

Southend's Leslie 'humbled' by honour from the Queen

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR ON BEING AWARDED A BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL



Leslie and Miriam Kleinman with family members Michelle Werth and Marie Erlichman at a celebratory tea PHOTO BY JUSTIN GRAINGE PHOTOGRAPHY

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

HOLOCAUST survivor Leslie Kleinman has told the *Essex Jewish News* of his pride at being awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) in the New Year Honours List.

Leslie, who escaped the Auschwitz gas chambers but lost almost all of his family there, received the honour for services to Holocaust education.

He has spent the last 20 years

speaking at schools – as well as youth clubs, synagogues and commemoration events – to try and ensure that the horrors of the past are never repeated.

In an exclusive interview, Leslie said: "I am extremely proud and humble that I have been awarded a British Empire Medal.

"My mission is to educate as many young people as possible to where hatred and intolerance can lead. My talks are always about loving one another

and not hating each other because of race or religion or any other difference. I speak about why bullying is wrong and what it can turn into."

"We are all human beings and we should respect each other's differences."

Leslie was born into an Orthodox Jewish family in the small village of Ambud, Romania, in 1929. After the Nazis invaded, at the age of 14, he first saw his rabbi father taken away and then he and the rest of his

family were sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

There, after being warned by others, he pretended he was 17 and was put to work, avoiding the gas chambers. He then survived two death marches, to Oranienburg and Dachau, before being liberated by American soldiers and later sent to Britain as a child survivor.

Leslie's father, mother and six of his seven siblings were murdered by the Nazis. His only surviving sister died shortly after liberation. Out of 60 members of his extended family who were sent to Auschwitz, just Leslie and two others lived.

Rebuilding his life in Britain, Leslie met his first wife Evelyn in 1954 with the pair moving to Canada in 1979 and having two children, Rosalyn and Steven.

After being widowed in 2004, he returned to the UK and settled in Southend. A few years later he met and married his second wife, Miriam, who now assists with his talks.

Leslie plays an active role in Southend and Westcliff Hebrew Congregation – attending services almost every day, except when he is out of town giving a talk at a school.

The synagogue's rabbi, Rabbi Binyamin Bar, said: "We thank Leslie for his inspiring and powerful words, with which we agree wholeheartedly. We are very lucky to have him in our midst. We wish him good health and much strength to



Leslie with a photo of the family he lost

carry on his great work."

Leslie is an ambassador for the Holocaust Educational Trust and also attends Jewish Care's Holocaust Survivors' Centre in Hendon.

Along with other survivors who received honours, he was congratulated at a special tea at the Centre attended by Matthew Offord MP.

Speaking after the event, Leslie said: "The Germans gave me a number 8230 on my arm. But rabbis have told me that, if you add up the number, it has the same value as the word for 'love' in Hebrew. I show young people the tattoo so they understand it's important to love, not to hate."

"The Holocaust should never be forgotten, and I ask the future generations to bear witness to those atrocities and defend the right of all human beings to live free from hatred and all that it stands for."

Check out our new fashion and beauty columns



On page 25

Anti-Semitic incidents in Redbridge cut in half



BY SIMON ROTHSTEIN

ANTI-SEMITIC hate crime in Redbridge fell by 50% in 2017, despite a worrying rise across

the rest of the UK.

According to a recent report from the Community Security Trust (CST), malicious acts against Jewish people, organisations and property in the borough fell from 41 in 2016 to 23 in 2017.

The 23 incidents were made up of 16 of abusive behaviour (down from 30), two threats (down from eight) and five of damage and desecration (up from two). There were no anti-Semitic assaults in 2017, with one in 2016.

Community leaders welcomed the figures, which show the importance of the interfaith

work done all over Essex, but also warned of reading too much into them.

Dave Rich, head of policy at the CST, told the *Essex Jewish News*: "Any fall in anti-Semitism is welcome, but our concern would be if this is due to people not reporting incidents rather than an actual fall, as this would mean that people are suffering anti-Semitism and not getting the help and support that is available for them."

"We encourage anybody who does suffer or witness anti-Semitism to contact the CST and report it to the police. If they don't want to go to the police directly, we can report it on their behalf."

Cllr Alan Weinberg MBE – who recently put forward a unanimously accepted motion for Redbridge Council to adopt an internationally recognised definition of anti-Semitism – said: "Obviously 23 incidents is 23 too many. But we have got to get this in context. The fact that this is going down is something to be welcomed."

"A lot of people here are putting a lot of effort into fostering good relations and if this is the result of that, it should be applauded."

The CST report showed

rises in anti-Semitism elsewhere in the UK, with the number of incidents in Britain reaching record levels in 2017.

Overall there were 1,382 incidents of Jew hatred last year – a three per cent rise on the previous 12 months – of which 145 were violent assaults, an increase of 34 per cent.

Responding to the full report, Shadow Communities and Local Government Secretary, Andrew Gwynne, said: "The findings are extremely concerning, and emphasise just how important it is that we all make a conscious effort to call out

and confront anti-Semitism."

"No one should feel unsafe or discriminated against while going about their daily business in public places. Hate has no place in our country, and we must root out anti-Semitism whenever and wherever it takes place."

Home Secretary Amber Rudd promised: "This government will continue its work protecting the Jewish community and other groups from anti-Semitism and hate crime."

For more information on the CST, and to read the report, please visit www.cst.org.uk

ESSEX JEWISH NEWS

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Deborah Mulqueen
Email office.ejn@gmail.com

Editorial contributions can be sent by email to simon.rothstein@hotmail.co.uk or mannyrobinson@outlook.com

Registered Office:
26 Ashley Avenue, Barkingside,
Ilford, Essex IG6 2JE
Tel: 020 8736 4597

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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Age Concern Redbridge 020 8220 6000	020 8922 2222
Ahada Bereavement Counselling 07758 727 328	020 8203 6311
Alzheimer's Society 020 8970 5770	Jewish Women's Aid 0800 591 203
Beehive Lane JACS 020 8550 2884	Moving on (Formerly Bereaved Partners Group) 020 8554 5227
Board of Deputies Information Desk 020 7543 5400	Newbury Park League of Jewish Women 020 8530 5411 or 020 8500 7832
Citizens Advice Bureau 0870 126 4140	Redbridge Jewish Community Centre 020 8551 0017
Chigwell and Hainault League of Jewish Women 0790 560 5781	Redbridge WIZO Resource 020 8551 1301
Chigwell and Hainault JACS 020 8551 2355	Samaritans 020 8553 9900/020 8520 9191
Community shalichah 020 8418 2114	Southend and Westcliff JACS 01268 771978
Chabad Gants Hill addiction support 020 8554 1624	Wanstead Jewish Literary Society 020 8505 0063
Empathy 07765 191 067	
Jewish Lads' and Girls' Brigade 020 8989 8990	
Jewish Bereavement Counselling Service 020 8457 9710	
Jewish Blind and Disabled 020 8371 6611	
Jewish Care	

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Happy 70th birthday, Israel!

COMMENT

OUR 'EJN Comment' in last Rosh Hashanah's issue commemorated the 100th anniversary of the British government's 1917 Balfour Declaration, which had viewed "with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people", in effect a return to its biblical origins. The year 2018 will witness celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel by Ben-Gurion, at a ceremony in the Tel Aviv museum on Friday, 14 May 1948. This was (almost to the day) three years after the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany, at the end of a war which had seen its Holocaust annihilation of six million Jews.

From its inception, the new State had many enemies; and has since been beset by dreadful perils, wars for its very survival as well as ongoing conflict and terrorism. Several countries and movements in the Middle East relish the notion of Israel's destruction; and they're filled also with resentment at the tiny Jewish state's incredible global scientific and economic success. Should it come as a surprise to anyone that the State needs to safeguard vigilantly its population's vital security? And even beyond this fraught region, groupings of anti-Semites (often portraying themselves solely as anti-Zionists) seek, in general unsuccessfully, seriously to impede the economy of the Jewish State by the likes of commercial or other boycotts. Or they're quick to make maliciously focused allegations against it, deliberately blinkered to authentically nefarious governments and rulers.

For almost two millennia, Jews had

been thought of primarily in terms of 'Diaspora' communities. Indeed, the Jewish people strived to succeed in life wherever they sought to make a loyal home; and, periodically, against grave if not fatal odds. But ever present for them was the



constant hope (which we'll soon be vocalising again at the end of our Seder nights): "Next year in Jerusalem". An emotional attachment that may have persisted in their hearts was made manifest ultimately by the creation of Israel as a nation State. And the aspiration of Jews from around

the world to make 'aliyah' continues unabated, including from countries that have seen a concerning revival of anti-Semitism. Many such Diaspora Jews may well consider Israel to be a sanctuary; and despite the continuing vicious threats and, sadly, inhuman and cowardly acts of terrorism from certain countries, groups and individuals that Israel faces and experiences.

We might bear in mind that, from as far back as biblical times, the number 70 has held a historic and significant if not mystical quality. (Your 'EJN Comment' writer recalls Oliver Wendell Holmes Jnr's endearing words: "To be 70 years young is sometimes more cheerful and hopeful than to be 40 years old!") The figure 70 occurs often in the Tanach (Jewish Holy Scriptures).

After the Flood, the Earth was repopulated by 70 descendants of Noah; there were 70 nations before the Tower of Babel; those members of Jacob's house who went down to Egypt numbered 70; Moses appointed 70 elders to administer and care for the Children of Israel in the wilderness of Sinai; 70 elders of Israel comprised the Sanhedrin, the Supreme Court of Justice in Jerusalem; and the 3rd/2nd century BCE Greek version of the Old Testament is known as the 'Septuagint' (from the Latin 'septuaginta' meaning 70) because, traditionally, it was said to have been produced by 70 translators.

So let's all feel hopeful, positive, proud and celebratory in this, Israel's (literally) wonderful 70th anniversary year; and pray or wish for peace and the Jewish State's continuing success and indomitable steadfastness through the years to come.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

I WOULD like to thank you for covering the story of the closure of Wanstead and Woodford AJEX in the last issue of the Essex Jewish News.

Our final get-together was very poignant, with tears in the eyes from many of the wonderful people who had supported and worked for the branch over many years.

Throughout the years from 1975, when the branch was formed, until 2017 when it closed, Wanstead and

Woodford AJEX was the most sought after branch in Essex.

Maurice Wise, who by then, was the chairman, never refused a new member but if you were not early, that member was frequently sent home. The hall could only hold 200 people with standing room and, often in Maurice's time, some 250 people would arrive, so 50 had to leave.

Maurice's wife Edith (known as Edie) was the shining light of the club, admired and loved. Zanita Prince, the PA officer, constantly wrote to the Royal Family when a special occasion arose, keeping Wanstead and Woodford AJEX in the

Royal limelight.

After Maurice passed away, Elias Sampson, known as Lennie, continued to run the branch but he, too, passed away after only a few years' service.

I was asked by Gloria Saville, a stalwart of the branch who for decades organised the entertainment programme, to become chair. I didn't even belong on the committee but thought that, if I didn't, the branch would close.

So I took on the role of chairman and was fortunate to have Jack Feinstein, his wife Helen and Irving Lebby continuing on the committee, while Shirley Selby finally retired at the age of 93.

Others included Harry and Stella Symons, Rita Dobrin, Marguerite Wimborne but illness again hit the committee and in three years we only had three committee members left, including Arnold Rose, our standard bearer.

When ill health hit both my husband and myself, I stepped down as chairman and this forced the closure of the branch. But during my period as chairman I still enjoyed the position, and thank Gloria Saville for giving me the opportunity of being chairman of such a prestigious AJEX branch.

Yours,
Rose Mitchell

WHERE YOU CAN PICK UP THE ESSEX JEWISH NEWS

SYNAGOGUES

Chabad Buckhurst Hill
Chabad Gants Hill
Chelmsford Jewish Community
Chigwell Synagogue
Chingford Synagogue
East London & Essex Liberal Synagogue
Harlow Synagogue
Ilford Federation
Ilford United
Loughton Synagogue
New Essex Masorti
Redbridge United
Romford Synagogue
Southend Reform
Southend & Westcliff Hebrew Congregation

South West Essex Reform Sukkat Shalom

Woodford Forest
CAMBRIDGE
Cambridge Synagogue
Beth Shalom Synagogue
SCHOOLS
Kantor King Solomon
Clore Tikva
Wohl Ilford Jewish Primary
COMMUNAL
Aish Essex
Redbridge Jewish Community Centre, Sinclair House
Jewish Care's Vi and John Rubens House
Milne Court
Jewish Blind & Disabled Aztec House

Jewish Blind & Disabled Hilary Dennis Court

Jewish Blind & Disabled Milne Court
Spiro Hospital
Holly House
The Shop, Southend Day Centre, Cobham Road, Southend
Holiday Inn, Southend
RETAIL
Orli Café, Barkingside Sandra Davidson, Redbridge
Gary Green, Clayhall
Golan Bakery, Gants Hill
Shalom Bakery, Gants Hill
Deliphone, Barkingside Delicacy, Chigwell

Abridge Golf Club Just Kosher, Clayhall Derby Stores, Cambridge

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WIJPS pupils enjoy a weekend to remember



Year 5 schoolchildren enjoy their half term break

BY PAT LIDIKER

THIRTY pupils from Wohl Ilford Jewish Primary School (WIJPS), all aged nine to 10, enjoyed a memorable residential Shabbat at Skeet Hill House in Orpington, Kent.

Deborah Harris, the school's head of Jewish Studies, described the weekend as "an enormous success", adding:

"The children had such a good time they are all asking to go away again, and it was great to see them working together as a team."

Set in seven acres of beautiful open countryside with football pitches, a tennis court, zip wire and indoor swimming pool, Skeet Hill House dates back 400 years.

In 1943 it was bought by the



The outside of Skeet House in Kent

Jewish Youth Fund (JYF) for use by the Brady Boys' Club as a bolt hole from the perils of London's war-ravaged East End. Since then its facilities have been enjoyed by generations of Jewish children from all over the UK and beyond, coming from all denominations of Judaism.

Sandra Waldman was appointed as Skeet Hill House manager nine years ago, coinciding with a major refurbishment of the entire complex.

She told the *Essex Jewish News*: "To meet changing expectations all bedrooms are now en suite and a lovely conservatory was added to the dining room overlooking the grounds.

"The only activity we don't have here is staring at TV... but there is so much going on that the kids don't even miss it!"

An experienced chef caters for every demand from fish fin-

gers to cholent, including special needs such as gluten free and vegan. Any dish can be prepared, as long as it's kosher and ordered in advance.

The WIJPS Year 5 contingent enjoyed an action-packed programme from the time they arrived – experiencing a variety of activities including swimming, an obstacle course, scavenger and treasure hunts, outdoor games and team challenges.

During Shabbat, they were joined by a team of energetic leaders from United Synagogue's Tribe, whose aim is to inspire young Jews, irrespective of their observance, about everything involving Judaism and Israel.

Their special programme included discussions on why we have rules for Shabbat, Parasha plays and a Mitzvah board game. All pupils joined in with

great gusto and then, together with WIJPS staff, participated in a unique Havdalah ceremony.

WIJPS pupil Sienna Silver said: "Skeet was such fun! I enjoyed every second of it and the food was as delicious as my Booba's. The highlight for me was Shabbat, it warmed my heart to see the great connection between me and my friends and the memories will last forever."

Sienna's friend Rafi Sandford was equally positive, adding: "Skeet was amazing. Tribe helped me look at Shabbat from a whole new perspective, and I loved Friday night with all the singing and especially the food!"

National praise for Evelyn

SWESRS member Evelyn Dalton has been singled out for praise by Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner, the senior rabbi of Reform Judaism.

Writing exclusively for the *Essex Jewish News* about the message of Passover, Rabbi Janner-Klausner celebrated Evelyn for her 30 years of voluntary service at Saint Francis Hospice in Romford.

She wrote: "Evelyn's unflinching and unselfish service to those in need of care and support - those who had nobody else they could turn to - is the kind of inspiration we ought to seek at this time of year.

Read Rabbi Janner-Klausner's full message on page 20.

Volunteer for JBD

DO you enjoy a chat and a gossip? Are you a good listener? Could you spare just one hour a week to bring joy to someone else?

Jewish Blind and Disabled are looking for friendly visitors to spend time with their tenants on a one-to-one basis.

The charity – which has buildings in Wanstead, Woodford and Chigwell – will provide training, support and a full DBS check, as well as ensuring that volunteers are a good match with the tenant they are visiting.

Volunteers of all ages are wanted and previous experience is not needed. Those wishing to help out can choose whether they would like to visit during the week, in the evening or on weekends.

Volunteers are vital to Jewish Blind and Disabled and play an essential role in creating the warm community atmosphere that exists within the charity's Essex buildings.

The charity is the only one in the Jewish community that provides state-of-the-art mobility apartments for people from the age of 18 upwards who are physically disabled or vision impaired.

Those interested in giving their time should contact Jewish Blind and Disabled's volunteers team administrator Judy Levenson by emailing judy@jbd.org or calling her 020 8371 6611 ext 604.

For more information about Jewish Blind and Disabled, please visit www.jbd.org

Disability, not dependency.

When Joel's parents first learned of his cerebral palsy they were sick with worry about what his future might hold. Now, thanks to Jewish Blind & Disabled, they all enjoy Joel's independent life in his own mobility apartment with 24/7 on site support.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HOW WE GIVE THE GIFT OF INDEPENDENCE OR TO MAKE A DONATION VISIT WWW.JBD.ORG OR CALL 020 8371 6611

**JEWISH
BLIND &
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The key to independence



ENABLED

Goodbye Perryman's Farm Road



Rabbi David Hulbert (standing at the back) with members at a snowy open day in 1986

BY SIMON ROTHSTEIN

ONE of Redbridge's iconic synagogue buildings has held its last services, as members of East London & Essex Liberal Synagogue (ELELS) paid a fond farewell to Perryman's Farm Road in Barkingside.

The building was formerly the home of Bet Tikvah Synagogue, which united with Woodford Liberal Synagogue in January 2017 to form ELELS.

Rabbi David Hulbert, Redbridge's longest serving rabbi, led a special Shabbat morning service – delivering a powerful sermon about leaving the building that had served his Bet Tikvah community for more than 30 years.

He said: "Our exodus from Perryman's Farm Road is not unique – we are going the way of those other communities of Redbridge and Waltham Forest, known by their street addresses

– following Wessex Close, Boundary Road and Coventry Road.

"And of course, we're going voluntarily. In terms of the long sweep of Jewish history, this small fact is significant. We've chosen to go. No one is forcing us. In November 1938, synagogues small and large, young and old, across Germany were set on fire and pulled to the ground.

"Across Europe, there are countless vast cathedral synagogues empty of congregations, monuments to forced dispossession and exile, museums to a violent and tragic history.

"Across the Middle East and North Africa, there are numberless large and small buildings, once synagogues, emptied of their communities and their worshippers in 1949 and the early 50s.

"Exactly 70 years ago, Jews were driven out of the Old City of Jerusalem. Synagogues of the

Southend Reform support two amazing causes



MEMBERS of Southend and District Reform Synagogue visited Neptune Ward, the children's ward at Southend Hospital, to donate special Christmas gifts.

The shul raised more than £200 for the hospital by putting on a raffle during its annual quiz. The money was then used to buy an assortment of goodies

including games, DVDs and audio visual items for children to enjoy during their stay in hospital.

The synagogue also recently held a charity cream tea, collecting several box loads of food donations and toiletries, which were donated to the Southend Food Bank that helps local people in crisis.



Founder members of Bet Tikvah: Hazel Isaacs, Rose Lautman and Jean Summerbell during a Q&A session hosted by Jonny Hirst

Jewish Quarter that had stood there for nearly 1,000 years were torn down and demolished.

"So let's pause for a moment to recognise that our voluntary exodus from this building is, from the point of view of Jewish history, the exception rather than the rule."

Rabbi Hulbert then talked of the wonderful memories created in the building and all the festivals, simchas and special events it had seen.

He concluded: "Most of all, what has made this building a holy place is not the bricks and windows and roof tiles. No, it has been the people.

"Not politicians, not film stars, celebrities or musicians, not famous footballers or great scientists – just ordinary English Jews.

"But of course, they weren't at all ordinary, they were quite extraordinary. Speaking personally, I thank God for giving me the privilege in my lifetime of being with and working with such very special people, here, in this building, over the past 30 years."

The morning service was followed by a chavurah lunch, the opening of the Bet Tikvah Archive and a question and answer session with some of Bet Tikvah's founders.

Later that afternoon, a final Havdalah service took place followed by a closing ceremony and the removal of the Torah scrolls.

Speaking afterwards, Rabbi Richard Jacobi, who leads the new ELELS community alongside Rabbi Hulbert, said: "Today, we saw the life-enriching nature of community at its very best. All generations cherished the past, enjoyed the present and anticipated the future."

David Forbes, a former chair of Bet Tikvah, said: "Watching the Torah scrolls being taken out of the Ark for the last time at the conclusion of the final service was a particularly poignant moment and I couldn't help feeling a little tearful.

"But all the memories that I have will be coming with me and I am excited about the opportunity that ELELS has to create a new, vibrant community and place of worship."

The ELELS community had been holding services at Perryman's Farm Road for the last year, but have now sold the building as they seek a new and unified home. ELELS services will continue at Marlborough Road – the former site of Woodford Liberal Synagogue – until a new building is found.

Musical celebration at Chigwell Synagogue



Rabbi Baruch and Rebbetzen Nechama Davis

BY PAT LIDIKER

MORE than 200 people attended a celebratory musical evening at Chigwell and Hainault Synagogue to mark the 20th anniversary of the arrival of Rabbi Baruch and Rebbetzen Nechama Davis to the community.

Music for the event was performed by the popular London Jewish Male Choir.

During the interval, as food and drink were served in the main hall, synagogue chair Lindsay Shure praised the couple for their wonderful work in the local and wider Jewish communities.

Rabbi Davis said they both enjoyed the magnificent evening, telling the *Essex Jewish News*: "We were extremely touched by gifts of a Chanukiah and book of photos and messages from members and children within and outside our

community. We will always treasure them."

The book also included personal contributions from Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis and his predecessor, Lord Sacks.

Among those present at the celebratory service were Rabbi Dr Julian Shindler, executive director of the Rabbinical Council of the United Synagogue, and new United Synagogue president Michael Goldstein.

Rabbi Davis added: "During the past 20 years, the Chigwell and Hainault community has become our home and it's very exciting to see its growth, particularly in young families. We look forward to a huge number of simchas during the next few years!"

Chigwell and Hainault Synagogue currently has 730 families. To find out more, please visit <http://www.chigshul.org.uk>

Auschwitz survivor still helping others at 91



THE family of Rose Schaffer have written to the *Essex Jewish News* to praise the Holocaust survivor who is still helping others in her 90s.

The 91-year-old great-grandmother chairs the committee where she lives at Rosewood Court, Romford, as well as taking the other tenants of the retirement block shopping and to their hospital appointments.

Proud daughter Laraine Tarrant, who lives in Barkingside, said: "Mum is an Auschwitz survivor and the most inspiring lady I have ever met, with a real heart of gold. Both her stories, and her contributions to the local community, are never ending."

"She is the mum to lots of others in her block. She helps everyone, organising taking the other elderly people shopping, driving her little Nissan to collect their post office allowances

and taking them to Sainsbury's once a week. She is also always there if someone needs to go to the doctor or a hospital appointment."

Rose is still also learning, teaching herself new technologies to keep in touch with her large family. She also knows sign language and even how to fix her own car.

Laraine added: "She is also a wonderful mother, grandmother and now great-grandmother to our family. She phones, texts, FaceTimes, Skypes and is very proud to now be on Facebook!"

"Mum had a very sad start in life, losing many loved ones in the Holocaust, but has made her own way through sheer determination, strength and perseverance. All of her friends and local community can't speak highly enough about how remarkable a lady she is."

Great Jewish Cook Off is a recipe for success

BY PAT LIDIKER

NO less than 11 Essex Jewish communities are going full steam ahead for one of the hottest competitions of the year, the Great Essex Intershul Cook Off on Sunday, 13 May at Woodford Forest United Synagogue.

At 7pm it will be ready, steady, cook for this masterchef-style event, the brainchild of Deborah Sufrin of Chabad Gants Hill, who never



anticipated such an amazing response when first cooking up the idea two months ago.

She and her committee say they haven't heard of a previous event uniting all the Or-



thodox communities in Essex in this way, and would love it to be the first of many.

On the evening itself, well-known professional chef and cookery writer Denise Phillips will act as judge, as all competitors set out to give each other a roasting without poaching ideas.

Also on the menu is comedian Rachel Creeger, who will be providing entertainment during the chopping and stirring. Expect cutting comments from her throughout.

Each shul is providing a team of up to three women to take part. Men, under-18s, professional chefs and even rebbetzens are not allowed to compete, but they are very welcome to watch and taste the results.

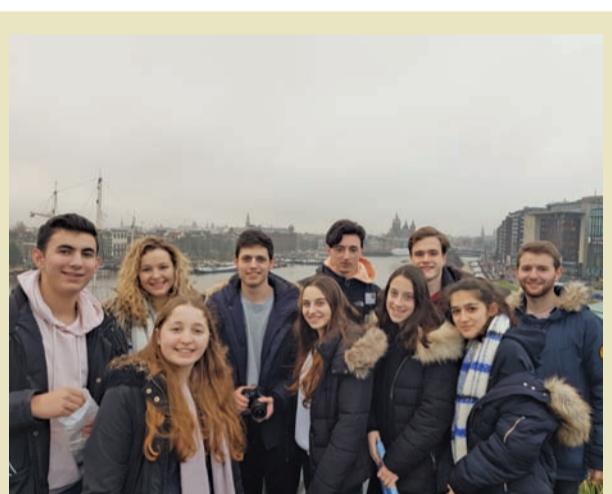
Participating teams who have so far signed up, and are all keen as mustard, are from Gants Hill, Buckhurst Hill and Epping Chabad, Chigwell and Hainault, Wanstead and Woodford, Loughton, Beehive Lane (Ilford United), Ilford Federation, Redbridge, Southend and Aish Essex.

If you want to be in the audience, bookings can be made online at £10 a person from www.jewishessex.co.uk

The whole evening sounds like a recipe for success to us!



NXT year in Westminster... Students in the NXT programme, run by Aish Essex's Rabbi Mendy Brukiner, visited Parliament, where they were hosted by Ilford North MP Wes Streeting



Going Dutch ... Jewish Care MIKE leadership (Year 12/13) volunteers took part in a Jewish heritage trip to Amsterdam, visiting memorials, museums and Anne Frank's House

HAPPY PASSOVER FROM THE TEAM

Wishing the community a Chag Kasher V'Sameach

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Snow joke: Purim parties fight the weather

A WEEK of snow and ice across Essex and East Anglia over Purim meant many community events to mark the festival had to be postponed or cancelled.

Fortunately, some were still able to go ahead on time, including parties at all three of Jewish Blind and Disabled's buildings in the region and fun jungle themed celebrations at both Chabad Gants Hill and Buckhurst Hill. Students and residents united at Cambridge Synagogue, while a group of young professionals from Aish Essex travelled to Stamford Hill in the snow and visited 30 homes there before heading home for a Megillah reading and 'royal banquet'.

A unique 'Purim values day' at Kantor King Solomon (KKS) High School took place a week later, once the school had re-opened after closing due to bad weather. With staff and students resplendent in a variety of fancy dress costumes, activities at KKS included making up Shabbat food packages for Jewish Care and Jewish Blind and Disabled, as well as raising money for ELHAP and World Jewish Relief.

Other Purim events were planned to take place at schools and synagogues around the region after the Essex Jewish News went to press.

See a selection of Purim pictures sent to us on this page:



①



②



③



④



⑤



⑥



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- (1) Cambridge Synagogue
- (2) Jewish Blind and Disabled Aztec House
- (3) Chabad Buckhurst Hill
- (4) Aish Essex in Stamford Hill
- (5) Chabad Gants Hill
- (6) Jewish Blind and Disabled Hilary Dennis Court
- (7) Tenants at Jewish Blind and Disabled's Milne Court with their Shabbat Packs from Kantor King Solomon students
- (8) Kantor King Solomon High School

Music and politics mix for David



BY PAT LIDIKER

QUESTION: What do Redbridge Council, rock band Led Zeppelin, Ilford Synagogue and Catford ETC all have in common? The clue is in the last word – ETC, aka Etcetera, an exciting new band formed this year by 31-year-old Cantor David Rome as yet another facet of his busy lifestyle.

Etcetera is a five-piece band with which he hopes to travel to concerts and simchas across London and even abroad. Its repertoire includes jazz, pop music and favourite Jewish and Hebrew songs to appeal to all ages.

David is lead singer, Phil Scragg – who used to play with Robert Plant of Led Zeppelin – is on bass, classically trained Sharona Joshua is on keyboard and acclaimed musician Jeremy Shoham plays clarinet and saxophone. Drummers and other instrumentalists are also available when events call for a bigger sound.

He is also a Conservative candidate for the upcoming local elections, currently campaigning with Councillor Matthew Chaudhary to win one of the seats on Redbridge Council.

He says he has always had an interest in politics and, if successful on 3 May, should be ideally placed to represent the Jewish community as well as other constituents.

"I really care about Redbridge," David told the *Essex Jewish News*. "I grew up in Ilford and Newbury Park and now live in Beehive Lane near the shul where I was cantor until 2012, so this is very much my home."

Four generations at ELELS baby blessing



A BABY blessing at East London and Essex Liberal Synagogue (ELELS) to welcome its newest member, Charlotte Hughes, was enjoyed by four generations of her family.

The service was led by Rabbi Richard Jacobi, with community members joining the family in celebration.

Charlotte's mother Natasha said that she and husband Chris were involved from the start in how the service should be structured.

She told the *Essex Jewish News*: "The ceremony exceeded our expectations, intimate yet with the community present and supporting us. I am sure Charlotte will love to hear all about it over and over again."

Rabbi Jacobi added: "This was a lovely morning for our community. Both Tash and Chris are valued members who brought their daughter to be given a Hebrew name in a ceremony I developed with them to enable their whole family to share in the joy."

Football stars score at Jewish Care with late Mitzvah



Leyton Orient players meet tenants including former boxer Harold Crown

BY SIMON ROTHSTEIN

THREE Leyton Orient players paid a special Mitzvah Day visit to Jewish Care's Vi and John Rubens House in Ilford.

Myles Judd, Freddy Moncur and Jamie Sendles-White were greeted with a warm welcome from residents, with whom they then spent an afternoon swapping stories.

Ninety-seven-year-old Harry Buitekant, a lifelong Orient fan, talked to the players about his history with the club and his fond memories of attending games from the age of six.

He said: "My proudest moments were standing outside the grounds after we had won to congratulate the players. I remember when we were playing in the old First Division."

Harry's fellow resident, 95-year-old Monty Ward, was delighted to be able to chat to the

players about his own memories of Orient, the team that he and all his friends supported.

Former Boxer Harold Crown then told the players about his personal sporting achievements, showing them how he 'packed a punch' and sharing stories of big name sports stars that he had met.

The visit took place after the main Mitzvah Day, which is in November, so as to fit into the busy football season.

Midfielder Freddy, who has since transferred to Wingate & Finchley FC, said: "I was really happy to visit Jewish Care's Vi and John Rubens House again. It was good to see familiar faces and chat to both the residents I met on my last visit and some new people, too."

Myles and Jamie, who are part of the current Orient team, told how they very much enjoyed "being able to put smiles on people's faces".

Howard Gould, Orient's

community liaison manager, began organising the annual visits following a conversation with Jewish Care's director Neil Taylor, himself a fan of the club.

Howard commented: "Visiting Vi and John Rubens as part of their Mitzvah Day celebrations is always a pleasure. We always meet some passionate lifelong fans who talk about their favourite players, who none of us have ever heard of because they are often going back 70 or 80 years. We always leave feeling inspired and with a smile. We look forward to coming back again soon."

Vi and John Rubens House also enjoyed a Mitzvah Day visit from Selma and Maureen Bodlander of Ilford United Synagogue, who entertained residents with Yiddish, opera and musical songs and renditions. As the music played, doughnuts were given out by Kochava Levicki, Hannah Myers and Tzipi Myers.

Sky's the limit for charitable Alex



A young adult from Woodford Green raised £430 for Dementia UK by completing his first ever skydive.

Alex Hoppen paid for the full skydive himself, and then asked friends and family for donations for the charity – which provides specialist dementia support – in order to maximise the amount raised.

The 33-year-old told the Essex Jewish News: "I have

been undergoing a lot of intensive self-development and growth over the last year and thought this would be a fantastic thing to do. And I'm so pleased I did – it turned out to be an incredible experience, and one that was unbelievably safe."

"I would suggest this to approach any challenge in life: If I can't, I must; and if I must, I can."

Redbridge plans special celebrations for Israel's anniversary

ESSEX residents are expected to turn out in force on Thursday 19 April to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, at a gala show at the Redbridge Jewish Community Centre.

All sections of the Jewish community in the borough will be represented including pupils from the three Jewish schools, who will give a performance. There will also be live Israeli music and dancing.

One feature of the evening will be a souk – a market place or bazaar found in Israel and many other Middle East countries – with Israeli food, arts and crafts and other stalls.

Doors open at 5pm for the souk, with the main event starting at 6pm. The souk will also operate after the event.

Booking is by ticket only. Please phone the Redbridge Jewish Community Centre on 0208 551 0017 for further information.

Happy birthday, Israel – Page 2.

ESSEX JEWISH NEWS

Send us your stories and pictures. See the panel in page 2 for our address

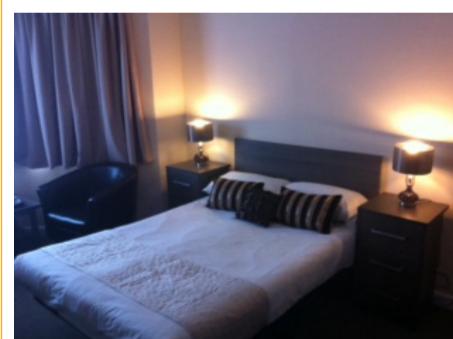


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Feeling fruity at Aztec House



Volunteers at Jewish Blind and Disabled's Aztec House provided a very fruity Tu Bishvat for tenants with a selection of platters.

Hidden gems at RJCC



Mike Gapes MP (left), Sid Green and Simon Morris at a recent event



Some of the ladies that lunch at the Redbridge Jewish Community Centre

SOMETIMES the simplest of ideas reap the biggest rewards. That is certainly the case for Sid Green, a Redbridge veteran, who found a gap in the market of providing interest to Jewish people at the Redbridge Jewish Community Centre (RJCC), writes Manny Robinson.

He set up 'Chaps That

Chat', in conjunction with Ivor Lethbridge, his wife Rita and Alison Samardi, a group meeting once a month on a Wednesday, with a programme that involves a speaker chatting for about 50 minutes, a break for tea and then a discussion on topics of the day for a final hour.

There are now more than

80 men who have signed up to the group; and more than 50 of them turn up each month for this activity, just one of the hidden gems at the Centre.

I say 'hidden' because most visitors there (if they are not actually having meals on a regular basis) just turn up for the shows held in The Well, enjoying performances by



Line dancing lessons are another hit activity with the local community

many well-known names on the entertainments circuit.

The group were visited earlier this year by Mike Gapes, MP for Ilford South, and Simon Morris, Jewish Care's CEO, who praised the working of the group.

But in the rooms adjoining The Well there is a hive of activities, including 'Chaps That Chat'.

Fancy something different? The late Arnie Serlin always looked forward eagerly to his trip to the Community Centre on a Monday, where he was a leading member of the art class. At the class, budding artists and those with a wealth of experience, enjoyed their day painting and chatting to colleagues and friends about art subjects.

Or maybe Yiddish is something you always promised yourself to learn? There is a conversational Yiddish class at the Centre every fortnight on a Sunday, from 10am to 12pm, while the more energetic of you could try table tennis three times a week on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The even more athletic could try line-dancing every fortnight from 11am; while Tracy Jacobs runs a 'Fitness For All' session from 11 to 12am and a Pilates class is held from 10am to 11am.

Bridge classes are held on Wednesdays from 7.15pm to 9.15pm; and, if you don't know anything about computers but want to impress your grandchildren, there is a drop-in class at the Centre from 10.30am.

A Yoga class is held from 9.45am to 11am, while the new Boys' Club get together monthly for a meal and a natter.

For further information on all these and other activities, contact simber@jcare.org or you can phone the Centre on 0208 551 0017.

Chabad supporting mental health in Buckhurst Hill



Event organisers Laraine Warren and Esther Joseph with Rebbetzin Henny Brandman and Jami's Louise Palmer

By **SIMON ROTHSTEIN**

BUCKHURST HILL Chabad Ladies Circle supported mental health charity Jami at the community's annual fundraising dinner.

More than 90 guests enjoyed a fabulous evening with delicious food, a stunning room, great entertainment and a well-supported raffle.

In order to make the evening a truly communal event, and raise as much money as possible for charity, everything was done in-house – with the shul hall transformed into a beautiful function room.

Buckhurst Hill Chabad rabbi and director Rabbi Odom Brandman said: "Dinners like this may be common, however this was a dinner with a difference!

"Every aspect of the event was professional – the room décor, printed menus and raffle prize cards, a fully catered meal, table centre pieces – but ALL was done totally in-house by the community for the community."

Member Louise Osen generously donated and arranged stunning flower arrangements for the tables. A delicious three-course meal was prepared by chef and community chocolatier Andrew Kennard, with desserts made by Karen Wise, Daphne Benham-Whyte, Martine Gromann-Marks and Paul Benham-Whyte. The room was organised by two other dedicated community volunteers, Howard Wise and Greg Warren, with some support from Rabbi Brandman.

A packed programme included entertainment from The Fabian Sisters, who sang a compilation of songs covering many genres.

Louise Palmer from Jami spoke about the important work the charity does helping those in the Jewish community who suffer with mental health issues including bipolar affective disorder, schizophrenia, depression and eating disorders.

A cheque for £500 was presented to Jami on the night, with appeal cards also given out for others to make private donations following the event.

KKS students learn about addiction



Paul Hannaford gave a powerful talk to the students of Kantor King Solomon High School

EX-GANG member and drug user Paul Hannaford spoke to students at Kantor King Solomon High School to warn them of the dangers of addiction.

Paul spoke to every year group, delivering a searingly honest account of his teenage and early adult years. He explained how his drug use escalated from smoking marijuana to robbing his mum to pay for his crack habit, living in drug dens and going to prison 14 times. The talk

also covered alcohol, knife crime, gangs, guns, bullying and prison life.

Paul, who is from Essex, has now turned his life around and has spoken in many schools and football clubs across the country, turning it into a full-time job.

He said: "Everything I did was all related to drugs. I joined a gang, and committed more than 5,000 crimes. I went to prison 14 times and stole over £5million pounds'

worth of goods from shops.

"But today I'm clean and sober and putting something back, as I've dedicated my life to educating kids all over the UK in hundreds of schools. I hope I've helped change many young lives, so their futures won't be like mine and other drug addicts and gang members... a wasted one."

To find out more about Paul, please visit www.paulhannaford.com



KANTOR King Solomon is looking for exam invigilators to work at the school during the summer exam period.

The role includes responsibility for conducting examination sessions in the presence of the candidates and according to the regulations.

Hours and days are flexible and full training is provided. The hourly rate is £9.62. Please contact Mr Downing on gdowning@kshsonline.com for more information.

The Judge and the Jewish Care Angels



Judge Rinder covered a wide range of topics at his Angels appearance PHOTO BY GARY DAVIS

BY PAT LIDIKER

TELLY judge and Strictly Come Dancing star Robert Rinder helped raise £34,500 for Jewish Care, as the guest speaker at the charity's 9th annual Local Angels lunch at the Marriot Hotel in Waltham Abbey.

Judge Rinder's celebrity appeal brought together a large audience whose generosity helped raise the record amount, which will go towards services provided by Jewish

Care in Redbridge and the wider Essex community.

He said: "One of the benefits of being in the public eye is you are gifted to be an ambassador for charities."

As well as regaling his audience with tales of his rise to fame, Judge Rinder also spoke of how a community can combat anti-Semitism by showing others how Jews care and support each other.

He added: "We have something special we can share with the wider community. That is

derech eretz, the spirit and responsibility of looking out for our elders."

Gayle Klein, Jewish Care trustee and chair of the Local Angels committee, said: "Judge Rinder proved a real hit with the guests, he was warm, open and extremely entertaining."

The Local Angels committee have so far raised £225,000 to fund initiatives such as buses for people living with dementia, as well as supporting children and teenagers with special needs.

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ESSEX
JEWISH NEWS

COMMUNITY SEDERIM

FRIDAY 30 MARCH CHABAD

7pm. Adults £20, Students £15, Child £10. Contact www.chabadonthehill.co.uk or phone 0208 279 2987.

REDBRIDGE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE

6.30pm for 7pm. Adults £23, Child (under 16) £13. Phone 0208 551 0017 or e-mail redbridgejcc@jcare.org

SATURDAY 31 MARCH

SOUTHEND AND WESTCLIFF HEBREW CONGREGATION

Adults £25, Child £12.50. Phone 01702 393535

SOUTH WEST ESSEX AND SETTLEMENT REFORM SYNAGOGUE

7pm. Child (U-12) £12; senior member £21; older child and adult £24; non members £25.50. Contact the synagogue for further details.

TO SEE WHAT'S ON IN YOUR AREA TURN TO CURRENT ACTION ON PAGE 31 AND EVENTS DIRECTORY ON PAGE 32

Praise pours in for inspirational educator

EMERITUS Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks led the tributes to leading Jewish educator Maureen Kendler, who died in February aged 62 following a short illness.

Maureen, who was born and brought up in Ilford, was renowned for teaching Jews all around the world about their culture, history and tradition – giving an insight into the individual and collective experiences that together comprise the Jewish story.

Lord Sacks spoke of her "humble wisdom that was infused with emotional sensitivity and a profound understanding of Judaism".

Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, the senior rabbi of Masorti Judaism, said: "She was a pioneering spirit in Jewish education in this country and far beyond. Knowledgeable, inspiring, warm-hearted, engaging, entertaining, open-minded and extraordinarily well-read, she was an inspiration to thousands."

They were joined in paying tribute by rabbis, leaders, lay members and students of all ages, all sections of the Jewish community and from all over the world.

See Obituary on page 29

UK's oldest Brady girl to open exhibition

BY MANNY ROBINSON

BEATTIE ORWELL, at 100 years of age, has been invited to open an exhibition of photographs and memorabilia from the Brady Boys' and Girls' Clubs showing life in the Jewish East End of London from the 1940s to the 1960s.

Beattie, the oldest known former Brady girl, still lives in Mile End and found sudden fame earlier this year introducing the television programmes Countdown and Hollyoaks.

The exhibition will show around 250 photographs from the 1,000 pictures discovered in Clerkenwell last year. Many of the people in the pictures have

been identified by more than 80 former Brady members of different generations who went through the collection.

The exhibition will run from Wednesday 2 May to Friday 18 May at Calcutta House, London Metropolitan University, Old Castle Street, Aldgate East, E1 7NT.

One of the organisers of the exhibition said: "There are many former Brady Boys' and Girls' Club members living in the Essex Jewish News circulation area.

"We hope many of them will take this opportunity to visit the exhibition and re-live the days when they were kids growing up in the old Jewish East End."

Drivers needed

AISH Essex is looking for volunteer drivers who can deliver much-needed care packages to families in the Redbridge/Chigwell area.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can help and/or if you know someone who requires such assistance, please contact Rabbi Mendy Brukier by calling 07791 220 774 or emailing Mendy@Aish.org.uk

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"Living independently is great, but knowing someone is always there is even better"

Phyllis, Shebson Lodge tenant

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#PeopleOfJewishCare

JEWISH CARE

Encounter with a 'Tree of Life'



To the left of sculpture stand (from right): Dr Kessler, Helaine Blumenfeld and Right Reverend Timothy Stevens

BY MARK HARRIS

AROUND 100 guests witnessed the formal unveiling of a monumental work of art on a lawn beside the Woolf Institute in Cambridge last month.

The inspiring, white hard-

lime stone sculpture – ‘Tree of Life: Encounter’ – was unveiled jointly by its renowned creator, Helaine Blumenfeld OBE, and Dr Edward Kessler MBE, founder director of the Institute, the aim of which is “to improve relations between

religion and society through education”. The stunning, three-metre tall and 5,250 kg artwork was sculpted from a 42-ton block of Italian Carrera marble to mark the Institute’s new and purpose-built edifice in the grounds of Westminster

College.

Before the unveiling, a reception was held in the building’s K C Shasha Conference Suite. That was followed by a Q & A session – ‘The Beauty of Encounter’ – chaired by Dr Kessler, with the sculptress, who is originally from the USA and now lives in Cambridge, and retired Anglican Bishop of Leicester Timothy Stevens CBE. He was born in Ilford, is a Cambridge alumnus and has been widely commended for his work on inter-faith relations.

The Institute, which for some 19 years has been working to build relations between the Abrahamic faiths, sees the sculpture “as a point of encounter, bringing people together and evoking different perspectives for people of all faiths and none”. Dr Kessler remarked that, “Encounter is the key to fostering understanding between religions”. Helaine Blumenfeld echoed that sentiment in her own comments, adding: “The ‘trunk’ of the ‘tree’ is made from three distinct strands which open up as they rise, reaching out to suggest hope, new possibilities and spiritual regeneration.”

The Right Reverend Timothy Stevens (who formerly sat as one of the Lords Spiritual in the House of Lords) said that, “what the sculpture represents is laced with spiritual meaning”, that “revelation is a function of both the artist and the spiritual leader”, that “an artist helps us to see and understand ourselves and each other more deeply” and that “a sculpture is an incarnation, a three-dimensional work of art that speaks to me very profoundly”.

Liberals enjoy a new dawn

BY SIMON ROTHSTEIN

MEMBERS of Liberal Judaism communities in Essex will be trying out a new Shabbat morning service during 2018, as the movement looks to introduce a brand new siddur.

East London and Essex Liberal Synagogue (ELELS) and Brentwood’s Tikvah Chadasha are among 40 Liberal communities around the UK testing out the service, as part of a feedback process to help shape the first new Liberal Jewish siddur since 1995.

The liturgy is designed to be fully accessible and inclusive, so that all members and guests at a Liberal service can easily follow and play a full part.

For the first time in Liberal Judaism, the Hebrew will be accompanied on the page by both English translation and transliteration. Feminised Hebrew is also being used for the first time for some prayers.

Communities, including ELELS and Tikvah Chadasha, will be using the draft Shabbat morning service at least once a month during 2018, and then submitting feedback by the end of the year. It will also be used at Liberal Judaism’s flagship Biennial Weekend in

the summer.

Taking its cue from the ‘new song’ – shirah chadashah – that the Israelites sang at the shore of the sea following the exodus from Egypt, the new prayer book will be called Siddur Shirah Chadashah.

It is believed this is the first mainstream siddur anywhere in the world ever edited by two women rabbis, Rabbis Elli Tikvah Sarah and Lea Mühlstein.

They told the Essex Jewish News: “Why do we need a new siddur? Liberal Judaism has published a new prayer book every 25 to 30 years ‘in order to satisfy the needs of the age’ – a core principle first articulated by one of our founders, Lily Montagu, in 1899.

“In 1967, our siddur ‘Service of the Heart’ introduced modern English. The next 25 years saw huge changes in society, not least the emergence of the women’s liberation movement. So, in 1995, Siddur Lev Chadash introduced a gender-inclusive translation.

“In the 20-plus years since then, things have changed again. Since the millennium, alongside Liberal Judaism’s championing of equality, the new watchword has been inclusion. A major focus of the new siddur is how the individual may be included and enabled to take part in the service.

Sample pages from the siddur that is being used to test out the liturgy for future Liberal Synagogue services

... the new watchword has been inclusion

ESSEX JEWISH NEWS

Westcliff set £30k target for MDA UK fundraising



Westcliff MDA UK committee founders Simon Belson and Linda Burns

MORE than 100 people attended the inaugural event held by the Magen David Adom UK (MDA UK) Southend and Westcliff Committee.

The committee was founded by Simon Belson and Linda Burns, of Southend and Westcliff Hebrew Congregation (SWHC), to continue the hard work of fellow SWHC members Marilyn and Stephen Salt.

Marilyn and Stephen have helped raise considerable amounts for MDA, which has a fleet of 875 ambulances stationed at 127 stations across the length and breadth of Israel – providing an ambulance for every type of medical emergency. Simon and Linda took part in the MDA Trek at the end of last year.

Linda told the Essex Jewish News that the first and primary objective of the new committee is to raise £30,000 for a room in the new National Blood Centre in Ramlam.

The guest speaker at the event – a sponsored, Israeli-style breakfast – was Professor Eilat Shinar, director of blood

services for MDA Israel, who explained why the new National Blood Centre was so vital.

He said: “Blood services are MDA’s responsibility but are not supported by the government, funding comes from voluntary donations.

“Our existing building in Tel Aviv is not missile protected and when neighbours say they can bombard Tel Aviv, they mean it. Israel is also in an earthquake-prone area and the new services will be south of the airport and built 50 metres underground.”

Daniel Burger, chief executive of MDA UK, told how the organisation also works alongside the International Red Cross in disaster areas abroad, putting Israel on the world stage and making it “a shining light among the nations”.

More fundraising events are planned for the future. To find out more about MDA UK, please contact Simon and Linda at MDA UK Southend and Westcliff c/o shuloffice@swhc.org.uk



THE Wohl Ilford Jewish Primary School Choir wowed crowds with their performance in the Boys Town Jerusalem Annual Primary Schools' Choral Festival at The Arts Depot to help raise funds for the charity, which helps children from the edges of Israeli society.

ESSEX JEWISH NEWS
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Chief skypes Southend



BY SIMON ROTHSTEIN

BAD weather stopped Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis attending the 111th anniversary of Southend and Westcliff Hebrew Congregation (SWHC) in person – so he made a virtual appearance instead.

More than 120 members enjoyed a celebratory lunch, with the Chief Rabbi addressing them via a Skype link.

He said: "SWHC is a symbol of what a Jewish community is all about. It has a treasured past and, today, is one of the UK's outstanding communities."

SWHC's Rabbi Binyamin Bar praised the Chief Rabbi on his humanitarian and Shabbat UK projects, and told how

SWHC's forefathers had worked so hard because it is one community.

Rabbi Bar also commended the Chassidic families who are moving into the town, talked of the planning of an Eruv in the area and said that there is incredible interest from young couples wanting to live in Westcliff.

The celebration was also attended by local MP Sir David Amess, who said he will always support the Jewish community and the State of Israel.

He added: "Southend is being rejuvenated, and I am hopeful the synagogue will have city status when Southend becomes a city."

Southend's former mayor, and SWHC member, Councillor David Garston recounted

how the area has had six Jewish mayors and explained how the way faiths work together in Southend is an example for the whole country.

The event also featured a welcome from chair Derek Silverstone and a thank you from secretary Anthony Larholt. Vice chair Roy Barnes was master of ceremonies.

SWHC's Geoffrey Pepper said: "I would like to thank Marilyn Salt and all those volunteers who made the afternoon such a success and for organising wonderful historic entertainment in a community first, by having the Chief Rabbi on Skype. He promised there would be a rearranged date for him to visit us in person."

All that jazz for Reform members



AROUND 60 members of Sukkat Shalom and South West Essex Reform Synagogues joined together for a special jazz service

and chavurah supper.

Sukkat Shalom's historic building in Wanstead was the setting, looking extra special in can-

dleight, as Joseph Finlay's band with vocalist Rachel Weston (pictured) performed traditional Shabbat melodies to a jazz rhythm.

Pat is joining the EJN team

A WARM welcome to Pat Lidiker, who has joined the Essex Jewish News editorial team.

Pat, who recently moved to Woodford Green, has spent more than 50 years as a journalist and magazine editor.

She has written for various local and national newspapers

and magazines, including the *Jewish Chronicle* and *Leicester Mercury*. Pat most recently worked for the *Wessex Jewish News*, a glossy magazine based in Bournemouth.

Essex Jewish News editor Simon Rothstein said: "I'm delighted that Pat has joined our growing staff – bringing news,

views and hopefully a smile to the Jewish population of Essex and beyond."

The *Essex Jewish News* is always looking for reporters, as well as help with social media and advertising. If you would like to join the team, please email Simon on simon.rothstein@hotmail.co.uk



When Sharon and Russell got married, they also made their Wills. And remembered their favourite Jewish Charities with a gift in it.

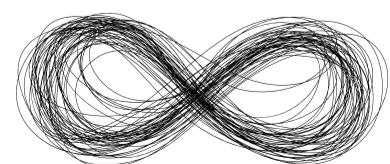
When something changes in your life, it's time to change someone else's too.

Lionel & Pearl have been married 70 years and were recently thrown a special party to celebrate this by the charity that helps and supports them. That charity depends on Gifts in Wills.



Jewish charities in the UK and abroad rely on gifts in Wills to continue their vital work.

Call Gina Ross on 020 3375 6248 or visit www.jewishlegacy.org.uk to find out more about leaving a gift in your Will to one of our charity members.



Jewish Legacy

Holocaust Memorial Day commemorated across Essex and East Anglia

READ OUR REPORTS FROM AROUND THE REGION AS THE COMMUNITY REMEMBERS

CHELMSFORD

BY HARRY FRANKLIN

FOR more than a decade now, Chelmsford City Council (CJC) has hosted the area's annual Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration. However, while providing the facility for the event, the Council relies completely and exclusively on the Chelmsford Jewish Community to organise the evening's programme, speakers and guests.

This responsibility had fallen to two CJC members, Stan Keller and Larry Berkovitz, who, between them, organised everything that the evening required. In the last couple of years, this task has fallen to Stan alone and he has done so wonderfully well.

The theme for this year's commemoration was 'The Power of Words' and following Stan's introduction to the evening's programme, there was a reading entitled 'Propaganda – A Truly Terrible Weapon' by a remarkable young man, Gorak Nagarjunan.

After a series of further readings, poems and reflections, principal speaker Edgar Guest talked about his experiences as a child and then a young man, born in 1930 in a district of Budapest, Hungary.

Edgar's opening remark came as a surprise to me, as it probably did to the majority listening. He told us that contrary to popular belief, which regards the rise to power of Hitler as the beginning of state-sponsored anti-Semitism in the mid-20th century, it had begun in Hungary as early as 1920.

Whether this prompted his father to convert the family to Catholicism, when Edgar was six-years-old, we were not told. But as the 1930s advanced, so more and more restrictions were placed upon Hungarian Jews and the family's conversion to Catholicism notwithstanding, Edgar and his family knew the privations imposed upon them from this time on.

When he was old enough to begin his secondary education, Edgar was granted a scholarship to attend what he described as the most prestigious school in Hungary. However, he told us that during the whole of the four-year period he attended the school, he was completely ostracised by the other pupils – isolated and ignored because of his Jewish roots.

In 1944, after Germany invaded Hungary, his father was sent away to do forced labour leaving him, his mother and younger sister living on virtually no money and precious little food.

The family survived the war – Edgar having been sent into the countryside to live and work with an aunt and uncle – and were reunited. However, every other member of the extended family perished in the Nazi concentration camps.

Edgar's story, lucidly told, moved many in the audience, myself included.

There followed the traditional lighting of six memorial candles,

each representing a million Jews who perished in the Holocaust and then a rendering of El Male Rachamim, the Memorial Prayer, initially sung most beautifully by Peter Webb and then read in English, again with heartfelt sincerity, by Arnold Klein. Stan then recited Kaddish and the evening concluded with him posing the question 'optimism or pessimism?'. I find this commemoration each year an illustration of how well our tiny Jewish community in Chelmsford repeatedly achieves standards of excellence in whatever it attempts.

REDBRIDGE SCHOOLS

BY LAURA MARKS

KANTOR King Solomon (KKS) High School welcomed pupils of all faiths from Beal, Oaks Park, Ilford County High, Trinity, Valentines, Forest Academy, Wanstead and Woodford County High for an inter-school Holocaust seminar.

Guest speaker Lady Zahara Kohn, a Holocaust survivor, joined her daughter Hephzibah Rodofsky on stage, with them both telling her story to a packed hall.

The year 12 students were then given the opportunity to work with each other and create their own response to the Holocaust, and write statements expressing the legacy that they would like to take forward.

Speaking afterwards, KKS pupil Athina Ntriza said: 'I found the talk helpful and inspiring and I enjoyed working with other students afterwards, as it was good to hear how others felt.'

Fellow student Aimee Cohen added: 'I found the day powerful and moving. I went and spoke to Lady Zahara afterwards and looked through her documents, the actual original ones. To touch them, and realise this was her badge that she wore more than 70 years ago, I found chilling. She spoke really well and left a big impression on us all.'

In a separate event, Year 6 pupils from four Redbridge primary schools, including Wohl Ilford Jewish Primary School (WIJPS), joined together to share speeches of hope in remembrance of the Holocaust.

WIJPS students Ava Rose, Ethan Clerk and Samantha Falk were congratulated on their words by a judging panel including Ilford North MP Wes Streeting.

REDBRIDGE

BY SIMON ROTHSTEIN

HUNDREDS attended the annual Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony held in Valentines Park, including local politicians, faith leaders, war veterans, survivors and schoolchildren.

Mayor of Redbridge, Councillor Linda Huggett, opened the event, with Redbridge Council deputy leader Councillor Elaine Norman then giving a speech on 'The Power of Words', saying:

'Words can raise hope courage

and faith, but they can also normalise hatred and extremism. They can be used to unite people but also can be used to whip up prejudice.'

Stories from survivors of the Holocaust and subsequent atrocities, including the genocides in Rwanda and Bosnia, were read aloud by pupils from Christchurch Primary School, Mansfield Primary School and Wanstead Primary School.

Rabbi Geoffrey Hyman, of Ilford Synagogue, then recited Kadish in English and Hebrew. He also laid a wreath together with other faith leaders.

Clayhall councillor Alan Weinberg MBE has been lead organiser of the ceremony for 16 years. He said: 'We did something different this year, where leaders from all three Abrahamic faiths laid the wreath on the memorial. That summed up the essence of Redbridge. We are a borough where we work and live together.'

Other politicians in attendance included Chingford and Woodford Green MP Iain Duncan Smith, Ilford North MP Wes Streeting and Ilford South MP Mike Gapes.

CAMBRIDGE

BY MARK HARRIS

CAMBRIDGE'S Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) event 2018 was held at the city's Guildhall. Its programme, designed by Historyworks, followed this year's HMD theme, 'The Power of Words'; and included speeches, songs, readings and poetry.

In the lead up to the 'Civic Ceremony', hundreds of students from a range of Cambridge schools had been working alongside historian Helen Weinstein, Holocaust survivor Eva Clarke (who was born in Mauthausen concentration camp) and author and 'poet in residence' Michael Rosen, who had written some new pieces to be arranged for choirs to sing on the commemorative occasion. There were also co-created items to be performed on the day by the children themselves.

Speakers on the programme included Peter Lantos, a survivor of the Nazi concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen, who became a noted UK medical researcher and has written prose and poetry about his childhood experiences; and Jo Ingabire, whose memories of genocide would take the audience on her journey in Rwanda "from hatred to reconciliation".

A series of other events – covering film screenings, talks, readings, panel discussions, concerts and activities for schools – were also held in Cambridge to mark HMD.

SWESRS

BY BRENDA SOSKIN

AS part of their commitment to Holocaust education, over a two-day period, South West Essex and Settlement Reform Synagogue (SWESRS) hosted more than 200 pupils from local schools with presentations from Holocaust survivors and rabbis from Progressive synagogues in Redbridge and Essex.

The survivors included Rabbi Harry Jacobi, born in Berlin in 1925, who came to

England from Holland following a double escape from the Nazis in 1939 and then 1940. He was one of 74 children saved by Gertude Wijsmuller-Meijer, one of the Righteous Gentiles, on the last evening before the Dutch capitulation.

Another survivor who gave a presentation was Eve Kugler, who escaped Nazi persecution by fleeing France for America. Her parents were interred in four French concentration camps, twice miraculously spared from deportation to Auschwitz.

Farrel Igelman recalled the remarkable story of his father, Hillel Chill (Charlie) Igelman, who in 1939, aged 12, was interred in a slave labour camp at Radom, working 12 hour shifts making revolvers, rifles and bicycles, existing on minute rations and with a five mile walk to and from the camp.

He survived Auschwitz as a slave labourer, working in a V1 facility at Wehingen undertaking heavy work clearing the site of boulders.

Farrel recalled that, during air raids, Jews were not allowed into shelters but used the opportunity to dig up carrots to supplement their meagre diet, whilst the Nazi officers took shelter.

Finally, Chill was sent to Dachau on a death march at night during which Jews were shot if they could not keep up. He was finally liberated by the Americans in May 1945, aged 17.

In addition to these moving stories, Rabbis Irit Shillor from Harlow Reform and David Hulbert from East London and Essex Liberal told of their families' experience of the Holocaust including their lives after the war.

In the prayer hall, SWESRS' Rabbi Lisa Barrett showed the children the Czech Torah Scroll, one of 1,564 which were rescued from the Holocaust by the Prague Jewish community and distributed around the world as a message of hope and resilience.

The students who attended were moved by the testimonies of the survivors and commented on the range of oral accounts and how this has given them an insight into the impact of the Holocaust for survivors, their families and society.

SOUTHEND

BY GEOFFREY PEPPER

AN extremely emotional and moving afternoon, organised by Southend Council in conjunction with the local Jewish community, saw close to 400 people come together on Holocaust Memorial Day.

The mayor, Councillor Fay Evans, lit the Holocaust candle in memory of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau on 27 January 1945.

Speaking about this year's theme, Rabbi Binyamin Bar of Southend and Westcliff Hebrew Congregation told attendees: 'We owe it to humanity to reflect on the power of words in free speech. When words fail, violence begins.'

The guest speaker was Holocaust survivor Manfred Goldberg, who was in the Stutthof extermination



Ilford Synagogue's Rabbi Geoffrey Hyman and Mohamed Omer from the Gardens of Peace Muslim Cemetery lay a wreath together in Valentines' Park



Redbridge school pupils with Holocaust survivor Lady Zahara Kohn



The mayor of Southend leads the annual HMD tree planting ceremony



Students from Forest Academy with Rabbi Lisa Barrett in SWESRS' Prayer Hall



Chelmsford Jewish Community chair Stan Keller with HMD speaker Edgar Guest

Six dads run 14 miles to help three schools



The six local men, with their supporters, on one of the six stops

SIX Essex dads ditched the doughnuts over Chanukah in favour of a run to raise money for three local Jewish schools.

Darren Brown, Daniel Carmel-Brown, Dan Lion, Danny Fresco, Matt Martin and David Blitz created a half

marathon route that covered Epping, Loughton, Buckhurst Hill, Chigwell, Gants Hill and Barkingside, taking in six menorahs along the way.

The 14-mile run ended at the Wohl Ilford Jewish Primary School (WIJPS) winter fête, where the group were

greeted by friends and family.

The fathers raised a combined total of around £6,000 for WIJPS, Kantor King Solomon High School and Clore Tikva Primary School. The event was sponsored by local business Land Commercial Surveyors and the route

took in their offices in Beehive Lane.

Danny Fresco who, along with Dan Lion, raised money for Clore Tikva where their children attend, commented on the difficult conditions the six had to run in.

He told the Essex Jewish News: "It was really tough, and the wind and rain certainly didn't help, but it felt great when we finished. It gave me a real sense of personal achievement and we were all overwhelmed with the support we received, as well as all the donations."

Daniel Carmel Brown who, along with Darren Brown, ran for King Solomon, was overwhelmed by the supporters that greeted them after the long and gruelling experience.

He said: "The community in the Redbridge and Essex area is very much alive, and full of people that really want to do their bit. Kol Hakavod to the gang for everything they have achieved!"

David Blitz, whose children attend WIJPS, felt that the half marathon was a great way to give something back to the local community, adding: "We are hoping to do another Menorah Run this year and would love it if more local people took part."

Adam Diamant, managing director of Land Commercial Surveyors, commented on how impressed he was by the determination of the group who ran in freezing conditions. He said: "We are proud to sponsor the group and know that the money raised will be put to good use to help provide a first class education for children at local Jewish schools."

Sonia wins major social action award



Sonia Muscovitch receives her Mitzvah Day award from Daniel Levy of the Jewish Volunteering Network PHOTO BY YAKIR ZUR

SONIA MUSCOVITCH, from Woodford, was chosen as Outstanding Mitzvah Day Individual in a special awards ceremony held by the social action charity.

More than 4,000 people voted for their favourites in a number of categories – with the winners then revealed in a fun and moving event at JW3, hosted by comedian Ashley Blaker.

Sonia, a member of East London and Essex Liberal Synagogue, was praised for her work for the charity Langdon and dedicating her life to helping young people with learning disabilities.

As part of a year-long programme, Sonia supported three volunteers to coordinate a partnership between 20 young adults and Langdon members. She then led them

in a Mitzvah Day programme, which involved more than 100 people in cooking and other creative projects, and included a visit from Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis.

Sonia said: "I was shocked when I was shortlisted. I was too embarrassed to even promote it on my Facebook. Langdon did it for me."

As well as her role in shaping the Langdon Brady Club, she also co-ordinates the charity's involvement in activities like the Maccabi GB Community Fun Run and the Maccabi Challenge Tour in Israel.

The Mitzvah Day Awards were sponsored by the *Jewish Chronicle*, and featured winners from all around the country and all parts of the Jewish community.

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CAMBRIDGE DIET

MARK HARRIS



UNTIL relatively recently in its 17-year history, the Kol Echad ('One Voice') Choir, Cambridge's only 'Jewish' choral ensemble (which includes some equally zealous, non-Jewish singers) met to rehearse at various locations. But when Beth Shalom Reform Synagogue's first permanent building was consecrated in 2015, the male and female choristers (who "range in age from 20 to 80") were delighted to be afforded a fixed venue to practice regularly their eclectic music catalogue covering liturgical, Yiddish, Ladino and Israeli folk/popular songs.

One Tuesday evening rehearsal last month, having agreed a visit with Kol Echad's musical director (MD) and conductor Danielle Padley (a soprano) and arranged my attendance with its honorary secretary Les Wheeler (bass), I arrive in a spacious, groundfloor room at Beth Shalom's modern edifice near the River Cam. Previously, I'd heard the group perform at Cambridge's annual Holocaust Memorial Day event. A personal interest arises from my own history as a first tenor:

for the last decade with The London Cantorial Singers; and for the preceding 20 years, with The London Jewish Male Choir.

Danielle (whose husband Jon, a tenor, is a member of Kol Echad) tells me that she's "a third year, PhD student in Music at Jesus College". She adds: "Since 2011 I've been teaching at Churchill College, and privately. And since 2005 I've been deputy musical director at Edgware and District, now Edgware and Hendon, Reform Synagogue." I ask what had encouraged her initial attachment to Jewish music. She replies: "My interest stems from experiences at EHRS and where I'm now conducting as well as, since the age of 13, singing in the choir. It has a very strong choral tradition, and one of the best mixed synagogue choirs in the country."

Before the rehearsal, I was interested to hear, from Danielle's viewpoint, how the choir has developed since her appointment in 2011; and about its engagements in recent times. "The choir, which has between 15 and 20 regu-

We speak with one voice

EJN MEETS THE KOL ECHAD CHOIR

lar members, has gone from strength to strength," she responds. "We sing now a challenging repertoire in four-part harmony. And with each public performance, our choristers have become more confident in their abilities and, consequently, more enthusiastic about future opportunities. Most of our repertoire is 'a cappella' but, occasionally, we sing accompanied music." I gather that, in the last few years, the choir has performed at several Jewish events (not forgetting charity fundraisers) in Cambridge, including a joint concert alongside the LJMC at Beth Shalom; and for a wider audience at, by way of example, a concert of Jewish liturgy in Corpus Christi College chapel.

Choristers, a number of whom I know, line up in the acoustically obliging, compact hall of a room. I understand from Danielle that, on this evening, they're rehearsing for an LGBT interfaith event the following

week. The MD, in reply to earlier questions, has informed me: "There's a choir keyboard, which we use at rehearsals. But when we perform accompanied music, I tend to conduct from the piano." Kol Echad practice productively; and I can see that Danielle, who knows how

after a short, half-century gap," he notes whimsically. And he also writes plays. "Kol Echad means a huge amount to us," he comments. "It's like family, and we all love to be in each other's company. We've had some wonderful 'gigs' taking Jewish music to the wider world.

date), recalls being one of those originally to propose, in 1981, the founding of a Beth Shalom Reform congregation. He served as treasurer, vice chair etc in its early years, when there was a small choir. Mike adds that, in the mid-1990s, he and a few others formed a pan-community



Kol Echad Choir

to achieve her choral aims (and with an appealing touch of wry humour), is pleased with the results. At the end of an intensive input by all, the well-deserved and schmooze-enhanced refreshments are made available to the now relaxed and happily chattering guys and gals.

I approach Sophie Sakol (soprano) - the choir's newest recruit. I ask her how she's settling in, and what had inspired her to join. "This is my second ever rehearsal, and I'm really enjoying it," the teaching assistant tells me gleefully. "I grew up in this community and recognise much of the music, having sung along at Beth Shalom. But it's good now to sing properly as a member of Kol Echad. I've liked singing since I was five, but never learned the actual words. It all makes sense now. I attended the Purcell School of Music, so did some classical training. And I started a choir at our cheder."

I circulate in the kitchen area to talk with other members I don't know, having had a prior chance to learn about the history of Kol Echad from some of its - and, indeed, the Cambridge community's - stalwarts, such as Mike (bass) and Sheila (alto) Levy. Both have been involved with the choir since its inception around 2000, when "it was conducted by now Princeton-based composer Andrew Lovett". Mike's a partner in Keystage Arts and Heritage, a journalist and Holocaust educator. He's also a PhD student: "I'm now back at university

I see the choir as part of our role to show the world that such music is incredibly beautiful and moving, though largely unknown outside the synagogue."



Mike adds: "My hope is that we get more outside 'gigs' and perhaps make a recording one day. Our wonderful MD Danielle is keen on arranging new pieces, an exciting challenge to keep us on our toes!" Mike's wife Sheila is noted for her variety of pursuits, too. She has been Kol Echad's treasurer for most of its existence. Currently, she's co-chair of Beth Shalom; and is deputy principal of Cambridge Academy, the language school in nearby Girton. "I take a very active part in the synagogue's services," she tells me. Danielle mentions that the choir doesn't sing regularly for Beth Shalom; but has "sung at its annual Shabbat Shirah services" in recent years. She informs me also: "Kol Echad now have an Events Committee working hard to ensure that a good balance is struck between exciting and ambitious performance opportunities, and allowing enough time to rehearse new repertoire."



I'm told by Danielle that, after she starts her maternity leave, Richard Bateman (a PhD student at Fitzwilliam College) will be conducting the choir during her absence. After exchanging farewells with all, I take Les Wheeler aside. I want to thank him again for arranging my visit. Les is a well-known personality in Cambridge, both as a solo singer (including opera and musicals) and an actor: "Whilst my first love is singing, a close second is 'treading the boards'. And my favourite role has to be Tevye in Fiddler on the Roof."

He's involved with many of the local amateur dramatic groups; and has performed at, for example, the ADC Theatre and Anglia Ruskin University's Mumford Theatre. Les has appeared also at the notable Cambridge Arts Theatre: "Last summer, I performed with our MD Danielle in My Fair Lady. She played Eliza Doolittle and my part was her father, Alfie Doolittle." After hearing that, I could've danced all night!



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Celebrations as Anne hits 100



Anne Finger and her family celebrate 100 wonderful years

ANNE Finger celebrated her 100th birthday with a party at Jewish Care's Dennis Centre, which is next to her home at Jewish Care's Vi and John Rubens House.

At the party, Anne humorously commented: "I would have spoken but I haven't really prepared anything."

Her son Michael told the Essex Jewish News: "It was a wonderful celebration and made a great memory for us all. One of our cousins, who is

96, was able to come and my sister Helen came over from Israel. We also had family coming from Amsterdam and Australia. Mum has a great ear for music and still enjoys singing old songs from wartime years, like We'll Meet Again."

Anne met and married husband Louis before World War II. The family lived in Hackney, Ilford, and Walthamstow, where they had a confectionery shop in the early 1960s, before

later moving to Muswell Hill. When Louis passed away in 1984, Anne made new friends at her local synagogue's friendship club. In her 80s she moved to an independent-living controlled flat with a warden, and stayed very active.

Anne came to live at Jewish Care's Vi and John Rubens House in 2011, aged 93, and has played a full and engaged role there for the last seven years.

Help wanted

THE Essex branch of the Jewish Historical Society are holding a special meeting at Clore Tikva School in Barkingside on Tuesday, 3 July at 8pm.

The Society are keen to create a website on the history of the Jewish communities east of Stepney, particularly in Redbridge and Essex, looking at places which have, or used to have, lots of Jewish people including Forest Gate, Ilford, Gants Hill, Chigwell, Wanstead and Woodford and then further into Essex covering such places as Chelmsford.

The Jewish Historical Society's Sheila Lassman told the Essex Jewish News: "We would like to create a community-wide effort to collect as much information as possible about what made the area tick – synagogues, youth groups, schools, restaurants, shops, Bnei Brith, LJW and Valentine's Park on Yom Kippur afternoon.

"So everyone who is still living in the area, or used to live there, is invited to participate with memoirs, pictures, videos, programmes or anything else you can think of."

The project was inspired by the Brighton branch of the society, who have produced a book about their area's 250-year history, and started the process of putting much of the information online.

The Clore Tikva meeting will be attended by members of the Essex Jewish Community Council, as well as local school and synagogue representatives and staff from the Essex Jewish News. The meeting is free and the Society are keen to stress that they are not asking for money – only for ideas and reminiscences.

Sacha takes on global ambassador role

BY SIMON ROTHSTEIN

SACHA Johnstone, a young adult from Clayhall, has become the Olami regional ambassador for the UK and Germany.

Olami (meaning 'global' in Hebrew) is a network of 320 organisations from 28 countries around the world, each united by the common goal of encouraging young Jews to become their greatest self by embracing their Judaism.

Sacha, 24, was elected as one of 12 regional ambassadors at the international Olami Summit which was held in Birmingham and attended by 1,500 young Jewish people from each of the member organisations from around the world.

Participants heard from speakers including Emeritus Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks, Israeli Minister for Education Naftali Bennet and former Chief Rabbi of the State of Israel Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau. The theme of the summit was 'inspiring Jewish greatness'.

Eighty UK delegates attended from the two UK-based Olami member organisations – Aish UK and the Jewish Learning Exchange (JLE). Sacha was active within both organisations throughout his time at university; and has remained heavily involved with Aish Essex since having graduated in 2015. He currently repre-

sents Aish Essex on the Essex Jewish Community Council (EJCC) – the community's truly cross-communal body, which brings together Jewish organisations of all types and denominations within Essex.

The new position will see Sacha travel to local Olami groups within the region and share his pitch on 'inspiring Jewish greatness', which saw him elected into the role, as well as promoting opportunities offered by Olami and the member organisations to participants he meets.

He has already spoken to students in Leeds and Bristol, and hopes to travel to Germany to meet with local groups there in the coming weeks.

Sacha said: "It is an absolute privilege to represent a truly fantastic organisation, and bring Essex to the forefront of the global Jewish community. I'm looking forward to helping Olami achieve its goal of creating a truly global network of proud young Jewish leaders who are embracing their Judaism."

Rabbi Mendy Brukier of Aish Essex added: "It's wonderful to see Sacha being recognised for his commitment to the Jewish people and an intellectually engaging Judaism. All of us here are so proud of him and look forward to being a part of his journey for many years to come."

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AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT TWO OF OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

How Jewish Women's Aid helps victims of domestic abuse



JEWISH WOMEN'S AID

JEWSH Women's Aid (JWA) has been offering support to Jewish women experiencing domestic violence and abuse since 1985.

Domestic abuse does not just mean physical violence; it also includes emotional and psychological abuse, financial abuse, sexual abuse, isolation, stalking and harassment.

Much has changed since 1985, and one of the biggest developments was when coercive control became a criminal offence in 2015. A support worker at Jewish Women's Aid said: "When there is physical abuse it's often easier for someone to speak out about the abuse, they can say 'this is what he did to me'. With emotional abuse it's not so easy to ex-

plain to someone else what's going on.

"Although convictions of coercive control are nowhere near what we know they could be, the list of behaviours (see fact box) has been immensely helpful to many of our clients. They now have something to show what is happening to them."

Jewish Women's Aid gives support nationwide, including a hub covering Redbridge and Essex. Much of their funding comes from donations and fundraising events, but they do receive funding from some local authorities and women's sector initiatives.

Recently they have received funding, for the first time ever, to work with women living in the Borough

of Havering. The Jewish community is growing in Havering, and Jewish Women's Aid is embarking on a project to train as many professionals in the borough as possible about domestic violence and abuse in the Jewish community.

Women can self-refer to the service; and it is also very important for the professionals to know about JWA, so that they are able to refer Jewish clients to them.

JWA's clients, staff and volunteers range in age and religious observance. Domestic abuse doesn't discriminate, and JWA work with women across the religious spectrum: from Chasidic and other Orthodox communities to Progressive communities and the more secular. Their client age group ranges from 16 years old to women in their 80s. They deal with historical abuse, as well as current.

When a woman is referred in to JWA, she will get a support worker to check she is safe, and help with practical issues like accessing safe housing, benefits

and legal support. She might also be offered free counselling and a space in a group with other Jewish women in a similar situation to them.

JWA is also committed to prevention work. They run programmes on healthy relationships in schools, and have a special new project, Safer Dating, aimed at 16 to 25 year olds.

People sometimes ask why JWA is necessary. A JWA support worker explains: "It's important to have a Jewish organisation offering support for domestic abuse, because there are some cultural aspects that a generic organisation may not understand – such as withholding the get, niddah (family purity), community dynamics and the role of the rabbi and Beth Din. It can also be a comfort to know that other Jewish women are going through something similar, especially if the person has been brought up with people saying things like 'that' doesn't happen in nice Jewish families."

JWA has a wide range of services, to be able to support Jewish women experiencing domestic violence and abuse. This includes:

- A Rabbinic Panel – a team of specially trained rabbis, rebbetzins and dayans who understand the dynamics of domestic violence and abuse. They are available for

FACT BOX:

How do you know if coercive control is happening to you?

Some common examples of coercive behaviour are: (from Women's Aid website www.womensaid.org.uk)

- * Isolating you from friends and family
- * Depriving you of basic needs, such as food
- * Monitoring your time
- * Monitoring you via online communication tools or spyware
- * Taking control over aspects of your everyday life, such as where you can go, who you can see, what you can wear and when you can sleep
- * Depriving you access to support services, such as medical services
- * Repeatedly putting you down, such as saying you're worthless
- * Humiliating, degrading or dehumanising you
- * Controlling your finances
- * Making threats or intimidating you

clients to speak to directly, if they're unable to speak to their own communal leaders. They are also available as consultants to JWA.

• McKenzie Friends – a team of specially trained women who understand the dynamics of domestic violence and abuse, and who are able to offer support in court when a JWA client is a litigant in person.

• Legal Panel – a team of specially trained solicitors who are experts in family law, and who are able to offer free legal advice.

JWA also works closely with many other Jewish char-

ities including the Paperweight Trust, Norwood, JAMI and Jewish Care, as well as working with statutory services.

If you or someone you know is affected by domestic violence and abuse, you can call the Freephone confidential helpline on 0808 801 0500.

To book an appointment to see the Havering Support Worker or enquire about professional training, you can call head office directly on 020 8445 8060. For more details about Jewish Women's Aid in general, please visit www.womensaid.org.uk

e can touch



a, 92,
e resident

Jerry, 93,
Connect@ club member

Millie, 80,
Bereavement support
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JEWISH CARE

DING JEWISH COMMUNAL ORGANISATIONS

How CST keeps our community safe and secure

CST IS COMMUNITY SECURITY TRUST, THE CHARITY THAT PROVIDES SECURITY FOR BRITISH JEWS

Sadly, the threat of terrorism is very obvious, ranging from a deadly bombing in Manchester to vehicle and knife attacks in London. Arrests occur throughout Britain at an unprecedented rate.

Although the number of incidents recently fell in the Essex area, anti-Semitism is increasingly visible nationwide, as if it is moving from the extreme shadows into the mainstream light. Nearly every month, more than 100 anti-Semitic incidents are re-

ported to CST, a figure that has more than doubled since 2013.

CST works against all of this anti-Semitism, racism and terrorism, so Jews can openly lead the lives of their choice.

From offices in London, Manchester and Leeds, CST runs a nationwide network of well over 2,000 fully trained communal security volunteers. They learn self-confidence, decision-making, physical fitness, awareness, calmness under pressure and

how to be assertive in a constructive and polite manner. These are valuable life-skills, enabling CST's personnel to provide the highest levels of dedicated security work, standing proud for themselves, their family, friends and community.

Together, CST staff and volunteers secure over 600 Jewish communal buildings and approximately 1,000 communal events each year.

In recent years, CST has spent over 10 million pounds on enhancing the security of Jewish communal buildings throughout the UK. CST is also responsible for obtaining and managing government funding for commercial security guards at Jewish schools, synagogues and other venues.

CST helps and supports victims of anti-Semitism, and monitors and records anti-Semitic activities and incidents. CST is the only UK organisation that records, analyses and publishes nationwide statistics and information about anti-Semitic incidents and hate crimes. Its statistics and analysis are widely accepted by police, politicians, academics and the media as being the most reliable data on anti-Semitism today.

A spokesperson said: "CST exists not to publicise anti-Semitism, but to facilitate Jewish life. We will always be honest about the state of anti-Semitism, but will always behave responsibly, without spreading panic or fear; and by placing it in



the wider context of the positive reality of what is normal, daily Jewish life.

"CST's knowledge underpins its role in representing British Jewry to police, government and media on anti-Semitism and security. Operational partnership with the police is a crucial basis for providing security and reassurance, whilst working with friendly and responsible politicians from all parties means communal concerns are heard and acted upon.

"All of CST's work is provided free of charge, but we rely upon the partnership and active participation of our entire Jewish community: for our volunteer recruits, for our funding, for reporting and also for the willing co-operation that underpins every one of our activities throughout UK communities. Please join us and help to fight anti-Semitism."

For more information, and to join CST, please visit www.cst.org.uk



CST is the only UK organisation that records and publishes nationwide statistics about anti-Semitism

Jordana – From pupil to teacher

BY LAURA MARKS

JORDANA Aaronson loved being a student at Kantor King Solomon (KKS) High School so much that she has returned to teach there.

Jordana – who received a first class honours degree in Geography from Nottingham University – is now a newly qualified teacher at KKS, where she also completed her initial teacher training.

Below she tells the *Essex Jewish News* what a typical day is like, and why it's so important for her to teach in a Jewish school.

How many classes do you teach?

I teach nine geography classes, and at least one class in every age group ranging from 11 to 18 years of age.

What's a typical day like for you?

I have to start my day with a cup of tea! I arrive around 7:15am and like to get organised and make sure I've got all the print-outs I need for my lessons that day.

There are five lessons a day lasting 65 minutes each. The days vary between some full days of teaching and others with a free period, where I can get my admin and marking done.

I also help to run geography interventions for GCSE pupils, who are perhaps struggling, at lunch time and after school.

At the moment, because we are working with a new syllabus, much of my free time is taken up with planning new resources. School finishes at 3:15pm and I tend to leave around 5:30pm.

When did you know you wanted to be a teacher?

Since taking my GCSEs at KKS, I knew I wanted to be a teacher. I was a pretty average student until it came to my GCSEs, and I realised I had a flair for geography. I remem-

ber getting an A* in my first piece of coursework and it gave me a big confidence boost.

I adopted the method I used in geography in a few other subjects and it really helped. I love geography so much and want other students to love it as much as I do, so feel like if I'm teaching it to them with passion and enthusiasm that will really help with their studies.

What do you love about teaching?

I love the sense of achievement you feel. You help students understand a brand new concept. For example, take volcanoes and earthquakes – this would be an unknown subject to most, yet getting them to understand it, and seeing their progress from September to July, is amazing and ultimately gives you a lot of job satisfaction.

What's it like teaching at the school you attended as a pupil?

At the beginning I was worried that I would still be seen as a student rather than a teacher, but the teachers who taught me appreciated the fact they had contributed to my enthusiasm to teach.

There are also five other ex-KKS students who all teach here now, so for many of the long-serving teachers, they are used to it!

I love that I came here, it's where I started, so I get an opportunity to show my students that if you work hard and stick with something you enjoy then success will come.

As a younger teacher I was worried about the lack of age gap between myself and the older children, but actually it has worked in my favour as many students have said I've made geography cool.

Was it important for you to work in a Jewish school?

Yes it was, as being Jewish has been a big part of my life.



Jordana Aaronson has always loved geography



King Solomon has a real community feel to it. It's a joy and a privilege to call it my place of work.

Throughout university my Jewish identity was important, so to be able to enjoy things like dressing up at Purim, celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut, eating in the Sukkah and sharing our festivals with students of all faiths has been perfect.

This year I'm so excited to be one of the leaders on the forthcoming Israel trip, which I once participated in as a student.

Why do you think parents should send their children to KKS?

KKS has a real community feel to it. It's full of dedicated

teachers who will give up their own free time to ensure every student is making their own individual progress, both academically and socially.

The school has gone through a lot of changes since I was a student and, although it looks like a different school, the ethos and desire to want to learn is still very much prevalent throughout the school.

It's a joy and a privilege to call it my place of work.

* If you would like to have more information about Kantor King Solomon High School, please email marketing@kshonline.com



A typical day in the life of Jordana as she helps a pupil at KKS with her coursework

A sixty second shmooze with ... Gayle Klein



at the operation and processes of donations made to the charity via all the different strands of giving. I have also been involved in design consultations for Jewish Care facilities currently under construction, which has been very interesting.

As the only representative on the Board from Redbridge, do you feel that you have been able to get the Essex voice heard?

I feel that I am able to give a voice to our community's concerns, and our suggestions to improve and enhance the services that we enjoy in Essex. Jewish Care has always had a big presence in north east London and with projects like the proposed redevelopment of the RJCC site, it is an exciting time to be representing this area. This will bring a purpose built, state-of-the-art facility to Redbridge, and really meets the changing needs of care provision with independent living accommodation included in the scheme.

Do you feel that the Essex/north London divide still exists?

I don't feel there is an Essex/north London divide from Jewish Care's perspective. The Board remains totally committed to its northeast London facilities, as well as other areas of British Jewry, and they touch the lives of 10,000 people across the community each week.

What do you personally hope to achieve as a trustee?

I want to step up and take responsibility to help Jewish Care in whatever way I can, and to encourage others to do the same. Jewish Care relies on its amazing volunteer workforce. Unfortunately many of our volunteers have become quite elderly themselves and, whilst they continue to do incredible jobs, they should serve as a fine example to younger members of our community and inspire them to give a small amount of time to volunteer, too.

What would you say to Essex Jewish News readers who want to get involved?

I would say, Jewish Care in Redbridge needs you. There are so many ways that you can connect with this amazing organisation. And whether it is giving your time through volunteering, or as a donor, it really makes a positive difference, not only to Jewish Care and those who help, but to you as well.

If you would like to get involved, please do contact the RJCC on redbridgejcc@jcared.org or phone 020 8551 0017.

For more information on the work of Jewish Care, log onto www.jewishcare.org or call their confidential helpline on 020 8922 2222.

Gangster rapper: Judaism changed my whole life

GLOBAL SUPERSTAR **NISSIM BLACK CHATS WITH MICAELA BLITZ**



Nissim Black swapped a life of guns and drugs for devout Orthodox Judaism

AGANGSTER rapper turned Orthodox Jew is hoping to play his first gigs in Essex later this year, completing a transformation that has seen him go from dealing drugs on the streets of Seattle to living a deeply religious life in the heart of the Chassidic community in Jerusalem.

Thirty-one-year-old Nissim Black is now one of the world's most recognisable Jewish musicians, with sold-out shows from London to New York. Members of Aish Essex were part of the large crowd who saw him perform at the organisation's Genesis campus programme in Birmingham in February.

Everywhere Nissim plays, fans of all ages go wild for his spiritual messages. He always performs in black hat, white shirt, black coat and tzitzit, will pray before a show and his only indulgence afterwards is a glass of water.

His life, however, started very differently. Born Damian Jamohl Black, the star spent much of his childhood surrounded by gangs and drug abuse.

His parents were musicians, but also very much into drugs exposing him to them from an early age. They split when he was two, and his mother later remarried the man who he refers to as 'dad'.

As a result of his home life, Nissim began smoking marijuana from the age of nine, which led him also to dealing the drug when he was only a 12-year-old.

Throughout his upbringing, music was extremely influential and his interest led to him performing his first professional track at 13 years old. With 50 Cent riding high in the

charts, and record labels clamoring for the next similar star, a juicy contract offer led him to gangster rap. Under the name D Black, he went on to release two albums – *The Cause and Effect* (2006) and *Ali'yah* (2009).

It was when his mother died of a drugs overdose, when he was just 19, that Nissim's life changed dramatically, spiralling out of control.

He told the *Essex Jewish News*: "The loss of my mother was sudden and painful, and I think that for years after I never really dealt with it properly, and suppressed it in many ways. I would not wish this pain on my worst enemy."

He became involved in gangs and, after an altercation with another hip-hop artist, Nissim found himself in what he calls a 'kill or be killed' situ-

ation. It was at this time that he started his journey to turning his life around.

He explains: "I first started calling out to Hashem whilst in an extremely stressful situation. Once the situation had been resolved, I began to search out Hashem for real."

This search set Nissim on a path to find the truth through religion. As a child, he had attended mosque with his grandfather. As a teenager, after his grandfather was sent to prison, he converted to Christianity with the help of the Gospel Mission Youth Center. He credits the missionary group – along with his love of music and American football – with saving him from "heading down a very dark path".

So how did he find Judaism as an adult?

Nissim told us: "I em-

barked on a very intense period of study. I started to dig up Christianity from the root, the same with Islam. As well as the Qu'ran and the Bible, I also had a JPS Tanakh. I dedicated myself to eight hours minimum prayer and study of all these religions in order to try and finally find the truth."

He slowly began to gain a deeper understanding of Judaism, and felt something within it resonated with him deeply. Along with his wife Adina, he began the process of conversion. During this time, he retired from his music career to focus fully on his faith.

He said: "As I made my way into the truth of Torah, it was hard to maintain my rap career and my spirituality, so I finished what I thought was my last album, *Ali'yah*, in 2009.

"Even though my single



Nissim poses for a selfie with Aish members at the Genesis event

was successful and I became well-known nationwide, I decided to leave at the height of my career in favour of my conversion."

He credits his wife as being one of his biggest supporters, even dropping out of college to be at his side at a time when he needed her most. He said: "She was there for me throughout and accepted my search for truth and joined me on my journey. I don't think that I could have done this all without her."

Taking the name Nissim – which means 'miracles' in Hebrew – he then came back onto the music scene, but with a very different subject-matter reflecting his spirituality and



I hope that my music will raise awareness of God's love for humanity

faith. The star's popularity, however, hasn't waned. His new album, *Lemala*, is out now and has already spawned a global hit single, *Fly Away*, which has received more than a million plays on YouTube.

The next step in Nissim's journey was moving to Israel with his family - including Adina's sister and her husband, who had also converted. On joining a religious community in Jerusalem, Nissim says he was overwhelmed by how accepting many of them were towards them, despite the fact that they had come from a very different background.

The father-of-five told us: "We were welcomed with open arms. Of course there were some that would stare at us, so much so that they almost walked into a wall from not paying attention to where they were going, but the truth is, we are Chiddish (something new) and this goes with the territory. Now, it is great seeing our children adapt and develop within this society and they have taken on some of the Israeli ways, but still hold onto their American *deretz eretz*."

For Nissim, finding Judaism has changed every aspect of his being and he is in a very different place, both physically and mentally, from his previous ways.

He concluded: "Judaism changed my whole life. I can't begin to explain the difference in my thoughts before and where I am now. I have completely different eyes and my perspectives of old are so distant that, when I see older footage of myself, I feel like I'm seeing a different person altogether. I feel that I now have much more clarity in everything that I do."

"I now hope that my music will help to raise awareness of Hashem's love for humanity and His great longing for us will be known and felt. There is so much to be accomplished and, in the end, He will do it! I'm only going along for the ride."

For more about Nissim, and to hear his music, visit www.nissimofficial.com

ADVERTISER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

THE LEGACY OF SAVING LIVES



STANLEY Grossmith (pictured) was a staunch supporter of Magen David Adom UK. Together with his family, Stanley was committed to the organisation and gave in the knowledge that his donations were saving lives in Israel and across the world.

Twenty-five years ago, Stanley, together with his brother Warren, donated a blood room at the MDA Basel Station in Tel Aviv. Fifteen years later, he dedicated a motorbike in memory of his late wife, Wendy. The pinnacle of this dedication was the legacy that he left when he sadly passed away in 2016.

For Stanley, leaving a legacy meant that not only would his memory live on, but it would do so through a cause that he strongly believed in.

Before he passed away, Stanley told MDA UK that he intended to remember the organisation in his will. Together, a project was identified that would be impactful and meaningful to the Grossmith family.

Stanley decided that he would like his legacy gift to sponsor the ground floor courtyard at MDA's new National Blood & Logistics Centre in Ramla. Work on the development has already begun. It is being funded through a three-way partnership between the Israeli Government, American Friends of Magen David Adom and Magen David Adom UK.

The project will safeguard Israel's medical emergency infrastructure and blood supply against population growth, terrorism, cyber-attack and natural disaster.

As the project develops, Stanley's legacy lives on. By leaving a gift to MDA UK in his will, Stanley has planted a seed that will save lives for generations to come.

Leaving a gift in your will is one of the most valuable and lasting ways you can support MDA. Friends, family and loved ones can see your gift and the incredible, vital lifesaving services it provides, for many years to come. Later this year (3-8th June 2018) MDA UK is organising its first Legacy mission. An opportunity to see first-hand the difference a legacy to MDA has on the people of Israel.

For more information, please contact the MDA office on 020 8201 5900 or email rachelcohen@mdauk.org

PESACH THOUGHTS FROM OUR COMMUNAL LEADERS

BY **CHIEF RABBI
EPHRAIM MIRVIS**
CHIEF RABBI OF THE
UNITED HEBREW
CONGREGATIONS
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH

We have a fascinating family custom: at the Pesach Seder our family sings the words of the passage known as Chasal Siddur Pesach to the tune of Chanukah's Maoz Tzur.

This has prompted me to consider what the festivals of Pesach and Chanukah have in common.

Of course, both celebrate the miraculous intervention of the Almighty to save our people and both are eight days long in the Diaspora.

Interestingly, if necessary,

Jewish law requires one to sell one's clothing or receive tzedakah in order to purchase candles for the Chanukiah. This is strikingly similar to Pesach, when one is required to sell one's clothing or receive tzedakah in order to buy wine for the required four cups.

There was also a fascinating and beautiful custom among the Jews of Izmir in Turkey to use their left-over oil from the previous Chanukah to light a small oil lamp, which they used for Bedikat Chametz, the search for chametz, on the night before Pesach.

Yet, the most substantive, thematic connection between Chanukah and Pesach is the centrality of education as a Jewish value. Both festivals lead us to appreciate the crucial importance of learning in our tradition;

a lesson encapsulated by our Sages, who declared, Vetal mud Torah Keneged Kulam – the study of Torah supersedes all (Mishnah Pe'ah 1).

The Hebrew word Chanukah (dedication) comes from the same root as chinuch (education). Indeed, dedication to education is a key feature of the Chanukah narrative. The survival of our spiritual legacy, despite the intentions of the Hellenists, was rooted in our commitment to teaching Torah and its values.

The primary purpose of the Pesach Seder is education – "And you shall relate to your child on that day saying, 'It is because of this that the Almighty performed these miracles for me when I left Egypt'" (Shemot 13:8).

But, more than that, the Pe-

sach Seder itself sets out the ideal framework for the most impactful education – an audio-visual, experiential encounter which utilises storytelling, questioning and a veritable assault on our senses to ensure that the experience is an unforgettable treat.

It is no accident that, of all our traditions, the Seder night remains the most widely observed, even in families who would otherwise consider themselves entirely secular. Research has shown that more Jews attend a Pesach Seder every year than those who fast on Yom Kippur.

Pesach teaches us what the best teachers already know – that the most effective education must be experiential.

This lesson is of particular relevance to us today. British Jewry is blessed to have truly

outstanding schools which, year on year, are heralded as being amongst the finest in the country. I am always personally moved by the dedication shown by trustees, governors and staff at our wonderful schools and they would be the first to say that there is nothing more impactful or foundational to a Jewish child's identity, than a powerful Jewish experience.

Whatever the setting, formal or informal, at school or at home, may this Pesach present an opportunity for us to refocus on a truism of Jewish life – the greatest key to a successful Jew –

ish future is quality Jewish education.



BY **RABBI ARYEH
SUFRIN MBE**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF CHABAD
LUBAVITCH NORTH
EAST LONDON AND
ESSEX

A CENTRAL theme to the Haggadah – the story of our people's birth, centres around a discussion on the four sons: the wise, the wicked, the simpleton and the one who does not know how to ask.

What is the meaning of a 'wicked son'? Does this child really exist in any family, let alone a whole community and people today?

Choosing who should sit next to whom at any social event is challenging enough for any hostess. Yet, the four sons do have a table setting and name places which are specific. At the Seder table, the wise and the wicked are sat next to each other. A strange choice

indeed, surely the simple child or one needing prompting is a better neighbour for the wise child?

This seating plan is not an accident, it's intentional. Why so?

No child is truly 'wicked'. Yes, the behaviour may be misplaced or worse. But in essence that child's soul is still Godly. The wicked son sits next to the wise son, because he is just one

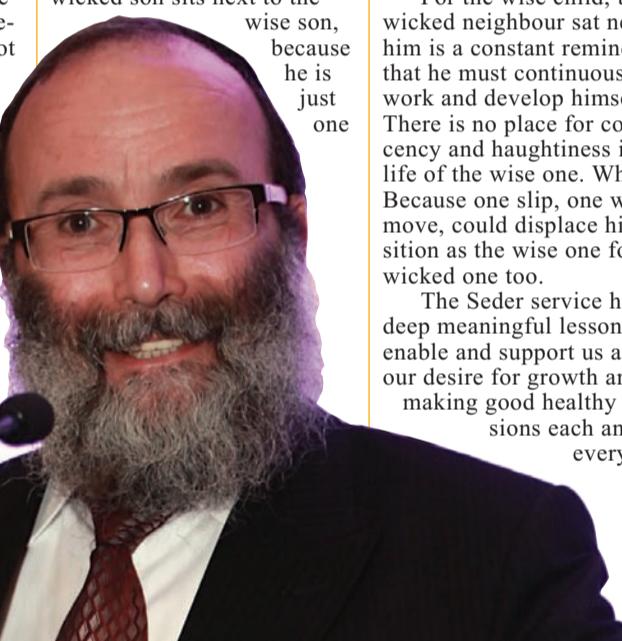
step away from him. In fact they have more in common than not.

The 'wicked' child has the power to become recognised for his wisdom; just as well as the wise child, should he so choose.

What about the other way around, the wise learning from the wicked? Yes, indeed this is so!

For the wise child, the wicked neighbour sat next to him is a constant reminder that he must continuously work and develop himself. There is no place for complacency and haughtiness in the life of the wise one. Why? Because one slip, one wrong move, could displace his position as the wise one for the wicked one too.

The Seder service has deep meaningful lessons to enable and support us all in our desire for growth and making good healthy decisions each and every day.



BY **RABBI AARON
GOLDSTEIN**
CHAIR OF THE
CONFERENCE OF
LIBERAL RABBIS AND
CANTORS

THERE are some books containing such an enduring and universal story that one feels their place in eternity is assured. One that has not and could not become a 'Penguin Classic' is the Haggadah: impossible because of the variant versions.

Originally transmitted orally, the 'text' of the Haggadah – 'the telling of our story' – became fixed around the 9th century CE. In the ensuing period countless manuscript editions, some richly illustrated, were produced. Since the invention of printing, thousands of different versions have been published, the internet allowing a further proliferation.

The foundational theme remains the same; we were slaves in Egypt, were redeemed by God, and gained our freedom.

This same motif is interpreted in every generation, based on local custom, differences of theological emphasis or what are the key themes of the day.

I clearly recall in my teen-

years, Hagaddot produced in our youth movements focused on apartheid in South Africa and the plight of Jews in the Soviet Union. We drew parallels to the civil rights movement for Black Americans, a campaign involving prominent Jews.

As prevalent, one might have thanked God for one's existence let alone freedom, being a survivor, first, second or third generation of the Shoah. Latterly, we all recall those who used to sit round the Seder table, cook for us, narrate for us, be with us – whose presence is mourned.

Recently and in times when, on the whole, Jews in the UK have lived in privileged times, something akin to a Golden Age, we also give thanks for our lot and God forbid we take it for granted.

"For what does it all mean," asks the wicked one – but isn't that just the piece of each one of us that asks why? Why do it as it always was done, why eat food we do and do not like,

why, why, why and would we not be proud to raise children that question?

In East London and Essex there is so much to be proud of this Pesach. Essex still has a large Jewish community and synagogues from all denominations; and is justly proud of the relationships with its Muslim, Christian and other/no faith neighbours.

This will also be the second Passover celebrated at our new East London and Essex Liberal Synagogue - one of the biggest

Liberal shuls in the country and a beacon community.



BY **RABBI JONATHAN
WITTENBERG**
SENIOR RABBI OF
MASORTI JUDAISM

SEDERS differ. Everyone knows that no two families do it exactly the same. From the most Orthodox to the most Progressive, we all have our special ways, our favourite traditions, the sections of the Haggadah we love, and those we love to leave out.

But there is at least one thing we all do at the Seder. We all talk. We talk, whether by reading the Haggadah, by speaking on top of others trying to read the Haggadah, by breaking into heated discussions about God, Pharaoh, freedom, Theresa May, Jeremy Corbyn, or why the matzah this year is harder or softer than ever before. Communication is an essential feature of the Seder experience.

It is also an integral part of the meaning of the Seder. Tyranny wants mouths kept shut. "The people are idle," insists Pharaoh when Moses intercedes on their behalf. If they were working hard enough, they wouldn't have time to complain.

Pharaoh, and all his intellectual progeny in the millennia

since, want to shut down expression. The speech of free people, especially people charged and inspired with such controversial ideas as liberty and equality, represents to them only one thing, an unacceptable challenge to their absolute authority.

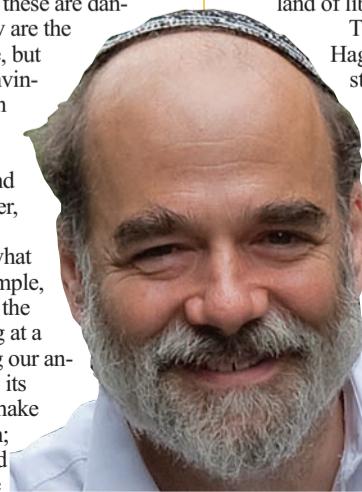
The only communication tyrants want to hear is the kowtowing of their henchmen, what the poet Osip Mandelstam called, in a poem about Stalin which cost him his life, "the tributes of half-men". Free speech, free thought, the free exchange of ideas, communication and community: these are dangerous. They are the small, subtle, but ultimately invincible ways in which freedom defies, and in the end triumphs over, tyranny.

That's what gives this simple, basic fact of the Seder, sitting at a table sharing our ancestral story, its power. We make conversation; we agree and disagree; we

create discourse. The subjects may be family, community, history, justice, hope. But it is this freedom to express, to differ, to search for truth by means of open debate, which Judaism has always celebrated and must continue to champion today.

We live in a world of resurgent tyranny, whether in the form of militant religion, rising racist intolerance, or the attempt to repress and shut down any organ of dissident opinion, a feature prominent in Putin's Russia and which we do not want to see imitated in Trump's America, sweet land of liberty.

The very word Haggadah means story; freedom begins with telling, listening to and valuing each other's stories. It is a freedom we must uphold, celebrate and promote.





A Pesach message from the President

Pesach is a time when our thoughts naturally turn to Israel. It is the festival to celebrate the Exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt and the miracle of the parting of the Red Sea which enabled the Bnei Israel to escape from their pursuing oppressors who would have returned them to slavery. This year we also celebrate the anniversary of a modern miracle. Seventy years ago the State of Israel was re-born after 2,000 years of exile. It remains an event without parallel in human history. Against overwhelming military odds, the nascent nation survived the onslaught of invading armies. Israel quickly established itself as a robust democracy and Jews from around the world know that should antisemitism threaten any community, we have a nation which has pledged to accept and protect us.

The Board of Deputies will celebrate this special birthday with joy. Whether we live in Israel or here in the UK, there is no doubt that a thriving Israel is of the greatest importance to the vast majority of us. We are lucky enough to live in a country where we have proper support and protection extended by Government and society as a whole. However, there is still antisemitism in Britain and it is our duty to take action whenever we see it necessary. Last year in this message, I said that the actions of Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn would speak louder than his words. Twelve months on and Ken Livingstone remains in the party as do other notorious figures. Labour must now finally act to expel those who whose views are incompatible

with a party which sees itself as progressive and anti-racist.

I will be passing the baton of leadership of our community to a new President after our elections in May. The last nine years as President and Vice President have been intensive and demanding. I would not have had it any other way. But I have decided that the time has now come to let the Board have the benefit of a new leader who will bring fresh qualities and energies to the role. It has been the greatest privilege to lead this Board and be an advocate for our remarkable community.

When I was elected I pledged to give clear and credible leadership to defend the rights of our community and put its case effectively. I believe that I have gone a long way towards fulfilling these aims. The strength of our organisation lies in our democracy and to this end we have launched a campaign to persuade more young and female candidates to stand to become Deputies. I have every confidence that my successor will ensure that the Board of Deputies continues to go from strength to strength.

Chag sameach to you all.

Jonathan Arkush
President of the Board of
Deputies of British Jews

**Chabad Lubavitch
Centres of North East
London & Essex**

wish all of our friends
and supporters
a very Happy Pesach

On behalf of Executive Directors:
Rabbi & Mrs Sufrin MBE,
of Chabad Gants Hill
and Rabbi and Mrs Brandman of
Chabad Buckhurst Hill

Chabad also has offices in
Epping & Westcliff on Sea
www.chabadixford.co.uk
www.chabadonthehill.co.uk
www.chabadepping.co.uk



Southend and District Reform Synagogue
851 London Road
Westcliff-on-Sea
Essex SS0 9SZ
Telephone 01702 711663
www.southendreform.org.uk

The Executive and Council of Southend
and District Reform Synagogue,
together with Rabbi Warren Elf, warmly
wish the community and all readers
a happy and healthy Pesach

Shabbat services are held weekly on
Saturday morning at 10.30 am.
Please contact the synagogue for details
of Friday night services.

Visitors are always welcome to join us

**ILFORD FEDERATION
SYNAGOGUE**

A thriving community

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Tel: 0208 554 5289

The Honorary Officers,
Board of Management and
Community send greetings to
all EJN readers for a
Healthy and Peaceful Pesach.
We look forward to welcoming
Rabbi & Rebbetzen Singer at
the beginning of May.

**פסח שמחה**

**The Board of
New Essex Masorti Synagogue
wishes the community
a Happy and Kosher Pesach**

A warm welcome awaits you at
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*Wishing you a happy
and healthy Pesach*

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Minister: Rabbi Larry Becker MA
1 VICTORY ROAD, HERMON HILL WANSTEAD E11 1UL
Telephone: 020 8530 3345
e-mail: admin@sukkatshalom.me.uk
www.sukkatshalom.org.uk

**CHIGWELL AND HAINAULT
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Limes Avenue, Limes Farm Estate
Chigwell, Essex IG7 5NT
Tel: 020 8500 2451

Rabbi Davis, the Honorary Officers and
Board of Management wish
all readers of the Essex Jewish News
a Happy and Peaceful Pesach

**WOODFORD FOREST
UNITED SYNAGOGUE**

20 Churchfields, London E18 2QZ
Telephone 020 8504 1990

Rabbi & Rebbetzen Wollenberg,
Assistant Rabbi Abrams,
the Honorary Officers &
the Board of Management
wish all readers a
Happy Pesach.

**ILFORD
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020 8554 5969

Rabbi Geoffrey Hyman,
the Chairman, Honorary Officers and
Board of Management
wish all their members and the community
A Happy, Healthy and Kosher Pesach



Rabbi and Rebbetzen Dansky,
Rabbi and Rebbetzen Singer,
Reverend and Mrs Newman
and Board of Management of

Redbridge United Synagogue

*wish everyone a Happy and
Kosher Pesach*

Sinclair House
Woodford Bridge Road, Redbridge
020 3031 6929

**Greetings from
ROMFORD & DISTRICT
SYNAGOGUE**

(Incorporating Havering Jewish Ladies)

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Rabbi Lee and Rebbetson Lynette Sunderland,
the Honorary Officers and Congregation wish
everyone a Happy and Kosher Pesach

LOUGHTON SYNAGOGUE
Borders Lane, Loughton, Essex IG10 1TE
Tel: 020 8508 0303

Rabbi Zvi Portnoy, the Honorary
Officers and Board of Management
wish all readers a Happy and
Peaceful Pesach

Headteacher: Mrs Lena Rosenberg
Chairman of Governors: Mrs Frances Niman



**Fullwell Avenue, Barkingside, Ilford
Essex IG6 2JN**

Telephone: 8551 1097 Fax: 8551 2070
email: admin@cloretikva.redbridge.sch.uk

The governors, staff and pupils wish the
community a happy and peaceful
Pesach



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The Governors, Staff and Students at both schools
wish the whole community a very happy Pesach

קהילה קדושה שיר חדש

East London & Essex Liberal Synagogue

Rabbi David Hulbert, Rabbi Richard Jacobi, the Officers and Council send warm wishes to the community of all readers of The Essex Jewish News for a healthy and happy Pesach 5778

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Southend and Westcliff Hebrew Congregation warmly wish the Community and all EJN Readers

חג פסח שמח!
A Happy and Kosher Pesach 5778!



CHELMSFORD JEWISH COMMUNITY

The Council of Chelmsford Jewish Community wishes its members and Jews everywhere a happy Pesach.
We will be enjoying our Communal Seder as one of the many events we organise in our vibrant and friendly community.
If you would like details of how to become involved with CJC

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BACK TO THE ARCHIVES

A LOOK BACK AT THE STORIES IN THE EJN TEN YEARS AGO

Ilford composer's 'Yizkor' premiered on HMD

"AN ORIGINAL music composition by Holocaust survivor and Redbridge resident Arthur Poznanski was premiered at the London Borough of Barnet's Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) commemoration, which was held at Middlesex University in Hendon and attended by some 500 people. The hauntingly melodic work, entitled 'Yizkor' and designed for chazan and choir, is set to the words of 'Av Harachamim' (Father of Compassion). This prayer, for the martyrs who died to sanctify the Almighty's name, is included in the Yizkor memorial service for departed

parents and other loved ones, which is recited in the synagogue on Yom Kippur, Pesach, Shavuot and Shemini Atzereth. At the HMD remembrance event, in the presence of Barnet mayor Cllr Maureen Braun and numerous other local dignitaries, 'Yizkor' was sung by Chazan David Shine and choristers (including Mr Poznanski) of The London Cantorial Singers conducted by David Druce. Arthur Poznanski, the choirmaster at Ilford United Synagogue in Beehive Lane for many years and a talented author of liturgical music, told the Essex Jewish News: 'When I wrote Yizkor last year, I was very much thinking of the members of my close family, parents, grandparents and youngest brother, and other relatives who perished during the Holocaust.' ..."

Extract from EJN news report, 2008

Ilford takes on Rome

"LONDON University undergraduate David Rome has been appointed as part-time chazan at Ilford United Synagogue. Mr Rome, 21, who lives with his parents and sister in Beehive Lane, Redbridge, had been assisting the shul's minister, Rabbi Geoffrey Hyman, in conducting Shabbat and Yom Tov services for some while prior to his formal appointment. Mr Rome is a soloist with The London Cantorial Singers, the well-known Jewish male choir based in north-west London. And for some time, he has been honing his singing abilities under the tutelage of Chazan Stephen Robbins. Recently, he performed before an audience of around 200 at a one-man concert of popular music for JACS in Ilford Synagogue's hall. He told the Essex Jewish News: 'I'm delighted to have been appointed part-time chazan at this prestigious synagogue. As the youngest cantor in the United Synagogue, I'm pleased to work with our wonderful shul choir in enhancing the beauty



Chag Pesach Same'ach!

Rabbi Lisa Barrett, Honorary Officers, Council and staff of SWESRS would like to wish the entire Jewish community a very Happy Pesach.

We invite you to join SWESRS members and guests for our Communal Seder on Saturday 31st March 2018 at 7.00pm.

Please call the Synagogue office for tickets and further information: 020 8599 0936

Throughout the year our doors are always open, ready to welcome you to our wonderful choral, family and children's Shabbat morning services, along with our weekly Tuesday Lunch Club and regular Neshamah meditation services too.

We would be delighted to see you at any time of the year....

Why not take a look at our website for further details? www.swers.org.uk

of the services within the framework of the traditional modes of prayer, interlaced with a modern musical outlook.' An Ilford Synagogue spokesman said: 'This [appointment] marks another step in the revitalisation of the shul and the community.' David Rome is the grandson of the late Rabbi Yehuda Rockman, who was minister of Catford and Bromley Synagogue for 44 years."

EJN news report, 2008

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Pesach memories are made of this

COOKING FOR YOMTOV

SHELLEY POSNER

We all have special memories of our family's Pesach Seders; a table filled with family, friends and loved ones, all sharing the experience of re-living the Exodus with songs and stories and, of course, the special foods we all enjoy only at this time of year.

These days our menus are far more extensive, with an enormous amount of choice that just wasn't available when we were growing up.

That being said, I find I still like to stick to the more traditional food and just adapt it for the more modern kitchen. These recipes use the basic chicken and potatoes main course, with ice cream for dessert – but with the advantage of the huge array of herbs and spices available to make a more sophisticated meal than I remember from my childhood.

Wishing you all a good Yom Tov and meaningful Seders with your loved ones.

BALSAMIC-HERB RUBBED CHICKEN

This is an American recipe from a kosher cookery book given to me by a friend – hence the measurements are in cups. It is very simple and needs no great skill to prepare but fresh herbs must be used. It won't work with the dried variety.



*1/2 cup picked basil leaves
1/2 cup fresh curly parsley
2 tablespns fresh rosemary
2 tablespns fresh thyme
1/4 cup of Balsamic vinegar
1/4 cup of olive oil
2 tablespns Dijon mustard
3/4 teaspn of salt
1/4 teaspn of pepper
1/4 teaspn red chilli flakes (optional)
2 x chickens cut in 8 pieces each*

Into a food processor place all the ingredients except the chicken, and pulse until it forms a coarse herb paste.

Place the chicken pieces into a large foil tray or baking dish which will hold them in a single layer. Either with your hands or a pastry brush, rub each piece with the paste, coating it completely and leaving the pieces skin-side up. Cover with tin foil and refrigerate for at least 4 hours, or preferably overnight.

Preheat the oven to 180°C or 350°F. Remove the chicken from the fridge and bring to room temperature. Take off the foil and bake uncovered for 1½ hours until the chicken is brown and the skin crispy. Serve on a platter with any juices poured over the top.

ROSEMARY ROAST POTATOES

These are great to serve with any kind of roast meat, and will keep crisp whilst waiting for you to finish the first half of the Seder. You will need to increase the amount of potatoes if you have a large crowd.

*1 kg medium sized red or white waxy potatoes
1 bunch of fresh rosemary
4 tablespns olive oil
1/4 teaspn crushed red chillies
Salt and pepper*

Have ready a sturdy roasting tin or dish large enough to hold the potatoes in one layer. Preheat the oven to 220°C or 400°F and bring a large pan of salted water to the boil. Scrub the potatoes – no need to peel them – and depending on their size, halve them lengthways or leave them whole. Drop them into the boiling water and cook for 7 minutes, then drain them into a colander and leave to steam for 3–4 minutes.

Strip the rosemary from the stalks and coarsely chop half of the needles. Break the other sprigs in half. Return the potatoes to the saucepan, pour over the olive oil, add the chopped rosemary, chilli flakes and the salt and pepper and toss until evenly coated. Tip the contents of the pan into the roasting tin, tuck the rosemary sprigs between the potato slices and place uncovered into the oven.

Cook for 40 minutes, turning them over 10 minutes or so. By this time they should be golden brown, crispy and fragrant. Turn out onto a serving platter, sprinkle with extra sea salt and serve.

making these millions of holes was a lucrative secret fiercely protected by the Chinese," he informed me and, in fact, I did remember reading somewhere that several employees at the factory where these holes are made had been executed for attempting to leak information to a foreign power.

BY ALFRED LEVY

A PART from his red and white check suit you'd never guess that Victor Minsky was a multi-millionaire. When I interviewed him at his modest 12-bedroom mansion in the Bishops Avenue there was no sign of his colossal wealth, other than the three-inch diamond and platinum, bagel-shaped tiepin. And there lies the clue.

Victor Minsky is no ordinary multi-millionaire. He is the man who perfected the manufacture in the UK of the holes which go into every bagel. Before he came on the culinary scene every hole had to be imported from China at enormous expense. Many were lost in transit and even more arrived misshapen and unusable.

"At first it was a struggle for perfection," he told me. "Down-sizing the machinery I was using was very difficult. It was Victorian and nearly worn out and not fit for purpose – not really surprising, I suppose, because it had previously been used for producing the holes for wooden toilet seats." At this, I detected a tiny tear in his eye.

"As you may guess, the research and know-how for

pensive. A single hole, even before insertion, would have cost almost one euro."

It eventually took Victor Minsky 12 years to perfect the process and now he is the only manufacturer of bagel-holes in the United Kingdom, and which he exports all over the world. Furthermore, a great deal of his income also arises from the sale of the edible adhesive which he invented to stick the hole to the bagel.

Next, I enquired: "Do you find there are any specific national preferences to hole size, Victor?"

"Nothing we can't handle," he replied. "In Germany the hole has to be a little smaller because they like more bagel for their money, and the sauerkraut tends to slip through the larger hole. And, of course, the size has to be in millimetres."

And then he gave me a confidential piece of information. He told me he has received representations from Rakusen's enquiring if he would consider producing the tiny holes for their matzos.

They are normally produced in Israel but when they come into the UK they carry a hefty customs charge. He is still considering whether or not it would be profitable to go so far macro, so to speak.

HONEY ICE CREAM

This is a very simple ice cream that is quick to make and will sit happily in the freezer until you are ready to use it. It's also an excellent way of using up the extra egg yolks left over from your Pesach baking.

*284 ml carton double cream (or similar Parev whip)
100 mls runny honey
1 whole egg
4 egg yolks
Toasted almonds or pine nuts to serve*

Have ready a 2lb loaf tin or similar tin foil container lined with cling film and overlapping on all sides. Put the honey and all the eggs into a bowl over gently simmering water, and whisk hard until pale, fluffy and thick.

In another bowl, whisk the cream until thick but do not over-beat it – you don't want it to turn solid. Take the egg mixture off the heat and gently fold it into the whipped cream, cutting through the mixture until it is all evenly mixed in. Pour it into the cling-film lined tin.

Cover with a further layer of cling film and freeze until solid. Remove from the freezer about 30 minutes before needed and, just before serving, turn it out onto a serving plate and remove the film. Drizzle with more honey and sprinkle with toasted almonds or pine nuts.

Which recipes would you like Shelley to tackle for Rosh Hashanah?

Email your ideas to our editor: simon.rothstein@hotmail.co.uk

Humour: The (w)hole truth revealed

making these millions of holes was a lucrative secret fiercely protected by the Chinese," he informed me and, in fact, I did remember reading somewhere that several employees at the factory where these holes are made had been executed for attempting to leak information to a foreign power.

He continued: "Fortunately I knew some influential scientists at Edinburgh University who worked hard with me at McDonald's perfecting the dead straight French fries to fit in their cardboard pockets. They had invented a method of manufacturing tartan paint only three or four years previously and when I explained to them how important it was to British – and particular Jewish – bakery to bring the bagel-hole-making industry to the UK they got to work immediately."

I asked Victor how long it took to perfect the process. "It was a race against time," he recalled. "Scientists and engineers in both the USA and Germany were investigating the possibility and I knew we were competing with some tough opposition."

"In Germany they were close to a solution but their process used liquid nitrogen, which made it enormously ex-

I took a chance and asked him if he had ever made a major mistake. He was unfazed as he explained that a lucrative contract to supply the holes in Polo mints was lost when they came out hexagonal.

I asked him if Brexit would affect his business. Bouncing up and down with glee, he replied: "I look forward to it with enormous anticipation. Once we are free of the constraints imposed by the European Union, who insisted that all our holes should be round and sized in millimetres, we shall be conducting further research into producing ever-more interesting shapes."

"We already have a square one ready for production and, especially for the Jewish market, we are looking into the possibility of a hole shaped like the Star of David. The possibilities are endless."

He glanced surreptitiously at his bagel-shaped diamond Cartier wristwatch and I took the hint that it was time to go. "Before you leave," he exclaimed, "I'd like you to have these with my compliments" and he handed me a beautifully embossed square gold box.

When I arrived home, I opened the box and in it were 12 of Mr Minsky's finest bagel holes!

Six of the best

PERSONAL OPINION

RENEE BRAVO



WHEN I turned 80, I decided to try to re-read all my books. Now approaching 90, I realise it was a silly idea. I've only got through two shelves, out of 12, so far. But I thought you might be interested in a few of my favourites, including some you might not have heard of before.

1. I have got four books on the subject of 'who wrote the Bible'. My favourite is by Richard Elliot Friedman. He starts by saying that we do not really know who wrote it. Then 250 pages later, after going through every possibility from 1200 BCE, he ends with the words: "It doesn't matter who wrote it. What matters is who reads it."

2. When Joseph met Molly, a history of Yiddish film, with chapter titles like 'The Devil and Beethoven', 'The Crooked Road to Jewish Luck' and 'Sunny Skies and Green Fields'. The Joseph referred to was the director Joseph Green; and the Molly was Molly Picon, actress and singer. Their most famous film was *Yiddle mit den Fiddle*, made in 1936. In 1996 it was shown at the Barbican four times, and the theatre was full for each. The Jewish population of Russia at the start of the 20th century stood at more than five million, plus the large numbers in America and Europe, so there was a huge market. Yiddish film explored the discord between the traditional world and the modern one.

3. Outwitting History, by Aaron Lansky. As a young university student, the author started to study Yiddish, for fun. Yiddish books were few, and not easy to find. One day he received a call from an old lady, saying that her husband had died. She was moving to a care home, and she had a quantity of Yiddish books which were about to be dumped, and would he be interested in having them. By the time he arrived to pick them up, several people in the block had heard of his mission, and they were all glad that someone wanted their old Yiddish books. He had to hire a van to take them all. The word spread, and now he goes all over the States picking up truckloads of old books.

There is now a Yiddish Book Centre, with one million titles. One of the books is the works of Shakespeare; and the translation of King Lear is referred to as "translated and im-

proved". I wonder how. Are his daughters nicer to him, perhaps? Mr Lansky says that schlepping the books was hard enough; but having to drink endless cups of tea and eat mountains of cake, which accompanied each visit, was harder. And they all wanted him to meet their granddaughter.

4. Like most of us, I have many books on all aspects of the Holocaust. The one I have decided to share with you is one you might not know about. It is *The Holocaust and the Christian World*, with chapters called 'The Reaction of the Churches in Europe', 'The Vatican', 'The Dilemma of Forgiveness', 'Challenges for Theological Training' and so on. The first occasion when a bishop of the Roman Catholic Church spoke out publicly on behalf of the Jews was on 23 August, 1942. The Archbishop of Toulouse issued a letter, to be read in all the churches of his diocese, condemning the inhuman treatment of the Jews. Many churches now use the prayer formulated by the British Reform movement.

For the sin of silence. For the sin of indifference. For the sin of secret complicity of the neutral. For the closing of borders. For the washing of hands. For all that was done. For all that was not done. Father, forgive us.

We live so long, and learn so little.

5. Jews and the Olympic Games, by Paul Yogi Mayer. When I mentioned to someone that I had a book about Jews and the Olympic Games, he said: "It must be a very small book". How strong is the power of stereotyping. In the first Games in 1896, Jews won nine gold medals. If all the Jewish athletes had competed as a nation, they would have come fourth. In 1912, the Belgian fencing team were all Jewish, and won 23 medals. In 1928, the Dutch gymnastic team won gold, and four out of the 12 were Jewish. Until 2000, when the book was published, 416 medals have been won by Jewish athletes.

6. Jews and Boxing. Did you know that, in 1934, the British lightweight title fight was between two Jewish boxers, Harry Mizler and Jack Berg? From 1921 till 1939, the Jewish Lads' Brigade team won the Prince of Wales trophy 12 times. In 1936, the Manchester team withdrew from the competition fearing that "their domination would encourage anti-Semitism". Can you believe it? Bearing in mind the situation in Britain in the 1930s, we must.

My library of books on women, Judaism and every aspect of the history of Israel, and all my Jewish art books, will have to wait for another day.

SPRING is in the WEAR

FOR most of us – unless we work on Planet Fashion – what we wear is mainly about dressing fashionably rather than chasing every trend.

And knowing how to dress fashionably is more about interpreting trends and seeing how they evolve from season to season.

So, rather than offer a list of trends, let's see what clothes we should be reaching for in spring 2018. They should include midi-length dresses; pencil skirts; trouser suits; trench coats; wide-leg trousers and skinny, ankle-grazer trousers.

Other important elements to keep in mind when choosing our spring wardrobe are: colour, print, stripes; frills, deconstruction, asymmetry, statement sleeves and bare shoulders. And over it all, a vital feature to keep in mind relates to volume, so let's start there...

Volume

Volume signals a major shift in silhouette and proportions. It's about wearing baggy or over-sized pieces in counterpoint to sleeker, more fitted pieces. For instance, one could wear a softly-gathered midi-skirt or wide-leg trousers with a fitted top and/or a slim-fitting blazer. Alternatively, one could pair an oversized jumper or a loose-fitting lightweight coat with slim-leg trousers or a pencil skirt.

Colour

The most on-trend colours are ... well, almost any because it's not about which colours we wear but all about how we wear them.

Colour-blocking – fashion-speak for wearing several colours together – is the way to go. When colour-blocking, show you are a fashionista and not someone who got dressed in the dark by combining brights with other brights or pastels with other pastels, potentially mixing shades that clash.

Have fun mixing shades but try to have a colour close to your face that really suits you. Pink deserves a special mention, especially for a coat or for tailoring, and white, though strictly speaking not a colour, is also important for spring, worn pristine head-to-toe, or combined with black for an edgy Mono-chrome look.

FASHION



By **JAN SHURE** and **CYNDY LESSING** of www.SoSensational.co.uk The leading fashion site for women of 50-plus

Midis

The on-trend length for skirts and dresses is midi. 'Midis' vary from just over the knee to almost maxi. Maxis are also still around, and especially wonderful for holidays and off-duty, paired with a biker jacket.

Print

Print is still with us. As with colour, it's about mixing prints for spring/summer 2018. But be cautious. It's easy to look as if you got dressed in the dark. Consider buying prints ready-mixed.

Stripes

Graphic and a little bit edgy, especially in mono-chrome, stripes also remain strong for S/S18. Mixing stripes of different colours is also 'a thing'. But, as with prints, be cautious.

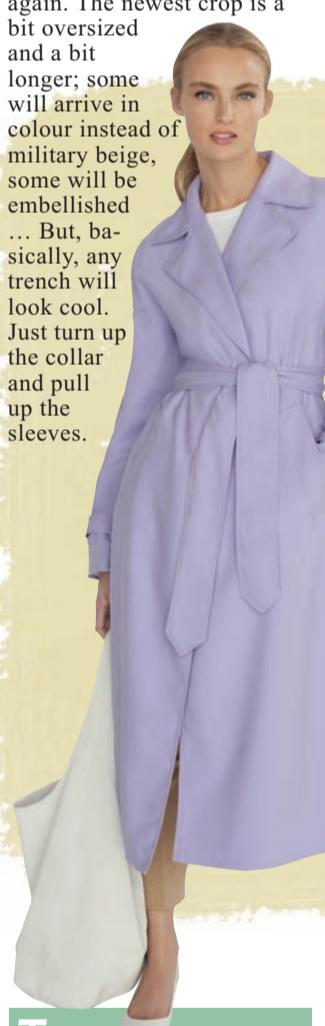


Trousers

Trousers and jeans continue to be a vital part of 21st-century dressing, so the decision is what shape to wear as there are endless choices for spring: wide-leg; skinny; full-length; ankle-grazer; paperbag; flat-front... choose the cuts that do most for your body-shape.

Trench Coats

Trench coats re-appear regularly and here they are again. The newest crop is a bit oversized and a bit longer; some will arrive in colour instead of military beige, some will be embellished ... But, basically, any trench will look cool. Just turn up the collar and pull up the sleeves.



Trouser Suits

That 1970s favourite, the trouser suit, re-emerged as a catwalk trend a few seasons ago, and is set to be huge this spring. Just don't expect to find 'a trouser suit' on sale – instead you'll most need to buy a blazer and trousers that match, but are offered separately, sometimes as a 'co-ord'.

This spring's trouser suit is in colour, especially pink, or lilac, or emerald, or red. Wear the jacket a bit oversized paired with

slim, ankle-grazer trousers, or wear a cropped, fitted jacket over wide-leg trousers, or team a loose blazer with wide-leg trousers.

You get the picture: any shape trouser suit is hot, hot, hot!

Sleeves & Shoulders

Statement sleeves and interesting necklines, are again important for spring. Look out for off-the-shoulder or Bardot necklines, flute sleeves and even cold shoulders. The key to success with off-the-shoulder and Bardot necklines, lies with a supportive strapless bra, or a regular bra-plus-cami to hide the bra-straps.

Feathers & Embellishment

Miuccia Prada added feathers to everything in A/W 17, so expect feathers to become the embellishment du jour for spring and for next A/W. Embellishment of all kinds – including fringing, tassels, embroidery and beading – remains important.

Luxe Fabric

Alongside embellishment luxe fabric such as brocade, silk, jacquard and lace stay firmly on the fashion agenda. Fashionistas will rock them for day, while most of us will re-serve luxe fabrics for evening-wear and occasions

Socks

Ankle socks worn with high-heeled sandals or point-toe pumps are very current. Wear them if aged under 25. Otherwise ignore.

Frills

Pie-crust frills reappeared as part of the 1980s revival and stayed. And stayed. And grew. Now frills of all kinds are everywhere. Expect to see them on skirts and trousers for spring as well as on blouses and dresses.

Details

The details we add, and how we style our clothes, are almost as important as the clothes themselves. Some styling-details involve an actual 'thing' such as a particular handbag.

But very often it's about some seemingly minor detail that define a look as 'current', such as bare ankles with ankle-grazer trousers.

Here are some of this season's key styling details: statement earrings, 'princess' shoes (the kind with big bows and/or crystal, preferably with pointed toe); no clutter at neck; top-handle handbag; big bows, turbans, cowboy-boots and, of course, bare ankles with almost everything.

* All brands pictured are available from www.sosensational.co.uk

Have a beautiful passover

BY PAT LIDIKER

A Estee Lauder, Jewish queen of the beauty business, would never have needed to ask this Pesach: "Why is this look different from all other looks?"

It was her life's work to know the answer and she was never afraid to embrace innovation. From the moment she opened her first counter in Saks Fifth Avenue 70 years ago, her name has remained a byword for style, glamour, colour and fragrant beauty. As well as launching her very first perfume, Youth Dew, she made women everywhere feel good about themselves and built up a vast personal fortune.

It was a gift that has kept on giving on both sides. She died in 2004, aged 95, and her brain-child is now run by her equally committed sons and their families, all ardent supporters of projects in and for Israel.

And now there's another twist in the fascinating saga... her creative flame is being blazed into the future by another nice American Jewish girl, the brilliant Bobbi Brown.

Bobbi's company is one of the latest brought under the Lauder wing, while retaining its own unique ethos and style so completely in tune with the times. Other brands on the list include Clinique, M.A.C., über-posh Crème de la Mer, Tom Ford, L'Oréal and Smashbox.

The global, multi-billion-pound powder and paint phenomenon is built on hopes, dreams and the conviction that by looking the best we can we'll be more confident and live happily ever after. What's not to like?

So even if you're currently bogged down with cleaning and re-stocking kitchen cupboards, find time for yourself too. Colours on the Kosher l'Pesach food counters are reflected on make-up shelves, too, with deliciously tempting almond, cinnamon, apricot and golden brown.

Current trends are translucent, nude, natural and glowing; but thinking it's easy-peasy is an illusion. First, your skin probably needs its own spring clean so book in for a facial or ask on the counters which of the new exfoliators, cleansers, moisturisers, masks and serums will best improve your own skin type.

When choosing a foundation, try a shade deeper than you've been wearing all winter; but be warned, the choice is mind-boggling. You can opt for a liquid, compact, stick, tube, tinted moisturiser – or something else entirely.

Boots No 7 have a new Lift and Luminate triple action foundation incorporating a serum; it glides on like silk to create a reflective radiance to disguise fine lines and wrinkles.

More intense, flawless cover comes in L'Oréal's shaping stick, its creamy formula gliding on without stretching the skin – and neat enough to pop into your make-up bag for touch-ups during the day.

Now the cheeky bit – YSL have a spectrum of nude, fresh, glowing blushers in four palettes, each a subtle teaming of apricot, coral, baby doll pink



Bobbi Brown



Estee Lauder

or burnt almond. A gentle sweep with a big brush takes a moment but works wonders; and this season's pigmented products are colour-rich so can be used sparingly.

Just as pretty as a picture is Guerlain's Meteorites Strobing palette with two blushers and a highlighter to shape the face, and add highlights and depth where needed.

Meteorites multi-coloured pearls have now been around for 30 years and are always evolving, banishing shine but adding radiant lustre. When using any powder, and we all have our favourites, keep it light to avoid giveaway caking.

Mascara and eyeliners come in many colours and textures, but always use the softest to avoid irritation of this delicate area; this season, try grey or caramel instead of harsh black.

Lancôme's advice is to avoid pink shadows or creams, which can make the area look tired or sore; instead, try a multi-shade compact teaming gold, topaz, sand, cream, mink, cinnamon, cocoa or smoky grey. No need to spend ages contouring, just brush across for a subtle texture every time.

Now for the lippie and this season any colour is flattering and trendy as long as it's pink, which means coral, peach, tea rose, mocha or copper. Bobbi Brown has gorgeous cushiony lipsticks for a natural flush of bare melon, popsicle and pink.

Lip crayons are big news and couldn't be easier to use – look for those enriched with natural oils and vitamins to leave a glossy, non-sticky finish. One of the nicest is Clinique's Chubby Stick in lots of pretty, sheer shades and using mango butter to relieve dryness.

But if you still can't resist the impact of red, remember that less is more – don't layer it on as it can look hard. The secret is to dab a small amount of lipstick, liquid or gloss on the back of your hand, then dot it sparingly onto the mouth with the little finger. Hey presto, a pop of red which never looks garish.

But if trawling round the stores and online sounds too much like hard work Erev Pesach, don't despair – you can find some great creams, lotions, potions and make-up goodies in the aisle next to the matzo meal and ground almonds in your local supermarket!

When Solly met Harry ... and other boobameisers

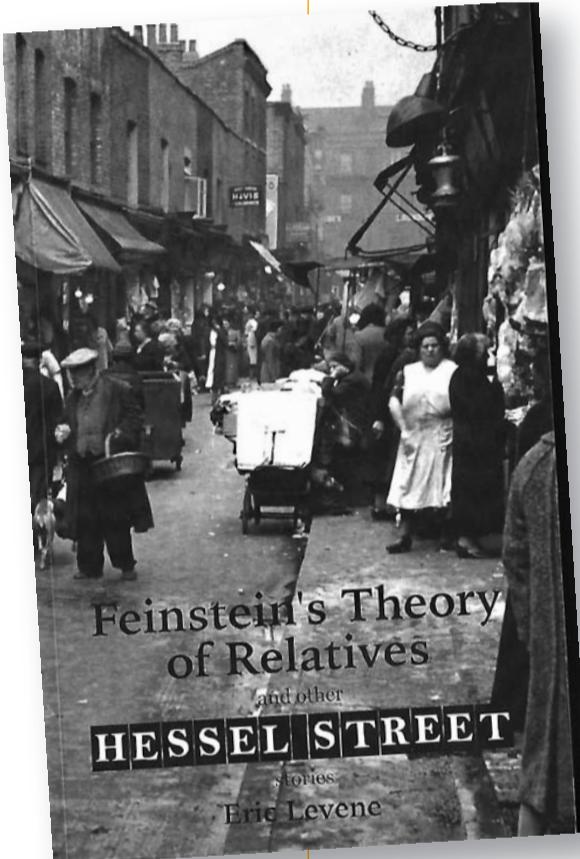
BOOK REVIEW

HESSEL STREET
By ERIC LEVENE

Price £8.99 paperback

Review by Manny Robinson

ALMOST every street in the old Jewish East End had its collection of meshugeners, nebuchs, gunefs, philosophers, spelers and shmendricks. But above all, every street in the old Jewish



East End had its yachnah.

So Hessel Street, arguably one of the most famous of all the East End thoroughfares, was not alone in this collection of personalities.

Hessel Street, for those unfamiliar with the old East End, was about three quarters of a mile along the Commercial Road from Aldgate East on the right-hand side. If the bus you were on was going too fast you would have missed it, but probably you would have been able to smell it if the wind was blowing in the right direction.

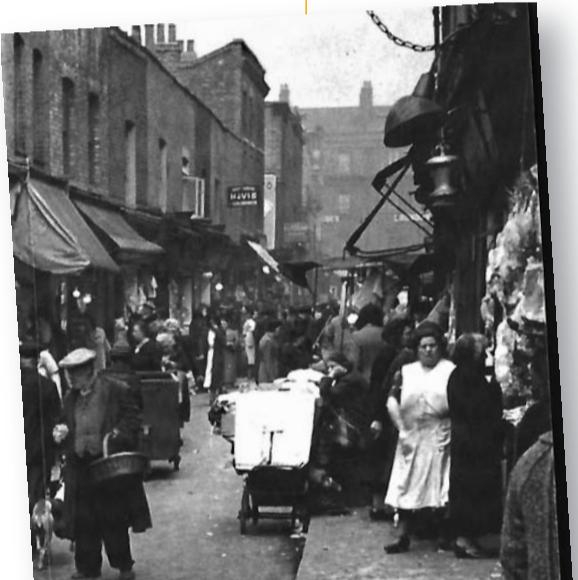
The street had a collection of butchers, bakers, chicken soup makers, fishmongers, costermongers and a host of wheeler-dealers.

Eric Levene, who grew up living opposite his grandfather's kosher butcher's shop in Hessel Street, has used the street as the backcloth for the characters who inhabited the postwar East End in a selection of short stories about the people he swears are completely

fictitious. Indeed, the author writes: "With a bit of luck none of them are anywhere near the truth" adding "but you can never tell".

You want a for instance? I'll give you a for instance. There's Doris, the Hessel Street yachnah, and the undisputed doyenne of East End yachnahs. Doris had to know everything first – or, even better, before it happened.

"Don't say a word to anyone if you can help it. You know what it's like around here. One mouth leads to another ... and soon everyone will know," is a remark that Doris the yachnah makes, ensuring



Feinstein's Theory
of Relatives
and other
HESSEL STREET
stories
Eric Levene

that everyone DOES know.

And then there's Solly who met Harry who had one of his many get-rich-quick schemes of supplying kosher for Pesach dentures to the unwary. They worked out their plan in Lyons tea shop in the Whitechapel Road.

This delightful, joyous book is a trip back down Memory Lane. It's full of Morry Cohens, Issy Levys, Sadie Golds and Silvers plus a shulful of Goldbergs and Greenbergs. As Eric Levene writes: "It's not easy to come up with the name of a new character and when I do come up with what I think is a new one, I find dozens of them."

Eric Levene spent his life working in the antiques trade. In Hessel Street he has recaptured some characters that are golden nuggets that many of the older readers of the Essex Jewish News will remember fondly in one form or another.

To buy *Hessel Street*, contact the author at ericgoodstuff@gmail.com

Head hunters at the Seder table

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

MANNY ROBINSON



The person leading the Seder walks around the table with the Seder plate and taps it on the head of each person ...

on the back or shoulder during the singing of the song 'Dayenu'? That's what I am reliably informed they do at the Seder in Iran. They use scallops to hit each other during the singing to symbolise the

slaves being whipped by their taskmasters in Egypt.

What Jews remain in Ethiopia have a custom where the matriarch of the family would destroy all her dishes and make a new set to mark a

true break with the past.

It is no coincidence that in 1984, when Israel airlifted more than 8,000 Jews from Ethiopia, they called the massive airlift Operation Moses, a symbol of the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt.

Of course, one of the major moments during the Seder is leaving a goblet of wine and the opening of the front door to allow the prophet Elijah to come in. It's a simple ceremony and is over in a minute. But in Morocco, those participating in the Seder would set up an elaborate chair with cushions and ornaments and leave it empty for Elijah's arrival.

There is one custom, of course, that everyone can relate to in Redbridge. That's having eight different Haggadahs all telling the same story in different words so that most people lose the narrative within five minutes of the start of the Seder.

And the Haggadahs are distinctive, too. On many pages there is a red blob of indeterminate age where Palwins or some other wine has been spilt.

How's that for a custom?

Superstitions ... they're not to be sneezed at

THERE has been some fascinating correspondence on social media recently about Jewish superstitions with contributors wading in with a variety of reasons for the rituals.

I was particularly interested in the explanation about sneezing, where one contributor explained that it comes from Midrashic legend which maintained that a sneeze used

to announce impending death. "The story is told that, until the time of Jacob, a person at the close of his life sneezed and instantly died."

So when we sneeze, someone says Gezunt heit (Bless you).

But I always thought that this was not a particularly Jewish superstition. If you recall, the nursery rhyme 'Atishoo, atishoo, all fall down' referred

to the Great Plague.

And while on the subject of sneezing, what about the act of pulling or tugging your ear when sneezing? Naturally, when it comes to tradition, there are heated arguments about the right and wrong way to do it. Should one ear or both be pulled, and should one pull up or down? The information I have is that you tugged your ear if a sneeze occurred when speaking about a dead person, but this has long been extended to all sneezes.

What might be more of a Jewish superstition is the act of spitting three times (pooh, pooh, pooh), which is a classical response to something exceptionally good or evil. Jews have performed this ritual when seeing, hearing or learning something terrible and as a prophylactic measure to prevent such a tragedy from happening or recurring. Ironically, it is traditional to perform the same action in response to something wonderful – such as good news or the birth of a healthy child – to ward off the Evil Eye.

Chewing on a piece of thread whenever one is wearing a garment upon which someone is actively sewing – such as attaching a button or repairing a seam – is another boobameiser (old wives tale).

Should one ear be pulled and should it be up or down?

One explanation is that one should not sew up the brains ... but there are any number of other explanations, too involved to go into here.

The idea of wearing red 'to ward off the Evil Eye' is another supposed Jewish tradition; but it is a custom seen in East European countries like Bulgaria and Romania, where a red piece of ribbon is tied onto a child's pram to ward off evil spirits.

The list is endless ... you shouldn't put keys on a table ... you shouldn't walk barefoot ... you shouldn't open an umbrella in the house ... you should throw salt over your left shoulder ... you shouldn't cut off a label from a garment while wearing it. Enough, already.

A story of liberation

PESACH falls early this year and the festival is, above all, a celebration of liberation: the freedom of the Israelites from their Egyptian bondage.

But 73 years ago, on another early Pesach, there was another liberation. American soldiers liberated Ohrdruf, a sub-camp of Buchenwald, as they chased the retreating German army.

One of the soldiers there was a 20-year-old GI from Kansas named Charlie Payne. He was the future great uncle of President Barack Obama.

That was liberation. But there was also tragedy on that same early Pesach, the last V2 rocket to hit London struck at Hughes Mansions in Whitechapel at 7.21am. Of the

Why do you drive a German car?

OVER many years, and possibly since the automobile application of the internal combustion engine, Jewish motorists have sometimes met with insidious efforts to challenge, denigrate and ridicule their choice of vehicle or driving capabilities (or, rather, the lack of them). These efforts at disparagement or derision (which admittedly might even originate on occasions from the Jewish community itself and may be aimed at certain elements within it, such as the ultra-Orthodox and women behind the wheel) are often said to be based on personal experiences or eyewitness accounts.

From time to time, as noted, the expressed thoughts, notions, assertions and questions – which perhaps could be targeted, objectively, also at multifarious drivers beyond the Hebraic faith – are associated with the make of motor car driven. One enquiry that has been put (pointedly with the Nazi Holocaust in mind) to Jewish drivers owning, say, a Mercedes, BMW or Volkswagen is, of course: “Why do you drive a German car?” There’s no doubt whatsoever that the German motor manufacturers just mentioned played a leading role in producing and supplying military equipment for Hitler’s armed forces, during the Second World War (WW2). In doing so, they used Jewish slave labour (brutally controlled by the SS) from the Nazi concentration camps.

For example, nearly half of Daimler-Benz’ 64,000 workers, who were making trucks and tanks, aircraft and submarine engines for the Nazis, were civilian forced labourers. After the war, the corporation admitted its connection with Hitler’s miscreant regime. Interestingly, it was on its 100th anniversary in 2016 that BMW (also a supplier to the German arms industry in WW2) issued a statement expressing its “profound regret” for having used slave labourers in the production of engines for military use and armaments for the Third Reich! As a result of the appallingly exhausting daily hours they were compelled to work, around 80 of them perished every month! The motor company saw its declared apology as, “explicitly facing up to this dark chapter in its past”!

Times and the world have moved on; and Germany today, a democratic and multi-cultural member of the European Union (often said to be Israel’s best friend in Europe), is not what it was under Hitler’s evil tyranny. Though (as in some neighbouring countries, too) there remain some minority neo-Nazi groups. Many Jewish, German car owners could ex-

press similar thoughts (not necessarily defensively) when Watcher’s headline interrogatory is posed to them; assuming they haven’t ignored the question with a resigned shake of the head. Those adopting a more meaningfully defensive attitude may do a very Jewish thing, and respond with another question: “So why do you have a Poggendorf fitted kitchen, a Neff oven, a Siemens’ fridge-freezer, a Bosch washing machine and dish-washer and a Braun electric shaver, etcetera?”

At one time, and maybe it’s the case still, the Volvo car (built by a Swedish corporation) was considered, stereotypically, to be a ‘Jewish’ car. Watcher thinks that this almost legendary belief was based on the constant sighting of large numbers of big editions of such motors (especially estate versions) being driven around or parked in ultra-Orthodox ‘Jewish neighbourhoods’ in London, like Stamford Hill and Golders Green. Anecdotally, Watcher is aware of a possible understanding that the choice of a Volvo was because none of the car’s components was manufactured in Germany. Watcher admits not having researched whether that was (or is) the actual situation. But the Charedi may well have opted for this large family vehicle, instead of a comparable Mercedes, because they would feel discomfited if seen steering a German car.

Adolf Hitler was very pleased and proud to be driven in an open-top Mercedes, Germany’s most renowned and prestigious luxury marque, at National Socialist parades in Berlin, Munich and Nuremberg. But had he been aware of a particular (Jewish-related) fact about the vehicle, he may’ve been just as uncomfortable (to say the least) as possibly an ultra-Orthodox Jew nowa-

WATCHER IN THE RYE



Jewish motorists have had to put up with certain questions ...

days being seen driving one. And, most likely, Hitler would’ve selected a different vehicle altogether in which he could stand erect with pride, right arm outstretched in the Nazi salute. Watcher has learned that the ‘Mercedes’ car actually was named after the granddaughter (Mercédès) of Hungarian-born rabbi and rabbinic scholar Adolf (yes, Adolf) Jellinek.

During the era of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Rabbi Dr Jellinek was minister of Vienna’s Leopoldstadt

Synagogue; he moved to the Seitenstetten Synagogue there in 1865. Apparently, he was appointed ‘Chief Rabbi’ of the city by the government; but it’s said that he refused to use the title. One of his sons, Emil (born in 1889), was influential as a diplomat (for a period as consul in Nice), a PR executive and one of the earliest racing drivers; and also as a wealthy automobile entrepreneur with Daimler-Benz. Emil and his wife Rachel (who had Sephardi origins)

were the parents of Mercedes. Emil was unhappy with the international car company’s proposal to name its new 1901 model the ‘Daimler’; he felt that its ‘Teutonic’ resonance was inapt. He got his way, and the marque was duly registered in his daughter’s first name! So, after all, maybe there’s everything to be said for a Jewish motorist driving a Mercedes ... it has, so to speak, some Jewish roots!



That’s not the end of the story about Jews and German cars, says Watcher. Hitler had thought of himself as originating the idea of a ‘People’s Car’, what would become the Volkswagen Beetle. Such a vehicle would be designed in such a way as to be of efficient manufacture, compact, reliable, practical and affordable. However, in the years leading up to Hitler’s dictatorship from 1933, many engineers were experimenting with concepts such as a rear engine, air cooling and a sleekly curving body-shell.

It was Josef Ganz (born to a Jewish family in Budapest), a motor engineer and designer, who developed and produced prototypes of a vehicle that incorporated such novel constituents including, finally, the Standard Superior in 1933. Hitler had shown some interest in the car; but, because Ganz was Jewish, his involvement was suppressed by the Nazis. Indeed, he was arrested by the Gestapo in 1933; but, fortunately, he was released from custody. He fled Germany in 1934, and survived the war. Sadly, after prolonged ill-health, he died in obscurity in Australia in 1967. But he was the ‘Father of the Volkswagen Beetle’ ... not Hitler! So if you’re Jewish and own one ...

Watcher doesn’t wish to dwell overly long on the unwelcome, even sardonic assertions about lack of driving skills, particularly those focused on certain categories of the Jewish population. Watcher hasn’t felt the urge to examine any material statistical data; and knows full well the controversial religious and gender aspects of the questions raised. Inevitably, the issue has lent itself to a certain amount of humour, sometimes delivered by Jewish stand-up comedians or found in the pages of Jewish joke books.



Such comedic subjects extend from driving, even to a synagogue, on Shabbat (a topic maybe inviting its own article), through the alleged twists and turns of Charedi motoring to Jewish females being ‘bad drivers’ (suggested, by one their journalistic own in a Jewish Chronicle piece a few years back, to be down to the fact that “the average Jewish woman has too much to think about”). Generalisations have never helped anyone, Watcher believes; and whether they relate to the Jewish world or otherwise. Though it has been said that if a Jewish woman wants to drive, then her husband, partner or boyfriend shouldn’t stand in her way!

WATCHER IN THE RYE



ANY READERS HAVING COMMENTS ON THE SUBJECT-MATTER OF THIS ARTICLE SHOULD EMAIL THEM TO THE ESSEX JEWISH NEWS (SEE PAGE 2)



FOCUS ON:

Excel Nurseries on the Kantor Campus



The directors of Excel Nurseries and their children. PHOTO BY LS PHOTOGRAPHY

BY MICHAELA BLITZ

IN January this year, a new Jewish nursery opened its doors in Redbridge. Excel Nurseries, on the Kantor Campus in Barkingside, was the brainchild of local couple Alan and Odette Wohlman, who as full-time working parents, wanted to find somewhere local that offered childcare with a Jewish ethos.

Odette explained: "I wanted to find somewhere that would work around my job, as well as my family. Previously, there had been a private nursery on the site of the Kantor Campus, but since it closed over two years ago, there was no other suitable alternative for me in the area."

Having previously had to send two of their daughters to a non-Jewish all-day nursery in Golders Green, the couple felt that there had to be another option when it came to finding somewhere suitable for their youngest son at the time, Matan.

Odette and Alan began looking into the possibility of setting up an all-day nursery, and started researching and speaking to other local parents to find out what they needed.

Odette continued: "From talking to other parents and the completed survey, we soon realised that there was a definite need for this kind of service, so we started looking into how we could make this work."

They enlisted the help of Julia Maynard who, with over 17 years' experience in early years education and her own early years recruitment agency, was ideally placed.

Julia felt this was a great opportunity for her to be involved in starting up a new nursery and to use her vast knowledge and experience to make it the best possible. Julia and her partner, Adeola, agreed to become joint directors of the venture with Odette and Alan, and the idea for Excel Nurseries began.

Julia said: "I wanted it to be a place of growth, and be able to give everything I can to

the nursery. Being a director and also a mother means that I have a vested interest in its success on all levels."

The nursery welcomed its first intake on 2 January, and they have been overwhelmed with the response from local parents.

Odette said: "So far, the response has been phenomenal, and it really shows that this was something that was very much missing in this area. The parents seem really delighted with the service we are providing, which is great to hear given the short time we have been open. I am really proud of what we have achieved so far, and we are determined to continue to build on our achievements."



This was something very much missing in our area

Having the support from the local community has really helped, and the team have been touched by the support and generosity they have received.

Odette added: "People have been really kind and given their time and help, individuals, rebbetzens, rabbis and lay leaders. In particular, Woodford Forest Synagogue have been amazing in letting us use their kitchen to create nutritional, healthy and delicious kosher meals for the children."

For working parents who commute to town, the location of the nursery is ideal as it is only a few minutes' walk from Fairlop station. It offers different sessions to suit all, including an early morning breakfast club from 7:30am, morning sessions which run until 1pm, and include a hot meaty lunch,

and also afternoon sessions which run until 4pm.

For some parents, who may have a slightly longer working day, there is even a session that finishes at 6pm serving a light supper.

Children are accepted from birth up to four-year-olds and the nursery is open all year round during the week. As a Jewish nursery, it is shut on Yom Tovim, and also closes earlier on Friday afternoon during the winter due to Shabbat.

One of the key aims of the nursery is that it will serve not

children from six months up to 18-year-olds can receive a Jewish education all on one site."

The nursery focuses very much on early-years education – with regular phonics sessions which encourage pupils to recognise words and letters through sounds – so that the children will obtain a good level of literacy before starting school, which they can then build upon.

As well as helping children develop their formative education, there is also an emphasis on building a good Jewish foundation. Brachot, songs and prayers are taught; and the weekly Shabbat party is an activity to which the staff and children look forward. Making challah to take home and share with their families each week is another extension of their Jewish education.

Many of the parents like being able to check in on their children and the nursery has invested in software that allows them to receive updates and photos throughout the day.

has the potential to really succeed."

Ben Saltman, chair of governors at Wohl Ilford Jewish Primary School, feels that having a partnership between the school and the nursery is vital. He explains: "Being able to work together and commit long-term to providing a high quality level of education for local Jewish students in Redbridge is essential, and we believe that in Excel Nurseries we have found the ideal partner who shares a similar ethos."

In the future, the directors hope to be able to develop their current business model for the nursery, so that they will be able to apply it to other settings to create further nurseries that support schools, whether Jewish or non-Jewish, and influence the wider community, allowing it to grow and develop.

Alan hopes that the nursery will come to be the preferred choice of local parents as an early years provider for childcare and education. He added: "Excel supports and enhances



only as a feeder for Wohl Ilford Jewish Primary School, but will also encourage an increase in numbers for Kantor King Solomon High School, which are both on the same campus.

Laura Marks, marketing officer for Kantor King Solomon, feels that having the nursery on site is a welcome addition to the campus.

She told the Essex Jewish News: "I think that it is wonderful to have the nursery here, not only because it offers local parents the chance for an all-day nursery, which is amazing, but it essentially means that

At the end of each day, parents receive a detailed report which highlights some of the key activities that their child has been up to, as well as details on their sleep, eating and even their nappy.

Natasha Taylor, whose three-year-old daughter Ava attends the nursery, thinks that the app is a great idea.

She says: "It's really nice to be kept updated with what Ava is doing throughout her time at the nursery. Since starting there, she has become much more confident and outgoing. I think that they are doing an amazing job, and it

the provision at Wohl Ilford Jewish Primary School, and the services on offer will benefit the Essex Jewish community."

To find out more about Excel Nurseries, please contact the team on 0333 344 3090 or visit their website www.excel-nurseries.co.uk

**NEXT ISSUE:
WE FOCUS ON
JEWISH
BLIND AND
DISABLED**

Chelmsford chair gives Essex a Jewish voice

STAN KELLER, the chair of Chelmsford Jewish Community, is the Jewish representative on the steering committee of the Essex Faith Covenant, the only such organisation covering a whole county in the UK.

With such a big area representing people of many different religions and backgrounds, the Faith Covenant has to find a way of bringing the diverse needs of the county together.

Stan told the *Essex Jewish News*: "I am so proud to be part of this group, whose purpose is to encourage public and voluntary services to work collectively across Essex to tackle social issues, the first of which is loneliness and isolation in the community. This can take many forms and is, therefore, not confined to the elderly. It could deal with single parents or bullying at schools, for example."

"The Covenant offers opportunities for faiths to work together and create better understanding, which is a by-product of why it was set up, and great progress has been made since its inception last year."

Signatories to the Covenant include Essex County Council and several local authorities, the police and fire services and representatives of different faiths.

At the most recent meeting, Stan cited how Jewish Care in Southend caters for the lonely people; and also how the Chelmsford Jewish Community supported a member when her husband passed away.

Rachel enjoys homecoming gig



COMEDIAN Rachel Creeger received a warm welcome on her home ground when she went back to her roots, performing an evening of comedy at Jewish Care's Redbridge Community Centre (RJCC).

Locals enjoyed tales of life growing up on the estates of Chigwell, and were entertained, as she recounted her hilarious experiences of sex education at an Orthodox Jewish girls' school.

RJCC manager Graham Freeman said: "We're delighted to have hosted Rachel for a fabulous night of comedy. It's great to be part of one big Essex family!"

OBITUARY

A role model who loved her Judaism

MAUREEN KENDLER

Born: January 1956
Died: February 2018

ILFORD has produced many extraordinary people over the years and none more so than Maureen Kendler, who has died at the age of 62.

She was a pioneering spirit in Jewish education and one of the most popular and outstanding Jewish educators – always in demand as a teacher all over the world.

Laurie Rosenberg, a teacher at JCoSS and, for a time, manager at the Redbridge Jewish Community Centre, first met Maureen when both of them lived in Brighton. He said that she “always challenged the role of women within Orthodoxy and challenged it fearlessly. She combined the roles of wife, family and her work brilliantly and is a great loss to the community and to education”.

Maureen, a former education director at Tzedek, was well known for her appearances at Limmud events all over the

world, and teaching Jewish people about their culture, history and traditions. She also wrote the weekly Sidrah column in the *Jewish Chronicle* and was a regular on the BBC’s *Pause For Thought*.

Maureen was born and brought up in Ilford. She and her husband Hayden then moved to Brighton before going to Muswell Hill after the birth of the first of their four children.

She taught at the London School of Jewish Studies, educated Jewish university students and guided residents and tourists on ‘Jewish London’ bus tours.

Rabbi Raphael Zarum, dean of the London School of Jewish Studies, in a tribute in the *Jewish Chronicle*, said: “Anglo-Jewry has lost one its finest. A smile, a warmth and a depth that will be unforgettable.”

A statement issued by the JW3 community centre, where she regularly taught, said: “Many hundreds of people of all ages at JW3, like tens of thousands of others across the Jewish community, enjoyed Maureen’s calm, measured articulation of potentially com-



plex moral and philosophical Jewish concepts, in easily understandable talks, lectures and classes.

“She was blessed with a sharp intellect and equally sharp wit and sense of humour, and could seemingly adapt her teaching to any type of audience, regardless of age, background or level of knowledge.”

A great fighter for women’s rights, Maureen always described herself as ‘self taught’, saying: “I think that makes me a very empowering role model.”

Jewish Labour Movement director Ella Rose described her passing as “a huge loss for the Jewish community”; while human rights barrister Adam Wagner said: “She was a very talented teacher of children and adults – she will be missed.”

Another tribute came from

Abigail Morris, chief executive of the Jewish Museum in Camden, who commented: “Maureen was a brave feminist, not easy in the Orthodox world. She was both brilliant and funny. She united people and healed the divisions that sometimes exist in our community. Her classes were always stimulating, original and fun.”

Board of Deputies senior vice-president Richard Verber said: “She had a unique ability to make Jewish education relevant and engaging for everyone – of any age and background, in any country. She was an outstanding March of the Living educator. She was always able to share Jewish wisdom with an audience of different faiths and none. In short, she loved her Judaism.”

Words by Manny Robinson

50 years on and still going strong

GIVE this Society six months – this was the comment by one of the founder members of the Wanstead Jewish Literary Society in 1967. How wrong she was! The Society has just celebrated its 50th anniversary.

The Society’s meetings are monthly on a Sunday afternoon in members’ homes from 3pm to 5pm, where they have light-hearted talks on art, Jewish topics, literature and music.

Most members are retired and the muster is between 15 and 20 at most meetings, which end with refreshments. All this for just £2 per person.

Obviously, over the past 50 years the Society has had numerous speakers on a great variety of subjects, including students of the Yehudi School of Music who gave a brilliant performance.

Dr David Barnet gave a number of talks, including on the life of the Jews in the Georgian era; another was Lady Montefiori on the store M. Moses, which was well-known before Selfridges came on stream. Phillipa Barnard spoke about Dr Lopez and the Gordon Riots and Aumi Shapiro spoke about his East End memories.

Ralph Blumenau, who still gives talks in his 90s, spoke about the Weimar Republic, Joe Elman on the Magic Circle, the late Anna Tzelniker spoke about the Yiddish Theatre and Manny Robinson, former editor of the *Essex Jewish News*, entertained the group on a number of different topics.

Bernard Ecker, who is hon. treasurer of the group, gave a number of humorous talks on coincidences, catering for laughs and funny stories from a Jewish chef.

The world of art has not been ignored and, every December, Jef Page entertains with slides and anecdotes on many famous artists.

More recently, David Tomback showed slides of synagogues around the world; while Martin Humphries, who has created the Cinema Museum, shared memories of the past glories of the cinema as well as clips of old films and the stars of yesteryear.

Nick Dobson, an expert on many subjects, presented a show on the songs and history of Gilbert and Sullivan, Songs from the Shows and the history of dahlias.

The group is friendly and sociable and anyone interested is sure of a warm welcome.

Contact Meta Roseneil on 0208 505 0063 if you would like further information about the Society.

Holy Land Tour

THE East London Three Faiths Forum are running another visit to the Holy Land from Sunday 21st October – Sunday 28th October at a cost of £1,500. The tour will be led by Rabbi David Hulbert, Rev. Jude Bullock and Bashmir Chaudhry, MBE. For further details, phone 0208 559 2235.

Cyril and Joseph, care home residents

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TRAVEL

MARK HARRIS



HAVING explored previously the southern areas of Castilla y León, one of Spain's north-west regions bordering Portugal, and their famously handsome towns (like Salamanca, Segovia, Avila and Zamora), it was appropriate to discover the northern sector of this historic province.

Serendipitously, our gorgeously sun-sprayed sojourn in the provincial capital of León (a truly delightful base for much of last August) coincided with celebration of the 1,000th anniversary of its founding in 1017. The month itself generates yet another correlation. Rome's first emperor, Augustus Caesar, ruled the Roman world two millennia ago, when his VIIth Legion (Gemina) encamped permanently on part of the conquered Iberian land (rich with local gold mines to exploit), which was later to become the city of León (after the Latin Legio ... Legion; though its ubiquitous symbol is a rampant lion).



Much in the way of periodic military, political and religious upheaval in the territory intervened between the collapse of the lengthy Roman occupation and the establishment of the metropolis. Such war-and-peace developments extended across the Visigoth invasions from the north, the subsequent Moorish subjugation from the south and the eventual Reconquista by the Catholic monarchs that heralded a more enduring era. However, it was one that witnessed the expulsion of the centuries-long resident, Sephardic Jews from Spain by decree of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella in 1492. Naturally, the expellees included the (non-conversos) Jews of León, whose ancestors had lived in the locale when under Islamic control (if not even during Roman times).

Nowadays, little evidence remains of the ancient Jewish presence in the city. In the Museum of León, for example, a few memorial stones from



the early Middle Ages (one dated 15 July 1097), with still lucid Hebrew inscriptions, are on display. Intriguingly, some of the exhibited coins, which were minted in the Islamic epoch, are etched with the Star of David. But there's a certain element of modern-day (and physical) reference back to commemorate the medieval Jewry. At an entrance to the erstwhile Jewish quarter – with its hauntingly narrow streets, stone archways and cobbled lanes, such as Mulhacín, Misericordia formerly Cal de

Moros (where the medieval synagogue is said to have stood) and Santa Cruz – a small, shiny brass and Hebrew-lettered emblem is embedded firmly in the ground: שְׁפָרָאַד (Sepharad), it states.

Just outside a section of the old town's encircling, wonderfully-preserved and lofty medieval walls, there's a thoroughfare now tagged as Prado De Los Judíos. It straddles a 'barrio' (neighbourhood) known to have housed the later of the community's two burial grounds (the older was at Puerto Castro, beyond the town, where the Jews resided until 1196). Moreover, on the

there in about one and a half hours from London Stansted. The highways meander around outstandingly dramatic scenery of the Picos de Europa mountain range (with its many cutely pointy peaks), take you across towering aqueducts and through lengthy, well-lit tunnels bored into the impressively rugged and fortress-like massif.

Not all visitors arrive at our ultimate destination by



Above: Homage to León's medieval Jewry. **Right:** Gaudí's work, Astorga. **Below left:** Hebrew emblem

stone wall of an exterior, railed niche of the tranquil Iglesia San Martín (a church virtually adjoining an eponymous and vibrant nightlife plaza) hangs a large framed illustration of a menorah, superimposed by a Star of David. And there are printed words (in Hebrew and Spanish) paying homage to the town's one-time flourishing, and conscientiously contributing, Jewish population. Today, sadly, there's no Jewish community to stroll past the town's magnificent Gothic cathedral, remarkable churches and ecclesiastical edifices; and the other amazingly eclectic architectural masterpieces that transfix the centuries.

The university city of León is a marvellously picturesque, 90-minute drive south, on excellent motorways, from the fairly compact but modern and efficient Asturias Airport (situated close to the Bay of Biscay and a short distance from the city of Oviedo); easyJet flies

motor vehicle. León stands astride one of the principal trekking routes on what is known as the 'Camino de Santiago'. Effectively, it's the religious pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela (a city I've visited, but not for such reason of course), near Spain's most north-westerly corner, to pay homage to St James at its broodingly majestic cathedral. The committed 'peregrinos' (as the pilgrims are known) hike – some might break with tradition and cycle – the long-established routes to Santiago from France, and other provinces of Spain.



Annually now, more than 60,000 of them pass though León, mostly (but by no means exclusively) youngish men and women bearing huge backpacks. A number favour hefty wooden walking sticks, if only as the recognisable sign of a dedicated peregrino. They stay overnight mainly in hostels at the edge of the city. Next day, they quickly visit the requisite sights and move on; maybe after a 'watering hole' stop at León's expansive, charmingly

The vibrant hub of Castilla y León

cobbled Plaza del Grano (Grain Square, otherwise known as Plaza de Santa María del Camino). The large open area boasts the lovely old church, a surround of picturesque houses, a Benedictine monastery, a quaint water fountain and a few friendly bars with tables spilling onto the partly tree-shaded square.

The pilgrims would probably head first to the city's landmark white stone, 13th to 16th century cathedral, built over Roman baths and known as 'Pulchra Leonina'. It possesses a notable array of beautiful stained-glass windows (2,000 square metres of them), gorgeous flying buttresses, three splendid bell towers and ornately colonnaded cloisters. The peregrinos might then skirt the medieval walls, or thread their passage through constricted byways and across the many homely plazas in the old town. Their aim: to reach the stunning Romanesque edifice of the 12th-century Basílica de San Isidoro and its adjoining Royal Pantheon; the complex also includes a Biblical and Oriental Museum. One doorway of the church has a sculptured relief of the 'Sacrifice of Abraham'. En route,



hikers would find it fascinating to visit the Centre for Interpretation of Roman León (where relevant excavated ruins can be viewed) close by an ancient gateway, atop which is a statue of a centurion brandishing a sword.

Another outstanding building to admire and visit internally is the Casa de Botines. It stands facing one of León's many accessible, comfortably-sized palaces (the 16th-century, Renaissance-style Palacio de los Guzmanes) and opposite a spacious Plaza San Marcelo that yields some amiable bars and the old Ayuntamiento (Town Hall).

This trio of significant places of interest can be found at the end of the city's perhaps most attractive pedestrian thoroughfares, Calle Ancha. It starts at Plaza Regla (where the cathedral dominates) and is lined with buzzing restaurants, cafés, bars and busy shops. At night particularly, throngs of people are packing them out or parading

Ancha's length (to see and be seen). Another elegantly styled, 16th-century palacio is that of the Counts of Conda Luna, in a plaza that allots its centre to a sizeable, food market hall.

Ultra-photogenic Casa de Botines, displaying a wondrous façade, is really appealing. Designed in the 1890s by acclaimed architect Antonio Gaudí (builder of the famed but incomplete Sagrada Família in Barcelona), the unique structure – with its tall and slender, turreted towers – takes on the appearance of a fairytale castle (even, some cynics might say, a Disney one). Originally intended as a warehouse for textiles, it later became a bank. In 2007, it was opened as a museum relating the origins and history of the structure, with a basement exhibition gallery (showing some Goya when we visited). And seated on a wooden bench in front of his Casa is a bronze sculpture of Gaudí!

A main highlight of the old town is the captivating, arched Plaza Mayor (in the Barrio Húmedo, which embraces much of the old Judería). Dating from the 17th-century, it's where our hotel is elegantly in-

west. The latter presents a sumptuous (100-metre long) Baroque façade, fronted by neat garden displays of flower beds, compact lawns, trees and topiary.

The church can be visited; but the monastery itself is now an upmarket, 5-star parador. However, non-guests can use its restaurant and bar facilities; and, on occasions, we would relax on the hotel's shady terrace, overlooking the Bernesga and an antique stone bridge, nursing a lager alongside (as is general at Spain's bars around the prolonged lunchtime and early evening periods) some complimentary tapas (vegetarian options). A short stroll from San Marcos is a huge modernistic building housing the provincial government's administration. Not far beyond that commanding structure is MUSAC, the 2005-launched Museum of Contemporary Art and Culture, with its angular and startlingly multi-coloured façades.



On Sundays, one lengthy stretch of the Paseo de Palaguinda, on the River Bernesga's northern bank, is given over to a 400-unit street market. Stallholders sell a wide variety of merchandise, from clothing through leather goods and costume jewellery to household items, bric-a-brac and much else besides. We knew of this bustling 'sales pitch' from our pre-visit, internet researches. But many delights that León has to offer may come unexpectedly, whether it be a pretty plaza or park, striking sculpture, hip bar, attractive old abode or character boutique. The same is true of other historic provincial towns that can be visited, by proficient bus or RENFE train services.



One of those we explored, Astorga, is just a 30-minute auto-bus ride from León. It has a Roman and Moorish past; and a Jewish history, too (you can visit the Jardín de la Sinagoga). The old town has its impressive (15th to 17th-century) cathedral; but what we knew would catch our eyes is the phenomenal Palacio Episcopal, commissioned to Antonio Gaudí in the mid-1880s. The edifice is yet another incredible illustration of this imaginative architect's 'fairytale' creations, adorned with such elaborate decorative work (including much stained glass) that it's breathtaking to behold. Its palatial chambers are now home to the Museo de Los Caminos. After our wanderings around the town, we refreshed with a suitable drink in Astorga's own picturesque Plaza Mayor!

corporated. Although it's the city's largest square, it's not quite as expansive or hectic a meeting venue as, say, the huge Plaza Mayor of Salamanca, further south in the province. León's seems calmer and more intimate; though it does sit on the brink of an atmospheric nightlife and gastronomic zone, and has several of its own cool bars (including Barry's Irish Pub). On Wednesdays and Saturdays, it is host to a colourful fruit and vegetable market with many canopied stalls.



León is encompassed by two fairly shallow rivers: the Bernesga, and its tributary the Torio. It's enjoyable and rewarding to stroll along the rivers' extensive flanking parkland, from the grandly huge old bullring (now used as an events venue) and football and sports arenas in the east to the Convento de San Marcos in the

WHAT'S ON

THE EJN'S COMPREHENSIVE DIARY OF EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN YOUR AREA

MARCH

FRIDAY 30 MARCH:
FIRST SEDER NIGHT
SATURDAY 31 MARCH:
SECOND SEDER NIGHT

APRIL
THURSDAY 12 APRIL:
HOLOCHEST MEMORIAL DAY (YOM HASHOAH)

Wednesday 11 April
'A Life In Care' presented by Steve Martin, at Southend JACS. 1.30pm. Contact Allan on 01268 771978 for details.

Thursday 12 April

'It Never Gets Any Easier' with Mel Rees, at Chigwell and Hainault JACS, Limes Avenue. 1.30pm.

Thursday 12 April

'The Life and Times of David Niven', presented by Nigel Coleman, at Gants Hill JACS, Ilford Federation Synagogue, Clarence Avenue. 1.30pm.

Thursday 12 April

The East London Three Faiths Forum on 'Blood Transfusion - sand organ donations'. Contact david.hulbert@whsmithnet.co.uk for further details.

Thursday 12 April

'A Family Business' – a deli lunch with a film about a New York family fish restaurant (ticket holders only) at Gants Hill JACS, Ilford Federation Synagogue, Clarence Avenue. 1.30pm.

Thursday 12 April

Challah making. Phone 3031 6929 for further details.

Sunday 15 April

Chabad annual quiz. Phone 0208 554 1624 for details.

Sunday 15 April

Visit to The National Holocaust Centre and Museum jointly organised by East London and Essex Liberal, Sukkat Shalom Reform and South West Essex and Settlement Reform Synagogues. For further details, phone 0208 599 0936 or e-mail admin@svesrs.org.uk

Monday 16 April

Angie Gaye entertains at the Grand Lodge of Israel and Shield of David Lodge No 178, at Redbridge Jewish Community Centre. 8pm. Contact chairman Paul Cross on 07973 202940 for details.

Tuesday 17 April

Israel Memorial Day (Yom Hazikaron) will be marked at Redbridge Jewish Community Centre. 7.30pm.

Wednesday 18 April

Annual general meeting of Southend JACS. 1.30pm. Contact Allan on 01268 771978 for further information.

Wednesday 18 April

'Lunch and Learn' for men and women (separately) at Chabad, Ilford. 12.30pm. £6.00. Phone 0208 554 1624 or email pa@chabadilford.co.uk for further information.

Thursday 19 April

Gala night at Redbridge Jewish Community Centre to celebrate Israel's 70th birthday (Yom Ha'atzmaut). Doors open at 5pm; main event at 6pm. For further details contact Oded on 0208 551 0017.

Thursday 19 April

Sheila Billins completes the story of her nursing career, at Gants Hill JACS, Ilford Federation Synagogue, Clarence Avenue. 1.30pm.

Thursday 19 April

John Pearson on 'Cheese Is Milk's Leap Forward Immortality' at Chigwell and Hainault JACS, Limes Avenue. 1.30pm.

Sunday 22 April

Kathlin Pieren of the Jewish Museum speaks at the Wanstead Jewish Literary Society, on the history of British Jews in 20 objects. Contact 0208 505 0063 for further information.

Sunday 22 April

An afternoon with Judge Rinder, at Redbridge Jewish Community Centre. 3pm. Tickets £20.00. Phone 0208 418 2116 or e-mail simber@jcare.org

Tuesday 24 April

'Jews In Medieval England – What We Learn From A European Comparison' with Professor Miri Rubin of Queen Mary College, at the Jewish Historical Society of England (Essex branch). Clore Tikva School, Fullwell Avenue. 8pm. Entry free for JHSE members, otherwise £4.00 inc. refreshments. Phone 0208 599 1324 or 07903834101 for further details.

Wednesday 25 April

Southend JACS quiz afternoon with Barbara and Allan. 1.30pm. Contact Allan on 01268 771978 for details.

Thursday 26 April

Marion Prettet, chairman of the Chelmsford ballet, gives an insight into the back stage, at Gants Hill JACS, Ilford Federation Synagogue, Clarence Avenue. 1.30pm.

Sunday 29 April

Quiz evening. Phone 0208 554 1624 for further details.

Monday 30 April

Quiz with Michael Finger at the Grand Lodge of Israel and Shield of David Lodge No 178, at Redbridge Jewish Community Centre. 8pm. Contact chairman Paul Cross on 07973 202940 for details.

MAY SUNDAY 20 MAY: FIRST DAY SHAVUOT**Wednesday 2 May**

(until Friday 18 May) Exhibition of photographs and memorabilia from the Brady Boys' and Girls' Clubs between 1940 and 1960 in the Jewish East End of London, at Calcutta House, London Metropolitan University, Old Castle Street (near Aldgate East station). Monday–Thursday noon until 8.30pm, Friday and Saturday noon until 4pm.

Thursday 3 May

'Camping Out At Sea – mityidishkeit' by Maureen Gorb, at Gants Hill JACS, Ilford Federation Synagogue, Clarence Avenue. 1.30pm.

Thursday 3 May

Paul Jerrom entertains at Chigwell and Hainault JACS, Limes Avenue. 1.30pm.

Sunday 6 May

Max Curto entertains at Ilford Friendly Circle. Ilford Federation Synagogue, Clarence Avenue. 1pm–3.30pm. £3.50 inc. refreshments.

Thursday 10 May

Freddie Shaw on 'Jewish Involvement in the Spanish Civil War', at Chigwell and Hainault JACS, Limes Avenue. 1.30pm.

Thursday 10 May

Ingrid Stellman, a Jewish lip reading teacher and deaf awareness trainer, speaks about her experiences, at Gants Hill JACS, Ilford Federation Synagogue, Clarence Avenue. 1.30pm.

Thursday 10 May

Challah making. Phone 3031 6929 for further details.

Sunday 13 May

Jerusalem Day marked at Redbridge Jewish Community Centre with a talk by deputy Israeli Ambassador Ms Sharon Bar-Li, 7.30pm.

Monday 14 May

Parent Toolkit – 'Managing Anxiety In Adolescents' with Alex Amzallag and Sue Cohen. E-mail jewishcare.org/events or phone 0208 551 0017 for details.

Tuesday 15 May

'Saving the Jews of Aden and their freedom flight to England in June 1967' by Nigel Grizzard, at the Jewish Historical Society of England (Essex branch). 8pm at Clore Tikva School, Fullwell Avenue. Entry free for JHSE members otherwise £4.00 inc. refreshments. Phone 0208 599 1324 or 07903834101 for further details.

Wednesday 16 May

'Lunch and Learn' for men and women (separately) at Chabad, Ilford. 12.30pm. £6.00. Phone 0208 554 1624 or email pa@chabadilford.co.uk for further information.

Wednesday 16 May

'Israel: Survival of a Nation' a JLI course led by Rabbi Mordechai Wallenberg. E-mail pa@chabadilford.co.uk or phone Howard Harris on 07780 614024.

Thursday 17 May

'The Joys of Comedy and Else' with Jane Rosenberg, at Chigwell and Hainault JACS, Limes Avenue. 1.30pm.

Thursday 17 May

Vocalist Gayatri Anjula entertains at Gants Hill JACS, Ilford Federation Synagogue, Clarence Avenue. 1.30pm.

Thursday 24 May

Jodie Beth Meyer entertains at Chigwell and Hainault JACS, Limes Avenue. 1.30pm.

Sunday 27 May

An illustrated talk on Chagall by Jeff Page to the Wanstead Jewish Literary Society. Contact 0208 505 0063 for further information.

Sunday 27 May

Trevor Newman entertains at Ilford Friendly Circle. Ilford Federation Synagogue, Clarence Avenue. 1pm–3.30pm. £3.50 inc. refreshments.

Thursday 31 May

Paul Cavendish presents 'Real Magic, Comedy and Illusion', at Chigwell and Hainault JACS, Limes Avenue. 1.30pm.

Thursday 31 May

'Famous Women in the 20th Century' by Jeff Page, at Gants Hill JACS, Ilford Federation Synagogue, Clarence Avenue. 1.30pm.

JUNE**Thursday 7 June**

Lynne Bradley with 'Voices Behind The Actors', at Chigwell and Hainault JACS, Limes Avenue. 1.30pm.

Thursday 7 June

Kathrin Pieren from the Jewish Museum, presents 'The History of the Jews in 12 Objects', at Gants Hill JACS, Ilford Federation Synagogue, Clarence Avenue. 1.30pm.

Thursday 7 June

Challah making. Phone 3031 6929 for further details.

Thursday 14 June

'Me And My Camera' with Pauline Martindale, at Chigwell and Hainault JACS, Limes Avenue. 1.30pm.

Thursday 14 June

Drapier and Hutt from the Brick Lane Music Hall entertains at Gants Hill JACS, Ilford Federation Synagogue, Clarence Avenue. 1.30pm.

Tuesday 19 June

'Freud and Jewishness' with Mickey Yudkin, at the Jewish Historical Society (Essex branch). 8pm at Clore Tikva School, Fullwell Avenue. Entry free for JHSE members, otherwise £4.00 inc. refreshments. Phone 0208 599 1324 or 07903834101 for further details.

Wednesday 20 June

'Lunch and Learn' for men and women (separately) at Chabad, Ilford. 12.30pm. £6.00. Phone 0208 554 1624 or e-mail pa@chabadilford.co.uk for further details.

Thursday 21 June

Russell Bowens on the history of tea and plantations at Gants Hill JACS, Ilford Federation Synagogue, Clarence Avenue. 1.30pm.

Thursday 21 June

The East London Three Faiths Forum presents 'Demons and Exorcism'. Contact david.hulbert@whsmithnet.co.uk for further details.

Thursday 28 June

Hollie Blue entertains at Chigwell and Hainault JACS, Limes Avenue. 1.30pm.

Thursday 28 June

Bronwen Stephens entertains with music from light opera and the shows, at Gants Hill JACS, Ilford Federation Synagogue, Clarence Avenue. 1.30pm.

Thursday 28 June

The fabulous Jive Aces are at Redbridge Jewish Community Centre. Tickets £19 inc. light refreshments. Phone 0208 418 2116. Or e-mail simber@jcare.org. Advance booking essential.

JULY**Thursday 5 July**

'Norwood' a talk by Martin Rayment, at Chigwell and Hainault JACS, Limes Avenue. 1.30pm.



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behind 'The Murder In The Red Barn', at Gants Hill JACS, Ilford Federation Synagogue, Clarence Avenue. 1.30pm.

Thursday 16 August
Pearly King John Walters offers his brand of music and entertainment, at Gants Hill JACS, Ilford Federation Synagogue, Clarence Avenue. 1.30pm.

Thursday 16 August
Brian Billins on 'Essex Smugglers – Part 2', at Chigwell and Hainault JACS, Limes Avenue. 1.30pm.

Thursday 23 August
Eddie Summers on 'Jazz Beginnings' with tracks and the music involved at Gants Hill JACS, Ilford Federation Synagogue, Clarence Avenue. 1.30pm.

Thursday 30 August
Jane Rosenberg entertains at Chigwell and Hainault JACS, Limes Avenue. 1.30pm.

Thursday 30 August
'Any Questions' afternoon at Gants Hill JACS, Ilford Federation Synagogue, Clarence Avenue. 1.30pm.

SEPTEMBER
MONDAY 10 SEPTEMBER:
FIRST DAY ROSH HASHANAH

TUESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER:
KOL NIDRE

WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER:
YOM KIPPUR

MONDAY 24 SEPTEMBER:
FIRST DAY SUCCOT

Thursday 20 September
The East London Three Faiths Forum presents 'Coming to terms with bereavement'. Contact david.hulbert@whsmithnet.co.uk for further details.

NOVEMBER

Thursday 8 November
The East London Three Faiths Forum presents 'Religious Laws and Secular Law'. Contact david.hulbert@whsmithnet.co.uk for further details.

DECEMBER

Tuesday 18 December
Christmas/Chanukah/Prophet's Birthday Concert and Party. Contact david.hulbert@whsmithnet.co.uk for further details.



Property Management, Shop, Office and Industrial

SOMEWHERE TO GO? SOMETHING TO DO?

A DIRECTORY OF REGULAR
EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND
GROUPS IN THE COMMUNITY

AISH ESSEX Jewish education and experiences for young Jews 16-32 in the UK Contact: 07791 220774 or e-mail mendy@aish.org.uk	ART FOR ALL Mondays 8pm-10pm at RJCC Contact simber@jcare.org or phone 0208 418 2116	BOYS' CLUB LUNCH Monthly at RJCC Contact: Alison or Sharon 0208 418 2116	LINE DANCING Fortnightly at 11am at RJCC Contact simber@jcare.org or phone 0208 418 2116	CHIGWELL AND HAINAULT JACS Thursdays 1.30pm - 3pm at Limes Avenue	THREE FAITHS FORUM Jewish-Christian-Muslim Contact: www.eastlondon3faiths.org
CONVERSATIONAL YIDDISH Sundays fortnightly 10am - noon at RJCC Contact simber@jcare.org or phone 0208 418 2116	BRIDGE LESSONS Tuesdays 7.30pm - 10pm Wednesdays 7.15pm - 9.15pm Contact simber@jcare.org or phone 0208 418 2116	ILFORD FRIENDLY CIRCLE Tea and entertainment at Ilford Federation Synagogue Clarence Avenue Sundays 1pm-3pm	PAPERWEIGHT TRUST A free service to help people with their personal paperwork and dealing with bureaucracy Phone: 0208 455 4996	TABLE TENNIS 12pm-3pm Mondays 6pm-9pm Tuesdays 12pm-3pm Wednesdays Contact simber@jcare.org or phone 0208 418 2116	SOCIAL BRIDGE Wednesdays 7.30pm - 10pm ELELS Synagogue Marlborough Road Phone: Sid 020 8928 0435 or 07932 058570
GANTS HILL JACS 1.30-3.30pm Thursdays Ilford Federation Synagogue Clarence Avenue Phone: 020 8550 9450	GRAND ORDER OF ISRAEL AND SHIELD OF DAVID LODGE Monthly entertainment on Mondays Contact Paul Ross 07973 202940	LET'S MOVE ON For divorced and single people 7.30pm - 10.15pm at RJCC Contact simber@jcare.org or phone 0208 418 2116	COMPUTER DROP-IN CLASSES 10.30am at RJCC Contact simber@jcare.org or phone 0208 418 2116	CHAPS THAT CHAT Speakers and natter Wednesdays monthly at RJCC Phone: Alison on 07827 982110	WANSTEAD JEWISH LITERARY SOCIETY Sunday afternoons monthly Phone: 0208 505 0063
LADIES THAT LUNCH Last Wednesday in the month at RJCC Contact simber@jcare.org or phone 0208 418 2116	LUNCHEON CLUB AT SWERS On Tuesdays 12.15pm - 2.30pm Phone: 0208 599 0936	SOCIAL CLUB AND SALT BEEF BAR Thursdays monthly at RJCC Contact simber@jcare.org or phone 0208 418 2116	JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Essex Branch) Meetings monthly at 8pm at Clore Tikvah School Phone: 08599 1324	FITNESS FOR ALL 11am - noon with Tracy Jacobs at RJCC Contact simber@jcare.org or phone 0208 418 2116	YOGA 9.45am - 11am at RJCC Contact simber@jcare.org or phone 0208 418 2116
ROMFORD LUNCH CLUB Third Wednesday of the month at Romford Synagogue Phone: 01708 741690	JUST PAINT No age limit Meetings are twice a month in Barkingside from 7pm email: marianmyers@btinternet.com or phone 07958 749477	CARERS COFFEE AND CHAT First Thursday of the month 10.30am - 12.30pm Costa Coffee 688-690 Chigwell Road, Woodford Contact: Lorraine Fine 0208 418 2153 or Joan Selby 0208 418 2161	ISRAEL DANCEFIT At Woodford Forest Synagogue (Women only) Phone: 0208 504 1990	PILATES Tuesdays 10am - 11am £5.50 per session. All levels from beginners to intermediate. Phone: 0208 551 0017 or email redbridgejcc@jcare.org	CHIGWELL AND HAINAULT LEAGUE OF JEWISH WOMEN Phone: 0208 501 1661
ESSEX JEWISH NEWS Become a volunteer reporter with our team reporting events in your area Contact the Editor simon.rothstein@hotmail.co.uk	BEEHIVE LANE JACS Thursdays 1.30pm - 3pm Ilford United Synagogue	JLGB Fabulous activities for all youngsters Phone: 0208 989 8990	SOUTHEND JACS Wednesdays at Southend Hebrew Congregation Synagogue Phone: 01268 771978	Our readers could be your customers Contact Debbie Mulqueen at office.ejn@gmail.com for full details of how to advertise in the EJN	