

# HAMPSTEAD

# REVIEW

5777

2016/17



# FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

## REFLECTIONS ON THE YEAR GONE BY AND THE YEAR AHEAD



The final words of Devarim (Deuteronomy) Chapter 11, verse 12 are: me-reishit hashana ve'ad acharit shana - "from the beginning of the year until the end of a year". We would have expected the closing phrase of the verse to be "until the end of the year". The Rebbe of the Satmar Chasidic dynasty suggests that there is an important message here. Coming up to Rosh Hashanah, we are naturally determined that the coming year will be "the year", a special year of achievement and progress - but by the end of any given year, it too often peters out and becomes just "a year", another ordinary year, indistinguishable from all those that preceded it.

Thank G-d this past year at Hampstead Shul, 5776, was not just an ordinary year. I cannot do justice in a short article to everything notable that has happened or

thank all those who deserve much gratitude, but I just want to mention some features of the year which made a particular impression on me. Starting with a wonderful Shabbat UK last October in which our guest speakers were our dynamic and engaging local MP Tulip Siddiq and our Scholar in Residence for the year, Dina Brawer, Dina went on to give a wide-ranging and beautifully prepared and delivered series of shiurim on several Shabbatot during the year. It was wonderful to see the increased attendances that Dina attracted, including (though by no means limited to) women young and old, both from our communities and neighbouring communities, who clearly identified with and took pride in an excellent female teacher of Torah. Dina's use of the traditional chavruta method, asking people to discuss Jewish texts in small groups as the basis for wider discussion, filled our Shul with the best Jewish sound there is - the hum and buzz of Torah study.

Inspired by Dina's appointment and with hard work from very many, the women of our community held our first women's megilla reading on the night of Purim, attracting approximately fifty women in addition to the large number of men and women who attended our usual communal reading. It was a quite outstanding achievement.

Josh and Yocheved Zaitschek left us to move on to pastures new at Finchley having put on many outstanding events over the four

years that they were with us. It was wonderful to have our own young people, Freddy Powell, Emily Theodore and their team, picking up the baton and continuing to arrange events for young people in our area with the highly successful Friday night service and informal dinner which they held recently.

On a personal note, I was extremely touched and grateful to have such participation from within our Hampstead community and beyond at the launch of my book Faith Without Fear: Unresolved Issues in Modern Orthodoxy in our Community Centre last October. I continue to receive invitations to speak about the book in other venues and hope that it will stimulate ongoing discussion of Modern Orthodoxy and its crucial role on the contemporary Jewish scene.

Looking to the new year dawning upon us, 5777, we are certainly working hard to try and make it another year which is not just "shana", a dull, routine year. As I write, we are in the process of identifying and recruiting our second annual female Scholar in Residence, working this year with the Bradfield Programme at the London School of Jewish Studies (LSJS) which trains women Torah educators.

2017 is the fiftieth anniversary of the 6-Day War, and to mark this we are in the process of planning a 3-part series of lectures in the first part of 2017 with Professor David Newman of Ben-Gurion University, who will

be on sabbatical in London. David is an internationally-recognised expert on geopolitics and a most engaging speaker, and has just finished his term of office as Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Ben-Gurion.

Personally, I am embarking on a new venture in terms of professional development by studying this coming year for advanced ordination as a dayan in the area of Jewish family law, including crucial contemporary issues such as agunah and conversion. The course is under the auspices of the Montefiore Endowment based at the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue in London, in conjunction with Eretz Hemdah, which is a leading institution of rabbinic learning in Israel. As the participants on the course are busy rabbis who can commit only for a few hours each week, the course is spread out over five years. I am very much looking forward to the opportunity to study a whole new area and to sharing some of what I am learning with you as the course progresses.

As usual, a great deal else will be happening in Hampstead and I look forward to continuing to work with our outstanding team. Meanwhile, Judith and the family join me in wishing you all ketiva vachatima tova, shana tova umetuka - a wonderful year of blessing, achievement and peace.

**RABBI DR. MICHAEL J. HARRIS**

# HAMPSTEAD REVIEW

## ON THE RISE

It is self-evident, and it is reflected throughout this edition of HR, that the women of Hampstead Shul are on the rise. Traditionally they have always been the backbone of our community with their strong tradition of volunteering but now it appears that some want to heighten their spiritual lives too. An ideal opportunity came with our first women's reading of Megillat Esther at Purim. Our photographer was at hand to capture this historic moment for the front cover. You can read the full story on page 31.

At Simchat Torah, two men are given the highest honour a community can give. For some years now we have also honoured two women by naming them Eshet Chayil, a woman of worth. This year, we honour three ladies - so the women trump the men again! Who will be taking the honours? See pages 26-28. And watch out for a special communal lunch on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October, when we will pay tribute to them all.

Throughout The US, bigger opportunities for women are being created. The Chief Rabbi (read his message on page 19) has initiated a course that will train women to give spiritual advice in certain areas of Jewish law. There's a report on page 32 from Jaqui Zinkin, co-chair of US Women on a movement which is clearly growing in strength.

It just leaves me to wish all our contributors, advertisers and readers (men and women) a Shana Tova and well over the fast.

*Gabriel*

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# DEAR FRIENDS

It has been a privilege for us to have been Co-Chairs of Hampstead Synagogue over the last year. There have been so many wonderful events but certainly three of the best were the Michael Haringman tribute Shabbat, the launch of "Faith Without Fear" by Rabbi Harris and Shabbat UK.

In January, Rabbi Lord Sacks led a fitting and fulsome tribute to Michael Haringman to mark Michael's retirement as our long serving Chairman. We are grateful to Rabbi Sacks for his words of great wisdom and tolerance and we thank him profusely for his continued support of Hampstead.

The Eli Chinn Hall was packed for the launch of "Faith Without Fear". Subsequently, our Rabbi's book was met with critical acclaim. We wish him Mazal Tov on its success. We feel that the work he is doing and which is encapsulated in "Faith Without Fear" is important both for Hampstead and the wider community and we are pleased to back him in relation to his endeavours.

At Shabbat UK we enjoyed the first in a series of successful teaching sessions from Dina Brawer, who was our Scholar in Residence on a number of Shabbatot throughout the year. We thank Dina for the considerable time and effort she gave to us and for her serious learning and insights. With Dina's encouragement and assistance we undertook women's readings of Megillat Esther and Megillat Ruth. It was exciting to see this new development and so many women becoming involved. Thanks should also go to Lyndsey Taylor Guthartz for her additional Megillat Esther learning sessions.



**ADRIENNE POWELL & MICHAEL HELFGOTT**  
CO-CHAIRS

We are delighted that we are doing more with the non-Jewish community including a tour of the Synagogue by the Islamia School children, having Tulip Siddiq MP as our guest speaker for Shabbat UK and hosting a discussion with Lord Bourne, the recently appointed Under-Secretary for the Department of Communities and Local Government.

This year promises to be just as exciting. Amongst other things, we look forward to welcoming a new Scholar-in-Residence in succession to Dina. In October we will be celebrating Simchat Torah with two Chatanim and three Neshei Chayil. A well-deserved Mazal Tov to all of them. Then, in November we are delighted that Lord Daniel Finkelstein will be giving the Isaiah Berlin Lecture.

The United Synagogue increasingly provides us with high quality support in so many different ways. The High Holy Days Companion which they published last year included a thought-provoking checklist by Rabbi Gideon Sylvester. Have a look at it again this year and maybe consider putting together your own list. If you do, please consider including in it to be more involved in some way with our Shul. Hopefully it will make a difference to you. It will certainly make a difference to those around you and to the whole community. We will be stronger for it and together when we sing "awake, awake" in Lecha Dodi on a Friday night - we will really make some noise and be collectively reinvigorated.

Thank you to all our Members for all you do. We would not be able to survive without you. May you be blessed with a happy and peaceful New Year and as we said last year, we very much look forward to wishing you this in person on Yom Tov with joy and a smile.

# LIFE IN THE OFFICE

As Forrest Gump famously said "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get."

This quote perfectly sums up a day in life of the Hampstead Shul office.

New to synagogue office life there was a lot for me to learn, not sure what to expect but always ready for a challenge, I eagerly started my role as Community Manager in June 2014 with Hampstead Synagogue (and job-sharing with Golders Green Synagogue). Two years on, I am amazed how time has sped by so swiftly and I am grateful for the many varied and interesting experiences I've shared within the community.

From Aliyot to Yahrzeits, there are a wide range of customs and traditions which form the fabric of Jewish life. And the most important role of the shul office is to ensure that this fabric is kept securely and tightly woven. From preparing the shul for Shabbat each week by ordering the kiddush, drafting the call up list and Shabbat announcements to sending out the monthly yahrzeit reminders letters, answering queries from members either by email or phone and helping new members to join the shul, there is always a flurry of activity taking place in the Hampstead Shul office.

And just when you think everything is under control and all is in order, the festival period looms and the office transforms into lastminute.com with the task of allocating seats numbers for over 100 new visitors we get each year to the synagogue over the Yomim Noraim and making sure the annual Rosh Hashanah mailing goes out to our 600 strong membership in time, as well as planning the Simchat Torah lunch to honour our Chattanim and Neshei Chayil.

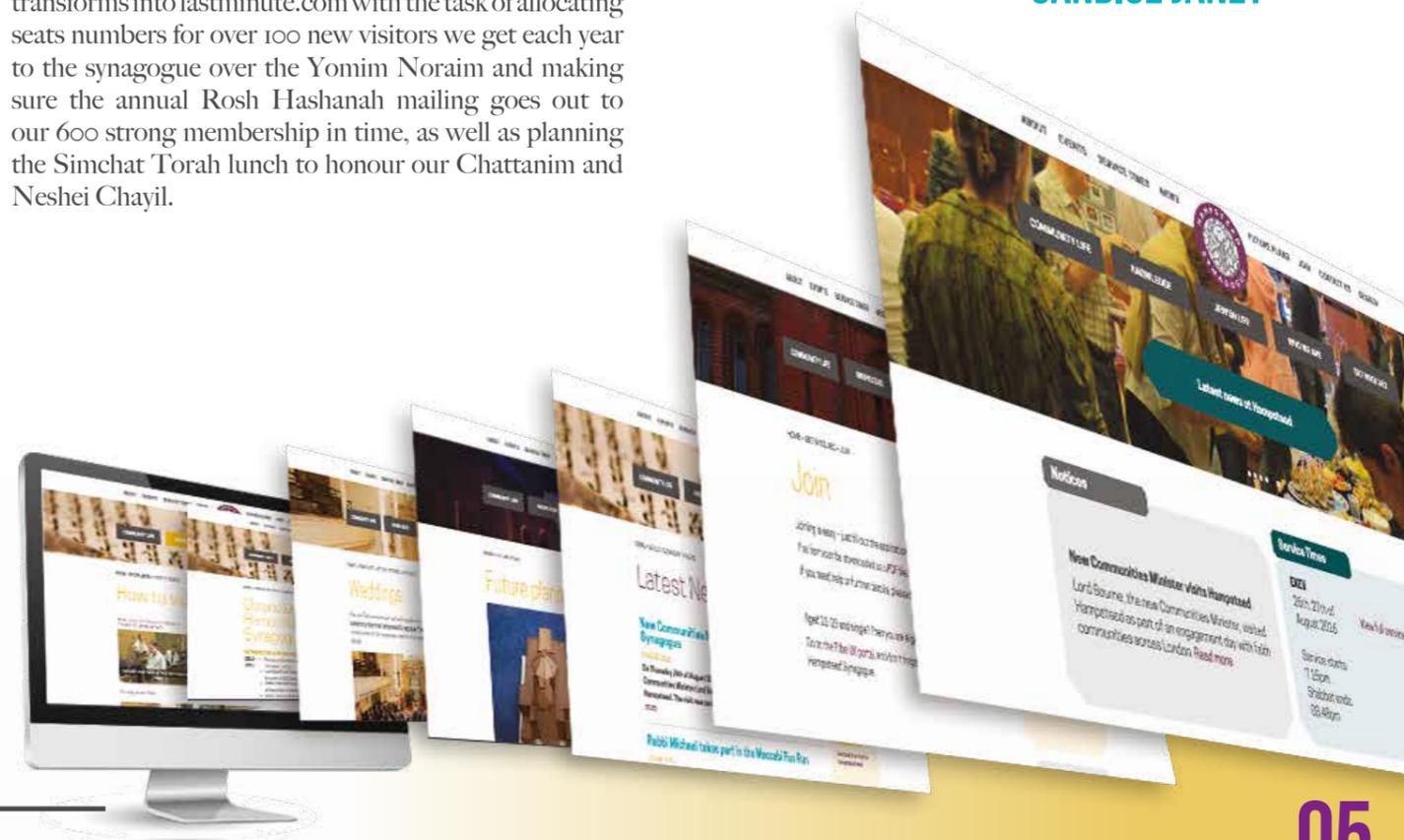
As part of my role, I am privileged to have had the chance to team up with so many inspiring and talented members of our community who give their precious time and valuable skills freely by volunteering to be involved with the many facets of synagogue life. As an experienced event planner it's been a pleasure to use my skills to help our volunteers plan relevant and exciting events for our community such as the recent day trip to the memorable Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre and Museum as well as our successful summer evening concert of classical music.

It is also very rewarding having the opportunity to help our members on a more personal note, whether it be assisting a new bride and groom who are feverishly planning their forthcoming chuppah in the synagogue or during more difficult times, to be able to provide comfort and support when a member loses a loved one.

Although busy and stressful at times, it is wonderful being part of the Hampstead family and I look forward to continue working within the community as it grows from strength to strength.



**CANDICE JANET**



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**WWW.HAMPSTEADSHUL.ORG.UK**

# REVIEW OF THE YEAR

There have been many highlights for our community over the past 12 months and certainly one of the stand-out moments was the publication and launch of Rabbi Harris's book "Faith Without Fear" in which he tackled the issues facing Orthodox Judaism. There is a growing need to discuss these issues and the younger generation will increasingly demand well thought out and reasoned answers. The issues will not just go away and our rabbi has done a great service to the entire community by tackling them head on with intellectual rigour and great integrity, combined with a respect and love for our traditions and Halacha.

## ONE OF THE STAND-OUT MOMENTS WAS THE PUBLICATION AND LAUNCH OF RABBI HARRIS'S BOOK FAITH WITHOUT FEAR

Last September, we paid tribute to Michael Haringman not least by featuring him on the front cover of Hampstead Review. In February of this year, we all enjoyed a most beautiful and momentous Shabbat when we had the great honour and privilege of having Rabbi Lord Sacks as our guest of honour. On that morning, we heard Lord Sacks give a most fulsome and well deserved personal tribute to Michael.

Having co-chairs is a new one but is helpful because one can take the strain when the other is busy on other things. Adrienne Powell is a fearless defender of the shul's values and has been involved in so much. The sensational magazine of last year was put together with a great deal of effort by her, Gabriel Herman and, on the design side, by Emily Theodore. She was also behind the women's joint reading of Megillat Esther which she organised with Dina Brawer.

Dina was our Scholar in Residence. The idea was to promote Torah learning and to be led by a learned religious woman. At Dina's first Shabbat last November, which was also Shabbat UK, we invited our newly elected MP, Tulip Siddiq, to speak to us. This demonstrated Hampstead's desire to embrace the wider community, as well as strengthening our own. Dina has, in particular, been a role model for the 20s and 30s and the culmination of her endeavours was not only the women's reading of Megillat Esther for Purim but also that of Megillat Ruth. We face a long journey in trying to find ways of giving women a greater role in our community, whilst at the same time adhering strictly to halacha but this year, with Adrienne as our first woman chair and with Dina's help, we certainly seem to be taking a step in the right direction.

In terms of services, we have again this year been led by Rabbis Harris and Gerzi. Shlomo sings beautifully, both individually and on occasions with Lawrence Lederman and his choir - now including our own Noah

Max. Kol Nidrei was a sensation. Together with Joy, the Gerzis initiated and organised Shabbat lunches on numerous occasions. These have been extremely well received and have been made possible by the financial backing of one of our members.

As regards the running of services, Ivor Nadel stepped down as Shammass, having expertly served in this role and as an administrator for over 20 years. Robert Max kindly agreed to give a concert in Ivor's honour and there is a report on page 13.

Our wardens, Tony Ostrin and David du Parc Braham, have taken over the duties of the shammas and by-and-large things seem to be running relatively smoothly. Tony, in his wonderfully irrepressible manner, organises so much and has more ideas than you can imagine. What is more, he follows through with them and makes them happen. This year that has included post-kiddush talks, a trip to Beth Shalom, a talk by Clare Ungerson on the British rescue of a number of German-Jewish men in 1939, the Isaiah Berlin Lecture by Lord Justice Leveson, organising a meet and greet session with the Mayor of Camden, Lorraine Revah, in her parlour, as well as jointly running the midweek minyanim with the superb Tony Tigner Orchudesch.

David du Parc Braham (Mazel Tov to him and Carmel on the birth of their beautiful baby, Darcey) is incredibly well-considered in everything he does and is very

strategic. Amongst other things, David is largely responsible for our revamped website and weekly emails, which are vastly improved and a great success. Candice in her office and Charles Delroy have helped by adding information on the website and producing the emails.

## WE HAVE AN EXCITING YEAR AHEAD

Our financial representative, Madeleine Abramson continues to keep a tight rein on everything. She combines great wisdom and practicality and steps in when Candice is away, diverting the office phones to her mobile and keeping the show on the road.

In January of this year, Candice became our full time Community Manager. This has enabled her to improve our systems and run the office more effectively. She is polite but firm and is a real asset to us. We are thankful to Beverley Ostrin, Jenny Ziff and Sharon Theodore for providing her with assistance.

Tony Tigner-Orchudesch and Michael Selby have built good relationships with other shuls, Camden Council, the police and the CST. The entire community are thankful to Tony and Michael for the enormous amount of effort they put in to keeping us safe and to all the teams. They organised a talk from members of the Camden counter-terrorist force and there were training sessions for our volunteers.

Chesed initiatives have been led this year by Nina Geller. Amongst other things, Nina organised a tea at the home of David and Sandra Berzon in honour of the remarkable Joyce

Saffron. There was a talk by the curator of the Wallace Collection at Mrs Brodtman's house. As always, Nina organised the distribution of parcels pre-Pesach and Rosh Hashanah to our more elderly members. In truth, there is more that we could do on the Chesed front with assistance from the community and this is a call for more volunteers.

To the future. For all our many successes for which we should be rightly proud, we face many challenges. Membership needs to increase and our revenues need to grow. The community centre is in need of major refurbishment or replacement. We have attracted some youngsters, but not enough and we need more young families to develop children's services.

In this regard, things are about to become tougher as Josh and Yocheved Zaitschek have left us to take up a new post at Kinloss. We wish them all the very best there. Josh is a rising star of the community and we look forward to hearing about all his successes in the many years to come. Josh has, with the creation of the Den, the Cholentfest and his Friday night dinners for young people, as well as his alternative minyanim; and Yocheved with her toddlers' groups, helped changed attitudes to and within Hampstead. The community thanked them both at a special farewell kiddush. Our task is to build on their legacy and continue to reach out to young families without forgetting the needs of our senior members.

Strategically, there is the important decision concerning the Eruv which may encourage young families to move in to the area. At the same time, in terms of a new building, William Geller, Malcolm Ziff and Michael Haringman have been involved in drawing up plans with

our architects for a new community centre building. Michael has already raised funds so that we may submit plans to Camden Council as part of a pre-application process in order to understand what the Council views as acceptable.

Ultimately we can draw up plans, but this is an appeal for everyone to become more involved so that those plans actually work and we can achieve our aim of a stronger, more vibrant Hampstead Synagogue. We have an exciting year ahead.

## ADRIENNE POWELL WRITES:

Last year was certainly a momentous year for me as it was my first time as co-chair. It was a privilege and pleasure to work alongside the incredible Michael Helfgott - a delightful, hardworking and professional co-chair. He respects and values the input of the executive team and board of management; always acknowledging and sharing success.

I also experienced, with many others, an intense period of religious learning being taught by our first female Scholar-in-Residence. Leyning Megillat Esther with a community of women from a beautifully restored scroll was the high point of my year and this, together with the wonderful support that I received from members following the passing of my mother, made me recognise and value the wonderful community we have at Hampstead Synagogue.

*Based on Michael Helfgott's speech at the Annual General Meeting*

# HOSTING @ HAMPSTEAD

## ISLAMIA SCHOOL VISIT

A class of thirty Muslim girls aged 13-14 from Islamia School visited us following an approach by staff member Saddia Malik. They had a unique opportunity to learn about Judaism from Rabbi Harris who showed them around the shul explaining the importance of the Bimah, Ark and Torah scrolls.

As he leyned a short portion from the Torah to give them a flavour of how we read in our services, the pupils were walking around the scroll, fascinated by the similarities of the script, language and sounds found in their religious practice.

The girls asked many questions, probing the similarities and differences between our two faiths.

They wanted to know how many times Jews pray each day; about shul opening hours; what role women have within prayer; and our views about Jesus.

The visit was welcomed by the Hampstead Synagogue co-chair Adrienne Powell, who said:

“It was delightful to escort the Islamia girls around our synagogue and to realise there’s so much in common between our faiths. I took great pleasure in their enthusiasm for learning about Judaism.”

After an inquisitive session, there was a short stained-glass window trail around the building which ended with refreshments.



## HAVING FAITH IN COMMUNITIES



Lord Bourne, the new Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Communities and Local Government, visited our shul and was warmly welcomed by Rabbi Harris and co-chairs Adrienne Powell and Michael Helfgott. The visit was arranged by the Board of Deputies and featured in a day of engagements for him with faith communities across London.

Lord Bourne said:

“We are greatly enriched by the diversity of faiths that call our Country home. Within an hour you can visit places of worship representing our largest religions,

through to our smaller faiths, all of whom play an integral part in communities. I was delighted to visit Hampstead Synagogue to learn more about Judaism and hear about the important work the Synagogue does for the wider community.”

The minister was also briefed on issues facing the Jewish community by the Board of Deputies CEO Gillian Merron, the Jewish Leadership Council’s Adam Langleben and the Community Security Trust’s Jonny Newton.

*Image courtesy of the Welsh Office*

# ROSH HASHANAH IS A TIME FOR FAMILY

# SO IT'S TIME TO HELP A FAMILY WITH 7,000 MEMBERS.



Last year, we directly supported over 7,000 people and their families every single week.

We also helped over 2,600 people living in their own homes.

Our Community Centres received 170,000 visits.

We served over 1 million hot kosher meals.

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# SCRIBAL MENTALITY

Hebrew calligraphy can be described as writing, scribing, lettering or as my wife calls it scratchings - but more than anything, a beautiful reflection of the variance in Jewish practice. I've always been interested in looking at Hebrew manuscripts particularly Haggadot which come in numerous types, styles and formats. There are some lovely facsimiles of old editions such as the Venice 1629 Haggadah and the Ashkenazi 15th century Haggadah in the British Library.

Some years ago there was a Hebrew Calligraphy course advertised at Ivy House - the London Jewish Cultural Centre - now merged with JW3. I paid up and started on the road to scribing. This required a nudnik mentality and lots of practice.

My teacher, Vetta Alexis is very patient, encouraging and doesn't jump up and down when her pupils cannot come to grips with the shapes and proportions of the Hebrew letters. Whilst some basic scripts are simple, others reflect the differing Sepheradi and Ashkenazi communities. The Ashkenazi scripts tend to be very square and ordered as opposed to the more shapely and curly Sepheradi lettering.

If you do try your hand at Hebrew calligraphy, there are a few pitfalls you should be aware of. Using ink, the pen blobs at the most inconvenient time. You can be prone to miss out letters, put in the wrong letter or have uneven spacing. Perhaps the most challenging aspect to adapt to, is writing from right to left. This causes a number of issues for right-handed people like me, because you can't see the letter that's just been written as it's obscured. This makes spacing even trickier. The height of the letter is measured in nib-widths so accurate lines have to be drawn otherwise the whole piece of work will look wrong.

My secret to mastering the practice seems to be hand and eye co-ordination, which takes hours of practice to develop.

I'm currently trying to use Hebrew words to illustrate particular biblical passages by filling in the outlined spaces. For example the prayer for peace in the shape of a dove or mountains dancing like rams. I have included as examples the prayer for Israel in the shape of the Magan David written in the STAM (Sopher Tora and Mazuzah) script, a blessing for the home in the shape of a house and a copy of Psalm 145 in a more modern script.

Should anyone be interested in trying this particular craft may I encourage you to try the JW3 Class?

**JACK ABRAHAM**



**MICHAEL HARINGMAN (LEFT) PRESENTED IVOR NADEL WITH A FRAMED PIECE OF CALLIGRAPHY PERSONALLY CRAFTED AND PREPARED BY JACK ABRAHAM**

# MUSIC FOR A SUMMER EVENING

## WITH ROBERT MAX & ENSEMBLE

*On 10th July, more than 100 people attended a summer concert in the Community Centre to honour Ivor Nadel and thank him for his contribution and service.*

Robert Max with his son Noah and five of Robert's students played music from a number of composers including Bach, Prokofiev and Saint-Saëns. The music was varied finishing with modern music arranged for cellos including Turk and Handman's *Are You Lonesome Tonight?* and Fats Waller's *Ain't Misbehavin'*. One of the highlights was Noah singing the calypso *Under the Sea* from *The Little Mermaid* film which had been arranged by Robert Max.

The concert was followed by a buffet supper. One guest remarked that it was like a simcha and he had not been to any shul concert anywhere to be offered such a lavish presentation of food! During the meal there were a number of speeches to Ivor in appreciation of all the hard work he had devoted for more than 20 years as Administrator and Shammash. A testimonial cheque representing contributions from the members of our community was presented to him together with a framed piece of calligraphy which had been personally crafted and prepared by Jack Abraham. Ivor told us how he had been asked to fill in as administrator for a month and stayed 20 years. During that time he had become acquainted with virtually all the members of Hampstead Synagogue, even those who rarely, if ever, actually attended our services.



Our thanks are due to all those who made the evening such a success together with our Community Manager Candice who co-ordinated such an enjoyable occasion. All seven musicians made this an evening to be remembered. We are extremely grateful to Robert and his ensemble for the time and effort they voluntarily devoted to making this concert the success it clearly was.

**TONY OSTRIN**

**IVOR ADDS:** I would like to thank the honorary officers for asking me to be the guest of honour at the musical evening that they arranged for the community. Also to all those members for their financial generosity and gifts. I very much hope that those who attended the excellent recital by the Robert Max Ensemble enjoyed the evening as much as I did.

# SIDE BY SIDE

## OUR VISIT TO A SCHOOL WITH A SPECIAL PURPOSE

Henry and I were invited to visit an inspirational special school in the heart of Stamford Hill. Housed in modest, outdated buildings on Big Hill, eighty 2-19 year-olds with a broad range of disabilities receive a comprehensive education, delivered with warmth, creativity and expertise. It is a religious community whose families have nowhere else to turn to for help and are often in serious financial need.

The school was in the process of acquiring land on Lordship Road, the site of the former Avigdor School, and we were asked if there was anything we could do to help in making the dream of the staff come true.

The new building will be designed with the needs of the children at its core, and costs will be high. The nursery department is unusual in its educational provision for children with severe disabilities alongside

mainstream children. This is designed to foster sensitivity in the mainstream students and we were touched to see how this interaction works with understanding and compassion from the older, able-bodied children.

In addition to being included in general class activities, the disabled children benefit from individualized therapy plans to enable them to achieve their utmost. Students attending the primary and secondary departments are helped to integrate into mainstream schools where this is appropriate and we had a very warm welcome from several ebullient young men with Down's Syndrome, who extended their hands to Henry immediately without any prompting. Staff members obviously take huge pride in their students' achievements. Above all Henry and I were humbled and amazed by Side By Side's ability to discern the potential in each child, no matter how disabled, and

the staff's determination to support students in attaining it.

We won't forget the multi-sensory room, with a floor of plastic balls, and walls covered in objects and materials designed to stimulate and delight the very young children without sight and hearing. They were so lovingly held and encouraged by their teachers.

Many of the teenage students have achieved, or are working towards, ASDAN employability and youth awards, supplemented by work experience opportunities to prepare them for the most independent adulthood possible. We left the school determined to help as much as we could to bring the dream of the new premises to fruition. Miracles seem to be happening at Side By Side every day so, God-willing, their dream of a new, better school will come true.

**ALISON GRUNWALD**

## THE MINYANAIRE CLUB

Each Rosh Chodesh we hold a Shachrit Minyan jointly with Shomrei Hadath. When a member has Yahrzeit, we endeavour to set up a morning Minyan and we consider this to be an important part of synagogue life. We are indebted to Tony Tigner-Orchudesch for his efforts in arranging these morning minyanim and his involvement at services. It is due to Tony's enthusiasm, that we have been able to develop these services and will continue to do so. We encourage our

male members to join us for these minyanim as and when they can. After all, saying Kaddish is important and for which a minyan is necessary.

Our Rosh Chodesh services alternate between Hampstead and Shomrei and details can be seen in the flyer in the shul foyer.

**IF A YAHRZEIT MINYAN IS REQUIRED  
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TONY TIGNER-ORCHUDESCH  
OR CANDICE IN THE OFFICE**



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# ROSH HASHANAH CUSTOMS

Rosh Hashanah is celebrated over two days in Israel like here in the Diaspora. How do we know this? Food.

There is a custom of eating a new fruit (pri Chadash) on the second day of the festival, and saying a blessing (bracha) of shechyanu over it, thanking G-d that He kept us alive to celebrate the New Year. The reason comes from a Talmudical dispute as to whether Rosh Hashanah is two separate days or one day that continues into the second. If it is the latter, then saying shechyanu is a blessing in vain; so we say it on a new fruit to be on the safe side.

When it comes to what we eat, much has been written about the symbolism of certain foods and their perceived omens. Some Talmudic commentators such as Shmuel Eidels known as the Maharasha (1555 - 1631 Krakow, Poland) claimed this practice bordered on witchcraft which the Torah strongly disagrees (Vayikra 19:26).

My teacher always started by reminding us about food which we should NOT eat or cook on Rosh Hashanah. Some of those customs includes not to eat sour foods which in Hebrew is chamutz, such as fish which is cooked in sour sauce or vinegar. As we would like to have a sweet year, so we cook our food with honey and sultanas instead.

Another custom for some is not to eat nuts (egozim), as the Gematriya (the numerology of the Hebrew alphabet) for the word is 17, which is the same as het - the word for a sin.

Some customs (minhagim) we do all year round continue at Rosh Hashanah, but change slightly. For example, we dip challah like every Shabbat, but during the festival, it's into honey, not salt, for a sweet year.

Perhaps the most well-known custom is eating apple and honey, and it has a wealth of symbolism attached to it. One of the most popular explanations, is that an

apple represents an orchard, which is a 'field blessed by G-d' (Bereshit 27:27). Another reason, is that it represents paradise (Zohar 'Chakal Tapuchin Kaddishin), whilst a third, is that apples show divine love for the Jewish people, as it says in Song of Songs 'beneath the apple tree I arouse your love' (Shir Hashirim 8:5).

In addition to apples, we eat foods to cast aside our enemies and hope for good judgment for ourselves. We eat dates because the Hebrew word for 'destroyed' (yitamu) sounds like the word for dates (tamar), whilst beetroot (selek), is a play on the term 'selek la salek' which means 'to remove our enemies'.

We also eat pomegranates (rimon), because inside the pomegranate are many seeds, which we liken to our mitzvot, and carrots (gezer) is a play on the word gezaar, which in Hebrew means decree. We eat it to encourage good judgment, with the hope of being written into the Book of Life.

Perhaps the most controversial custom is to have a head of a fish on the table which in Hebrew is Rosh. This signifies our desire to be ahead in life, though many Sephardim have the head of a sheep!

Finally, some have added their own symbolisms to reflect today's realities. This includes raisins and celery for a 'raise in salary', and for French speakers a banana as the word banane is similar to the words bonne année - a 'good year'.



**RABBI SHLOMO GERZI**

**SHLOMO WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CONGREGATION FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND KIND THOUGHTS AND CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF HIS MOTHER EARLIER THIS YEAR**

# THE HAMPSTEAD KITCHEN

## JAPANESE COTTON CAKE

**SERVES 6**

### INGREDIENTS

- 3 eggs
- 120g white chocolate, broken into pieces
- 120g cream cheese

### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 170C. Separate the eggs. Place the whites in a large bowl.
2. Place the chocolate in a large bowl. Melt chocolate in a double boiler over hot water. Then add the cream cheese and melt them together. Remove bowl from the double boiler, add the egg yolks, and mix well.
3. Whip the egg whites with an electric mixer until firm peaks form.
4. Add 1/3rd of the egg whites into the cream cheese batter and blend well with a spatula. Gradually add the rest of the egg whites & mix well.
5. Line a round cake tin with non-stick parchment paper. Pour the batter into the tin.
6. Place the cake tin on a baking tray. Pour some hot water into the baking tray. Bake at 170C for 15 mins, 160C for another 15 mins, then stop the heat and leave in the oven for a further 15 mins.
7. When it is done, place the cake tin on a wire rack to cool completely.



**JUST 3 INGREDIENTS!**

You can either serve immediately or chill in the fridge before serving! It will get slightly hard in the fridge, so leave at room temperature for a few minutes before you serve.



**DELICIOUS AND HEALTHY!**

## BROCCOLI SALAD

**SERVES 6**

### INGREDIENTS

- 550g tenderstem broccoli
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- Salt and black pepper
- 60g tahini (Yarden or equivalent)
- 2 tsp sesame seeds, toasted

### DIRECTIONS

1. Trim any big leaves off the broccoli and cut off the woody base of the stems. Blanch for 3 mins max. in boiling, salted water, refresh in cold water, drain and leave to dry.
2. Toss the broccoli in the oil, a teaspoon of salt and a large pinch of pepper, then cook on a very hot ridged griddle pan for 2 mins on each side, until slightly charred and smoky. Leave to cool. (Or fry fast if you don't have a griddle)
3. Arrange the broccoli on a serving dish, drizzle with the tahini and scatter with sesame seeds. Serve at room temperature.

**MADELEINE ABRAMSON**

# THE TALL, BEARDED GHOST

Does Judaism believe in ghosts? Despite views to the contrary, the answer is No. This applies regardless of whether the living try to summon up the ghost or whether the ghost appears on its own initiative. The Jewish belief as summed up by Maimonides (Guide 3:46) is that when you die, your body is buried and your soul returns to God. Ramban is inclined to think that in the world to come, people have both bodies and souls. In Maimonides' view, your soul is immortal but as it no longer has a body, it can only "appear" in a spiritual or metaphorical way.

In the Bible, Joseph was unable to sin once he saw the *d'imut d'yukno shel aviv*, "the appearance of his father" (Rashi on Gen. 39:11, based on Sotah 36b). The thought of his father Jacob steeled his conscience. His father had taught him morality and courage, and as his father's son he could strengthen himself against sin. Many people ask themselves, "What would my father or mother think (or say)?" and have a strong

feeling of how the parent would handle a specific situation.

In folklore there are references to spirits and demons, but the rationalist tradition denies that they have any authentic physical shape, form or presence. The Torah forbids enquiring to or of the dead (Deut. 18:11), though some say that communicating with the dead is not impossible though it is forbidden. Maimonides regards such communication as witchcraft and pagan.

It is true that the Bible reports contacts with the dead, e.g. King Saul using the Witch of En-Dor to summon the deceased judge Samuel (I Sam. 28), but whilst Hai Ga'on thought this was a one-of-a-kind miracle, Hofni Ga'on said the witch was an imposter who succeeded in fooling Saul. Roaming ghosts figure in many traditions, but the stories are generally dismissed as imagination.

Australia has Jewish ghost stories such as that of a tall bearded figure



wearing a tallit (said to be Abraham Davis of Broome), who haunted his former house when it became the home of an Anglican bishop. After the house was demolished in 1957 there were no further sightings.

**RABBI RAYMOND APPLE**

# THE SECRET OF LIMMUD'S SUCCESS

Limmud's success is largely down to the high quality of volunteers who help make things run smoothly. It is led by a core team also known as the 'Steering Group' or 'Conference Team'.

Emma Breger is one of those volunteers. She realised it was a fantastic way to meet new people, make connections and learn new skills. From her very first conference in 2006 she volunteered as a 'Conference Maker' which is a great way to see what really happens behind the scenes. Six years later she joined the Shabbat Limmud Committee. By 2013 she was their co-chair and had joined the main Conference Team. Only last year she decided it was time to take on a new leadership challenge that would develop skills to help her professionally and so she became Chair of Marketing and Communications.

Emma's job was to lead a team of eight volunteers to deliver all the marketing and communication material before and during Conference. Anything from producing the handbook and keeping the website updated to

editing blogs, designing flyers and ordering the famous conference bags. Her ultimate goal was to ensure all participants had an enriching Conference experience and that no one turned up at Warwick University by mistake!

The focus last year was the move from Warwick University to a new site at Pendigo Lake in Birmingham. There were inevitably a few hiccups along the way but overall the move was a really great success. It was also the largest conference to date with over 2,700 participants from across the UK and abroad.

This year, Limmud Conference will be back in Birmingham from Sunday 25th to Thursday 29th December. As usual, you should expect a world-class and diverse programme with outstanding educators, artists and performers from across the UK community and around the globe.

For the first time this year Limmud are offering an instalment payment scheme to spread the cost of Conference over a few months - book early to take advantage of this.



**BOOK ONLINE NOW AT  
[WWW.LIMMUD.ORG/CONFERENCE](http://WWW.LIMMUD.ORG/CONFERENCE)**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE GROUP  
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LIMMUD CONFERENCE 2016,  
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[CONF16-VOLUNTEERS@LIMMUD.ORG](mailto:CONF16-VOLUNTEERS@LIMMUD.ORG)**

*Acknowledgement: Shana Boltin*

# EXODUS AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

There is no more enchanting festival than Pesach, writes **David Conway**, or part of it than the Seder service with which its first two nights begin. As a prelude to them, and to whet the appetite for the unending source of stimulus provided by the various rituals, prayers and aggadik commentary in the Haggadah, through which we make our way on these two nights, there could not possibly have been anything

simultaneously more instructive and entertaining - indeed, inspiring - than to be guided around the Egyptian rooms of the British Museum under the expert and entertaining tutelage of Rabbi Dr Raphael Zarum of the London School of Jewish studies.

If on these nights we are supposed to consider ourselves as personally undergoing the Exodus from Egypt then there could surely be no better

way to be 'reminded' of what we were leaving, and why, than to see the huge granite figures representing such Pharaohs as Ramses II and such gods as Osiris, as these rooms contain.

With true attention to detail, Rabbi Zarum explained to the fifteen or so enthralled shul members who were wise enough to avail themselves of his pre-Pesach tour how several

of the artefacts they contain reflect various matters which are mentioned in the Haggadah.

For example, the Torah tells us (Deuteronomy 26:8), and as we repeat on Seder night, that Hashem delivered us from Egypt 'with an outstretched arm, and with signs and wonders.' Just such a massive red granite left arm of the colossal figure of an Egyptian king from the period when, if the Exodus occurred, it did, is on display there.

Rabbi Zarum also explained how each of the ten plagues which were

sent to persuade Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go reflects a different god from the Egyptian pantheon and was intended to show how that of the Israelites was superior to it.

We were even shown an Egyptian letter from the 14th century BCE, a script that makes reference to the Hapirus whom it describes as a roving band of stateless people.

Some doubt anything like the Exodus actually occurred. You will not be left in doubt after this tour!

However versed in the Torah and the rabbinic commentaries anyone might be, no one could possibly fail to learn much by attending this tour.

Perhaps, we should add to the Seder service the declaration: 'Next year in the British Museum', as well as Jerusalem.





# REFLECTIONS FROM STEPHEN PACK PRESIDENT OF THE US

*Rosh Hashanah provides an excellent opportunity for us all to reflect on the past as well as to explore building for the future. Here Stephen Pack, The US President, answers a few wide-ranging questions.*

## WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGE YOU WANT TO GIVE TO OUR FANTASTIC COMMUNITIES?

I wish all of our members and their families a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. I would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone who works hard to make their communities successful.

## WHO HAVE BEEN THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE INSPIRED YOU?

I have been privileged to work closely with the Chief Rabbi and with the emeritus Chief Rabbi. They are a huge inspiration. I have also been fortunate to work with many great people over my career and have found you can learn something from everyone.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE MOST EXCITING US INITIATIVES THAT HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED IN THE LAST FEW YEARS?

I am really excited by the new things we are doing with our communities including welcoming several new ones to The US family. The recent conference on Inspired Leadership was a great success and I was pleased we have launched the Community Development Fund to help our communities be even more successful.

## WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF SO FAR DURING YOUR PRESIDENCY?

Five things: the appointment of our new Chief Rabbi, the appointment of our new Chief Executive, our women trustees and the increased role of women in lay leadership, the outstanding Strategic Review that has set out our priorities for the next few years and of course the new communities that have joined us.

## WHAT DOES THE RECENT TURMOIL IN THE UK POLITICAL ARENA MEAN FOR THE JEWISH COMMUNITY?

Political turmoil is rarely good for the Jews but I am delighted that the new Prime Minister has shown herself to be a true friend of the Jews and of Israel. I am concerned that we remain particularly vigilant about security over the coming months.

## IF SOMEONE IS THINKING ABOUT GETTING INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO THEM?

I would say that the more you put into something the more you get back. Communal work can be very rewarding and you will enjoy it!

## TELL US THE FUNNIEST THING THAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU AS PRESIDENT?

There are so many incidents but the application for Chief Rabbi from Rabbi Hyman Krustovski (of The Simpsons) was a highlight I won't forget!

# MESSAGE FROM

# THE CHIEF RABBI

# ROSH HASHANAH 5777

ON ROSH HASHANAH IT IS INSCRIBED  
AND ON YOM KIPPUR IT IS SEALED

בראש השנה יכתבון וביום צום כיפור יחתמון

As we recited these moving words in the Unetaneh Tokef prayer last year, we could hardly have anticipated the devastation that would be wrought by the relentless terrorist atrocities that would follow. The daily threat of terror is one to which our brethren in Israel have long become accustomed, but that awful reality has largely been greeted by silence in the mainstream media. Global terrorism has spread its tentacles far and wide, making no place on earth immune to this scourge. As the French philosopher and author Bernard-Henri Lévy has said, the world must now learn from the experiences of the Jewish State.

Never before in the history of human conflict has every innocent man, women and child found themselves on the front line. As we endure an onslaught on our freedom, our democracy and our very civilization, what should our response be? The Unetaneh Tokef prayer provides an answer: תשובה תפילה וצדקה - Repentance, Prayer, and Charity.

Repentance - תשובה | *Teshuvah* comes from the Hebrew word meaning 'to return'. Over our High Holydays we are tasked with making a uniquely honest and comprehensive assessment of ourselves so that we can return to our natural state of piety and purity. Our global challenge is to return to the values of human dignity, tolerance, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. That process must begin with ourselves and those upon whom we can make a positive impression.

Prayer - תפילה | #PrayersForParis #PrayersForMunich #PrayersForBrussels. If these popular sentiments from social media are anything to go by, it seems that the world is rarely more united in prayer than after devastating terrorist attacks. In July, after a particularly brutal murder of a beloved Catholic Priest in Normandy, one Twitter user responded to my own message in despair: "The time for prayer is long gone," he said. I couldn't disagree more.

The Talmud describes prayer as *avodah shebalev* - the 'service of the heart' - because, in essence, prayer is about training oneself to love and serve God. The Hebrew word for prayer, *tefillah*, is linked to *tofel*, which means connecting to a greater power. We pray with a deep sense of humility and responsibility because we understand that we can never simply be a 'law unto ourselves'. The power of prayer has always been and will always be a force for good; a spiritual connection with something greater than ourselves, elevating our souls and directly affecting our future actions. We will never fully comprehend the potency of our prayers or how things would have turned out without them but we do know that while terror thrives on a sense of narcissism and superiority, through prayer, we act with modesty and accountability.

Charity/Righteousness - צדקה | The first Chief Rabbi of the Holy Land, Rav Kook, taught that the antidote to causeless hatred is causeless love. Having embraced *Teshuvah* and *Tefillah* with all of the self-improvement that they require, we will have an instinctive and deeply rooted love for peace. But *Tzedakah* is the means by which we look beyond ourselves and turn that goodness into positive, meaningful action that will leave a lasting impact on the world around us.

Every one of us can increase the degree to which we give of ourselves to others, whether as part of an organised charitable campaign or by investing our time and energy into kindness and generosity. There is no degree of evil that cannot be overcome and outshone by an equal and opposite desire to do good for others.

Embracing more fully these three fundamental principles of Jewish life as a response to global hatred and violence might feel inadequate, even naïve. But, I believe that we are far more likely to change the world through positive action and leading by example, than simply by standing in judgement.

May this coming year be one filled with only peace and reconciliation among the peoples of the world. Valerie and I extend to you all our very best wishes for a happy and fulfilling New Year.

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis  
September 2016 • Ellul 5776



# FLEET STREET MEMORIES



The climax of my four decades in Fleet Street was not my twenty-two-year spell on the Financial Times but my previous eleven and a half years on a magazine remembered mainly by Middle East historians and older members of the Jewish community.

The Jewish Observer and Middle East Review, organ of the British Zionist Federation, had been launched in 1917, the year of the Balfour Declaration, when it was called the Zionist Review.

In 1952 it was re-named and for fifteen years was synonymous with its editor, Jon Kimche, a war reporter and military historian known for his well-informed coverage of Israeli and Arab affairs. I became Kimche's assistant in 1963 and succeeded him as editor in 1967 until I joined the Financial Times in 1975.

For seven years, in the 1960s and 1970s, I had the responsibility for reporting and commenting on Middle East and international news in a historic period for world Jewry. It embraced the Six Days War, the War of Attrition, the Yom Kippur War, the liberation of Soviet Jewry, and the initial detente between Israel and Egypt.

From our editorial offices, yards from Fleet Street, we rushed by taxi to put the magazine to bed at the Narod Press, a small East End Jewish printer.

Its building, close to the London Hospital, had been the first permanent chapel of the Salvation Army. It was yards from Sidney Street, scene of the notorious shoot-out with anarchists attended by the then Home Secretary Winston Churchill. The area frequently carried the strong smell of the nearby Truman's brewery.

In the 1960s, Narod printed not only the Jewish Observer but numerous other communal, Zionist and left wing publications, including the Jewish National Fund's Grace after Meals booklets.

It was run by the three sons of its founder, Israel Narodiczky. Their names indicated his love of classical Hebrew - Bar-Kochba, Carmel and Zerubbabel. All were skilled typesetters in Hebrew and Yiddish as well as English and French.

Before the First World War, Narodiczky printed the early verses of Isaac Rosenberg, one of Britain's greatest war poets. In 1915, he was approached by D.H. Lawrence and John Middleton Murray to print a fortnightly pacifist magazine, The Signature. Three issues were printed but the fourth was scrapped after the police threatened to shut the press.

Narodiczky himself was a remarkable character. He left the Ukraine in 1898 to join the South African gold rush hoping to raise a million pounds to buy Palestine from Turkey for the Jewish people. But after disembarking at Tilbury, he stayed in Whitechapel gaining renown as an independent printer. His friends included Weizmann, Jabotinsky, Chaim Nachman Bialik and Sholem Asch.

Finally, back to the Fleet Street of the 1970s and an incident I recall whenever Saddam Hussein hits the headlines. In February 1972, I was shocked to hear that an Iraqi-Arab acquaintance had been allegedly involved in a botched shooting of a former Iraqi prime minister living in Bryanston Square. I was sure that the accused, a gentle scholarly lawyer, had nothing to do with the incident but had simply been in the wrong place at the wrong time.

I compiled a dossier proving that the shooting was inspired by Saddam Hussein. After a four-month trial, my Arab friend, himself a fugitive from Saddam's Iraq, was acquitted, helped partly by the material I had assembled and which I immediately documented in the Jewish Observer.

Since then, both the paper and its historic printer have long since disappeared, ending a colourful chapter in Anglo-Jewish history.

## MAURICE SAMUELSON

*Maurice is this year's Chatan Torah. See page 26*

# HR INTERVIEW: JACK MENDEL & Richard Ferrer

One fine day in Summer. Scratch that. On the only fine day in Summer, I visited Jack Mendel at his place of work in Kentish Town. A large number of cardboard boxes and crates suggested that he wouldn't be based there for long. Indeed, the Jewish News are on the move again and should be housed in Edgware by the time you read this.

It would not be fair to judge a workplace that is so soon to be abandoned but the open plan layout looked very democratic. Jack and I found space in what looked like a broom cupboard but it had a desk, chairs and a rather large safe suggesting it might once have been the editor's office. What secrets did that safe contain?



Jack is the editor of Jewish News Online and it is his role to collect stories that will be of interest to readers of the website. These can be sourced from traditional sources such as engaging with the internet, ploughing through press releases, watching the 'wires' and talking to trusted contacts. He collaborates with Justin Cohen, News Editor for the paper to ensure that the most important stories are developed for the print edition. Some newspapers are now 'online first' but most - including the Jewish News - may keep back a story to ensure a print exclusive.

The website has a slightly different audience than the newspaper, so stories have to be visually engaging. A global readership - around 40% access the site from America - requires appropriate context. How many people around the world would understand why a B-list celebrity was kicked out of Channel Five's Big Brother for upsetting a C-list celebrity who happened to be Jewish? Actually I think I could do with the context myself. Who is Katie Weisel?

The website was recently redesigned to reflect a business partnership with the online-only Times of Israel. The Israeli business built the web infrastructure but Jewish News Online have total editorial independence for its content. The advantage is that the collaboration helps increase traffic to their individual sites.

At this point in our discussions, Richard Ferrer joined us. It seemed a little strange for us to be in chairs while the editor of the entire operation found a space on the floor. Laissez-faire or lèse-majesté?



Richard agreed that the audiences for the website and paper were slightly different. The latter was obviously focussed on Jewish readers in London. As a viable business however the title needed to attract advertisers and it is no secret that the free newspaper model is under considerable strain. That pressure has led the Jewish News to host town-hall style events and Wedding Fairs to generate extra revenue.

Ethical journalism is based on the idea that editors have independence from publishers, that advertisers do not have influence on editorial decisions and that journalists write only truthful stories. The reality is a little more complicated as former Isaiah Berlin lecturer Sir Brian Leveson recorded in his famous Inquiry.

The difficulties for a free niche paper are not small but Richard is clear that he has never experienced editorial pressure from his Board of Directors. The main difficulty was always likely to be financial because traditional journalism is expensive. Today, journalism has become more office-based but that has not stopped the Jewish News from fearless reporting. It has generally avoided being sued for libel because its reporting is honest. The growing importance of advertisers does however mean that the relationship with them is much closer than was traditionally the case. This is reflected by the increasing number of sponsored pages, features and even entire sections of the paper. It might upset the purists but if readers are happy to get their news for free someone has to pay.

So what of the future? The Jewish News will continue to expand its circulation within the M25 but has little appetite for new editions outside the capital. In an exclusive for the Hampstead Review we can report that the title will be relaunched at the end of September with a new look. Details are still under wraps but Richard teased me that it would be more like the *i* newspaper than the Mirror. Hopefully no one will say of the new-style paper: 'they couldn't give it away!'

## GABRIEL HERMAN

# Best Wishes



FROM

THE MELLER FAMILY

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES

In 5776, the Board of Deputies' profile has been raised to a new high. We are setting and leading the national agenda on the matters which count for Jews in this country.

When allegations of antisemitism emerged in Labour we confronted the problem head-on, raising concerns robustly in a face-to-face meeting with party leader Jeremy Corbyn. We were quoted throughout the national media on our response to Ken Livingstone's outrageous anti-Semitic remarks about Hitler and Zionism and when I gave evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee on antisemitism. We made a detailed submission to the Chakrabarti Inquiry into antisemitism in the Labour Party and responded to what we saw as the shortcomings in Ms Chakrabarti's report.

This has been the most tumultuous year in British political life in living memory, with a decision by referendum to leave the European Union and a new government. Throughout it all the Board of Deputies has been heard as the clear and calm voice of British Jews, addressing the issues with clarity and firmness of purpose. The Board has had a long and warm relationship with Prime Minister Theresa May. After the Paris attacks, she addressed the Board of Deputies and held up the sign "Je Suis Juif". I met with her as Home Secretary – raising issues ranging from anti-Semitic demonstrations to the Syrian refugee crisis – and she lit the Chanukiah at the Board's most recent Parliamentary Reception.

Early in my tenure as President, I was pleased to have a number of meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. On each occasion I assure him of the Board of Deputies' and the community's steadfast support. Whether it is speaking at demonstrations, making the case in the media, challenging BDS or supporting grassroots advocacy organisations and Christian allies around the country through the excellent work of Steven Jaffe, we have kept that promise and will continue to find new ways to do so.

We continue to be staunch defenders of Jewish schools and Jewish education in both the mainstream and

Charedi sectors. When the Hebrew GCSE and A-Level came under threat again this year, we successfully campaigned to protect it. And we have continued to educate others about Judaism, challenging prejudice and ignorance through our sector-leading new textbook on Judaism for non-Jewish schools, written by leading educationalist Clive Lawton.

Meanwhile, we have redoubled efforts at interfaith relations with Christians, Muslims, Hindus and others, including through the Government-funded Muslim-Jewish Women's Network Nisa-Nashim and an interfaith project where girls from Jewish, Muslim and Catholic schools came together at Twitter's UK HQ to study computer coding.

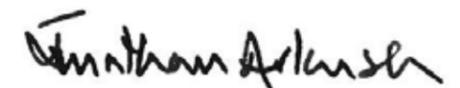


We have continued to interact through all levels of government, from desk officer to secretaries of state. This year, we produced the first-ever Jewish manifestos for the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish elections, and are planning seminars for local councillors across the country. Our Employer's Guide to Judaism, launched by then Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Iain Duncan Smith, is available online and provides clear and

comprehensive information, and we continue to support individual Jewish employees and students to get time off for religious festivals.

We have provided vital services for the community without asking for any more money for 10 years. As our costs have risen over this time, this year the Community Contribution will be slightly increased from £25 to £30 per annum. By working efficiently and keeping costs to a minimum we are happy that we have been able to keep the Community Contribution down to a very affordable figure. I hope you will agree that we are providing excellent value in return for a very modest sum.

In 5777, we will continue to represent your interests as only a democratically elected body can. May this New Year bring you, your families and all of Am Yisrael health, strength and peace.



JONATHAN ARKUSH, PRESIDENT

# SECURITY AND JUSTICE



*The 2015 Isaiah Berlin Lecture was delivered by Sir Brian Leveson, President of the Queen's Bench Division. Here is an abridged version...*

The first duty of the Government is to afford protection to its citizens. Our understanding of this constitutional principle dates from the early 17th century with Sir Edward Coke's decision in the Robert Calvin case.

Could a Scot with allegiance to a Scottish king own land in England? Having been born after the Union of Crowns, Robert's allegiance to the English monarch was helped because King James was James I of England and James VI of Scotland. Calvin was therefore as much English as Scottish and could enter his inheritance. The judgment defined the government's first duty: It was the King's duty to 'maintain and defend' his subjects, who in turn owed a duty of loyalty to the King.

How we can secure that first duty of government, the effective administration of justice?

History has too often shown that without an effective justice system, security can become another name for oppression leading to a breakdown of legal integrity, violence and, thus the absence of security itself. Therefore, we need the police and, ultimately, the armed forces to secure the physical integrity of citizens and, in certain circumstances, the State itself. However, the effective administration of justice, of which the police also form a part, secures both the physical and legal integrity of the State.

The justice system as a whole operates on two levels: the individual and the societal. The first level provides a mechanism for citizens to secure an answer to a disagreement of what has happened in the past. In reality, only 3% of civil claims are determined at trial. Similarly, most criminal cases end in a plea of guilty, rather than a trial either at Magistrates

Courts or Crown Courts. The road to judgment is paved with settlement and compromise.

The societal level or symbolic level derives from decisions of the court. They give clear, authoritative, statements of the law. They develop and refine it, through the example of concrete cases. So, as society evolves, it ensures that the law too evolves through the medium of the common law.

It cannot simply be the case that the primary philosophy of litigation should be settlement. If it were, it could serve to undermine this societal level at which the justice system operates.

Our reforms of the Judicial system have to be holistic rather than piecemeal. First and most obviously we need to provide adequate financial resources to effect reform properly. Secondly, proposed reforms must be carried out on a principled basis. We cannot, for instance, pursue efficiency and economy for their own sake. We cannot digitise simply because it is the modern thing to do, or broadcast the courts over the internet because we have the means to do so.

The courts must operate so as to ensure that the judgments promulgated are those that enable the law to be clear and consistent with the needs of the 21st Century, and also ensure that the law can retain its normative, behaviour-shaping quality.

**THE 2016 ANNUAL ISAIAH BERLIN LECTURE WILL BE GIVEN BY LORD FINKELSTEIN ON THURSDAY 24TH NOVEMBER. CONTACT THE OFFICE TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT.**




dan matalon  
graphic design

wishes a very happy, healthy and sweet New Year to everyone in the Hampstead Synagogue community

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**Wishing you all Shana Tova  
May We All Be Written in the Book of Life.**

\* Terms & conditions apply



**MAURICE  
SAMUELSON**

## CHATAN TORAH

Maurice and Shirley were married at Hampstead Synagogue but after more than a half century at another United Synagogue congregation transferred their membership back to Hampstead two years ago. They are now among our most regular weekly congregants and are active members of the community.

As Maurice recalls on page 20, he spent a lifetime in journalism in both the national and Jewish press. Born in 1935 in Melbourne, Australia, he grew up and was educated in Manchester, graduating in modern languages at Oxford University. He was a national serviceman in Cyprus and Libya.

Maurice met Shirley when they were sixteen year-olds at a Habonim camp in 1952 and they were married eight years later by Rev. Dr Isaac Levy. They have a son, two daughters and five grandchildren.



**CHARLES  
DELROY**

## CHATAN BERESHIT

Charles started his life in Brodetsky Jewish Primary school then moved to Leeds Grammar School. Following this he went to Israel for his gap year; studying in Jerusalem, volunteering for Magen David Adom and finally participating in the Marva programme (Israeli Army).

He graduated from Manchester University with a Masters in Chemistry and subsequently moved to London where he now works as an IT Engineer. It was here where he met his wife Samantha and the Tigner-Orchudesch clan. His future is yet untold.

# HONOURS

## NESHEI CHAYIL *We honour three ladies this year*



**SUSAN  
REIZENSTEIN**

Susan and John were married at Hampstead Synagogue and John's late mother Margaret and his grandfather Louis Lawson were both stalwart supporters of the shul. Susan's great uncle Sidney Ellis was temporary chazan here in the 1920s while he was studying to become an opera singer! Susan enthusiastically engages in shul life as the organiser of our book group, a member of the board of management, US Women liaison and most recently this year as a Megilla girl - an experience she never thought she'd have as a member of a United Synagogue!

Susan grew up in Winchmore Hill and went to St Paul's Girls' School, Newnham College, Cambridge and then the London Business School. She is a corporate lawyer, social housing expert, and having retired from the City, now advises those who look after the property and affairs of vulnerable elderly people. She is also involved in several charities and serves as a Vice President of Save the Children. She and John have 3 children - Jeremy, Ben and Matthew.

As someone who says that Hampstead Shul has an important place in her family life she is a most suitable Eshet Chayil for this year.



**JENNY  
ZIFF**

Jenny is well known to the community; she is a regular shul attendee and helps Candice in the office two days each week, answering the phone and dealing with administrative queries. In fact, most of her working life was spent as a receptionist in all sorts of companies.

For 23 years Jenny was a volunteer at the Royal Free Hospital but it was when that came to an end that she first popped in to our office. She helped with the distribution of Hampstead Review in the days of Ivor and Marie. She completely re-organised the posting, and instead of getting Adrienne and her husband to haul 600 A4 letters to the Post Office, she got the post office to pick them up from the shul... that's our Jenny!

*Cont.*

Jenny moved to Israel for a few years in 1991. She married Malcolm in 1999 and they both joined Hampstead. Her parents were members here, joining in the mid Seventies and her mother was very involved on the Ladies Guild.

Every week she brings Victoria Dahan to shul, but says what she would really like to do is get the young people involved. She and Malcolm are very strong Israel supporters. Her dedication to our shul makes her a fitting Eshet Chayil.



**FRIEDA  
BERGER**

Born in Dortmund, Germany of Polish parents, Frieda (together with her brother Bernard and sister Greta) arrived in Harwich on the night of 14th/15th December 1938 as part of the Kindertransport. It was just one week before her 8th birthday. After an initial stay at Dovercourt near Harwich, Frieda and Greta were moved to a centre in Burgess Hill run by the St Johns Wood Liberal Synagogue. In due course her siblings were settled with families in Stamford Hill, whilst Frieda was placed with a wonderful couple who owned a pig farm in Rotherfield, Sussex. They ensured Frieda received a fine education at Tunbridge Wells County Grammar School.

After leaving school, she lived with other 'Kinder' at a centre known as The Beacon in Tunbridge Wells. She never forgot the day a certain Rev Isaac Levy visited. He was so delighted to find one person - Frieda - who knew the Shema by heart he gave her a big hug. She also recalls being at The Beacon on 8th May 1945 and hearing the news that the war had ended.

One week before her 21st birthday Frieda moved to London with a close friend from The Beacon, and established a home in West Hampstead where she has lived for more than 60 years. For many years she worked in an administrative role at a firm of consulting engineers.

*Cont. on page 28*

Cont.

Frieda has very many interests including a love of music (especially Classic FM) and art, and in former days was a keen Rambler.

Frieda was encouraged to visit to Hampstead Synagogue by her sister, and has been a regular congregant here ever since. With its imposing interior and impressive dome like the one in Dortmund, Hampstead immediately reminded her of the 'gold-gilt' synagogue that her family had attended there. It was practically identical, and she immediately felt at home. Little did she know when she met Rev. Levy in her youth that she would go on to join him as a proud member of Hampstead Synagogue. Her life had come full circle.

As one of our most long-standing and regular congregants, it is fitting that Frieda should be recognised as an Eshet Chayil.

*Dortmund Synagogue - original photograph and artist's reconstruction of interior*



## JEWISH WOMEN IN A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN



In June, a well-known member of Hampstead Shul, Yvonne Josse, was elected head of the League of Jewish Women (LJW) after serving for three previous years as its National Welfare Officer. She has been an active member of the organization for 25 years. As the UK affiliate of the International Council of Jewish Women, Yvonne will represent the League at the Hertzog Seminar in Israel next year.

What is the LJW? It is a nationwide organisation of volunteers established in 1943. With over 2,000 members, the type of work members do is as varied as the members themselves. LJW serves across the UK and beyond the Jewish community. Yvonne says it is 'hands-

on work', such as hospital visitation, attending day centres and prisons. Some members visit schools to teach remedial reading and others visit care homes.

London activities are organised from ORT House where seminars and meetings take place. A recent educational seminar on the EU referendum had four key note speakers give their views on Remaining or Brexiting to a full house of 120 members. A newly introduced scheme is 'Hand in Hand' where members receive training so they can give a relaxing hand and arm massage to residents in care homes and hospitals. 'LeagueArtz' is another project which arranges outings to the theatre and galleries.

Although a women's organisation, men are welcomed as League Associate Division (LADs), and not all its members are Jewish. Yvonne signed up a Catholic sister, a member of the Council of Christians and Jews at the recent AGM. But, there is concern that the membership is getting older. Yvonne's priority is

to find younger people to join, which is no easy task.

"We have recently developed LJW Online allowing young Jewish women, many of whom may not be affiliated to a synagogue but wish to remain Jewish, access to the League via social media at times that fit it into their busy lives."



LJW does not fundraise, though its members pay a small annual subscription. Yvonne is keen to find donors and sponsors to support its development. We wish her every success during her presidency, and if you are interested in finding out more information about the League of Jewish Women please go to their website: theljw.org

**TONY OSTRIN**

# FINDING SOME HEAD ROOM

Educators at Jami's Head Room lead courses for everyone in a way that moves, inspires and excites. Jami has a crucial role; it is the mental health service for the Jewish community and Jami's Head Room raises general awareness of mental health conditions. It also provides practical seminars for people who have experienced mental illness.

A new prospectus is being launched this September covering all aspects of mental health. So, why should you take a look? Philippa Carr who runs Jami's Head Room programme believes we're starting to appreciate the need to look after our mental health in the same way as our physical health. Head Room courses will help you explore ways to look after your

mental health and delve more deeply into specific topics around mental wellbeing. A good, introductory evening course is the popular 'Stress, bad hair days and finding my mojo' course, which runs over eight weeks.

New to Head Room are "Community Conversations". Running from 4-6pm in Jami's Edgware centre they will focus on current topics. Planned subjects include 'My anxieties have anxieties', "A conversation for carers" and "My daughter has a mental health problem".

Also new in Head Room's current prospectus is a full day conference in March on family resilience. It will examine mental wellbeing in the family.

**TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HEAD ROOM AND FOR A PROSPECTUS WITH DETAILS OF ALL THE COURSES RUNNING, PLEASE VISIT**

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# BEING WITH MY FATHER IN PIOTRIKOW, POLAND 2016

Speaking to my father Ben on the telephone his voice suddenly perked up. He informed me that he was thinking of going to his home town Piotrikow in Poland for a Shabbaton and invited me to join him. I said yes straight away. My father had returned numerous times since but I had not been there with him since 1985.

We travelled to Piotrikow in June with my daughter Amy and my niece Alex where we met up with a group that included my father's first cousin Gershon Klein and his wife Penina from Haifa. Gershon proudly told me that he had thought so many times of being back in Piotrikow with Ben and now, 74 years after the last time they were here together, his dream had finally been fulfilled.

On Friday evening we walked from our hotel to the former Great Synagogue of Piotrikow. This was the place where my father's mother, Sara, and his little sister Lusia had been imprisoned in December 1942 before they were marched by the SS to the outskirts of town and shot.

The former Great Synagogue now serves as the town library and arrangements had been made with the Local Council for the library to be shut on Friday evening and Saturday morning so we could daven there. As we stepped inside the Shul my niece Alex commented that it felt a bit like Hampstead Synagogue. I knew what she meant. Without being overly ornate it had an aura of majesty and calmness to it.

My father told me that his family had their own Shul but his mother



liked coming here occasionally as she enjoyed listening to the Chazzan. In Shul my thoughts turned to Sara and Lusia. I have always thought it important to somehow honour their memory but how can I really remember them when I never actually knew them? My wife Thea and I had named our first born child Lucy Sara after them. Now I sat in a place where they both suffered grievously and spent their fateful last night. Their prayers had not been answered and yet here I am persisting with saying those same prayers. Was this the way to remember them? Is this what they would have wanted me to do? How can I or anyone else possibly know?

Ultimately it is a personal decision and I have to do what I feel is right based on my upbringing and my understanding of the world. Sitting next to my beloved father, daughter and niece I chose to recall the good

times that my grandmother would have enjoyed here before the war. For me it felt appropriate to help restore this place which was once full of Jewish learning, practice and life to the days of old before 1939, even if for only one Shabbat. Ben and his sister Mala had survived and now Ben had returned with one of his children and two grandchildren.

In the former Great Synagogue I felt immensely proud of my father and Mala knowing all they had done to honour their parents through their many achievements and kindnesses and I understood that we as their future generations can also find a way to honour Sara and Lusia. As I listened to the prayers being chanted this seemed the right way to honour their memory.

**MICHAEL HELFGOTT**

## PEOPLE OF THE BOOK GROUP

So far we've read "The Song of Names" by Norman Lebrecht, Robert Harris' "Fatherland", "Dominion" by CJ Sansom and "In the Courtyard of the Kabbalist" by Nechama King - a journey which has taken us through time from wartime Europe and post-war England to almost contemporary Jerusalem.

Still to come are "The Golem and the Djinni" by Helene Wecker; "The Last Kabbalist of Lisbon" by Richard Zimler and for our last session of the year: "Suddenly a Knock on

the Door" by Etgar Keret with "My Promised Land" by Avi Shavit.

Our discussions inevitably extend beyond the texts of the titles in question. Given the dramatic world events we are experiencing, the themes of emigré life; political instability; fanaticism; Europe, personal integrity and fulfilment; and leadership in the face of adversity have all developed as lively debates.

We benefit from our group's diversity and willingness to share opinions

and listen to each other with good humour and interest.

If you have not yet participated in our group and would like to do so, join us for one of our Autumn meetings - an excellent way to spend a Sunday afternoon as the days draw in. (One of the few scorching Sunday afternoons of the year were spent happily in Lilian's garden and we look forward to meetings at other member's homes).

**SUSAN REIZENSTEIN**

**CONTACT CANDICE VIA THE SHUL OFFICE FOR DETAILS OF OUR MEETINGS. CURRENT BOOK TITLES ARE REGULARLY PUBLISHED IN THE SHUL NEWSLETTER. AT THE DECEMBER MEETING WE SET THE LIST FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR SO DO LET US KNOW YOUR FAVOURITES.**

## WHAT A MEGILLAH!

When I moved to West Hampstead last year, I wasn't necessarily planning on getting involved in the shul. Despite going occasionally on Shabbat with a friend, I suddenly found myself getting roped into stuff.

One day I was asked if I wanted to get involved in leyning megillat Esther for Purim and was apprehensive; my Hebrew reading is limited and I have never leyned anything in my life. However, I was really impressed with my mum who had taken part in the women's megillat Esther reading at Pinner Synagogue for the first time last year, so I said: "Yes".

We threw ourselves into the task, assisted no end by the very handy JOFA app, trop classes by Lindsey Taylor-Guthartz, teaching by Rabbi Harris on the halacha, and Dina Brawer's leadership. It was a hugely collaborative effort, and it was lovely to be part of such a supportive collective of women who were

prepared to push themselves very much outside their comfort zone.

There were certainly nerves the first time we approached the beautifully restored scroll in Adrienne's dining room but after a couple of run-throughs our confidence grew. By the time we reached Purim we were excited about the task ahead. And it was great! We all thoroughly enjoyed experiencing the Purim story from a new perspective.

For me, I have never felt particularly observant from a traditional Jewish learning perspective, but for the first time, I felt joyful at being able to take ownership of the obligation to listen to the Megillah and pride in becoming an integral part of the service. I absolutely plan on taking part again next year!

**RACHEL HARRIS**

**ADRIENNE POWELL ADDS:**

Leyning Megillat Esther was a very special experience for me as it was the first time I had participated in such an event. The fact that we formed a community was the main reason I felt able to take part. I found this amongst the most beautiful experiences I have ever had in synagogue and it makes the story of Esther so much more meaningful for me.

Like Rachel I was also very anxious about whether I would be able to sing my verses appropriately on the night but the support from the group just spurred me on and I was so proud that we all did so well. For me there was another very poignant moment when I took the restored scroll with me on a visit to my mother and asked her if she wanted to hear me sing my verses. She was so happy to hear me and said she was incredibly proud that I'd taken on this challenge.

# US WOMEN

How the world has changed. When I was a girl - women at shul prepared the kiddush, organised the catering, looked after the kids and made the place look nice, whilst the men ran the place, lead the davening and drank the whisky. Today, women and men share most of the roles and the whisky drinking.

US Women have achieved so much before Claire Lemer and I were elected co-chairs in November 2015. They pushed, persuaded and cajoled to enable women to fulfill the majority of lay leadership roles within the community. They asked US Rabbonim to clarify the Halacha in areas such as women dancing with Sifrei Torah on Simchat Torah, women saying Kaddish for their loved ones, women's only Tephillah groups, women leynening Megillah etc. They encouraged building redevelopment schemes to consider where women sit so they can

participate actively in the services and much more. Claire and I have to ask ourselves, 'What is left to do?'

The answer is 'SO MUCH!'

Although we need to understand that whilst all these exciting opportunities are available, not everyone wishes or is able to take advantage of them. However, some women are unaware of the changes and it is our job to advertise them by providing the necessary educative tools. Others meet barriers in their communities and it is our job to encourage them to remove them through discussion and education.

US Women needs to enhance its communication not only through its Liaison Officers but through communication with all communities. If you are interested please contact Julia Hammell at [jhammell@theUS.org](mailto:jhammell@theUS.org) and we will

be delighted to speak with you. Julia can be reached at head office on Tuesdays and Thursdays if you want to give your direct feedback.

We will continue to work with the Office of the Chief Rabbi on Bat Mitzvah ceremonies, promote women leaders within the community, have our quiz and the annual dinner. We also hope to work with the working women in the City and West End, have local events, further educate communities on women saying Kaddish and Benching Gomel and just be there as a resource for the whole US to help and support its women.

Finally, may I wish you all Shana Tova U'Metukah on behalf of the US Women executive and we look forward to hearing from you very soon.

**JACQUI ZINKIN**

# ALL ABOARD WITH THE BOARD

It's been another busy year for the Board of Deputies. Since I reported back to you last year, the now not so new honorary officers have been active across the main areas of the Board's work:

- Representing Jewish communal interests with public bodies, including Government, Ministers, MPs, civil servants and the media
- Defending our Jewish way of life by fighting extremism, safeguarding the freedoms we enjoy as Jews in daily life, ensuring that mainstream medical practice is not in conflict with Jewish ethics, helping individuals that face problems at work or in places of study if issues arise about their religious observance or protecting the practice of Shechita
- Education: by championing Jewish schools and providing the Jewish 'OFSTED' service Pikuach. It also runs training to build an understanding of Judaism for teachers particularly non-specialists teaching at primary level, protects the interests of Jewish teachers and pupils in non-Jewish schools
- and importantly ensures the accuracy of educational materials that are used to educate about Judaism and Israel
- Explaining Judaism to the wider community through direct outreach to non-Jewish children and adults, through interfaith relationships, social action and Jewish Living Tours
- Taking action on issues that can help build our community such as Women in Jewish Leadership and its projects to ensure more gender equality in Jewish communal life; in preserving cemeteries in parts of the UK where there is no longer a vibrant Jewish community and all that remains are cemeteries at risk of ruin, disrepair and even vandalism; advocating for Israel and supporting our fellow Jews overseas

Notably, I believe that the reputation and profile of the Board of Deputies has been raised significantly over the last year, tackling issues such as the Syrian refugee crisis, anti-Semitism in the Labour party, challenging BDS, and giving evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee on anti-Semitism. Equally, the Board successfully campaigned to protect the Hebrew GCSE and A Level when they were under threat and recently launched a new textbook for non-Jewish schools teaching Judaism as part of the Religious Education GCSE.

There are lots of ways that we as Deputies are able to get involved and to represent you at Hampstead Synagogue. Jerry Lewis is a member of the Defence Division and I am Vice Chair of the Communities and Education Division. In that role, I am also part of the Executive Committee that meets between Board Meetings to discuss any governance or other pressing issues. I also lead the Board's special interest group on Social Action, something I know is close to our heart at Hampstead Synagogue and that we hope to do more of in our own community.

Jerry and I are your representatives on the Board - so feel free to come to us with questions or views on any of the issues above and will will make sure that the things that you care about are dealt with in the most appropriate way.

**AMANDA BOWMAN**

# WHITE ROSE BUSHES IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Following a pre-kiddush talk given by Henry Grunwald about the National Holocaust Centre in Nottinghamshire a visit was arranged. So on a Sunday in May thirty members of Hampstead boarded a coach to Beth Shalom.

During the journey Henry spoke about the Smith Family whose vision and humanity set up the centre.

It was after a visit to Yad Vashem they felt that the wider community especially children should know of the existence of the Holocaust and understand the atrocities that took place.

To reach the Centre we walked through a beautiful tranquil sculpture garden. White rose bushes have been planted by family and friends of those who had perished during the Holocaust. Their names are marked by a plaque beside each bush. The first part of the day was hearing a survivor's story. The man spoke how his mother, seeing the restrictions and the organised hatred of Jews, placed an advertisement in 'The Times' asking for a family to look after her son. A person responded

and was keen to take the young boy but they turned out to be unsuitable. He was then placed with a family in Nottingham. This family were not Jewish but they encouraged him to retain his Jewish identity. He made his life in England and still lives in the Nottingham area. He never saw his mother again. It was moving to hear his story first hand and only then do we appreciate the difficult lives these people experienced in those dreadful years.

We visited both 'The Journey' and the 'Exhibition'. The Journey recreated the life of a schoolboy. His living room filled with objects showing home life and then the school room. As you walked through the rooms you heard the story of how the restrictions on

Jews were implemented. How his friends turned away from him and the disappearance of neighbours.

The Holocaust exhibition displayed photographs showing the horrors of the Nazi era. They illustrate again the organised and official discrimination of the Jews. It showed the ghettos, concentration camps and the final solution. A mock-up of a street with broken windows and obscenities scrawled on the walls included a

bench with the words 'no Jews' on it. All the information has been selected to educate those who are not as familiar with what happened in those years as many of us are.

Leaving the centre we walked back through the gardens where we passed a mound of stones; this is the Children's Memorial. Stones were provided for visitors to add to the memorial and remember the 1.5 million children who perished.

One member of the group summed up the visit with these words: "In spite of being absolutely heart breaking, this visit and the exhibitions are a valuable and essential part of educating the next generation".

**BEVERLEY OSTRIN**

# WILLEDEN JEWISH CEMETERY

## A PHYSICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA IN STONE

Willesden Cemetery was consecrated in 1873 and has had a strong connection with the Hampstead community ever since. It is still open almost every day and visitors can discover the depth of its magic by joining one of the few private tours. You can hear remarkable stories of the people buried there - such as the one about the president of Falmouth Synagogue who used to travel the length of Cornwall to wind people's clocks. He trained his horse to take three steps back and three steps forward so he could recite Mincha during his travels without dismounting. His descendants were members of Hampstead shul and are buried in the central Victorian sections.



The cemetery is a physical encyclopedia of the great and good of British Jewry; a Master of the Rolls here, Physician to the Shah of Persia there. It's the last resting place of Rothschilds, tycoons, scientists (including pioneering woman Rosalind Franklin) and artists. Without a guide, it is hard to grasp the significance of the names and references contained on the stones. What did it mean to be "A Good Jew and a Good Englishman" in the 1880s? Will a visitor reflect on the impact made to contemporary life when passing the grave of a champion of postage stamp design or the developer of the Christmas card?

An epitaph may say a lot about a person and their life but when no one remembers the person any more, what might a casual visitor to the cemetery make of an inscription that says: "He Barged In / He Barged Out / And Left Everyone Smiling"?

Or what of the epitaph to a devoted wife from West London - "Who was called suddenly to the Almighty at Ambleside, Westmoreland"?

Look a little closer and the signs are that those buried wanted those living today to know who they

### WHAT DID IT MEAN TO BE A GOOD JEW AND A GOOD ENGLISHMAN IN THE 1880s ?

were. Engraved in stone are listed their accomplishments, honours, home addresses, snatches of poetry

(Beowulf) and lists of grieving descendants and in one case, chums at the Serpentine Rowing Club.

The United Synagogue has recently been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund development grant to conserve Willesden Cemetery and the US Heritage Department want to restore and develop its facilities so that it can be used for learning, training and volunteering.

Without such conservation the rich heritage of London Jewry contained within its walls will be lost to us. So the work of the project is to explain and share the histories of the individuals and families buried there. Part of the work will be to unearth "hidden histories" of local families, women and children and to communicate them to new audiences.

Events to share this heritage have

already begun. In June this year the life of Sir Julius Vogel, the eighth Prime Minister of New Zealand (the only Prime Minister in the Commonwealth who served while a practicing Jew) was commemorated. The service was graced by HE High Commissioner Sir Lockwood Smith and a "haka" was performed by the London Maori Club. Special events will be held in September for Britain's National Trust Heritage Open Days and the B'nai B'rith European Days of Jewish Heritage.

### WHY WAS A HAKA PERFORMED AT THE CEMETERY BY THE LONDON MAORI CLUB ?

Beyond the cemetery Willesden's present-day neighbours are diverse communities with no connection to London's Jewish history. We want to welcome all communities locally and further afield to come and learn, connect on their own terms and appreciate the stories of the Jews in Britain. This is where you come in. A Friends of Willesden Cemetery group is being set up with opportunities to get involved with genealogy, stewarding, gardening and a lot more.

### HESTER ABRAMS

*Hester is Project Development Manager for the United Synagogue's exciting plans for Willesden Cemetery (and incidentally sister of our own Susan Reizenstein)*

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# SHABBAT MEETS SHUK

## FRIDAY NIGHT SPECIAL AT HAMPSTEAD

Sometimes in life, when London's weather forecast gives you lemons, you just have to flick it off and throw a Mediterranean-themed Friday Night Dinner. Hampstead Synagogue's millennial congregation (you may have seen a few around) hosted 'Shabbat Shuk Friday Night' earlier this summer, the first of many upcoming events for the synagogue.

The Friday night service was well-attended and the davening especially rousing. We brought the Mechizzah down to the ground floor of the main shul, a move which was greeted warmly, and filled the building with beautiful music. The service was led by Harry Marin and Hampstead

members Yoni Harris and Frederick Powell.

Capping the guest list at forty, we aimed for a smaller, informal and more intimate evening in contrast to the bigger gala events held at other venues. The exception to the 'small' rule was of course, in true Jewish style, the menu. A long buffet of Mediterranean mezze-style dishes was presented against a backdrop of fairy lights, with enough hummus, pudding and booze to fill Tel Aviv's Carmel Market. Ten points also goes to the colourful shuk-inspired décor, and everyone who helped out on the night.

Going forward, we plan to hold Shabbat day lunches and a sushi-making event for young professionals in the autumn, following the Yomim Noraim.

LOOK OUT FOR MORE  
FABULOUS EVENTS  
COMING UP THIS YEAR!

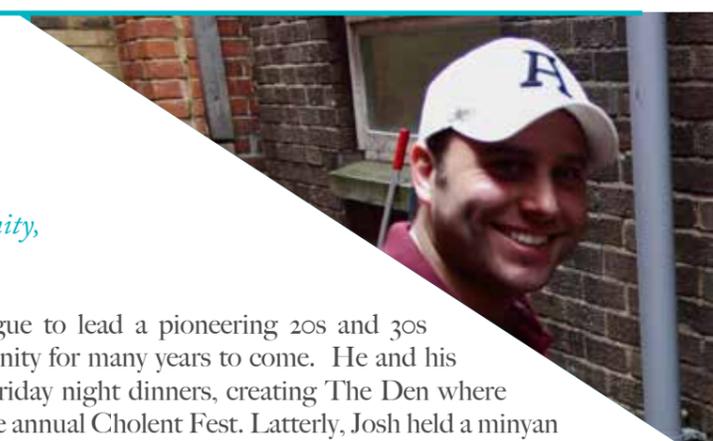
EMILY THEODORE &  
FREDDY POWELL

## THANKS, JOSH!

*After four years working with younger members of the community, Hampstead Synagogue said farewell to Josh Zaitscheck.*

New York-born Josh was appointed by the United Synagogue to lead a pioneering 20s and 30s programme which will be a benefit to our Hampstead community for many years to come. He and his wife Yocheved became very popular in the Shul, organising Friday night dinners, creating 'The Den' where meetings were held with a variety of speakers, and he created the annual Cholent Fest. Latterly, Josh held a minyan in our community centre which were well attended and enthusiastically invited people to his home for events too.

Josh told us how much he enjoyed being at Hampstead, saying that he gained tremendous experience, emphasizing that it was a special opportunity to work with younger people. He highlighted the work that Yocheved had done with the smaller children, but stressed that having a young family meant she was now fully engaged as a mother. He and Yocheved made many friends, and developed strong relationships over their time with us. Describing Hampstead Shul as 'wonderful', it is a community that he enjoyed and will now miss.



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# MAZAL TOV

TO ALL OUR NEWLYWEDS AND B'NEI MITZVAH

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HARINGMAN



## COMING UP

In September, we have our first ever baby blessing, a Wallace Collection lecture and an exploration of the meaning of life through film. We then head into the Yomim Noraim, with all our usual programmes. November will see a very special guest speaker for Shabbat UK (to be revealed nearer the time) and Lord Finkelstein will give the Isaiah Berlin lecture.

The end of the year will culminate in activities for Mitzvah Day, a group trip to the Jewish Film festival

(with pizza!) and, of course, our ever popular supper quiz. Rabbi Michael will continue his educational series (Where to next after Nietzsche?!) and after the successes of our women's Megillah group, we will be repeating the Purim and Shavuot readings next year.

Watch out for more in 2017, including speakers, pre-kiddush talks from members, our book group and a walking tour of Jewish London. A new community scholar will be announced to follow the excellent Dina Brawer.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR HAMPSTEAD  
SYNAGOGUE FRIENDS. BEST WISHES,

*Gillian, Tony, Samantha, Charles,  
Daniella & Francesca Tigner-Orchudesch*

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH  
ALL OUR FRIENDS IN THE  
HAMPSTEAD COMMUNITY  
SHANA TOVA AND WELL  
OVER THE FAST

*Joy and Shlomo Gerzi*

L'SHANA TOVA TO  
ALL THE COMMUNITY

*Madeleine & Richard  
Abramson & Family*

WE WISH ALL OUR RELATIVES  
AND FRIENDS A HAPPY, HEALTHY  
AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR AND  
WELL OVER THE FAST

*Shirley and Maurice Samuelson*

L'SHANA TOVA

*Sandra & David  
Berzon & Family*

WISHING A HEALTHY AND  
PEACEFUL NEW YEAR TO ALL

*Adrienne, Robin, Freddy,  
Barnaby & Theodore Powell*

WISHING ALL OUR FAMILY  
AND FRIENDS A HAPPY NEW  
YEAR AND A PEACEFUL 5777

*Beverley & Tony Ostrin*

WISHING EVERYONE GOOD  
HEALTH, HAPPINESS, PEACE AND  
PROSPERITY - L'SHANA TOVA!

*Carmel, David and Darcey  
du Parc Braham*

WE WISH THE WHOLE  
HAMPSTEAD COMMUNITY  
THE HAPPIEST AND  
HEALTHIEST OF NEW YEARS

*Alison & Henry  
Grunwald & Family*

WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY,  
HEALTHY AND PEACEFUL YEAR

*Nina & William Geller*



SHANA TOVA FROM HAMPSTEAD  
שנה טובה

## HAVE YOUR SAY!

As we embark on rebuilding the Community Centre, we want you to tell us how you think we should go forward. What do you like about Hampstead? What else should we be doing? Go to our website now and fill in the survey!

[WWW.HAMPSTEADSHUL.ORG.UK](http://WWW.HAMPSTEADSHUL.ORG.UK)

## 'SHARKS' BITE BACK IN LOCAL DERBY



Another balmy Sunday lunchtime, another crunch match against Shomrei Hadath. Once again it was time for the annual cricket contest between the two shuls and after the last two meetings were heavily dominated by Hampstead, this one proved to be a far more contested and close affair. With overcast conditions and morning rain creating a slow and unpredictable wicket, conditions were perfect for bowling and so after Shomrei won the toss, they elected to bowl first.

The scoring rate started slowly and unfortunately failed to pick up for Hampstead, in part due to the pitch, but also down to some tight bowling and fielding. A number of batsmen chipped in with starts, but none succeeded in consolidating their positions. Notable mentions go to Gideon Mendel who opened up the batting, and our local ringer,

Ishan Ganjoor, whose Hampstead membership appears to still be pending (although this won't have done him any harm at all). A final score of 86 all out from our 25 overs was less than we expected. However, in the knowledge that we were a strong bowling outfit, we went into the field knowing that victory was not impossible.

Shomrei started very well, putting on 45 for the opening stand, at the end of which victory seemed out of our grasp. However, fighting spirit runs deep in the veins of Hampstead members and we valiantly fought back. Some deadly bowling from the captain, Barnaby Powell (who took 3 for 8 including 2 maidens) and Matt Reizenstein (who also claimed three wickets) skittled through the middle order, leaving Shomrei still requiring 12 runs with just the one wicket in hand. The pressure was on both

sides and the tension was palpable. Despite more valiant bowling from Hampstead, it was not to be.

Unfortunately, a brilliant batting display of power from their number seven, which included 6 boundaries (top scoring with 31) and vital retention of the strike that prevented the number 11 from having to face the bowlers, led them to victory in the 20th over. It was a mightily close call, and the players were visibly distraught at the end. Just a handful more runs in the bag would have no doubt led to victory.

Many thanks to the Umpires, Dr Maurice Smith and David Dwek, to the players and spectators and most of all to the Shomrei Sharks for a very entertaining afternoon.

**BARNABY POWELL**