

REDBRIDGE UNITED SYNAGOGUE MAGAZINE ב"ה

Shalom

Pesach Edition

No. 7

Nisan 5778 April 2018



Rabbi Dansky & Family

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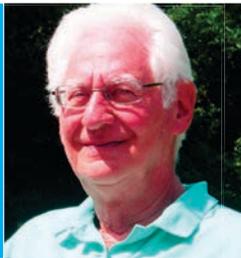
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Pesach 5778



In this unique Pesach edition we are making magazine history for not only do we have articles by our newly appointed Rabbi Dansky there is an article by Rebbetzen Siobhan Dansky, the first time that a Rebbetzen has written for Shalom magazine. So there is a double welcome to them as new contributors. This is so apt as we all know Pesach signifies new beginnings and the start of all that was good for the Children of Israel. Also the Rabbi writes a learned and informative commentary on each week's Sedra for the news sheet to be found on the Synagogue seats at Shabbat. They, and we have to say "They," as they are a team, have brought a welcome new dynamic to Redbridge Synagogue.

There is also an article by Rabbi Singer and one by Reverend Stewart Myers who helped out at Shacharit when we were without a Rabbi, a good friend to this community. Included is the Reverend Gary Newman interview whose sterling work during the last fifteen months has been invaluable and without precedent.

As well as our regular magazine contributors, Stuart Pessok gives us a look into taxi-drivers slang! Our youth are also represented in this Edition. We have a very moving article from Saul Levene on his recent visit to Poland, and the wonderful D'var Torah given by Michal Singer when she celebrated her Bat Mitzvah in October.

We have had a very exciting time since we last wrote - as well as welcoming our new Rabbinic team, we have celebrated the Chief Rabbi's Shabbat, AJEX Remembrance Service, the Chollah Make, the Balfour Centenary and spent an evening with Colonel Richard Kemp CBE.

There are a lot more exciting activities to look forward to. Rabbi Dansky is arranging Workshops, Lunch and Learn activities and Ask the Rabbi sessions. Our Rebbetzen is holding Ladies who Lunch at Sinclair House together with Chollah making opportunities. For those who prefer something lighter, our Fundraising Committee led by Elizabeth Levison has scheduled two Quiz evenings for later in the year. Altogether a full programme of events! We look forward to seeing you there!

We would like to thank Martin Altman our publisher, our contributors and all those involved in the production and distribution of our Magazine.

With our best wishes to you and your families for a Happy and Kosher Pesach.

Philippa Stanton & Martin Greenberg



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PAGE 1EDITORIAL
PAGE 2 . PESACH EXPERIENCE, RABBI DANSKY
PAGE 3CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
PAGE 4 REPORT BY RABBI SINGER
PAGE 8.CHOLENT & THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION
PAGE 1049 DAY COUNT, REBBETZEN DANSKY
PAGE 12.....SYNAGOGUES OF EUROPE
PAGE 14.....LONDON TAXI DRIVER SPEAK
PAGE 16.....A TRIP TO POLAND, SAUL LEVENE
PAGE 18.. TIME OF OUR FREEDOM, RABBI DANSKY
PAGE 22. WELFARE COMMITTEE, LORRAINE SILVER
PAGE 24.....THE FOUR SONS, REV. S. MYERS
PAGE 28EVENING WITH COLONEL KEMP,CBE
PAGE 36..... REMEMBRANCE PARADE
PAGE 44..... SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

A Pesach Experience



REMEMBER the first time that I read The Magic Faraway Tree to my daughter. She stood there completely spellbound - completely transfixed by the exploits of the fairies and of the other magical creatures in this great book.

The truth of this is that while I was enjoying her enjoyment of the story, my reaction to the story was quite different. Sure it was interesting, sure it was enchanting, but could I listen to it forever and a day? Was I thrilled and excited and scared all at the same time? I cannot say that I was.

This got me thinking - what was the difference between me and my daughter? The difference between the two of us was that I had read this, and stories like this many thousands of times before. Forget about The Enchanted Faraway Tree; Harry Potter and The Lord of the Rings were far more exciting. I had experienced far more frightening and thrilling stories, and therefore the taste of Enid Blyton was parev at best. Besides, I had my mother read the Enchanted Faraway Tree to me when I was a child as well.

Why am I telling you all of this? We are about to arrive at Seder night, and we are about to tell a story again, the story of the exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt, just as I was reading stories to my daughter, after having heard it myself. As a child, I can remember my excitement at finding the Afikomen and boasting to my friends how late I stayed up the night before. The story of the Exodus from Egypt was seen through the eyes of a child, and remained that for me - a child's story. I was no longer so excited by it because I had heard it already, and heard it on a very simplistic level.

The Haggadah tells us; "In every generation we have an obligation to see ourselves as

if we left Egypt". Why are we being told to see ourselves? Why isn't it good enough to read about it and understand it? What is the Haggadah trying to tell us? What are we supposed to be doing?

We are being told here to use our imagination - to think about what it must have been like - to pretend that we were there. I remember playing pretend games when I was younger - we didn't have TV games then - whether I was Superman, (I was always Superman!) pretending, creating imaginary worlds is the primary occupation of a child.

We are being asked here to experience the Seder from a child-like perspective, with the intellect of an adult. We need to see the Seder again this year with new eyes of youth - with the exuberance and excitement of a child, but also thinking about it intelligently, questioning and thinking about it in a serious manner.

It is for this reason that even if there are no children at the table, we still have the obligation to ask the four questions - even if they have been married for seventy years, couples have to ask each other the Mah Nishtana - How and why is this night different from other nights?

If you have ever met a four year old child they are ALWAYS asking questions. We may be older, but we need to go into a time capsule tonight, and learn about our exodus from Egypt in a completely new light using both experience and youth at the same time.

Question, answer, find that afikomen - find our youth, find our excitement and have a transformative seder that will change our lives forever.

*Wishing you all a
Chag Kasher V'Sameach*

**Rabbi Steven, Siobhan,
Maya and Talia Dansky**

Chairman's Report



WE have come through a long and sometimes difficult fourteen months since Rabbi Wilson left, although we had the greatly appreciated help from Rabbi Singer and Reverend Newman.

I would like to pay tribute to Harold Marco for all his hard work, arranging and organising the visiting Ministers and their families; to Leslie Linder for his unstinting dedication to making sure that we have Minyanim and for acting as Warden, organising the work on the Bimah.

The last couple of months have been very busy with finding accommodation for both Rabbi Dansky and Rabbi Singer and ensuring that they have settled in properly. During this time Vice Chairman Colin Emden's help has been invaluable and I could not have managed without him. In fact the whole Community has been very supportive during this period and we are now entering an exciting new phase, with our new Senior Rabbi, chosen by members of our Shul.

I hope that everyone will get behind Rabbi and Rebbetzen Dansky and support and encourage them. They have only been with us for a month but they have already made a

great impression; we now have events and shiurim planned right up to Pesach.

It is said that Pesach is a time for new beginnings and although it is still some way off at the time of writing, we should all be optimistic that with the groundwork that is now being laid and with the enthusiasm of our new Rabbi, we at Redbridge have a bright future to look forward to.

On behalf of my family and myself I wish you all a happy and Kosher Pesach.

Mike Callaghan
Chairman

Shabbat UK 2017

We held a very successful Shabbat UK in October. We were delighted to welcome our scholar-in-residence Claude Vecht-Wolf who enhanced our experience both Friday night and Shabbat with wonderful stories and words of Torah.

The weekend started with a special Kabbalah Shabbat and Friday Night dinner for young families; this was very much enjoyed by more than 60 people.

On Shabbat, we welcomed back Aaron Engelmeyer who leyned for us, with Jeffrey Bernard reading the Haftorah.

Following our regular service and a Kiddush sponsored by Anne and Jeffrey Bernard in honour of Jeffrey's 70th birthday, ninety-five people sat down to a three-course lunch, featuring our theme "Around the World in one Shabbat" at which a representative from each table spoke about Jewish life in a different country.

During Lunch, our guest of honour, His Honour Judge Martyn Zeidman QC, gave a wonderful, hilarious and entertaining talk about some of his experiences as both a barrister and a judge.

After lunch a light-hearted game of Mr and Mrs took place, sponsored by Ellie and Mia Marks to celebrate their parents, Adina and Gary Marks' sixteenth wedding anniversary. This was followed by mincha and Seudah Shlishit. After maariv we held a special version of Havdalah.

The weekend culminated in a cooked breakfast for twenty-two on Sunday morning, joined by our guest of honour and his wife Verity. A huge vote of thanks goes to all those who helped to make it such a successful day.



Philippa Stanton

A Report by Rabbi Yaakov Singer



SHANI and I have now been at Redbridge Shul for a year and so much has happened over this past year, I thought it a good idea to share with your readers.

The most significant change is that for the past year there has been a Children Service in shul on every single Shabbat and Yom Tov without fail. In addition, we ran the Youth Zone for a second year running over the High Holidays as well as a toddler soft-play area. Whilst there is much more we plan to do to boost the attendance of these regular services, the feedback so far has been very positive (and that's not just from our own little prides and joy). One of the more memorable Children Services I held was on Shabbat Tu BiShevat, where we had a crowd of almost 30 participants who all enjoyed a spread of over twenty different exotic fruit at our Tu BiShevat Seder. We played Tu BiShevat games and told related stories and tried some fruits we've not seen or heard of before.

We ran several events for children and youth throughout the year, including the most well attended Purim party in Essex. This event was held at Redbridge United Synagogue in conjunction with Ilford United Synagogue. Partakers were spoiled for choice with an awesome laser tag quest, computer games arcade, bouncy castle and soft play area all there for them to relish, not to mention hot dogs and chips.

I have also launched a "Learning Hub" which runs once a month on Sunday afternoons. The Learning Hub is an opportunity for primary age children in KS2 who do not attend a Jewish school to learn and experience Judaism through the form of arts and crafts. For example, before

Chanukah we made a travel Chanukkiah which has a storage compartment for candles. Participants learnt to saw wood and use a hot glue gun all whilst learning about the laws of a Kosher Chanukkiah. We still have availability to take on more pupils if they fit the above criteria.

In the absence of a senior Rabbi over the past year I have also helped to provide some adult education whenever I could. Twice during a half term, I gave a shiur at a Lunch and Learn organised by Gordon and Estelle Miller, both sessions were well attended. We also had an extensive programme for the fast of Av including the screening of two films befitting the spirit of the day. Not forgetting to mention an entertaining Pre-High-Holidays talk by Rabbi Benjy Myers.

In the lead up to Shabbat UK, Shani held a Challah make at our home. Shani spoke about the role of women in Judaism and then shared her recipe for Challah including tips on plating Challah. We then held a Shabbat quiz whilst waiting for the dough to rise.

Shani and I are looking forwards to building on the success of these events in the year ahead with more exciting events and programmes.



On 21 October 2017 Michal Singer celebrated her Bat Mitzvah at Redbridge Synagogue, giving such a wonderful D'var Torah, we decided to print it our Magazine, so that we could read it at our leisure.

My Bat Mitzvah D'var Torah

LAST October I celebrated my Bat Mitzvah at Redbridge Shul. After delivering my D'var Torah I felt truly honoured to be asked to publish my D'var Torah in the Shalom magazine.

For a few months prior to my Bat Mitzvah, I pestered my Abba to help me with ideas for a Bat Mitzvah speech. 'Normal' parents would send their daughters to Bat Mitzvah lessons well in advance, but not when your father is a Rabbi. Finally, with



three days to go, my Abba and I sat down to discuss what my D'var Torah should be about. Thankfully he didn't wait until the last minute.

We both felt that a great way to begin my life as a Bat Mitzvah would be by learning about the Mitzvah of Hakarat HaTov - showing gratitude. This is one of the fundamental mitzvot of the Torah. Whilst not explicitly mentioned in the Torah, our Rabbi's teach us that Hakarat HaTov is one of the 613 mitzvot.

Although Hakarat HaTov is normally translated as 'showing gratitude', a better translation would be 'recognising the good'. It is a mitzvah to recognise that everything Hashem does for us is 'good'.

When a person recognises that something good has happened to them, they should make the Brachah "Hatov ve'hameytiv" – He Who is good has done good to me.

Our greatest teacher Moshe, leads by example. When he was instructed to turn the

waters of Egypt to blood, Moshe felt unable to undertake this task. The reason being that the waters of Egypt had once saved his life. Moshe believed that it would be wrong for him to cause something bad to come from it. Rashi explains that Moshe was displaying Hakarat HaTov. You see, Hakarat HaTov is not just towards people or Hashem, but towards anything that we benefit from.

Showing gratitude makes us better people. It helps us enjoy and appreciate everything we have, making us happy people. For this reason, Jewish children are taught that the first words we utter every morning as we wake up, is "Modeh ani". Modeh comes from the word 'Todah'—thank you. We thank Hashem for all the good in our lives.

Ten generations after Adam—the first man—was created, humankind became corrupt. The Talmud tells us that the world was full of immorality, theft and murder. How can the world get into such a state in such a short space of time?

The Talmud teaches us that things progressed slowly. First Humans misinterpreted Hashem when He said man will rule over the animal kingdom, taking it to mean that we were in control of them. And from there, their egos grew and grew until they 'forgot' that Hashem is the creator of the world. With no G-d there are no rules. No rules lead to immorality, theft and murder. Things got so out of hand that Hashem saw there was no way back for them. The world must be destroyed.

Yet one man stood out amongst all others. His name was Noach. Noach was a righteous man. He walked in the path of Hashem and never left His side. Hashem rewarded Noach by sparing him and his family from the forthcoming flood.

Looking back at this story, I believe that with one simple act, the flood could have been prevented. Hakarat HaTov. If only mankind would have shown gratitude to Hashem and His world, it would not have come to this.

My Hebrew name is Michal Chava. My parents chose this name simply because they liked it. However, I have often questioned them about the Biblical characters behind both my names.

Michal is the name of King David's first of eighteen wives. She is the only woman in the whole of Tanach that we are told she loved her husband.

Michal was the daughter of King Saul. King Saul did not like David one little bit, and several times tried to kill him. When Saul heard that Michal was in love with David he agreed for them to marry, hoping she would help him kill David. Though she never did. Quite the opposite, she saved David's life from the hands of her father. Michal stayed loyal to King David throughout her life, alas Hashem did not bless her with any children.

Despite her loyalty and love towards him, King David does not seem to treat Michal the way we would have expected. To him, she was just one of his wives, barren, and a constant reminder of her father, King Saul. The commentators explain that King David made a grave mistake of not showing gratitude to Michal his wife, for her love and devotion.

My middle name Chava, is the Hebrew name of the first woman on earth - Eve.

Before creating Chava, Hashem saw that Adam was lonely. Hashem said, "it's not good for man to be on his own". And so, He created Chava – I think we all agree man was never the same since there after!

Hashem was looking out for Adam's best

interests. He was doing what was good for Adam. Adam on the other hand does not always recognise this good. He blames Chava for his own faults and even blames Hashem for giving her to him. Adam clearly shows no Hakarat HaTov. Perhaps here too lies his downfall.

Although my names carry the weight of two exceptional woman who were not shown Hakarat HaTov, I have been fortunate to be around men and women who have taught me to always show gratitude. My Imma and Abba, Sabba David and Savta Judy Singer, Savta Gina Myers Z"L, Sabba Stewart and Aunty Lorraine Myers and last but not least my Sabba Ron and Savta Ruth Singer. I am truly grateful for all they have done for me and for all they have taught me.

Learning about Hakarat HaTov has really helped me understand what it means to be a 'Yehudi Tov' – a good Jew. Even the word 'Yehudi' comes from the word 'Todah' – Thank you. I feel that I am now ready to brave this world as a young Jewish adult and to always look for the good in things and be grateful for all that I have.

Michal Chava Singer

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'Cholent and the Industrial Revolution'

By Cyril Levison

IT WAS during a Shabbas lunch that the light bulb went on. I don't actually mean a light bulb but a thought that suddenly came to me. I had struggled for some weeks trying to think of a subject for my next contribution to the Magazine and was getting more and more frustrated as the spark of inspiration continued to elude me.

Halfway through the chicken soup I exclaimed "That's it!" – the subject that everyone has an interest in – Jewish food! That's what I was going to write about. So it was with the satisfied feeling of having solved a problem, I finished my lunch and settled into my armchair for my traditional Shabbat afternoon 'schlof'.

At the earliest opportunity after Shabbat I logged on to google to begin my research but found little inspiration in the few obvious facts available. I decided to try the British Library. By showing my Shul bill as identification I was allowed access to the 'Religious Cultural' section and it was there I found a book with a strange title - "Cholent – Rise and Fall" by Adrian West.

It was a small volume but intrigued by the title I took it to the desk and began reading. The tale that unfolded was absolutely fascinating. It was the story of the author's great-grandfather Nathaniel Wezcminski, a Polish immigrant who had come to England in the early part of the nineteenth century. He was a financier by profession and he couldn't have landed at a better time.

The Industrial Revolution was well under way and with it came the inventors, the entrepreneurs, the investors and the gamblers

all with get rich quick schemes but lacking the capital to start. Not every plan worked but it only needed one successful idea to get the money rolling in and he soon found himself mixing with the new Middle Class. They met in coffee houses in the City where traditionally business was discussed and transacted. To integrate more easily with his potential clients he adopted an English name – Nathaniel Westminster. It was at one of these coffee house venues that he encountered a young railway engineer with the rather strange sounding name of Isambard Kingdom Brunel (obviously not his real name). They struck up a friendship which was enhanced when they discovered they were lantzmen. Brunel's actual name was Israel Brunevitch and he confided to his new friend his plans to build a railway from London to the West country. He had already reached as far as Slough but had run out of money.

Nathaniel became interested in how the railways operated so Brunel took him on a short train journey. Nathaniel, became hooked on trains and researched their development. He marvelled at the ingenuity of the men who had made it possible for a machine to move along a track without using horses. He read about other Jewish immigrants such as Thomas Newcomen, originally Tzvi Nussman, who first harnessed the power of steam, James Watt (Yaakov Weinstein), who had invented the condenser making the steam engine more efficient, Richard Trevithick (Yitzchak Zimmerman) who first put wheels on an engine and ran it on rails and George Stephenson (who was not Jewish), who had actually designed and constructed his own engine which in competition had attained a safe speed of more than twenty miles an hour.

Nathaniel was excited by the idea of being involved in Brunel's scheme but he had to consider the financial risks. The thing that bothered him most was the source of power. Coal which was then used to heat the boiler was not a particularly efficient way to generate and use heat. As soon as coal had burnt, it was of no further use. He wanted to find something to harness the heat and store it for continuous application.

If you have read this story thus far you may be wondering where Cholent comes in. Have patience dear reader and all will be revealed.

It was late on a Friday afternoon that Nathaniel had that 'Eureka' moment. He had looked across to the fireplace where his Cholent pot hung above the stove. There were two things he noticed. The cooked cholent was bubbling in the pot and lifting the heavy

iron lid; and also, the heat from the cholent seemed as great, if not greater than the heat from the fire, although the cholent itself was not burning. He had found a new source of power!

Brunel was of course familiar with Cholent and was not surprised by Nathaniel's discovery. Between them they devised a plan to run the railways using this new power source. Each engine would have an oven tender containing several shelves of pre-heated Cholent pots on trays. The idea was to make an initial coal fire to heat the boiler and then place trays of Cholent underneath to maintain the heat. An extra pot could always be added for 'Full Steam Ahead' mode. There would be a Cholent kitchen at each station so a supply of fresh Cholent could be maintained and the Cholent offloaded could be supplied to passengers in the waiting rooms. Later a restaurant coach was added to the trains so that Cholent could be ordered and eaten en route.

The project initially met with huge success but sadly this was not to last. The railways expanded so rapidly and the public flocked to this new mode of transport in huge numbers. People who had nowhere to go were booking train journeys just for the experience of eating Cholent. So great was the demand that the supply of Cholent could not be maintained. The problem was - shortage of potatoes, the principle ingredient of all Cholent. To address this, the pair of entrepreneurs bought up large tracts of land to grow potatoes. A large area of land near the Borough of Hackney was, for a time in the nineteenth century, one big potato field, which the locals called Spudsfield. The produce was distributed through a small vegetable market near the edge of the City. This became known as Spudsfield market. Salisbury Plain was also utilised, being on Brunel's route to the West. It was still not enough and potatoes were being shipped across from Ireland where there was at that time a plentiful supply.

It was all looking good – too good! Problems were looming. Firstly, some big city investors who had put large sums of money into coal mines, saw ever diminishing returns. Many of these investors were members of parliament. The land owners were becoming more disgruntled. They had been persuaded to sell their land too quickly when they would have been better advised to keep the land and sell the potatoes. Members of the English aristocracy who owned land in Ireland did exactly this. However there was an even greater problem. So eager were the English land owners to cash in on their rich Irish potato crop that they sold

more than the land could readily produce. This led to the great Irish Famine, a national scandal which came to the attention of Queen Victoria and she summoned the Prime Minister of the day, who happened to have the unfortunate name of Robert Peel (no connection with potatoes). Parliament had to act quickly and they did so. A new law was passed which said all railway engines had to be licensed, and the conditions for granting a licence included the requirement that they run only on coal. All records of the potato industry were expunged from Company records. The newspapers were given the story that the Irish famine was a natural disaster. The large field in Hackney where the potato crop had been left to rot, had, after a very wet winter become a quagmire and was thereafter generally referred to as the Hackney Marshes. The name Spudsfield Market was erased from all local maps. It continued as a trading centre for fruit and vegetables but under the revised name of Spitalfields after the church which stood nearby. Brunel gave up his railway venture and took up steamship design. When that failed he went to Jersey to escape his creditors. There, his knowledge of potatoes enabled him to create a new strain of the vegetable which became known as the Jersey Potato. Nathaniel Westminster went back to his original profession as a financial adviser and in fact started up a bank. By that time he had shortened his name to Nat West.

By the time I got to the end of the book I must have fallen asleep because someone was tapping me on the shoulder saying "Sir! It's time!". I assumed it was the Library attendant and it was closing time, but as I roused myself I realised I was not in the reading room of the British Library. I was at home in my armchair and it was my wife who was shaking me saying "Cyril! It's time – you have to get back to Shul for Mincha". As I trudged back to Shul with my collar turned up against the elements, I still could not believe it had all been a dream. As soon as I got home I could not resist looking up facts about the Industrial Revolution and the history of the nineteenth century. All the people in the book I had dreamt about were there although there was no mention of their Jewish origin. The tragedy of the Great Irish Potato Famine actually happened, though thankfully the Jews were not involved. Nevertheless I always feel that when I mention the word Cholent in the company of Irishmen I am met with blank stares and an uncomfortable silence. Perhaps I am just being too sensitive.

'The 49 Day Count'



IMAGINE yourself dressed to impress; super smart, hair done and sunglasses on. You know that you are turning heads when you walk into a room. What you don't know is that there is an elastic with one end attached to your back and the other end tied to the door handle. You look like you're really going places, in every sense of the words, but in reality you keep being pulled back to the beginning again. You keep trying to leave and make progress, but you keep finding yourself back at the door. The best you can hope for is to go as far forward as the elastic will stretch, and then keep walking on the spot. If you really want to move forward, the only thing to do is to cut the elastic. So where are you going to go now? It doesn't matter - all that matters is that you are no longer being held back and now you can move forward.

We are about to celebrate Pesach. On the second night we start counting the Omer - the forty-nine day count that takes us from Egypt to Mount Sinai, from Pesach to Shavuot. The Torah commands us to count these forty-nine days, but it never tells us what we are counting towards. It just tells us to count. When we left Egypt, only twenty percent of the Jews decided to leave. Surely if we had been given a goal - if we had known that after forty-nine days we would have reached Sinai and received the Torah from Hashem Himself - it would have given us more incentive to cut our ties to Egypt and move forward in our new, national future? It would have encouraged us to let go of our slave mentality and move towards something greater and more meaningful. But it doesn't - we just need to count, to let go of the past and move forward and we will find the future when we get there. Stage one was to cut the elastic because without that clean break, irrespective of all other factors, we would have run the risk

of staying attached to our past and never made true progress.

There are many things in our personal lives that we keep coming back to - that hold us back - even though we may intellectually know that we would feel better and freer to move forward if we could fully let go. As long as we hold on to them, we are enslaved to them to an extent. They are our personal taskmasters who

are keeping us tied down and stopping us from being free. These constraints may be psychological, emotional or geographical. They may be real or imagined. What would happen if we let them go, cut the elastic? Who knows? We may have been held back for so long that it seems normal to walk on the spot and we can't imagine what moving forward would look like. Like eighty percent of the Jews in Egypt, we may be afraid of what real freedom will bring and we might choose to stay with the devil we know.

Pesach is the perfect time to reflect on who we are, where we come from, and where we could go if we can cut our ties to the past. I believe this is true both on a personal and communal level. As a shul, Redbridge United has now existed for three years. In Judaism, doing something three times implies permanence. Our shul is something to be proud of, it's here to stay. We have an opportunity this Pesach to let go of our baggage, cut our ties to feelings that may be holding us back, and embrace a new stage in the growth of the shul.

My husband, daughters and I are committed to working with you to create a warm, inclusive and forward-thinking community. We have some ideas of how to help things move forward, and we want you to come with us for the journey. Where will the shul be in one, five, ten years' time? I don't know yet, but I am excited for the journey. I'm prepared to cut the elastic and start taking those steps into the future. Are you coming with me?

**'Steps
into
the
future'**

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Rebbetzen Siobhan



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Synagogues of Europe

THE LAST few years on our travels we have endeavored to seek out local synagogues. We have found ones in Dubrovnik, Florence, Rhodes and others.

This last year was no exception. On our Russian cruise we visited St. Petersburg Synagogue and later in the year the Synagogue in Lisbon.

St. Petersburg

The Grand Choral Synagogue is situated near The Mariinsky theatre in a small side street, but it is a huge building, the second largest Synagogue in Europe. Alexander II (one of the more lenient Czars), gave permission for the Jews of St. Petersburg to build the Grand Choral to replace existing buildings, as early as 1869. The new Czar Alexander III approved the plans in 1883, and eventually the opening ceremony took place in 1893. Many important persons attended including Tolstoy. The building can accommodate well over 1230 persons (734 men).

The Jews of Petrograd (St. Petersburg) welcomed the overthrow of the Czar in 1917 and all looked good, but the October coup ruined the plans for the normal existence of the Jewish community and it became more difficult to survive and there was much religious persecution. In 1930, the Synagogue

was ordered to close by the Leningrad Soviet. However, the Synagogue was reopened one year later for fear of international protest. The Synagogue survived the terrible nine hundred-day siege of Leningrad 1941/3. In one heated room a minyan would gather to pray for victory. The building then fell into disrepair during the years of Soviet authority until the 1990's. A patron of the arts Edmond Safra sponsored restoration and reconstruction. In June 2001 the grand opening of the renovated Grand Prayer Hall took place.

Lisbon

The current Hebrew community of Lisbon originates from groups of Sephardic Jews in Portugal at the beginning of the 19th Century. Jews were let back in from 1820 after they were expelled during the Inquisition. These settlers were mainly of above average intelligence, were merchants and brought their commercial expertise to improve the Portuguese economy. From about 1810 there were several houses that served as prayer halls. Eventually land was purchased at 59 Alexandra Herculano Street for a "proper" Synagogue. It had to be built inside a walled yard, since it was not allowed frontage to the public road as the Catholic religion was then the official religion of the State. The first stone was laid in 1902 and completion of The Shaare-Tikva Synagogue took place in 1904.

Lisbon became an important haven for refugees in WW2. As a neutral country many Jews, and of course others made the tortuous journey to Lisbon. It is estimated that transit



Lisbon Synagogue

visas were issued to one hundred thousand refugees.

On our guided tour we were told that an extra ladies section was added to the Synagogue because of the influx.

After the “Carnation” revolution in 1974 (a bloodless army coup), politics changed, the borders were opened, democracy returned, entry was gained to the European Union and this allowed Jewish Citizens from different countries to enter Portugal. Though, today there are only about 400/500 Jews in Portugal in Lisbon and Oporto. The community is just about

surviving but I believe there has been an increase in Jews seeking Portuguese passports from countries such as France and now of course Spain.

In addition, there could be a number of Marronos in Portugal who could now flourish.

Kosher meat must be flown in and it is a struggle to maintain the Synagogue and Jewish life.

Tours and visits of the Synagogue must be booked in advance, which we did via the Internet. Entrance is five Euros, but larger donations are welcomed.

Elaine and Bernard Chaplin

Balfour Centenary Ceremony

ON Sunday 29th October Linda and I visited a very special Synagogue, the New West End Synagogue in Bayswater. This beautiful and historic building is Grade One Listed by English Heritage and is well worth a visit. But on this occasion, although admiring the columns, arches and colourful stain-glass windows, we were there to attend a special ceremony co-hosted by the New West End Synagogue and the United Synagogue in recognition and celebration of the Centenary of the Balfour Declaration. Also present were the Guests of Honour: Chief Rabbi, Ephraim Mirvis and HE Ambassador of Israel, Mark Regev.

As the President of the United Synagogue, Michael Goldstein wrote in the Event Programme “we remember with gratitude the role that the then Foreign Secretary, Arthur Balfour and the British Government played in the formation of the modern State of Israel. Although the modern State of Israel was not established for another thirty years, the declaration set the process in motion which allowed Jews to regain sovereignty of their Homeland; something that had not happened since the destruction of the Second Temple thousands of years before.”

Four of the most influential Jews involved in the Balfour Declaration were members of the New West End Synagogue, one of the earliest United Synagogue communities. Lobbying in favour were Herbert Samuel, Lord Lionel Walter Rothschild, second Baron Rothschild and Chaim Weizmann. Lobbying against was

Edwin Samuel Montagu. Chaim Weizmann later became the First President of the State of Israel.

Following a welcome by Rabbi of the New West End Synagogue, Rabbi Dr Moshe Freedman, Baroness Ruth Deech DBE read The Balfour Declaration and the response by Chief Rabbi Hertz.

In his speech, Chief Rabbi, Ephraim Mirvis spoke about the history of the Jews preceding the Balfour Declaration explaining “We never lost touch with our land”.

HE Ambassador of Israel, Mark Regev paid tribute to Britain for the Balfour Declaration and the legacy it had given to Israel of freedom and democracy. The importance of Balfour was not that Britain gave Jews the right to a homeland - its importance was that Britain



HE Ambassador of Israel
Mark Regev

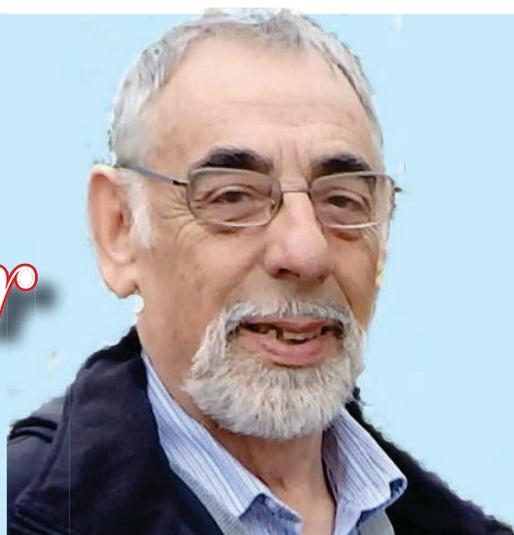
recognised that right. In this way, Balfour was an historic document and part of a chain of events, a milestone on the path to Jewish independence and sovereignty. Britain had played a crucial role in helping to create the Middle East’s only democracy.

Two young members of the synagogue gave readings relating to Balfour, and the Ceremony ended with the National Anthem and Hatikvah.

It was a very moving ceremony and one that we were glad to have attended.

Philippa Stanton

London Taxi Driver Speak



BY STUART PESSOK

IT WON'T come as a surprise that through its four hundred years of history, London's cab trade created a language of its own - slang expressions describing work practices, passengers, pet names given to ranks, venues and buildings and nicknames earned by drivers because of their looks, mannerisms or where they lived or which rank they used. In addition, there has never been a shortage of good stories to be told, many of which have become part of taxi trade folklore.

Athenaeum Club

Cab drivers of old referred to this establishment in Pall Mall as 'Spit and Cough', no doubt rhyming slang for 'Toff' as only the upper-class could afford to become members of this exclusive men's club. (It wasn't until 2002 that women were allowed entry.)

A statue that stands over the entrance to the Athenaeum has been the subject of much controversy over the years with many thinking it to be Athene, goddess of wisdom, but according to cab folklore, she was a mere mortal who got a job at the club as a waitress. On her first day there, after serving a well-known and powerful author, she held out her hand for a tip. The enraged author gave her a look that turned her to stone! After the inquest, the club committee decided to give her a helmet and a spear to make her look properly statuesque, and set her up over the doorway as a warning to others. There the poor girl stands to this day, still holding out her empty hand.

Butter Boy

A newcomer to the cab trade is called a 'Butter Boy', a name derived from 'Butter-Basher' a phrase coined during the 1913 cab

strike. Strikers believed that the police were trying to help the companies to break the strike by granting a large number of licences to new drivers without putting them through the usual severe driving and Knowledge of London tests.

These new drivers, it was rumoured, were mostly unemployed shop assistants, drawn mainly from the 'grocery and provision' trade. In those days, the most conspicuous man behind a provision counter was the one who carved up the large blocks of butter and patted each rough chunk with his flat wooden paddles into the size and weight the customer required.



Still waiting for a tip

Contemptuous cabmen called these blacklegs 'Butter-Bashers'. When the cabmen returned to work, victorious, each and every stranger on the ranks was naturally referred to as another 'butter-basher'. In time, its blackleg significance faded; it became shortened to "Butter Boy" although now that there are a significant number of women driving cabs, perhaps 'Butter Boy' is no longer Politically Correct.

In the late 40s, a Butter Boy made an appearance on the Shoreditch rank, and after narrating a tale of his experience with a fare he was nicknamed 'Four legs a shilling', here's why. Sid, his real name, picked up a fare carrying a small occasional table. Sid insisted that the table should be carried outside of the cab and the customer agreed. At the end of the journey Sid asked the fare for a shilling for the small table. The fare reminded Sid that the tariff board inside said threepence an article. Sid explained that the table had four legs at threepence each, which makes one shilling. Forever more Sid was known as 'Four legs a shilling'.

In those days, the Shoreditch rank was situated outside the entrance to the church in the main road. Fuel was rationed and the small manufacturers in that area relied on cabs to deliver their goods. The rank was equipped with a telephone and local dressmakers would phone for a cab to carry their dresses to the various wholesalers; the cab was a cheap form of transport. One day, 'Four legs a shilling' answered the phone and was ordered to a dressmaker's address in Bethnal Green. On arrival the fare brought out a rope and started to fix it in the rear of the taxi between the passenger doors in order to hang up his dresses. This was the usual method used at that time.

As the fare began to put the dresses on the rope, Sid appeared to be taking a deep interest in the procedure. The man asked, "Are you interested in the dressmaking business?" "No," said Sid, "I am counting them, and my charge is threepence for each dress!" The fare became angry and told Sid no cabman had ever charged him in this way. He tried to bargain with Sid, but Sid was adamant and would not budge. In protest, the fare took away the dresses and the rope but Sid was unmoved. He asked for the fare of four shillings and eighty-four dresses at threepence each. The fare told him to get stuffed!

Sid summoned the dressmaker and the case was heard at Old Street Magistrates Court. The dressmaker was represented by a solicitor and confident he would win the case. Sid presented himself. Following a half-hour address by the solicitor, obviously trying to justify his fee, the magistrate adjourned the case until the afternoon. On returning to the court the magistrate issued his verdict: "The cabman was greedy and unreasonable, but I have no choice. I have to give judgement in the cabman's favour. Eighty-four dresses at threepence each, four shillings on the meter, plus £2 costs."

In the eyes of 'Four legs a shilling' the law was upheld but the dressmaker had the last laugh. He bought an old cab and used it to transport his garments and every time he passed the Shoreditch rank he would sound the hooter and stick two fingers up to the cab drivers.

In 1932 another Butter Boy was to earn a nickname after introducing himself to drivers on the Russell Square rank. Except for his sandals he was dressed all in green, a dark green, like a Harrods van. Brandishing a magazine called 'Health and Strength', he would tell drivers how to keep fit and the benefits of not smoking, keeping one's weight down and the dangers of pollution. All equally alien to drivers who enjoyed smoking, tucking in to a hearty meal, with the nearest to exercising being the cranking of the cab's starting handle!

He wouldn't miss an opportunity to preach his doctrine and although drivers would poke fun at him, the man they nicknamed 'Tarzan' never seemed to be offended. Unfortunately, 'Tarzan' never got to enjoy old age. One day he was crossing Oxford Street totally engrossed in a health magazine when he was knocked down and fatally injured. He was as a cab driver would say, 'Brown Bread!'

Junior Woman of the Year

Mazal Tov to Michal Singer who has been nominated Junior Woman of the Year. Michal celebrated her Bat Mitzvah on 21 October 2017. Mazal Tov to her parents Rabbi Yaakov and Shani Singer. Extended Mazal Tov wishes go to Yael, Yonatan, Zecharia and Ora, as well as to Rev Stewart and Lorraine Myers and Rabbi David and Judy Singer. A special Mazal Tov to great-grandparents Ron and Ruth Singer.

A Trip to Poland

By SAUL LEVENE



THERE is nowhere on Earth as black as the death camps, and so it becomes increasingly difficult to answer the well-meant questions of 'How did you find it? Was it meaningful? How was Poland?'. What is the correct response to give after going through hell? What would satisfy the asker?

My trip was a standard trip to Poland, apart from the extra two and a half days we ended up spending there because of the snow in London. Ironically, the best food we had was on the last two days, after the trip had officially ended.

We visited Majdanek, Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Warsaw Ghetto and cemetery, Chelmno as well as former Yeshivas and burial-places of great rabbis.

Our tour guide was Tzvi Sperber, the director of JRoots and we all felt very lucky to have him. With him, it was a constant whirlwind of emotion. One moment we were all in tears, the next we were dancing and singing our hearts out.

The stories he told brought life to the places, and helped us connect more to the individuals than to the numbers. One story of the birth of a child somehow carried throughout Auschwitz and eventually delivered in the toilets was particularly moving. The baby was delivered by Gisella Perl, and subsequently drowned in the toilets in order to protect the life of the mother. Both mother and doctor survived Auschwitz and delivered another baby together, several years after liberation in Mount Sinai Hospital, New York.

What moved me most however, were the mass graves. It is one thing to stand where people were killed, but another to stand where they are buried after being coldly shot through the head and piled like sardines.

We were literally standing upon the bones of our ancestors, and this got me thinking. We are always standing upon the bones of our ancestors, much in the same way as our society is standing on the shoulders of giants.

Our society is intrinsically dead. Or if not dead then living inside the corpse of its father. No one alive invented democracy, the rights of the individual, medicine, the microchip or electricity. The buildings that we stand in and the pavements that we walk on have been built by the dead.

When I stood in a mass grave, it made me realise the huge debt of gratitude we all owe to the dead. In the same way, the best way to honour the dead is by building on what they left behind. What did the Jews who died in the Holocaust leave behind? They left behind the living. The best way to honour the dead, is to live with a knowledge that we too will end up under the ground, and that our lives are not to be thrown away.

I came away from the trip with a few new insights. It forced me to think about how frail the human body is, and how cheap life is in so many places. The Holocaust is the only genocide with the aim of complete

*'To go to
Poland
is to go
to Hell'*

extermination of a people, but it is by no means the only genocide. The Soviet Union, China, Cambodia, Rwanda, the list goes on. People die, and people die easily and human beings are capable of great evil.

I came away from a children's grave with the knowledge that I wanted to be a better son. Often, parents were made to choose which child to keep, or parents and children were separated in a moment, never to see each other again.

I suppose the greatest insight I've gained from Poland is the idea of fragility. My life will end, my parents will eventually leave me, I'm able to practice my religion right now, but for

most of history that has not been the case. The morality of the world is in flux too, it's not a given fact that people know right from wrong, and it's far too easy for great evil to be committed by ordinary men, with wives and children. The people who committed the Holocaust were not monsters, and they were not forced into it on pains of death. No one was forced to kill a Jew. The idea that in a different circumstance, I could have been a Nazi camp guard, brings into question my own moral compass.

Going to Poland did change me. It forced me to wake up to some uncomfortable truths. I hope I'll take heed of them.

We Will Remember Them

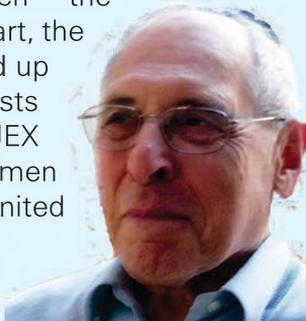
By Tony Levine

THE AJEX Shabbat (Association of Jewish ex-servicemen and women) was held at Ilford United Synagogue on 18 November 2017.

By 9.30am when the service was due to start, the shul had steadily filled up with the invited guests and members of AJEX including ex-servicemen from Redbridge United Synagogue.

The invited guests were: Councillor Mrs Linda Huggett, Mayor of Redbridge; Councillor Ashley Kissin, Deputy Mayor; Mrs Hilary Kissin, Deputy Mayoress; Councillor Ronnie Barden, Past Mayor and Leader of the Council; Councillor Alan Weinberg; Councillor Keith Prince, GLA member for Havering and Redbridge; Wes Streeting, Member of Parliament for Ilford North; Mike Gapes, Member of Parliament for Ilford South.

The morning continued with the traditional Shabbat service until it reached the time for the Prayers for the Royal Family, for the safety of the British Armed Forces and for the State of Israel and its Defence Forces. There followed Memorial Prayers for the men and women of HM Forces who died through enemy action; for the men, women and children who perished under the Nazis in the Holocaust; and for the men and women who



died in battle to establish the State of Israel. The congregation then sang Psalm 121 Esa Enai (I will lift up my eyes).

Mr Maurice Conway was then invited to deliver the Oration. Maurice served in World War Two in the Royal Canadian Airforce (420 Squadron) as a rear gunner taking part in thirty-five raids across Europe. (Not to be confused with Redbridge Synagogue's own Maurice Conway who served in the Royal Engineers in WW2). The Oration: "Let us remember all the men and women of the British Commonwealth of Nations and Israel who gave their lives in defence of freedom. They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them."

The congregation responded with one united voice "We will remember them". There was one minute's silence and the oration concluded with the words "When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today".

The service continued with the Sermon by Rabbi Hyman, the Mussaf prayers and concluded with the enthusiastic singing of the Hatikvah, the National Anthem and Adon Alom.

After the service there was a splendid Chulant Kiddush prepared by the Ladies Committee of Ilford United Synagogue.

This special Shabbat Service was a most moving occasion and it was a privilege to have been present.

The Time of our Freedom

WE call Pesach a time of freedom Z'man Cheiruseinu.. This concept makes lots of sense in the context of the Jewish people who left Egypt. Once they had left Egypt, and were no longer constrained by any other laws other than the laws of the Torah. They didn't have to pay taxes. They didn't have to go to the army, or vote for parliament. They were truly free.

However, there have been many thousands of years from the giving of the Torah until this very moment when the Jewish people have been anything but free. We have been sent into exile time and time again. Year after year, we have faced persecution. We were not free to live our lives as we wished. Is this freedom?

The holy Maharal explains that on Pesach we eat Matza - which is called poor man's bread. The reason that Matza is poor, is not because of the quality of the flour, or the fact that it hasn't risen enough. It is because the Matza, like the poor person only has enough for the basics. A poor man just has enough to keep body and soul together. Similarly, the Matza has no frills to it - it has no oil or honey to make it sweeter or more enticing. It is the bare bones of bread - no more, and no less.

The Maharal explains that true freedom is realising who we are on our most simple level. We are like the basics of bread - the physicality of the grain and the spirituality of the water which represents Torah and spirituality which are fused into one thing - the Matza. If we want to be truly free, we need to look at ourselves, and say "who am I?" This question transcends beyond external exile.

The trouble is that those basics of who we are become compromised by so many things, which we are told to believe enrich our lives. We gain more wealth and possessions, and we do things which we believe will enhance our lives. We complicate our lives with wasteful pursuits and we believe that complication

enhances our lives. The reality is very different. We confuse ourselves and the things we do with who we are. I must be great because I have a lot of money, and I wear a Carducci suit. I must be an exciting person because I gamble or drink. The more we add to our perceptions of ourselves, the more we become that perception rather than who we are. The greater the prestige, the more expensive the car, the less free we are

My blessing is that we may find ourselves over this Yom Tov. That we look into ourselves and recognise our true strengths, our true character traits, that we go back to basics, and unearth that basic beautiful soul so it can shine free in all its glory.

Good Yom Tov!

Rabbi Steven Danksy

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Renewal of Vows

Four couples who are members of Redbridge United Synagogue have each celebrated their Golden Wedding

Anniversary by renewing their vows.

Three of the couples were married at Hackney Synagogue in Brenthouse Road, East London.

The Service was officiated by Rev. Gary Newman, Minister of Redbridge Synagogue.



The couples are: Adele and Michael Trainis; Ann and Michael Belson; Natalie and Richard Rubin and Sandra and Brian Angel. This is in order from left to right on the attached photo.

Ann Belson

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'The Wind Beneath OUR Wings'

By Victor Shafier

IT HAS been a long time since Rabbi Wilson left but the Synagogue work and services have continued seamlessly all due to the quiet efficiency of Leslie Linder.

The running and day to day tasks of organising the Synagogue landed in the hands of Leslie, the most unassuming person I know. The amount of work and effort he puts into the Synagogue is appreciated by so few. Leslie is one of the first to arrive each morning. He makes sure that everything is properly organised, and the Safer Torah is rolled and at the correct place. His care in this respect is clinical.

On a Shabbat you see him on the Bimah taking an active part in the Service, and he has a very persuasive ability to shmooze members to support the morning and evening minyanim.

Many of you may know that Leslie has issues with his sight, but this does not in any way hamper his fervour and commitment. In reality Redbridge United Synagogue would be the poorer if it was not blessed with Leslie. There are those of us who support him, particularly the regular minyan men, a group of mainly retired members who rise very early no matter what the weather, summer and in the depths of winter.

Over the years Leslie has been offered many awards and senior lay positions within the synagogue but, he has always refused them. He has said many times that the greatest reward that would please him would be the attendance of as many of you as possible to support all the minyanim that are essential to enable us to honour our departed ones.

Now with the imminent arrival of Rabbi Danksy I think it most fitting that Leslie's efforts and achievements should be recorded. On behalf of the whole community we give thanks to Leslie and with Hashem's blessing may he continue serving in his modest way for many years.

Mitzvah Day

19 November 2017

FOR our Mitzvah Day project this year we arranged to work with New Chapters - a business that sells second-hand books online – with a difference. Those who work at New Chapters are Langdon members with learning disabilities. This is usually their first step into the world of work. They learn the importance of punctuality, responsibility, hard work, and interacting with the social nature of the workplace – all skills that people in work need. The revenue made from selling the books helps to run New Chapters.

Also, in conjunction with RJCC we collected non-perishable food items and toiletries for GIFT.

Gordon Miller and David Langdorf, who arranged the collections write as follows:

"We would like to thank all those who donated books and toiletries for our Mitzvah Day projects. The amount of books far exceeded our expectations and will ensure that those involved with Langdon College in the 'New Chapters' project will benefit greatly with improving both their work and life skills.

Your donations to GIFT will ensure that those in the community who need support in obtaining what the rest of us consider to be the 'simple' things in life will be able to maintain a better standard of living than may otherwise have been the case.

Once again, our grateful thanks and we look forward to your continued support.

**Gordon Miller
and David Langdorf**

Our Welfare Committee



WE are still endeavouring to call our members between the ages of sixty to sixty-nine, but need some more volunteers to help us with this enormous task. Whilst some of our younger members have been surprised to receive calls from us, our main aim has always been to make our members aware that we are there to help in any way we can. Also, it is one way of trying to establish the make-up of our membership since we became Redbridge United Synagogue over three years ago. If you can help the committee, please contact the shul office.

The committee has discussed whether it would be possible for each of its members to keep in regular contact with a shul member who has limited contact with people in general. We have not yet begun to do this as there are quite a few of our members who would need to be called. If you think this is something that you could help the committee with, please contact the shul office.

We continue to keep in contact with members with either Reverend Newman ringing/visiting to offer condolences to those bereaved or to wish members congratulations on reaching an eighty-plus birthday or for a special occasion. Furthermore, one of our committee members also sends out cards to members who are celebrating an event. To our surprise, some members have either emailed the shul or sent a letter thanking us for all our help. Phone calls and visits are also made by Reverend Newman to members who are unwell or have just come home from hospital. It is hoped that, in due course, committee members will be able to visit members whilst in hospital.

Following a suggestion from another committee member, we have now asked our members to let us know if a member of their family is going away to university. Keeping in touch with our younger members is very important which we hope will signify that

wherever they are, they can contact us should they need us.

However, to date the shul has not received any calls to this effect but looks forward to being contacted in the future.

Unfortunately, a fact of life is the loss of family members. We know from members that the support that Reverend Newman has given during times of bereavement, post sitting shiva, coming to Friday night dinner or Shabbat lunch and stone settings, has been fantastic. Furthermore, where possible, we have also been able to visit members sitting shiva or ringing them to send our condolences. Again, members have been very appreciative and in our humble way, it is our honour to assist in any way we can.

We know that more and more women would like to say kaddish/prayer for their loved ones. There is a kaddish book in shul. When Reverend Newman visits members who have been bereaved he brings a yazrheit candle and card round to the mourners. The kaddish book for women can also be requested and brought to the shiva house as saying this prayer can be very comforting for women mourners.

Some of our members have attended training sessions organised by the United Synagogue to try and help our members in different ways. At a recent meeting with other shul Care Co-ordinators, Reverend Newman and I were able to talk with the representatives from one of our local shuls. We hope to meet up with them shortly. Furthermore, since Redbridge United Synagogue's formation, the United Synagogue has been very impressed with the way it has worked with its members in relation to welfare issues. Because of this I have personally been asked to sit on the

United Synagogue's Care Co-ordinator's Advisory Group and have duly accepted the position. I hope that whatever learning is gained from this position, will be of considerable help to many of our members.

Reverend Newman lit the Chanukah candles at Sinclair House on a few occasions as well as joining in with the singing of Maoz Tsur with those who were at the day centre. Furthermore, Reverend Newman, together with members of the committee, visited the Vi & John Rubens Care Home, Winningales Court and Limewood Court Retirement Apartments also to celebrate the lighting of the Chanukah candles. Everyone joined in with singing Maoz Tsur as well as partaking of latkes and chocolates. I am pleased to say that everyone thoroughly enjoyed our visits.

We are always looking for new initiatives. Recently we have discussed whether it would be possible for some of our members to hold afternoon tea in their own homes for other members. Would it be possible to hold an afternoon tea in Sinclair House every three months, but again this needs to be discussed further? However, I am in contact with Jewish Care and another local shul who already offer this, and I hope to have meetings with them to see if we can link up. Perhaps afternoon teas could help some of our members who have the same/similar interests to form a friendship. If this is something that is of interest to you, please contact the shul office.

Reverend Newman together with the Welfare Committee, wish you all a Chag Sameach Pesach.

LORRAINE SILVER

Chairman - Welfare Committee

Spirit to Spirit

AN inspirational evening was held at the home of Reverend and Mrs Gary Newman in January. This was the first, I hope, of many evening talks that will be given by Rabbi Steven Dansky who is now our senior Rabbi. Together with his wife, Rebbetzen Siobhan Dansky, I feel that this dynamic couple will indeed raise our spirits in more ways than one!

And so, let me return to the evening in question where a different type of spirit was on offer; spiritual guidance together with the liquid form including other refreshments for those of us who could not partake. The evening, led by Rabbi Dansky, introduced an interesting concept of when should we go to the aid of others without risking our own life. Initially the discussion revolved around a case study but, as is usually the case, members' experiences were brought to the fore and many differences of opinion were expressed. Traditional Rabbinical application and interpretation was also introduced which gave those present more food for thought.

After an hour of lively, insightful and enjoyable interaction between Rabbi Dansky and both male and female members of the shul, the discussion concluded. A hearty thank you was extended to Rabbi Dansky who departed to eat a well deserved evening meal at home whilst the rest of us delved into the delicious cakes provided by Reverend and Mrs Gary Newman. We are now looking forward to the next 'spiritual' evening and hope that more shul members will come along and enjoy great discussion, company and refreshments.

Lorraine Silver

Calling All Parents

Did you know that if you have a new baby, the United Synagogue will give you a present?

The baby gift pack contains some essential items they feel could be useful for the new baby and family. These items include: a Mazal Tov card, a heat changing spoon, a bib, a trolley key ring, a foldable shopping bag, a bracha card to bless children on Friday night and a PJ Library book.

All you have to do is tell the Shul about the birth of the baby so that he/she can be added to your family's membership records. Your baby will then become a member of Tribe covered under their parents' membership until they are twenty-one years of age, and new parents will be informed of the great groups and opportunities they can be involved in with their new born and as a US family. This is part of the US Tribe Experience.

Make sure your Bundle of Joy does not miss out.

Linda Stanton

The Four Sons— Why are they different?



By Rev. Stewart Myers

THE Torah as we know contains 613 Mitzvot - two hundred and forty eight positive and three hundred and sixty five negative. Among these Mitzvot or commandments are our obligations to keep and observe the “Sloshim Regalim” the Three Pilgrim Festivals. They are Pesach, Shavuot and Succot. Each festival or Yom Tov has its own personality, laws and customs.

There is an obligation for children to be taught by their fathers about the Exodus from Egypt. This mitzvah is encompassed in the words, “V’higgad’ta l’vincha’ta- You shall teach your son...” on that day (Exodus 13:18). The Hebrew text uses the word, “V’higgad’ta- you shall tell” and this is the origin of the word “Haggadah”, the book we read from on Seder night.

The Haggadah is one of Judaism’s favourite books and many people buy a new one every year, with many interpretations and commentaries that are new and those that go back hundreds of years. Haggadot and explanations are widely available with English translations and comments. So reading from a new Haggadah, those around the Seder table, both adults and children, will have the opportunity to learn something new every Pesach. For example the theme of education is dealt with in the passage that involves four sons sitting around the table. Each son has a different personality and approaches the Seder night ritual in a different way. Through Rabbinic explanations of the verses we learn that one son is wise, one son is wicked, one is simple and one does not know how to ask! Each child has a different outlook on what is happening. Each son seems to have a different viewpoint regarding Jewish law. Perhaps one sits there in silence, while another makes a sarcastic remark.

This quartet is not necessarily a “Fab Four” but, they are certainly a mixture. The wise one is knowledgeable in Jewish practice and the wicked one is rebellious. The simple son is uncomplicated or straightforward and the one who doesn’t know how to ask questions may be very young or shy or has difficulty in expressing himself. Just by being at the Seder is a step in the right direction. However, the Haggadah would like all the sons to contribute something to the Seder night activities. This idea in itself is an important marker in how we should all be involved in our Jewish way of life. Everyone has a part to play and everyone has a chance to learn more about Jewish practice and history. Pesach has a special place for us as we celebrate together with family and friends as we sit down in order to experience a re-enactment of those inspiring events of thousands of years ago.

The section on the four sons illustrates the variety of guests who have taken up the invitation to “Come and join us for Seder night”. The recitation of this section gives a marvellous opportunity for role play by those present. There is nothing more enjoyable than listening to others pretending to be one of the four sons. Accents and dialects can be employed both seriously and humorously. With a bit of imagination the Seder can be brought alive virtually at any part.

Following on from “Mah Nishtanah’s” timeless opening question, “Why/How is this night different from all other nights?” the Seder leader can have a Pesach quiz up his sleeve. For the wordsmiths at the table, how about short poems or limericks composed there and then. Whatever activity is used to enhance the evening, satisfaction can be gained by knowing that each individual has a

special place at the Seder table regardless of their level of knowledge or observance.

I found the following question and appropriate answer in a Haggadah incorporating commentaries and explanations by Rabbi Moshe Bogomilsky of New York City. Why is the Hebrew word "Echad" (one) mentioned before each of the four sons? I quote his explanation: generally the word "Echad" explains the oneness of Hashem. He takes his idea from the first sentence of the Shema - "Shema Yisrael Hashem Elokeinu Hashem Echad" – Hear O Israel, Hashem is our G-d, Hashem is One. The Haggadah is teaching us that every Jew, regardless of what he openly declares about Hashem and the Torah, still has a spark of Hashem in him. Therefore it is right, proper and necessary to dedicate time to this person and bring him/her closer to Hashem. The Seder is a perfect vehicle to show and inspire others to ask their questions and be more inquisitive about what Pesach can offer them and what they can offer others once they have ignited that spark.

Wishing Rabbi and Rebbitzin Dansky, Rabbi and Rebbitzin Singer and Reverend and Mrs Newman and families, together with the whole Redbridge United Kehilla a Happy and Kosher Pesach and memorable Sedarim.

What's That?

Calling all Quiz Afficionados! Following their smash hit Cabaret Evening in February this year, the Fundraising Committee are back on the trail—this time with their Quiz Nights:

General Knowledge Quiz

Sunday 24th June 2018

Entertainment Quiz

Sunday 28th October 2018

Tickets for both these events will be £13 per person inclusive of light refreshments.

Please contact Liz Levison on 0208 550 9907 to reserve your place.

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Chigwell & Hainault League of Jewish Women

CHIGWELL & Hainault Group of the League of Jewish Women continues with its many projects. It should be noted that although the Group is small in number the projects undertaken are many and varied.

The new project "Hand in Hand" now has Toni Ferner on board and together with Linda Pitch they visit various care homes and events in the local area to give the benefit of relaxing hand massage. This has proved very popular and other members have noted an interest in being trained. It should be noted that members working with the public have been Police checked.

The League also offers members the opportunity to become involved in Jewish community events and three of the Chigwell & Hainault League members attended the AJEX Parade marching under the banner of the League of Jewish Women. The Group did not have a separate project for this year's Mitzvah Day but members contributed items suitable for brides to be sent to Israel as some of these young women are very poor. However, it was declared that all the voluntary work done by the Group members is a Mitzvah!

The residents at Milne Court have a weekly Sunday afternoon knitting session with a tea organised by Sanara Ziles and Evelyn Camp. Marylin Graham together with Helen Tranis continues to provide monthly teas for the learning disabled at Seymour Gardens. With regard to the "Way Ahead" project, there are now monthly visits to the McMillan Centre at Whipps Cross Hospital and Pat Rackind



will be holding an Open Day there before the year end. Monthly meetings of the Group are held at members' homes and bi-monthly there is a speaker.

The Group welcomed Melvyn Eagle at their September meeting. His talk about the Jewish East End was very well received and all the members agreed that they had learned something new. Former Mayor of Redbridge, Councillor Ashley Kissin spoke at

the October meeting and gave a lively insight into his time as Mayor and Deputy Mayor. He spoke about the various functions expected of him and some of his duties. In December the Group welcomed Eleanor Bloom who gave a very interesting talk which she illustrated with slides and was entitled, "An armchair walk through Mayfair". She spoke about the shops which were for the "rich" of that era.

A new programme of speakers has already been prepared for the coming year which will continue to be equally as interesting as in the past. 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

Newbury Park League of Jewish Women



FIRSTLY, I take this opportunity to wish everyone a “slightly belated” Healthy and Happy 2018. My—how time flies!

As usual, we continue to meet monthly—our venue being at the South West Essex Reform Synagogue in Oaks Lane, Newbury Park. We usually have guest speakers, but occasionally we just have a “social” evening—i.e discussions, etc. For our Chanukah meeting we had a fun quiz.

Outside of our meetings, we continue to have our knitters who knit squares that will eventually be made into blankets. We now have a “new line” that keep our “knitters” busy. These are called “Pump Bags”. This followed a request from a volunteer co-ordinator at Queens Hospital and together with a senior McMillan Palliative Care Nurse we have “put the wheels in motion”. This entails “squares” being knitted – size 8” long by 9” wide – and with a narrow knitted “strap”. These knitted “bags” are then used to hold morphine pump bags which patients can carry around with ease.

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 continue to 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 still 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.

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.

Ann Belson

Publicity Officer for Newbury Park & District League of Jewish Women

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An Evening with Colonel Richard Kemp CBE



ON 17th December 2017, Colonel Richard Kemp CBE gave a talk called “The Importance of Anglo-Israeli Co-operation —The Spirit of the Maccabees” at Redbridge United Synagogue at which over two hundred people attended. This was part of the celebration of Chanukah in collaboration with Woodford Forest Synagogue.

Colonel Kemp was introduced by Zalmi Unsorfer the Chairman of Likud-Herut U.K. Before his talk, Richard lit the Shammash candle on the Menorah - the leading light -, Rabbi Dansky said the prayers and we all sang Maoz Tsur.

Richard is an experienced soldier and an advocate for the Israel Defence Force (IDF) and the State of Israel. He believes that the IDF is the most moral and humane fighting unit in the world. Richard added that it was a book called “Yellow Star” written by Zalmi’s late father that inspired his support for the Jewish people & Israel.

In his talk, Richard mentioned that up to the early twentieth century, Jerusalem was part of the Ottoman Empire ruled by the Turks. Although the State of Israel had existed for thousands of years, it was only possible for modern Israel to be created when Jerusalem was in British hands. The British army won the Battle of Beer Shev’a in December 1917. The British force included the Jewish Legion led by General Patterson. This was the first Jewish fighting force since the Maccabees.

On December 11th 1917, General Allenby liberated Jerusalem. This was also during Chanukah. He rode on horseback to the Jaffa

Gate and then dismounted and walked through to Jerusalem which had surrendered to him.

Colonel Kemp added that after the First World War the British betrayed their promise given in the Balfour Declaration and appeased the Arabs. The British closed the gates of Palestine to the Jews trying to escape from the Nazis.

After the talk, Richard took questions from the floor and then refreshments were served.

Our thanks to Martin Rankoff for helping to organise this event.

Linda Stanton





‘It was a great pleasure and privilege to light your Shamas Candle’

Col. Richard Kemp CBE



Women of the Year

On 3rd February 2018, Redbridge United Synagogue had a double celebration - we were delighted to honour two of our very active members as Women of the Year - Angela Levene and Hilary Segall. Both Angela and Hilary have been involved with the Synagogue over a number of years—first with Clayhall and then, after the merger with Newbury Park, with Redbridge United. We wish them and their families a hearty Mazeltov on this wonderful occasion.

Angela Levene

Hilary Segall

Joint Women of the Year

MY first memory of Clayhall Synagogue (as it was then) more than forty years ago, sitting in the Well with a row of chairs as our Mechitsa.

I joined the Board of Management when we were still part of Beehive Lane synagogue, originally as Chairperson of the Ladies Guild. In those days ladies did not have a seat on the Board in their own right.

When we did become independent I took my place on the Board in my own right, as one of the first ladies to be a United Synagogue Councillor.



During my time we raised a lot of funds for the synagogue and with the help of Martin Altman some of the funds financed our first proper Mechitsa. We are now in the process of forming a Redbridge Ladies Guild; I hope that some of you will join us.

During these years I had the pleasure of making Simchas including the Bar mitzvahs of my sons, Gary, Michael and Steven.

One of my roles is Advertising Manager for the Shalom Magazine and calendar.

Over the past year Hilary Segall and I have taken over organizing the Kiddushim and other events. We now have a Kiddush Rota with the help of Harold Marco. Last year I joined the Selection Committee to select a new Rabbi. I am pleased to say that Rabbi Dansky and his family are now in place.

Whatever I have contributed to the synagogue, it has given me so much back in love, friendship and companionship. So I thank you for bestowing this honour on me which I know is proudly shared by my family.

I STARTED coming to Clayhall Kehilla back in 1975 after I returned from a stint on a kibbutz.

I was Chairlady of the Ladies Guild (after Angela stepped down) and created the Shalom magazine with Martin Altman when it first appeared as a single A5 sheet on the seats at Rosh Hashana 5749 (1988). I also noted that one of the names to contact regarding the functions that were planned was a certain Angela Levene!

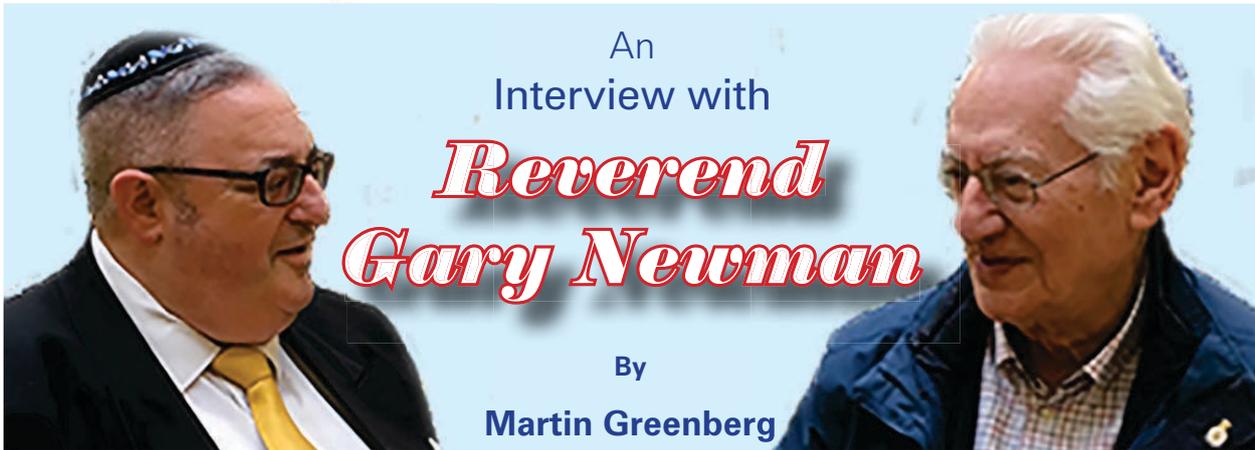
I have been on and off the Board for any number of years (maintaining that



you never throw away the minutes as they usually contain the same things year in, year out!). I have sat on two Rabbi selection panels; chaired the Education Committee with Rabbi Wilson; was a member of the US Women's Executive for a while and was a former vice-chair of the governing body at King Solomon High School.

I have been married to a very patient and long-suffering Robert for over thirty-three years, with two wonderful children, Alex and Melanie, both of whom were regular members of shul from their early years. Now added to the family is our lovely daughter-in-law Carla, whom Alex married in June last year.

But perhaps, most importantly of all, is why do we do it? Well, it's no good kibitzing from the side-lines and moaning that nothing gets done! If one wants progress, change or a just a good shake-up you have to step up to the plate and get stuck in. I think I can safely say that I have got well "stuck-in" to both Clayhall and Redbridge!



An
Interview with
*Reverend
Gary Newman*

By
Martin Greenberg

THIS interview took place as usual after the Shacharis, the early morning prayers, where Rev Newman has been one of the most regular attendees and main officiants.

MG. For the last fifteen months when we have been without a senior Rabbi you have taken our services, particularly at Shacharis, together with giving a morning Droscha, so on behalf of the community I should like to thank you for your dedication. Has this voluntary duty been a strain for you?

RN. Of course not, it has been a pleasure and a privilege.

MG. During that period there has sometimes been a struggle to make the Minyan even though we are one of the largest United Synagogue communities. Did you ever get despondent?

RN. I always try to take a positive view of events. However my hope is that our members should realise the importance of the Minyanim to enable them to say Kaddish for their departed loved ones. This is one of the main pillars of synagogue life and the bereaved and those that have Yahrzeit expect a Minyan when the time comes for them to pray. Really they should ask what they can do for the synagogue, rather than expecting that which our community can do for them. We of course help those who need it to say prayers and lay Tefillin during that period; we even have Tefillin for loan.

We are fortunate in that we have such a wonderful "ruach" at those times and our reputation for a friendly and welcoming atmosphere is well known.

MG. Our Rabbinical Team is now complete with the arrival of Rabbi Dansky. Would you like to comment?

RN. I am delighted that in Rabbi Dansky we have an outstanding Torah scholar and it will

be an honour and a delight to work with him and of course together with Rabbi Singer we now have a strong and special community spiritual leadership.

MG. Is there anyone else you would like to mention?

RN. My thanks go to our Chairman, Mike Callaghan, Vice Chairman Colin Emden and our Treasurer, Harold Marco, they are an outstanding executive, and to all the Board members. As you know I am the Welfare Rabbi working with the Welfare Committee and with its Chairperson, Lorraine Silver. They all do an excellent job.

As we approach the Festival of Pesach I wish everyone a Happy and Kosher Pesach. May we all be blessed with good health and as a community we should continue to go from strength to strength.

The Challa Make

THE Challah Make was held on Thursday October 26. We would have liked to have held this at the Shul, but this was not possible, so we used the Rabbi's house in Redbridge - which unfortunately limited how many people could take part.

However, 20 people, both women and children, were present, when with much excitement and laughter, Shani Singer helped them produce their Shabbat Challah.

We hope next year to arrange a better venue so that more members can join in the fun!

Tea at the House of Lords

WE'VE visited Parliament on several occasions and had a tour round the House of Commons, but recently we had the opportunity to be taken round the House of Lords by Lady Valerie Cocks. We have known Lady Cocks for several years, and when Harvey Bratt of the United Jewish Israel Appeal (UJIA) informed us that she had offered to take a group on a guided tour of the House of Lords and give us afternoon tea, naturally we were delighted to accept.

Lady Cocks was married to the late Labour peer Lord Cocks of Hartcliffe, James Callaghan's chief whip from 1976 to 1985. She has a strong engagement and passion towards Israel and philanthropy. Having served as a leader of Labour Friends of Israel, Valerie works tirelessly in Parliament to promote Israel's causes.

Our first port of call was the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft - an unusual place for a Jewish Group to visit, but this beautiful Chapel is not on the regular tour and few visitors get to see it! There are many lovely decorations in the Chapel including alabaster panels on which are incised the figures of Moses with the tablets of the Law and of Noah holding an Ark, and I noticed a Star of David amongst the other decorations on the painted ceiling.

Being in a Royal Palace, the Chapel is in the charge of the Lord Great Chamberlain. The Chapel is in use every Wednesday whilst either House is sitting and Members of both Houses and their direct descendants as well as permanent members of staff of either House are able to use the Chapel for weddings and other services.

We walked round the carpeted corridors of the House of Lords and stopped to look into the several dining rooms and bars and the Library and admired the decorations. There is a painting of the House of Lords in Session on one of the walls showing a number of empty seats - apparently any Peer who wished to be included in the painting had to

pay £150 for the privilege and many declined the offer!

We saw the room where the Lords had to leave their swords. Did you know that in the Chamber, the gap between the Government and Opposition Benches is the width of two swords? This is to prevent sword fights between opposing members!

We also managed to see the Throne Room where H M the Queen would sit while she put on the heavy robes and even heavier crown before going to the House to open Parliament. Linda even went up in the lift which Her Majesty now uses to access the Throne Room!

One of the highlights of the tour was when we slipped into the Gallery at the House of Lords and heard part of the debate which was going on at the time - this was all about Finance, and was a bit above my head!

During our tour, Valerie told us about some of the things that had happened in the House during her husband's term as Chief Whip!

After the fascinating tour, we adjourned to one of the side rooms for tea and cream cakes!

It was a lovely afternoon out and we enjoyed it enormously. If you have the opportunity, the Houses of Parliament, both the Commons and the Lords, are well worth a visit.

Philippa and Linda Stanton



Lisbon Memorial

NEAR our hotel on Rossio Square, central Lisbon there is a memorial inaugurated in 2008 in memory of the Jewish massacre of 1506 that happened in this square.

It is estimated that between Two thousand and Four thousand Jews who had been forced to convert (known as New Christians) were killed five hundred years ago.

After the expulsion of the Jews and Muslims from Spain and Portugal in 1492 conversos were still viewed with suspicion. On the 17th April 1506 around Passover time a few conversos were discovered with sheep and unleavened bread but were let off by the authorities, however, the local population encouraged by Dominicans commenced a murder spree which lasted from 19th to 21st April and became known as the Easter Massacre. The New Christians were also blamed for the drought and plague that was prevalent at the time.

Ruler Manuel the First arrested the instigators and together with the Dominicans who had supported the uprising were executed. Many of their supporters were whipped.

This ruler then allowed religious flexibility. I think he realized how important the conversos were to the economy of the country. (Nothing new there!!).

In 2006 a group of Jews commemorated this event and in 2008 the memorial was inaugurated.

The English translation: In memory of the great many Jews who were casualties of prejudice and religious enthusiasm and killed in the slaughter started on 19th April 1506 in this square.

Elaine and Bernard Chaplin



Letter from Liz



IN the Second Edition of the Redbridge United Synagogue Shalom Magazine I introduced myself to you all and spoke about the first Fundraising Event the committee would undertake, which would be a Cabaret Evening on Sunday 21st February, 2015. Amazingly this was a complete 'sellout' and raised, much to everyone's surprise the magnificent sum of £1,342 with one hundred and thirty-four people in attendance.

Fast forward to Sunday 21st January, 2018, when we went about organising our fourth such event. This year we kept to the same menu Fried Fish, three beautiful salads, cherry pie and ice cream plus all the trimmings for the princely sum of £19.50 per person. We literally 'sold-out' within the three weeks of advertising, deciding to limit our ticket sales to one hundred and twenty for the comfort of those attending. Our Treasurer Bernard Chaplin contacted me with the fantastic news that we had once again realised a profit of £1,163.17 for the Shul coffers.

Success such as this comes with a lot of hard work and dedication from the committee, and especially those who come in to every event to set-up and lay tables, sell raffle tickets, stay behind at the end and help us clear up – the committee thanks you.

We did plan to organise our regular General Knowledge Quiz and also the Entertainment Quiz – well you can't win them all!

The General Knowledge Quiz was held on Sunday 18th June,

and on this occasion we brought Cyril Levison out of retirement to be our Quiz Master – nice one Cyril – one hundred and eleven people participated and we had a great evening. On this occasion to keep Ticket Prices low we just had light refreshments of assorted Bridge Roll Platters/sliced cake/mini-pastries, plus tea/coffee etc, charging a very moderate £12.50. This event raised £767.92.

With confidence we went ahead organising our Entertainment Quiz for Sunday 5th November, 2017 – which one committee member commented at the time "it should go with a 'bang'"; wrong - it was a damp firework! Unfortunately, we came up with a date that other committees had planned for their events i.e. A.J.E.X. Dinner at Beehive Lane Shul, and Woodford Forest Shul also had a Quiz Night.

The writing was on the wall when after sending emails, making numerous telephone calls we could only muster fifty-five people; as much as it hurt our feelings, we had no option but to cancel.

Before I say goodbye until the next time, in the last three years three of us (Bernard Chaplin, Colin Emden and myself) have organised for your enjoyment four Cabaret Evenings, plus six Quizzes with just one damp squid.

When the dates for this year's Quizzes have been checked with all other events being held by other committees we will let you know, so if you have never been able to participate, give us your support which would be a good incentive for us to continue this important work.

Elizabeth Levison
Chairperson-Fundraising Committee
Redbridge United Synagogue



AJEX Annual Remembrance Ceremony and Parade November 2017

A CRISP, sunny Autumn afternoon in London Town and once again the veterans and their supporters are at the Cenotaph, Whitehall for the annual Remembrance Day Ceremony and Parade.

In view of the terrorist attacks in London over the last months, security was much tighter with more steel barriers, police vans blocking streets and more police, CST and AJEX personnel present. Our many thanks to all of them for keeping us safe, and special thanks to our own “boys” and “girls” from Redbridge United Synagogue. Thank You!

The reviewing officer this year was General Sir Peter Anthony Wall GCB, CBE, DL, FREng, and the service was conducted by Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, Rabbi (Major) Reuben Livingstone LLB LLM and Rabbi Harry Jacobi MBE BA (Hons).

The Redbridge United Synagogue contingent were there once again with David Serkes holding our placard.

Though we pray for the departed, special emphasis has been on praying for the safety of the British Armed Forces as conflicts around the world continue. This prayer ends with the following verse “Nation shall not lift sword against nation, nor shall they learn war anymore”. A pity that

this lesson has not been learnt as nations continue to wage war!!!

Several events were commemorated this year including the Third Battle of Ypres-Passchendaele 1917, the Middle East Campaign 1917 including the Battle for Jerusalem, The Dieppe Raid 1942 (75th



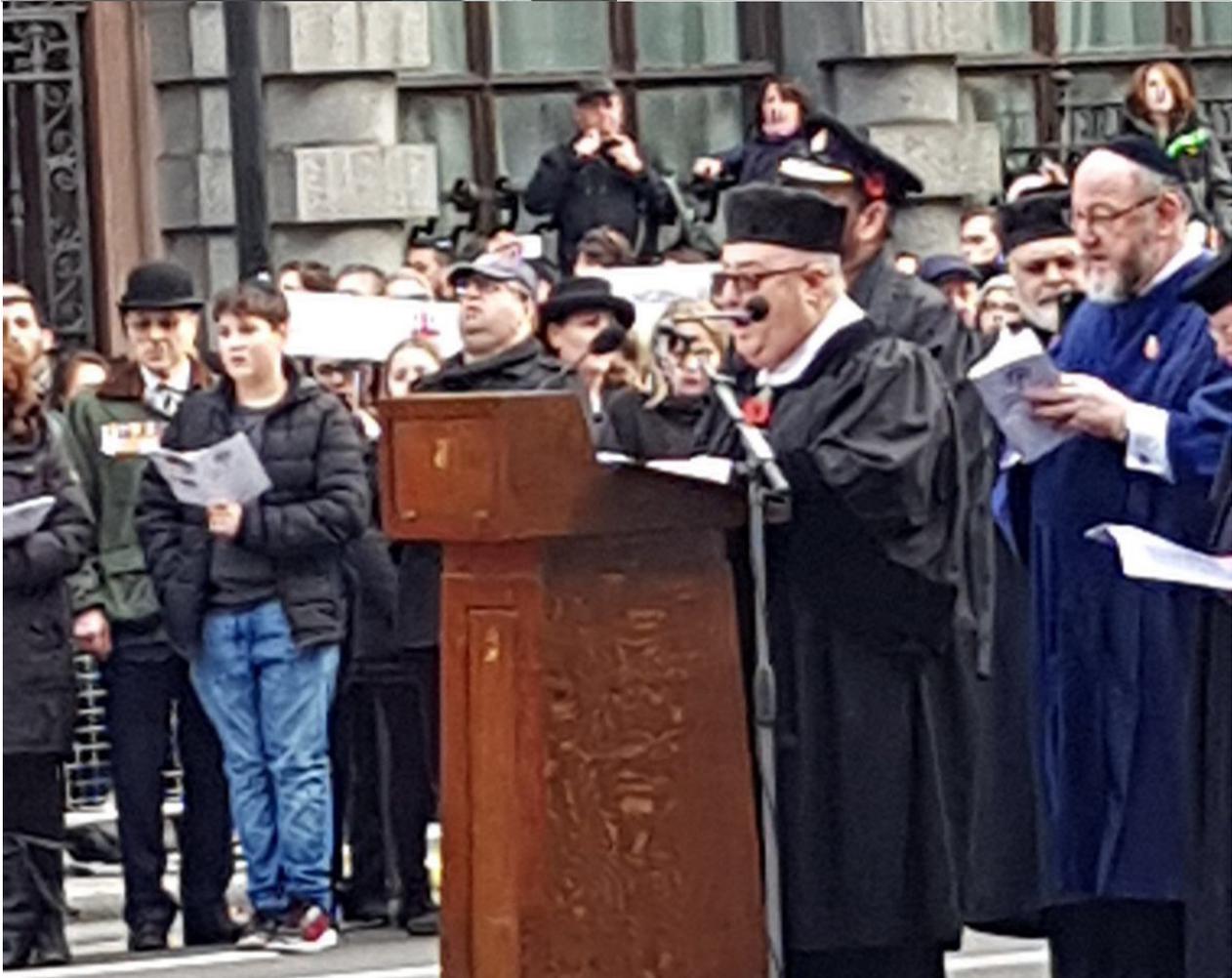
anniversary) and the Second Battle of El Alamein (75th anniversary).

The service ended as usual with Adon Alom and the National Anthem, after which the parade marched past the Reviewing Officer who took the salute and then thanked AJEX for the honour and privilege of attending and he paid tribute to those Jewish men and women who had served, and are still serving

their country, many of whom gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Next year is the Armistice Centenary ending the First World War (November 1918). Over 50,000 British Jews from across the Empire joined British troops in the Great War on land, sea and air. Write the date in your diary now, 18th November 2018, and BE THERE!

Bernard Chaplin



PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERNARD CHAPLIN

Esther Cohen

6th June 1921 - 6th January 2018

AN important chapter in the history of Newbury Park Synagogue closed with the passing of Esther Cohen. She was an original member of the Newbury Park Synagogue, a Shul which began life in the 1960s in the most unlikely venue of an old canteen in Newbury Park Central line station.

Esther was really one of a pair and it impossible to speak of her contribution to the Jewish Community without mentioning her late husband Harry ("z'l"), but while he eclipsed her in terms of physical stature and big personality, in the field of Jewish voluntary work she was a giant in her own right. If you met her in the street you would be looking at a small quiet woman but within five minutes of working with her you understood what a considerable force she was.

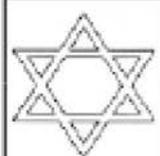


She Chaired, or rather managed and organised, the Ladies Guild of Newbury Park for many years and when eventually she stepped down from that position she turned her leadership skills to the weekly Friendship Club with no diminishing of her effort and enthusiasm.

Many of the ladies who worked with her will remember that she controlled meetings by ringing a little bell when she wished to end a discussion and move on. Whilst it may have annoyed one or two at the time, all will remember that tinkling bell with affection as indeed they remember Esther.

The East End of London where Esther and Harry grew up, produced many 'stars' of Jewish voluntary organisations including some who became famous. Esther's star shines as brightly as any of them. Her contribution in terms of the inspiration she gave and the example she set will not be forgotten. She will be sorely missed

CYRIL LEVISON - JANUARY 2018



Gary Green

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Board of Deputies Report



THE Board of Deputies of British Jews is the only democratically elected representative body of the Jewish Community in the UK. It is of little doubt just how difficult it must be to represent accurately the view of the community that encompasses so many different faction. However it should be a given fact that our representative body disseminates publicly the views of the majority and not the extremist views of the minorities of the left or the right.

In my past reports I have hopefully provided you with a good understanding of the wide range and important work that the Board Of Deputies and its sub divisions undertake on our behalf. In this report I want to raise your awareness of how important it is for our representative organisation to portray accurately the views of the community to the outside world and not feed into the British media bias which revels in any opportunity to Israel bashing by quoting the negative comments of some British Jews, who in an attempt to be seen as the “okay Jew” are prepared to attack publicly the Jewish State and in doing so help propagate the perception that world Jewry is in disagreement.

The Board of Deputies who in the past included the tag line in their title “The voice of British Jewry” has in my opinion in recent years stopped being “our voice” and has become the voice of the vocal minority of the left, and this is why I was pleased to be nominated as the Deputy for Redbridge Synagogue.

Not because I wish to concur or agree with many of their statements or alliances, although it must be said that the recent Board of Deputies’ Statement by the President Jonathan Arkush on the Trump Jerusalem decision was very strong and in my view excellent. If you have not read it then I urge you to go to their

web site and do so. The reason I am delighted to be your Deputy is that I see it as my duty with the help of other like minded Deputies to bring back the leadership of Anglo Jewry to the centre ground.

The Board was hijacked by the left in 2009 when Vivian Wineman was elected President. Wineman was and is an apologist and should never have been allowed to stand for the position. Previously he was joint chair of Peace Now and chair of the New Israel Fund of Great Britain; both organisations are extreme left wing and in polite terms, frowned upon by the vast majority in Israel.

In 2015 the current President Jonathan Arkush was elected and he is a lone centrist on the executive. During his tenure, Wineman moved his own people into position, lowering thresholds and contribution rates to enable the smaller left wing movements to join. The vocal minority now hold the key positions on the executive from and including the vice president down, including many of the chair and vice chair positions of the divisions. This has led to the BoD no longer representing the true views or feelings of the community and has placed the community in a vulnerable position which has to be addressed as a matter of urgency before the BoD is completely lost to the apologist left and G-d forbid the JLC step into their place!

Wishing you Chag Kosher v Sameach.

‘The vocal minority now hold the key positions on the Executive’

Martin Rankoff

Deputy for Redbridge Synagogue

The Paperweight Trust

CLAIRE and David separated one year ago. David is renting a property and Claire is living in the former marital home with Samantha, their daughter age nine. Claire and David had agreed neither a financial settlement nor contact arrangements. This stalemate was challenging for both parents.

Who was going to see Samantha on first night Seder, or first day Rosh Hashanah? What about Secondary School - who has a say? Who has responsibility for the mortgage? What is the level of maintenance?

A friend suggested Claire give the Paperweight Trust a call and with the support and guidance of The Paperweight Family Law Support & Advocacy Service, whose non-confrontational approach enabled Claire and David to reach a contact agreement which considered Samantha's wishes and feelings as well as their own. Of course this is not always possible and Paperweight might need to refer clients to a family Mediator in the hope that the Mother and Father's differences can be resolved without proceeding to Court.

In the case of Claire and David contact arrangements were resolved, but no agreement had been reached regarding the split of marital finances. Mediation was unsuccessful, and unfortunately the matter proceeded to Court. With little spare money, Claire had to appear in Court as a Litigant in Person – a prospect she dreaded. Claire truly felt alone and extremely vulnerable and at her wits end.

At that stage, Paperweight's Family Support & Advocacy Service was there, providing free support and gently assisting Claire all the way through the difficult processes. The non-judgmental staff explained procedures, assisted her in completing court forms and guided her collation of a multitude of key documents.

The end of this exhausting saga is now in sight.

Call us on **020 8455 4996** and speak to one of our team in confidence.

Women of the Year Shabbat

On Shabbat Yitro we celebrated the Women of the Year, Hilary Segall and Angela Levene, both supported by a host of family and friends. Angela's grandsons Eliezer, Naftali and Saul Levene all leined expertly and made Angela very proud of their achievement. This was a first for Redbridge Synagogue, three members of one family leining. Robert Segall gave us, in his usual quiet authoritative manner, a superb rendition of Haftorah Isaiah. The Kiddush, prepared by the men of course, was a splendid one enjoyed by all. The certificates were presented by Rebbetzen Siobhan Dansky and both ladies replied making their well deserved day of recognition complete.

The Wanstead Jewish Literary Society

"I give this society six months." This was a comment by one of our founder members in 1967. How wrong she was as we have just celebrated our 50th anniversary.

Our meetings are monthly on a Sunday afternoon in a member's home, from 3.00pm to 5.00pm, when we have talks on art, music, literature and Jewish subjects. Most members are retired and we muster fifteen to thirty at most meetings which conclude with refreshments.

Obviously over the fifty years of our existence we have had speakers on a variety of subjects for example I would mention the students of the Yehudi School of Music who came to entertain us and they were brilliant, young violinists, pianists and singers who were entering the world of music. The world of art has not been ignored because our member Jeff Page entertains us with slides and anecdotes on many famous artists. We have learned about the pre-Raphaelites and the Impressionist.

We hope to continue for many years so please come along and join us.

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Open up a Whole Kosher World



ON the 4th December 2017 I heard a very interesting and informative talk given by Sharon Feldman-Vazan at Wohl IJPS, Barkingside.

Sharon is the Retail Food and Drink Manager of the KLBD. This is a department of the Kashrut Division of the London Beth Din, Chief Rabbi's Office - the largest Kashrut authority in Europe.

Sharon explained that Kosher products have the KLBD logo. This logo is used throughout the world to show goods are Kosher. Some of the products are made by Jewish people in Kosher outlets others are not. For these, the people working in the Kashrut Division make regular inspections of recipes and production methods of goods to make sure that all the ingredients are kosher and that the food is not contaminated by other non-kosher products made in the factories. This means that food with the KLBD logo are guaranteed kosher.

At one time kosher food was only

available in Kosher Food Shops. Now however, many supermarkets and general stores also sell kosher food. This is a great advantage to people who live in non-Jewish areas or to Jewish students and Jewish travellers.

The London Beth Din also has an App: www.isitkosher.uk which you can get on your mobile phone - handy when you are in the supermarket! It is also on Facebook and KLBD direct.

The division also publishes the Really Jewish Food Guide and the Kosher Nosh Guide.

All in all it is very easy to find an up to date list of what is Kosher.

After the talk we sampled over 90 kosher products that Sharon had brought with her including, cheese, crackers, cake, humus and many more!

Linda Stanton



Passover Recipes

Pesach is a time when friends and relations 'drop in' unexpectedly - just when you have finished all the Pesach cakes you have made or bought and can't get to the shops to buy more! It is always a good idea to have a few cake or biscuit recipes that you can turn out quickly. The following can be made in a very short time - you probably have all the ingredients in your cupboard. They are simple to make and they taste delicious !

Cinnamon Balls

2 egg whites
 4 oz caster sugar
 8 oz ground almonds
 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
 Icing sugar, sifted
 Heat oven Gas Mark 6, 200°C.
 Beat egg whites until stiff. Add 2 oz caster sugar and beat well. Fold in the rest of the caster sugar, the ground almonds and cinnamon. Roll into small balls and place on greased trays.

Bake for 10/15 minutes. Roll in icing sugar while still warm.
Allow to cool before eating - if you can!



Meringues

3 large egg whites
 6 oz caster sugar
 Heat oven Gas Mark 2, 150°C. Lightly oil a large baking sheet and line it with oiled greaseproof paper.
 Whisk egg whites until they form stiff peaks. Add the sugar 1 oz at a time, whisking well after each addition. Pipe the mixture on to the lined baking sheets.
 Place in the oven and immediately turn the heat down to Gas Mark 1, 140°C and leave to cook for one hour. Turn the heat right out but leave the meringues in the oven to dry out until completely cold.

Coconut Macaroons/Pyramids

8 oz desiccated coconut
 3 oz caster sugar
 2 large eggs
 Heat oven Gas Mark 3, 160°C.
 Mix the coconut and caster sugar and then beat in the eggs one at a time. Form into pyramids or flat macaroons. Place on a greased tray and cook for about 30 minutes until lightly browned.



Have a lovely sweet Pesach.
Philippa Stanton

Social & Personal

We would like to wish Mazeltov to the following:

Bar Mitzvah

Tyler Goldman

-

Bat Mitzvah

Michal Singer

-

Bat Chayil

Mia Marks

-

Second Bar Mitzvah

Mazel Tov to Cyril Levison on his second Bar Mitzvah

Mazel Tov to Julian Silver on his second Bar Mitzvah

-

Mazel Tovs

Joyce and Alan Meltzer on the birth of a great granddaughter, Mia

Cyril and Liz Levison on the birth of a great granddaughter in Israel

Gabby and Raya Simons on the birth of a granddaughter

Mrs Elvins on the birth of a great granddaughter David and Pamela Grant on the marriage of their son, Craig

Ruth and Mervyn Lyndon on their Silver Wedding

Paul Biller on his forthcoming marriage

Keith and Michelle Biller on their son Paul's forthcoming marriage

Stuart and Shelley Goldman on their daughter's engagement

Barbara Goldman on her granddaughter's engagement

Lawrence & Valerie Goldsmith on their daughter's engagement

Hilary Goldsmith on her engagement

Leslie and Andrea Eriera on their son's marriage

Emma Goldman on Tyler's Barmitzvah

Adina and Gary Marks on the Bat Chayil of their daughter Mia

Ann and Jeffrey Bernard on the Bat Chayil of their granddaughter Mia

Kelvin and June Lewis on their Golden Wedding

Mazeltov to our two Women of Worth

Angela Levene and Hilary Segall

-

New Members

Karen Grossman

David and Andrea Jacobs Leslie and Shirley Kingsley

David and Michelle Ross

Hilary Goldsmith

Alan Grover

We offer our condolences to:

Family of Jean Taylor

Denise Pinner on the passing of her husband Norman

David Pinner on the passing of his brother Norman

Family of Paul Black Family of Iris Green

Family of Martin Sharpe

Family of Maurice Cohen

Family of Myrom Berman

Family of Sarah Mardell

Ruth Laskey on the passing of her husband Ivor

Family of Hetty Moss

Joseph Richman on the passing of his wife Helen

Shirley Levy and Gillian Binder on the passing of their father

Philippa and Linda Stanton on the passing of their brother Michael

Ivor Nathan on the passing of his mother Hetty

Rita Rodgers on the passing of her brother David

Karen Friddin on the passing of Arnold Taffel Kanter on the passing of his wife Helen

Mildrid Luton on the passing of her brother Henry

Anne Yeshin and Jacky Jay on the passing of their mother Bertha

Rosalind Greenberg on the passing of her mother Hettie

Melody Alicoon on the passing of her brother Stanley

Raya Simons and Eli Mann

on the passing of their mother Jeanette

Michael Pizer on the passing of his wife Susan

Angela Roberts on the passing of her mother Myra

Cyril Marks on the passing of his sister Myra

Betty Bush on the passing of her husband Alfred

Steven Colman on the passing of his stepfather Alfred Bush

Keith Biller on the passing of his father Jack

Martin Perceval on the passing of his father Irving

Family of Esther Cohen Sidney Cohen on the passing of his wife Helen

Estelle Lubin on the passing of her husband Martin

Family of Gloria Mercer Family of Marlene Selman

Family of late Ida Lee Deanna Karp and Tina Benjam on the passing of their father

Lionel Levy Eva Baars on the passing of her husband Jack

David Baars on the passing of his father

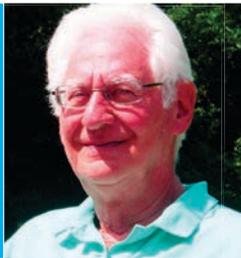
Hermione Gloston on the passing of her husband Frederick

Stephanie Field on the passing of her father

Frederick Gloston



Pesach 5778



In this unique Pesach edition we are making magazine history for not only do we have articles by our newly appointed Rabbi Dansky there is an article by Rebbetzen Siobhan Dansky, the first time that a Rebbetzen has written for Shalom magazine. So there is a double welcome to them as new contributors. This is so apt as we all know Pesach signifies new beginnings and the start of all that was good for the Children of Israel. Also the Rabbi writes a learned and informative commentary on each week's Sedra for the news sheet to be found on the Synagogue seats at Shabbat. They, and we have to say "They," as they are a team, have brought a welcome new dynamic to Redbridge Synagogue.

There is also an article by Rabbi Singer and one by Reverend Stewart Myers who helped out at Shacharit when we were without a Rabbi, a good friend to this community. Included is the Reverend Gary Newman interview whose sterling work during the last fifteen months has been invaluable and without precedent.

As well as our regular magazine contributors, Stuart Pessok gives us a look into taxi-drivers slang! Our youth are also represented in this Edition. We have a very moving article from Saul Levene on his recent visit to Poland, and the wonderful D'var Torah given by Michal Singer when she celebrated her Bat Mitzvah in October.

We have had a very exciting time since we last wrote - as well as welcoming our new Rabbinic team, we have celebrated the Chief Rabbi's Shabbat, AJEX Remembrance Service, the Chollah Make, the Balfour Centenary and spent an evening with Colonel Richard Kemp CBE.

There are a lot more exciting activities to look forward to. Rabbi Dansky is arranging Workshops, Lunch and Learn activities and Ask the Rabbi sessions. Our Rebbetzen is holding Ladies who Lunch at Sinclair House together with Chollah making opportunities. For those who prefer something lighter, our Fundraising Committee led by Elizabeth Levison has scheduled two Quiz evenings for later in the year. Altogether a full programme of events! We look forward to seeing you there!

We would like to thank Martin Altman our publisher, our contributors and all those involved in the production and distribution of our Magazine.

With our best wishes to you and your families for a Happy and Kosher Pesach.

Philippa Stanton & Martin Greenberg



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Rabbi Yaacov Singer

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Reverend Gary Newman

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PAGE 1EDITORIAL
PAGE 2	. PESACH EXPERIENCE, RABBI DANSKY
PAGE 3CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
PAGE 4REPORT BY RABBI SINGER
PAGE 8	.CHOLENT & THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION
PAGE 1049 DAY COUNT, REBBETZEN DANSKY
PAGE 12SYNAGOGUES OF EUROPE
PAGE 14LONDON TAXI DRIVER SPEAK
PAGE 16A TRIP TO POLAND, SAUL LEVENE
PAGE 18	.. TIME OF OUR FREEDOM, RABBI DANSKY
PAGE 22	. WELFARE COMMITTEE, LORRAINE SILVER
PAGE 24THE FOUR SONS, REV. S. MYERS
PAGE 28EVENING WITH COLONEL KEMP,CBE
PAGE 36REMEMBRANCE PARADE
PAGE 44SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

A Pesach Experience



REMEMBER the first time that I read The Magic Faraway Tree to my daughter. She stood there completely spellbound - completely transfixed by the exploits of the fairies and of the other magical creatures in this great book.

The truth of this is that while I was enjoying her enjoyment of the story, my reaction to the story was quite different. Sure it was interesting, sure it was enchanting, but could I listen to it forever and a day? Was I thrilled and excited and scared all at the same time? I cannot say that I was.

This got me thinking - what was the difference between me and my daughter? The difference between the two of us was that I had read this, and stories like this many thousands of times before. Forget about The Enchanted Faraway Tree; Harry Potter and The Lord of the Rings were far more exciting. I had experienced far more frightening and thrilling stories, and therefore the taste of Enid Blyton was parev at best. Besides, I had my mother read the Enchanted Faraway Tree to me when I was a child as well.

Why am I telling you all of this? We are about to arrive at Seder night, and we are about to tell a story again, the story of the exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt, just as I was reading stories to my daughter, after having heard it myself. As a child, I can remember my excitement at finding the Afikomen and boasting to my friends how late I stayed up the night before. The story of the Exodus from Egypt was seen through the eyes of a child, and remained that for me - a child's story. I was no longer so excited by it because I had heard it already, and heard it on a very simplistic level.

The Haggadah tells us; "In every generation we have an obligation to see ourselves as

if we left Egypt". Why are we being told to see ourselves? Why isn't it good enough to read about it and understand it? What is the Haggadah trying to tell us? What are we supposed to be doing?

We are being told here to use our imagination - to think about what it must have been like - to pretend that we were there. I remember playing pretend games when I was younger - we didn't have TV games then - whether I was Superman, (I was always Superman!) pretending, creating imaginary worlds is the primary occupation of a child.

We are being asked here to experience the Seder from a child-like perspective, with the intellect of an adult. We need to see the Seder again this year with new eyes of youth - with the exuberance and excitement of a child, but also thinking about it intelligently, questioning and thinking about it in a serious manner.

It is for this reason that even if there are no children at the table, we still have the obligation to ask the four questions - even if they have been married for seventy years, couples have to ask each other the Mah Nishtana - How and why is this night different from other nights?

If you have ever met a four year old child they are ALWAYS asking questions. We may be older, but we need to go into a time capsule tonight, and learn about our exodus from Egypt in a completely new light using both experience and youth at the same time.

Question, answer, find that afikomen - find our youth, find our excitement and have a transformative seder that will change our lives forever.

*Wishing you all a
Chag Kasher V'Sameach*

**Rabbi Steven, Siobhan,
Maya and Talia Dansky**

Chairman's Report



WE have come through a long and sometimes difficult fourteen months since Rabbi Wilson left, although we had the greatly appreciated help from Rabbi Singer and Reverend Newman.

I would like to pay tribute to Harold Marco for all his hard work, arranging and organising the visiting Ministers and their families; to Leslie Linder for his unstinting dedication to making sure that we have Minyanim and for acting as Warden, organising the work on the Bimah.

The last couple of months have been very busy with finding accommodation for both Rabbi Dansky and Rabbi Singer and ensuring that they have settled in properly. During this time Vice Chairman Colin Emden's help has been invaluable and I could not have managed without him. In fact the whole Community has been very supportive during this period and we are now entering an exciting new phase, with our new Senior Rabbi, chosen by members of our Shul.

I hope that everyone will get behind Rabbi and Rebbetzen Dansky and support and encourage them. They have only been with us for a month but they have already made a

great impression; we now have events and shiurim planned right up to Pesach.

It is said that Pesach is a time for new beginnings and although it is still some way off at the time of writing, we should all be optimistic that with the groundwork that is now being laid and with the enthusiasm of our new Rabbi, we at Redbridge have a bright future to look forward to.

On behalf of my family and myself I wish you all a happy and Kosher Pesach.

Mike Callaghan
Chairman

Shabbat UK 2017

We held a very successful Shabbat UK in October. We were delighted to welcome our scholar-in-residence Claude Vecht-Wolf who enhanced our experience both Friday night and Shabbat with wonderful stories and words of Torah.

The weekend started with a special Kabbalah Shabbat and Friday Night dinner for young families; this was very much enjoyed by more than 60 people.

On Shabbat, we welcomed back Aaron Engelmeyer who leyned for us, with Jeffrey Bernard reading the Haftorah.

Following our regular service and a Kiddush sponsored by Anne and Jeffrey Bernard in honour of Jeffrey's 70th birthday, ninety-five people sat down to a three-course lunch, featuring our theme "Around the World in one Shabbat" at which a representative from each table spoke about Jewish life in a different country.

During Lunch, our guest of honour, His Honour Judge Martyn Zeidman QC, gave a wonderful, hilarious and entertaining talk about some of his experiences as both a barrister and a judge.

After lunch a light-hearted game of Mr and Mrs took place, sponsored by Ellie and Mia Marks to celebrate their parents, Adina and Gary Marks' sixteenth wedding anniversary. This was followed by mincha and Seudah Shlishit. After maariv we held a special version of Havdalah.

The weekend culminated in a cooked breakfast for twenty-two on Sunday morning, joined by our guest of honour and his wife Verity. A huge vote of thanks goes to all those who helped to make it such a successful day.



Philippa Stanton

A Report by Rabbi Yaakov Singer



SHANI and I have now been at Redbridge Shul for a year and so much has happened over this past year, I thought it a good idea to share with your readers.

The most significant change is that for the past year there has been a Children Service in shul on every single Shabbat and Yom Tov without fail. In addition, we ran the Youth Zone for a second year running over the High Holidays as well as a toddler soft-play area. Whilst there is much more we plan to do to boost the attendance of these regular services, the feedback so far has been very positive (and that's not just from our own little prides and joy). One of the more memorable Children Services I held was on Shabbat Tu BiShevat, where we had a crowd of almost 30 participants who all enjoyed a spread of over twenty different exotic fruit at our Tu BiShevat Seder. We played Tu BiShevat games and told related stories and tried some fruits we've not seen or heard of before.

We ran several events for children and youth throughout the year, including the most well attended Purim party in Essex. This event was held at Redbridge United Synagogue in conjunction with Ilford United Synagogue. Partakers were spoiled for choice with an awesome laser tag quest, computer games arcade, bouncy castle and soft play area all there for them to relish, not to mention hot dogs and chips.

I have also launched a "Learning Hub" which runs once a month on Sunday afternoons. The Learning Hub is an opportunity for primary age children in KS2 who do not attend a Jewish school to learn and experience Judaism through the form of arts and crafts. For example, before

Chanukah we made a travel Chanukiah which has a storage compartment for candles. Participants learnt to saw wood and use a hot glue gun all whilst learning about the laws of a Kosher Chanukiah. We still have availability to take on more pupils if they fit the above criteria.

In the absence of a senior Rabbi over the past year I have also helped to provide some adult education whenever I could. Twice during a half term, I gave a shiur at a Lunch and Learn organised by Gordon and Estelle Miller, both sessions were well attended. We also had an extensive programme for the fast of Av including the screening of two films befitting the spirit of the day. Not forgetting to mention an entertaining Pre-High-Holidays talk by Rabbi Benjy Myers.

In the lead up to Shabbat UK, Shani held a Challah make at our home. Shani spoke about the role of women in Judaism and then shared her recipe for Challah including tips on plating Challah. We then held a Shabbat quiz whilst waiting for the dough to rise.

Shani and I are looking forwards to building on the success of these events in the year ahead with more exciting events and programmes.



On 21 October 2017 Michal Singer celebrated her Bat Mitzvah at Redbridge Synagogue, giving such a wonderful D'var Torah, we decided to print it our Magazine, so that we could read it at our leisure.

My Bat Mitzvah D'var Torah

LAST October I celebrated my Bat Mitzvah at Redbridge Shul. After delivering my D'var Torah I felt truly honoured to be asked to publish my D'var Torah in the Shalom magazine.

For a few months prior to my Bat Mitzvah, I pestered my Abba to help me with ideas for a Bat Mitzvah speech. 'Normal' parents would send their daughters to Bat Mitzvah lessons well in advance, but not when your father is a Rabbi. Finally, with



three days to go, my Abba and I sat down to discuss what my D'var Torah should be about. Thankfully he didn't wait until the last minute.

We both felt that a great way to begin my life as a Bat Mitzvah would be by learning about the Mitzvah of Hakarat HaTov - showing gratitude. This is one of the fundamental mitzvot of the Torah. Whilst not explicitly mentioned in the Torah, our Rabbi's teach us that Hakarat HaTov is one of the 613 mitzvot.

Although Hakarat HaTov is normally translated as 'showing gratitude', a better translation would be 'recognising the good'. It is a mitzvah to recognise that everything Hashem does for us is 'good'.

When a person recognises that something good has happened to them, they should make the Brachah "Hatov ve'hameytiv" – He Who is good has done good to me.

Our greatest teacher Moshe, leads by example. When he was instructed to turn the

waters of Egypt to blood, Moshe felt unable to undertake this task. The reason being that the waters of Egypt had once saved his life. Moshe believed that it would be wrong for him to cause something bad to come from it. Rashi explains that Moshe was displaying Hakarat HaTov. You see, Hakarat HaTov is not just towards people or Hashem, but towards anything that we benefit from.

Showing gratitude makes us better people. It helps us enjoy and appreciate everything we have, making us happy people. For this reason, Jewish children are taught that the first words we utter every morning as we wake up, is "Modeh ani". Modeh comes from the word 'Todah'—thank you. We thank Hashem for all the good in our lives.

Ten generations after Adam—the first man—was created, humankind became corrupt. The Talmud tells us that the world was full of immorality, theft and murder. How can the world get into such a state in such a short space of time?

The Talmud teaches us that things progressed slowly. First Humans misinterpreted Hashem when He said man will rule over the animal kingdom, taking it to mean that we were in control of them. And from there, their egos grew and grew until they 'forgot' that Hashem is the creator of the world. With no G-d there are no rules. No rules lead to immorality, theft and murder. Things got so out of hand that Hashem saw there was no way back for them. The world must be destroyed.

Yet one man stood out amongst all others. His name was Noach. Noach was a righteous man. He walked in the path of Hashem and never left His side. Hashem rewarded Noach by sparing him and his family from the forthcoming flood.

Looking back at this story, I believe that with one simple act, the flood could have been prevented. Hakarat HaTov. If only mankind would have shown gratitude to Hashem and His world, it would not have come to this.

My Hebrew name is Michal Chava. My parents chose this name simply because they liked it. However, I have often questioned them about the Biblical characters behind both my names.

Michal is the name of King David's first of eighteen wives. She is the only woman in the whole of Tanach that we are told she loved her husband.

Michal was the daughter of King Saul. King Saul did not like David one little bit, and several times tried to kill him. When Saul heard that Michal was in love with David he agreed for them to marry, hoping she would help him kill David. Though she never did. Quite the opposite, she saved David's life from the hands of her father. Michal stayed loyal to King David throughout her life, alas Hashem did not bless her with any children.

Despite her loyalty and love towards him, King David does not seem to treat Michal the way we would have expected. To him, she was just one of his wives, barren, and a constant reminder of her father, King Saul. The commentators explain that King David made a grave mistake of not showing gratitude to Michal his wife, for her love and devotion.

My middle name Chava, is the Hebrew name of the first woman on earth - Eve.

Before creating Chava, Hashem saw that Adam was lonely. Hashem said, "it's not good for man to be on his own". And so, He created Chava – I think we all agree man was never the same since there after!

Hashem was looking out for Adam's best

interests. He was doing what was good for Adam. Adam on the other hand does not always recognise this good. He blames Chava for his own faults and even blames Hashem for giving her to him. Adam clearly shows no Hakarat HaTov. Perhaps here too lies his downfall.

Although my names carry the weight of two exceptional woman who were not shown Hakarat HaTov, I have been fortunate to be around men and women who have taught me to always show gratitude. My Imma and Abba, Sabba David and Savta Judy Singer, Savta Gina Myers Z"L, Sabba Stewart and Aunty Lorraine Myers and last but not least my Sabba Ron and Savta Ruth Singer. I am truly grateful for all they have done for me and for all they have taught me.

Learning about Hakarat HaTov has really helped me understand what it means to be a 'Yehudi Tov' – a good Jew. Even the word 'Yehudi' comes from the word 'Todah' – Thank you. I feel that I am now ready to brave this world as a young Jewish adult and to always look for the good in things and be grateful for all that I have.

Michal Chava Singer

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MY SPOUSE HAS DEMENTIA, WHO WILL HELP ME ORGANISE MY PAPERWORK?

CAN I AVOID FALLING INTO DEBT?

HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS?

CAN YOU HELP ME THROUGH MY DIVORCE?

DO I NEED PROBATE?

WHAT IF I HAVE NO FAMILY?



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'Cholent and the Industrial Revolution'

By Cyril Levison

IT WAS during a Shabbas lunch that the light bulb went on. I don't actually mean a light bulb but a thought that suddenly came to me. I had struggled for some weeks trying to think of a subject for my next contribution to the Magazine and was getting more and more frustrated as the spark of inspiration continued to elude me.

Halfway through the chicken soup I exclaimed "That's it!" – the subject that everyone has an interest in – Jewish food! That's what I was going to write about. So it was with the satisfied feeling of having solved a problem, I finished my lunch and settled into my armchair for my traditional Shabbat afternoon 'schlof'.

At the earliest opportunity after Shabbat I logged on to google to begin my research but found little inspiration in the few obvious facts available. I decided to try the British Library. By showing my Shul bill as identification I was allowed access to the 'Religious Cultural' section and it was there I found a book with a strange title - "Cholent – Rise and Fall" by Adrian West.

It was a small volume but intrigued by the title I took it to the desk and began reading. The tale that unfolded was absolutely fascinating. It was the story of the author's great-grandfather Nathaniel Wezcminski, a Polish immigrant who had come to England in the early part of the nineteenth century. He was a financier by profession and he couldn't have landed at a better time.

The Industrial Revolution was well under way and with it came the inventors, the entrepreneurs, the investors and the gamblers

all with get rich quick schemes but lacking the capital to start. Not every plan worked but it only needed one successful idea to get the money rolling in and he soon found himself mixing with the new Middle Class. They met in coffee houses in the City where traditionally business was discussed and transacted. To integrate more easily with his potential clients he adopted an English name – Nathaniel Westminster. It was at one of these coffee house venues that he encountered a young railway engineer with the rather strange sounding name of Isambard Kingdom Brunel (obviously not his real name). They struck up a friendship which was enhanced when they discovered they were lantzmen. Brunel's actual name was Israel Brunevitch and he confided to his new friend his plans to build a railway from London to the West country. He had already reached as far as Slough but had run out of money.

Nathaniel became interested in how the railways operated so Brunel took him on a short train journey. Nathaniel, became hooked on trains and researched their development. He marvelled at the ingenuity of the men who had made it possible for a machine to move along a track without using horses. He read about other Jewish immigrants such as Thomas Newcomen, originally Tzvi Nussman, who first harnessed the power of steam, James Watt (Yaakov Weinstein), who had invented the condenser making the steam engine more efficient, Richard Trevithick (Yitzchak Zimmerman) who first put wheels on an engine and ran it on rails and George Stephenson (who was not Jewish), who had actually designed and constructed his own engine which in competition had attained a safe speed of more than twenty miles an hour.

Nathaniel was excited by the idea of being involved in Brunel's scheme but he had to consider the financial risks. The thing that bothered him most was the source of power. Coal which was then used to heat the boiler was not a particularly efficient way to generate and use heat. As soon as coal had burnt, it was of no further use. He wanted to find something to harness the heat and store it for continuous application.

If you have read this story thus far you may be wondering where Cholent comes in. Have patience dear reader and all will be revealed.

It was late on a Friday afternoon that Nathaniel had that 'Eureka' moment. He had looked across to the fireplace where his Cholent pot hung above the stove. There were two things he noticed. The cooked cholent was bubbling in the pot and lifting the heavy

iron lid; and also, the heat from the cholent seemed as great, if not greater than the heat from the fire, although the cholent itself was not burning. He had found a new source of power!

Brunel was of course familiar with Cholent and was not surprised by Nathaniel's discovery. Between them they devised a plan to run the railways using this new power source. Each engine would have an oven tender containing several shelves of pre-heated Cholent pots on trays. The idea was to make an initial coal fire to heat the boiler and then place trays of Cholent underneath to maintain the heat. An extra pot could always be added for 'Full Steam Ahead' mode. There would be a Cholent kitchen at each station so a supply of fresh Cholent could be maintained and the Cholent offloaded could be supplied to passengers in the waiting rooms. Later a restaurant coach was added to the trains so that Cholent could be ordered and eaten en route.

The project initially met with huge success but sadly this was not to last. The railways expanded so rapidly and the public flocked to this new mode of transport in huge numbers. People who had nowhere to go were booking train journeys just for the experience of eating Cholent. So great was the demand that the supply of Cholent could not be maintained. The problem was - shortage of potatoes, the principle ingredient of all Cholent. To address this, the pair of entrepreneurs bought up large tracts of land to grow potatoes. A large area of land near the Borough of Hackney was, for a time in the nineteenth century, one big potato field, which the locals called Spudsfield. The produce was distributed through a small vegetable market near the edge of the City. This became known as Spudsfield market. Salisbury Plain was also utilised, being on Brunel's route to the West. It was still not enough and potatoes were being shipped across from Ireland where there was at that time a plentiful supply.

It was all looking good – too good! Problems were looming. Firstly, some big city investors who had put large sums of money into coal mines, saw ever diminishing returns. Many of these investors were members of parliament. The land owners were becoming more disgruntled. They had been persuaded to sell their land too quickly when they would have been better advised to keep the land and sell the potatoes. Members of the English aristocracy who owned land in Ireland did exactly this. However there was an even greater problem. So eager were the English land owners to cash in on their rich Irish potato crop that they sold

more than the land could readily produce. This led to the great Irish Famine, a national scandal which came to the attention of Queen Victoria and she summoned the Prime Minister of the day, who happened to have the unfortunate name of Robert Peel (no connection with potatoes). Parliament had to act quickly and they did so. A new law was passed which said all railway engines had to be licensed, and the conditions for granting a licence included the requirement that they run only on coal. All records of the potato industry were expunged from Company records. The newspapers were given the story that the Irish famine was a natural disaster. The large field in Hackney where the potato crop had been left to rot, had, after a very wet winter become a quagmire and was thereafter generally referred to as the Hackney Marshes. The name Spudsfield Market was erased from all local maps. It continued as a trading centre for fruit and vegetables but under the revised name of Spitalfields after the church which stood nearby. Brunel gave up his railway venture and took up steamship design. When that failed he went to Jersey to escape his creditors. There, his knowledge of potatoes enabled him to create a new strain of the vegetable which became known as the Jersey Potato. Nathaniel Westminster went back to his original profession as a financial adviser and in fact started up a bank. By that time he had shortened his name to Nat West.

By the time I got to the end of the book I must have fallen asleep because someone was tapping me on the shoulder saying "Sir! It's time!". I assumed it was the Library attendant and it was closing time, but as I roused myself I realised I was not in the reading room of the British Library. I was at home in my armchair and it was my wife who was shaking me saying "Cyril! It's time – you have to get back to Shul for Mincha". As I trudged back to Shul with my collar turned up against the elements, I still could not believe it had all been a dream. As soon as I got home I could not resist looking up facts about the Industrial Revolution and the history of the nineteenth century. All the people in the book I had dreamt about were there although there was no mention of their Jewish origin. The tragedy of the Great Irish Potato Famine actually happened, though thankfully the Jews were not involved. Nevertheless I always feel that when I mention the word Cholent in the company of Irishmen I am met with blank stares and an uncomfortable silence. Perhaps I am just being too sensitive.

'The 49 Day Count'



IMAGINE yourself dressed to impress; super smart, hair done and sunglasses on. You know that you are turning heads when you walk into a room. What you don't know is that there is an elastic with one end attached to your back and the other end tied to the door handle. You look like you're really going places, in every sense of the words, but in reality you keep being pulled back to the beginning again. You keep trying to leave and make progress, but you keep finding yourself back at the door. The best you can hope for is to go as far forward as the elastic will stretch, and then keep walking on the spot. If you really want to move forward, the only thing to do is to cut the elastic. So where are you going to go now? It doesn't matter - all that matters is that you are no longer being held back and now you can move forward.

We are about to celebrate Pesach. On the second night we start counting the Omer - the forty-nine day count that takes us from Egypt to Mount Sinai, from Pesach to Shavuot. The Torah commands us to count these forty-nine days, but it never tells us what we are counting towards. It just tells us to count. When we left Egypt, only twenty percent of the Jews decided to leave. Surely if we had been given a goal - if we had known that after forty-nine days we would have reached Sinai and received the Torah from Hashem Himself - it would have given us more incentive to cut our ties to Egypt and move forward in our new, national future? It would have encouraged us to let go of our slave mentality and move towards something greater and more meaningful. But it doesn't - we just need to count, to let go of the past and move forward and we will find the future when we get there. Stage one was to cut the elastic because without that clean break, irrespective of all other factors, we would have run the risk

of staying attached to our past and never made true progress.

There are many things in our personal lives that we keep coming back to - that hold us back - even though we may intellectually know that we would feel better and freer to move forward if we could fully let go. As long as we hold on to them, we are enslaved to them to an extent. They are our personal taskmasters who

are keeping us tied down and stopping us from being free. These constraints may be psychological, emotional or geographical. They may be real or imagined. What would happen if we let them go, cut the elastic? Who knows? We may have been held back for so long that it seems normal to walk on the spot and we can't imagine what moving forward would look like. Like eighty percent of the Jews in Egypt, we may be afraid of what real freedom will bring and we might choose to stay with the devil we know.

Pesach is the perfect time to reflect on who we are, where we come from, and where we could go if we can cut our ties to the past. I believe this is true both on a personal and communal level. As a shul, Redbridge United has now existed for three years. In Judaism, doing something three times implies permanence. Our shul is something to be proud of, it's here to stay. We have an opportunity this Pesach to let go of our baggage, cut our ties to feelings that may be holding us back, and embrace a new stage in the growth of the shul.

My husband, daughters and I are committed to working with you to create a warm, inclusive and forward-thinking community. We have some ideas of how to help things move forward, and we want you to come with us for the journey. Where will the shul be in one, five, ten years' time? I don't know yet, but I am excited for the journey. I'm prepared to cut the elastic and start taking those steps into the future. Are you coming with me?

**'Steps
into
the
future'**

Chag Sameyach.
Rebbetzen Siobhan

Synagogues of Europe

THE LAST few years on our travels we have endeavored to seek out local synagogues. We have found ones in Dubrovnik, Florence, Rhodes and others.

This last year was no exception. On our Russian cruise we visited St. Petersburg Synagogue and later in the year the Synagogue in Lisbon.

St. Petersburg

The Grand Choral Synagogue is situated near The Mariinsky theatre in a small side street, but it is a huge building, the second largest Synagogue in Europe. Alexander II (one of the more lenient Czars), gave permission for the Jews of St. Petersburg to build the Grand Choral to replace existing buildings, as early as 1869. The new Czar Alexander III approved the plans in 1883, and eventually the opening ceremony took place in 1893. Many important persons attended including Tolstoy. The building can accommodate well over 1230 persons (734 men).

The Jews of Petrograd (St. Petersburg) welcomed the overthrow of the Czar in 1917 and all looked good, but the October coup ruined the plans for the normal existence of the Jewish community and it became more difficult to survive and there was much religious persecution. In 1930, the Synagogue

was ordered to close by the Leningrad Soviet. However, the Synagogue was reopened one year later for fear of international protest. The Synagogue survived the terrible nine hundred-day siege of Leningrad 1941/3. In one heated room a minyan would gather to pray for victory. The building then fell into disrepair during the years of Soviet authority until the 1990's. A patron of the arts Edmond Safra sponsored restoration and reconstruction. In June 2001 the grand opening of the renovated Grand Prayer Hall took place.

Lisbon

The current Hebrew community of Lisbon originates from groups of Sephardic Jews in Portugal at the beginning of the 19th Century. Jews were let back in from 1820 after they were expelled during the Inquisition. These settlers were mainly of above average intelligence, were merchants and brought their commercial expertise to improve the Portuguese economy. From about 1810 there were several houses that served as prayer halls. Eventually land was purchased at 59 Alexandra Herculano Street for a "proper" Synagogue. It had to be built inside a walled yard, since it was not allowed frontage to the public road as the Catholic religion was then the official religion of the State. The first stone was laid in 1902 and completion of The Shaare-Tikva Synagogue took place in 1904.

Lisbon became an important haven for refugees in WW2. As a neutral country many Jews, and of course others made the tortuous journey to Lisbon. It is estimated that transit



Lisbon Synagogue

visas were issued to one hundred thousand refugees.

On our guided tour we were told that an extra ladies section was added to the Synagogue because of the influx.

After the “Carnation” revolution in 1974 (a bloodless army coup), politics changed, the borders were opened, democracy returned, entry was gained to the European Union and this allowed Jewish Citizens from different countries to enter Portugal. Though, today there are only about 400/500 Jews in Portugal in Lisbon and Oporto. The community is just about

surviving but I believe there has been an increase in Jews seeking Portuguese passports from countries such as France and now of course Spain.

In addition, there could be a number of Marronos in Portugal who could now flourish.

Kosher meat must be flown in and it is a struggle to maintain the Synagogue and Jewish life.

Tours and visits of the Synagogue must be booked in advance, which we did via the Internet. Entrance is five Euros, but larger donations are welcomed.

Elaine and Bernard Chaplin

Balfour Centenary Ceremony

ON Sunday 29th October Linda and I visited a very special Synagogue, the New West End Synagogue in Bayswater. This beautiful and historic building is Grade One Listed by English Heritage and is well worth a visit. But on this occasion, although admiring the columns, arches and colourful stain-glass windows, we were there to attend a special ceremony co-hosted by the New West End Synagogue and the United Synagogue in recognition and celebration of the Centenary of the Balfour Declaration. Also present were the Guests of Honour: Chief Rabbi, Ephraim Mirvis and HE Ambassador of Israel, Mark Regev.

As the President of the United Synagogue, Michael Goldstein wrote in the Event Programme “we remember with gratitude the role that the then Foreign Secretary, Arthur Balfour and the British Government played in the formation of the modern State of Israel. Although the modern State of Israel was not established for another thirty years, the declaration set the process in motion which allowed Jews to regain sovereignty of their Homeland; something that had not happened since the destruction of the Second Temple thousands of years before.”

Four of the most influential Jews involved in the Balfour Declaration were members of the New West End Synagogue, one of the earliest United Synagogue communities. Lobbying in favour were Herbert Samuel, Lord Lionel Walter Rothschild, second Baron Rothschild and Chaim Weizmann. Lobbying against was

Edwin Samuel Montagu. Chaim Weizmann later became the First President of the State of Israel.

Following a welcome by Rabbi of the New West End Synagogue, Rabbi Dr Moshe Freedman, Baroness Ruth Deech DBE read The Balfour Declaration and the response by Chief Rabbi Hertz.

In his speech, Chief Rabbi, Ephraim Mirvis spoke about the history of the Jews preceding the Balfour Declaration explaining “We never lost touch with our land”.

HE Ambassador of Israel, Mark Regev paid tribute to Britain for the Balfour Declaration and the legacy it had given to Israel of freedom and democracy. The importance of Balfour was not that Britain gave Jews the right to a homeland - its importance was that Britain



HE Ambassador of Israel
Mark Regev

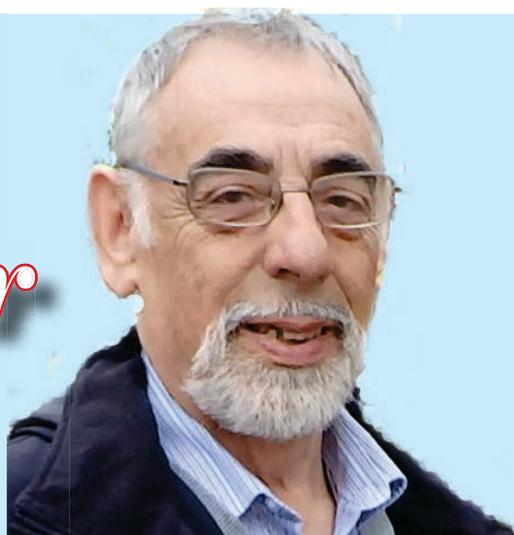
recognised that right. In this way, Balfour was an historic document and part of a chain of events, a milestone on the path to Jewish independence and sovereignty. Britain had played a crucial role in helping to create the Middle East’s only democracy.

Two young members of the synagogue gave readings relating to Balfour, and the Ceremony ended with the National Anthem and Hatikvah.

It was a very moving ceremony and one that we were glad to have attended.

Philippa Stanton

London Taxi Driver Speak



BY STUART PESSOK

IT WON'T come as a surprise that through its four hundred years of history, London's cab trade created a language of its own - slang expressions describing work practices, passengers, pet names given to ranks, venues and buildings and nicknames earned by drivers because of their looks, mannerisms or where they lived or which rank they used. In addition, there has never been a shortage of good stories to be told, many of which have become part of taxi trade folklore.

Athenaeum Club

Cab drivers of old referred to this establishment in Pall Mall as 'Spit and Cough', no doubt rhyming slang for 'Toff' as only the upper-class could afford to become members of this exclusive men's club. (It wasn't until 2002 that women were allowed entry.)

A statue that stands over the entrance to the Athenaeum has been the subject of much controversy over the years with many thinking it to be Athene, goddess of wisdom, but according to cab folklore, she was a mere mortal who got a job at the club as a waitress. On her first day there, after serving a well-known and powerful author, she held out her hand for a tip. The enraged author gave her a look that turned her to stone! After the inquest, the club committee decided to give her a helmet and a spear to make her look properly statuesque, and set her up over the doorway as a warning to others. There the poor girl stands to this day, still holding out her empty hand.

Butter Boy

A newcomer to the cab trade is called a 'Butter Boy', a name derived from 'Butter-Basher' a phrase coined during the 1913 cab

strike. Strikers believed that the police were trying to help the companies to break the strike by granting a large number of licences to new drivers without putting them through the usual severe driving and Knowledge of London tests.

These new drivers, it was rumoured, were mostly unemployed shop assistants, drawn mainly from the 'grocery and provision' trade. In those days, the most conspicuous man behind a provision counter was the one who carved up the large blocks of butter and patted each rough chunk with his flat wooden paddles into the size and weight the customer required.



Still waiting for a tip

Contemptuous cabmen called these blacklegs 'Butter-Bashers'. When the cabmen returned to work, victorious, each and every stranger on the ranks was naturally referred to as another 'butter-basher'. In time, its blackleg significance faded; it became shortened to "Butter Boy" although now that there are a significant number of women driving cabs, perhaps 'Butter Boy' is no longer Politically Correct.

In the late 40s, a Butter Boy made an appearance on the Shoreditch rank, and after narrating a tale of his experience with a fare he was nicknamed 'Four legs a shilling', here's why. Sid, his real name, picked up a fare carrying a small occasional table. Sid insisted that the table should be carried outside of the cab and the customer agreed. At the end of the journey Sid asked the fare for a shilling for the small table. The fare reminded Sid that the tariff board inside said threepence an article. Sid explained that the table had four legs at threepence each, which makes one shilling. Forever more Sid was known as 'Four legs a shilling'.

In those days, the Shoreditch rank was situated outside the entrance to the church in the main road. Fuel was rationed and the small manufacturers in that area relied on cabs to deliver their goods. The rank was equipped with a telephone and local dressmakers would phone for a cab to carry their dresses to the various wholesalers; the cab was a cheap form of transport. One day, 'Four legs a shilling' answered the phone and was ordered to a dressmaker's address in Bethnal Green. On arrival the fare brought out a rope and started to fix it in the rear of the taxi between the passenger doors in order to hang up his dresses. This was the usual method used at that time.

As the fare began to put the dresses on the rope, Sid appeared to be taking a deep interest in the procedure. The man asked, "Are you interested in the dressmaking business?" "No," said Sid, "I am counting them, and my charge is threepence for each dress!" The fare became angry and told Sid no cabman had ever charged him in this way. He tried to bargain with Sid, but Sid was adamant and would not budge. In protest, the fare took away the dresses and the rope but Sid was unmoved. He asked for the fare of four shillings and eighty-four dresses at threepence each. The fare told him to get stuffed!

Sid summoned the dressmaker and the case was heard at Old Street Magistrates Court. The dressmaker was represented by a solicitor and confident he would win the case. Sid presented himself. Following a half-hour address by the solicitor, obviously trying to justify his fee, the magistrate adjourned the case until the afternoon. On returning to the court the magistrate issued his verdict: "The cabman was greedy and unreasonable, but I have no choice. I have to give judgement in the cabman's favour. Eighty-four dresses at threepence each, four shillings on the meter, plus £2 costs."

In the eyes of 'Four legs a shilling' the law was upheld but the dressmaker had the last laugh. He bought an old cab and used it to transport his garments and every time he passed the Shoreditch rank he would sound the hooter and stick two fingers up to the cab drivers.

In 1932 another Butter Boy was to earn a nickname after introducing himself to drivers on the Russell Square rank. Except for his sandals he was dressed all in green, a dark green, like a Harrods van. Brandishing a magazine called 'Health and Strength', he would tell drivers how to keep fit and the benefits of not smoking, keeping one's weight down and the dangers of pollution. All equally alien to drivers who enjoyed smoking, tucking in to a hearty meal, with the nearest to exercising being the cranking of the cab's starting handle!

He wouldn't miss an opportunity to preach his doctrine and although drivers would poke fun at him, the man they nicknamed 'Tarzan' never seemed to be offended. Unfortunately, 'Tarzan' never got to enjoy old age. One day he was crossing Oxford Street totally engrossed in a health magazine when he was knocked down and fatally injured. He was as a cab driver would say, 'Brown Bread!'

Junior Woman of the Year

Mazal Tov to Michal Singer who has been nominated Junior Woman of the Year. Michal celebrated her Bat Mitzvah on 21 October 2017. Mazal Tov to her parents Rabbi Yaakov and Shani Singer. Extended Mazal Tov wishes go to Yael, Yonatan, Zecharia and Ora, as well as to Rev Stewart and Lorraine Myers and Rabbi David and Judy Singer. A special Mazal Tov to great-grandparents Ron and Ruth Singer.

A Trip to Poland

By SAUL LEVENE



THERE is nowhere on Earth as black as the death camps, and so it becomes increasingly difficult to answer the well-meant questions of 'How did you find it? Was it meaningful? How was Poland?'. What is the correct response to give after going through hell? What would satisfy the asker?

My trip was a standard trip to Poland, apart from the extra two and a half days we ended up spending there because of the snow in London. Ironically, the best food we had was on the last two days, after the trip had officially ended.

We visited Majdanek, Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Warsaw Ghetto and cemetery, Chelmno as well as former Yeshivas and burial-places of great rabbis.

Our tour guide was Tzvi Sperber, the director of JRoots and we all felt very lucky to have him. With him, it was a constant whirlwind of emotion. One moment we were all in tears, the next we were dancing and singing our hearts out.

The stories he told brought life to the places, and helped us connect more to the individuals than to the numbers. One story of the birth of a child somehow carried throughout Auschwitz and eventually delivered in the toilets was particularly moving. The baby was delivered by Gisella Perl, and subsequently drowned in the toilets in order to protect the life of the mother. Both mother and doctor survived Auschwitz and delivered another baby together, several years after liberation in Mount Sinai Hospital, New York.

What moved me most however, were the mass graves. It is one thing to stand where people were killed, but another to stand where they are buried after being coldly shot through the head and piled like sardines.

We were literally standing upon the bones of our ancestors, and this got me thinking. We are always standing upon the bones of our ancestors, much in the same way as our society is standing on the shoulders of giants.

Our society is intrinsically dead. Or if not dead then living inside the corpse of its father. No one alive invented democracy, the rights of the individual, medicine, the microchip or electricity. The buildings that we stand in and the pavements that we walk on have been built by the dead.

When I stood in a mass grave, it made me realise the huge debt of gratitude we all owe to the dead. In the same way, the best way to honour the dead is by building on what they left behind. What did the Jews who died in the Holocaust leave behind? They left behind the living. The best way to honour the dead, is to live with a knowledge that we too will end up under the ground, and that our lives are not to be thrown away.

I came away from the trip with a few new insights. It forced me to think about how frail the human body is, and how cheap life is in so many places. The Holocaust is the only genocide with the aim of complete

*'To go to
Poland
is to go
to Hell'*

extermination of a people, but it is by no means the only genocide. The Soviet Union, China, Cambodia, Rwanda, the list goes on. People die, and people die easily and human beings are capable of great evil.

I came away from a children's grave with the knowledge that I wanted to be a better son. Often, parents were made to choose which child to keep, or parents and children were separated in a moment, never to see each other again.

I suppose the greatest insight I've gained from Poland is the idea of fragility. My life will end, my parents will eventually leave me, I'm able to practice my religion right now, but for

most of history that has not been the case. The morality of the world is in flux too, it's not a given fact that people know right from wrong, and it's far too easy for great evil to be committed by ordinary men, with wives and children. The people who committed the Holocaust were not monsters, and they were not forced into it on pains of death. No one was forced to kill a Jew. The idea that in a different circumstance, I could have been a Nazi camp guard, brings into question my own moral compass.

Going to Poland did change me. It forced me to wake up to some uncomfortable truths. I hope I'll take heed of them.

We Will Remember Them

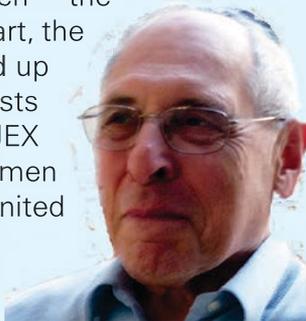
By Tony Levine

THE AJEX Shabbat (Association of Jewish ex-servicemen and women) was held at Ilford United Synagogue on 18 November 2017.

By 9.30am when the service was due to start, the shul had steadily filled up with the invited guests and members of AJEX including ex-servicemen from Redbridge United Synagogue.

The invited guests were: Councillor Mrs Linda Huggett, Mayor of Redbridge; Councillor Ashley Kissin, Deputy Mayor; Mrs Hilary Kissin, Deputy Mayoress; Councillor Ronnie Barden, Past Mayor and Leader of the Council; Councillor Alan Weinberg; Councillor Keith Prince, GLA member for Havering and Redbridge; Wes Streeting, Member of Parliament for Ilford North; Mike Gapes, Member of Parliament for Ilford South.

The morning continued with the traditional Shabbat service until it reached the time for the Prayers for the Royal Family, for the safety of the British Armed Forces and for the State of Israel and its Defence Forces. There followed Memorial Prayers for the men and women of HM Forces who died through enemy action; for the men, women and children who perished under the Nazis in the Holocaust; and for the men and women who



died in battle to establish the State of Israel. The congregation then sang Psalm 121 Esa Enai (I will lift up my eyes).

Mr Maurice Conway was then invited to deliver the Oration. Maurice served in World War Two in the Royal Canadian Airforce (420 Squadron) as a rear gunner taking part in thirty-five raids across Europe. (Not to be confused with Redbridge Synagogue's own Maurice Conway who served in the Royal Engineers in WW2). The Oration: "Let us remember all the men and women of the British Commonwealth of Nations and Israel who gave their lives in defence of freedom. They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them."

The congregation responded with one united voice "We will remember them". There was one minute's silence and the oration concluded with the words "When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today".

The service continued with the Sermon by Rabbi Hyman, the Mussaf prayers and concluded with the enthusiastic singing of the Hatikvah, the National Anthem and Adon Alom.

After the service there was a splendid Chulent Kiddush prepared by the Ladies Committee of Ilford United Synagogue.

This special Shabbat Service was a most moving occasion and it was a privilege to have been present.

The Time of our Freedom

WE call Pesach a time of freedom Z'man Cheiruseinu.. This concept makes lots of sense in the context of the Jewish people who left Egypt. Once they had left Egypt, and were no longer constrained by any other laws other than the laws of the Torah. They didn't have to pay taxes. They didn't have to go to the army, or vote for parliament. They were truly free.

However, there have been many thousands of years from the giving of the Torah until this very moment when the Jewish people have been anything but free. We have been sent into exile time and time again. Year after year, we have faced persecution. We were not free to live our lives as we wished. Is this freedom?

The holy Maharal explains that on Pesach we eat Matza - which is called poor man's bread. The reason that Matza is poor, is not because of the quality of the flour, or the fact that it hasn't risen enough. It is because the Matza, like the poor person only has enough for the basics. A poor man just has enough to keep body and soul together. Similarly, the Matza has no frills to it - it has no oil or honey to make it sweeter or more enticing. It is the bare bones of bread - no more, and no less.

The Maharal explains that true freedom is realising who we are on our most simple level. We are like the basics of bread - the physicality of the grain and the spirituality of the water which represents Torah and spirituality which are fused into one thing - the Matza. If we want to be truly free, we need to look at ourselves, and say "who am I?" This question transcends beyond external exile.

The trouble is that those basics of who we are become compromised by so many things, which we are told to believe enrich our lives. We gain more wealth and possessions, and we do things which we believe will enhance our lives. We complicate our lives with wasteful pursuits and we believe that complication

enhances our lives. The reality is very different. We confuse ourselves and the things we do with who we are. I must be great because I have a lot of money, and I wear a Carducci suit. I must be an exciting person because I gamble or drink. The more we add to our perceptions of ourselves, the more we become that perception rather than who we are. The greater the prestige, the more expensive the car, the less free we are

My blessing is that we may find ourselves over this Yom Tov. That we look into ourselves and recognise our true strengths, our true character traits, that we go back to basics, and unearth that basic beautiful soul so it can shine free in all its glory.

Good Yom Tov!

Rabbi Steven Danksy

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Renewal of Vows

Four couples who are members of Redbridge United Synagogue have each celebrated their Golden Wedding

Anniversary by renewing their vows.

Three of the couples were married at Hackney Synagogue in Brenthouse Road, East London.

The Service was officiated by Rev. Gary Newman, Minister of Redbridge Synagogue.



The couples are: Adele and Michael Trainis; Ann and Michael Belson; Natalie and Richard Rubin and Sandra and Brian Angel. This is in order from left to right on the attached photo.

Ann Belson

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'The Wind Beneath OUR Wings'

By Victor Shafier

IT HAS been a long time since Rabbi Wilson left but the Synagogue work and services have continued seamlessly all due to the quiet efficiency of Leslie Linder.

The running and day to day tasks of organising the Synagogue landed in the hands of Leslie, the most unassuming person I know. The amount of work and effort he puts into the Synagogue is appreciated by so few. Leslie is one of the first to arrive each morning. He makes sure that everything is properly organised, and the Safer Torah is rolled and at the correct place. His care in this respect is clinical.

On a Shabbat you see him on the Bimah taking an active part in the Service, and he has a very persuasive ability to shmooze members to support the morning and evening minyanim.

Many of you may know that Leslie has issues with his sight, but this does not in any way hamper his fervour and commitment. In reality Redbridge United Synagogue would be the poorer if it was not blessed with Leslie. There are those of us who support him, particularly the regular minyan men, a group of mainly retired members who rise very early no matter what the weather, summer and in the depths of winter.

Over the years Leslie has been offered many awards and senior lay positions within the synagogue but, he has always refused them. He has said many times that the greatest reward that would please him would be the attendance of as many of you as possible to support all the minyanim that are essential to enable us to honour our departed ones.

Now with the imminent arrival of Rabbi Danksy I think it most fitting that Leslie's efforts and achievements should be recorded. On behalf of the whole community we give thanks to Leslie and with Hashem's blessing may he continue serving in his modest way for many years.

Mitzvah Day

19 November 2017

FOR our Mitzvah Day project this year we arranged to work with New Chapters - a business that sells second-hand books online – with a difference. Those who work at New Chapters are Langdon members with learning disabilities. This is usually their first step into the world of work. They learn the importance of punctuality, responsibility, hard work, and interacting with the social nature of the workplace – all skills that people in work need. The revenue made from selling the books helps to run New Chapters.

Also, in conjunction with RJCC we collected non-perishable food items and toiletries for GIFT.

Gordon Miller and David Langdorf, who arranged the collections write as follows:

"We would like to thank all those who donated books and toiletries for our Mitzvah Day projects. The amount of books far exceeded our expectations and will ensure that those involved with Langdon College in the 'New Chapters' project will benefit greatly with improving both their work and life skills.

Your donations to GIFT will ensure that those in the community who need support in obtaining what the rest of us consider to be the 'simple' things in life will be able to maintain a better standard of living than may otherwise have been the case.

Once again, our grateful thanks and we look forward to your continued support.

**Gordon Miller
and David Langdorf**

Our Welfare Committee



WE are still endeavouring to call our members between the ages of sixty to sixty-nine, but need some more volunteers to help us with this enormous task. Whilst some of our younger members have been surprised to receive calls from us, our main aim has always been to make our members aware that we are there to help in any way we can. Also, it is one way of trying to establish the make-up of our membership since we became Redbridge United Synagogue over three years ago. If you can help the committee, please contact the shul office.

The committee has discussed whether it would be possible for each of its members to keep in regular contact with a shul member who has limited contact with people in general. We have not yet begun to do this as there are quite a few of our members who would need to be called. If you think this is something that you could help the committee with, please contact the shul office.

We continue to keep in contact with members with either Reverend Newman ringing/visiting to offer condolences to those bereaved or to wish members congratulations on reaching an eighty-plus birthday or for a special occasion. Furthermore, one of our committee members also sends out cards to members who are celebrating an event. To our surprise, some members have either emailed the shul or sent a letter thanking us for all our help. Phone calls and visits are also made by Reverend Newman to members who are unwell or have just come home from hospital. It is hoped that, in due course, committee members will be able to visit members whilst in hospital.

Following a suggestion from another committee member, we have now asked our members to let us know if a member of their family is going away to university. Keeping in touch with our younger members is very important which we hope will signify that

wherever they are, they can contact us should they need us.

However, to date the shul has not received any calls to this effect but looks forward to being contacted in the future.

Unfortunately, a fact of life is the loss of family members. We know from members that the support that Reverend Newman has given during times of bereavement, post sitting shiva, coming to Friday night dinner or Shabbat lunch and stone settings, has been fantastic. Furthermore, where possible, we have also been able to visit members sitting shiva or ringing them to send our condolences. Again, members have been very appreciative and in our humble way, it is our honour to assist in any way we can.

We know that more and more women would like to say kaddish/prayer for their loved ones. There is a kaddish book in shul. When Reverend Newman visits members who have been bereaved he brings a yazrheit candle and card round to the mourners. The kaddish book for women can also be requested and brought to the shiva house as saying this prayer can be very comforting for women mourners.

Some of our members have attended training sessions organised by the United Synagogue to try and help our members in different ways. At a recent meeting with other shul Care Co-ordinators, Reverend Newman and I were able to talk with the representatives from one of our local shuls. We hope to meet up with them shortly. Furthermore, since Redbridge United Synagogue's formation, the United Synagogue has been very impressed with the way it has worked with its members in relation to welfare issues. Because of this I have personally been asked to sit on the

United Synagogue's Care Co-ordinator's Advisory Group and have duly accepted the position. I hope that whatever learning is gained from this position, will be of considerable help to many of our members.

Reverend Newman lit the Chanukah candles at Sinclair House on a few occasions as well as joining in with the singing of Maoz Tsur with those who were at the day centre. Furthermore, Reverend Newman, together with members of the committee, visited the Vi & John Rubens Care Home, Winningales Court and Limewood Court Retirement Apartments also to celebrate the lighting of the Chanukah candles. Everyone joined in with singing Maoz Tsur as well as partaking of latkes and chocolates. I am pleased to say that everyone thoroughly enjoyed our visits.

We are always looking for new initiatives. Recently we have discussed whether it would be possible for some of our members to hold afternoon tea in their own homes for other members. Would it be possible to hold an afternoon tea in Sinclair House every three months, but again this needs to be discussed further? However, I am in contact with Jewish Care and another local shul who already offer this, and I hope to have meetings with them to see if we can link up. Perhaps afternoon teas could help some of our members who have the same/similar interests to form a friendship. If this is something that is of interest to you, please contact the shul office.

Reverend Newman together with the Welfare Committee, wish you all a Chag Sameach Pesach.

LORRAINE SILVER

Chairman - Welfare Committee

Spirit to Spirit

AN inspirational evening was held at the home of Reverend and Mrs Gary Newman in January. This was the first, I hope, of many evening talks that will be given by Rabbi Steven Dansky who is now our senior Rabbi. Together with his wife, Rebbetzen Siobhan Dansky, I feel that this dynamic couple will indeed raise our spirits in more ways than one!

And so, let me return to the evening in question where a different type of spirit was on offer; spiritual guidance together with the liquid form including other refreshments for those of us who could not partake. The evening, led by Rabbi Dansky, introduced an interesting concept of when should we go to the aid of others without risking our own life. Initially the discussion revolved around a case study but, as is usually the case, members' experiences were brought to the fore and many differences of opinion were expressed. Traditional Rabbinical application and interpretation was also introduced which gave those present more food for thought.

After an hour of lively, insightful and enjoyable interaction between Rabbi Dansky and both male and female members of the shul, the discussion concluded. A hearty thank you was extended to Rabbi Dansky who departed to eat a well deserved evening meal at home whilst the rest of us delved into the delicious cakes provided by Reverend and Mrs Gary Newman. We are now looking forward to the next 'spiritual' evening and hope that more shul members will come along and enjoy great discussion, company and refreshments.

Lorraine Silver

Calling All Parents

Did you know that if you have a new baby, the United Synagogue will give you a present?

The baby gift pack contains some essential items they feel could be useful for the new baby and family. These items include: a Mazal Tov card, a heat changing spoon, a bib, a trolley key ring, a foldable shopping bag, a bracha card to bless children on Friday night and a PJ Library book.

All you have to do is tell the Shul about the birth of the baby so that he/she can be added to your family's membership records. Your baby will then become a member of Tribe covered under their parents' membership until they are twenty-one years of age, and new parents will be informed of the great groups and opportunities they can be involved in with their new born and as a US family. This is part of the US Tribe Experience.

Make sure your Bundle of Joy does not miss out.

Linda Stanton

The Four Sons— Why are they different?



By Rev. Stewart Myers

THE Torah as we know contains 613 Mitzvot - two hundred and forty eight positive and three hundred and sixty five negative. Among these Mitzvot or commandments are our obligations to keep and observe the “Sloshim Regalim” the Three Pilgrim Festivals. They are Pesach, Shavuot and Succot. Each festival or Yom Tov has its own personality, laws and customs.

There is an obligation for children to be taught by their fathers about the Exodus from Egypt. This mitzvah is encompassed in the words, “V’higgad’ta l’vincha’ta- You shall teach your son...” on that day (Exodus 13:18). The Hebrew text uses the word, “V’higgad’ta- you shall tell” and this is the origin of the word “Haggadah”, the book we read from on Seder night.

The Haggadah is one of Judaism’s favourite books and many people buy a new one every year, with many interpretations and commentaries that are new and those that go back hundreds of years. Haggadot and explanations are widely available with English translations and comments. So reading from a new Haggadah, those around the Seder table, both adults and children, will have the opportunity to learn something new every Pesach. For example the theme of education is dealt with in the passage that involves four sons sitting around the table. Each son has a different personality and approaches the Seder night ritual in a different way. Through Rabbinic explanations of the verses we learn that one son is wise, one son is wicked, one is simple and one does not know how to ask! Each child has a different outlook on what is happening. Each son seems to have a different viewpoint regarding Jewish law. Perhaps one sits there in silence, while another makes a sarcastic remark.

This quartet is not necessarily a “Fab Four” but, they are certainly a mixture. The wise one is knowledgeable in Jewish practice and the wicked one is rebellious. The simple son is uncomplicated or straightforward and the one who doesn’t know how to ask questions may be very young or shy or has difficulty in expressing himself. Just by being at the Seder is a step in the right direction. However, the Haggadah would like all the sons to contribute something to the Seder night activities. This idea in itself is an important marker in how we should all be involved in our Jewish way of life. Everyone has a part to play and everyone has a chance to learn more about Jewish practice and history. Pesach has a special place for us as we celebrate together with family and friends as we sit down in order to experience a re-enactment of those inspiring events of thousands of years ago.

The section on the four sons illustrates the variety of guests who have taken up the invitation to “Come and join us for Seder night”. The recitation of this section gives a marvellous opportunity for role play by those present. There is nothing more enjoyable than listening to others pretending to be one of the four sons. Accents and dialects can be employed both seriously and humorously. With a bit of imagination the Seder can be brought alive virtually at any part.

Following on from “Mah Nishtanah’s” timeless opening question, “Why/How is this night different from all other nights?” the Seder leader can have a Pesach quiz up his sleeve. For the wordsmiths at the table, how about short poems or limericks composed there and then. Whatever activity is used to enhance the evening, satisfaction can be gained by knowing that each individual has a

special place at the Seder table regardless of their level of knowledge or observance.

I found the following question and appropriate answer in a Haggadah incorporating commentaries and explanations by Rabbi Moshe Bogomilsky of New York City. Why is the Hebrew word "Echad" (one) mentioned before each of the four sons? I quote his explanation: generally the word "Echad" explains the oneness of Hashem. He takes his idea from the first sentence of the Shema - "Shema Yisrael Hashem Elokeinu Hashem Echad" – Hear O Israel, Hashem is our G-d, Hashem is One. The Haggadah is teaching us that every Jew, regardless of what he openly declares about Hashem and the Torah, still has a spark of Hashem in him. Therefore it is right, proper and necessary to dedicate time to this person and bring him/her closer to Hashem. The Seder is a perfect vehicle to show and inspire others to ask their questions and be more inquisitive about what Pesach can offer them and what they can offer others once they have ignited that spark.

Wishing Rabbi and Rebbitzin Dansky, Rabbi and Rebbitzin Singer and Reverend and Mrs Newman and families, together with the whole Redbridge United Kehilla a Happy and Kosher Pesach and memorable Sedarim.

What's That?

Calling all Quiz Afficionados! Following their smash hit Cabaret Evening in February this year, the Fundraising Committee are back on the trail—this time with their Quiz Nights:

General Knowledge Quiz

Sunday 24th June 2018

Entertainment Quiz

Sunday 28th October 2018

Tickets for both these events will be £13 per person inclusive of light refreshments.

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Chigwell & Hainault League of Jewish Women

CHIGWELL & Hainault Group of the League of Jewish Women continues with its many projects. It should be noted that although the Group is small in number the projects undertaken are many and varied.

The new project "Hand in Hand" now has Toni Ferner on board and together with Linda Pitch they visit various care homes and events in the local area to give the benefit of relaxing hand massage. This has proved very popular and other members have noted an interest in being trained. It should be noted that members working with the public have been Police checked.

The League also offers members the opportunity to become involved in Jewish community events and three of the Chigwell & Hainault League members attended the AJEX Parade marching under the banner of the League of Jewish Women. The Group did not have a separate project for this year's Mitzvah Day but members contributed items suitable for brides to be sent to Israel as some of these young women are very poor. However, it was declared that all the voluntary work done by the Group members is a Mitzvah!

The residents at Milne Court have a weekly Sunday afternoon knitting session with a tea organised by Sanara Ziles and Evelyn Camp. Marylin Graham together with Helen Tranis continues to provide monthly teas for the learning disabled at Seymour Gardens. With regard to the "Way Ahead" project, there are now monthly visits to the McMillan Centre at Whipps Cross Hospital and Pat Rackind



will be holding an Open Day there before the year end. Monthly meetings of the Group are held at members' homes and bi-monthly there is a speaker.

The Group welcomed Melvyn Eagle at their September meeting. His talk about the Jewish East End was very well received and all the members agreed that they had learned something new. Former Mayor of Redbridge, Councillor Ashley Kissin spoke at

the October meeting and gave a lively insight into his time as Mayor and Deputy Mayor. He spoke about the various functions expected of him and some of his duties. In December the Group welcomed Eleanor Bloom who gave a very interesting talk which she illustrated with slides and was entitled, "An armchair walk through Mayfair". She spoke about the shops which were for the "rich" of that era.

A new programme of speakers has already been prepared for the coming year which will continue to be equally as interesting as in the past. 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

Newbury Park League of Jewish Women



FIRSTLY, I take this opportunity to wish everyone a “slightly belated” Healthy and Happy 2018. My—how time flies!

As usual, we continue to meet monthly—our venue being at the South West Essex Reform Synagogue in Oaks Lane, Newbury Park. We usually have guest speakers, but occasionally we just have a “social” evening—i.e discussions, etc. For our Chanukah meeting we had a fun quiz.

Outside of our meetings, we continue to have our knitters who knit squares that will eventually be made into blankets. We now have a “new line” that keep our “knitters” busy. These are called “Pump Bags”. This followed a request from a volunteer co-ordinator at Queens Hospital and together with a senior McMillan Palliative Care Nurse we have “put the wheels in motion”. This entails “squares” being knitted – size 8” long by 9” wide – and with a narrow knitted “strap”. These knitted “bags” are then used to hold morphine pump bags which patients can carry around with ease.

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 continue to 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 still 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.

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.

Ann Belson

Publicity Officer for Newbury Park & District League of Jewish Women

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An Evening with Colonel Richard Kemp CBE



ON 17th December 2017, Colonel Richard Kemp CBE gave a talk called “The Importance of Anglo-Israel Co-operation —The Spirit of the Maccabees” at Redbridge United Synagogue at which over two hundred people attended. This was part of the celebration of Chanukah in collaboration with Woodford Forest Synagogue.

Colonel Kemp was introduced by Zalmi Unsorfer the Chairman of Likud-Herut U.K. Before his talk, Richard lit the Shammash candle on the Menorah - the leading light -, Rabbi Dansky said the prayers and we all sang Maoz Tsur.

Richard is an experienced soldier and an advocate for the Israel Defence Force (IDF) and the State of Israel. He believes that the IDF is the most moral and humane fighting unit in the world. Richard added that it was a book called “Yellow Star” written by Zalmi’s late father that inspired his support for the Jewish people & Israel.

In his talk, Richard mentioned that up to the early twentieth century, Jerusalem was part of the Ottoman Empire ruled by the Turks. Although the State of Israel had existed for thousands of years, it was only possible for modern Israel to be created when Jerusalem was in British hands. The British army won the Battle of Beer Shev’a in December 1917. The British force included the Jewish Legion led by General Patterson. This was the first Jewish fighting force since the Maccabees.

On December 11th 1917, General Allenby liberated Jerusalem. This was also during Chanukah. He rode on horseback to the Jaffa

Gate and then dismounted and walked through to Jerusalem which had surrendered to him.

Colonel Kemp added that after the First World War the British betrayed their promise given in the Balfour Declaration and appeased the Arabs. The British closed the gates of Palestine to the Jews trying to escape from the Nazis.

After the talk, Richard took questions from the floor and then refreshments were served.

Our thanks to Martin Rankoff for helping to organise this event.

Linda Stanton





‘It was a great pleasure and privilege to light your Shamas Candle’

Col. Richard Kemp CBE



Women of the Year

On 3rd February 2018, Redbridge United Synagogue had a double celebration - we were delighted to honour two of our very active members as Women of the Year - Angela Levene and Hilary Segall. Both Angela and Hilary have been involved with the Synagogue over a number of years—first with Clayhall and then, after the merger with Newbury Park, with Redbridge United. We wish them and their families a hearty Mazeltov on this wonderful occasion.

Angela Levene

Hilary Segall

Joint Women of the Year

MY first memory of Clayhall Synagogue (as it was then) more than forty years ago, sitting in the Well with a row of chairs as our Mechitsa.

I joined the Board of Management when we were still part of Beehive Lane synagogue, originally as Chairperson of the Ladies Guild. In those days ladies did not have a seat on the Board in their own right.

When we did become independent I took my place on the Board in my own right, as one of the first ladies to be a United Synagogue Councillor.



During my time we raised a lot of funds for the synagogue and with the help of Martin Altman some of the funds financed our first proper Mechitsa. We are now in the process of forming a Redbridge Ladies Guild; I hope that some of you will join us.

During these years I had the pleasure of making Simchas including the Bar mitzvahs of my sons, Gary, Michael and Steven.

One of my roles is Advertising Manager for the Shalom Magazine and calendar.

Over the past year Hilary Segall and I have taken over organizing the Kiddushim and other events. We now have a Kiddush Rota with the help of Harold Marco. Last year I joined the Selection Committee to select a new Rabbi. I am pleased to say that Rabbi Dansky and his family are now in place.

Whatever I have contributed to the synagogue, it has given me so much back in love, friendship and companionship. So I thank you for bestowing this honour on me which I know is proudly shared by my family.

I STARTED coming to Clayhall Kehilla back in 1975 after I returned from a stint on a kibbutz.

I was Chairlady of the Ladies Guild (after Angela stepped down) and created the Shalom magazine with Martin Altman when it first appeared as a single A5 sheet on the seats at Rosh Hashana 5749 (1988). I also noted that one of the names to contact regarding the functions that were planned was a certain Angela Levene!

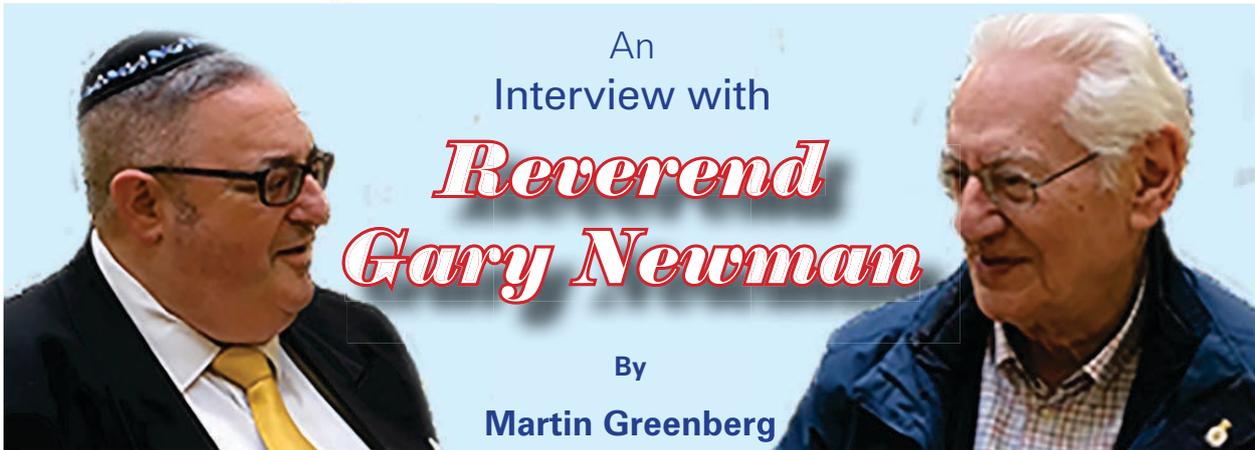
I have been on and off the Board for any number of years (maintaining that



you never throw away the minutes as they usually contain the same things year in, year out!). I have sat on two Rabbi selection panels; chaired the Education Committee with Rabbi Wilson; was a member of the US Women's Executive for a while and was a former vice-chair of the governing body at King Solomon High School.

I have been married to a very patient and long-suffering Robert for over thirty-three years, with two wonderful children, Alex and Melanie, both of whom were regular members of shul from their early years. Now added to the family is our lovely daughter-in-law Carla, whom Alex married in June last year.

But perhaps, most importantly of all, is why do we do it? Well, it's no good kibitzing from the side-lines and moaning that nothing gets done! If one wants progress, change or a just a good shake-up you have to step up to the plate and get stuck in. I think I can safely say that I have got well "stuck-in" to both Clayhall and Redbridge!



An
Interview with
*Reverend
Gary Newman*

By
Martin Greenberg

THIS interview took place as usual after the Shacharis, the early morning prayers, where Rev Newman has been one of the most regular attendees and main officiants.

MG. For the last fifteen months when we have been without a senior Rabbi you have taken our services, particularly at Shacharis, together with giving a morning Droscha, so on behalf of the community I should like to thank you for your dedication. Has this voluntary duty been a strain for you?

RN. Of course not, it has been a pleasure and a privilege.

MG. During that period there has sometimes been a struggle to make the Minyan even though we are one of the largest United Synagogue communities. Did you ever get despondent?

RN. I always try to take a positive view of events. However my hope is that our members should realise the importance of the Minyanim to enable them to say Kaddish for their departed loved ones. This is one of the main pillars of synagogue life and the bereaved and those that have Yahrzeit expect a Minyan when the time comes for them to pray. Really they should ask what they can do for the synagogue, rather than expecting that which our community can do for them. We of course help those who need it to say prayers and lay Tefillin during that period; we even have Tefillin for loan.

We are fortunate in that we have such a wonderful "ruach" at those times and our reputation for a friendly and welcoming atmosphere is well known.

MG. Our Rabbinical Team is now complete with the arrival of Rabbi Dansky. Would you like to comment?

RN. I am delighted that in Rabbi Dansky we have an outstanding Torah scholar and it will

be an honour and a delight to work with him and of course together with Rabbi Singer we now have a strong and special community spiritual leadership.

MG. Is there anyone else you would like to mention?

RN. My thanks go to our Chairman, Mike Callaghan, Vice Chairman Colin Emden and our Treasurer, Harold Marco, they are an outstanding executive, and to all the Board members. As you know I am the Welfare Rabbi working with the Welfare Committee and with its Chairperson, Lorraine Silver. They all do an excellent job.

As we approach the Festival of Pesach I wish everyone a Happy and Kosher Pesach. May we all be blessed with good health and as a community we should continue to go from strength to strength.

The Challa Make

THE Challah Make was held on Thursday October 26. We would have liked to have held this at the Shul, but this was not possible, so we used the Rabbi's house in Redbridge - which unfortunately limited how many people could take part.

However, 20 people, both women and children, were present, when with much excitement and laughter, Shani Singer helped them produce their Shabbat Challah.

We hope next year to arrange a better venue so that more members can join in the fun!

Tea at the House of Lords

WE'VE visited Parliament on several occasions and had a tour round the House of Commons, but recently we had the opportunity to be taken round the House of Lords by Lady Valerie Cocks. We have known Lady Cocks for several years, and when Harvey Bratt of the United Jewish Israel Appeal (UJIA) informed us that she had offered to take a group on a guided tour of the House of Lords and give us afternoon tea, naturally we were delighted to accept.

Lady Cocks was married to the late Labour peer Lord Cocks of Hartcliffe, James Callaghan's chief whip from 1976 to 1985. She has a strong engagement and passion towards Israel and philanthropy. Having served as a leader of Labour Friends of Israel, Valerie works tirelessly in Parliament to promote Israel's causes.

Our first port of call was the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft - an unusual place for a Jewish Group to visit, but this beautiful Chapel is not on the regular tour and few visitors get to see it! There are many lovely decorations in the Chapel including alabaster panels on which are incised the figures of Moses with the tablets of the Law and of Noah holding an Ark, and I noticed a Star of David amongst the other decorations on the painted ceiling.

Being in a Royal Palace, the Chapel is in the charge of the Lord Great Chamberlain. The Chapel is in use every Wednesday whilst either House is sitting and Members of both Houses and their direct descendants as well as permanent members of staff of either House are able to use the Chapel for weddings and other services.

We walked round the carpeted corridors of the House of Lords and stopped to look into the several dining rooms and bars and the Library and admired the decorations. There is a painting of the House of Lords in Session on one of the walls showing a number of empty seats - apparently any Peer who wished to be included in the painting had to

pay £150 for the privilege and many declined the offer!

We saw the room where the Lords had to leave their swords. Did you know that in the Chamber, the gap between the Government and Opposition Benches is the width of two swords? This is to prevent sword fights between opposing members!

We also managed to see the Throne Room where H M the Queen would sit while she put on the heavy robes and even heavier crown before going to the House to open Parliament. Linda even went up in the lift which Her Majesty now uses to access the Throne Room!

One of the highlights of the tour was when we slipped into the Gallery at the House of Lords and heard part of the debate which was going on at the time - this was all about Finance, and was a bit above my head!

During our tour, Valerie told us about some of the things that had happened in the House during her husband's term as Chief Whip!

After the fascinating tour, we adjourned to one of the side rooms for tea and cream cakes!

It was a lovely afternoon out and we enjoyed it enormously. If you have the opportunity, the Houses of Parliament, both the Commons and the Lords, are well worth a visit.

Philippa and Linda Stanton



Lisbon Memorial

NEAR our hotel on Rossio Square, central Lisbon there is a memorial inaugurated in 2008 in memory of the Jewish massacre of 1506 that happened in this square.

It is estimated that between Two thousand and Four thousand Jews who had been forced to convert (known as New Christians) were killed five hundred years ago.

After the expulsion of the Jews and Muslims from Spain and Portugal in 1492 conversos were still viewed with suspicion. On the 17th April 1506 around Passover time a few conversos were discovered with sheep and unleavened bread but were let off by the authorities, however, the local population encouraged by Dominicans commenced a murder spree which lasted from 19th to 21st April and became known as the Easter Massacre. The New Christians were also blamed for the drought and plague that was prevalent at the time.

Ruler Manuel the First arrested the instigators and together with the Dominicans who had supported the uprising were executed. Many of their supporters were whipped.

This ruler then allowed religious flexibility. I think he realized how important the conversos were to the economy of the country. (Nothing new there!!).

In 2006 a group of Jews commemorated this event and in 2008 the memorial was inaugurated.

The English translation: In memory of the great many Jews who were casualties of prejudice and religious enthusiasm and killed in the slaughter started on 19th April 1506 in this square.

Elaine and Bernard Chaplin



Letter from Liz



IN the Second Edition of the Redbridge United Synagogue Shalom Magazine I introduced myself to you all and spoke about the first Fundraising Event the committee would undertake, which would be a Cabaret Evening on Sunday 21st February, 2015. Amazingly this was a complete 'sellout' and raised, much to everyone's surprise the magnificent sum of £1,342 with one hundred and thirty-four people in attendance.

Fast forward to Sunday 21st January, 2018, when we went about organising our fourth such event. This year we kept to the same menu Fried Fish, three beautiful salads, cherry pie and ice cream plus all the trimmings for the princely sum of £19.50 per person. We literally 'sold-out' within the three weeks of advertising, deciding to limit our ticket sales to one hundred and twenty for the comfort of those attending. Our Treasurer Bernard Chaplin contacted me with the fantastic news that we had once again realised a profit of £1,163.17 for the Shul coffers.

Success such as this comes with a lot of hard work and dedication from the committee, and especially those who come in to every event to set-up and lay tables, sell raffle tickets, stay behind at the end and help us clear up – the committee thanks you.

We did plan to organise our regular General Knowledge Quiz and also the Entertainment Quiz – well you can't win them all!

The General Knowledge Quiz was held on Sunday 18th June,

and on this occasion we brought Cyril Levison out of retirement to be our Quiz Master – nice one Cyril – one hundred and eleven people participated and we had a great evening. On this occasion to keep Ticket Prices low we just had light refreshments of assorted Bridge Roll Platters/sliced cake/mini-pastries, plus tea/coffee etc, charging a very moderate £12.50. This event raised £767.92.

With confidence we went ahead organising our Entertainment Quiz for Sunday 5th November, 2017 – which one committee member commented at the time " it should go with a 'bang'" ; wrong - it was a damp firework! Unfortunately, we came up with a date that other committees had planned for their events i.e. A.J.E.X. Dinner at Beehive Lane Shul, and Woodford Forest Shul also had a Quiz Night.

The writing was on the wall when after sending emails, making numerous telephone calls we could only muster fifty-five people; as much as it hurt our feelings, we had no option but to cancel.

Before I say goodbye until the next time, in the last three years three of us (Bernard Chaplin, Colin Emden and myself) have organised for your enjoyment four Cabaret Evenings, plus six Quizzes with just one damp squid.

When the dates for this year's Quizzes have been checked with all other events being held by other committees we will let you know, so if you have never been able to participate, give us your support which would be a good incentive for us to continue this important work.

Elizabeth Levison
Chairperson-Fundraising Committee
Redbridge United Synagogue



AJEX Annual Remembrance Ceremony and Parade November 2017

A CRISP, sunny Autumn afternoon in London Town and once again the veterans and their supporters are at the Cenotaph, Whitehall for the annual Remembrance Day Ceremony and Parade.

In view of the terrorist attacks in London over the last months, security was much tighter with more steel barriers, police vans blocking streets and more police, CST and AJEX personnel present. Our many thanks to all of them for keeping us safe, and special thanks to our own “boys” and “girls” from Redbridge United Synagogue. Thank You!

The reviewing officer this year was General Sir Peter Anthony Wall GCB, CBE, DL, FREng, and the service was conducted by Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, Rabbi (Major) Reuben Livingstone LLB LLM and Rabbi Harry Jacobi MBE BA (Hons).

The Redbridge United Synagogue contingent were there once again with David Serkes holding our placard.

Though we pray for the departed, special emphasis has been on praying for the safety of the British Armed Forces as conflicts around the world continue. This prayer ends with the following verse “Nation shall not lift sword against nation, nor shall they learn war anymore”. A pity that

this lesson has not been learnt as nations continue to wage war!!!

Several events were commemorated this year including the Third Battle of Ypres-Passchendaele 1917, the Middle East Campaign 1917 including the Battle for Jerusalem, The Dieppe Raid 1942 (75th



anniversary) and the Second Battle of El Alamein (75th anniversary).

The service ended as usual with Adon Alom and the National Anthem, after which the parade marched past the Reviewing Officer who took the salute and then thanked AJEX for the honour and privilege of attending and he paid tribute to those Jewish men and women who had served, and are still serving

their country, many of whom gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Next year is the Armistice Centenary ending the First World War (November 1918). Over 50,000 British Jews from across the Empire joined British troops in the Great War on land, sea and air. Write the date in your diary now, 18th November 2018, and BE THERE!

Bernard Chaplin



PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERNARD CHAPLIN

Esther Cohen

6th June 1921 - 6th January 2018

AN important chapter in the history of Newbury Park Synagogue closed with the passing of Esther Cohen. She was an original member of the Newbury Park Synagogue, a Shul which began life in the 1960s in the most unlikely venue of an old canteen in Newbury Park Central line station.

Esther was really one of a pair and it impossible to speak of her contribution to the Jewish Community without mentioning her late husband Harry ("z'l"), but while he eclipsed her in terms of physical stature and big personality, in the field of Jewish voluntary work she was a giant in her own right. If you met her in the street you would be looking at a small quiet woman but within five minutes of working with her you understood what a considerable force she was.



She Chaired, or rather managed and organised, the Ladies Guild of Newbury Park for many years and when eventually she stepped down from that position she turned her leadership skills to the weekly Friendship Club with no diminishing of her effort and enthusiasm.

Many of the ladies who worked with her will remember that she controlled meetings by ringing a little bell when she wished to end a discussion and move on. Whilst it may have annoyed one or two at the time, all will remember that tinkling bell with affection as indeed they remember Esther.

The East End of London where Esther and Harry grew up, produced many 'stars' of Jewish voluntary organisations including some who became famous. Esther's star shines as brightly as any of them. Her contribution in terms of the inspiration she gave and the example she set will not be forgotten. She will be sorely missed

CYRIL LEVISON – JANUARY 2018



Gary Green

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Board of Deputies Report



THE Board of Deputies of British Jews is the only democratically elected representative body of the Jewish Community in the UK. It is of little doubt just how difficult it must be to represent accurately the view of the community that encompasses so many different faction. However it should be a given fact that our representative body disseminates publicly the views of the majority and not the extremist views of the minorities of the left or the right.

In my past reports I have hopefully provided you with a good understanding of the wide range and important work that the Board Of Deputies and its sub divisions undertake on our behalf. In this report I want to raise your awareness of how important it is for our representative organisation to portray accurately the views of the community to the outside world and not feed into the British media bias which revels in any opportunity to Israel bashing by quoting the negative comments of some British Jews, who in an attempt to be seen as the “okay Jew” are prepared to attack publicly the Jewish State and in doing so help propagate the perception that world Jewry is in disagreement.

The Board of Deputies who in the past included the tag line in their title “The voice of British Jewry” has in my opinion in recent years stopped being “our voice” and has become the voice of the vocal minority of the left, and this is why I was pleased to be nominated as the Deputy for Redbridge Synagogue.

Not because I wish to concur or agree with many of their statements or alliances, although it must be said that the recent Board of Deputies’ Statement by the President Jonathan Arkush on the Trump Jerusalem decision was very strong and in my view excellent. If you have not read it then I urge you to go to their

web site and do so. The reason I am delighted to be your Deputy is that I see it as my duty with the help of other like minded Deputies to bring back the leadership of Anglo Jewry to the centre ground.

The Board was hijacked by the left in 2009 when Vivian Wineman was elected President. Wineman was and is an apologist and should never have been allowed to stand for the position. Previously he was joint chair of Peace Now and chair of the New Israel Fund of Great Britain; both organisations are extreme left wing and in polite terms, frowned upon by the vast majority in Israel.

In 2015 the current President Jonathan Arkush was elected and he is a lone centrist on the executive. During his tenure, Wineman moved his own people into position, lowering thresholds and contribution rates to enable the smaller left wing movements to join. The vocal minority now hold the key positions on the executive from and including the vice president down, including many of the chair and vice chair positions of the divisions. This has led to the BoD no longer representing the true views or feelings of the community and has placed the community in a vulnerable position which has to be addressed as a matter of urgency before the BoD is completely lost to the apologist left and G-d forbid the JLC step into their place!

Wishing you Chag Kosher v Sameach.

‘The vocal minority now hold the key positions on the Executive’

Martin Rankoff

Deputy for Redbridge Synagogue

The Paperweight Trust

CLAIRE and David separated one year ago. David is renting a property and Claire is living in the former marital home with Samantha, their daughter age nine. Claire and David had agreed neither a financial settlement nor contact arrangements. This stalemate was challenging for both parents.

Who was going to see Samantha on first night Seder, or first day Rosh Hashanah? What about Secondary School - who has a say? Who has responsibility for the mortgage? What is the level of maintenance?

A friend suggested Claire give the Paperweight Trust a call and with the support and guidance of The Paperweight Family Law Support & Advocacy Service, whose non-confrontational approach enabled Claire and David to reach a contact agreement which considered Samantha's wishes and feelings as well as their own. Of course this is not always possible and Paperweight might need to refer clients to a family Mediator in the hope that the Mother and Father's differences can be resolved without proceeding to Court.

In the case of Claire and David contact arrangements were resolved, but no agreement had been reached regarding the split of marital finances. Mediation was unsuccessful, and unfortunately the matter proceeded to Court. With little spare money, Claire had to appear in Court as a Litigant in Person – a prospect she dreaded. Claire truly felt alone and extremely vulnerable and at her wits end.

At that stage, Paperweight's Family Support & Advocacy Service was there, providing free support and gently assisting Claire all the way through the difficult processes. The non-judgmental staff explained procedures, assisted her in completing court forms and guided her collation of a multitude of key documents.

The end of this exhausting saga is now in sight.

Call us on **020 8455 4996** and speak to one of our team in confidence.

Women of the Year Shabbat

On Shabbat Yitro we celebrated the Women of the Year, Hilary Segall and Angela Levene, both supported by a host of family and friends. Angela's grandsons Eliezer, Naftali and Saul Levene all leined expertly and made Angela very proud of their achievement. This was a first for Redbridge Synagogue, three members of one family leining. Robert Segall gave us, in his usual quiet authoritative manner, a superb rendition of Haftorah Isaiah. The Kiddush, prepared by the men of course, was a splendid one enjoyed by all. The certificates were presented by Rebbetzen Siobhan Dansky and both ladies replied making their well deserved day of recognition complete.

The Wanstead Jewish Literary Society

"I give this society six months." This was a comment by one of our founder members in 1967. How wrong she was as we have just celebrated our 50th anniversary.

Our meetings are monthly on a Sunday afternoon in a member's home, from 3.00pm to 5.00pm, when we have talks on art, music, literature and Jewish subjects. Most members are retired and we muster fifteen to thirty at most meetings which conclude with refreshments.

Obviously over the fifty years of our existence we have had speakers on a variety of subjects for example I would mention the students of the Yehudi School of Music who came to entertain us and they were brilliant, young violinists, pianists and singers who were entering the world of music. The world of art has not been ignored because our member Jeff Page entertains us with slides and anecdotes on many famous artists. We have learned about the pre-Raphaelites and the Impressionist.

We hope to continue for many years so please come along and join us.

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Open up a Whole Kosher World



ON the 4th December 2017 I heard a very interesting and informative talk given by Sharon Feldman-Vazan at Wohl IJPS, Barkingside.

Sharon is the Retail Food and Drink Manager of the KLBD. This is a department of the Kashrut Division of the London Beth Din, Chief Rabbi's Office - the largest Kashrut authority in Europe.

Sharon explained that Kosher products have the KLBD logo. This logo is used throughout the world to show goods are Kosher. Some of the products are made by Jewish people in Kosher outlets others are not. For these, the people working in the Kashrut Division make regular inspections of recipes and production methods of goods to make sure that all the ingredients are kosher and that the food is not contaminated by other non-kosher products made in the factories. This means that food with the KLBD logo are guaranteed kosher.

At one time kosher food was only

available in Kosher Food Shops. Now however, many supermarkets and general stores also sell kosher food. This is a great advantage to people who live in non-Jewish areas or to Jewish students and Jewish travellers.

The London Beth Din also has an App: www.isitkosher.uk which you can get on your mobile phone - handy when you are in the supermarket! It is also on Facebook and KLBD direct.

The division also publishes the Really Jewish Food Guide and the Kosher Nosh Guide.

All in all it is very easy to find an up to date list of what is Kosher.

After the talk we sampled over 90 kosher products that Sharon had brought with her including, cheese, crackers, cake, humus and many more!

Linda Stanton



Passover Recipes

Pesach is a time when friends and relations 'drop in' unexpectedly - just when you have finished all the Pesach cakes you have made or bought and can't get to the shops to buy more! It is always a good idea to have a few cake or biscuit recipes that you can turn out quickly. The following can be made in a very short time - you probably have all the ingredients in your cupboard. They are simple to make and they taste delicious !

Cinnamon Balls

2 egg whites
 4 oz caster sugar
 8 oz ground almonds
 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
 Icing sugar, sifted
 Heat oven Gas Mark 6, 200°C.
 Beat egg whites until stiff. Add 2 oz caster sugar and beat well. Fold in the rest of the caster sugar, the ground almonds and cinnamon. Roll into small balls and place on greased trays.

Bake for 10/15 minutes. Roll in icing sugar while still warm.
Allow to cool before eating - if you can!



Meringues

3 large egg whites
 6 oz caster sugar
 Heat oven Gas Mark 2, 150°C. Lightly oil a large baking sheet and line it with oiled greaseproof paper.
 Whisk egg whites until they form stiff peaks. Add the sugar 1 oz at a time, whisking well after each addition. Pipe the mixture on to the lined baking sheets.
 Place in the oven and immediately turn the heat down to Gas Mark 1, 140°C and leave to cook for one hour. Turn the heat right out but leave the meringues in the oven to dry out until completely cold.

Coconut Macaroons/Pyramids

8 oz desiccated coconut
 3 oz caster sugar
 2 large eggs
 Heat oven Gas Mark 3, 160°C.
 Mix the coconut and caster sugar and then beat in the eggs one at a time. Form into pyramids or flat macaroons. Place on a greased tray and cook for about 30 minutes until lightly browned.



Have a lovely sweet Pesach.
Philippa Stanton

Social & Personal

We would like to wish Mazeltov to the following:

Bar Mitzvah

Tyler Goldman

-

Bat Mitzvah

Michal Singer

-

Bat Chayil

Mia Marks

-

Second Bar Mitzvah

Mazel Tov to Cyril Levison on his second Bar Mitzvah

Mazel Tov to Julian Silver on his second Bar Mitzvah

-

Mazel Tovs

Joyce and Alan Meltzer on the birth of a great granddaughter, Mia

Cyril and Liz Levison on the birth of a great granddaughter in Israel

Gabby and Raya Simons on the birth of a granddaughter

Mrs Elvins on the birth of a great granddaughter David and Pamela Grant on the marriage of their son, Craig

Ruth and Mervyn Lyndon on their Silver Wedding

Paul Biller on his forthcoming marriage

Keith and Michelle Biller on their son Paul's forthcoming marriage

Stuart and Shelley Goldman on their daughter's engagement

Barbara Goldman on her granddaughter's engagement

Lawrence & Valerie Goldsmith on their daughter's engagement

Hilary Goldsmith on her engagement

Leslie and Andrea Eriera on their son's marriage

Emma Goldman on Tyler's Barmitzvah

Adina and Gary Marks on the Bat Chayil of their daughter Mia

Ann and Jeffrey Bernard on the Bat Chayil of their granddaughter Mia

Kelvin and June Lewis on their Golden Wedding

Mazeltov to our two Women of Worth

Angela Levene and Hilary Segall

-

New Members

Karen Grossman

David and Andrea Jacobs Leslie and Shirley Kingsley

David and Michelle Ross

Hilary Goldsmith

Alan Grover

We offer our condolences to:

Family of Jean Taylor

Denise Pinner on the passing of her husband Norman

David Pinner on the passing of his brother Norman

Family of Paul Black Family of Iris Green

Family of Martin Sharpe

Family of Maurice Cohen

Family of Myrom Berman

Family of Sarah Mardell

Ruth Laskey on the passing of her husband Ivor

Family of Hetty Moss

Joseph Richman on the passing of his wife Helen

Shirley Levy and Gillian Binder on the passing of their father

Philippa and Linda Stanton on the passing of their brother Michael

Ivor Nathan on the passing of his mother Hetty

Rita Rodgers on the passing of her brother David

Karen Friddin on the passing of Arnold Taffel Kanter on the passing of his wife Helen

Mildrid Luton on the passing of her brother Henry

Anne Yeshin and Jacky Jay on the passing of their mother Bertha

Rosalind Greenberg on the passing of her mother Hettie

Melody Alicoon on the passing of her brother Stanley

Raya Simons and Eli Mann

on the passing of their mother Jeanette

Michael Pizer on the passing of his wife Susan

Angela Roberts on the passing of her mother Myra

Cyril Marks on the passing of his sister Myra

Betty Bush on the passing of her husband Alfred

Steven Colman on the passing of his stepfather Alfred Bush

Keith Biller on the passing of his father Jack

Martin Perceval on the passing of his father Irving

Family of Esther Cohen Sidney Cohen on the passing of his wife Helen

Estelle Lubin on the passing of her husband Martin

Family of Gloria Mercer Family of Marlene Selman

Family of late Ida Lee Deanna Karp and Tina Benjam on the passing of their father

Lionel Levy

Eva Baars on the passing of her husband Jack

David Baars on the passing of his father Hermione Gloston

on the passing of her husband Frederick

Stephanie Field on the passing of her father Frederick Gloston