

The Norrice Leader



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News & views from Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue
Rosh Hashanah 5784/2023

Mazal Tov!



As can be seen, the Shul was bursting at the seams to accommodate all who had come to celebrate the marriage of Avigail Freilich to Alex Gutstein, son of Yossi & Anita Gutstein. Mazal tov to Chazan Avromi, Rochelle and all the Freilich family.



The Aleph Centre are justifiably proud of the Year 6 children who represented them at the Etgar Challenge and beat all the teams from the chederim in the competition.

The Aleph Centre



Well done to the Year 1 children who celebrated learning all their Hebrew letters with a special musical Aleph Bet party with Rabbi Luis and their parents.

Editor's Note

Welcome to our Rosh Hashanah edition. With it I complete 20 years as Editor (more about that inside).



The issue of 2003 looks very different. However, there is a very familiar name on the front page with the following announcement:

MAZAL TOV

We are delighted to learn that our Chazan, Avromi Freilich, has qualified as a speech therapist after four years' study.
wwwAll good wishes to Avromi- an ideal choice of profession for a wonderful communicator.

שנה טובה

Rabbi Marc & Rebbetzen Lisa Levene,
Rabbi Luis & Rebbetzen Jodie Herszhaft
and Chazan Avromi & Rochelle Freilich
with the Professional Staff
and Honorary Officers
wish all members and
their families



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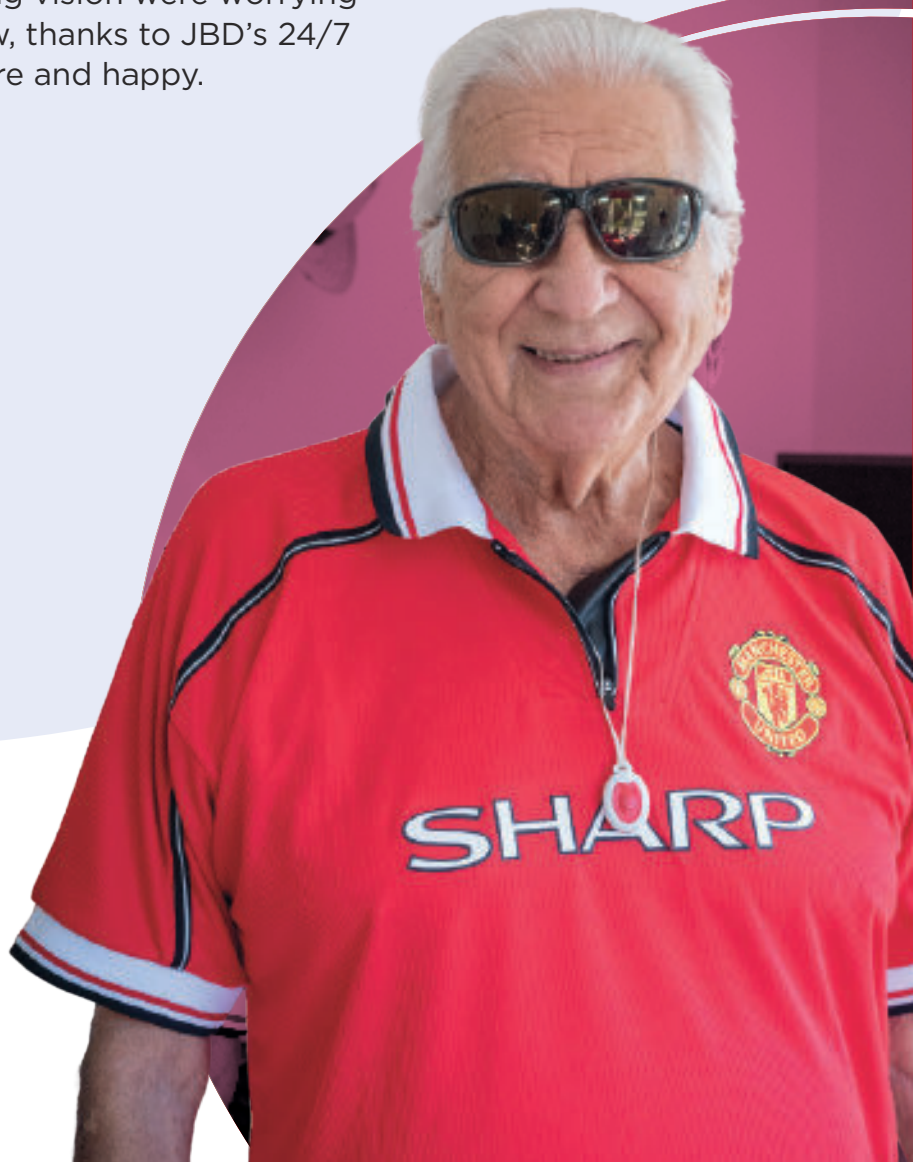
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The Chief Rabbi's Rosh Hashanah Message 5784/2023

The term *Yamim Noraim* (Days of Awe) contains within it the key to transformative living. *Unetaneh Tokef*, at the heart of our High Holyday Musaph prayers, commences: “*Let us now proclaim the power of this day, for it is awe-inspiring...*” Awe is an emotion that is often elusive and fleeting, but when experienced, it can be unforgettable and life-altering.

Dacher Keltner, Professor of Psychology at the University of California, Berkeley, defines awe as the experience of “vast mysteries.” In a widely acclaimed paper, written together with the noted social psychologist, Jonathan Haidt, Keltner identifies five spheres of experience which give rise to the feeling of awe.

1. Threat. When we encounter someone or something which has the power of life and death, such as a powerful natural disaster.
2. Beauty. When we see a striking piece of art or place of rare natural splendour.
3. Ability. When we appreciate in someone or something, an extraordinary talent.
4. Virtue. When we experience extraordinary acts of goodness which inspire us.
5. Supernatural Causality. When we feel the manifestation of the Divine in our lives.

Fascinatingly, these spheres of experience combine in the most extraordinary way on our Days of Awe. Standing before our Creator on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, we meditate upon our mortality and the gift of life. We are struck by the beauty of the sea of white in our Shuls and the rousing melodies of our prayers. We recognise in Hashem the capacity to help shape our lives and His boundless virtue to forgive us, no matter how frequently we err. Above all, our Days of Awe

enable us to experience the hand of Hashem on our shoulders, comforting us, guiding us, and pushing us to fulfil our potential.

Significantly, in an extraordinary series of studies, Professor Keltner showed that people who had reported experiencing more awe in their lives, were more charitable and more altruistic. Reflecting on these studies, he wrote, “awe imbues people with a different sense of themselves, one that is smaller, more humble and part of something larger. In the great balancing act of our social lives, between the gratification of self-interest and a concern for others, fleeting experiences of awe redefine the self in terms of the collective, and orient our actions towards the needs of those around us.” No wonder, therefore, that our Unetaneh Tokef prayer concludes with a call to engage in prayer, penitence and charity.

With this in mind, may our forthcoming Yamim Noraim, filled with heartfelt introspection and awe, inspire us to be more compassionate, more giving and more connected to our fellows. Let us strive to live each day with a renewed sense of purpose and a deep appreciation for the awe-inspiring moments that await us.

Valerie and I wish you all a shana tova umetukah, filled with awe and bountiful blessings.

Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis KBE



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From Rabbi Levene

Open a door as tiny as the eye of a needle and I will open your gates wide enough to let carts and horse-drawn carriages drive through' (Midrash Rabbah)



Such a subtle, yet fascinating comment is made by our great sages, and it is a quote I often ponder during the High Holy Days. This festive period can be quite daunting. Yes, we emphasise the fun, food, and family aspects, but at its core, these days are about judgment and repentance. However, many of us often feel distant from this intensity, and I believe it has something to do with the fact that building a relationship with the Almighty is challenging, especially in such a fast-paced modern world when we cannot see or feel His presence.

Nevertheless, every year, the invitation to return home falls at our feet, sometimes unexpectedly. It's as if the Almighty welcomes us with wide-open arms, asking, "Where have you been? I am right here, just come home." This is the essence of teshuvah, often translated as repentance, but I believe it's much deeper. It is the journey of our souls as they navigate life's demanding terrain, striving to return to their pure essence. Through this process, we gain a sense of understanding, purpose, and achievement. This is what the High Holy Days are all about.

Though taking the first steps can be ambitious and challenging, our Sages teach us that the Almighty invites us to simply open the door, even as small as a pinhole, promising that He will then expand it into an enormous space. The message is that once we take that first small step, G-d will help us move further and make significant strides in self-improvement and growth. We don't have to, and indeed, should not try to make drastic changes all at once. Our challenge is to make a small "opening," to inch forward, and G-d will then assist us in progressing even further.

But why the metaphor of a pinhole? There are many

other common examples of small holes, so why did our Sages choose the image of a needle puncturing a surface? Let us suggest that the hole produced by a needle is tiny yet permanent, and this precisely conveys the message our Sages intended.

The process of Teshuva requires us to make small, sincere, and permanent commitments and we should plan to keep these commitments on an ongoing basis, forever. Preparing for the High Holidays doesn't mean thinking in grandiose terms of drastic changes we'd ideally like to make in our lives. Such thoughts will get us nowhere. Instead, the process of Elul is about making 'an opening like a pinhole,' deciding upon small changes that we can realistically expect to maintain permanently.

This same principle applies to our very special community. It starts by simply opening the door, and the rest is here waiting for you. As we have said from the very beginning, our goal is for every member to find their own space, and if it's not here, we can try to build it for you – just ask, reach out, talk to us. Our entire staff, comprising both professional and lay leadership, is working tirelessly for the good and betterment of this community, for which we are all exceptionally appreciative. Be a part of something extraordinary; join us on our journey.

Wishing all of us a year filled with happiness and an abundance of blessings.

Rabbi Marc Levene, Senior Rabbi

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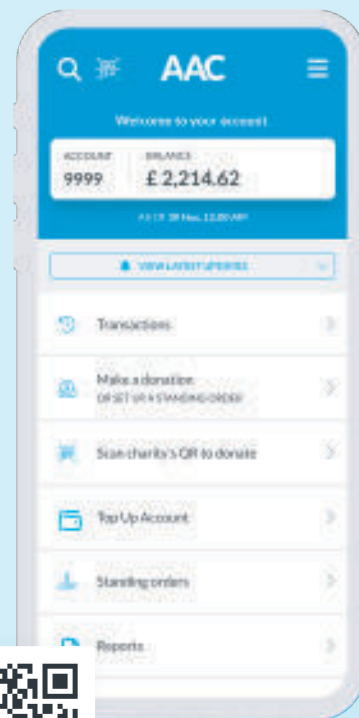
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From the Chairman

As I look back at the Jewish year 5783, I see a huge amount that we, as a community, can be proud of. After the impact of Covid, more and more people are coming back through our doors – not only on a Shabbat morning. The Levenes and Herszafts have settled in and already left their mark, with some amazing new programming including TGI Tuesday and KIDdish. Chazan Avromi's special winter Friday night services created a wonderful, uplifting experience; if you didn't try them last year, I encourage you to do so when they start in the autumn.

The Yamim Noraim, High Holy Days, are a time for introspection, reflection and renewal. They're a time for us to take stock of our past 12 months – the good times and the challenging – and look forward to the coming year with hope and resolve.

In the stirring words of the Mussaf service, we say:

"On Rosh Hashanah it is written and on Yom Kippur it is sealed: how many will pass away and how many will be born; who will live and who will die; who in his due time and who before..."

These words are not meant to instil fear, but rather to remind us of the fleeting nature of life and the importance of each moment. They impress upon us the urgency to cherish our experiences, our relationships and our community. Our actions, our words and our thoughts matter not only to us but also to those around us. I have personally never felt this as much as in recent weeks, with the passing of my dear father and I cannot thank you all enough for the love and support you gave

to me and my family.

As we come together at this sacred time, let us resolve to approach the coming year with renewed dedication to the values of compassion, social justice and community service. Let us strive to be better individuals, better friends, better family members and better stewards of our world.

"...who will rest and who will wander; who will be calm and who will be harassed; who will be at ease and who will suffer; who will become poor and who will grow rich; who cast down and who raised high..."

The journey of the coming year may be filled with both tranquillity and turbulence. It's our shared responsibility to support each other through the inevitable ups and downs. We will celebrate *s'machot* together – and, in the face of difficulty, we should remember that we're not alone.

I am honoured to serve such a vibrant and dedicated community, and I'm excited about the future we can build together. If you have any suggestions about how we, as a team, can better support you and the community, please do not hesitate to get in touch – including when I'm out walking the dog (my wife, Deborah, is getting used to the stop-and-chat!).

As we enter the New Year, let us look forward with hope, resilience and a shared purpose. May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life for a year filled with health, happiness, and peace.

I wish each and every one of you a *Shana Tova U'metuka*.

David Galaun

Our Chatanim

Chatan Torah – Craig Leviton



Juliette and I are deeply honoured at my having been asked to be Chatan Torah this year. We are very pleased to be sharing this with Sarah and Jeremy Callman who have played such an important role in the local community.

I grew up in Pinner and was a member of both Pinner and then Northwood Synagogue who were blessed with great Rabbis including Rabbi Barry Marcus. Juliette grew up in Hampstead and was a member of South Hampstead Synagogue.

We have been members of Norrice Lea since we moved into Hampstead Garden Suburb in 2006 and were delighted that our children had their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs here. Our youngest Millie, was fortunate enough to have her Bat Mitzvah days before the Covid Lockdown in March 2020. Both our sons went to UCS and Joseph, our eldest, has now graduated from the University of Leeds. George has finished his first year also at the University of Leeds and Millie is at Channing School.

I met Juliette 30 years ago when I was the Campaigns Officer of UJS and Juliette was studying in Manchester. Juliette went on to build a successful career as a TV producer. After UJS I spent three further years working in the community in Parliament before starting on a career in communications and public affairs. I am now a Partner of FGS Global, an international communications consultancy and combine that with being an adviser to Unite Students, the largest student accommodation provider in the country.

I feel very privileged that I have had a number of associations with communal organisations over the last thirty years. Last year I had the honour of becoming the Chairman of the Holocaust Educational Trust. HET, set up over 35 years ago, has delivered some of the most impactful work I have seen in the community from

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Chatan Bereishit – Jeremy Callman



I am genuinely delighted (as well as hugely - if very pleasantly - surprised) to be asked to be Chatan Bereishit.

As I understand it, my work on The Zone - a fun, educational and social Bar/Bat Mitzvah programme - is my main qualification for this unexpected honour. Over the years The Zone has been engaging with a host of topics from crime and punishment, to medical ethics and peace in the Middle East. Hopefully it has helped inspire and connect our Community's wonderful teens in the run up to their major Bar/Bat Mitzvah life events.

The Zone is evolving for the coming year into a wider programme working across the US communities – partnering with Highgate, South Hampstead, St John's Wood, Brondesbury Park, Mill Hill and Muswell Hill. We are putting together five large-scale 'vibey' events for our year 7 teens: Mitzvah Day at Jewish Care, Tackling Antisemitism with the CST and Streetwise, a huge Chanukah Party, a Holocaust Memorial Day programme and a Grand Finale Siyum with music and drumming. We hope that this will mark the start of an ongoing collaboration across the synagogues to make something special for our kids, to 'meld' with the wonderful programming within HGSS.

Hopefully, through me, the programme and all those who have helped make it happen, can share in the 'yichus'. Among those who have helped create the Zone are Rabbi Levene who was a huge support from way back at the birth of this project 7 years ago and Chayli Fehler who has been a brilliant guiding light throughout our journey as the Zone Director. Indeed my co-Chatan, Craig, was very much a part of the birth of the Zone (Mazel tov to you Craig!). Rabbi Herszaft is an inspirational part of the expanding cross-community Zone, as is my co-chair Vanessa Mendelsohn.

Regarding me, I am blessed with my awesome wife Sarah (a psychologist working in the NHS, who helps run

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Chochmat Lev



Our two recipients this year were Rebbetzen Lisa Levene and Rebbetzen Jodie Herszaft—a very popular choice. In her introductory remarks, Rebbetzen Levene explored the actual meaning of this title. In doing so, she reminded us that it was Rebbetzin Freda Kaplan who introduced us to the title of this award, ‘Chochmat Lev’—Wisdom of the Heart—more than 10 years ago, a concept cited in Tanach. In her description, along with explaining the literal meaning of the term ‘wisdom of the heart,’ she delved into how this is a trait that we all possess:

- The ability to share the unique talents that have been afforded to us.
- Looking inside ourselves to explore our personal and communal obligations.
- The constant drive we should embrace to continue to learn and grow.

She went on to explain that the Tanya, a classic Chassidic work, describes chochmah as being composed of two Hebrew words: ‘koach’ and ‘mah,’ meaning ‘potential.’ Chochmah is pure potential. Wisdom is that which resides within us, waiting to emerge.

And it was this message on which she concluded. She cited the privilege it was for her, Rabbi Levene, and their daughters to serve our community—a community that they believe is brimming with potential and new ideas. She believes that by working together and learning from each other, HGSS becomes ‘better together.’ Chochmat lev isn’t solely a concept reserved for our ancestors or merely a special title reserved for just a small few; these traits are inherent in each one of us. And in her parting words, she expressed gratitude to each of us for our support, partnership, and assistance in making HGSS a place people can truly call ‘home’.



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taking students to Auschwitz on educational visits, to developing student ambassadors and our wider outreach. The challenges for holocaust education will become greater in the years to come and it is incumbent on all organisations to rise to this new challenge.

I was very pleased to have been able to play a small part in the planning and communications alongside the Honorary Officers and Rabbi and Rebbetzen Levene over the past year and how thrilled we are to have them back at HGSS.

Outside of community life, I have recently been appointed as Governor of Nottingham Trent University, an institution that does a great deal to promote social mobility.

Finally, I would like to express my enormous respect and admiration to our honorary officers and wardens for their tireless work and commitment to the Synagogue and the entire community. We are blessed with wonderful spiritual leaders in Rabbi Marc and Rebbetzen Lisa Levene, Rabbi Luis and Rebbetzen Jodie Herszaft and Chazan Avromi and Rochelle Freilich.

We wish everyone in the community **Chag Sameach.**

Continued from previous page

HGSS’s Mitzvah Day) and our four superb kids, Ben, Tammy, Sam and Joe, all of whom make me hugely proud.

I am Hampstead Garden Suburb born and bred. My own epic life journey has taken me a befuddling 100 metres from my childhood home. I have never lived outside the redbrick confines of Hampstead Garden Suburb (my appalling sense of direction would simply not permit me straying).

I am a Barrister (yes, yet another pesky lawyer!), specialising in partnership disputes. A mixture of often uncharted legal waters, a rich tapestry of human interaction and problem solving. I genuinely enjoy my ‘day job’ (my wife would argue it is my way of escaping domestic chaos). Consistent with the limitations imposed by my questionable sense of direction, I have remained in the same set of chambers for the past 29 years.

Communally, I have been involved for many years with Norwood, Mitzvah Day and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (which I attended for six months a lifetime ago), as well as the Zone and a number of other youth work projects.

Thank you for this honour and for all that this unbelievable Community brings to so many.

Chag Sameach.

Young HGSS

Rabbi Luis and Jodie Herszaff
look back over the summer months

What an amazing few months it's been for our young families at HGSS. Our weekly Mum and Baby group, featuring *Caterpillar Music*, has brought together lots of new mums and their adorable babies, fostering a sense of community. As we look forward to September, we're thrilled to announce the launch of our new Mum and Baby group, in collaboration with the charity 'Mother to Mother.' This exciting initiative will bring different baby experts in every week to discuss various baby-related topics, along with the beloved music and movement sessions that everyone loves!

Another highlight has been our weekly Parenting classes, led by Psychologist, Shanni Solomon. These classes have been helpful for parents, providing a safe space in which to share their challenges and seek guidance on the incredible journey of raising children.

We're excited to share that, coming up in October, we have a four-part series on 'Navigating and Responding to Our Child's Fears and Anxieties'. This course, led by CBT Psychotherapist, Alli Sturgess, promises to equip parents with valuable insights and tools to nurture their children's emotional well-being.

And then there's 'KIDDish' – our latest Shabbat morning initiative. Thanks to the wonderful support of Anna and Saul Lemer, 'KIDDish' is a special kiddush designed exclusively for our little ones. Every week, the kids gather in one room to enjoy the 'treat of the week' which includes delicious goodies like ice cream, cookies, muffins, and more! Recently, we organised a special kiddush to bid farewell to the Gilbert family as they embark on a year-long journey to the USA. We can't thank them enough for their amazing work with our children's services and community, and we eagerly

await their return.

To create an even more welcoming and family-friendly atmosphere, we've introduced soft play into the main kiddush area, providing our little ones with a chance to run around and play while parents can relax and socialize.

One of the most heart-warming moments of the past months was our annual baby blessing. We invited all families into Shul, where each child received a teddy bear and a professionally printed copy of the Friday night blessing we give to our children. The day continued with a delightful baby kiddush and soft play, further reinforcing the sense of community within our Shul.

Shavuot brought us another day of unforgettable celebrations. We hosted a **Ten-Commandment Mini Golf Challenge**, featuring crazy golf and other outdoor games like **Giant Kerplunk**, **Giant Snakes and Ladders** and **Draughts**

For our Young Professionals, we had a great night out at the Spaniards Inn for Link, Drink, and Think with Diana and her daughter, Daria, who shared their remarkable journey of leaving Ukraine. We were all inspired by her story and perseverance. Once again, we look forward to seeing everyone for an inspiring Link Minyan over Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, as well as other exciting events throughout the next year, including a Friday Night Dinner and volunteering with **Feast With Us**, providing meals for the homeless.

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has joined in and made these events and experiences so memorable. Get ready for an even more exciting year ahead!

Bernard Taub celebrates his 80th birthday

In April, Bernard Taub celebrated his 80th birthday and we all celebrated with him.

The Shul felt that they could not let this moment pass unmarked and took the opportunity to add the word Chaver (friend) to his name. This is a very rare and ancient honour given by a community to acknowledge a very special person. His Hebrew name is now *HeChaver Binyamin Chaim ben Aryeh Leib* and a certificate to this effect has been signed by Rabbi Levene and the Chief Rabbi. His children have also had the appropriate addition to their names.

Bernard first became a warden at a time when the Shul was going through radical changes and the membership was dwindling. This was at a time when the Office was not as well staffed as it is today and any new feature or event had to be organised and run

by a committee. He served as Chairman for three years and Warden for fourteen. Bernard continues to be involved in organising the daily services as well as seeing that the Sifrei Torah are always organised for every festival/fast day throughout the year.

Bernard was deeply moved when Rabbi Levene made it known that he wished his birthday to be marked in this way. He was also delighted that his son from Australia, his sister and brother-in-law from Israel, together with Naomi's Brother and sister-in-law from America came over, making this not just a communal but also a family occasion.



בס"ד

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Members Remembered

Alan Cohen

Alan lived in the Suburb all his life.

The names of his father, Sam, and grandfather, Morris Cohen, can be seen on the founders' plaque in the Shul foyer and, with them, he attended the first services held by the fledgling community. Over the years, he has made a huge contribution to the community and has occupied most offices of responsibility.



A hard-working student, he achieved an Exhibition at Trinity Hall Cambridge in 1948. However, he deferred taking this up in order to undertake his military service. Still only 18, he achieved Officer role as Captain. He finally took up his place at Cambridge in 1950 to study History. It was at Cambridge that he joined the Liberal party.

Alan and Gwen were introduced to each other by Philip Maurice, then Youth Club Leader, in September 1953. He suggested to Alan that Gwen, who was visiting London from Glasgow, was 'his type of girl'. The telephone system being none too reliable at that time, it was not a long engagement. They married at Pollockshields Synagogue, Glasgow, on 16 March 1954. Their house in Church Mount was built while they were engaged and they moved in just after their first son, Colin, was born. It has been their home ever since. Their second son, Ian, was born in December 1956 and Malcolm followed in May 1959.



In addition to his commitment to the Shul, Alan's communal involvements were widespread. He served in local government, the magistracy, the probation service, various arts activities (including the Finchley Arts Depot) and B'nai B'rith. More recently, he took a leading role in setting up the Hampstead Garden Suburb Virtual Museum of which he was a Trustee. His memories of wartime life in HGS are recorded here (hgsheritage.org.uk/Detail/objects/WW2-6-1).

Asked whether he had any memories or photos of his Bar Mitzvah, his answer was "Not really". He read Maftir and Haftarah – he was taught by Rabbi Weinstock who also addressed him from the pulpit. The shul presented him, with a Hertz Chumash which he used until it began to fall apart some 35 years later when they presented him with a replacement.

He recalls that the main theme of the sermon was "How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob" but, in the middle of World War Two, the tents were a far cry from the marquees of today and, compared with today, there were very limited celebrations – this both because, traditionally, a Bar Mitzvah was more low-key. There was a family lunch at home and a separate party for his friends. He could not find a photograph.

Our condolences to Gwen and all the family. Alan's empty seat leaves a big gap in the Shul – he will be sorely missed.

Hilary reaches a milestone

With this issue, Hilary Halter has completed 20 years as editor of *The Norrice Leader*. Freddy Fishburn seized the opportunity to find out more about her

Hilary is a Londoner through and through. She has lived in London all her life, apart from a short time during the last war. Her grandparents arrived here from Odessa and Warsaw in the 1890s and her parents were both born here. In the 1930s, they started a business, Jenny Hockley Ltd, manufacturing children's dresses, in premises on the corner of Cleveland Street, and Warren Street, W1 – the heart of the Jewish garment manufacturing world. As their mother worked, Hilary and her elder sister, Muriel, were cared for by a nanny, Lily, who stayed with the family for the rest of her life.

The family stayed in London for much of the blitz in 1940/1. Hilary remembers sheltering from the nightly air raids in an Anderson air raid shelter – an arch of corrugated iron over a large trench – in their garden. Then, in the morning, searching for pieces of shrapnel (bomb casing) and burnt-out incendiary bombs. Her father, deemed unfit for military service, became an Air Raid Warden and patrolled the surrounding streets.

In 1941, the family moved to Saffron Walden in Essex, where their house happened to be opposite a Quaker school, a boarding and day establishment for both boys and girls, founded in the early 18th century. Her mother wanted both girls to attend but Hilary, now seven years old, had, for one reason or another, attended school for just one week. Anyway, her mother presented herself to the headmaster who said, "I can accept your older daughter but not your younger daughter. She cannot read or write." "She will read and write," declared Mrs H and, two months later, she did. One setback – to her mother's horror, it transpired that she was left-handed. Despite the disapproval of the school, Hilary learned to use her right hand.

As is well-known, the Quakers helped Jews to escape from Nazi-occupied Europe. The school took in several refugee children from Germany and other countries. When, in 2002, it celebrated its 300th anniversary, Hilary was asked to produce a commemorative book in which the stories of several of these survivors were included. This publication became the prototype for the HGSS publication, *Everything in the Garden*, published in 2009 to celebrate the Shul's 75th anniversary.

When the war ended, the family moved back to London – to a flat just off the High Street, Kensington. Her sister, Muriel, became involved in Jewish social life and, in 1952, she married a strictly orthodox young man,

Henry Markham, a union which had a far-reaching effect on the family.

Hilary became a boarder at Battle Abbey School, near Hastings – the original abbey was built by William the Conqueror on the Field of Senlac where the Battle of Hastings was fought. To go to bed in the evenings, she would walk through the grounds, past The Monks' Dormitory and a stone bearing the legend "King Harold fell here" (this has now been moved!).

She was generally very happy there. However, being Jewish was an issue and she was obliged to attend church on Sunday mornings. This was 1948 when the struggle for Israel was at its height. One Sunday, the Dean's sermon was a diatribe of anti-Semitic, anti-Israel rhetoric. He concluded with the words, "Two thousand years ago, the Jews were an example of what not to be and what not to do. Today, as then, they are an example of what not to be and what not to do." Hilary did not have the courage to get up and walk out. She just asked her parents to ask the school if she could end the Sunday morning excursions and her request was granted. Fifty years later, a classmate got back in touch. She said, "I have never forgotten how the Dean upset you."

After School Certificate, it was decided that Hilary should follow sixth form studies at day school. However, after the regimentation of boarding school, she couldn't settle down, so she joined her parents in their business and went to evening classes where she learned to type, a skill which changed her life.

An aunt who lived in Hendon asked her next-door neighbours if their daughter could introduce Hilary to Jewish life in North-West London. This was Louise, mother of Aviva Kaufmann, who, among other activities, got her involved in amateur dramatics.

In 1954 Hilary went to work for Joshua Bierer, a well-known psychiatrist who founded The Marlborough Day Hospital. At that time, people with mental disorders would be kept in large institutions for long periods. He felt this was wrong; at his hospital, patients lived at home and attended daily for treatment, group therapy and other services. He also founded a magazine, *The International Journal of Social Psychiatry*, where Hilary had her first editorial experiences. She worked for him until 1959.

Through the connections with her brother-in-law, Hilary met her future husband, Lionel, in 1959. Lionel was a pattern cutter and grader in the ladies' garment industry. This would not have been his first choice of profession,

but he had a speech impediment – he stammered – and his parents felt it was more important for him to have a trade rather than follow an academic career which would have been more his choice.

In 1959, Hilary's parents decided to move to Hendon. Just a week after they moved, her father died of a sudden heart attack. After they recovered from the shock, Hilary and Lionel became engaged and were married at Raleigh Close Synagogue in 1960.

They started their married life in South Hampstead. The Shul in Eton Road was still under construction at that time and services were held in a private house near Belsize Park Station. However, they soon moved to Kensal Rise, and became regular members of Brondesbury Park Shul in Chevening Road. One day, some thugs broke in and set fire to it, destroying everything including the Sifrei Torah. Despite the reluctance of The United Synagogue, it was rebuilt, but it is now a mosque.

Hilary enrolled in a secretarial agency which, impressed by her skills with the typewriter, introduced her to the round-the-world sailor Francis Chichester, for whom she typed the scripts of several books, including his best-selling autobiography, *The Lonely Sea and the Sky*, which told of his adventures and achievements, both in the air (he flew round the world in a one-seater Gypsy Moth aeroplane in 1928) and on the oceans. She then typed out his hand-written books of log, telling the story of his round the world voyage of 1967. This became another best-seller, *Gypsy Moth IV circles the world*.

In 1966, with their children, Sharon and David, they moved to Mill Hill and joined the Shul where they became very involved, both pastorally and socially. In 1967, Hilary's mother moved into a flat, which was too small to accommodate Lily, the family nanny, who came to live with Hilary and her family where she ran the house and cared for the children while Hilary worked.

She and Lionel opened a small office in Burnt Oak where she did most of her work. An offset printer was introduced and soon Lionel gave up his work as a freelance pattern cutter and grader to join her. Then, when a small café at the bottom of Hale Lane closed, they took over the premises and started a little business in offset printing and photocopying, serving the local businesses and churches, to say nothing of the Shul where, among other things, they produced the magazine for the best part of 30 years.

Lily became very deaf later in life but resisted all efforts to equip her with a hearing aid. In the 1970s, Lionel and

Hilary took part in a project where parties of disabled Israeli war veterans from Beit Halochem would come to this country for a two-week holiday involving sightseeing, the theatre, shopping etc. One year, their guest, Kutti, had been blown up while disarming a bomb. He had lost his sight, his hearing and both his forearms. To see how he had adapted was inspirational. He was equipped with false arms and powerful hearing aids. If he needed help he asked, but generally he made nothing of it. When time came for him and his wife to leave, Lily waited by the front door and, as they left, she put her arms round Kutti, and kissed him. She then turned to Hilary and said, "Now I will have a hearing aid!" It changed her life.

In 1998, both children married, Lionel and Hilary moved to HGS which was something of a foreign country to them as, having known and been known by everyone

in Mill Hill, they now felt like strangers in a strange land. When Lionel passed away in 2000 many of the Mill Hill members came to the levoye, but hardly anyone came from the Suburb. However, Hilary made herself known in the shul to which, as we all know, she has devoted herself ever since.

Hilary's skills were soon called upon. In 2003, a new publication, *The Norrice Leader*, was introduced by Derek Taylor who invited her to guest edit an early edition. She accepted and the rest is history. Now she knows and is known by everyone. She is very much respected and

loved, {and perhaps sometimes even a little feared}, in the Community.

In her youth, Hilary had shied away from the traditional academic studies, something she later regretted. Likewise, Lionel whose speech impediment had hindered his education. They both made up for this by studying Humanities with The Open University – a wonderful experience. Both gained their degrees in the late 1980s.

Hilary's story is no less interesting than many of those whose stories have been so engagingly told in the shul magazines. She has seen and been part of so many aspects of Jewish life, but also of the wider world. Her youthful unwillingness to settle down to a way of life not chosen by herself, to forego the usual route of school, college and domesticity, to decide her own future even if that meant giving up some opportunities that others would die for, to make her own way by her talents, intelligence and hard work and to enjoy what she does, has done and goes on doing, shows an originality and determination which is unusual, enviable and admirable.



*Lionel & Hilary collect their degrees from
The Open University*

From Uni to the Union

Emily Sinclair

There comes a time in every student's final year when they must decide whether they should stay in education or join the real world and get a job. In my own usually indecisive manner I decided to do both and get a job at the Union of Jewish Students (UJS). The UJS is a body that represents all 9000 Jewish students up and down the UK and Ireland, regardless of their denomination.

By working for UJS, I am able to stay in the world of university and higher education whilst still starting to find my place in the world of work. So, how is it going? At the time of writing, I have been at UJS for just over two weeks and, in that time, I have learnt to merge calendars, create an email signature and that unless lunch is made the night before, the only thing I have time to make in the morning is a cream-cheese pita. I am still struggling with Excel.

I write this article on a train on the way back from Hull. Neither you or I thought that working for UJS would take me to Hull, but here we are. I've spent the day training the Students' Union's President's Team and Membership Engagement Team about antisemitism and helping Jewish life on campus. In all honesty I was nervous.

Walking into a room full of people you don't know and claiming to be an expert in defining and tackling antisemitism is a big ask. If I'm being completely honest it was the questions I was scared of. What would they say about Israel? What would they say about the IHRA definition of antisemitism? Would they simply not believe me when I told them that antisemitism happened on campus? After all, there aren't many Jewish students at Hull. In the event, everyone was lovely, receptive and one of the officers even came up to ask where they could find more information about Judaism. It turned out that they had been inspired to ask for training after taking part in the Lessons from Auschwitz programme which brought non-Jewish university staff and academics to Auschwitz in order to educate them about Judaism and the Holocaust.

If you've read this far already, you may be wondering what UJS actually does. Each year UJS employs a team of sabbatical officers (sabs) who are led by a president, elected by the Jewish student body. Our current president is fellow HGSS member Edward Isaacs. UJS is a cross communal organisation that aims to represent all Jewish



students. We aim to both encourage leadership from the students themselves and represent them on a national level. As you can imagine, representing so many Jewish students is not always easy. As Aleeza Ben Shalom, from Netflix' hit show, *Founder* says on Jewish Matchmaking,

There are 15 million Jewish people in the world and

there are 15 million ways to be Jewish. Jewish students are no different. Trying to represent everyone takes conscious effort, time and consideration. We now know that the majority of Jewish students no longer identify Orthodox, but that students who identify as 'Modern Orthodox' still make up the largest subsection of students. How do we balance this? How do we ensure that not only are Modern Orthodox Jews represented but people from each different denomination as well? For now, watch this space.

Despite what you may have heard, British university campuses are not awash with rampant antisemitism. Most students will be able to pass their degrees without experiencing any antisemitism at all. The fact that this narrative is so prevalent within our community really worries me, simply because it is not true. I don't want these fears to prevent students from coming to university or turning up scared and afraid to become a part of Jewish life on campus. Working as a part of the campaigns team means that my job involves countering antisemitism when we see it. In the past few years, UJS' approach has become more proactive. This does not simply mean mowing down anyone that we suspect to have any sort of antisemitic intentions. Rather, this involved incorporating elements of Jewish enrichment so that Jewish students can immerse themselves in Jewish life on campus as much or as little as they choose.

The question then remains, what's next? As an organisation, all of us at UJS are still in the planning stage. We have a lot up our sleeves for the year to come. As for me, well, the world of work awaits and I can't wait until I am confidently able to say that I know how to format a spreadsheet.

If there are any incoming freshers or even current students, please do get in touch. We would love to see more Jewish students doing more Jewish student things.

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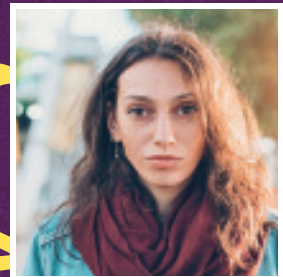


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The Hub

As you may remember from previous editions of The Norrice Leader, the HGSS Hub for Ukraine was established in May 2022 to respond to the ever growing needs of the Ukrainian community, both in the UK and at home. In April 2023, we closed our doors to the cashless shop we had set up in Hampstead and focussed our attention in three areas where we felt the Hub could make a significant impact:

Housing

Moving from host families into rentals is a growing concern amongst the Ukrainian community. We have offered practical and financial assistance in this process and, with the incredible support of IDS – a housing association with a longstanding Jewish heritage – we have been able to secure accommodation for several Ukrainian families. We are grateful to IDS trustee and HGSS member Nicola Kravitz for guiding and supporting us throughout.

Diana Kozak and her daughter Daria were one of the fortunate ones we managed to help find their own flat. Diana and her daughter had a particularly traumatic time when they first arrived in the UK and were forced to escape from their allocated host family. When Diana first came to the Hub, she had spent several nights in bus shelters and air bnb's. She was suffering from extreme anxiety and her daughter was totally uncommunicative and prone to outbursts of anger. With the help of the Hub and their own front door, Daria is almost unrecognisable, Diana is working and they are finally able to look to the future.

“Time out”

As it is still prohibited, in the main, for men under 60 to leave Ukraine, the refugee community is largely made up of women and children. For many of our families, their day to day struggles to learn the language, find work and care for their children, mean that there is precious little time or money left to do anything fun or

relaxing.

This summer we organised a number of fully funded day trips to Bath and Stonehenge. The trips were led by a Ukrainian guide and gave our guests space to unwind and an opportunity to see different parts of England. Tatiana, told us “We had really an incredible day! It was

fun and memorable thank you for all the wonderful emotions we got.”

Schools out... now what do we do with the children?

One major concern expressed by our Ukrainian network, was the issue of childcare during the summer holidays, to allow parents to continue working.

We teamed up with a London childcare scheme

and are provided funding for 40 places for Ukrainian primary school aged children to attend the summer scheme. Maksym, who is 6 told us “it was the best, the best. I made new friends and learnt good English. Now I love cricket!” Their mothers were able to continue working, secure in the knowledge that the kids were having fun.

Since the Ukrainian invasion and the influx of refugees into the UK, we have been privileged at the Hub to work with some fantastic people. People who came through our doors in the early days in need of our assistance, themselves now play an integral part in volunteering and supporting their own community. We do not know what the future will hold for the Ukrainian community in the UK or what the specific challenges may be, but the Hub will continue to offer support and care from the heart of the HGSS community.



A visit to Stonehenge



My grandmother with Uncle Gabriel (left) and my father, Alfred, on the day they left for the Kindertransport. They are wearing new clothes.

On a significant Sunday, 25 June of this year, my brother Robert and I made a momentous journey with deep personal meaning. Our destination: the childhood home of our father at 14 Moorweidenstrasse, in Hamburg, Germany. The quest was the culmination of two years of dedicated work by Robert and a devoted member of the Hamburg community, Daniel Sheffer. Together, they aimed to install a history plaque outside the house.

The house, now the Hamburg Waterways and Shipping Office, had been expropriated by the German government on 1 September 1939. The paltry compensation paid to the family in 1953 precluded the return of the property to our family. At least we wanted to commemorate that the property, like countless others, had been a Jewish home and business, and give a poignant reminder of what had happened to the owners and millions of other people in the Holocaust.

My father, Alfred, was born in Hamburg, the youngest of four children of David and Ketty (nee Felsenstein) Goldschmidt. They lived on one floor of this mansion which my great-grandfather had built. The family Insurance business was on the lower ground floor. My great-grandparents, Samson and Eddy, lived on the ground floor, and each of their children had apartments on the upper floors. The family could trace their roots back in Germany five hundred years, with three hundred in Hamburg. They were an orthodox family, active in the Jewish community.

After the terrible pogrom of 9 November 1938, commonly known as Kristallnacht, when the Bornplatz synagogue was destroyed by fire started by the Nazis and Jews were beaten up, deported and murdered, it was clear that the family needed to leave Hamburg. Samson, now a widower, managed to escape to Holland. However,



The family house now home to the Hamburg Waterways and Shipping Office

in 1943, he was imprisoned in Westerbrook and then murdered in Sobibor later that year.

Unable to gain permission to leave, and with my grandfather having been arrested on a trumped up charge, my grandparents took the very difficult

decision to send their four children away to safety on the Kindertransport. The elder two, Lazar (Leslie) and Gertrud were sent to England in November 1938 and my father, who was just eight years old went along, with his brother Gabriel, age eleven, after Pesach in April 1939. None of them ever saw their parents again. My father always acknowledged the mighty hand of providence that allowed him and his siblings to survive. He would tell the story how he and Gabriel were meant to go to Holland but, just as they were due to leave, the Dutch closed the border, forcing my grandparents to make the alternative arrangement for them to seek refuge in England.

After they were evicted from their home, my grandparents were made to live in two separate Jew Houses in Benekastrasse. Stripped of their German citizenship they strove to help the community, distributing food, digging a clandestine mikvah in the cellar of the shul, burying the dead, and doing what they could to support those around them.

The online archive of Yad Vashem features letters from my grandmother to a Frau Pels who was sending food parcels from Denmark to the Jewish community.

On 25 June 1943, exactly eighty years before Robert and I arrived in Hamburg for the commemoration, they were deported to Theresienstadt where they survived until September and October 1944 to meet their final and fatal destination of Auschwitz. This was one of the last transports to Auschwitz. Someone had once told my father that his father had blown shofar in Theresienstadt. I recently found out that the Nazis gathered all the people for the transport on Erev Yom Kippur and made them wait on the platform. When Yom Kippur finished, the shofar was blown and the train left. I think there must have been more than one shofar blown. It gives added meaning to the phrase from Unetane Tokef "And the great shofar will be blown, and a still, small voice will be heard.... Who will live and who will die...." My grandmother was transported the following week.

Robert and I arrived in Hamburg as the day was drawing to a close. We had chosen a hotel that was on Moorweidenstrasse and managed to book rooms exactly overlooking our father's home. Before we checked in, we strolled around the outside of the house, which we

Restoring

Aviva Goldschmidt Ka

her father's ch

in Han

g history:

ufmann commemorates

childhood home

mburg

had visited fourteen years previously with our parents and siblings. We both felt a deep sense of love and connection to the place where our family had lived a Jewish life, celebrated the festivals, barmitzvahs, and other life events. We remembered how our father

told us, as the youngest, he was sent to bed early. The succah was under his bedroom window and he would throw oranges from his room to register his displeasure at being excluded. On another occasion, at his brother's barmitzvah, the staff had extended the dining table to its maximum capacity to seat fifty but had not installed the supporting legs and the table snapped. As the sun set, we bathed in the warmth of generations past.

The evening was not over for us as we walked to the site of the former Bornplatz synagogue where our family had prayed. Built in 1906, it had been the largest synagogue in northern Europe. After the synagogue was set alight in the November 1938 pogrom, the Jewish community were forced to sell the property to the city of Hamburg for a fraction of its market value and pay for its full demolition. The site, a car park until 1988, now houses a mosaic which outlines to scale the floorplan of the main sanctuary with its vaulted ceiling. It is located in a square renamed Joseph-Carlebach-Platz after the last rabbi and headteacher of the community. On one side is the Talmud-Tora-Realschule, my father's school which was returned to the Jewish community in 2005, and on the other, the mosaic abuts a former nazi bunker where only Aryans were allowed to shelter from air raids. Daniel Sheffer has made significant progress in his project towards rebuilding the Bornplatz synagogue and using the site of the nazi bunker as a Holocaust education centre.

The following morning, Robert and I were doing



my great grandfather, Samson Goldschmidt, with five of his grandchildren on the steps outside the house. My father is not in this photo.

My grandparents, David and Ketty, at their engagement



lengths in the swimming pool by 7am. This was particularly significant for us because, besides both being keen swimmers, Robert remembered our Uncle Gabriel telling him that he did not learn to swim because, as a Jew, he had been barred from any pool.

As the time of the plaque unveiling drew near, we crossed over from our hotel and joined the people who were assembling. I set in motion the Zoom on my mobile phone as relatives the world over wanted to be part of this momentous occasion. The Chief Rabbi of Hamburg, Rabbi Shlomo Bistrisky, whose great grandparents had been friendly with my grandparents was one of the first to arrive. Also in attendance included Daniel's father-in-law, the former head of the community, the chief archivist at the Jewish Hamburg archives, a journalist from the Hamburg daily newspaper, a photographer, a representative from the government department dealing with buildings, and representatives from the Hamburg Waterways and Shipping Office. There were speeches, mostly in German, with the exception of Robert's speech where he told our family story and why this is so important to us. It was apt that the weekly sedra Balak, had the phrase "Mah Tovv Ohalecha Yaakov, Mishkenotecha Yisrael", "How goodly are your tents Jacob, your sanctuaries, Israel." Though my father only lived in this home for eight years, it was clearly a home infused with strong Jewish values as he and his siblings and cousins had a great love of God and of their fellow human beings. It was very moving for us all. Robert and I unveiled the plaque, the text of which was read aloud. I had seen the wording for the plaque and still marvel at how brutally honest it is.

The translation of the text is as follows: "This house was built in 1895 by Insurance broker Samson and his wife Eddy Goldschmidt. Here they lived with their children and grandchildren. The building served the Goldschmidt family as a home and office. With the National Socialist rule in Germany, physical persecution of the Jewish population and confiscation of property began. On September 1, 1939, the building was expropriated by the National Socialists. Samson Goldschmidt was imprisoned

in Amsterdam on his escape and was later deported to Sobibor concentration camp where he was murdered in 1943. His son, David Goldschmidt and his wife Ketty, who managed to get their four children to safety in England, were also murdered in Auschwitz death camp. With pain and humility, we remember the Goldschmidt family and their fate, which they shared with another six million Jews throughout Europe."

Anyone coming out of the building for a mid-morning smoke, or meeting someone outside this government building, or just strolling by, will see that this was a Jewish home stolen by the Nazis and will know the fate of the



Photo of Samson and Eddy, my great grandparents. I absolutely love this photo which I only recently came across. So tender and full of love.

owners. We had investigated laying the Stopersteine "stumbling blocks" outside the house but uncle Gabriel was adamant that his parents' names should not be on the ground for people to step on. We were upset at the time but we feel this is more powerful memorial.

We were invited to visit inside the building, although we remained on the ground floor. Many of the original features have been covered up or removed but we were still able to feel the grandeur

of the place. I remembered my father telling us about the front room which they called the winter garden. We did not go up to the third floor but we had been up there with my father.

The morning continued with a tour of the Chabad House where Rabbi Bistrisky showed us the painstaking work he has been doing to restore this former Jewish home. That is a story in itself. I highly recommend visiting it if you are in Hamburg. Daniel took us to the square where they gathered the Jews for deportation before making them walk several kilometres to the other train station on the outskirts of the city. A brief visit to the Kindertransport memorial was our final stop before heading back to London.

In November, I had been on the HGSS trip to Poland where I learned in Auschwitz how my grandparents had died. On this trip, we commemorated how they had lived. May their memory, that of my great grandfather's and of all the six million Jews murdered in the Shoah be for a blessing



Ketty with her four children. My father is the little one in the front.

Tisha b'Av

Over 150 people attended our annual Tisha b'Av film presentation in the Max Weinbaum Hall. The two films chosen for this year were *Reckonings*, a documentary exploring the fascinating true story, set in the aftermath of the Holocaust, of the decision to negotiate the unthinkable – compensation for the survivors of the largest mass genocide the world had ever known.

Directed by award-winning filmmaker, Roberta Grossman, and commissioned by the German Ministry of Finance and the Claims Conference, the film is the



first documentary feature to chronicle the harrowing process of negotiating German reparations for the Jewish people, leading to the groundbreaking Luxembourg Agreements of 1952.

The second film, *Joe's Violin*, tells the story of how a violin donated by a 90-year-old Holocaust survivor changes a young girl's life.

The films were introduced by Charles Landau who gave a powerful perspective of the historical events.

Martin Kaye

Chair, HGSS Film Club

Notes from Israel

David Lew

Shortly after Tisha B'Av, a rather lovely video, a compilation of still pictures from the (men's section of) the kotel, the western wall, set to an arrangement of 'Ani ma'amin' was posted to the HGSS Social WhatsApp group, of which I am now an honorary, country member. The pictures were evidently taken on Tisha B'Av. I and many others have been thinking for years about the relevance of the fast to our times.

Should we still be fasting to commemorate the destruction of two temples and Jerusalem? The temple remains destroyed, but I leave it to you, dear reader, whether you would welcome a re-introduction of a daily parade of animal sacrifices in a rebuilt sanctuary. We are now more than 1950 years from the destruction and Jerusalem seems to be pretty solid and rather lovely, we have an excellent train service so I no longer have to complain about the parking.

Although the majority of our prayers and readings on Tisha B'Av relate to Jerusalem, Kinnot have been introduced to commemorate many of the awful events that occurred in our history, if not exactly on the day, but certainly during the dog days of summer. Perhaps it's just the focus of Tisha B'Av that needs adjusting.

I was chatting to an American new immigrant friend on Tisha B'Av day. She told me that she had walked around after shul the previous evening and was surprised to find that all the shops and bars and restaurants, even the (unsupervised) wine bar were closed. 'It's the law', I told her. 'What, the law of the land?'. 'Yes. And the cinemas and theatres are all closed, and you won't find much in the way of entertainment on the TV'. And indeed, the police spend Tisha B'Av

night cruising around looking for open bars and cafes and shut them down and fine them.

By the next morning, shops, cafes and restaurants reopen. For me this is a perfect piece of compromise legislation. Everyone in Israel experiences the sadness of the day, at least for one entertainment-free evening.

That the 'reasonableness' law was passed during the nine days added misery to sadness. We have two far-right, allegedly 'orthodox' or 'religious' parties in the government. One is led by Itamar Ben-Gvir, who, shortly before Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated, stole the emblem from Rabin's car and said, 'We got to his car, and we will get to him.' It is beyond all imagination that a person who was considered too

dangerous in both thought and deed to be allowed to serve in the army is minister of security. He has announced that he would like to introduce America's gun laws (do they have any?) to Israel. So next time you see me I may well be sporting a Colt 45 on my hip. Netanyahu has promised him his own private militia, but hopefully that will go the way of

many of the prime minister's promises.

His rival is Bezalel Smotrich, our minister of finance who has announced that he wishes to cut government spending in Arab areas because these funds are exploited by organised crime. What he really wanted was the justice ministry, so he could 'restore the Torah justice system'. He recently called for the destruction of the Arab town of Huwara. He is a proud and virulent homophobe and advocates separate labour wards for Jews and Arabs. I believe he refused to allow his wife to share a maternity ward with an Arab, nor be attended by an Arab nurse or doctor. A man who has never been in the galut and heard the words 'I'm not being treated by that Jew/Black/P... doctor'.

To those of you who know about the various groups



Notes from Israel

Continued from previous page . . .

that fought each other during the revolt before the destruction of Jerusalem there are now the Zealots and the Sicarii in government. If you don't, look them up. Makes for grim reading.

Now, the really shocking thing about these two parties is that I know people who voted for them. I was particularly troubled by one such person who voted for Smotrich's party in spite of having a gay sibling. To be fair, some of those people have since expressed regret. They say they did not realise quite what was on these parties' agendas. More fool them.

We occasionally went to the British Summer Time concerts in Hyde Park. Great artistes, but expensive, uncomfortable and you are liable to get very wet. To add insult to injury, you are searched on the way in, not for weapons but for clandestine salt beef sandwiches and latkes. Food and drink and anything that might make your visit comfortable are banned.

Tel Aviv's version is an annual opera performance

in Hayarkon Park that has been running for twenty years. It's free, there are chairs, you can bring in as much food as you can eat, and more. And there is zero chance of rain. (Just as an aside, the chairs are attached together with cable ties, to give a semblance of orderly rows. Many people bring their own cable tie cutters so they can reorganise the seating to their liking.) This year's opera was *Madam Butterfly*. Not my favourite Puccini, but the staging and singing were magnificent. The stage was flanked by two giant screens showing the action together with Hebrew subtitles. Even the parking was free. There were tens of thousands of people of all ages and from all sections of society. As a quid pro quo, the mayor, Ron Huldai, was allowed to make a speech (local elections are on 31 October) and also read the synopsis before the acts. He enjoyed his role immensely.

So, all things considered, it's not all doom and gloom, and do the politics really compare badly to the unedifying politics of the last decade and a half in the UK? Or with Trump's attempted coup? Or with the riots in France?

We can only hope that 5784 is an Improvement on 5783. Worldwide.

Shana Tova

From the archives

A Scooter with a Hechsher

You may have been surprised to see Albert Rosenberg arriving at Shul on Shabbat or Yomtov on his smart, new scooter and you

can be assured that it is being used in accordance with the Halacha. The vehicle has a Shabbat controller which has been authorised and certified by Zomet, an Israeli, non-profit organisation specialising in IT equipment and electronic appliances designed to comply with Halacha.

The Shabbat mode, which is only to be used within the Eruv, uses a separate circuit board which results in steady acceleration with no throttle lever activation required by the user. This initial process is considered an 'indirect action' and, because the motor relay circuit changes whilst in Shabbat mode, varying the voltage to the motor by the throttle lever is not considered a violation of the Shabbat principle. The Shabbat

controller is also used for turning the scooter on and off and for changing direction.

Albert is delighted with the independence the scooter affords him. Coming to Shul on Shabbat is of the utmost importance to him and, prior to the arrival of the scooter, he has had to rely on the goodwill of friends to bring him in a wheelchair. While people have been more than happy to do this – after all, seeing Albert in Shul on Shabbat is something to which we all look forward – he feels that he is imposing on them and this facility is giving him peace of mind.

Albert, enjoy your new scooter. We look forward to seeing you using it for many, many more years.



This should bring back some memories.

It is from the issue of Sukkot 2010.



Shana Tova

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Trekking in the Himalayas

Itamar Shein

Some years ago, I was invited to join a Chabad group, led by Rabbi Dovid Katz (Chabad West Hampstead), to scale Mount Meru, an extinct volcanic mountain, the third highest mountain in Africa, located near Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. I was not sure why I was invited – perhaps they thought it would be a good idea to have a doctor on board. Now, somewhat older, and my mature adventurous spirit still intact, I received another invite from Rabbi Katz.

This year, a Chabad group, led again by Rabbi Katz, decided to visit Base Camp of Mount Everest. I had not met any of the other trekkers until the adventure began. Of course, they were all well into their forties and fifties and probably much fitter. There were Israeli friends of Rabbi Katz, others from Hendon and Golders Green, ten altogether, mostly members of Chabad.

I left Heathrow on Monday, 8 May and arrived in Katmandu, capital of Nepal, with a short stopover in Doha, on Tuesday, 9 May, late in the afternoon. After dinner at Chabad House, hosted by Rabbi Chesky, the Nepalese Chabad shaliach. One might express surprise that there is a Chabad House in Kathmandu. Quite famously, it serves the large numbers of Israelis – students, IDF ex-servicemen and often their parents who are encouraged to visit the Himalayas after hearing about their children's adventures. The rest of the groups arrived the next day. We all spent our evenings in a hotel getting over jet lag and acclimatising to the altitude.

The next morning, the group flew from Katmandu airport to Lukla, by helicopter, otherwise known as Tenzing-Hillary Airport, renowned as the most dangerous in the world. There have been too many accidents at this airport. All commercial aircraft is now banned.

Why is this? Well, due to the mountainous terrain, there are no 'go-around' procedures at the airport. This means that once a pilot has commenced an approach, they are committed to landing. Additionally, at this

airport there are no radar or navigation systems, so pilots are fully dependent on what they can see from the cockpit. Given these factors, only helicopters and small fixed wing propellor planes are permitted to land.

After landing safely, we were introduced to the six Sherpas who would be our guides and carry their luggage, throughout the expedition, each Sherpa carrying a burden weighing some up to 100 kilos. We were led by the sherpa team and the head sherpa on a 4-5 hour walk during which we were introduced to the trek climbing up a rocky well-trodden path with heavy traffic of tourists, jaks, human carriers of all varieties of food products and building material. We all observed the fantastic natural scenery and the slow changes in the flora as the we climbed. We also criss-crossed rivers and negotiated such features as a suspension bridge over deep gorges. We also passed many Buddhist monasteries.

This first day, for me, proved exceedingly difficult. Shortly after the beginning of the trek we got to the entrance of the National Park where we received entrance passes. We were welcomed into the Mt. Everest (Chhomolungma in Sherpa and Sagarmatha in Nepali) region! You are entering in the Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone that covers 1423 km² of the Himalayan Ecological Zone, which was designated World Heritage site in 1979.

It was magnificent to look at and feel physically part of this majestically picturesque snow-covered Himalayan range, glaciers, and lakes dominated by the highest mountain on Earth. It was fascinating to see the diverse vegetation, wildlife, and nature. As you explore different villages, you will get to understand the Sherpa people's unique culture, socioeconomic status, and religious significance.

We got to Phakding(2650m) and slept in a tea house hotel that night. In addition to myself, several members of the group were suffering from altitude sickness. Oxygen did help, but altitude sickness affects different people differently and in my case my sleep pattern was disturbed. I woke up the next day very tired due to lack of sleep. After breakfast I had some oxygen and we started trekking in the direction of the opposite flow of the Dudh Koshi river. I made it to the half-way point, Monjo (Mount Kalish Lodge) but had to give up due to tiredness and altitude sickness and return to the hotel. The Chabad chef who was with us throughout and with whom I shared a room also returned with



me to the previous tea house and we were flown by helicopter to Namche Bazaar(3440m) in time for him to prepare our Shabbat meal and for me to acclimatise to the new altitude over Shabbat.

I had an extremely restful day in Namche Bazaar and a beautiful Shabbat was had by all, this being a scheduled acclimatization day. We were told to rest up but keep active. At Namche Bazaar we caught our first sight of Mt Everest.

On Sunday, 15 May, Trekking began in earnest, walking sessions lasting anything up to four hours taking in incredible scenery – trees, plants, animals, Sherpa villages, ancient monasteries and much more. We trekked to Deebuche(3855m) passing beautiful mountain views, prayer flags and more yaks carrying a wide variety of goods. The flora and fauna were constantly changing.

On Monday, 16 May after breakfast and more oxygen, we trekked onward to Dingbouche(4360m). We passed a few small remote Sherpa villages and communities and some incredibly old Sherpa houses.

On Tuesday, 17 May Dingbouche (4360m) to Lobouche(4930m) crossing more rivers and suspension bridges finally reaching our lodge very exhausted indeed. The last three days were very tiring, and my oxygen requirements became greater, and I spent more time on the machine. I decided that I had reached my limit of altitude (Lobouche 4930m), adventure, and exhaustion. Rabbi Chesky very kindly arranged that he and I would reach Base Camp by helicopter while the rest of the group kept trekking to the top. On Wednesday, 18th May, a trek from Lobouche (4,930m) brought six members of our group to Everest Base Camp (5,364m).

This was an extraordinary day as we will be summiting Everest Base Camp. Rabbi Chesky and I got there a day earlier. Walking around the highest point on earth we all had ever been. At first, we flew over the Khumbu Glacier, the biggest glacier in the world. We landed at the helicopter landing site, disembarked, and were amazed to see a large, tented village of climbers surrounded by snow-capped mountains. All were both acclimatizing and waiting to push on to greater heights. Here I got incredible views from Everest Base Camp, of the Himalaya range and its surroundings. I took a number of minutes to reflect on this achievement. I could not believe where I was. We reboarded the helicopter and the pilot took Rabbi Chesky and I to another viewpoint which was both incredible and unimaginable. We got out of the plane to take some photos and I found myself surrounded by the tallest mountains imaginable, so tall I could not see the sky, just mountain peaks and more mountain peaks. Some peaks were covered with frozen trees. Below from



where I was all I could see was glaciers, rocks, and frozen lakes.

The helicopter returned to Lobouche(4930m), then on to Lukla and then with another helicopter back to Katmandu. I got back a day before the rest of the group and managed to explore Katmandu. I visited various art galleries, toured the empty royal palace of the previously assassinated royal family, shopped, and visited a beautiful, rehabilitated, previously neglected garden. I also managed to visit the nearby city of Patan. Here I observed a very peculiar Hindu festival of lights and explored many Hindu and Buddhist temples some partly destroyed by a previous earthquake, and some being rebuilt. The beauty of the intricate woodcarving was amazing. The two faiths of Nepal are Hinduism and Buddhism and there is tremendous harmony, understanding and respect for both.

The final Shabbat was celebrated in the Chabad house with a glorious Friday night dinner and about 50 other trekkers from all over the world. Many told their stories of their unusual background, what motivated them to go trekking and wonderful description of their sense of adventure. Services were well attended, and the food was excellent.

Besides this record of our group, two other records were broken. A young American orthodox adventurer from Miami who was at the Chabad house a few days before us reached the summit of Mount Everest. When asked what he missed most on reaching the top he said it was a pizza from the Chabad restaurant. The other record was that Lobouche was highest above sea level that a Torah had reached. Makes you think.

Overall, this was a truly most enjoyable and unforgettable experience. It was not a case of ticking a box, but an exhilarating adventure combined with Jewish group camaraderie, and education of other cultures and religions. I also learnt a great deal about flora, fauna, geography and not forgetting altitude sickness.

A wonderful trip indeed.

Food Bank Aid

Naomi Russell, Founder and Trustee, brings us up-to-date

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much” (Helen Keller)

The HGSS Community was where Food Bank Aid started and, without your initial support, allowing people to drop off their chametz, two days before Pesach 2020, we wouldn't be here today, supporting 30 food banks who are helping 16,000+ people, including 5000+ children weekly. Two of the food banks are kosher and we provide both with an array of foods, including fresh fruit and vegetables. It is incredible how a tiny seed of kindness can grow to help literally thousands of people week in, week out.

With the constant media coverage, every one of us is aware how the cost-of-living crisis is impacting our society, with many working people facing deprivation for the first time. Right here, on our doorstep, acute financial hardship is resulting in extreme stress. Can you imagine not being able to provide enough food for your family or putting your children to bed, hungry.

In Highgate, the Head of Aloysius School, Paula Whyte, set up a food bank within the school, because she saw first-hand the huge negative impact on her pupils' studies. She saw what a lack of food does to concentration, physical and mental well-being and she was determined that her pupils would have every opportunity to reach their potential as they entered into their GCSE and A-level exams.

Recently Food Bank Aid came to the rescue when we received a call from an NHS paediatric consultant working from a clinic in Camden for children with additional needs. The cost-of-living crisis has disproportionately affected these families. Previous studies demonstrated that families with children with additional needs already needed an extra £581 a month on average just to have the same standard of living as other families.

Clinic staff became aware that some children with disabilities and their parents, who were attending consultations, did not have enough food. The crushing cost-of-living crisis had left them hungry and struggling, impacting their health and well-being.

Initially staff responded by raising £100 weekly to buy food. But more was needed. That's when Food Bank Aid stepped in, supporting the plea for help.

Now, with Food Bank Aid's support, patients in need can receive food to help them cope.

With over 90 schools involved, we are involving our youngsters in those less fortunate, doing collections and raising funds when celebrating special events like Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, and engaging in numerous personal challenges to raise funds. It makes my heart sing when I see youngsters coming to our hub and delighting in knowing they are lending a helping hand.

If you would like to volunteer or get involved with Food Bank Aid and become a part of our wonderful Food Bank Aid Family, please get in touch by visiting us at our hub (Great North Leisure Park, Unit 2b Chaplin Square, N12 0GL) or website www.foodbankaid.org.uk. Also, take a peek at our virtual shop where you can

contribute without even having to go to the shops! <https://foodbankaid.org.uk/virtual-shop/>

As a member of HGSS and having served on the Board I know the community will continue to step up and exemplify the true power of community, demonstrating how individuals and organizations can come together to address profound challenges faced by society's most vulnerable.

Every single seed of help will enable us to continue our work.

With huge appreciation

Naomi Russell
Founder and Trustee



Alma pupils say, “Don't turn your back.” and helped raise £1.1m



Immanuel College teens deliver

On the Kob

Andrew Freedman learns how to produce the perfect Barbecue

And there it stood. Glistening in its black domed glory: our brand new Weber charcoal barbecue. But as I continued to stare at it, it dawned on me that the responsibility to assemble, clean and use it, fell to, well, me. So my wife did the only sensible thing she could do and called for Debbie Kobrin. And so, on a balmy summer's eve (we had a few more of them in 2022) I was dispatched to "On the Kob", for a barbecue workshop. What Debbie taught us, was essentially the alchemy of cooking.

Debbie and Brian Kobrin have called the UK home for a little over two decades and hail, like many attendees of the Hashkama service (at which Brian is a stalwart), from South Africa. With three children, their love of cooking has passed on to each of their children, two of whom are in Israel, while their daughter Talya, is a GP here by day, and the famed Dr Sourdough by night, producing extraordinarily creative – and delicious bread-based products.

So, how did "On the Kob" come into being? During the height of the pandemic, it became clear that the art of cooking efficiently eluded many. So the panicked scarping around the kitchen and eking out the time to conjure up three square meals a day gave Debbie the idea of training people on cooking techniques. Her view is that great cooking is really about simple, time efficient practices. Her lessons give support and, crucially, confidence to those whose culinary skills are somewhat rusty. Which mine are. (Though not quite as bad as a friend of mine who set his oven alight by forgetting to remove the plastic ...).

Debbie has always had a passion for cooking, and looks to empower everyone in the kitchen. It's less about picking the perfect recipe but more about

confidence in your technique and science behind the basics of cooking. As a working mother, Debbie did not want to spend a minute longer than was necessary in the kitchen – but still wanted to eat good food - and approached her cooking in a rigidly scientific manner. So while no recipe books are [currently- Ed] being written, Debbie is keen for people to piggyback off her technique, which and experiment themselves: "that's where the fun comes into it – where you play around and go into the unknown".

I once stood behind Brian in the queue to kasher utensils before Pesach. I had a couple of pots and pans, and a slightly grumpy toddler (she was not to be kashered). Brian brought crates worth of utensils (not great for toddler) but he made the point, while his industrial sized pot unintentionally put out the urn's fire (also not great for toddler), that Pesach was not just an excuse to dive headlong into the aisles in Kosher Kingdom but, to make creative, healthy grub



for the duration of the festival.

Debbie's "On the Kob" workshops strive to enhance participants' cooking abilities. She emphasises gaining knowledge and confidence in the cooking process, avoiding unnecessary panic and stress and mastering a requisite skillset. Simplicity is key and that permeates both her instructions and the final product – having one stellar main course trumps those who wish to go overboard.

As to whether my cooking is now grounded in the right technique, all I can say is, based on my own educational background, I have, seized the day: the barbecue's plastic wrapping is now off.

In the picture: Debbie and Brian with their daughters Gabi and Talya and son-in-law Yishai



Norwich Cathedral Anti- Jewish Miscercord. Jew represented by the 'blind' owl

Jewish Group visits Norwich

with
Charles Landau

Rosh Hashanah 5784/2023



Memorial: 800 years after the murder of the Jews of Norwich

Members of London shuls, and others, travelled to Norwich to visit various sites of historical and religious interest in what was a captivating tour of pre-expulsion, early modern and modern Jewish history.

The group was led by Dr Charles Landau, who had previously led tours to Jewish York, Lincoln and Canterbury in a spirit of understanding, ecumenical spirit and remembrance of the trials and tribulations of mediaeval Jewry.

Norwich in medieval times was the second most important city in England. Around mid-twelfth century Jews settled in the area and were heavily involved in finance. Isaac Jurnet was one of the richest men in England and certainly the richest man in Norwich and is portrayed in a heavily anti-Jewish cartoon of 1233. In the cartoon Isaac is seen wearing a classic Jew hat and is prodded by the devil. The number of Jews fluctuated but probably never rose above 150.

On our arrival in Norwich we were warmly welcomed by the Norwich Jewish community, especially by their spiritual leader Daniel Rosenthal and lay leader Marian Prinsley. We received words of welcome and we responded. Marian was fantastic as our tour guide as she led us to the small 'newer' Jewish cemetery where one of our party stood at the matsevahs of his distant relatives and said a kel moleh rachamim. We then stood at the matzevah of buried bones, of Jews murdered in 1190.

If any event looms large in the

collective history of Norwich, English and medieval history, it is the ritual murder charge. In the ignorant middle ages, with its crusade fervour most accusations against the powerful, devilish Jew were to be believed. Easter 1144, the body of a twelve year old boy was said to have been discovered on Mousehold Heath. It was said that the body had been crucified in a reenactment of the crucifixion of their god. Jews were to blame...who else? This was the first of hundreds of such accusations that would take place in England, Europe and later the Levant. William of Norwich would be spoken of as saint and it is said miracles took place near his body. Today the whole incident is known as a terrible lie, as were the others, that would torment Jews for hundreds of years. In Norwich it is interesting that no Jew was found guilty of the 'crime'. Other Jews in other places were not so fortunate and were slaughtered al kiddush hashem.

The group were then met outside the famous cathedral by Canon Precentor Aidan Platten who discussed aspects of Biblical and Jewish interest depicted in some of the stained-glass windows. As a group, we were inspired by his knowledge, enthusiasm, and joy in discussing many of the familiar biblical scenes depicted in these glorious windows. Represented were Moses, Joshua, Gideon and misericords portraying the 'blind' Jews through the image of a beautifully carved wooden owl. Unfortunately the rest of our tour was in pouring rain. England at its best!

We viewed one of the many memorials to the WWI nurse, Edith Cavell. She was shot by the Germans for spying having helped many English and other soldiers to safety. She clearly admitted her guilt. The penalty, according to German military law, was death. Paragraph 58 of the German Military Code determined that "in time of war, anyone who with the intention of aiding a hostile power, or of causing harm to German or allied troops" "shall be punished with death for war treason". Specifically, Cavell was charged for "conveying troops to the enemy"

Despite worldwide appeals for clemency she was shot in 1915, aged 50. There is a memorial to her in Hampstead Garden Suburb.

Our walk along King Street took us past the oldest house in Norwich and the home of Isaac Jurnet. Wensum Lodge, also known as Music House, is a 12th-century house that has long been associated Jurnet the Jew. His son Isaac bought the property in 1225. This is the only secular 12th-century building to survive in Norwich. The King Street façade largely dates to the 17th century, but the left gable conceals the remains of a private house of the early 12th century.

It is a shame that Norwich council does so little to preserve these buildings and their surrounds. It is said that Norwich council has destroyed more than the Luftwaffe did in WWII.

Our day ended in the heart of old Norwich at the Chapelfield Shopping

From an early age, I remember my parents forming a collection of the finest wines that Israel could offer. However, they never quite managed to complete the set, frustratingly missing the acclaimed vintages from 4A to 10.

So, when Yitzi Freedman, the owner of Sussers wine shop in Temple Fortune, suggested that I reacquaint myself with the current offerings from Israeli vineyards at the forthcoming Kosher Food and Wine Experience, it was an offer that I could not refuse. For Kosher wine lovers, a visit to this annual exhibition is akin to a pilgrimage and, judging by the number of visitors present, a very popular event, with this year's being oversubscribed.

Kedem Wines, an importer of Kosher wines from around the world, presented no fewer than 40 houses, with over 200 varieties of their finest offerings. 20 of these houses are from estates outside Israel. In fact, just about every wine-producing country makes a Kosher wine, so no matter your preferences, there is bound to be something there for you.

All of the wines were available to be sipped, sampled and savoured on the night and a tasting notebook was given to each visitor. I met many people whose tasting notes form the basis of their wine buying for the year. There is also an opportunity to meet some of the winemakers.

Accompanying the wines is a magnificent buffet prepared by Arieh Wagner.

For those of us old enough

Israeli Wines

finding the finest
by Martin Kaye



to remember stark warnings at Barmitzvahs and Weddings that the wines were to be drunk at one's own risk, this event is indeed an eye opener.

When deliberating about Kosher wines, the subject of Mevushel (pasteurised) vs Non Mevushel is invariably discussed.

Simply put, if a wine is to be handled by a non-Jewish person, at a function for example, it needs to be subject to a pasteurisation process.

On the subject of whether Mevushel wines lose anything in the process, I asked Benjamin Gestetner of Kedem for his opinion. He offered the following explanation.

While it's true that extended extreme heat will strip away a wine's overall character—delicate aromatics, flavours, nuance etc.—we thankfully live in a Golden Age of wine tech.

Many clever winemakers have been tinkering with a method called "flash pasteurization," which greatly reduces the impact of heat on a wine's sensory profile. In fact, these days, a mevushal wine can easily be just as tasty and characterful as any other.

But surely the days of 'doctoring' non-Kosher wines are over, you may say. No more are they enhanced by unscrupulous winemakers adding enhancements, such as colouring or even blood. Surely the EU saw to that.

True, but animal-based fining agents such as sturgeon-derived isinglass for tannin reduction or natural gelatin for the refining of phenolic compounds are still used. Certain yeasts, mass produced using unauthorized growing additives, also find their way into non-Kosher wines.

It is a testament to the growing market for Kosher wines that some of the finest French houses, together with many smaller ones, are happy to allow an offering to be supervised for the Kosher market.

A further endorsement of the quality of Israeli wines was the presence, at the event, of wine buyers from some major supermarket chains.

As to the quality of Kosher wines, I recall drinking a particularly pleasant French wine at a friend's wedding in Paris some years ago. The next day I saw a quantity of the same wine being delivered to a well known Parisian night club. Proof indeed.

I shall be returning to Sussers to purchase some of the wines I sampled during the evening and will unquestionably be looking forward to next year's KWFE.

Visit to Norwich continued from p30

Centre. During excavations in 2004, for the new shopping centre skeletons were found in a medieval well. The bones were of seventeen people, eleven children and six adults. After DNA analysis and research in Norwich, London, Liverpool and Cambridge these bones were found to be of Ashkenazim, with at least four of the victims' actual relatives. These Jews had either been murdered and then dropped down the well or

murdered by dropping into the well. The year was 1190 during a country wide attack on Jewish communities following the coronation of Richard the Lion Heart.

"Many of those who were hastening to Jerusalem determined first to rise against the Jews before they invaded the Saracens. Accordingly on 6 February [in 1190] all the Jews who were found in their own houses at Norwich were butchered; some had taken refuge in the castle"

Imagines Historiarum II.

Let me conclude with the words of the poet, Meir b. Elijah of Norwich, who sums up the travail of medieval Jewry in his poem **Put a curse on my enemy:**

The land exhaust us by
demanding payments, and the
people's disgust is heard.
While we are silent and wait
for the light
They make our yoke heavier;
they are finishing us off".

News from Kerem

Daliah Epstein reports

At Kerem, the Academic year 2022/2023 ended on a high and,, following a not so sunny summer holiday break, we look forward to the new school year, 2023/2024, with renewed vigour. Looking back and reviewing the Summer term, however, it was as jam packed as ever.

Thankfully the sun did make an appearance over the summer term which meant that the children at the EYU (Early years Unit) where our Nursery and Reception classes are based on the corner of Kingsley Way and Middleway got to enjoy the gardening in their allotment and harvest the fruits and vegetables that they had planted earlier in the year. This year's crop included carrots, onions and some sweet raspberries.

The sun also shone on our all school sports day which was held, once again, at the Wilf Slack Sports Ground. All of the children got to showcase their sporting talents to many family members who came along to watch the action on a wonderfully sunny day. Bader-Ginsburg House were the winners of the house trophy. Always looking to increase what is on offer, Kerem extended their range of sports to include Cricket, taking part in the Barnet School Cricket League. Combining sports and Tzedakah, the summer term also saw our Kerem Cares Tzedakah committee present a cheque of over £3000 to the Royal Free Charity which was thanks to a sponsored run that the children undertook as well as the regular Tzedakah collected before Shabbat throughout the term.

At the end of 2022 children from Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in the Primary Maths Challenge.

This involves 58,000 children nationally. The top performing 3,700 (6%) were invited to participate in a bonus round. Four Kerem pupils were invited to take part, with one achieving a bronze award and two silver, placing them in the top 2% in the country. We are exceptionally proud of them all and this truly displays the academic excellence achieved by the Kerem pupils.

Having had a real push to progress our computing curriculum, we hosted a coding showcase for parents for them to gain a closer understanding of the computing



and coding curriculum undertaken at Kerem. Parents got to see the new coding resources that the school has

invested in. These include VEX and Spheros as well as our 3D printer and Scratch Programs. Parents had a chance to try them out and it was wonderful



for them to see the level of technology that the children are interacting with. We are very excited that this year we have purchased 4 new VR headsets. These headsets have a library of curriculum aligned virtual and augmented reality resources for use across all subjects and age ranges.

Year 3 are particularly excited about stepping inside a volcano and Year 4 about get-ting deep into the digestive system.

Kerem's inherent love of Israel was clear when 12 pupils from Years 5 and 6 took part in the Pajes National Ivrit Spelling Bee. Amongst the 221 finalists from 12 UK Jewish Schools the competition was intense. Kerem came out on top, achieving 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th places in the native Ivrit speakers category and 2nd and 5th places in the non-native Ivrit speakers.

Go Kerem!

The school year ended with residential trips for both Years 5 & 6. Respectively enjoying a 4-day outward bound activity centre break and a Jewish History extravaganza incorporating 5days and 4 nights in 5 different locations in the UK. We also had a phenomenal Year 6 show which had the crowd shouting for more! You don't need to go as far as Leicester Square for a wonderful theatrical performance. Join us in the Max Weinbaum on the 26/27th June 2024 to see what an astounding performance our Year 6 can deliver.

Over the summer holidays, physical changes took place across both sites with the building of both a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) Lab, and a wellbeing room at the Norrice Lea site, an outdoor classroom at the EYU and vibrant and educational new stair art on both sites. Please do feel free to call the office to arrange a visit to see our wonderful school.

In the meantime we wish all HGSS families Shana Tova and Umetuka.

For those of you who are considering sending your children to Kerem, Kerem's Prospective Parents Event will be on Friday, 13 October at 9am. Please register to attend at www.keremschool.co.uk or call the School office and ask for Daliah.

For more information about Kerem and 1-1 tours, please contact admissions@keremschool.co.uk or call 0208 455 0909

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Youth Activities

Youth Directors: Gabriel Bor and Hilli Ross

What an exhilarating year it has been, filled with unforgettable moments for the HGSS Youth! From our heartwarming weekly Shabbat services to engaging learning sessions and a plethora of fantastic events, we've had the incredible opportunity to forge deeper connections with the Youth this year.

The year kicked off with a bang, as the Youth led inspiring Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Succot services, culminating in a fantastic Simchat Torah Lunch. The energy and enthusiasm persisted throughout the year as the Youth took charge, leading Shacharit and Mussaf during our weekly Shabbat services, and, occasionally even showcasing their leining skills. Not to be forgotten are the delightful and mouth-watering Kiddushim that followed. We celebrated the dedication and commitment of many Youth members with a special Met Su Yan dinner, recognizing their invaluable contributions. And let's not forget the enriching TGIT learning and sushi sessions as well as the pre-Shacharit discussions over hot chocolate and cookies that brought dozens of Youth

together. Moreover, our collective effort at Project Impact to assist those in need was a testament to our caring and compassionate community.

Our festive Chanukah party was an absolute hit, featuring exciting virtual reality, scalextric and delectable food, while the Purim party drew in many with its tantalizing sushi and waffle-making. The night of Tikkun Leil Shavuot was nothing short of memorable, as we delved into learning, bonding, and chilling until the early hours in celebration of Shavuot.

For the older years we delivered thoughtful good luck gifts to those facing exams and before the year drew to a close, we made sure to create lasting memories with the sixth form and year 11 end-of-year BBQ.

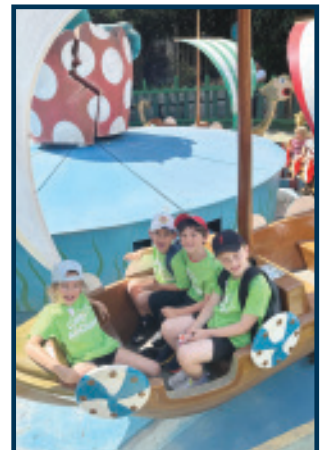
Sports enthusiasts among us had a blast with inter-shul football games and even, despite the rain, an exhilarating cricket match.

Looking back, we're humbled and grateful for the remarkable events that shaped this year. Here's to an even more extraordinary year ahead.

Camp Kochavim



We have been so busy having action packed fun at Camp Kochavim! A highlight was a visit from the farmyard animals where we were able to hold small animals and pet the pony, lamb and goats. We loved the Camp Trip to Kidzania, the incredible magic of Papalarny and creative baking!



Honours for Yeladim



Yeladim Lottie, Hannah and Adele regularly come to our services and make a meaningful contribution to our yeladim community.

On Shemini Atzeret, they will be giving a short presentation about their Hebrew name which will be followed by a special kiddush in their honour.

Step Up in Rwanda



Chayli with the Step Up staff team

Following Camp Kochavim, Chayli and a team of volunteers travelled to Rwanda to run an innovative educational Step Up Summer Camp for children and youth in the village of Gashora.

The Step Up organization, founded by Chayli, runs summer and winter educational programmes for refugee children and children at risk in East Africa. Working closely with the local community, the programme provides a safe, stimulating and productive space, enabling children to learn and eat during the long holidays which are particularly high risk periods for vulnerable children.

Hear about it in the next issue!

The Aleph Centre



Our Year 3 classes performed fantastically at their Chaggigat Siddur ceremony, explaining the brachot they have learnt and singing the morning davening prayers to an audience of their proud parents and grandparents. Rabbi Luis presented each child with a beautiful Artscroll siddur for them to use in their Hebrew reading and learning at the Aleph Centre and beyond. The siddurim included personalised messages to the children from their parents.

Making an old man very happy

by Wayne Chodosh-----



Goodwill Hunting was a film that was released in the UK in 1998.

I went to see it but I can't remember exactly where? Probably the ABC Golders Green, or the Odeon Temple Fortune or even the Ionic in Golders Green! I must say that the title of the film came back to me some time ago. When I posted on the HGSS Social WhatsApp that I was bringing Jake to Friday night services and would people be kind enough to greet him with a high five, so many people did.

It brought such a lovely warm feeling to my heart that it inspired me to start posting occasional Shabbat Shalom messages onto the HGSS social WhatsApp again

A few weeks ago, I posted a video that I took of me taking the opportunity to wish everybody Shabbat Shalom.

I had a wonderful response to it so in the next post a week later I also mentioned that a Sri Lankan friend of mine had a daughter who was looking for a job coding. Within a few minutes I had requests for her CV to be forwarded. I was again amazed at the response and it made me realise what a wonderful community we have. Let me give you another example. Some months ago, one of the families that I mentor told me that they wanted to get their child enrolled at a specialist school called Gesher.

I didn't know anybody at the school nor anything about it so I put a request out on the HGSS social WhatsApp and within an hour I had received a phone

call from a member who was in Israel and from another in London telling me who I could call and how they could help!

This reminded me of the story which involved Jake and my wife Ruth. One afternoon a friend of Katie, our daughter came back to our house for a play date. When her father, the Late Richard Katz, came to collect her he saw a letter from a specialist autism school which said Jake was on a waiting list that Ruth wanted Jake to go to. Nothing was mentioned but two days later Ruth received a phone call to say that a place had magically appeared at the school for Jake and he could start on a bursary until funding had been approved. This of course turned out to be courtesy of the Late Richard Katz.

I will be posting our October Norwood bike ride that Jake and I will be doing in Morocco in October to raise money for the charity that runs Jake's life. If you are Good Will Hunting, I can personally recommend the HGSS social WhatsApp. We are blessed with such a wonderful community that has so much goodwill to offer.

There are so many people who need help, not always financial but they do need assistance and there are so many wonderful members of our community who are more than willing to help.

By the way, I love receiving a Shabbat Shalom so please WhatsApp me on 07971 881661 and I'll be only too happy to respond-you'll make an old man named very happy!

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The HGSS Transport Society visits The Shuttleworth Collection

Martin Kaye

Several members of the HGSS Transport Society recently visited Old Warden Aerodrome, home to the Shuttleworth collection.

The Shuttleworth collection was founded in 1928 by aviator Richard Ormonde Shuttleworth. Pilot, racing driver, self-taught mechanic and heir to the estate, he rescued old aircraft and vehicles, bringing them back to Old Warden Park to restore.

After his death in 1940, flying for the RAF in a Fairey Battle, his mother Dorothy continued adding to the collection. She formed the Richard Ormonde Shuttleworth Remembrance Trust "for the teaching of the science and practice of aviation"

Old Warden Aerodrome, where the collection is housed, is one of the few active grass airfields in the UK. It is located about 1 hour from NW London, just off the A1.

The pride of the collection is their 1909 Blériot XI. Registration G-AANG with its original engine. It is the world's oldest flying aeroplane. Bear in mind that the Wright Brothers pioneered powered flight only 6 years earlier. You can see the Blériot flying at one of the many airshows at Old Warden.

Walking through the six huge hangars at Shuttleworth and studying in excess of 50 aircraft in the collection, one is able to appreciate how aviation design developed from Edwardian times up until the late 1950s. The Great War led to a rapid evolution of aircraft, not to mention their armament.

Looking at some of the WWI aircraft with open cockpits and rudimentary controls, it is hard to imagine that they were capable of flying at 19,000 feet. One shudders to think of the effects on the pilot.

Not only the aircraft. On display are parts of the very engines that powered them. One cylinder on display

has the displacement of a small family car. Another fascinating display is the once private collection of Spark Plugs, bringing back memories of feeler gauges, rotor arms and plug gaps.

I was particularly excited to see the De Havilland Comet 88 GACSS that in 1934 successfully flew from Mildenhall in Suffolk to Melbourne in under 71 hours.

When I was a young lad, I would always admire the model of ACSS that used to grace an hotel outside De Havilland's factory at Hatfield, where the more famous Comet 4 and Trident took to the skies and were the pride of British aviation.

The highlight, for me however, was to see the restored Westland Lysander, named after the Spartan commander.

Despite, or because of, its ungainly appearance, the aircraft's shortfield performance enabled clandestine missions using small, improvised airstrips behind enemy lines to place or recover agents, particularly in German occupied France with the help of the French Resistance.

While admiring the early aircraft, I innocently asked one of the 12 full time passionate engineers how many of the planes in the collection are airworthy. All of them! he replied, to our amazement.

An air display was due to take place a few days after our visit and it was of great interest to see how these aircraft are prepared. It's not a question of kicking the tyres and swinging the prop, these aircraft are lovingly and meticulously readied for flight.

Not only aircraft are on display. There is also a collection of vintage and veteran cars, buses and motorbikes, as well as steam engines and farm machinery.

There's something at Shuttleworth for the whole family, particularly a visit to the workshops to witness current restoration projects.



Simchas

Just Arrived

Mazal tov to

Sybil Benn on the birth of a great granddaughter



Lauren & Michael Bodansky on the birth of their son Bertie. A Grandson to Janine & the late Peter Renton and Valerie & Jonathan Bodansky

Lauren Davidson & Bob Vickers on the birth of a son, Caleb Alfie. Also to grandparents Alexandra & Jeffrey Davidson and Kathie & Roger Vickers, also great grandparents Evi & Freddy Fishburn

Angela & Louis Gershon on the birth of a granddaughter, a daughter to Caroline & Rafi Addlestone. Also to Rafi's parents Debbie & Brian Addlestone

Graham & Sarah Kaye on the birth of a grandson, Noah Warner Gordon, a son to Tali & Ben Gordon. Also grandparents Malcolm & Anne Gordon and great grandparents Rachel &



David Futerman,

and Marianne Cohen

Aimee & Mike Mire on the birth of a daughter, Lily Sophia. Also to grandparents Michele & Russell Tenzer and Simone & Ben Mire

Emma & Oliver Newton on the birth of a son, Solomon Cyril. Also to grandparents Angela and Louis Gershon, Jo & David Fogel and Susan & David Newton

Yasmin & Stuart Saunders, on the birth of a grandson, Yehuda Kalman, a son for Chaya & Daniel Saunders

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



Talya Tibber and Richard & Susie Tibber on the birth of a grandson, Solomon Stuart Benjamin a son to Andrew & Mimi Tibber

Bar Mitzvah

Mazal tov to

Noah, son of Beverley & Martin Boyle, grandson of Philomenia



Zac, son of Dana & Adrian Brass. Also to grandparents Rita & Abraham Weissman, Stella & Robert Reiff and David & Caroline Brass

Zak, son of Simon & Sharonne Durkin, grandson of Rina & Jeff Durkin and Haya & David Lewi

Ben, son of Laura & James Pincus, grandson of Debbie Weiskopf, Rosalind & David Young and Marion & Barry Pincus



Ethan, son of Claire & Anthony Rosen, grandson of Joan & Sam Kuperberg, and Golda & Michael Rosen

Bat Mitzvah

Mazal tov to

Amy, daughter of Zara & Daniel Bendor, granddaughter of Evelyn & Peter Jay

Noa, daughter of Sandy & Roy Blanga, granddaughter of David & Shouly Blanga, Stella Feiner and Ilan Wilhelm



Lexi, daughter of Lori & Adam Hudaly, granddaughter of Denise & Ronnie Tanur, Sharon & David Hudaly and great grandmother Freda Bakerman

Robert & Stephanie Hurst on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Annabel Borushek, daughter of Fiona and Adam Borushek



Sophia, daughter of Juliette & Jeff Tannenbaum, granddaughter of Fiona & Charles Tannenbaum and Marion & Barry Pincus

Have you changed

Your address?

Your telephone number?

Your email address?

Please notify the Synagogue Office:

Tel 8455 8126 Email office@hgss.org.uk

Birthdays

Solly Ohayon, on the occasion of his 97th birthday.

Stuart Saunders on his Second Bar Mitzvah

Please send your announcements and photographs for our Simcha Pages to Hilary Halter
 hilaryhalter34@gmail.com
 8365 2187 / 07914 810 222

Simchas

Engagements

Mazal tov to

Sybil Benn on the engagement of her granddaughter Sheina in Israel and also on the birth of a great granddaughter in London



David Kahn & Deborah Burland on their engagement. Also to parents Susan & Leon Magar and Sylvia Kahn

Jonathan and Sharon Goldstein on the engagement of their daughter Sara to Ben Mesrie, son of Rachel & Daniel Mesrie. Also to grandparents Norman Roback and Jackie Mesrie

Tania and Olivier Levenfiche on the engagement of their son Levi to Marisa, daughter of Nicky Poster of New York. Mazal tov also to grandparents Sarah Lebetkin, Jack Weiner, Jacqueline Levenfiche and Gloria and Jesse Gottlieb (New York)



David Martin on his engagement to Mia Sands, daughter of Debra and the late Steven Sands ז"ל. Also to parents Gillian & Steven Martin and grandparents Arlene Beare, Brenda-Lee Martin, Ethel Moss and Josephine & Sidney Sands

Ashley Perez on his engagement to Gigi Dryer. Also to parents Sandra and David Dryer



Weddings

Mazal tov to



Jonathan Baker on his marriage to Chavi Schneck. Also to his parents, Sasha & Michael Baker, grandmother Lila Baker and to Chavi's parents Yossi & Raizy Schneck

Oliver Battat & Miriam Bernstein on their marriage. Also to parents Debra & Robbie Battat, and Sara & Jonathan Bernstein, and grandparents, Golda & Michael Rosen, Helene & Jack Levy, Anita & Ben Bernstein



Annabel Coleman & Sam Sutton on their marriage. Not forgetting parents Louise & Daniel Coleman and Julie Sutton and Richard Sutton and grandparents Deanne & Malcolm Coleman and Eric Sayliss

Alex Fenton on his marriage to Rebecca Ross. Also to parents Ian & Debbie Fenton and Simon & Ruth Ross, grandfather David Morein and great grandmother Renee Bourne

Chazan Avromi & Rochelle Freilich on the marriage of their daughter Avigail to Alex Gutstein, son of Yossi & Anita Gutstein.

Irving Grose on the marriage of his youngest son, Gil to Miri Halio



Caroline & Clive Handler on the wedding of their daughter Sophie to Ryan Israel, son of Marcie & Ashley Israel. Mazal Tov also to grandparents Pat & Walter Felman

Mazal tov to

Harry Jacobson on his marriage to Lydia Kenley. Also to parents Beverley & Alan Jacobson and Vanessa & Simon Kenley, and grandparents, Rilla & Philip Jacobson, Roselyn Phillips, Shirley & Oliver Kenley and



Jennifer & Stewart Edwards



Stephanie & Graham Nagus and Maida & Ari Majer on the marriage of their children Toby & Michelle. Also to grandmother, Valerie Halpern

Lior & Sassie Rajwan on the recent wedding, in Israel, of their son, Anthony, to Hannah

Lawrence & Livia Sugarman and Hayley & Darren Gross on the marriage of Jake & Brooke. Also to grandparents, Lucy Sugarman and Linda & Donald Sharpe, Ruth & Ronald Gross and



Grandma Geraldine Abrahams

Naomi & Bernard Taub on the marriage of their granddaughter Alyza to Joel Meirowsky in Perth.

Anniversaries Greetings to:

Shosh & Joel Greenwood who are celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary



HGSS

★ **We would like to invite you to host your celebrations in Hampstead Garden Suburb.** ★

The Max Weinbaum Hall is available to hire every day (inc. Shabbat).

Fully air-conditioned stylish function Hall which has 2 inbuilt large HD screens, Overhead projector, AV equipment and contemporary lighting which you can set to your own requirements.

We have full Wheelchair access and disabled toilet facilities on the ground floor as well a loop system for the hard of hearing. Hire costs include the use of our purpose built professional catering kitchens which have a 5 star Level hygiene rating, security, caretaking, banqueting tables and chairs.

Hire costs include the use of our purpose built professional catering kitchens, caretaking, banqueting tables and chairs.

Preferential rates for HGSS members

Please contact Sharon to discuss your plans:
020 8457 7041 / sharon@hgss.org.uk