

The Norrice Leader



The Aleph Centre

Year 3 pupils enjoyed their Chaggigat Siddur where they put on a musical presentation and received their very own siddur (more on page 38)

Shabbat & Shavuot enjoyed by Youth

Yael and Ethan report

We have had an amazing and very busy couple of months at the Youth Services! We have had loads of Bar/Bat Mitzvah's, sponsored kiddushim, early morning breakfasts, Shabbat lunches, Friday night Oneg's, Seuda Shlishits, guest speakers, debates, themed kiddushim, Heroes of Youth raffle, Heroes of Israel, learn2daven and shiurim with Ethan, not forgetting our weekly girls' CHAT with Yael! During the long Summer Shabbat afternoons, we came together for a couple of hours for games, sports and picnics in the park. We ended off the year with a delicious and messy sushi-making seuda shlishit that saw 50 youth come together to cut, roll, squish and eat their own custom made sushi. We can't wait to take the Youth Service to the next level in the year to come!

Shavuot at Youth was a highlight of our year! Never did we anticipate over 50 youth staying up to learn, socialise and daven until 3.30am! Our night began with a delicious milky seuda shlishit, followed by our famous youth TED talks given by: Sam Wolfson, Benjy Ezra, Juliette Taub, Leora Franks, Sigalia Kastner and Ariana Phillips. After this Rabbi Sudak spoke on the power of the oral law, followed by a thought-provoking game of life by Yael and Ethan on "Values". Who doesn't remember the incredible BBQ that followed and, of course, Ethan's controversial talk on veganism...this was a night not to forget!

New Year New Look

We hope that you will enjoy this new format **Norrice Leader** and that you find plenty to interest you. As usual, we have tried to include a mixture of communal events and things to come as well as the interesting projects in which our members are involved – and there is plenty of that this time.

Rabbi and Rabbanit Friedman have been in correspondence with the Prime Minister (p5). Rabbi Guttentag has been on the road, visiting Lincoln (with Charles Landau (p17) and to Coventry, witnessing the plight of refugees (p34). We introduce our new Synagogue Council and Honorary Officers as well as our Chatanim for the forthcoming festival. Yoav Levinson's account of his drafting into the Israeli army is not to be missed (p12). Winston Newman tells of his involvement with the chronicling of wartime intelligence gathering (p24), John Martin tells of life of creativity (p30) and much, much more.

After Yom Tov, we will begin assembling material for the winter edition. Please do get in touch with your news, photographs and suggestions – send to hilaryrhalter34@gmail.com.

Hilary R Halter, *Editor*

שנה טובה

Rabbi & Rabbanit Friedman,
Rabbi & Rebbetzen Guttentag,
Chazan Avromi & Rochelle Freilich,
with the Professional Staff
and Honorary Officers
wish all members and their families

A HAPPY NEW YEAR





**INDEPENDENCE.
DIGNITY. CHOICE.**

“This is the best thing in the world for Ros! She could not be happier. She has made a home for herself!”

Ros's sister, Stacy.

Ros has been living in a Jewish Blind & Disabled apartment for over three years.

WELCOMED

To make a donation or to apply for an apartment visit www.jbd.org or call **020 8371 6611**

Registered Charity No. 259480



A message from The Chief Rabbi

Rosh Hashanah 5780/2019

On 23 June 2019, something extraordinary happened in Turkey; something which provides an insight into how each of us might successfully navigate a society which feels more divided and despondent than it has for many years.

Increasingly, when faced with a major problem, public figures discover that they find acclaim by apportioning blame. Immediate, oversimplified solutions are promised and their impassioned rhetoric alone can be enough to generate widespread public support. Over time, those holding an opposing view feel compelled to resort to many of the same tactics in order to be heard and society becomes polarised. Those who might be cast as an obstacle to the success of one side or another are scapegoated. Before long, people become defined by their perceived ‘allegiances’ and a destructive culture of demonisation of ‘the other’ sets in.

Today, we call this populism. Its impact is felt across the globe, from here in the UK, right across Europe, the United States and even in Israel. These are times of disharmony, which many of us never believed we would see.

Mr Bassoy had observed how actor, Robert De Niro, had publicly insulted President Donald Trump at a high profile awards ceremony the previous year. His expletive-ridden remarks were greeted by a standing ovation, but they also served to motivate and embolden the President’s supporters.

Not surprisingly, anger generated yet more anger. Mr Bassoy concluded that a more effective strategy would be one of what he called ‘radical love’ – to meet aggression with peace, insults with praise and hatred with love. To most, it sounded like a naïve – if honourable – approach, but he was provided with an opportunity to prove it could work when he became the campaign manager for a virtually unknown district mayor, Ekrem Imamoglu. Mr Imamoglu was to stand for Mayor of Istanbul against the might of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s powerful party regime. Bassoy described his campaign strategy as having two simple rules: Ignore Erdogan and love those who love Erdogan.

Citizens in every country are prompted to make a choice: Will we do the easy thing? Will we sit back and allow ourselves to be swept up by the dangerous currents of hostility to ‘the other’? Or, can we find a port somewhere in the storm where we can remain considered and temperate; where we can be discerning about truth and justice within our fragile world?

The signs thus far have been less than encouraging, but earlier this year a Turkish man, Ates Ilyas Bassoy, provided a flicker of light in the darkness.

Few people believed that his candidate stood any chance. After all, Istanbul had long been a stronghold of

the ruling AKP party and President Erdogan had a large base of support in the Turkish capital. Astonishingly, on 23 June this year, against all the odds, Ekrem Imamoglu was elected mayor of Istanbul, striking a blow for civility, selflessness and decency.

The lesson of this most unlikely political earthquake is that the port in the storm is not in fact beyond our reach, nor is it something that we must wait for others to provide. On the contrary, the answer is and has always been right under our noses.

Our societies can take a lesson from our Torah tradition: *דרכיה דרכי נעם וכל נתיבותיה שלום* – “The Torah’s ways are pleasant and all its paths are peace.” (Proverbs 3:17)

It is within our power to break free from the cycle of polarisation. It begins by modelling what Rav Kook, the first Chief Rabbi of the Holy Land, referred to as ‘*Ahavat Chinam*’ – causeless love: making time to give of ourselves to others with no expectation of reward or reciprocity.

Our Sages taught: We become truly wise by learning from every person. We become truly mighty by conquering our own negative inclinations. We become truly honourable by honouring others and we become truly heroic by turning enemies into friends.

A highlight of our Yom Kippur services is the repetitive chanting of the 13 attributes of Hashem’s mercy. The Talmud explains that we do so in order to inspire us to emulate the ways of the Almighty: just as He is merciful, so too should we be merciful; just as He is kind, so too should we be kind. (Shabbat 133b).

Over the High Holy Day period, when we lower our heads for viduy (confession), we will admit to the sins of sneering, impertinence and obduracy; of disrespect, hard-heartedness and insincerity; of deception, tale-bearing and baseless hatred. Are these not among the most transgressed sins of the social media generation? In these times, when decency is no longer the norm and humility is mistaken for weakness, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur inspire us to buck the trend and to change ourselves so deeply that those around us cannot fail to be influenced by it. This is how the seeds for real global change are sown.

Valerie and I extend our heartfelt wishes to you all for a happy, peaceful and fulfilling New Year.



SuburbLink be part of it



The SuburbLink – for 20-30 year-olds – organises regular volunteering at a homeless shelter and with asylum seekers. There are also social events, learning sessions and prayer services.

There is something for everyone and we look forward to welcoming you!

For further information and to get involved:
 Rabbi Guttentag – rabbi.guttentag@hgss.org.uk
 Jo Summerfield – joanne_summerfield@yahoo.com

In the picture: Members of SuburbLink arrive at West Hampstead homeless centre where they regularly prepare and serve three-course vegetarian meals.

BAT Madrichim Training

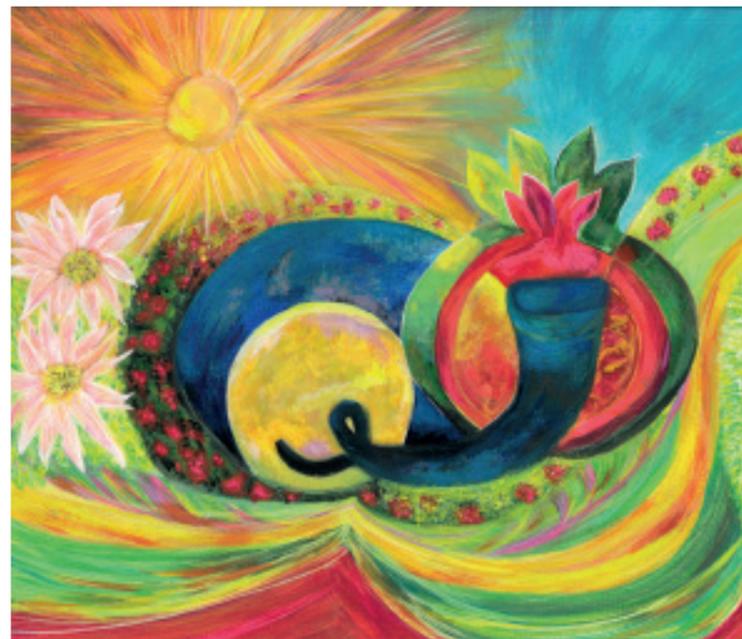
Our Years 10 and 11 Youth took to a rigorous round of BAT madrich interviews facilitated by our new Youth Roshim and Sganim.

Twenty-five amazing and dedicated madrichim have been selected to lead our Youth and BAT Programme for the year ahead. They participated in an afternoon of Hadracha training, delving into what it means to be a madrich, how we define leadership today, how to put a BAT programme together and more. We look forward to going away for an incredible Hadracha Training Shabbaton in September. Here, we aim to take a deeper dive into informal education, learning about role models, how to lead and how to ensure we take BAT to the next level!



Youth Film Fest

We launched a new programme this year called "Youth Film Fest" where we screened films exclusively for our youth! Our youth came together once a month to watch and debate an array of films and documentaries that were both enlightening and thought provoking. Coupled with dinner and fiery conversation this was a great programme that we look forward to relaunching next year.



How does Chai care?

"Cancer made us voiceless, isolated and scared.

The workshop gave us the confidence to be creative and express things that are hard to put into words.

It's inclusive and enriching, a cocoon of safety, harmony, light and joy in our world."

The Chai Art Workshop Group
(artist Shoshana Manning)

שנה טובה ומתוקה

For more information on our 58 specialised services from 11 locations across the UK and through our Home Support Service, please call our Freephone helpline on **0808 808 4567** or visit www.chaicancercare.org

Chai Lifeline Cancer Care Registered Charity No. 1078956


 chai cancer care
 together we can cope

We are living in uncertain times say Rabbi & Rabbanit Friedman



*Shalom aleichem
Norric Lea family*

Our prayers on the upcoming Days of Awe will be more important than ever. We are living in uncertain times. The Queen has recently installed a new prime minister. And yet,

in a matter of weeks, who can say for certain who our prime minister will be? For that matter, it's unclear which continent we will be a part of and what the nature of that relationship will be.

We received the letter below in response to our note of congratulations to current prime minister, Boris Johnson. In our correspondence, we explained the meaning of his given names, Alexander Boris, and their special connection with our people. The name Boris has its roots in the Hebrew word for covenant. The name Alexander is curiously used as a Jewish name. How did that happen?

When Alexander the Great arrived at Jerusalem ready to conquer the city, Shimon Hatzadik, the High Priest, came out to greet him. When Alexander saw him, he suddenly dismounted from his horse and prostrated himself before Shimon. He then explained his strange behaviour to the shocked onlookers: Every night before he would go out to battle, an old man would appear to him in his dreams and give him a blessing for success. That man was none other than Shimon Hatzadik.

Alexander then promised to leave Jerusalem under Jewish rule. As a token of appreciation, Shimon vowed that all baby boys born that year would be named Alexander. As you can well imagine, each of those children eventually had grandchildren who were named after them, and so on and so forth through the generations. If you have an Alexander in your family, chances are your lineage goes all the way back to that original Alexander year!

In our letter to the prime minister, we wrote: "Your name, 'Alexander,' was popularised in the days of Alexander the Great. He too was a great friend of the Jewish people; as a result, we adopted the name as a Hebrew name, given to Jewish boys until the present day. May the Almighty bless you with the incredible success of your namesake, and may you achieve even greater success by combining Alexander's acumen with the grace, compassion, and good humour you are famous for."

Sadly, Alexander the Great's successor, Antiochus, was not as kind to the Jewish people and instituted a number of antisemitic decrees. Those were difficult years for our people. Thank G-d, however, they were short-lived. Matisyahu and

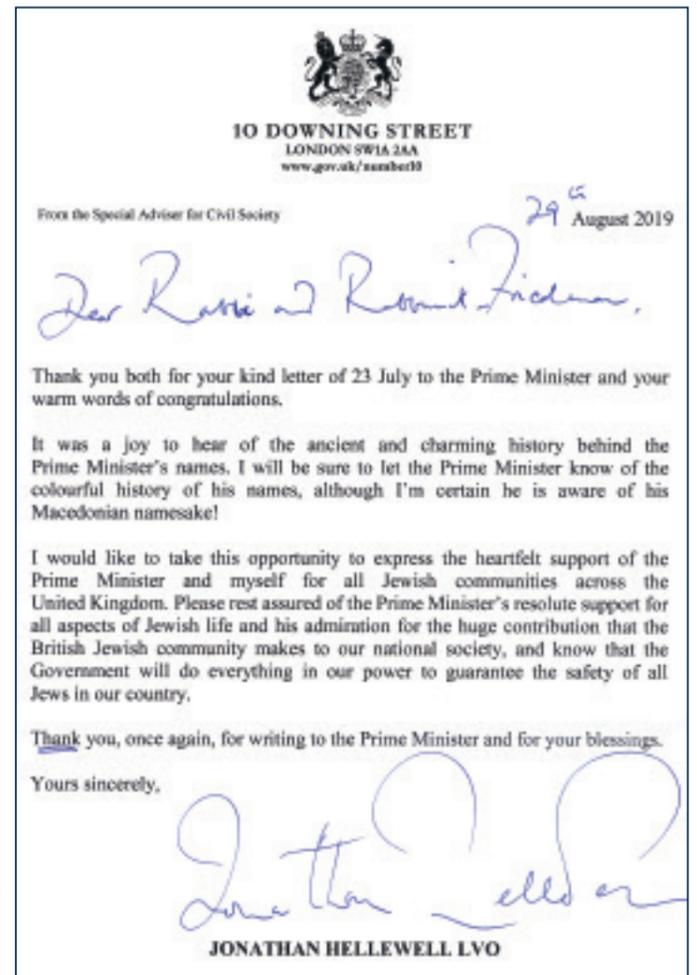
his sons rose up to the lead the people, and the miracle of Chanukah happened. While Heaven sends good times and difficult times to our people, He always shows us the light at the end of the Menorah.

Over the last number of years, we, as a Jewish community, have been blessed with a period of spiritual and material prosperity unparalleled in our history. As the above story demonstrates, we must always be grateful for Heaven's bounty and never take our blessings for granted. Our blessing for 5780 is that the Almighty continue to shine His countenance upon us, both as individuals and as a community, and that we continue to enjoy His revealed abundant blessing for many, many years to come.

With blessings to each and every one of you for a healthy, happy and sweet new year.

*Shana tova,
Rabbi & Rabbanit Friedman*

w





Jan, with her dad Monty, who is living with dementia

“I’LL NEVER FORGET THE DAY I RANG. THAT ONE CALL CHANGED MY DAD’S WHOLE LIFE. AND MINE.”

Charity Reg No. 802559

Our Helpline receives 15,000 enquiries every year. The expert staff and volunteers are there to support everyone who calls on us for help. But our Helpline receives no government funding. We depend entirely on voluntary support to keep it running. For people like Jan and Monty, it’s an absolute lifeline. This Rosh Hashanah, please help make sure it stays that way.

To make your gift, please call 020 8922 2600 now or visit jewishcare.org/donate

#PeopleOfJewishCare

JEWISH CARE

From the Chair



Over the past few months, the new team of Honorary Officers (see profiles on p10) have been working closely with the Rabbinic and Professional teams to develop key priorities for the coming year. As a modern orthodox community, we are continually looking to see how we can strengthen our core values of Living, Learning and Caring. We want to ensure that everything we do as a community enriches the lives of our members and that we are able to support them throughout key life events.

I would therefore like to use this opportunity to share with you some of the areas where we have already begun and will continue to focus our efforts over the coming months.

First, we want to ensure a continuing strong and co-ordinated range of activities for our **Children and Youth** – with almost 1000 children, this group represents a third of our membership. As a community, we have the responsibility and opportunity to educate and instil a love of Judaism into future generations. We will continue to build on the success of our excellent Aleph Centre, Children’s Services, Bnei Mitzvah programme and Youth provision, to ensure that the younger generation growing up at HGSS have a strong connection to their Judaism and their community.

Second, we will continue to provide a mix of **Adult Education** and associated activities that engage members from across our community, regardless of their level of knowledge or observance. Over the past 12 months, under the leadership of Rabbi and Rabbanit Friedman, we have seen an increase in many of our daily, weekly and monthly learning programmes, with

engagement from members across the community. In addition, we are excited to announce our new Scholars-in-Residence programme where world-leading speakers will be visiting our community each month.

Finally, we will continue to enhance the range of **Religious Services** to meet the diverse needs of our members. Whilst the main service, led by Chazan Avromi, is the backbone, our Hashkama, Sephardi and Mensch services are all key elements of a thriving and dynamic community. Whilst embracing the need for a range of services, we will also continue to run cross-communal events, such as Kehilla Shabbatot, to provide opportunities for us to come together.

There are, of course, many other areas of activity – the **Nefesh Network, SuburbLink** and **Seniors**, to name but a few – that we will continue to support and develop to ensure that the needs of all our members are met.

The opening verses of Parshat Nitzavim, which we read on the Shabbat before Rosh Hashanah, state “*You are standing together today, all of you....to enter into the covenant*”. As we prepare for the Day of Judgment, the pasuk is alluding to the key to our success – that we must be united as a people.

As we enter the covenant and pledge our individual commitment to our Jewish values, we also take responsibility for one another. Each one of us is able to contribute, uniquely, to the unified whole of our people, and it is the strength of our unity that will redeem us.

So, whilst the High Holy Days provide an opportunity for us to reflect on our own lives, they also provide an opportunity for us to think about our relationship with those around us and renew our commitment to our community.

Shana Tova u’Metukah
Neil Levinson

HGSS YELADIM

Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur 10.30 am - 12.30 pm
Kol Nidre 6.15 - 8.15 pm (Years 4, 5 and 6 only)

- Infants, Toddlers & Nursery...Marquee in back playground
- ReceptionMarquee in garden at 8 Norrice Lea
- Year 1Marquee by back playground gate
- Year 2Marquee at side of Shul entrance
- Year 3Beit Midrash
- Year 4Room 14, second floor
- Year 5Room 13, second floor
- Year 6Room 10, second floor

Weekly Shabbat Services

- Suburb Bubbas (Pre-Rec) 11.15 - 11.45am
- Garden Gan (Rec & Y1) 11.15 - 11.45am
- Hampstead Hares (Yrs 2 & 3) 11.00 - 11.45am
- Norrice Noshers (Yrs 4 & 5) 11.00 - 11.45am
- Lea Leaders (Y6 only) 11.00 -11.45 am

We look forward to seeing your children at the services.

With best wishes for a sweet, healthy and happy New Year.

Anthony Rosen

Our Chatanim

Chatan Torah – Joel Greenwood



Having recently completed five years as Warden at HGSS, I can now reflect on how much this, and my lifelong association with HGSS, has meant to me. I am truly honoured to be a Chatan this year and in doing so, I am following in a family tradition. My father, Jeffrey Greenwood was Chatan Bereishit in 1982 (with Bernard Taub) and my late great uncle, Ruby Grodzinski, was Chatan Torah in 1955. My parents are still members of HGSS although they are now regulars at Shomrei Hadass in Hampstead.

I grew up in the Suburb, attending both Kerem House and Kerem School. However, my formative Shul years were spent at that other, then well known Suburb institution, Rabbi Wilchansky's Shtiebl in Bishops Avenue. Rabbi Jackson officiated at my Bar Mitzvah which took place not at the Shul but in Yemin Moshe – that lovely neighbourhood overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem. There was, however, rather an awkward hitch in the proceedings. The regular Ba'al Koreh, an elderly chasid named Reb Shmuel, insisted that it was he who leined every week and, come what may, he would not stand aside. In the end, a table was taken outside and there, in the street, I leined my Bar Mitzvah parsha. As Rabbi Jackson said afterwards, this was the meaning of the pasuk "Od yishama b'ari yehuda u'vechutzot yerushalayim!". I hope that the same thing doesn't happen again on Simchat Torah!

I was active in B'nei Akiva, where I first met Shosh at Summer Camp – we were both 12 years old at the time. After University College School, I spent a year at Yeshivat Hamivtar ("Brovenders") in Efrat. I then studied Electronic and Engineering at UCL but, ultimately, my career has been in finance. Shosh and I started going out in our first year at university where she was studying medicine and she is now a GP.

We married in 1993 and have four children. Yona (22) is studying Maths at Birmingham University. She has spent the third year of her course studying in Israel at IDC in Herzliya. Amalya (20) has just completed the first year of her English Literature course, also at Birmingham. Boaz (17) is in the Lower Sixth at JFS while Ashira (12) has just completed her first year also at JFS. They have all been very much involved in Youth Services and activities at the Shul. In a happy coincidence, this Yom Tov, Boaz, together with Raphael Kastner, will be the Chatanim for the youth, having both served as Gabbaim at the Youth Services for the last two years.

It is a great joy to Shosh and I that we are sharing this honour with our close friends Robbie and Sara. Robbie has been a fantastic partner over the last few years. We never could agree on who was the senior warden but luckily for me, as a Yekeer, he was always in shul a few minutes early, compensating for my always being a few minutes late!

Chatan Bereishit – Robert Kastner



Sara and I are thrilled that I have the honour to be Chatan Bereishit this year, particularly as it is shared with the Greenwoods with whom we have been close friends for many wonderful years. It is, in fact, a double simcha as our two boys, Boaz and Raphael, who have been friends since their first year at Kerem House, are Chatanim for the youth this year.

Born in Edinburgh, but brought up in Vienna, I attended Carmel College, to get a proper Jewish education and I am proud to follow in the footsteps of my forebears – some of the greatest rabbis and community leaders from the Maharal of Prague to The Chatam Sofer and the Executive Head of the pre-War Vienna community and, more recently, my parents and grandparents who were role models to our entire family.

I graduated from the University of Buckingham with a law degree and then went on to qualify both as a solicitor and an attorney-at-law. My speciality is insurance and I am privileged to have a job I love which is intellectually stimulating, cutting edge and fun.

Sara, had a career in International Pharmaceutical Public Relations before focusing her energies on the much harder role of raising our children. Sara has held many posts in various charitable committees, most recently being first chair of Nancy Rubin Primary School PTA and then as Admissions Governor for several years.

We have been members of HGSS since in 2002. Sara has been a true Suburb/HGSS family for generations with her father and all his cousins living in the area. Her great uncle was none other than Max Weinbaum! We are blessed with four amazing children – Raphael, Jonah, Sigalia and Amalya – not forgetting our Cockapoo, Max.

Since joining HGSS, I have tried to play an active role in the community. In the early days, I took the Group 1 children's services, graduating to the Group 2. Later, Joel and I took on our first joint role taking the Group 4 services together. I have also blown the Shofar for the main Shul for some years and hope that I am now a permanent fixture in this slot, following in the footsteps of my father and grandfather who both blew the shofar for their respective communities.

However, my true community calling came six years ago when I was offered the opportunity, with Joel, to become wardens. This was the chance to serve the community in a role which was, and is, truly central to the running of the shul and then in a wider capacity as an Honorary Officer. Being involved in the running of any community is always interesting, but the challenge of being part of the team which runs the incredibly diverse and vibrant community that is HGSS was an opportunity not to be missed.

The five years I spent as Honorary Officer and Warden have been immensely rewarding, both spiritually and personally. My key reason for taking the position was to set an example to my children and, hopefully, the younger generation. The only way communities survive and thrive is if everyone stands up to be counted. I hope I lived up to that ambition.

Chochmat Lev

Honoured this year . . .

Flo Kaufmann

"For being a trail blazer. For your dedication and commitment to the Jewish community... far and wide. For giving so much of your time, effort and enthusiasm for the benefit of so many."



Flo has been a real trailblazer, taking on significant roles in the community, long before it was easy for women to do this.

For 12 years she was Treasurer and Vice-President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. During her many years of service, she travelled widely and had meetings with many world leaders, among them Vladimir Putin (at The Kremlin), Nelson Mandela and Pope Benedict (at the Shul in Rome) and many others. She visited Jordan and Morocco as the guest of King Mohammed.

Flo was a Vice-President of the World Jewish Congress and also served as Chairman and Vice-President of the European Jewish Congress for a number of years. At present she is Co-Chairman of the Political Council of the European Jewish Congress. She has also been a trustee for numerous organisations including All Aboard Shops and the Agudas Israel Housing Association. Beyond the community, she been involved for many years in the Magistracy. She served as treasurer for six years, and the Rotary Club of London where she recently served as President.

Flo and Aubrey have been members of HGSS since 1971 after their wedding. They would probably have got married here except that Aubrey's father, Isaak Kaufmann, had lain the foundation stone of St. John's Wood shul, so they married there. Their sons, Andy and James grew up here and they and their families continue to be active members of the Shul. We often have the pleasure of hearing Andy's leining on a Shabbat and James, of course, is now a Vice-Chairman.

Rochelle Freilich

"For twenty-five years of genuine dedication to our community. Supporting, inspiring and caring for so many people and touching their hearts. 'Her worth is far beyond pearls'"



Rochelle grew up in Golders Green, the eldest of four children. After school, she attended seminary after which she married

Avromi who took up the post of chazan at HGSS very soon after their wedding. The rest is history. In the early years, with a young family and no eruv, it was very difficult for her to get to Shul but, as the family has grown up, in addition to supporting Avromi, Rochelle has become more involved communally, albeit in a quiet, modest way.

She spends many hours supporting, counselling and advising community members. Her kind and good natured demeanour make her the perfect listening ear to the many that seek her guidance. All done so very quietly and discreetly – Rochelle will always make the time.

Other areas which give her much joy are working with Bat Mitzvah girls and brides-to-be, teaching them about the beauty of marriage and how to create a harmonious Jewish home. She also leads the Women's Tehillim Shiur Group.

Recently, with her passion for promoting mental wellbeing, she has undertaken a study in Integrative Humanistic Counselling. She is a Susie Bradfield graduate have completed a course on Innate Health which is the study of mental wellness versus mental illness. She says, "I am passionate about promoting mental health". She has recently been appointed Community Counsellor.

As a community, we have had the joy of watching her family grow and celebrating with them – may this lovely relationship continue.

Sara Franks

"For your commitment and enthusiasm. Working to support and inspire many, especially our youth and young people. Ensuring they continue to have a connection with HGSS and Judaism."



Sara and her husband, Adam, moved to the Suburb 18 years ago. They have three daughters, Jodie, Eliana and Liora who all attended the North-West London Jewish Day School.

A chartered accountant by profession, she wanted to take her skills into the community and, for the past 12 years has been working for the FZY and Bnei Akiva. In addition, she was, for 12 years, treasurer of North-West. However, this she relinquished when, four years ago, she joined the HGSS Board of Management with responsibility for Youth. Her main function is to mentor our Youth Leaders. For five years she oversaw the Children's Services, ensuring that there was always someone there to keep the children engaged and entertained.

Via the Nefesh Network, she regularly provides meals and company for more isolated members of our community and also serves on the Kiddush rota.

Sara's commitment to the young in the wider Jewish community stretches to volunteering for Norwood in the Buckets and Spades Nursery where, for one morning a week, she cares for an autistic boy. Of all the things she does, this, she says, is her greatest pleasure.

As Carolyn said, on making the presentation, "Sara is someone you ask when you want to get something done quietly and without fuss."

Introducing our new Honorary Officers

Neil Levinson Chair



Abi and I have been members of HGSS for over 17 years. Throughout this time we have been actively involved in communal life. Our four children, Yoav, Gabi, Eli and Mimi, grew up in the Suburb and have all benefited from the various programmes in which they participated over the years. They have also been involved in communal activities, serving as madrichim at BAT, teachers at ALC and working at Camp Kochavim. Over the years, I have held various positions within the community. I have served on the Board of Management, been Vice Chairman and I led the community's strategic review. In my professional life I work with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, supporting their commercial strategy and the launch of new products. I am also, currently, an honorary lecturer at UCL. Together with my fellow Honorary Officers I want to ensure our community is inclusive, forward looking and facilitating the needs of all our members.

Dana Brass Vice Chair



Adrian and I have been members of HGSS for over a decade and I'm so grateful to have been elected to this pioneering and exciting role.

Women represent more than half our membership and are therefore at the heart of everything that happens at our shul. I look forward to meeting many of you and building on the wonderful traditions we have at HGSS to help create an inviting environment in which all of us can feel inspired, uplifted and welcome in shul.

A little about me – I was born in Israel, to parents who had fled Soviet Russia, and have lived in London since I was three. Adrian and I moved to the Suburb in 2002, having spent the three months after getting married learning and working in Israel. We have three (usually) delightful children aged 13, 10 and 9. My working background is in strategic consultancy within the corporate

world. I then founded Just Journalism, a non-profit think tank monitoring coverage of Israel in the media.

I am still a full-time mum but also consult for charities and non-profits. Being able to contribute to the shul in which we as a family are deeply emotionally invested, is a huge privilege.

James Kaufmann Vice Chair



I have lived in the Suburb and been part of this Shul all my life. I was Bar Mitzvah with Rabbi Jackson and Karina and I were married by Rabbi Livingstone. When

I was a child, HGSS was much more service-centred. I have watched as the community has grown and, with it, the level of activity, as well as the variety of services on offer and the proliferation of educational opportunities, social events and youth activities. There is always something happening at Norrice Lea. There is a wealth of opportunity – an exciting time to get involved and be part of the team.

My wife, Karina, (Ed: see p33) also grew up in the Suburb – her family have lived here for several generations. She revived the Shul Brownies which had been part of her life when she was young but which had closed due to lack of local support to help run it. Our daughters – Isla, Aurora, Vesper and Mina – are also much involved in Brownies and other youth activities.

I look forward to the challenge of serving as Vice-Chair and, now that you know what I look like – see above – I hope that you will stop me for a chat.

David Yamin Joseph Warden



Born in Milan to parents from the two oldest diasporas (Baghdad and Rome), I am neither Sephardi nor Ashkenazi which has given me the opportunity to appreciate the best of both worlds whilst strictly maintaining the

middle-of-the-road approach for which Italian Judaism is famous. With my family, I left Italy for London aged 12, a few months before my Bar Mitzvah.

We had a wonderful reception at Norrice Lea (a very different place then) where we have been members for the best part of 42 years. The late Moshe Dover ז"ל inspired me to take up leining which I do from time to time, much to the chagrin of those who have to listen to me I am sure – but it's only occasional so they don't complain.*

I married Michele at Norrice Lea (Rabbi Jackson and Reverend E Freilich officiating) and we have four children, one granddaughter and another grandchild on the way. I recently took up the position of Warden out of a deep love for our Shul, its community and its heritage. I want to give something back after so many years of being a net beneficiary of this wonderful and unparalleled institution. Since taking up the role I have simply spent most of the time being in awe of the amazing work of all the various volunteers in so many areas. I would like to pay tribute to them all, but they are too many to mention.

***Editor's Note:** Don't believe it. David leans beautifully and we all enjoy it.

David Galaun Warden



I have been a member of HGSS since 2006 and served on the Board in 2018/2019, helping out our previous Wardens, Joel and Robbie whenever they needed a hand. This ultimately led to them tapping me up to take over! My main responsibility now, as Warden, is ensuring the smooth running of our services and engaging with families who are celebrating their s'machot in our kehillah.

I want to ensure that we continue to make HGSS more welcoming for all ages and levels of religious observance, while recognising the shul's history and traditions. I live with my wife Deborah

and our Australian Labradoodle Poppy and, by day, I work as a Patent Attorney for a large US technology company.

Robert Shaw Financial Representative



In many ways I only ever wanted to live in two places: Israel and Hampstead Garden Suburb. Norrice Lea is perhaps the closest I'll get to being in those two places at once. Steph and I chose to live here after we got married nearly 20 years ago. Having attended Stanmore Synagogue in my teens, my immediate instinct was to choose a similarly large community. I had visited Norrice Lea from time to time while growing up and always enjoyed coming, knowing that my grandparents had once been active members. For the first few years here I sat with my Uncle Richard on Shabbat mornings before he and his wife Sue moved to St John's Wood. However, we soon met other new members, some of whom are now our closest friends.

Our three children all attended the

Alph Learning Centre and experienced, first hand, the transformation brought about by Chayli and her team. Our twin daughters, Talia and Aimee, celebrated their Bat Mitzvah here, reading from Megillat Ruth. They are now active in different Jewish youth movements and have just come back from Israel Tour. Our son, Matthew, is learning for his Bar Mitzvah next year under the steady guidance of Chazan Avromi.

Like many in the community, I loved taking the children's services when our kids were young. Neil (Levinson) and I enjoyed working together on a community review a decade ago and, when I knew he was standing for Chair, I put my name forward for the role of Financial Representative. By profession, I'm a management accountant and I felt my skills could best be put to use in that department, making sure we can live within our means whilst delivering the facilities and programmes our community deserves. I feel fortunate to have inherited an excellent financial position, nurtured by my illustrious predecessors in this role, to whom we all I think can be very grateful. I look forward to continuing their good work as best I am able, supporting our rabbinical team, professionals and volunteers over the coming two years.

Youth Roshim and Sganim

Yael and Ethan welcome to the new leadership of Youth for the coming year

Our Roshim and Sganim will be leading our talented team of madrichim to ensure all areas of Youth, as well as our Shabbat afternoon BAT programme, are lead and run as well as possible.

Raphael Kastner – Rosh, Youth Service
Josh Graham – Sgan

Boaz Greenwood – Rosh, Madrich Development

Gabriel Kagan – Sgan

James Levy – Rosh, BAT
Milli Isaacs – Sgan

Avi Miller – Rosh, Lighthouse
Anoushka Reeback – Sgan

Ariana Philips – Rosh Events
Josh Miller – Sgan

Emily Sinclair – Rosh Project, Impact
Ben Goldstein – Sgan

We are looking forward to an amazing year ahead!

Scholars in Residence – exciting things to come

Shabbat, 28 September Sivan Rahav-Meir

Sivan Rahav-Meir is a media personality and lecturer. Married to Yedidya, the mother of five lives in Jerusalem and works for Israel TV news, writes a column for *Yediot Aharonot* newspaper, and hosts a weekly radio show on *Galei Zahal* (Army Radio). Sivan lectures in Israel and overseas about the media, Judaism, Zionism and new media. She was voted by *Globes* newspaper as most popular female media personality in Israel and by the *Jerusalem Post* as one of the 50 most influential Jews in the world.



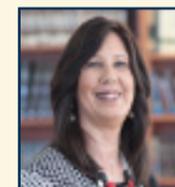
Kol Nidre, 8 October Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis

It is always a pleasure to welcome The Chief Rabbi and, once again, he joins us on this very special evening. Chief Rabbi Mirvis, only the 11th Chief Rabbi since the office was introduced in 1704, was installed on 1 September 2013 in an historic ceremony attended by HRH The Prince of Wales. This was the first time that a member of the Royal Family has attended a service for the Installation of a Chief Rabbi.



22-23 November Rabbanit Dr Nomi Shachor

Rabbanit Dr Shachor, who earned her PhD in Modern Judaism at Bar Ilan University, brings a new and refreshing interpretation of Tanach themes with an emphasis on educational and historical perspectives. She is a frequent contributor to the religious media on Jewish history, women's issues, and the Torah portion. Among her research topics are Jewish women in history, religious Zionist women, and religious feminism.



December 13/14th Rabbi Dr Natan Slifkin

Rabbi Dr Slifkin, founder/director of *The Biblical Museum of Natural History*, has had a lifelong fascination with the animal kingdom, has kept many exotic creatures and published numerous books relating to Judaism and the natural sciences. He runs educational programmes at zoos and natural history museums worldwide. He also leads African safaris, and was featured on Animal Planet's documentary *Beasts of the Bible*. His work has been featured in *The New York Times* and numerous magazines, television and radio shows.



A lone soldier in the IDF

Yoav Levinson, son of Abi and Neil, thanks his family for allowing him to fulfil a dream

A lone soldier is someone who either doesn't have a relationship with their parents or whose parents do not live in Israel. Usually this refers to an Oleh Chadash, and I fall into the second category.

In August 2018, after finishing a gap year in an Israeli pre-army programme, I decided to make Aliyah and enlist in the IDF. It was a long process making the decision and a frustrating one getting my draft date. However, as of March 2019, I am officially a soldier in the Nachal Brigade of the IDF.

As I mentioned, I am a lone soldier. But what does that mean and how does this make me different from the rest of the soldiers in my platoon?

The main difference is that when I go home for the weekend my mum isn't there to do my laundry or give me a hot home-cooked meal, and Dad isn't there to pick me up from the bus station with all my bags. More critically, they aren't there to sit down with me on a Friday night and for me to tell them the stories of the different experiences and challenges I have faced on base over the past few weeks. As I didn't grow up with the knowledge that, one day, I would draft into the IDF and, because I am the first in my family to do so, it is also difficult for my parents to understand what it is I am doing, week in and week out, on a base in the middle of the desert.

However, the army does a fantastic job of caring for us. The army ensures that all lone soldiers are home by midday on a Friday so that they have enough time to prepare for Shabbat and organise anything they may need to do before heading back to base early on Sunday morning. We are given one day a month to leave base and deal with any personal matters and, even if we don't need this extra day, it is mandated to take the day off which means we sometimes get a slightly longer weekend.

The IDF are very sensitive to the fact that we do not see our families on a regular basis and therefore go to extra



Yoav with sister Mimi and brother Eli



Yoav receiving his officer's shoulder tag (*tagei katef*), which he in turn received from his officer – it is a tradition that officers select one soldier in their unit to whom they pass down their shoulder tag. It is a great honour to be selected and is a sign that the officer holds the individual in high regard.

efforts to help accommodate any precious family time. We are given 30 days a year to come home and we are entitled to additional days of leave when immediate family are visiting Israel.

A huge amount of support also comes from external organisations such as the Lone Soldier Center. They provide pre and post draft support, offering advice on the best and most appropriate places to go in the army. They provide housing, meals and any other help one might need. Critically, they have created a community of lone soldiers, bringing us together and creating a network to help us feel less alone and part of something much bigger.

Israeli society is also hugely grateful to the soldiers that come from abroad and volunteer. The surrounding community delivers home-cooked Shabbat meals to our accommodation on a weekly basis and regularly invites us into their homes for meals. Before the chagim, we often receive care packages to help make our army service that bit easier and more comfortable.

On a personal note, and I know this is the same for many of my friends who are also lone soldiers, we couldn't get through what we do without the support of our families back home. Although we are physically separated, knowing that I have the support and blessing of my family is so important. For my parents, grandparents and siblings to support my decision to join the IDF, allowing me to fulfil a lifelong dream, is without doubt one of the most important things I could ask for. It provides me with the motivation to help push myself through the difficult times.

However, just as our parents cannot understand what we are going through, we cannot understand what it is like for them and what we are putting our families through. Leaving them isolated from their children, not knowing where they are and what they are doing, in an environment where other people can't relate or understand what it means to have a son in the army.

We miss each other, but the short breaks the army allows make up for time missed. I must send infinite love and thanks to my Mum and Dad and all my family for allowing me to enlist and complete something that is so important to me.

The United Synagogue 150 not out by Elkan Levy President of the United Synagogue from 1996 to 1999

The United Synagogue (US) was formed in 1870 by the union of three major Ashkenazi synagogues in the City of London (The Great, The Hambro' and The New), and two branch synagogues (the Central and Bayswater). The vision of Lionel Louis Cohen and Chief Rabbi Nathan Marcus Adler was to unify and strengthen London Jewry. The Jewish United Synagogues Act of 1870 was the result. The US is still the only Jewish religious body established by an act of secular legislature.

The organisation grew rapidly, and expanded to the suburbs as the community moved. The appointment of Rabbi J H Hertz as Chief Rabbi in 1913, and the outbreak of the First World War, produced both support and opposition for the emerging Zionist movement. Chaplaincy for the Armed Forces largely came from the Ministers of the United Synagogue. The development of suburbia in the interwar period led to the growth of many important communities and membership of the US was perceived as a step in the acculturation of those whose parents and grandparents had been part of the great immigration from Russia.

The Second World War brought renewed problems. Evacuation from London produced small wartime communities. Many ministers served as chaplains, and their place was taken temporarily by those who had escaped from Europe. In rapid post-war expansion 40 new congregations joined the United Synagogue in the



The Great Synagogue in 1809 (from Ackerman's *Microcosm of London*)



25 years from 1945.

When J H Hertz died, in 1946, he was succeeded by Rabbi Israel Brodie, only the second Chief Rabbi to have been born in England. Educated at Oxford, Brodie had served a community in Melbourne Australia, acted as a chaplain in both World Wars, been taken off the beaches of Dunkirk, and concluded the war as a Lt Colonel and the Senior Jewish Chaplain. In due course, he was succeeded by Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits and then Rabbi Jonathan Sacks who have raised the status of the Chief Rabbinate within British society and have made it into one of the Great Offices of State.

Today, the United Synagogue remains one of the most influential religious bodies. Its structure has enabled new congregations to grow and old congregations to downsize gently with their assets used to support other communities.

The Chief Rabbinate, today headed by Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis and developed from the rabbinate of the Great Synagogue, has proved a unifying force, restraining internal argument and break-up. The London Beth Din and its attendant Kashrut division has an international reach. The Burial Society has established

standards of dignity and care at the most vulnerable stage of life. *The Singer's Prayer Book*, (today in its most recent green-covered edition) settled customs of prayer and the dignity of tefillot (services).

Improvements in the status and conditions of the Rabbinate have spread to other Jewish communities that look to the US for a lead in so many different fields.

As the United Synagogue celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2020, we have so much to be proud of: vibrant communities led by dynamic Rabbinic teams and lay leaders, Tribe and Young US providing high quality young people's programmes, support for our Jewish schools, high quality educational publications and hundreds of volunteers supporting vulnerable members and beyond.

It is the people both behind the scenes and in the public eye, who have created a vigorous and innovative force raising the standards of Judaism for its members and for the whole community to help ensure that the US continues to be at the forefront of British Jewish Life.

Kol Hakavod!

Members Remembered

David Soto ז"ל

Patricia Soto writes:



David was born in 1957 and spent his formative years on a moshav called Teashur near Beersheva. When he was 10, the family moved to Chile for two years. Here, David learned to speak fluent Spanish. On their return to Israel, they moved into a kibbutz called Ginnegar in the Valley of Israel, near Afula where he attended the Ort School.

On the Kibbutz, all the children had their work. David

worked in the electrical department while preparing for his matriculation. He loved to play and watch basketball. As a teenager he played daily and trained as a coach at Wingate.

On entering the army, David joined the paratroopers becoming an officer. I can honestly say that this was the lifetime achievement in which he took the most pride. And I am sure this feeling was infectious as both our daughters, Davinia and Rebecca, felt the need to serve in the IDF – Rebecca as an instructor in long range artillery and Davinia currently completing her speciality training as an officer in the Finance/Economics Department. He was so proud of them.

I met David in 1978 when I joined an international ulpan on Kibbutz Ginnegar. Each student was allocated an adoptive family – mine was the Soto family. David would often joke that he took this role very seriously. He was always such fun and so optimistic about what the future would hold. I returned to London after my year abroad and David followed once he had completed his army service.

For the first 18 months, he worked under the auspices of the Israeli Embassy, then at The Kibbutz Representatives for a further 18 months. It was while working there that he met another Israeli who was working with security systems and decided to join him.

We married in 1980 with the idea of returning to Israel in due course, but David had become busy building a business and our plans were postponed.

We had moved to the Suburb in early 1992. Davinia arrived in 1995, then Rebecca in 1996. They attended Kerem School and Immanuel College. They both brought us such joy.

In 2000 we had the opportunity to move back to Israel and here we stayed until 2004. David treated this time as a long sabbatical, spending all his time with the me and the girls, taking us around Israel on various trips and teaching us about

the country. We also did a lot of travelling with the girls during this time, showing them various parts of the world. With the benefit of hindsight, I realise how blessed we were to have had this fun time together as a family.

David returned to Norrice Lea with a renewed energy – he loved shul and community life, he loved people. He had the ability to daven in either the Ashkenazi or Sephardi way. He loved both. He loved to sing (putim) on Shabbat, he loved to see people around the Shabbat table.

He became a Gabbai of the shul. When asked about this role he would say he felt it was an honour, it gave him such pleasure to serve. He was particularly happy to involve as many people as possible in the services. He always wanted to see people happy and content.

David lived his life the best he could all the time. He really had cracked the secret of life (as we quote the wise man) "to be happy with your lot". He felt blessed to the end, he would tell me from his hospital bed how blessed he was – he had such strength and never questioned the will of The Almighty. His faith endured till the end.

As was his wish, he was buried in his beloved Israel, in the north, the Valley of Israel, the area where the pioneer's arrived and settled almost 100 years ago. It is about 10 minutes' drive from the Kibbutz where he grew up. Our village is called Givat Ela. His parents are buried on the Kibbutz. Formed in 1922, it is one of the oldest in the country. David wanted to be buried among the people – a modest place.

The girls and I miss him terribly.

Steven and Gillian Martin write: David was a loving husband, devoted father, caring son and brother and an incredibly loyal and thoughtful friend. He was always fun to be with, non judgmental and ready to help whenever needed, participating in all events and gatherings with enthusiasm. His wise counsel and caring generous nature were legendary. His competitive streak meant that there was never a dull moment when he was with company. Together with Patricia (Mrs Motek), they were pillars of our community exhibiting tremendous emunah in HaShem and kindness to all, traits which Patricia, Davinia and Becky continue. His love of Israel was inspiring. We loved spending time together with the whole family on Shabbat, chagim and holidays and he was always the life of the party, the first on the dance floor and the last to leave! We miss him very much but smiles comes to our faces whenever we think about him.



Tricia Austin ז"ל

Tricia sadly passed away recently. With her walking sticks, she was a familiar figure at the shul. She came to live in the area in 2004.. Her mother had recently passed away, she had no other family and was recovering from illness. She joined HGSS whose members took her to their hearts and became her family, including her at their tables on Shabbat and Yom Tov.

A woman of high intelligence – she was a member of MENSA – she will be remembered for her clever and razor-sharp sense of humour, her kindness and thoughtfulness.

She had many interests. An activity which gave her particular pleasure was the dressmaking course which she attended every week, making herself a dress of which she was extremely proud.

She had, for some time, been a member of FANY, The First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (Princess Royal's Volunteer Corps) which was founded in 1907 and served with distinction during WWI and WWII. Today this all-women Corps of volunteers is still an essential part of the UK's emergency response capability. Members are on call 24/7 to provide surge relief. They have sent us this tribute:

"Tricia joined the Corps in 1982. Her first camp was at Crowborough in 1983 (see attached picture), and she attended four more camps in the '80s and '90s. She is fondly



Tricia (right) at her first FANY camp in 1983

remembered for a weapons handling lesson that descended into hilarity. The instructor was baffled by Tricia's short stature and therefore short arm-reach. His

unsuccessful attempts to get Tricia to be able to reach the trigger, when the rifle was correctly positioned on her shoulder, were unforgettable.

In 1985 Tricia completed a parachute jump at Netheravon.

In 1993 she took part in a major signals exercise between the UK and Denmark.

She was a regular member of the horse trials radio communications team.

And, in October 2000, she mobilised to the Casualty Bureau for the Hatfield train derailment, where she was described as an invaluable asset for executing processes.

Tricia became a Country (now Associate) member of the Corps in 2009 and was an enthusiastic attender of commemorations and events.

She joined the visit to Valency for the 75th anniversary of FANY's parachuting into France.

"As her uncle had fought at Passchendaele, she had been particularly keen to attend the commemorations at Ypres in 2017. Unfortunately, she suffered a fall and her injuries prevented her attendance.

Tricia is remembered for her dedication to the Corps and for her sense of humour."

Because of her dedication to this organisation, Tricia was invited to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. For this occasion, she proudly wore the dress that she had made herself.

As mentioned, Tricia had no blood relatives. However, her new family, the HGSS community, responded to requests for members to attend her levaya and memorial service at Fairacres in a way that was truly heartwarming and a member is saying kaddish for her. This is the true meaning of community.



Ready to leave for Buckingham Palace in the dress she made herself

Heritage through Harmony A new album of Chazanut is launched

A stunning new album of Chazanut has just been released starring Chazan Avromi Freilich and the Rinah Ensemble under the direction of Eliot Alderman. Produced by Lyall Cresswell in memory of his late father Maurice, the album features some of the most beautiful psalms from Shabbat and the Yomim Norayim, as well as a cello solo of the opening movement of Max Bruch's 'Kol Nidre' performed by Maurice's granddaughter Coco.

Maurice Cresswell ז"ל had a lifelong love of traditional Shul songs. When he was very ill Chazan Avromi visited him at home and sang with him. It was a hugely spiritual occasion which lifted the family at an extremely difficult

Chazan Avromi davens at HGSS – a painting by John Martin (see p30)



time. Maurice passed away one month later. This treasured memory spurred Lyall and Maurice's wife Susan (née Ginsbury) to commemorate his passing in music.

The album is available through Apple Music and Spotify as well as on CD. If you would like a free copy of the CD, please email lyall.cresswell@yahoo.co.uk with your name and address. Lyall Cresswell

The Ambassador calls – a postscript to the Annual General Meeting

Following this year's AGM, Neil Wigan, who was about to take up the post of British Ambassador to Israel, was interviewed by Simon Johnson. He started by saying that he had always been interested in the diplomatic service and how he had watched, with interest, the first Gulf War – its build-up and aftermath.

From August 2002 to January 2006, he was Head of the Political section at the British Embassy in Tel Aviv and had a wonderful time there. He loved the good food, being in such close proximity with places mentioned in The Bible and being in a place where you can both ski and swim. His wife is Israeli.

He has held two previous ambassadorial posts – from 2010 to 2013 in the Democratic Republic of Congo then, from 2013 to 2015, in Somalia.

Simon started by asking him how he felt about the Trump peace plan? His responses were all very diplomatic – to this question he said that he is sure that the UK will be involved. They feel that a key factor to any peace is to see an improvement in the financial situation of the Palestinians.

Simon then asked why it is that there are such a disproportionate number of questions regarding Israel asked in Parliament when there is so much going on in the surrounding countries.

Neil agreed – the UK's interest in the Middle East goes far beyond just Israel. For example, the Iranian threat and their involvement in such organisations as Hezbollah which is proscribed in the UK and Israel's concern is taken very seriously. The havoc wreaked on Lebanon in 2006 cannot be forgotten.

To the question how is the political uncertainty in the UK affecting her relations with Israel, he replied that although UK politics at the moment are a spectator sport, trade between the two countries is very healthy and, despite all the talk of BDS, countries are queuing up to do hi-tec trade with Israel.

Asked what he thinks about BDS, he replied that, while the BDS movement may make some impact politically, it is not succeeding strategically – whatever academics may say publicly, they are keen to work with Israeli universities.

How does he foresee his relationship with other ambassadors?



The United States Ambassador is always the most important with whom to establish a relationship but others of special interest are the Egyptian, Jordanian and European representatives. He feels it is important to get away from what he describes as 'The Herzliya Pituach Bubble' where European diplomats prefer to spend their leisure time.

With questions invited from the audience there was a race to ask probably the most obvious – When will the United Kingdom embassy move to Jerusalem? As with all his answers, Neil was diplomatic. He feels that Trump moved too soon and that it should wait for a deal to be worked out.

To Rabbi Friedman's question – Who defines a country's national interest, the reply was the government of the day.

How does he react to the countries surrounding Israel which are not democracies? One tries to encourage them to improve the lives of their people – a long, slow, unrewarding process.

He, like the British Government, favours a two-state solution. How long this will take he could not say but he remains hopeful. Civil servants, he said, must be prepared to work for British interests.

בס"ד

Supporting
you when
you are
un-expecting

Call the confidential
Chana Helpline on 020 8201 5774
or email support@chana.org.uk

Chana is the leading fertility support organisation for the Jewish community and is here to support you through:

- Primary & secondary infertility
- Miscarriage & stillbirth
- Male infertility
- Cancer fertility preservation
- Intimacy issues
- Early pregnancy concerns
- Fertility treatment to avoid genetic disorders

חנה CREATING LIVES TOGETHER
chana

020 8203 8455
www.chana.org.uk

Chana Charity Ltd 1172957
Eligibility criteria may apply. Please visit chana.org.uk/mission-statement

For Sale

British Airways & Virgin Atlantic
Air Miles

contact
Yossi Potash

07866 814 127 or ypotash@gmail.com
reference available

Lincoln Revisited

A group, headed by Charles Landau, meets with religious and secular leaders in Lincoln

During the summer, Charles headed a group of thirty-five people from London and Birmingham to Lincoln in a captivating and greatly oversubscribed tour. Eighty-five years ago, in 1934, Cecil Roth, head of the Jewish Historical Society, led a group of over eighty people on a similar tour. This was, at the time, widely reported by *The Jewish Chronicle*.

On that occasion, Councillor George Deer, the Mayor of Lincoln, revealed that "This is perhaps the first occasion on which the Municipality of Lincoln has been in official contact with any Jewish body since the Middle Ages."

The purpose of that visit was to counteract the effect of a recent edition of the Nazi periodical *Der Sturmer* which produced what it claimed was an "authentic" record of anti-Semitic blood libels dating from the mediaeval period to propagate the myth of Jewish ritual murder. It was an allegation that caused numerous disastrous attacks against Jewish people across Europe from the Middle Ages up to the modern period.

The events of 1255 when a young boy, known as Hugh of Lincoln, died after an accident and was testified to have been killed by Jews in a case of ritual murder, placed the city at the centre of a blood libel. Eighteen Jews in London and one in Lincoln were put to death as a result of this horrifying event, brought about by endemic anti-Judaism in mediaeval society, encouraged by the Church. Not until 1965 did the publication of *Nostra Aetate* by the Second Vatican Council cause the Catholic Church to bring about a total reversal of the prevailing opinion towards Jews and Judaism.

The Church's deep recognition of the need for change was exemplified to the point where the expression 'perfidious Jews' in their prayer book was removed. Today, Lincoln Cathedral clearly recognises that the so-called ritual murder of Little Hugh had never taken place and states "This libel against the Jews is a shameful example of religious . . . hatred."

During our visit, the visitors were warmly welcomed by Bishop Rob Gillion of the Lincoln diocese, his wife and the chief guide to Lincoln Cathedral. Charles stated how, 85 years ago, *The Lincolnshire Echo* recorded how that Jewish

Rabbi Guttentag leads Mincha in the Mediaeval Shul of Jews – the first for over 720 years



group visited in an atmosphere of German evil and that today, although absolutely no comparison, we visited whilst there was rising anti-Semitism. Charles welcomed the changes in the Churches' teachings. Bishop Gillion responded to Charles's words and concluded with a reading from Psalms: "May the L-rd bless you from Zion . . . Peace be on Israel."

The group visited houses known to have been occupied by Lincoln Jews, one of which is believed to have been associated with Aaron of Lincoln, the most significant of the mediaeval Jewish bankers who was understood to be wealthier than the

King. The Cathedral library contains treasures such as the petition of Menasseh ben Israel to Oliver Cromwell, a copy of Rambam and a Hebrew version of the Torah, complete with Latin translation by Bishop Grossteste.

At 5 pm, the group proceeded to the mayoral chamber of the Guildhall where they were welcomed by the Lady Mayor, Civic Party and the Sheriff of Lincoln. The Lady Mayor welcomed Charles and his group and, whilst recognising the trauma of the past, offered words of comfort, peace and reconciliation. The mayor remarked how honoured they were to be visited by the group. Charles responded, thanking her for her warm words and recognising the good fortune we Jews have in living in England. On a tour of the Guildhall the group were shown documents and records dating from the mediaeval period, prior to the Expulsion of 1290, proving ownership of Jewish houses. The tour was given access to Jews' Court by the head of the Jewish community Richard Dale.

Probably the most poignant moment of the tour was the moment when, led by Rabbi Guttentag, the group davened Mincha in the Mediaeval Shul of Jews' Court in what could well have been the first Mincha since the expulsion of the Jews from England in 1290, over 720 years ago.

Adapted from an article which first appeared in *The Jewish Tribune*



A Rosh Hashanah Message

From Michael Goldstein
President of the United Synagogue

Suppose you were alive in 1885 and were approached by an aspiring entrepreneur who had developed the world's most efficient horse carriage. Would you have invested?

It would have been wise not to do so, since, one year later, another inventor by the name of Karl Benz would patent what is now considered the first automobile. Innovations can be revolutionary in nature: the automobile, the phonograph, the internet.

Others are evolutionary: better engines for cars, better sound systems for the phonograph and the World Wide Web for the internet.

I was reminded of this as we approach 2020 and are getting ready to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the United Synagogue with open top bus tours, a gala dinner and a series of heritage talks and walks.

A decade before Karl Benz, another innovation took place that was no less revolutionary for Jewish communal life.

Back in 1870 five Ashkenazi shuls in London decided that they were stronger together. The Great, The Hambro, The New, Central and Bayswater all joined forces to become the United Synagogue. Instead of duplicating resources, they worked together for the good of the community. This was a

revolutionary idea.

Since then, the United Synagogue has evolved further. Further communities have joined, including a growing number of regional communities and new Jewish areas. Recent innovations include the creation of a Women's Officer to ensure our communities are inclusive and welcoming. Shabbat UK provides a focal point for communities to engage members across the spectrum.

There is much to celebrate as we approach our 150th birthday. 1,167 new members joined last year. We established a multi academy trust to support Jewish schools. More than 700 young people took part in a Tribe residential programme this year. We launched two volunteer-run asylum seeker drop-in centres in Hendon and Woodford Forest United Synagogues. A National Lottery Heritage Fund grant will transform Willesden cemetery into a heritage and educational site.

But it is time for us to evolve again to address the challenges we face.

How can we ensure our children and grandchildren have the same love of yiddishkeit that we do? What can we do to support people with disabilities and non-traditional families? How can we attract young people and young married couples to our communities?

Change is not easy. My fellow Trustees and I will support our communities, lay leaders, Rabbis and Rebbetzins to come up with ideas to do just that.

Innovation applies to us as individuals, too. At Rosh Hashanah we consider the evolution of our own Jewish development. How can we take one step forward on our Jewish journey?

Might we attend one of our wonderful community services, learn Hebrew or volunteer to help people in need?

The Talmud teaches "אי אפשר לבית המדרש בלאחדוש" – "It's not possible for there to be a House of Study without innovation" (Chagiga 3a). 1500 years later, this message remains as urgent as ever.

Shana tova



BRITISH EMUNAH: CARING FOR ISRAEL'S AT RISK CHILDREN

Supporting 10,000 vulnerable children and families at Rosh Hashanah and all year round.
Donate online at www.emunah.org.uk/donate
Or please call 020 8203 6066.

British Emunah on
Registered charity number 215398

emunah
making lives better

Email Addresses:

- Does the office have your email address?
- Has your address changed?

In either case, please send the current information to the Office:

office@hgss.org.uk

Kehilla Shabbat

On Shabbat 11 May we experienced a new manifestation of Kehilla Shabbat. For a start, the service began at 8.45 am – late for some, early for others and it was followed by not one, but five options for Coffee and Conversation:

Tim Cowen, Chair of Highgate Synagogue, chose for his subject *How the Rabbis use fiction to tell the truth*. There are at least 1000 openly fictional stories in Talmud and Midrash and how the answer was found from what the prophet Nathan said to King David.

Jonathan Neumann grew up at HGSS, was Tikvah Fellow at Commentary magazine and assistant editor at *Jewish Ideas Daily*. His book, *To Heal the World?*, has taken America by storm, invoking both criticism and endorsement across the Jewish spectrum. He chose as his subject *Stop doing Tikkun Olam!* which translates as "healing the world".

Charles Landau, who needs no introduction, spoke on *The Joy of Being Jewish*. In a world seemingly enveloped

in Corbynism, anti-Semitism and pessimism there is still much to appreciate in our sense of belonging, for example, in words, literature, culture and even food and humour.

Harry Freedman entitled his talk *The Early Mystics and their endeavours to journey to the Heavenly Throne*.

Julie Apfel, a graduate of both LSE and LSJS entitled her talk *All Change: Parshat Kedoshim*, the Omer and Shavuot provide surprising blueprints for personal and communal change. How can we use them in our own lives?

After this, over 200 people gathered for lunch in the Max Weinbaum Hall during which the always popular Rabbi Rowe of Aish spoke on how Rabbi Akiva's life revolved around the idea of tomorrow – today's terrible situation didn't faze him. He always looked to the future.

This Shabbat also saw the start of the Summer Seuda Programme with Rabbi Danny Kirsch of JLE explaining how Holiness means making things special.

All agreed that this had been a most enjoyable and rewarding Shabbat – every speaker addressed a capacity audience and the lunch was fully booked with a waiting list. Our thanks to Martin Kaye and, of course, Gillian, for arranging and organising the programme.

25% of us at any one time will experience a mental health problem

Sharon's struggle with depression led to social isolation. At Jami's writing group she rediscovered a talent for creative expression and regained her self-esteem. Jami's bespoke approach had an enormous impact, giving her hope for the future.

Jami provides practical help and support to recover a meaningful life to over 1300 people, like Sharon, every year.

This Rosh Hashanah, please enable Jami to keep giving hope by donating at www.jamiuk.org

"Hope is that border that lies between negativity and positivity, in that it is a seam heavily sewn uniting two pieces of cloth"

- Sharon, Jami Service User and Creative Writer



Visit jamiuk.org | Call 020 8458 2223 | Email info@jamiuk.org



Jami

The Mental Health Service for our Community
Registered Charity 105296, A Company Limited by Guarantee 011116

NEW

We have moved round the corner!
Come and visit our new practice.



GO
Bigger & Better

Gavzey Opticians 48 The Market Place
London NW11 6JP

Tel. 020 8731 9999 www.gavzeyopticians.com




Chag Sameach

from Mizrahi Tefahot Bank
London Branch

A new year in your own property in Israel?
We offer Israeli Residential lending
against new or existing properties in Israel.
For further information please contact:

**UMTB London
Branch**
30 Old Broad Street
London
EC2N 1HQ

Nataly Epstein
T: 020 7448 0660
E: nataly.e@umtb.co.uk
W: www.umtb.co.uk



Authorised and regulated by the Bank of Israel. Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority.
Subject to regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority and limited regulation by the Prudential Regulation Authority.
Details about the extent of our regulation by the Prudential Regulation Authority are available from us on request

The Fifth Tribe

Steve Miller sums up

The Fifth Tribe programme was billed as a series of debates on the Israel-Palestinian conflict that was to be, at once, passionate, rigorous and perfectly civilised! An oxymoron, you might think – or at least an incredibly ambitious goal – but so far we have managed to address some highly divisive issues with hardly a raised voice and only the occasional whiff of exasperation.

The inspiration for this series came from our former Rabbi, Dov Kaplan, who was known for his firm views on Israel and on the limits of permissible debate. But it was Rabbi Kaplan himself who first suggested that we replace the uneasy atmosphere that hangs over these issues with a programme of respectful and civilised discussion. It took a while to get there, but thanks to the support of Rabbi Friedman, Martin Kaye and a few others, we launched the series in May 2019.

Of course, there had to be some ground rules; on the one hand, we drew the line at speakers who were known to question Israel's legitimacy as a Nation State. On the other, we would not give air time to the expression of racist attitudes towards the Palestinians or any of the peoples in the region. But within those boundaries, we took the view that open and critical debate on Israel's conduct and policies, on those of the PA and other players, and on the role of the Diaspora were all fair game.

So far, we've held three debates; the first on the question of whether anti-Zionism is intrinsically anti-Semitic, the second on whether the (then) to be elected Israeli government would be capable of getting to grips with the issues of Israeli democracy and the Israel-Palestinian conflict, and the third on the moral, halachic and political arguments for ceding or annexing parts of the West Bank.

Our aim from the outset was to attract a range of speakers with coherent, passionate and divergent views. We've been variously stimulated, challenged and provoked by the arguments of an accomplished set of speakers including Anthony Lerman, James Sorene, Hannah Weisfeld, Alan Mendoza, Vivian Wineman, Rabbi Zvi Solomons and Zalmi Unsorfer (in order of appearance). And we've listened to a wide range of views, including some that made us feel uncomfortable, without dismissing opposing positions on impulse, or assuming any malign intent. That was, after all, the key aim of the exercise.

Not only that, but on some issues we saw something of a



The third session panellists, left to right: Vivian Wineman, moderator Adam Taub, Rabbi Zvi Solomons and Zalmi Unsorfer

meeting of minds – for example, our two speakers in session one agreed that it was possible to have a principled objection to a state like Israel, established on exclusively ethnic lines, without necessarily being anti-Semitic; and in the second session there was a consensus around the idea that the two-state solution was the optimal way forward, albeit that there was fierce disagreement about whether it remained a plausible option.

We are indebted to our moderators, Rabbi Friedman, Sarah Sackman and Adam Taub for their skilful framing of the debates and for keeping the sessions on track. The format is still evolving, and it's clear that we need to find more time for serious discussion and analysis that actively involves the audience as well as the speakers. We shall be addressing that goal in planning the next three sessions which will feature debates on the following: (i) How well do communal bodies represent the views of British Jews on Israel? (ii) Is there a tension between a Jewish Israel and a democratic Israel? (iii) Is the two-state solution still a viable option? Further details to follow.



Children from Zichron Menachem enjoying supper and entertainment in the Max Weinbaum Hall as part of a recent holiday in this country – a break from the stress for both them and their families.

Several HGSS families took part in this year's Fun Run at Allianz Park Stadium. Here are just some of their stories:



Rabbanit Batya writes:

What a wonderful way for the community to come together! Everyone ran for different causes, all special in their own way; for our own shul, to Aleh, to Jewish Care... Yasher koach to all the runners and supporters for uniting in a meaningful way! I ran the 10k (caught up with Adam Tricot and his dad), my older girls the 5k colour run and the little ones ran the 1km (the Rabbi was our personal trainer), We raised funds for children's programming at HGSS.



Annette Tricot writes:

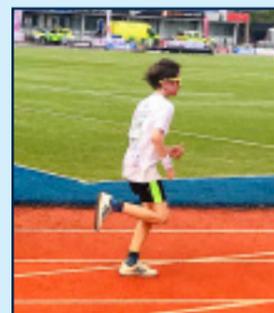
Adam decided to undertake the 10km run in order to collect sponsorship for his Bar Mitzvah project. He ran with my husband. We all decided to participate and make it a family event, so I ran the 5km with my younger son Alex (10 years) and we all ran the 1km together with Gaby (6 years).

As a family we support ALEH which runs homes for severely disabled children in Israel. I think the most incredible part of the day was running the 5km and 1km with children from Kisharon. They suffer from all different types of disabilities and yet were more able than us to complete the runs. It was so inspiring and taught my kids and myself a great deal.



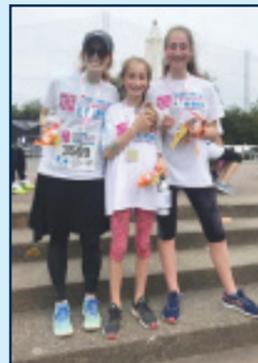
Nirit and David Schemtob write:

A week before Lior Schemtob's Bat Mitzvah, she joined the Fun Run supporting Chai Cancer Care. "I thought that there would be about a hundred or so runners but, when I got to Allianz Park, there were hundreds and hundreds of people of all ages. The atmosphere was incredible and so vibrant." As Lior enjoys long distance running, she participated in the 5K run, completing it in just over 20 minutes. The day was remarkable with about 80 different charities exhibiting and raising money. "An amazing experience that I will want to take part in next year."



Jude Cannon

Jude ran 5 km in 31 minutes, Having just raised in excess of £2000 for Meningitis Now through his mountain climbing efforts, Jude undertook this run just for fun.



HGSS Youth

Our Youth rose to the challenge of running the 5km/10km Maccabi charity fun run. Through paint, water, muddy ditches, hard stretches and some uphill's we all came out stronger and feeling great! It was a fun and lively atmosphere where we felt proud to represent HGSS and rally our support for the vast array of charities present!

A message from Marie van der Zyl



Last year, my Rosh Hashanah message told of the way the Jewish community came together to proclaim "Enough is Enough" on anti-Semitism in the Labour Party. Since then, the anti-Semitism crisis has not gone away. However, our campaign against those who pursue this most ancient form of racism has had great successes, notably the suspension of serial offenders including Chris Williamson and Peter Willsman and the expulsion of Jackie Walker.

This is the story of a longstanding community that has lived peacefully in the UK for centuries; a community which, since we were allowed back into this country by Oliver Cromwell, has had the freedom to practise our religion and live a truly Jewish life within a respectful society.

In return, our community has contributed great things, in the arts, in society, in business and in politics and science. We have produced major figures from Abba Eban to Amy Winehouse, from Isaiah Berlin to Mark Ronson. With the prevailing conditions of freedom and respect our community has flourished over the past centuries, and despite worries over the revival of mainstream anti-Semitism, most of us lead happy Jewish lives.

However, there is a reason that the Board of Deputies has existed since 1760; that is to protect those hard-won freedoms



and to ensure that the Jewish community in all its forms and denominations, continues to flourish. At the Board, we are in constant campaign mode, challenging Labour anti-Semitism through advocacy in the media, and to those in Labour and outside who support us and can make a difference.

Of course, this is not the only problem with which we are grappling. Brexit is an issue of enormous national significance, and it will impact on British Jews. We have been working with the Government to ensure that Jewish interests are safeguarded in all circumstances.

The Board played a prominent role in campaigning for the terrorist group Hizballah to be banned in its entirety. The Government responded by ending the artificial distinction between Hizballah's political and military wings.

We continue to confront and challenge divisive and unhelpful boycotts of Israel. Through our Invest in Peace projects, where we bring Israelis and Palestinians to speak to interfaith audiences, we show that there are better ways to address and resolve differences over the conflict.

We made a significant intervention into the Government's legislation on organ donation. As we moved from an opt-in to an opt-out system, we acted to ensure that Jews of all denominations

Continued on page 25

Advocate Yitzchak Shitrit – Law Office

Your trustworthy, reliable, friendly, local legal expert in Israel

- Real Estate
- Wills and Inheritance Advice
- Creating and Managing Trusts
- Powers of Attorney
- Family Law



Yitzchak Shitrit
Adv. LL.b & Mediator
M.A. Public Administration
and Political Science

Amot Investments Tower, 2 Wisemann Street, 7th Floor,
Tel Aviv 6423902, Israel
T: +972-3-6914775 M: +972-52-6818637
ys@shitritlaw.com www.shitritlaw.com

Secret Listeners

Winston Newman is involved in an exciting new project, chronicling wartime intelligence gathering. Simone Halfin asks him about it.

Simone: *Winston, you have been a member of Norrice Lea for 10 years, but people probably don't know much about your professional achievements, tell me little bit about them.*

Winston: As it happens, I am about to retire, but I have had my own architectural practice since 1982. During that time, I have done a wide variety of work, both residential and commercial, mainly in London and Hertfordshire, and, for over 20 years, I was a Consultant for the Pharmaceutical industry, helping to create flexible laboratory spaces.

Simone: *Talking about creating, you have become very involved in the creation of a new museum at Trent Park how did this come about?*

Winston: I knew Helen Fry, the well-known Second World War historian who has a special interest in the contribution made by Jews to the war effort during this period. A few years ago I collaborated with her on aspects of the history of Golders Green Synagogue.

Simone: *Yes, I met Helen when I produced the Jewish Programme at Spectrum Radio some years ago. She has written a book about Plymouth Jews, which was where my Father was born, and my Grandfather served as Rabbi.*

Winston: Helen contacted me three years ago, explaining that she was in the early stages of trying to establish a museum within the Mansion House in Trent Park telling its unique history. She had some plans to decipher and needed help.



Could I assist? I became a Trustee a few months later.

Simone: *And, of course, there is a Jewish aspect to this, isn't there?*

Winston: Yes, not only is there the story of Hitler's generals and high-ranking officers, held there as prisoners of war, being tricked into divulging highly sensitive information but the people doing the listening in the basement were predominantly Jewish refugees from Germany who could understand the many



nuances of the conversations that were taking place in the rooms above.

Simone: *Who owned Trent Park originally?*

Winston: It had been owned by the Sassoon family since 1908, first by Sir Edward Sassoon who was a Member of Parliament and Senior Warden at Bevis Marks Synagogue. When he died in 1912, his son, Sir Philip Sassoon, took over the Grade II listed building and 50-acre

green belt site and converted it into a luxurious home where he entertained lavishly. Sir Philip Sassoon, an accomplished politician, became the Under Secretary of State for Air. By the time he died, in 1939, he had done much to develop the Royal Air Force and prepare it for battle.

Simone: *Is it like that now?*

Winston: Since then, it has gone through a number of changes, firstly being commandeered by British Intelligence during the War, then used for various educational purposes, eventually becoming part of Middlesex University. Berkeley Homes Group bought it for redevelopment about four years ago when it was a derelict site.

Simone: *And how were the intelligence services used? I had heard the information gleaned cut about two years off the war. Can you explain that?*

Winston: The whole building had been extensively wired up with extremely sensitive bugging devices. The Nazis didn't realise that their private conversations were being continuously monitored. They would boast among themselves that, although they had been interrogated, the British did not know about various secret weapons they had up their sleeve, nor where they were made or positioned. This, together with other specific information, enabled the RAF to pinpoint places that should be bombed.

Simone: *And all this prior knowledge came from the prisoners – it's quite incredible. How long ago did the seed of an idea to build a museum at Trent Park emerge?*

Winston: The actual story was hidden because of the Official Secrets Act and only started to emerge about ten years ago. A few years later, a local pressure group formed to save the building because of its history.

Simone: *You are a Trustee of the project. I know quite a few people are involved in it, including Stewart Laitner, a Norrice Lea member.*

Winston: The Trust is looking to recruit new Trustees and volunteers to widen its areas of expertise and experience. 🗣️

Simone: *How far has the project progressed?*

Winston: We are working very closely with Berkeley Homes, as the Museum will be housed within their building. At this stage we have appointed Architects, Exhibition Designers, Mechanical Engineers and Quantity Surveyors.

Simone: *I remember my husband Alex discussing this with you a few years ago as, being a Chartered Engineer, it was just the sort of project in which he would have loved to have been involved.*

Winston: Yes, he was very interested when we discussed it.

Simone: *Looking to the future, in what way would you like people to be involved, apart from financially of course?*

Winston: The Trustees are very keen for anyone who has something to contribute to any aspect of the project to get in



touch. I would be happy for people to contact me personally by email: winston@wnarch.com or check the website www.trentparkmuseum.org.uk

Simone: *Good luck and thank you.*

From page 23

were protected. We also obtained compromises from the Department for Education on relationships and sex education that will allow all parts of our community to teach according to their ethos. We work to educate non-Jewish children and adults throughout the UK on the Jewish way of life. One way we do this is through our mobile exhibition, the Jewish Living Experience which is visited by thousands of children and adults.

We ensure high standard of religious education in schools through our Pikuach inspection service – 'the Jewish Ofsted' which is accredited by the Department for Education.

Our honorary officers and staff reach out to local councillors at seminars across the UK, to ensure that they understand and are sympathetic to Jewish concerns.

Through Milah UK, for which the Board of Deputies provides the secretariat, we campaign for the right of every Jewish boy to be circumcised according to Jewish law.

Our contribution to UK Jewish life is crucial. We will continue to represent you in the coming year to ensure we continue to live freely and safely as Jews as we have done here for centuries.

May this Rosh Hashanah bring you, your families and all of Am Yisrael health, strength and peace.



DSI COMMUNICATIONS LTD

Silver
Microsoft Partner

Do you want to concentrate on growing your business without having to worry about your IT system?

Are you looking for a comprehensive approach to your IT security that includes virus, ransomware and spyware protection plus network security?

Are you concerned that you are not getting the best from your IT system?

- Customised hardware solutions
- Private personalised cloud hosting
- Full remote systems monitoring
- Fully managed helpdesk including on-site engineering when needed
- Software – operating system and applications support
- Consultancy and project management
- We have over 30 years experience in IT professional services

Call David Watson for a chat about your IT requirements.

t: 020 8349 4400 | e: david.watson@dsiuk.com | www.dsiuk.com

► Networks ► Domains ► Servers ► Workstations ► Laptops ► Consultancy ► Infrastructure ► Architecture ► Design ► Support ► Outsourcing ► Software ► E-mail ► Internet ► ADSL

Compensation for victims of Nazi persecution

Nearly 75 years after the end of World War II, the UK government is endeavouring to trace the owners of assets seized after the outbreak of hostilities, or their descendants. These are people who were themselves victims of the Nazis, but whose assets were not returned in peacetime. Angela Landau is a member of the panel deciding the level of compensation. Here, she explains what is behind the work they are undertaking.

For the last 20 years, I have been privileged to be an assessor on the Government's Enemy Property Assessment Panel (known as EPCAP).

This Panel deals with claims from Holocaust victims whose assets in the United Kingdom were seized under the Trading with the Enemy Act at the beginning of World War II. These assets were held, during the War, by the Custodian of Enemy Property.

After the War, many people, if they survived, or their heirs, if they could prove their entitlement, were able to claim their assets now held by the Administrator of Enemy Property. For several reasons this was not always possible, for example:

- Difficulty in obtaining documents in Soviet occupied territory
- Death of the original owner and immediate families,
- Dealing with life after the War
- Didn't know about assets

At the end of the 20th century, the British Government decided that they wished to "right a wrong" and set up a scheme under the chairmanship of Lord Archer of Sandwell QC, a former Labour Solicitor-General, to compensate victims of Nazi persecution or their heirs whose assets were held under the Trading with the Enemy Act at the beginning of World War II.

The claim is decided by evidence on the balance of probabilities. Individual account cards which detail the assets were located in the Public Record Office. These identify the assets and their value at the date of confiscation. Where an

award is made, the value of the asset at the time of confiscation is multiplied by the UK retail price index, giving the successful claimants the current value of the asset.

More than 1200 claims were initially received, while late claims continue to arrive. This Government Scheme has already paid out many millions to the original owners or their heirs. Some German churches have been among those that have claimed, having suffered oppression as a result of hiding Jews.

It has been a heart-rending and also a very rewarding experience to have been a part of this scheme. It has allowed me and the other four members of the Panel (including Arthur Harverd who took over as Chairman on the death of Lord Archer) and the support Secretariat to view the Holocaust from a different perspective. Reading the stories of people's trades, occupations and lives, has enabled us to have an intimate and personal picture of those faced with the horrors that descended on them and the extreme persecution and deprivation they endured. At the same time, stories of bravery and resilience in the face of terrible odds inspired all those engaged in this task.

The British Government, under whose auspices this scheme has run, has exerted every effort to ensure that it is advertised as widely as possible. It is hoped that the further publicity will lead to the identification of remaining eligible claimants, heirs to the original owners who suffered Nazi persecution.

Coffee & Conversation

– A Last Hurrah by David Lew

So, farewell *Coffee and Conversation*, the series of Shabbat morning talks devised and organised by Martin Kaye which has been running, he tells me, for seven years. The last ever event, unless someone new picks up the baton, took place on 20 July. Charles Landau, a frequent contributor, spoke on the topic 'Has Coffee and Conversation replaced the synagogue service?' Well, obviously not, because the services continue whilst C & C has ended, but when an educational alternative to the service has attracted up to 150

people and, according to last year's survey, many folk have come to shul just to attend C & C, it must be right to ask the question and wrong to consign it to a footnote in the shul's history and development.

Charles' presentation was well attended in spite of having been omitted from the newssheet that week. Apparently, an advert for fire marshals was deemed to be more appropriate to occupy the top right-hand box on page 1 and no other space could be found, neither under 'Education' nor 'Events'. Sad really. And, I think, quite a slight on Martin who has worked tirelessly to promote adult education and transform our programmes, from being attended by embarrassingly few members in the old days, to becoming, in the words of one of the caretakers on Tisha B'Av, a health and safety risk.



The Shtisel Phenomenon

In a packed Max Weinbaum Hall, at an event organised by Martin Kaye, Chair of Adult Education, Yehonathan Indursky co-creator of the famed TV series Shtisel revealed to the world that work had started on the eagerly anticipated Series III.

Yehonathan, amazed at the following the series has attracted in the UK, witnessed by a crowd ten times that of what he expected, revealed hidden links between Shtisel and London and why Elisheva departed for London.

To an obviously fanatical audience he revealed his love for the Yiddish language and sadness at it not being spoken more. It was the only language, he felt, that one could curse someone in so many ways whilst being happy doing so!

To questions about how the obviously secular actors learnt the nuances and the Yiddish expressions, he revealed that some of the actors spent hours in orthodox neighbourhoods just watching and observing, even to the extent of watching how to hold a cigarette in Hassidic style. One challenge that took up a morning's script discussion was whether to pronounce Kugel or Kigel.

One note of sadness was the loss of Hanna Rieber, the grandmother in series 1. By coincidence her replacement, Leah Koenig, worked with Hannah in a Romanian troupe.

Yehonathan revealed his orthodox background, he was a student at Ponovitz yeshiva and whilst his parents did not possess a television, his grandparents did. He therefore couldn't resist highlighting the dilemmas that this situation produced in Shtisel.

Asked about reactions in the orthodox world to Shtisel, he recounted a meeting in Jerusalem with one of his previous Yeshiva teachers at which he revealed, albeit reluctantly, that he was the creator of Shtisel. In turn his teacher revealed how much he admired the series, showing as it did the Orthodox world as it is, warts and all,



without any sensational story lines of wayward youth.

And, in case anyone is wondering where the name Shtisel came from, it was the name of the restaurant in Jerusalem where the series was conceived by the two creators Yehonathan Indursky and Ori Elon.



CONNECTING PEOPLE

Kol Nidre has traditionally been a time when our community supports Israel and specifically the work of UJIA. This has made a significant difference to the lives of so many people over so many years.

This Kol Nidre, our appeal is to raise funds for projects in Israel that support those on the periphery through education and into employment.

UJIA depends on the support from our community as we look to expand our reach and impact on the lives of even more young people. Your continued generosity is vital as we build lifelong connections between people and communities in the UK and those in Israel.

CHANGING LIVES

ujia.org

United Jewish Israel Appeal is a registered charity No. 1060078 (England & Wales) and Sc 039181 (Scotland).

To support the work of UJIA today, you can donate online at ujia.org/kn19 or contact Jonathan Roland on 020 7424 6447 or email jonathan.roland@ujia.org



KOL NIDRE APPEAL 2019

What exactly is anti-Semitism?

A fascinating evening with Deborah Lipstadt recounted by **Rosemary Goldstein**

A large audience gathered in the Synagogue on Tuesday, 28 May, to hear TV presenter Samantha Simmonds interviewing Deborah Lipstadt, one of the foremost authorities on anti-Semitism, about her recently published book, *Anti-Semitism Here and Now*.

Deborah quoted Isaiah Berlin's witty but wise definition of anti-Semitism: "hating Jews more than is absolutely necessary". She argued that a good definition of anti-Semitism is where the person involves one or more of three issues, these being excessive money, excessive power and conspiracy. These she linked back to the trial of Jesus in the New Testament.

The difference between anti-Semitism and racism is that the racist 'punches down' – they see the other as being inferior and too many of a certain race, for example, drives down house prices in the area. On the other hand, with anti-Semitism, the anti-Semite 'punches up' – they see conspiracy theories and manipulation.

Criticism of Israel is not necessarily anti-Semitism, as can be seen from the comments in the Knesset as well as in Israeli newspapers and media, but it becomes anti-Semitism when there is a myopic, blinded view which sees it as the only wrong in the world and when it is said that, unlike other countries, Jews should not have any right to national self-determination.

She is unsure whether anti-Semitism is on the rise or whether it is just that people feel emboldened to speak out through social media with its mass audience. She also argued that leaders like Messrs Trump and Orban, through their actions and speeches, encourage anti-Semites to come into the open.

Deborah compared anti-Semitism to a herpes virus which can be cured with medication but which stays in the body and comes out when there is stress (economic) and a hospitable environment.

She was critical of some acts which appear to have been carried out in the name of President Trump which he did not condemn, also for remarks he made before he became president. Much of his support is, of course, from Christian evangelicals.

The far right believe in a form of replacement theory (the Christian view that they have replaced the Jews in God's eyes) that the Jews represent a mortal threat to the white people and that a Christian white genocide is going on which makes the far right feel validated and ennobled.

Interestingly, some right-wing groups support Israel and consider it a white ethno-state. They support what they perceive as Israel's racist policies towards the Palestinians.

Anti-Semitism, of course, also comes from the political far left as well as Islamic extremists and some elements in the Muslim community. On the day that the Equality and Human Rights Commission have ordered an enquiry into anti-Semitism in the Labour Party, we should be worried about the attitudes of the left.

Jeremy Corbyn does associate with people who agree with anti-Semites and their view of prejudice is based on what



they see as progressive values which are hostile to those with privilege and power. Since Jews have privilege and influence they can't be the victims of prejudice. There is a failure to comprehend and accept the grievances of people with a claim of anti-Semitism while claims of prejudice by gays and blacks would be treated more seriously.

It is very painful that we used to be proud to be Jewish and now we see Jews taking a low profile and we are heading into an atmosphere where we feel contempt from many in our society.

It took five years for the case against Deborah, brought by holocaust denier David Irving, to be concluded. He engages in 'hardcore' holocaust denial of facts which is discredited. However, there is still 'soft core' holocaust denial. For example, in the case of Hungary where the government claims they were innocent in the holocaust. Deborah referred to what had happened in WW2 when, with only 300 German soldiers entering Hungary, half a million Jews were deported. This could not have been carried out without the co-operation of the Hungarians.

In relation to anti-Semitic comments from friends, we must speak up and become the 'unwelcome guest at dinner parties'. It is extremely important that Jews do not engage in racism or use racist language. Several times she warned against Jews using derogatory racist terms.

The Jewish community should not be oversensitive about comments criticising Israel and it would be counterproductive to label the BBC anti-Semitic.

In Deborah's opinion, pupils in Jewish schools are not being taught the other side of the argument about Israel's history, making them ill-equipped in discussions. As a result they take the decision to remove their kippot rather than spend their University years 'in the trenches'. Students must be properly informed and equipped before they go to university. They must not be taught that Israel is right in everything it does.

An excellent and lively Q&A session followed, with many questions that she said covered interesting and important issues. She indicated that she did not favour making Holocaust denial a crime as it is some countries. Politicians should not have power over freedom of speech.

Deborah Lipstadt's final admonition, was that we should never use anti-Semitism as the raison d'être for being Jewish, we must emphasise the positive benefits of Judaism. We must "fight the good fight and treasure who we are".

Once again, our thanks to Martin and Gillian Kaye for organising this fascinating event.

Breaking Cycles of Distress

We speak with British Emunah

Emunah Afula children's home celebrates 70th anniversary

HGSS has a strong connection with Israeli welfare charity Emunah, going back many years, and I was fortunate to meet World Emunah director Shlomo Kessel during his recent visit to the UK – more of that later. Since then, British Emunah Trustees Rochelle Selby (Chair) and Michelle Hirschfield attended the 70th anniversary of the charity's flagship children's home in Afula, northern Israel.

Rochelle collected a certificate of thanks "on behalf of British Emunah and all the wonderful women who started the home and everyone who took over and continues their



At the Afula anniversary celebrations, l to r: Graham Hirschfield, Rochelle Selby, Michelle Hirschfield and Anthony Selby at Emunah Afula Children's Home

fantastic welfare work today."

Emunah's Sarah Herzog Children's Centre opened its door in 1949 and as a home for children who came from the Holocaust before the State of Israel was founded. "It is inspiring to see how Emunah Afula has grown and adapted to the different challenges that children are facing today, coming from dysfunctional families," comments Rochelle.

Another HGSS member who is committed to the work of the organisation is Hilary Pearlman who serves as British Emunah's Honorary Secretary.

Shlomo Kessel's story

Shlomo Kessel left South Africa to study at Yeshiva in Israel, aged, 18, and became house master at an Emunah children's home. "I learnt Ivrit so that I could understand and connect with children who've been abandoned, neglected or abused," said Shlomo. He swapped his frontline role to become World Emunah's director in 2017.

Shlomo adds: "People are unaware of Israel's social problems and poverty and that thousands of vulnerable and at-risk children and families are invisible behind the scenes. Emunah is a leading provider of welfare services and a force in the field of social action, we have to be their champions."

The charity has nearly 200 services including children's homes, vocational schools, day care, counselling and therapy centres; 37 of these projects are supported by British Emunah.

British Emunah has an ongoing commitment towards a food fund for hungry schoolchildren. More recently, they launched a drive for the rebuilding and expansion of the Sarah Ronson Crisis and Intervention Centre in Sderot. "The attacks from Gaza rockets and incendiary balloons, have pushed services to their limits with many people suffering from anxiety and PTSD," adds Shlomo.

Emunah's primary goal is to break the cycles of distress – caring for the children whether or not they can live with their families, helping them become independent. They do army or national service, get jobs, many becoming qualified professionals and leading successful lives.

Changing lives

Shlomo related the amazing story of Rabbi Dr Shalom Sharon who arrived in Israel, aged nine, believing that his family had perished along the way. He lived in an Emunah children's home until, five years later, he was called into the director's office and told, "Change into your best clothes, your family are here to meet you." He became an officer in the IDF and now lectures at Bar Ilan University. This remarkable story is told in his book, *From 'Ethiopia to Sinai'*.

I heard about Vadim Lovv; whose father killed his mother – she was just 22. Vadim had a traumatic childhood; he was smuggled out of Latvia in his grandmother's car together with his siblings. They arrived in Israel where his grandmother became a cleaner and the children went into Emunah's care. When Shlomo heard that Vadim had never seen his mother's grave, he took him to Latvia and Vadim said Kaddish. Today, Vadim and his wife Tobi enjoy social action, helping Israeli society whenever they can.



Shlomo Kessel (r) with Vadim Lovv

www.emunah.org.uk

John Martin

A life of creativity

Interview by Hilary Halter

John grew up in Hammersmith where he gained a scholarship to Latymer School. He attended cheder at West Kensington Synagogue, Brook Green, where Reverend Venitt had a considerable influence on him.

He was not an academic child – he excelled in art and sport. Consequently, he left school at 15, albeit with five O-Levels, his voice still unbroken, and got a job in the accounts department of an insurance broker. After four years, he thought, “There must be more to life than this”, and moved to an advertising agency.

Here, he was assigned to voucher-checking – cutting out and sorting advertisements. After three weeks of tedium he moved to the publishers of *The Tatler* and *Illustrated London News* where he remained for two years, learning the rudiments of publicity and graphic design while studying advertising at night school.

He moved on to Young & Rubicam, then the third largest advertising agency in the world. This coincided with the huge changes which rocked society in the late fifties and sixties, the time of Swinging London, flower power and psychedelic colours – unsettling for a young man from Hammersmith new to a glamorous profession.

His first client was the cosmetics company Yardley who were moving away from their staple product – lavender water, so beloved of the late Queen Mother and her contemporaries – to cosmetics aimed at the new beat generation. They created the *Pretty Goods* cosmetic range and sponsored the pop group, *Love Affair*. John edited a newspaper, *Pretty Goods News*, which circulated in trendy areas of London including Carnaby Street. In the course of his work he inevitably met numerous pop stars and models. It was heady stuff.



John shakes hands with Prince Charles at the initiation of the Buckingham Palace bottle bank

He stayed with Y & R until 1970 when he moved to the prestigious Welbeck PR and progressed to CEO/Chairman. They numbered among their clients Brittany Ferries, Persil, Rowntrees, Bermuda, Pears soap, Fosters and Johnnie Walker. One of their biggest clients were the Glass Manufacturers Federation. This was at the time when organisations like Friends of the Earth were becoming active and were running a campaign against the use of 1-trip (non-returnable) bottles. They wanted a total ban on these but were offering no practical solution as to a replacement as the returnable glass bottle was not considered practical by the supermarkets. Cans and plastic bottles had their own environmental problems as we are now seeing.

In response to this challenge, John developed the Bottle Bank scheme – in other words, glass recycling, and, after several years of thought and planning, the first Bottle Banks appeared in public spaces. One of the earliest was installed at Buckingham Palace where John made his way for the official initiation ceremony by Prince Charles.

He had never visited Buckingham Palace before. Arriving by minicab, he pulled up at a gate where he was asked for his name which was not on the list. Notwithstanding, the steward directed him to a room where, he said, Prince Philip was giving a champagne party. John looked in and realised that this was nothing to do with bottles – unless they contained champagne that is – so he went on to something more like the tradesmen’s entrance which turned out to be correct and the ceremony went ahead. The event was covered by all the TV news bulletins and most of the nationals.

After the explosion of glamour and colour in the sixties, the seventies started on a pretty dismal note – there was a series of industrial disputes ending in the three-day week. One of Welbeck’s clients was Dulux who launched John’s *Let’s Make a Brighter Britain* campaign through which free paint was distributed to voluntary groups enabling them to brighten up communal areas and facilities such as youth clubs.

One morning, Dulux were invited to talk about this on *The Jimmy Young Show* which then occupied the morning slot on Radio 2. As there was no time to find a representative from the company, John presented himself at the BBC. He was shown into the studio where Jimmy Young, complete with headphones and mike, handed him a sheet of paper full of questions and said, “You are on in 30 seconds”. “It was not”, says John, “my finest hour.”



John and Frances



Painting by John to mark the 40th wedding anniversary of Vicki and Alex Harris

John also had the honour of working closely with the then incoming Chief Rabbi, now Lord, Jonathan Sacks in a voluntary capacity, an association which lasted seven years from 1990. John learnt much about the complexities of the Anglo-Jewish community during this period.

John left Welbeck in 1997, after 27 years during which time he won many national and international awards for his PR campaigns. He went on to form a small PR company of his own and spent the rest of his PR days working for Nestlé, developing social projects aimed at children and young people. Fields covered were musical education, tennis, out-of-school childcare and social research. He retired from PR in 2010.

So what about John’s artistic talents? After he left school this side of his life seemed to go into limbo, except for doodling that is. If he was in a meeting he would doodle – occasionally making sketches of those around him but mostly conjuring up faces from his unconscious mind. These he would throw into the bin. Unbeknown to him, the staff had collected these and, to his great surprise, presented him with a montage of those they had rescued.

Upon his retirement from PR, he started painting full-time, studying under Keith West in London and at the Charles Cecil Academy in Florence. He was selected as one of 24 artists in the Lloyd’s Bank Art of Sport scheme for the 2012 Olympics. Given rowing as a feature sport, he exhibited his works at several venues from the Gallery at Terminal 4, Heathrow, the Canadian High Commission, the Leander Club and many more. He won the Arts Depot Prize for professional artists in Barnet in 2013 and, in 2017, was shortlisted for the Ashurst Emerging Artists Award from 3700 entries worldwide.

Subsequently he has exhibited his figures/portraits (and occasionally landscapes) in galleries and at competition venues around the country and, recently, at a one-man show at the Aeon Gallery, Hampstead. This has led to him being selected by a gallery to produce a series of paintings featuring well-known personalities and their inspirations.

He specialises in portraiture, often completing commissions

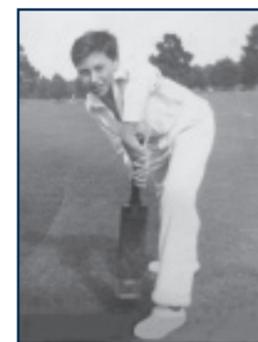
to mark lifetime events. Among his subjects have been Rabbi Livingstone and Chazan Avromi, members of the community as well as musicians and peers of the realm.

We also mentioned earlier that John was good at sports. At the age of 15 he played table tennis for Middlesex Juniors, who became county champions. Aged 16, he reached the last 32 in the English Open senior competition. One of his opponents was the Japanese player Hoshino, then world number three.

Hoshino won but the scoreline: 21-17, 21-17, 21-16, shows that John was a worthy competitor. In the same year, he took part in a game which featured the most points ever recorded to date. The score was 39-37 and it was widely reported in the national press. He also excelled in cricket, opening the batting for the Latymer team against other schools, including Eton, and he represented Hammersmith at tennis.

In 1978, John married Frances, née Oster, who was brought up in the Suburb. Many members will remember her parents, Vivian and Sela. John and Frances have two children, Lucy (Morelle) and James, both creative like their parents.

John’s family name was Nunes Martines. This Sephardi family have been in England continuously since the late 17th century. There is a family seat in Bevis Marks and John continues his association with the Spanish and Portuguese community through his membership of Lauderdale Road Synagogue. He has been a member of Norrice Lea since 1988.



Representing Latymer on the playing fields of Eton

**Supporting
you when
you are
un-expecting**

Call the confidential
Chana Helpline on 020 8201 5774
or email support@chana.org.uk

Chana is the leading fertility support organisation for the Jewish community and is here to support you through:

- Primary & secondary infertility
- Miscarriage & stillbirth
- Male infertility
- Cancer fertility preservation
- Intimacy issues
- Early pregnancy concerns
- Fertility treatment to avoid genetic disorders

חנה CREATING LIVES TOGETHER
chana

020 8203 8455
www.chana.org.uk

Chana Charity Ltd 1172957

Eligibility criteria may apply. Please visit chana.org.uk/mission-statement

It's all happening at Kerem



Change is afoot

Samantha Leek has succeeded David Wolfson as Chair of the Governors and, after 10 years as Headteacher, Alyson Burns has moved on to new challenges studying for a Masters and is also engaged to be married. The new Headteacher is **Ms Naomi Simon** who says:

"I am passionate about developing the relationship between staff and children as individuals, and understanding and respecting the impact that a school can have upon pupils and their families. I am excited by using non-traditional initiatives to promote and support success in more traditional areas. I love the fact that at Kerem teachers have the freedom both in and out of the classroom to bring learning to life. I'm passionate about character growth as well as knowledge growth. I am looking forward to further developing links with HGSS, working with the team of Rabbis and the community itself for the benefit of both communities".



Ms Naomi Simon



Etgar Challenge

Conratulations to Year 5. Best Table Winners (again). Kerem School comes 2nd overall – what an amazing achievement. We are so-o-o-o proud **and** excited! #whatmakeskeremspecial



Forest School

This is an approach to education which maximises the benefits of outdoor learning. Forest School offers children and young people the opportunity, over repeated visits, to engage with the rich natural diversity of the woodland environment to help build confidence, sensitivity, resilience and curiosity.



Funday

The sun shone and a great time was had by all when HGSS families got together at the Kerem Funday in June.



Voyage of the soigneurs – and a Silver Medal

Vicki Harris writes

My husband, Alex, and I have turned into 'soigneurs'. It all started some eight years ago when our daughter, Karina Kaufmann, decided to enter the Blenheim Palace Triathlon. Little did we know then that she had caught the 'race bug'. We have since spent a fair amount of time following her to various countries, supporting her and cheering her on as she has represented Great Britain in various age group International Championships in Triathlon and Duathlon.

This summer, we followed her to Romania, a country we had never previously visited. The European Duathlon Championships were held in Targu Mures, Transylvania –the realm of Dracula and Vlad the Impaler. It is a small town in the north of the country, moderately close to the Hungarian border and with a strong Hungarian influence. Karina had been training hard for the race and hoped to improve on her previous international results.

The Duathlon race was on Sunday 30 June and we duly rose early to cheer her on. The running and transition sections took place right in the centre of town with the cycling starting and finishing in town. There was a mass start for all female competitors at 08.38 in the morning – early because temperatures rise to 30°C by midday.



As Karina was the overall fastest woman on the bike section, she managed to pull ahead of all her age group competition except for one Swiss girl, earning a podium place and a silver medal



The next day we went exploring and, to our delight, found a wonderful synagogue close to the centre of town. Karina, Alex and I went to the Shabbat morning service there and, over kiddush (vodka and smoked salmon!), met some of the congregants. It was uplifting to visit such a small town and find a Jewish community.

However, sadness pervaded our visit as we heard how the once thriving community had been decimated by the holocaust and, when we visited, they could not achieve a minyan (even counting in Alex) for the Shabbat morning service.

The remaining Jews are largely survivors of the holocaust and a few of their children. The Glasgow Jewish Community (itself in somewhat of a decline) is helping the Targu Mures Jews, but the support of other communities is needed.



Jude makes it to the top

Jude Cannon, accompanied by father Adam, made it to the top of Mount Snowdon in July, raising almost £2000 for **Meningitis Now**. The summit stands at 1,085 metres above sea level and the climb, there and back, took seven hours.

Jude, now in his Bar Mitzvah year, was diagnosed with meningitis several years ago making a full recovery. He says, "Meningitis Now helps people who have had the condition and whose lives are changed by it. Amazingly, mine hasn't been changed and I am able to climb mountains."





For Sale

**British Airways & Virgin Atlantic
Air Miles**

contact
Yossi Potash

07866 814 127 or ypotash@gmail.com
reference available

Witnessing a Kiddush Hashem

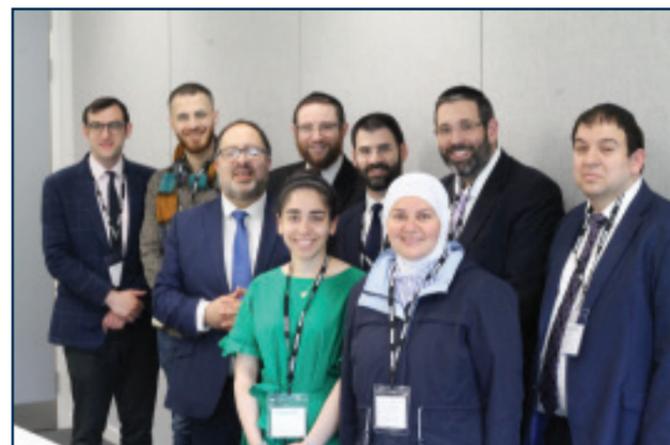
Helping those in need outside our community

Rabbi Guttentag sees for himself

A couple of months ago I took a day trip to Coventry – not necessarily a place I had planned to visit – but, along with five other United Synagogue Rabbis, I found myself on an early morning train out of Euston. We went to spend the day with refugees who have come to the UK as part of the government's resettlement schemes and are being helped by a Jewish charity to get into work. These are mostly Syrian families and individuals who have fled their home country because of war or persecution and have been identified by the UN as particularly vulnerable or at risk.

Britain has a long history of welcoming refugees. My own grandma was nine years old when she arrived in the UK in May 1939 as part of the Kindertransport. She was helped by the Central British Fund for German Jewry (CBF) and she started her new life in Britain – sometimes davening at Norrice Lea Shul during the war. The CBF gave her help and advice and, after training as a secretary, she got a job as a shorthand typist. Learning English and getting into work was incredibly important for Jewish refugees like her. It helped them to become 'British', even if some of them never lost their accents and, most importantly, they were able to support themselves and their families.

It's no different today. The CBF, now known as World Jewish Relief, is once again helping refugees start new lives in this country. The Specialist Training and Employment Programme (STEP), started in Bradford in 2016, is supporting refugees across West Yorkshire and the Midlands. We were lucky enough to spend the day with some of those living in Coventry who are being helped by the employment programme. Mum and daughter, Alyaa and Hafssa, told us about the intensive English classes that have helped them learn the language



and introduce them to words they'd expect to hear in the workplace. They each have a personal employment manager who gives them career guidance, help with CV writing and practice for interviews. Hafssa now has a job at TK Maxx after World Jewish Relief helped her get work experience there.

The refugees came with us to the Jewish section of Coventry's London Road Cemetery where we chatted about the similarities in language and practice between our different faiths. Over lunch with the Lord Mayor of Coventry, I talked to Martin who told me about fleeing Isis, coming to the UK and the challenges he has faced settling into his new home. With help from World Jewish Relief, he got work experience and a part time job at Waitrose. He is now front of house manager at a social enterprise café in the city centre which is staffed entirely by refugees.

After a quick stop by the derelict shul, we joined a class for refugees who had very recently arrived in the UK. We sat with them as they tackled their first words and phrases in English – some of them are illiterate in their own language, so this is the first time they are learning to read and write.

Starting life in a new country, let alone a new city, is a huge challenge. If your language skills aren't good enough, you don't have the qualifications to walk into a job and, without the support of family and friends, it can be a big struggle. But what was amazing was that these refugees, having suffered enormous trauma, were all enthusiastic about their new lives and determined to find work and support themselves and their families.

It was amazing to witness, first-hand, the Kiddush Hashem that has been created by a Jewish organisation helping those who need it outside our own community, whilst never compromising the incredible charitable deeds that take place within.



Simchas

Just arrived

Mazal tov to

Janis and Assaf Admoni on the birth of a grandson, a son to Rachel & Simon Carson

Sybil Benn on the birth of two great grandsons, One in England and one in Israel

Gisela Birnbaum on the birth of a great granddaughter, a daughter to Emma & Andrew Wolfen

Micaela & Emanuel Chetrit on the birth of a daughter, Gigi Leah. Also to grandpa, Sam Pearlman, and great-grandpa Chaim Pearlman

Freida & Yakhdan Cohen and Ronit & David Shamash on the birth of a grandson, a son to Naim & Shontal Cohen.

Harriet & Jamie Cohen on the birth of a son, Max Raphael. Also to grandparents Irit & Ashley Cohen and Louise & Stephen Ingram and great grandmother Ruby Cohen

Melissa & Andy Conway on the birth of a Grandson, a son to Natalie and Ben Bell

Zahava Dover on the birth of a great granddaughter in Jerusalem

Michele Ellis on the birth of a granddaughter, Sophia Amelia. A daughter for Debra and Jonathan Ellis

Louise & David Felder on the birth of a granddaughter, Arielle Naomi, a daughter for Miriam & Jason Roomer. Also to great grandmother Rivka Rosenfelder

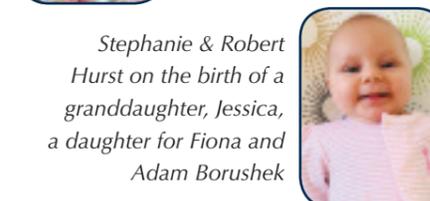
Ian & Debbie Fenton on the birth of a grandson, a son for Gilad and Danielle Kestenbaum. Also to great grandfather David Morein and great great grandmother Renee Bourne

Sarah and Bernard Fromson, on the birth of a granddaughter, a daughter for Rabbi Sam & Hadassah Fromson. Also to great grandfather Walter Hubert

Felice & Jeremy Hershkorn on the birth of a granddaughter, a daughter for Louise & Robert Hershkorn



Sinem & Ashley Hikmet on the birth of their daughter, Alana Rachel



Stephanie & Robert Hurst on the birth of a granddaughter, Jessica, a daughter for Fiona and Adam Borushek

Margarida & Martin Kurzer on the birth of a grandson, a son to Rabbi Ben & Abi Kurzer

Lisa Lerner on the birth of a granddaughter, Lily Alice, a daughter to James & Lydia Steele

Danielle & Jonathan Levine on the birth of their daughter, Leah Suzanne. Also to grandparents, Gillian & Dennis Levine and Paul Levy

Judy & Julian Lewis on the birth of a grandson, a second son for Emma & Nicholas Swerner

Natalie & James Lewis on the birth of their daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth/Rivkah bat Baruch. Also to grandparents, Laura & Stuart Marchant

Louise & Michael Marciano, on the birth of a son, also to grandparents, Carolyn & Harry Black

Jonathan and Jasmine Newman on the birth of a daughter. Also to grandparents Hilda & Michael Aaronson

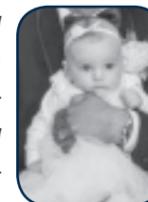
Linda & Harvey Rosenblatt on the birth of a grandson, a son to Mark and Amy Rosenblatt

Elizabeth & Ben Sheldon on the birth of a daughter, Annabelle. Also to grandparents Frances & Paul Elster and Madelaine & Stephen Sheldon

Paul and Kate Tannenbaum on the birth of a son. Also to the Tannenbaum and Last families

Meira & Graham Taub on the birth of a son. Also to grandparents Naomi & Bernard Taub

Simona & David Wise on the birth of a granddaughter, a daughter for Hayley and Yuval Manzur



Bar Mitzvah

Mazal tov to

Gideon, son of Sasha & Michael Baker, grandson of Lila Baker

Theo, son of Nicole & Marc Balint, grandson of Danielle & Andrew Balint



Jonah, son of Abigail & David Bloom

Nadav, son of Dara & Eitan Boyd, grandson of Sydney & Esther Boyd, Betsy Rigal and Wynne Rigal

Coby Caplan, his parents Miki & Danny, grandparents Frank & Shella Caplan, Lella & Fouad Yamin-Joseph

Oliver, son of Sasha & Elliott Cedar, grandson of Sandra & Stanley Cedar and Denise Peters, great grandson of Adele Bloom

Ben, son of Caroline & Alex Gerbi, grandson of Moses & Salme Gerbi, and Sidney & Tricia Hauswirth



Jack, son of Claire & Danie Harris, grandson of Leah & Leon Toffel and Susan & Robert Harris, great grandson of Zena Shattin

Ethan, son of Marc Israel & Carlyne Ellis grandson of Sabine Israel



Simchas

An apology

In our last issue, we included a greeting to Shmueli (Samuel Daniel) Bayvel-Zayats, son of Polina Bayvel and Anatoly Zayats, grandson of Leopold Bayvel. Unfortunately, the wrong photograph was included. Here is the correct one. Please, Shmueli, accept our sincerest apologies.



Bat Mitzvah

Mazal tov to



Kitty, daughter of Sacha & Darren Gayer, granddaughter of Janice & Arnold Gayer and Marlene & Michael Kent

Amber, daughter of Claire & James Hyman, granddaughter of Beverly & Michael Moss and Inge Hyman



Mia, daughter of Chana & Brett Moshal, granddaughter of Linda & Gerald Katzeff, and Denise Movson



Ashira, daughter of Shosh & Joel Greenwood, granddaughter of Naomi & Jeffrey Greenwood and Shirley & Harold Davis



Lior, daughter of Nirit & David Schemtob, granddaughter of Georgette Schemtob



Mischa, daughter of Tanya & Shalom Haffner, granddaughter of Lydia Haffner

Bar Mitzvah

Nathan, son of Francine & Miles Herz, grandson of Claire & Sam Barsam and Helen & Nachman Herz



Joshua, son of Rachel & Peter Kastner, grandson of Liesel Kastner and Sandra Rubner

Didier, son of Tania & Olivier Levenfiche, grandson of Sarah Lebetkin, Jacqueline Levenfiche, Jack & Marilyn Weiner

Ethan, son of Deborah & Richard Paul, grandson of Sylvia Paul and Malcolm & Vivien Levy



Ethan, son of Ilana & Gidon Said, grandson of Sam Kassel and Jean Said

Adam, son of Hannah & Alan Summers, grandson of Yaghoub & Chokat Bassally-Elishahoff



Adam, son of Annette & Danny Tricot, grandson of Michael & Velda Rosmarin and Gracy Dallal

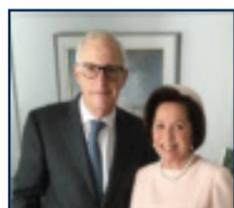
Anniversaries

Mazal tov to

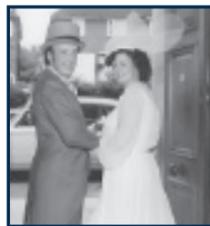


Jennifer & Norman Hanison on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Jennifer &

Norman were married at Marble Arch Synagogue on 16 April 1969. Norman arrived in the Suburb in 1947, aged three, and lived opposite the Shul at 7 Norrice Lea. He has lived in the Suburb ever since (except for 4 years following getting married) but soon came back. He was Bar Mitzvah at Norrice Lea, as were his sons, David & Paul, and his grandsons Joshua and Alfie.



Tina & Stephen Rabin on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary



Suzanne & Michael Zeitlin on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding. Suzanne & Michael were married, at HGSS, by Dayan Lew and Reverend Freilich on the 10 June 1979. Suzanne grew up in the Suburb as did her mother, Mrs A Collis, and her father, Mr P Bloom, who arrived from Poland before the war. Michael still sits on his seat in the Shul. Michael & Suzanne have lived in the Suburb all their married lives.



Vivien & Philip Eder on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding

Ros & Nolan Wengrowe on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding

Tracey & David Kyte on their 35th Wedding Anniversary

Felice & Jeremy Hershkorn on their 35th Wedding Anniversary.

Engagements

Mazal tov to

Victor and Lucienne Amar on the engagement of their grandson Choni Amar to Sara Chocron in Manchester. Also to parents, Rabbi Meyer & Yudit Amar and Asher & Yael Chocron

Alyson Burns (Kerem Headteacher) on her engagement to Michael Selby



Janine Collins on the engagement of her son Ollie (son of the late Jonathan Collins) to Dvorit, daughter of Cindy and Raphael Faust of Montreal. Also to grandmother, Sylvia Sheff

Helen & Isaac Jebreel on the engagement of their daughter Roxana to Zac Kenton.

Adrienne & Stewart Laitner on the engagement of Simon Rosenberg to Hannah, daughter of Evelyn & Joe Sassoon. Also to Grandmother Ann Sevitt

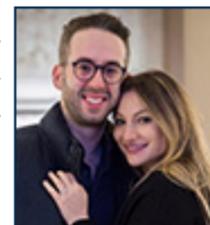


John & Lesley Malnick on Edward's engagement to Amy daughter of Laura and Michael Taylor

Sassy & Lior Rajwan on Anthony's engagement

Ivan Salter on the engagement of his grandson Harry Salter to Leora Blitz

Nina & Roy Sandler on the engagement of their daughter Joanna to James Kleinman



Naomi & Bernard Taub on the engagement of their granddaughter Maayan to Shachar

Ros & Nolan Wengrowe on the engagement of their daughter Lauren to Jonny, son of Franky & Johnny Smetana

Weddings

Mazal tov to

Jon & Jacqui Barnett on the marriage of their daughter Vicki to Sam Barr

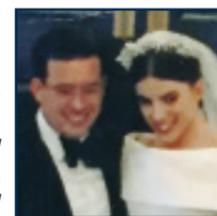
Robert Duboff on his marriage to Shelley Manioovich. Also to his parents Susan and Peter



Alexandra & Jeffrey Davidson on the marriage of their daughter, Lauren, to Robert Vickers, son of Kathie & Roger Vickers. Also to grandparents Evi & Freddy Fishburn

Emma & Ollie Newton on their marriage.

Also to parents, Angela & Louis Gershon, Jo & David Fogel and Susan & David Newton and grandparents Myra & Mike Rom, Benita Fogel and Angela Woolf



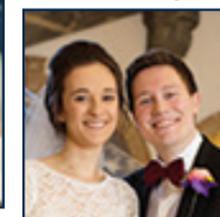
Sarah & Bernard Fromson on the marriage of their daughter Renate to Ben Winton, son of Susan & Adam Winton. Also to grandfather Walter Hubert

Nigel Fisch and Debbie Kagan on the marriage of their daughter, Tamara, to Sam, son of Martin and Angela Seitler

Susan & David Lew on the marriage, of their daughter Hannah to Nicholas Goldstein, son of Gail & Charles Goldstein



Susan Monty on the marriage of her daughter Stephanie to Jez Irving
Jonathan & Samantha Waxman on Ruth's marriage to Gideon Barth



Naomi & Vivian Wineman on the marriage of their daughter Ronit to Daniel, son of Michael and Nadia Barnett of Liverpool

Simona and David Wise on the marriage of their daughter Nicole to Johnny Harooni, son of Jackline and Farid Harooni



100th Birthday Greetings



Rita Lavy, seen here with her daughter, Elizabeth Parlons, enjoys her birthday cake at the family celebration

Mazal tov to Rita and all the family

Birthdays

Greetings to

Solly Ohayon on the occasion of his 93rd birthday

Joost Cohen on the occasion of his 75th birthday

Simchas included in this edition go up to the end of July

Please send your photographs to hilaryrhalter34@gmail.com

Wish Ambulance in action



Judith Tobin writes: Three US Chesed volunteers were recently involved in a trip on the Wish Ambulance that the community so generously helped purchase two years ago.. They traveled from London, where the ambulance is based, to the Rhondda Valleys in Wales. Here, they were able to fulfill the dying wish of an 84-year-old man to see his wife of 60 years one last time. Our volunteers witnessed the most heart warming of reunions - never to be forgotten.

Project ImpACT

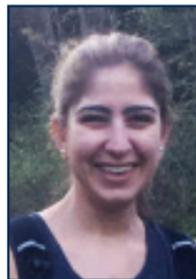


Project ImpACT educates and inspires teens to develop an active approach to helping others less fortunate. Here, members prepare meals for the homeless.

Look out for

You may remember that, in December 2018, Jessica Shuman, daughter of Heather and Paul, told us how she ran, kayaked and cycled her way round Malawi in the company of Kelly Holmes and 20 other amateur athletes. In June next year, she plans to row from California to Hawaii.

Good luck to her – we look forward to hearing all about it.



The Aleph Centre

Chayli Fehler, Director of Aleph Centre and Zone, reports, "The Aleph Centre is looking forward to another fantastic year ahead with enjoyable interactive learning and exciting events with our great and experienced team of staff."

Here is just some of what has been happening.



Above and below: Pupils at the Aleph Centre took part in an interactive Israel Fair to learn about Israel with workshops, games, quizzes and fun activities.



Rosh Hashanah Culinary Competition



HGSS Eco Synagogue invites you to participate in our competition to create the most environmentally friendly menu for a Rosh Hashanah celebratory meal

The menu must comprise a starter, main course and dessert. Please provide the recipe for each course.

The judges will be impressed by originality, seasonality of foods, environmental impact of the ingredients and cooking methods and the deliciousness of the dishes!

We hope to create an online recipe book with your ideas

Exciting prizes for each category:

Under 12 years old / Aspiring Chefs/Seasoned Chefs

Please send your entries to HGSSEco@gmail.com by the end of October stating the category in which you want to enter.

Good luck!

Step Up Camp, Ethiopia



Chayli Fehler has just returned from a spell working in the Jewi refugee camp in Ethiopia. The programme supports some of the poorest and most vulnerable children in the world, many of whom are orphans, having fled the recent violent conflict in South Sudan.

Here, children are enjoying their first experience of illustrated books. The books, from the first English library to be opened at the camp, were sponsored by HGSS parents.

Chayli writes: The conditions in the crowded refugee camp are hard to imagine. There is no running water, no electricity, and no light after dark. Rations are limited to just 10kg of food per month per person, and there is limited medication and high child fatality. Yet, the youth have faith, resilience and a strong desire to learn as much as they can for their future.

More about this next time.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Kiddush Rota. If you can help please contact Louise: familyfelters@gmail.com

The Editorial Team

Editor..... Hilary Halter
 Editorial Board..... Louise Felder
 Renée Green
 Simone Halfin
 David Lew

Artwork & Typesetting..... Hilary Halter
 Proof Reading..... Cynthia Delieb
 Louise Felder
 Abigail Bloom

Editorial Office..... 24 Fairacres
 164 East End Road
 London N2 ORR
 Telephone 8365 2187
 hilaryhalter34@gmail.com

The Synagogue Office

Norrice Lea, London N2 0RE
 Tel 8455 8126 Fax 8201 9247
 Email office@hgss.org.uk
 Website www.hgss.org.uk
 Community Director..... Edward Howard
 Office Manager Sharon Drucker
 Accounts Harris Turgel
 Facilities Manager..... Mark Gould
 Events..... Gayle Kravitz
 PA to the Rabbis..... Abigail Bloom

Office Hours:
 Monday – Thursday 9.30 am – 4.00 pm
 Friday (Telephone queries only) 9.30 am – 1.00 pm
 Sunday 9.30 am – 1.00 pm
 (1st & 3rd Sunday of the month)

Useful Contacts

Rabbi Daniel Friedman
 rabbi.friedman@hgss.org.uk
 Rabbanit Batya Friedman
 rabbanit@hgss.org.uk
 Rabbi Ephraim Guttentag
 rabbi.guttentag@hgss.org.uk
 Rebbetzen Malki Guttentag
 malki@hgss.org.uk
 Chazan Avromi Freilich
 chazanavromi@gmail.com
 Rabbi Jonathan Tawil
 rabbitawil@hotmail.com

Aleph Learning Centre 8457 7048
 Nefesh Network 8455 0040
 Beth Din 8343 6280
 Burial Society 8950 7767
 Kerem EYU 8455 7524
 Kerem School 8455 0909

Camp Kochavim 2019



Children enjoyed two weeks of action packed fun at Camp Kochavim, the popular summer camp at HGSS. Activities included puppet shows, fire juggling, wacky water days and water olympics. Campers met some exotic creatures, including giant reptiles and a talking parrot. Then came paint fest, with a hands on colour war cookery, sports, bubble workshops, cookery and science skills fun. Sports, dance karate, inflatable and a giant carnival were also part of the fun. Trips to Whipsnade Zoo, Gulliver's Land, Go Ape

and Liquid Leisure were highlights for older campers.

We look forward to next year's Camp Kochavim where every camper enjoys action-packed, fun-filled days in a warm and welcoming atmosphere!



Celebrating?



The Max Weinbaum Hall offers:

- *180 Seated with a dance floor / 220 Seated without a dance floor*
- *Contemporary décor and state of the art lighting and av equipment*
- *2 Inbuilt 60" screens with full audio*
- *Separate reception area*



**Discounted rates for
HGSS members**

**Contact Sharon in the
Synagogue Office
8455 8126
sharon@hgss.org.uk**

