

21st Nisan 5768/26th April 2008

Minister: Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld

Emeritus Chazan: Rev. Moshe Dubiner

Shabbat & 7th Day Pesach

Shabbat & Yom Tov 7.59pm

Shabbat ends & 9.08pm
Candle Lighting 8th Day



The Omer: Making it Count

The period of "the Omer" begins on the second night of Passover and continues until Shavuot. Literally translated, *Omer* means "a measure", referring to the measure of grain that was once offered at the Temple in Jerusalem. The Torah commanded that seven complete weeks be counted for the Omer, until the day after the seventh week - fifty days. On that same day you shall hold a celebration: "*it shall be a sacred occasion for you; you shall not work at your occupations. This is a law for all time in all your settlements, throughout the ages*". (Leviticus Ch.23)

Why was it important to count the days from the bringing of the Omer until Shavuot? Shavuot in the Bible was not connected with the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai, as it is now. It was an agricultural festival. And its focus was the Temple. Since the Temple no longer stands, and most of us are no longer involved in agriculture, what's the point of counting the Omer today?

While there is no longer a Temple or an Omer offering, the rabbis declared that we should still count the days between Passover and Shavuot. Maimonides even said that the commandment for us to count today comes directly from Torah!

Kabbalists saw the Omer period as a vital preparation for receiving the Torah on Mt. Sinai. Each day we must take one more step away from the impurities of Egypt that have remained within us. According to the mystics, each week of the seven is represented by a mystical aspect of the Divine on which to focus. For instance, the first week is represented by *Chesed* - Overflowing Loving kindness, the second week by *G'vurah* - Judgment, Justice. We cannot go into all the detail in this short D'var Torah but the idea is that counting the Omer can be a time of meditation on these attributes as we prepare for Shavuot.

As a link between Passover and Shavuot, the counting of the Omer reminds us of the liberation we celebrated during Passover, and just how easy it is for us to slip back into slavery.

Let each of the 50 days bring us a moment of meditation, to work on our best selves and ready ourselves for receiving rules to live by - the Torah - on Shavuot. May we learn how to make our lives easier yet more meaningful, as we celebrate in a small way each day, focusing on the important moments of life.

Chag Sameach and happy counting!

From a D'var Torah by Rabbi A Lerner, Midwest Director of Hillel's Joseph Meyerhof Center for Jewish Learning, USA, with acknowledgment.

Next Shabbat Parshat Kedoshim

2nd—3rd May 2008

Commences 8.11pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat 6.30pm

Announcements

A warm welcome to the Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan & Lady Sacks who will be with us on the 8th Day of Pesach

Kiddush Sponsor

The Honorary Officers and Board of Management invite the congregation to Kiddush in the Bloomstein Hall after the Service

Breakfast Sponsor

Breakfasts this week are sponsored by the Honorary Officers and Board of Management

Birth Announce

Mazal Tov to Nathalie & Jonathan Esfandi on the birth of a son, to Francoise & David Winton, Joey Esfandi and Denise Esfandi on the birth of a grandson and to Colette Wilson, Helene Esfandi & Rita Tamman on the birth of a great grandson.

Birthdays Mazal Tov to:

Zachary Shear	Grace Davis
Olivia Goldhill	Raphael Khalili
Benjamin Khalili	John Woolf
Gaby Salem	James Soning
Mark Landau	Gary Hersham
Jonathan Lyons	Eleanor Gordon
Jeremiah Harouni	Cheryl Stakol
Brenda Cooper	Stuart Scott
Iris Johnstone	Howard Simons
Dorothy Ashton	Bertha Klug
Yvonne Hackenbroch	

Wedding Anniversaries Mazal Tov to:

Anna & Henry Ejdelbaum

Refuah Shelemah

Jack Winsor	Yaacov ben Miriam Chaya
Alma Djanogly	Alma Shulamit bat Tovah
Gertie Enfield (Simmonds)	Rachel Bat Yudit
Joan Eker	Elisheva Eker
Ann Zahl	Channa bat Elisheva
Freida Handelsman	Faiga Rachel bat Freida
Sheila Tuchmann	Simcha bat Gala Girji

Haftarah

Would anyone wishing to read the Haftarah on Shabbat, eg on the anniversary of their Bar Mitzvah, to mark a special occasion or for any other reason, please contact the Honorary Officers as we wish to involve as many people as possible

Diary Notes

**Rabbi Rosenfeld gives a Mishnah Berurah Shiur weekdays
Mon—Fri mornings at 7.00am before Shacharit**

Friday 25th April

- 7.15 am Shacharit followed by Breakfast and Dvar Torah by Rabbi LR
6.30 pm Mincha & Maariv for Shabbat & 7th day Pesach

Shabbat 26th April - 7th Day Pesach

- 9.15 am Shacharit followed by Shir Hashirim
8.00 pm Mincha, Seudah Shlishit & D'var Torah by Rabbi LR
Followed by Ma'ariv for 8th day Pesach
9.08pm Candle lighting for 8th day Pesach

Sunday 27th April - 8th Day Pesach

- 9.15 am Shacharit, followed by Hallel
11.00am Yizkor
(approx)
11.15am Sermon by Chief Rabbi
8.30 pm Mincha
9.10pm Maariv and Havdalah

Monday 28th April

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by Breakfast & D'var Torah
by Michael Milston
No Ladies Shiur this week

Tuesday 29th April

- 7.30am Shacharit followed by breakfast & Shiur by
Rabbi Yosef Vogel

Wednesday 30th April

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast and Parsha Shiur by
Ervin Landau

Thursday 1st May—Yom Hashoah

- 7.30 am Shacharit with prayers and readings for
Holocaust Day followed by breakfast and Dvar Torah
by Bernard Silver

Friday 2nd May

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & Haftarah Shiur by
Ervin Landau

**Mincha & Maariv through the week:
Mon—Thu 28th April—1st May 6.45pm**

Security Rota

**We thank all members who are on the Security
Rota for Shabbat and Yom Tov**

Our Rabbi

Please note new email address

You can contact Rabbi Lionel & Natalie
Rosenfeld at rabbilr@marblearch.org.uk
Phone: 020 7535 0458 mob: 07811202244

Our Website:

www.marblearch.org.uk

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Yom Ha'Atzmaut Thursday 8th May

Please join us for a bumper Yom Ha'Atzmaut festive breakfast immediately after Shacharit to help celebrate the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel. Everyone welcome. Kindly sponsored by Cyril Stein

Extraordinary General Meeting/Annual General Meeting - Tuesday 27th May

An EGM will be held on Tuesday 27th May at 7.30pm, followed by the AGM at 8.00pm. Please make every effort to attend

Sponsor a Member

We have set up a fund to assist members of our community who for whatever reason have fallen on hard times and struggle to pay their membership / burial contributions. There are currently over 100 members in our community who require financial assistance in one form or the other. This fund will be treated in the strictest confidence. No member receiving help will know who has contributed. Making a donation to this fund will be a real Mitzvah and will have a major impact on the lives of our less fortunate members. Though a voluntary scheme it is vital to those who require assistance - please donate whatever you can afford.

M.A.F.C. - Marble Arch Football Club – What else!

If you're interested in playing football then we'd like to know. Initially we're thinking of setting up 5 a side teams for indoor football. What about your sons and daughters. The more the better.

Send an email to office@marblearch.org.uk with your name email address and age to register your interest. Tell us if your children want to play also and we'll do the rest.

Yadgaroff Library

The Yadgaroff Library is open every day for those wishing to study or browse the fine selection of books.

Sponsoring an Event

If you are celebrating a Simchah or commemorating a family Yahrzeit or if you are just feeling generous please consider contacting the office and sponsoring a Shabbat Morning Kiddush, the Morning Minyan breakfasts or the weekly Newsletter.

Polite Request

May we ask that for all future events, to avoid embarrassment to members and office staff, payment preferably be made in advance of any function. Any payment being made on the evening should be in a sealed envelope. marked with the payees name. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.