

# geshermagazine גשר

2019 Pesach Edition 5779



The Hale Community Magazine

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Many thanks to our contributors, including Karen Herman Wright for the photograph of the Seder plate on the front cover, and to Gold Comms, without whom Geshher would not have been possible.

### DISCLAIMER

Please note that the ideas, views and opinions expressed in the articles in the Geshher magazine are those of the individual author(s). They do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the editors, the Rabbi, Executive or Council of the Hale and District Hebrew Congregation.



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# From the Rabbi's Study



Dear Friends,

**Pesach is a time for new beginnings! And we are really looking forward to starting this new chapter together with you. I would like to begin by paying tribute to Rabbi and Ruthie Portnoy for the magnificent work they have done for Hale Shule and for the wider community. Having had a chance to connect with them over the past few months has been a real honour and privilege for Leanne and myself, and we wish them every success for their upcoming Aliyah!**

In the Hagadah we read how the wise son asks his question: "mah havoda hazos lachem?" – "What is this service to you?" (Ex 12:26). A child sees their parents celebrating Pesach, and they want to know what it's all about.

What is fascinating is that we don't seem to find a record in the Torah of any other questions that children might ask – apart from this one. I could think of several mitzvot which would appear to be more challenging for a child to comprehend than celebrating Pesach. Why do we dwell in huts and take four species on Sukkot? Why do we blow a ram's horn on Rosh Hashanah? So why are we specifically told that the children will ask about Pesach?

I'd like to share a lovely idea I heard from Rav Yoel Bin Nun (one of the founders of Yeshivat Har Etzion) which helps to explain this question. Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot also known as the Shalosh Regalim, were the Three Pilgrimage Festivals. Our ancestors would gather in Jerusalem from all corners of the land to celebrate together. There is something unique, however, about Pesach.

The other two have an agricultural element to them. Shavuot is at the beginning of the harvest season, and we would be thankful for the early harvest and bring the Bikkurim (first fruits). Sukkot is at the end harvest season where we would be grateful for all that has been produced.

Imagine you were a child travelling to Jerusalem with your family to celebrate and thank G-d. You could understand why you might be going at the beginning of the harvest season, to be thankful for the first fruits. You could also understand why there is much to celebrate at the end of the harvest season, when all the food has been gathered in. But on

Pesach? You would be travelling up to Jerusalem empty handed! The produce is just beginning to sprout in the fields, there is no food to bring with – why are we celebrating? "mah havoda hazos lachem?" What is all the fuss about? There doesn't seem to be anything tangible here to celebrate.

The answer is that in Judaism we don't just focus on the blessings which have arrived. We are not just thankful for the food in our basket, we are also thankful for the potential.

And this message has its roots in the Pesach story. At the time of leaving Egypt, we are told that we weren't a particularly worthy people, but we had potential. G-d sees our potential and redeems us. So at Pesach time, even though the fields are empty, we celebrate because of the potential.

I share this message with you because we are about to start in Hale, and ahead of us lies loads of potential. We are looking forward to meeting you all! We are looking forward to new friendships, creating happy memories, growth and development, Torah study, meaningful and inspired Jewish living – there is so much potential to celebrate here.

Leanne, Motti, Didi and Atara join me in wishing you and your families a chag kasher v'sameach – a happy and uplifting Pesach!

## Editors' Message

**We're pleased to present the latest Pesach edition of Gesher to your doorstep! Gesher magazine is something we're not shy to admit that we're very proud of here at Hale Shule.**

This Pesach, come gather round your personal copy of Gesher. You'll find something for all the family, thanks to the fabulous variety of articles written by our talented members!

We know that you're going to enjoy reading about Alex Braunstein's first 5 years in Manhattan; pet lovers in the community will want to find out about Ollie, AKA "The Mitzvah Dog"; Dr Shadman Zaman, the 1st Bangladeshi National to visit Israel is currently living in Prestwich and has an incredible story to tell; Marnie Riches, Hale member and author of crime fiction, offers sensible and timely advice on keeping our teenagers safe and away from knife crime; Mia and Rosie make dramatic cuts for Zichron Menachem; we present two tasty and simple Pesach recipes for your delectation; we reflect on the success and ruach of Shabbat UK chez South Manchester; as we welcome Rabbi Binstock and Rebbetzen Leanne to the community, we have a new Q & A courtesy of our Rabbi Elect.

As always, this is our opportunity to remind you that Gesher is only as successful as the articles it features; and as we, as editors, never like to rest on our laurels, we invite you to send your submissions for our next Rosh Hashanah edition ([gesher@haleshule.com](mailto:gesher@haleshule.com)). We especially enjoy receiving articles from the younger members of our community. Perhaps you've not yet had a go or not thought your contribution worthy of going to print. Well, you may be surprised at what talents are unleashed as you put pen to paper (or rather finger to keyboard!) Unusual hobbies, exciting experiences, recipient of an award, volunteering in the community...all worthy of our readership! Favourite joke, recipe, riddle? Book of Jewish interest to review? A poem you're proud of? A trip you think we'd like to find out about? Please do come forward and let us read about all of these...

Last, but by no means least, we want to extend our very best wishes to our beloved Rabbi and Ruthie, as they make their big move to Eretz. We wish them lots of mazal, good health and continued nachas from their family, and much success, as they embark on their new life in Yerushalayim.

**As always, the team of Gesher editors wishes the whole community a Chag Kasher V'Sameach.**

## The Chief Rabbi's Pesach Message 5779

The two central themes of Pesach – peoplehood and freedom – have the potential to either provide great blessing or pose great danger to our society.

The Exodus from Egypt paved the way for the Israelites to become a people. Upon deliverance from slavery, we were, for the first time, a “kingdom of priests and holy people” - a nation with a shared history and common destiny.

The Exodus also provided us with freedom from oppressive Egyptian rule. After 210 bitter years of enslavement, self-determination was finally within our grasp.

Like many blessings in life, even these wonderful gifts of peoplehood and freedom can be squandered, distorted and even exploited if we are not wary of a force which is increasingly a feature of our political and social discourse.

Peoplehood provides us with our group identity - a sense that we are not alone; we feel valued as members of a worthy collective. But it can also be used to create a distrust of the other – a poisonous ‘them and us’ narrative. Recent years have seen the emergence of ‘identity politics’ – the formation of exclusive alliances based upon group identity. When used to exclude and scapegoat others, it takes a positive force to its most extreme, thereby transforming it into a negative.

Similarly, freedom is an essential value for any civilised society. But, as Holocaust survivor Victor Frankl said, “freedom is in danger of becoming arbitrary unless it is lived in terms of responsibility”.

At the very dawn of creation, the Torah describes how, on each day, Hashem saw what He had created and declared it to be ‘tov’ – it was ‘good’. But on the sixth day, when Hashem created humankind, He observed that it was ‘tov me’od’ – ‘very good’.

A fascinating but challenging Midrash states, “Instead of reading ‘me’od’ read ‘mavet’ – death.” What could be the connection between ‘very’ and ‘death’?

This Midrash is surely warning us against ‘very-ness’; a type of zealotry which takes what we believe to such an extreme that it can cause death and destruction.

We live in an increasingly polarised world. Religious, political and social strands of zealotry, which were once confined to the fringes of our society are now entering the mainstream. Across the globe, far left and far right politics are finding a degree of influence that was once unthinkable. Similarly, aggressive secularism and religious fundamentalism are finding their expression in crucial areas of public policy and creating significant challenges which will affect our society for generations to come.

The classic mistake is to respond to the ‘me’od’ – the ‘very-ness’ of others, with zealotry of our own. The Jewish way, which provides a timely model for our society, is for us to seek freedom tempered by responsibility and to celebrate our peoplehood, whilst respecting the right of others to do the same.

The shank-bone on our Seder plates represents the ‘Korban’, the special Pesach sacrifice. ‘Korban’ comes from the word ‘karov’ (close), indicating that it facilitates closeness to Hashem. This Pesach, let us recall a fundamental truth, too often overlooked: If we wish to come close to Hashem, we must first come closer to one another.

Valerie and I wish you a Chag Kasher Vesameach.



Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis  
March 2019 • Nisan 5779



# President's Report



## President's Report 2019

I'm glad to report, BH, that we are blessed with a healthy and dynamic Executive & Council which are firing on all cylinders. There are still gaps to fill in our portfolio, perhaps some more socials would be good, but those who have taken office are largely busy with some great work.....

Recently we had our second Exec Away Day at the Cottons Hotel Conference Centre. It would make sense that day time management sessions, like any normal work, have allowed us to cover far more than the week to week evening meetings that fill up our diary. We meet away from our own meetings! But it works and I hope this reading gives some insight on progress....

**A new Rabbi and Rebbetzen** - It took a little extra time but we have a new Rabbi & Rebbetzen on the way up to Hale. There is a real sense of excitement regarding what the Binstocks will bring to our thriving community.

The Executive has spent some precious hours with Reb Yisroel in Hale planning ahead to make sure we give us both the best chance of a great start in May. We hope you will find good opportunity to meet them soon into their new roles to assist in how they can meet the needs of our membership.

**Portnoys leaving** - It is the end of an era and the Portnoys will soon be literally on the first El Al plane out of Manchester. My parents only moved to Hale a couple of years before the Portnoys moved here. 32 years later, at our Rafi's Barmitzvah, we were reminded, from the pulpit noth, that I was one of the first Barmitzvah boys Rabbi Portnoy taught in Hale, and Rafi was the last...fitting for us as Michelle and I have been blessed with a close relationship with Rabbi Joel and Ruthie all our married life and I can say they are no small reason why I have the privilege to write this report.



On that note, I truly hope so many of you will find ways to give a personal message. We could never calculate the extent of good they have done within our community and wider. NB We will have a farewell Kiddush on their last Shabbat on the 4th May.

**Building Project** - We are soon to embark on a building project and renovation programme to ensure our shule is in a fit shape to see us through some exciting years ahead.

A recent fundraising drive has already seen more than half the funds in place toward this project. We are so very grateful to them and the fundraising team to get this wonderful project off the ground.

We apologise in advance for some expected inconveniences. The Exec will do its utmost to communicate well on progress and the end result should be worth it with new offices, a multimedia suite, improved entrance and a renovation of the shule itself. Very exciting!

**Membership** - New members: I want to welcome any new or prospective new members to Geshher. This is a small window to a wonderful community and where what you put in can be repaid in friendships and a wholesome Jewish environment for life.

We hope some of our efforts will now be diverted to ensuring our community is able to present itself well to new members and to ensure much of the good work attracts others to become involved.

**Trustees & New Directors** - At the end of last month our new Charitable Limited Company became the new legal entity which will govern a more modern management structure. This was a natural moment to allow the existing Trustees to retire with some sincere and well earned pride. I still love to hear stories of when the shule was set up and who did what and why.

We have a great deal of thanks to give Philip Science, Mark Rubin, Francis Greibach, Stephen Cohen and their wives for the hours and long term burden of ultimate responsibility for the shule. Terry Krell has held on to become a Director, a sucker for punishment! His input and guidance in shule matters has always been so very well received and this continued service to us linking the old and new team is really appreciated.



We hope they will realise our appreciation with a Kiddush in their honour on their last Shabbat as Trustees and that they will remain closely involved shule life and support our new Directors – Nigel Esterkin, Mark Savinson, Linda Price & Stephen Cantor.

**HAHET Partnership** - Much work has gone into the remarkable Education Trust that provides adult Education, Youth Provision, events on Chagim, Summer Suedas and a lot more, to ensure it will continue to thrive under Rabbi Yisroel and Leanne. Simon Fine has chaired a group, of which I have been part, that allows a far greater and appreciated input by the shule management.

We will be entering a contract for provisions that have been and will be largely funded privately, and budgeting for an affordable level of funding as a communal contribution to HAHET.

The Executive and Council are in a strong position to also take on small but growing new responsibilities for some of the resources historically provided by the Education Trust. We hope this will usher in a wider support and receipt of all its amazing work currently managed by Rabbi Portnoy and Rabbi Aaron Bloch.

**H&S New policy** - This was a body of work that was badly needed to bring our community up to date in Health and Safety covering a huge

variety of activity. A massive shout out to Barry & Linda Price for many hours compiling and adopting practical policies for the years ahead and to Andrew Stone who has boldly gone forward in taking on the role to deliver it as H&S Manager.



At the beginning of March we had Shabbat UK – if the reach and engagement was a litmus test for the health of our community, there is much to celebrate. The full set of activities, about which every member of the shule was individually

contacted, was the envy of any shule in the UK. Nicola Fine pulled off a smasher with a visit from the Chief Rabbi to boot. We are very grateful to her and a great team for our best Shabbat UK yet.

This is just some of the work going on to ensure our amazing Jewish community continues to be relevant and inspiring to our members. I must personally and sincerely thank all members of Exec and Council for their hours of dedicated 'plate spinning' service to us all. What we have achieved since the last Geshher alone is remarkable and we are truly grateful.

As always I must thank my parents for continuing to give Michelle and me the inspiration to do what we do, to my children who allow me to go from meeting to meeting at home, and to my amazing wife for being just that.

Wishing you all a chag v kasher samayach and a wonderful time around the seder table with your family and friends.

**Ben Sallou**

**President's Joke... Minhag Hale.....**

A new Rabbi Bernstick is conducting his very first service at one of South

Manchester's most important shules. All is going well until he gets to the 'Shema' prayer - only half his congregation stand up. Those still seated start yelling 'sit down' to those standing and those standing start yelling 'stand up' to those sitting. Although Rabbi Bernstick is knowledgeable about much of the law, he doesn't know what to do. He thinks it must be something to do with the shule's tradition.

After the service, the new Rabbi consults Abe, the shule's oldest member. "I need to know, Abe, what is the shule's tradition with regard to the Shema prayer. Is the tradition to stand during this prayer?"

Abe replies, "No, that is not the tradition."

"So the tradition is to sit during Shema?" says Rabbi Bernstick.

Abe replies, "No, that is not the tradition."

"But," says Rabbi Bernstock, "this congregation argues all the time. They yell at each other about whether they should sit or stand and ..."

Abe interrupts, exclaiming, "Aha, THAT is the tradition!!"



# Treasurer's Report

## Fees

I am writing this just prior to the Shule's financial year-end 31st March. Budgeted fee income should be reached, and thank you to all those members who have assisted us in making the collection of fees as efficient as possible. Thanks also to the quarter of our members who have been able to help us by paying a voluntary levy amounting to nearly £25,000, which directly supports other members who are unable to pay full fees. Thank you also to those members who, whilst unable to pay full fees, have managed to give us some increase in their fees this year.

For those struggling with fees, we now have our Legacy Plan, allowing a member to defer fees, which can then eventually be paid from their estate. Members can contact me in confidence to explore this option and see if it would be of help to them.

For the record, we had 549 adult members as at 4th February, and of those only 61% paid full fees, the remaining 7% being associate members belonging to other shules, 17% being on reduced fees and 14% being young members on subsidised rates. Half our members are over 60, nearly a quarter over 70 and 10% over 80. Inevitably, many older members have fixed incomes depleted by current low interest rates and some younger members are encumbered with the large cost of childcare.

However, financial problems can affect any one of us, and we will always be flexible where a member can show us good cause to offer reduced fees. At the same time, members who can pay full fees, should do so. It is impossible to truly assess whether a member can

or can't afford to pay full fees, and I depend on the integrity of members not to plead hardship where there is none. Where a member pleads false poverty, they unfairly place their burden onto their fellow members, some of whom are honestly struggling and deserve our support.

## Profit/Loss

As predicted at the AGM, I expect that the Shule will lose money after depreciation this year, and there have been some exceptional items relating to the rabbinic succession process, and to the change in our status to a Company limited by guarantee. The changeover in status is planned for 1st April, and unfortunately this will entail opening a new Shule bank account and standing orders will need to be reopened with the new account details.

We have now managed to develop a process which will allow us to easily produce quarterly management accounts, and we will use the coming year to test this and assess its usefulness. Our administration is up to date, and I therefore expect to be able to produce draft accounts much earlier than previously. I will again provide a summary by cost centre, which I believe members found useful as part of the AGM pack.

In the coming year, we will benefit from a saving on Rabbinic costs, but it is too early to say how much of that will drop to our "bottom line". Meanwhile, we have identified maintenance work that must be done, and more that it is desirable to do, and I anticipate the need to spend at least £25,000. This is aside from the new building project under discussion.

## Burial Fund

As agreed at the AGM, £100,000 owed by the General Account to the Burial Fund, has now been transferred to the Burial Fund bank account. According to our actuarial review last year, the fund is now well-placed to meet its future obligations.

## Nursery

With a reduction in staffing through natural attrition, the Nursery should finish the year close to break even, despite the fall in the pupil roll over the year. We have 40 pupils in March compared to 46 at this time last year but we are hopeful of increasing that number. Fees increased in January to reflect increased costs, but remain competitive. Salaries are under review, with any increases to come on 1st April to coincide with the 1% increase in employer pension contributions.

## Grants

Stephen Quinn has joined our finance sub-committee, and is investigating opportunities to claim grants. We are hopeful that some of our projects in the coming year may qualify.

I'd like to thank Exec members, and my finance sub-committee, Tony Woolf, Edward Cobb, Maurice Gould and Stephen Quinn for the support they have given me, and are going to give me.

And finally, thanks to Suzanne, Josie, Janet and the Rabbi, who have yet again been inundated with emails and requests from me, and have borne them with good spirit and whole-hearted co-operation.

**David Zucker**

## Ladies' Guild

I have become the new chairman of the Ladies' Guild and I would like to thank Michelle Sallon for the amazing job she has done as Chairman for the past 6 years, and will continue to do as the Kiddush Coordinator.

I look forward to working with our Secretary Sylvia Dobkin and our Treasurer Ginni Steinberg.

I will co-ordinate the kitchen, and anyone wishing to use the kitchen should contact me.

To spread the workload and encourage more volunteers, the Ladies' Guild has appointed Coordinators who will work with teams to support the main events that occur during the year.

The Coordinators are -

*Remembrance Sunday – Ginni Steinberg and Sara Crammer*

*New Year Greetings – Sylvia Dobkin and Suzanne Cobb*

*Yom Kippur – Not yet confirmed*

*Simchat Torah – Suzanne Cobb and Marianne Hamburger*

*Chanukah Party – Not yet confirmed*

*Purim – Ginni Steinberg and Sara Crammer*

*Shavout – Not yet confirmed*

*Kiddush and Seudahs – Michelle Sallon*

*Kiddushim Bookings – Sue Sallon*

*Stone settings – Jennifer Zucker*

Our aim is to build a volunteer group of members willing to help at an event, even if it is only on the odd occasion. We recognise that many women in the Community have careers and family commitments and cannot make a regular commitment to community events, but volunteering can be fun and supporting a particular event does not have to mean an ongoing commitment.

If you think you can help please contact me or any of our Coordinators. We look forward to you joining us.

**Jennifer Zucker**

## Looking Forward to the Future and Feeling Grateful for the Past



We deeply appreciate the part all our children played in building the Hale Community, from acting as butlers, receptionists, waiters and waitresses to being responsible for showing up at minyanim when their peers were doing their 'own thing'. Feeling they were on show more often than not and waiting endlessly for Dad to come home from Shule or accepting him just not being available or present, they often ended up in other 'roles' that simply can't be committed to print out of respect for people's privacy.

The reward for all this is that, whoever in the world our children may meet, irrespective of background race or religion, they are totally at ease. Baruch Hashem, all of them have an ability to make total strangers feel comfortable whether on planes, trains or in business meetings, engaging with homeless people on the street, or simply welcoming people into their own homes and communities.

Growing up here, in the Hale Community, with all that that entailed, gave our children an education which cannot be offered in University other than the University of Life and from that, they all have a Doctorate.

Our final words just have to be Love Love Love ..... May you all feel love in your lives. Love of Hashem, Love of yourselves, love of your families, friends and love of your new Rabbi and Rebbetzen and their children. May you always love and be proud of the Hale Community shining its unique light in Anglo Jewry – I know we always will.

With much love, sincere gratitude and blessings for a Chag Kasher Vesameyach.

**Ruthie and Rabbi Joel**  
[www.2halvesofasoul.com](http://www.2halvesofasoul.com)

**Rabbi:-**

**Question:** What happens when the editors of Geshher - undoubtedly the best Shule Magazine we have ever seen - ask a Rabbi to write his last column ever?

**Answer:** He delegates it to his wife explaining; "that's what marriage is all about"....

**And so, Ruthie continues:-**  
Really?

Well, if I choose to don my therapist's hat/Sheitel/headscarf at this point, I could either talk about being in denial or I could try and explain all the deep felt mixed emotions that we and especially Rabbi Joel are feeling right now.

The joy, the sadness, the pleasure, the pain. The highs, the lows, the good, the bad, the beautiful and the ugly. The feeling of security and confidence that comes from the knowledge that Hale Shule will thrive and blossom under the Spiritual Leadership of Rabbi Yisroel and Leanne as well as the insecurity of not knowing exactly how our next venture is going to pan out.

Our overriding feeling right now is one of Hakarat Hatov - gratitude. Gratitude to Hashem for enabling us to serve this wonderful community and gratitude for all the love, generosity and warmth that we have received from so many.

Of course, we know that we are only human and have undoubtedly fallen short of expectations in the eyes of

some of you, not communicated well enough in the eyes of others and for this we can only say we are sorry.

Many times, more than I can count, friends or family members of ours have complained to us of all the things their Rabbi doesn't do. After quietly thinking to myself, I wonder if we are 'guilty' of the same thing, I always respond 'have you ever thought of speaking to him in person and letting him know your frustration'? Usually .... the answer is no.

Perhaps that is the strength of us as a people. We want perfection from leadership. But man wasn't created to be perfect. We leave that to angels.

Going forward, I feel confident that we will not lose contact with you all. A few thousand miles cannot separate us from 32 years of our parallel lives. You welcomed us and supported us and have been there for us as much as we have been there for you, especially in our own good and sad times and we thank every one of you.

Finally, the greatest thanks must go to our beloved children and grandchildren. Rabbis' children today, growing up in outlying communities, are considered to be 'children at risk'. Yes, we took that 'risk' and they haven't let us down.



## Shabbos Room by Ruthie Portnoy



**Bsd**

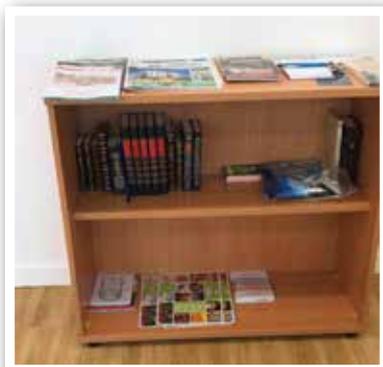
**It is Sunday morning and I have just returned home from my last ever Shabbos Room Rota which involves caring for the Shabbos Room in Wythenshawe hospital.**

'So what?' most may think but for me, and I imagine anyone else on the team, it means so much and I am feeling emotional.

On Friday, whoever is on duty throws out all the food from the fridge and last week's Jewish magazines and newspapers. We fill the urn, wash the floor and clean the cupboards and the sink. I am sure I give this mini kitchen much more love than my own. We place a white tablecloth, grape juice and mini challot on the table and make it as inviting as we can for anyone who is sadly in hospital over Shabbat.

Patients and visitors using the room could be our own Shule members, or people from other local Shules, or North Manchester. Sometimes people who are non affiliated to anything Jewish, 'other' than their heart and soul, need/want to make that Jewish connection when in hospital.

Although it's called a Shabbos Room, I think it really should be known as a Kosher Room - people are invited to access it any day of the week for coffee, snacks, comfort food including cakes, pot noodles and all sorts of other kosher items. As to the choice of food items and healthful eating - well you don't want to get me started on that one, do you? Suffice it to say that in order to have food with a long sell-by date it is perhaps not the most nutritious selection I have ever seen, but circumstances dictate and for now it's just wonderful that people can even have kugel, schnitzel and dips seven days a week. For weekdays everything has been thought of, from phone chargers, to reading glasses, pens paper.....



I am very happy and grateful that Sara Crammer has now fully taken over arranging the rota and overseeing the whole project. Should you ever wish to volunteer your time - which includes going to North Manchester to collect the food from EzraCare, setting up the room for Shabbat and then clearing it all away on Sunday or Monday - please contact Sara direct.



More importantly, perhaps you can help spread the word to your own friends who don't already know about the existence of this very special room. Unfortunately, it seems to be the best kept secret. The room is opposite the Chapel and the code can be obtained from any of the local Rabbis/Rebbitzins and any of the Shabbos Room Team, or from the Hospital Chaplaincy Department. The current team comprises :

**Sara Crammer**  
**Linda Price**  
**Michal and Shloime Abenson**  
**Natalie Zimmel**  
**Nicola Fine**  
**Ruth Taube**  
**Yaeli Davila**  
**Vivianne Greibach**

Looking forward to the day when sickness and illness is no more and the only people in hospital will be in the maternity department giving birth to healthy beautiful babies. May Mashiach arrive speedily in our days.

With extra special love and gratitude to all the team who makes this happen.

**Ruthie**





## Shule Office

Open Monday – Thursday 9.30am to 1.30pm  
 General Enquiries 0161 980 8846  
 Fax 0161 980 1802  
 Email info@haleshule.com  
 Website haleshule.com

## Rabbi Yisroel Binstock

Telephone 0161 980 8846  
 Fax 0161 980 1802  
 Email rabbi@haleshule.com

## Executive

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

## Council

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

## Gesher

Linda Price 07967 731 321  
 Gillian Rowe 07940 268 857  
 Candice Dwek 07778 668 515  
 Ian Keller 07850 660 249

## Nursery

Manager – Pauline Newton 0161 903 9486

## Kiddushim

Susan Sallon 0161 980 1016  
 Email susansallon@gmail.com

## Cultural Committee

Stephen Lentin 0161 941 1612  
 Jonathan Feingold

## Chevra Kadisha

Linda & Barry Price 07860 462 007

## South Manchester Mikva

24 Hours 0161 904 8296

## Hale Trust

### (Adult Education programmes)

Rabbi Aharon Bloch: 07817 780 193  
 Elisheva Bloch: 07891 325 364  
 Email learn@hahet.co.uk



## YOM TOV DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### April / Nissan

Friday	19 April	<i>Erev Pesach</i>
Shabbat	20 April	<i>Pesach 1</i>
Sunday	21 April	<i>Pesach 2</i>
Friday	26 April	<i>Pesach 7</i>
Shabbat	27 April	<i>Pesach 8</i>
Thursday	2 May	<i>Yom HaShoah</i>
Friday	10 May	<i>Yom Ha'atzmaut</i>

### June / Sivan

Sunday	9 June	<i>Shavuot 1</i>
Monday	10 June	<i>Shavuot 2</i>

### July / Aug - Tammuz-Av

Sunday	21 July	<i>Fast of Tammuz</i>
Sunday	11 Aug	<i>Tisha B'Av</i>

### September - Oct / Ellul - Tishri

Sunday	29 September	<i>Erev Rosh Hashanah</i>
Monday	30 September	<i>Rosh Hashanah 1</i>
Tuesday	1 October	<i>Rosh Hashanah 2</i>
Wednesday	2 October	<i>Fast of Gedaliah</i>
Tuesday	8 October	<i>Kol Nidrei</i>
Wednesday	9 October	<i>Yom Kippur</i>
Monday	14 October	<i>Succot 1</i>
Tuesday	15 October	<i>Succot 2</i>
Monday	21 October	<i>Shemini Atzeret</i>
Tuesday	22 October	<i>Simchat Torah</i>

## 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	9.30am
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](http://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 the separate timetable.

## New Members



**'We welcome and wish Mazal Tov to the following who have joined Hale Community or have married under our auspices, since last Pesach:**

Freda Klepper

Jude & Hannah Silverstone

Katy & Joshua Hearne

Rutti & Ben Zimmel

## Chayim Arukim

*Golda Berens on the loss of her mother, Behjat*

*Stephen Cohen on the loss of his mother*

*Sharon Cohen on the loss of her mother*

*Claudine Crammer on the loss of her father*

*Lillie Gradel on the loss of her mother, Behjat*

*Suzy Klepper on the loss of her mother*

*Marie Lewis on the loss of her mother*

*Stacey Rosenberg on the loss of her brother*

*Brian Rosenberg on the loss of his father*

*Sheilah Sheldon on the loss of her sister*

*Patricia Sufrin on the loss of her husband, Basil*

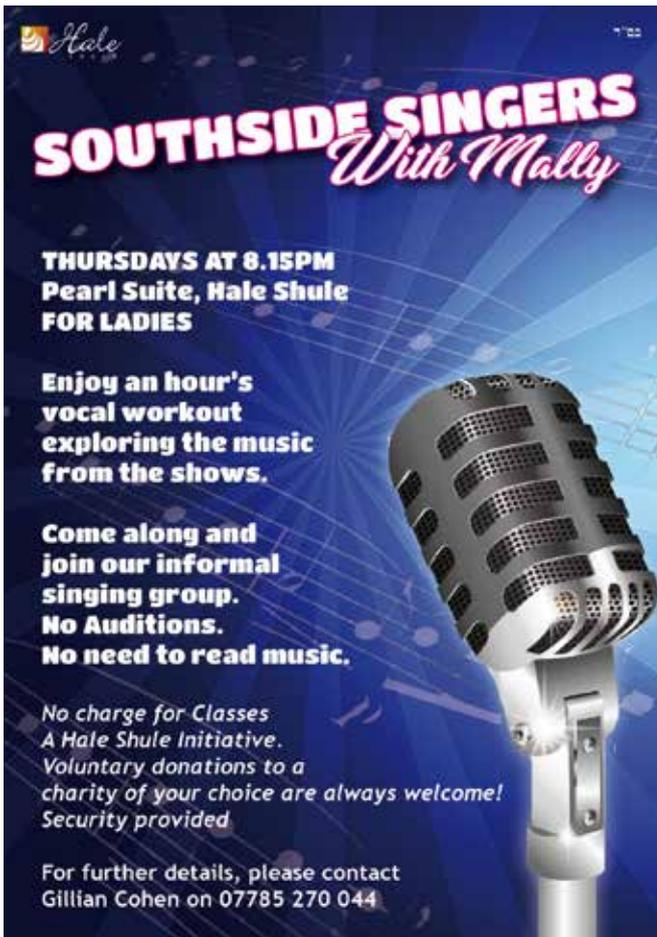
*Gillian Supprey on the loss of her mother*

*Terry Krell on the loss of his mother*

## 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](mailto:sps@haleeruv.co.uk) up to 1.00pm on Wednesday in any given week.

A voluntary donation is requested for those using this service.



**SOUTHSIDE SINGERS**  
*With Mally*

**THURSDAYS AT 8.15PM**  
Pearl Suite, Hale Shule  
**FOR LADIES**

Enjoy an hour's vocal workout exploring the music from the shows.

Come along and join our informal singing group.  
**No Auditions.**  
**No need to read music.**

*No charge for Classes  
A Hale Shule Initiative.  
Voluntary donations to a charity of your choice are always welcome!  
Security provided*

For further details, please contact  
Gillian Cohen on 07785 270 044

**"You do not need to be able to sing" they said.**  
**Just the group for me.**

*Thursday evenings in the Pearl Suite are a pure joy. It might be hard to leave the house on a cold winter's night but the warmth of the singing group more than compensates.....and there are no excuses for staying at home now that the days are longer and a tad warmer.*

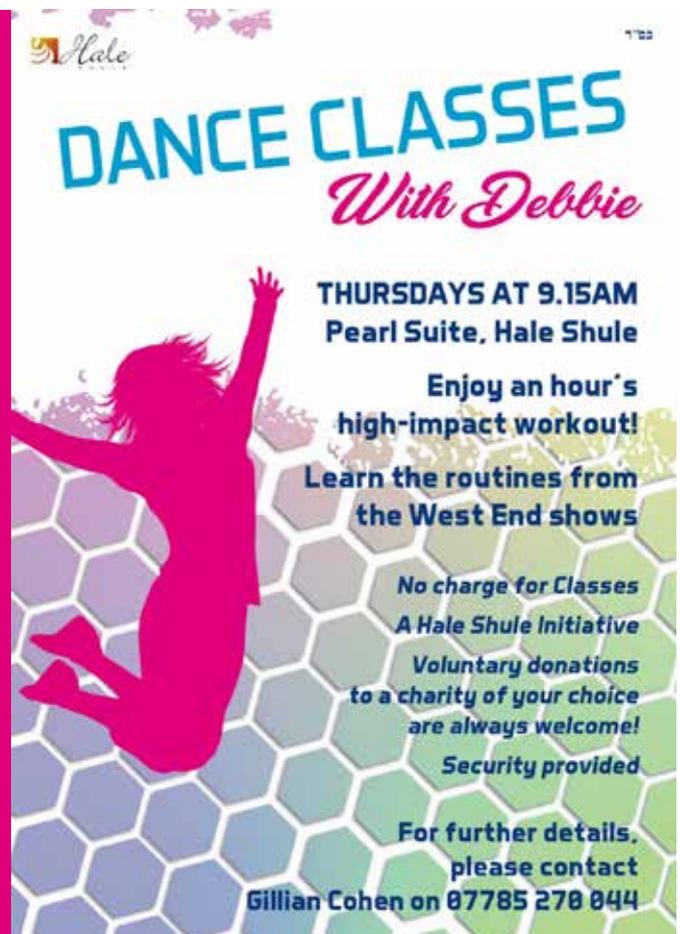
*As a group, we don't sound too bad at all so many thanks to those 'who can' for masking those 'who cannot'! And a big thanks to Mally Blank and Gillian Cohen without whom we definitely could not manage.*

*Gillian Rowe.*

**"We're so lucky to have the incredibly talented Debbie Hilton choreographing dance routines for us to do just for fun. She makes dance accessible to everyone, no matter what their fitness or musicality.**

**It's an absolute joy to dance with her every week – infinitely more fun than going to the gym! Everyone always leaves completely uplifted, energised and proud that they've learnt a new routine in just an hour."**

**Suzy Glaskie**



**DANCE CLASSES**  
*With Debbie*

**THURSDAYS AT 9.15AM**  
Pearl Suite, Hale Shule

Enjoy an hour's high-impact workout!  
Learn the routines from the West End shows

*No charge for Classes  
A Hale Shule Initiative  
Voluntary donations to a charity of your choice are always welcome!  
Security provided*

For further details, please contact  
Gillian Cohen on 07785 270 044



## 'The Bridal Chair'

...a book review and a little bit more(!)  
by Elaine Adlestone

I am not a particularly good artist as far as painting and drawing are concerned.

My artistic tendencies are perhaps more evident in flower arranging. My teacher, Midge Moran, was one of the few flower arrangers for the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of York's wedding.

However, for some reason, I have always felt a connection with the artist Marc Chagall and his work.

Marc Zakharovich Chagall was a Russian-French artist of Belarusian Jewish origin. An early modernist, he was associated with several major artistic styles and created works in virtually every artistic format, including painting, book illustrations, stained glass, stage sets, ceramic, tapestries and fine art prints. Chagall is fascinating and has always been my favourite artist.

I went to an exhibition of Chagall's work in London on 28 March 1985. I am specific about the date because it was on this date that Chagall passed away. He was a living artist when I arrived at the gallery and sadly, a

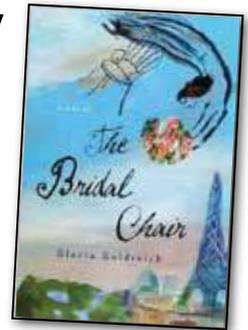
dead artist by the time I left.

As well as my love for all things Chagall, I am an avid reader.

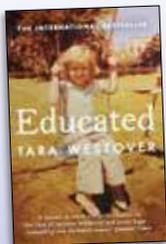
I read and enjoy fiction but my favourite books are those relating to Marc Chagall, the artist!

For all the reasons above, I am therefore delighted to recommend "The Bridal Chair" by Gloria Goldreich. Nothing else at the moment comes near the pleasure I received reading this beautiful book. Available from Amazon and with fascinating facts and a little fiction ('faction'), I loved the 5 star read about Marc Chagall and his relationship with his daughter, Ida and do hope that I have said enough to persuade you to read the book.

**Editors' Note: Don't forget to access your Amazon account via [www.smile.amazon.co.uk](http://www.smile.amazon.co.uk) and to nominate Hale & District Hebrew Congregation and carry on shopping. AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the Shule. It won't cost you any extra. Win, win!**



## Hale Synagogue Book Club by Sharon Aarons



Never having been a member of a book club before and not expecting to know many people, I was a little nervous about attending my first meeting. However, I was pleasantly surprised.

I have now been to two meetings and already met some lovely women from different communities.

The book under review at my first meeting was 'Eleanor Oliphant is Perfectly Fine', the debut novel of Gail Honeyman, and the winner of the 2017 Costa Debut Novel Award. It deals with themes of isolation and loneliness. This would not have been a book of my choice but it was interesting, provoked thoughtful debate and I thoroughly enjoyed myself.

The second book, again not one I would have chosen, was 'Educated' by Tara Westover, a coming-of-age memoir that chronicles a young woman's efforts to study her way out of a tough childhood in Idaho and find herself through books! I had a similar experience at this meeting. The book led to an even more stimulating and lively debate. Indeed, we could have chatted about it right through a second or more meetings! Everyone had different opinions - there was no right or wrong, just personal views. Such a wonderful way to learn more about the book and those of us reviewing it.

After attending the book club twice, I can safely say that I have gained much pleasure in being with lovely women, some new to me, stimulating conversation and finishing off the afternoons with a friendly cup of tea. I shall certainly be attending future meetings.

Sharon Aarons



## The sharp end of parenting teens by Marnie Riches

As an author of crime-fiction, I take a keen interest in all true life crime, whether it be a serial killer in Kidderminster or crystal meth production in Mexico. One of the topics that has me scouring the papers for the latest news is knife-crime among teenagers.

Too regularly, the newspapers report of a new stabbing – most often in London – of a young person by other young people, often known to them. Apparently, the number of underage killers wielding a knife as their murder weapon has risen by 77% in the two years. Knife-point robberies by teens have leaped by 50%, and 342 under 17s were treated for stab wounds in hospital last year.

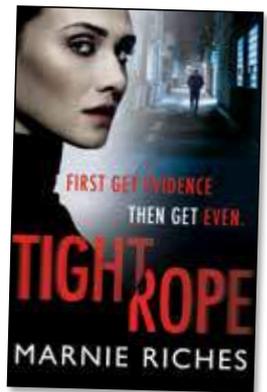
These are sobering statistics, but as parents living in the affluent, suburban neighbourhoods of WA15, we comfort ourselves with the notion of knife-crime being but a blight on the tougher neighbourhoods of London. Yet a youngster of 17 – MGS boy, Yousef Makki – was tragically stabbed to death just around the corner in Hale Barns, apparently by another 17 year old. Knife crime has arrived on our Cheshire doorsteps in the most shocking and heart-breaking manner.

As a parent and as the head of my own little Jewish family, I moved to Hale, feeling confident that my children would enjoy a safe upbringing in an ethnically fairly diverse but very quiet area. I wanted an entirely different experience of teen-hood for my 16 and 13 year olds than I had, growing up on a rough estate in Cheetham that was riddled with violent crime and anti-Semitism.

When I come to shule, I sit in the balcony and observe the Jewish youth in our community. I'm pleased to

see a charming innocence and lack of street-smarts or hardship in their faces. But with anti-Semitism fomenting institutionally in the Labour party as well being a cornerstone of the far right, and with knife-crime being a longstanding resident evil in central Manchester (officially the UK's most violent city), it's really worth sitting your children down and warning them of the various perils they might face as Jewish young people - particularly as they gain independence and start to enjoy a separate social life away from their parents. It's vital to warn them of the risks in becoming entangled with the wrong crowd or walking into the wrong places as darkness falls. If a 17 year old girl, sitting on a park bench with her boyfriend in Romford, can be stabbed to death, savvy vigilance must be counselled in our older children.

Speaking as a crime aficionado as well as a fellow Jewish parent and kid from the wrong side of the tracks, I'd encourage parents to open a frank dialogue with their youngsters about urban safety and avoiding peer pressure to do foolish things in dangerous places. Don't be scared to discuss unsavoury issues. If our teens can't learn street-smarts in practice, they can certainly learn it in theory. Keep communicating! Keep listening! Keep safe!



**Editors' note...**  
Look out for Marnie's forthcoming novel - *Tightrope* - which will be out in paperback in good bookstores from 11th July 2019 but which is available for pre-order as a Kindle e-book right now!

## \*QUIZ NIGHT ANYTHING BUT CHILD'S PLAY\*

A SELL-OUT quiz night organised by North Cheshire Jewish Primary School's Parent Teacher Association raised more than £2,000, making it the most successful school quiz on record.

The funds raised will allow the committee to buy a much needed climbing frame for the school playground.



Diana Leinhardt (Quiz Master)

In addition to ticket sales, the evening saw a variety of 'money can't buy' prizes up for auction including a framed Manchester United football shirt from the FA Premier League Champions 2010/11 signed by Ryan Giggs, Javier Hernandez, Nani, Michael Carrick, Demitar Berbatov and more.

A raffle helped bring in further funds and guests enjoyed a typical Israeli buffet of falafel and hummus.



From left to right: Kate Moryoussef, Sarah Massel, Rebecca Simon, Layla Goldstone, Ruthie Newgrosh, Faye Goldwater, Moran Filson, Steph Rubin, Lindsey Brown.



## Mazal Tov

- Michal & Shlomie Abenson on the birth of a son**  
*Jeanette & Ronnie Abrahams on the birth of a grandson*
- Gabrielle & Mark Addlestone on the occasion of Tara's wedding to Raphael Bloom**  
*Elaine & Gerald Addlestone on the occasion of Tara's wedding to Raphael Bloom*
- Sharon & Steven Bentwood on the birth of a granddaughter**  
*Fiona & Reuben Berg on the occasion of Emma's engagement to Jonathan Moyal*
- Gilbert Cohen on the birth of a grandson**  
*Sharon & Elliot Cohen on the occasion of Ivri' engagement to Kerrie Slager*
- Claudine & Benji Crammer on the birth of a daughter**  
*Sara & Raymond Crammer on the birth of a granddaughter*
- Muriel Davies on the birth of a great-grandson**  
*Sammy & Yaeli Davila on the occasion of Aron's barmitzvah*
- Ginette & Nigel Esterkin on the occasion of David's engagement to Marli Stein**  
*Jonathan Ferster on the birth of a grandson*
- Shelley & Stuart Ferster on the birth of a grandson**  
*Nicola & Simon Fine on the occasion of Benji's barmitzvah*
- Tessa Frieslander on the birth of a great-grandson**  
*Marsha & Colin Gee on the birth of a grandson*
- Marsha & Colin Gee on the occasion of Jonathan's marriage to Caroline Colin**  
*Della and Maurice Gould on the occasion of David's engagement to Gabriella*
- Michael Gould on the occasion of David's engagement to Gabriella**  
*Caroline & Nicholas Herz on the birth of a granddaughter*
- Shirley Horwich on the birth of a great-granddaughter**  
*Shirley Horwich on the birth of a great-grandson*
- Vivienne & Ian Keller on the birth of a grandson**  
*Suzy & Howard Klepper on the birth of a granddaughter*
- Freda Klepper on the birth of a great-granddaughter**  
*Risa & Zalman Klyne on the birth of a grandson*
- Hilary & Terry Krell on Georgia's engagement to Philip Raperport**  
*Vicky and Darryl Lee on the occasion of Katie's marriage to Joshua Hearne*
- Sonya Lee on the occasion of Katie's marriage to Joshua Hearne**  
*Rita Leigh on the birth of a great-grandson*
- Caroline & Charles Levine on the birth of a grandson**  
*Rochelle & Maurice Miller on the birth of a grandson*
- Muriel Mond on the birth of a great-granddaughter**  
*Audrey Oppenheim & Bill Lister on the birth of a grandson and on the occasion of Nick's marriage to Michaela Silverstein*
- Tracy & Martin Polak on Ben's engagement to Sophie England**  
*Joy & Ronnie Polak on Ben's engagement to Sophie England*
- Marcia & Richard Rose on the birth of a granddaughter**  
*Alexis & Louis Rosenthal on the birth of a son*
- Beverley & Neil Rosenthal on the birth of a grandson**  
*Luisse & Lionel Ross on the engagement of their granddaughter Yaeli to Eli Kauffman*
- Luisse & Lionel Ross on the birth of a great-grandson**  
*Michelle & Ben Sallon on the occasion of Rafi's barmitzvah*
- Susan & David Sallon on the occasion of Rafi's barmitzvah**  
*Mark Saperia on the occasion of his granddaughter's marriage to Shloimy Davis*
- Lynne Steinberg on the birth of a grandson**  
*Lady Beryl Steinberg on the birth of a great-grandson*
- Diane & Robert Sterling on the occasion of Alexandra's engagement to Robin Lovat**  
*Shelley & Peter Stoll on Jay's engagement to Samantha Magnus*
- Natalie & Jason Zimmel on the occasion of Ben's marriage to Rutti Rudich**

**We apologise if we have inadvertently omitted anybody from our Mazal Tov list.  
We will always be delighted to share your good news. Please contact the shule office.**

## HALE & DISTRICT WALKERS

Get out and about this Spring  
Benefitting body and soul!

Come along and join our Walking Group.

Walks arranged daily (weather permitting)  
through our Whatsapp group.

We suit the pace of your walk  
to your fitness level -  
3 groups offered for slow, medium and fast-  
paced walkers, as well as  
30 min/45 min/ 1 hour or longer walks.  
Something for everyone.

Come and enjoy our beautiful surroundings  
and meet up with old and new friends.

Contact: Gillian Cohen 07785 270044



## SLOWER WALKERS

"The slower walking group caters for people who want a gentler pace and like to end with coffee and chat. Inclement weather certainly doesn't stop us!"

Sonia Lee



Elise & I are bursting with excitement to share news of the opening of the new kosher Deli in the heart of Hale Barns. We will trade under the supervision of the Manchester Beth Din so you can all rest assured that everything in the shop will kosher.

Our Deli is very much a Community Project with support from all of the South Manchester Shules i.e. South Manchester, Shaare Sedek and Hale. We are simply the lucky ones who have been given the opportunity to run it and ensure the highest possible standards in all areas.

Having a local kosher deli has been our dream for many, many years. And now this dream is a reality! We are proud to be offering

you all, a 'one of its kind' Deli with something for everyone. We are here to listen to you so we can make your frekking experience delightful. We will be offering you a variety of Kosher foods, from dry grocery to fresh meats and dairy products, salads and wines.

So, if you want it, let us know and we will source it. Just please allow us a few months to settle in and get to know what you all need us to stock so that we so we can have the product range that best suits everyone – or as close to 'everyone' as we can get!!

"Our Deli" is our name. Meaning Our Community Deli. With your support and our passion we will make it the best and the only place for you to stock your fridge, your freezer and your cupboards. We will open just after Pesach but if you have any queries before that, just call Richard on 07503 151980.

We wish everyone a Happy & Kosher Pesach and look forward to seeing you very soon.

Sooooo Excited  
Richard & Elise Ordman



## Rabbinic Excitement by Rabbi Amir Ellituv

A Rabbi has many different forms of excitement; it can be learning an interesting piece of Talmud, finding another fascinating idea on the Parasha, seeing a congregant successful and witnessing a family celebrate different happy occasions. In Rabbi Amir Ellituv's life, he has all of that and more. It can be a new picture on his @whiskyrabbi page, or seeing United, under Solskjær, score a late winner; but recently there has been another excitement: the arrival of a new Rabbi to the area, specifically Rabbi Binstock.

I feel, since arriving in Hale, the bond between the Rabbis in the area is extremely close - we learn together, we socialise together, we share things together. On a Friday night, after the guests have left the Bloch and Ellituv homes, and the kids have fallen asleep, we then gather together until late

into the night (with Rabbi Aharon and Rabbi Amir having a knack of sleeping) whilst Elisheva and Tova talk. We probably do the same thing during the Shabbat day, also!!

Not many communities around the country have such unity as in South Manchester, and having Rabbi Yisroel and Leanne joining the Hale community will mean the same. We are so lucky to have such strong links together - from the fortnightly Teen minyan that alternates between both communities and the seamless way the children take the service and do the Sephardi Ashrei Yoshvei, and Az Yashir Moshe, to the Ashkenazi leining, and hearing Chazak Baruch and Shkoyach shouted simultaneously - they are all a great testament. On a Wednesday morning when Babies and Bagels takes place, it is done in partnership with Elisheva and Tova.

All the mothers and grandmothers feel a special connection to both communities.

The shared friendship of so many different members of both places, meaning the huge support of the Shavuot Barbecue in the Sha'are Sedek garden, is just one amazing example of togetherness that Rabbi Yisroel and Rebbetzen Leanne will be experiencing.

All of this harmony stems from a huge source and that is the leadership of Rabbi Joel and Rebbetzen Ruthie Portnoy, who have guided us to encourage and support this togetherness. We will miss the fatherly figure of Rabbi Portnoy in the area and we wish him and Rebbetzen Ruthie much success in their new adventure, and we will ensure that this same togetherness continues in a natural and beautiful way.

### Anyone for Table Tennis?

South Manchester Shule ('Bowdon') have for some time been running a Monday morning table tennis session, usually for a maximum of two hours from 10.30am. Members of Hale Shule have been invited to participate. A few of us have done so and it is most enjoyable. Last year we clubbed together to buy a second table so there is capacity and plenty of space for two games of doubles. The standard? Participants do not need to be at team level but should be able to hold their own at a reasonable standard. If you are interested we would welcome one or two more players. Trainers are essential, table tennis bats are provided. You are welcome to sound me out for further information. [Tony Woolf](#)



### The Hale Teen Minyan

For those of you who don't know, the Hale Teen Minyan is a fortnightly gathering between the Sephardi and Ashkenazi Shules of Hale. It is targeted to those who are preparing for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah to adults.

Being an inter-Shule program, it really unites the children and sparks up a thirst for Torah learning, whether leining, or doing a D'var Torah, so there's something to do for all ages.

The target of the Minyan is to reach out to the youth of our community who find Shule too long or for those who want to make a contribution. We start at 10:30 and finish at 12 yet still manage to do Pesukei D'zimrah, Shachrit, Leining and Musaf, which is all led by the children. Another thing to mention is that children get a £10 incentive if they do any of these things. And of course, Shule isn't the same without a kiddush, more specifically a cholent, kugel and nosh kiddush which is there every time.

However, we still feel that there are some people who are missing out, so we politely ask that you spread the

word. The programme will bring more children to Shule and will encourage them to be involved with Judaism. We hope to see more children with us in the future!  
By Shai Portnoy

By Saadya Ellituv

To me, the youth minyan is an important factor of my life because it provides me and my friends with the chance to daven with kavona and at my own pace. Also, as we lead our own service, it ensures that we all understand what we are saying and it is inclusive. Not to forget that behind the scenes of our successful minyan, is the great Ha'rav Ha'gaon Ha'shlita Shlomie Abenson. He brings joy and light into our services, making me wake up on Shabbat morning excited knowing that he will be in shule! I hope this will carry on.

Hi! My name is Ellie Sultan. I go to the Hale Teen Minyan and it's brilliant and always really fun there. It has a great atmosphere and you can do exactly what you're comfortable to do. People do a weekly D'var Torah and you can earn £10 too! Everyone is friends and there is an awesome kiddush afterwards.

## Chevra Kadisha - Barry Price

### THE OHEL & BEIT OLAM

Our Ohel (prayer hall) and Beit Olam (cemetery) grounds are maintained by the community. This is an additional expense which is covered by your Burial Fund contributions.

### SHIVA (MOURNING)

Our Rabbi will advise the family on preparation for the traditional Shiva mourning period. There will be plenty of time to ask questions to help the family to ensure that the Shiva is observed correctly, giving people a chance to pay their respects to the deceased. The Shule Office will arrange for suitable chairs and prayer books to be delivered to the Shiva house.

### UNVEILING OF A HEADSTONE (STONE SETTING)

It is important to liaise with the Shule Office in order to set a date for an Unveiling, which is also sometimes known as a Stone Setting, particularly if you wish the Rabbi to attend and speak at the ceremony.



### MATZEVOT

It is customary in the UK to place a matzeva (headstone) on the grave approximately one year after the burial. The cost of buying, installing, maintaining and insuring the matzeva is not included in your Burial Fund contributions. These arrangements and the associated costs must be met by the family or estate of the deceased.

There are agreed policies dictating the type and size of the headstone, as well as the style of lettering and the inscription which are appropriate for a matzeva in our cemetery. The Shule Office will advise on the procedure for ordering the matzeva from an approved supplier and the policy guidelines. They can also provide you with details regarding an annual insurance policy and maintenance provision.

Maintenance plans and insurance policies are available from recommended suppliers (see contact details) and we encourage families to take advantage of these discounted policies to ensure that all the matzevot in our Beit Olam are kept in good condition, to maintain the dignity of our cemetery.

### IN CONCLUSION

Hale & District Hebrew Congregation Chevra Kadisha members are proud to perform this vital communal mitzvah of taking care of the deceased. Please consider joining us in this true act of chesed (kindness) and find out more about what we do.

If you have any further questions or concerns regarding Burial Fund contributions or the work carried out by the Chevra Kadisha, please contact the Shule Office and your enquiry will be directed accordingly.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Shule Office</b>	General Enquiries (office hours)	0161 980 8846
<b>Barry Price</b>	Chevra Kadisha	07860 462 007
<b>Linda Price</b>	Chevra Kadisha	07967 731 321
<b>Kennedy Memorials</b>	Matzevot and General Maintenance	0161 723 3427
<b>Bridge Insurance</b>	Annual Headstone Insurance Policies	0161 236 6969

## HALE SHULE BURIAL INFORMATION



**The Hale Shule Chevra Kadisha continues to strive for perfection in all that we do. This requires an astonishing level of commitment from everyone involved and we take this opportunity to thank them all for their wonderful contribution to this unique Mitzvah.**

It hardly seems like 3 years since Rabbi Portnoy told us that he would be retiring. We panicked at the prospect of managing things without him. So Linda & I started a series of weekly Chevra Kadisha meetings with Rabbi Portnoy with a simple aim: to extract all the information, knowledge and experience so that we can seamlessly manage a transition of management when he retires. Not as simple a task as you might think but we are confident that we will continue to achieve standards that remain the envy of most other communities throughout the UK. Collectively the Chevra Kadisha thanks Rabbi Portnoy for his committed leadership, his outstanding guidance and his vision to build the high calibre team that is **Your Chevra Kadisha!**

2019 will see some legislative changes for coroners and registrars. We, as the Chevra Kadisha, have to be aware of any legal and regional rules that may affect us as they come into force. We have regular meetings with the surrounding local authorities in this regard. Trafford have included us in a helpful collaborative exchange. They are keen to understand faith groups which have specific needs for burial. A key part of our work is understanding and working within English Law regarding burial. We thank our representatives who make up this crucial section of the Hale Chevra Kadisha.

The Bet Olam (burial ground) at Dunham has always

exceeded the needs of our community. Until recently we did not know by how much so a study was commissioned to thoroughly investigate it. Careful consideration was made by the shule Executive together with Halachic guidance from Rabbi Portnoy. It was important to have full transparency in all matters pertaining to the

project and this was done with the knowledge and agreement of previous shule trustees and future

Directors of the shule. It was deemed reasonable to negotiate an arrangement with our neighbours from South Manchester Shule. They needed our help and given that we have a surplus number of plots, we were happy to give it. The agreement in place will not affect our members in any way.

Every Shule member received a brochure outlining the services offered by Hale Shule. Please see a copy of it in this Gesher magazine.

Refurbishment work in the Ohel and gardens has been completed and the new entrance and exit for Cohanim has proved to be a big success.

Finally, our normal appeal to you to consider a way in which you could participate in this Mitzvah. Along with Rabbi Binstock we will strive to grow and to improve but we cannot do this without your help. We need more men and more women to be involved.

**So please contact us for further details. Wishing you all a Happy & Kosher Pesach Linda & Barry Price**

## INTRODUCTION

Members of the Hale & District Hebrew Congregation who pay annual burial fees, are automatically part of our independent burial scheme, entitling them to rest eventually (at the age of 120, we hope) in the Hale Belt: Olam (cemetery) in Dunham-Massey. The magnificent Ohel (prayer hall) on this site was built in 1997 and consecrated by Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks.

In days gone by, communities did not have a dedicated Chevra Kadisha group to help to manage a levaya (funeral). Instead, on hearing of the passing of one of their members, and in keeping with Jewish law, it was the responsibility of every member of that community to stop work and offer to help with arrangements for the levaya. Only when the levaya (burial) was concluded could they return to their normal daily routine.

In Hale, we are fortunate to have a Chevra Kadisha group that attends to all the necessary arrangements on our behalf, taking into account all religious and legal requirements.

If you are a member of our community Burial Scheme, it is important that you understand all of the Hale Shule policies regarding burial and its associated costs. Please read the information provided and contact the Shule Office if you have any questions.

Members of our community who are not part of our Burial Scheme are encouraged to ensure that they have alternative arrangements in place, and to advise the Shule Office accordingly.

## SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHABBAT

Please understand that it is not appropriate to break any of the laws of Shabbat in order to inform the Chevra Kadisha of a death. The ability of the Chevra Kadisha to provide immediate assistance is contingent upon what they are able to do within the spirit of Shabbat. With this in mind, please let us know what has happened and where you are and we will try to arrange assistance as quickly as possible. It is not appropriate nor necessary for the family to do anything else at this time. If someone dies at home or in hospital over Shabbat, it is preferable for a Jewish person to remain with the body – if possible until the Chevra Kadisha can be contacted.

## PRACTICAL MATTERS

If a member of the Burial Scheme passes away, a member of their family should contact the Rabbi or the Chevra Kadisha coordinators, Linda & Barry Price, as soon as possible. (See contact information).

The Chevra Kadisha will make all necessary arrangements from this point onwards, up to and including the levaya. During this difficult time, the family will be kept updated as frequently as possible.

According to Jewish law, a levaya must take place as soon as possible. This is our religious duty, so the Chevra Kadisha will do everything possible to ensure there is no unnecessary delay. Special arrangements to delay the levaya may be made when waiting for a direct mourner to travel to attend.

In circumstances where the cause of death is unclear, the local Coroner may request an investigation. Because we respect the sanctity of the body, Jewish law does not permit an invasive post mortem if this is avoidable. Instead we can usually request a non-invasive body scan, which will normally confirm the 'cause of death' to satisfy all legal requirements ahead of burial. In such cases, our Rabbi will liaise with the Chevra Kadisha and all other relevant parties, such as doctors, the coroner and the police. A body scan will then be arranged by the Chevra Kadisha. (See additional comment below in the Financial section.)

In the event that a member passes away while out of town, the Chevra Kadisha will assist with all necessary arrangements for transportation or repatriation ahead of the levaya. This will often incur additional costs which are not included in your Burial Fund coverage, and must therefore be reimbursed by the family. (See additional comment below in the Financial section.)

## FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Hale Shule Executive & Council determine the annual cost for members to pay to the Burial Fund. This is calculated and updated in accordance with all known costs that may be incurred and expectation of planned increases in costs. The Burial Fund is not a Burial Society or an undertakers business.

We do not budget to have surplus funds and we certainly do not make any profit. It is therefore your responsibility to ensure that your Burial Fund payments are up-to-date at all times. Policy dictates that failure to do so can result in the Executive withdrawing your Burial Rights.

Your Burial Fund contributions are paid in to a separate bank account from which all community burial costs are paid.

Trafford MBC charges our community a fee for every burial. This fee may vary depending on the day and time of the levaya. We are provided with their new schedule of charges on an annual basis and set your required contributions according to actuarial calculations. Trafford MBC will also add a surcharge if the last known address of the deceased is outside the Trafford area (details of the Post Code areas that are covered can be obtained from the Shule Office). Your Burial Fund contributions do not include this surcharge, which will be passed on to the family or estate for payment.

Should a member no longer wish to contribute to the Hale Shule burial Fund, any fees paid previously are non-transferable. Additionally, your Burial Fund contributions do not provide for the possible costs of a Coroner's scan, or for transportation or repatriation of the deceased, so these costs must be paid by the family or estate.



## Lucy Singer addressed the Hale Chevra Kadisha members at their annual seudah in February.



Lucy Singer

**My name is Lucy Singer and I'm from Whitefield! I would just like to say a few words about how I come to be standing in front of you tonight.**

Sadly, my dad passed away 11 months ago at 8.30 on a Sunday evening. My siblings and I wanted to do shmira (ritual guarding) for my dad until the following

morning but then found that no one was available to relieve us.

Reflecting on this a couple of months later, I realised there was need for the shmira rota system to be reinvigorated for our community and I wanted to try and make a change.

Unfortunately in life we will all experience the loss of a loved one. All I want is that when that day comes for people in our community they feel well supported and able to spend the time grieving as a family and not have to stress over logistics and processes, such as shmira.

Having heard of the fantastic work that Rabbi Portnoy and Linda and Barry Price do in Hale, I decided to contact them for advice.

Barry and Linda spent many, many hours on the phone talking me through the many processes you have in place in Hale. I didn't want to run before I could walk so decided to take one step at a time and just tackle the shmira rota in our community.

Since our many conversations and email exchanges back in July I have worked with our rabbi and community to build up a group of over 60 people who have now offered to do shmira.

Unfortunately we have had 5 people in our community pass away since the group was formed. We have managed to successfully coordinate shmira rotas throughout the night for all. But something about which I am most proud, on the advice of Barry and Linda, is that I organised a kiddush in shule in February to thank those who have given their time and to speak about the importance of carrying out this thankless mitzvah. Over 100 people attended the kiddush and it felt like the community was coming together, which is something my dad valued immensely. He instilled that value of community spirit and caring for others into all of his children.

Our shmira group has come a long way in a short space of time and I only hope that we can continue to build on this in the future.

Having only committed to a very small fraction of the work of the Hale Chevra Kadisha by setting up our own shmira group, I am beginning to realise the massive amount of time the three of you must have devoted to creating such a successful Chevra Kadisha here in Hale. It is so easy to take for granted that these processes just 'happen' when someone passes away, but the fact is that there are all of you very wonderful and thoughtful people dedicating your time to help support families when they most need it.

Personally, I should like to thank Rabbi Portnoy, Linda and Barry for giving me so much support and providing the scaffolding to help improve the shmira group in our community.

I understand that Rabbi Portnoy is soon moving to Israel. I hope that you find a small parting gift in the knowledge that the community you have built and the services you provide have inspired others to make changes in their community too.

**Thank you.**

**Lucy**

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Rabbi Yisroel Binstock

**Welcome to Rabbi Binstock who has answered some of your questions.**

***Can you tell me, Rabbi.....Why is there a Purim Katan?***

Purim Katan, the "Minor Purim" occurs during a leap year on the 14th of the first Adar. The Talmud (Megilla 6b) discusses the correct day for celebrating Purim, and this (in most cities) is the 14th of Adar. When there is a Jewish leap year, an additional month of Adar is added to the calendar and then the question arises – which month of Adar should we celebrate Purim? The Talmud concludes that Purim is to be celebrated in the second Adar, with reading the Megillah, charity, gifts of food to friends and a festive meal all taking place then. The 14th of the first Adar became known as Purim Katan and while there are no specific mitzvot of the day, it is considered a minor festival, tachanun is not recited, and some will have the custom to enhance the day in some kind of festive way.

***Now this has always appeared strange to me. Why is a banana a 'vegetable'?***

This is an interesting one! For most fruits, the blessing to be recited before eating them is "borei pri ha'etz" – praising God for "the fruits of the tree". For most vegetables the blessing is "borei pri ha'adamah" praising God for the fruits of the earth. The halachic distinction between the two categories, as discussed in the Shulchan Aruch (OC 203) is not about whether they are fruit or vegetables, but whether they are considered to have grown on a

tree or from the ground. The banana plant has what is called a "false stem" which withers away every winter and then regrows the next year. Halachically speaking, they don't grow on trees, but from the ground and so the blessing is Ha'adamah, similar to most vegetables.

***My niece is getting married in a few months time. I have always loved the custom of the bride circling her groom seven times but can you tell me from where this custom actually comes?***

It is a beautiful custom. The idea of the bride circling the groom comes from a verse in Jeremiah 31 "God has created a new thing on earth: A woman shall go round a man". The Talmud develops this idea, and understands the meaning behind the encircling as the wife symbolically building the spiritual walls of their new home.

Some have the custom of the bride walking round once, some three times, and the most common practice is seven.

Let me share a couple of reasons behind the seven times. Seven circuits represents the seven days of creation, and every marriage is a re-enactment of the creative process. Another lovely idea is that this is a reminder of how when the Jewish people conquered the city of Jericho, they walked round seven times and then the walls miraculously sank into the ground. Mirroring this, the bride circles the groom seven times to bring down any walls that may separate them.

***Rabbi, what is Kitniot and why can we not eat it at Pesach but Sephardim can? It seems very unfair and so I am interested in the rationale!***

The word Kitniot literally means "legumes", but it is a category that includes rice, beans and pulses, and they are not eaten by Ashkenazim on Pesach. Let's be clear from the outset - they are not Chametz, and they don't need to be treated with the same concern as real Chametz. So why don't we eat them? The custom goes back about a thousand years, in the Ashkenazi communities, where beans and pulses were often easily mixed up with, or mixed in

with real chametz. In order to avoid accidentally eating real chametz, it became the custom to refrain from these products which might be either confused with chametz, or have real chametz mixed in with them. This was never the case in Sephardi communities, and so they never adopted any custom of refraining from them. To summarise, refraining from Kitniot is a custom, not an obligation. But we don't like to disregard a one thousand year old custom, unless there are particularly pressing circumstances.

***Welcome Rabbi. Do you have a favourite Pesach recipe and if so can you please share it so that my husband can follow suit?!***

There are many foods which I really enjoy over Pesach, and truth be told, I don't always have as much time as I would like before Yom Tov to have fun in the kitchen. After the first two days Yom Tov, once we get to Chol Hamoed, I have been known to treat myself (and anyone else in the family who is up for it) to a "Full English Kosher for Pesach Breakfast". It is based on a Full English fry up, without the beans and toast of course! I fry up some beef sausages, eggs, Salami, tomatoes, onions and potato wedges. Toast up some matzah, brew a black coffee... and then I'll be happy until lunch. If you're not convinced...come and join me sometime!

***Why do we break the middle matzah at the Seder?***

There are two blessings we say on matzah at the Seder, the regular "Hamotzi" and an additional "al achilat matzah". Hamotzi, like on Friday night and other Yom Tov meals, should be recited with two complete loaves. So on Seder night we pick up all three matzos, the two complete and the broken half and say Hamotzi. The additional blessing of "al achilat matzah" applies especially to the broken matzah, because this matzah symbolizes our broken, impoverished state as slaves in Egypt. Since this blessing is second, the broken matzah is second in the stack of three.

## Hale Shule Nursery by Pauline Newton

**What a busy time it's been since our last instalment!**

The Nursery continues to grow from strength to strength and we are looking forward to welcoming some new arrivals to our Baby Room this Spring.

Over the past few months we have been up to all sorts of fun.

In the Autumn, we visited Sunrise Senior Living in Hale Barns and sang for the residents. The



children distributed chocolates and brightened up their day.

In November, we opened our doors to the whole community and invited everyone to our Charity Coffee Morning, which was a huge success. We raised almost £300, half of



which was donated to Macmillan Cancer Support and the other half to the nursery. The donation to

the nursery has been usefully put towards garden improvement and we are now seeing all of the lovely bulbs that we planted starting to flower.

As always, we performed our Chanukah concert for the parents and raised the roof! The children were rewarded with chocolate coins for their outstanding performances.

In January the children planted a lilac tree for Tu B'Shevat with Rabbi Portnoy, who once again showed off his exceptional gardening skills!!

The children worked hard preparing for their mock Seder - practising their Four Questions and making their prop shank bones in readiness for their mock Seder and we very



happy to welcome some of you to celebrate with us. The Seder was a great success.

Finally, please feel free to make an appointment to come and have a look around. We would love to make you part of our nursery family.

On behalf of myself and the nursery team we would like to wish you a Chag Sameach.

**Pauline Newton**



The nursery management committee has recently seen some changes to its personnel. Having been a member of the newly elected council since it was formed, I was invited to become Chairperson following Rebecca Simon standing down after many years of service as Parent Liaison and also Committee Chair. I think, with my many years in education, a previous stint as a head teacher and reticence in putting forward my views, someone thought I could do the job!!!

I am fortunate to work with a group which has a wealth of experience and each individual holds a particular area of responsibility based on his or her expertise. We are delighted that Abigail Mattison has agreed to be the Parent Liaison and we swiftly gave her the job of taking minutes - she may have volunteered but was given no chance to reconsider!!

Nici Wertheim deals with HR, David Zucker Finance and we could not do without Pauline Newton's input as Nursery Head. The Rabbi oversees Jewish education content, Jonathan Steinberg building and a vast array of other topics. Ben Sallon keeps us all in check - as

President his knowledge of 'all things Hale Shule' is invaluable.

My specific role is as Line Manager and also Safeguarding Manager to the Nursery Head.

Our combined roles aim to assist Pauline in the smooth running of the Nursery and at the same time we remain open to suggestions and ideas brought to our attention via Abigail, Parent Liaison.

We are currently working on a nursery page for the shule website which, amongst other information, will showcase our, soon to be launched, new prospectus.

Event wise, we are looking toward a Parents' Open Evening to give current and prospective parents an insight into the workings of the nursery, our educational objectives and a chance to meet staff and management.

In the summer, date to be confirmed, we are planning a nursery summer fair and look forward to your support and will be grateful for any offers of assistance - thanking you in advance!

**Sandra Stewart**

**Thank you to Sandra for the kind introduction. For those who don't know me, I have been a member of Hale Shule since 2012, when I married Simon Mattison. We have two wonderful children who are regular faces at the Nursery: Ella who will be three in May; and Jacob who has just turned one. Ella and Jacob have both thrived at the Nursery and I truly believe it is a fantastic resource for the Hale and wider South Manchester communities, where children are supported to flourish and have the best possible start in life. Simon was actually in one of the very first classes at the Nursery back in 1986, and it is surely a testament to the high standards of the Nursery that so many of his classmates remain members of the South Manchester community today and their own children attend the Nursery, or have attended the Nursery over the years.**

While I am on the topic of the wider South Manchester community, many of you will be familiar with or will at least have heard about the points based system to support applications to North Cheshire Jewish Primary School and you may have heard rumours about an oversubscription of applicants for future September intakes. The School Governors do have to make a number of assumptions when identifying prospective applicants but they have confirmed that they expect intakes from September 2019 to be oversubscribed. The reasons for this oversubscription are varied and are not confined to the reduction to a single reception class in recent years, although of course this will be a factor. In any event, what some might think is a positive reflection of the vibrant spirit of the South Manchester community will no doubt be troubling to many parents or prospective parents in the community.

To address the potential oversubscription, the School Governors have adopted a points based priority system,

which will give priority to applicants who meet a religious practice test based on guidelines from the Chief Rabbi. Those applicants wishing to be considered a priority for available places must complete a Certificate of Religious Practice based on criteria such as the family's synagogue service attendance (whether Orthodox, Liberal, Reform, Masorti or otherwise), commitment to Jewish education and voluntary work within the community. Priority is given to those applicants who have achieved a minimum of four points. Full details of the admissions policy and the points system can be found on the NCJPS website or you can contact the Hale Shule Office or the Nursery for further information but I would like to reassure parents and prospective parents that attendance at North Cheshire Jewish Nursery does not give children an advantage over children who have attended our Nursery or any other nursery. In fact, as a 'Shule Nursery', Hale Nursery is in a unique position to verify and manage some of the evidence needed to obtain maximum points and the Executive are ready to assist in any way possible to ensure our families achieve the necessary points based on Shule attendance, Jewish education and community activity.

I am sure all parents and prospective parents in the community want only the best for their children. If there is ever anything you would like to discuss, or if you have any ideas that you want to share, please don't hesitate to contact me and I would be delighted to help. In the meantime, please join me in thanking Rebecca Simon for her support of the Nursery over so many years and look out for details of events we will be holding: I invite you all to dig deep to support the Nursery and the children.

**Wishing the community a chag sameach**

**Abigail**

## The Hale Weekday Morning Minyan by Sammy Fine

I find one of the best ways to start the day is by going to our Shacharis minyan in the Beis Hamidrash at 7:00am. It isn't just the normal shule service; when you are a regular attender you feel part of a club where there are some really interesting members.

As most of you know, Hale Shule doesn't offer reserved seating. We don't have labels on the chairs. Rather, anyone can sit anywhere. This policy applies in principle to the morning minyan too. Well it may not be written down in some sort of 'constitution' (a word I have been hearing more often than not in the Shabbos kiddush recently) but there is what you would call an 'unwritten agreement'. If I were to go and just sit myself in someone's regular seat in the morning minyan, the consequences would be horrendous. I probably would be banned from taking any hot pita bread from the weekly Friday morning Eli Mansoor Shiur!

Seating positions aside, 'shtenders' / or table top lecterns, have been a new trend for the past year or so in the Hale Beis Hamidrash. Apart from Maxim Cohen's shtender, which, as far as I know, has been there since the beginning of time, some of the regulars in the daily minyan have treated themselves to a 'shtender' for resting their siddur on. But what type of shtender is it? Is it one that has silver or pewter plating, one that has your name engraved, is it dark brown or light brown, does it have the extension mechanism for standing and sitting or just sitting? As you can see, there are many complications which thankfully means that no one shtender becomes confused with another. Can you imagine what the consequences would be of using someone else's shtender! Who knows? Maybe no coffee or biscuits from the table at the back for a whole week?

Those points aside, if you are considering whether to go to the daily minyan you will be really welcomed in to the club. If you are new to this, you won't be not alone. To use R' Shlomo Ellituv's analogy, there are 3 types of people who come to shule. The "Am Kodesh" – holy people, the "Am Kaddish" – the people who come just to say Kaddish, and the "Am Kiddush" – you know who you are. Whichever group

you fall into – you are all welcome and all as important as each other!

The next factor to consider- is the person davening from the omud fast or slow? This does affect the morning of the three Jewish Grammar boys in the minyan; do we have to rapidly whip off our tefillin and leg it to the bus or can we leave shule like a mentsch and walk calmly to the bus stop? (Read my last Gesher article.) This occasionally affects the minyan because sometimes, we youngsters of the minyan actually make up the 10 with the others. This means that if we have to leave early to get to school there might not be a minyan towards the end of davening – for the final Kaddish. In such situations, our beloved Rabbi sometimes reverses the order of the final sections of the service to ensure Kaddish can be recited. Particular thanks go to Dr Klass who saves the day if we do have to miss the bus as he has taken us to school a few times!

One thing that I sometimes think about on the way to shule is "Is someone finishing their 11 months of aveilos, or their 3 weeks today?" Not obviously because I want such an occurrence to happen, rather because there is a minhag in our shule to make a small kiddush and a l'chaim. Not much of one usually, but generally, there might be a few biscuits and cakes, and not forgetting some whisky - which is the icing on the cake. Not literally of course. I do try and explain to my friends that I am not an alcoholic even though once in a while I might turn up at school with a faint whiff about me.

One aspect of the morning minyan is the 'pre-Shacharis learning' that takes place frequently from 6:00am until 7:00am - Shacharis. This involves 5 or 6 people, who have woken up around 5:30am and are in the Beis Hamidrash learning from 6:00am. And I'm sure that all the regulars and visitors appreciate the sound of Torah going on the Beis Hamidrash; unless they're taking their seat up! Another nice club of people that anyone is welcome to join.

Now, that you have read about how enjoyable the minyan can be, why don't you come and see it for yourself?

**Three willing helpers for a recent and most successful Friday Night Dinner at the shule. Thanks to all who attended and to all who made it happen!**





## Shabbat UK 2019

by Nicola Fine

Shabbat UK in Hale this year was amazing!

It started with two challah bakes on the Thursday evening: a 5pm bake for mums with children - this was over sold with 100 people all packed into the Sephardi shule hall. We made the best decision to buy pre-made dough beforehand....can you imagine the amount of flour if we hadn't!! Chavi Chein led this bake, the children loved it and all walked out with beautifully plaited chocolate chip challahs. A quick tidy up followed, in time for the ladies and teens challah bake at 7.45pm. This was a really lovely evening led by Rochel Jaffe, Ruthie Portnoy and Tova Ellituv. All the participants really enjoyed themselves and there was a really lovely atmosphere.



Shabbat UK Challah Bake



Shabbat UK Challah Bake

On Friday night we started 45 minutes before Shabbat to enable us to have a live musical Kabbalat Shabbat with instruments and microphones. This was extremely special, the atmosphere in shule was really electric and it was the most wonderful start to Shabbat. There were an amazing number of young families and children in shule. The children from North Cheshire Primary School had learnt the Shabbat UK version of Lecha Dodi which they performed absolutely beautifully accompanied by R' Aharon Bloch on the guitar. It was probably one of the most well attended Friday night services by young families in a long time. The children were then taken for a children's programme led by the madrichim Adina, Aviva, Yoni and Avi which they really enjoyed whilst the ladies lit Shabbat candles with Ruthie. After Maariv the congregation was invited into a champagne Kiddush which everyone really enjoyed - there was a real buzz in the room.

This year instead of hosting a Friday night dinner in the shule hall we decided to invite lots of families to host their own guests - other people in our community. There were approximately 20 hosts and almost 300 people were hosted, either on the Friday night or for Shabbat Lunch. That is a wonderful achievement and it really went down well. Let's hope that next year we can include even more hosts and cover even more of the community.

Rabbi Aharon Bloch had some fantastic explanatory cards made for the hosts' Shabbat tables covering all aspects of our traditional Friday night rituals. These were very well received, alongside the table talk pack he produced and the Shabbat UK bentschers.



Shabbat morning..... Shule was busy in every area with programmes for all: babies and bagels, a full children's programme, a youth minyan and together with a busy main



SHABBAT UK 01-02 MARCH 2019

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shule, there was something for everyone and all were well attended. After the service the Ladies Guild put on a beautiful Kiddush and the hall was buzzing. It really felt like a simcha! People went back to hosts for lunch and then in the afternoon Rebecca and Craig Lewis kindly hosted board games at their home for families.

As Shabbat ended it was a quick rush and changeover of the Shule bringing in the lighting and sound equipment for the Havdallah concert with The Portnoy Brothers. There were over 320 people of all ages and from all the south Manchester communities at the concert. Everyone was given a havdallah besamim bag with the brachas attached to take home. The Shule looked



fantastic with the lighting. The Chief Rabbi and his wife arrived to hear Rabbi Portnoy make a beautiful mystical havdallah - the hallmark usually of his summer seudahs. Rabbi Portnoy was surrounded by 5 children from the different communities, each holding havdallah candles. It was a Portnoy special havdallah with singing and the men dancing round the bimah - even the Chief Rabbi joined in. The Portnoys then went on to play and sing at their best. It was quite nostalgic for Mendy and Sruli Portnoy as they were reminiscing about being little boys on the bimah at what was most probably their last Shabbat at Hale staying in the family home. The Chief Rabbi spoke beautifully with such warmth. One of the highlights was when Rabbi Portnoy sang an extremely moving song with his two sons. The Hale boys choir were asked spontaneously to sing at which point Sruli reminded everyone that they were the first Hale Boys choir.



To summarise, I would say that Shabbat UK in Hale provided something for everyone! The nicest part was that all the shules of south Manchester came together and we all joined as one, which is so very important for us all. We hope that everyone enjoyed Shabbat UK and the best part is we have Shabbat every week...we don't need to wait until Shabbat UK to participate in Shabbat again!

## **Rabbi Yaacov Asher Sinclair - from Hollywood to the Holy Land...to the Harts in Hale!** by Candice Dwek

To bring the highly successful and enjoyable Shabbat UK Hale programme to a close, the final part of the weekend's 'festivities' was a highly entertaining presentation made by Rabbi Yaacov Asher Sinclair, in the home of Sharon and Jeremy Hart.

This rabbi, who has been a teacher at Ohr Samayach in Jerusalem for many years now, spoke to us about how his life had been transformed after reading "Derech Eretz" when he was at the height of his career as actor, lyricist and music producer, living "the life" in LA.

After being schooled at Clifton College, Bristol, at the same time as Jeremy, our host, he began his acting career. He then moved onto the music scene, becoming a major player in the world of British rock in the 1970s, and opening a 24 track studio in London, the first of its kind. There, some of the era's top artists, including Elton John and Queen, recorded

landmark songs, including Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody."

He eloquently told us about how his success in record production took him across the pond to New York, then to LA. In between, he was 'dabbling' in religion; and with the warm welcomes he received in shules in Copenhagen and New York, he soon got 'hooked' and his spark and quench for learning commenced.

It was a particular delight to hear him as we could see his performing talents shine through with every spoken word. In fact, his presentation was a theatrical performance in itself. In retelling his story, he brought to life many anecdotes of the past 30 years and beyond, with humour, suspense and intrigue, and by the end, made his audience realise that there's more to life than the material, the fame and the 'plush leather Bentleys'!

### ***'How Far Does the Koran Echo the Hebrew Bible: Bridges between the Cultures'***

Presented by

**Professor Avi Shivtiel**

**Chair: Prof Philip Alexander**

-----  
**Sunday 12 May 2019**

**7:30 pm**

**Hale & District Hebrew Congregation,  
Shay Lane, Hale Barns, Cheshire WA15 8NZ**  
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**Professor Avi Shivtiel is an eminent scholar and expert on Arabic and Islamic Studies, having enjoyed a distinguished career, working in Cambridge on the Genizah programme. He was Head of Department of Semitic Studies, which then became the Department of Arabic & Islamic Studies at Leeds University. He has lectured on modern Hebrew language and literature. He has also lectured at the Ben Gurion and Tel Aviv Universities, returning to the UK to teach Hebrew, Arabic, Syriac and Aramaic.**

He has produced 150 publications, including a catalogue of Judeo-Arabic and Arabic MSS from the Cairo Genizah, amongst many more.

Jews and Arabs had been in conflict almost since the advent of Islam, but no clear answer can be given to the question as to whether it is a religious or political conflict. However, as Jews who lived under Muslim rule did enjoy periods of peaceful co-existence, co-operation and prosperity, it is worth examining the two holy books ascribed to God which shape the ideologies between the two religions, in order to establish similarities and contradictions.

Bearing in mind that the Bible preceded the Koran by more than a thousand years, the question is, 'Were the identical texts and similar ideas simply quoted by the Muslims or were they an elaboration on known notions?' For example, the narrative about Joseph and the wife of Potiphar in Egypt, the sacrifice of Isaac or Ishmael. Finally, there are seven verses in the Koran which support the state of Israel as being a homeland for the Jews.

This will be a very interesting talk to which you are invited and, if you wish to attend, please email us: [penjcdwek@aol.com](mailto:penjcdwek@aol.com)

***Light refreshments will be provided.***

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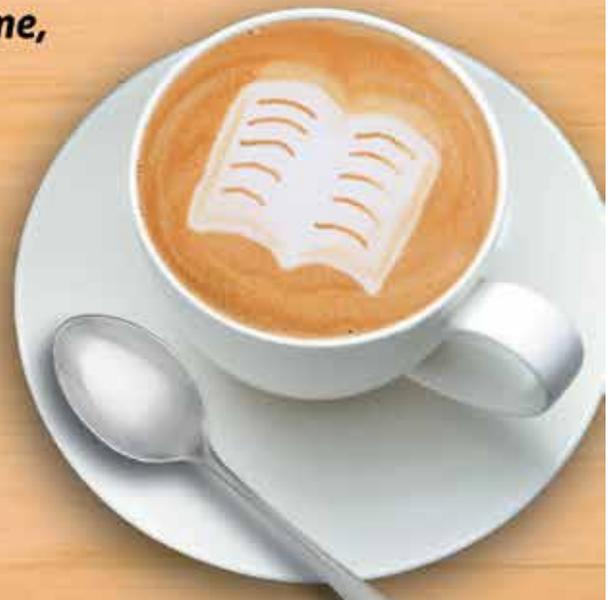
# Café TEFILLA

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## ***Pesach! Freedom!***

A chance to define who we are and what we are, not just by our professions but by our values, vision and purpose. Pesach is a time for gratitude, to recognise and appreciate the wonderful and blessed lives we have.

Elisheva and I are grateful for the incredible opportunity to work within the Hale Kehilla. We have felt the warmth of the community and the depth of our personal relationships on an individual level grow exponentially as we near three years of being part of the community. We look forward to an exciting year ahead.

As educators, we have tried to broaden the variety and accessibility of Jewish education making it relevant to the entire community. We have increased our numbers of one-to-one learning (which is without doubt the most meaningful and impactful way to grow in knowledge) and throughout the autumn and winter months we have initiated numerous programmes and classes. These include a Hebrew Reading Crash Course, Haftorah leining and a series of Medical Ethics workshops, group-led by Dr Jonny Lieberman, for those in allied medical professions. We have also started a new woman's shiur on 'Living Lighter', via Zoom every Wednesday morning with Rebbetzen Vanessa Broder.

In an effort to bring education into the home, we have invited some first-rate speakers from around the world. A variety of topics have included Charedim in the IDF, Teshuvah, Israel Advocacy, All Consciousness and G-d, Addressing the Israeli Arab conflict through the Loving Classroom and many more fascinating and inspiring home events. Also, around the Yamim Tovim, other festivals and Shabbat UK, we continued to offer informative and relevant sessions to help the everyday Hale-man or woman 'master' the relevant services and festivals enhancing our appreciation to what's going on in the calendar.

In Shule, the fortnightly Cafe Tefillah continues to be a strong educational alternative to the Shabbat mussaf service. A croissant, coffee and a thought provoking discussion is a fantastic recipe to make your Shule experience exciting and dynamic.

However, we are not just about formal Education. Our flagship Babies and Bagels programme runs every



Wednesday morning for mums and their babies to come together in the Pearl Suite to interact, play and eat! It is a terrific setting within which to meet the young mothers (and grandmothers) of our community. It is also a great feeder to our Shabbat Babies and Bagels programme aimed at couples and their nursery aged children. We sing, eat, learn about Shabbat and have loads of fun!

There is so much going on so please keep a lookout for any programmes that might be up your alley - it would be a shame to miss out!

Finally, we have been blessed with the privilege of having Rabbi, not only as our employer but as our 'father' away from home. His positive reinforcement and constructive guidance have truly enabled us to feel comfortable and confident in what we do. We will miss Rabbi and Ruthie tremendously and at the same time, we are really enthusiastic about the opportunity of doing great things under the leadership of Rabbi Yisroel and Leanne in the coming year.

Have a wonderful, meaningful and happy Pesach!!

**Aharon and Elisheva**





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for the Community

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- 9 x *Shabbat Babies & Bagels*
- 6 x *Master Class Series: Machzor/Siddur/Shabbat/Purim*
- 2 x *New Insights Publications*
- 5 x *Parent and Child Learning Sessions*
- *Hebrew Reading Crash Course - HRCC*
- *Chanukah and Tu B'shevat Events\**
- 4 x *Shabbat UK Shiurim*
- 3 x *Different Weekly Video Link Lectures*
- *Fortnightly Teen Minyanim\**

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With the greatest of pleasure, we include below an article on Beaverbrooks, the family-owned jewellers which is celebrating its centenary in 2019. This makes for a great read about the wonderful history of and charity shown by the company, with Chairman and the grandson of one of the founders, Mark Adlestone OBE DL, at its helm. We also take this opportunity to wish Mark mazaltov upon his recent appointment as High Sheriff of Greater Manchester and to thank Beaverbrooks for generously sponsoring Gesher for many years now.

## Beaverbrooks: 100 years of enriching lives

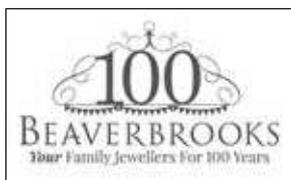
Beaverbrooks has come a long way since their story first began in 1919 on the streets of Belfast.

Now a national jeweller with 70 stores and over 950 colleagues, they remain true to their strong sense of family values, and have been celebrated for their commitment to charity, as well as for enriching the lives of those in their communities.



As Chairman of Beaverbrooks and the grandson of one of the founders, Mark Adlestone OBE DL, has a lot to be proud of; not least the fact that the company donates 20 per cent of retained profits to charity and since the year 2000, has donated £13m to over 750 charities.

Driven by the principle of making a positive difference, Mark spent 10 years as Chairman of the Fed, a social and welfare organisation addressing the needs of the Jewish community in Manchester, and was awarded an OBE in 2015 for his Services to Business and Charity in the North of England. Adding to his impressive list of achievements, he has also recently been appointed the High Sheriff of Greater Manchester, after his two-year role as Deputy Lieutenant. Mark was named UK's Best Leader at Best



Companies 2019 – the sixth time he has won this award and in 2017 he was presented with an award for 'Outstanding Contribution to the Jewellery Industry.'

The father-of-three is quick to explain that Beaverbrooks' philanthropic approach is inspired by his own deep Jewish faith, and the influences of his father Gerald and cousin Andrew Brown.

Mark speaks with real passion about their commitment to charity. "It's very much part of the DNA of our company, it has always been there. We take giving away money as seriously as we do making it.

"We are very much of the opinion that as a business our reason for existing is to make a difference to the world around us. If we were merely financially successful and didn't engage with our communities, that wouldn't sit right with us.

"Making a difference gives us a tremendous sense of accomplishment and is really important to us."

Today, Beaverbrooks is still a family owned, independent jewellers who hold the same values as when they first began. The only difference is that they now have three generations of passion and expertise driving them forward.

## The Beaverbrooks story:



### 1919 – The story began with three brothers and a suitcase

The three Adlestone brothers (Isaac, Harry and Maurice) moved to Belfast to pursue their dream of selling fine jewellery and gifts.

### 1920 – They swapped a suitcase for a store

Despite the hardship following the Great War, the brothers opened their first store in Belfast, followed by a string of stores in the North of England. The stores were all called Adlestones.

### 1935 – Beaverbrooks became a high-street name

Named after Lord Beaverbrook (a well-known public figure synonymous with honesty and integrity), the name Beaverbrooks was first given to their Oxford Street store in Manchester.

### 1946 – Sun, sand and St. Annes-on-Sea

As Isaac had passed away in 1942 and both Harry and Maurice were in poor health, their Head Office was relocated to St. Annes-on-Sea to take advantage of the benefits of the sea air.

### 1948 – 1961 – Family is at the heart of everything

In 1948 Isaac, Harry and Maurice's nephews Percy and Sydney Brown joined them in St. Annes. Isaac's son, Gerald, joined in 1950, then Michael Brown, Sydney Brown's son, and Andrew Brown, Percy Brown's son, joined in 1961 and 1962 respectively.

## 1967 – Charity is part of their DNA

Always committed to both charity and their communities, an impassioned plea from the Joint Israel Appeal following the Six-Day War in 1967 compelled Beaverbrooks to make a significantly larger donation than they had ever made before. Their involvement with charities has evolved ever since.

## 1979 – Beaverbrooks spans three generations

Mark Adlestone, Gerald Adlestone's son, joined the company and discovered his natural flair for leadership and passion for working with people.

## 1982 - Blackpool went on the run

Beaverbrooks founded the Blackpool 10K Fun Run; an annual event attended by thousands and which has raised millions of pounds for charity.



## 1994 – North meets South

For the first time in their 75 year history, Beaverbrooks expanded outside their Northern heartland and opened their first Southern store in Croydon.

## 2000 – More than just jewellery

Beaverbrooks made the decision to donate 20% of their retained profits each year. Since then, they have donated over £13 million to over 750 different charities.

## 2008 – Andrew Brown MBE

Still actively involved in the organisation of the Beaverbrooks Blackpool 10k, then in its 26th year, Andrew Brown was awarded an MBE for his services to charity and community. Prince Charles commented that he 'must be tired after all those fun runs'.

## 2013 – The first lady

Marking a significant change in the history of the company, Anna Blackburn was named CEO following a 15 year career with Beaverbrooks. Not only was she the first lady, but also the first non-family member to hold that title.



## 2015 – Mark Adlestone OBE

Mark was awarded an OBE in honour of his Services to Business and Charity in the North of England.

## 2017 – Outstanding contribution to the jewellery industry

As well as becoming Deputy Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, Mark was named the winner of Outstanding Contribution to the Jewellery Industry Award at the UK Jewellery Awards.



## 2018 – The first non-family MD in three generations of Beaverbrooks

Anna joined the board of directors and became the Managing Director of Beaverbrooks.

## 2019 - Beaverbrooks sparkles with three gongs at Best Companies

As well as Mark being named High Sheriff of Greater Manchester, Beaverbrooks was named the 10th Best Company to Work for in the UK, with Mark and Anna also being recognised as UK's Best Leaders at The Sunday Times Best Companies Awards 2019.

The only retailer to feature in the Top 10 List, they also received a special achievement award for featuring in the Top 100 List (mid-sized companies) for 16 consecutive years.

## Making a positive difference

When it comes to philanthropy, Mark Adlestone has set the gold standard, and he's hoping more business people will join him when it comes to his views on making a difference. He says: "If I could change anything I'd like to change the paradigm through which we define and look at success, so that it's about how much you've given in terms of time and money rather than how much money you've made."

## Beaverbrooks' charitable initiatives:

- Beaverbrooks match every penny raised by colleagues for charity from The Beaverbrooks Charitable Trust. In 2017/18 Beaverbrooks colleagues raised £45,983, which was then matched to £91,966. To celebrate its centenary in 2019, Beaverbrooks will be double match funding so charities will receive three times the original donation.
- Beaverbrooks has supported Payroll Giving for 10 years. In 2018, Beaverbrooks received the first ever 'Diamond Quality Award' from H M Government for Payroll Giving, celebrating more than 46% of their people who give to charity through payroll.
- With every colleague given 16 hours of paid time off to volunteer for a cause of their choice, Beaverbrooks volunteered a total of 10,680 hours in 2017/18. Feedback from their teams is extremely positive, with people saying that the personal gratification they feel from volunteering and making a difference to people's lives is unrivalled.
- Every year Beaverbrooks gives all teams the opportunity to donate £100 per person to a local charity of their choice. In 2018/19, £91,800 was donated to over 90 charities. Beaverbrooks encourage teams to support a local charity of their choice so they can make a tangible difference in their own community and build lasting relationships with local charities.
- In 2018 Beaverbrooks introduced a "You Care, We Share" scheme, which allows colleagues to nominate projects for us to support from a £250,000 fund – allocated from the Beaverbrooks Charitable Trust each year.



For as long as Beaverbrooks has been established, they've always focussed on charitable activities; it's in their DNA and is truly at the heart of what they do. Indeed, if success is defined by how much you've given, then Mark and his company are the very definition of success.



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## A letter to my daughter, Lieserl by Albert Einstein

In the late 1980s, Lieserl, the daughter of the famous genius, donated 1,400 letters, written by Einstein, to the Hebrew University, with orders not to publish their contents until two decades after his death. This is one of them, for Lieserl Einstein.

...“When I proposed the theory of relativity, very few understood me, and what I will reveal now to transmit to mankind will also collide with the misunderstanding and prejudice in the world.

I ask you to guard the letters as long as necessary, years, decades, until society is advanced enough to accept what I will explain below.

There is an extremely powerful force that, so far, science has not found a formal explanation to. It is a force that includes and governs all others, and is even behind any phenomenon operating in the universe and has not yet been identified by us.

This universal force is LOVE.

When scientists looked for a unified theory of the universe they forgot the most powerful unseen force.

Love is Light, that enlightens those who give and receive it.

Love is gravity, because it makes some

people feel attracted to others.

Love is power, because it multiplies the best we have, and allows humanity not to be extinguished in their blind selfishness. Love unfolds and reveals.

For love we live and die.

Love is God and God is Love.

This force explains everything and gives meaning to life. This is the variable that we have ignored for too long, maybe because we are afraid of love because it is the only energy in the universe that man has not learned to drive at will.

To give visibility to love, I made a simple substitution in my most famous equation.

If instead of  $E = mc^2$ , we accept that the energy to heal the world can be obtained through love multiplied by the speed of light squared, we arrive at the conclusion that love is the most powerful force there is, because it has no limits.

After the failure of humanity in the use and control of the other forces of the universe that have turned against us, it is urgent that we nourish ourselves with another kind of energy...

If we want our species to survive, if we are to find meaning in life, if we want to save the world and every sentient being that inhabits it, love is the one and only answer.

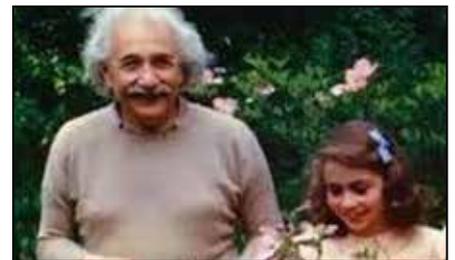
Perhaps we are not yet ready to make a bomb of love, a device powerful enough to entirely destroy the hate, selfishness and greed that devastate the planet.

However, each individual carries within them a small but powerful generator of love whose energy is waiting to be released.

When we learn to give and receive this universal energy, dear Lieserl, we will have affirmed that love conquers all, is able to transcend everything and anything, because love is the quintessence of life.

I deeply regret not having been able to express what is in my heart, which has quietly beaten for you all my life. Maybe it's too late to apologize, but as time is relative, I need to tell you that I love you and thanks to you I have reached the ultimate answer!"

Your father, Albert Einstein



## STORYTELLING PHOTOGRAPHER Karen Herman Wright

What are your favourite pictures of yourself from your own childhood?

The one of you in the velvet brown/pink suit/dress, standing awkwardly to attention flanked by siblings saying cheese?

Or the one of you playing with your cousins on the climbing frame at your auntie's house? The one where you're building castles and helping your dad build a boat out of sand on Blackpool beach with more sand stuck to the remains of ice-cream on your face, all the parents in the background in the striped deckchairs?

What about your favourite pictures of your parents and grandparents? Are they posed and smiling at the camera? Or are they holding you snuggled up on the couch or walking away from you holding hands oblivious of anyone else around?

My family collects both kinds of photos. I think, honestly, it's harder to appreciate a documentary photo at the time it's taken. When you see a great photo, is it where everyone is looking their best or is it the one that captures that typical expression, the humour, the mannerism,

the relationship, the unique personality?

When I look back at old photos, the perfectly posed ones are never the ones that give me that warm fizzy nostalgic feel. Seeing me sitting on the hideous blue swirly carpet from the house in which I grew up gives me nostalgia. My Grandma's handbag gives me nostalgia. Seeing me in my Laura Ashley batmitzvah dress doesn't remind me of anything except how I was made to wear it and made to sit a certain way and how it took forever to choose it. Dirty knees and a grubby face reminds me of bike rides, conker battles, crab apple fights, rose petal perfume, mud pies in the sand pit with kids that lived down the road.

So..... What reminds you of where you were and what you were doing and who you were with? Be careful!

What did it smell like, feel like, look like, taste like? Was it at home or on holiday? Was it with your family or the kids on the road or your cousins? It all brings you back to a moment you actually want to remember. Lots of photos like that will bring you back in time on a journey into your life before you got to where and

who you are today.

So the next time you want to capture the memory or the moment, think what exactly it is that you want to preserve. What are you feeling?

Have a chat with me and I can give you some hints. I run workshops on how you can best tell the story of your family in images for the wall or a book - the relationships and love, along with humour and what makes you all stick - one to preserve, cherish and treasure. Or your work story - the passion, commitment and quality you are proud of and want to share.

I am also available to do the job for you and the bonus is that you will be in the photos!

Celebrate the perfectly imperfect.

Karen Herman Wright  
07816 532526



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YOM HASHOAH  
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## Milestone

by Alex Braunstein

mile-stone

*noun*

*plural noun:* milestones

1. a stone set up beside a road to mark the distance in miles to a particular place.
2. an action or event marking a significant change or stage in development.

When I left University, I never thought that moving to a different country was going to be my 'plan' but when the opportunity presented itself, I jumped at the chance.

March marked a personal milestone. Five years ago, I left the quiet, leafy streets of Hale for the loud, concrete jungle of Manhattan.

The Mountbatten Institute, which is based in London, match interns with a variety of companies - from banking and marketing to law and non-profit - for one year. Due to my background, I was placed at an immigration law firm. The programme is open to everyone from around the world. My apartment had women from Kenya, India and two British-Nigerians - we called ourselves the UN apartment!

During those first 12 months, I explored as much of New York as I could. I went to museums, watched Shakespeare plays in Central Park, played musical chairs with 700 people and walked in the annual Israel Day Parade. I spent a lot of time exploring the streets in the different neighbourhoods, finding interesting shops and things 'off the touristy' routes. I managed (just about) to survive my first brutal New York



winter. I don't think it went above 0°C from October to March.

After my internship year, I was offered a full time job working for the law firm, and whilst that was a difficult decision to make, I took it.

Living here on a more permanent basis is very different than when I was here on an "alternative gap year". I moved to the Upper West Side, which has a vibrant young Jewish community. I started to get more involved in my Shul - I've been on their Young Leadership committee for 3 years, and part of the Administrative Board for one year. My minyan has over 200 young professionals every week, which still blows my mind.

I stayed working in law for 3 and half years, and was given the opportunity to work for CityMD - New York's largest urgent care company. Think of it as a walk-in minor A&E. Going from trying to fix the US's immigration issues to their healthcare issues is not necessarily an easy transition, but it's certainly a huge learning experience. If only I could bring over the NHS...

New York is called the city that doesn't sleep for a reason. I find myself constantly dashing from adventure to adventure - and there's always something to discover. I've found the best pizza. I've perfected where the doors will open on the subway from the platform. I know that May has the best weather and the least amount of tourists. However, there's still plenty more that I'm yet to understand - like the rules of American football, why they don't have contactless payment yet and how 32° is apparently freezing.

Five years is a long time, and although I may not be in Hale often, that doesn't mean I don't think about being able to pop in all the time. Milestones are strange, they make you think about how far you've come, and what you've achieved in that time. This year has been a milestone for Hale as well. Rabbi and Ruthie have impacted all our lives in one way or another, and I wish them all the best for their next adventure. And if anyone finds themselves on the other side of the pond, I've got the kettle on.



David Raynes at JS restaurant celebrating his 45th birthday with friends from Hale!



Rabbi Portnoy and Ruthie were honoured for over three decades of service to the community amongst over 100 Rabbinic colleagues at the Aleinu Rabbinic Conference.

## Life and Times of an Elderly Dentist by Alan Dobkin



Alan

I recently passed my 50th anniversary as a dentist. We had a celebration for the graduates of my qualifying year (1967) and 17 who are still alive attended, with me as the only one still working and enjoying what I consider to have been a fabulous profession.

I have enjoyed meeting many interesting people, foreign royalty, stage and screen personalities and sportsmen from a wide variety of disciplines and many, many kind and wonderful people.

In 1967, as a final year student, I travelled as a volunteer to Israel just a few days after the end of the Six Day War. The State was looking for

doctors and dentists to look after the population as their own were all away in the army.

The atmosphere was electric and tens of thousands of volunteers arrived from all over the world - the majority were non-Jewish, but all wanted to help. How times have changed.

There was no professional work for us and we were sent to a moshav near Be'er Sheva and worked as farm assistants for 2 weeks. The Jewish Agency then moved us to The Hebrew University, Jerusalem where we were given accommodation and taken all over the country in the back of army lorries. This was a fascinating time and we received amazing hospitality all the more so as one of the three of us from Manchester University was not Jewish.

Some years later a volunteer dental clinic was set up in Ashkelon, mainly driven by the late wonderful Gerald Finegold, a most enthusiastic dentist.

I was one of the first to go. It was February and cold and wet, but an experience never to be forgotten.

We worked in the clinic, partly sponsored by UJIA, and mainly looked after children whose parents could not afford dentistry.

My team mate from Exeter was not Jewish, neither were the two who replaced us, but we all worked hard and I hope we did some good in

addition to the dentistry.

Fast forward to 2017 where there is a volunteer dental clinic in Jerusalem and I thought it was time to visit again. The clinic was set up by a camp survivor near the German Quarter.

Accommodation was provided, but at my tender age I thought I would provide my own. I started at The Waldorf, a beautiful hotel but not to my liking, so I moved to the Inbal which was perfect and a 20 minute walk from the clinic.

This clinic has four dental chairs in the operatory so you can talk with the other dentists. With me, there was a lady from Montreal and a man from San Francisco, very interesting companions.

We treated youngsters up to the age of about 20, all free of course.

The standard of work was very high and my discussions with the director, a charming young Israeli, were very interesting.

He explained that this clinic is unique in the world as dentists from anywhere can apply and come to work regardless of their background and qualifications (all vetted) and professional insurance is arranged for them.

It was very sad that we saw no Arab children because, we were told, that their families are targeted by Hamas if they attend. This was quite recent and very disappointing.

As an aside, I visited the Shaare Zedek hospital two years earlier and saw very many Arab children being treated in the paediatric dialysis department having been brought there from the West Bank and Gaza by the IDF. We don't hear that on the BBC.

I flew back home with another experience to pass on to my grandchildren, one of whom had just gained a place at Bristol Dental School.



Alan's grandchildren around 12 years ago - Adam 'the dentist' now a dental student at Bristol University and Natasha, his 'patient'!

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"I went away for a couple of days and rather than leave Archie, my mini poodle, with the kennels he's been going to I decided to leave him with Debby at All About Dogs Cheshire. Archie had a great time as the pictures Debby sent me testified. I'll be dropping Archie off there again in the future."

Malcolm Gruber



## How Coca-Cola Became Kosher



Rabbi Tobias Geffen, an Orthodox rabbi serving the same shule in Atlanta from 1910 until he died in 1970, aged 99, is responsible for kashering Coke.

As the millions of Eastern European Jews who immigrated to the United States from Poland, Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine, and elsewhere in Eastern Europe before World War I became more Americanised, they wanted increasingly to partake of "real" American life, including consuming American foods and beverages.

While seltzer water might have been the preference of many traditional Jewish immigrants, their children and grandchildren demonstrated their Americanisation by drinking Coke.

Because he lived in Atlanta where the Coca-Cola Company was headquartered, Geffen received letters from several Orthodox rabbinic colleagues around the country asking whether it was permissible to drink Coca-Cola. Uncertain of the answer, Geffen contacted the company to ask for a list of Coke's ingredients.

At the time, Geffen did not know that the formula for Coca-Cola was a closely guarded trade secret! However, once he inquired, the Coca-Cola Company made a corporate decision to allow him access to the list of ingredients in Coke's formula provided he swore to keep them in utter secrecy!

Geffen agreed to the terms. The company did not tell him the exact proportions of each ingredient, but just gave him a list of contents by name.

Geffen discovered that one of them was glycerin made from non-kosher beef tallow. Even though a laboratory chemist told Geffen that the glycerin was present in only one part per thousand (one part in 60 was dilute enough to earn kosher certification), Geffen informed the Coca-Cola Company that, since this glycerin was a planned rather than accidentally added ingredient, Coke failed to meet the standards of observant Jews.

Back at the company's laboratories, research scientists went to work finding a substitute for tallow-based glycerin and discovered that Proctor and Gamble produced a glycerin from cottonseed and coconut oil. When they agreed to use this ingredient, Geffen gave his hechsher for Coke to be marketed as kosher.

However.....a second problem vexed Geffen: the formula for Coke included traces of alcohol that were a byproduct of grain kernels. Since anything derived from grains is chametz and therefore forbidden at Passover, Coca-Cola could not be certified kosher for use at Passover even after the formula was changed to include vegetable-based glycerin.

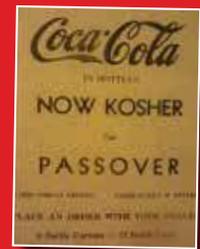
Coke's chemists experimented and found that, during the Passover season, they could substitute sweeteners produced from beet sugar and cane sugar for grain-based ones without compromising Coke's taste. They agreed to start manufacturing Coke with the new sugars several weeks before Passover each year.



Geffen was pleased to have performed this service for the American Jewish people and the Coca-Cola Company. In his papers, which are housed in the archives of the American Jewish Historical Society, researchers can find a teshuvah (rabbinic response) that Geffen wrote which includes the following:

"Because Coca-Cola has already been accepted by the general public in this country and Canada and because it has become an insurmountable problem to induce the great majority of Jews to refrain from partaking of this drink, I have tried earnestly to find a method of permitting its usage. With the help of G-d I have been able to uncover a pragmatic solution in which there would be no question nor any doubt concerning the ingredients of Coca-Cola."

Thanks to Rabbi Geffen, even the most observant Jews can feel comfortable that "things go better with Coke."



## LIFE WITH EIGHT CHILDREN

by Tracey Lee

**It was 30 years ago when I first set eyes on the man I knew I would marry and with whom I would have lots of children. Of course, he knew nothing about what was going through my mind until I approached him and casually started a conversation finding out what he did during the week so I could assess evenings when I could ring him knowing he would be out.**

The following week I rang him on an evening I knew he would be out and I left a message thinking the ball was now in his court and if he rang me back I would marry him! Well as you all might have guessed he rang back and two years later we became husband and wife.

Our first baby, Amy, now 26 years, was born 9 months after our wedding, followed 20 months later by Samantha, now 24, then nearly three years later Lauren, now 21, followed another three years later by Jacob, now 18. Josh, 14 years old came along yet another three years later, Jodie, 12, after a further two years and then seventeen months later Olivia, 10, arrived!

I then thought "okay, maybe enough now" but surprise, surprise the broodiness in me resurfaced and five years later at the grand old age of 46, I gave birth to my gorgeous Ellie, now 6!

Life in a family with lots of children can be exhausting, entertaining, annoying, loud, expensive but most of all loving and we wouldn't change it for the world. Our house is always full of children of all different ages as when one has friends

over then the rest have to follow suit. I think we should have shares in pasta, cheese and pizza businesses!

As the children grow older the challenges become different.... hormones kick in and they lose their voices and just grunt and whatever you do for them is never right....but before all you parents with prepubescent children start to worry, they come out of it and you have your happy child back.

For us, the year 2018 was the most exciting and memorable year for our whole family. Our eldest daughter Amy married her gorgeous Israeli husband, Or, in Israel. My emotions, whilst walking Amy down the aisle to her future husband, are indescribable. The thoughts in my head were "how can my first born baby be getting married?" and as my family know I don't cry very much but the tears were flowing, something I will always be teased about by Jeremy as he is normally the one to cry.

After 28 years of marriage we are still going through all the different stages of our children growing up and I am sure that during the coming years we will experience many trials and tribulations....and then hopefully we will be ready to go through them all again!



The Lee family with proud Grandma Sonia at Amy and Or's wedding.

## Thanks to Candice and her sister, Sharon Pollins, for sharing these great Pesach recipes.

### EASY PEASY PESACH COOKIE RECIPE:

Sharon's Delicious Best Cookie Tray bake

#### YOU WILL NEED:

2 cups ground almonds/hazelnuts  
1 cup brown sugar  
1 cup choc chips  
2 eggs

Preheat oven to 180 degrees.

Mix all ingredients together and pour into tin.

Bake in oven for 20 minutes.

A variation on this is to use 1 cup of almonds AND 1 cup of hazelnuts and also add 1 cup of raisins, sultanas or cranberries.

Simply delicious!



### CANDICE'S PESACH GRANOLA:

Great for breakfast with yoghurt or milk, or as a snack. Substitute your favourite nuts, dried fruit or add chocolate chips.



#### YOU WILL NEED:

1/4 cup butter or margarine  
1/2 cup vegetable oil  
1/2 cup water  
1/2 cup brown sugar  
1 cup crushed matzah  
1/2 cup chopped walnuts  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/2 cup raisins/cranberries  
1/2 cup flaked coconut  
1/2 cup chopped dates

Preheat oven to 180 degrees. Grease cookie sheet or use non-stick baking paper ungreased. Melt butter/margarine with oil, water and brown sugar in saucepan. Mix in remaining ingredients. Spread onto baking sheet and leave to bake in oven for 25 minutes or until golden brown, stirring occasionally. Cool, then break into small pieces. You can store this in an airtight cookie jar or ziplok bag. Makes up to 5 cups.

For a gluten-free alternative (which can be used all year round, too!), use gluten-free matzah crackers instead of wheat or spelt matzah.

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**Northern Ireland** We have added a little Northern Irish flavour to this edition of Gesher! We should be delighted to receive news from other towns, cities, regions countries at [gesher@haleshule.com](mailto:gesher@haleshule.com).

## Herzog Family Visit Belfast by Steven Jaffe



Local artist, Rachel Quirey, presents her portrait of Chaim Herzog to the Belfast Community. Far right, Steven Jaffe.

There's only one city in the UK that can boast a century ago that a future Chief Rabbi, President and Foreign Minister of Israel were living in it. That Belfast is that city will come as a surprise to many.

Towards the end of last year Belfast hosted an array of dignitaries from Israel and the UK Jewish community to celebrate the centenary of the birth in the city of Chaim Herzog, later President of Israel.

Pride of place belonged to the Herzog family, represented by Isaac Herzog, the President's son, former leader of the opposition in the Knesset, and recently appointed chair of the Jewish Agency. Isaac brought with him a brother and sister, sister-in-law and three nieces and nephews.

Amongst the organisations represented at a very senior level was the World Zionist Organisation, Zionist Federation, Jewish Agency, World Jewish Congress, the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Jewish Leadership Council, the Embassy of Israel in London and the Jewish Representative Council of Ireland.

In the morning the Herzogs met political representatives at Stormont, including the speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly, the former First Minister, Arlene Foster, and representatives of a number of parties for an informative round table discussion.

The lunch at the Belfast Jewish Community centre was impressively hosted and catered by the community to the highest of standards. It was a warm and celebratory community event - with many representatives from Belfast's public life also attending.

Dennis Coppel welcomed the guests on behalf of the Belfast Jewish community and Gerald Steinberg spoke about the work of Northern Ireland Friends of Israel. A high point of the lunch was a presentation of a portrait of the late President by local artist Rachel Quirey, which will hang in the community centre.

The standing ovation, however, belonged to the Lord Lieutenant of Belfast who gave an eloquent address in support of the Jewish community and its contribution to the city's life.

Out of town guests were then taken on a tour of Belfast - including the political murals and the "peace wall" which still divides Protestant and Catholic districts. No doubt the highlight of the tour was the visit to the Herzog's former house in Clifton Park Avenue - including an impromptu visit inside.

An evening gala event at the Great Hall, Stormont, hosted by Northern Ireland Friends of Israel, brought great elegance to the day, with Dawn Burns, a rising star of opera in Northern Ireland, providing entertainment, as well as a medley of

Israeli music performed by Ivor Goldberg of the band Shir.

Chaim Herzog's life was elaborated upon in film and by addresses by the Ambassador of Israel, HE Mark Regev; the President of the Board of Deputies, Marie van der Zyl, Eli Cohen of WZO and by Isaac Herzog himself.

Senior representatives of the Catholic and Presbyterian denominations attended and the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

Belfast certainly made the most of its presidential connections and there was a real - once in a century - sense of occasion to it.

And who were the chief rabbi and foreign minister living in Belfast a century ago? They were Chaim's father, Rabbi Isaac Herzog, and his future brother-in-law, Abba Eban, who was a child evacuee in Belfast at the same time as Chaim's birth. Quite some achievement for such a small community!

**About the author - Steven Jaffe is Belfast born, lives in London and co-chairs Northern Ireland Friends of Israel. Steven is a consultant to the Jewish Leadership Council and other Jewish community organisations. He has run successful Jewish heritage walks and tours in Belfast. Steven can be contacted at [nifriendsofisrael@gmail.com](mailto:nifriendsofisrael@gmail.com)**



## Memorial Plaque Unveiling in Belfast

by Gillian Rowe

The Price family (Rosalind, Eddie z"l plus four!) left Northern Ireland on 4 July 1977 to settle in what was a small but, we were told, 'on the rise' Hale Jewish Community. In common with many provincial towns and cities, the Jewish youth were accustomed to leaving Belfast in favour of attending university across the sea, never to return and of course, the 'troubles' did not help.

It is only in my more mature years that I can truly appreciate the upheaval and emotional turmoil this created for my parents. In Belfast they had married Jewish partners, had a comfortable home, extended family, a lovely community and no shortage of great friends. However, there was a real danger that their four children would not have the same opportunities such was the trend for young Jews to leave the city.

So, they moved to Hale for us as did a number of other Belfast families and I think we have made ourselves known to almost all of you! We certainly feel very much a part of today's Hale community. However, whilst my parents certainly felt the

warmth and welcome of the community they also always felt like newcomers and perhaps even outsiders. In truth and as the saying loosely goes, "you can take Eddie and Rosalind out of Belfast but not Belfast out of Eddie and Rosalind."

Anyway, sadly, let me fast forward 40 years to the passing of Eddie z"l in late December 2017 and the wonderful support shown by the community to our family as well as so many tributes to Dad who always used to say that he had no friends in Hale! We laid Dad to rest in Dunham and a few months later held dad's tombstone setting and afterwards unveiled a memorial plaque in our Bet Hamidrash.

We had given Dad the best possible send off. Or had we? Why not unveil a plaque for Dad in Belfast too? Perfect. Why had we not thought of that before?

It was actually very comforting to know that there was still 'something' that we could do for Dad (as if inheriting his longstanding battle with the Financial Ombudsman wasn't enough but that is another story....and let me tell you, it's one heck of a tome!

On Sunday 28 October 2018, we travelled to Belfast to unveil a memorial plaque for Dad. We met our dear friends, the Dalys, who had also

lost their father, Frank, just a few months after Dad passed away and we had arranged a joint unveiling for both fathers.

Dad and Frank, the Prices and the Dalys, had been lifelong friends. The Dalys moved to Glasgow when we moved here. There always has been and PG always will be a special bond between us.

Belfast is the tiniest of communities. All told there are only about 80 members of the shule. However, in tribute to Dad and Frank, around sixty guests filled the shule for the ceremony. I can just imagine the smiles on their faces. My sister, Kathy, spoke beautifully to the audience about Dad and the Daly family did the same about Frank.

This unveiling in Belfast, seeing Dad's plaque on the walls of the shule, amongst those of his parents, extended family members and friends, has brought us so much comfort as we believe it will have to my Dad.

We have lost an amazing, loving, caring and supportive father who was deeply steeped in his Jewish and Belfast traditions and beliefs, who gave his all to his family including leaving his beloved home town (although never losing his rich, albeit quite refined 'Norn' Irish accent!). His heart remained in Belfast - the plaque there is a wonderful and fitting tribute.

# "Torn From Home" by Linda Price

In the words of poet Robert Frost, "Home is the place that, when you have to go there, they have to take you in." To be 'Torn From Home' is disorientating and cruel. People from all over the world were displaced during WW2. War affected those living in Manchester and all the other major cities in Great Britain too. It was a time of great uncertainty and insecurity. The generation that survived had to make huge efforts to survive as refugees and make new homes. They stuck together and rebuilt communities and their families in new towns and countries. They grew strong in spite of everything they had suffered.

There are so many stories of the struggles and hardships people faced after the war. Antony Lishak from the charity 'Learning From The Righteous' has written the stories of 3 people whose home is Manchester. These were recounted at HMD 2019.

January 27th is now recognised throughout the world as Holocaust Memorial Day.

2019 marks 80 years since the outbreak of WW2. It's also 80 years since my own grandparents escaped Nazi Germany together with my Dad, Danny Herman. They fled to England as refugees. Theirs is a story of sheer courage and determination, love, positivity and faith in the future. They

survived and then thrived in their new homeland, England.

I've mentioned my Dad's story in Geshet before so I won't retell it here. Suffice to say that he has told it for the first time in public this year, no less than 4 times in a month, under the HMD banner 'Torn From Home'. Aged 83, he now has a new career in public speaking as a Holocaust survivor/refugee, who is able to tell, first-hand what happened to him and his family. My siblings and I are known as 2nd generation survivors. It's a title that we're actually proud to own.

Our grandparents and dad were torn from their home in Königsberg, Germany. Their town and any reminder of German, let alone Jewish life, was literally torn apart. During the Second World War, the city was completely ruined by British bombings directed at the civilian population in 1944.

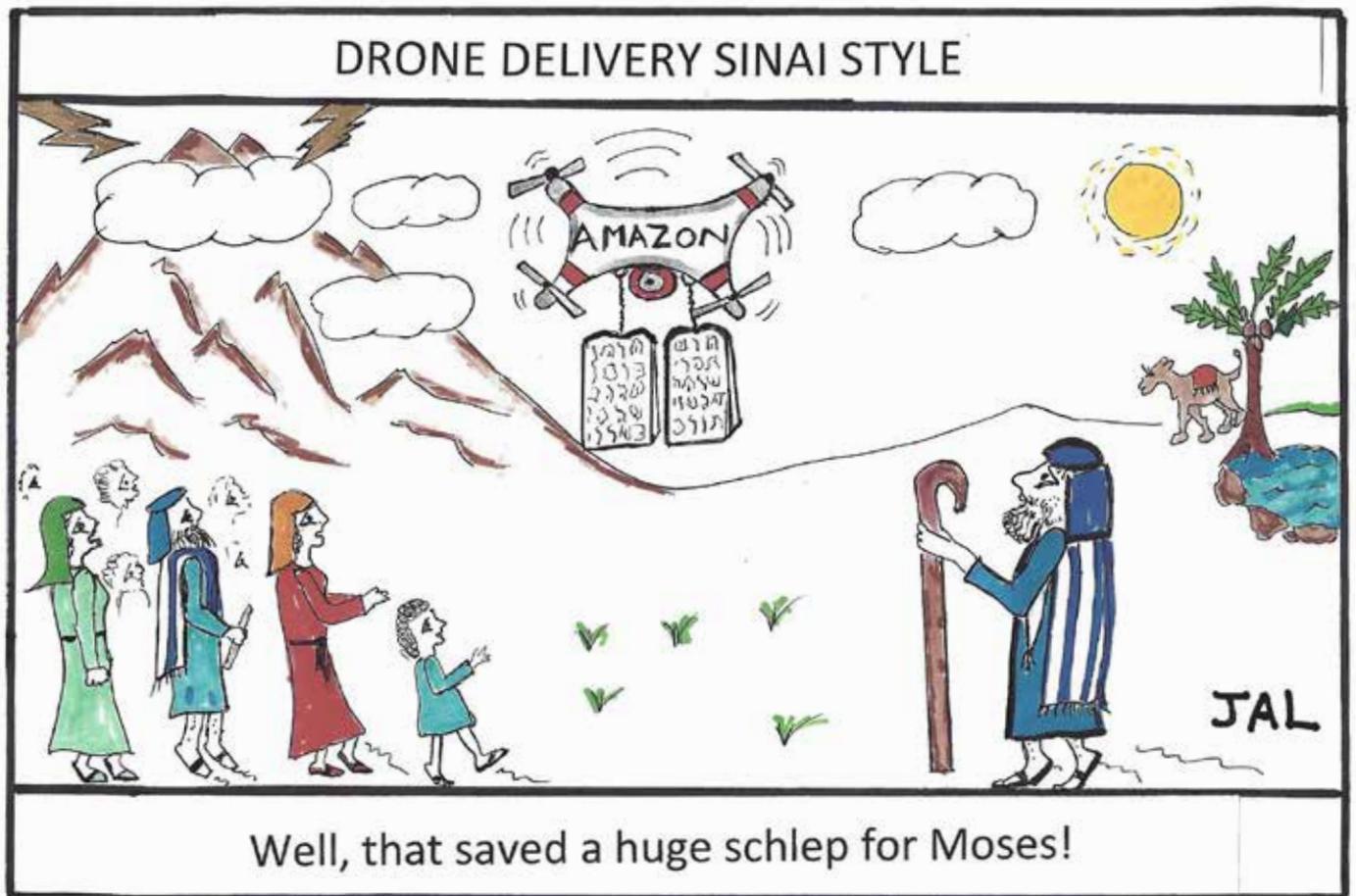
There is nothing to see of the old town as even the graveyards were dug up. The city's inhabitants were displaced and many were raped and murdered by the Red Army. Almost all of the region's nearly two million German and Lithuanian residents were murdered or deported to Gulag. Then the town was repopulated by Russians. In 1945, the Soviet Union annexed the area

and made it part of the Soviet Union as the Kaliningrad Oblast and the local language became Russian.

My grandparents were able to ship some items before fleeing Germany. They packed a small container with furniture, silver, crockery and even a bicycle. It left the port of Hamburg in the summer of 1939 arriving at Salford Docks in May 1940, nearly 12 months later. The most precious item in the shipment was a family seder plate – pictured on the front of this Geshet magazine. It's used every Pesach and proudly displayed on the wall in my parents' home the rest of the year.



Peter Kurer – another well known local survivor refugee was also 'torn from home'. He was helped immensely by the Quakers who gained safe passage for him to England. More from Peter in the next issue of Geshet.

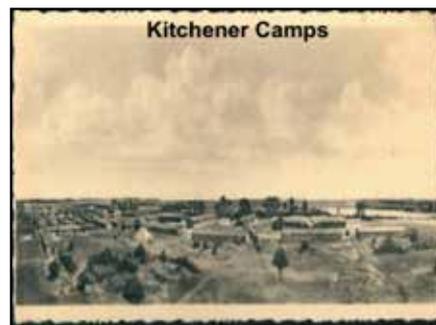


Well, that saved a huge schlep for Moses!



# Learning from the **Righteous**

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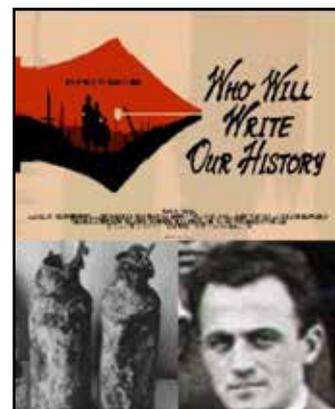
residency in the UK just prior to the outbreak of World War Two and accommodated in buildings that had remained uninhabited since housing WW1 troops in Kent known as "Kitchener Camps". He will be telling his story as part of Manchester's official HMD commemorations at The HOME Cinema.

**WHO WILL WRITE OUR HISTORY** is a film that tells the story of the remarkable act of resistance, led by Emanuel Ringelblum, that culminated in a group of historians clandestinely documenting life in The Warsaw Ghetto. This group became known as the Oneg Shabbat and the archive they created is one of the most important sources of first-hand knowledge about The Holocaust. This film has only recently been released and its significance has been likened to Claude Lanzmann's epic film "Shoah".

The film will be shown at the Central Library after the civic commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day, where Danny Herman will be sharing his testimony.

**ANTONY LISHAK,**  
EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT

LEARNING FROM THE **RIGHTEOUS**  
antony@learningfromtherighteous.org



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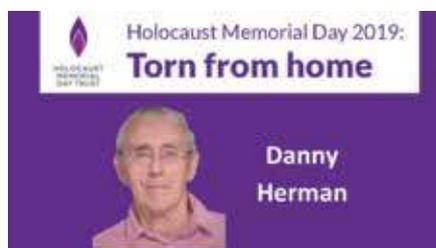
LEARNING FROM THE **RIGHTEOUS** is proud to be partnering with **MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL**, **MANCHESTER CENTRAL LIBRARY** and **THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER** in organising events to commemorate **HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2019**. We are a Holocaust education charity that leads workshops that focus on acts of resistance carried out by individuals who, at considerable personal risk, chose to do all they could to rescue victims of Nazi persecution before or during the Second World War. By setting the deeds of these courageous people in their broader historical context, we encourage children to see themselves as active citizens. We believe that the quality of a child's first encounter with The Holocaust will determine their relationship with it for the rest of their life and that such extraordinary examples of altruism provides powerful role models for children to empathise with as they strive to establish their own place in society.



**The events featured during the week ...**

**Workshops for students looking at the story of the St Louis, in preparation for meeting survivors Sonja Sternberg & Gisela Feldman.**

In the summer of 1939, The St Louis left Hamburg to sail to Cuba with 937 Jews who thought they had escaped persecution in Nazi Germany. But the ship was refused permission to dock and forced to return to Europe. Sonja Sternberg & Gisela Feldman were young girls on board...



**Danny Herman, survivor from The Kitchener Refugee Camp in Kent gives his testimony at the City Council HMD event**

Danny Herman and his parents were among the 4000 German Jewish refugees who were granted temporary

## 'Laughter Yoga - bringing people together.'

Thanks to co-authors, Joanne Feldman and Alayne Levy.



'Joanne:

Nisa-Nashim is a Jewish Muslim Women's network bringing our communities in Britain closer together by setting up groups of women who build personal friendships, grow as leaders and benefit wider society through our programmes and initiatives.

Against the backdrop of an increase in hate crime, and an atmosphere of mistrust, exacerbated by a lack of

meaningful personal contacts, Laura Marks OBE and Julie Siddique launched Nisa-Nashim in July 2015. I was privileged to be asked to co-chair the Manchester group with Elinor Chohan MBE. We have developed a close friendship and unique spiritual bond via running a range of shared initiatives from helping the homeless to a "hair covering event" at Selfridges. At the time of writing, we were arranging to chat with female inmates at Styal prison. Elinor

and I share a vision of a society in which negative misconceptions of those who are different from us are challenged, specifically in relation to the intersectionality between gender and religion.

After attending one of our meetings, our Rebbetzen, Ruthie Portnoy, mentioned to me that she ran Laughing Yoga sessions and it became immediately apparent that it would be a perfect event for Nisa-Nashim, an ideal ice-breaker between women from 2 different faiths to challenge barriers in a safe environment and it was arranged for a cold night in January in Hale shule.

Alayne:

Ruthie, together with Lynne Steinberg and I, became aware of laughter yoga when we went on a healthy lifestyle retreat several years ago in Brighton. Such was the impression it left, we decided to qualify as Laughter Yoga teachers.

So we were delighted to be involved knowing how much fun it is.

It's called Laughter Yoga because it combines laughter exercises with yoga breathing. This breathing brings more oxygen to the body and the brain, which makes one feel more energetic and healthy. The concept of Laughter Yoga is based on a scientific fact that the body cannot differentiate between fake and real laughter if done willingly, so one gets the same health benefits whether laughter is real or simulated. Laughter Yoga combines unconditional laughter with breathing without the need for humour, jokes or comedy. Healthy laughter, the type that you don't have to think about, is the result.

We started with gentle warm-ups, clapping and movement. We greeted each other with eye contact and laughter. As a group, we became comfortable in ourselves and in each other's company. We continued with a series of laughter exercises that combine methods of acting and visualisation techniques with childlike playfulness. When combined with a strong social dynamic, laughter became contagious: prolonged and hearty, unconditional and often uncontrollable!

Try to imagine this scenario:- One of the activities - three people: an interviewer (who only speaks English,) an interpreter to interpret the third person, the expert, who only speaks gibberish. The group decides in what field the expert is an expert and the interview begins. Words in this article cannot properly describe the hysteria. Natural and uninhibited animation, served up with vocal nonsense, in this playful, childlike manner is a recipe for pure joy.

The activities are interspersed with breathing exercises and the session ends with laughter meditation, which quite honestly was vital to come back down from a natural high.

The group found this a powerful experience. A wonderful bonding experience. The women who came along didn't know what to expect. They left, however, knowing that the power of laughter transcends all our differences. It's good for you. Go on ... give it a try ...



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kosher Pesach!

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# 4 must-see exhibitions at The Israel Museum in Jerusalem

by Linda Price



## Maimonides: A Legacy in Script

Rabbi Moshe Ben Maimon was a Halachic authority, philosopher, community leader and medical doctor. It is incredible to think you are actually seeing Maimonides' original signature on early illuminated manuscripts. Maimonides's writings point to an underlying doctrine – that psychological and physical health are inseparable. He wrote all this 800 years ago and his findings are still relevant today. The museum have commissioned four tiny installations in the centre of the exhibition. Viewed through small windows they are fascinating miniature 3D scenes with audio explanations. They give an insight into life as it was in the 12th Century.

## The Wanderer

I wasn't sure what to expect with this exhibition. All the art works are loosely linked by the title 'The Wanderer'. They range from huge oil paintings to small prints and sculpted gourds. Its varied works are housed in a few

rooms within the museum. It's somewhat challenging to find your way around the Israel Museum so it's appropriate that I found myself asking for directions whilst 'wandering'. The theme is extended to encompass the anti-Semitic image of the 'Wandering Jew'. He represents his dispersed people in European folklore as a wandering nomad or travelling peddler. Christian artists depicted him as tall, with a prominent nose and a long unkempt beard. Then Jewish artists added a different type of wandering Jew to their repertoire. They were responding to pogroms at the end of the 19th Century. They showed him as an exhausted little man who was worn down by Jewish suffering and exile.



## Fashion Statements

I've been to this exhibition three times so far. It's a large exhibition of various media displayed over several rooms. Always sensible to wear trainers when visiting the Israel Museum. You'll walk miles and your fitbit will love it! You'd think that exploring the history

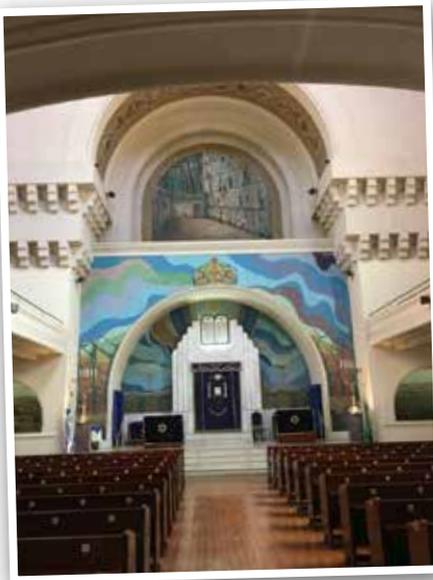
of Israeli fashion would be a quick thing. The country is only 70 years old after all. However, the story begins in ancient times and explores central themes in the history of dress in Israel. Travelling through time and via a catwalk of beautiful clothes, you get to the present day and the real wow factor pieces. Israeli creativity holds its own in the global fashion scene today. As a former fine art student in textiles I am in my happy place at this exhibition. Shame they haven't produced the catalogue in English. Good incentive to brush up on my Ivrit. I'm planning a return visit before the exhibition closes.

## I to Eye

This is a fun theme in which to display contemporary artworks, installations and film. We took our two grandsons to see this one and they loved the interactive exhibits. The artworks examine the changing social landscape of the virtual age. They illuminate the importance of real relationships and encounters in our lives. We were all invited to rediscover the value of face to face meetings and their power to deepen our knowledge of the other and ourselves.



## Rio by Candice Dwek



Last December we flew out to S America to spend a few weeks travelling as a family, as well as catching up with our daughter, Gianina, who is currently on her 'year abroad programme' in Buenos Aires.

We met up with her in Rio, and on Day 2 of our trip, were taken on a Jewish Heritage Tour of the city by our guide, Leonardo, and driver, Flavio.

We learnt that Brazil has had a Jewish presence since around 1500, dating back to the time of Columbus and Gaspar da Gama (born Jewish), accompanied by the Portuguese admiral, Pedro Alvares Cabral. The pioneers, who had fled the Spanish Inquisition or had been forced out of Portugal first settled in Recife, and in 1636, the very first synagogue in the Americas was built.

Brazil now has the 9th largest Jewish community in the world with roughly 120,000. Half live in São Paolo, with around 40,000 in Rio.

Leonardo took us to no less than 5 synagogues - a mix of Orthodox, Chabad or Reform, but all equally impressive architecturally. We also passed Chaim Weitzman Square and a public school bearing Anne Frank's name, situated somewhat ironically, directly opposite the now defunct German Embassy!



We visited the Jewish Museum, housed in an office block in the city centre. The main artefacts were cases upon cases of chanukiot, the Museum's main attraction - part of the Feldman Collection - and other exhibits made by artisan and collector Joseph Feldman (Russia, 1899 - Rio, 1978) - replicas of old European pieces.

To end our sweltering morning, in 41 degrees of heat and almost 100% humidity (if not, it felt like it!) we stopped off briefly at Rabin Park, from where we had a clear view of the iconic Sugarloaf Mountain (so-called by the Portuguese during the heyday of sugar cane trade in Brazil, because the form of the peak reminded them of the well-known sugarloaf shape, formed by the blocks of sugar placed in conical moulds made of clay, that were transported on ships).

Although we had been pre-warned the day before by friends who visited it, we decided to go for lunch to the kosher restaurant in Copacabana. When we arrived, we were a bit dubious as we had to pass through an indoor market with glaring eyes everywhere. We felt like we were living a scene from "Fauda". We hastily made our way into a rundown building and followed the paper signs half hanging off the walls, to the 'restaurant'



called 'Shelanu'. Needless to say, we had the first bite of something from the buffet and couldn't bring ourselves to take a second mouthful. Unfortunately we wouldn't 'safely' be able to recommend this one to travellers to the area.

However, if you're looking for restaurant recommendations in Buenos Aires, we have a whole selection for any members planning a trip there, as well as other places of interest to visit!



## Ollie "The Mitzvah Dog" and his brother Ted

by Rochelle King



Rochelle's late mum, Shirley Nussbaum, with Ollie

I had always wanted a dog but there was invariably an excuse - work, children and even the very commitment of having a dog. Then one day my younger daughter, Natalie, said "Just do it, Mum."

Natalie arranged a visit to a breeder and that is when, six years ago, Ollie came into our lives. After having puppy blues for a week or so, we



Ted and Ollie

all fell in love with Ollie. He is a Cavachon - his mum is a King Charles Cavalier and his dad a Bichon Frieze.

Ollie makes us smile, laugh and exercise every day, I chat to strangers on our walks, generally about dogs, and some of those strangers have now become good friends.

My mum, who did not like dogs at all, also fell in love with Ollie. I could not visit her without him, as she always asked, "Where is Ollie?" her "furry grandchild".

It soon became evident that Ollie has a very special talent and possessed such a lovely calm demeanour and so we applied for him to become a P.A.T. (Pets as Therapy) dog. Pets as Therapy, [www.petsastherapy.org](http://www.petsastherapy.org), is a national charity founded in 1983. It promotes health and wellbeing in the community through the visits of 'trusted volunteers with their behaviourally assessed animals and provides 'a visiting service in hospitals, hospices, nursing and care homes, special needs schools and a variety of other venues all across the UK'.

The application process comprised a 2-hour assessment, checking Ollie's temperament, his patience for being pulled and schlepped around and his calmness in a stressful situation. We, or should I say, Ollie passed with flying colours!

We have subsequently been visitors to a number of local care homes, North Manchester General Hospital, Cheadle Royal The Priory and helped in the treatment of dog phobias.

There is much evidence in the literature, citing the calming and therapeutic effects of animals in many situations. There are dogs on Intensive Care Units, pre-theatre units to calm down children, hospices and also a Read2Dogs



Ollie

Scheme aimed at improving children's literacy and communication skills. The children read to the dogs at their own pace, building confidence and enjoying to read, sometimes for the first time.

Ollie has a uniform and a ID badge, but to be honest he just enjoys being stroked and loves the attention. He is also very partial to the occasional treat. We call Ollie "the Mitzvah Dog" because he makes such a difference to people's lives.

Ted then joined our family two years ago! He is also a Cavachon from a different breeder, a little crazy sometimes but also kind with a gentle disposition. Maybe in time he will also become a P.A.T. dog. He adores his big brother, Ollie and follows in his footsteps in many ways.

Ollie has a new volunteering role with Camp Simcha. He is their first Therapy Dog in Manchester following on from the launching of a new project using animals in the Camp Simcha community. We are very excited to start working with them in the next few weeks.

If you think Ollie could make a difference to someone's life please do get in touch with me on 07968 044075. We should be more than happy to visit!

## Exiled from Bangladesh: A Stateless Zionist by Dr Shadman Zaman

I am the first Bangladeshi national in history to travel to Israel. If social trends are anything to go by, I would have been an anti-Semite like most of my countrymen - not someone on the threshold of conversion to Judaism. I would have hated Israel and thought of them as the controller of the world who wanted to destroy Muslim identity. My story ended differently.

Bangladesh, a country of more than 165 million people, 90% of whom are Muslim, was established with secularism as a virtue. However, political turmoil and subsequent military coups established governments who were sympathetic to Islamist groups and dependent on Middle Eastern aid. This made Bangladesh a breeding ground for Wahhabi Islamic teaching which has plagued the Middle East. This version of Islam

promoted by Saudi Arabia, the driving ideological force behind groups like ISIS and Al-Qaeda, also found its way into the minds and textbooks of Bangladeshi people. Most people around me hated Jews and Israel, and in a country with no registered Jews, there was hardly anyone to teach about Judaism and the Jewish people. My textbooks and teachers in school used to demonise Jews and Israel as the "Satan." The culture of Bangladesh used to encourage and indoctrinate its people in anti-Semitism from a very early age.

Luckily for me, my story ended up being radically different to what is predestined for so many other Bangladeshis. Born into an affluent family, my parents promoted humanity as a virtue above all else. My father is a secular atheist and my mother is a liberal Muslim. My



Dr Shadman Zaman

maternal grandfather, an atheist, was the first Bangladeshi Zionist and it was he who introduced me to Zionism and the beauty of Judaism.

# Articles and Features

continued from previous page



At school and in public places, I was always told to hate Jews but at home I was given a very different message. My parents and grandfather encouraged me to read about Judaism, Zionism and Jewish history - something unheard of in my country. They told me to first read and then question whether the hatred that the average Bangladeshi harbours towards Jews was justified or not. As a curious 12 year old, I read the book "A Case for Israel" by Alan Dershowitz and my perception of Israel changed forever. Since then, I have read a lot of books on Israel and the Middle East and I have no doubt that to prevent another Holocaust, there has to be an independent State of Israel.

My father is an engineer and my mother is a teacher, a philanthropist and a women's rights campaigner. In January 2015, I qualified as a doctor from Chittagong Medical College and did a one-year internship in Bangladesh. I would try

to call out anti-Semitism when I saw it, and shared with others my belief that diplomatic relations with Israel would benefit us. My public support of Israel led to regular death threats from Islamists. They also threatened my parents too. I moved to the UK in order to pursue my career as a doctor and to my surprise, found that anti-Semitism existed here too. After passing the registration exams and becoming an A & E doctor in the NHS, I joined Queen Mary University of London to do a Masters in Public Health.

I was shocked to see the level of hatred towards Israel and Jews on university campuses. It became my moral duty to stand up against hatred towards Jews and I became the secretary of the "Jewish and Israel Society" of Queen Mary University of London. I took to the streets with my fellow Zionists to campaign and uphold the truth about Israel. Since moving to the UK, I have already received 37 death threats, but that will not deter me.

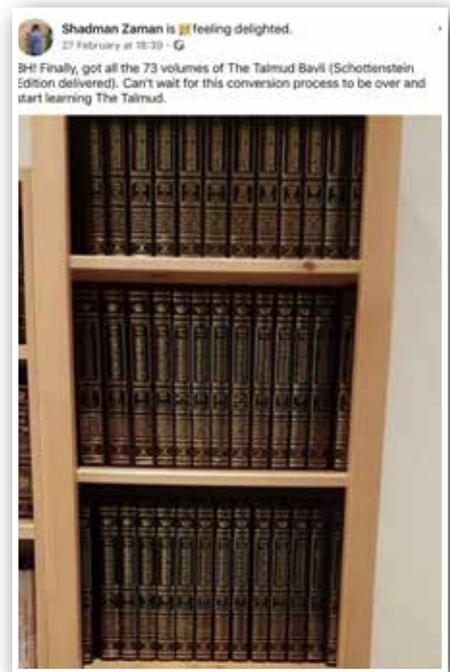
While working as a doctor and studying for my masters, I decided to take a break for a week and visit Israel. I knew that if Israel approved my visa application then I would be the first Bangladeshi national to do so. Salah Chowdhury, a Bangladeshi national, had previously attempted to go to Israel in 2003 and as a result is still in jail in Bangladesh. When I applied for the visa, I was worried that my visa application would be rejected as Bangladesh is one of the countries that bans its citizens from going to Israel. But my application was successful and I travelled all over northern Israel with a close Israeli friend. The opening of one door has most likely closed another - as if I were to set foot on Bangladeshi soil now, I would likely be arrested at the airport and charged with high treason.

I travelled to Jerusalem, Haifa, Caesarea, Netanya, Abu Gosh, Ma'ale Hahamisha kibbutz and Sha'arei Tikva. In Jerusalem, I visited the Kotel, the Temple Mount, the Church, the Mamilla Mall and Yad Vashem. Praying at the Kotel was an incredibly uplifting experience and one of the factors in my decision to convert to Judaism.

After coming back from Israel, I felt even more obligated to tell the truth that I witnessed, the democratic rights Israel provides to all its citizens irrespective of their colour, ethnicity and religion. Now I campaign on a regular basis in the UK on the truth about Israel and I face lots of abuse for being a Zionist and for my decision to convert to Judaism.

For me, anti-Zionism is the modern anti-Semitism. While advocating for Israel, people ask me how I connect to Zionism. Bangladesh was founded at the aspiration of Bengali people just as Israel was for the Jewish people.

Israel helped Bangladesh during our own liberation



struggle, but that part of history is not often cited. Israel was one of the first nations to recognise Bangladesh in 1972 following the Bangladesh Liberation War. However the country rejected this recognition.

One of my life goals remains the establishment of relations between Bangladesh and Israel, which I believe would be hugely beneficial for both countries. I'm getting more traction in Bangladesh because of what I'm doing in the UK and although I am painted in a negative light, my message is being heard.

Before he died, my grandfather told me the first country I should visit is Israel. He gave me his shoes, and when I came to Israel for the first time I wore his shoes so that he would feel like he was walking in Israel with me. Now, on my path towards becoming a Jew, I can only think that the support of my family towards pursuing truth above all, helped direct me on my journey.

### About the author

Dr Shadman Zaman is the first Bangladeshi national to have visited Israel. He is a doctor, a staunch Zionist, and currently living in Manchester. **Look out for him on Facebook!**



## The Amazing Rabbi & Rebbetzen Chanowitz of St Maarten by Candice Dwek



Rabbi Moishe & Sara Chanowitz & family

On 6th September 2017 Hurricane Irma hit the small but idyllic Caribbean island of St Maarten. On a cruise stopping at that island the year before, I came across Sara Chanowitz, the Chabad Rebbetzen, who lives there with her husband, Rabbi Moishe, and their young family.

I immediately contacted Chabad in Florida after hearing about the devastation caused by Irma, and found out the miraculous sequence of events that saved this family, yet destroyed every building in its path. As they had virtually nothing left but the half-built Mikvah in which they hid, which saved them, and a framed picture of the Rebbe which fell off the wall but protected everything directly behind it, and only power left in their generator to last one or so more days, I wanted to do something to reach out to them.

I mentioned the story to a few friends, and before I knew it, a large number of ladies from the South Manchester Jewish community opened their hearts and came



Rabbi Chanowitz with some rescue workers

forward to show their compassion and generosity.

As a gofundme page was hastily set up to assist the family, donations came flooding in from around the world, and our wonderful community did us proud, too.

Rabbi Moishe & Rebbetzen Sara tell their story...

We moved to St Maarten, in the Dutch Antilles, once we realized this is where we were needed most, as Chabad shluchim.

There is a very small local community there, an American University and hundreds of yearly visitors.

Early on we realized the potential of reaching thousands of cruise ship tourists and we have made many steps towards that and found great success starting with our magazine and now working on a full visitors' center, including the Jewish treasures of the Caribbean exhibit.

We work a lot with the university students, providing classes and programs and giving them a home away from home. We send Jewish holiday packages to the universities on other Caribbean islands as well making sure they can celebrate the Yom tovim.

Locally we organize Shabbat services and holiday programs and services for the children. It depends on the year as the community is transient. Some years we have a mommy and me group, other years it's a Talmud Torah and we have had over ten bar mitzvah boys trained.

In general we take care of anything Jewish on this island as well as the neighboring islands. From kosher food to mikvah and any lifecycle events, there is no one else to call.

Hurricane hurricane!?! We thought we knew what a hurricane was. Yes, we have been through a Category 3 and 4 hurricane before.. the islands were back up and running in 3 days. We knew to prepare lots of water and food and diesel for the generator. You see the island is built to withstand hurricanes.

When we first heard about Irma it was nothing to worry about. However, we made sure to stock up on dry food and water for an army (thinking that we will use it anyway... ). So, the slightest chance this would get serious we would be able to help others.

The day before it hit, we finally understood that this would be a category 5 and a direct hit. At that point it was too late to fly out. We made last minute plans and preparations. And davened for the best.

It was the days after that were difficult. Not having a home or electricity and water for the whole island was devastating. Top that off with lawlessness and chaos, it truly was a disaster.

The months following, as we watched our home get demolished and the

island rebuilt, we continued from CT making holiday programs for the locals and helping the island in whatever way we could.



Devastation caused by Hurricane Irma

2 ambulances were donated and containers of clothing and shoes were arranged all the while making sure those that stayed had kosher food.

Finally we are back and almost like a new start, we are seeing success. Shabbat services, kosher food, holiday programs and many winter visitors. The word is quality over quantity!!

Now, as we look forward to completing the mikvah and the Chabad House construction, we are positive and see the huge potential of making a difference in the lives of so many.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you South Manchester, for being our partner in this great work. Thank you for being there for us in our most challenging time and thank you for your support.



Havoc in St Maarten



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## Volunteering@thefed in south Manchester

The Fed's Community Services department based at Heathlands Village in Prestwich welcomed a new member of staff to its ranks last November with the arrival of 30 year old Avital Gilbey.

Five months into her role, as one of five coordinators in the 'volunteering@thefed' team, she and colleagues recently caught up with the charity's Communications Officer, Robert Marks.

"Avital's a breath of fresh air!" enthused her Manager, Juliette Pearce. "She was brought in to focus on the needs of the south Manchester community and has quickly begun to make a very positive impact.

She's working as part of one big team covering the entire Manchester Jewish community – both north and south of the city – which is based alongside our The Fed's Community Advice and Support Team (CAST).

There are great benefits to our service users in siting our projects under one roof – above all the immediate access to our social workers and support workers providing people with a more holistic service.

Whilst office-wise Avital is based in north Manchester she's regularly out and about, visiting and assessing people in their south Manchester homes."

Avital describes how she 'got thrown in at the deep-end' when she arrived "The team were in the throes of arranging a big Chanukah party for service users at Wicker Lane shule. It was all systems go! But the event was brilliant with over 50 Fed clients, supported by around 20 volunteers. It really brought home to me how much benefit The Fed brings to people's lives."

Avital explains how her role will see her "arranging support for people of all ages who face a whole variety of challenges - whether chronic physical illness, mental health issues or loneliness and social isolation which sadly are a feature of life for so many people, not only older people."

Bernie Garner, Director of Community Services at The Fed added,

"A large part of Avital's role is also about developing our services to reach more people in need living in south Manchester, by forging stronger links with community organisations and shules such as Hale and Yeshurun in Gatley. The Fed believes that greater partnership work between us and shules, Luncheon Clubs and similar institutions, will result in people being better supported.

The Fed has to be flexible and evolve with the ever-changing needs of the community. In particular we want to make sure people living in areas where the communities have shrunk over recent decades, do not fall through the net. We want to reconnect people.

## THE LOOKING AFTER EACH OTHER FED

Avital will help further this 'linked-up' approach which will also involve care homes caring for Jewish people and Trafford Council from whom we received a winter resilience grant to partly fund her salary.

All of this is aimed at keeping people independent and well, and importantly in terms of their psychological health - in touch with their local communities."

"There is so much to be done and so many people who will benefit from the work we are doing. This is a really exciting challenge for me," adds Avital.

Volunteering@thefed also runs the Heritage lottery funded 'The Fed My Voice' project with volunteers befriending Holocaust Survivors and Refugees and being involved at all stages of the production of individual life story books. These are intended as keep-sakes to pass on to their families and future generations and focus especially on documenting people's lives before the Holocaust and rebuilt post WW2 here in the UK.

Another regular feature of the team's work is the organisation of the charity's extremely popular monthly 'coffee-stops' which bring groups of clients together to socialise.

The team anticipate an extremely busy few weeks ahead with the annual springtime peak in requests for help with Pesach shopping.

Volunteer Recruitment and Training Officer, Dalia Kauffman, stressed the need for more people to step forward and offer an hour or two of their time.

She explained, "We are always short of volunteers. We have about 400 currently on our books but believe it or not this simply isn't enough.

I've been working very closely with Avital since she joined us, in a drive to recruit more people to do one-to-one volunteering. I cannot emphasise enough how important this is. There is a huge need for support in the south Manchester community - from people who are affiliated to those living very much on the perimeter of the community. People need help with getting their shopping, doing errands, getting to hospital and of course people are terribly, terribly lonely.

There are clients we have been taking to the Christie for treatment - some with zero connection to community - and when they see how volunteering@thefed helps them they are in awe.

But the last thing we want is to keep people waiting once they've taken the step of getting in touch with us for help. We really are desperate for more volunteers."

**All new referrals for volunteer or CAST support are made to The Fed's daily Advice and Referral Officer on 0161 772 4800 (option 2) or by email to [duty@thefed.org.uk](mailto:duty@thefed.org.uk)**

**Anyone wishing to offer their services as a volunteer should get in touch with Dalia on 0161 772 4800 (option 2).**

## Route Map For Success at Re-Accredited Fed

**"Embracing the principles of high performance and with a clear route map for success."**

This was the description of The Fed given by Investors In People assessor, Liam Linacre.

Investors In People (IIP) - a global standard for people management - is the professional certification for businesses who place a premium on outstanding leadership, providing excellent service and facilitating staff development.

The Fed, which has consistently attained IIP accreditation since before the 2009 merger between the 'old' Fed and Heathlands Village, was recently assessed as part of the ongoing standard.

Forty employees - selected by IIP - from across the Fed's range of services were interviewed, with topics touching on trust, motivation, measuring and encouraging high performance, supporting development and embracing change.

In re-accrediting The Fed as an IIP organisation for a further three years, Mr Linacre remarked that its values "were embedded and explicit across the

organisation, from Board Members to volunteers... and that it was clear that people were committed to ensuring the future success of the Federation of Jewish Services."

Councillor Jane Black - Mayor of Bury - who visited Heathlands Village, was delighted to present the newly-awarded certificate of accreditation to a group of Fed staff, together with CEO Mark Cunningham and Chairman Mark Adlestone.



## 400 Supporters Gather at Old Trafford to Celebrate The Fed

Despite an untimely blanket of snow which threatened to put a dampener on plans, four hundred dedicated supporters gathered in January at 'The Point' at Lancashire County Cricket Club to celebrate the fantastic work carried out day in, day out, across Greater Manchester by The Fed.

The biennial dinner is the charity's key fundraising event and fundamental in achieving its £1.2m annual target to keep essential services running. The event highlighted the crucial need of plugging the gap in the charity's operating budget.

At any one time, in the region of 95 residents are receiving residential care at Heathlands Village – and for each publically-funded resident, an average yearly shortfall of more than £15,000 is picked up by The Fed.

Around 36 residents receive nursing care and a further 31 tenants live in their own homes in The Fed's Moorview Independent Living Facility.

The evening was hosted by BBC presenter Samantha Simmonds, with guest speaker Clare Balding OBE, who delighted the audience with her warmth, wit and down-to-earth accessibility.

Event sponsors were Beaverbrooks jewellers, whose Chairman, Mark Adlestone OBE DL, is a former chairman

of the charity and continues to sit on its board of trustees.

The evening saw the launch of The Fed's latest appeal film, and in a departure

from traditional story-telling, the two-minute montage depicts the breadth of services offered by, and vast number of people of all ages benefitting from the organisation's 12 social care projects and departments.

Before presenting the film, which was recorded at Heathlands Village, at The Fed's Children's Centre and on location in the community, Fed CEO, Mark Cunningham, articulated his belief that "...a community is defined by how it cares for its most vulnerable, the oldest, and the youngest."

With more than 460 annual referrals to the charity's Community Advice and Support Team (CAST) – including requests for family support, and 70 vulnerable people currently utilising The Fed's Drop-In mental health service, the Community Services offered by The Fed have never been more crucial for the Manchester Jewish community.

"Our vision remains constant, and underpins everything we do at The Fed – a community where people can live life to the full - feeling safe, valued and cared for," said Fed Chairman, Bernie Yaffe.

The night also celebrated individual staff achievements. The 2018 award for Outstanding Contribution was presented to Alison Lightfoot, Quality Assurance and Training Manager. The Dr Simon Jenkins Award for Excellence in Care went to Sister Diane Taylor, and Donna Gallagher received The Fed Employee of the Year 2018.



Clare Balding, Mark Adlestone and Gabrielle Adlestone, Samantha Simmonds



L-R: Mark Adlestone, Julie Besbrode, David Eventhall, Bernie Yaffe (Chairman), CB, Michael Sciana, Mark Cunningham (CEO), Debbie Hamburger, Howard Josephs, Rachel Davies, Samantha Simmonds

## Celebrating 100 Years of Communal Service at The Fed

More than 70 guests paid tribute to an incredible century of joint communal service at Heathlands Village, by two of its stalwart former Board Members and Presidents.

Herzl Hamburger and Leslie Kaye BEM, both recently-retired board members of The Fed and past Presidents of Heathlands Village, were honoured at a dinner on 28th November 2018 to mark their combined years of service, in the presence of close family, friends and The Fed's senior management.

Mr Kaye stepped down from The Fed's board at its recent AGM, with Mr Hamburger retiring from the role in November 2015.

Guests were treated to personal insights from the pair, both the longest-serving Heathlands Village – and subsequently The Fed – board members over the last 60 years.

Mark Adlestone MBE DL, Board Member and past Chairman of The Fed, presented Mr Kaye with a plaque commemorating his 60 years of service to the organisation, highlighting his key role in bringing about the merger of The Fed and Heathlands Village in 2009.

"Leslie and Herzl are role models not only for our existing Board, but for those who will continue to serve in the future," said Fed Chairman, Bernie Yaffe.

"They put the organisation above egos and promoted collaboration for the benefit of the community and the greater good. We owe Leslie and Herzl a debt of gratitude for their incredible support for the organisation, their commitment, and their longstanding friendship with The Fed."



(L-R): Mark Cunningham (Fed CEO), Leslie Kaye, Bernie Yaffe (Fed Chairman), Herzl Hamburger.

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Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Each year, legacies to Magen David Adom are directly responsible for saving the lives of thousands of people in Israel.

This year, Magen David Adom UK is delighted to offer an incredible FREE\* 5-day legacy mission to Israel. The trip will coincide with Yom Ha'atzmaut and the spectacular air force flypast. You will also visit some of Israel's most beautiful sights and learn about the lifesaving work of Magen David Adom, Israel's only national medical, emergency and blood service.

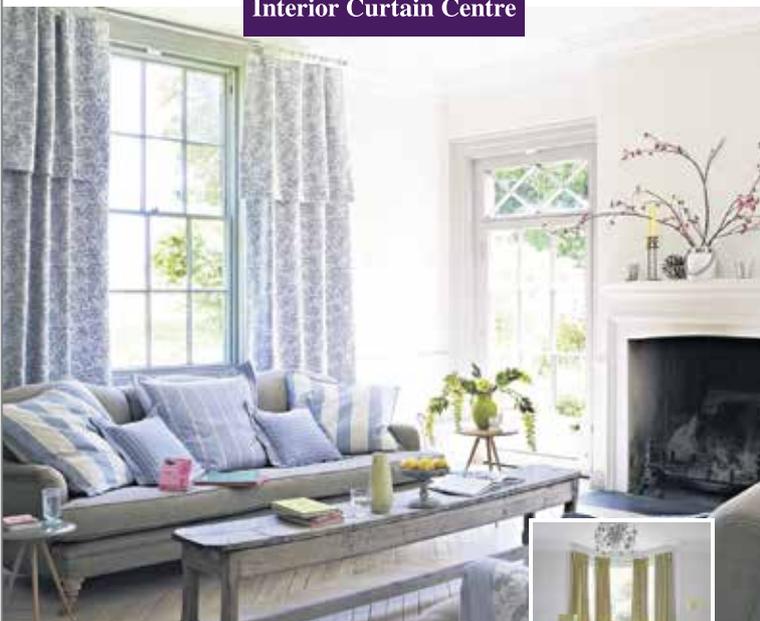
To take part in this historic mission call Racheli on **020 8201 5900** or email [rachelcohen@mdauk.org](mailto:rachelcohen@mdauk.org)

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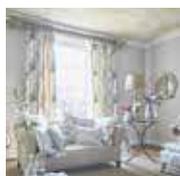


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## MDA Chairman's Report Jeremy Hart

MDA's efforts this year are continuing with raising funds for the new blood and logistics centre in Ramle. Thank you everyone who has copntributed both directly and via the Shule's Kol Nidre appeal.

Apart from our Manchester donors' dinner in May and a tentatively planned but less formal event later in the year I can heartily recommend the next fundraising Trek which proved very popular last year and this year is taking place in November. See [mdauk.org](http://mdauk.org) for details.

The picture is of Sharon and me unveiling a plaque to honour the Shule's contribution to the refurbishment of Makor Hayim station in Jerusalem. The MDA Chief Executive visited the station earlier this year and reports that the volunteers who man it are appreciative of our efforts.



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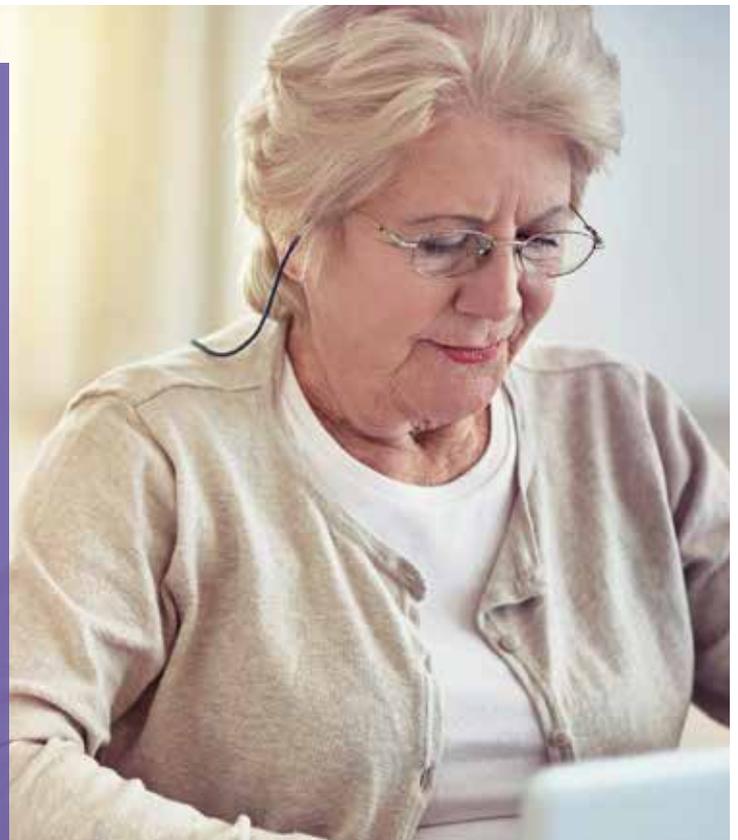
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## How the Paperweight Trust came to Jenny's rescue

My darling husband had been declining in health over several years, and we had often discussed that he had never shown me how the household bills were paid, how to complete various forms and what payments came and went from our bank accounts. I suppose that in putting off the day when we finally sat down at the kitchen table, this would also somehow delay the onset of the slowing down of his mental processes. And then, without really noticing, it was clear that he had passed the point where paperwork had any relevance. That combined with increasingly frequent trips to doctors and then hospitals, culminating in his death three months ago, meant that we never really had that discussion. I knew I was in trouble.

And I think that the men and women of Paperweight are unsung heroes...and I told them so in a poem I wrote.



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# Jewish community hub expands in Didsbury

**Launched in 2017, Belong Morris Feinmann is earning a reputation as an award-winning care village for the Jewish community. A lesser known fact about the facility is the range of facilities, events and activities it offers to the wider community. We caught up with its Experience Co-ordinator, Angela Luckett, to find out more.**

“It’s been a really exciting journey to see our community flourishing, and we’re really keen to encourage more people to come along and take a look,” explains Angela.

## **What sort of events take place?**

These are many and varied, including celebrations of Jewish festivals, piano recitals, stand-up comedians, string ensembles, exercise sessions, Silver Swans ballet, walking and reading clubs, opera, catwalk shows, bands and themed dining. There are also a number of outings to local galleries, shops, museums and theatres, which people are welcome to join.

## **Which activities take place routinely?**

Every Monday morning, the Feinmann Trust social committee runs a ‘Coffee and Kuchen’ event in The Bistro (11am - 12noon), which is the heart of the village, as you’d expect! Monday is also when Rabbi Perez visits, so there is a chance to spend time with him too.

Members of the Jewish Social and Cultural Society meet in The Venue every Thursday (2pm - 4pm), with guest speakers and entertainment; and on alternate Tuesdays and Wednesdays, the League of Jewish Women run a ‘Jewels at Coffee Time’ session, with a selection of readings, short stories and anecdotes (11am - 12noon in The Bistro).

There is a Shabbat dinner every Friday and each week, we welcome a member of the community or Rabbi to say Kiddush, so if you are interested in taking part or joining us, please do get in touch. We also hold a monthly Shabbat service.

## **How do we find out more?**

It’s always best to call ahead as some events require booking and there is a small, nominal charge for some activities to cover costs. The village reception takes bookings and can be reached on 0161 804 4200. There is also a bi-monthly What’s On newsletter, with details of upcoming events, which can be found online at <https://www.belong.org.uk/locations/didsbury> or on our Facebook page @ **BelongDidsbury**. If you’d like to be added to the mailing list for this, please email [enquiries@belong.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@belong.org.uk).

**International chef, Christoph Deiter, was appointed Bistro and Catering Manager at Belong Morris Feinmann in autumn 2018, bringing a wealth of experience acquired in the USA and Europe over three decades.**

Having trained in his native Germany in 1983, Christoph has managed a number of substantial catering operations, working with annual budgets up to £2 million and holding positions ranging from teaching the culinary arts in California to developing award-winning menus in Salt Lake City as Head Chef of acclaimed restaurant, Oasis Café.





Four and a half years ago, I joined UJIA as the Regional Director. I knew it was a privilege but I don't think I ever envisioned the immense pleasure I would derive from my job. From that very first week in Israel – August 2014, the tail-end of operation protective edge, I was blown away by this community's inspirational connection to Israel. Over one hundred people came to Israel on the UJIA Israel Now Mission – in the midst of a war! Out of Twelve Hundred young people signed up to Israel tour, only Seven dropped out that summer, with UJIA redirecting all tours to the North to ensure their safety and security.

As an Israeli, this is not something that I take for granted.

In that first week, I also began to grasp the impact that you and we are making in Israel. Focussing on the most challenging part of our country, ignoring all stereotypes to ensure that every single Woman, Child and Man regardless of their background have an equal opportunity to make a life for themselves. I have seen first-hand the transformation that you and we have made on whole communities in the Galil.

I have been privileged to see how your kehila, in a modest and humble way, has made a significant



impact in Yeshivat Netiv Tefahot. A Hesder Yeshiva working with the most challenging youth, those on the verge of dropping out. This place, magically situated in the hills of Merom Hagalil transforms their lives, shapes them as contributing citizens and encourages them to make a difference in others' lives.



Nearly four years ago the yeshiva opened the Beit Midrash and now, we are about to see the next step of evolution – the dormitories. A state-of-the-art building accommodation for up to 96 students. This complex also has the ability to encourage tourism to the region – the dormitory walls can be opened enabling families to occupy them in the summer months.

As I begin to summarize my time with you in Manchester, I hope that the connection between you and UJIA and between you and Netiv Tefahot does not fade. We have the ability to continue doing incredible things together.

Toda and chag sameach.

**Eldan Kaye**

**UJIA Regional Director**



**UJIA thanks Hale and District Hebrew Congregation for your ongoing support in helping us to create lifelong connections with Israel.**

In Israel this Pesach? Bring the family for a fun-filled day in Jaffa, learn about the positive difference UJIA is making to the people of Israel and explore Jaffa through an interactive walking tour on Tuesday 23 April.

Find out more and book: [ujia.org/pesach19](https://ujia.org/pesach19)

UJIA wishes you and your family *Chag Pesach Sameach*.

# Great Lengths for Cancer by Faye Goldwater



Sisters Mia and Rosie

**Mia and Rosie are donating 60cm of their hair!**

Sisters Mia and Rosie are both having 30cm of their hair cut, which will then be donated to Zichron Menachem - an Israeli Association that supports children with cancer and their families. Their hair will go towards making a wig for another child who has lost their own hair during chemotherapy, allowing them to maintain

their confidence throughout their treatment and bring a smile to their face.

Mia said she wants to make another child happy by giving her hair to them so they can smile and feel confident after having lost their own. Rosie has always been blessed with incredible hair. She's 4 years old and has never had her hair cut. She will be cutting it for the very first time to donate it to charity, helping create a wig and raising money for children with cancer.

They are both very excited to be fundraising for such a fantastic charity.

Please support Mia and Rosie. Your generous donations will go towards raising funds for Zichron Menachem and their wonderful projects.

You can donate by visiting

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/faye-goldwater](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/faye-goldwater)

## The latest from Camp Simcha in Manchester

by Candice Dwek



Camp Simcha recently put on 2 fundraising theatre events, the first in December and the most recent in March.

The first was held at the Royal Exchange Theatre and was tickets to see the 2nd night's performance of "The Producers". 80 supporters came along and enjoyed a sparkling wine reception in a private area overlooking St Ann's Square. While

proceeds from the raffle on the night and ticket sales went towards helping the families that Camp Simcha supports here in Manchester, the aim of the evening was to raise awareness of the services it provides, so that it can reach more families who need its support.

The show itself was superb and everyone seemed to have the most wonderful evening. The costumes, staging, acting and choreography were very impressive and the applause and smiles at the end reflected the overall consensus that a fabulous night's entertainment was enjoyed by all.

The second sell-out theatre event was held at the Hope Mill Theatre. 66 supporters of Camp Simcha came along to the Hope Mill Theatre for the 2nd ever UK performance of "Rags The Musical", performed in the presence of Stephen Schwartz, the lyricist, who has three Grammys and three Academy Awards to his name, and has been nominated for six Tony Awards.



# camp simcha

supporting families with serious childhood illness



Members of the cast of "Rags the Musical" photographed with the 2 organisers of the event, Candice Dwek and Michelle Delew

The show tells the tale of a group of Jewish immigrants as they arrive in New York in the early 1900s. Although tough to watch in some places, it was also heart-warming and hopeful in equal measure.

The talented cast whom we were privileged to meet after the show were given a standing ovation. They really did put their all into the performance and there were very few dry eyes in the audience by the end!

Punters were treated to a Camp Simcha goody bag and there was a raffle drawn at the end of the show.

The evening raised just short of £1000 for Camp Simcha in Manchester, and will be used to help seriously ill children in our community who need our support.

For information about future Camp Simcha fundraising events in Manchester please contact Candice or go to [www.campsimcha.org.uk](http://www.campsimcha.org.uk)

Candice Dwek



# Protecting our Jewish community

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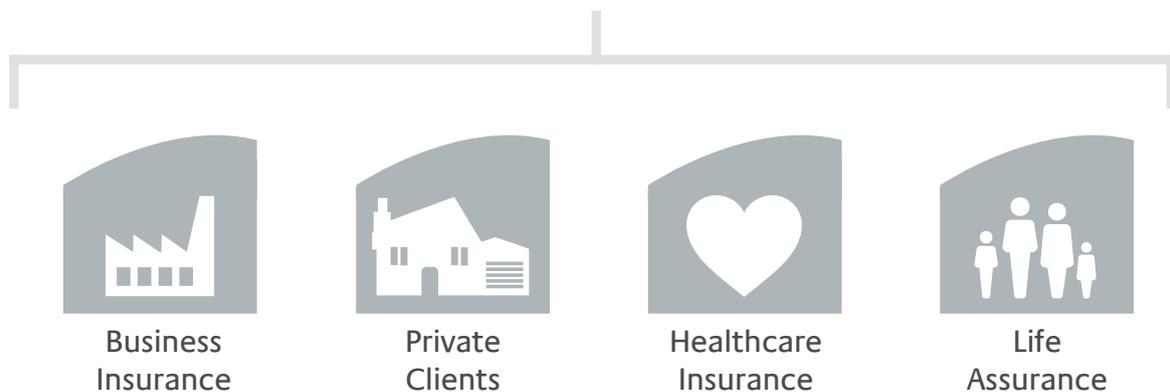


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