

THE GGS JOURNAL

September
2012
Ellul 5772

News and Views from Golders Green Synagogue



Golders Green Synagogue Ministers
and Board of Management in the 1920s,
pictured with Chief Rabbi Joseph Hertz

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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- The power of prayer, by Rabbi Dr Harvey Belovski
- Dunstan Road in the 1970s, by Daniel Greenberg



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new website
www.goldersgreenshul.org.uk

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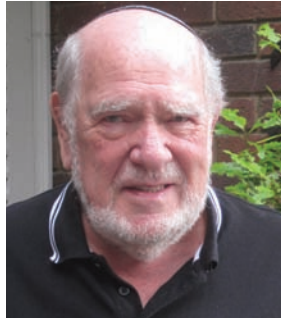
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The GGS Journal is compiled and edited by Joel Clark. To propose articles for future editions, please email joelclark@gmail.com
Cover image: Golders Green Synagogue Ministers and Board of Management in the 1920s
Front row (from left): A W Woolf, S Karet, Samuel Moses, Joseph Prag, Dayan Feldman, Rev I Livingstone, Chief Rabbi Dr J H Hertz, Rev A Littenberg, J H Somper, S Oster
Back row (from left): M Wix, J Seaford, L Hyams, J W Rosenthal, M Greidinger, J Hyams, A Jacobs, I Greenbaum, G Cohen

RECORDS OF CHANGE



A journal is a record. Whether it be of the stock market, of an academic specialty, or of an individual's private life, a journal sets out to capture the key moments, the ups-and-downs, the critical questions, decisions and their consequences. But a journal is not simply a chronicle of events. It seeks to make the reader think, analyse, consider. The reader may be amused, startled, sad or even angry. But to be successful, a journal must engage its readers and invite them to experience some of the thoughts, emotions and deliberations of the writer.

We hope that reading the GGS Journal, the latest embodiment of our community magazine (like the Phoenix, our Shul magazine may vanish, but it always returns renewed and rejuvenated) will be an opportunity to reflect on those issues that engage the members of our community.

In an era where facts, information and news circulate at ever-increasing speeds and in ever-increasing volumes, reading a journal may be considered a luxury. But reflection and deliberation are as important for a community as for an individual, and never more so than at a time of change.

In the next few years, our community will witness more change than at any time since I joined some 30 years ago. How do I feel about those changes, as we reach Rosh Hashana 5773?

The coming months will witness the end of the 'New Minyan', an initiative with which I was closely involved since its conception some 15 years ago. Despite its somewhat turbulent start, the New Minyan breathed new life into our community, attracting young families, a new young Rabbi and paradoxically creating a stronger and more united community in the process.

But circumstances change. This past year, we have been offered astonishing, and quite unexpected opportunities to transform the future of our community. Thanks to the vision of some of our younger families, some help from Her Majesty's Government and some very hard negotiations, the new Rimon Jewish Primary school, our own community Jewish school will

open its gates in a few weeks' time (see page 8). Within twelve months, the familiar but sadly dilapidated buildings at the back of the synagogue will be replaced by a brand new purpose-built school building.

The impending loss of the Joseph Freedman Hall and the Lebetkin Hall has spurred on the plans to redevelop the main synagogue building. Within an incredibly short space of time, and with a lot of hard work and some extraordinarily generous people, we have raised more than £1 million, and the rebuilding programme so urgently needed has begun.

Within a year, many of the key facilities of the synagogue will be renovated or rebuilt. With imagination and determination, our synagogue building will be converted from being a burden suffocating the community's future to a space that provides inspiration for prayer, Torah study, and celebration of Jewish life. The synagogue and the school, which will share facilities and work closely together, will provide the link between our community's past and its future.

To me, in these new and exciting circumstances, the arguments for the existence of two separate Minyanim, which seemed so clear fifteen years ago, now seem irrelevant. The new buildings will require new initiatives, new ideas and new experiments. I have no idea what they will be yet, but I look forward to them with anticipation and excitement.

I hope you enjoy reading this journal, and that it will engage you in the life of our community – its past, its present and its future. Most of all, I hope it will encourage you to get involved by contributing your own stories, experiences and ideas to future editions.

Our community is at the beginning of a transformation; this journal will provide its record.

B. Chain

BENNY CHAIN
CHAIRMAN,
GOLDERS GREEN SYNAGOGUE

COMMUNITY NEWS 2011-2012

Presenting the highlights from a diverse range of programmes across the community over the past year

Purim
March
2012



Fundraising
event, July
2012

A SECOND SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING LUNCH AT THE GLATMANS

The weather was kind to us – we had a lovely lunch in the garden, and we hope everybody who attended had an enjoyable afternoon.

Thanks are due to Gill Greenberg, Caroline Levey and Suzette Palmer who helped with the setting up and preparation, and to Aaron and Ellie Ginsberg and Jessica Freiberger who helped out with serving drinks, clearing tables, and just being very pleasant to everybody. At the end of the afternoon some of the gentlemen present kindly helped to put the furniture back, and Jackie Crossley and Valerie Gee aided us in clearing the kitchen.

All in all we raised £1,500 towards the shul building fund – we thank all those who were present, and also those who were unable to join us but contributed to swell the fund. A great afternoon and we hope to try again next summer, when we hope more of you will come along!

Ruth Glatman



OCTOBER 2011

- Succot open house party hosted by the Belovskis with live music from Danny Shine and a Dvar Torah from Rabbi David Mason

- Communal Shabbaton with Rabbi Yehuda Gilad of Yeshivat Maale Gilboa

NOVEMBER 2011

- Mitzvah Day – social action projects across the community (see page 11)

- Communal Shabbaton with Rabbi Natan Slifkin of Yeshivat Lev HaTorah in Ramat Bet Shemesh

DECEMBER 2011

- DRESS Supper Quiz, held in the Joseph Freedman Hall

DECEMBER 2011

- Shabbat Lunch for young families in the Lebetkin Hall, attended by 80 people

JANUARY – MARCH 2012

- Torah to Warm your Winter series of three educational shabbatot – Aliza Bulow, Benedict Roth and Rabbi Belovski – Rabbi Dov Linzer – Rabbi Menachem Leibtag

MARCH 2012

- Flagship annual Purim event – Megillah and hot-dog supper, attended by hundreds of people from within and outside the community

YOUTH EVENTS, 2011-2012

It was a busy year for the youth, with highlights including a mock version of The Apprentice and a Zumbathon

The Apprentice, October 2011 - January 2012



Gabrielle and Simon depart

FAREWELL TO OUR YOUTH DIRECTORS

Golders Green Synagogue this summer bade farewell to Gabrielle and Simon Stern, who have served as the community's youth directors for the past two years. **Hope Samuel** looks back on the successful events they have organised

The youth of Golders Green Synagogue have been very lucky to have had Gabrielle and Simon Stern as youth directors for the past two years, but sadly we have had to say goodbye to them this year as they move on with their lives.

Highlights of the past two years of youth activity that particularly stand out include the weekly Jewish Philosophy course, devised and run early on in Gabz and Simon's first year for the older years, and the Israel Advocacy programme they ran this year with the fantastically inspiring Glen Bezael.

Mitzvah Day in 2010 and 2011 saw our youth helping out at the Chicken Soup Shelter in Stamford Hill, a charity they chose to support and which provided the fundraising focus for the Dunstan Road version of 'The Apprentice', one of Gabz and Simon's biggest successes.

The Apprentice really captured the imagination and energy of many of our youth. Over several weeks, they formed themselves into groups and, with the help of some well-chosen speakers and Gabz and Simon themselves, they researched and devised various ideas to raise money for their chosen charity.

On a Sunday evening in January, each group presented their plans, including budgets and marketing ideas, to an audience and panel of judges that had to choose the best one, which would then be implemented. It was a thrilling coup to have businessman Claude Littner, who appears in the real Apprentice, as a judge alongside Julia Chain and Vivienne Lewis.

All of the youth were incredibly impressive, and highly commended by our judges. The winning group of Avigayil and Eli Fishburn, David Hochausser and Sam Baderman went on to run a very successful Zumbathon, attended by 80 women and girls, which raised a fantastic £1500.

As well as these headline events, Gabz and Simon have also organised a steady stream of meals, kiddushim, discussion groups, two tikkun leils on Shavuot, two rounds of 'pizza in the hut' and much more. They have re-established our occasional youth minyan and have been warm and encouraging to all our youth, while also being valued members of our community in their own right.

We will miss Gabz and Simon hugely, and thank them for everything they have done. They have been excellent role models for our youth and have tackled the job with passion, creativity and good humour. We wish them all the best for the future.

Gabz and Simon will be replaced by Jenny Mays and Sammy Epstein who take up the new role this month and will be featured in the next issue of The GGS Journal.



APRIL 2012

- Communal Shul Seder in the Joseph Freedman Hall, organised by Julia and Benny Chain with a "Crossing the Red Sea" theme
- Yom Ha'atzmaut Shabbaton with his excellency Daniel Taub, Ambassador of Israel to the Court of St James's

MAY 2012

- Shavuot – an innovative new educational programme, including Tikkun Leil, attended by 100 people, drasha by the Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks on second day and afternoon programme with three women educators

JUNE 2012

- Best of British Jubilee themed Friday night dinner for young professionals, hosted by the Belovskis
- Barbecue for young families, hosted by Charles and Lucy Coleman
- Pre-Olympic Greek themed Friday night dinner for the youth, hosted by the Belovskis

JULY 2012

- Summer learning Shabbaton with Professor Elliott Malamet, lecturer in the Faculty of Humanities at York University and Department Head of Jewish Thought at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto
- Fundraising lunch hosted by Sydney and Ruth Glatman, raising £1,500 for the shul redevelopment fund
- Tisha B'Av educational programme, with shiurim by Rabbi Belovski

RIMON: MEET THE HEAD TEACHER

Dr Zoe Dunn, newly appointed headteacher of Golders Green Synagogue's first community

A year after the Department for Education approved Rimon Jewish Primary School as a new free school on the backlands of Golders Green Synagogue, the school will welcome its first intake of pupils in September 2012. The GGS Journal speaks to Dr Zoe Dunn, Rimon's founding headteacher, about her vision for the school.

What is your background prior to joining Rimon?

Zoe Dunn (ZD): I was raised and educated in the south of Kent and then studied at Homerton College, Cambridge. After graduating, I moved to London to research my PhD, which focused on the economics of the literary and publishing marketplace in the mid-Victorian century. I have been teaching in North London schools for the past 10 years. I started my teaching career in the state sector in Kent and subsequently taught in preparatory and independent schools. Most recently, I was Head of Junior School at The Royal School in Hampstead for four-and-a-half years.

What attracted you to the position of headteacher at Rimon?

ZD: I love a challenge! Being the head of a new free school is a unique opportunity to literally build and shape a school community that reflects one's educational ideals

model of education. In this sense, this role provided me with the opportunity to blend the very best elements from both the maintained and independent school sectors in order to deliver a really unique and special educational environment.

I am also very interested in the diverse and varied culture of Golders Green and so being appointed as a non-Jewish head of a Jewish school is a challenge that appeals to me. I am very fortunate that all the Governors of Rimon have strong and wide-ranging talents, and that we all share the same educational vision of a local school founded by members of the community for members of the community. This committed and dedicated core of the school was a huge attraction and is a real strength of the school.

How would you describe the kind of school Rimon will be to prospective parents?

ZD: Rimon will be a happy, nurturing school with high expectation for all its pupils, which fosters and develops the knowledge, wisdom and joy of learning in all its capacities: social, emotional and academic. Rimon pupils will be considerate and compassionate towards their community, peers and the environment, and they will have an understanding of how they contribute to the diverse and global society

RIMON WILL FOSTER AND DEVELOP THE KNOWLEDGE, WISDOM AND JOY OF LEARNING IN ALL ITS CAPACITIES

and philosophy. Excellent schools are synonymous with North London, in both the state and independent sector and so free schools are another way to re-engage a community and provide a different

they inhabit. They will have a thirst for inquiry and critical thought, whilst being valued as individuals and respected within the school community. Rimon will enable each child to fulfill his or her potential and

Dr Zoe Dunn



discover their talents in a learning community that will foster a love for Jewish literacy and culture.

What would you say are the most important elements of a successful primary school?

ZD: I believe that pupils learn best in an environment where they feel safe and where they can be themselves, feeling valued and respected. Essential in a primary school is a nurturing environment that understands the needs of each individual child but creates opportunities for belonging to the community.

Primary education is about moments of wonder when children overcome challenges to master new skills and concepts. It is about strengthening character and resilience so that children embrace all the new challenges they face with excitement and a belief in their talents and ability. Developing an environment that stimulates and engages children so that they master

Dr Zoe Dunn joins Rimon from the Royal School in Hampstead, where she was Head of Junior School

school, answers the Journal's questions

basic skills while building on their natural talents and interests is key.

Having a curriculum that is both attuned to the diversity of a global, technologically advancing society, that also develops social and emotional skills will enable pupils to thrive as successful adults in all capacities, wherever their future professions, roles and relationships lead them.

What have been the biggest challenges involved in preparing to open Rimon since you started your new role?

ZD: Building and shaping a school is a challenge, but nonetheless it has been a fascinating one. It has often been the little things that have caused most angst but I am pleased to say that the whole process has been an incredibly exciting learning experience. I have no doubt that all the hard work will be rewarded when I welcome the pupils and parents of the founding Reception class this month. I am really looking forward to the start of term.

You were recently awarded the Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship, which entailed fairly extensive travels in North America. Can you tell us more about this journey?

ZD: The Churchill Fellowship was an incredible experience and one I was very fortunate to have. I travelled to Alaska, New York, Chicago, Seattle, Texas and Sweden and visited numerous schools to research the impact of social and emotional learning (SEL) on school communities. SEL enables pupils to recognise and manage emotions, care about others, make good decisions, behave ethically and responsibly, develop positive relationships, and avoid negative behaviour. It is the process through

which children enhance their ability to integrate thinking, feeling, and behaving in order to achieve important life tasks.

In the UK, SEL has mainly been dominated by Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) in the primary curriculum, and so I was keen to discover other programmes and approaches to developing the whole child from good practice in America and Sweden. Indeed many countries like Singapore and Finland, which top international league tables, are now placing emphasis on SEL to enhance the learning and educational experiences of children. I would recommend anyone to apply for a Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship as it broadens your professional insight and is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore your profession with colleagues from across the world.

What do you like to do when you're not working?

ZD: I love going for walks on Hampstead Heath and generally being out and about in London and exploring all the great sites, museums and restaurants. I also love spending time with friends and family and being able to travel to different places around the world.

What keeps you awake at night?

ZD: The same thing that keeps most people awake I would guess: worry! I am a list writer so I like to organise my worries and I can often be found jotting down notes and thoughts. At times, some of my best ideas or solutions have come to me in the middle of the night or in the early morning. On the whole though I have learnt, through my wonderful family, that there are not many worries that should keep you awake at night, as most things can, and always do, appear better in the morning.

A LOCAL JEWISH PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR A GLOBAL CITY

Rimon's chair of governors Rachel Clark charts the journey the school has been through since it was little more than an idea at the start of 2011 to opening its doors to the first intake of pupils this month

Rimon Jewish Primary School has come a long way since it was approved for pre-opening by the Department for Education in October 2011 and by the time you read this, it is likely we will have marked another major milestone in welcoming our first intake of pupils.

The idea was first conceived in January 2011 when the Government's Free School programme was just beginning. Golders Green Synagogue has a long and rich history but there has never been a school in the area that complements its vision and ideals. A group of local parents, professionals and community members decided that the time had come to do something about this. The Free School programme, although not right for every educational establishment, seemed to work well for us, and this was the route we eventually chose.

Over the next four months we worked on our application – more than 100 pages of educational ethos, financial planning, curriculum planning, site analysis and governance. Aided by the excellent resources of the New Schools Network, we were able to submit just before the deadline in June 2011. It was a huge effort but had the positive effect of shaping the school right from the start, which proved invaluable as we progressed.

In July we heard from the Department for Education (DFE) that we were through to the next round and an interview would be held in August. Our group faced a panel of seven civil servants and every part of our application was taken apart and queried during the arduous interview process. At this point, I was eight months pregnant and I am convinced one of the reasons we passed our interview was because the DFE panel was terrified I would go into labour if they said anything to upset me.



Rachel Clark

In any case, we got through and received the phone call in October to say that Rimon Jewish Primary School had been successful and we were now in the "pre-opening" stage of the process.

Over the course of the past year we have literally built a school from scratch. Every single detail – from the minutiae such as whether or not to have regulated sun hats for Reception children, to the hiring of our outstanding headteacher Dr Zoe Dunn – has naturally had to be very carefully considered and processed.

Our steering group altered somewhat over the course of the year as other commitments took over, but the three founding members – myself, David Vaughan and Julia Chain – have remained the same and we have now been joined by three other governors, each of whom brings different skill sets to the group.

Our aim has always been to build a local school where all children can benefit from the diversity of the Jewish tradition and gain the skills and experience to succeed in, and contribute to, the extraordinary global city in which they live. I feel certain that the school we have created remains true to this ideal and I am very excited to see this vision become a reality over the next few years. To find out more, visit www.rimonschool.org.uk

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU

At a time when the net membership of Golders Green Synagogue is now rising for the first time in many years, the community needs volunteers more than ever to run the vast range of activities and support those in need. Rabbi Belovski and Susan Freiburger pay tribute to volunteers and appeal for your support

THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

Rabbi Dr Harvey Belovski

Today we celebrate the immense contribution of our volunteers. No community can function without those who give so generously of their time and expertise and we are especially blessed. I think it's vital that once in a while we thank them; they should never be taken for granted.

Rabbi Yisrael Salanter, the late nineteenth century founder of the Musar movement, was once approached by someone who claimed that he only had one hour a week available and asked what to study during that hour. Rabbi Yisrael replied that he should learn Musar, because that would enable him to realise that he actually had more than one hour free.

This sentiment applies to volunteering too. I suspect that many people feel they either have no time or are not well-suited to volunteering. This is rarely true. If you were to meet our volunteers, and those who benefit from their involvement, you'll discover quickly how much time you can make available.

While of course, volunteering enables the community to run smoothly, and to provide services that might not otherwise be available to assist individuals, anyone who does volunteer or is engaged in any other type of chessed will tell you another side of the experience. They gain at least as much themselves as the recipient of the experience of volunteering.

Conceptually, this is no surprise: the act of giving is itself something godly. Jewish life is guided by the principle that we "walk in God's path" by emulating Him. Since God is the giver and we are the recipients, altruistic acts replicate the divine model, bringing godliness and satisfaction to those who perform them.

On behalf of everyone in the community, may you be blessed with success, good health and continue to inspire me and others.

This is an abridged version of a sermon given by Rabbi Belovski on Shabbat Terumah in February 2012, which was dedicated to the celebration of volunteering

GOLDERS GREEN CARES

Susan Freiburger

It has been a busy year for our care group, and the help of the group leaders has been invaluable. Please join me in thanking our group leaders: Sara Raiher for the Befriending in Bereavement Group; Eve Golditch for one-to-one visiting; Rachel Paul for hospital visiting; and Ruth Glatman for hospitality and Yom Tov food gifts. Finally I would like to thank all the volunteers who are so busy in our community for their wonderful support and contributions.

In your shul mailing this year, you will have received a fridge magnet with details of our care group. Please put it on your fridge and if you need help, or you know someone that does, just call the direct number and someone will get back to you within 24 hours.

At the beginning of this year, I was very unwell and the support I received from my family, friends, volunteers and members of the community was incredibly special. It made me realise how important it is to be there when times are bad as well as good, and how appreciated it is.

However, our care group is in a very sad situation – we have many requests that we are unable to fulfil as we simply do not have enough volunteers. I was very fortunate to welcome a new band of volunteers this year, who are doing an excellent job. But we still need more help, in particular from volunteers who are available during the day to visit elderly members of the community in their homes.

This year I ask you please, when you make your Tzedakah contribution, to think about other ways of giving back. It is so easy to write a cheque or put your hand in your pocket and give a few coins in the passing charity tin, but how about giving something else to the community? Give your time.

I am sure there are many of you out there who are in part-time work, or perhaps have flexible hours, and could offer an hour every week or every few weeks. Whatever time you can offer will help the community, and it is immensely rewarding. Just ask one of the volunteers!

Wishing you all a Shana Tova – a happy, healthy and sweet New Year.

MITZVAH DAY

Joel Clark

Over the past three years, Mitzvah Day has become an increasingly important part of the Golders Green Synagogue community calendar, bringing together diverse groups from across the community for a day dedicated to social action.

Mitzvah Day's mission is to reduce hardship and poverty, to help the environment and to bring a little joy where it is needed most, all done through the dedication of time rather than money. Mitzvah Day in November 2011 was the third year in which Golders Green Synagogue was involved, and saw the largest number of volunteers yet (pictured right).

In the Joseph Freedman Hall, Suzette Palmer led a marathon 'knitathon', with large numbers of volunteers turning out to knit squares, which were then pieced together to make two beautiful home-crafted blankets. Both blankets were donated to World Jewish Relief in memory of Rosalind Beckman z"l.

The knitathon took place against a backdrop of the community's annual 'collectathon', in which members turn out their wardrobes and store cupboards to find useful items to donate to our nominated charities. At the end of the day, 43 bin bags of clothes were sent to World Jewish Relief, to be distributed to communities in need in eastern Europe, with additional donations to Wizo and VisionAid.

On Golders Green Road, another highly successful project was repeated in 2011 – the Mitzvah Day shopping project, in which volunteers ask shoppers to donate extra food items to our nominated charity. Located outside Sainsburys Local this year, celebrated volunteers included Rabbi Dr Harvey Belovski, Professor Benny Chain and Lord Monroe Palmer.

In total, the Mitzvah Day Shopping project generated 12 large crates of food, all of which were donated to Cricklewood Homeless Concern. "Our thanks to your congregation and supporters for the wonderful generosity they demonstrated. We will use the groceries for hot meals over the winter and hand out a selection of goods to our homeless people," wrote CHC chief executive Danny Maher afterwards.

Meanwhile the youth of the community once again used Mitzvah Day to support the Chicken Soup Shelter in Stamford Hill, making sandwiches for the beneficiaries and spending time volunteering at the shelter.

Mitzvah Day is not only a very inspiring initiative that brings our community together every year for a wholly positive cause, but as more people get involved in more projects, it is also having a greater impact on those most in need, both within the community and outside it.

Mitzvah Day 2012 will take place on November 18 and will be coordinated by Samantha Vaughan. Watch out for more details over the coming weeks, or email vaughan.samantha@googlemail.com to get involved.



MitzvahDay
International

**MITZVAH DAY
HERE**
16-18 NOVEMBER 2012

**ON MITZVAH DAY
WE ARE CARING,
GROWING, CLEANING,
BRINGING JOY,
FEEDING, DECORATING,
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MITZVAH DAY IS PROUD TO BE A PART OF INTERFAITH WEEK

THE POWER OF PRAYER

In his Rosh Hashanah message for 5773, Rabbi Dr Harvey Belovski considers the power of

Each of us has a favourite aspect of Rosh Hashanah – it may be the drama of the shofar, the familiar sing-along parts of the shul service, perhaps apple dipped in honey, or honey cake. For me, it is the haunting melody used for the main text of the prayers – just thinking of it or humming it brings back memories of transformational moments during my days in yeshivah.

I suggest that beneath whatever ‘makes’ Rosh HaShanah for us as individuals, we all share an unarticulated tension that we are, perhaps unconsciously, drawn to address year after year. As human beings we naturally live in a state of internal conflict between our own sense of worth and achievement and the realisation that we are dependent on God for every aspect of our existence.

Even acknowledging this tension is rather counter-cultural. Although we are blessed to live in a country that allows us to practice our religion without hindrance, people who take spirituality seriously, and even more so, those who dare to speak about God, are viewed as strange. People who actually pray are seen as the oddest of all.

While in another age, ‘God-consciousness’ was more normative,

and we ‘need’ God’s help, we have become uncomfortable with prayer.

Yet prayer is the only medium through which we can truly articulate and understand the struggle between ‘I’ and ‘Thou’ that defines our humanity, for it enables us to simultaneously recognise the all-pervasive presence of God while retaining our sense of self and accomplishment.

Rav Soloveitchik expresses this idea in the following way:

Prayer is basically an awareness of man finding himself in the presence of and addressing himself to his Maker, and to pray has one connotation only: to stand before God. (Rabbi J.B. Soloveitchik, The Lonely Man of Faith, 1964)

It remains unalterably true that the very essence of prayer is the covenantal experience of being together with and talking to God. (Ibid.)

Note that Rav Soloveitchik refers not to the obliteration of the self in the face of the divine, but to a partnership – ‘a covenantal experience of being together with and talking to God’. The greatest

WHILE WE EACH HAVE OUR OWN NEEDS, ASPIRATIONS, FEARS AND HOPES, WE BENEFIT IMMENSELY FROM TAPPING INTO THE ENERGIES OF OUR COMMUNITY

today in ordinary circumstances, many of us find it difficult to pray, to reach out to God and to acknowledge our dependence and vulnerability. Except when an emergency arises

achievement of a prayer experience is the awareness that we are living our lives in the presence of God – ‘to pray has one connotation only: to stand before God’.

Rabbi Dr Harvey Belovski



Rabbi Dr Harvey Belovski, rabbi of Golders Green Synagogue

It seems that God wants us to see ourselves if not quite as equals, then at least as parties to a joint ‘conversation’. This suggests that God invests great confidence in our capabilities to ‘partner’ Him in creating and developing our world. We certainly cannot go it alone, but nor, it seems, does He wish to ignore our contribution. A healthy relationship with God, established through prayer, is one in which we are able to freely acknowledge our complete reliance on Him, while accepting the privileged position He has placed us in as masters of our world.

Interestingly, Rav Soloveitchik distinguishes between prophecy and prayer. While, as he puts it, prophecy requires God to take the initiative –

‘He speaks and man listens’:

prayer - both as an individual and a community

In the prayer community the initiative belongs to man: he does the speaking and God does the listening. (Ibid.)

The concept of community is important here: of course it’s possible to pray alone, to connect with God on a mountain top or in our living room, but we can achieve more if we act together. While we each have our own needs, aspirations, fears and hopes that are quite distinct from every other member of the group, we benefit immensely from tapping into the energies of our community, meeting, singing and listening to God together.

For Rav Soloveitchik:

The inclusion of others is indispensable. Man should avoid praying for himself alone. The plural form of prayer is of central Halakhic significance... The foundation of efficacious and noble prayer is human solidarity... (Ibid.)

And besides, there is safety in numbers, something helpful when we are struggling with our own spiritual vulnerabilities.

This need may be what draws us to celebrate Rosh Hashanah together, why even the scarcely affiliated feel motivated to drop in on the festival in some way or other. The shofar, the prayers, tunes, special foods, and community bonding, are the tools we use to celebrate the anniversary of creation and the universal sovereignty of God. But they also provide a safe space within which we can acknowledge and rejoice in the healthy tensions that make us human, annually renewing our conviction that God has chosen us as his partners in building a better world.

RABBI DR HARVEY BELOVSKI

REFLECTIONS ON A SUMMER CYCLE RIDE

Last year, Michael Leventhal, founder and director of the Jewish food festival Gefiltefest approached me with what seemed like a madcap scheme. He and his then fiancée Rachel Marcus were planning to cycle from Lands End to John o’ Groats in June 2012 and wanted one or more rabbi to join them for each stage of the trip – what he called a ‘rabbi relay ride’ lasting three weeks. Michael is not just one of the nicest people I know, but also one of the most convincing; inevitably, I agreed to participate.

Michael and Rachel, cycling the whole 1400 miles with their friend (and now mine), the irresistibly named Tarryn Klotnick, pulled it off. They were able to persuade around 15 rabbis from all denominations to do a stint, fostering awareness of environmental issues and raising funds for worthy food-related charities as well as for their own causes (mine were the Golders Green Synagogue redevelopment fund and Chaplaincy). Instead of a baton, the rabbinical participants passed my shofar to one another as the ride progressed; although I cannot duplicate the feat of one colleague, who tooted the Marseilles on the shofar, I still hold the record for the single longest blast.

I had arranged to do my stretch right at the start of the relay, cycling with the group for two-and-a-half days from Lands End to Bideford in Devon. Although I cycle short distances regularly – you may see me cycling around Golders Green – I had never

attempted anything close to this distance and hilliness, and I found the 160 miles or so that I covered quite demanding.

En route we met Brian, a Jewish fellow from Wembley now living in Cornwall, a delightful Methodist who’d come to Penzance station to greet us, and a woman who redirected us when we took a wrong turning; she claimed to be called Eileen, but we knew better – she was really Eliyahu HaNavi in disguise sent to help lost cyclists.

It was an exhilarating, albeit exhausting, experience, a chance to talk to people and share ideas in a relaxed environment and a great leveller in many senses.

After I’d completed my leg and was back at home, the relay team claimed to be missing my company and offered to arrange my return for a day’s cycling in the Highlands. So after a busy rabbinical Sunday taking in a shiur, a stone setting, a Shul barbecue and a bar mitzvah, I took the sleeper to Scotland and enjoyed a beautiful day’s cycling, ending at Oban, happily just before the distillery shut for the day.

There are rumours of a reprise next year – this time starting from John o’ Groats. Count me in.



L-R: Rabbis Dr Harvey Belovski, Michael Laitner (Finchley Synagogue), Michael Rosenfeld (Kingston and Surbiton Synagogue) & Michael Leventhal (founder and director of Gefiltefest)

CHIEF RABBI'S ROSH HASHANAH MESSAGE

The Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks looks back on his 21 years in office and the substantial progress made by the UK Jewish Community during that time, across education, welfare and culture

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are times for stock-taking, individually and collectively. As we pray for God's blessings for the future, we reflect on the past: where we have come from, how far we have travelled, and what remains to be done.

As I think back personally to the day 21 years ago when I became Chief Rabbi, my overwhelming feeling is one of thanks and indebtedness to a community that has renewed itself beyond expectation.

Most spectacular has been the growth in education. There have been more new Jewish day schools opened in the past two decades than in any comparable period in the 356-year history of Anglo-Jewry. The percentage of Jewish children at Jewish day schools has moved from some 25 per cent to almost 70 per cent. This is an immense achievement on the part of many people: builders, funders, governors, teachers, parents and children. Together they have given us a future to be proud of.

Nor has the growth in education been confined to schools. There has

I think of the new London Jewish Cultural Centre, the London Jewish Community Centre currently being built, and events like Jewish Book Week that attract ever larger crowds. Most of our synagogues are no longer simply houses of prayer. They have become community centres with active and dynamic programmes of all kinds.

Jewish welfare organisations like Jewish Care, Jewish Blind and Disabled, Norwood, Nightingale House, Langdon and others throughout the country have achieved unparalleled standards of excellence. Chessed activities thread through almost all of our organisations and schools, and Mitzvah Day has inspired other faith communities, becoming this year a national project backed by the government.

The Jewish voice has become a significant part of the national conversation on moral and social issues, listened to respectfully by people of all faiths or none. Even the demography of Anglo-Jewry has changed. Having declined year-on-year for 60 years, in 2005 the tide began to turn, largely thanks to the

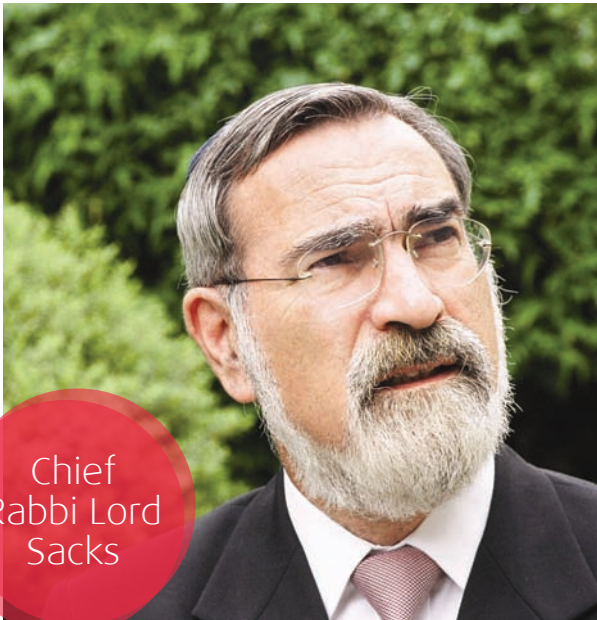
THE JEWISH VOICE HAS BECOME A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON MORAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

been an explosion of adult, family and informal education. Never before has there been so much learning taking place in our community. We are better Jewishly educated than we were, and our children and grandchildren will be yet more so.

Creativity and Exuberance
Then there has been the creativity and exuberance of Jewish life in general.

growth of the Haredi community. We are now growing, albeit slowly.

And yes, there are negatives: the growth of antisemitism and the various campaigns against Israel. But Britain remains, for the most part, a tolerant society. Jews and Judaism are admired, and in the fight against prejudice we have good and often courageous friends. Were our Victorian predecessors 150 years ago



Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks

to see us now, they would be frankly astonished at the richness and exuberance of Jewish life.

Lo alecha ha-melakhah ligmor: It is not for us to complete the task, but neither have we desisted from it, and together we have achieved great things. Our children and grandchildren will have new challenges to face, but they will do so with more knowledge and confidence than any Anglo-Jewish generation in the past.

So let us give collective thanks to God shehecheyanu ve-kiyemanu ve-higyanu lazman hazeh, who has brought us safely to this day. May the shofar of Rosh Hashanah summon us to yet greater achievements. May we remain true to our faith and a blessing to others regardless of their faith. May God write us and our families in the Book of Life.

Bebirkat ketivah vechatimah tovah

CHIEF RABBI LORD SACKS

Lord Sacks has been Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth since 1991



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DUNSTAN ROAD IN THE '70S

Daniel Greenberg, who was a member of Golders Green Synagogue as a child in the 1970s, recalls some of the characters who devoted their time to running weekly services and gave the community its unique identity

Golders Green Synagogue, or 'Dunstan Road Shul', in the 1970s was a wonderful place for Jewish boys to develop and find their own place in Judaism. I began attending as a young boy early in the 1970s, and found myself surrounded by a wealth of personalities and opportunities.

When I think of the people who made up the shul in those days, a few names spring to mind. I offer them in the knowledge that they reflect only my own experience, and that there were without doubt many people whose contribution to the shul was immense but with whom I did not happen to come into personal contact.

Dayan Swift was a towering personality. His occasional droshos, even before he became the acting Rabbi, were a major entertainment; and he deliberately affected a flamboyance that would please the audience. We enjoyed the overdone "Stop the World, I Want to Get Off" style of rhetoric; and I certainly never doubted that it conveyed a serious and sincere passion and commitment to authentic Judaism that

constant, and I believe deliberately passive, reminder that one could be Jewish without leaping around and shouting about it all the time. I acquired a set of his sermons when his library was broken up, and I find that their influence on me increases every time I read them.

Like many United Synagogues in the days before the Chumrah-of-the-Month club took over, the shul abounded in families whose devoted observance to Torah and mitzvos was determinedly combined with normality, common sense and commitment to professional and communal duty.

As a young child you could take your pick, pretty much roaming around to sit with whoever you liked from time to time. When I wasn't sitting with my father I spent most time sitting with Mr Gilbert, whose practical wisdom and gentle humour were intensely compelling, or with my dear friend Mr Morris Rosen, the exuberance of whose participation in anything with a catchy tune was matched only by his inability to distinguish one note from another.

There are so many other faces that

THE SHUL ABOUNDED IN FAMILIES WHOSE DEVOTED OBSERVANCE TO TORAH AND MITZVOS WAS DETERMINEDLY COMBINED WITH COMMON SENSE

was inspiring. People with serious issues about Judaism who asked him about them privately would receive a much more reasoned and balanced response than might have been expected from the image that he cultivated for public consumption.

Reverend Livingstone

On the other side of the shul in all senses, sat Reverend Livingstone. His demeanour was distant and his sermons were boring for a young child. But he exercised a significant influence nonetheless, just by sitting there in his neat clerical dress and serving as a

swim into my mind as I write this, but alas I cannot put a name to many of them. Dr Torrance I remember as perhaps the doyen of the old-style honorary officers, and I can still picture myself walking the hundred miles or so up the aisle during a service to tell him that the bulb of the ner tomid had gone out, and the gravity and courtesy with which he responded.

Unrivalled opportunities

Young boys had fantastic opportunities in Dunstan Road in those days. Leslie Green roped me in as a shammas long before my barmitzvah, and I



Daniel Greenberg

learned much about how a shul is run from him.

Alan Mays gathered a group of us together and taught us basic nusach; in inimitably efficient style he taught us everything we needed as a foundation, so that we could experiment from a basis of knowledge – a strong contrast to the approach today where youngsters seem to think that a decent voice and acquaintance with some outdated Hebrew folksongs are a sufficient survival kit for life at the Omod. The blatant disregard of chazzonim for people's lunchtimes has pretty much killed off chazonus as an effective force in religious life; but Alan made sure that correct nusach, without which much of our liturgy cannot be properly appreciated, would survive a little longer.

Facilities for girls were much more limited, although a number of people did their best. The problem was that the basic communal attitude in those days was that we simply took it for granted that girls would be contented with their lot, which centred around waiting until it would be their turn to put out the Kiddush. Things have got a little better since then, but much more progress is required if we are to persuade modern girls that Judaism can satisfy them intellectually, spiritually, emotionally and socially.

DANIEL GREENBERG

Daniel Greenberg, a young member of Golders Green Synagogue in the 1970s and son of current members Gillian and Morris Greenberg

A NEILAH LESS ORDINARY

The closing moments of Yom Kippur and the Neilah service are a time like no other in the Jewish year. Geoffrey Paul recalls a Yom Kippur more than 70 years ago in Liverpool's Great Synagogue, when the emotion and elation of Neilah were replaced by drama

It must have been Yom Kippur 1938. I do not have much real memory before that, and the war tore me away from Liverpool after September 1939, across the sea to my maternal grandparents in Dublin. So it must have been 1938.

Liverpool's Grove Street shul, a reclamation from a modest non-conformist chapel, had the temerity to call itself The Great Synagogue. It was almost a synagogue-in-the-round; the polished oak benches circled towards and embraced the Ark and the pulpit, which stood very close in front of it and at a height where it could be seen from every viewpoint.

Above the Ark was a perpetually burning lamp; above the pulpit a small chandelier; and above them all, a delight of the traditional purists, a high-waisted women's gallery. You would need to stand so as to wave to your man below – which, of course, nobody would ever think of doing.

On one side of the Ark, and at a lower level, the seat of the rabbi and, close by, that of the president; on the

choking their way out into a dark Liverpool street.

Rabbi of standing

Rabbi I J Unterman, who was to be elevated eight years later to be Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv and later still Chief Rabbi of Israel, was a short but impressive figure. His handsome face, with its parchment skin, sported what might have been intended as a spade beard but was too overgrown to qualify. He favoured a somewhat elongated top hat (a tzylander) to give him height, but his stature came from his learning and his warmth. He had started his own yeshiva in Lithuania when in his early twenties.

This Neilah, Rabbi Unterman, as was the tradition, began the closing prayer of Yom Kippur from his seat in mizrach, the eastern corner below the Ark, intoning the words of the Ashrei prayer as he advanced towards the bimah. He had a soft but melodious voice and his Litvak-accented Hebrew was precise and clear.

From the bimah, the congregation

I CANNOT HELP BUT RECALL THAT NEILAH, WHICH IN RETROSPECT SEEMS SO AWSOMELY TO PRESAGE WHAT LAY AHEAD

other side, the seats of the machers; vice-presidents, should-have-been-presidents, might-yet-be-presidents, and visitors who might make a reasonable donation (a guinea was top drop).

Behind it all – behind the Ark, the pulpit, the special seats, and approached only through a discreet door – the 'committee room', aglow before and very immediately after shabbat and yomtov with lighted candles. These were lit for no sacred purpose but to enable the privileged ones to have a quick puff on their Gold Flake before services or, at the end of shabbat or yomtov, waste no time before lighting up and

rising in small waves of respect as he passed, Rav Unterman made his way to the pulpit, ascending the steps to the Ark, pausing only to kiss the white cover and to draw the two front fringes of his tallit over his kittel, the white robe of purity worn on Yom Kippur, as he entered the pulpit.

The congregation was absolutely still. Their rabbi was a skilful orator, whether in Yiddish or English. No one wanted to miss a word as they entered the closing hour of this Day of Awe.

No one will ever remember his opening words. Even as he spoke them, a sad, deranged woman, seated directly opposite him in the front row of the women's gallery, lit a cigarette, sat



Geoffrey Paul

Geoffrey Paul, former editor of The Jewish Chronicle and a resident of Liverpool in the 1930s, outside his home in Golders Green

back with her feet up on the balcony rail and settled down in a cloud of smoke to hear the rabbi's drasha. As they grasped what was happening, the whole congregation came to its feet, loud cries and hisses from the women's gallery, angry shouts of "get her out!" from the men.

With his tallit over one arm and held aloft above his head like a screen against evil, Rabbi Unterman hastily regained his seat, standing with bowed head, his back to the stunned and now silent congregation. But the drama was not yet played out. Seconds later, the small chandelier above the pulpit crashed to the ground in a shattering of glass.

I remember no more of that Neilah. I doubt whether any of those who were there have any recall beyond that awesome series of events. Worse things were to happen. Within a year, we were into a world war and a year after that, Liverpool suffered some of the worst of the German bombing. Members of my own close family were among the victims.

Each year, as Yom Kippur nears, I cannot help but recall that Neilah, which in retrospect seems so awesomely to presage what lay ahead.

GEOFFREY PAUL

LIFE IN THE LORDS

Lord Monroe Palmer of Childs Hill, a long-standing member of Golders Green Synagogue, was introduced to the House of Lords in January 2011. He recounts some of the debates in the Upper House in which he has voiced an opinion over the past two years

I was introduced into the House of Lords in a short but impressive ceremony in January 2011. The House of Lords does ceremony very well. I had to wear red robes and was introduced by two barons, also in red robes. I wore a yarmulke to swear the oath on the Old Testament. This seemed to concern the Clerk who thought it might fall off with all the head nodding. All went according to plan and feeling relieved, I proceeded out of the Chamber.

I was not allowed to speak in the Chamber until I had made a formal maiden speech. By custom, one includes a bit about oneself in the first speech. I said the following: "My family background is a cocktail of nationalities. My late mother was Polish, and in the context of today being national Holocaust Memorial Day, I remember her mother and sister, my grandmother and aunt, who stayed in Poland and were never heard of again at the end of the Second World War. Today, we remember all those, not only in the Holocaust, who were not so lucky as my mother and sadly perished in those dreadful times."

As a member of the Upper House, I am able to host events in the Palace of Westminster. I particularly enjoyed hosting an event for the Jewish Volunteering Network in June 2011 (pictured right).

Advocate for Israel

I have spoken well over 60 times in the Chamber over the past 18 months, which will not surprise those who know me. I speak for the Liberal Democrats on Defence, Local Government and Taxation, among other subjects. I also rarely miss an opportunity to talk about Israel and Jewish issues. In this I am continuing in Parliament what I did for years as chairman of the Liberal Democrat

Friends of Israel. Israel comes under attack and criticism on many occasions in Parliament and I have, I hope, been able to put Israel's case. In a recent faith debate initiated by the Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks, I said: "We have heard moving contributions from those speaking about all kinds of faith communities. Jews have found a safe haven in this country and the Commonwealth for many years under British sovereigns. Her Majesty and her father have continued the tradition of welcoming the contributions of the Jewish community to the life and richness of Britain through some of our trying times. She has more than followed in the footsteps of Queen Victoria, when Sir Moses Montefiore showed how one can be both a passionate Jew and a passionate Englishman. In the new Elizabethan age over the past 60 years, the world has changed at a frantic pace. However, faith has been a bedrock of stability in often difficult times. This country is all the better for its diversity, and that diversity is

THE WORLD HAS CHANGED AT A FRANTIC PACE BUT FAITH HAS BEEN A BEDROCK OF STABILITY IN OFTEN DIFFICULT TIMES

experienced nowhere more than in the variety of faith groups that now exist. May Her Majesty's reign go from strength to strength, that we may move forward towards the vision of Isaiah, where 'nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more'."

I have made around nine other speeches with an Israeli or Jewish dimension. I said that the problems are not solved by UN resolutions but by the two sides sitting down



without preconditions – a common theme of many of my contributions on the subject over the years. Topics I have addressed include the rocket attacks on Israeli towns; the Arab Spring; water problems in the Middle East; the threat of Iran; and a debate initiated

by the Archbishop of Canterbury on Christians in the Middle East. In that debate I pointed out that of all the countries in the Middle East, Israel was the safest place to be a Christian. The House of Lords does valuable work scrutinising parliamentary legislation and I am pleased to be able to take an active part in that work. All my speeches are recorded in Hansard and available online.

LORD MONROE PALMER

Lord Palmer of Childs Hill (left) hosts a reception at the House of Lords for the Jewish Volunteering Network. Pictured with (from left) Leonie Lewis, director of JVN, Lord Janner of Braunstone QC, and Susan Winton, chair of JVN

CONFESSIONS OF A RETIRED GABBAI

After his recent retirement as gabbai in the New Minyan, Stephen Shaw offers some light-hearted observations and suggestions for future gabboyim

I was trained by the best – Brian Beckman. With Brian at the helm, everything ran smoothly; the right people got called up; we started on time; we finished on time. Stuff like that. But though my admiration for Brian is second to none, I do think that each new Gabbai should make his own mark. I hung up my – whatever it is that gabboyim hang up when they retire – this past year, but I thought it wise for posterity at least to set down, prior to gliding into senility, the important principles of gabbayut, as I see them.

- Punctuality can be over-rated. When people say we start at 9.30am, obviously that's ish. As Julian Goodkin, my prodigy, has pointed out, does the minyan not start because the gabbai is not there? Chill, it will start eventually.
- Of course, it's always nice to have a sefer torah in the aron at the start of the service. But what if Derek Diamond is not in shul that week, and therefore has not made the transfer from the Lebetkin Hall at the start of the service? I always think that little frisson of excitement as the aron is opened at

CHOOSING THE APPROPRIATE PERSON TO OPEN THE ARON FOR ANIM ZEMIROT IS A SKILL THAT CANNOT BE TAUGHT, BUT ONLY ACQUIRED WITH TIME

"vayehi binsoah aron...." just adds to the service. Will there be a sefer there? Won't there? People need that thrill of uncertainty. With me they got it.

- A lot of fuss is made about calling people up by the right name. Obviously in an ideal world, this would happen. But I've always found people very understanding in this respect, and generally if at least one of the names used corresponds to their actual name, they're happy. You can minimise potential problems in

this regard by not being too distinct when articulating the aliyah, for example, "Moshe" can be made to sound like "Mendel" if you mumble it properly, although this does take practice.

- At Dunstan Road, there really shouldn't ever be any problems with hagba – just call Derek every time. The man (apart from being a complete gent and a joy to deal with in every way) is a gadol in the field, in my experience without rival. The only problem I initially had with Derek was persuading him that it's unnecessary to lift the bimah with the sefer. Perhaps as we make the transition to the main shul, and work with a fixed bimah, this problem may disappear, though there is a risk Derek could treat this as a challenge too hard to resist.
- I think it's well established that, in our time, the status of cohen is uncertain, and thus flexible. I have found many people who, to their credit, have been only too willing to help, on the few occasions when our resident cohanim have been unavailable. It's this sense



flagging stage of the service, so who knows? Best therefore to go for the svelte academic sort, which our kehilla has in spades, so again, potentially no problem. There is of course more, but maybe this is enough to be getting on with. The intention is to expand this into a proper manual for gabboyim generally, which at least I'll then be paid for (which I wasn't for this article, for some reason).

My greatest pleasure has been to hand over to a successor who I have nurtured with love, and whose predilection for spontaneity has at times exceeded even my own. Julian, you give me great nachat. See you in shul at 9.30am – ish. On a less frivolous note, I should perhaps take this opportunity to thank the kehilla for the joy and privilege of serving as gabbai in the New Minyan for so long (I hope not too long), and also to apologise to those whom I may have offended by the not-infrequent muck-ups – all generated by my ineptitude rather than by design. Shana Tova Umetuka Lekulam!

STEPHEN SHAW

Panicked ex-gabbai Stephen Shaw recalls his time in office, after the fashion of (or with apologies to) Edvard Munch

LETTER FROM AMERICA

After marrying in Miami in June 2011, Adam and Andrea Berlin spent their first year of married life doing a Master of Business Administration course at Harvard Business School. They plan to return to Golders Green in May 2013

DEAR FRIENDS,

We are delighted to have been asked to give you an update on our lives across the pond. One year of business school is now over and one more year remains before we head back to London in May 2013. We are looking forward to rejoining the community on our return.

Our first year was an intense whirlwind of activity ranging from trips to China (Andrea's school project), India (Adam's school project), and the Maldives (honeymoon) to finally understanding the Eurozone crisis, banking reform, how to start a business, and why good people can make bad decisions. Through full days of case study discussions with our 90 fellow students, we've managed to hopefully absorb a decent amount of knowledge and have fun in the process!

We are sad to be nearing the end of what has been a really great summer. Andrea has been working for a company called Biogen and has been helping them figure out the best way to launch a new drug

to treat amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, if approved.

Adam has been working for a start-up company that will help the world lose lots of weight. Some clever students at Harvard Medical School have come up with a special pill that expands in the stomach and stays there for up to three months. Adam has been helping the company develop their market launch plan in addition to a bunch of other tasks as required. It's been really fun to see a start-up from the inside.

We seem to have done some kind of trip almost every weekend over the summer. We have mostly stayed within a three-hour drive of Boston but that has taken us to the Hamptons, Connecticut, the Berkshires (Western Massachusetts), New Hampshire and Maine.

Maine was really fun as we went with some London friends who came to visit us as part of a big US trip. The Hamptons were beautiful. In Connecticut we hung out with Andrea's family on a really great beach, which was also very nice. In New Hampshire, we took a speedboat across a lovely lake to get ice cream. We have had visitors from Golders Green as well, including Richard Verber, Stuart Adam, Benedict Roth and Adina Roth. Please let us know if you are visiting as we'd love to meet up.

We have just found out what courses we will be taking this year. Andrea is going to be doing lots of healthcare, marketing and leadership, while Adam is focusing more on corporate transactions. Adam is also doing a "Commercializing Science" course, where you get to hang out with some scientists and help them develop a business plan for their scientific discovery. Most exciting is that it looks like our schedule will be pretty chilled out compared to last year.

We are particularly excited about our plans for the Harvard Business School Jewish Student Association for this year. Adam is the president and Andrea is the chief financial officer! We are printing T-shirts for the new members and we have written on the back "Chai Achiever" – genius, huh?! We are currently trying to organise a big Chanukah bash for all of Boston's Jewish graduate students, so hopefully that will all come together.

Anyway, enough talking about ourselves. Hope to see you all soon.

SHANA
TOVA,
ANDREA
AND
ADAM XX



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SHANA TOVA

U'METUKA

Rosh Hashana greetings from the members of Golders Green Synagogue

BOWMAN: SIMON AND PENINA BOWMAN WISH FRIENDS AND FAMILY A HAPPY AND SWEET NEW YEAR.

DAVIES: Le Shanah Tovah - Happy New Year. From Jonathan Davies.

GINSBURG: WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND SUCCESSFUL YEAR. SHANA TOVA FROM DINA, ROB, AVI, ELISHEVA AND AARON GINSBURG.

CHAIN: LOOKING FORWARD TO A PRODUCTIVE, INNOVATIVE, AND ABOVE ALL HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR IN OUR WONDERFUL COMMUNITY. JULIA AND BENNY CHAIN AND FAMILY.

GOODMAN: Sara, Philip, Avi, Yoram and Shevi wish everybody a happy and healthy New Year, and well over the fast, and are looking forward to the exciting developments in the shul over the coming years.

FISHBURN: Start your New Year with an old book - www.fishburnbooks.com. Jonathan buys, sells, collects, consults and generally knows a lot about Jewish books and Judaica. Call him on 07813 803889. Wishing everyone a Shana Tova - Jonathan, Sally, Avigayil, Eli and Yonina.

FREIBERGER: Susan and Brian Freiburger, together with Andrew, Jamie and Anna, wish you all a Shana Tova; a happy, healthy and sweet New Year.

FREIBERGER: Shana Tova U'Metuka from Eve, Phil, Avi and Ben, Yossi, Alon and Tamar.

GLATMAN: Sydney and Ruth Glatman wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year, and well over the fast. We know that the coming year will be an exciting one for Dunstan Road and hope with a beautiful re-designed and refurbished shul that will accommodate so many activities, together with the new school, we will be a wonderful, thriving community.

HAUSMAN: HAUSMAN AND HOLMES WISH EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.

FREIBERGER: Wishing Rabbi, Vicki, Honorary Officers and the Golders Green kehilla a happy, healthy and successful New Year. Gillian, Malcolm and the family.

ROTH: SHANA TOVA FROM SUE, BENEDICT, ADINA, NOAM AND TAMAR.

KAUFMAN: ROSH HASHANA GREETINGS TO EVERYONE FROM JEREMY, CORINNE, HANNAH, SAM AND EMMA KAUFMAN.

HERZOG: Kosher catering - hire china, cutlery, glassware, tables, chairs, mechtzas and tablecloths for all your simchas. Call Mr Herzog on 07973 114961 / 020 8806 4838

MALINSKY: Yarona and Meir Malinsky wish their family, friends and the entire congregation a Happy and Healthy 5773! We are so grateful for the wonderful welcome all of you at Dunstan Road have given to us. LeShana Tova Tikatevu VeTechatemu!

PALMER: Susette and Monroe Palmer and family wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Waidhofer: Shana Tova greetings and wishing you all a sweet and a happy year ahead. From Norman and Viviane Waidhofer, together with Benjamin, Andrew, Anthony & Robert.

PAUL: Rachel and Geoffrey Paul wish the whole Dunstan Road family a year of health, happiness and the achievement of all their goals. Special greetings to our indefatigable rabbi and his family and the honorary officers who are taking us into a new era in the congregation's history.

Habib: Aldo and Eveleen send all the community good wishes for a happy and healthy New Year. Even if we are not able to get to shul very often, we appreciate the warmth and friendship show to us from all of you. Shana tova.

SHAW: Shana Tova U'Metuka - from Fabia and Stephen, Gidza, Gaby and Sam, Saady and Dassi, Aaron and Sarah, and Rachy Shaw.

TOLLEY: THE TOLLEY FAMILY WISH ALL THEIR DUNSTAN ROAD SHUL FRIENDS A SWEET AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

WOOLICH: Wishing everybody in this wonderful community a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. From Sara, Anthony, Rebecca and Helena Woolich.

ZINKIN: PETER AND JACQUI ZINKIN WISH ALL THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS A VERY HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR AND WELL OVER THE FAST.



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REDEVELOPMENT PLANS

After many years of planning and fundraising, the site of Golders Green Synagogue will undergo a comprehensive redevelopment over the coming year. Benny Chain outlines the plans as they currently stand

The full plans for the redevelopment of the main synagogue building and the back of the site continue to evolve. These photos show the current state of the buildings, but we fully expect them to look very different in a year's time!

Rimon School will open in September, initially using the Lebetkin Hall, which has undergone a basic refurbishment to render it fit for purpose. After the Chaggim, demolition of the Joseph Freedman Hall will begin, and it is expected that by the time the backlands are complete, both the Joseph Freedman Hall and the Lebetkin Hall will have been replaced by a state-of-the-art, purpose-built school building.

As for the main synagogue building, work to repair the roof began over the summer. This work should be completed in a few weeks' time, although unfortunately not quite in time for the Yamim Noraim. We will then at least have a building that is water-proof, insulated and has a new boiler.

The priority for the next phase of the redevelopment is to replace the

essential facilities we will lose with the demolition of the back buildings: a new kitchen, new lavatories (men and women), and flexible spaces within the main synagogue to accommodate a Beth Hamidrash for our daily Minyan, community social functions, and of course our weekly kiddush. At the same time we plan to reconfigure the seating within the front of the main synagogue to provide a more intimate space for prayer for both men and women.

There is lots going on, and we recognise there is bound to be some disruption to community services while the building works are in progress. We will of course do our best to keep this to a minimum, and hope you will be patient in the knowledge that we will end up with a much improved centre for our community's busy life.

There will be an opportunity to discuss the plans in more detail at an open meeting on Sunday 23rd September at 11am in the synagogue. Please come and let us hear your views.

BENNY CHAIN



PHOTOGRAPHY BY SARAH ROSALIND KENDAL



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAZEL TOV TO...

- Brian Beckman on the birth of a granddaughter, Rachel
- Diana and Donald Franklin on the birth of a grandson, Yedidya Dov
- Naomi Rose on the birth of four great grandchildren: Jonathan Dewhurst, Dovid Green, Yaacov Menachem Rose, and Kayla Goldberg
- Jenny and Jonathan Sandler on the birth of a son, Theo
- Samantha and David Vaughan on the birth of a son, Nathaniel
- Oli and Dina White on the birth of a daughter, Ariella Nava
- Jacqui and Peter Zinkin on the birth of a granddaughter, Yael Rina

- Tomor Chemdoh Belovski, on her batmitzvah
- Elisheva Goodman, on her batmitzvah
- Michal Kelly, on her batmitzvah
- Rebecca Woolich, on her batmitzvah

- Isaac Franks, on his barmitzvah
- Sam Kaufman, on his barmitzvah
- Adam Morland, on his barmitzvah

- Basil Greenby, on his second barmitzvah

- Sam Freiburger and Danielle Gertner, on their engagement
- Naphtali Torrance and Lisa Ellenbogen, on their engagement

- Yael Lagnado-Agami and Mesod Benady, on their marriage
- Sara-Jenny Rauch and Assaye Garima, on their marriage
- Deborah Miriam Sopel and Jason Ibrahim, on their marriage

DEATHS

Sending condolences to all those who have lost a family member over the past year

- Reuben Cohen ▪ Henry Dubora ▪ Bobbie Feiler ▪ Harry Finlay
- Gerald Geist ▪ Mirjam Gribbin ▪ Sara Habibi ▪ Michael Harris
- Leon Hartman ▪ Zara Hershman ▪ Gisa Kemp ▪ Teddy Kahtan
- Susan Lander ▪ Martin Lawson ▪ Kitty Lowe ▪ Stanley Lowe
- Rose Marber ▪ Gwen Moss ▪ Jacques Reiss ▪ Bryan Reuben
- Dorothea Ross ▪ Doreen Rossdale ▪ Phyllis Shaw
- Anne Talbot ▪ Bette Wagner ▪ Max Werner

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Sukkot party hosted by the Belovskis, 41 The Ridgeway, Wednesday 3rd October, 8pm

- Celebratory tea on Shemini Atzeret (8th October), Joseph Freedman Hall, 5.30pm

- Simchat Torah lunch on 9th October, Joseph Freedman Hall, after davening, booking essential

Full details in your Rosh Hashana mailing

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

- Hildegard Abraham ▪ Linda Baumer ▪ David and Annabelle Bendor ▪ Emmanuel Blankett ▪ Martine Boogaerts ▪ Helen Freedman ▪ Ruth Hajioff ▪ Paul and Gemma Hyman ▪ Robert Jacobs ▪ Adele Meggido ▪ Sharon and Galit Sadeh ▪ Avraham and Ann Shapir ▪ Loretta Sumeray ▪ Sam and Helene Walden

MAZEL TOV TO THIS YEAR'S CHATANIM

- **Chatan Torah** Alan Mays
- **Chatan Bereshit** Charles Coleman
- **Eshet Chayil** Jacqui Zinkin
- **Junior Chatanim** Dovid Chaim Belovski, Abe Tolley
- **Junior Eshet Chayil** Emma Kaufman

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The AL Fund

In the memory of Rabbi Aryeh Leibish Teitelbaum Hy"d .נ.ס.ת.
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Dear Member

The recession of recent years has had an international effect; no community or sector was left untouched. But perhaps harder hit than almost are breadwinners of large families in Israel, who have difficulties making ends meet in the best of times. It is not unusual for children of these large families to go to bed hungry, or wear shoes a few sizes too small! Many employers are unable to pay regularly since they are facing financial difficulties themselves, and they optimistically promise weekly that 'things will soon be better, hopefully'. Meanwhile, fathers unfortunately contend with utility companies threats of halting their gas and electric supplies midwinter. They receive politely veiled warning letters from the banks, and live with the constant stress that accompanies an unstable financial situation. These people do not have the means to pay for basic necessities such as dental care for themselves or their children, clothing, shoes, and unbelievable as it may sound in 2012, many of them constantly live with empty fridges and larders.

In an attempt to assist those hit by the recent recession, several community representatives have established the AL Fund to provide for these poor, undernourished families.

Rabbi A, the founder of the fund relates what the final catalyst for the establishment of the AL Fund was:

It was shortly before the holiday season when this fine man was out shopping for his family at the local supermarket. The store was exceptionally busy, as would be expected at that time of the year. Large numbers of local residents were rushing around, filling their trolleys with seasonal goods for their families. Having collected all the items he needed, he waited patiently in the line to pay for his purchases. He waited and waited, and soon began to wonder who was holding the queue up. It was a busy day, and he had no time to waste.

The caring man decided to move over from his place in line to investigate the cause of the delay, and was deeply upset at what he saw. A young local resident was standing there, his face red from humiliation. He was being ordered to return the items from his trolley back onto the shelves, since his credit card was declined.

Assessing the situation, this man rushed over to the cashier, and quietly indicated to him that he would settle the bill. The poor man's face lit up with gratitude, having been saved the shame of coming home to his large family empty

handed. He assured his anonymous benefactor that he would repay him... one day... when he is able...

The two men engaged in conversation until the pitiable situation was clarified.

It had been several months already that his wages had been irregular. Some months he received nothing at all, and some months his employer made a token payment, assuring him that the back payments would be received soon. The job market was not kind to new workers either, so finding another job was not an option.

This incident occurred just a short time after the Mumbai Massacre, in which Rabbi Aryeh Leibish Teitelbaum, a close personal friend of Rabbi A, was murdered. Rabbi A decided to name the fund in the memory of this pure, kind hearted soul who was renowned for his special understanding of every human being, and generous assistance for those in need of support.

And thus, the AL (Aryeh Leibish) Fund was born.

The fund provides basic nutritional staples such as bread, meat and fish on a regular basis. The fund also focuses mainly on providing food in the holiday seasons, specifically before the holidays of Passover and Sukkot, thus easing the financial burden at a time of great expense.

Now that the holidays of Rosh Hashana and Sukkot are approaching, we are relying on your support more than ever. Hundreds of families in dire need in Israel are relying on us to provide them with the basics needed to get them through the holidays. We cannot do it without you! We are in desperate needs of funds, in particular now before these financially stressful times. These needy families view the donations as deliverance from G-d's angels themselves.

We can be those heavenly angels sent to lay their empty tables in their times of greatest need.

May those worthy donations bring all supporters protection from all accident and misfortune, bringing them all blessings, with health, tranquillity and a long life.

The AL Fund
In memory of Rabbi A. L. Teitelbaum



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