

# Shalom

Rosh Hashanah Edition

No. 6

Tishri 5778 September 2017



# Update on Ukraine

Sinclair House, Woodford Bridge Road, Ilford, Essex IG4 5LN



**H**AVE we set a record in this edition of Shalom? Not only do we have contributions from three Rabbonim, but also we have another one from a lay officiant plus the Reverend Newman interview and finally the report on Reverend Newman’s concert. This was to honour his thirty five years in the ministry; all in all a veritable literary feast of spiritual guidance and observation.

The editorial team welcome, on your behalf, our newly appointed spiritual leader Rabbi Dansky and of course Rebbetzen Dansky. At the time when they met the community they presented themselves very much as a team and I am sure they will raise the standards of our Synagogue to new heights when they take up their posts in December.

There has been a Synagogue in the Redbridge Jewish Community Centre getting on for half a century and those of us who were members in the early days have heard of redevelopment plans for most of that time. However, that date still seems to be uncertain as indicated in the Chairman’s report, so we carry on with our religious services and social ambitions here for another year or even two.

One of the overriding themes of Shalom is sadly your tributes to and memories of the late Percy Sheere z”l, one of our joint Honorary Presidents. So many of you have written pieces that we had to select some and leave others out. Even so, your thoughts and prayers go with him and the family and we thank you all for your efforts.

On a more inspiring note, we are delighted to welcome a new President of the United Synagogue. Michael Goldstein has links with the Redbridge area - having been a Founding Governor, Vice Chairman and Treasurer of King Solomon High School. We hope he will find time in his busy schedule to visit our Synagogue in the not too distant future.

We are also entering a ‘celebration’ phase! Not only will we shortly be celebrating the arrival of Rabbi Dansky and family, but in November we will be celebrating the Hundredth Anniversary of the Balfour Declaration at our Synagogue, and the United Synagogue is arranging a visit to Israel in celebration of Israel’s Seventieth Anniversary in May 2018.

Other activities to look forward to include the NEROS Selichot Service on Motsei Shabbat (Saturday night) 16<sup>th</sup> September at Ilford United Synagogue, Beehive Lane; ShabbatUK 5778 on 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October and for those members who like a challenge, there is the Entertainment Quiz on Sunday November 5<sup>th</sup>, followed by a Cabaret Evening on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January. Further details are contained in this Magazine or you can contact the Shul Office.

Our thanks to Martin Altman our publisher and all those involved in the production and distribution of our Magazine.

*With all good wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.*  
**PHILIPPA STANTON & MARTIN GREENBERG (JOINT EDITORS)**



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# The High Holy Days:

## *the Season of our re-Turning*

**W**ITH the arrival once again of the Hebrew month of Ellul, our preparations for the “Yomim Noraim” or High Holy Days should begin in earnest. On weekday mornings from the first day of Ellul (Rosh Chodesh), the Shofar is blown at the end of the Shacharit morning service. Special penitential prayers called “Selichot” are recited before Shacharit on weekday mornings. These start a few days before Rosh Hashanah and end at the eve of Yom Kippur. On Yom Kippur itself the best part of the day is also dedicated to these prayers asking Hashem for forgiveness for our sins.



Not only do we dedicate time in praying for forgiveness and making an active effort to return, but we should also make extra efforts to turn away from doing things that are forbidden by the Torah. Instead, our activities should be dedicated to a more Jewish way of life. The “return” is known as Teshuvah and by doing Teshuvah acts we begin to understand and accept the fact that we sometimes have done things the wrong way. In other words we have sinned and now want to come back to Hashem and His Torah which was given so many years ago. The Mitzvot or Commandments which we read about in the Torah have been described in several ways.

There are those mitzvot between us and God and there are those between us and our family, friends and neighbours. In other words how to act towards our fellow man.

Our Rabbis teach us that Hashem will forgive those who have sinned against Him. Nevertheless, we must still admit our

wrongdoing and repent. However, Hashem will not forgive those who have sinned against others until we ask for forgiveness from those against whom we have sinned. Once this has been done Hashem will forgive. This does not mean that we have “Carte Blanche” to do things wrong once more.

Whilst we therefore believe that God does forgive and that repenting and forgiving can be an annual if not 24/7 experience the arrival of Elul becomes particularly appropriate and heralds “The Season of Return.” Let us all be aware that in the slipstream of repentance and return, forgiveness follows. Let us remember that at this time of the year in particular, “Every Jew is for Turning!”

Wishing all associated with the Redbridge Community a happy, healthy and peaceful 5778. Shanah Tovah!

**REV. STEWART AND LORRAINE MYERS**

# Percy Sheere

1st June 1928–  
4th February 2017

**S**MALL in stature but big in heart, that was Percy Sheere, who sadly passed away last February. Everyone who met this charming, charismatic man felt lucky to have known him.

Percy spent his childhood in Bloomsbury, attended St. John Evangelist Church School with his sister Renee and the Jewish Free School off Tottenham Court Road. At eighteen, he enrolled in the RAF working on aeroplanes and later joined his Uncle Simon's mens' clothing store in Camden Town, where he learned the tricks of the trade and developed into the dapper little man we all came to know and love. It was here too that he met his wife Reggie. They were married for forty-nine years until her passing in 1999. After they married they stayed with his parents for a while before moving to Dalston and later Tottenham, where their children Harvey and Jan were born, before finally moving to Newbury Park.

Percy went into double glazing as a salesman, working long hours and eventually opening his own business, Bass Windows based at Chadwell Heath. He became recognised throughout the borough for driving his eye-catching customised vintage-style van. He always loved big cars, the bigger the better! You could just about see him behind the steering wheel of his favourite Cadillac. If you looked into his car from behind, you would have thought it was being driven by the invisible man!

He was influential in founding the Clayhall Masonic Lodge and attended numerous functions with Reggie proudly on his arm. Two years ago, the Lodge made him an Honorary Member in recognition of his long service.

In 1969/70 Percy became one of the four founder members of Newbury Park Synagogue and worked continuously for many happy years, from small beginnings in the Station Hall, Newbury Park to their permanent location in Wessex Close, which was consecrated in 1973 by the then Chief Rabbi, Emmanuel Jacobovits z'l.



He held every major position in the shul, starting with being chairman of the building fund, which was a major source of fund raising for the shul in Wessex Close. He was chairman of the local Israel Committee and firmly supported the State of Israel, a committee member of NEROS (The Association of North East Regional Orthodox Synagogues) and warden of the shul for over forty years. In addition, come rain or shine Percy was a regular attender at all the religious services, weekdays, Shabbat and all the Festivals.

Percy and Reggie celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary in the Shul in 1975 and the marriage of their daughter, Jan to Jonathan Meyer in July 1978. In 1998 Percy's only grandchild, Jodie Beth celebrated her Bat Chaya in the Shul too.

Percy devoted his time to the shul which became part of "his family" and in 2008, on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, he was given the honour of Honorary Life President. In June 2011, he celebrated his Second Bar Mitzvah and was thrilled to receive a letter of congratulations from the Chief Rabbi and a wonderful presentation from the community.

On Newbury Park Shul's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2013, Percy wrote "I have enjoyed every moment of my time involved with the Shul: the early mornings, the late nights, the wonderful fancy

dress opportunities at Purim, decorating the Succah, the family Menorah lighting, participating in Yom-tovim and a full and rewarding cultural and educational calendar; the joyous ceremony celebrating the arrival of our newly written Sefer Torah; Bar/Batmitvahs, weddings, visiting the sick, the breakfasts and Shabbatons and inspiring speakers; the Board of Management and various and numerous committee meetings; the clubs, socials and table-tennis of the very early days, the card nights, quizzes and race nights, the raffles, the car rallies, the sponsored walks and swims, the dinner dances and amazing New Years' eve parties."

Percy was kind, caring and giving and only ever saw the good in people. He was greatly respected in the community and at the synagogue and his dedication and steadfast connection to them was really something to be admired. Over the years Percy worked with many Rabbonim and Honorary Officers of local shuls and officials of the United Synagogue. He worked for a lengthy period with Cyril Levison and Harold Marco and between them they kept NPS going. Though not happy, he knew that the only way to keep Newbury Park alive was to go along with the merger.

Following the merger of Newbury Park and Clayhall Synagogues, Percy continued to enjoy attending Redbridge United Synagogue every Shabbat, seated next to his dearest friend and colleague Harold, fondly supported by his nephew, Steven and with an affectionate smile and warm handshake from Reverend Gary Newman. It was an environment that he loved and where he was at his most comfortable. Together with Martin Altman, he was given the honour of Joint Honorary President of Redbridge United Synagogue.

His family and friends are devastated that he is no longer with us but his legacy will continue for many years and may he now have the peace he so richly deserves. Our condolences to Jan, Harvey, grand-daughter Jodi Beth and his sister Renee and family.

### **Percy Sheere - An Appreciation**

In November 1985, we visited Newbury Park Shul to hear where the Kol Nidre Appeal money went. Percy persuaded us to join a newly formed JIA Fund Raising Group and introduced us to everyone. Because of Percy, we became regular Shul goers, as well as being involved in Israel, the Newbury Park Shul Board, the Shul Magazine and the Board of Deputies which led to a very fulfilling and exciting time. Our friend Percy is sadly missed.

**PHILIPPA AND LINDA STANTON**

Some people just cannot help making a difference in our lives,  
By simply being who they are,  
They make the world  
A little brighter  
A little warmer  
A little gentler  
A little kinder  
And when they are gone  
We realise how lucky we are to have known them  
ONLY LOVE CAN HURT LIKE THIS  
Dad, Rest in Peace

**JAN MEYER**

### **Percy Sheere – a personal tribute**

Just a few weeks before Pesach I lost my friend and colleague Percy Sheere. My loss was not unique. Over the span of his life, much of it spent in communal work, Percy had worked with a lot of people and had made many friends. All of us felt a great sadness at the news of his passing.

As each of us recall our personal memories, the sadness is replaced somewhat by the joy of having known such a man. I had the privilege of working with Percy Sheere as Warden of Newbury Park Shul for several years and shared the sentiments expressed by many in the tributes paid to him.

Percy's contribution to the Jewish life of Redbridge cannot be underestimated and a fitting acknowledgement is accorded to him in a full obituary elsewhere in this magazine. Many young families whose children grew up and celebrated their Barmitzvah/Batmitzvah in Newbury Park Shul still remember Percy with great affection.

Less well known perhaps is his love of golf, a hobby which he took up in his latter years. He was introduced to the game by his dear friend Bob Rosenthal (z'l). Percy immediately took to the game whose rules of etiquette sat well with his gentlemanly personality and we shared many a pleasant morning on the fairways of the course at Hobbs Cross. It was there that I had the honour one day to stand on the tee with him at the third hole – a short 110 yard par three, with bunkers at the front and back of the green. Percy addressed the ball with his usual deep concentration. Then with a nice easy backswing struck the ball sweetly over the front bunker and on to the green where it gave a couple of bounces and dropped gently into the hole. A hole in one! – Brilliant!

Of all Percy's achievements, and there were many, this one must have given him the most instantaneous delight and I had the great pleasure of sharing the moment with him. For me, it remains an abiding memory. May his dear soul rest in peace.

**CYRIL LEVISON**

*(Continued on next page)*

### Percy Sheere - In Memory

In Pirkey Ovout Ethics of the fathers chapter 2 Hillel says do not separate yourself from the community, do not believe in yourself until the day you die, do not judge your fellow until you have reached his place. I believe this sums up the life of the late Percy.

I first met Percy when I joined Newbury Park shul in 1969 and this was held in the station hall. I had come from a large shul in north London and was taken aback by having the service in this small room. When I walked into the shul I first saw Percy with his late dad sitting on the left hand side of the shul. He came over and introduced himself and that is when our friendship began.

Percy was one of the founder members of Newbury Park and devoted most of his life involved with the community he was a regular attendee of all the religious services on weekdays, Shabbat and all the Chagim regardless of the weather. Percy held every major position in the shul starting with chairing the Building fund and was a major source in raising money for the shul. He was also chairman of the Israeli committee, member of Neros and attended countless United Synagogue meetings. He was a member of the Board of Management and was warden of the shul for over forty years.

Apart from the love of his family shul was next in line. Percy had worked with many Rabbonim and Hon officers and was respected by all of them.

Percy encouraged me to join the board and a few years later became warden and then Fin Rep. Our friendship became even stronger and we would speak many times each day and he worried more about my health than his own.

He was made Hon President of NP as a token of appreciation for all the years of dedication he gave to the shul.

I was not looking forward to telling him that we were talking to Clayhall with regard to a merger. He was very upset but realized that NP was going down a difficult road and this would save the shul. Percy was assured that he would also be president together with Martin Altman at Redbridge. I looked forward to Shabbat when Stephen would bring him into shul and sit next to me which he had done for over forty years.

Cyril and I had worked very close with Percy as Hon Officers and had the greatest respect for him.

Percy and I had a very special relationship and I became more of a family member than a colleague and to me he became a father figure

who I could always go to for advice. I visited him in hospital the day before he passed away and although he probably did not know I was there, I believe in some way he did. When I left I kissed his head and said farewell dear friend rest in peace.

Percy was and will always be Mr Newbury Park and I know members will agree that he was quite a character - a little man with a very big heart.

Shalom Peretz Ben Sholmo.

**HAROLD MARCO**

## K'riat HaTorah & Haftorah for Rosh Hashanah

**A**S on all major festivals, the reading of the Torah portion is widely regarded as the central theme, of which, everything else revolves around. Rosh Hashana is no different. And how amazing it is that the first name mentioned on the first reading of the first day of the Jewish year, is non-other than Sarah. Not Abraham, not Moses, not Joseph or any other major figure in our Torah, but Sarah. Her name comes in the first sentence, 'And The L-rd remembered Sarah'..... The reading continues with the birth of Isaac and thus guaranteeing a future generation of the Jewish people, as G-d promised Abraham. So why Sarah? And if you look at the Haphtorah of day one, the story revolves around one character: Hanna, Samuel's mother. Not Samuel himself, not King David, not King Solomon or any other major figure in our book of Prophets, buy Hanna. Here too, her giving birth to Samuel, guarantees the Jewish people's future once they had settled in Israel. So why Hanna?

The answer is as simple as it is vital: The foundation of our faith is belief in an Almighty. The people entrusted to carry the batten of that foundation are the Mothers. Our Mothers. The keepers of the home. The gentle motherly touch that introduces us to our beautiful religion, in ways only our mothers know how. The lighting of the Shabbat candles. So many examples of how our early memories and lessons are taught by the mothers. Rosh Hashana is even compared to the 'Day the world was conceived'. Another allusion to Motherhood. Rosh Hashanah not only emphasises the important role of the woman in Jewish life, it actually celebrates it.

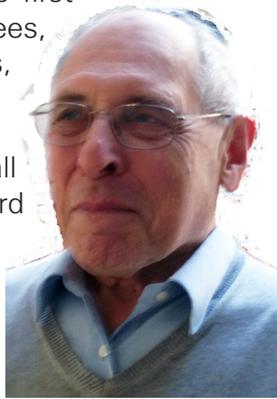
**YOSSI FACHLER**

## Myrtle Branches (Hadas) and General Allenby

“Ye shall take on the first day the fruit of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, boughs of thick trees (myrtles) and willows of the brook, and ye shall rejoice before the Lord your God seven days”. (Leviticus 33.40)

It was September 1918 and the Great War was not yet over. General Allenby, Leader of the British Empire’s Egyptian Expeditionary Force in the conquest of Palestine, was based in Cairo.

Chaim Weizmann (CW) had been visiting Palestine and was waiting for his train from Lydda to Cairo. Just before boarding the train



he was approached by two elderly gentlemen. The elder of the two said “Do you know that the Feast of Tabernacles is upon us and we have no myrtles?” CW responded that they could get the myrtles from Egypt. The gentlemen replied that for the Feast of Tabernacles one must have myrtles of the finest quality and that these come from Trieste. CW explained that there was a war on and that Trieste was in enemy territory. The gentlemen replied that “this is a purely religious matter - a matter of peace. Myrtles are, indeed, the very symbol of peace” and that in any event there was a quarantine on importing plants from Egypt. The matter was not resolved and CW boarded the train for Cairo.

Before leaving Cairo to sail for England, CW went to say farewell to General Allenby. The General suddenly said “ By the way, about those myrtles !. ....It’s all in the Bible: I read it up .....last night. Well you’ll be glad to hear that we have lifted the quarantine and a consignment of myrtles will get to Palestine in good time for the Feast of Tabernacles !”

*(The source book for this article is the autobiography of Chaim Weizmann titled “Trial and Error”)*

**TONY LEVINE**

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# A Question of Humour

By Cyril Levison

**H**AVE you ever wondered what makes people laugh? Or, more specifically, what makes Jewish people laugh? Is there such a thing as 'Jewish Humour'?

The fact is, that laughter does not lend itself to analysis. It is almost by definition, spontaneous, having its origins, I believe in a nervous response. Laughter is a reaction to something we find embarrassing or fearful. Perhaps that is why there is such a thing as 'Jewish Humour', for we as a people are no strangers to adversity and have often throughout our history found ourselves in a tight spot armed with only our wit and our words for comfort.

Jewish humour in its shortest form usually involves a question. For example – the grandmother who buys her grandson two ties for his birthday. When he next visits her he wears one of the ties to impress her. Her reaction – "What was wrong with the other tie?"

The Torah itself provides examples of such forms of wit. When the Israelites, having left Egypt, find themselves trapped with the Egyptian army behind them and the sea in front of them, they say to Moses "There weren't enough graves in Egypt –you had to schlap us all this way to die?" Perhaps they didn't use the word 'schlap' but the translation is essentially correct. (Shemot -Exodus 14.11) There are other examples. The Bible is not intentionally humorous but since it covers all the frailties and failures attributed to human nature it cannot help but reflect man's humorous spirit. Adam, the very first man was not averse to the use of his wits when faced with a difficult situation. Having disobeyed Hashem by eating of the forbidden fruit, he makes a futile attempt to hide. When Hashem asks him directly, "Have you eaten of the fruit that was expressly forbidden to you?" Adam replies –"My wife gave it to me!" (Bereshit – Genesis 3.12)

Complaining has often acted as the catalyst for humour. The American comedian Milton Berle developed his act by playing to audiences in the Jewish Hotels in the Catskills and often quoted this gem of Jewish logic. A woman goes up to the Hotel reception desk and says, "I have two complaints! – Number one – your food is poison! And number two –You don't give big enough portions!"

From the nineteenth century or perhaps earlier, Yiddish has often been the language of Jewish humour and if ever a language was born of adversity it was this strange tongue. German based, it became enriched with words and expressions direct from Hebrew with a sprinkling of Polish and several other Eastern European dialects. Although it sounds German it lacks the harshness of the German language. Even a curse in Yiddish never sounds as bad as it should and it is not unknown for Yiddish curses to form the subject of a Jewish joke. The expression "Oi Gevolt!" is actually a reaction to a shocking or disastrous situation but it is difficult to say it nowadays without a smile. It is usually accompanied by the physical gesture of the hand clasped firmly to the cheek.

There is no doubt that Jewish Humour is more effective when heard rather than read but the following example of a conversation never fails to make me smile even though I know the punch line. It is somewhat dated in that it reflects a time when many Jews were engaged in the garment industry and life revolved around the ups and downs of daily business. I will leave the reader to imagine the hand gestures and shoulder shrugs.

"How's business?"  
"Don't ask!"  
"That bad eh!"  
"Well – on Monday we only sold one suit"  
"Oi!"  
"On Tuesday we didn't sell no suits"  
"Oi Vay!"  
"On Wednesday it was worse!"  
"Worse? – What could be worse?"  
"They brought back the suit from Monday!!"  
"Oi Gevolt!"

That story is on the border of Jewish humour since it could be told in a non Jewish context with similar effect. The following cautionary tale however is most definitely Jewish. Harry is knocking on the door of his psychiatrist at seven in the morning:

"Doctor, doctor, I must see you, please let me in!!"

The doctor opens the door and tells Harry to calm down and go and lie on the couch.

"Now Mr. Bloomberg – what is the problem?"

Doctor, - ever since my poor mother passed

away last year, I see her in a dream every night.

Last night I fell asleep and again I saw my mother but this time she had your face. I was so upset that I jumped out of bed, had a quick cup of coffee and a piece of toast and I came straight here. Please doctor tell me – what does it mean?

The doctor says “A CUP OF COFFEE AND A SLICE OF TOAST!!! YOU CALL THAT A BREAKFAST!!?”

Jewish mothers feature even more prominently in Jewish Humour than marriage partners, which brings to mind this somewhat sad story.

A young Jewish man reaches his 35<sup>th</sup> year and is still single which is causing some grief. His friend advises him that there are several opportunities to meet someone through various Jewish organisations or the internet. He explains that he has no problem meeting girls but as soon as he takes them home to meet his mother she finds fault with them. They are either too thin, too fat, too short too tall, they don't dress nice, they don't speak properly etc. Whatever she can find fault with, she does.

His friend offers him the following advice. “What you should do is find a girl similar to your mother.” What can she say? The two meet again some months later and in response to his friend's enquiry about his social life he says. “Well, I took your advice and I found a girl exactly like my mother. Same size, same height same shape. She looked like my mother, she dressed like my mother, she even spoke like my mother!”

“What happened?” ..... “I took her home -My father hated her!!”

You will realise by now that there is no such thing as a new Jewish joke and since we are one of the oldest of civilised nations our jokes are older than most. The other realisation is, that Jewish humour has no end. As soon as someone tells you a joke you immediately recall a similar story which in turn brings another recollection from them and you continue to exchange jokes until your memory wanes despite the fact that as soon as you have started on your story your companion nods indicating that they have heard it before. He continues nodding whilst you are telling the story and you finish by calling out the punch line together.

Since each humorous thought generates another, I am left with the dilemma of how to end this article. As I began with a question, I will end in the same manner with a tale of the second World War, but it may well date back to previous conflicts. It fits the profile in being Jewish by definition, born of adversity and self deprecating. Those of you who have heard it before and there will be many, may

join together in calling out the punch line.

Private Goldberg is on a military duty somewhere in France when he becomes separated from his unit and is captured by a stray German patrol. They take him back to their camp and question him. The answers they get are limited. “Goldberg, Private, 5093665”. Apart from that Goldberg stays shtum.

Sargent Schultz who is in charge of the German unit suddenly realises that Goldberg is Jewish and assumes therefore he is in the Intelligence Corps. He phones through to his HQ and says to his Commanding Officer, “Herr Oberst, ve haf captured a Jewish soldier from der British Intelligence. Vot should we do? “Do nuttink! Absolutely nuttink!! I vill send for special interrogators from der SS. Dis may take a few days so in der meantime keep the prisoner comfortable, fit and well.” “Yawhol Herr Oberst!”

Sargent Schultz, somewhat nervous at having this extra responsibility thrust on him, gives the order that a full English breakfast be supplied to the prisoner – Eggs, bacon,sausages, beans and fried bread. Private Goldberg refuses to eat on the grounds that the food is ‘Treif’ and Sargent Schultz, mindful of his instructions to keep the prisoner fit and well arranges for Private Goldberg to be brought a cheese sandwich.

Once again Private Goldberg refuses to eat because he is not sure if the cheese is Kosher and he does not know if the plate it is being served on is Milchik or Fleishik.

This is too much for Sgt. Schultz who pulls out his gun and puts it against the head of Private Goldberg, screaming “YOU VILL EAT DER CHEESE SANDVICH!!”

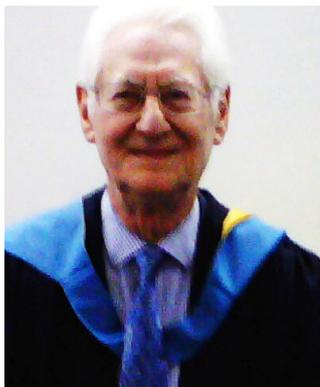
“OK” says Private Golberg nonchalantly, “but why couldn't you point the gun at me when you offered me the bacon?”

So where does that leave us in terms of explaining ‘Jewish Humour’? We do not know if animals have a sense of humour. Do they laugh? Can they even smile? What we do know is, that all living things have an innate desire to survive and most are naturally equipped with the means to try and do just that. Their protection could be in the form of poison, great speed and agility or brilliant camouflage. We humans have none of these special powers but we do have a highly developed brain which enables us to live on our wits. In the history of civilisation many nations have come and gone. The ancient Egyptians, the Babylonians, the Assyrians, the Romans, the Greeks and many more. We developed and prospered alongside all these nations and have been threatened to near extinction by all of them, yet we alone have survived. Perhaps they should have lightened up a bit!

# I lead the procession

*"We want you to lead the procession"*

LOOKED at the distinguished academic standing in front of me in the foyer of the Barbican Theatre. As a third year undergraduate of the O.U. Open University I had answered the call for volunteers to help out at one of the graduation ceremonies. I thought it would be a new experience and give me a chance to catch up with a couple of my former tutors. However, primarily our duty was to man the souvenir stall situated in the main foyer/reception area. Those of you who have been to the Barbican Theatre will know what an imposing place it is. Even so, I was not at all prepared to carry out this enhanced duty.



"You will report to the robing room at ten thirty and they will fit you out with a suitable gown. You are my height so there should be no problem finding one to fit you." said my distinguished new friend.

Before I could tell him that I was not a graduate he was gone. Robing room! That sounded very royal or even Papal and I wondered what other surprises were in store for me. This was the second day of my volunteering. On the first day there were two ceremonies and I had to report to the O.U. organisers by eight o'clock in the morning; just like being back at work! We students had a quick course in using a credit card monitor and writing out a receipt. The items for sale were all priced in round figures, pounds and no pence and we were given strict instructions not to accept cash or cheques. Credit or debit cards only. They ranged from pencils at one pound to silver cuff links at eighty pounds. Believe it or not I sold several pairs of those plus expensive ladies jewellery.

There was free tea and coffee and a ten pound luncheon voucher; really like being back at work. The time loomed nearer for me to make my way to the robing room just behind the volunteers' café.

"This way sir," said the uniformed attendant, "I have been expecting you."

He fitted me out with a Bachelor of Arts gown and then asked if I would like him to take my photo. Of course I agreed. He showed me the way to the main entrance to the theatre where several other gowned figures were waiting and placed me at the head of the queue. One of them who appeared to be in charge told

me that when the door opened I was to walk slowly down the steps leading to the stage. Then climb the stage steps and my seat would be in the second row just to the left of the presiding chairman, Vice-Chancellor Peter Horrocks CBE. My name would be on the seat so I could not go wrong. Fame at last. The doors opened and hundreds of eyes turned towards me as I did as I was told and led the procession of the O.U. hierarchy to the stage of the Barbican Theatre. There was an orchestra which played Bach's Entry of the Gladiators as we proceeded along.

I have been a guest at my daughter's two graduation ceremonies at this venue, but never in my wildest dreams did I expect to play an active part in one.

The guest of honour was Chancellor Baroness Lane-Fox of Soho, she of Last Minute. Com fame. I wondered if I dare ask her what happened to the disastrous shares I bought when she floated the company. There were several speeches of welcome and the ceremony proper started with the graduates accepting their certificates entering stage left, audience right. However, bearing in mind that these were all supposed to be mature students, two of them executed cartwheels on arriving. Most were dressed respectably except one young man who wore shorts and a T-shirt. During a short break in the proceedings my neighbour asked what had happened to Professor somebody who should have been there. I pleaded ignorance and was very glad she did not ask me who I was and where I taught! So I am sure my mystery promotion was due to the fact that someone had not turned up and perhaps I resembled him. Maybe the authorities did not want an empty seat? Over the years I have been mistaken for other people; maybe I have one of those faces. On one occasion my wife and I were in a Brighton hotel and I was told to hurry up as the Bishops conference was about to start. Did they have the wrong Bishop! A couple of times I have visited friends who were patients in the Roding Hospital walking straight from shul on Shabbat wearing a dark suit and of course my yarmulke. Then the receptionist addressed me as Rabbi. I must confess that I was rather pleased when that happened.

The ceremony finished with several more speeches then the professors left the stage and once again I led the procession this time to the strains of Let's Face the Music and Dance by Irving Berlin. Afterwards there was a champagne and canapés buffet for the bigwigs and I was invited to stay by the Vice Chancellor. I thought it politic not to ask the noble baroness about the shares in her company. I thought that the small talk would be on a high intellectual level and I would endeavour to join in. It turned out that just like you and I they discussed the weather, football, cars and food. So much for the benefits of a higher education.

Some weeks later a large envelope arrived in the post. It contained a certificate thanking me as a volunteer helping to raise £7771.85p for the Open University. It also contained a gift; a pen with the OU logo on it which I know cost £5.00p. The pen does not work! **Martin Greenberg**



## Kol Nidre Appeal 2016

**Update for Redbridge  
United Synagogue,  
May 2017**

**W**ORLD Jewish Relief was hugely grateful to receive £1565.64 as part of your community's Kol Nidre Appeal. We wanted to share with you the impact your donation has made, by introducing you to three of the 5,300 people we have helped so far this year. Thanks to donations like yours, we have been able to meet the physical and emotional needs of vulnerable elderly Jews like Antonina and Abraham, and create opportunities for those out of work like Alexandra to become self-reliant. Thank you for your support!

### **Giving dignity to older people**

Antonina Yakovleva is 85 years old. Born in Donetsk, East Ukraine, she was only 11 when World War II broke out and her family was forced to evacuate their home. 74 years later, Antonina found herself living in a warzone once again, struggling to survive on a meagre pension and completely alone.



Your support, alongside gifts from others, helped us to provide Antonina and 940 Jewish pensioners across Ukraine with critical winter relief—including fuel, warm clothes and blankets—to ensure that they were able to stay warm throughout the bitter winter months. With the ongoing conflict causing state pensions to fall to just £46, and utility bills at an all time high, these services were a lifeline to Antonina at a time when she needed them the most.

Antonina was also one of the 1,456 people who received a homecare worker, who is helping her with daily tasks and delivering medicine and shopping. Thanks to her homecare worker, she is also able to attend weekly art classes and book clubs at the local Jewish Community Centre, where she has made a group of friends. Instead of battling crippling fear and loneliness, her life has meaning, purpose and colour once again.

Antonina told us, "This year, I have taken a breath of fresh life. When I see my care worker or go to meetings at the Community Centre, my heart becomes full of joy. Me and my new friends share our problems and together we are trying to solve them." **Antonina Yakovleva**

### **Repairing homes to restore lives**

Abraham Leibovich, aged 69, lives alone in a tiny apartment in Lviv, Ukraine. Due to severe arthritis, he is unable to leave his third-floor flat, where for years his broken windows allowed rain to fall through, causing permanent dampness and mould to grow on the walls. The door to his apartment was flimsy and didn't close properly. Moreover, there was no insulation and the cost of heating was so high that Abraham had to wear warm clothes throughout the year to keep himself from becoming ill. For months, he had been unable

to take a shower as the bath tub was too high for him to climb into.

Twenty five years have passed since the collapse of the Soviet Union, yet millions still live in homes that have been entirely neglected since. So far this year, we have been able to repair Abraham's home and the houses of 340 other vulnerable older people across Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia, for whom repairs were simply unimaginable. These repairs have not only removed direct health risks, but have also reduced utility costs, so that those we have helped no longer have to sacrifice being warm at home in order to avoid going hungry.

**Breaking the cycle of poverty**

Alexandra Egorova, 27, lives in Rybnitsa, Moldova with her eight year old son, who suffers from severe asthma. When her



husband abandoned them three years ago, he withdrew all financial support. Alexandra suddenly found herself searching for work in a labour market where her previous education and experience were meaningless. Though she needed to work to support her son, his condition meant she also had to dedicate time to caring for him. This made it difficult for Alexandra to work full-time, and searching for part-time work was even more of a struggle.

Since October, our Livelihood Programmes have given Alexandra and over 1,500 others across Eastern Europe the opportunity to find permanent, sustainable employment and break the chronic cycle of poverty. The programmes provide CV workshops, job search assistance, recruitment services and vocational training based on the demands of the local labour markets.

The staff saw Alexandra's talent for making handcrafted gifts and encouraged her to turn her hobby into a career. She quickly became employed by an event design studio and, after working there for several months, decided to open her own design agency. Today, Alexandra organises both private and social events, like Limmud, and runs art classes for adults and children, specifically those with disabilities. She has secured a stable wage and is finally able to independently support her son.

**Alexandra Egorova**





Our partners from Lviv. Hesed Arieh (supporting both older people and members of the Sunday School Programme) took part in city celebrations of Constitution Day in Ukraine



Our staff member gets involved with one of our Warm Homes project to alleviate loneliness amongst older people

# Financial Report

By

**HAROLD MARCO**

**Financial Representative**

I AM pleased to report that the Shul's finances came out with a small surplus, which has not happened for several years. I would like to thank you as members for making this possible. The fees and donations that you have paid to the Shul ensure we keep in the black!

As well as being a member of our community you are also a member of the United Synagogue which is the largest Jewish Community organisation in the UK with over 37,000 members.

I am also pleased to report that our Gift Aid has helped us to increase our income. If you have not signed up to Gift Aid, please contact the office and we will give you all the details.

My thanks go to the Fund Raising Committee chaired by Liz Levison and her committee for all the monies raised over the years.

I am always asked as to where the money received goes. It all goes to Head Office and it is split into Membership / Gift Aid Donations / Funeral Expenses Scheme. This provides you with peace of mind that when you pass away your funeral needs and expenses will be taken care of, bearing in mind the cost of funeral if you are not a member of the United Synagogue Funeral Expenses Scheme is £16,000.

We can be proud that the money raised by our Blue Boxes means we are able to give to the charities we support : World Jewish Relief and Laniado Hospital in Israel. Many of our members have a Blue Box at home and twice a year someone collects them. Every morning at Shacharit, those attending give Tzedakah which also raises great deal of extra money. We would like to encourage more of our members to have Blue Boxes in their homes, this way raising extra money to help the Shul and our charities. If you would like a Blue Box,



please contact the Shul office and we would be only too pleased to give you one.

This year we raised in the Yom Kippur Appeal £5,734.93. The Shul benefited from £1,930.95 and World Jewish Relief £1565.64 and I thank you for your generosity.

One of the most important roles that you as members can make is to try to encourage people who do not belong to any Shul to join us. There are several ways in which I can help them financially to join. It is not always easy being the FR of the Shul but over the years I have learnt to be sympathetic to members and always try to help when the needs arises.

Finally I would like to thank you all for being members of Redbridge Synagogue and together we can ensure the Shul goes from strength to strength!

## Delivery of Magazines

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who spent their Sunday morning putting the Shalom Magazine into envelopes.

Many thanks also, to all our 'post persons' who regularly hand deliver our Synagogue magazine - your time is greatly appreciated. If you feel that you can help with magazine deliveries in the future, please contact the Synagogue office.

**The Magazine Team**



# United Synagogue Women

**A**S we say goodbye to the old year and we welcome in the Jewish New Year, it gives us a natural moment of reflection. A moment to look back on the achievements of the previous year and a moment to refocus our attention on the year to come. What have we achieved, and what new enterprise can we engage in that will fire up our imagination and our passion, for ourselves, our communities and the Jewish people in the year to come?

This past year has been a challenging one in Britain. We have faced a referendum, terrorist attacks and disasters - personal, communal and national - often at the cost of human life. As the women of the United Synagogue we have supported each other and the communities around us.

Following up on last year's successful guide for women on saying Kaddish, this year we published Birkat Ha Gomel cards containing the often overlooked prayer of thanksgiving said after one has survived an ordeal. US Women has now helped make the prayer accessible to all.

Our pride in being associated with two of the Chief Rabbi's programmes to benefit the communities, especially the women of the community, knows no bounds. Shortly the first cohort of Ma'ayanot - the Chief Rabbi's female scholars - will graduate after an intensive year and a half program educating them and preparing them to serve our community. The Bnei Mitzvah programme, that will be open to all our Bnei Mitzvah children, is set to be launched in the near future providing a meaningful and engaging way for our next generation to participate in their personal and communal Jewish journey.

We ran events this past year that have brought the women of the community together. The US Women's Annual Dinner saw 175 women gather in Woodford Forest to hear Gillian Merron speak of her role within the Board of Deputies and what we can do to support our community on a local level.

The old favourite US Women Quiz was once more a great success, and the winners Cockfosters and N Southgate will be hosting the next quiz this coming November.

Our co-chairs Jacqui Zinkin and Claire Lemer have led from the front and have embodied the underlying quality of US Women, the quality of advancing the role of women within the US community through conversation, education and engagement.

We wish you and your community a year filled with blessings, good health and peace.

**HELEN STYLE**

## US Annual Ladies' Dinner

A very successful US Annual Ladies' Dinner was held at Woodford Forest shul, typically on the hottest night of the year! Well attended by shuls across



the North West London divide, guests heard an inspiring talk from Gillian Merron, Chief Executive of the Board of Deputies and former MP for Lincoln, a local girl "Made in Dagenham", done well!

A first for this area finally to host a US dinner - perhaps we can look forward to when Redbridge hosts a dinner?.....

**HILARY SEGALL**

## New President for the U.S

**A**T the Council Meeting on July 10, 2017, Michael Howard Goldstein was elected President of the United Synagogue. Michael Goldstein was born on 7 July 1963 and is married to Lara with four daughters. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. His formative years were spent attending both Ilford Synagogue and Ilford Jewish Primary School.

Michael's cv includes: 1992-2004 - Founding Governor, Vice Chairman and treasurer of King Solomon High School, Redbridge; 1993-2000 - Involved in the creation of Jewish Continuity with Chief Rabbi Sacks, was responsible for the youth and student funding. Led the monitoring and funding of the youth movements and UJS. On the merger with UJIA he was one

of the Jewish Continuity's nominated trustees; 2013-2017 - Chairman of JW3. Led this organisation through the early stages of development.

Organised the merger with the London Jewish Cultural Centre creating over £2m of annualised cost savings.

We wish Michael well in his new position.

At the same meeting, Maxwell Nisner

was elected Treasurer. Seven Honorary Officers were also elected: Andrew Eder, Barry Shaw, Saul Taylor, Claire Lemer, Fleurise Lewis, Leonie Lewis and Doreen Samuels.



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# Letter from Liz

**O**UR first fundraising event of the year 2017/18 was a General Knowledge Quiz held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June, at Sinclair House. Due to a previous booking our regular Quiz Master Michael Finger was unable to be in attendance. Our problem then was to find a Quiz Master who could prepare a nice enjoyable Quiz – not too hard, not too easy so that everyone could participate. For many years Cyril Levison (plus myself) provided Quizzes for our then ‘Ladies Guild’ at Newbury Park Synagogue, so our problem was solved, bringing Cyril out of retirement for this event. If you were amongst the 114 who supported our efforts, I am sure you will agree what a smashing job he did for us on one of the hottest days of the year!! Including money from the Raffle this Quiz raised £767.62p.



Sincere thanks to the Caretakers who arranged the seating layout for us, to the waitresses who ensured everyone had a refreshing cup of tea/coffee, and to all those ‘behind the scene helpers’ who every event come into the Centre to help our small committee with Table laying etc.

We are very grateful for all the varied Raffle Prizes donated by members of our Shul which definitely help us raise extra

funds. Thank You.

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be having our Entertainment Quiz which will be conducted by Ann & Michael Belson. I cannot say at this moment in time how much the tickets will be, as our catering costs keep going up; however, I am sure we will endeavour to offer them at a realistic price for what we provide.

At the beginning of 2018 we will have our Cabaret Evening – this year we have engaged Stephen Dunnett who will be our Entertainer on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January.

As per usual we will hopefully be providing a Fried Fish Supper. Please reserve your Table as soon as details are published either by Poster or in the Kehilla Sheet.

To conclude, my sincere thanks to Bernard Chaplin our valued Treasurer, and to Colin Emden who always gives us his support in so many different ways. On behalf of us all we wish you a Very Happy New Year, and look forward to your continued support of our efforts for Redbridge United Synagogue.

LIZ LEVISON  
Chairperson – Fundraising  
Redbridge United Synagogue

## Celebrate Israel’s 70<sup>th</sup> in May 2018

The United Synagogue is arranging a visit to Israel from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May 2018 in celebration.

This is an excellent opportunity to meet the President of Israel, Reuven Rivlin; meet the British Ambassador to Israel; meet the Chief Rabbi of Israel and visit the oldest Synagogue.

There will be a private tour and reception at the Knesset; a private tour of the Israeli Police HQ in the old city; a visit to the Mossad Centre and a ceremony for fallen soldiers at the Kotel. You will also visit the oldest Shofar factory in Israel, attend a Wine tasting and have Shabbat meals with Lone Soldiers.

Further information from [isymons@theus.org.uk](mailto:isymons@theus.org.uk).

# B'tzelem Elokim

— an important new  
US initiative on children  
with special needs

**S**IMCHAT TORAH is a great time for children and interestingly, at the very start of the Book of Bereshit / Genesis, we learn that humankind was created B'tzelem Elokim, in the image of the Almighty. But how often do we ask ourselves what it means to be created in God's image? Do we recognise that all people are created in this image?

In an important new initiative, a group of US rabbis, rebbetzens, Tribe educators and staff from the Office of the Chief Rabbi, under the chairmanship of Rabbi Kanterovitz, is now looking at what the US does for children and young people with a wide range of special needs and their families.

It surely must be a fundamental aspiration for all United Synagogue communities and programmes to cater for children with special needs and their families to the greatest possible extent, within the framework of halachah, while maintaining the sanctity and dignity of our religious services. Some fifteen years ago, a pioneering document, written by Rabbi Dr Julian Shindler, entitled: 'Becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah: the Child with Special Needs', was produced by the Rabbinical Council of the United Synagogue and Chief Rabbi Mirvis recently produced a special prayer to be read by a batmitzvah girl with Down's syndrome. Tribe goes to enormous lengths to include children with a wide range of abilities in all its programmes, vacation trips, camps and Israel tour, where possible, without limiting the experience of other participants. We are also aware of various local initiatives by rabbis and communities encouraging participation and inclusion of children

with special needs, but we want to broaden our capacity across the whole United Synagogue family.

**Our plan is to:**

- Assess the barriers to success, then develop specific training for rabbis, rebbetzens, children's service leaders and community volunteers
- Develop inclusive pilot Shabbat services and work with other service providers.

We know that every journey starts with just one step but, through sharing best practice, focused development of inclusive programmes and widespread support from the whole United Synagogue family, we want to provide a deeper and more inclusive synagogue experience for children with special needs and their families. After all, we are all created B'tzelem Elokim.

*For further information please contact Simon Goulden, Education Consultant at [sgoulden@theus.org.uk](mailto:sgoulden@theus.org.uk).*

## Shalom - Our Magazine

Many thanks to all our contributors. Once again, we have some excellent articles from Shul members.

The next edition of the Shalom Magazine will be the Pesach 5778 Edition. If you have any interesting or amusing articles with a Jewish content which you would like to include in the Pesach Edition, please e-mail them to the Editors as early as possible: either to [stanton.philippa@gmail.com](mailto:stanton.philippa@gmail.com) or to [martingreenberg@hotmail.com](mailto:martingreenberg@hotmail.com).

All articles must be received by 1 February 2018 at the latest. However, we are already receiving new articles, so please email us as soon as you can!

We look forward to hearing from you.

Philippa Stanton & Martin Greenberg

# Israel— the Right to Exist

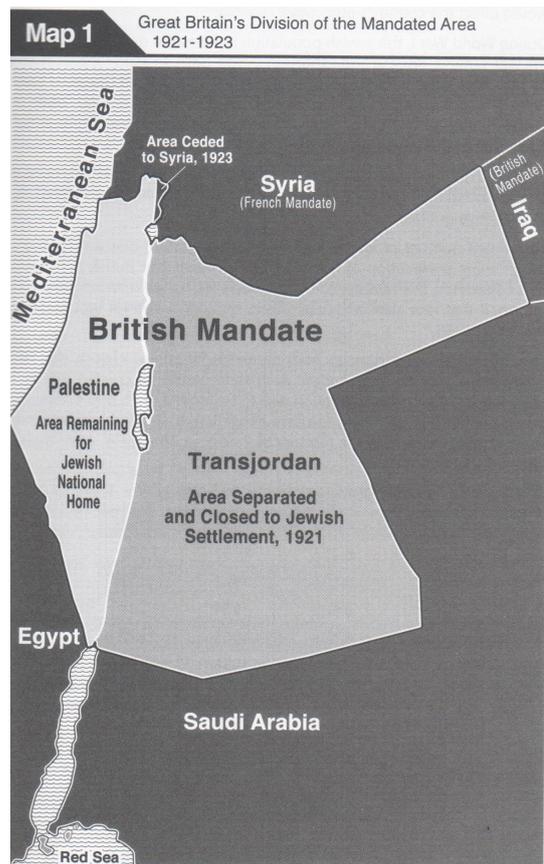
**By Linda Stanton**

ISRAEL is the only country in the world that has its right to exist constantly questioned and denied. It is the only democracy in the Middle East and grants full human rights including freedom of religion to all its citizens. Israel is considered the most legal state in recent history.

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> 1917 the Balfour Declaration, a Letter from the British Government, was sent to Lord Rothschild. This letter was in favour of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine. The British Government was the first major power to recognise the rights of the Jewish people to self determination.

In 1922, Great Britain without consultation created a new territory the State of Trans-Jordan. Now called Jordan. This took up approximately two thirds of the area of Palestine which had been promised to Israel. In the same year, the Golan Heights were ceded to the French.

On 14<sup>th</sup> May 1948, when the British Mandate ended, the State of Israel was proclaimed on the territory designated to Israel in the United Nations Partition Resolution of 29 November 1947.



On 15<sup>th</sup> May 1948, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria attacked Israel and the Israel War of Independence began.

Following this war, areas of Palestine were divided along the Cease-Fire Lines. Western Palestine was annexed by Jordan, and renamed "The West Bank" and Egypt occupied the Gaza Strip. This left about seven percent of the land promised in 1917 to the State of Israel. The Arabs refused to sign a Peace Treaty after this war.

In 1967 the Arab States again attacked Israel. The Six-Day War was won by Israel, who took back some land before the Cease Fire. Israel is still waiting for a Peace Treaty.

The United Nations (UN) is heavily biased against Israel. It originates a highly disproportionate volume of resolutions, reports and conferences criticising Israel. The UN General Assembly passes twenty one-sided resolutions against Israel each year. There are four Resolutions per annum against all its other members.

The UN Human Rights Council targets Israel by having a special Agenda Item

against Israel at each of its meetings. The UN Security Council recently passed Resolution 2334 describing Jerusalem, including the Western Wall and the Temple Mount as an "Occupied Territory". In July 2017 the UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation, World Heritage Committee, planned to debate Hebron, which includes the tomb of the Patriarchs, stating that Hebron is in the State of Palestine.

The United Nations only recognises Israel to be within the 1948 armistice lines - The Green Line. It considers the rest of its territory as "occupied" and part of the Arab State of Palestine.

Most of Israel's neighbours have also tried to drive Israel into the sea. Since its foundation in 1948, Israel has been attacked by neighbouring ARAB countries many times: 1948 War of Independence; 1956 SUEZ CRISIS; 1967 Six Day War; 1967-70 War of Attrition and 1973 the Yom Kippur War.

During this period, Israel also suffered many attacks and bomb threats from their Arab neighbours.

Other attacks have been made by terrorist organisations such as HAMAS and The Palestine Liberation Organisation. Hamas is a terrorist group of radical extremists threatening the free world. It brutally controls the Palestinians in Gaza. Its aim is to destroy Israel. Hamas also oppresses the Christian community in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel now has a peace treaty with Egypt and Jordan, and has returned Sinai to Egypt and the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to the Palestinians. ALL THE other Arab States have refused to negotiate and sign a peace treaty AS THEY DO NOT RECOGNISE ISRAEL.

It is hoped that a Peace Treaty will soon be agreed so that an independent State can be formed for the Arabs, and Israel will live in peace with its neighbours.



# **Gary Green**

## **Memorials**

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# Our Welfare Committee

I AM pleased to report that the Welfare Committee, under the guidance of Reverend Gary Newman, continues to reach out and support many members of the shul. We use different ways of getting in touch with our members as you will see when reading this article.

We have recently contacted members who fall into the 40-49 age group and, at present are ringing our members in the 50-59 age group. The remaining members falling into the 60-69 age range will be the last to be contacted. As you can imagine this takes a lot of time and we know that many of our members are out during the day. All of the committee, therefore, make at least three calls to each member at different times of the day and night hoping that we will be able to introduce ourselves. The aim of our calls is to make sure that our members know that the welfare committee is there for any member that may need help or otherwise. All information gathered is strictly confidential and if any member needs help, the information is passed to Reverend Newman.

From a personal perspective, I have had many valuable conversations with our members. This has enabled me, and I know other members of the committee, to gather information about the make up of our community and enabled us to build a picture of its needs.

Reverend Newman and his wife Gillian hold afternoon teas in their home at various times of the year. Most recently one was held for Shavuot where some members of the welfare committee were able to meet more members. At present, a summer afternoon tea is being organised for August. We hope that it will not be as hot as last year and members will be able to enjoy the Newman's lovely garden. Different members of the shul are invited to the various afternoon teas which are held during the year.

Various members of the welfare committee accompany Reverend Newman when he visits members in their home. Reverend Newman is a Hospital Chaplain at Queens and King George Hospital and the Trust who runs these hospitals has agreed that the committee will be able to visit our members whilst in hospital. Reverend Newman and members of the committee also visit members in the Vi and John Rubens care home.

There is ongoing training provided by the United Synagogue and in recent months Reverend Newman and a few members of the welfare committee have attended. Most recently a few members of the welfare committee attended an evening about

domestic abuse.

Cards are sent to members who are celebrating special occasions and also to those members who have been bereaved.

We are always looking at new initiatives and are mindful of the many younger members of our community. We have shared our ideas with the Board and Rabbi Singer and hope that they will be able to be taken forward. When our new Rabbi is in place, we can also discuss our thoughts with him and hope they will come to fruition.

Please feel free to contact the shul office if you have any ideas that the welfare committee might be able to take forward.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and peaceful new year and well over the fast.

**Lorraine Silver**  
Chairman

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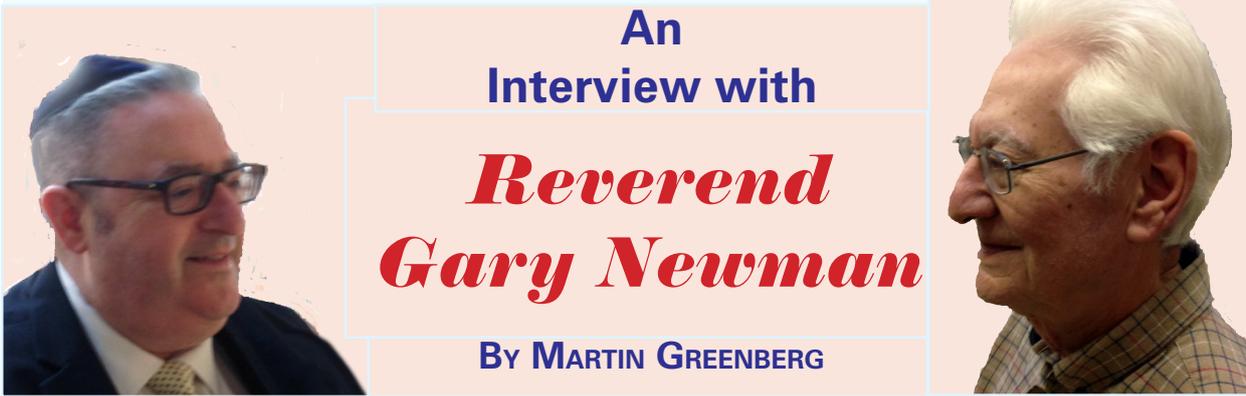
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**W**E were experiencing an unusual spell of hot weather when I conducted an interview with Rev Newman straight after the Shachrit morning prayers. Even so he remained his usual cool immaculate self. National and Synagogue affairs were happening at an accelerated pace that would affect us all to a greater or lesser degree and I was not at all sure where to start. However I decided to begin with Synagogue changes in the near future.

MG. Here at Redbridge we are now in the throes of appointing a new Senior Rabbi, so can I have your thoughts on that.

RN. I am really looking forward to working with Rabbi Steven Dansky. Together with myself taking care of welfare, Rabbi Singer our young people and Rabbi Dansky we will have a complete team to take care of all aspects of Synagogue life together with the community's spiritual needs.

MG. We have recently experienced a lot of dangerous tragedies nationally in the United Kingdom, what is your advice as to how we can cope with the almost daily bad news.

RN. It is true that the tragic events both in Manchester and in London have tested our resolve. What we must do is to remain vigilant both for ourselves and our neighbours. We as Jews have lived through many years of danger, but we have to look at the greater picture. Perhaps these events are another test of faith given to us by the Almighty so we have to put our trust in Him to see us safely through.

MG. The demands on you personally and your welfare team must be at their height at the moment, how are you and they coping.

RN. The team as usual always rises to the occasion. As for myself I did not enter the Ministry for an easy life, but it is a rewarding one in so many ways. So I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Welfare Committee. I should also thank our executive, Mike Callaghan, Colin Emden and Harold Marco. The services are in very safe hands

*thanks to Leslie Linder and Victor Shafier. Of course they are ably supported by the dedicated Minyan men who rise very early and give up their time in the evening to ensure that we are can provide the correct number of worshippers to enable the bereaved to say Kaddish.*

This Rosh Hashanah let us hope and pray that the tragedies of the past few months will be the last and that peace and tranquillity will be the norm in the future.

I wish you all a Healthy, Sweet and Happy New Year.

*Reverend Newman will be officiating in Cardiff for the coming High Holy Days. In October he will be at the Heichel Shlomo Synagogue in Jerusalem.*

## MazeltoV

**W**E extend a hearty Mazeltov to Cyril Levison who has been nominated Chatan Torah and to Victor Shafier who has been nominated Chatan Bereshit.

Cyril Levison, who recently retired as Warden, has worked for the community for over forty years. He continues to attend Shul services, is a prolific writer for the Shul Magazine and is well known to Shul-goers for his sense of humour!

Victor Shafier is also very active in the Shul. He is a



regular minyan man, a member of the Shul Board and of the Education Committee and a very keen gardener—the beautiful flower decorations in the Shul at Shavuot are organised by Victor!

## Tribe Continuity Dinner

THE theme of the United Synagogue Gala Dinner held on 26 April 2017 was Fundraising for our Future and during the Dinner we heard from several members of Tribe who had benefited by Tribe's programme.

The Dinner was held at the Kinloss Banqueting Suite - which is one of the most difficult places to reach from Redbridge. We allowed an hour drive time to get there, but due to motorway problems, we missed the Reception and arrived just as guests were going into dinner.

We were welcomed by US President Stephen Pack, who emphasised how important it was to support the work of Tribe, whose aim was to engage with Jewish youth and help to create future leaders for UK Jewry. He later received an award from US Chief Executive Steven Wilson for his time as President.

The food at the Dinner was exceptional. Each course was a work of art. I had to think long and hard before I used my knife and fork and was delighted to discover that the food was as delicious as it looked! We were fortunate to be on a table with some people we knew, although within minutes of sitting down, we were introducing ourselves to each other, talking not only to our neighbours but to our neighbours' neighbours and also across the table! (Forget etiquette - this is a Jewish function!)

In between the courses, we did what all Jewish people do - we moved round the hall and greeted friends and colleagues we had not seen for some time. I met many friends - from the United Synagogue, from the Zionist Federation and even some from the Christian Friends of Israel, all who had come to support Tribe.

Also between the courses, when we reluctantly returned to our seats, we had the Toast to the President of the State of Israel and the Toast to the Queen - much better than leaving this to the end of the Dinner!

The Guest of Honour, Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, spoke about the excellent work of Tribe in helping to create the next generation of leaders, and for "sowing the seeds for a great Jewish future" A vote of thanks came from our good friend Leonie Lewis, US Vice President.

The appeal included young members of Tribe speaking about their personal experiences on a number of Tribe programmes, which have powerfully impacted on their Jewish identity.

Then it was time for Entertainment and we were delighted to welcome Dudu Fisher who came to England from Poland especially for the occasion. As well as singing, Dudu commented on the amazing work of the United Synagogue, of the new communities being built and nourished in England. He said how important his Zeider had been in ensuring his Jewishness. "What the US is doing here in England is to see that the children and grand children of today will be the Zeiders of tomorrow." Dudu mentioned how he had been asked to go to America to star in a Musical there, but had explained that he would not perform on Friday night, Saturday matinee (Shabbat) or on other Yom Tovim! However, the Americans were still willing to accept him on his own terms!

During the evening, the US held an Auction - with Trips to Israel and other excellent 'lots' on offer, and quite a large sum was raised for Tribe. Fortunately, I did not need anything!

Funds raised at the Dinner will allow the US and Tribe to offer subsidies for participants to attend meaningful experiences including summer and winter camps, Israel Tour and Days Out, as well as supporting our local communities.

Commenting on the Dinner, US Director of Jewish Living, David Collins, said: "This dinner showcased the impact of The US through Tribe and Young US. The funds raised will help to create a future for our communities through engaging, educating and inspiring the next generation."

Alan Aziz, US Director of Development, added: "I am so pleased at the success of the Tribe Continuity Dinner. The US' impact on the Jewish community can sometimes be overlooked. Our guests at the dinner saw for themselves just how much great work we are doing and how deserving of support it really is."

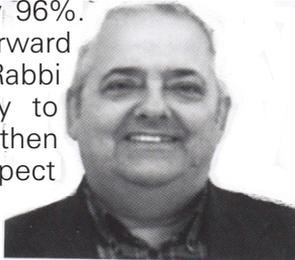
United Synagogue President, Stephen Pack, commented: "The Tribe Continuity Dinner was an opportunity to support Tribe so it has the resources it needs to extend its work, reach more young Jews and be even more effective. With the help of so many generous people we have achieved our objective and I would like to say a huge thank you to all those involved."

As well as raising funds for Jewish Youth, the Dinner was a lovely occasion. I enjoyed it enormously.

**PHILIPPA STANTON**

# Chairman's Report

SINCE I last wrote in the Pesach edition of the magazine there has been a huge improvement with regards to our future in that we have now appointed a new Rabbi. We recently had a wonderful Shabbat with Rabbi Steven and Rebbetzen Siobhan Dansky and their two daughters Maya and Talia, with a communal lunch which was thoroughly enjoyed by over ninety people. The Dansky family were able to meet and interact with the majority of those that were present and a good impression was felt on both sides. The weekend culminated with a communal vote on the Sunday, with an overwhelmingly positive result of approximately 96%. We are now looking forward to working with Rabbi Dansky and his family to develop and strengthen our community; we expect him to start the appointment in early December.



I would really like to thank the Selection committee for their outstanding perseverance, patience and professional approach to this whole process and a particular thank you to Marc Levy on his excellent chairing of the committee.

Meanwhile, there is still much to be done and a lot of hard work is being carried on behind the scenes in order to keep the Shul running smoothly and I would like to thank everybody involved in ensuring that we have always had someone to daven and leyn for every Shabbat and Yom Tov. Overall I think that it has been an interesting and enjoyable experience for most of us. It is nice to see how different Rabbonim and Ministers conduct the services and the varied Droshas and ways of delivering them. I have to say that it has been a real pleasure to see Rabbi Singer and Reverend Newman working so well together, particularly over the Pesach period. I truly believe that we have held everything together very well.

I want to thank the Ministers, the Honorary Officers, the Board of Management, the various sub committees, the ladies for the Kiddushim and everyone else that helps in any capacity, for all the hard work and support that they have given to the Shul.

I would like to make a special point of thanking Cyril Levison who has retired after working for more than forty years servicing our community. The majority of that time was at Newbury Park. Cyril was involved in the merger talks from the beginning and has been instrumental in making the merger successful. We have all got used to Cyril's sense of humour over the past two and a half years and this will be missed by everyone. As Chairman it has been a pleasure to work with Cyril. He always gives sound advice at the right moment and he is a true gentleman. We will miss him on the Bimah each week, and hope that there may be a few stand ins in the future.

There is not much news about the rebuilding of Sinclair House. The initial planning permission was refused and to date Jewish Care have not reapplied. Although we sent out letters thinking that we may have to move in 2018, it now looks more likely to be 2019 and that is if they do get permission to carry out their plans.

There have, of course, been sad events and we lost two of our prominent members this year. First it was one of our Shul Elders, Johnny Lyndon, who was one of the Founder members of the Clayhall Kehilla and a man who was involved for over forty years both in running the Shul and still raising funds right up until his illness became too much for him to cope. We also lost one of our life Presidents, Percy Sheere, the man who founded Newbury Park Kehilla and who also was a major influence throughout the forty odd years up to the merger, when sadly his illness also began to overcome him. He may have been small in stature but he was a giant in his community. Both these men will be missed by many of our members but they will never be forgotten. In fact we had a Memorial Service for both Johnny and Percy on Sunday July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Everyone that was influenced and inspired by these two exceptional men was there on the day to show due respect and gratitude for what they did for all of us.

To finish on a brighter note, we now have re-established our Young Families Committee under the guidance of Ian Grant and Rabbi Singer. We have also got a fledgling group of under 40's who will be meeting to let the Shul know what it is they want from us. So hopefully we can look forward to more involvement from our younger members in the future.

*On behalf of my family and myself, I would like to wish you all a sweet and healthy New Year and well over the Fast.*

**MIKE CALLAGHAN**  
CHAIRMAN  
REDBRIDGE UNITED SYNAGOGUE

# *Shofar – The Sound of Clarity*

“Sing, arrogant Jews, sing!  
Sing or you will die! ”

And at that horrifying moment, one man pried himself loose from the frightened mob and broke the conspiracy of total silence. He stood there all alone and began to sing. His song was a Chassidic folk song in which the Chassid poured out his soul before the Almighty:

Lomir zich iberbeiten, iberbeiten, Avinu shebasha-mayim, Lomirzich iberbeiten, iberbeiten, iberbeiten.”

**F**OR many people, the highlight of Rosh Hashanah is the Shofar blowing. I can remember as a young boy year after year standing by the side of my brothers waiting in anticipation for my father who was the Ba'al Tokea (the person given the honour of blowing the Shofar) to blow the first set of thirty blows. Only one thought would enter my head... is he going to succeed?

What is the significance of this sound? What does it represent?

Our Sages have expanded much on the meaning of each of the sounds of the Shofar. I would like to share one which for me really hit home.

Avraham, our forefather, stood on one side of the river and the entire world stood on the other. He was able to take an unpopular stand against all of humanity. For truth, for meaning, for lasting values. For everything that is true and right and good. One man against the world!

“The deeds of the forefathers are a sign for the children”. We, the Jewish people, are the spiritual heirs to the character, and depth of being, that Avraham possessed.

The following is a moving story I came across that sheds much light to this notion.

The Jews were forced back against barbed wire. The barbs pierced their flesh, pricking their bones, and the blood began to trickle. The Jews huddled and crowded together, stumbling and falling as more kept coming, colliding against the fallen ones and falling with them. Many were trampled underfoot as each new wave of retreating people was pushed back.

In the midst of this confusion the shrieking voice of the murderous chief was heard:

“Let us be reconciled, our Heavenly Father,  
Let us be reconciled, let us make up.”

A spark of song was kindled, but that spark



fell short of its mark. The Jews had been beaten, and recoiled. The voice of the singer did not reach them. His song was silenced.

But something happened at that moment. A change took place. As soon as the solitary voice was hushed, humbly, another voice picked up the same tune, the same captivating Chassidic tune. Only the words were not the same. New words were being sung. One solitary person in the entire humiliated and downtrodden crowd had become the spokesman of all the Jews. This man had composed the new song on the spot, a song derived from the eternal

wellspring of the nation. The melody was the same ancient Chassidic melody, but the words were conceived and distilled through the crucible of affliction:

“mir velen zey iberleben, iberleben, Avinu shebashamayim, Mir velen zey iberleben, iberleben, iberleben.”

“We shall outlive them, our Heavenly Father, We shall outlive them, outlive them, outlive them.”

This time the song swept the entire crowd. The new refrain struck like lightning and jolted the multitude. Feet rose rhythmically, as if by themselves. The song heaved and swelled like a tidal wave, arms were joined, and soon all the frightened and despondent Jews were dancing.

As for the commander, at first he clapped his hands in great satisfaction, laughing derisively. “Ha, ha, ha, the Jews are singing and dancing! Ha, ha, the Jews have been subdued!” But soon he grew puzzled and confused. What is going on? Is this how subdued people behave? Are they really oppressed and humiliated? They all seem to be fired up by this Chassidic dance, as if they have forgotten all pain, suffering, humiliation, and despair. They have even forgotten about the presence of the Nazi commander...

“Stop, Jews! Stop immediately! Stop the singing and dancing! Stop! Stop immediately!” the oppressor yelled out in a terrible voice, and for the first time his well-disciplined subordinates saw him at loss, not knowing what to do next. “Stop! Stop! Stop at once!” the Commander in Chief pleaded with his soldiers in a croaking voice.

The Jews, singing and dancing ecstatically, were swept by the flood of their emotions and danced on and on. They paid a high price for it. They were brutally beaten for their strange behaviour. But their singing and dancing did not stop.

The full force and fury of the German people - the German war machine - was brought to bear on the objective of destroying the Jews. Yet, somehow, in some inexplicable way, stories abound. Jews by thousands and tens of thousands who refused to compromise their morality, their commitment to truth and meaning, and ultimately their commitment to G-d and Torah. A tortured and suffering people and all that they stood for; against a mighty and merciless enemy and all that he stood for.

The Jewish people have always taken a stand. A stand for truth. For what is good and right. A stand for pursuing that which we know to be meaningful.

Each one of us longs to take a stand. Deep within us all lays the strength and ability to take that stand. The Shofar calls out to us. A call for clarity. To clarify for ourselves what we ultimately want. Who we want to be. What we really want to be committed to.

The Shofar sounds and stirs something deep within our heart and soul. We can sense the power. On Rosh Hashanah we can achieve it. The clarity and commitment. To stand alone as an individual and together as a people. To take a stand for everything the Jewish people represent.

All we have to do is - listen!

**Rabbi Yaakov Singer**



## Rabbi & Rebbetzen Dansky Joining us in December

Siobhan, Maya, Talia and I are delighted to be joining Redbridge United Synagogue. We loved spending time with all of you over Shabbat, and are looking forward to spending many more with you in the future.

In the coming year, and beyond, we are planning to work with you to create a vibrant community. We want to cultivate a congregation which caters to different people on different levels, providing everyone with an opportunity to connect with each other and with us. Our aim is to develop a range of programmes, events and classes that will allow everyone to find something to suit them.

We wish you an elevated Rosh Hashanah, an easy fast over Yom Kippur, and a year filled with only blessings, good health and personal growth.

# Yom Tovim and Beyond

**F**IRSTLY, thank you to the Redbridge committee for your invitation to spend Shavuot with you and to the Kehilla for making me so welcome. During that Yom Tov I was asked to write an article on a subject of my choice for the Rosh Hashanah edition of Shalom. The deadline was some weeks ahead and so that gave me plenty of time to select a topic - or so I thought. How about Shavuot? But you would be reading it on Rosh Hashanah. As time passed, I started on this theme and that subject, and time was still on my side. However the deadline is now, but what topic? I decided that I shall be hardly original but, I hope topical.

As a child, I greatly enjoyed the Shalosh Regalim. Pesach gave me a huge feeling of excitement seeing the table set for a Seder. The starched white cloth, the special Pesach china and cutlery which always looked so new and special compared to the sets used during the rest of the year. Staying up late for Seder, the first taste of matzah and cinnamon balls. Not one sip of wine as on Shabbat but four glasses, even if they were small.

As the years passed, a succession of different aspects aroused my interest, especially the numerous and seemingly unlimited interpretations of the Seder.

Shavuot had its features, not least the Tikkun with all night learning and the endless varieties of cheesecake. Succot with the Halachot when one selects one's own Arba Minim and building a Succah. Thinking about the Chagim now, it was the special features of each Yom Tov, rather than the shul services which enthused me. This was in almost complete contrast to

the Yomim Naroim, the Days of Awe. Perhaps it was because one spent so much of the time in shul; after all, food is not really a feature of Yom Kippur.

My family were members of Highgate Shul during my formative years and from about a year after my Barmitzvah until I got married I was the Assistant Shamash, helping an elderly gentleman Shamash with his duties. When he passed away, another gentleman, almost as elderly (so many men seemed elderly to me then) succeeded him.

It was my job to know the services in minute detail, when to open and close the ark so that there were no interruptions in the smooth running of the services; what was required when, such as water and slippers for the Cohanim for Duchaning and so on. It was, however, the Nusach, the prayers and the tunes and chants that so enthralled me. Marriage meant that we moved to a new area; I no longer had Shamash duties and so I could focus on the Tefillot, the prayers. Maybe the Chazan transmitted his understanding and feel for the Tefilla to me. I found the Nusach easier to connect to, than for the Shalosh Regalim. Maybe it took several years to appreciate the longer services, their structure and construction. With each Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur I feel I gain a little more understanding, but as so often with our religion, the more you learn, the more you realise there is yet to learn.

This brings me to Rosh Hashanah, when we acknowledge the Almighty as our King, the Judge who administers justice, the One in whose hands our destiny lies. Whilst there is a structured build-up to Rosh Hashanah, we blow the Shofar each weekday morning during Ellul. We say Selichot from the Motzoei Shabbat before Rosh Hashanah, or the week before when it falls on Monday or Tuesday, so that there are at least four days of Selichot prior. But it is the Tefillot that really makes it real for me. Wearing a white kittel, seeing the shul dressed in white, hearing the haunting Nusach and then listening to the Shofar.

## **Why do we blow the Shofar?**

The Shofar has played an important role throughout Jewish history. It announced

jubilee and sabbatical years, and heralded the beginning of a new Jewish month. Once blown to gather the people for battle, the Shofar can be thought to signal the beginning of an inner battle, where good challenges the dark motives within us all. Rousing and unusual the sound of the Shofar bounces off the ears and lodges somewhere in the heart. Described as the air raid siren for the soul, the alarm clock for the blasé, the Shofar is supposed to rouse those who hear it to a higher purpose. Maimonides heard this message in the Shofar's notes: "Wake up you sleepers from your sleep and you slumberers from your slumber. Search your deeds and return in penitence."

Saadia Gaon (882-942 C.E.) spelled out ten reasons for Shofar blowing on Rosh Hashanah that are based upon the times the Shofar has been blown throughout Jewish history:

1. Rosh Hashanah is the anniversary of the creation of humankind or the world's birthday. He is our King and a Shofar is blown as a symbol of God's coronation.

2. The Shofar blast marks the beginning of the Ten Days of Repentance from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur.

3. At Mt. Sinai a Shofar sound was heard: "And then the voice of the Shofar sounded louder and louder" (Exodus 19:19). On Rosh Hashanah we renew our allegiance to the Torah as guide to a good and meaningful life.

4. Prophets used the Shofar to call the people together to repent. Hearing the Shofar in the synagogue should have the same effect on us.

5. The mournful sound is a cry of mourning for the Temple that once stood in Jerusalem. Long ago, the entire Jewish nation would gather at the sound of the Shofar. Now the Jewish people are scattered and divided. Hearing the Shofar in this context reminds listeners to work and pray for Redemption and unity.

6. Abraham followed God's orders and was prepared to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac, but thanks to heavenly last-minute intervention, he offered a ram instead. Shofars are horns from rams or similar animals and are meant to recall this episode.

7. "Shall a Shofar be sounded in the city and the people not be afraid?" (Amos 2:6) In

direct translation of the Hebrew, yirah, the emotion that the Shofar is supposed to create, is translated as fear. It should not be confused with fear of the dark; a better translation would be "awe." A Shofar sound, the powerful throaty blast from a horn brings about a feeling of awe, lofty majesty. Mere mortals stand humbled before this representation of God's might.

8. When the Messianic era will dawn a Shofar blast will announce the good news.

9. The Jewish idea of the Moshiach, includes a phase for the ingathering of Jews from all over the world to Israel. This phase will be announced by another sounding of the Shofar. Given the hurtful divisions between Jews, between people of all races and religions, the Shofar's sound can motivate prayer for the understanding that leads to unity.

10. Phase three of Moshiach will feature the resurrection of the dead. Once again a Shofar will be blown to announce this miraculous event.

As for me, for several years I have acted as Ba'al Tokea, the one who blows the Shofar. It is the comparison of the triumphal nature of blowing the Shofar at Mount Sinai and on the coming of Moshiach to blowing it in shul on Rosh Hashanah. It is not the blowing - and remember the beracha is "lishmoah kol Shofar", to listen to the sound of the shofar - it is how we respond to the sound. As we read in the Unesanah Tokef prayer, "A great Shofar sounds and a still small voice is heard,"

Rabbi Lord Sacks wrote that this is a brilliant linking of two biblical episodes; the first when the Torah was given on Mount Sinai. The Shofar sound grew louder and the people trembled. The second when Elijah confronted the priests of Baal on Mount Carmel. There was a whirlwind, an earthquake and a fire but God was not present in them. Then came the still small voice of God which is even more awful (in the literal meaning).

That is the point when Rosh Hashanah really gets to me.

I wish you and your families a Ketiva Vechatima Tova.

**Syd Braham**

## *Message from the President*

IN MY New Year message 12 months ago I wrote that 2016 had been the most tumultuous year in British political life in living memory. This year has been barely less eventful with a surprise General Election producing an even bigger surprise, resulting in the turbulence of a hung Parliament, coalition negotiations and a shaky start to talks with the EU over the future of the United Kingdom in Europe.

Through this period of political uncertainty the Board of Deputies has represented the Jewish community with a clear and calm voice. We produced our Jewish Manifesto for the election campaign, a document newly updated for 2017 with its detailed advocacy of the policies of interest and concern to UK Jews. We asked politicians to support our 10 Commitments – the policies which we consider crucial on everything from education and religious freedoms to the Middle East. We sent out a copy of the Jewish Manifesto to every prospective parliamentary candidate and received a large and supportive response including video messages from the Prime Minister and the leaders of the next three largest parties.

Our approach to politics is bipartisan. We do not support any single party but we do hold politicians to account. In a year characterised by a shameful upsurge in antisemitism in British politics we continue to call on party leaders to act swiftly to expunge hatred wherever it rears its ugly head. Former Liberal Democrat Leader Tim Farron acted swiftly to expel David Ward, a man with a track record of antisemitic statements. We call on Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn to act in a decisive manner during this coming year against the scourge of antisemitism which has plagued his party. And whenever we discover antisemitism in the Conservative and other parties, be in no doubt that we act in a similarly robust manner.

This year, having been thwarted for 12 years, criminal murderers finally managed to claim innocent lives in our country – at Westminster, in Manchester, at London Bridge and Finsbury Park. I am sickened by the extremists who are prepared to kill children to further their depraved views. The attacks by Islamist extremists on concert goers and random pedestrians and the attack on worshippers outside a mosque in north London, lend an urgency to my longstanding commitment to building bridges with Muslim communities. It is vital that we have the relationships that allow us to share sometimes difficult opinions with one another, as well as making joint progress on our issues of common concern. It is crucial to strengthen the moderate centre and marginalise the extremists.



So I have travelled the country speaking to Muslim communities – so far including London, Bradford, Leicester, Leeds and Birmingham. And we don't just exchange pleasantries over tea and biscuits, we go straight for the toughest topics: hate crime, violent extremism and religious values.

This country is not the only one to suffer the tragedy of extremist murder this year. Israel has also lost innocent Jews, Christians and Muslims to terror attacks this year. And of course the difference between Israel and the UK is that Israel has never had respite from those whose mission it is to subvert the democracy of the world's only Jewish state. While the ramming of tourists and commuters on Westminster Bridge made the world's headlines, similar attacks in Israel have often not even warranted a passing mention on the evening news. We at the Board of Deputies stand resolutely behind Israel, whether it is speaking at demonstrations, making the case in the media, challenging BDS or supporting grassroots advocacy organisations and Christian allies. We leave nobody in any doubt as to our commitment.

While our enemies continue to promote terror and division, we have been unstinting in our desire for peace. This year, we launched the pioneering 'Invest in Peace' programme with church umbrella body Churches Together in Britain and Ireland to support Israelis and Palestinians who reach across the divide for reconciliation. Our first series of events in London in May drew 300 Jews, Christians, Muslims and people of no faith to the cause, and we are already planning the next series of events in Manchester, Leeds and Glasgow for later this year.

At home, we have continued to interact through all levels of government, from desk officers to secretaries of state, and we have worked internationally through our relations with foreign embassies and links with our Jewish partner organisations overseas. Our highly successful series of seminars for local councillors on Jewish issues took us to Manchester and Newcastle/Gateshead this year, with events in Leeds, Birmingham and London to follow in 2018.

We have staunchly defended Jewish schools and Jewish education in both the mainstream and Charedi sectors. Our efforts are also outward looking - the Jewish Living Experience exhibition has travelled around the country and informed thousands of non-Jewish children and adults about our way of life. Our research partnership with the Institute of Jewish Policy Research has borne fruit, with ground-breaking new reports on Jewish schools and patterns of affiliation to the synagogue movements, releasing data that is vital for planning for our community's future.

In 5778 we will continue to represent your interests and wishes as a democratically elected and accountable organisation. May this New Year bring you, your families and all of Am Yisrael health, strength and peace.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan".

**Jonathan Arkush,**  
*President Board of Deputies*

## Newbury Park League of Jewish Women

FIRSTLY, I would like to start this report by thanking each and every one of our members - and visitors who regularly attend our monthly meetings at our venue in the SWERS premises. Our group continues to flourish with our regular monthly coffee evenings being held on the second Wednesday evening of EVERY month, unless a Yom Tov falls on such a date.

During the year we had speakers on various subjects, all of whom were informative or entertaining, and most of whom came under both these "headings". For our last meeting - in May - our speaker was Melvyn Eagle whose topic was "The Jewish East End". This was a VERY interesting talk as his subject brought to light various locations that we may have forgotten about but which came back to us on this evening. "Oh, yes, I remember that cinema" or "I remember that street", or "I went to that club or dance hall".

Outside of our meetings, we continue to have members who knit squares that will eventually be made into blankets. Some of our volunteers also help at two local JBD (Jewish Blind and Disabled) residences, namely Milne Court in South Woodford where we run the "Monday Club", and Aztec House in Chigwell. At both places we organise special birthday teas, arrange guest speakers and entertainers and offer other help.

We also have members who help to deliver "Meals on Wheels". However, we DO NEED MORE

HELPERS - so if anyone can help, could they please phone Ros on 020 8554 0268 or 07808 728790 for further details.

One of our committee members is active in organising McMillan collections. This involves collecting money in from the tins that are placed in various shops and other establishments, as well as arranging for some of our members to collect at various local supermarkets. As one who helps in this way myself, I find it VERY rewarding and if you would like to help out please phone Sadie on 020 8530 5411 or Shirley on 020 8500 7832 for further details.

Unfortunately, due to the resurfacing of the grounds/ car park at Oaks Lane, we have been unable to hold any social events during the Summer. However, by the time you receive this magazine, everything will be back to normal and we look forward to "normal service being resumed as soon as possible".

Just a reminder - we know that there are ladies who are members of Redbridge United Synagogue but who are not members of the League and we would be delighted to see you - hopefully to join our lively and active group. For further details and information, please phone either Sadie or Shirley on the numbers above. We meet every month with one or two exceptions - usually due to religious holidays clashing with our dates.

In the meantime, on behalf of all the members of the Newbury Park League of Jewish Women, I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year.

*Ann Belson, Publicity Officer*



Hi Ladies

Do you remember our David Barry shop in Barkingside high street? Yes, we've been gone some time now but you can still buy your favourite styles and pick up great bargains from our online shop!

Just type: [www.davidbarry.com](http://www.davidbarry.com) into your browser's address bar! Easy to order, easy to pay, easy returns! Angela found us last week and ordered straight away!

We also take Telephone Orders, you'll need to look at our latest styles online before you ring us to order on 0203 475 7488.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!  
David Barry

[www.davidbarry.com](http://www.davidbarry.com)

Ladies outerwear



## Chigwell & Hainault League of Jewish Women

**T**HIS small Group now has several trained members who are able to provide hand massage under the new project called "Hand in Hand". It should be noted that all members in contact with the public are police checked. Linda has already been out and about to care homes and events where she has offered hand massage to residents and carers and she is now ably assisted by Toni. The recipients have acknowledged the "feel good" therapeutic effect of this treatment.

Other projects such as knitting blankets for AGE UK are ongoing and Sanara and Elaine have recently been acknowledged for the work they do at Milne Court organising a weekly Sunday tea for the knitters; Marylin provides monthly teas for the learning disabled and is now assisted by Helen; reading at care and residential homes and Way Ahead etc. continue along with monthly meetings at members' homes and bi-monthly there is a speaker.

In March the Group welcomed Mr Neil Driver who spoke about his recent cycling tour of South Vietnam and Cambodia. He coloured his fascinating and educational talk with slides of the various locations his party visited. At the same time he gave us a good insight into some of the adventures the group had, both scary and amusing. Members were invited to ask questions as he talked

about each location. He has done similar tours, sometimes to raise money for charities. On this occasion they used mountain bikes and road bikes. He has previously cycled from San Francisco to Los Angeles; Northern to Southern Israel, London to Paris to name but a few and has also climbed Mount Kilimanjaro.

Lee Scott, former Conservative MP for Ilford North accompanied by Ashley Kissin a former Mayor, was the next speaker talking about his time in Parliament. His attendance at that time was greatly appreciated as he was about to stand for Parliament again.

At the latest meeting in July, the Group welcomed the amazing Doris Osen who was the oldest person ever to stand for Parliament. However, she did not speak about her political aspirations, but gave a delightful talk about her initial ambition to become a teacher and how she achieved this despite the intervention of the War years and other obstacles.

It should be noted that the Chigwell and Hainault League of Jewish Women is a non fundraising organisation. There is a lunch club which provides the social aspect and is the perfect vehicle for members to get better acquainted. Also all members are automatically members of LEAGUE ARTZ.

Further information about the Group can be obtained from Linda Bloomfield on 07951 775 995. More helping hands are always needed and there are also male members (LADS).

*Rosalind Greenberg, Publicity Officer*

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# *An Audience with Rev. Gary Newman*

**I**T WAS the hottest day; it was the longest day but, it turned out to be the best of days or rather evenings. This was the celebration of Reverend Gary Newman's thirty five years as a Minister with the United Synagogue. Typical of his generous spirit he dedicated the concert to JAMI the mental health service for our community.

It was a musical evening with the London Cantorial Singers providing wonderful and inspiring entertainment to a packed audience and of course enhancing Reverend Newman's own contributions. He started with a rousing rendition of Adon Olom and then Eshet Chayil dedicated to Gillian his wife. The choir then continued on with adaptations of Shabbat and weekly prayers in their own inimitable style.

After the interval where coffee and cake were provided, without which no Jewish function would be complete, we were addressed by Mark Willis. Mark is the Jami-Recovery Education Co-ordinator who explained the work and purpose of the organisation. He also thanked the audience for attending particularly on such a hot evening. Then the raffle was drawn by Gillian, I did mention that this was a Jewish Charity Function and so of course many generous prizes were donated.

The concert resumed with alternate entertainment from the choir and Reverend Newman. One particularly moving song

which had the whole audience joining in was "Sunrise, Sunset" from Fiddler on the Roof which he dedicated to Ariella Sara his new little grand daughter.

The final part of the evening was devoted to Reverend Newman himself with songs and Questions and Answers. He told us that he always wanted to be a Minister and was happy that it turned out to be a 24/7 calling. He always had the essential support of his dear wife Gillian and his immediate family. His greater family had encouraged him in his studies as a



young Yeshivah student. He was privileged to attend many Simchas and to comfort those with problems and bereavements. The Emeritus Chief Rabbi, Lord Sacks, told him that if he loved his Community, they in turn would love him and I am sure we can all verify that.

**Martin Greenberg**

# The London Cantorial Singers



*Photographs By Michael Belson*

## My Garden Update

**M**ANY of you will have read about my attempt to redesign my garden. This was not as easy I had thought and would take longer than I first imagined after I had removed all of the Wisteria which was like a collar around the garden. This was intended to give an impression of a secluded cottage garden. The problem was although the concept was very impressive it created a shadow and excluded light to so many plants that they struggled to develop. Now that I have much happier plants and with more light, the established ones are blooming.

The Garden Planner gave me a comprehensive list of plants to order; these were "Feature" plants and arrived in stages. Most of the plants I needed were bought on line and I found the service excellent and I was sent some fantastic offers. Very soon my greenhouse was bulging with loads of plants. Then unfortunately I was struck down by illness and spent a week in hospital. It was a serious condition and it put me out of action for over two weeks. Recovery was quite slow but I am now feeling much better. As luck would have it this was just before Shavuot and I had promised to prepare flowering plants for the Shul so my plants needed planting. I was now facing an uphill struggle to get everything organized, not to mention the weeds. To add to the mix every one of the plants I ordered needed careful planting and being young would need time to develop, and of course this takes time. Also the grass on my lawn was getting really high. So my garden is looking very strange with so many young plants, however by next year I am sure I will be able to see the fruits of my labour.

The one thing I have discovered is that it does not matter even if you're not green fingered you can enjoy just growing plants. It is not trying to be like Alan Titchmarsh, just see what you can achieve. Others might think it is not that appealing, that is their views so don't be discouraged. Just being satisfied with your own efforts is what matters. I have seen a quote, "Gardening is like conducting an orchestra." it just depends on your choice of music. Now that it was mid-summer things are blooming and although I am not 100% satisfied I am happy to see such a rich harvest of colour.

I have been picking copious amounts of

raspberries, gooseberries, blackberries, beans, beetroot and spring onions.

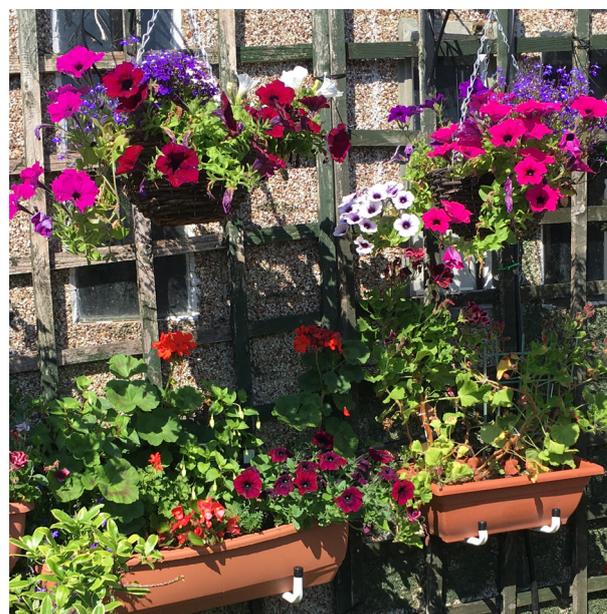
Waiting in the wings are my Victoria plums and the signs are that there will be a glut. I might even be sending them to Spitalfields Market!

The one fly or should I say fox in the ointment is that flaming fox. He is so bold he sits in the garden and looks at me. He managed to get into my netted fruit area, until I brought in reinforcements.

Next year Shavuot will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018, but most of the plants that I will need will be more or less seedlings, which makes a display difficult. However I am sure there will be a display you will enjoy

*Wishing you all a Happy New Year and well over the Fast.*

**VICTOR SHAFIER**



# Have a Sweet New Year!

**A**T Rosh Hashanah it is customary to eat sweet dishes rather than savoury, and you can 'sweeten' Roast Chicken by serving it with Cabbage and Sultanas. We also seem to eat a lot of 'fruity' dishes at this time!

A delicious starter, which takes a few minutes to make and can be prepared in advance:-

## Avocado Dip

2 ripe Israeli avocados, skinned and stoned  
Juice of 1 lemon  
2 large tomatoes, skinned, de-seeded and chopped  
½ medium onion, grated  
Salt, pepper

Mash the avocado in a bowl with the lemon juice. Add tomatoes, onion, salt and pepper and mix well. Taste and adjust seasoning if required. Cover the bowl with cling film and put in the fridge to cool for a short time. Serve on a bed of lettuce on individual plates with sliced rye bread.

## Tomato Soup

1½ lb ripe tomatoes, skinned and roughly chopped  
1 onion, finely chopped  
1 medium potato, chopped  
1 clove garlic, chopped  
½ pt water  
6/7 fresh Basil leaves, or 1 tsp dried basil  
Salt. Freshly Ground Black Pepper

Put the water in a saucepan and add onion, potatoes, garlic and chopped basil leaves. Bring to the boil and allow to simmer for about 10 minutes. Add chopped tomatoes and juice and stir well. Cook for a minute or two then add pepper and salt. Cover and simmer for 40 minutes or so until ready.

Allow to cool a little then place in a Liquidiser in small quantities and liquidise for a few minutes. Pour through a sieve into a saucepan to remove the seeds. If required add a little cold water to the liquidiser. Check seasoning and add more pepper or salt if required. Home made tomato soup is a little sweet but you can add sugar if you wish. If too strong, it can be diluted with water or vegetable stock.

Serve hot with a spoonful of cooked rice in each bowl or sprinkle with chopped fresh basil.

This soup freezes well, so I buy tomatoes when they are reasonably priced and keep the Soup in the freezer until required.

## Roast Chicken

1 chicken, cleaned etc.  
For the Stuffing:  
3 tablespoons matzo meal  
½ onion, chopped  
½ teaspoon sage  
Salt. Freshly Ground Black Pepper  
A little oil or chicken schmaltz to mix  
Pre-heat the oven to 200°C, Gas Mark 6.

Mix the stuffing ingredients together. Place the chicken in a very lightly oiled roasting tin and fill the centre with the stuffing. Place a piece of chicken fat (if available) over the chicken breast to keep it moist. Roast for about 1 hour, basting if required.

Serve hot with roast potatoes and cabbage dish.

## White Cabbage Dish

1 lb White Cabbage, washed and shredded  
4 oz Onions, peeled and chopped  
2 oz Sultanas or Raisins, washed  
2 tablespoons Oil  
Pinch of Nutmeg

Salt. Freshly Ground Black Pepper  
First, put the Sultanas in a dish, cover with hot water and leave to soak.

Heat the Oil in a deep pan. Add Onions and cook for 4/5 minutes until soft. Add shredded Cabbage, Nutmeg, little Salt and Pepper. Cover and cook on a low heat for 15/20 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Drain the Sultanas, add to the pan and mix well. Cover and cook for 15/20 minutes until Cabbage is tender. Serve Hot.

Excellent with Roast Chicken or Lamb. I normally make this dish with Sultanas to serve with Chicken, and with Raisins when served with Lamb, but both are delicious.

And for the Sweet, this tasty recipe was given to me by my friend Vera Miller:

## Fresh Figs in Orange Juice

8 Fresh Figs  
Juice of 2 Oranges  
2 tablespoons of Brown Sugar  
Pre-heat oven to 150 C, Gas Mark 2.  
Put the figs in an oven-proof dish in which they will just fit. Pour in the Orange Juice and sprinkle over the brown sugar.

Bake for 15 minutes and serve very hot with the orange juice. This can be served with pareve ice cream.

Have a happy, healthy and enjoyable New Year!

**Philippa Stanton**

# Social & Personal

*We would like to wish Mazeltov to the following:*

### Anniversary

Brett & Susan Sanders on their Pearl Anniversary  
Lydia & Martin Freedman on their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Sandra & Brian Angel on their Golden Anniversary  
Tony & Susan Gadian on their Golden Anniversary  
Gerald & Frances Goodman on their Golden Anniversary

### Bar Mitzvah

Theo Goldman  
Oliver Lethbridge

### Bat Mitzvah

Ruby Redland  
Sophie Bracey

### Birthdays

Tony Gadian on his 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Mike Yeshin on his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Martin Altman on his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Carol Emden on her 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday

### Mazel Tovs

Anna & Josh Redland on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Ruby  
Sue & Ian Cohen on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter Ruby  
Hayley & Kevin Bracey on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Sophie  
Judy Rose on the Bat Mitzvah of her granddaughter Sophie

Emma Goldman on the Bar Mitzvah of her son Theo  
Joyce Meltzer on the marriage of her granddaughter  
Angela Levene on her grandson's Bar Mitzvah  
Hilary & Robert Segall on their son's wedding  
Leslie & Andrea Eriera on the daughter's wedding  
Simon Lewis on obtaining his degree

*We would like to welcome any new members who have joined the shul since the issue of the last magazine.*

### New Members

Evelyn Masters  
Andrew Stern  
Paul Black  
Monty Vitow  
Louis Vitow  
Maurice & Maureen Hart  
Danielle Krist  
Ryan Alicoon  
Dean Freedman  
Michael & France Mandel  
Daniel & Laura Curtis  
Joel Rankoff  
Janine Saunders

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### *We offer our condolences to:*

Helen Silver on the passing of her daughter Laura Gallant  
Family of Hannah Fisher  
Family of Martin Sheldon  
Alma Cassen on the passing of her husband Lewis  
David Hahn on the passing of his mother Lena  
Cyril Hyman on the passing of his wife Lillian  
Family of Naomi Smith  
Family of Estelle Levy  
Renee Adler on the passing of her husband Sidney  
Edward Adler on the passing of his brother Sidney  
Family of Anna Joffe  
Alan Lester on the passing of his mother Sue

Family of Estelle Noel  
Melanie Tye on the passing of her mother  
Stanley Crause on the passing of his wife Jean  
Denise Pinner on the passing of her sister Leah  
Ruth Abrahams on the passing of her mother Betty Calmus  
Jean Cohen on the passing of her husband Norman  
Rita Grossman and Janice Winston on the passing of their husband and father Monty  
Family of Joyce Kutner  
Helena Helman on the passing of her mother Marie Lee  
Gillian Newman on the passing of her father