally, thanks to all those people who turned up, it was a foul night weather wise and your support was much appreciated.

### **An action packed Chanukah in Solihull**

On the last Sunday of Cheder during 2009, Solihull Cheder hosted the BJEB Cheder for its pre-Chanukah Fun Day. Accompanied by their teachers the pupils from Birmingham joined the children from Solihull, Coventry and Ross on Wye learning about Chanukah in an educational and fun format.

Following an activity packed morning of latke and doughnut making, clay dreidle designing and watching videos and interactive sessions on the computer the pupils returned home 'clued up' about the upcoming festival of Chanukah.

Some twenty five years ago, Rabbi Arkush and Rabbi Rader were instrumental in arranging for Solihull Council to erect a large menorah opposite Marks & Spencers in Mell Square. Until this year the menorah has simply been illuminated each night without any fanfare. In an attempt to raise the profile of Chanukah, Rabbi Pink invited the Mayor of Solihull Councillor Norman Davies to officially switch on the menorah. On a freezing Chanukah evening a large crowd of over 100 people from all over the West Midlands and even further afield gathered for the ceremony. After some welcoming words by both the Mayor and Rabbi Pink, the Mayor switched on the menorah and Chazan Naphtali Tiefenbrun led the crowd in the singing of Haneros Hallolu and Maoz Tzur.

The ceremony attracted the interest of a numbers of passers by including a group visiting the German market that had been set up Mell Square, who were watching on while supping their gluhwein.

After the ceremony piping hot latkes and doughnuts were produced and handed out to all and sundry. Quite how Rabbi and Rebbetsen Pink got every thing organized including heating up and transporting the food in the short time between the end of Shabbat and the commencement of the event is a mystery. Immediately following the event the Mayor and Mayoress had to dash off to the next appointment in their busy schedule, but not before the driver of their

limousine had the chance to sample some latkes.

The close ties that Rabbi Pink has been forging with Solihull Council and the Solihull Faith Forum led to Rabbi Pink being invited to to conduct a lunch and learn in Solihull Council Chamber for elected members and employees of Solihull Council on the 3rd day of Chanukah. After a delicious buffet lunch supplied by Gee's, Rabbi Pink was introduced by Mark Rogers, Chief Executive of Solihull Council, the hour sped by and following a lively question and answer session, Leader of the Council, Ken Meeson gave a vote of thanks.

Later on the day, Rabbi Pink together with Martyn & Sue Ellis hosted a further group of council workers and local educationalists led by Nick Tromans at Solihull Shul. The public awareness of Chanukah was also raised by a display about Chanukah mounted in the lobby of Solihull library.

On the fifth night of Chanukah, Rabbi Pink together with his family were scheduled to join the residents of Andrew Cohen House and Silverstone Court for the lighting of the menorah organized by Ron Davis. Unfortunately an outbreak of virulent flu at Andrew Cohen House meant that Rabbi Pink was unable to bring his family into the Home, however the residents of Silverstone Court were more than happy to entertain them while Rabbi Pink popped up the road to conduct the ceremony before returning to a packed lounge at Silverstone Court. Rabbi Pink was flattered by the high attendance until he realized that the attraction was not his rendition of Maoz Tzur but the resident's annual Chanukah Party and Supper!

The last Shabbos of Chanukah saw some unexpected drama. The central heating at Rabbi Pink's house broke down shortly before Shabbos, and the emergency plumber could only pronounce it 'dead on arrival'. An emergency appeal coordinated by Malcolm Hyams produced a vast array of electric heaters of all shapes and sizes, however the electric system could not cope with the strain. The extremely cold weather meant that it was impossible to stay at home, fortunately Rabbi Pink's brother is the Rabbi of nearby Leicester and was more than happy to welcome some last minute visitors for Shabbat. It was lucky that this had not occurred the previous week when the Pinks had twelve guests sleeping over at their house.

Stanley Fisher ensured that the Shabbat Service was conducted properly, it was fortunate that the Nagar family were sponsoring a Kiddush to celebrate Sarah's batmitzvah that weekend and Israeli born Igal, Sarah's father was able to step in at the eleventh hour and read from the Torah, by all reports he did an excellent job given the small amount of notice that he was given.

## **Joint Singers Hill – Solihull Chanukah Party**

How do the Rabbi's think up these novel ideas? We have all been to Chanukah parties in Shul or even in the social hall but in a bowling alley!!!

Well this year both the Singers Hill and Solihull communities joined together again, filling up Storchley bowling alley to capacity with over one hundred and sixty people for a Chanukah Party on the lane.

This being the third year doing this event, a good mixture of ages could be seen enjoying themselves from toddlers all the way to grandparents, which made a perfect blend for a community family event.

Saving the blushes of the less technologically advanced, the names of all bowlers were preprogrammed into the lanes, it did make for some interesting social mixing, I am sure many new acquaintances were made.

The alleys being booked for 2 hours, there was time for all to practice many attempted (and even some achieved) 'strikes' or 'spares' or to suffer the disappointment of a 'channel' shot.

Before asking Rabbi Pink to say a few words about Chanukah, Rabbi Jacobs thanked both Rabbi and Dini Pink for their hard work in taking the bulk of the responsibility for this party due to the birth of his daughter Malky just a few days prior.

Rabbi Pink then explained that the lesson of the Chanukah candles was that of unity, each candle on the Menorah is important and unique but the more candles together the brighter the light. The power of fire is such that it is possible to light numerous candles from a single flame without the original source losing any of its power, so too by working together we can impact on a greater number of people without losing any of our own identity.

The Menorah was lit by Chazzan Naftoli Tiefenbrun of London and the Chanukah decorations brought in from New York added to the festive atmosphere.

Ending with the best, Dini's delicious homemade latkes and doughnuts were served as part of the wonderful spread of refreshments and once again the community were able to celebrate this festival of religious freedom with pride and joy.

## **How do you say that in Ivrit...?**

We've often wondered what to do with our Sunday mornings whilst our kids

are at Cheder in Solihull Shull. Afterall, apart from household chores and shopping, there's not too many options. However, Rabbi Pink has come up with yet another community-wide opportunity to keep us busy and stretch our skillset.

As the Cheder children settled back down to lessons after the Yamim Tovim, Rabbi Pink donned his mortarboard and started teaching conversational modern Hebrew to a class of about 15. So far we have covered basic conversation around buying groceries and produce in a local store, ordering food in a restaurant (a particular favourite of mine), travelling around Israel and ensuring the best accommodation of the Tayelet!

The students have varying degrees of Hebrew knowledge but all enjoy the multimedia presentations, role playing and general discussions. But do not be fooled because its not all light hearted! It wouldn't be fair if I didn't admit to the weekly homework we have to do, not to mention the pending vocabulary test which has introduced a significant amount of competition within my family and a number of others who are regular attendees. Yesterday after the children had gone to bed, my better half started testing me on my vocabulary. It seems my memory retention has deteriorated since my years at school, and for fear of him out-performing me in next week's test, I went on to read and translate a short passage in a Hebrew text book before calling it a day!

The class takes place in the Solihull Shul Hall between 12:15 and 13:00. There is no limitation on numbers, and no age restrictions at either end of the spectrum, so if you are interested in joining, I can tell you its a thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining way to spend part of your Sunday morning!

### **Solihull Shul Shabbaton**

The snow lay thick on the ground on the evening of the traditional January Shabbaton held this year on January 15th. The feast commenced following the Friday night service Kiddush. No amount of slush would deter those who have experienced past Solihull Shabbaton from making it to this years event; well knowing the warm welcome waiting within the Shul and the delicious dinner to follow.

Following washing of hands and Hamotze, a delicious meal of many courses was served comprising; Salmon/Gefilte fish with Chraime, Chicken Soup, roast Chicken, Kugel, stir fried veg, apple pie and ice cream, coffee/tea and

chocolate mints. Accompanied by a selection of wines and soft drinks. As usual there was a plentiful supply of food allowing for those with room for seconds and amazingly in some cases, thirds!

Rabbi Pink offered his thanks to all those who worked hard giving up their time to help prepare for the evening and introduced the guest speaker Phaivish Pink.

Phaivish Pink, father to our Rabbi, addressed the diners with amusing stories both to entertain and provide a link to the message from this weeks sedra.

Chairman Martyn Ellis proposed a vote of thanks to all those who helped to prepare for the evening.

Bentching followed with enthusiastic singing of the melodies familiar to all.

It was such a wonderful evening even the snow melted.

### **Holocaust Memorial Day**

Despite the bitterly cold weather, over seventy people gathered in Library Square, Solihull on Wednesday morning, 27 January for a memorial service to mark Holocaust Memorial Day

This internationally recognised day commemorates the tragic loss of life in the Holocaust and more recently in genocides that took place in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Darfur.

Holocaust Memorial Day falls on the anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp. This year marks the 65th anniversary of that day.

The Solihull Partnership event, organised with the help of the Solihull Faith Forum, included prayers led by Rabbi Pink, signing of the Commemoration Book and a one minute's silence. Dr Martin Stern, a Holocaust survivor who now lives in Leicester, spoke at the event alongside the Mayor of Solihull Councillor Norman Davies.

Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Norman Davies said: "Although this day is to remember the horrors of the past, we must not become complacent in thinking such atrocities have not and will not happen again. Unfortunately there are still societies rife with prejudice and persecution. It is only through the lessons of the past, monitoring our own attitudes and speaking out about discrimination that we can hope to build a safer and inclusive society."

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**For more information contact Rabbi Yehuda Pink on 0121 706 8736**

# Jewish Medical Ethics

The West Midlands Jewish with the Solihull Hebrew Heartlands Hospital have on Jewish Medical Ethics. These Royal College of Physicians.



Medical Ethics Forum together Congregation and Birmingham organised a series of lectures lectures are accredited by The

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The sessions will be held once a month, the next sessions are

Wednesday 3rd March

Wednesday 12th May

All sessions begin at 8.00 pm

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Solihull Jewish Community Centre, 3 Monastery Drive, Solihull.

For more information about the lectures or the West Midlands Jewish Medical Ethics Forum please contact Rabbi Pink.

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# THE SEDER IN A NUTSHELL

## **Kadesh - the Benediction**

The Seder service begins with the recitation of Kiddush, proclaiming the holiness of the holiday. This is done over a cup of wine, the first of the four cups we will drink at the Seder.

## **The Four Cups of Wine**

Why four cups? The Torah uses four expressions of freedom or deliverance in connection with our liberation from Egypt (see Exodus 6:6-7). Also, the Children of Israel had four great merits even while in exile: (1) They did not change their Hebrew names; (2) they continued to speak their own language, Hebrew; (3) they remained highly moral; (4) they remained loyal to one another. Wine is used because it is a symbol of joy and happiness.

## **Why We Recline**

When drinking the four cups and eating the Matzah we lean on our left side to demonstrate that we are free people. In ancient times only free people had the luxury of reclining while eating.

## **Urchatz - Purification**

We wash our hands in the usual, ritually-prescribed manner before a meal, but without the customary blessing.

The next step in the Seder, Karpas, requires dipping food into water, which in turn mandates, according to Jewish law, that either the food be eaten with a utensil or that one's hands be purified by washing. On the Seder eve we choose the less common observance to arouse the child's curiosity.

## **Karpas - the "Appetiser"**

A small piece vegetable is dipped into salt water and eaten (after reciting the blessing over vegetables). The salt water represents the tears of our ancestors in Egypt.

## **Yachatx - Breaking the Matzah**

attention once again, but also recalls G-d's splitting of the Sea of Reeds to allow the Children of Israel to cross on dry land. The smaller part of the middle Matzah is returned to the Seder plate. This broken middle Matzah symbolizes humility and will be eaten later as the "bread of poverty."

### **Maggid - the Haggadah**

The Seder tray is moved aside, a second cup of wine is poured, and the child, asks the time-honoured question: "Mah nish-tah-na hah-laila-ha-zeh mekol hah leilot? Why is this night different from all other nights?" Why only Matzah? Why the dipping? Why the bitter herbs? Why are we relaxing and leaning on cushions as if we were kings?

The child's questioning triggers one of the most significant mitzvot of Passover, which is the highlight of the Seder ceremony: the Haggadah, telling the story of the Exodus from Egypt.

### **Rachtzah - Washing Before the Meal**

After concluding the first part of the Haggadah, the hands are washed again, this time with the customary blessings, as is usually done before eating bread.

### **Motzie Matzah - We eat the matzah.**

Taking hold of the three Matzot (with the broken one in between the two whole ones), recite the customary blessing before bread. Then, letting the bottom Matzah drop back onto the plate, and holding the top whole Matzah with the broken middle one, recite the special blessing "Al achilat Matzah." Then break at least one ounce from each Matzah and eat the two pieces together, while reclining.

### **Maror - the Bitter Herbs**

Take at least 1 ounce of the bitter herbs. Dip it in the charoset and make the blessing "Al achilat Morror." Eat without reclining.

### **Korech - the Sandwich**

In keeping with the custom instituted by Hillel, the great Talmudic Rabbi, a sandwich of Matzah and Morror is eaten. Break off two pieces of the bottom Matzah, which together should be at least one ounce. Again, take at least 1

ounce of bitter herbs and dip them in the charoset. Place this The middle Matzah on the Seder plate is broken in two. The larger part is put aside for later use as the Afikomen. This unusual action not only attracts the Place this between the two pieces of Matzah, say “Kein asah Hillel...”and eat the sandwich while reclining.

### **Shulchan Orech - the Feast**

The holiday meal is now served. We begin the meal with a hardboiled egg dipped into salt water. A Rabbi was once asked why Jews eat eggs on Passover. “Because eggs symbolise the Jew,” the Rabbi answered. “The more an egg is burned or boiled, the harder it gets.”

### **Tzafun - Out of Hiding**

After the meal, the half Matzah which had been “hidden,” set aside for the Afikoman (“dessert”), is taken out and eaten. It symbolizes the Paschal lamb, which was eaten at the end of the meal. Everyone should eat at least 1 1/2 ounces of Matzah, reclining, before midnight. After eating the Afikoman, we do not eat or drink anything except for the two remaining cups of wine.

### **Barech - Blessings After the Meal**

A third cup of wine is filled and Grace is recited. After the Grace we recite the blessing over wine and drink the third cup while reclining.

Now we fill the cup of Elijah and our own cups with wine. We open the door and recite the passage which symbolizes an invitation to the Prophet Elijah, the harbinger of the coming of Moshiach, our righteous Messiah.

### **Hallel - Songs of Praise**

At this point, having recognized the Almighty, and His unique guidance of the Jewish people, we go still further and sing His praises as Lord of the entire universe.

After reciting the Hallel, we again recite the blessing over wine and drink the fourth cup, reclining

### **Nirtzah - Acceptance**

Having carried out the Seder service properly, we are sure that it has been well received by the Almighty. We then say “Leshanah haba’ah b’Yerushalyim -- Next year in Jerusalem.”

# Ask The Rabbi???

**Question:** Why do we have three matzot on the Seder plate?

**Answer:** Here are some of the reasons that are given:

1. It is an allusion to the three measures of flour that Abraham asked Sarah to prepare for the angels that visited him after his circumcision. According to the Midrash, the angels visited Abraham on Passover. (It is a tradition that Abraham kept the entire Torah even though it had not yet been given. So he would have celebrated Passover even before the Jews had entered Egypt!) The biblical commentator Alshich says that Abraham wanted Sarah to knead the dough herself (and not delegate the job to a servant) so that she could make sure that it did not become Chametz.
2. It is in remembrance of our Patriarchs, Abraham Isaac and Jacob.
3. Every Shabbat and holiday you need two whole loaves of Challah. [This commemorates the double portion of manna we received in the desert on the day before Shabbat or a holiday.]

On Passover we need two whole Matzot for the blessing. So we start out with three because at the beginning of the Seder we break the middle Matzah and we're left with two whole ones for the blessing.

4. The three Matzot represent the Jewish people who are divided into three groups: Kohanim, Levites, and Israelites -- all of whom were saved by the miraculous Passover Redemption.

*If you would like some you some  
hand baked Shmura Matzah for  
your Seder Table please  
contact Rabbi Pink*



# שָׁמוֹת

## Shabbat Times

| Sedra                                 | Date          | Shabbat Begins<br>(Friday) | Shabbat Ends<br>(Saturday) |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mishpotim                             | 13th February | 4.56 pm                    | 6.05 pm                    |
| Terumah                               | 20th February | 5.09 pm                    | 6.17 pm                    |
| Tetzaveh                              | 27th February | 5.22 pm                    | 6.30 pm                    |
| Ki Sissa                              | 6th March     | 5.36 pm                    | 6.43 pm                    |
| Vayakhel/Pekudei                      | 13th March    | 5.48 pm                    | 6.55 pm                    |
| Vayikro                               | 20th March    | 6.01 pm                    | 7.08 pm                    |
| Tzav                                  | 27th March    | 6.13 pm                    | 7.28 pm                    |
| <b>FOR PESACH TIMES SEE TIMETABLE</b> |               |                            |                            |
| Shemini                               | 10th April    | 7.38 pm                    | 8.47 pm                    |
| Tazria/Mazria                         | 17th April    | 7.50 pm                    | 9.00 pm                    |
| Achrei/Kedoshim                       | 24th April    | 8.00 pm                    | 9.14 pm                    |
| Emor                                  | 1st May       | 8.00 pm                    | 9.28 pm                    |
| Behar/Bechukosai                      | 8th May       | 8.00 pm                    | 9.42 pm                    |
| Bamidbar                              | 15th May      | 8.00 pm                    | 9.56 pm                    |

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*We are constantly looking to expand the library. If you have any books or videos of Jewish interest which you would like to donate to the library, or if you would like to sponsor the purchase of books or videos please contact Rabbi Pink on 0121 706 8736 or [rabbi@solihullshul.org](mailto:rabbi@solihullshul.org)*

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*Please enter these dates into your diary to ensure that you will be able to join us at one or all of these occasions.*

*All events are at 3 Monastery Drive unless indicated otherwise.*

|                               |                |          |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| Megillah Reading & Party      | 27th February  | 7.30 pm  |
| Purim Meal                    | 28th February  | 5.30 pm  |
| Communal Seder (Granby Close) | 29th March     | 8.00 pm  |
| Teenscene                     | 25th April     | 5.00 pm  |
| Quiz of the Year              | 25th April     | 7.00 pm  |
| Sefer Torah Dedication        | 2nd May        |          |
| AGM                           | 13th May       | 8.00 pm  |
| Shavuot Lunch                 | 19th May       | 12.30 pm |
| Communal BBQ                  | 13th June      | 1.00 pm  |
| Youth Zone                    | 20th June      | 3.00 pm  |
| Cheder Prize Giving           | 18th July      | 12.30 pm |
| Sukkos Party                  | 26th September | 6.30 pm  |
| Simchas Torah Lunch           | 1st October    | 12.00 pm |

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## Solihull & District Hebrew Congregation AGM 13th May 2010 @ 8.00 pm

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1 Half Day - a morning or afternoon function of less than 6 hours duration ending before 6pm

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4 Full Day – a full day function of up to 12 hours ending before midnight

5 Add kitchen tariff if kitchen required.

### Children's parties (aged less than 13)

The hall and kitchen may be hired for £60. Party organisers will be responsible for leaving the facility in clean and good order.

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