

# THE GGS JOURNAL

September  
2016  
Ellul 5776

News and views from Golders Green Synagogue

Issue 7



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Reports on the new Lucy White Rose Garden and the Barbara Jacobs Garden
- Reflections and reports on the Golders Green Synagogue Centenary events
- Full report from Rimona school welcomes its fifth intake of pupils





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### Golders Green Synagogue

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# THE NEXT CHAPTER



Among the many positive things about our community's landmark centenary celebrations, which concluded at Pesach, is that they looked both backwards and forwards, celebrating the past but also reminding our leaders and members of the need to build for the future.

As I write, our Rabbinic team are busy planning for the forthcoming Chagim and beyond. Rabbi Sam and Hadassah have been central to making sure our programmes and communal direction meet the needs of our youth and many young families, and we will be opening our new youth room in time for Yom Tov. Rabbi Belovski's ongoing commitment to all aspects of the community, in addition to his many external activities and media appearances, make our rabbinic leadership one of our strongest assets, reflecting the ethos of our community to make a positive impact for ourselves and in the wider world.

We are also fortunate to boast a widening range of activities that aim to cater to all age groups. From Golders Green Events and the activities for young families to the Seniors Teas, Mitzvah Day, welfare provision, blood donating sessions and ShabbatUK, the news pages of this magazine bear witness to the growing diversity of programmes that complement the mainstay of services, shiurim and guest lectures.

Each and every one of these events rely on the commitment of our members, and I am often overwhelmed by the amount of time that is given on a daily basis. We know from our recent community survey that almost every group would like us to do more for them, and our provision may not be as strong as we would like in all areas. We are more than willing to help each of those groups set up new activities, but will need yet more volunteers to do that.

We are writing an exciting and colourful new chapter in our history, perhaps the first that may one day be added in the sequel to the recently published *Golders Green Synagogue: The First Hundred Years*, but it also continues

many of the themes of community service, Torah study and care for the needy that were espoused by the original founders of the community in 1915.

While the centenary naturally focused on the many achievements of our community over the past 100 years, we also need to recognise that the past does not necessarily represent the perfect model for the future. We need to constantly re-evaluate the changing needs of all sections of our community so that we can inspire and involve the next generation. We may not get it right all of the time, but as long as we always seek to adapt to the changing world, I believe we can be optimistic about the future.

The ongoing threat of terrorism remains the biggest concern for our own Golders Green community as well as the broader UK and Jewish communities. We have long recognised the need for better security to protect both the Shul and school, and while this magazine went to print prior to the Gold and Green dinner in September, we are hopeful that fundraising around the dinner will support the much-needed building of the new fence.

In the long term, I hope it will be the excitement and energy for development rather than anxiety about the challenges we face that will be the lasting legacy of this period. It's a theme that applies to every new Jewish year, and should be particularly relevant at the start of our community's new century.

On behalf of the honorary officers and board of management, Jacqui and I wish the whole community a happy and sweet new year – Shana Tova U'Metuka.

PETER ZINKIN  
CHAIRMAN  
GOLDERS GREEN SYNAGOGUE

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Cover photo: The new Lucy White Rose Garden (photo by Julia Franks)

# MUSINGS ON KINGSHIP

In his Rosh HaShanah message for 5777, Rabbi Dr Harvey Belovski reflects on some of the major events of the past year and their connection to the Yom Tov liturgy

From Rosh HaShanah to Yom Kippur, our liturgy emphasises God's role as sovereign of the universe, creator and ultimate ruler. We proclaim God king, reading the familiar words from the machzor and singing the age-old melodies.

But as residents of a contemporary democracy, the biblical notion of an all-powerful sovereign seems distant, inaccessible, and irrelevant. The Alice in Wonderland 'off with their heads' queen is a far cry from the constitutional monarchy we enjoy in the UK. We associate non-constitutional monarchs with despotic regimes that abuse their citizens and destabilise civilisation, not with a glorious era of religious perfection we should seek to reinstate.

Yet the major events of the past Jewish year offer rare insight into the themes of sovereignty. Among the issues that emerged during the EU referendum campaign was the issue of sovereignty, and whether British self-determination is undermined by our membership of the European Union. The Twittersphere was dominated by demands for the return of sovereignty from Brussels to the UK, alongside censure of the legislative role of unelected officials in the European Parliament.

Of course, this was a discussion about political sovereignty, not monarchic rule, but it has encouraged me to think about sources of law and power, and how we define our relationship with a law-making entity that may demand our loyalty in uncomfortable or even



Rabbi  
Harvey and  
Rebbetzen  
Vicki Belovski

inexplicable ways (European Commission Directive 2257/94 – classifying bananas by curvature – comes to mind).

These themes are clearly reflected in the tensions some of us

sovereignty should also involve honestly exploring those very tensions, the extent to which they impede our spiritual development and what techniques exist to better manage them.

## AN EFFECTIVE ROSH HASHANAH SHOULD LEAVE US WITH A GREATER SENSE OF THE IMMINENCE OF GOD, OUR PLACE IN HIS WORLD AND OUR RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN IT

feel between the expectations of an ancient God-given law and the values of an individualistic and largely secular society. For those trying to navigate these complexities, embracing divine

### ROYAL BIRTHDAY

A recent important spotlight on sovereignty came around Shavuot time with the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations. I used a sermon on Erev Shavuot to reflect on some of

Her Majesty's most important contributions to our community and to British life in general.

The Queen's longevity has brought stability, continuity and cross-generational transfer of core values across our society and beyond. This stability is almost unprecedented in Jewish history and is something Jews have always craved, usually in vain, in the lands of our exile.

The British Jewish community has profited inestimably from the peaceful and religiously nurturing environment that the Queen's reign has delivered. These are features of a power base (the monarchy) that is not ordinarily subject to political change or influence. They can be abused by the unscrupulous, but in the right hands, such as those of our present monarch, they can be a force for tremendous good.

The Rambam (Laws of Kings, Chapter 3) considers the characteristics of an effective and benevolent king. Noting that the Torah limits the king's ability to amass wives and wealth for personal use (Devarim 17), the Rambam warns him against allowing his heart to be 'turned aside'. The king must always remember that he exists to serve the people (the 'servant-leadership' model) – they are not serfs, nor is their property at his personal disposal.

The Rambam coins a phrase for this: *שלו הוא לב כל קהל ישראל* – *his heart is the heart of the entire community of Israel*. As the heart serves the body, invigorating each part and enabling it to function correctly, so must the king always serve the people, not vice versa. Her Majesty The Queen's reign has typified this approach: as she said in her 21st birthday address, "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be

## RHB JOINS HOPE NOT HATE

Rabbi Belovski has recently become involved with the charity HOPE not hate, which exists to combat hatred in the UK. It conducts research into and publishes materials about extremism in the political arena and encourages communities to defeat hatred by developing stronger personal links between members of different faiths and backgrounds.

"My interfaith work has taught me that focusing on what we have in common with people of other backgrounds – rather than what divides us – improves understanding,

combats suspicion and is vital to building a healthy, respectful modern Britain," Rabbi Belovski explains.

HOPE not hate has recently been in the public eye as a beneficiary of the fund set up in memory of Jo Cox, the MP who was murdered in June 2016, and is developing new strategies and programmes to respond to worrying contemporary trends.

"After an initial period advising HOPE not hate and constructively critiquing some of their recent work, I was invited to join their board, an honour I have accepted."

**HOPE NOT HATE  
CHARITY IS  
FOCUSED ON  
RESPONDING  
TO EXTREMISM  
AND HATRED  
IN THE UK**

devoted to your service...". The ability of the Queen to exemplify this approach has unquestionably contributed to her popularity and her ability to role model important values over decades.

### GOD AS KING

The sages provided a brachah to recite when seeing a king or queen – *ודם שנתן מכבודו לבשר* – God apportions some of his glory to flesh and blood. This text recognises that aspects of terrestrial sovereignty better enable us to relate to celestial sovereignty without, of course, truly equating the two.

During the Yom Tov season, we describe God as a king who is scrutinising our actions at that very moment, as well as 'our father, our king'. We are to think of God as the source of all life, a benevolent parent and also the foundation of all law and morality. God acts in our interests at all times, while

demanding of us that we constantly fulfil our role as moral, spiritual beings, guiding us and, when necessary, chastising us to ensure we remain true to our mission.

These prayers, and, indeed, the entire Yom Tov period, enable us to develop an enhanced awareness of the divine, focusing on God as sovereign, not just in theory, but also in day-to-day life. For example, an effective Rosh HaShanah should leave us with a greater sense of the imminence of God, our place in His world and our responsibilities within it, able to face the introspection and self-evaluation demanded by Yom Kippur. Perhaps surprisingly, the extraordinary events of the past year may make this a little easier than usual.

Vicki and I, together with our children, wish you a peaceful, meaningful and healthy 5777.

**RABBI DR HARVEY BELOVSKI**



# CHIEF RABBI'S ROSH HASHANAH MESSAGE

In his Rosh HaShanah message for 5777, Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis finds a response to recent acts of terrorism in the Yamim Noraim liturgy

“בראש השנה יכתובון וביום צום כיפור יחתמו”  
“On Rosh Hashanah it is inscribed, and on Yom Kippur it is sealed”

As we recited these moving words in the Unetaneh Tokef prayer last year, we could hardly have anticipated the devastation that would be wrought by the relentless terrorist atrocities that would follow. The daily threat of terror is one to which our brethren in Israel have long become accustomed, but that awful reality has largely been greeted by silence in the mainstream media. Global terrorism has spread its tentacles far and wide, making no place on earth immune to this scourge. As the French philosopher and author Bernard-Henri Lévy has said, the world must now learn from the experiences of the Jewish State.

Never before in the history of human conflict has every innocent man, woman and child found themselves on the front line. As we endure an onslaught on our freedom, our democracy and our very civilization, what should our response be?

The Unetaneh Tokef prayer provides an answer:

תשובה תפילה וצדקה  
Repentance, Prayer, and Charity.

**תשובה – Repentance**

Teshuvah comes from the Hebrew word meaning ‘to return’. Over our High Holydays we are tasked with making a uniquely honest and comprehensive assessment of ourselves so that we can return to our natural state of piety and purity. Our global challenge is to return to the values of human dignity, tolerance, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. That process must begin with ourselves and those upon whom we can make a positive impression.

**תפילה – Prayer**

#PrayersForParis #PrayersForMunich #PrayersForBrussels. If these popular

sentiments from social media are anything to go by, it seems that the world is rarely more united in prayer than after devastating terrorist attacks. In July, after the particularly brutal murder of a beloved Catholic Priest in Normandy, one Twitter user responded to my own message in despair: “The time for prayer is long gone,” he said. I couldn’t disagree more.

The Talmud describes prayer as avodah shebalev – the ‘service of the heart’ – because, in essence, prayer is about training oneself to love and serve God. The Hebrew word for prayer, tefillah, is linked to tofel, which means connecting to a greater power. We pray with a deep sense of humility and responsibility because we understand that we can never simply be a ‘law unto ourselves’. The power of prayer has always been and will always be a force for good; a spiritual connection with something greater than ourselves, elevating our souls and directly affecting our future actions. We will never fully comprehend the potency of our prayers or how things would have turned out without them, but we do know that while terror thrives on a sense of narcissism and superiority, through prayer, we act with modesty and accountability.

**צדקה – Charity/Righteousness**

The first Chief Rabbi of the Holy Land, Rav Kook, taught that the antidote to causeless hatred is causeless love. Having embraced Teshuvah and Tefillah with all of the self-improvement that they require, we will have an instinctive and deeply rooted love for peace. But Tzedakah is the means by which we look beyond ourselves and turn that goodness into positive, meaningful action that will leave a lasting impact on the world around us.

Every one of us can increase the degree to which we give of ourselves to others, whether as part of an organised charitable campaign or by investing our time and



Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis

energy into kindness and generosity. There is no degree of evil that cannot be overcome and outshone by an equal and opposite desire to do good for others.

Embracing more fully these three fundamental principles of Jewish life as a response to global hatred and violence might feel inadequate, even naïve. But, I believe that we are far more likely to change the world through positive action and leading by example, than simply by standing in judgement.

May this coming year be one filled with only peace and reconciliation among the peoples of the world.

Valerie and I extend to you all our very best wishes for a happy and fulfilling New Year.



CHIEF RABBI EPHRAIM MIRVIS



**WILL YOU HELP US CARE FOR MORE PEOPLE LIKE DAVID AND YVONNE THIS ROSH HASHANAH?**

Yvonne’s 84. She’s living with dementia and Parkinson’s disease. Her husband David is absolutely determined to care for her in the home they’ve shared for over 60 years. He can’t do it alone.

Every day, our meals on wheels service brings them a hot kosher meal. Once a week, David takes Yvonne to one of our day centres for people living with dementia. They sometimes go to the Memory Way Café at the centre where David can talk to people in the same situation about the difficulties they’re facing.

Jewish Care supports David and Yvonne, but we need your help to keep on giving both of them all the services they depend on, without which David simply wouldn’t be able to cope. And they’re only two of the 10,000 lives we touch every week. This Rosh Hashanah, more Jewish people are living with dementia or caring for their relatives than ever before. Can they rely on you?

Please call 020 8922 2600 or visit [jewishcare.org/donate](http://jewishcare.org/donate) to make a donation.

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# GGs ENGAGE

Assistant Rabbi Sam Fromson looks back on the highlights of the past year and unveils a new year-long initiative designed to boost engagement in the community

This has been an exciting and slightly overwhelming year for us. It is hard to believe that we only moved to the community 18 months ago, and I can honestly say that Hadassah, Arielle and I now feel very much at home at GGS.

There has been a fantastic range of events that we have had the pleasure of being involved in over the year and we are currently planning the programme for the year ahead. By far and away the most fun activity has been the Sunday night Learn to Lead programme with our great group of Year 7 and 8 students. The group had training in the Jewish approach to leadership, first aid, self-defence, public speaking, mental health awareness, table tennis and

The youth room project was conceived by Hadassah to create a dedicated space for teenagers in Shul on Shabbat mornings. We painstakingly emptied 100 years of accumulated junk, rewired the room, laid floorboards, and re-painted. Special thanks to Peter, Jonathan, Tom and Suraj for their help in making this happen. We are keen to put the room to good use in the coming year.

Other successful programmes have included Hadassah's five-week course on Judaism and Sexuality, which drew a good attendance and explored some interesting issues, while prompting many rather unconventional Shabbat table conversations! We were also pleased by the Shabbat afternoon programme of seudot shlishiot that



RABBI SAM AND HADASSAH FROMSON WITH ARIELLE

weekend of June 10, 2017. We very much hope you will all join us for a Shabbat away with the community in a four-star hotel close to London and help create an inspiring, fun and positive atmosphere. More details to follow.

With the Chagim approaching, it provides an opportunity for all of us to pause and take a moment amid the whirlwind of life to ask some fundamental questions about our goals and achievements, and how we might re-orientate our lives to make more space for the things that matter.

This is never easy – life is busy, kids are demanding, work is consuming. But if we are able to drive a small change and marginally correct the course of our flight path, it can ensure we remain headed in the right direction in the long term.

I wish you all a meaningful and inspiring Yamim Noraim, and from Hadassah, Arielle and myself, a Shana Tova u'Metuka.

RABBI SAM FROMSON

WITH THE CHAGIM APPROACHING, IT PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE A MOMENT AMID THE WHIRLWIND OF LIFE TO ASK SOME FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

pizza eating.

We look forward to building on this with future Sunday night programmes with the help of Eli Ginsburg, who has graciously accepted the offer to become our new Youth Director for the coming year. Eli will help ensure we can continue to put on great programmes while Hadassah is on maternity leave towards the end of this year, and will also be running a fortnightly Shabbat morning youth programme in the new youth room.

ran this summer and the Introduction to Mishnah course that ran earlier in the year and gave the group a stronger understanding of the framework for Jewish law.

Following on from the survey we conducted at the beginning of the summer, we are pleased to let you know about the GGS Engage project, a year-long initiative to boost our members' engagement with the Shul and strengthen our sense of community. The flagship event will be a community Shabbaton on the

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# REFLECTIONS ON OUR CENTENARY

The centenary of Golders Green Synagogue concluded in January 2016 with the successful launch of the hardback history of the community's first hundred years. Julia Chain looks back on a remarkable year of celebrations

**H**ow does one celebrate a centenary? In the case of a 100th birthday, a centurion has many years and achievements to look back on, but it is also unlikely they will be blessed with many more years going forward and their faculties are not necessarily what they were. So it's simple – celebrate the past and don't dwell too much on the future!

Celebrating the first 100 years of a Shul community, however, is not so easy. Remembering the past is clearly a given, but we also wanted to ensure we had a positive message for the future and to make the point that our greatest moments may still be ahead of us.

The task of the centenary committee – comprising myself, Ruth Glatman, Eve Freiburger, Jackie Crossley, Vivienne Lewis, Paul Morland and Joel Clark – was made easier by the fact that our celebrations were intended to mark the anniversary of the community, rather than the building.

The centenary kiddush in June 2015 was our first major event and

## REMEMBERING THE PAST IS CLEARLY A GIVEN, BUT WE ALSO WANTED TO ENSURE WE HAD A POSITIVE MESSAGE FOR THE FUTURE

brought the whole community together with a beautiful service led by both new and not-so-new members. We were delighted to welcome Chief Rabbi Mirvis, who gave an inspiring address, as did Rabbi Belovski. We were also honoured by the presence of our

local MP Mike Freer, the Mayor of Barnet, and representatives of the United Synagogue, the Board

of Deputies, as well as several local churches, Hindu temples and mosques. Next was the centenary exhibition, which was set up in the Harry Littner Hall. At the outset I had approached Dr Helen Fry, the well-known historian of Anglo

Jewish life, who had written books on Jewish communities including Cornwall and Plymouth. I asked Helen to prepare an exhibition, and it quickly became apparent that the subject actually warranted a whole book.

### COMMUNITY RESEARCH

With our generous sponsors in place – the United Synagogue and the Zinkin, Manuel and Glatman families – Helen was ready to start her research. She spent hours in the dark and dirty confines of the strong room reviewing the Shul's archives, and she also interviewed many congregants, past and present, recovering memories that

had lain dormant for years. With the help of Paul Morland's meticulous proof reading, the book was published at the end of 2015, with a launch party held in the Shul in January.

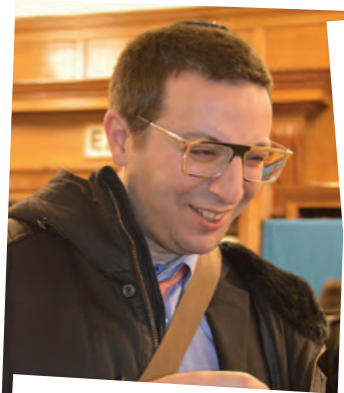
The jewel in the crown of our celebrations was the extraordinary event in December at which Lord Sacks interviewed Professor Simon Schama. The event was a sell-out and did not disappoint, with a lively conversation followed by a drinks reception. Professor Schama had grown up in our community and clearly still holds it in high esteem, while Lord Sacks proved a fine and challenging interviewer. Together, they gave us an unforgettable evening of memories, amusing stories and serious discussion.

The committee deserves a huge thank you for all of their hard work, and we are also overwhelmed by the generosity of all of our sponsors, who made everything possible.

How do you celebrate a centenary? We did it by looking back at our wonderful community and celebrating its achievements, while at the same time looking very positively to the future.

JULIA CHAIN

FROM LEFT:  
JULIA CHAIN;  
JONATHAN  
DAVIES AND  
UNITED  
SYNAGOGUE  
PRESIDENT  
STEPHEN PACK;  
NAOMI ROSE  
AND HELEN FRY



## CENTENARY CONVERSATION



CONGREGANTS AND VISITORS PACKED OUT THE SHUL HALL IN DECEMBER 2015, ON THE SECOND NIGHT OF CHANUKAH, TO HEAR A FASCINATING AND LIVELY CONVERSATION BETWEEN RABBI LORD SACKS AND PROFESSOR SIMON SCHAMA



# NEWS FROM GGS

# SEPTEMBER 2016

Aside from the landmark centenary events, it has been another busy year at Golders Green Synagogue, with a wide range of events for all sections of the community

## BLOOD DONATING CONTINUES

Since we started holding blood donation sessions at Golders Green Synagogue in November 2013 (after the temple on Helenslea Avenue, where they were previously held, was demolished), the NHS has repeatedly come on a Sunday morning and turned our Shul into a mini-hospital with remarkable speed and efficiency.

Donors come from all over the locality and are a very diverse group who are willing to give their blood (and time) for the benefit of others. At the last session, held on May 22, the NHS collected 83 units of blood and about 100 people came to donate (there are always people who are unable to donate for medical reasons). It's always best to book in advance (blood.co.uk or 0300 123 23 23), but there are always a few slots allocated for "walk-ins" and it's not too soon to sign up now. We are a very popular venue, I am told.

We have a small team of helpers so that there is always someone on hand who knows their way around the Shul in case of any queries – although mostly they spend their time reading the Sunday newspapers. Everyone who comes is welcomed, both the donors and the NHS staff, for whom we prepare breakfast and lunch. They always love coming here, they tell me, as they are very well looked-after. We even arranged for gluten-free rolls for one nurse who had a wheat intolerance!

The next session is planned for



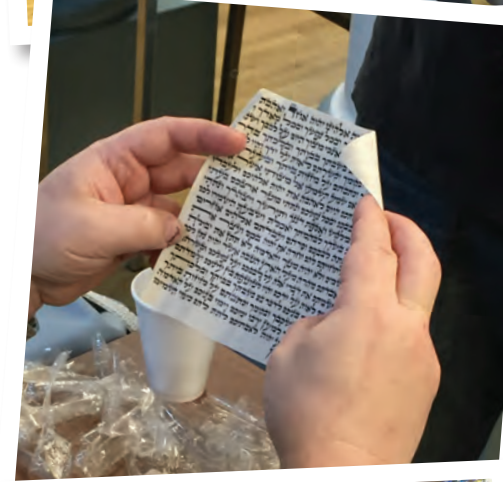
Sunday November 20, 2016, a week before Mitzvah Day, so it is the ideal time to donate, as it fits perfectly with the spirit of Mitzvah Day. If you would like to help on the day, please do let me know and I will add you to the team – Gillian Freiburger and I usually meet in the weeks before the session to do the rota and talk about bagels and cream cheese!

We usually have three sessions per year and have dates confirmed for 2017 (see page 34).

As we have a thriving younger membership now, it would be great to have some more donors as there is an upper age limit on both first-time and well-established donors.

If you want any more information about these sessions, do call or email me and I will be happy to help – dianawolfin@changingdirection.com/ 020 8458 2246

DIANA WOLFEN



**IN MARCH 2016, RABBI BENARROCH JOINED THE COMMUNITY ON A SUNDAY MORNING TO HOLD A TEFILLIN AND MEZUZAH ADVICE AND CHECKING SURGERY. SPECIAL THANKS TO JONATHAN WEISSBART FOR ORGANISING THIS IMPORTANT EVENT.**



THE NEWLY FORMED GGS TABLE TENNIS CLUB HAS HAD A GREAT FIRST YEAR, INCLUDING A SURPRISE SECOND PLACE IN THE MACCABI NATIONAL SHUL TT LEAGUE. SESSIONS ARE HELD EVERY MONDAY EVENING AND HAVE BROUGHT TOGETHER PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND LEVELS OF ABILITY TO CREATE A FUN AND SOCIABLE ATMOSPHERE. PLEASE COME ALONG AND JOIN IN!

## BABY BLESSING

We were delighted once again to hold our annual baby blessing on Shabbat July 9, organised by Rebbetzen Hadassah Fromson, Annabel Ries and Andrea Berlin on behalf of the Children's Events Committee.

At the end of the service, eight families with babies born in the past year joined the Fromsons in front of the Aron Kodesh and their babies were warmly welcomed into the community. After a short Dvar Torah from Rabbi Sam, the babies received the Priestly Blessing from their parents and a pretty gift pack containing a pre-schoolers' siddur, a Tribe teddy and a certificate including their Hebrew and English names and birth dates – handed out by a 'big girl', Arielle Fromson. All the proud parents and the whole congregation enjoyed this official opportunity to welcome our newest members, and together sang 'Hamalach hagoel' – a Biblical blessing traditionally sung to young children as a beautiful lullaby. Afterwards everyone enjoyed an ice cream Kiddush – though not the babies, who were sadly too young to tuck in themselves. Mazel tov!

ANNABEL RIES

## A GANTSE MEGILLAH

Every Shul-goer is familiar with the practice of reading the Book of Esther on Purim from a megillah. It's a halachic requirement that the story be read from a scroll prepared like a Sefer Torah, rather than from a printed book.

Readings for other special occasions: Shir HaShirim (Pesach); Rut (Shavuot); Eichah (Tisha B'Av) and Kohelet (Sukkot) – are commonly read from a printed text. However, all four are technically 'Megillot' and many early sources advocate reading each in a public setting from a hand-written parchment.

As such, we have started a slow project of acquiring these scrolls, which are usually only available by special order. I am delighted that a donor (who prefers to remain anonymous) sponsored Rut in loving memory of a close relative. I read from it for the first time on Shavuot 2016, following a detailed shiur about the practice of reading Rut from a scroll.

Our new Rut scroll – written by a scribe in Israel – is around 45cms high and is four columns long. In consultation with the donor, Lady Susette Palmer kindly agreed to produce a bespoke silk-painted case to hold the scroll. The result is an objet d'art that not only safely encases the scroll, but will enhance our Aron throughout the year. I am delighted to put on record our grateful thanks to both the donor and Susette.

In the meantime, another generous donor is sponsoring a Shir HaShirim scroll, which I have commissioned from a British scribe. It is expected that the scroll, together with an appropriate case, will be ready for use by the coming Pesach.

RABBI BELOVSKI





## GOLDERS GREEN EVENTS

Golders Green Events continues to go from strength to strength, and we have put on several events for all members of the community over the past year. While we are not a fundraising committee, we always cover our costs and are pleased to say that any extra money raised has gone towards the purchase of many items of use for the Shul.

In October 2015, more than 30 people went to see an enjoyable performance of Blitz at JW3, joining a packed audience and cheering on our own Terry Sopel, who performed brilliantly. It was great fun and was followed by a reception enjoyed by us all.

In November, we had the pleasure of hearing Sir Ralph Kohn in conversation with Daniel Hochhauser. Sir Ralph had just had his first book published on his life and love of music, having been very successful both in the pharmaceutical world and as an opera singer. The Shul hall was filled with his beautiful voice as well as a fascinating conversation. We had a delighted and appreciative audience for the evening.

In January 2016, we hosted the Charedi comedian Ashley Blaker as part of his tour of England and nearly 200 people attended, many from outside our community who had seen it advertised and wanted to see the performance. The event was successful financially as well as socially and the majority of people

appeared to be highly amused.

In March, we held an Antiques Evening and were amazed at the volume of silver, gold, pictures, jewellery and books brought in by our members. We had several experts evaluating many of the items and our members were in some cases quite surprised by the value. We enjoyed a delicious supper and another successful and sociable evening. Thanks to Jonathan Fishburn for his help in bringing the experts along, mostly from Hampstead Auctions.

Our most recent event, our annual quiz supper, was held in July and attracted nearly 100 people. Always a popular event and always a challenge because this quiz team does not ask easy questions, knowing the intellect of our members. We had a delicious meal, a generous raffle and we hope that all who attended enjoyed the evening.

We are beginning to plan our next event, which will take place after the Chaggim. Please contact us via the Shul office with ideas for events you would enjoy. There is always room on our committee for additional people and if you are interested, please let be in touch. On behalf of the committee – Eveleen Habib, Jackie Crossley, Jean Sussman, Sue Silver, Robert Schaverein and Terry Sopel – we wish the community a happy and healthy new year.

EVELEEN HABIB



THE GGE ANTIQUES EVENING (LEFT) AND THE ANNUAL QUIZ SUPPER

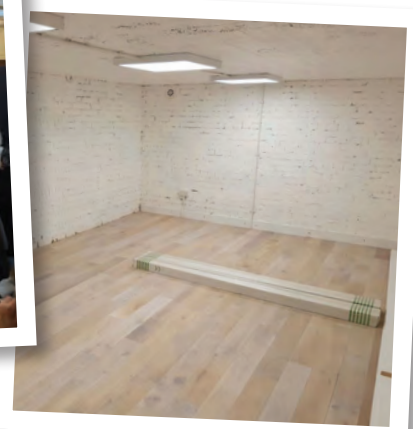
AS PART OF THE LEARN TO LEAD PROGRAMME, THE GROUP RECEIVED TRAINING IN EMERGENCY FIRST AID TO GIVE THEM AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BASIC SKILLS NEEDED TO HELP OUT IN AN EMERGENCY. THE GROUP WAS VERY ENTHUSIASTIC AND PROVED TO BE GREAT STUDENTS



## GOLDERS GREEN CARES

It has been another busy year for our care group, and the help of the group leaders has been invaluable. Please join me in thanking 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. I would also like to thank all of our volunteers who are so busy in the community. My thanks particularly to Eve Golditch, who although still working in our care group, is now taking more of a back-seat role. She has been invaluable to the work that we do, always available to discuss unique situations. She has also done so much work that no one is aware of, and I am very grateful to her for the support she has shown. A warm welcome to Ingrid Posen who will be supporting me with the one-to-one visiting group, and to Natalie Kelly who has joined Jackie Crossley and me in organising the seniors' tea parties. We held our latest tea party in June (see photo, right) – these are so warmly received and I know that our guests and volunteers really enjoy them. The next one will be on December 11. As always, we need more volunteers, to help with the phone lines and visiting. If you feel that you might be interested in volunteering, please do contact me at [susan.freiberger@gmail.com](mailto:susan.freiberger@gmail.com). Also, if you are aware that someone from the community is not well or could do with a helping hand, do please let me know. Wishing you all a Shana Tova – a happy, healthy and sweet new year.

SUSAN FREIBERGER



THE STRONG ROOM PROJECT WAS LAUNCHED BY HADASSAH FROMSON AS A WAY OF CREATING A SPACE IN THE SHUL DEDICATED TO OUR TEENAGERS. AFTER A MAMMOTH EFFORT TO CLEAR OUT A CENTURY'S WORTH OF ACCUMULATED JUNK, WE ARE EXCITED TO HAVE RECENTLY FINISHED THE DECORATING AND FURNISHING OF THIS NEW ROOM, WHICH WILL BE USED TO RUN SHABBAT MORNING PROGRAMMES SPECIFICALLY FOR YEARS 7-11



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# CHAVER IN OUR MIDST

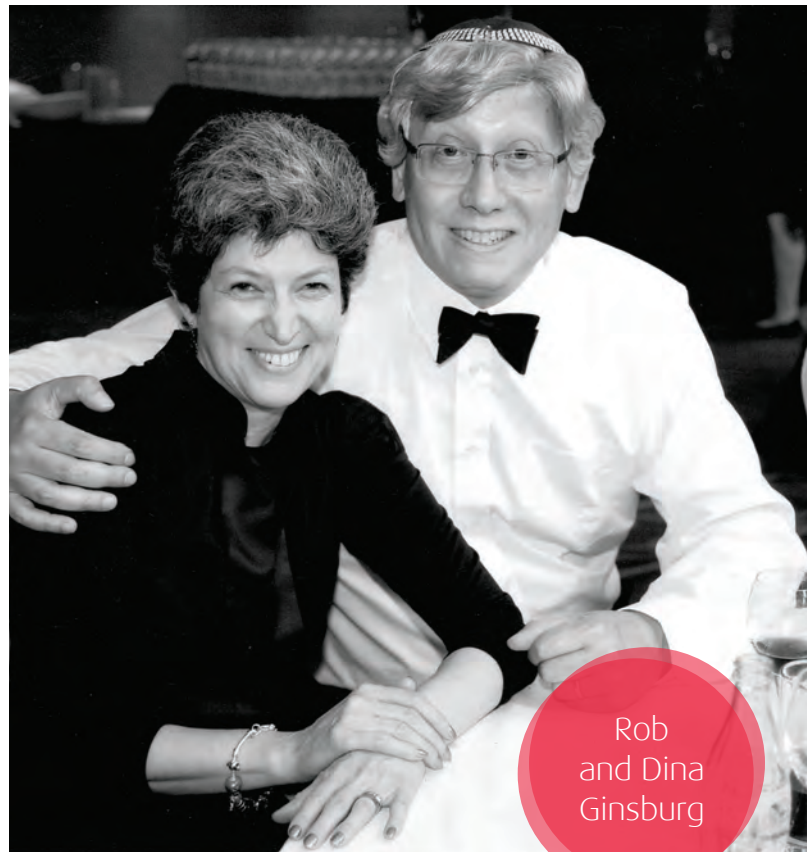
A *chaver* award was presented to Dr Rob Ginsburg in September 2015 in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to Shul services and other aspects of community life, RHB writes

A *chaver* (companion of the community) award is a type of communal knighthood bestowed at the discretion of the rabbi upon laymen who have made an outstanding contribution to the services and other devotional aspects of a community.

The holder of a *chaver* award is eligible to use the title *HeChaver* when called to the Torah and for other ritual purposes. It is very rarely awarded and in most centrist communities, the honour has lapsed. However, early in my

rabbinate in Golders Green, I decided to revive the *chaver* award and I first conferred the award on the late Joe Friedman ז"ל and subsequently on Brian Beckman, whose late father had also been accorded the honour.

Just before Rosh HaShanah in September 2015, in recognition of his remarkable contribution to Shul services as *gabbai* and in many other invaluable roles, I decided to bestow a *chaver* award on Dr Rob Ginsburg. The Hebrew text of his presentation and an abridged, free-style translation follow.



Rob  
and Dina  
Ginsburg

## תעודת חבר

התועדה הזאת נתנה לעד ולראיה ביד האיש היקר בעיני כל, הרי הוא ר' ראובן נ"י בן הרב אליהו ע"ה גינסבורג, אחד המיוחדים האוחזים בחוזק יד את דגל היהדות הטהורה בקהילתנו, ק"ק כנסת ישראל גולדרס גרין יצ"ו. הוא גבאי בבית כנסת שלנו שנים רבות (בפרט שהוא אחד מתומכי הבית הכנסת לפני התקופה הנוכחית), והוא עוסק בצורכי צבור באמונה הן בענייני הגבאיות הן בשאר ענייני גמילות חסדים. בכללם שליחות לצבור, תיקון ספרי תורה, שיפוצים לבית כנסת, סידור לוחות זמנים על המסכי מחשב לכל ימות השנה, ענייני גבאיות המיוחדים לימי הרחמים והחזקת התורה והיראה. ובפרט הוא סידר שיעורי תורה, קובע עתים לתורה ללמוד וללמד לשמור ולעשות בדעת מבינה וישרה, והוא מחזק כל לומדיה ומכבד רבנים ותלמידי חכמים. גם הוא משתדל להיות איש במקום שאין איש בכל עינינו צבור. הוא תורם ביד רחבה מהונו ומזמנו לצורכי הרבים בהתלבות ובלב שלם בלי לשים לב לעצמו, מלא כל התפקידים האלא בכבוד ולשם שמים, ועומד תמיד בפרץ לשמור משמרת התורה והיראה בדרך ישראל סבא.

לכן גמרנו שמהיום והלאה בע"ה יקרא לכל דבר שבקדושה:

## החבר ר' ראובן בן הרב אליהו

והשי"ת יעמוד לימינו לברכה באריכות ימים ושנים יחד עם רעייתו החשובה דינה שתחי' ובניהם אבי, אלישבע ואהרן, וימלא ה' משאלות לבם לטובה וישלח להם ברכה והצלחה בכל מעשה ידיהם עם ישראל אחיהם אכי"ר.

ועל זה בעה"ה עש"ק סדר יכי קרוב אליך הדבר מעד בפיך ובלבבך לעשותי, סוף חודש יאני לדודי ודודי לי תשע"ה, פה גולדרס גרין יצ"ו.

הרב צבי א. בעלאווסקי

## CHAVER CERTIFICATE

This certificate is presented to Re'even ben HaRav Eliyahu Ginsburg, one of the strongest supporters of Jewish life in our community. He served as gabbai for many years (particularly supporting the Shul prior to the current period) and occupies himself with communal needs, running services and performing acts of kindness. These have included serving as shaliach tzibbur, organising repairs to the Sifrey Torah, building refurbishments, devising and installing screens to display year-round service times and running special services for the Yamim Nora'im, all the while strengthening Torah and devotional life. He has arranged shiurim, commits to regular Torah study, encourages others who study Torah, honours rabbanim and Torah scholars and he takes responsibility when others do not. He generously devotes his resources and time to communal needs with passion and whole-heartedly without regard for his own needs. He fulfils all these roles with dignity and for the sake of heaven, always standing in the breach to preserve the Torah and the community's devotional life in the best tradition of our ancestors.

As such, we have decided that from today onwards, he shall be known for all ritual purposes as:

## HECHAVER RE'UVEN BEN HARAV ELIYAHU

May God stand with him and bless him with long years together with his wife Dina and their children Avi, Elisheva and Aaron. May God fulfil their hearts' desires and bestow blessing and success upon all their endeavours.

## 60 SECONDS WITH... RABBI ZVI ZIMMELS

Rabbi Zvi Zimmels is now a regular Ba'al Tefillah at Golders Green Synagogue, leading services during the Yamim Noraim and other times during the year

AGE: 38

PLACE OF BIRTH: London

OCCUPATION: Teacher

FAMILY: Married to Yocheved, with six children (pictured): Yossi, 13, Yitzi, 12; Akiva, 11; Avi, 7; Miri, 3; Chaya, 1.

WHERE DO YOU DAVEN NORMALLY? At the Golders Green Beth Hamedrash, otherwise known as Munks. I was brought up there as a child, so it was an easy decision to daven there after my time in Yeshiva and Kolel.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LEADING YAMIM NORAIM SERVICES AT GOLDERS GREEN SYNAGOGUE?

For approximately 10 years. We moved back to London in 2006 and as far as I can remember, Rabbi Belovski asked me to lead the services that year.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THE COMMUNITY?

I have always found the community to be both friendly and welcoming. There is always a genuine community feel, giving a big family feeling.

WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE MELODY FROM THE YAMIM NORAIM LITURGY?

I think my first answer would be Vechol Ma'aminim, as the tune is an original GGS tune, composed by Rev Livingstone.

WHERE DID YOU LEARN YOUR CHAZANUT? Most of my Nussach is from GGBH, as this was where I was brought up. When I was a child the Chazzan was Rev A M Lev and later the Chazan N Gluck.

RABBI ZIMMELS WILL LEAD MUSAF ON SECOND DAY ROSH HASHANAH AND ON YOM KIPPUR THIS YEAR

THE ZIMMELS FAMILY:  
YOSSI, YITZI, AKIVA, AVI,  
MIRI AND CHAYA





# HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

A major transformation of the front gardens of the Synagogue in memory of two stalwart congregants, Barbara Jacobs and Lucy White, has given beauty and meaning to the area. Talia Chain and Julia Franks explain how the two gardens pay tribute to the past

**T**he front garden of the Shul had not been touched for many years. It was once a well-maintained shrub garden, but had become an overgrown wilderness, full of brambles. The trees had also grown too tall, blocking out whatever light existed in a North-facing London garden.

My grandma, Barbara Jacobs, was not a tidy woman. In fact, she had quite a lot in common with Dunstan Road's wild garden. She was strong and resilient, like the blackberries, and she was also very creative, like the ivy, constantly finding new ways to reach the light. To me as a child, my grandma with her turban, her pearls and her memory of every poem and play ever written, was magical, like the dappled light and the plants hidden under the trees.

So I thought the garden should be kept a little wild to reflect her character, and decided on a small woodland garden theme, which works well in a shady space. The garden also needed to be easy to walk through, look nice from the road and, as it is part of the Shul, we decided to feature biblical/mishnaic foods, fruits and flowers where possible.

The heart of the garden is the path, which is made using woodchip from the trees that we cut down to make more light. Along the path are daffodils, which are often found in woodland gardens and you can walk the path from the front of the garden through the arch right out the other side under the curly willow. The path meanders, allowing you to see all of the little clearings with their unique plants and labels.

The choice of plants was a little tricky as the garden is shady and quite cold – the exact opposite of



where biblical plants were cultivated. However we found some lovely plants and they are all labelled with their name and a quotation from where they appear in the liturgy. Over the arch grow roses, which were Grandma's favourite plants.

Some parts of the garden have been left wild and overgrown to encourage a little wildlife. The bird bath and bird food were a success and Rob Ginsburg built and installed a lovely bird box opposite the twisted willow, just above our very important compost area.

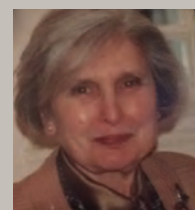
Finally, you see the plaque hanging from the twisted willow. This is made from driftwood that Rob's father had found and saved a long time ago. Rob cleaned it up beautifully and helped me solder Grandma's name into the plaque as this would be a little more unusual and in fitting with the design of the garden, and Grandma herself.

Thanks go to both Rob Ginsburg and Rachel Clark, who dug up roots and planted through all weathers and without whom the garden would be a lone daffodil and a lot of weeds.

## TALIA CHAIN

Talia Chain is now working to create the UK's first Jewish farm. Check it out here: [www.facebook.com/UKJewishfarm](http://www.facebook.com/UKJewishfarm)

**RACHEL CLARK, ROB GINSBURG AND TALIA CHAIN AT WORK ON THE BARBARA JACOBS GARDEN DURING THE WINTER OF 2015**



**BARBARA JACOBS, 1932-2009**

My mother, Barbara Jacobs (nee Woolf), grew up at the heart of the GGS community. Her parents, Daisy and Alfred Woolf, joined in about 1930 and both served in many capacities. Although Barbara moved to St John's Wood when she married, she always felt GGS was her community and moved back to spend her later years in a cottage in Willifield Way. Her passion was gardening. Self-taught, she was a knowledgeable and able gardener, never happier than pottering in her large garden and allotment. She would have been very proud that Talia built the new garden and quite amazed that it is named in her honour. It is the best tribute she could have wished for. **JULIA CHAIN**

## LUCY WHITE ROSE GARDEN

Last year, we planted a rose garden in the grounds of the Shul to commemorate the 10th yartzheit of my late mother, Lucy White. We earmarked a sunny area by the right-hand side of the building – roses need sun! This was the only little spot with sustained sunshine, but it was near the bins, covered in concrete, full of debris, dead trees and a broken fence.

The first thing we put in was a tap – roses need water! At one point, during stalled discussions about the scheme, it looked as if it was going to end up as the 'Lucy White Memorial Tap', but then everything came together.

The Golders Green Synagogue centenary was coming up, so we had to move fast. We got the OK from the neighbours, built a new fence and spent a few frantic days in June 2015 breaking up concrete, building a trellis to divide off the bins, laying new soil and finally planting. It had to be ready in time for the celebrations.

With one day to go, Melissa, our wonderful gardener, rolled up in her van, packed full of roses, mini box hedge bushes and lavender, which was my mum's favourite combination. We planted old English scented roses in an Ombre colour scheme – dark to light – plus wild lavender, all contained in a neat box hedge. We are so happy to see that the magnolia, the one tree that we left in the rubble, has come back to life!

Lucy White z"l used to do the Shul garden, both designing and planting, in the 1980s. She spent many early mornings at Covent Garden Flower Market, coming home with a car full of beautiful booty. In those days the Shul had a garden committee, and even a garden fund.

My mum was a Hungarian Holocaust survivor who had been in Auschwitz and Belsen. She lost her entire family during the war. She was the only survivor in her family. Lucy came to London in 1946, aged 19,

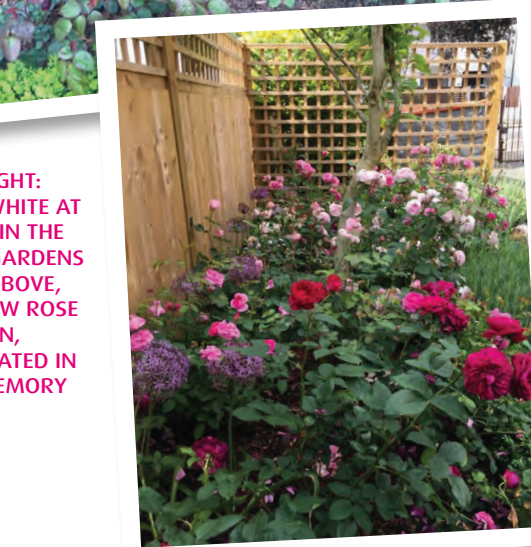


having been liberated from Belsen by the British army. In England she made a life and family. She married my father, Gabriel White z"l, a fellow Hungarian who was also a warden and long-time member of Golders Green Synagogue.

Throughout her life, we knew my mother as a vibrant, life-loving and warm person who loved family, music, art, culture and gardening. I believe she developed a love of beauty and flowers as an antidote to her history. We are so proud to share these wonderful scented roses in her memory.

Next Spring, look out for irises, alliums, tulips and Japanese grasses in shades of purple, lilac and silver – in memory of my mother, Lucy White, 1926-2004.

**JULIA FRANKS**



**TOP RIGHT: LUCY WHITE AT WORK IN THE SHUL GARDENS AND, ABOVE, THE NEW ROSE GARDEN, RENOVATED IN HER MEMORY**



# GOLD AND GREEN

As Golders Green Synagogue embarks on its second century, former chairman Benny Chain considers what the future holds

Our community was born just over 100 years ago, right in the middle of World War I. Over the past 18 months, we have celebrated our centenary with a series of wonderful events, and the publication of Dr Helen Fry's beautiful book, full of evocative pictures of the past.

Now, as we enter our second century, we turn from the past to consider the future. The Gold and Green Dinner, held on September 14, marks our first major community event of this new century, and it is worth reflecting on where we want our community to go in these coming decades. The name itself reflects the event's status as a bridge between the past and the future, because the Shul archives reveal that a fundraising dinner with this same name was a regular fixture in the community's calendar during earlier years.

Green is a symbol of growth and regeneration, while gold symbolises money. As anybody who has ever been involved in communal activity knows only too well, one often cannot achieve the first without the second. The primary objective of the

our site, with a new security fence and gates, and appropriate surveillance. It is sad to acknowledge that the threat of physical violence against our Shul and school has increased rather than decreased in recent years.

## ESSENTIAL SECURITY

Britain remains a society in which Jewish and other minority groups can participate fully in the nation's life, while each maintaining their own individual cultural and religious identities. All major political parties are, at least in principal, committed to these principles. But sadly, all over the world, technological developments allow tiny numbers of anti-democratic extremists to achieve levels of violence and destruction previously thought impossible. Reluctant as we are to turn our Shul into a fortress, we would surely be negligent if we did not take all reasonable steps to protect ourselves and our families from the potential actions of such people.

The second purpose of the Dinner is more positive. The enormous growth we have witnessed in the number of younger families coming to our Shul has required provision of

**THE ESSENCE OF OUR COMMUNITY LIES IN ITS ABILITY TO BALANCE CHANGE WITH STABILITY, IN THE FACE OF UNCEASING PRESSURES TO SHIFT TO ONE EXTREME OR ANOTHER**

dinner is to generate additional funds to allow our community to grow and prosper.

The funds will be used for two principal purposes. The first is to provide a more secure perimeter for

a whole range of new activities. Our assistant Rabbi and Rebbetzen Fromson are developing social and educational programmes to target the new parents and their children. In parallel, we must maintain and



Benny Chain

improve the current support for all the other varied sectors of our membership.

The excellent financial leadership of the community ensures we operate an efficient, economic and transparent budget. But in order to balance our books, we need to raise more money. For the past two years, we have deliberately kept our membership fee increases small, in order to ensure that we remain competitive and affordable during this difficult economic climate. We are confident that those of our members who are in a position to help will come forward and ensure the financial stability of the community, for the future benefit of all our members, irrespective of their financial resources.

## GROWTH AND CHANGE

Perhaps we should consider a different perspective on the symbolism of Gold and Green for the future. Green symbolises growth and change: the development and

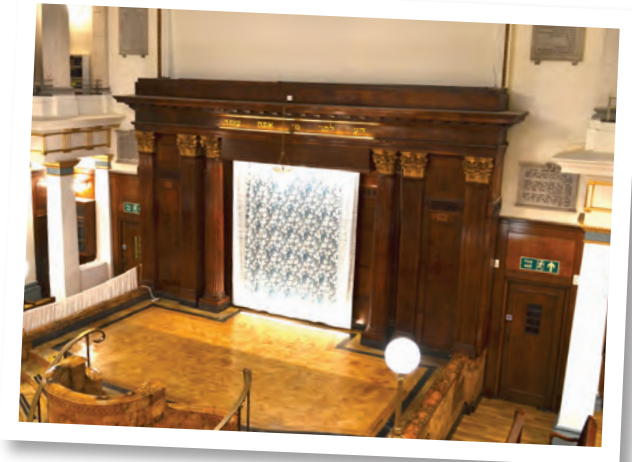
metamorphosis of a seed into a plant and then into fruit. In contrast, gold symbolises immutability. Gold does not tarnish or corrode, but remains ever the same. The essence of our own community, at least for me, lies in its ability to balance change with stability; to maintain the middle ground in the face of unceasing pressures to shift to one extreme or another.

The founders and early members of our community would be amazed at the changes and developments that have occurred, not just in the physical infrastructure but in almost every aspect of the religious and social life of the community. Yet, at the same time, they would surely be struck by some essential unbroken

links that span the time gap – the commitment to the fundamental principles of Torah Judaism, to tolerance and inclusivity, and to reaching out to all those within our community who need help remain the fundamentals.

I hope the Gold and Green Dinner will usher in a second hundred years in which we can continue to combine change with tradition, and tolerance with commitment. If we can achieve that, I am sure we will remain an example to the wider Jewish community, and still be in good shape and young at heart when we reach our two hundredth birthday.

BENNY CHAIN



GOLDERS GREEN SYNAGOGUE, SHORTLY AFTER ITS INTERNAL REFURBISHMENT IN 2013, NOW NEEDS FUNDS TO IMPROVE SECURITY AND FACILITATE FURTHER GROWTH

**Thank You Golders Green Synagogue for supporting**



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**[www.leket.org](http://www.leket.org)**



# RIMON BLOSSOMS WITH FIFTH INTAKE

It has been a busy year at Rimon, with a packed calendar of school activities and the exciting development of the school gardens. Headteacher Sara Keen reports on the highlights

**F**our years on from Rimon's first intake of pupils in 2012, the school continues to thrive and we are delighted to welcome our fifth Reception class this year, as well as new additions to our teaching and support staff.

With our first year of Key Stage 2 marking a major milestone in the school's history, pupils and staff have been working hard to continue to raise standards and fulfil our guiding principles.

Alongside a new Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher, a number of new staff joined in the last academic year. They have all made an invaluable contribution to school life and we value their commitment tremendously. As well as continuing to raise and inspire excellent academic standards, the school is also expanding its enrichment opportunities. There are now numerous lunchtime and after-school clubs, including the

learn about habitats, mini beasts, natural sculpture and much more. Forest School will remain on the curriculum for Reception to Year 3 in the future. Year 4 will also have an additional music lesson every week, delivered by Barnet's specialist music teaching team, in which the children will learn to play the recorder. As the children get older, we also have our sights set on a school choir.

## GARDEN UPGRADE

In keeping with one of our five guiding principles – preservation of the environment – we have over the past two terms started to develop our garden spaces, following the award of a grant in 2015 from the Ernst Cook Foundation, which we used to buy raised beds, compost, tools and seedlings.

We then worked with the Harrington Trust, a community organisation working with people with special needs. Staff from the trust came into school to create the

## WE WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE AND BE CREATIVE WITH OUR LEARNING SPACES AND BUILD UPON THE IMPROVEMENTS OVER THE COURSE OF LAST YEAR

much-loved Chess and Karate clubs!

Additionally, the school is delighted to have Forest School back on the curriculum as two members of staff have now completed their Forest School training. This year each class will have the opportunity to experience Forest School lessons, in which children go out into the park to

new garden area. Children from Year 2 helped to fill four raised beds with vegetable seedlings and potatoes. They have also grown sunflowers as part of a fundraising effort for Reuth Medical Centre.

At a plant sale in early July, pupils sold a variety of seedlings as well as packets of home-grown Rimon potatoes, lettuce, sage,

thyme and mint. We were thrilled to raise more than £40, which will help to buy new seeds and planting equipment for our school gardening club.

In March, pupils participated in the Vitality Half Marathon Schools' Challenge at Wembley Stadium, a day after Rimon families enjoyed a wonderful Shabbaton at Golders Green Synagogue, one of the highlights of a very busy and successful year for our PTA.

Other recent highlights include the Generation Sinai event, which was held on erev Shavuot, with Year 2 and Year 3 pupils participating in a joint learning initiative with their parents, grandparents and teachers. We enjoyed a fabulous Lag Ba'Omer celebration in May, with activities from the Happy Puzzle Company, Israeli dancing, sporting, storytelling and singing. For Yom Ha'atzmaut, we held a special art day that allowed us to celebrate

## RIMON PUPILS MAKE USE OF THE NEWLY UPGRADED SCHOOL PLAYGROUND



Israeli artists. Each year group worked in the style of their chosen artist using a range of media.

## LEARN OUTDOORS

In June, we participated in National Learn Outdoors Day. On a lovely sunny day, each class had a special lesson planned to take place outside. Year 1 had a lesson on symmetry using shadows in the sunny courtyard to draw outlines of their bodies and work out lines of symmetry, while Year 2 also worked in the courtyard making beautiful posters about their Tudor topic.

We are looking forward to another action-packed year ahead. Key milestones will be the Year 1 Chaggigat Ha'Siddur and the Year 3 Chaggigat Ha'Chumash. We look forward to working with our new staff this year. We will continue to improve and be creative with our learning spaces and build upon the improvements over the course of last year.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Rimon community, children, parents and staff, a happy and healthy new year – Shana Tova.

SARA KEEN



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: CELEBRATING LAG BA'OMER IN SCHOOL; RABBI SAM LEADS A TOUR OF THE SYNAGOGUE; FOREST SCHOOL; WORKING ON THE SCHOOL GARDEN

**Rimon**  
Jewish Primary School

## VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY

Rimon Jewish Primary School is looking for volunteers to come in once a week to read with our children (English or Hebrew reading).

Ideally you would be able to give two hours per week, but we can be flexible. No experience necessary.

To find out more about this exciting opportunity, or to express an interest, please contact the school office on 0208 209 1805 or [office@rimonschool.org.uk](mailto:office@rimonschool.org.uk)





# US WOMEN

Following her election as co-chair of US Women in November 2015, Jacqui Zinkin explains the group’s objectives in promoting the role of women in the United Synagogue

How the world has changed. When I was a girl, women at Shul prepared the Kiddush, organised the catering, looked after the kids and made the place look nice, while the men ran the place, led the davening and drank the whisky. Today, thanks to the hard work of our predecessors, women and men share the roles of governance, management, whisky drinking and catering within many US communities.

Claire Lemer and I were elected co-chairs of US Women in November 2015. We took over from a group of amazing women who worked tirelessly with the leadership of the US, the Chief Rabbi and the US Rabbonim to enable women to fulfill the majority of lay leadership roles within the community. They worked together with the Office of the Chief Rabbi and the US Rabbonim to understand the Halacha in a number of areas, most recently in respect of women saying Kaddish and Simchat Bat, either at

those redeveloping their buildings to consider seriously where women should sit so they can participate actively in the services. Other changes led by the Chief Rabbi are also welcome, notably his new Ma’ayan programme, and we look forward to hearing about his work on Bat Mitzvah.

So what is left to do? So much. Firstly, we need to keep reminding everyone, including ourselves, that US Women is an organisation for all women within the United Synagogue. When we talk about ‘we’ and ‘our’, we mean every single woman within our US. Then we need to work out how to get as many people engaged as possible. We need to understand that whilst all these opportunities are available, not everyone wishes or is able to take advantage of them.

Some women are very happy with their traditional roles in the community and if that is the case then we must respect their choices and support them. Some women are unaware of the possibilities – it is

WE NEED TO KEEP REMINDING EVERYONE, INCLUDING OURSELVES, THAT US WOMEN IS AN ORGANISATION FOR ALL WOMEN WITHIN THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE

home or in Shul. There are also now a number of women-only Tefillah groups and women Megillah readings. The previous US Women leadership additionally encouraged

our job to make them aware and provide the educational tools to help. Some women meet barriers in their communities – it is our job to help bring down those barriers through discussion and education.



US WOMEN DINNER 2016: (FROM LEFT) REBBETZEN ILANA EPSTEIN, REBBETZEN HADASSAH FROMSON, REBBETZEN VALERIE MIRVIS, US WOMEN CO-CHAIR JACQUI ZINKIN, STELLA LUCAS, AND US WOMEN CO-CHAIR CLAIRE LEMER

We will continue to work with the Office of Chief Rabbi on Bat Mitzvah, women leaders within the community, as well as holding the quiz and the dinner. We also hope to work with working women in the City and West End, have local events, further educate communities on women saying Kaddish and benching Gmel and be there as a resource for the whole US to help and support its women.

On behalf of the US Women executive, I wish you all Shana Tova U’Metuka, and we look forward to hearing from you very soon.

JACQUI ZINKIN

# CITY OF NEED

As GGS continues to support the Jewish community of Zaporozhye in south-eastern Ukraine, World Jewish Relief’s Richard Verber gives a first-hand account of the poverty he has witnessed there

Zaporozhye is top of nobody’s holiday list. It is Ukraine’s sixth largest city: big, sprawling and industrial. Recently it has fallen on hard times. Factories have closed and unemployment has risen.

It’s home to thousands of Jews, many slowly returning to Judaism thanks to the energetic Rabbi Ehrentreu. But I’d like to focus on a different side of Zaporozhye to the one our community knows.

I’ve spent more time in Zaporozhye than I have in Paris, Barcelona and Rome combined. It’s a city of contrasts. Big glitzy department stores sell jewellery at London prices. Theatres, cafes and bars are busy.

bone-shakingly cold in winter. Jews live in abominable conditions. They are our forgotten Jewish family. The country is in a bad way. Life expectancy is just 64 for men. Ukraine’s ageing population means that 40% of people are pensioners. Pensions, when paid, are around £60 per month. That’s £15 per week. Healthcare is theoretically free but in reality extremely neglected. Even basic treatment can be very expensive. Recently I met someone who had paid a pharmacist with their wedding ring. They had no money. What would you do? Inflation is high and the cost of living for the thousands of elderly people World Jewish Relief supports



RICHARD VERBER MAKING WICKER BASKETS WITH PARTICIPANTS AT THE WARM HOMES PROJECT IN ZAPOROZHYE

don’t just repair Jewish homes; we repair Jewish lives. Zaporozhye has changed because of the war in the east. Two hours down the road, Ukrainian forces skirmish with Russian-backed rebels. 9,000 people have lost their lives. Two-and-a-half million people have fled their homes. Thousands of Jews have lost everything. Many of them have come to Zaporozhye without a house or a job and benefit from World Jewish Relief’s Livelihood Development Programme.

The programme helps people find employment. With an astonishing 74% success rate, Jewish communities across the Former Soviet Union are starting to break the cycle of poverty. Following the conflict, the programme has been adapted to include many Jews who have fled to Zaporozhye. Many need trauma counselling too.

Every time I go, I meet people who have turned their lives around. There’s nothing more powerful, humbling or rewarding. If you’d like to come with me next time, drop me a line on [richard@worldjewishrelief.org](mailto:richard@worldjewishrelief.org) Shana Tova from everyone at World Jewish Relief.

RICHARD VERBER  
Richard Verber is World Jewish Relief’s Head of External Affairs

I KNOW THE POVERTY THAT EXISTS HERE, YET EVERY TIME I VISIT I’M TAKEN ABACK. FILTHY FLOORS, MOULDY BATHROOMS, UNSANITARY TOILETS AND RUSTY KITCHENS ARE COMMON

People wander through Khortitsa, a nature reserve by the picturesque Dnieper river, sharing a beer without a care in the world. Zaporozhye has one of the world’s largest hydroelectric dams and one of Ukraine’s worst football teams, which has just gone bust. If you’re a fan of good tea, great vodka or cheap toothbrushes, this is the city for you. The people are friendly and are tickled by the fact a foreigner has come to the visit them. The Jewish community centre is bustling with a noisy crèche in one room and older generations singing Yiddish songs in another. But monstrous, crumbling, Soviet-era tower blocks nearby remind me of the widespread poverty here. They’re dark and dingy – stiflingly hot in summer and

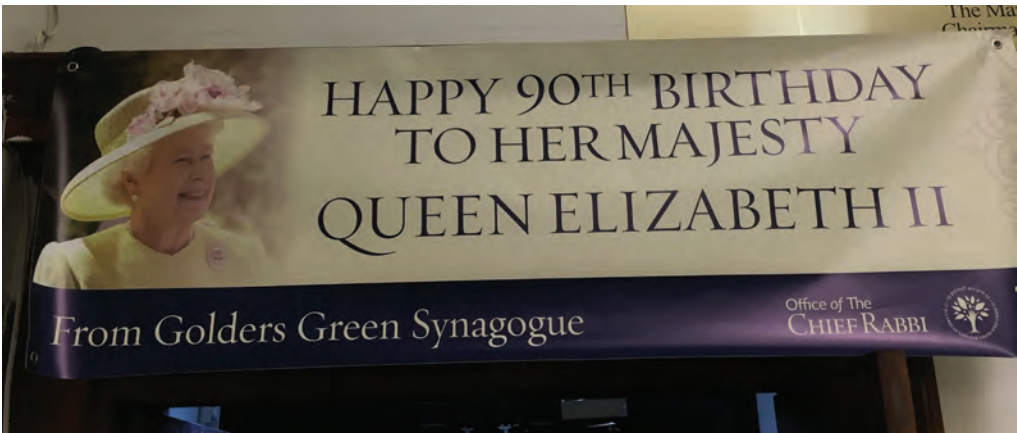
is becoming increasingly difficult as pensioners struggle to afford basic foodstuffs and heating for their flats. Some people have to choose between buying medicine or winter fuel. I know the poverty that exists here, yet every time I visit I’m taken aback. Three families crammed into a flat built for one. Filthy floors, mouldy bathrooms, unsanitary toilets and rusty kitchens are common. There’s no privacy. Young girls and older people are particularly vulnerable. World Jewish Relief’s Home Repairs programme changes this, making homes safe and warm, restoring people’s dignity. Across the Former Soviet Union, we are replacing doors and windows, installing working kitchens and bathrooms and insulating roofs. We



# IN THE ROYAL BOX

On the occasion of Her Majesty the Queen’s 90th birthday, Lord Monroe Palmer recalls the times he and his wife Susette have met the Queen and Prince Philip

For me, the first time was 34 years ago when I was awarded an OBE, which meant that Susette and I, together with John, Andrew and Fiona, went to Buckingham Palace for the ceremony. I was impressed at how the Queen engaged every recipient in conversation at what must have been a very tiring ceremony, even when she was in her younger years. In a later year, Susette and I were presented to her at St James’ Palace, where she and Prince Philip traversed the large room to be introduced to small groups of about eight people each. I remember Susette, who was the Councillor in charge of Barnet’s parks, discussing with the Queen a rose garden she had initiated in a Barnet park and the Queen spoke naturally for 10 minutes about flowers and gardens. She is clearly an expert in the art of conversation. I got the impression that whatever the subject, she would have been able to speak eloquently and confidently. Susette and I were also introduced to her and Prince Philip at another Palace reception. However, the most intimate time



was invited to a very large luncheon at Alexandra Palace and was seated near Her Majesty at a table for 10. The meal was lamb and Susette had ordered a kosher alternative. As usual, the kosher version of the meal was produced but it was twice the normal size and wrapped up and sealed. Susette had to deal with its unwrapping while sitting one place away from the royal guest. When the main course was served – lamb for 200 people, the Queen said, looking around the room, “they must have killed the whole flock”. Meanwhile Prince

**STATE OCCASION**  
At the Palace of Westminster, Susette and I see the Queen process each year for the State Opening of Parliament. This is a glittering occasion when I have to don red robes and Susette wears a long dress and tiara while sitting in the Chamber of the House at 11am.

Given Her Majesty’s advanced age, she is said on one occasion to have opted to descend directly to the street after the ceremony via a very small elevator next to the robing room. She and Prince Philip, so the story goes, entered the lift but it went up instead of down. One can only imagine the staff member who had called the lift to find the door opening to be confronted by the Queen and Prince Philip. I have every confidence that Her Majesty would have found the appropriate words for the occasion, but I dread to think what her husband, known for his off-the-cuff remarks, would have said.

As we say in Shul every Shabbat ‘May the supreme King of kings in His mercy preserve the Queen in life, guard her and deliver her from all trouble and sorrow.’

MONROE PALMER

**ROYAL BIRTHDAY WISHES FROM GOLDERS GREEN SYNAGOGUE, DISPLAYED IN THE WOHL VESTIBULE DURING SHAVUOT, JUNE 2016**

SHE IS CLEARLY AN EXPERT IN THE ART OF CONVERSATION. I GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT WHATEVER THE SUBJECT, SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SPEAK ELOQUENTLY AND CONFIDENTLY.

was when Susette, who had been largely responsible for organising the North London Jubilee celebrations at Cophall Stadium,

Philip, seated at a separate table, when called upon to leave with the Queen, remarked, “we never get time for coffee”.

# TALE OF TWO SERVICEMEN

On the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, David Lang recounts his family connections to both sides of the conflict

This year we remember the fierce Battle of the Somme, which began 100 years ago in July 1916 and lasted for five months. What is not well-known is that Jewish servicemen stood on both sides of this bitter conflict. My great uncle, Leopold Harris, served in the Royal Engineers and my wife’s father, Siegfried Diamant, served on the other side in the Austro-Hungarian Army.

**CAPTAIN LEOPOLD J HARRIS OBE AMIEE RE, 1877-1940**  
My great uncle was an electrical engineer who spent most of his career abroad. However at the start of the First World War, he returned to England and joined the 2nd King Edward’s Horse Regiment as a trooper, serving in France with the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) from May 1915 until April 1916. In May 1916, he was commissioned as an officer in the Royal Engineers and posted to the 354 Electrical & Mechanical Company as the assistant field engineer to the chief engineer with the BEF 2nd Army, around the Ypres Salient on the Western Front.

While serving there on February 28, 1917, Leopold wrote a wonderful letter to his nephew, my father, Herbert Lang in London on the occasion of his Barmitzvah, which I have kept as a family heirloom. He ends his letter by writing: “Things are going very well here as you see in the papers. I am asking your father to give you a guinea from me to buy something with. Don’t save it.”

**ZUGSFUHRER SIEGFRIED DIAMANT, AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN ARMY, 1892-1978**  
My wife Carole (originally Charlotte) writes about her father as follows: I was born in Vienna but my parents and I were forced by the Nazis to leave Austria for England in May 1939, just before the Second World War began, in spite of the fact that my father, Siegfried Diamant, had served in the Austro-Hungarian Army during the First World War. His rank was Zugsfuhrer (Sergeant), denoted by the three stars on his collar. His calling-up paper shows that he joined the Infanterie Regiment No 72 based in Pozsony, now Bratislava, the capital

of Slovakia. He was very proud of his service, but because we could bring very little with us to England in 1939, few of his Army papers survived.

As far as we know Zugsfuhrer Siegfried Diamant and Captain Leopold Harris never met in battle, but both were fortunate to survive the First World War.



CAPTAIN LEOPOLD HARRIS (LEFT) AND ZUGSFUHRER SIEGFRIED DIAMANT



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**Wishing you all Shana Tova**  
**May We All Be Written in the Book of Life.**

\* Terms & conditions apply



# TRIP OF A LIFETIME

Fresh from a trip to Brazil in August to share in the excitement of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, Helen Freedman recalls the highlights

**M**y first impression of Rio was of a sprawling city surrounded by outstanding natural beauty. Huge mountainous formations rise above you wherever you go and you are not far from water either – the Atlantic or the beautiful Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas. As our cab arrived in Copacabana, I began to feel the atmosphere of fiesta (carnival) that only an Olympics in Brazil can bring.

Thousands of people were milling around, dressed in Rio Olympics shirts or draped in the colours of their country's flags. We could hear the roar of the crowd from the beach volleyball going on at Copacabana beach a couple of blocks away.

We took a stroll along the promenade and it really does live up to its fame. There is samba music playing, wonderful colours everywhere, smells of grilled fish, meats and cheese permeate the air, and the beach is packed full of tourists and locals. You can tell the difference as only the latter will be seen sporting tight speedos!

**THE OLYMPIC FLAVOUR WAS EVERYWHERE AND WE WERE SO PLEASED TO BE PART OF IT. IT WAS THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME, FULL OF NATURAL AND HUMAN WONDERMENT**

We stopped for a superb caipirinha, Brazil's national cocktail, at a beach bar on the prom (the Brazilians do not measure the alcohol it seems), watching some teenagers play football on the beach



as the sun set. The Olympic flavour was everywhere and we were so pleased to be part of it.

races, including one poor Kazakh Olympian who managed to capsize himself only a few metres into his race. He got the biggest cheer from the crowd as he made his way past after deciding to finish the race – true sporting spirit from both him and the crowd.

Over the next few days, we watched hockey and water polo and made our way round some of the sights of Rio, including a wonderful tram ride up to Santa Teresa, which sits in the hills, overlooking the city, followed by sunset at Corcovado. The statue itself is beautiful as is the view upon which it looks from on high. Every bit as stunning as I had imagined.

**VIEW AT SUNSET OF GUANABARA BAY FROM SUGAR LOAF MOUNTAIN**



**FROM TOP: HELEN AND HER BROTHER MICHAEL WITH CORCOVADO BEHIND; MEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT COULEES FOURS; OLYMPIC RINGS AT LAGOA RODRIGO DE FREITAS**

## ATHLETICS

We spent a glorious day at the athletics, which included watching Ethiopia's Almaz Ayana win a sensational gold medal in the women's 10,000 metres, beating the world record by a full 14 seconds. Later in the day, we saw Jessica Ennis-Hill and Katarina Johnson Thompson compete in an exciting heptathlon high jump event. Katarina and her Belgian competitor jointly set a new world record for the high jump in heptathlon. The crowd, including us, lapped it up.

Later in the week, for our final evening in the city, we enjoyed a very beautiful sunset at Bondinho do Pão de Açúcar (Sugar Loaf Mountain), with the city, bays, beaches, mountains and lights spread before us in a magnificent panorama. A special mention goes to Shelanu kosher restaurant in Copacabana, which served a delicious Churrasco (traditional Brazilian grilled meats, served on a sizzling grill at your table) to top off a wonderful Brazilian Olympic experience.

On to Foz do Iguaçu (Iguassu waterfalls), where we spent a day on each side of the Argentine-Brazilian border marvelling at the sheer magnitude and beauty of the falls. We stopped by the bird park to see some of this tropical area's colourful birds, the most famous of which is the humorously long-beaked toucan. A great last morning was spent discovering how one of the largest dams in the world functions at Itaipu. It is jointly run by Paraguay and Brazil and produces enough energy to provide all the electricity for Paraguay and 15% of Brazil's (a country of 200 million people).

Overall, it really was the trip of a lifetime, full of natural and human wonderment.

HELEN FREEDMAN



# SHANA TOVA

# U'METUKA



Rosh Hashanah greetings from the members of Golders Green Synagogue

<b>BOWMAN</b> Simon and Penina Bowman wish their dear friends and family at Dunstan Road Shul a very happy and sweet new year	<b>CHAIN</b> Wishing everyone a very happy and healthy New Year. Benny and Julia Chain	<b>CLARK</b> Shana tova to all, from Rachel, Joel, Annie, Jonah and Freddie	<b>COHEN</b> Wishing everyone at Dunstan Road a shana tova and ketiva vechatima tova. Simon, Sharon, Avital, Sara, Itsy, Eli, Yishai and Batsheva Cohen	<b>CROSSLEY</b> Shana Tova to all the community from Jackie Crossley
<b>DAVIES</b> Shanah Tovah from Jonathan Davies	<b>DOCTOR</b> Wishing the whole community a happy and sweet new year. Josh, Alana, Harlan and Caleb Doctor	<b>EPSTEIN/LIGHTMAN</b> Wishing all a sweet and good new year filled with: Teshuvah, Tefilla and Tzedakah and the opportunity to Reflect, Aspire and Pursue Justice. Felicia, Daniel, Gavriella and Yishai	<b>FENNER</b> Wishing the whole community a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year. Shana Tova Um'tuka	<b>FRANKS</b> Wishing everyone at Golders Green Synagogue a sweet, happy and peaceful new year. Julia, Julian, Ella, Isaac, Gabriel and Michael Franks
<b>FREIBERGER</b> Gillian, Malcolm and Jessica Freiburger along with all the family wish the Kehillah a sweet, happy and healthy New Year	<b>FREIBERGER</b> Wishing you all a very Happy, Healthy and Sweet New Year. Susan and Brian Freiburger	<b>FREIBERGER</b> Eve, Phil, Avi and Ben, Yossi, Alon and Tamar wish everyone a sweet, healthy, prosperous New Year. Ktivah ve chatima tova	<b>GINSBURG</b> Wishing the whole community and all of Israel a happy, sweet and peaceful New Year. Shana Tova from Rob, Dina, Avi, Elisheva and Aaron Ginsburg	<b>GLATMAN</b> The Glatman Family wish everybody a Very Happy New Year. May it be the start of Peace and Tranquillity for all the Nations of the World
<b>GOODMAN</b> Wishing everybody at Dunstan Road a shana tova – a year blessed with good health, happiness and well over the fast. Lots of love Sara, Philip, Avi, Yoram and Shevi	<b>HABIB</b> Good wishes to the whole community for the success of the fundraising dinner and a happy healthy and peaceful New Year – Eveleen Habib	<b>HOCHHAUSER</b> Wishing everyone Shana Tova from Jo, Daniel, Dina, David and Rachel Hochhauser	<b>KAUFMAN</b> Corinne, Jeremy, Hannah, Sam, Emma and David Kaufman wish all the kehillah a Shanah Tova and well over the fast	<b>KELLY</b> Best wishes from the Kelly family
<b>LEWIS</b> With all good wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year, Vivienne and Jeffery Lewis	<b>MALINSKY</b> As the New Year starts, may you discover a new sense of possibility, of gifts you have to share and a renewed commitment to your faith and your dreams. Yaron and Meir Malinsky wish their family, friends and the entire congregation a Happy and Healthy 5777! LeShana Tova Tikatevu VeTechatemu!	<b>MORLAND</b> Wishing a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year to all at Dunstan Road from Claire, Paul, Sonia, Juliet and Adam Morland	<b>PALMER</b> Best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy year from Monroe and Susette Palmer and family	<b>PAUL</b> Rachel and Geoffrey Paul wish all the members of this wonderful community a year of peace, good health and much happiness

<b>ROTH/GESSLER</b> Shana Tova and all good wishes from Benedict, Sue, Adina, Noam and Tamar	<b>SANDLER</b> Jenny, Jon, Theo, Amelie and Olivia look forward to another fantastic year of children's services, kiddushes and racing around Shul. Shana Tova!	<b>SCOTT</b> Warmest wishes to our wonderful community for a healthy and peaceful 5777	<b>SHAW</b> Shana Tov U'Metuka to all the wonderful Dunstan Road kehilla, from Fabia and Stephen and all of family Shaw	<b>ULLMANN</b> Wishing Golders Green Synagogue continued growth and success in their one hundred and first year. Family Ullmann
<b>VAISBROT</b> Aura, Gabriel, Keren, Noam, Dan and Eitan wish the community a happy and healthy New Year	<b>Waidhofer</b> Wishing the whole community a Happy New Year. From Family Waidhofer	<b>WOLFIN</b> Shana tova to all of the community, from Diana and all of the Wolfin family	<b>WOOLICH</b> Wishing all of Golders Green Shul community a very happy and healthy new year. Sara, Anthony, Rebecca and Helena Woolich	<b>ZINKIN</b> Wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year from all the Zinkins

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MAZEL TOV TO...

- Benoit and Natalie Broch, on the birth of a son, Roni
- Michael and Nicola Coren, on the birth of a daughter, Sadie
- Joshua and Alana Doctor, on the birth of a son, Caleb
- Sharon Glick, on the birth of a daughter, Kira Estelle
- Jeremy and Corinne Kaufman, on the birth of a son, David Asher
- Benny and Elisavetha Menashe, on the birth of a daughter, Abigail
- Michael and Denise Patterson, on the birth of a daughter, Shanon Cara
- David and Samantha Reuben, on the birth of a daughter, Hannah Leah

- Brian and Myriam Baderman, on the birth of a granddaughter, Sara, daughter of Hanna and Herzl
- Guido Rauch, on the birth of a grandson, Nadav Grima, son of Sara-Jenny and Assaye Grima

- Aaron Bendor, on his Bar Mitzvah
- Michael Franks, on his Bar Mitzvah
- Edden Nuriel, on her Bat Mitzvah
- Naomi Walden, on her Bat Mitzvah

- Norman and Viviane Waidhofer, on the engagement of their son, Andrew, to Hannah Eder
- Phillip and Sarah Hyman, on their marriage
- Martin and Marilyn Gilbert, on the marriage of their daughter, Talia, to Jonty Tuchten
- Mike and Ingrid Posen, on their Golden Wedding Anniversary
- Arnold and Betty Shepherd, on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary

## MAZEL TOV TO THIS YEAR'S SIMCHAT TORAH HONOREES

- |                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| CHATAN TORAH        | Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks |
| CHATAN BEREISHIT    | Dr Rob Ginsburg           |
| ESHET CHAYIL        | Jenny Sandler             |
| JUNIOR CHATAN       | Jonathan Glass            |
| JUNIOR NESHE CHAYIL | Avital Cohen              |
|                     | Leah Welch                |



Clockwise from top left: Jonathan Sacks, Rob Ginsburg, Jenny Sandler, Leah Welch, Avital Cohen and Jonathan Glass



From left: Aaron Bendor, Michael Franks, Edden Nuriel and Naomi Walden

## DEATHS

THE COMMUNITY MOURNS THE PASSING OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

- Hetty Gilbert
- Ruth Kaplan
- Arthur Saunders
- Renee Martin-Sklan
- Anthony Smith

THE COMMUNITY WISHES THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS LONG LIFE:

- Myriam Baderman, on the death of her sister, Orli Ben Aron
- Andrea Frankenthal, on the death of her brother, Bernard Frankenthal
- Marilyn Gilbert, on the death of her mother, Tauba Cornell
- Caroline Levey, on the death of her father, Asher Blau
- Pauline Malkiel, on the death of her husband, David Malkiel
- Adam Quint, on the death of his father, John Quint
- Mark Gore, on the death of his son, Edward Gore

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

- Simon and Keren Collins
- Stanley and Carole Cowan
- Maurice Franks

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## Shana Tova and best wishes

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# CALENDAR 2016-2017

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

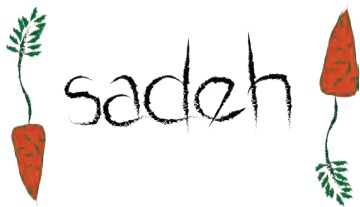
- MONDAY OCTOBER 3 (1ST DAY ROSH HASHANAH)  
Youth Rosh HaShanah dinner
- TUESDAY OCTOBER 4 (2ND DAY ROSH HASHANAH)  
Tashlich in the park for young families
- SUNDAY OCTOBER 9  
Sukkah decoration workshop
- WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19  
Sukkot party at the Belovskis
- SATURDAY OCTOBER 22  
Pizza in the Hut for youth
- MONDAY OCTOBER 24 (SHEMINI ATZERET)  
Simchat Torah tea party
- SHABBAT NOVEMBER 11/12  
ShabbatUK
- SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20  
Blood donor session
- SHABBAT NOVEMBER 25/26  
Winter Shabbaton with scholar-in-residence Rav Stav
- SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27  
Mitzvah Day
- SUNDAY DECEMBER 11  
Seniors Tea Party
- SHABBAT JANUARY 13  
Friday night dinner for young families
- SHABBAT FEBRUARY 10/11  
Tu B'Shvat Shabbat lunch with scholar-in-residence
- SATURDAY MARCH 11  
Communal Purim Megillah reading, hot dog supper and Women's Megillah reading
- SUNDAY MARCH 12  
Purim breakfast and carnival for young families
- SUNDAY MARCH 19, 2017  
Blood donor session
- FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OF THESE EVENTS, WATCH OUT FOR DETAILS IN SHUL, ON THE EMAIL LIST, OR CONTACT THE RABBONIM OR THE SHUL OFFICE.

## PHYLLIS STEIN CLOSES IN ON 107



Golders Green Synagogue boasts many assets, but perhaps among its lesser-known is Mrs Phyllis Stein, one of the oldest members of the United Synagogue. Born on September 26, 1909, Phyllis celebrates her 107th birthday just before Rosh HaShanah this year. She has been a resident of Sunridge Court on The Ridgeway since her early 80s and despite her advanced years, she remains a bright and proud member of our community. Phyllis was the only child of Ernest and Susie Salamon and attended finishing school in Brussels before marrying Sidney Stein in 1931. Sidney had served with the British Army in France during the First World War and later travelled around Europe on business. Sidney and Phyllis lived initially at the Hampstead end of Finchley Road and later moved to Golders Green where they lived for many years on Armitage Road. Phyllis volunteered at the WIZO head office in the West End and was a keen and accomplished bridge player. Although she has little direct family, Phyllis is visited regularly by her niece, Rosemary Lewis, as well as by Susan Freiberger, Naomi Verber and Rabbi Belovski. "At such a great age, my aunt Phyllis remains the kind and considerate person she has always been," says Rosemary Lewis.

JOEL CLARK



CHAG SAMEACH FROM SADEH, THE NEW JEWISH FARM AT SKEET HILL HOUSE

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