

RUISLIP
SYNAGOGUE



Ruislip Review

ROSH HASHANAH

ראש השנה

5779 - 2018/9



SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Friday Evening Service 7.00 p.m.
Saturday Morning Service 10.00 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Wednesday - 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

SYNAGOGUE OFFICERS

Minister: Rabbi Stanley Coten, Bsc Econ (Hons), MA, PGCE 07870 691155
Administrator: Michelle Davis
Warden: Menahem Briskman
Warden: Gerald Hanstead
Warden: Jeff Batsman
Financial Rep. David Koten

LADIES GUILD

President:	Doreen Davis
Chairman:	Andrea Batsman
Joint Vice-Chair:	Jackie Agasee
	Marion Main
Treasurer:	Suzanne Benson
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Social Secretary:	Doreen Davis

WIZO

Chairman:	Carole Franklin
Secretary:	Elaine Franklin
Treasurer:	Carole Franklin

AJEX

Representative:	Gerald Hanstead
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Please notify the Editor of the Ruislip Review of any changes.

RUISLIP REVIEW

Editor:

Alan Rosenstein,

Design and Typesetting:

Sylvia McCallum



EDITORIAL



There are times as Editor of the Review when I have a lot to say for the Editorial and then there are other times when I think to myself “what can I say?”

An optimist may say, “that’s good, nothing to say” means nothing serious happened all must be ok. Whereas a pessimist may say “nothing to say, nothing happened, shul drifting”.

Well I am pleased to say at this moment the optimist wins!

For a start we do a lot! We have an active Board of Management led very ably by Menahem Briskman and our Financial Representative David Koten who both do a tremendous amount of work in front of and behind the scene. Together with Stanley and Rosalind Coten we should look forward to seeing our shul continue to prosper. We must not be complacent but as the optimist may say “I see a good future with a glass half full!”

On behalf of Sylvia and myself we wish all our readers a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Alan Rosenstein
Editor

Rabbi Stanley Coten



A wise Rabbi of Jerusalem often said if we eat challah and apple dipped in honey on Rosh Hashanah as a Siman Tov, a good sign, for a sweet New Year, then all the more so the greatest possible application of this is to be a ziseh yid, a sweet Jew. To go about on Rosh Hashanah with joy and radiance, a smile on your face this will be a Siman Tov for you for the whole year.

Similarly, someone once asked Rabbi Avigdor Miller, how best to prepare for the upcoming Day of Judgment, to which he replied simply, “smile”. The man thought he didn’t understand and asked again. Rabbi Miller answered, “ I already told you - you should smile. I know you probably think I’m old and didn’t understand the question but let me explain. At the end of the fiscal year, the CEO of a large chain of stores looks over performance for each store during the year. This one did well, let’s increase staff. This one product ‘x’ didn’t sell, lets reduce and add product ‘y’. This one had low revenue, lets reduce staff. The manager of this last store will say to the CEO, I totally understand, but whatever you do, you have to keep so and so on staff! He greets all the customers warmly and with a big smile and whatever sales we do have are only because of him!”

“So you see,” said Rabbi Miller, “our performance during the year may be lacking in the eyes of THE CEO (Hashem), but if we are always smiling and pleasant when greeting others, then Hashem will be inclined to ‘keep us on staff’ another year!”

That's exactly how I want the members of our community to feel, to have a smile and a happy face when they enter and leave our shul.

We have had many happy times this year, with communal and educational events, (see the Reports elsewhere in the Review), and many meetings of our much feted Monday Social Club. Many thanks to RLG for the weekly and Special Occasion Kiddushim prepared by the Ladies of the Guild.

Let us look ahead with confidence that we can again keep a smile on our faces as we enter the New Year of 5779.

Rosalind and I wish everyone a Shanah Tovah a Happy and Sweet New Year.



Dear Members, I am sorry that we did not hold our expected party this year; this was due to unfortunate circumstances.

In May Jackie did our JWW, which raised £806.00. Much better than last year. Thank you all for your kind donations. And thanks to Jackie and to Aaron for sending out the letters.

WIZO had a 100th Celebration Lunch in July. Eight of us attended, we had a great day with a lovely lunch prior to listening to the wonderful guest speaker, John Benjamin from the Antiques Road Show. We all went home with goody bags.

Unfortunately, we didn't have any functions this year. If anyone could host or give their home I would be very grateful.

We will be having our AGM on the 25th October at 12 p.m. at my home with a Sandwich Lunch. I hope many of you will come.

If anyone would like to join the committee please let me know, we need some new blood.

I could not manage without Clive; he is doing a great job as treasurer, "Thank you, Clive".

Thank you all for your support.

On behalf of all at Ruislip WIZO, we wish Rabbi Stanley and Mrs Rosalind Coten and family a very Happy New Year and well over the Fast.

I wish every one of you a very Happy New Year and well over the Fast.

CAROLE



Members. of Ruislip WIZO

Dear Jewish Woman's Week contributor.

I'm delighted by the response to this year's appeal which made over £800 and with your continued support, Ruislip WIZO, one of the smaller groups, can hold up their head with pride. Our contribution will help the needy children and teenagers in Israel to lead a better life.

Thank you Aaron for sponsoring the postage once again this year.

Together we wish you and your family a Happy and Healthy New Year.

JACKIE

Ruislip JWW Captain

The Chief Rabbi's Rosh Hashanah Message 5779

The Talmud prescribes a blessing to be recited upon seeing royalty: "Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has imparted of Your glory to flesh and blood".

The Talmud (Berachot 58a) recounts how the renowned sage, Rav Sheshet, once joined throngs of townsfolk as they lined the streets in anticipation of the momentous arrival of the King. A heretic mocked the Rabbi, who was blind, since he would surely not be able to appreciate such an auspicious event. Yet, when the audible excitement of the crowd increased and the heretic believed that the King's appearance was imminent, Rav Sheshet told him that he was mistaken – the King had not yet arrived. This sequence repeated itself a number of times until, eventually, to the astonishment of all around him, Rav Sheshet announced that the King was about to arrive and, at the precise moment at which he passed, the Rabbi recited the prescribed blessing. The heretic was stunned by what he had witnessed. Rav Sheshet explained, "Earthly royalty is like heavenly royalty. God, who is the King of kings, is not found in the wind, an earthquake or a fire, but 'in a still small voice'" (I Kings 19:12). With this in mind, it was from the hushed silence that Rav Sheshet knew that the king had indeed arrived.

I was reminded of this passage a few months ago, when I was privileged to accompany HRH The Duke of Cambridge on his historic visit to Israel. He arrived at the Kotel on a Thursday morning to the sound of dozens of Barmitzvahs and thousands of vocal worshippers. In preparing Prince William, I had explained that he should expect the entire Kotel plaza to be filled with a loud cacophony of soulful supplication and joyful song. Yet, something quite extraordinary happened. As we reached

the Kotel itself, silence fell. Services came to a standstill, as countless people stood in quiet reverence. How would he react to this very special experience? What would he say? The aura of the occasion was palpable – had Rav Sheshet been there, he would have sensed that something special was happening.

The prophet Isaiah (55:6,7) taught, "Seek Hashem while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near". The Talmud tells us that "while He is near" refers to the High Holy Days. For this reason, the central theme of Rosh Hashanah is '*malchut*' – the kingship of Hashem.

Understanding the privilege of being in the presence of 'earthly royalty' can give us an inkling of what it means to be in the presence of 'heavenly royalty'. Over the High Holy Days, our attention should be undivided. How will the King of kings react to what He sees? What will He decree? His presence should be met by no more than the 'still small voice' of introspection and prayer.

Let us utilise this timely opportunity to appreciate Hashem's presence and to be empowered by that awareness to transform our lives for the better.

Valerie and I extend our heartfelt wishes to you all for a happy, peaceful and fulfilling New Year.



Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis
September 2018 • Tishrei 5779

MENAHEM BRISKMAN**Warden and Chairman of the Board of Management**

During the High Holy Days we reflect on our deeds of the last year, and look into how we improve in the future. It is also an opportunity to reflect on how we have performed as a synagogue, and what we plan for the future.

In terms of functions we have done well. We have had the first communal Seder in many years, with guests from neighbouring synagogues. We had five other functions since January, including the Melaveh Malkah, talks on 'We Believe in Israel', Life on the Ocean Waves, The History of Jerusalem through Art, and the film "Above and Beyond". Attendance at functions has been good, but attendance at regular services needs to be improved.

We have now been running as a Constituent Synagogue for more than a year. One concession that we received as part of this deal was that we do not need to adhere strictly to the management structures laid down by the United Synagogue. We took advantage of this at our May AGM to create a management structure around the people we have available. To this end, Gerald Hanstead and Jeff Batsman became Wardens, but at their request they were given no executive responsibility. They are fully familiar with the rituals and they have been doing an excellent job in running the services with the Rabbi. The Executive committee is now David Koten and me, with Michelle Davis' assistance, but the vacancy for the third executive has still not been filled

In the past few months we have made a number of improvements to kitchen hygiene. People involved

in food preparation have had some training, and some of the equipment has been updated, including thermometers to check refrigerator temperatures, and waste bins that can be opened without hand contact.

Last Rosh Hashanah a person collapsed at the synagogue, and it took an ambulance more than 20 minutes to reach us. In the case of a heart attack such time lag could reduce the probability of recovery. We have been given a defibrillator but have nobody trained in its use. Saving life is a Mitzvah that takes precedence over almost all others, and we need to be in a position to use the equipment that has been given to us as a gift. We have therefore arranged for a course in first aid for heart attack, including the use of the defibrillator. It will be run at our synagogue by St Johns Ambulance on 10th October, and will last 2 ½ hours. Members are encouraged to attend.

Terrorism both in UK and Israel have caused many deaths and injuries, but what is often overlooked is the trauma suffered by those who may not have been physically harmed. The constant bombardment of Sderot from Gaza caused few physical casualties, but the majority of adults and children suffer Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. On 28th October we are privileged to have with us Rabbi Dov Kurtzman, who has been directly involved in helping victims of terror. He will tell us about terrorism related trauma and how people have been helped.

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

SPONSORSHIP PAGE

*Many thanks to our Sponsorship contributors
who have to helped boost our funds.*

This is very much appreciated.

Mr and Mrs R. Abrahams

Mr and Mrs A. Agasee

Mr and Mrs A. Barnett

Mr and Mrs J. Batsman

Mr and Mrs D. Bloom

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Mr and Mrs D. McCallum

Mrs A. Peterman

Mrs M. Rabin

Mr & Mrs A. Rosenstein

Mr and Mrs L. Rush

Mr and Mrs M. Taffel

TALK by DANIEL EDWARD - on 1st May
Life on the Ocean Waves OR the Other Side of the Porthole!

Following the Ladies Guild AGM

Report by Angela Feuer



Daniel Edward, a young member of the Synagogue, is Assistant Cruise Director for Entertainment on the 'Navigator of the Seas'. He gave a very interesting and amusing expose of life at sea.

The 'Navigator', his ship, is part of the Royal Caribbean Fleet of Cruise Ships, and the audience was treated to a peek at the functional areas for the staff which are set apart and a far cry from the luxurious accommodation provided for guests. The Navigator was built in 2002, and as a ship's life is approximately 45 years there is constant checking and maintenance on every vessel to make sure it is seaworthy.

Safety is of prime importance for the ship as well as for the passengers and crew and is taken very seriously indeed with essential weekly training drills for all ship's personnel. In case of an emergency the crew needs to know before the passengers. Daniel is in charge of evacuation. Then every crew member and passenger is checked. That is why it is essential that the passengers attend the safety drill briefing at the beginning of the cruise so that they know what to do in case of an emergency.

Daniel's slide show featured the very basic accommodation given to junior members of staff, and it was to say the least - MINUTE! No wonder he wanted to advance his status and as such he has been promoted to better accommodation with much more space and even has a porthole!

He has worked with this line since 2014, and has spent 650 days at sea. He works 10 hours a day 7 days a week, and has an entertainment team which varies from 6-10 persons.



All crew members do their own washing and ironing, except for their uniforms, so now you know why they always look pristine! The crew mess is usually identical to the guests' buffet, and food is good and plentiful. Due to the unpredictability of the hours staff work, it is open most of the time. Even though ships used to be very hierarchical this has changed and now senior staff and crew tend to eat together. There are many places for the crew to have a drink and let their hair down - cafes, dance areas, gyms etc. but in case you think it is totally glamorous there is a downside. Alcohol temptation sometimes raises its ugly head and once every two months a person loses his/her job due to being drunk and incapable. This inevitably puts pressure on the rest of the team who then have extra work to do.

On every ship a Friday Night Service is held for Jewish passengers, and on the 'Navigator', Daniel is to the fore organising the Challah, and attending the Service. He even received the 'Do you know I'm Jewish' Award! It is true to say that there are not many individual Jewish crew members on board, but Daniel certainly flies the flag, and is a wonderful example to follow.

He concluded his talk with a slide show of a few of his favourite places he has visited - Lisbon, Cadiz, Norway, Azores, Madeira and Agadir. Questions from the audience flowed thick and fast and he further explained many points which he had not covered in his talk.

Jackie Agasee gave the vote of thanks for an excellent, entertaining talk which the audience at Ruislip Synagogue did not want to end.

Daniel truly is an entertainer! and the only thing I can say now is "Carry on Cruising"!!



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**President of the United Synagogue's
Rosh Hashanah message 5779**

As President of the United Synagogue, my thoughts very often turn to the future of our community. So perhaps it's unsurprising that I'm struck by one of the lines of the Rosh Hashanah service in the very moving Unetaneh Tokef prayer. It is a highlight of the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services, that moment in the repetition of the Musaf Amidah when we all chant together as one:

U'teshuvah, u'te^lllah, u'tzedakah ma'virin et ro'a hagezeira
"But Repentance, Prayer and Charity avert the evil decree."

As we pray for a good year ahead, we are presented with three activities that can profoundly and positively shape our future. Our US communities do these things on a grand scale every single day.

Through fasting on Yom Kippur and thanks to the ready availability of daily shul services, access to 'Repentance' and 'Prayer' is there for the taking. But it's the third way to avoid the evil decree, 'Charity', which I'd like to focus on for a moment.

This is a time of year when each of our communities are incredibly generous, raising thousands of pounds to support the vital work of The US, local charities and causes in Israel. But Charity, Tzedakah, can also be performed by giving of our time or talents as well.

So many of our achievements and services are only possible thanks to our dedicated volunteers who give their time selflessly to help others. As Rabbi Hillel says in Pirkei Avot, Ethics of the Fathers, "If I am not for me, who is for me; and if I am only for myself, what am I?" (1:14) There is a balance to be struck between looking after ourselves and looking after others.

I am very proud of the way The US strikes that balance through the many volunteering opportunities available to our members. It could be helping to secure your community, joining a Kiddush rota, visiting those who are unwell, leading a children's service or even becoming part of your Board of Management. US Chesed's asylum seeker drop-in centre is always on the look-out for mentors and volunteers as well as those who can help with their many other wonderful projects.

If you do have some time to give or a talent that could help others, please do consider how you can help our wonderful community further flourish. Not only will it be fulfilling and worthwhile, it could also change the course of our year.

Wishing you a Shana Tova,

Michael Goldstein

President: Michael Goldstein

Treasurer: Maxwell Nisner

Trustees: Andrew Eder, Claire Lemer, Fleurise Lewis, Leonie Lewis, Doreen Samuels, Barry Shaw, Saul Taylor

Chief Executive: Steven Wilson



The **US**

***Financial Report
from
David Koten***



We are now well integrated within the US and the accounts are running smoothly.

We could improve our income if those people who had given a Gift Aid declaration under the Trust gave a new one for Ruislip Synagogue.

As I write there are quite a lot of members who have not done this. Let me remind you that if you pay tax you can sign a Gift Aid Form. Provided you have income of more than £11850 per annum (this includes pensions) you will be paying tax.

The tax you pay will need to be more than 25% of the total paid over. So if the donation is (say) £100 then £25 of tax needs to have been paid.

This amount is returned to Ruislip Synagogue by the government without any cost to the donor.

In fact if you are higher rate taxpayer you can reclaim the difference between the basic tax rate and the higher for yourself via your tax return.

The Gift Aid revenue is an important part of our income and helps to keep the membership fee down.

Thank you for signing up.

A question I am often asked is when do I get a reduction in my fees?

This actually only applies to the FES fee. We have no control over the FES fee but when you have been a member for 50 years the Burial Society tells us and they reduce your fee by 50%. The shul part stays the same throughout your membership. This, of course, has to rise with increased costs.

I would like to remind you that we are now able to take new members from anywhere. They can be a member elsewhere and transfer to us or can be a person who does not belong to the US.

For every person you introduce and is accepted into membership you will be rewarded with 10% off your membership fee (not the Funeral Expenses Scheme) for one year. If it is part way through the year the 10% will be given to you at the next renewal.

May I remind you that the fees are no longer payable at Pesach and Rosh Hashanah BUT are due in January and June. You can now pay by direct debit; credit or debit card; cash or cheque.

I recommend the direct debit method to you. This spreads the load and saves you having to remember to pay. It is guaranteed that only the money due will be taken out. If in the unlikely event of a mistake being made the banks guarantee to refund the money overpaid by mistake to you. If you have not done so already please consider signing a gift aid form if you are eligible to do so and to setting up a direct debit to pay the fees. If you wish to do either or both of these things please contact Michelle in the office. Thank you.

Liz and I wish everyone a very happy New Year and well over the Fast.



The Wardens, Honorary Officers and Board of Management of Ruislip Synagogue wish Members and their families a very happy, peaceful and healthy New Year.

The Chairman and Members of the Ruislip Functions Committee wish all their friends a happy and healthy New Year.

The Chairman, Executive and Committee of the Ruislip Ladies Guild extend their good wishes to all the Community for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

The Chairman, Executive and Members of the Ruislip Women's Zionist Organisation wish all their members, friends and supporters a peaceful, healthy and happy New Year.

ABRAHAMS: Sheila and Roy, Alan, Valerie, Anouk and Darren, Fay, Joseph and Elliot, and Anna wish their relatives, friends and members of the Community a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

AGASEE: Jackie and Aaron wish all our family and friends a very happy New Year.

BARNETT: Jill and Alvin wish all a happy New Year and well over the Fast.

BATSMAN: Jeffrey, Andrea with Heather, Ben, Tzivia, Chavi, Shiri and Dovi wish the Ruislip Community a healthy and happy New Year.

BLOOM: Judith and Danny wish all their friends of the Ruislip Community a healthy and happy New Year.

BRISKMAN: Menachem and Helene wish all their friends and members of the Congregation a happy New Year.

COLLINS: Helen and Michael wish Rabbi and Mrs Coten, all our friends and the whole community a healthy and happy New Year and well over the Fast.

Da COSTA: Frances with Simon, Mark, Jacalyn, Richard, Nicola Mae and Amelia, wish the Ruislip Community a healthy and happy New Year. Shalom.

COTEN: Rabbi Stanley and Mrs Rosalind Coten and family wish all members and friends a happy New Year and well over the Fast.

COTSEN: Helen wishes family and friends a happy New Year and well over the Fast.

CURTIS: Jill and family wish all their relatives and friends a healthy and happy New Year.

DAVIS: Doreen with Simon wish Rabbi and Mrs Coten, family and friends, a peaceful, healthy and happy New Year and well over the Fast.

DAVIS: Michelle, Huw, Alice and Samuel wish all their relatives and friends, a peaceful, healthy and happy New Year and well over the Fast.

EDWARD: Judy wishes all her family and the Ruislip Community a healthy and happy New Year.

GODLEY: Maurice, Maxine and family wish Rabbi Stanley Coten and family and all our wonderful friends in the Ruislip Community a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year and well over the Fast..

HANSTEAD: Germaine and Gerald wish Rabbi and Mrs Coten and their family and all their friends of the Ruislip Community a peaceful and happy New Year.

HUTCHINSON: Barbara and Rodney together with Jason and Rachel, Georgie, Miki, and Spencer and Karin, Luna, Kylah and Tiah, wish all their friends in Ruislip a healthy and happy New Year and well over the Fast.

KASIN: Angela, Bernie and family wish all their friends and members of the Ruislip community a happy and healthy New Year.

LAWTON: Helen and Harvey wish their family both here and abroad, and friends a very happy New Year and well over the Fast.

LEIB: Marlene, Bernie and family send their best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year to all their friends in Ruislip.

McCALLUM: David and Sylvia wish all their family and friends a healthy and peaceful New Year and well over the Fast.

NORMAN: Sharon and David together with Daniel and Denise, Suzie, James with Brooklyn and Ryan wish Rabbi Stanley and Rosalind and their family, the members of the Board of Management and all the Ruislip Community a healthy, happy New Year and well over the Fast.

PEPPER: Rita and Eric wish all the Community a happy New Year and well over the Fast.

PETERMAN: The Peterman family wish Stanley, Rosalind and family and Everyone a happy and healthy New Year and well over the Fast.

RABIN: Myra with Paul, Samantha, Lollie and Marley wish their family and all members of the Community a happy New Year and well over the Fast.

REFSON: Gloria and Lionel and family wish Rabbi Stanley and Rosalind Coten and family, and the Community, Shana Tovah and well over the Fast.

RICHARDS: Inez and Peter wish all L'Shana Tovah

ROSENSTEIN: Nesta and Alan with Michelle, Steven, David, Angela, Nathan and Hannah wish all their friends a healthy and happy New Year.

RUSH: Valerie, Lawrence and family wish all their friends, relatives and all the community a very healthy and happy New Year.

RUSSELL: Susan, Norman and family wish all their friends, relatives and all the community a very healthy and happy New Year.

TAFFEL: Esther, Martin and family wish all their friends a happy and peaceful New Year.



First Aid Course

by

St Johns Ambulance

in the Shul Hall

on

Wednesday 10th October

This will last for about 2 ½ hours.

If you are fit and able to attend, please contact Michelle in the Office for details



RUISLIP SYNAGOGUE

LADIES GUILD

Chairman: Andrea Batsman

Welcome to my Rosh Hashanah report.

Our most recent event this summer was the Film Show of 'Above and Beyond' shown after our fish and chip meal. This was a most interesting documentary detailing how the Israeli Air Force started in 1948 - detailed in Angela's Report. It was a very hot night and unfortunately we couldn't open the curtains and windows as we would have let the light in but since then we are lucky as we have now have ceiling fans installed making life more comfortable in the Synagogue.

Once again, my grateful thanks to all those ladies on the Kiddush Rota. We couldn't do without your help and if anyone else would like to join the Rota I would be pleased to hear from you.

Please remember that the next Ladies Guild Women's Quiz this year at Kenton Synagogue is on 7th November. Again let me know if you would like to attend.

Apart from decorating the Shul for Shavuot and very soon decorating the Sukkah our next main event will be a Chanukah Event on either 2nd or 9th December and we really hope we can have the Hillingdon Youth Jazz Band back if they are available.

Congratulations to all those parents and grandparents whose children and grandchildren have passed their GCSE'S and A levels.

Wishing you all Chag Sameach and well over the Fast.

Andrea



The Ladies Guild
Summer Event
Sunday 10th June

Prior to the
showing of the
film 'Above and
Beyond'





Film 'Above and Beyond' Show and Meal - 10th June*Report by Angela Feuer*

Nearly 50 people attended the film show at the RLG Summer Event, and were treated to a nourishing and appetising Fish and Chip Supper which fuelled the inner man before the showing.

Carole Franklin gave a heartfelt tribute to Andrea Batsman, Chairman of the Ladies Guild, who had so capably organised everybody in her own inimitable fashion.

The story behind the film 'Above and Beyond' was of American and Canadian pilots together with some British personnel who helped after the Second World War, to establish the Israeli Air Force.

It was a very emotive experience listening to and watching the film trace the beginning of the State of Israel. In 1948 the British left Palestine leaving the Jews very little and indeed with no military aircraft. As soon as the British left others wanted to invade the land and take it over. This film was dedicated to the volunteers.

Ben Gurion went to the United States to plead for money to buy equipment, but Truman set up an embargo of goods and arms to Palestine, which tied Israel's hands.

Al Swimmer who was an advocate for Israel realised that aircraft were urgently needed, and he provided \$5,000 to



purchase aircraft, which was a wonderful gesture.

However, Israel needed pilots to man the aircraft and preferably Jewish ones. There were many Jewish pilots in the USA, but Truman again discouraged them by stating that anyone who went to Israel to fly would lose their citizenship. Despite these setbacks Panama and Czechoslovakia helped, together with Italy's Rome (which was in effect the Headquarters of the Haganah) and pilots came from the USA and other countries to fly the aircraft for Israel.

One can truly believe Israel is an article of faith as it was meant to be..... The audience was spellbound as the events unfolded.

A wonderful evening which left the audience discussing the film and realising how much was done by so few.

Rabbi Stanley Coten thanked Andrea Batsman and the Ladies Guild for choosing the film and putting forward the idea that Sixth Formers should see this epic as it would inspire them all. He also thanked Jeff Batsman for running the film.

One could argue it was really a 'family affair'!



September 2018 / Tishrei 5779

Message from the President



5778 will be remembered as the year that the Jewish community came together to say 'Enough is Enough' to antisemitism.

It was unprecedented and heart-warming back in March to see so many people from all parts of the community join like-minded non-Jews and parliamentarians to stand in front of the Palace of Westminster to protest against the antisemitism that, staggeringly, is tolerated in our country's official party of opposition.

Several aspects of this protest were meaningful. I was gratified by the speed with which we, the Jewish Leadership Council and other partners, devised and executed the idea. We were overwhelmed by the response from the 2,000 people who travelled to Westminster at 24 hours' notice, including more than 30 MPs from Labour and other parties, and friends from the Muslim, Christian, Sikh and Hindu communities. Never has our community made a more powerful statement that we will not tolerate antisemitism in the Labour Party. Perhaps most important of all was the near unanimity with which we spoke. And it is this unity which we as a community need as we go forward to face challenges such as this.

Although the overwhelming majority of the community were behind us in our protest against antisemitism, there are issues which do divide us. Of course, we will never agree on everything but there is a right and a wrong way to disagree. For example, when the Kaddish for Gaza event took place following the Hamas-sponsored violent protests at the border with Israel, nobody was more appalled than me. However, the tone and tenor of some of the comments aimed at the protesters has bordered on hateful and abusive. Such ferocity does nothing to advance the argument but rather discredits the point being made and leaves our community in a less civil place.

While we must fight against hate, prejudice and injustice, much of my work as President of the Board of Deputies is in promoting projects which work for a positive outcome. My first action as President after my election in May was to travel to Manchester for discussions with leaders of northern communities and the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, then on to Glasgow and Edinburgh for talks with Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and discussions with my Scottish Jewish colleagues. I intend to be a leader for all Jews of all denominations across the country and none of us is more important than any other.



We also need to reach out beyond our community which is why I have prioritised interfaith work, in particular, creating links with Muslim partners. This summer, for the first time, the Board of Deputies hosted an interfaith Iftar for senior Muslims and Jews including the Chief Rabbi and I have travelled the country meeting Muslims from Leeds to Luton and points in-between. Jews and Muslims have much in common and my objective is to create relationships which will strengthen us all and fight the prejudice and ignorance which has divided us in the past.

This was also the year that in the United Kingdom we celebrated our crucial role in the creation of the State of Israel, with celebrations to mark the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, culminating in the Parliamentary Balfour Reception, attended by many ministers, MPs and peers. And in this 70th anniversary of the birth of the State of Israel, we have been promoting a dialogue for peace between Israelis and Palestinians through Invest in Peace. This project, undertaken with Christian communities, is interfaith work at its most meaningful, tackling difficult issues positively and head on. We are determined that, rather than import the Middle East conflict, we should work together to support a constructive conversation towards reconciliation.

Those of us who love Israel were delighted that the Duke of Cambridge undertook the first official Royal visit to the country. It would be hard not to be touched by his moving message in the Yad Vashem guest book. And the goodwill and friendship in his speech at the Ambassador's reception left an impression on all of us who were present. A key message of the visit was about the importance of engagement. In addition to supporting coexistence with the young Israeli and Arab footballers, the fact that President Rivlin and President Abbas felt compelled to offer messages of peace in their meetings with the second in line to the British throne was a real tribute to the enduring 'soft power' of the British monarchy. This was clearly a man with a genuine warmth and friendship for the Jewish people and, going into 5779, amid all the political turmoil we have encountered this year, the image of the Duke, both at the Western Wall and, playing football on the beach, gives me wonderful memories to take into the new year.

May this Rosh Hashanah bring you, your families and all of Am Yisrael health, strength and peace.

Marie van der Zyl

Marie van der Zyl
President

TALK by LUKE AKEHURST on 26th April**'We Believe in Israel'**

Luke Akehurst, Director of 'We Believe in Israel', the campaign wing of BICOM, former member of Labour's International Executive Committee was our guest Speaker.

Menahem Briskman, who chaired the meeting, welcomed the audience, some of whom were so keen that they arrived very early in order to hear Luke Akehurst speak. He said he was especially happy to welcome those people from other synagogues and mentioned that the refreshments were sponsored by the Ruislip Social Club so that there was no charge for the evening.

Luke Akehurst first of all explained the current situation of the Labour Party. A passionate supporter of Israel, even though he is not of the Jewish persuasion, he stands in solidarity with his Jewish friends and colleagues, together with other like minded individuals. He has had a long association with the Labour Party post WWII, and visits Israel frequently, so he is well aware of the current situation.

He posed the question - how did Labour get in such a bad place, and explored the situation which led to the ensuing problems. He did not believe that it started with the election of Jeremy Corbyn, but had its roots many years previously in Israel seeming like an aggressor during the Six Day War in 1967, and indeed by the Iraq War in 2003, which caused a real anti-militaristic attitude. Combined with these influences, Ed Milliband who was the leader of the Labour Party for a brief time, was a very secular Jew, and he made concessions at the Warwick

Conference so that Israel would not be boycotted. He changed the way Labour elected its members, scrapped the system so that anyone could pay £3 and elect who they wanted. Unfortunately this did not work.

Luke considered several points which he explored in detail with his audience, viz:

Corbyn's victory in 2015, partly obtained by mass recruitment using mailing lists of single-issue campaigns, including PSC and Stop the War Coalition. This was shared by key personnel.

Entry into the party of people previously involved in Greens and far left parties with anti-Israel ideologies.

Energising of a wider group of new members for whom being anti-Israel is de rigueur. Long term movement to left and towards BDS of Trade Unions, especially Unite. Ideology of Marxist Left - class analysis so against faith and national identification, anti-imperialism, anti-American, anti-Semitism, Trotskyist and Stalinist variants.

Separate but linked problem of Muslim antipathy towards Israel.

There has been a sharp upturn of anti-Semitic incidents in Labour and almost all are examples of anti-Semitic anti-Zionism - Israel/Nazi, blood libel, conspiracy theories and what is more other randomness about slave trade and the Shoah.

TALK by LUKE AKEHURST on 26th April

Report by Angela Feuer



However, it was made clear that if a person is anti-Semitic they should be expelled from the Labour Party. There has, as a consequence, been a resurgence of JLM and the Labour Friends of Israel. Despite these influences the whole situation is a mess. There has been a launch of JVL, and rejection of IHRA.

Luke ended on a somewhat depressing note in that he said the Jewish fraternity and other allies need to stand up and be actively involved with counteracting these influences. In other words, report any anti-Semitism points to the CST.

Finally, he posed the question "Does one stay inside the Labour Party and fight from within, or stay out and try to influence others that way?"

There was a spirited rendering of questions and statements from the floor at the conclusion of Luke's talk which was interesting and informative, and hopefully provided a vehicle for progression for the future.

The vote of thanks was given by Esther Taffel who in a succinct phrase 'We are a lot wiser than we were before!', summed up what we had heard in this scintillating talk by Luke, an impassioned advocate of Israel.



From an idea by David Koten the Monday Social Club was created, and successfully run by Barbara, David Levy and Rod together with a very select band of helpers every other Monday from 12.30 – 3.30 p.m.

We gather for an excellent sandwich lunch – fruit – deserts, tea and coffee. We cater for all dietary requirements.

The members decide whatever they want to take part in; card or board games or just talking with friends. This makes a very happy atmosphere enjoyed by all.

Everyone is welcome. Please get in touch with Michelle (office 01895 622059) in the first instance to let her know for security and catering purposes.

On behalf of everyone at the Social Club we wish Rabbi Stanley and Rosalind and all the Community a very Happy and Healthy 5779.

Barbara

THE HISTORY OF JERUSALEM THROUGH ART

An illustrated talk by Rebbetzen Ilana Epstein

Report by Angela Feuer

Ruislip's Chairman, Menaham Briskman, welcomed a very talented individual, Rebbetzen Ilana Epstein on 15 May, to be the Speaker for the Wolfson Memorial Lecture in memory of Rev. David Wolfson who had been a stalwart leading the congregation for many years. The Rebbetzen, who is from Cockfosters and Southgate United Synagogue, qualified in History of Art and among her credits is also a member of the Living and Learning Team of the United Synagogue. Menaham also said how pleased he was to welcome participants from other synagogues as well as acknowledging his delight at having the Wolfson family 'tribe' attending this event.

Rebbetzen Ilana explained that she was approaching her subject in a different fashion - through art and showing how Jerusalem is the centre of each and every map. Her exposition which was original and fascinating held everyone spellbound at the breadth of her knowledge of the pictures. To quote but a few:-

The first clover leaf map 1581 showed Jerusalem at the centre point.

Abraham meeting the King of the city of Jerusalem by Rubens

Abraham and Isaac, the sacrifice at the Temple Mount, Jerusalem. This Chagall painting depicts blue angels, Isaac coloured in yellow, and Abraham red.

An 1860 wood carving depicting Jeremiah bemoaning the destruction of the first temple of Jerusalem.

We learnt about the history of Jerusalem through the art chosen by the Rebbetzen, and also various tidbits of information which were hitherto unknown, for example:-

Alexander the Great gave permission for religious freedom to the Jews and male children of that era born to Priests were called Alexander in his honour.

Herod, Rabbi Ilana explained, was half Arab, half Jewish, and was the best builder of all. Unfortunately most of his edifices were destroyed by Titus, but Titus's arch can still be seen in Rome.

This whistle stop tour of Jerusalem also incorporated Titian whose artistic endeavours portrayed 'Sulaiman the magnificent' - the man who built Jerusalem.

Finally the last painting gave an intimate glimpse into Rebbetzen Ilana's personal history as it was a picture of the Old City of Jerusalem painted 4 years ago by her mother, who is herself an artist of some renown.

Rabbi Coten said he was delighted to give the vote of thanks and said, on behalf of all the assembly, that Rebbetzen Ilana had literally blown us away with her breadth of knowledge and complete mastery of the subject, and making sure that we all realise that Jerusalem is surely one of the most important places in the Middle East. Helen Briskman presented the speaker with a plant, and said how much she enjoyed the talk.

This exposition by Rebbetzen Ilana Epstein presented Ruislip with a veritable cornucopia of delight which will be difficult to surpass in the future.

POETS' CORNER

Henry

We walk around together
Henry and I
he grins as we trawl our path
and he catches all in our way
swallows everything down whole
and I say clever boy Henry
and so sorry
didn't mean to trap you in the door
and rub imaginary bump better



As we walk I talk to him
confidentially
knowing well
he will never tell
just sucks it all up
takes it all in
with his sweet grin

when we are done
I say thanks Henry
see you tomorrow
meaning next week
have a nice sleep
he grins

"S"

Something stirs
a sudden memory
a scent so familiar
it brings you to me
your arms wrap around
and I am safe in your embrace

Fragile fragrance fades
and I am alone again
no longer afraid
stronger
eager for tomorrow

Crumbs

A crumb dropped
silently onto an ocean of floor
mouse no sense of danger
tiptoed on all fours

Tail trailing in carpet pile
whiskers whistling
bristling with glee
mouse devoured crumb
and turned to flee
straight into cat
with sharp-toothed smile
oh crumbs!

*House-trained sadly
...not Mouse-trained!!*



RUISLIP SYNAGOGUE'S CHANUKAH SPECTACULAR CELEBRATION 2017*Report by Angela Feuer*

Hillingdon Youth Band entertained Ruislip Synagogue in an event arranged by the Ruislip Ladies Guild's Chanukah musical celebration held on 17 December 2017 - in a scintillating and vibrant fashion. The 21-piece group of boys and girls, aged between 13 and 18, as well as featuring our own home grown talent of Samuel Davis (on the keyboard), showed the 100 plus people crowded into the hall, what it was to be part of a 'big band'.

Melvyn Care reformed it in 1986 from what it was in the 70's, and since then it has gone from strength to strength - mainly he says, due to the quality of dedicated staff teaching in Hillingdon schools. The band has been involved with Youth Makes Music at the Royal Albert Hall and they play music across the genre from all of the great composers. Melvyn, himself has just been awarded the Michael Craxton Award for 2017 for outstanding contribution to the Arts in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

Rabbi Coten welcomed Melvyn - their mentor - and the band and said how the conductor/mentor had galvanised youth. Rabbi Coten lit the six candles and read the blessing, incidentally teaching the non-Jewish participants some Hebrew as well. Andrea Batsman then added her thanks to the group for their time and efforts, and expressed her thanks to Melvyn for coming 'from his sick bed' as the show must go on and he wanted to support his band of talented youngsters.

There then followed musical arrangements - Fly me to the Moon, Hallo, In the mood, Don't know why, Pick up the pieces and Watermelon man, all interspersed with further information about the band. Melvyn also introduced many soloists - too numerous to identify by name in this article, to the audience.

The final 'Bird Land' - before the interval - had some history behind it. This was played originally to mark the end of the existence of the band, but fortunately, like the phoenix, it rose again and the band continued.

After a very satisfying repast of Viennas, baked potatoes, Israeli salad and other accompaniments, we ended our meal with donuts and Satsumas with tea and coffee. It is a tribute to the Ruislip Ladies Guild's efficiency and hard work that the 100 plus people were served very swiftly and they deserve an accolade for their efforts.

The second half of our musical journey heard the band play Count Basie tunes, and chameleon. The final arrangement was that of Sing, Sang, Sung which was greeted with rapturous applause. Thus ended a musical journey which was very professional and much enjoyed by all. I can personally vouch for the fact, that despite warnings, it was not really too loud!!

A raffle concluded the evening which was well patronised by everybody.

Apology - Missed out from Pesach Edition.

RUISLIP SEDER SERVICE - 16 APRIL

Report by Angela Feuer

On the first night of Pesach Ruislip Shul held a very successful Seder Service. This was the first one we have held for many years. It was attended by 40 people from Ruislip as well as our friends from local communities of Pinner, Northwood, Belmont and Wembley. The Seder Service was conducted by our Rabbi Stanley Coten.

It was great seeing the children with their parents and grandparents all enjoying and contributing to the evening. Rabbi Stanley involved everyone in the Service and gave informative explanations on the text throughout the evening. Andrew Olswang sang the 'Mah Nishtana' and the rest of us joined in.

The meal consisted of the traditional egg and salt water, chopped liver, egg and onion, beef bourguignon, potato kugel, salads, fruit and chocolate brownies and was extremely enjoyable.

Traditional Pesach songs were sung at the end of the Service and the Seder finished around 11.00 p.m.

We would like to thank our Catering Committee and volunteers without whom the Seder Service would not have been a success.

Anyone who wishes to have a visit from a member of our Visitation Committee should call Michelle at the Office.



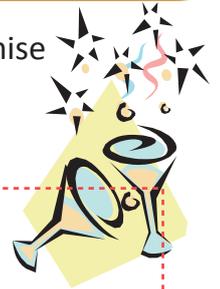
ANNOUNCEMENTS



Mazaltov!

Sharon and David Norman on the Marriage of their son Daniel to Denise

Helen and Harvey Lawton on their Golden Wedding



Sonia and Michael Davis on the Batmitzvah of their granddaughter Talia Michaels
Jackie and Aaron Agasee on the Barmitzvah of their grandson Benjamin
Marlene and Bernie Lieb on the Barmitzvah of their grandson Andrew
Helen and Harvey Lawton on the UK Barmitzvah of their grandson Jack Cameron from Australia

Gwen Settle on the birth of a granddaughter, Chloe Caroline
Vicki and Gary Appleby on the birth of their niece, Chloe Caroline

Sonia Davis	70 th Birthday
Aaron Agasee	80 th Birthday
Harvey Lawton	80 th Birthday
David McCallum	83 rd Birthday
Angela Kasin	85 th Birthday

Helen and Harvey Lawton we are delighted and proud of their grandson Alex, whose A-Level results allows him to go York University to study Politics Philosophy & Economics.

Grandma and Papa wish him Love and Mazaltov now and always.

Ben Summer, son of David and Jenny Summer and the grandson of the late Shirley Summer gaining 2 A and 1 A for his A-level exams*

Miki Friend, daughter of Jason and Rachel Friend granddaughter of Barbara and Rod Hutchinson gaining 1 A A A for her A-level exams*

Mazal Tov to David McCallum on his Reading of the Haftorah on the occasion of his 2nd Barmitzvah

We wish a Refuah Shleymah and speedy recovery to:

Jackie Agasee
Aaron Agasee
Jill Barnett
Alvin Barnett
Michael Davis
Sonia Davis
Carole Franklin
Clive Franklin
Maurice Godley
Sharon Solomons

We are please to announce that for Simchat Torah

*Jeff Batsman is Chatan Torah
David Norman is Chatan Bereshit*

Jill Curtis wishes to thank the Community for their kind words of Condolence.

We send our condolences to:

Sandra Milestone on the loss of her mother
Gwen Settle on the loss of her mother
Sheila Abrahams on the loss of her mother, Beatrice Dreezer
Amanda Measures on the loss of her father, Michael Harris
Jill Curtis on the loss of her husband, Cyril
Nadine Ludski on the loss of her brother
The Family of Shirley Summer
The Family of Harry Leigh

Stonesettings

Bushey

Thursday 4th October at 11.30 am
for Julius Cornbloom

Sunday 25th November at 9.30 am
for Michael Horkins

Waltham Abbey

Sunday 14th April 2019 at 12.30 pm
for Stanley Zalicks

All Notices for display on our notice boards, must be given to the Shul Administrator, Michelle or left in the office for her attention.

Notifications of Stone-settings should be sent to the Administrator at the Shul Office.

In the case of a bereavement members are asked to contact in the first instance Rabbi S. Coten 07870 691155 and then the Office 01895 622059