

# THE GGS JOURNAL

September  
2017  
Ellul 5777

News and views from Golders Green Synagogue

Issue 8



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Introducing our new vice chairs, Naomi Verber and Adam Berlin
- Reports on ShabbatUK, Mitzvah Day and the Gold and Green Dinner
- Rimon celebrates its fifth birthday as school flourishes





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September  
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### Golders Green Synagogue

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# FROM THE CHAIR



Communities grow and prosper when they are able to adapt and reinvent themselves to the times in which they live. At Dunstan Road we have done this a number of times over the last two decades but largely under the leadership of a relatively small group of people. If we are going to prosper for the next two decades it is critical that the next generation of leadership comes to the fore, as only they will be able to lead the shul into the new directions that it will need to take.

We should all be really grateful that Adam Berlin and Naomi Verber have stepped forward to take on the role of joint vice chairs, and they set out their initial thoughts overleaf. My one plea to the community would be to encourage and support them into their new roles. Running a community is quite a daunting task and sometimes dealing with the problems and complaints can be quite overwhelming, but set against that there are those moments when the plan comes together and it all seems and is worthwhile.

The Rabbi is in his fifteenth year with us and I first became chair several years before he was appointed. We have always recognised that the Rabbi needs to continually evolve his role and the benefit that sabbatical leave can generate in allowing him to reflect on his role and recharge himself. During the first sabbatical, seven years ago, he finished his PhD and we look forward with interest to the output from his upcoming sabbatical, which will take place between early November and mid-February. Naomi is coordinating the detail, with Simon Cohen, of how it will all work while the Rabbi is away and details will be circulated.

We recognised the need to provide resource for the young families that have joined the community in recent years with the appointment of Rabbi Sam and Hadassah Fromson. Now that they have experience of working with the community, we need to make sure that all that they bring to us is used to best effect. Adam will be looking after this.

Jonathan Davies has been Financial Representative for six years and has brought a period of calm and stability to our finances, of which many Shuls would be envious. As well as being FR, he also manages much of the day-to-day running of the shul. We are now on borrowed time as he has exceeded his permitted term and our next succession project is to find a new FR to take over progressively, as Jonathan's current term ends in two years. We are grateful

beyond measure for everything that Jonathan has done and continues to do for us all.

Simon Cohen and Terry Sopel continue to run our services and Simon now looks after all aspects of who is davening, leining and reading the haftarah. They will be working with Adam, Naomi and the Rabbis as we develop the forward strategy for the shul and how that impacts on the detail of service provision, which is at the core of what we do.

We run on the efforts of our volunteers – from welfare to security, the BA madrichim and roshim, the kiddush rota, those who lein and daven, the children's committee and children's services, the nursery committee, Golders Green Events, tea and learning, this magazine, blood donating, the community gemach, Mitzvah Day and associated activities during the year, those who help in the office and with mailings, and of course the Board and Honorary Officers. Without all these volunteers the community could not function and some have been doing this for more years than either I or they would wish to count. Finding people to take these activities into the future is again a key task for us all.

Now to the buildings. They are a wonderful resource gifted to us by previous generations. Without the ability to house Rimon, the community would be poorer in so many ways. Rimon has been transformational and we continue to be enormously grateful to all those who put their time in to making Rimon the school that it is. The site and the main building continue to evolve, and minor adaptations are being made to house the nursery. The security fence is finally up and we are learning to live with it. We continue to puzzle how to complete the renovation by raising the money to decorate and remodel upstairs. Space once again is at a premium, but it may provide the incentive finally to create useful space out of the back of the gallery. We will need to redecorate downstairs again shortly – a tribute to the usage we are making of the space.

I end as I began, stressing the importance of adaptation and innovation to ensure we stay as relevant today as we have always been.

PETER ZINKIN, CHAIRMAN  
GOLDERS GREEN SYNAGOGUE

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Cover photo: Mitzvah Day volunteers in Childs Hill Park, November 2016



# OUR NEW VICE CHAIRS



**NAOMI VERBER**  
I'm often asked why I walk 30 minutes along the noisy A41 to Dunstan Road when there are plenty of shuls in my area. I always give the same answer: Dunstan Road is unique in its diversity, open-mindedness and warmth. Quite simply, it's worth the effort. I've only been a member for three years but in that time I've benefited hugely from the inspiring services, rabbinical guidance and friendships made... and you throw a pretty good kiddush too. I've been a regular shul-goer since I was young but I've never felt as at home in a shul as I do at Dunstan Road. So when I was approached to help with the management of the shul I knew the answer had to be yes. I'm fortunate to have some extra time this year while on maternity leave, so the timing was right to give back and support Peter, Adam, Jonathan and the team in the running of our community. My particular areas of responsibility include managing Rabbi Belovski's sabbatical, supporting the set-up of Little Goldies Nursery and outlining a short-, mid- and long-term strategy for the synagogue. I look forward to involving members in this work, so watch this space!



**ADAM BERLIN**  
I moved to Golders Green in 2008. The only person I knew was Rabbi Belovski as I attended his classes as a student. I realised the shul was a special place very quickly: a United Synagogue where people were passionate about knowledge, social action, forward thinking, Zionism and spirituality. However, what sticks out is the number of families who invited me to join their Shabbat tables in my first few months in the community.  
As I got to know everyone, I began to realise how many people were actively involved in running the shul, organising social events, security, welfare, giving talks and more. This inspired me to get more involved and it's a real honour to take on the role of joint vice chair. While the shul is a wonderful place, I have already heard lots of ideas of how we can make things even better, and I have a few ideas of my own. Despite all the challenges facing mainstream Orthodox Judaism, Golders Green Synagogue remains a jewel in the crown of anglo-Jewry. I look forward to working with you all on the next stage of its evolution.



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# THE JOY OF RESPONSIBILITY

In his Rosh HaShanah message for 5778, Rabbi Dr Harvey Belovski encourages us to find joy, celebration and purposeful connection with the divine in our everyday lives

I am increasingly convinced that the primary emotion associated with Jewish life is joy. And while I think I'm safe in the assumption that most congregants wouldn't naturally associate Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur with joy, I believe that joy best characterises them too.

Of course, there are solemn, poignant parts to the experience – blowing the shofar to reacquaint ourselves with the sovereignty of God and the constant liturgical reminders of our mortality, including 'Yizkor' recited on Yom Kippur and the powerful 'Unetaneh Tokef' prayer read on both Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur, in which we reflect on who will live and die as our fate is inscribed for the coming year.

Yet these moments can only be properly understood against a backdrop of joy and celebration. Judaism – in contrast to some other belief systems – roots itself in a love of life and maximising every instant that God gives us. We certainly believe in an afterlife – a world beyond our limited physical existence in which we will experience the consequences of our actions. Yet purposeful encounter with the here and now is the primary mode of Judaism, not worrying about the future. Religious life and practice, even those aspects that touch on our mortality and encourage reflection or self-correction, are geared to improving our relationship with God, others and ourselves, so that we can best use the remainder of our lives in joyful, purposeful connection with the divine.

## THE CALENDAR ORDER

The opening sequence of our calendar is intended to reintroduce the core objectives of Jewish life and equip us with the tools to live effectively as engaged Jews. These



Rabbi  
Harvey and  
Rebbetzen  
Vicki Belovski

ideas help us to answer two questions about the Yom Tov season: why does Yom Kippur fall after – rather than before – Rosh HaShanah and why do most of the year's festival days fall within such a short period?

Given that Yom Kippur is a day for

and religious preparation is unlikely to be successful. Hence, Rosh HaShanah sets the scene for the challenging task of self-repair. By re-introducing ourselves to God, celebrating God's sovereignty and

## RELIGIOUS LIFE AND PRACTICE ARE GEARED TO IMPROVING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, OTHERS AND OURSELVES

introspection about the past and resolution for the future, it would seem more obvious for it to occur before Rosh HaShanah – the New Year: first repent one's wrongdoing and then celebrate renewal with a clean slate as the year begins. Yet reflection and commitment to change are very difficult without any context. Effecting personal transformation without psychological

praying for a joyful, meaningful, spiritual future for all humanity, we glimpse a peaceful and harmonious ideal. This prepares us to re-evaluate on Yom Kippur our performance as human beings over the past year and to strive to maximise our contribution to the betterment of the world. With the joy of Rosh HaShanah comes the responsibility of repair on Yom Kippur.

## THE JOY OF YOM KIPPUR

As for Yom Kippur itself, the joy continues. Here, joy doesn't mean wild abandon, but the sense of completeness and opportunity that a well-spent Yom Kippur can provide, which itself emerges from God's promise that He will embrace us and erase our sins on the holiest day of the year. This feeling is best illustrated by the high-point of the day: Ne'ilah. The atmosphere, the melodies and the shared experience combine to create an experience that somehow transcends the serious themes of the day to create an uplifting, joyful occasion that belies description.

This observation allows us to understand the proximity of Sukkot to the conclusion of Yom Kippur – just four days. There is a risk that the joyful high on which we end Yom Kippur will dissipate, leaving our aspirations unfulfilled and our emotions unrealised. Sukkot – the quintessential festival of joy – allows us to bask in an all-encompassing joyful space for a week, consolidating our Yom Kippur achievements and preparing us for re-entry to the real, post-festive world.

This approach is underscored by the Torah's description of Sukkot:

*"You shall be joyful on your festival... for the Lord your God shall bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands; then you shall remain only joyful" (Devarim 16:14–15).*

Rabbi Shimshon Rafael Hirsch explains that while Sukkot is the epitome of joy, this joy is, perforce, a temporary, festival-bound experience. But the aim is to extend the state of joy beyond the moment into a permanent character trait, one that "accompanies one beyond the times of festivals out into ordinary daily life, beyond exuberant merry gatherings out into the quiet humdrum home life". This state of joy has been carefully cultivated through the Yom Tov season and is a joy born of taking responsibility for one's life and its direction.

Vicki and I, together with Michali, Tehilloh, Dovid Chaim, Tomor Chemdoh, Rochel Tif'eres, Shmuel Yosef and Moshe Simcha, wish you a meaningful, joyful and healthy 5778.

RABBI DR HARVEY BELOVSKI

## FOLLOWING THE LONDON ATTACK

THIS IS AN ADAPTED VERSION OF RABBI BELOVSKI'S BROADCAST ON THE RADIO 2 CHRIS EVANS SHOW, FOLLOWING THE LONDON TERROR ATTACK OF 3 JUNE 2017.

Finishing a wonderful Shabbat, reports trickled through of Saturday's sickening attack at London Bridge. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families – innocent people enjoying a night out in our wonderful capital. Lives shattered in an instant by evil, twisted people intent on inflicting pain and fear, randomly spewing their hatred at whoever was unlucky enough to get in their way. If not for the brave response of the emergency services, there would likely have been many more victims.

Sometimes we run out of words. I've used them all when speaking to my community after such attacks: cowardly, despicable, contemptable. Yet new attacks occur and I have no new words. I continue to condemn the perpetrators and send love and prayers to the victims, yet I need more than words. I need a plan of action.

But what can we do to confront and repel such evil? An answer may lie in the words of the book of Proverbs: 'The memory of the righteous shall be for a blessing, but the name of the wicked shall rot'. I think that King Solomon

meant that we should act to bring about the very opposite of what depraved people try to achieve. That way, their memory 'rots' – it is erased from the world.

Where our attackers seek to tear down, we must build. When they seek to divide us, we must nurture relationships, even in the most unlikely places. When they seek to sow misery, we must rejoice. When they celebrate death, we must embrace and affirm life. That way, they can never win, no matter how many times we are attacked. Love and hope will prevail over hate and despair.

The One Love concert on Sunday 4 June was a shining example of this approach. Ariana Grande's response to ghastly events at Manchester's arena the previous week was outstanding: visiting the injured in hospital and a star-studded major event to celebrate and raise money for the Red Cross. It sends a strong message of care and hope to the victims and love to those left behind. And it builds in the wake of destruction, celebrating what we share and why love and hope will always prevail.



# THE NEXT GENERATION

Our Assistant Rabbi and Rebbetzen reflect on our growing numbers of young children and families, and how to meet their needs – notably with our new nursery

This year, 12 babies born to Dunstan Road families were a part of the baby blessing in July. We celebrated it with a beautiful and simple event in shul. Hadassah introduced the ceremony, called up each family and presented them with a children's siddur, a Tribe teddy bear and a certificate with the child's Hebrew and English names and birthdays. We sang 'Hamalach ha'goel', the blessing that our ancestor Jacob, Yaakov Avinu, gave to his grandsons, Ephraim and Menashe, which has become the de facto Jewish lullaby throughout the generations. We then finished by singing 'Mazal tov u'siman tov' and welcoming the children into the community. Nothing complex, but beautiful nonetheless.

To stand there in front of the Aron Kodesh with all those families, almost all who are regular attendees at the shul, made us feel very lucky. We are so happy to be part of a community that is full of life and bursting with the energy and vibrancy that young children bring with them. For us personally, we have been blessed with adding Nadavya to our growing family this year and our home is definitely more energetic as a result! We love the fact that he and Arielle have large groups of children in the shul to grow up with, and there is great potential for our community to grow and develop as all these children and their families become more deeply involved with every aspect of Golders Green Shul life.

## A NEW NURSERY

There are now 133 primary school aged children in our community. This is up from less than 40 in that age group just ten years ago!



Rabbi Sam and Hadassah Fromson

I'd like to briefly reflect on just a few things that this shift means for us as a community.

First, we need to focus on building an infrastructure to support these families. To this end, we are excited to be opening a new nursery this

a focus on emotional development, which will prepare the children to start school when they leave. I would like to thank the shul board and especially Peter Zinkin for his vision in helping get this project off the

**THERE ARE NOW 133 PRIMARY SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY. THIS IS UP FROM LESS THAN 40 IN THAT AGE GROUP JUST TEN YEARS AGO!**

year. Little Goldies will provide a warm, caring and supportive environment for the very young children in our community. There will be strong kodesh (Jewish studies) and secular education, with

ground – he has worked tirelessly and we are very grateful for his support. We hope that Little Goldies nursery will become an integral part of the community and a real benefit to our members.

**RABBI SAM AND HADASSAH FROMSON, WHO WORK HARD WITH THE COMMUNITY'S YOUNG FAMILIES, WITH THEIR TWO CHILDREN, ARIELLE AND NADAVYA**

Second, we must make sure that the services and events that we run are attractive to children and their parents. We are constantly working to improve the children's Shabbat morning programme and we have an excellent children's events committee, which has planned great events for the year. That said, we are always open to suggestions and insight as to how to do even better. Please don't hesitate to get involved if you think that you have something to add or ideas to address areas where we need to improve!

## USING OUR RESOURCES

Third, the increased number of children mean that we need to think carefully about how our resources

are used. Although there are currently relatively few teenagers, this makes them even more precious – as they are the potential leaders who will help shape the community experience for their younger peers. We need to provide strong leadership training for these teenagers, whilst also ensuring that we allocate time and energy to creating programmes for our growing numbers of pre-teens. As a community, we need to lay the groundwork for a near future in which we will have a larger number of bar and bat mitzvahs on a regular basis, and the need to think about how we can engage and inspire those newly minted Jewish adults to play an active role in the community.

In the bracha of 'Hamalach ha'goel', Yaakov asks for three things for his grandsons: that they be protected from all evil, that they may take the 'name' – i.e. the spiritual inheritance – of their forefathers and that they should multiply in the land. Be'ezrat Hashem, we should be blessed as a community to raise the next generation of children in a protective yet outward facing and forward-thinking environment, to provide them with a strong connection to their heritage, and help them to develop their own tools with which to build the future.

Shana Tova and Chag Sameach.

**RABBI SAM AND HADASSAH FROMSON**

**MY SPOUSE HAS DEMENTIA, WHO WILL HELP ME ORGANISE MY PAPERWORK?**

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# CHIEF RABBI'S ROSH HASHANAH MESSAGE

In his Rosh HaShanah message for 5778, Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis urges us to find unity in the wider Jewish community

As we conclude a year which seems to have been dominated, in no small part, by disunity across the Jewish world, it is increasingly troubling to see some of the vitriol that is now routinely espoused by Jews against one another.

It takes no time at all to find comments on social media about "Chareidi extremist bullies with no grasp of the realities of the modern world" and "heretical leftists who wilfully dilute and undermine the sanctity of Torah at every opportunity." Is this what it has come to?

ויעשו כלם אגודה אחת לעשות רצונך בלבב שלם.

*"And may the people form a single united bond – to perform Your will with a full heart".*

These words, from our Mussaf prayer on Rosh HaShanah, encapsulate our deep and enduring desire for Jewish unity which stretches back, through the annals of history, to the point at which we left Egypt and became a nation for the first time. But, what is the virtue of unity? Don't we have a responsibility to protect what we believe to be right, even if that means division?

There is no question that we do, but what is also certain is that throughout history, disunity has been nothing short of an existential threat to the Jewish people.

The Talmud describes the tense state of conflict in Jerusalem during the years 67-70 CE, throughout which the Romans laid siege around the walls of our capital city. In Jerusalem, there were storehouses which had provisions to last for 21 years. Yet tragically, when civil war broke out

within the city, the storehouses were burned and destroyed. The Romans, who would otherwise have likely lost patience and moved on to fight more pressing battles, were now able to breach the walls and conquer a weakened people.

Chief Rabbi Lord Jakobovits pointed out that 'Sim Shalom', our prayer for peace in the Amidah, includes the words 'Bless us our Father, all of us as one, in the light of Your countenance'. Why, in the context of prayers for peace with our enemies, must we aspire to peace amongst ourselves? Lord Jakobovits explained that if we cannot overcome our differences within, we will never prevail over our enemies without.

The first Chief Rabbi of the Holy Land, Rabbi Kook, would point out that in an orchestra, there are many different instruments which make their own unique sound. Together, under the baton of the conductor, they create beautiful harmony.

May 5778 herald a year in which each one of us can look to parts of our community within which we might ordinarily find very little common ground; those whose instruments possibly make an entirely different sound to ours, but with whom we can offer beautiful harmony to the world.

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



Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis

CHIEF RABBI EPHRAIM MIRVIS

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# SHABBATUK

The Chief Rabbi's ShabbatUK is an initiative that seeks to promote active engagement with Shabbat. Here's just a glimpse of how we celebrated in Golders Green

## CHALLAH MAKE

Well over 100 people of all ages came to the Challah Make in the Harry Littner Hall – the first event of ShabbatUK 2016. There was a fantastic atmosphere as everyone got stuck in. Experienced bakers helped out kneading novices and some excellent plaiting talents were on display! We were inspired by Vicki Belovski's words about the commandment to 'take challah', and had a delicious buffet. Huge thanks go to Dina Kaufman and her team for organising it – especially to Rob Ginsburg for his technical input.



**JUST SOME OF OUR BRILLIANT CHALLAH BAKERS – ADULTS, CHILDREN, WOMEN AND MEN – AND THE FRUITS OF THEIR LABOUR!**

## EXCERPT FROM VICKI BELOVSKI'S DVAR TORAH

When we think of 'challah', we usually think first of what we're making here tonight: plaited loaves to enhance our Shabbos table. But really, as many of you know, it refers to the portion of dough removed from each batch, according to the Biblical mitzvah in Bamidbar (15:17-21). Rebbetzin Tziporah Heller points out that the root of the word 'challah' is 'chol' (meaning ordinary, mundane), as opposed to 'kodesh' (sacred). So when we 'take challah', we are taking a piece of our basic food, the most mundane thing there is, and making it holy.

Rebbetzin Heller also quotes the Shlah (R' Yeshaya Avraham HaLevi Horowitz, c. 1555-1630), who explains that everything that we see in this world has a spiritual parallel. So when we eat physical food, on some level there is a spiritual food that nourishes the soul and keeps it in the body.

The phrase "Man does not live by bread alone" is actually part of a pasuk in Devarim (8:3) – which continues "...but rather, by what comes forth from God's mouth does man live." In other words, whilst the bread we eat keeps our bodies going, it's the word of God that nourishes our soul. Where do we find the word of God? In this case, we find it in the bread, which we have sanctified by taking challah from it.

# 2016

## HAVDALAH IN HARMONY

ShabbatUK ended with a beautiful Havdalah event for young families, organised by Andrea Berlin, Abigail Swerdlow and Susannah Okret. Rabbi Sam Fromson led a sing-along Havdalah service followed by singing, dancing, and lots of themed arts and craft. The children had great fun making candles from beeswax, creating besamim (sweet-smelling spices) from tangerines and cloves, and decorating plastic wine cups for making Havdalah at home in the future. Then everyone enjoyed hot dogs and ice cream!



**OVER 50 CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS ENJOYED A MUSICAL HAVDALAH AND RELATED ARTS AND CRAFTS – THE PERFECT END TO SHABBATUK**



# GOLDERS GREEN EVENTS

The Golders Green Events Committee, chaired by Eveleen Habib, has held several great events over the past year, aiming to provide something for everyone

We have had a busy and varied series of events which we hope have appealed to most of our community. We are very aware of the range of ages and tastes of our members and do hope that you will also approach our committee with ideas for us to consider.

In November we put on an evening about the thousands of Jews who fled Arab countries mainly since 1956, culminating in the final exodus 50 years ago at the time of the Six Day War. A film called *The Forgotten Refugees* was shown, with a short presentation by Lyn Julius, founder of Harif, an organisation to ensure these refugees are remembered, and subsequently members of our community spoke briefly about their experiences. It was a most interesting evening, with a good attendance.

In January we had our own version of *Desert Island Discs* with *Jewish Chronicle* editor Stephen Pollard as the castaway, ably interviewed by Felicia Epstein. I think it is fair to say that most people were very pleasantly surprised by the range of subjects he covered and the fascinating stories connected with every choice

## EVERYONE ENJOYED THE ATMOSPHERE OF A VERY SPECIAL EVENING

he made. The shul was filled with lovely music and it was a very successful evening.

### THE AMBASSADOR

Our committee was very honoured to be involved in the special Yom Yerushalayim event on 28 May, at which His Excellency The Ambassador of Israel, Mark Regev, paid a visit to our shul, spoke for

about 20 minutes on the events leading to the Six Day War and subsequent developments, and then very adeptly answered questions for over half an hour. He dealt with some slightly controversial subjects with tact and humour. Although the Ambassador did not stay for the delicious Israeli-style supper, there were nearly 100 people who did, and everyone enjoyed the atmosphere of

a very special evening.

Our very popular Quiz Supper and Kosher Roadshow will be held as this magazine goes to press. Our events are always publicised by email, through The Drum newsletter and during announcements in shul, so I and the Golders Green Events committee – Jackie Crossley, Robert Schaverien, Terry Sopel, Sue Silver and Jean Sussman – look forward to seeing you at another of our events soon.

EVELEEN HABIB

TOP: HAPPY SUPPER QUIZZERS! BOTTOM RIGHT: (L-R): RABBI BELOVSKI, PETER ZINKIN, HIS EXCELLENCY THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR, JONATHAN DAVIES, EVELEEN HABIB



# GOLD AND GREEN SUPPER

Benny Chain writes about his team's hugely successful fundraising dinner that raised an incredible £45,000 and brought together the Dunstan Road 'family'

Communal dinners, especially of the fundraising variety, can often be dreary events, attended more from duty than for pleasure. Not so the Gold and Green Supper, held in the Harry Littner Hall on the 14 September 2016. Instead, the evening was an intimate, almost family event, bringing together longstanding members with a large complement drawn from more recent arrivals who have rejuvenated the Golders Green membership over the past decade. It captured the diversity, inclusiveness and friendliness which epitomises our community. Above all it was fun to plan, fun to help organise, and fun to attend.

The idea for the event arose when, at a Board of Management meeting the previous year, I suggested that rather than raising subscription fees for Shul membership, I would undertake to raise the £10,000 shortfall which Jonathan Davies had projected would result were we to keep the fees as they were. By the time we actually got round to doing anything, however, the stakes had risen. In particular, it was clear that the changing security threats required a major rethink of the site's security, including erecting a proper perimeter fence, electronic gates and associated security equipment. Even with the promise of substantial funding from the Government (via the CST), the target rapidly grew from £10,000 to nearer £40,000.

### THE PLANNING BEGINS

Undaunted, a dinner committee – made up of Ruth Glatman, Jenny Sandler, Robert Schaverien, Viviane Waidhofer and myself – was quickly assembled. Our meetings, which mostly took place at Ruth's home, were enlivened by a generous supply of whisky and a plentiful supply of



ideas from all the participants. We discovered that a 'Gold and Green Supper' had been a regular feature of the community calendar in its earlier years, so we adapted the name, thus linking our fundraising for the future with the traditions of the past – an archetypal Golders Green strategy.

As always, getting people to actually book their tickets turned out to be the greatest challenge. But, in typical fashion, bookings came in thick and fast in the last couple of weeks, and in the end we had to cap the numbers at 120 as we did not feel the hall could comfortably accommodate any more. When the evening came, the hall looked lovely, largely due to Jenny's artistic flair and a great deal of last-minute very hard work by the whole committee. The guest speaker, Lord Collins of Mapesbury, was interviewed by my wife Julia and spoke about his extraordinary career in the law, culminating in his appointment as one of the first judges to sit on the newly established Supreme Court in

2009. His experiences must surely have provided an inspiration to the many young lawyers and other professionals that our community is fortunate to count as members.

But the speeches were, in the end, almost incidental. What I think made the evening memorable for me was seeing not only so many familiar faces who have helped lead our community for the past many decades, but table after table of new members, many of whom had joined our community in the last ten years. The impression was not of a formal fundraiser, but of a large and noisy family having a good time together. This atmosphere tied in most helpfully with my fundraising pitch, which was that giving money to the shul is not really an act of charity, but more like spending money on an extension of your own home. And not only was the evening fun, we surpassed our financial targets as well. In fact I suppose we have already spent all the money we raised, and it will soon be time for another go!

BENNY CHAIN

RABBI BELOVSKI, MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ENJOY A BEAUTIFUL AND ENTERTAINING EVENING AT THE GOLD AND GREEN SUPPER



# MITZVAH DAY – THE MAGIC CONTINUES!

Liz Manuel reflects on her years as a Mitzvah Day trustee and Golders Green Synagogue's volunteering over that time

Our first Golders Green Mitzvah Day was in 2009. In that first year we collected over £500 worth of food for GIFT, a local Jewish charity, spectacles for VisionAid, toiletries and nappies for the Asylum Seekers in Barnet and warm clothing for World Jewish Relief. Our youth visited a care home in Golders Green and were represented at the AJEX parade. This really set the tone for the following years.

From then on, starting with a small group of dedicated volunteers, our community has grown and so too has our Mitzvah Day. More projects have been added and more volunteers from all sections of our community now take part in Mitzvah Day – a day of social action and volunteering. Nationwide and indeed internationally, Mitzvah Day is a



Shelter and Childs Hill Park, amongst others, and have also supported those in our own community. Last November saw a brunch hosted for senior members, a food and toiletries collection at Sainsburys, cooking for the Barnet Night Shelter, in partnership with Homeless Action in Barnet (a project we are delighted to repeat through the winter) and knitting hats for the Separated



modern society and which unite people who might not otherwise be united. These are the relationships built with charities and partners, the relationship we as Jews have with the outside world and the relationships built with other religions. The Mitzvah Day team work towards building relationships with communities every single day, creating sustainable partnerships that will have an impact all year round. Mitzvah Day supports awards for Top School Project, All-Year Round Award, Best Office Project, Best Interfaith Partnership and, in conjunction with Jewish News, the Community Hero Award.

I was delighted to be a Mitzvah Day Trustee for a number of years and am hugely proud of the way that it has grown to be such a leading social action charity.

LIZ MANUEL

MITZVAH DAY 2017 IS ON 19 NOVEMBER. IF YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED, PLEASE CONTACT THE SHUL OFFICE OR VISIT [MITZVAHDAY.ORG.UK](http://MITZVAHDAY.ORG.UK)

## VOLUNTEERS FROM ALL SECTIONS OF OUR COMMUNITY NOW TAKE PART IN MITZVAH DAY – A DAY OF SOCIAL ACTION AND VOLUNTEERING

highlight of the communal calendar. It is the largest multi-faith day of social action in the UK, donating our most valuable possession: our time. The scale of Mitzvah Day in 2016 was record-breaking in every sense of the word – bigger and better, not just in quantity, but also in quality.

### GOLDERS GREEN'S ACTIVITIES

Here in Golders Green we have developed activities as people want to cook, garden, knit, donate, befriend and more. We have consolidated relationships with Barnet Night

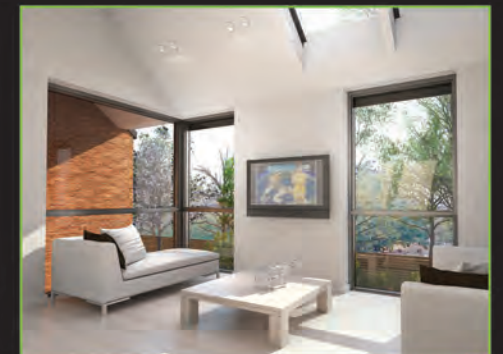
Child Foundation. Most recently, the community responded to a call for goods for those who had lost everything in the fire at Grenfell Tower.

Laura Marks, Mitzvah Day Chair and founder, says that every year people ask her: "What makes this Mitzvah Day different from all other Mitzvah Days?". Her response last year was that while we made many positive changes, it was largely the world around us that has changed. So Mitzvah Day 2016 was focused, more than ever, on building bridges through projects tackling the challenges of

RIMON PUPILS AND SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ENJOY A MITZVAH DAY BRUNCH WITH MAGICIAN, 'THE GREAT BENJINI'

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# RIMON AT FIVE

Rimon Jewish Primary School celebrates its fifth birthday this month. Headteacher Sara Keen looks back on the highlights of the past year

With each passing year, Rimon continues to blossom and mature, and the publication of this article coincides with the fifth anniversary of the school's opening. We are so grateful for the support we receive from across the community and, as we build on our progress, I am delighted to share some of the highlights of this past year.

## SHANGHAI MATHS EXCHANGE

Jane Elliott, our deputy headteacher, has been selected to take part in a prestigious teacher exchange, focusing on mathematics, with a partner school in Shanghai. Miss Elliott will visit Shanghai in September and Rimon will then host two teachers from Shanghai later in the year. She will join a group of 70

further develop our understanding and implementation of mastery approaches to teaching maths at Rimon and in local partner schools that Miss Elliott will be working with during the coming year. This is one part of the Teaching for Mastery Programme, run by the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics, in conjunction with the Maths Hubs programme, and funded by the Department for Education. It is an amazing opportunity for Rimon, and we are looking forward to using the exchange to continue to foster a love of mathematics among our pupils.

## RIMON GOES TO THE POLLS

As the UK voted in a general election on June 8, Rimon pupils in Years 1 to 4 elected class representatives to sit on our prestigious Student Council.

## WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT WE RECEIVE FROM ACROSS THE COMMUNITY AND WE CONTINUE TO BUILD ON OUR PROGRESS

mathematics teachers from schools across the UK as part of the Maths Hubs programme we have been following over the past year. There are 35 Maths Hubs across the country, each led by a school with a record of supporting improvements in maths teaching and learning in neighbouring schools. The purpose of the Shanghai exchange is to

Candidates had to prepare a speech at home, outlining their manifesto and their ideas to help improve the school. Across the school, confident children wearing candidate rosettes stood up in front of their class to deliver their speeches. This was followed by voting in class polling stations, using pre-printed ballot papers, which were filled out in



private and posted into the class ballot box. Class teachers acted as the Presiding Officers, ensuring that the vote was fairly and accurately managed. At the end of the school day, everyone came together in the hall for a special Rimon General Election assembly. Ms Keen acted as Returning Officer and announced the results from a secret envelope. Congratulations to our new Student Council representatives: Yonatan Glick, Freda Josephs, Harry Fels, Eliana Barasi, Isabella Yadid, Michael Bendor, Sofia Cooper and Estee Katz. And finally thank you to Miss Rivka Benouaich, who leads the Student Council, guiding them in their discussions and decisions and showing them how to be true representatives for their class, as well as role models for the rest of the school.

## Rimon Summer Festival



## VISIT TO OLD PALACE PRIMARY SCHOOL

On June 23, Year 4 was invited to visit Old Palace Primary School in Bromley-By-Bow, to watch their Year 6 assembly all about the festival of Eid. Year 4 had already learned about Eid at school and made comparisons between Islam and Judaism, specifically comparing the way Muslims celebrate Eid to the way that Jews celebrate the Chaggim. For example, it is traditional in both Judaism and Islam to give tzedaka ('zakat') at the time of religious festivals, both religions have traditional greetings on festivals and both have a holy book. After the assembly, the Rimon and Old Palace Year 4 children spent time together, exchanging greeting cards and learning about each

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: RIMON PUPILS AT SPORTS DAY IN JULY; AT THE MACCABI FUN RUN IN JUNE; AND IN SCHOOL WITH MS KEEN

other's lives. They had a picnic lunch and played together in the park before the Rimon class returned to school.

## PTA SUMMER FESTIVAL

Rimon passed another milestone on Sunday June 11 with the holding of its first-ever Summer Festival. It was a baking hot day and the whole school and playground were decorated with bunting and packed with amusements, ranging from a bouncy castle and barbecue to arts and crafts, raffle and silent dancing. Special visits were also made by the Metropolitan Police and London Fire Brigade, much to the delight of the children. Our thanks go to Esther Nelkon, Chair of the PTA, and all of her committee for organising such a fantastic event.



## SHUSHAN PURIM GOES GLOBAL

Of course we enjoy celebrating all of the Chaggim at Rimon, but Purim was particularly special this year as we held our very first International Shushan Purim on March 13, with all of the children dressed in international costumes. We started the day with a Tefillah assembly, followed by a visit from Rabbi Sam Fromson and some scrumptious chocolate Hamentashen. Everyone enjoyed a Jewish Care Zumba session led by Zoe from Dancing with Louise and the day ended with an international Fancy Dress Parade. We also held several workshops to celebrate Purim, with Reception making clown Rashanim (noise-makers) and Year 4 creating Purim games and masks.

As a new year begins and we welcome a new group of children to Reception, we continue to plan for the future, particularly as Rimon will reach full capacity in a year's time. The focus of our major 'Rimon at Five' fundraising dinner this month is to bridge a funding gap so that we can continue to offer the full range of academic and enrichment activities that have made the school so successful and popular.

I take this opportunity to wish all of our children, parents, staff and the wider community a happy and healthy new year – Shana Tova.

SARA KEEN



# A WEEKEND IN BERLIN

Eveleen Habib and Ruth Glatman enjoy a trip to Jewish Berlin and get a fascinating overview of the city, its past and its future

We decided to go to Berlin. It was a weekend tour in February, organised by Jewish Heritage Tours covering places of Jewish interest and importance, as well as much more.

We were surprised by how many of our friends and acquaintances reacted to our plans; some were shocked that we would even consider going to Berlin or indeed Germany.

After an unearthly early start, we arrived at the airport to meet the other participants and our leader Marcel Manson, brother of Golders Green Shul member Leon, and took the short flight. At Berlin airport we met Dekel Peretz, our Israeli-born guide, now living in Berlin, who made our trip such a success. From the outset, his level of knowledge and passion about this country in which he now lives gave us a wonderful overview of life in this city. He understands the way today's Germans feel and how visitors such as our group might find it difficult to enjoy being in the country. He gave us information on so many aspects of life and seemed to be able to answer everything we asked.

## CITY TOUR

We started on a general coach trip round the city, stopping briefly to visit some of the sights that we would revisit in more detail later. The Hackesher Marketplace comprises the Brandenburg Gate and Pariser Platz, the State Opera House and the magnificent boulevard and centrepiece of Old Berlin Unter den Linden. We also visited Humboldt University where the books were burned, and the



Ulman Memorial – 'The Empty Library' – under the ground. We walked among 2,711 pillars built close together in undulating waves by Peter Eisenman, representing the 6 million murdered Jews – it is

THE PAST, OF COURSE, WEIGHS HEAVILY WITH MANY OF US, BUT WE CAME AWAY FROM THIS TRIP WITH GREATER KNOWLEDGE OF HOW THIS VIBRANT CITY WORKS TODAY

so difficult to explain the eerie feeling we had as we walked through, as if we were somehow going from darkness into light.

On Friday night the group with varying degrees of observance all



went to Berlin's Central Orthodox synagogue, where we participated in a very lovely choral service, followed by

dinner for the whole community – about 80 people, comprising many locals and various tourists from France, Germany and other countries. We showed our language skills!! On Shabbat morning we

Eveleen Habib and Ruth Glatman



went to the 'Reform' synagogue, renowned for its tradition of choral singing and the music of Lewandowski – a joy especially as we both love music. Our evening was spent at the Deutsche Oper Berlin where we saw Madame Butterfly – a wonderful production, enjoyed both by the opera connoisseur of the two of us and the novice!

## A POIGNANT DAY

Sunday was spent visiting many Jewish buildings and community institutions: the Neue Synagogue, sites in and around Gross Hamburger Strasse, the grave of Moses Mendelssohn and the Hochschule in the Rossenstrasse,

TOUR LEADER MARCEL MANSON, EVELEEN HABIB AND RUTH GLATMAN, AND SOME SIGHTS AND MONUMENTS FROM BERLIN'S PAST AND PRESENT



where an infamous demonstration took place during World War II. The Daniel Liebeskind Jewish Museum deserves an article all for itself – it is magnificent, moving, brilliant and evokes all kinds of feelings. It also needs a full day's visit and we did not have as much time as we would have liked – and were exhausted!

In many ways the last day was perhaps the most poignant. We went to the Grunewald S-Bahn Station for a memorial service at Track 17. Two sculptures memorialise the deportation of 35,000 Berlin Jews who were loaded like cattle onto the trains between 1941 and 1945. One of our group had a family member who was one of these people, and we stood together and joined her in saying Kaddish. The quaint village in which the station is situated belies the horrors that took place.

Then on to the coach and out of the centre to Wannsee, where the famous 'conference' took place – actually a meeting of 90 minutes to decide the fate of Germany's Jews. Again, an idyllic setting for a horrendous event. We passed and stopped for a photo opportunity at

the Glienicke Bridge (of Bridge of Spies, Gary Powers and Sharansky fame), then straight to the airport for our flight home.

## REFLECTIONS

Our feelings and what we gleaned from our excellent guide are that the Germany of today is not the one of the period of Nazism. The country and government have made enormous efforts to recognise what happened and to make amends, and there are numerous very important memorials all over the city – too many to mention. The Germans no longer want to be identified just as the perpetrators of such crimes and want to move on. There are now around 10,800 Jews living in the official Berlin community, including a large number of Russians, and many more are not registered in the community. The past, of course, weighs heavily with many of us, but we came away from this short trip with greater knowledge and understanding of how this vibrant city works today.

EVELEEN HABIB AND RUTH GLATMAN



# US WOMEN

Rebbetzen Ilana Epstein highlights the wide-ranging work of US Women, and pays tribute to its co-chairs, including our very own Jacqui Zinkin

As we say goodbye to the old year and we welcome in the Jewish New Year, it gives us a natural moment of reflection. A moment to look back on the achievements of the previous year and to refocus our attention on the year to come. What have we achieved, and what new enterprise can we engage in that will fire up our imagination and our passion, for ourselves, our communities and the Jewish people in the year to come?

This past year has been a challenging one in Britain. We have faced a referendum, terrorist attacks and disasters – personal, communal and national – often at the cost of human life. As the women of the United Synagogue, we have supported each other and the communities around us.

Following up on last year's successful guide for women on saying Kaddish, this year we published Birkat HaGomel cards containing the often overlooked prayer of thanksgiving said after one has survived an ordeal (such as an international flight, giving birth or an operation). US Women has now helped make the prayer accessible to all.

**AS THE WOMEN OF THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE, WE HAVE SUPPORTED EACH OTHER AND THE COMMUNITIES AROUND US**

Our pride in being associated with two of the Chief Rabbi's programmes to benefit the communities, especially the women of the community, knows no bounds. Shortly the first cohort of Ma'ayanot – the Chief Rabbi's



female scholars – will graduate after an intensive 18-month programme educating them and preparing them to serve our community. The Bnei Mitzvah programme, which will be open to all our children becoming Bar and Bat Mitzvah, is to launch in the near future, providing a meaningful and engaging way for

women gather in Woodford Forest Synagogue to hear Gillian Merron speak of her role within the Board of Deputies and what we can do to support our community on a local level. The US Women Quiz, an old favourite, was also a great success, and the winners from Cockfosters and North Southgate will be hosting the next quiz in November.

Our co-chairs, Jacqui Zinkin and Claire Lemer, lead from the front and have embodied the underlying quality of US Women, the quality of advancing the role of women within the US community through conversation, education and engagement.

We wish you and your community a year filled with blessings, good health and peace.

**REBBETZEN ILANA EPSTEIN  
MEMBER OF THE US  
WOMEN EXECUTIVE**

**US WOMEN  
CO-CHAIR  
JACQUI ZINKIN  
ADDRESSES  
MEMBERS AT  
THE ANNUAL  
DINNER**

# B'TZELEM ELOKIM

An important new US initiative on children with special needs

Simchat Torah is a great time for children and interestingly, at the very start of the Book of Bereshit (Genesis), we learn that humankind was created B'tzelem Elokim, in the image of the Almighty. But how often do we ask ourselves what it means to be created in God's image? Do we recognise that all people are created in this image?

In an important new initiative, a group of United Synagogue (US) rabbis, rebbetzens, Tribe educators and staff from the Office of the Chief Rabbi, under the chairmanship of Rabbi Kanterovitz, is now looking at what the US does for children and young people with a wide range of special needs and their families.

It surely must be a fundamental aspiration for all US communities and programmes to cater for children with special needs and their families to the greatest possible extent, within the framework of halachah (Jewish law), while maintaining the sanctity and dignity of our religious services. Some 15 years ago, a pioneering document written by Rabbi Dr Julian Shindler, entitled 'Becoming Bar/ Bat Mitzvah: The child with special needs', was produced by the Rabbinical Council of the United Synagogue, and Chief Rabbi Mirvis recently produced a special prayer to be read by a Bat Mitzvah girl with Down's syndrome. Tribe goes to enormous lengths to include children with a wide range of abilities in all its programmes, trips, camps and Israel tour, where possible, without limiting the experience of other participants. We are also aware of various local initiatives by rabbis and communities encouraging participation and inclusion of children with special needs, but we



**WE WANT TO PROVIDE A DEEPER AND MORE INCLUSIVE SYNAGOGUE EXPERIENCE FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

want to broaden our capacity across the whole US family.

Our plan is to:

- assess the barriers to success, then develop specific training for rabbis, rebbetzens, children's service leaders and community volunteers
- develop inclusive pilot Shabbat services and work with other service providers

We know that every journey starts with just one step and, through sharing best practice,

focused development of inclusive programmes and widespread support from the whole US family, we want to provide a deeper and more inclusive synagogue experience for children with special needs and their families. After all, we are all created B'tzelem Elokim.

**SIMON GOULDEN  
EDUCATION CONSULTANT  
TO THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE**



**THE US IS NOW  
LOOKING AT  
WHAT IT DOES,  
AND CAN DO,  
FOR CHILDREN  
AND YOUNG  
PEOPLE WITH A  
WIDE RANGE OF  
SPECIAL NEEDS**



# MEMORIES OF MY FATHER

Harry Littner, to whose memory the Golders Green Synagogue hall is dedicated, overcame great adversity to establish a successful life in London. Claude Littner looks back on his father's life

My childhood was serene and uneventful; the same could not possibly be said of my father's early years. Harry Littner was born in Vienna in 1923 into a prosperous family. However from an early age he and his older brother Ken were bullied at school for being Jewish and were persecuted in their daily lives.

My grandfather Theodor and grandmother Anna decided to send the boys to England, and in 1938 they were despatched to Brighton, where they attended Whittingham College. My father did not speak a word of English, but within a year had learned the language and passed his matriculation.

In the summer of 1941, Harry went to join his parents, who had moved to Paris. Within a few weeks of his arrival, he and his father were rounded up as part of a Nazi initiative to remove foreign Jews from France, and interned in the 'Vel D'Hiv'. This was a temporary holding area pending the move to the death camps.

Theodor and Harry somehow managed to escape. Although my

thereby attracted the attention of the soldiers. The 'French farmers' made a speedy exit.

On another occasion they were hiding in a forest and ran for their lives when they heard German soldiers getting close.

Finally, and most remarkably, en route to Portugal, there were lists posted by people desperately looking for other family members. In one such village they miraculously met up with my grandmother Anna, who was also making her escape. Upon reaching Lisbon they obtained identity documents to show that they were Cuban nationals returning home.

## NEW YORK AND LONDON

In 1943, Harry and his parents gained entry into the United States and became US citizens. My father studied at New York University and received a degree in Chemical Engineering. During this period, he met Dianne, a native New Yorker and they were married in England in 1947. Sadly my grandfather Theodor passed away in 1951, when my father was just 28 years old.

My parents settled in London and very quickly made friends and enjoyed

## MY FATHER ENJOYED GOING TO SYNAGOGUE AND REALLY LIKED DAVENING. I LOVED SITTING NEXT TO HIM.

father rarely spoke of this traumatic period, he did reveal three events. The first was the time when he and his father were 'on the run' and were dressed as French farmers in a café, when some German officers came in and started telling jokes. My father, being Austrian, obviously understood and foolishly started laughing and

a wonderful social life. Somehow, the generation that lived through and survived the Holocaust had ambition and a zest for life.

My father joined his brother Ken and a wonderful family friend Henry Zitcer in a carpet wholesale business and the company prospered. Whenever I popped into their offices, I



would find them engrossed in lively discussions about margins, stockholding and new opportunities. They were innovative and keen entrepreneurs. The one point on which there was never an issue, however, was their integrity – both in dealing with customers and their staff. They were paternalistic in their approach and everyone who joined Littner Hampton was 'looked after' and never left. They developed a successful business but importantly it was also a 'lifestyle' business, in that they wanted to prosper, but ultimately their goal was to enjoy life and provide stability for their families.

## SYNAGOGUE MEMORIES

My father enjoyed going to synagogue and really liked davening. I loved sitting next to him: the smell of his tallit, the special way he folded his tallit and his voice when praying and singing. Of course, he enjoyed a good kiddush!

We moved to Gresham Gardens in

LEFT: HARRY WITH HIS PARENTS THEODOR AND ANNA IN NEW YORK, CIRCA 1945. RIGHT: ENJOYING LIFE; AN EVENING WITH CLOSE FRIENDS, RABBI JEREMY LAWRENCE'S GRANDPARENTS!



1957 and my family joined Golders Green Synagogue, where my father attended regularly until his passing in 2005. My father was a wonderful man and a perfect role model. He was worldly wise and modest, had a great sense of humour, coupled with a strong moral compass and insight. I respected and loved him.

It is impossible to talk about my father without immediately thinking of my mother. Dianne was a special woman; a wonderful, loving and caring person. My parents adored each other and had joy in every facet of their lives. My sister Thea Beth (Tina) and I were blessed to have had such extraordinary parents. We saw or spoke to our parents every day. They were totally involved in our daily lives.

My parents' greatest pleasure was to take us, our spouses and their grandchildren on skiing holidays. My father would lead and all nine of us would follow in his tracks with the catchphrase 'Suivez le moniteur'. Of course, we always were together on Yom Tovim and Friday night dinners.

Not a day passes without having my parents in my thoughts. I want to share all my news with them. They would have had such 'naches' from their offspring and the next generations. I sometimes look in the mirror and catch a glimpse of my father in my reflection. In spite of the numerous adversities my father faced, he always told me his glass was never half full, it was overflowing.

CLAUDE LITTNER

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# GOLDERS GREEN CARES

Susan Freiburger, the coordinator of Golders Green Cares, describes the community's incredible goodwill following the tragedy at Grenfell Tower, and reflects on the power of volunteering

I don't think that there was a single person who wasn't moved by the tragic events at Grenfell Tower on the 14 June 2017. After a discussion with Rabbi Belovski and Peter Zinkin about what we could do to help, we decided to set up a collection on Sunday 18 June.

I asked for volunteers to help with the Sunday collection, and then again to help deliver the items the following Thursday. I had an amazing response, both from within the community and beyond, with many people offering to give up their time to help us.

As Rimon Primary School was holding their summer fair on the same day as the collection, we decided to pool our resources and put all the donations into one.

The sheer volume of what the community brought to the collection was simply amazing. From cots and buggies, nappies and baby formula to clothing for both children and adults and even non-perishable food, we were overwhelmed by the generous and thoughtful responses.

## LOCAL CHARITIES

By Monday 19 June, it was apparent that those involved near the site of the terrible Grenfell fire were not in a position to take any more donations – and as we had limited storage we needed to discuss where to take our donations. It was decided that our collection would go to GIFT, a Jewish charity supporting those living in poverty in and

around Golders Green, and to the Barnet Homeless Shelter in Woodside Park. All of the baby toiletries and toys were delivered to GIFT and the rest was sent to the shelter. I'm sure many of you are aware of the wonderful work that both of these charities do, and we were delighted to be able to help them.

On the Thursday after the collection, eight volunteers packed up five big cars with sacks and sacks of donations. It was quite emotional watching the women drive off with their cars loaded with everybody's contributions, and wonderful to be part of a community that pulled together at such a difficult time. So thank you to all those who donated and to our volunteers who came along to help.

## THE PAST YEAR

Outside of the Grenfell tragedy, it has been a very busy year for all our volunteers, who regularly visit and phone members of the community. One of the volunteers said to me recently that they realised how much of a difference these visits and phone calls could make to someone's day, when an elderly relative commented on how lovely it was to receive a visit from a neighbour.

Loneliness amongst the elderly is on the increase, and while our volunteers do a fantastic job, there is still more that we can do to help.

Volunteering can be as rewarding to the volunteer as it is to the recipient. If you have

some time to give, please do contact me. We have a wonderful community of volunteers and we would love you to be part of it.

Shana Tova – wishing you a happy and healthy New Year.

SUSAN FREIBERGER

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# MONTY BRAHAMS

## 1923-2016

Monty Brahams was a regular at Golders Green Synagogue for nearly 50 years, until his death in November 2016. The following is an abridged version of the hesped (eulogy) given by his daughter, Susan, at his funeral

It is no exaggeration to say that the sad death of my father marks the end of an era. Not many can boast having lived 93 years and having seen the world change so much.

Monty Abrahams was born on 3 September 1923 into a poor family in Spitalfields and lived in a painfully small property occupied by four generations. He left school at 14 to contribute to the family's income, and by the age of 18 he was conscripted into the army and sent across the world to serve in India and Japan. He never forgot his arrival in Hiroshima, following the devastation caused by the bomb, and said it was an image that would never leave him.

He worked for many years in retail, including in delicatessen stores, which left him highly critical of any deli that could not cut up a side of salmon with his expert precision. He married Anita in 1955, after a romance that blossomed at a

relationship. Starting in the markets, running stalls in Roman Road and East Lane, Walworth, my dad eventually became Bernard's right-hand man, managing the largest shop, choosing the stock for the stalls and shops and doing many elements of the accounts, until he retired.

## MONTY'S RETIREMENT

His retirement allowed him to devote time to Golders Green Synagogue: he was in the Shul choir, he opened up for services on weekdays and, with my mother, became involved in running the Friendship Club and helping out at care homes in the area. He loved the community, amongst whom he had many friends. He never tired of praising Terry Sopol (or Robin Summers in his absence) for driving him to Shul every Sunday, or Yaron and Meir Malinsky for supplying him with newspapers and cake. He was intensely knowledgeable and devout

HE WAS INTENSELY KNOWLEDGEABLE AND DEVOUT IN A HUMBLE WAY AND VALUED THE MITZVAHS OF BEING CALLED UP OR LEADING SHIVA PRAYERS

shul dance, and they moved into her mother's flat in Shoreditch. I was born in 1958, and we remained in Shoreditch until I was 7. At that point we moved to Chiltern Gardens as he was now employed by a man who lived nearby, with whom he had a long and close working

in a humble way and, over the years, valued enormously the mitzvahs of being called up or leading shiva prayers for a congregant.

Monty was a devoted husband. He adored my mother and, in her later years, nursed her with love and compassion until he reluctantly



MONTY BRAHAMS WITH HIS GRANDSONS, SIMON AND ADAM

agreed for her to go into Otto Schiff Care Home. He visited her daily, feeding her every lunch time and watching over her like the precious jewel that she never ceased to be.

He saw to it that I had the opportunities he didn't have – attending a grammar school and then university, then becoming a teacher and manager who now runs courses for adults, often from disadvantaged backgrounds, who have academic aspirations but limited personal resources to access them. If only such courses were around when he was a boy – who knows where his sharp intellect and cultural curiosity would have taken him? He equally couldn't have been more gratified by the achievements of his grandsons, whose careers as fine-dining chefs he monitored with beaming pride.

Monty's death has left a gap in all our lives, as he made an impact on every generation. We will all be diminished without him, but will never forget the legacy he has left for us.



# A SNAPSHOT OF JEWISH LIFE IN UKRAINE

Vicki Belovski is inspired and humbled by her recent trip to Ukraine

In the spring I visited Ukraine with a party of rabbis to explore World Jewish Relief's work in Krivoy Rog and Zaporozhye. There was a strong Golders Green Synagogue presence as members Richard Verber and Rebecca Singer were also on the trip, in their World Jewish Relief (WJR) roles. Our community has, of course, been twinned with Zaporozhye for over 20 years, spearheaded by Mike Posen, who is in regular contact with their Rabbi and raises vital awareness and funds from our members.

We started in Krivoy Rog, which is built along a seam of iron ore. The pollution from the mining is evident in many places, with a distinct red tinge to the buildings and even the snow. Our translator told us jovially that sometimes the birds and stray dogs also turn slightly red. This, combined with poor standards of health care, means that the average life expectancy is only 60.

Despite this, the people we met were very upbeat, and in the vibrant Jewish Community Centre we encountered a group of elderly people including an extremely spritely lady who was very proud to tell us that she was 91! Later I realised that meant she had survived the Great Famine, the Holocaust and Stalin, so I understood why she was so eager to share her age with us. We were told that the care and support provided to older people by the Jewish community means that Jewish people often live for longer here.

## GAINING SKILLS

We then visited the Livelihood Development Programme (LDP), funded by WJR. It enables people to gain vital workplace skills to help them into employment. Here we met a women's support group, where they were learning sewing and dressmaking, giving them the potential for using these skills to earn money.

Whilst the cost of living in Ukraine



is low, salaries are also low and families often struggle to manage. The mission of the LDP is to empower vulnerable people who are unemployed, giving them the opportunity to earn a living and break the cycle of poverty.

Afterwards, we visited one of the LDP's graduates, Vardan Sukiasyan, who came to Krivoy Rog with his father as refugees to escape the fighting in eastern Ukraine. They arrived as Internally Displaced People (IDP) with few savings and no way to support themselves or their families. Vardan had worked in a metal workshop in Donetsk and, after taking part in the livelihood programme, was keen to start his own business. With the help of WJR, he completed business management courses, purchased equipment with a small grant and now runs a small factory manufacturing metal machine parts. He employs several people, including fellow IDPs. Vardan is extremely grateful to the LDP for assisting him in this way and he participates in their projects, for example showing children around the factory as part of the LDP's career guidance programme.

## ZAPOROZHYYE

In the afternoon we made the three-hour road journey – potholes and all – to Zaporozhye, where we were greeted by the city's Chief

Rabbi, Rabbi Nachum Ehrentreu. Rabbi Ehrentreu is originally from Israel and has lived in Zaporozhye for nearly 20 years with his wife Dina and their children. They have revitalised Jewish life in the city and organised social action projects such as a soup kitchen, a nursery and community centres. Recently Rabbi Ehrentreu opened the dormitories of the Jewish boarding school to refugees from the war in the east of the country. We visited some of them and were both moved and inspired. Here were people who had left their entire life behind and were now living in one room, with only the possessions they could bring with them and little prospect of returning to their homes. Yet they were mostly upbeat and trying to plan a future.

We met more IDPs during the day at the Edison Co-Working Space, which provides training, careers advice, start-up funding and shared workspace. We were introduced to several remarkable people who had relocated to Zaporozhye because of the war and were now running a range of businesses. One was Aleksey, a university student of biology, who supports his family by running a mobile coffee stand, built onto a bike. Aleksey explained that although wages are low, coffee is not considered a luxury and on a good day he can sell 100 cups from his stand. He has ambitious plans to set up a

L-R: VICKI TAKING PART IN PURIM ACTIVITIES AT KRIVROY ROG JCC; SOFIA AND HER SUPPORT WORKER FROM THE HESED; VARDAN IN HIS METAL WORKING FACTORY; RABBI AND DINA EHRENTREU WITH VICKI



I HIGHLY RECOMMEND TAKING THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT UKRAINE AND TO EXPERIENCE IT ON A PERSONAL LEVEL

franchise and run another stand, while continuing his studies.

We also met Inessa Nosenko, the charismatic director of the Max Grant Jewish Community Centre. Visiting the centre was particularly poignant for me as it is named after a close friend of my in-laws. It was very moving to see its huge variety of activities and the wide range of people involved. Inessa's philosophy is that everyone has something to contribute and that every activity in the centre should have Jewish content. Activities included an arts and crafts session where older people, younger volunteers and people with disabilities were decorating tallit cases.

Later we visited people in their homes. My group met Sofia, a woman with chronic lung disease, living in a tiny house heated by a wood-burning stove. Although she had no living relatives, and relied on the support

from the Hesed (the Jewish welfare organisation that supports vulnerable and older people) and the goodwill of her neighbours, Sofia felt she was lucky because she had people who cared about her and looked after her. She told us that there is always someone worse off than you, so you should never despair. We all struggled not to cry – seeing someone in such difficult circumstances being so brave and positive was really remarkable.

Our visit was both thought-provoking and inspiring. There is a GG Synagogue trip to Ukraine in late October and I highly recommend taking the opportunity to visit Ukraine and to experience it on a personal level. **For details, contact Rebecca on [rebecca@worldjewishrelief.org](mailto:rebecca@worldjewishrelief.org) or 020 8736 1250.**

VICKI BELOVSKI

## Where does Chai care?

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Chai Lifeline Cancer Care Registered Charity No. 1078956

**chai cancer care**  
together we can cope



# SHANA TOVA

# U'METUKA



Rosh Hashanah greetings from the members of Golders Green Synagogue

<b>BERKOVIC/FISHBURN</b> New Year? Old Book? Check out <a href="http://www.fishburnbooks.com">www.fishburnbooks.com</a> Until then, Jonathan, Sally, Avigayil, Eli and Yonina wish the community a healthy and peaceful New Year	<b>BERLIN</b> Shana Tova to the Dunstan Road Community! Wishing everyone a healthy, happy and sweet new year ahead. Andrea, Adam, and Alyssa Berlin	<b>CHAIN</b> Wishing you all a very happy New Year from the Chain family	<b>CLARK</b> Shana Tova to all (and well done to Annabel on a lovely editing job). Joel, Rachel, Annie, Jonah and Freddie
<b>COHEN</b> Simon and Sharon, together with Avital, Sara, Itsy, Eli, Yishai and Batsheva wish the whole community a shana tova and all the best for 5778	<b>CROSSLEY</b> Wishing the whole community a healthy, happy and peaceful New Year. From Jackie Crossley	<b>DAVIES</b> Shana Tova from Jonathan Davies	<b>DOCTOR</b> Best wishes to the community for a happy and healthy New Year! Alana, Josh, Harlan and Caleb Doctor
<b>EPSTEIN/LIGHTMAN</b> Wishing all a Shana Tova V'Metuka. Felicia, Daniel, Gavriella and Yishai	<b>FRANKS</b> Wishing all at Golders Green Shul a happy and sweet new year. From Julia, Julian, Ella Isaac, Gabriel and Michael Franks	<b>FREIBERGER</b> With very best wishes for a happy, healthy and successful New Year, Gillian, Malcolm and Jessica Freiburger, and all the family	<b>FREIBERGER</b> Wishing you all a very Happy, Healthy and sweet New Year. Susan and Brian Freiburger and Andrew, Sam and Alex, Anna and Lee
<b>GINSBURG</b> Best wishes for a happy, healthy and sweet New Year from Dina, Rob, Avi, Elisheva and Aaron Ginsburg	<b>GLATMAN</b> The Glatman family wish everyone a very happy new year. In these turbulent times may all nations start learning to live together in peace	<b>GOODMAN</b> Wishing everyone a happy and a healthy new year and well over the fast. Sara, Philip, Avi, Yoram & Shevi	<b>HABIB</b> Wishing all our community a happy and healthy new year. Eveleen Habib

<b>HOCHHAUSER</b> Wishing everyone a Shana Tova. With best wishes from Jo, Daniel, Dina, David and Rachel Hochhauser	<b>KELLY</b> Shanah tovah from Natalie, Johnny, Shevy, Shimon and Michal Kelly	<b>LEWIS</b> Sending good wishes to all the community for a peaceful, healthy and happy New Year. Vivienne and Jeffery Lewis and Family	<b>MANUEL</b> Happy and Sweet New Year to all the community from Liz and Jeremy and all the family
<b>MORLAND</b> Wishing all a shana tova umetuka from Claire, Paul, Sonia, Juliet and Adam Morland	<b>PALMER</b> Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. Susette and Monroe Palmer and family	<b>PAUL</b> May we all enjoy a year of good health, of content in everything we do and with hope undimmed of a world at peace. Rachel and Geoffrey Paul	<b>SANDLER</b> Jenny, Jon, Theo, Amelie and Olivia Sandler wish our Dunstan Road family a sweet and happy New Year!
<b>SCOTT</b> Shana tova. Wishing the community a peaceful and healthy 5778. Lisa, David, Jacob, Ella and Talia	<b>SHAW</b> With best wishes for a Shana Tova to the wonderful Dunstan Road community. From Fabia and Stephen and all of Family Shaw	<b>ULLMANN</b> Wishing Golders Green Synagogue members a happy and healthy New 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> Shana Tova. Wishing all the community a sweet and a very Happy New Year. Norman & Viviane Waidhofer	<b>WITTE</b> We wish you all a very Healthy and Happy New Year, even if you are the one who presses the 'Reply All' button. Rosalind and Alan	<b>WOOLICH</b> Wishing all the community a very happy and healthy year ahead. Anthony, Sara, Rebecca and Helena Woolich	<b>ZINKIN</b> The whole Zinkin family wish all who engage with the Golders Green community a happy and healthy New Year and well over the fast



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MAZEL TOV TO...

- Sheryl and John Baker, on the birth of a daughter
- Yael and Saul Benady, on the birth of a daughter
- Joanna and Alex Dale, on the birth of a son
- Alana and Josh Doctor, on the birth of a son
- Hadassah and Rabbi Sam Fromson, on the birth of a son
- Laura and Sammy Kalmanowicz, on the birth of a son
- Lisa and Benny Menashe, on the birth of a daughter
- Liz and Jeremy Manuel, on the birth of a granddaughter
- Laura and Darryl Phillips, on the birth of a daughter
- Marielle and Adam Quint, on the birth of a son
- Guido Rauch, on the birth of a granddaughter
- Rebecca Schischa and Brachyahu Shonthal, on the birth of a daughter
- Jenny and Roy Tamari, on the birth of a son
- Simone and Ian Torrance, on the birth of a grandson
- Naomi and Richard Verber, on the birth of a daughter
- Norman and Viviane Waidhofer, on the birth of a grandson
- Morris and Gillian Greenberg, on the birth of a great granddaughter
- Henri and Eva Stellman, on the birth of a granddaughter
- Martin and Marilyn Gilbert, on the birth of a granddaughter
- Brian and Myriam Baderman, on the birth of a grandson

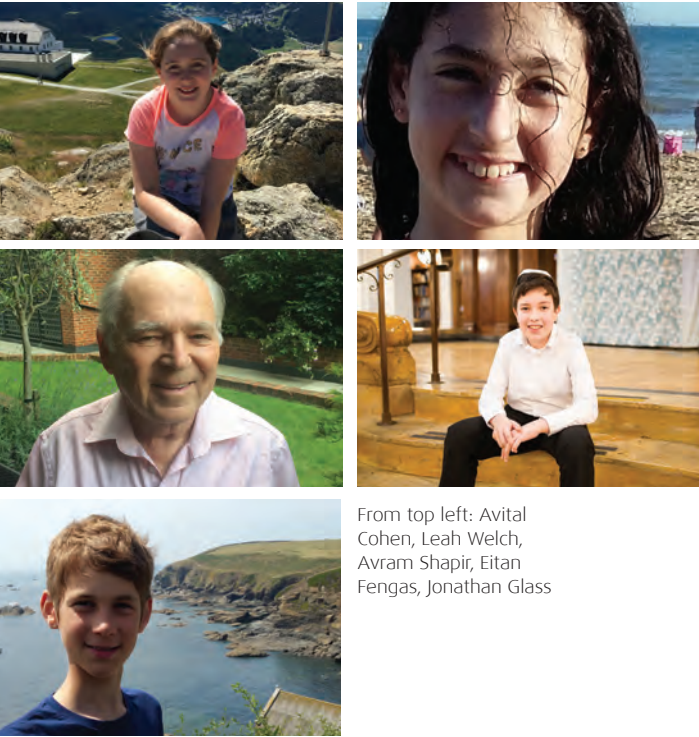
- Julia and Benny Chain, on the marriage of Gabriel and the engagement of Gideon
- Steven and Charlotte Fifer (nee Levy), on their wedding
- Jonathan Gabor, on his engagement to Charlotte Spencer
- Saul and Emily Morris, on the marriage of their son
- Miriam Davis and Daniel Polden, on the engagement of their daughter
- Norman and Viviane Waidhofer, on the marriage of their son
- Diana Wolfin, on the engagement of her son

- Avital Cohen on her Bat Mitzvah
- Leah Welch on her Bat Mitzvah
- Eitan Fengas on his Bar Mitzvah
- Jonathan Glass on his Bar Mitzvah
- Lionel Blumenthal, on his second Bar Mitzvah
- Avram Shapir on his second Bar Mitzvah

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

- Craig and Gina Cowan
- Steven Fifer
- Jessica Freiburger
- Malcolm and Julia Hiller
- Lewis and Doreen Hyman
- Sammy and Laura Kalmanowicz
- Ruth Kloot
- Daniel and Emily Levere
- Sonia Morland
- Lindsay Owliaei
- Montague and Frances Samuels
- Roy and Jenny Tamari

## OUR BNEI MITZVAH



From top left: Avital Cohen, Leah Welch, Avram Shapir, Eitan Fengas, Jonathan Glass

## DEATHS

WE SEND CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY:

- |                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| ▪ Norman Bloom   | ▪ Sir Ralph Kohn     |
| ▪ Monty Brahams  | ▪ Leonard Lawson     |
| ▪ Sidney Cooklin | ▪ Maisie Lesser      |
| ▪ Ubbly Cowan    | ▪ Joachim Oberlander |
| ▪ David Glass    | ▪ Naomi Pearlman     |
| ▪ Mark Gore      | ▪ Anthony Ross       |
| ▪ Rhoda Hauser   | ▪ Julian Seifert     |
| ▪ Mina Jay       | ▪ Stella Shaw        |
| ▪ Jack Kagan     | ▪ Rita Sinclair      |
| ▪ Erna Karton    | ▪ Phyllis Stein      |
| ▪ Harold Karton  | ▪ Arnold Shepherd    |
| ▪ Doreen Kaye    |                      |

WE WISH LONG LIFE TO OUR MEMBERS:

- Myriam Baderman, on the death of her mother
- Felicia Epstein, on the death of her mother
- Dina and Jeremy Kaufman, on the death of their father
- David Lesser, on the death of his mother
- Robert Levy, on the death of his mother
- Sheila Pentel, on the death of her daughter
- Ian Platsky, on the death of his sister
- Alan and Rosalind Witte, on the death of their daughter
- Denise Kienwald, on the death of her mother
- Sam Walden, on the death of his father

# CALENDAR 2017-2018

Please note that all of these dates are subject to change. Always check the shul website ([goldersgreenshul.org.uk](http://goldersgreenshul.org.uk)) and The Drum weekly newsletter for the most up-to-date details on events. GGE (Golders Green Events) dates will be publicised from November.

## SEPTEMBER

- 13th Rimon Gala Dinner
- 21st Youth Rosh Hashana Dinner
- 30th Yom Kippur Lunch for children

## OCTOBER

- 1st Sukkah decoration workshop (YF)
- 8th Sukkot Party at the Belovskis
- 9th Pizza in the Hut for youth aged 12 to 18 (Y)
- 12th Simchat Torah Tea Party
- 12th After-Party @ the Fromson's
- 13th Simchat Torah Flag Parade (YF)
- 22nd Senior's Tea Party
- 27-28th Shabbat UK

## NOVEMBER

- 19th Mitzvah Day
- TBC Shabbaton with Scholar-in-Residence

## DECEMBER

- 9th Chanukah Friday Night Dinner (YF)
- TBC Young US Event (no children!)
- TBC Communal Chanukah Lighting

## JANUARY

- TBC Shabbaton with Scholar-in-Residence

## FEBRUARY

- 25th Purim Carnival (YF)
- 28th Communal Megillah, followed by supper and event
- 28th Children's Purim Play (YF)
- 28th Women's Megillah Reading
- 29th Purim Breakfast
- TBC Young US event (no children!)

## MARCH

- 31st Communal Seder

## APRIL

- 21st Yom Haatzmaut Shabbat Lunch

## MAY

- 5th Lag Baomer Kiddush
- 13th Yom Yerushalayim Breakfast

## JUNE

- 16th Baby Blessing and 'Willy Wonka' Kiddush

## JULY

- TBC Summer Nights BBQ (no children!)

YF = YOUNG FAMILIES Y = YOUTH

## REGULAR EVENTS

- Shabbat morning children's services: Toddlers to Year 1 @ 11:00-11:30; Year 2 to Year 6 @ 10:45-11:45
- Youth Shabbat morning programme: Eat Pray Chat @ 10:45-11:45
- Anim Zemirot Club: Shabbat mornings @ 11:25-11:40
- Table Tennis: Monday nights @ 20:00-21:30 in the shul
- Golders Giggles Baby Music Group: Every other Friday @ 9:30-10:30 at the Fromsons'
- Kaddish Club, monthly group to learn in the memory of loved ones: first Tuesday of each month @ 20:00-20:45
- Women's Rosh Chodesh Learning group – please contact Hadassah if you are interested in joining



# JACKIE CROSSLEY – HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

At the 2017 AGM, Golders Green Synagogue was delighted to officially recognise Jackie Crossley as an Honorary Life Member of the Board of Management and an 'Elder' of the community, in recognition of so many years of service. An 'elder' in name only, we hasten to add!

Jackie grew up in Golders Green and has consistently been integral to the shul – in her younger years, as a mother and now as a grandmother to fifth-generation Dunstan Roaders. Jackie has always been deeply involved in shul life, and her family have continued in her footsteps, taking note of the wonderful example she set of being involved at GGS.

Jackie was an active member of the Ladies' Association for a number of years and, in typical fashion, has been a Board member since women were allowed onto Boards of Management. She similarly became an Honorary Officer of the shul as soon as women could take up that role, and has been a Member of the US Council for many years. In her decades of contributing towards the shul, she has been Acting Chair and was Vice Chair during the



community's centenary year. Involvement in her earlier days at Dunstan Road saw her as an active member of the Golders Green Group (the 3 G's), when Jonathan Sacks was the Rabbi, and many members will remember Shabbatonim at Yakar and dinners with wonderful speakers. Some 30 years later, Jackie has continued her involvement with Golders Green Events, putting on similarly fantastic evenings, as well as continuing her contributions towards security, catering, as well as many other areas of shul life. We are hugely grateful to Jackie for her incredible service, which shows no sign of diminishing.

HER FAMILY HAVE CONTINUED IN HER FOOTSTEPS, TAKING NOTE OF THE WONDERFUL EXAMPLE SHE SET OF BEING INVOLVED IN GGS

## 60 SECONDS WITH SURAJÜ YAKUBU

Suraj has been caretaker at Golders Green Synagogue since 1996 and is well known as the friendly face of the community, always available to lend a hand when needed.



AGE: 55  
PLACE OF BIRTH: Baku, Ghana  
FAMILY: Married to Ziela, also from Ghana, who works as a hairdresser in Burnt Oak. Two children: Amia, aged 17 and Kamilah, aged 9

WHEN DID YOU COME TO THE UK? In 1994. I started at GGS in 1996 and also work at Tesco in Brent Park

HOW DID YOU MEET ZIELA? We met at her sister's wedding and got married in Ghana in 2005

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT GGS? The thing I like most about the synagogue is that the people are like my family

WHAT ARE THE GREATEST DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GHANA AND GOLDERS GREEN? The main differences are the environment, the buildings, the roads and the people

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR FREE TIME? I like watching football on TV

WHICH TEAM DO YOU SUPPORT? Arsenal

## HONORARY OFFICERS 2017–2018

CHAIRMAN	Peter Zinkin
VICE CHAIRS	Adam Berlin, Naomi Verber
WARDENS	Terry Sopel, Simon Cohen
FINANCIAL REPRESENTATIVE	Jonathan Davies
HONORARY LIFE MEMBER	Jackie Crossley



Mazel tov to Ingrid Posen, who has been awarded a British Empire Medal for services to the community in north-west London. She is the Chairman of the Friends of Childs Hill Park, which has transformed the park from a run-down space into a popular amenity and trained disadvantaged people in horticultural skills.

## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

1. Andrea Berlin
2. Benny Chain
3. Joel Clark
4. Eve Freiburger
5. Gillian Freiburger
6. Ruth Glatman
7. Julian Goodkin
8. Sara Goodman
9. Eveleen Habib
10. Alison Kiersz-Brownstone
11. Paul Morland
12. Annabel Ries
13. Benedict Roth
14. Jenny Sandler
15. Robert Schaverien
16. Michael Sher
17. Diana Wolfin

### ADVERTORIAL

## ZAKA – READY FOR WHATEVER TOMORROW BRINGS

For British Friends of ZAKA director, David Rose, working with ZAKA, Israel's primary emergency rescue and recovery volunteer organisation, is so much more than 'just' fundraising. Rose is also a fully-trained ZAKA emergency medical responder who has experienced terror first-hand. One particular terror attack is engraved in his memory, when he had to stop work at ZAKA's Jerusalem headquarters to answer an emergency call at a nearby terror attack. "We worked quietly, blocking out the noise and mayhem of the helicopters, the sirens, the screams and the anger that surrounded us. We wiped away the blood. We collected the human remains. Our mission – to ensure a full Jewish burial for the victims, to deal with the terror aftermath in the most dignified manner possible, to honour the dead and to respect the living." These experiences serve to remind Rose of the importance of ZAKA's work, especially at a time

when terror has spread from Europe into the UK, with attacks in London and Manchester. "Tragically, we have seen in the last few weeks just how vulnerable the UK is to terror. No longer can we think 'it won't happen here.' Even though ZAKA volunteers in their yellow jackets may be best recognised for their work at terror attacks, this is just part of their work. ZAKA has thousands of highly trained volunteers, many of them paramedics, who work alongside the emergency and security services at every incident of 'unnatural' death. This could be anything from accidents on land, sea and in the home to natural disasters and building collapses. ZAKA also works alongside the IDF Home Front Command in times of conflict. ZAKA has a large fleet of motorcycles equipped with first aid and fire-fighting equipment and ATVs for search and rescue operations, as well as specialist canine, divers, jet-ski and rappelling

units – all offering a swift and professional response. "We are often the first to arrive at an incident – but we are always the last to leave. After helping save the lives of the injured, our volunteers then begin the work of clearing the scene from all human remains and spilled blood." "On a global level, ZAKA assists at major natural disasters such as Nepal, Haiti, Japan and Thailand, offering assistance and expertise regardless of religion, race or gender," continues Rose. "ZAKA volunteers offer assistance to everyone in need, guided by the belief that man was made in the divine image – everyone, not only the Jews." British Friends of ZAKA is currently raising money to buy urgently needed emergency medical supplies and search and rescue equipment to ensure that the ZAKA volunteers can carry out their vital work. "Not everyone could do the work of a ZAKA volunteer", acknowledges Rose.

"But everyone can be a partner in their sacred work, by donating money to buy the equipment they so urgently need."

BRITISH FRIENDS OF ZAKA  
233A GOLDERS GREEN ROAD, LONDON NW11 9ES  
020 8458 5391 DONATIONS:  
WWW.ZAKA.ORG.UK;  
LONDON@ZAKA.ORG.UK



ABOVE: ZAKA DIVERS RECEIVE BRIEFING BEFORE ENTERING THE WATER





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