












Shabbat 20 February 2021 | 8 Adar 5781 (Shabbat Zachor)

Parashat Terumah 5781 / פרשת תְּרוּמָה

Friday Chabura	שבת Starts	שבת Shacharit	Sof Zman Kriat Shema	שבת Mincha	שבת Ends	Zoom Havdala	Horim V'Yeladim	Sunday Shacharit
 8.40AM	 5.07PM	 9.30AM	 9.40AM	 5.12PM	 6.12PM	 7.00PM	 7.15PM	 8.20AM

Friday

This week the Chabura will be given by **Rav Ari Silbermann**. Join us at the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/MagenAvotZoom>.

Shabbat Zachor

See guidance for Shabbat Zachor from Rabbi Kenigsberg on page two of this newsletter.

Tali Diamant is kindly sponsoring this week's Kiddush for NHS staff marking her mother's Yahrzeit (Roza bat Nachum v'Chana on 8 Adar). Her mother was a public health nurse in Israel.

Motzei Shabbat

Join the Communal Havdalah at **7.00pm** at the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86342908387> | **863 4290 8387**

Horim V'Yeladim's penultimate week with another Kahoot Quiz at **7.15pm**: <http://tinyurl.com/MagenAvotZoom>.



Wednesday

Rabbi Kenigsberg's Tzurba m'Rabanan Shiur continues this week at **8.30pm** on the topic of: **"Halachot related to coronavirus across the 4 sections of Shulchan Aruch"** at the usual Zoom link: <http://tinyurl.com/MagenAvotZoom>

Thursday

Fast of Esther begins **5.17am** and finishes at **6.14pm**. Details of Purim times will be released with an early newsletter next week.

3-T 2.0 – Uyghur Campaign

Our Uyghur campaign continues! Please visit our website at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/y5sqhfre>.

Kiddush Sponsorship

If you would like to sponsor a "Kiddush" to benefit more NHS staff, please call or text Joy Kay on 07956 348 392.

Gemach Fund for Members

Help for members is available in the form of emergency one-off payments or short-term loans. Please contact Rabbi Kenigsberg (rabbi@magenavot.com) or our treasurer Cecil Taitz (treasurer@magenavot.com), in complete confidence.

Mental Health First Aid Course

This course is run by Jami and is fully accredited. For more information click here: <https://tinyurl.com/y6yakof0>.

Thanks

Thanks to Esther Bentley for heading up this month's TED circle. In the words of Dr Edith Eva Eger "The prison is in your mind. The key is in your pocket". In the end, it's not what happens to us that matters most – it's what we choose to do with it. A video of Dr Edith Eva Eger speaking was the basis for the discussion.

The recent "Meet MA!" event with Linda Wolffe is available on our YouTube channel here: <https://youtu.be/CC67iG0QNo4>

Purim Events

In advance of our Purim Newsletter being issued early next week; members are able to signup for a Megillah reading at the following address: <https://tinyurl.com/mj94vjha>. For those not attending, please see the letter on our website for guidance as to how to hear the Megillah. Further details and timings to follow next week.

There will be a "Virtually Impossible" **Magic show** on Thursday **25 February** at **8.30pm** with Ben Levy at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/1dr9odeq> (**Meeting ID: 892 2485 3704** **Passcode: 687194**). This is intended for family members (12 years and over) with one screen per family. In preparation for the show please check you have the latest version of Zoom. Turn on and KEEP ON your screen during the show...and start with sound off (mute)! Please note that the show is best enjoyed when individual guests are on individual screens (one booking = one screen). The best sized screen to enjoy the show is laptop/desktop (or tablet if not available). Mobile phone screens will be too small. Please join on time...or you'll miss some astonishing Mind Magic! For the 50 mins+ experiences, please bring a DECK OF CARDS (not to worry if a few are missing). Make sure you have a FLAT SURFACE available to put the cards down, eg a large hardback book, small coffee table. Lastly, be prepared to GET INVOLVED. What makes the show memorable is that YOU get to make the decisions! More next week!

The Magen Avot **"Puppet Show"** with Ruth Ehreich will be made available on Friday 26 February via our YouTube channel. Details in next week's early release newsletter.



INSIDE THE BOX: EVERYTHING YOU WILL NEED TO MAKE YOUR OWN FESTIVE BREAKFAST SEUDAH (MEAL)

BUY
a box for your own festive **Purim Seudah** (Meal)

GIFT
a box as **Mishloach Manot** (Sending gifts)

DONATE
for **Matanot L'evyonim** (Gifts to those in need)

For more info and to purchase visit
www.theus.org.uk/purimbox

Yahrzeits

20/02/2021	8 Adar 5781	Tali Diamant	Mother
20/02/2021	8 Adar 5781	Nicola Schechtel	Father
20/02/2021	8 Adar 5781	Paul Taylor	Mother
22/02/2021	10 Adar 5781	Norman Gutkin	Father
26/02/2021	14 Adar 5781	Menachem Goldsobel	Father



PURIM UPDATE AND GUIDELINES



Following on from last week's announcement regarding Megillah reading this year (which can be viewed here: <https://www.magenavot.com/content/purim-guidelines-5781>) below is further guidance as to how to fulfil the remaining mitzvot of Purim, whilst strictly adhering to all necessary Covid restrictions. Please feel free to contact me for any questions or further clarification.

Shabbat Zachor

The requirement to hear the Torah reading of Parshat Zachor on the Shabbat before Purim is subject to a debate amongst the Rishonim. Many hold that one is required to hear the parsha from a Torah scroll, whilst others would deem acceptable reading from a Chumash. Normative Halachic practice as ruled by the Shulchan Aruch follows the former view (and in future years one should return to this).

At present shul remains closed and we will not be opening for Shabbat Zachor. Everyone should read these pesukim (**Devarim 25:17-19**) at home from a Chumash on Shabbat day. When we reach Parshat Ki Teitzei in the summer months, we will be able to have the opportunity to hear these pesukim from a sefer Torah as well.

Purim Day

It goes without saying that Purim this year should not be spent out on the streets or socialising in any way. Although the simcha of Purim is normally expressed through large social gatherings, this would obviously be irresponsible and inappropriate this year. The pandemic is unfortunately still with us and the utmost vigilance is required in order to prevent the further spread of infection.

The following passage of the Rambam (Hilchot Megillah 2:17) is always relevant but particularly apt to our current situation:

מוטב לאדם להרבות במתנות אביונים מלהרבות בסעודתו ובשלוח מנות לרעיו. שאין שם שמחה גדולה ומפארה אלא לשמח לב עניים ויתומים ואלמנות וגרים. שהמשמח לב האמללים האלו דומה לשכינה שנגאמר (ישעיה נז טו) "להחיות רוח שפלים ולהחיות לב נדכאים".

One should rather spend more money on gifts to the poor than on his Purim banquet and presents to his friends. No joy is greater and more glorious than the joy of gladdening the hearts of the poor, the orphans, the widows, and the strangers. He who gladdens the heart of these unhappy people imitates God, as it is written: "I am ... to revive the spirit of the humble, and to put heart into the crushed" (Isaiah 57:15).

Mishloach Manot

The halachic requirement of Mishloach Manot is to give two items of food to **ONE** recipient. Spending large parts of the day travelling far and wide in order to deliver multiple packages should, for obvious reasons, be avoided this year.

I would urge us all to go back to basics and **suffice with one package**, delivered ideally to a neighbour, and thus avoid contravening the current "Stay at Home" guidance. Of course, where possible priority should be given to those feeling alone or isolated this Purim. As mentioned in the above-quoted Rambam, the extra money one might normally spend on Mishloach Manot should be donated to Matanot La'evvonim.

Matanot La'evvonim

Gifts to the poor should be distributed to 2 individuals on Purim day. In order to prevent social contact this should ideally be done via an online bank transfer, which may be set up in advance of Purim. This can be fulfilled through the US website <https://mvus.theus.org.uk/events/63598/buy-aift-donate-purim-in-a-box> and selecting the "Matanot La' evvonim" option.

Purim Seudah

There is a mitzvah to partake of a festive meal on Purim day. As Purim falls on Friday this year this should be done early in the day – **at home, with one's immediate family/support bubble only**. As Purim is not a Yom Tov on which melacha is forbidden, people are encouraged to interact with family and friends via virtual means in order to enhance the Purim atmosphere. Please remember that it is illegal and against current guidance to join with others for this meal, in your home or anywhere else. An appropriate use of the money saved on the Seudah would be as a contribution to the needy.

Whilst we will not be celebrating this year in the normal manner, I hope and pray that we will all merit to fulfil the words from the Megillah that we say in Havdala each week

ליהודים הייתה אורה ושמחה וששון ויקר – כן תהיה לנו!

"The Jews had light and joy, and gladness and honor." – and so may we!

RABBI KENIGSBURG

Shielding?
Isolating?
NO NEED TO PANIC ABOUT MEGILAH READING...
CONTACT US TO ARRANGE A MEGILAH READING OUTSIDE YOUR HOUSE IN A COVID-SAFE WAY
FREE OF CHARGE
COVERING LOCAL AREAS
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Volunteerism, Giving, Changing Lives