

MARCH/APRIL 2020

BEIT LURIA NEWSLETTER

Services

Kabbalat
Shabbat 27 March, 18:30 (Live via
Zoom)

Pesach
8 April, 18:30 (tbc)

Pesach
9 April, 09:30 (tbc)

Shabbat
Shacharit 18 April, 10:00 (tbc)

Kabbalat
Shabbat 24 April, 18:30 (tbc)

Join the Beit Luria Conversation

Join the
Beit Luria WhatsApp group
today!

Send a message to Rabbi
Julia:
076 673 0750
or Lisa: 076 376 5488 and
we'll add you to the
conversation.

WUPJ Zoom Room Class

Rabbi Julia is hosting a talk, titled
"All that you wanted to know about
weddings and funerals but never
asked!" online.

The talk is on Wednesday, 25
March 2020 at 10h00 in the World
Union for Progressive Judaism's
Zoom Room. Rabbi will share a
link to the talk before the time.

A WORD FROM RABBI JULIA MARGOLIS

Dear Friends,

These are very trying times for all of us, for parents,
couples, children, Rabbis, educators, doctors...
everyone.



Even a week ago no one thought that we will have
such big changes to our routine. Rabbi Jonathan
Hecht pointed out to very interesting and important
learning that can inspire us during this difficult
time. It is the principle of "et la'asot" "a time to act."
In Psalm 119:126 we read "It is a time to act for the
Lord, for they have violated Your teaching." This is
taken to mean that certain laws, even Biblical laws,
can be temporarily abrogated in an emergency
situation. When government officials are asking that
we not congregate in groups, then the principle of
coming together in a minyan of ten people can be
set aside and we can pray together with fewer
people. Congregations around the world are coming
together online to pray, teachers have classes online
and even weddings.

If we will listen to our tradition, we will know that doing this is not an
abrogation of Jewish obligation, it is a Mitzvah, a Jewish obligation, and it is
based on rabbinic principle! Rabbi's teaching to all of you as we settle into this,
our new, reality is important because we need to learn to adjust, we need to
learn patience with ourselves and those around us. We need to be one for each
other- even if it is in the digital reality, we can learn, chat and be "lonely"
together. During the next week, we will need to take an important decision
regarding our communal seder, and it might be that this year we will have to
cancel the event, but on another hand, think about all other opportunities, and I
am sure that we can take this situation, and to make best out of it.

For now, we have decided in the interest of our congregant's well-being to
conduct our services online, via Zoom.

Warm regards,
Rabbi Julia



In Loving Memory of Dalene Grobler-Koonin

It is hard to believe that almost two weeks has already gone by since receiving the horrific news of the tragic death of DWO Dalene Grobler-Koonin. In fact with the events that have unfolded globally since we gathered together to mourn the loss of an incredible braveheart make it seem like we are living in a different world since well over a thousand of us came together last Wednesday to pay our respects - such a gathering simply "not being possible" barely a week later.

In hindsight Dalene was not just a congregant of mine, but someone who became a friend, whilst she studied at the Synagogue where I was employed. I feel for her family, and I know that they felt as I did, that her funeral espoused dignity and respect for the almost Superhero-like lifestyle that she lead.

It was, looking back, an unforgettable day. A day on which her community of loving family and friends, of elite Hawks Police officers countrywide, came together in substantial numbers to honour an immensely substantial life - DWO Dalene Grobler-Koonin, one and all who knew you - we salute you.

From the book of Isaiah: "Your sun shall set no more, your moon no more withdraw; for the Lord shall be a light to you forever, and your days of mourning shall be ended" (60:20) and, "As a mother comforts her son, so I will comfort you; you shall find comfort in Jerusalem" (66:13).

**Your Rabbi,
RJM**



Announcements

Yahrtzeit

Jesse Ridings – 2/3/2020 – 6 Adar II 5760
Ettie Nathan – 4/3/2020 – 8 Adar 5742
Brian Bunge – 17/3/2020 – 21 Adar 5750
Diane Burkin – 17/3/2020 – 21 Adar 5776
Brian Soskin – 29/3/2020 – 4 Nisan 5779
Jacquiline Hurwitz – 30/3/2020 – 5 Nisan 5745
Shirley Walker – 9/4/2020 – 15 Nisan 5770
Alan Rose – 19/4/2020 – 25 Nisan 5758
Ena Connors – 19/4/2020 – 25 Nisa 5765

*May their memory be for a
blessing*

Candle Lighting Times Johannesburg

27 March 2020 17:53

8 April 2020, Erev Pesach 17:40

9 April 2020, Pesach 18:28

10 April 2020 17:38

17 April 2020 17:31

Make a Donation

Your donations are greatly
appreciated.

Beit Luria
Nedbank
Account: 2012471854

Happy Birthday

March 22 – Cohl Michael Terry Connors
March 22 – Reo Halley Ena Connors
March 28 – David Rose
March 30 – Dean Lurie
April 3 – Greg Margolis
April 11 – Rabbi Elena Rubinstein
April 13 – Venetia Connors
April 15 – Kathryn Peck

Anniversaries

March 20 – Shannon and Albano Prestia
March 22 – Venetia and Taryn Constable
April 4 – Draden and Craig Dickson

Sponsor Kiddush

In many synagogues, it is customary to sponsor a kiddush in celebration of a birthday, engagement, anniversary or any other Simcha. If you would like to sponsor a kiddush at Beit Luria and celebrate with your shul family, please get in touch on info@beitluria.org

Tu B'Shevat 2020

Tu B'Shevat took place in February, and Beit Luria hosted an informative Shabbat Shacharit service at The Willows followed by a delicious, fruity seder. Rabbi Julia taught us about the meaning behind the different fruit we eat during this agricultural festival.



To commemorate the holiday, the Beit Luria congregation sponsored the planting of 10 trees in Israel on Tu B'Shvat 5780.



TREE CERTIFICATE

A COPE OF TEN TREES

HAVE BEEN PLANTED
IN A KEREN KAYEMET LE'YISRAEL FOREST

IN THE NAME OF
BEIT LURIA
JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

"A tree of life to those who hold fast to it, and all who cling to it find happiness.

*Its ways are ways of pleasantness
and all its paths are peace." (Proverbs 3:17-18)*



TuBishvat 2020 / ט"ו בשבט תש"פ

KEREN KAYEMET LEISRAEL

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THE HISTORY OF THE HAGGADAH

BY RABBI MOSHE LAZARUS



What's the story behind all those poems at the end of the Haggadah?

Who wrote them?

Why do we say them?

The word "Haggadah" comes from the Torah command - "And you shall tell (v'Higadeta) your children on that day..." Although the minimal fulfilment of this mitzvah is a simple recounting of the going out of Egypt and explaining a few of the Pesach symbols, proper fulfilment requires much more.

Over the centuries, additions have been made to the Haggadah to enhance this mitzvah. Many of these additions gained such wide acceptance that they became part of the Haggadah.

One of those additions is the Chad Gadya. Another is 'Dayeinu.' Rav Saadia Gaon (882 CE - 942 CE) included neither in his Haggadah, although he did recognize the existence of Dayeinu. Neither Rashi (1040 - 1105) nor Maimonides (1135 - 1204) included Chad Gadya in their versions of the Haggadah, although Rashi did include Dayeinu. In the Machzor Vitri, Rav Simcha of Vitri, an important disciple of Rashi, includes sections which we don't say today.

Although Rashi himself did not say them, they were said in Provence (Southern France) in his day. The metamorphosis of the Haggadah concluded in the late middle ages, aided by the invention of the Printing Press, which enabled the basic Ashkenazic version which had been endorsed by the Ari z"l to be accepted even in Sephardic communities.

The text is based upon the Haggadah of Rav Amram Gaon, who headed the Babylonian Yeshiva of Sura between 856 876 CE. This text was endorsed by Rashi. Rav Amram's Haggadah concluded with the after blessing on the fourth cup of wine. It did not include 'Chasal Siddur Pesach'.

The Shiblei HaLeket (Rabbi Tzidkayah HaRofei, Italy; 1230-1300) writes: "We are accustomed to recite 'piyutim' (Poetic Prayers) which are arranged with words of praise and thanksgiving." Seven 'piyutim' are customarily added to the Haggadah of Rav Amram Gaon, to make up the present-day Ashkenazic Haggadah. They are:

- 'Chasal Siddur Pesach K'Hilchaso' by Rav Yosef Tur-Elam I (died 1040 CE).
- 'Az Rov Nissim' by Yannai, 9th century teacher of Eliezer Hakalir.

A later custom reported by Maharil adds the words: 'Vayehi B'Chatzi Halayla' before the words 'Az Rov Nissim.'

- 'Ometz Gevurasecha' by Eliezer Hakalir, 7th century. Maharil cites the custom here, too, to precede with the words: 'U'vechein V'Amartem Zevach Pesach'.
- 'Ki Lo Naeh, Ki Lo Yaeh - Adir B'Melucha', author unknown but cited by 'Eitz Chaim', Rabbi Yaakov bar Yehuda of London (circa. 1285 CE).
- 'Adir Hu Yivneh Beiso B'Karov', author unknown.
- 'Echad Mi Yodeiya?', author unknown.
- 'Chad Gadya', author unknown.

The earliest known inclusion of Chad Gadya is in Sefer Rokeach (1160-1238). Although we don't know who actually authored Chad Gadya, tradition teaches that it is a very significant work and has great depth of meaning in its symbolism. The Chida (1734-1806) writes that the Vilna Gaon (1730-1798) alone wrote more than 10 different explanations!

Purim 2020



This year, the Beit Luria congregation went all out with our Purim celebrations. The mitzvah of reading and hearing the Megillah was followed by an entertaining Purim spiel. Tulla and Brian from the ZigZag band entertained us with traditional tunes as we danced and feasted. Thank you to Rabbi Julia, all our play participants, the band and everyone who made the evening a huge success.

Purim 2020



MITZVOT IN THE FACE OF A CRISIS

Coronavirus has all but brought the world to a halt. There's already a plethora of information out there, from washing your hands to how to handle your Passover plans this year. So, it got me thinking. How does the Torah fit into the panic? However severely Coronavirus grips us, the Torah provides plenty of opportunities for mitzvot.

One mitzvah that resonates with me is pikuach nefesh – to preserve life. This is one of the most important mitzvot at this time, if not at all times. Above all else, preserve life. How can we apply this to the pandemic? Each of us must keep up to date with medical advice to prevent the virus from spreading. From covering coughs and washing hands to staying home and avoiding hugs and handshakes, we can all do our part to help avert further danger.

This gets me thinking about the information out there. Already there's a lot of fake news doing the rounds, which leads me to lo telekh rakhil b'amekha. The mitzvah refers to not telling tales. Before you repeat anything about COVID-19, make sure it comes from a reputable source. Don't speculate, don't gossip. It creates unnecessary panic.

Finally, I've been contemplating veahavtem et ger – love the stranger. Whether it's the neighbour you don't normally speak to or the small business owner who is struggling with temporary shutdowns and economic cuts, we mustn't become complacent. Check in on your neighbour, go the extra mile for the seniors in our community, support business owners and make a conscious effort to love the stranger. Anything we can do to help relieve the suffering of others will surely reward us all.

Lisa Hack

עוֹלָם חֶסֶד יִבְנֶה

O-lam che-sed yib-ba-neh

(Psalm 89:3 -- Your steadfast love is confirmed forever.)

I will build this world from love...

You must build this world from love...

If we build this world from love...

Then God will build this world from love...

Passover starts at sundown on Wednesday, April 8, 2020. It ends on Thursday evening, April 16. The first seder takes place on April 8. Through stories, songs and a festive meal, we commemorate the Israelite's exodus from Egypt. The central practice of Pesach is a set of dietary changes, mostly the absence of hametz or leaven foods. With Matzah being the main food at Passover, we've put together a few tasty recipes for you to sweeten your 2020 seder.

CARROT KUGEL

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup of matzah cake meal
- ¼ cup of brown sugar
- ½ cup of sugar
- ½ teaspoon of salt
- ½ teaspoon of baking powder
- ½ teaspoon of cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon of baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon of ground ginger
- ¼ teaspoon of cloves
- 2 ¼ cups of grated carrots
- 1 teaspoon of lemon juice
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup canola oil or butter, melted

DIRECTIONS

Set a rack in the center of the oven and preheat to 160 Celcius.

Grease and flour an 8" square baking tin.

Combine all the dry ingredients in a large bowl.

Combine carrots, eggs, lemon juice and oil in a smaller bowl.

Mix the wet ingredients with the dry ingredients, stirring well. There should be no flour lumps.

Place in the oven and bake for 45 minutes. Kugel should spring back when touched.

Serve either warm or at room temperature.

FAMOUS BROWNIES

INGREDIENTS

- 6 eggs
- 2 & 2/3 cups sugar
- 1 & 1/2 cups potato starch
- 3/4 cup cocoa
- 3/4 cup oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup walnuts, coarsely chopped
- 1/2 cup coconut, optional

Chocolate Glaze:

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 Tablespoons oil
- 2 Tablespoons hot water
- 2 Tablespoons cocoa

DIRECTIONS

Preheat
the oven to 350°F / 180 °C.

Place
all the ingredients, except for the nuts and
coconut, into a large bowl. Mix
together until smooth. Add in the nuts and
optional coconut.

Pour
this out into a 9x13 pan that has been lined with
parchment baking paper. Bake
for 25-30 minutes, until a cake tester inserted
into the brownies' center comes
out mostly clean, and the top is light brown and
crispy. Do not overbake as
then it will become too dry. Remove from oven
immediately and allow it to cool
completely.

In
a separate small bowl, mix together the glaze
ingredients with a spoon, until
smooth. Spread over the cooled brownies. Allow
it to set for a few minutes and
then slice.

Freezes wonderfully, even
glazed. If you freeze it when already glazed, slice
them first. When
defrosting, uncover the brownies while frozen so
the glaze will not defrost all
over the foil you covered them with.

Jewish Mother: "Hello?"

Daughter: "Hi Mom. Can I leave the kids with you tonight?"

Jewish Mother: "You're going out?"

Daughter: "Yes."

Jewish Mother: "With whom?"

Daughter: "With a friend."

Jewish Mother: "I don't know why you left your husband. He is such a good man."

Daughter: "I didn't leave him. He left me! "

Jewish Mother: "You let him leave you, and now you go out with anybody and nobodies."

Daughter: "I do not go out with anybody. Can I bring over the kids? "

Jewish Mother: "I never left you to go out with anybody except your father."

Daughter: "There are lots of things that you did, and I don't."

Jewish Mother: "What are you hinting at? "

Daughter: "Nothing, I just want to know if I can bring the kids over tonight."

Jewish Mother: "You're going to stay the night with him? What will your husband say if he finds out?"

Daughter: "My EX husband. I don't think he would be bothered. From the day he left me, he probably never slept alone!"

Jewish Mother: "So you're going to sleep over at this loser's place?"

Daughter: "He's not a loser."

Jewish Mother: "A man who goes out with a divorced woman with children is a loser and a parasite."

Daughter: "I don't want to argue. Should I bring over the kids or not? "

Jewish Mother: "Poor children with such a mother."

Daughter: "Such a what?"

Jewish Mother: "With no stability. No wonder your husband left you."

Daughter: "ENOUGH!!!"

Jewish Mother: "Don't scream at me. You probably scream at this loser too! "

Daughter: "Now you're worried about the loser? "

Jewish Mother: "Ah, so you see he's a loser. I spotted him immediately."

Daughter: "Goodbye, mother."

Jewish Mother: "Wait! Don't hang up! When are you bringing them over?"

Daughter: "I'm not bringing them over! I'm not going out!"

Jewish Mother: "If you never go out, how do you expect to meet anyone?"

What's the Schtick?



Three Jewish mothers are sitting in the park, arguing over whose son loves her the most. The first mother says, "my son sends me flowers every Shabbat." The second mother says, "you call that love? My son calls every day!" "That's nothing," says the third mother. "My son goes to therapy five days a week and all he talks about is me!"

How to Use Zoom

Step 1 (PC) – Head to <https://zoom.us/download>.

Click “Download”

For Android/iOS: download the Zoom app from the Google Play Store/App Store.

Step 2 (PC) – Your browser will start downloading the ZoomInstaller.exe folder. Once it's done, left click on the folder to start installation.

Step 3 (PC) – Click “Run” to complete the installation

Step 4 (PC) – After installing, a pop-up window will appear. If you don't see it, look at the bottom of the screen to see if it's running in the background. You can also find it by clicking Start in the bottom left of your desktop and typing “Zoom.”
Android/iOS: Open the Zoom app by clicking on the icon on your phone or tablet's main screen.

Step 5 – Click on “Join a Meeting.”

Android/iOS: Tap “Join a Meeting” to join without signing in or sign in and then tap “Join.”

Step 6 – Enter the Link name or Meeting ID you will receive from Rabbi Julia. Screen name should be your name.

Select if you want to connect video and/or audio and click “Join.”

Following Shabbat Service

A digital copy of the Mishkan T'filah can be used free of charge, from:

https://www.ccarnet.org/publications/mishkan-tfilah-for-shabbat/?fbclid=IwAR0bl-h94b5BygHvxu2vQhytpmt1APCi5ihw5wTv96DNaDm5a4YIEql0dxE#dfliip-df_9729/23/



If you need assistance, please feel free to contact Lisa: 076 376 5448