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gesherlite

2020 PESACH EDITION 5780



The Hale Community Magazine

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גשר

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Messages from Rabbi Binstock and the Editors

As we learn from the message from our Editors, Gesher magazine was prepared before and during the earlier stages of the current Coronavirus Pandemic and almost daily we are reporting new guidance, information and initiatives being shown by the community.

Please check the Hale Shule Group Facebook page for up to date information regarding all our new virtual events and services and be in touch if you are experiencing need or hardship.

We wish everyone a continued refuah shelema and hope and pray that things will return to normal soon.

Rabbi Yisroel Binstock

Editors' Message

Given the daily and often hourly developments relating to the Coronavirus and the lead times involved in the creation and distribution of this magazine, we apologise for any related mistakes or omissions in this new style Pesach edition of Gesher Lite featuring, in the main, Shule and community news. Due to rapidly changing circumstances, Gesher can only apologise if any of the scheduled events or learning programmes are subsequently cancelled or rearranged. Please stay in touch with the organisers for updates.

For a community as special as that found at Hale Shule, the current threat of Coronavirus is not only challenging but also runs counter to our impulses to physically come together in tough times. We hope that the contents will embrace you in a true sense of inclusion.

This Gesher Lite magazine has captured social and educational events, programmes for adults, youth and children from the last 6 months.

We think you'll agree that it's been a particularly busy and simcha filled time.

As always, moving forwards, we welcome contributions for our conventional Rosh Hashanah edition any time from now. We're hoping to produce our usual bumper magazine filled with articles from young and old - community news and views, hobbies, exciting experiences, recipient of an award, volunteering in the community and more - all worthy of our readership! Send articles to gesher@haleshule.com

Thank you to our advertisers and contributors for your continued support and understanding, and please accept our best wishes for you and your family in these increasingly challenging times.

Wishing everyone a Chag Pesach Kasher Vesame'ach.

Gesher Editing Team
gesher@haleshule.com

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Yom Tov Dates For Your Diary

APRIL / NISSAN

Wednesday 8 April	Erev Pesach
Thursday 9 April	Pesach 1
Friday 10 April	Pesach 2
Wednesday 15 April	Pesach 7
Thursday 16 April	Pesach 8
Tuesday 21 April	Yom HaShoah
Wednesday 29 April	Yom HaAtzmaut

MAY / SIVAN

Friday 29 May	Shavuot 1
Shabbat 30 May	Shavuot 2

JULY / TAMMUZ-AV

Thursday 9 July	Fast of Tammuz
Thursday 30 July	Tisha B'Av

SEPTEMBER - OCT / ELLUL - TISHRI

Friday 18 September	Erev Rosh Hashanah
Shabbat 19 September	Rosh Hashanah 1
Sunday 20 September	Rosh Hashanah 2
Monday 21 September	Fast of Gedaliah
Sunday 27 September	Kol Nidrei
Monday 28 September	Yom Kippur
Shabbat 3 October	Succot 1
Sunday 4 October	Succot 2
Shabbat 10 October	Shemini Atzeret
Sunday 11 October	Simchat Torah

DECEMBER / KISLEV - TEVES

Friday 11 December	Chanukah 1
Friday 18 December	Chanukah 8
Friday 25 December	Fast of Teves

JANUARY / SHEVAT

Thursday 28 January	Tu B'Shevat
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FEBRUARY / ADAR

Friday 26 February	Purim
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MARCH / NISSAN

Shabbat 27 March	Erev Pesach
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Shule Service Times

MINYANIM

All weekday services are held in the Bet Hamidrash		
Sunday & Bank Holiday Mornings		9.00am
Monday – Friday Mornings		7.00am
Sunday – Thursday Evenings		7.30pm
Shabbat Mornings		9.15am
Weekday Rosh Chodesh		6.45am
Sunday Rosh Chodesh		8.45am

Shabbat Mincha usually takes place 1 hour and 10 minutes before the termination of Shabbat in the Shule, followed by Seudah and Ma'ariv. All Shabbat and Shabbat Service times for any particular week are published in our weekly newsletter and appear on our website www.haleshule.com

Please note that where times announced for the commencement of Shabbat in Hale are earlier than those printed elsewhere, all members of our Congregation should follow the Hale times. For service times over the Yamim Tovim please refer to separate timetable.

Chayim Arukim

Marcelle Abrams on the loss of her husband

Mark Benjamin on the loss of his father

Edward Cobb on the loss of his mother

Suzanne Cobb on the loss of her father

The family of Tessa Frieslander

Daniel Harris on the loss of his father

Freda Klepper on the loss of her sister

Ivor Lefton on the loss of his brother

Michael Paul on the loss of his father

Barbara Rosen on the loss of her brother

David Rothburn on the loss of his father

Claire Savinson on the loss of her father

Linda Science on the loss of her sister

The family of Sybil Weisberg

David Zucker on the loss of his mother

Useful Contacts

SHULE OFFICE

Open Monday – Thursday	9.30am to 1.30pm
General Enquiries	0161 980 8846
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RABBI YISROEL BINSTOCK

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REBBETZEN LEANNE BINSTOCK

Email	leanne@haleshule.com
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EXECUTIVE


President	Ben Sallon
Vice President	Barry Price
Honorary Secretary	Jonathan Hamburger
Honorary Treasurer	David Zucker
First Warden	Adrian Polak
Second Warden	Jonathan Steinberg
Ladies' Representative	Debbie Horne

Shabbat Pram & Buggy Pushing Service

S.P.S. has been set up in order to preserve the sanctity of Shabbat whilst, at the same time, facilitating young mothers to go to shule and elsewhere to share Shabbat with family and friends.

A non-Jewish child minder can be pre-booked to walk with you and push your child on Shabbat, Bookings can be by email to sps@haleeruv.co.uk up to 1.00pm on Wednesday in any given week. A voluntary donation is requested for those using this service.

A HALE ERUV PROJECT



Useful Contacts

COUNCIL

Jonathan Feingold, Gary Scolah, David Simon,
Sandra Stewart, Andrew Stone, Peter Stoll,
Julia Harris, Stephen Quinn, Ian Halpern, Jennifer Zucker

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Nikki Lee	07801 398210
Linda Price	07967 731321
Gillian Rowe	07940 268857
Email	gesher@haleshule.com

NURSERY

Manager	Pauline Newton - 0161 903 9486
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KIDDUSHIM

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Email	susansallon@gmail.com

CULTURAL COMMITTEE

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CHEVRA KADISHA

Linda & Barry Price	07860 462007
---------------------	--------------

SOUTH MANCHESTER MIKVA

24 Hours	0161 904 8296
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HALE TRUST

Adult Education Programmes	
Rabbi Aharon Bloch	07817 780193
Elisheva Bloch	07891 325364
Email	learn@hahet.co.uk

YOUTH

Daniel & Tamara Haffner	07807 132772
Email	tamaraschachter@hotmail.co.uk

From The Rabbi's Study

I know I sometimes talk too fast, but right now I'm also typing this too fast. I need to rush, and here's the reason why:

A few years ago, when we were living in Israel, I joined a team of people making Matzot in the build up to Pesach. Finding this small warehouse-like building in a village not far from Modiin was quite an experience! There was a guard at the door – this is not uncommon in Israel, but this was no regular security guard. This guard was checking to make sure we didn't have a crumb of chametz food on us before we entered the building!

Once inside, we were shown around and given clear guidelines of our roles for the day. Kneading, rolling, scrubbing down and then starting again. We couldn't operate the ovens – that was just for the pros! But I was most impressed by how efficiently everything ran. A team of people working with conveyor belt precision to get Matzah ready for Pesach.

The reason there was a need for such efficiency is because there is a fine margin between Matzah and Chametz. In order for Matzah to be kosher for Pesach the dough cannot be left to rise - it has to be made within eighteen minutes. So in the matzah bakery, every 18 minutes they ring a bell, everyone stops what they are doing, and scrubs down to get ready to reset for the next batch of Matzot. That's the key to Matzah - its all about the timing. If it has been made within eighteen minutes then it's good for Pesach, and if it hasn't then it's not.

I was reminded of this a few months ago, whilst sitting round the table at Rydal Drive having a Gesher planning meeting. We were thinking of ways to theme the magazine for Pesach and it occurred to me that we could make it Gesher "unleavened" - Gesher Lite! The idea developed to make the magazine just like a matzah. How would we do that? By asking all our contributors to limit their writing to eighteen minutes – the time it takes to make a matzah! There is no particular deep significance to modifying Gesher in this way - it's just a fun way of giving us a Pesach theme.

You'll probably notice that this unleavened edition of Gesher is a little different to previous ones. It's slimmed down like a matzah, has more pictures and shorter articles. It's a good thing that we have a great team of editors who catch all the things that I write in haste!

So now you know why I'm rushing – the clock is ticking, and I've only got three minutes to go! I've challenged everyone else to write something for Gesher in under eighteen minutes and now it's proving challenging for me! Talking of time flying, it is amazing how quickly our first Pesach in Hale has come around! Thank you all for making our family feel so welcome here. We really appreciate your warmth and friendship and are really looking forward to our first Pesach together in Hale.

Leanne, Motti, Didi and Atara join me in wishing you and all your families a chag kasher v'sameach, a happy and healthy Pesach.

Rabbi Yisroel Binstock



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Guy, aged 5, lives in the UJIA Carmiel Children's Village thanks to ...

The connection continues with a UJIA legacy gift



... Gerald
(1920 - 2014)

During his lifetime, Gerald Crossman scaled the heights of the music world, playing alongside showbiz greats including Charlie Chaplin, Morecambe & Wise and even Marlene Dietrich. Yet it was after his death that he made perhaps his most life-changing impact.

In 2019, Guy moved into Carmiel Children's Village, giving him a new start in life away from a life of abuse and poverty. This was made possible in no small part thanks to the legacy gift left by Gerald to UJIA in his Will.

To find out more about the huge difference a legacy gift to Israel through UJIA can make, call Lydia Engler on **0161 740 1825 ext 7** or email lydia.engler@ujia.org

ujia
OUR ISRAEL. OUR FUTURE.

The Chief Rabbi's Pesach Message 5780

A recent BBC News item reported that more than a quarter of people engage in monthly domestic disputes about which types of plastic can be recycled.

Research carried out in London last year found that nearly 90% of drivers were still grappling with what the new Ultra Low Emissions Zone would mean for them. A report issued in January by a cross-party Parliamentary group suggested that, in efforts to reduce plastic waste, many are using materials which can actually cause greater damage to the environment. When it comes to responding to climate change, I fear that too many of us are failing to see the wood for the trees.

It is told of the apocryphal 'wise elders of Chelm' that they were becoming increasingly concerned about the town's only bridge. A small cavity in the bridge quickly became a dangerous gap. Every day brought more incidents of people falling into the valley below and injuring themselves. An emergency meeting of the elders was called. After a full day of intense discussion and debate, the unanimous solution was finally announced: they would urgently build a hospital in the valley below!

I wonder what the reaction of the elders of Chelm would be to the problem of climate change and, indeed, whether it would be different at all to the way many people actually view the issue today.

On Pesach, we recall how Aaron, not Moses, was instructed to instigate the first three of the ten plagues – blood and frogs, which emerged from water, and lice, which emerged from the earth. Rashi explains that Moses owed both water and the earth a personal debt of gratitude. The waters of the Nile had protected his life when, as a baby, he was set afloat in a basket, while the earth provided the hiding place for the body of the Egyptian taskmaster whom Moses had killed in order to save a Hebrew slave.

This anthropomorphism is surprising. Can one really feel a sense of respect or deference for a river or the earth?

I believe that there is a powerful message here about our attitude to the environment. We tend to measure the impact of climate change by sea level, temperature increase or the amount of carbon in the air. These are of course all crucial in their own right but what if we measured the impact of climate change by the number of human lives it has already destroyed? Might that help focus our minds?

Accurate figures would be difficult to produce, but there is no question that millions of lives are lost every year to air pollution, natural disasters, pandemics and extreme water or food shortages related to climate change.

More than anything, Pesach is about responsibility. Slaves are merely an instrument, acting purely upon instruction. As we celebrate our freedom from Egypt and its accompanying responsibility – to Torah, to Hashem and to living in His service – we must not forget our responsibility to protect the fragile world that He created for us.

Consequently, our response to climate change should not only be about this type of plastic or that; this type of car or that. It should be a far more fundamental shift in the way that we think about the natural environment. Planet earth has sustained humanity for millennia just as it sustained Moses in Egypt. In return, we are failing to offer it the respect that it deserves.

Valerie and I wish you a Chag Kasher Vesameach.

Ephraim Mirvis

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis
March 2020 • Nisan 5780





FREEDOM

FOR ISRAEL'S HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS



There are over 190,000 Holocaust survivors living in Israel, of which an alarming 25% are living below the poverty line.

The Magen David Adom UK Holocaust Survivors' Fund was set up to ensure that no-one who survived the atrocities perpetrated by Nazi Germany will ever worry about calling an ambulance, for fear of the costs involved.

To ensure that Israel's Holocaust survivors do not live in fear, you can donate to the Holocaust Survivors' Fund by visiting mdauk.org/freedom.

President's Report by Benjamin Sallon

.....

Recently I was fortunate enough to host the Director of the Jewish Policy Research Institute at my home for a briefing to leaders of the South Manchester communities. Some of the facts were very interesting and rang true to the backdrop to the important work our Rabbi, Exec and Council carry out...

Following several decades of decline, there has been Jewish demographic growth in the UK every year since 2006. Whilst much of this is in the ultra-orthodox community there have never been more Jews living in South Manchester showing a solid 4% growth pa, approximately 5,500 persons.

There are now 454 synagogues in the UK – the largest number ever recorded – however, synagogue membership numbers have dropped below 80,000 households for the first time since records began and only half of Jews in Britain belong to a shule.

The overall decline in shule membership masks important developments at a denominational level. Critically, the sector that has declined most sharply is central Orthodoxy, due to ageing and disaffection. In contrast, membership of strictly Orthodox synagogues is growing dramatically -139% since 1990!

It stands to reason that the medium-term effect of a rapidly growing strictly orthodox community is that, migration from that demographic does in fact offset losses of those less religious who don't wish to be a part of any Jewish community....If the core remains strong, UK Jewry will continue to grow. The JRI's bottom line message is that UK Jewry is 'here to stay'.

So why am I sharing these facts? I believe we are at a critical time in our community where we have chosen to invest in new and inspiring Rabbinical leadership, Exec and Council positions are taken up by capable and active members, we have a vibrant Education programme and there are plans to renovate the shule against an improving re-engagement with our membership. In short, there is a huge amount of work being done and yet still to do, but if this doesn't work I'm not sure what will...

What have I learnt? The shule service itself is only a barometer for number crunching of regular engagement, but it will rarely ever be a driver to get larger numbers into shule. Of course it must be relevant and inspiring to those who do come and I can say we should be proud of the delivery of weekly shabbat services, learning programmes led by Reb Aharon

Bloch and youth provision for all ages. Rabbi Binstock's high calibre weekly sermons are becoming legendary... If you haven't been for a while, Pesach is a great Yomtov to make an appearance!

South Manchester is in a great position to buck the trend in shule engagement. There are 4 vibrant orthodox shules with Rabbonim under 40 years old. There is improving communication between communities and a genuine willingness to pool resources for the regional gain and not just our own. Common issues such as schooling, social care, kashrut, and youth provision are all examples where four shules stand a better chance than one.

To head off any rumours, this doesn't mean we must look to amalgamate, but it seems the use of our building and reach into the membership needs to be far more of a 'community centre' mindset thus ensuring provisions from cradle to grave that enrich the Jewish life cycle.

This is where you come in. I quote Lionel Richie who said only last week that 'God can only do, what you let him do through you'. It is ironic that the best way to involve our members in our activities is for those unengaged to deliver what's needed. It never ceases to amaze me of the talent, skills and reach within our own kehilla. So I ask you what can you bring to the party? We are looking for marketeers, event planners, social care skills and as Rebbetzen Leanne has coined as a mantra...anyone who wants to 'put Hale on the map!'.

In the closing months of my presidency, I hope to work with the remarkable supporting lay leadership at H&DHC toward developing a sustainable 10-year plan for growth, not just in numbers, but in value – spiritual and cultural. We hope some of this work has already started to show but the best is yet to come...

As always I thank my supportive home with Michelle & my parents by my side, the Rabbi and Rebbetzen and all those amazing people, on the Exec, Council, office, HAHET, nursery staff & caretaker, who make Hale shule all that it is. Wishing you all a wonderful and Kasher Pesach.

I write this as we approach our financial year-end 31st March. Thanks to the hard work of our office team, Suzanne and Josie, Janet managing subscriptions, Accountant Helen, and Auditor Chaim, we plan to publish final accounts earlier than previously.

I reported at the AGM in October that our financial position was deteriorating, despite savings on rabbinic costs. This was primarily due to (a) needing to spend money on the fabric of the building, long overdue, (b) costs for various events and activities previously funded by HAHET, and (c) transferring responsibility from HAHET to the Shule for the cost of nursery places for the children of our Rabbonim.

This year’s results will also be particularly affected by exceptional costs of over £40,000 for the reorganisation of the nursery and caretaking, and closure of the cheder. These actions have been necessary to reduce our cost base, which will help us in our future efforts to “balance the books”.

When the Accounts are published there will be a full explanation of the numbers, with each cost centre separately reported. Meanwhile, we need to continue to prudently manage our costs. Consequently, budgets for events are subject to scrutiny, and require full Executive approval.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

We expect to receive almost all 2019-20 fees before the 31 March 2020 year-end, in line with last year and with our budget. Currently there are no plans to increase fees for 2021-22.

NURSERY

At the AGM I referred to the problem of falling numbers in the nursery. The nursery finances have deteriorated as pupil numbers have fallen, requiring us to review and restructure to bring our cost base down. The nursery is a valued Shule asset and we appreciate the support of those parents who place their children with us.

CARETAKER AND CLEANING

A reorganisation of caretaking and the use of contract cleaners has reduced our ongoing costs, and exceptional costs incurred should be recouped over the next 2-3 years.

CHEDER

Although Bowdon Shule withdrew their support for our jointly managed Cheder in April, we hoped that it could become financially viable. By November it had become clear that we could not justify the level of subsidy required. Thus, regrettably, the Cheder needed to close.

MAINTENANCE

Essential building work has been completed as recommended by an external professional survey, costing approx. £30,000. Similar expenditure on this level is anticipated in future years.

YK 2019 APPEAL

We estimate that the final YK 2019 sum raised will be approx. £6,000 less than the prior year. Since 55% of the money is to support youth and educational activities, we will incur a shortfall in funding in these areas.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Although the accounts for the year to 31 March 2020 have yet to be finalised, the above-mentioned issues will have an adverse impact, and consequently a substantial cash loss is anticipated.

2020-21

Difficult decisions have been forced upon us this year. But in 2020-21 we will not have the exceptional costs we have incurred this year, and will achieve savings from the changes we have made. Nevertheless, our finances are precarious, and we must ensure that costs for festivals and events are tightly controlled.

Finally, I wish to thank Maurice Gould for his assistance with Nursery finance, and Tony Woolf, Edward Cobb and Stephen Quinn for their valued advice.

Jennifer and I wish all our Members a Happy and Healthy Pesach.

David Zucker
Treasurer



- Ruth Benson on the birth of two grandsons
- Rabbi Aharon & Elisheva on the birth of a son
- Dan Blaskey on his engagement to Zara Landesberg
- John Blaskey on the occasion of Dan’s engagement to Zara Landesberg
- Linda & Philip Braunstein on the occasion of Alex’s marriage to Joshua Alge
- Charles Braunstein on his engagement to Hannah Goldstein
- Linda & Philip Braunstein on the occasion of Charles’ engagement to Hannah Goldstein
- Rena & Jeff Caplan on the occasion of Ben’s engagement to Noa Pearlman
- Suzanne & Edward Cobb on the birth of a granddaughter
- Gillian & Stephen Cohen on the occasion of their 45th Wedding Anniversary
- Ginette and Nigel Esterkin on the birth of a granddaughter
- Sara & Eugene Esterkin on the birth of a granddaughter and grandson
- Sharon & Warren Ferster on the birth of a granddaughter
- Nicola & Simon Fine on the occasion of Tali’s engagement to Zack Mocton
- Rabbi Mark & Louise Goldstone on Rabbi Mark receiving the honour of becoming a member of the Parliamentary Select Committee
- Caroline & Nicholas Herz on the birth of a grandson
- Wendy & Jeremy Herz on the birth of a grandson

- Amanda & Peter Kaye on the occasion of Danielle’s engagement to Jamie Milestone
- Stephanie & Howard Klass on the occasion of their grandson’s Barmitzvah
- Tracy & Luis Labaton on the birth of a grandson
- Sonya Lee on the birth of a great grandson
- Tracey & Jeremy Lee on the birth of a grandson
- Martin & Tracy Polak on the birth of a grandson
- Oryah & Eli Portnoy on the occasion of Shai’s Barmitzvah
- Rosalind Price on the occasion of Toby’s engagement to Millie Braslavsky
- Rabbi Joel & Ruthie Portnoy on the occasion of Shai’s Barmitzvah
- Rabbi Joel & Ruthie Portnoy on the birth of a grandson and granddaughter
- Michael Rappaport on the birth of a grandson
- Rowe family on the occasion of Toby’s engagement to Millie Braslavsky
- Leila Spiero on the birth of a great grandson
- Leila Spiero on the occasion of Tali’s engagement to Zack Mocton
- Diane & Robert Sterling on the birth of a granddaughter
- Antony & Melanie Woolf on the birth of a granddaughter
- Natalie & Jason Zimmel on the birth of a grandson



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Social and Community

Chevra Kadisha

Hale Shule Chevra Kadisha is expanding and we are always happy to welcome anyone who would like to involve themselves with this Mitzva. Please get in touch any time and we'll be happy to explain what's required so you can make an informed choice about your level of commitment.

28 members of the Hale Chevra Kadisha met for the annual Fast and Seuda last month. It's held every year on 7th Adar which is the Yahrzeit of Moshe Rabenu (Moses) and the first Jewish burial. Although it was performed thousands of years ago, we follow a very similar format for Jewish burials today.

The Fast is a day on which we remember all the holy souls who are buried in our Beit Olam at Dunham. As a group we say special prayers at the gravesides. It's always a very cold February or March evening and we are often treated to a beautiful sunset just before reciting Mincha in the Ohel. The group then return to Shule to break the Fast and thaw out over some lovely soup and a delicious meal.

Rabbi Binstock is the Halachic leader of our Chevra Kadisha and he delivered an enlightening Dvar Torah. The day of the Fast and Seuda is the only time that the Chevra Kadisha can be thanked for their holy work. We are all grateful to Hashem for the health and strength we have in order to carry out the Mitzvah.

We are delighted to update you on an article published in Gesher last year. Lucy Singer informed us about the new Shmira team she has set up at Whitefield Shule. (Shmira is the term used for guarding the deceased. A rota of people ensure that someone who has passed away is never left alone up until the burial).

Lucy took a few months break last year as she and her husband, Alex, became proud parents to a baby boy in the summer. He is named after Lucy's Dad, Ronnie Cohen. We have met Baby Ronnie and he is adorable. Being a new mum is taking up much of Lucy's time. However, she didn't want to lose momentum for the new Shmira rota project and has made time to ensure it continues. Lucy has even expanded the rota to helping out with Shmira for Whitefield families where this is not provided by the Shule to which a family member belongs.

We have also offered this from time to time as an act of kindness where nothing has been in place for a Shule member's close relative.

We do not like to see any families left in limbo at this difficult time. But we cannot become involved with arrangements when other Shules have prime responsibility for a burial. It is complicated.

All the men and ladies make huge efforts and sacrifices to include themselves in the Mitzva of Chevra Kadisha. We encourage everyone to join us when they feel able to.

Linda and Barry Price



Gesher is a wonderful community magazine for our wonderful community!

Gesher, is published twice yearly, Rosh Hashanah and Pesach and is enjoyed by members and beyond.

We rely totally on the fabulous articles penned by shule members and the wider community.

Our very busy editors happily receive contributions at gesher@haleshule.com any time through the year in readiness for the next publication.

So.....don't be shy, we want to hear from you!

Social and Community

Gratitude Shiur

At the beginning of February, in conjunction with my friend Shelley Stoll, I was delighted to host Rabbi & Rebbetzen Binstock, when the Rabbi held a Ladies' Shiur in Shelley's honour, at our home.

Not being a regular Shiur attendee, I was really stepping out of my normal comfort zone, as I wasn't sure what we needed to do - what food and drinks should we serve, what should I expect on the night and most importantly would anyone turn up?

I didn't need to worry as we had a really good turnout. There was a great atmosphere and right from the start Rabbi Binstock held the attention of all of the 18 women who attended.

As the majority of us attending were what I would describe as being more at the "traditional" not the more usual "frum" level of observance of Shiur attendees, the Rabbi pitched the Shiur at exactly the right level, so we were all engaged.

Shelley chose the topic of "Gratitude" for the Shiur and

we listened to the Rabbi's interesting and stimulating talk, followed by a vibrant discussion on the topic.

After the Shiur, the Binstocks stayed and chatted with everyone over drinks and the finest culinary delights that Our Deli had to offer.

A big thank you to the Binstocks and to all who attended on the night. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the evening and this is something that Shelley and I would really like to repeat on a regular basis.

If this is something you would be interested in knowing more about and possibly coming along to the next Shiur, please contact me on 07973 714044.

Julia Harris

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Social and Community

Grandma Ella Lentin's 100th Kiddush

On Shabbos 10th July 2019, The Lentin Family were delighted to host the Kiddush at Hale Shule to celebrate the wonderful occasion of my Grandma Ella Lentin's 100th Birthday.

It was an exciting day for Grandma to have her daughter Maureen and family from Israel, and special for all the cousins to be together with our families.

Following the morning service Rabbi Binstock spoke directly to Grandma and gave her his blessing. He then invited Grandma Ella to bless the congregation.

It was a very moving time and there was hardly a dry eye in the Shule, as Grandma climbed up to the lectern and said the following:-

“ I am very honoured and humble to be addressing our Kohel on the occasion of my 100th Birthday. I have always loved Hale Shule and the services and found solace and help when I needed it.

I now find myself in the position of returning the Mitzvah in blessing you all to enjoy good health; may you continue to share many happy years with our new Rabbi Yisroel and Rebbitzen Leanne and lovely family at the helm.

I must thank all the wonderful friends I have made over the years and all the kindnesses shown me.

So, Le Chaim to you all. ”



Grandma Ella then, on the arm of my dad Stephen was clapped into the Kiddush with all to celebrate.

During the Kiddush many people with young children came up to Grandma for her to bless them.

It was a moment many in the congregation will cherish as a special occasion.

Nicola Lentin - one of Grandma Ella's granddaughters

Social and Community

High Sheriff's Police Cadets' visit to Hale Shule

In January, at the beginning of his Shrieval year, Mark Adlestone OBE DL, High Sheriff of Greater Manchester, was allocated two police cadets from the Greater Manchester area. They are chosen by the Police as the candidates most likely to benefit from exposure to civic and communal activities. These cadets often come from backgrounds where such experiences can be life changing.

And so, Mark and his wife Gabrielle have spent a lot of time this year introducing their cadets, Lauren and Ellis to many varied groups and it has been a pleasure to see how their confidence and ability to interact socially has grown during this time.

One of Mark's duties is to conduct Citizenship ceremonies across the ten Boroughs of Greater Manchester alongside the Mayors of each Borough. At these events Mark talks about his own family history where his great grandfather came over from Kovno in Russian Poland (now known as Kaunas in Lithuania) to escape Jewish persecution at the time. He describes himself as a 'fourth generation immigrant'.

He is eager for his family's experience to offer hope and inspiration to these new British citizens as they develop their lives within the United Kingdom. He encourages them to play a full part in the wider communal life of Greater Manchester.

Mark reflects on the fact that this country accepted (and still accepts) his family and gave them the opportunity to flourish. So it is a feeling of gratitude that drives Mark's desire to give back, not just to the Jewish Community, but very much so the broader non Jewish Community, whilst very clearly wearing his Judaism proudly.

It was at one of these Citizenship ceremonies that Ellis' father mentioned that his own paternal grandfather was Jewish and that he was intrigued to learn more about Judaism. So that is how the visit to our Shule came about.

Also included in the visit was the Mayor of Trafford, Cllr Rob Chilton, who is himself a devout Christian. He particularly

enjoyed a whisky or two at our 'Naughty Boys Kiddush' and was inspired to take the idea back to his Church. Unfortunately for Rob his suggestion has been unsuccessful.

Rabbi Binstock was particularly welcoming to all our guests and they found the whole experience amazing and unforgettable. They couldn't get over how friendly and how interested in their roles everyone was when chatting to them at the Kiddush. It certainly proved to be a very strong advert for our Jewish Community.

Mark's Shrieval year comes to an end on the 17th April 2020, the day after Pesach finishes.



Social and Community

The Jewish Representative Council

I started to attend the Jewish Rep Council meetings as the Trafford Jewish SACRE representative and I put together the annual Trafford Holocaust Memorial Day Event involving Trafford youth and adults as well as Jewish Trafford.

Typically, schools contribute song, drama and poetry together with personal stories. Each year the theme from the HMD Trust is different and Survivors' accounts more poignant, particularly as we move further away from Survivors being in personal attendance. The event is always emotive and this year, having Karen Walshaw recount some of the Holocaust experiences of her amazing father in law, Sam, was no exception. Not a dry eye in the house. I feel privileged to have been involved in putting together this annual event for 6 years.

I am also a member of the Rep Council Executive and sit on Education Working Group which sits well with my new role on the Hale Shule Executive as Education Secretary. What I did not compute was that in addition to being Hale Shule Rep and Exec member, I had also said 'yes' to the Youth and Community Group and assisting with the Community Awards Group, so that I would now spend many an evening at the Nicky Alliance Centre, quite an amazing achievement for a girl who hates committees!!! As the only South Manchester Rep on the Executive I feel it important that our voice is heard and this is my motivation.

Whilst I feel the Rep Council may be under valued due to poor public awareness, they do an amazing amount of work behind the scenes. I am personally involved in a programme of accreditation for volunteer jewish educators going into

schools and also in setting up an umbrella group of holocaust educators with those who have been undertaking this work individually and within various organisations.

The breadth of the remit of the Rep Council is incredible - from engaging with Government and local politicians and being involved in the vast array of local council initiatives representing the views of Jewish Manchester to putting on communal events.

Executive members are expected to represent the Rep Council at community events and the one that has given me most pleasure was the honour of laying the Rep Council wreaths at the cenotaphs in Hale Barns and Hale on the most recent Remembrance Sunday.

Thanks to Stephanie Klass for forging the way with her many years of long service as our shule representative on the Rep Council before me. I am hoping to continue her work and that the Rep Council will have a greater presence in South Manchester, something it is definitely lacking. Rest assured, I am working towards that end particularly with my Hale Shule Rep hat on!!!!

Sandra Stewart



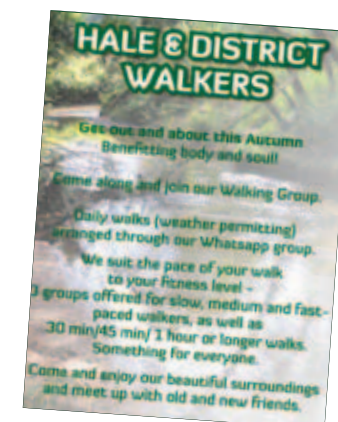
Hale Walkers

Hale Walkers welcome all new faces to take an hour of 'me' time around our beautiful neighbourhood.

As the weather and conditions underfoot improve we venture out to the airport perimeter, Bowdon Vale, along the Bridgewater Canal and into Dunham Massey. Bring suitable footwear and a smile.

Do contact me on 07714 417990 for further details.

Louise Leinhardt



Social and Community

Spiritual Spa

This 'Spiritual Spa' was a wonderful celebration from start to finish. It was the launch of the beautifully refurbished South Manchester Mikva.

The tour started with a candle lit pathway to the mikva. Everything in it had been replaced and was sparkling and new. Who wouldn't want a dip?

Gabrielle Adelstone entertained all the ladies with her amusing and moving experiences. Joyce Levy launched the "ONCE" project in South Manchester. Dr. Naomi Marmon Grumet, PHD described her important work for women in Jerusalem.

The ladies enjoyed a sumptuous spread by Celia Clyne and were all treated to a fabulous bag of goodies take home.

The evening was dedicated in memory of Gigi Weiss A"H.



The Rt. Hon. Michael Gove

In late November we welcomed The Rt. Hon. Michael Gove to Shule for Kabbalat Shabbat and he gave an address to our members and the wider South Manchester Jewish community.

There was additional excitement because the general election had been called and everyone in the community was rightly nervous about the possible outcome. Michael is a true friend of Israel and British Jewry. He joked that he had been to Synagogue probably more times than some members and he was seen by a few people humming along to Lecha Dodi!

After Maariv he took to the pulpit following a warm introduction by the President. Michael spoke passionately of the Jewish Community, Israel and the important role we have in the UK. As we were in the middle of an election campaign the tone turned more serious when he talked about antisemitism and the need to stamp it out. These were not mere words but the heartfelt opinion of a true friend and he reiterated this on the day after the election when he publicly said that under the new Conservative Government, Jews no longer have to feel frightened about living in the UK.

Michael then took some questions from the floor before we moved to the Pearl Suite for a L'Chaim and a wonderful Kiddush prepared by the Ladies Guild. Michael made time for all the people who wanted to see him and commented on the kindness he felt from the community.

The only dark cloud of his weekend was watching his beloved Chelsea being beaten by Manchester United on Saturday afternoon!

Stuart Marks



CST wishes our whole community a safe and enjoyable Pesach

CST wishes all British Jews a safe and enjoyable Pesach.

At CST, our mission is to protect every shul and every community. We do this in partnership with you, because security depends upon everybody playing their part. Your local CST volunteer team needs you to sign up and join it; and everyone should be aware of their surroundings, knowing how to react should anything happen.

We wish that none of the security was necessary, but last year showed, yet again, that whilst terrorism is exceptionally rare, it sadly does happen and it can occur anywhere.

Last Yom Kippur, the synagogue in Halle, Germany, was attacked by a terrorist. He tried to shoot his way into the building but failed because the door had been closed. The rabbi and the congregation had followed the simple security instruction of shutting the door behind them. This saved many lives inside the shul service, but the terrorist killed a passer-by in the street outside, before then killing a customer in a nearby kebab shop.

On the last day of Pesach, a terrorist attacked the synagogue in Poway, California, killing one congregant and wounding others, including the rabbi.

Here in the UK, the most serious recent attack was in July 2018, against Britain's third oldest synagogue, in Exeter. A man attempted to burn it down and tried repeatedly to smash a window that the shul had strengthened, using CST advice and CST funding. When the glass at last partially broke, he poured petrol in as best he could, setting it on fire, but failing to destroy the shul.

The German, American and UK attacks were against relatively small Jewish communities, but the attackers knew them as being their nearest synagogues. The door being closed in Halle saved lives. In Exeter, the shul was protected because the community and CST had worked together, exactly as CST does with hundreds of others across the country.

This is why CST wants every community and every shul to work with us, to be aware of security and to join local CST security teams.

We do this because we want our local communities and shuls throughout the country to thrive, leading a full and confident Jewish life. Thank you and we wish you, your families and communities well over Pesach.

www.cst.org.uk [Community Security Trust](#) [@CST_UK](#)

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Just Stew It! Or If You Stew It They Will Come!

On second day Rosh Hashanah, as everyone was crowding in the courtyard and being herded out by a frantic member of the CST team, I was approached by our newest member of the community, Rabbi Binstock.

Having completed standard Rosh Hashanah protocol, informing him how his drosha was lovely and wishing each other a "happy new year," we moved on to more pressing matters.

The Rabbi explained that he had run a successful event in London and wanted to bring it up North with him. After his suggestion I thought I had to explain to him that the term "bringing something up North" to Hale normally means a trip to KD or Haber's World. We are the South! The Rabbi started to explain the concept of the event "Cholent Fest", an evening of Cholent, Craft Ales and Music. He had come to me, not only because I was one of only four people between the age group of 25-30 in Shule that day, but also because of my connection to the infamous Cholent Connoisseur blog. We discussed the idea of hosting an event to engage with everyone, from those who regularly attend Shule events to those who may not normally choose to spend their evenings at the local temple.

Following the Chagim we decided to meet up and plan the event. One Thursday night I visited the Rabbi at his house, we shared beers and cholent and wrote up a plan.....the venue,



the order of the evening and who would be supplying the cholent. Dovid's Deli was top of the list, a diamond very much in the rough, sitting on Leicester Road. Having talked up the majesty of Dovid Weiss' cholent to Rabbi Binstock, I had to get Dovid on board.

Trying to get hold of Dovid Weiss is like tracking a snow leopard. Eventually I got hold of him and he didn't really "get it", but told me to come into the shop and we could chat. When arriving at Dovid's Deli one doesn't quite know what to expect; this is the tardis for cholent lovers. A combination of policemen, Chasidim and children barge you out of the way as you try and navigate the shop floor. Having worked out a fair price with Dovid we were good to go!

Twenty-four hours before the event all of the contestants crammed into the Shule kitchen to prepare the best cholent they had ever made. Soaked beans were strewn across the work tops, potato peelings flew across the room whilst competitors tried to steal tips and tricks from one another. One by one contestants finished their masterpieces and plugged them in to stew for the night.

The big night was finally here and as the room started to fill up the judges took their seats. Even before the cholent had taken full effect the Cholent Connoisseur was suffering from a case of verbal diarrhoea. Sitting on his right was Ed Shaerf, the Chef, with his sophisticated palate. To his left was the South African born Rebetzen Leanne, expressing her love, not of Sephardi cholent but rather Safari cholent. Slowly but surely the judges worked their way through all eight cholents. The crowd having had to loosen their belts a notch waited with bated breath as the Cholent Fest 2020 King or Queen took home their Cholent Champion Chalice. As the scores were revealed a tie was announced. The judges had to deliberate further, discussing flavour, colour, viscosity and finesse. Then a decision was reached. Rabbi Dovid Lewis' name was declared and the crowd erupted into applause.

More importantly though, an event that celebrated a Jewish food dating back to the 12th century was something to behold. Following the event my only concern was for the state of the sewage system across Hale on Friday morning. I could picture the headline "Fatberg brought on by Hamburger".

Theo Hamburger



This Pesach brings hope, mixed with trepidation.

At ZAKA, we approach this Pesach with awe – at the size and scope of the task ahead.

As Israel's premier search, rescue and recovery volunteer organisation, ZAKA is constantly training and improving its abilities and equipment to respond to multiple challenges. Be it terror, natural disaster or any mass casualty incident in Israel or globally, ZAKA volunteers are ready to provide emergency first response and specialist rescue and recovery services.

But we need your support!

Being ready and prepared to respond at a moment's notice comes at a high price. We must ensure that all relevant emergency medical supplies and search and rescue equipment are in place and up to date.

This Pesach, please donate generously so that ZAKA is indeed ready for whatever tomorrow brings...



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**Alan's family will be with him
round his seder table**

But he'll be all alone

**Never in our lifetimes have so many already
vulnerable people faced such prolonged isolation.**

**As Manchester's largest Jewish social care charity,
The Fed is doing everything possible to support
and protect those in greatest need through these
unprecedented times.**

Your support has never been more vital
Support The Fed's Pesach Appeal

0161 772 4800
thefed.org.uk/donate-online/

Local Charities

The Fed

Every day as I make my way to my office at The Fed on the third floor of Heathlands Village, I stop to chat to some of the delightful residents who happen to be around - sitting in the reception area reading the morning paper or watching people coming and going; coming out of shule or on their way to breakfast.

Some I have known for many years; others I have only had the privilege of getting to know over the last few weeks. Either way, I love these encounters - sharing a joke, discussing current affairs or sympathising with each other over the weather.

I'm no different to any of my colleagues. Whatever our role, even if this does not directly involve providing care to people, we make time for those who live in what is our place of work.

These numerous interactions, along with the many social activities taking place daily at Heathlands Village, mean that our residents - even those with no family or friends to visit them - are NEVER alone. They are cared for, given attention, and nurtured. They feel valued and loved.

Tragically, the same cannot be said for many of the people The Fed supports and who live outside of Heathlands Village in the wider Greater Manchester Jewish Community

For many of the thousands of people we support each year, life is lonely. Painfully lonely. Either they have no living family or what family they do have, live out of town and often abroad.

For some, the ONLY contact they have with another human being is a visit from one of our dedicated volunteers or from a Fed social worker.

According to Vivek H Murphy, a former Surgeon General of the United States, loneliness kills. It poses a greater threat to health than obesity, and its life-shortening effects are comparable to smoking 15 cigarettes a day. Which is why The Fed places such an enormous emphasis on combatting this terrible scourge.

I often tell people that much of our work is life-enhancing but often it is even more than that - it is lifesaving. And this is particularly true where loneliness is concerned. I have seen it with my own eyes.

I have visited clients of The Fed who have told me that without our support they would have died. They would have had no human interaction; never have left the house; their mental

health would have deteriorated; they'd have been left to flounder in a sea of debt, poverty and misery and either died of natural causes due to loneliness or taken their own lives.

The work and challenges The Fed faces in supporting people in our community who are most vulnerable and in need, literally keeps me awake at night. Not just because of the despair and the level of need that is out there. Not just because I am driven to tell people about it, so we smash the perception that all Jewish people are wealthy, happy and safe. But because The Fed needs half a million pounds a year to run its Community Services and 95% of this must come from voluntary donations. If we don't manage to raise that money each year people will die. It is that stark.

So as we prepare our beautiful Seder tables; plan fun activities to keep our children and grandchildren engaged in the proceedings and we look forward to a night of family warmth, identity and tradition across generations and the Jewish world, please spare a thought for the many in our community who will be sitting alone - not just this Seder night - but every night of the year.

For them Seder night is NOT any different to any other night.

Please, for their sakes, support The Fed so we can carry out our vital work, meet the increasing demand for our services and continue to save lives.

Raphi Bloom
Director of Fundraising & Marketing



Local Charities

Yom Hashoah Manchester 2020

Please save the date in your diaries for this year's Yom Hashoah memorial. The event will take place:-

ON Tuesday April 21st

TIME 19:45 prompt

**AT The Bridgewater Hall,
Manchester City Centre**

Seventy five years after the liberation of Auschwitz, we must all strive to ensure that the murder of 6,000,000 Jews and others is not relegated to a footnote in history.

We are honoured to be joined by John Wood, the son of Major Berney, who as a 25 year old army officer, was amongst the first to enter the gates of Belsen and to witness the horrors there.

Major Berney could never forget the images of death, starvation and the sheer brutality of mankind that had been hidden to the world. His son has told us that ever since his father laid open his experiences he has felt compelled to tell as many people as he can about this gruesome chapter of the Holocaust, in the hope that it might help prevent future atrocities.

The event is entirely free. For further details including transport from the various shules please contact the Yom Hashoah Manchester helpline on 0161 925 7515 or visit their website www.yomhashoahmanchester.org.uk

Please join us and encourage your friends, family and children to attend this momentous occasion where we honour our beloved survivors in a respectful and befitting manner.

Shelley Ferster

Yom Hashoah Manchester have taken the very difficult decision to postpone our Manchester communal commemoration for Yom Hashoah 2020.

We will be distributing candles from The Yellow Candle Project, allowing anyone who wishes, to commemorate Yom Hashoah.

Please email yomhashoahmanchester@gmail.com with details of where you would like your candle to be delivered. Details of Yom Hashoah 2021 will be made in due course. Thank you for your understanding. Stay safe and be well at this difficult time.



The Friendship Circle

I love going to the Friendship Circle – it's the best part of my week.

One of my favourite things is going to the 'drop in' session on a Tuesday afternoon between 1.30 and 3pm where we can chat over a cup of tea.

I also love going to the 'hang out' session which is every second Saturday night where we have pizza and beers.

Esty Bruck is their Programme Director; she organises all sorts of fun events and activities which include bowling and laser quest and nights out. There are also annual trips to the seaside and zoo.

Esty also makes the best Challah bread in Manchester which she gives to me and my friends to eat on Shabbos.

All of the staff are lovely, in particular, Aaron Lowe, who is my best friend - he also gives me lifts home after nights out.



The Friendship Circle really is the best!

David Raynes

To volunteer or make a donation to The Friendship Circle please contact Beverley Rubin

beverley@friendship-circle.org.uk 0161 792 1792

Children and Youth

Head Girl

My name is Ruby Knopf and I am in Year 6 at North Cheshire Jewish Primary school. Some of you may not know but a few months ago I was chosen to be Head Girl.

It was such a huge honour to be awarded the badge, but it is not really about the badge – it's about being a team player, caring for others and about wanting to make changes for the better.

I would never have thought of being Head Girl if it hadn't been for my family and friends urging me to go for the role. I would never have the confidence I have today if Hale Nursery hadn't taught me how to make friends, play and work together. Later when I moved to NCJPS the teachers encouraged me to work hard, face challenges and be the best person I could. Of course, my fantastic Dad and fantastic friends have been there through thick and thin.

So, with the other members of the head team, I am keen to be the voice of others at our school and make improvements with the help of our Head Teacher, Mr Woolf.

One of the things I do as Head Girl is hold a "support clinic" every week where we lend a friendly ear to the other pupils with concerns in an attempt to support them.

As I look forward to moving on to secondary school, I realise that I have been very fortunate to be part of such fantastic communities through Shule and NCJPS. I hope that I can take with me the values that I've learned - respect, resilience, positivity and teamwork.

Ruby Knopf



Shabbat: Our Gift From Hashem

Shabbat is a holy day, the day Hashem blessed as a day of rest for us. Shabbat represents tradition, hope and union. It also represents the beauty of Judaism and how we appreciate and celebrate as a community.

To welcome and celebrate Shabbat with family and friends, we light candles, pray, sing songs and eat some of our favourite dishes. We embrace and cherish these traditions and holiness in our Hale nursery. Every Friday the children take turns playing Shabbat Mummy and Shabbat Daddy while the brothers, sisters and guests gather around the Shabbat table.

Shabbat Mummy lights the candles (holding the teacher's hand) and says the brocha and the rest join in to say 'amen'. Shabbat Daddy and his family then go off to our pretend shule whilst singing Shabbat songs including Lecha Dodi. Upon their return from shule, the family is greeted with wine (grape juice!) and warm challah. Shabbat Daddy makes the brachot and we all join in singing Shabbat songs. What a wonderful way to end the week.

We have had so much pleasure in having Rebbetzen Leanne Binstock to welcome the children, parents and grandparents from our own and the wider community. This all makes our Shabbat even more special,

We learn that the traditions of Shabbat are plentiful yet humble. Shabbat brings us special moments and memories which we hope our children will always hold dear.

We do hope we can share this wonderful Shabbat experience with you all soon.

Tara & Roya Mofarah



Hale Youth In 6 Months!

2 Youth Directors

40 Weekly Events

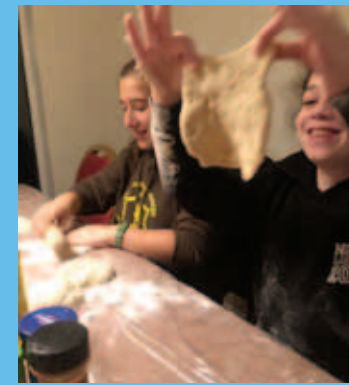
25 Shabbat Morning Youth Services

120+ Youth

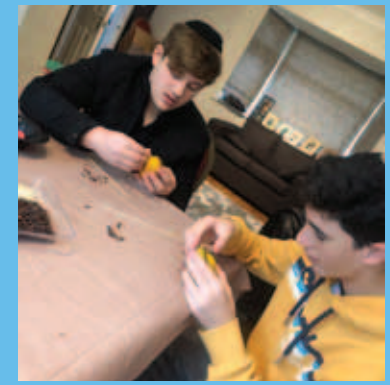
The past Six month in Hale have been an honour. We have had an amazing time meeting all the youth and their families. Thank you for welcoming us with such open arms and for all the positive feedback and helpful suggestions. To all the youth we haven't met there's still plenty of time so please don't be shy and get involved!

Here are some pictures to reflect on the past six months we've had together. The events we've help range from children's services on Shabbat to Sixth form Friday night dinners. We have some exciting new programmes starting after Pesach such as Anim Zemiroth club and Shabbat afternoon football fun! So please look out for details.

Wishing you a Good Yom Tov,
Tamara and Daniel Haffner
Please get in touch on 07907 887454



Challah Bake



Etrog Basamim Making Fifa and Frapachinos



Cup Cake Decorating



Chinese Friday Night Dinner Becoming Bar Mitzvah



Ice Cream Kiddush Bat Mitzvah Class- Gift Challenge Friday Night Dinner Becoming Bar Mitzvah



Football Screenings



Mussaf Discussion and Kiddush



Rosh Chodesh



Youth Take Over



Hamentaschen Baking



Rosh Chodesh



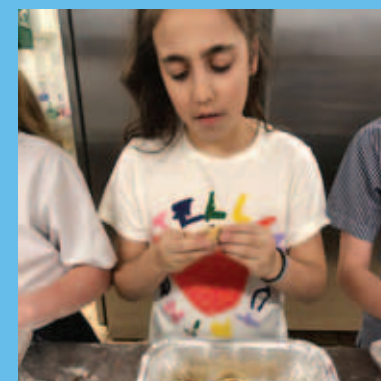
Cholent Fest



Etrog Basamim Making



Becoming Bar Mitzvah



Bat Mitzvah Class



Bat Mitzvah Class-Looking In The Mirror



Babies and Bagels ... to suit all ages!

Charlotte Sapier née Cohen -
“Like most new mums, weekday mornings in our house are pretty chaotic with two girls aged 2 years and 6 months. But Wednesday mornings at Babies and Bagels has become the highlight of our week.

I don't know any other place which is great for both our children and where I can have a fun filled morning, followed by an amazing lunch, all at a cost of only £6! It is therefore no surprise that grandparents can often be seen enjoying themselves at B&B too.

I first went to B&B when my eldest, Mila, was 8 weeks old. I remember being a little anxious at first as, joining the South Manchester community from Leeds, I was worried I wouldn't know anyone and might feel uncomfortable.

I could not have been more wrong!

The friendliness of the mums from different backgrounds and living all around South Manchester was so warm and welcoming. I have made my closest “mum” friends from the group and once I had my youngest, Minnie, I couldn't wait to start going again.

Massive thanks to Elisheva Bloch who works tirelessly, with the support of Tovah Ellituv, to ensure that this stimulating

group meets Wednesday mornings during term time at Hale Shule. We are continuously treated to a wide array of activities - from home made sensory boxes to external music classes and even paddling pools in the summer. The activities are pretty much suitable for babies from newborn until 3 to 4 years old. Actually...much older than even that. Just ask my mum!

I took both my girls from a very young age and even though they were a little young to join in with all activities there was still plenty to engage them at the same time as being a great opportunity for me to meet new friends. I would definitely encourage anyone to give it a try!”

And from Grandma Angela -

“Speaking as a Grandma, ‘Babies and Bagels’ is so much more than its name’s sake. Indeed, a more appropriate name would be ‘fun and delicious lunch!’

I sometimes pop along. It's such a great atmosphere, other grandmas and 'pas are there too. Ironically now it's our children and grandchildren who are friends and doing the school run! Nothing like a feeling of déjà vu. It's lovely!”

Charlotte Sapier and Angela Cohen



It has been an absolute delight to be able to hold our weekly Babies and Bagels sessions here in Hale Shule.

I extend special thanks to Tova Ellituv for her help and to all the lovely babies, toddlers, mums and dads, grandmas and grandpas for their regular visits and in particular a big thank you to Charlotte Sapier and Angela Cohen for the kind words they have shared with our Gesher readers!

My involvement in Babies and Bagels, a Hale Trust activity which has grown in momentum and popularity, has become a pure gift.

Fitting in with NCJPS term dates, we meet, with a target user base of babies and toddlers up to age 2 years, in the Pearl Suite on Wednesdays 10.30am to 12.30 at a cost of £6.

Each week, we invite a professional children's activity provider to present

educational programmes and to interact with the children and adults.

Our providers include “Little Groovers”, “Caterpillar Music”, “Hartbeeps” and “J Star”. There are also special events and activities organised for festivals such as Chanukah and Purim.

In keeping with our ‘education’ theme, we also do our best to treat our hungry little (and not so little!) diners to healthy lunches. And so, by request, here are a couple of my recipes.

Why not come and taste Babies and Bagels in person? We should love to see and feed you! Here are a couple of taster recipes to whet your appetites.

Elisheva Bloch

Recipe

PAK CHOI (BOK CHOY) SALAD

Ingredients

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Slivered almonds | Chow mein noodles |
| Sunflower seeds | Green onions |
| Pumpkin seeds | Bok choy |
| Raisins | |

Dressing

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| ½ cup sugar | 2tbsp soy sauce - |
| ¼ cup olive oil | bring to boil over |
| ¼ cup cider vinegar | medium, heat |
| | remove and cool |

Method

- Toast 1/2 cup of seeds in oven flat on baking sheet for 8-10 min then set aside
- Place 1 shredded bok choy and 6 green onions chopped in large bowl, drizzle dressing. Add nuts, raisins, noodles and toss.

Recipe

BANANA CAKE

Ingredients

- 3 very ripe bananas mashed
- 1 ¼ cups flour
- 1 cup Demerara sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp baking soda
- ¼ cup oil

Method

- Mix all together and add half cup chocolate chips
- Bake at 180° for 35 minutes



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Education

The Hale 'DafYomi' Chabura

"DafYomi"

"A page-a-day", in one defining sentence is: The daily study of a double sided page of the Babylonian Talmud.

Through this fantastic method, one is able to complete all 2711 pages of the 'Gemara' in a cycle of seven and a half years. The Siyum HaShas marks both the end of the previous cycle and the beginning of the next, and is characterised by inspiring speeches, singing and dancing with the last one being in early January this year and the largest Siyum worldwide took place at the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey with a sell-out crowd of over 90,000 Jews. The next Siyum HaShas is scheduled for June 2027.

Obviously, this programme must have some significance and importance but what is it?

There are many important factors about this tremendous course; one being the simple fact that it is Torah and the study of Torah is vital to every Jewish individual. But another underlying reason for DafYomi's importance is the fact that it's a strong stimulus for the unification of World Jewry. This was the idea proposed by Rav Meir Shapiro in 1923 when the Jewish Nation was not at its strongest, both physically and spiritually and something needed to be done.

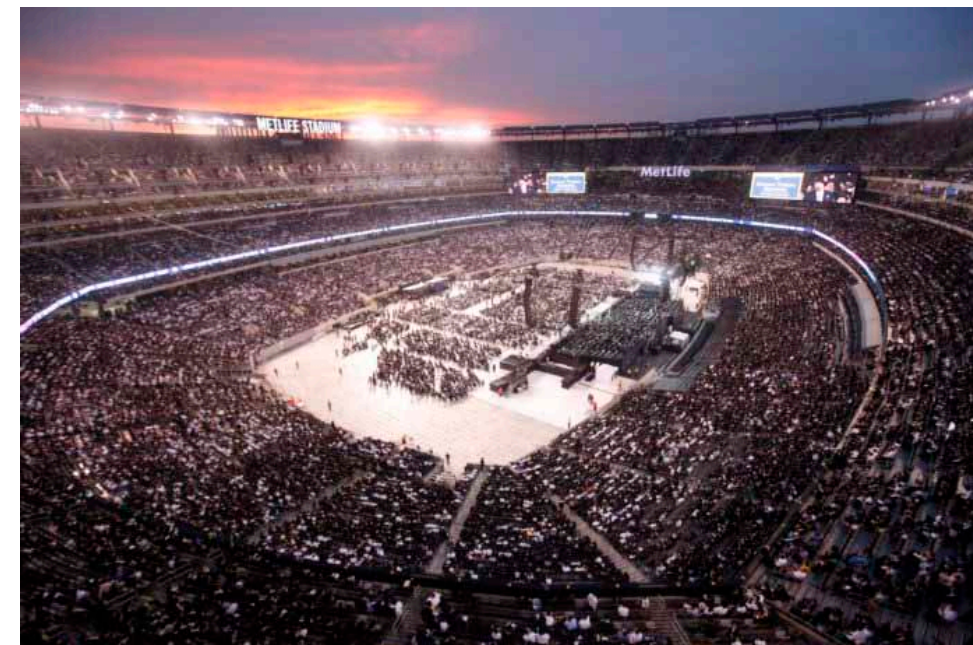
Rav Meir Shapiro, the Rosh Yeshiva of "Yeshivas Chachmei Lublin", stated at the "World Agudas Yisroel" conference in Vienna – 1923:

"What a great thing! A Jew travels by boat and takes Gemara Berachot under his arm. He travels for 15 days from Eretz Yisrael to America, and each day he learns the Daf. When he arrives in America, he enters a Beis Hamidrash in New York and finds Jews learning the very same Daf that he studied on that day, and he gladly joins them. Another Jew leaves the States and travels to Brazil or Japan, and he first goes to the Beis Hamidrash, where he finds everyone learning the same Daf that he himself learned that day. Could there be greater unity of hearts than this?"

This is in fact true because no individual could imagine what happened next in history and that "unity of hearts" would be essential and vital for the continuation of the Jews through

the horrific years of the Holocaust. Today, at the end of each seven and a half year cycle, the Siyum HaShas is dedicated to the Six Million that were lost.

The DafYomi bug has spread to Hale and every Thursday, Rabbi Binstock leads a "Talmud Shiur" based on the week's DafYomi contents. It's immediately after Shacharis on Thursday for 45 minutes and a delicious breakfast is provided.



And not only that, but every morning, at 6:00am, Rabbi Aharon Bloch leads an incredible DafYomi 'Chabura' – 'Study Group', in the Beis Hamidrash before Shule begins, where we learn the daily page of Talmud. I say 'Chabura' meaning that it is more of an interactive discussion as opposed to a lecture. At the moment, there are four of us in the 'Hale DafYomi Chabura'. We have recently completed the first of 63 Tractates – Maseches Berachos; Mazal Tov!

On behalf of the Chabura, I would like to thank R'Aharon for giving his time to provide us with the opportunity to take part in the extremely special DafYomi cycle. He has helped us to grasp the intellectually challenging pages of the Holy Talmud.

Sammy Fine

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Education

The Hale Adult Hebrew Education Trust (HAHET) Winter Recap

We have been able to have some very memorable events this winter!

Saturday Nights – As Shabbat terminates early, we have used the opportunity for special learning and bonding with grandparents, parents and children.



Rabbi Akiva Tatz – The moral discussion around driverless cars.



R' Lazer Brody – Emunah and happiness.



Joint events with the other local Shules including grand Chanukah party.

Also, the unique Tu Bishvat party with Sruli Portnoy

See review by Shai Portnoy on page 42.

In a packed Pearl Suite, we heard first-hand the riveting tale from holocaust survivor **Josef Lewkowicz**.

The Survivor's Revenge – from hunted to hunter. See review by Maurice Gould on page 39.

Our flagship - Partners in Torah programme!

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We now run close to 80 learning sessions per week in the Bet Midrash!!

Many other regular learning and social programmes. Including Babies and Bagels, DafYomi (see separate articles page 35), Shmooze n Booze, Wednesday night football, Thursday Talmud shiur, Tuesday Nach shiur, Friday breakfast shiur and Shabbos morning Chassidus shiur followed regularly by Café Tefillah discussion.

Shiurim at home!

Whether a one-off shiur by Rabbi Binstock or myself, or a series of classes both on FaceTime and in person.



Much much more!!

Elisheva and I feel so privileged to have been part of this wonderful community for 4 years! Time flies when you're having fun!!

May we share many more special moments for many years to come.

Wishing you all Chag Kasher Vesameach!

Aharon & Elisheva



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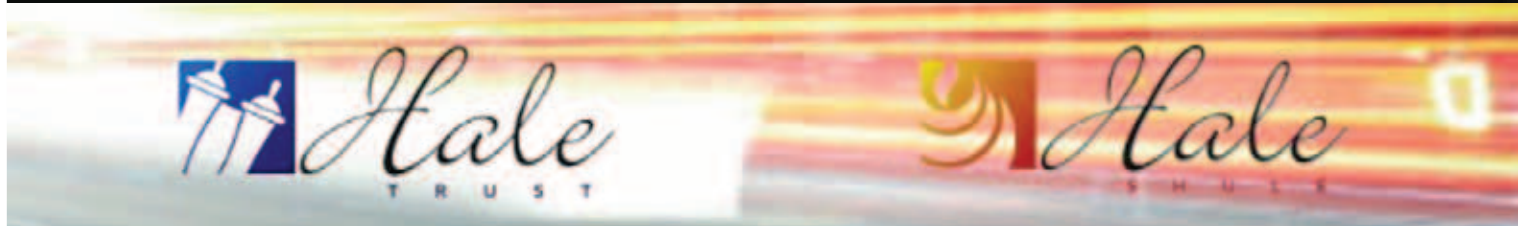
26th Feb 2020

“The OFSTED gender agenda in schools: crisis or opportunity?”

Rabbi Ariel Abel

19th March 2020

For more information contact: Craig Lewis 07967809065



Education

Josef Lewkowicz - The Survivor's Revenge

On 19th November the Shule hall was packed out for a very special evening. We were privileged to be in the company of Yosef (Josef) Lewkowicz watching a film telling his story as a Holocaust survivor who made it his mission after the war to hunt down some of the most evil Nazis in history – hence the name of the film, “The Survivor’s Revenge”.

Yosef was born in Krakow, Poland and survived six concentration camps, which in itself is amazing, but what Yosef did after the war, despite discovering that he was the sole surviving member of his family, was even more amazing. Yosef worked as an intelligence officer for the US army and went on to capture Nazi war criminal Amon Goeth, the Plaszow concentration commandant, after a three week search. Yosef was also a key witness against many other Nazi officers.

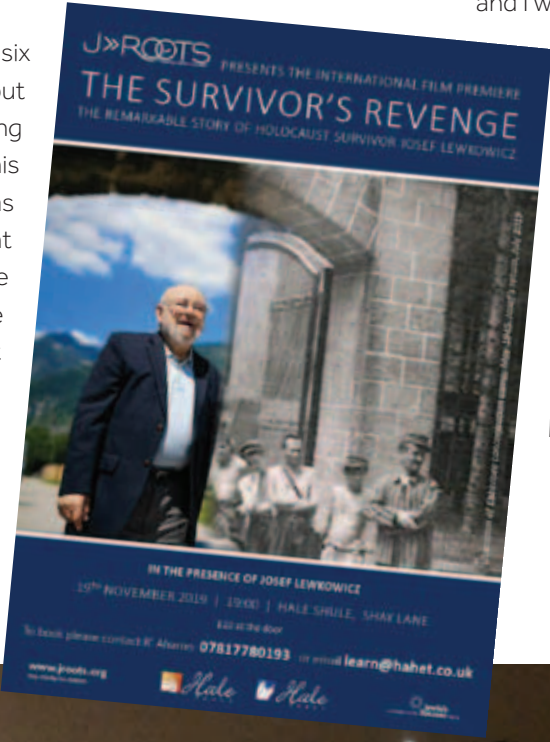
But as well as hunting Nazis, Yosef also sought out hidden Jewish children throughout Poland, many of whom he found living in monasteries and orphanages. By bringing them back to their Jewish lives he saved the Jewish souls of hundreds of Jewish children.

Yosef is now 93 and he still has a strong voice and a determination to continue to tell his story. He feels he has a responsibility to share his experience and his history. He knows that the Yiddishkeit and the history he carries inside him are not his alone, but rather they are his to share, because he has the freedom to do so.

Yosef is a remarkable man and we are so grateful and honoured that he chose to share his story with us in Hale. I went to Poland on the last trip organised by Rabbi Portnoy, and I would urge anyone who has

not yet been, to sign up for the upcoming trip with Rabbi Binstock. There will undoubtedly be harrowing moments but in so many more ways it is an uplifting experience and one that will (and should) be remembered forever.

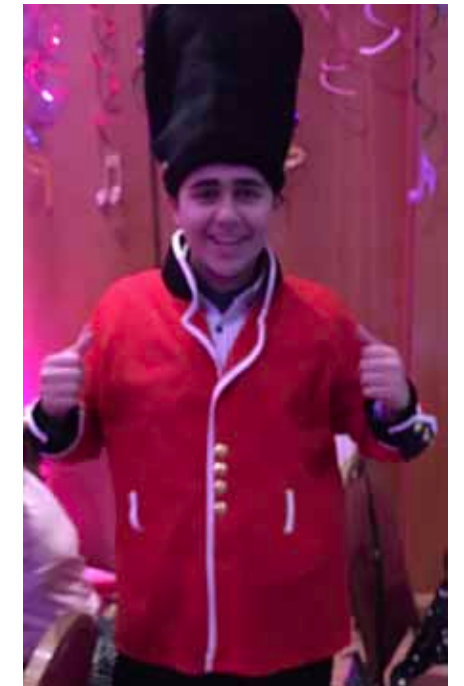
Maurice Gould



Shule of Rock - The Purim Party



For more fun "ShuleofRock" Purim photos please use this link
<https://m.facebook.com/bouncenpaintphoto/?ref=bookmarks>



Education

Tu B'Shvat Seder: New Tradition - Ancient Basis

Don't be perplexed if this doesn't sound familiar, but the Tu B'Shvat Seder is one of the more unheard-of celebrations of Judaism.

Surprisingly, it is not, as I previously thought in my youthful naivety, an invention of Rabbi Amir Ellituv. Instead, it has roots going back 450 years to the times of The Arizal. However, Rabbi Amir has reintroduced this minhag to our community, with the Seder going strong for two years. But what exactly does it involve? What is it like? Let me explain.

The Hale Tu B'Shvat Seder isn't a Kabbalistic ritual as is the original, but the main principles remain. The evening started with each person reading a section of a script talking about the process of the Seder. As Tu B'Shvat is a celebration of the trees and its fruit, the Seder revolved around eating five sets of fruits that were differentiated by how they're eaten, with each different type reflecting a level of spirituality.

Of course, in typical Jewish fashion, a cheeky l'chaim here and there was enjoyed. And as with a Pesach Seder, here too there are four mandatory cups of wine/grape juice to be consumed. This time, however, each glass had to be mixed in specific proportions of red and white wine to parallel the spirituality levels of the fruit. Rabbi Amir also provided some date vodka and Etrog limoncello to let people try something new and different. And when there's alcohol, there's a great atmosphere...

I was really happy to share the experience with Zeidy Gabriel Spitzer who was visiting from Israel. I was also fortunate enough to have my uncle, Sruli, here at the time to provide some musical entertainment as well as talk about his experience of losing his house in a local forest fire and what good he took from it. A story that inspired all who were there to listen since it invoked the theme of rising up from tough situations and utilising them for your own advantages.



To put it with a Tu B'Shvat perspective, when life gives you lemons, make lemonade. Jokes aside, although there was an obvious juxtaposition, Sruli's positivity really inspired all of us, and his singing lightened everyone's mood, (definitely no bias), though I hope others that were there can testify that what I say is true.

Niggunim were sung, good times were had and a warm sense of unity and spirituality (whether genuine or alcohol-induced) filled the room. It was an experience to remember, and hopefully next year, I'll see you all there at the revived tradition that we preserve here in our community.

Shai Portnoy



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