

ISSUE 9 • SEPTEMBER 2018 • ELUL 5778

# THE GGS JOURNAL

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM GOLDERS GREEN SYNAGOGUE



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Little Goldies Nursery completes its first successful year
  - Update on GGS 2023 Strategy from Naomi Verber
- Interview with Dr Hilda Cohen, GGS member since 1999



# CONTENTS

## THE GGS JOURNAL

### GOLDERS GREEN SYNAGOGUE

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## FEATURES



# 08

### ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

Following a survey of members in late 2017, the new GGS executive are driving an exciting five-year strategy



# 18

### LITTLE GOLDIES COMPLETES ITS FIRST YEAR

Nursery manager Alison Mazin looks back on the highlights of the first year of Little Goldies Nursery



# 20

### MEET OUR MAMA

Dr Hilda Cohen was born in Frankfurt in 1928 and moved to Golders Green from Cardiff in 1999. She is interviewed by two of her 16 grandchildren



# 22

### FULL HOUSE AT RIMON

Six years since it first opened, Rimon Jewish Primary School is now at full capacity and continues to go from strength to strength



# 26

### CYCLING ON THE TRACKS

A bike ride from Berlin to London to commemorate the children of the Kindertransport was an exhausting but unforgettable experience

**04 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE FIRST TEN DAYS** Rabbi Dr Harvey Belovski explores the links between advanced technologies and faith

**06 GROWING INTO GOLDERS GREEN** Rabbi Sam and Hadassah Fromson look back on another busy and exciting year at GGS

**10 THE GOLDERS GREEN ERUV** After many years of work, the eruv extension was completed in March 2018, writes Penina Bowman

**14 THE JEWISH ANGLE SERIES** This summer's series of Shabbat afternoon talks, organised by Sally Berkovic and presented by a diverse group of congregants

**16 LEHITRA'OT DANIEL GREENBERG** After 20 years leading Yamim Noraim services at Golders Green Synagogue, Daniel Greenberg has retired from the bimah

**24 SOPHIE'S BAT MITZVAH TRIP** Alison Kiersz recounts the highlights of a four-day trip to Israel to celebrate her daughter's Bat Mitzvah

**38 60 SECONDS WITH...** Golders Green Synagogue administrators Joanna and Sharon, who jointly run the office with calm, diligent efficiency

# WELCOME



## GGS 2023

WE HAVE A FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY TO BECOME A MORE SPIRITUAL, INCLUSIVE, MODERN AND GROWING COMMUNITY

feedback very seriously and have been working closely with members to understand your concerns, ideas and how to implement change.

The survey has given us the backbone of our 2023 vision, a five-year strategy to be a more spiritual, inclusive, modern and growing community, housed in a safe, environmentally friendly and fit-for-purpose building.

We are just at the very beginning of another era of change. The Rabbinic team and Board will work tirelessly to achieve the 2023 vision, but we need all members to support us on this journey. You can play your part: come to Shul regularly, support the weekday services, get behind the chazan and sing loudly, sign up for our security rota, volunteer where help is needed and spread the word about our special community.

Watch out 5779, here comes Golders Green shul!

Shana tova,

**NAOMI VERBER**

**CHAIR, GOLDERS GREEN SYNAGOGUE**

**T**he past year has been an intense one. Both personally and communally, there have been incredible highs, as well as moments of self-reflection.

Becoming a mother for the first time last July, the year has filled me with awe and life-affirming joy. At the same time, I have had to stop, think and make changes in my life, so that I can be the mother, wife and communal member I want to be.

Likewise, the community has had many wonderful highlights over the past 12 months: from the opening of Little Goldies Nursery, to Naomi Rose's Torah dedication, the opening of the Eruv extension, the Mitzvah

Day award, Shmuel Yosef Belovski's Bar Mitzvah, Michali Belovski's engagement and all the weddings, engagements, bat and bar mitzvahs, births and simchas we've celebrated together. At the same time, we have mourned the loss of loved ones and consoled those have been through tough times.

We have also been through a communal period of self-reflection too. Rabbi Belovski took a winter Sabbatical in Israel, expressly to learn, write a book and think about the future of our community. Large numbers of you took part in the Shul survey in December and relayed thoughtful and well-considered feedback on how our community can improve. The Rabbinic team and the Board have taken your

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Cover image: The children of Little Goldies Nursery



# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE FIRST TEN DAYS

RABBI DR HARVEY BELOVSKI EXPLORES THE LINKS BETWEEN ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES AND FAITH

A few months ago, I was intrigued to be invited to a seminar about faith and artificial intelligence (AI). This is the technology that enables machines to simulate human activity and decision making. AI appears in voice- and face-recognition software, chess computers and in the algorithms that operate autonomous vehicles. As it becomes more sophisticated, it may be used to make healthcare decisions, determine eligibility for insurance and even make sentencing decisions on behalf of courts. There has been much media hype about whether AI could lead to mass unemployment, and even develop conscious capacities dimensionally superior to our own, threatening the very future of humanity.

Whatever one's views on the development of AI, it certainly challenges the very nature of what it means to be a human being. If a machine can process ideas and speak as well or better



## SHANA TOVA

Vicki and I, together with Michali and Yoav, Tehilloh, Dovid Chaim, Tomor Chemdoh, Rochel Tif'eres, Shmuel Yosef and Moshe Simcha, wish you a happy, healthy and joyful 5779.

PHOTO BY RIVKI GOULD

than we can, does this force us to reconsider our understanding of personhood? If – and it's a big if – AI were to gain some form of consciousness, would it acquire any of the rights or responsibilities of a human being? For example, should it be allowed to vote; should it pay taxes and might unplugging it be a form of murder?

One of the conversations at the faith and AI seminar centred around allowing an AI to make life-and-death decisions. It was obvious to me that even if machines can make more accurate decisions that are more exhaustive in their research, freer of bias and more consistent than any human being, they should not be allowed to do so. An AI can never feel love, remorse or understand hatred like a person. It can never experience the fear of pain, contemplate oblivion, imagine life without a loved family member or yearn for a better world. Without the commonalities that bind every human being, AI remains just that – artificial – and it is unthinkable that it could make meaningful decisions about human lives.

On Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur, we consider to what extent we've measured up to God's expectations of us in the past year. One way to do that is to consider the shared characteristics that distinguish us from AI. Over time, we lose touch with our inner aspirations, our sensitivities to the pain of others dull and we fail to nurture our relationship with God. The first ten days of the year enable us to reconsider not just what it means to be human, but how to become human once again.

RABBI HARVEY BELOVSKI



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# GROWING INTO GOLDERS GREEN

**RABBI SAM AND HADASSAH FROMSON LOOK BACK ON ANOTHER BUSY AND EXCITING YEAR AT GGS**

Since moving to Golders Green just three years ago a lot has changed in our lives. We are deeply appreciative of the support from the community over this time as our family has grown, we have moved house, Hadassah has completed her professional doctorate in psychology, and Sam has transitioned from life in asset management to the world of tech and start-ups. We have had the opportunity to get to know and work with members of the community from across the range of ages and life stages, and we feel very blessed to be part of such a special group of people.

This year has been a particularly busy one, and one in which the support of the

community has been especially welcome. Rabbi Belovski's sabbatical offered us a special opportunity to experience the full range of communal activities, with an increased responsibility for life-cycle events, education and community programmes. We also launched initiatives such as the Golders Giggles baby group, Rosh Chodesh Moonlight learning events for women and the Women's Karaoke night.

The four months gave us a renewed appreciation for everything that goes on behind the scenes in our diverse community and we were both very grateful to see Rabbi Belovski return, ready for a packed Purim schedule!

**PURIM**  
On Purim evening we trialled a new programme for the first time, with a star cast of Hadassah, Jenny Sandler and Joe Tager putting on a Megillat Esther play for the

**RABBI SAM AND HADASSAH CELEBRATE ARIELLE'S GRADUATION FROM LITTLE GOLDIES NURSERY**



children, followed by a buffet dinner and comedy performance for the adults, and the return of the megilla reading by women for women. During the day we hosted an open-house fairy tale-themed Purim seudah, with over 50 people from the community battling snowstorms to come and join us.

**SHAVUOT**  
A real highlight of the past year was Shavuot, where we were excited to offer a Tikkun Leil 'Lite', a learning programme catering to all ages, from teens to grandparents. Our house was packed and we learnt the second chapter of Mishnah Avot, together with English translation and in-depth commentaries, to allow all to participate in a lively and engaging debate.

Throughout the month of Ellul until the end of the Succot festival we read Psalm 27, starting *L'David Hashem Ori*, during Shacharit. The psalm's penultimate line is "Had I not trusted that I would see the goodness of God ..." (verse 13). This conditional construct is haunting and speculative – the thought is never finished. Perhaps King David is looking back on a series of events and saying "Had I not had faith in God during this time then I don't know what would have happened." The sentence has no conclusion because perhaps the alternative is too terrifying to articulate.

**JOIN THE BELOVSKIS AND FROMSONS FOR THEIR SUKKOT PARTY ON 26TH SEPTEMBER 2018 (SEE PAGE 37)**

We go through the year in a whirlwind of activity, and we need to make time over the Yamim Noraim (Days of Awe) to take stock, to reflect on what was and what might have been. And be'ezrat Hashem, with the help of God, we should all have the emunah (faith) and the strength to go forward into the next year and carry ourselves in a way that brings kedusha (holiness) into the world, and helps us to bring our best selves to life.

Shana tova.

**RABBI SAM AND HADASSAH FROMSON**

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

**CAN I AVOID FALLING INTO DEBT?**

**HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS?**

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# ONWARDS AND UPWARDS FOR GGS 2023

FOLLOWING A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF MEMBERS IN LATE 2017, THE NEW GGS EXECUTIVE LED BY CHAIR NAOMI VERBER IS DRIVING AN EXCITING FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY FOR OUR SPECIAL COMMUNITY

**SURVEY**  
THE GGS SURVEY IN 2017 LED TO 76 DETAILED RESPONSES, WITH CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGE



Our survey of members at the end of 2017 – to which 76 people responded – was the starting point for a comprehensive review of everything we do across the Golders Green Synagogue community and, most importantly, where we might improve.

The response rate was among the highest of the United Synagogue Shuls, showing just how much everyone cares about making this community the best that it can be. Among the areas in which we excel, respondents recognised friendliness, diversity and tolerance as our strengths, as well as our social events, children's services and family programming.

Of the areas highlighted for improvement, the top four were Shabbat services, female inclusion, our building, and provision for youth. The five-year strategy that we have started to put in place since the AGM in May 2018 has focused on all aspects of community provision,

## PHOTOS

Highlights of 2017-18 have included Mitzvah Day, Shabbat UK, the Purim women's megillah reading and the Shavuot cheesecake bake-off

and we have prioritised these four areas in recognition of community feedback.

Our Board of Management has now been split into working groups to look at key areas, and you can expect to see further updates from each of these groups in the months ahead. Through our monthly newsletters and revamped approach to Shul communications, we will be looking to keep all members apprised of how our community is evolving.

Of course, we value everyone's input at this exciting time for GGS. You don't need to be on the Board of Management to get involved – if you have an idea, or would like to join one of the working groups, please be in touch.

A community is the sum of its parts, and we are very excited at the enthusiasm that has been shown for GGS 2023 – a five-year strategic plan to take GGS into a new era.

NAOMI VERBER





# THE BUILDING OF THE GOLDERS GREEN SHUL ERUV

AFTER MANY YEARS OF WORK, THE ERUV EXTENSION WAS COMPLETED IN MARCH 2018, WRITES PENINA BOWMAN

Thirty years ago I spent a Shabbat in Silver Spring, Washington DC and was fascinated to hear of their communal eruv. At that time, eruvim in London were arranged between private individuals and the idea of a communal eruv had not gone public. However, it remained in my mind because it was such a fantastic idea, enabling so much freedom to shulgoers and enhancing community activities on Shabbat.

Fast forward to 2012, when my family and I had returned to London and found a lovely house, nine minutes' walk from Golders Green Synagogue. It was to the west of Hendon Way, where other longstanding Dunstan Road members also lived. However, for reasons lost in the mists of time, the area was not in the North West London Eruv, which ran tantalisingly close along the western side of Hendon Way.

I decided to find out why, as I wanted to try to rectify this for the benefit of my Shul, family and neighbours. The task felt impossible, but I worked out a clear route of good-quality



RABBI HARVEY BELOVSKI AND PENINA BOWMAN

boundaries that would only need eight or nine additional gateways to create a usable eruv, contiguous to the existing North West London Eruv.

During 2012, I became aware that South Hampstead Shul now wanted to build a huge eruv to reach as far as the North West London Eruv, and Brondesbury Shul were looking at bringing an eruv up to the railway line at Cricklewood. I was not going to allow our little area to be left out once again.

## GOLDERS GREEN PROGRESS

In early 2013, I approached Rabbi Belovski with the idea and explained why I thought our shul should be at the centre of a

catchment area covered by an eruv, rather than being perched on the edge of the North West London Eruv. With his usual enthusiasm and curiosity, he kindly agreed to take a walk along the route, map in hand – going to places where no rabbi had been before.

With Rabbi Belovski's endorsement, we involved the London Beth Din, architect Daniel Rosenfelder and Edward Black (Chair of the North West London Eruv) and the halachic, legal and financial planning started in earnest. The planning application was submitted in 2014 and GGS members came out in force to support the application. Planning permission was granted and the tasks of settling the legal documentation and finding a contractor began.

Edward Black worked tirelessly to see the legal documentation finalised with Barnet Council. It was difficult to find a contractor to do the building but we finally found the perfect person in 2017. With his hard work, the installation of the eruv was completed earlier this year and the eruv went live in March 2018.

The unwavering support of the Shul, Rabbi Belovski, the Eruv Committee (Peter Zinkin, Jonathan Davies, Myrna Jacobs and Mike Posen), Edward Black, Daniel Rosenfelder, the London Beth Din, the contractor Nechemya Abenson, the individuals who took time to support the planning application, other fellow eruv builders elsewhere in London and the amazing donors all played an essential part in helping to extend the eruv.

Finally, please can I urge all members to support the North West London Eruv financially if they are able to do so. The small levy in the Shul bill does not fully cover the ongoing costs of repair, maintenance and replacement to keep this magnificent communal installation up and running so we greatly appreciate your extra help – see [www.nwlondoneruv.org](http://www.nwlondoneruv.org)

PENINA BOWMAN

For full details of what an eruv is, how it helps the community and precisely what areas are included in this extension, please see: [www.goldersgreenshul.org.uk/golders-green-eruv-extension/](http://www.goldersgreenshul.org.uk/golders-green-eruv-extension/)

## BLOOD DONATING GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

As many of you know, Golders Green Synagogue runs blood donor sessions three times a year in partnership with the NHS. The Harry Littner Hall, where we usually hold the Kiddush, is transformed into a mini hospital ward and six beds are set up to receive willing donors and their blood. This is a huge mitzvah, and we have recently always hosted a session on Mitzvah Day in November.

Not only do members of the Shul come to donate, but also those from the local community of all faiths and none. In November 2017 we had a strong contingent from the local mosque coming to donate, which was an excellent way of promoting interfaith co-operation and understanding.

Unbeknown to me, our blood donor sessions were nominated for a Mitzvah Day award, under the heading of Interfaith Partnership. I only found out about it at a Board meeting, and certainly expected nothing when I went with Gillian Freiburger, who helps me organise the sessions, to the award ceremony at JW3. To my great surprise, we won!

Gillian and I were both delighted to have this publicly acknowledged but the most important element, and why we do it, is that blood is urgently needed and it is so easy to donate. First-time donors usually need to be aged between 17 and 66. Before you donate, the staff will go through a medical checklist to ensure that you are well enough to donate and there are no external factors that might prevent donation.

We now have a smooth operation set up with a team of willing volunteers to make sure there is food and drink on hand for the NHS staff and donors. We look forward to welcoming new and existing donors, whether from the Shul or the wider community.

DIANA WOLFIN



Forthcoming sessions:  
Sunday 18/11/2018  
Sunday 10/03/2019  
Sunday 07/07/2019  
Sunday 17/11/2019

Book online at [blood.co.uk](http://blood.co.uk) or call 0300 123 23 23

# GOLDERS GREEN EVENTS

THE GOLDERS GREEN EVENTS COMMITTEE OFFERS EVENTS FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Since our last report, we held our sell-out Supper Quiz, which brings out the competitive spirit in all of us. Put 14 October 2018 in your diary for the next quiz!

The KLBD (Kosher London Beth Din) Food and Drink Roadshow last September was another great evening. Sharon Feldman-Vazan, retail food and drink coordinator of the KLBD, had fascinating stories of the miles that she has travelled and the efforts of both the Beth Din and various manufacturers to ensure the granting of a kosher certificate. Sharon even went to the world major food fair in Dubai to display and promote kosher foods. After her talk we had a culinary treat, with the opportunity to sample and take home a wide range of delicious food and drink.

In October we welcomed Elliot Jager, the coordinator of the nationwide events marking the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration. We were delighted that he was able to come to our Shul for the launch of his book, *The Balfour Declaration: Sixty-seven words, 100 years of conflict*. He spoke about events leading up to this historic document and answered the many questions posed by the full audience. Elliot and his wife Lisa were especially happy to

be in Golders Green shul as Lisa had grown up here and her late parents, Zena and David Clayton, were much-loved members of the community.

## YOM HA'ATZMAUT

Our catering and organising skills were called upon for our Yom Ha'atzmaut shabbat lunch and we were doubly lucky that the wonderful Israeli-style kiddush, sponsored by one of our committee, could be held outside in the sunshine. We then came in to have lunch, chat, sing zemirot and hear Rabbi Dvir and Pe'er Baris, the chaplains for Nottingham and East Midlands students, who shared some inspirational stories and experiences of their life in Israel.

On 6 May we held our version of *The Antiques Roadshow*. People brought along a range of objects, including jewellery, vases, books, silver, antiques and pictures, for the experts to study and speak about. Our own expert, antiquarian bookdealer and Judaica expert, Jonathan Fishburn, spoke with enthusiasm about some of the books and documents he selected. Guests were delighted to hear about the provenance and value of their items, and there was even a mention of a possible Fabergé! We enjoyed a light supper, some good wine and another successful social event.

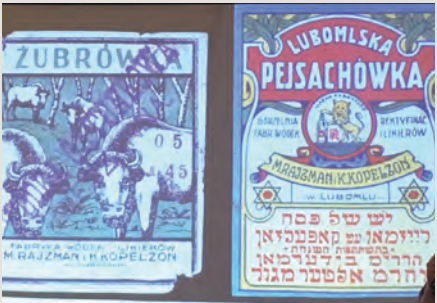


We work hard to put on these events – there is a lot involved, from security and caretaking to catering and promoting – and we thank you for your support. Do let us know if there is something that particularly interests you. Whether it's a film, musical event, panel discussion or talk, we will do our best to organise it for you.

**EVELEEN HABIB, JACKIE CROSSLEY, JEAN SUSSMAN, ROBERT SCHAVERIEN, TERRY SOPEL AND SUE SILVER**

## PHOTOS

**FROM TOP:** TABLES LAID FOR YOM HA'ATZMAUT; DINERS ENJOY ANTIQUES EVENING; AND OUR MOST RECENT EVENT ON THE SECRET HISTORIES OF HERRING AND VODKA



# MOONLIGHT LEARNING

A NEW MONTHLY WOMEN'S ROSH CHODESH LEARNING GROUP RUN BY HADASSAH FROMSON HAS FOSTERED THOUGHTFUL AND MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION, WRITES SUSANNAH OKRET

Almost every month since last Elul, a women's Rosh Chodesh learning group has met to study topics of interest either suggested by members or relevant to the month, or both! It was set up by Hadassah Fromson as a considered response to a demand within the community for a structured yet informal space of this nature. It's for women of all ages (and on at least one occasion it has been attended by a mother, daughter and granddaughter trio) to come together and learn. It has succeeded as just that: a place where we share inter-generational and cross-cultural experiences, and give opinions and expand on the texts provided.

Hadassah's sessions cater to varying levels of knowledge. Subjects have ranged from tapping in to the Shabbat experience (in advance of Shabbat UK) to the female heroism associated with Chanukah, when much animated discussion arose from the story of Channa and her seven sons, and the bravery, resourcefulness and actions of Judith and Yael. Around Rosh Hashanah, we read Channa's story, which developed into a wider discussion about prayer. There certainly is often a female perspective to these sessions, but not

in any forced sense – more in a very natural way.

Despite everyone's busy schedules, there is a steady number of attendees each month. The continuing appeal of these groups indicates an appetite to learn in such an environment, which is testament to Hadassah's teaching and commitment. Her preparation is thoughtful and detailed – with sources prepared, sheets distributed and participation gently encouraged. It feels like an open forum in which everyone can, and is supported to, ask questions, share experiences, learn and take away with them not only what was learnt that evening but a sense of wanting to return to learn more.

The informal, friendly and often jovial environment – accompanied by delicious refreshments – perhaps belies a more serious nature of these groups: the importance that this opportunity offers to women of all ages within the community to learn about and discuss Jewish ideas, with the hope of inspiring them for the month to come.

I hope this endeavor continues to go from strength to strength. It certainly strikes me as a welcome addition to the community calendar.

**SUSANNAH OKRET**

**JOIN HADASSAH MOONLIGHT LEARNING IS HELD ON THE TUESDAY CLOSEST TO ROSH CHODESH AT HADASSAH'S HOME**



# THE JEWISH ANGLE SERIES

THIS SUMMER'S SERIES OF SHABBAT AFTERNOON TALKS, ORGANISED BY SALLY BERKOVIC AND PRESENTED BY A DIVERSE GROUP OF CONGREGANTS, SHONE A LIGHT ON HIDDEN TALENTS OF THE GGS COMMUNITY

## DIANA WOLFIN

The topic I chose for my talk was how my brother and I researched and went to reclaim our property in Poland. My father arrived in the UK after the war and had wanted us to reclaim his property if it ever became possible. After things changed so dramatically in Eastern Europe, my brother and I decided to try and find the property, which included a trip to Poland in 1993 and also finding out about our Polish heritage.

Our father had left us a detailed letter about the property before he passed away in 1978, so we had quite a bit of information. But my present research has raised an interesting conundrum about my grandfather's pharmacy, which might necessitate another visit, and possibly another Shabbat afternoon talk!

## INGRID POSEN

I explored how an unusual friendship played a significant role in the Balfour Declaration. Lord James de Rothschild and Lady Dorothy de Rothschild belonged to the Jewish British aristocracy. They owned the magnificent Waddesdon Manor where they held house parties for royalty, the titled, the Prime Minister and members of the cabinet. In contrast, Chaim and Vera Weizmann grew up in Eastern Europe and had moved to England to escape Russian anti-Semitism. They were so poor that when they first moved to Manchester they had to borrow the fare home from the railway station. Yet their shared dedication to Zionism forged a close friendship. Together they lobbied the British political class, persuading the cabinet of the advantages of a British protectorate in Palestine with space for a Jewish nation within its boundaries.

## RICHARD VERBER

Taking Britain's highest-profile Jewish leader to a refugee camp was one of the most challenging and rewarding things I've done. World Jewish Relief has decades of experience in some of the world's most daunting environments. Yet this trip threw up unique security and logistical challenges. The Chief Rabbi was keen to see how money raised by the community was being spent. He also wanted to visit with a number of United Synagogue Rabbis and one of the Dayanim. Plans were made in total secrecy. Making sure the delegation was safe was our primary responsibility. We had to locate kosher food and suitable places to daven. We also didn't know how the refugees would react to meeting him but it all paid off. Seeing the Chief Rabbi sitting with refugees, listening to their tragic stories was worth the sleepless nights.

## BEN LEVY

I talked about Jews and magic. I started by sharing a list of hundreds of Jewish magicians who have performed across the world, over the past 150 years. It was an incredibly large number of people given the tiny world Jewish population, and that was just a shortlist!

I then spoke about five key Jewish magicians who were born after 1850, and who have largely been forgotten today. The life stories (and indeed deaths) of amazing characters, such as the Great Lafayette and Max Malini, have really influenced me.

After that I demonstrated magic effects popularised by Chan Canasta and David Berglas in the mid 20th century. My talk ended with an open discussion about why Jews seem so attracted to magic, with lots of fascinating theories shared.

## FLEUR RUDA AND JONATHAN WEISSBART

We and three friends presented a selection of liturgical choral music from the late 16th century to the late 19th in four-part harmony, and considered the questions: what were we hearing in the Shuls of Europe at that time and what were our Christian neighbours enjoying next door? We sung Rossi, the Italian Jewish violinist and composer who was a contemporary of Monteverdi in Mantua; Vienna-based Salomon Sulzer, chief cantor and composer in the Seitenstetengasse synagogue and his contemporary Schubert, who wrote matching Hebrew psalm settings; Mozart, and Bruckner. The evening drew out the cross-fertilisation between the cultures, for example, where an ancient Lutheran melody had been adapted for Maoz Tsur in the Jewish liturgy and separately become a Bach chorale; and a tune composed for Yigdal in the Great Synagogue in London in the late 18th century was adapted for a Methodist and then Anglican hymn tune.

# HACHNASAT SEFER TORAH

GOLDERS GREEN SYNAGOGUE HOSTED A UNIQUE EVENT IN JANUARY 2018 AS A SEFER TORAH DONATED BY NAOMI ROSE WAS COMPLETED. MAXINE DEWHURST REFLECTS ON HER PARENTS' CONTRIBUTION TO GGS

In January 2018, Naomi Rose, her children, and nearly all of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren celebrated the dedication of a beautiful Sefer Torah in memory of her husband, Ben Rose, who died in 1991.

Both Ben and Naomi were brought up in Golders Green Synagogue. Ben was born in Hendon, and his parents moved to Golders Green when he was a small child, and Naomi lived in Basing Hill until their marriage in 1948. The young couple continued to attend Dunstan Road, and they became dedicated and caring members of the community.

Naomi and Ben always maintained close relationships with the Rabbonim, and eventually Ben's meticulous and precise personality drew the attention of the wardens and Board of Management. He was persuaded to stand for election to the Board, and eventually to become a warden.

As Financial Representative, he was instrumental in negotiating with the United Synagogue and putting the synagogue finances onto a more secure footing. Ben and Naomi's interests always leaned towards education. They were enthusiastic members of the Cultural and Literary Society and were keen supporters of the Hebrew classes, sending both their children to attend.



When the development of the site was proposed, Ben and Naomi were both keen to see it continue to be used for educational purposes, and Naomi speaks proudly about Rimmon School. Naomi has continuously given service to the ladies' interests, including Succah decorating, community dinners and tea parties, as well as Shemini Atzeret presentations to the Chatanim and Eshet Chayil. Naomi was delighted to be invited to become the first Life President of the Synagogue, attending Board meetings and avidly contributing whenever possible.

The new Sefer Torah, on loan to Dunstan Road and being used on Monday and Thursday mornings (which would have pleased Ben especially, as maintaining attendance at the morning minyan was a cause he embraced), will be a reminder of Ben and Naomi's long association with the Synagogue, and Naomi's ongoing interest in its activities and events.

MAXINE DEWHURST



# LEHITRA'OT DANIEL GREENBERG

AFTER 20 YEARS LEADING YAMIM NORAIM SERVICES AT GOLDERS GREEN SYNAGOGUE, DANIEL GREENBERG HAS RETIRED FROM THE BIMAH. FORMER GABBAI STEPHEN SHAW PAYS TRIBUTE TO HIM

Once upon a time, there was a little boy. He was such a sweet little boy, and yet so sad. For you see, he had not seen his Daddy in many weeks, and he loved his Daddy very much.

The little boy went down to the sea shore, and in his sadness gazed out to the ocean, dreaming of his dear Daddy. The little boy grew sadder and sadder. Then suddenly he began jumping wildly in the air, waving frantically at a ship in the distance. And as he waved, a light from the ship flashed. The boy was elated.

"Why do you jump and wave so?" said the people nearby. "I am waving at the ship," said the little boy.

"Little boy," said the people, "do you think that anyone on that ship, so far away, can see you?"

"Yes" said the little boy.

"And do you think," said the people "that even if they could see you, that the flashing light was intended for you?"

"Yes," said the little boy.

"And do you think that if they even if they could see you, and that even if the light was intended for you, that they really care about you?"

"Yes," said the little boy.

"Little boy," they said, "how can you be so sure?"

"Because the captain of that ship," said the little boy, "is my Daddy."



DANIEL  
GREENBERG

How we thrilled year after year, to hear Daniel tell the poignant tale, just before Ne'ilah, as we prepared to wave frantically to Avinu Malkenu. And who can forget so many other highpoints of his wonderful Yamim Noraim davening? His perfect nusach, his transitions from major to minor, from sotto to magno voce, his intimate and heartfelt "Hineni" before Mussaf? Or the cadences of his Unetaneh Tokef? Or his graphic, terrifyingly shouted "Kra! Gezar Dinainu!"

And the sheer stamina of the man, who every year, would stand all day and cry out his tefilla, our tefilla, leading us and uplifting us, crashing us to our knees and then raising our spirits heavenwards – with the same vigour at "Hashem Hu HaElokim!" as during the morning brachot. Daniel will be an impossible act to follow. This year, after 20 years as Yamim Noraim Baal Tefilla at Dunstan Road, he hangs up his larynx, and a new era begins.

Daniel, members past and present will never forget you. The voice of the Yamim Noraim chazan is not forgotten. How privileged we were to have you all these years. May you enjoy listening now to someone else, and may Dunstan Roaders near and far continue to be inspired by the memory of your prayer.

STEPHEN SHAW



WILL YOU HELP US CARE FOR MORE  
PEOPLE LIKE PAUL, THIS ROSH HASHANAH?

*Paul is living with dementia. He's been alone since he lost his beloved wife five years ago. He started coming to the dementia day centre a year ago. He's made new friends and loves to play games. "The singing's Paul's favourite," explains his niece Susan, "it always makes him smile."*

*It takes £3,000 every day to keep our dementia day centres open for people like Paul. Please continue your support this Rosh Hashanah.*

*To donate please call 020 8922 2600 or visit [jewishcare.org/donate](https://jewishcare.org/donate)*

#PeopleOfJewishCare

**JEWISH CARE**



# LITTLE GOLDIES COMPLETES ITS FIRST YEAR

NURSERY MANAGER ALISON MAZIN LOOKS BACK ON THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIRST YEAR OF LITTLE GOLDIES NURSERY



**A**ugust 2017 was mad busy as we prepared for the opening of Little Goldies Nursery.

The staff come from various local settings in Barnet and have brought all their amazing skills and ideas to make Little Goldies a big success in its first year.

We opened with 24 children and they immediately felt at home in their new environment, which looked as though it had been there for ages. Soon all the lovely Rosh Hashana artwork was up on the walls and the children were learning through art and song. We have learnt about each Chag as it has come along; at Pesach we had a lovely model seder where all the children joined in and we had a great Yom Ha'atzmaut breakfast and party with the parents.

## BUSY YEAR

We are now full with 26 children and the staff have worked so hard to give the children the most amazing year. They really know the children well and we work on their development by watching the children closely to see where their interests are.

The nursery is full of music, dancing and singing. The children enjoy weekly pilates, drama, movement and baking lessons. The staff and children work together creating beautiful displays covering the seven areas of learning, including Kodesh. These displays are changed most weeks to reflect the work within the nursery.

The children are encouraged to bring in a special toy each week for our 'Show and Tell', which allows each child to develop social skills and build confidence when talking to the whole class.

## OUTDOOR PLAY

The outdoor play area has worked much better than we expected and this is an area that we are working to develop. During the warmer weather, we have been taking the children to Childs Hill park – they hold onto our special 'going for a walk' rope as they walk along the pavement, secured to the rope with their yellow fluorescent jackets.

The nursery is already full for the next academic year and we have lots of children on our waiting list for 2019/20. We look forward to showing the nursery to prospective parents.

## PHOTOS

Children at the Little Goldies graduation in July 2018 and nursery events through the year

If there are any members who would like to volunteer for 'story time' or can share a special skill that the children would benefit from, please contact us.

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped to set up Little Goldies, especially to Peter Zinkin, Jonathan Davies and Rabbi Sam Fromson.

## ALISON MAZIN



## ROLL UP

TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR SEPTEMBER 2019, CONTACT THE GGS OFFICE NOW AS PLACES ARE FILLING UP FAST!





# MEET OUR MAMA

DR HILDA COHEN, WHO WILL CELEBRATE HER 90TH BIRTHDAY IN NOVEMBER, WAS BORN IN FRANKFURT IN 1928 AND MOVED TO GOLDERS GREEN FROM CARDIFF IN 1999. SHE IS INTERVIEWED BY TWO OF HER 16 GRANDCHILDREN, ADAM AND AVITAL

## HOW DID YOU COME TO LIVE IN CARDIFF?

In 1939, a family in Cardiff guaranteed for me to come to England on the Kindertransport and, in July 1939, I came to Cardiff to live with that family. However, on September 3rd, when war broke out, any enemy aliens, including 10-year-old children, were not allowed to stay in Cardiff because it was a seaport. So on that day, I was taken to Merthyr Tydfil to live with relatives of the people who had originally guaranteed for me. I was made to feel very welcome and they were very good to me. They encouraged me in school and to study medicine at university. I stayed there until 1951, at which point I was fortunate enough to meet my late husband Itzy, who was from Cardiff. We got married and immediately began our married life in Cardiff, where we lived happily until 1999.

## HOW DID YOU SETTLE INTO LONDON AND WHAT ROLE DID GGS PLAY?

I immediately felt at home because we already had two sons here. One of them was married with children and the other was not yet married. We had a lot of family who received me very warmly and I quickly made friends of my own age and friends of the children, who adopted me as a grandmother. The Shul made it easier to settle because you meet people at Shul and in the Kiddush and you very quickly get to know them and create lasting friendships.



## HOW DOES DUNSTAN ROAD COMPARE WITH THE SHUL IN CARDIFF?

The Shul in Cardiff had flourished as a result of many German Jews coming and joining just before the war. As their children grew up, there was a young, thriving community. We had a Rav and we always had a very good Cheder teacher. For many years, it was a very lively community with a lot going on and a lot of young people. There was even a Jewish kindergarten. However, the children of the community grew up and left to go to university or yeshiva at the age of 18 and hardly any of them came back. By the time I moved in 1999, the community had dwindled in a similar vein to what has occurred in all of the small provincial cities. There is still an Orthodox Shul and a Reform Shul. The Orthodox Shul mostly manages to get a minyan in the mornings and a very small one on Shabbat and Chaggim. They do have a great rabbinical family who seem happy and the Shul is happy with them, but it really is on its last legs.



ONE CANNOT LIVE LIFE SIMPLY FOR ONESELF. THAT'S WHAT MAKES FAMILY, FRIENDS AND THIS COMMUNITY SUCH A WONDERFUL PLACE TO BE.

## PHOTOS

**Above:** Hilda Cohen with some of her great grandchildren in Israel and left, at home in London

## WHAT CAUSES WERE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT IN CARDIFF?

When I was a magistrate, I campaigned for smoking to be banned in the Council chamber. As a Labour Councillor, I fought to change a proposal to give five sweets weekly to non-smoking residents of old people's homes as a way of rewarding them. Smoking was commonplace back then and I felt it was a derisory amount of sweets to offer people to give up smoking. I said it was ridiculous and we are here as representatives of the taxpayers of Cardiff. It is their money and I am sure it is their wish that we should not insult our elders by giving them three quarters of a sweet per day. I also fought for fluoride to be introduced into the water system in Cardiff. The whisky industry wanted to stop it being added as it affects the distillery. However, I was passionate about this cause because it saves a lot of dental problems in young children if you add fluoride to the water.

## WHAT HAS BEEN THE SECRET TO YOUR HEALTHY LIFE?

Keeping going physically and really pushing oneself is so important. I am lucky to be born with good genes and the great grounding I had until I was 10 years old. I have never taken anything for granted. I am always thanking Hashem. My real philosophy is, "Who is rich? One who is happy with their lot" (Pirkei Avot).

## YOU'VE ACHIEVED A LOT IN YOUR LIFE. LOOKING BACK, WHAT ACHIEVEMENTS ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

My three children, 16 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren (plus one on the way). The way they have developed and are developing gives me tremendous pleasure and I take immense pride in the way they are living their lives. I realise how fortunate I am that my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are following in the footsteps of my late husband and me, our parents and all the generations that went before us.

## LOOKING BACK ON YOUR 90 YEARS, WHAT ONE LIFE LESSON WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE GROWING UP TODAY?

The advice I would give, to quote Hillel, is to not do to anyone what you would not want them to do to you. I think that Hillel is correct when he states that this is the essence of Torah. Instead, it is very important to realise there is a lot of happiness to be had in life, particularly happiness that stems from helping needy people in any shape or form. I believe the most important trait is consideration for other people and helping them live their lives to the full. In the process, you will be living your life to the full. In a world where we are all searching for meaning and to know that we are achieving things, one thing I am convinced of is that one cannot live life simply for oneself. That's what makes family, friends and this community such a wonderful place to be.



# FULL HOUSE AT RIMON

SIX YEARS SINCE IT FIRST OPENED IN 2012, RIMON JEWISH PRIMARY SCHOOL IS NOW AT FULL CAPACITY AND CONTINUES TO GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH, WRITES HEADTEACHER SARA KEEN

September 2018 is a special time for Rimon, as we welcome our seventh intake of pupils, and our very first cohort moves up to Year 6. We are delighted to be at full capacity, and have a full and highly talented teaching staff raring to go for another academic year.

It has been, as ever, a busy and exciting year, starting off with our Rimon@5 fundraising dinner last September, which celebrated the many achievements of our first five years and raised more than £75,000 to bridge a funding gap we were facing at that time. We were especially grateful to hold this special dinner in the Harry Littner Hall of Golders Green Synagogue, and to welcome Claude Littner, co-host on *The Apprentice*, as our guest speaker.

Among the many academic and extra-curricular successes we have celebrated over the past

year, one of the most exciting has been the Shanghai Maths Exchange, through which we have greatly enhanced the teaching of mathematics at Rimon. Our deputy headteacher, Jane Elliott, travelled to Shanghai last September and two months later, we welcomed two teachers back from Shanghai. The exchange has given us access to many new and innovative methods for maths mastery, and has had a marked effect on the children's enthusiasm and success in maths.

In the coming months, Rimon is planning to join the new Jewish Community Academy Trust (JCAT), together with Wolfson Hillel Primary School, Sacks Morasha Jewish Primary School and Moriah Jewish Day School. Under the auspices of the Office of the Chief Rabbi, the JCAT will be a Multi Academy Trust, which is a government-approved structure to enable a group of schools to work powerfully together, while retaining their

individual identity. Together with our governing body, I am confident the JCAT will be an excellent structure to support Rimon during the next, exciting phase of its development.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Golders Green Synagogue and the whole community Shana Tova U'Metuka.

**SARA KEEN**

**HEADTEACHER, RIMON JEWISH PRIMARY SCHOOL**



## PHOTOS

**Above:** Rimon pupils at Shavuot, ShabbatUK, Purim and the Year 1 Chaggigat HaSiddur.

**Below:** The Rimon@5 fundraising dinner, September 2017, with guest speaker Claude Littner, interviewed by Adam Quint





# SOPHIE'S BAT MITZVAH TRIP

## ALISON KIERSZ RECOUNTS THE HIGHLIGHTS OF A FOUR-DAY TRIP TO ISRAEL TO CELEBRATE HER DAUGHTER'S BAT MITZVAH

In celebration of Sophie's Bat Mitzvah last December, we took part in a four-day trip to Israel, organised by SEED. There were 26 mums with 27 daughters (including twins!). We were based in Jerusalem, and started with a walking tour of the Old City and a scavenger hunt. Then we went on camel rides and were welcomed by 'Abraham' in his tent, followed by a brilliant drumming evening. The next day we visited the Galita Chocolate Workshop.

Then to the Children's Museum for Dialogue, which was entirely in the dark, enabling us to experience what life is like for those who are blind. Led by our visually impaired guide, we visited seven rooms, ending up in a pitch-black café to buy a drink. I was worried how Sophie would feel by not being able to use her sight, but she said it was the highlight of her week.

### TEL AVIV

Then we left for Tel Aviv to see the shuk and the sea, where we made the bracha on seeing the sea for the first time in more than 30 days. The colour of the sky was breathtaking and the waves were fierce. Then back to Ramat Beit Shemesh for supper and entertainment.

When we'd met the group before the trip, a sunrise visit to the Kotel was suggested. It was amazing to see how the sky changed within minutes. We went in to the tunnels below the Kotel and enjoyed hearing the Cohanim recite their blessings. Stephen, we did miss you!

Afterwards we visited Yad Eliezer, a charity similar to GIFT, where we packed 185 boxes of



SOPHIE  
AND ALISON

food and supplies for families in need. Then we went to Shearim seminary for a mother-and-daughter shiur.

Next stop was a tour of Shalva's special-needs centre, where we saw their impressive facilities and the amazing work they do for children and their parents. That evening we had an emotional supper with a Holocaust survivor and heard about her experiences.

Before we knew it, it was our final day and once again we fitted in so many activities:

- visiting Kever Rachel (the burial place of Rachel).
- having a Kumzitz (sing-along around a bonfire) at Neve Yerushalayim
- hearing a shiur on teenagers from Rebbetzin Heller
- a dance lesson for the girls



### STEPS

DURING FOUR  
FRENETIC DAYS IN  
ISRAEL, ALISON AND  
SOPHIE CLOCKED UP  
18,000 STEPS  
PEER DAY

- a visit to Yvel jewellery design centre, an institution set up by an immigrant couple, primarily for immigrants from Ethiopia. Those joining are taught a profession and given accommodation, an allowance and a qualification that is recognised by the Israeli government. They can continue to work there after their qualification if they wish.

Finally Rebbetzen Ehrentreu gave us all an absolutely beautiful blessing. She explained that if you take the letters 'chet' and 'lamed' from the word 'challah' it spells 'chol' or 'ordinary'. But when you add the letter 'hey', representing Hashem (God), it turns the ordinary into something special for Shabbat – such a simple analogy of something we all use.

This trip was so different from any other visit to Israel. We clocked up 18,000 steps per day, ate at three different families' homes, where the food was delicious and plentiful and we were made to feel like queens and princesses. We have never laughed and cried so much as we did in those four days, and we made new friendships with other mums and daughters who were all going through the same experiences.

As I hoped, this trip and the whole course was perfectly suited to Sophie's character, and I am so pleased we did it together.

ALISON KIERSZ-  
BROWNSTONE

Chai Lifeline Cancer Care Registered Charity No. 1078956

בסד



## How does Chai care?

"Sitting together at Chai's Art Workshop, many of us have discovered something new. Something unexpected. Something rewarding. The camaraderie of our shared experiences, together with the joy of colour and texture, paint and paper, brings light into our lives."

The Chai Art Workshop Group (artist Shoshana Celia)

שנה טובה ומתוקה

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chai cancer care  
together we can cope



# CYCLING ON THE TRACKS OF THE KINDERSTRANSPORT

A 600-MILE BIKE RIDE FROM BERLIN TO LONDON TO COMMEMORATE THE CHILDREN OF THE KINDERTRANSPORT WAS AN EXHAUSTING BUT UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE, WRITES REBECCA IRWIN

**O**n a warm Sunday morning in June, 42 cyclists gathered in central Berlin. We were about to set off on a 600-mile bike ride to commemorate 80 years since the Kindertransport.

The ride was organised by World Jewish Relief, whose predecessor, the Central British Fund (CBF), alongside other faith organisations, was integral in helping to arrange and fund the extraordinary rescue effort, which saved 10,000 children from Nazi Europe between 1938 and 1939.

I had been training for months, which meant long Sundays away from the family, late-night turbo sessions on the bike in the back garden, morning cycles around Regent's Park and an incredibly supportive husband who took childcare worries off my hands. We had anticipated how physically difficult it would be, but we may have underestimated the emotional impact the ride would have.

## CROSSING EUROPE

Our route would trace the journey made by the children on the trains, following the tracks across Germany and into Holland. We would catch the overnight ferry from Hook of Holland to Harwich, before finishing at London Liverpool Street, the final destination for many of the children before they went to their new homes.

Andrea Frankenthal, a fellow GGS member, had stepped in just a few months' earlier to take over the planning and logistics of the ride and did an amazing job of making sure everything ran smoothly. Before we set off from Berlin, representatives from the British and German



THE RIDE  
RAISED MORE THAN  
£170,000 FOR WJR.  
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governments urged us to speak openly about our cause and reminded us that this was a ride for tolerance and we would be carrying the weight of history on our shoulders.

Over the following six days we cycled in sunshine, rain and wind. While the ride was demanding, the terrain was generally flat, apart from one hilly day, and the cycle paths and roads in Germany and Holland were a delight.



## PHOTOS

Rebecca Irwin with 41 other WJR cyclists on the route from Berlin to London

## WEIGHT OF HISTORY

As we continually crossed or caught sight of the train tracks, we were reminded of the children who had left their homes and families and were heading for a foreign land. Crossing from Germany into Holland felt significant as it was at this point that the children might have felt a sense of relief at their escape from Nazi Germany.

Some of the riders had a direct connection to the Kindertransport and we heard how their parents and grandparents had escaped, and about the life they made in the UK. One of the cyclists, Paul Alexander, was just 19 months old when his mother put her only child into the arms of a stranger to be taken to safety on the Kindertransport. Now 80 years

old, he cycled alongside his son and grandson as a celebration of his life.

Every rider was paired with a child from the Kindertransport. As one of only two women cyclists, it was wonderful to commemorate the journey of two extraordinary women

Rosie Rosenberg (née Feingold) was 13 years old when she arrived in December 1938 from Vienna. She came from a large Chassidic family, but never saw her parents again. She was a passionate Zionist and made Aliyah with her husband Johnny in 1981, where they lived for the rest of their lives. She had three sons, 10 grandchildren and many great grandchildren who live in Israel and England and speak lovingly about their grandmother.

Marion Marston (nee Dreyer) was 14 years old when she arrived in March 1939 from Halle, Germany. With blonde hair and blue eyes she was never the target of anti-semitism but she knew her friends weren't as lucky. A family friend in England asked the CBF to find Marion a family and got her a place on the Kindertransport. Marion's father was able to come to the CBF's Kitchener camp in Kent and, by knocking on strangers' doors, Marion found a Quaker family who were able to get a domestic work permit for her mother to come too. Marion married Morris in 1949 and they were together for over 50 years, with two children, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Our arrival at the second of the Kindertransport statues at the Hook of Holland felt momentous because the sculptor Frank Meisler was himself a 'Kind'. As we stopped for a photo it reminded us of the terrible dilemma facing many parents after Kristallnacht. The strength they must have had to put their children on trains and say goodbye, not knowing whether they would ever see them again, is a truly heroic part of the story.

We crossed the North Sea to Harwich just as the children had done, and headed to a euphoric welcome at Liverpool Street, where our families and friends were waiting for us. It was wonderful to see Tom, our three kids and my parents. The medal ceremony felt especially poignant as it took place next to Frank Meisler's third and final Kindertransport statue, which had been commissioned by World Jewish Relief and the AJR.

REBECCA IRWIN





# REMEMBERING MY DAD

ALISON KIERSZ-BROWNSTONE PAYS TRIBUTE TO HER FATHER JOE KIERSZ

**M**y Dad was born in a small town near Lodz. He had a brother and sister and was the middle child. His father, a cattle dealer, died when Dad was two and was buried in Lodz. Dad had a normal Jewish upbringing, although times were very hard and they survived with the help of an uncle who had come to England.

Dad became bar mitzvah in 1939 – but he didn't celebrate like boys here. After synagogue, his grandmother gave him an extra piece of butter cake and lemon tea.

When war broke out, he went through three different concentration camps: Auschwitz, Nordhausen and Bergen Belsen, where he was eventually liberated by the British, including the Jewish Chaplain, the late Reverend Leslie Hardman. It was a privilege to have Reverend Hardman nearby in Hendon and Dad saw him many times. Although it brought back painful memories, to Dad he was a god.

Dad came to London and lived in Cricklewood, close to his uncle. He met my late mum when she was about 13 in Yeovil, Somerset – Dad remembered her pigtails! Mum had been evacuated there with her family and two other Jewish families, one of whom happened to be related to Dad's uncle. When Dad's cousin had a boy, Dad and Mum were each invited to the bris mila. Eleven years later, they married at Cricklewood Synagogue.

Dad worked long hours at Frohwein's, as well as in Pontypridd and Wembley markets. Mum helped him on Sundays at Wembley and, before I was born, went with him to Pontypridd, where she had a separate stall. On one occasion, Dad spoke to the man at the stall opposite Mum's and asked how he thought she was getting on. The man replied that for an English woman she was doing very



JOE KIERSZ WITH HIS GRANDDAUGHTER SOPHIE

JOE KIERSZ  
1 DECEMBER 1926,  
UNIJOW – 18 APRIL  
2018, LONDON

well – always polite, not shy or scared to speak to customers, happy to negotiate and send them off with a smile – “definitely a keeper”!

His love of life, Israel and travelling the world with Mum was truly remarkable. Wherever he went, his humour would bring the house down.

We were fortunate to take Dad to Israel in October 2017 with his carer, and he was at Sophie's bat mitzvah last December – both were remarkable achievements.

Dementia kicked in in 2012, so it almost seemed to me he had died then, though he was physically still with us until he passed away peacefully in April.

ALISON KIERSZ-BROWNSTONE

# PLAY IT AGAIN, AGAIN SAM



SAM (SZMUEL)  
PIVNIK  
1 SEPTEMBER 1926,  
BEDZIN – 30 AUGUST  
2017, LONDON

friend' (his quaint expression), always ready for an audience.

An ex-tailor who turned to dealing in average antiques, Sam used to comb Golders Green's charity shops for hidden booty. To the last, he fusses over money – but even though it's time that's running out, not cash, Sam continues dreaming up impossible projects. These mostly regard Israel, a place he's proud of having fought for and about which he remains fiercely combative.

Sam regrets never marrying, no children to his name. This he attributes to 'poor judgment' but declines to elaborate. He asks often about other people's kids, enjoying the news but doubting this or that one's prospects, [voice rising half an octave] “He can't make a living doing that – how's he gonna make a living?” - worries from Sam's anxious past.

Somewhere there's a clip of Sam dancing with a visitor. Clore Manor's entertainer du jour thumps the keyboard, half-heartedly prodding his audience to cringey sing-alongs. It's hopeless, most doze. And then Sam, blithely shoving his zimmer aside, starts to dance. He's wobbly yet dignified, noble almost, relishing this slow-dance with a young woman. For Sam, always one more last dance.

Let's hope Sam's found peace.

Sam's memoir *Survivor – Auschwitz, The Death March and My Fight for Freedom* was originally published on August 30th, 2012. On its first day of publication in Germany his book immediately became that country's number-one selling biography.

BRIAN BADERMAN

**S**he parks plates of tinned fruit at Sam's table and flings him a smile. His “thank you, sweetheart” is coquettish, but to his tablemates, who've tried speaking to us, he's downright dismissive: “They wanna talk? Let 'em find others to talk to!” Evidently, for Sam, we're not sharable; we're strictly his guests, not theirs.

Sam flirts regularly with the staff. They giggle, enjoying his naughtiness. And he knows he's cute and can still fascinate. Hasn't he enjoyed (his words) Europe's 'finest resorts': Auschwitz II / Birkenau and Auschwitz III/ Fürstengrube.

Years ago at The Ambassador [remember its fragrance?]: a Bournemouth beach, a chilly, unreliable summer, Sam's perching with a 'lady



# THE CHIEF RABBI'S ROSH HASHANAH MESSAGE 5779



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

The Talmud (Berachot 58a) recounts how the renowned sage, Rav Sheshet, once joined throngs of townsfolk as they lined the streets in anticipation of the momentous arrival of the King. A heretic mocked the Rabbi, who was blind, since he would surely not be able to appreciate such an auspicious event. Yet, when the audible excitement of the crowd increased and the heretic believed that the King’s appearance was imminent, Rav Sheshet told him that he was mistaken – the King had not yet arrived. This sequence repeated itself a number of times until, eventually, to the astonishment of all around him, Rav Sheshet announced that the King was about to arrive and, at the precise moment at which he passed, the Rabbi recited the prescribed blessing. The heretic was stunned by what he had witnessed. Rav Sheshet explained, “Earthly royalty is like heavenly royalty. God, who is the King of kings, is not found in the wind, an earthquake or a fire, but ‘in a still small voice’” (1 Kings 19:12). With this in mind, it was from the hushed silence that Rav Sheshet knew that the king had indeed arrived.

I was reminded of this passage a few months ago, when I was privileged to accompany HRH The Duke of Cambridge on his historic visit to Israel. He arrived at the Kotel on a Thursday morning to the sound of dozens of bar mitzvahs and thousands of vocal worshippers. In preparing Prince William,

I had explained that he should expect the entire Kotel plaza to be filled with a loud cacophony of soulful supplication and joyful song. Yet, something quite extraordinary happened. As we reached the Kotel itself, silence fell. Services came to a standstill, as countless people stood in quiet reverence. How would he react to this very special experience? What would he say? The aura of the occasion was palpable – had Rav Sheshet been there, he would have sensed that something special was happening.

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

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

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

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

**CHIEF RABBI EPHRAIM MIRVIS**

# PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE ROSH HASHANAH MESSAGE 5779



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

*U’teshuvah, u’tefillah, u’tzedakah ma’virin et ro’a hagezeira*  
**“But Repentance, Prayer and Charity avert the evil decree.”**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wishing you a Shana Tova,

**MICHAEL GOLDSTEIN**  
**PRESIDENT, UNITED SYNAGOGUE**



# BOARD OF DEPUTIES ROSH HASHANAH MESSAGE 5779



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

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

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

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

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

We also need to reach out beyond our community which is why I have prioritised interfaith work, in particular, creating links with Muslim partners. This

summer, for the first time, the Board of Deputies hosted an interfaith Iftar for senior Muslims and Jews including the Chief Rabbi and I have travelled the country meeting Muslims from Leeds to Luton and points in-between. Jews and Muslims have much in common and my objective is to create relationships which will strengthen us all and fight the prejudice and ignorance which has divided us in the past.

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

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

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

MARIE VAN DER ZYL, PRESIDENT

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# SHANA TOVA U’METUKA

ROSH HASHANAH GREETINGS FROM THE MEMBERS OF GOLDERS GREEN SYNAGOGUE

## BOWMAN

Wishing all our friends and family a Happy and Sweet New Year. Penina and Simon Bowman

## CHAIN

Wishing you all a very happy new year, from the Chain family

## CLARK

Shana tova to all – may it be a happy and sweet new year. Joel, Rachel, Annie, Jonah and Freddie

## COHEN

Simon and Sharon, together with Avital, Sara, Itsy, Eli, Yishai and Batsheva, wish the whole community a shana tova and all the best for 5779

## DAVIES

Shanah Tovah from Jonathan Davies

## FRANKS

Wishing everyone a healthy, happy and peaceful new year. Julia, Julian, Ella, Isaac, Gabriel and Michael Franks

## FREIBERGER

Gillian and Malcolm along with Jessica, Josh, Natasha, Sam, Danielle, Eitan, Daniel and Seth wish the Kehilla continued success and a Happy and Healthy New Year

## FREIBERGER

Wishing you all a Happy, Healthy and Sweet New Year, Susan and Brian Freiburger

## GLATMAN

The Glatman Family wish everyone a Happy New Year. Let us hope this New Year may be the start of Peace in Our Time

## GOODMAN

We hope everyone has lovely chagim, a happy, healthy new year and an easy fast. Sara, Philip, Avi, Yoram and Shevi

## HABIB

Greetings for a happy and healthy new year and an exciting time ahead for our wonderful community. Eveleen

## HOCHHAUSER

Wishing everyone Shana Tova with best wishes from Jo, Daniel, Dina, David and Rachel Hochhauser

## GINSBURG

Wishing the whole community and all of Israel a happy, sweet and peaceful New Year. Shana Tova from Rob, Dina, Avi, Eli and Aaron Ginsburg



## KELLY

Shanah Tovah to all Dunstan Readers from the Kelly clan - Natalie, Johnny, Shevy, Shimon and Michal

## LIGHTMAN

Wishing all a good and fruitful year ahead. Felicia, Daniel, Gavriella and Yishai Epstein/ Lightman

## LEVERE

Shana Tova. Wishing everyone a sweet and happy year full of only good things. Emily, Daniel, Simeon, Jacob and Deborah

## MALINSKY

A day of joy, a time of hope, a year of happiness. Wishing you peace at Rosh Hashanah and always. Meir and Yarona Malinsky

## MORLAND

Wishing shana tova and metuka to everyone at Dunstan Road from Claire, Paul, Sonia, Juliet and Adam Morland

## PALMER

Monroe, Susette and Family wish the Community a Happy and Healthy New Year

## SANDLER

Jenny, Jon, Theo, Millie and Lulu Sandler wish the Golders Green community a happy and sweet New Year

## SCOTT

Shana Tova U’metukah from Lisa, David, Jacob, Ella and Talia Scott

## SHAW

Shana tova to a great community, from Fabia and Stephen and all of family Shaw

## ULLMANN

Wishing everyone Shana Tova and all the very best, Family Ullmann

## VAISBROT

Aura, Gabriel, Keren, Noam, Dan and Eitan wish the community a happy and healthy New Year

## VAUGHAN

Wishing everyone Shana Tova - a sweet and happy new year! Samantha, David, Jemima and Nathaniel Vaughan

## W Aidhofer

Wishing the whole community a very Happy, Healthy and Sweet Year ahead. Norman and Viviane Waidhofer and all our family

## WITTE

Happy new year Golders Green Synagoguers for turning our diamond wedding shabbat from an ordinary day of married bliss to a celebration of appreciation. Alan and Rosalind Witte

## ZINKIN

Peter and Jacqui wish the Golders Green community Shana Tova U’metuka



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MAZEL TOV TO:

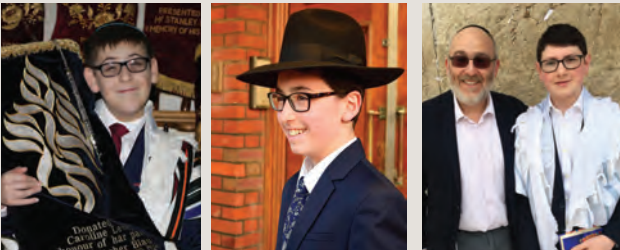
- Myriam and Brian Baderman on the birth of their granddaughter and grandson
- Dena and Fred Barasi on the birth of their son
- Ruti and Ari Bar-Hen on the birth of their son
- Andrea and Adam Berlin on the birth of their twins, a boy and a girl
- Barbara and David Cohen on the birth of their grandson
- Liora and Derek Diamond on the birth of their granddaughter
- Susan and Brian Freiburger on the birth of their grandson
- Judy and Julian Goodkin on the birth of their granddaughter
- Gillian and Morris Greenberg on the birth of their great-granddaughter
- Barbara and Daniel Harris on the birth of their son
- Emily and Daniel Levere on the birth of their daughter
- Caroline and Stephen Levey on the birth of their grandson
- Joyce and Alan Mays on the birth of their grandson
- Lindsay and Ali Owliaei on the birth of their son
- Janet and Jerry Patterson on the birth of their granddaughter
- Victoria and Daniel Rodney-White on the birth of their daughter
- Evelyn Schamroth on the birth of her great-granddaughter
- Abigail and Oliver Swerdlow on the birth of their daughter
- Jess and Bobby Talalay on the birth of their son
- Simone and Ian Torrance on the birth of their grandson
- Jacqui and Peter Zinkin on the birth of their granddaughter
- Hanna Nisse and Freda Zinkin on the birth of their great-granddaughter

- Maya Akerman, on her Bat Mitzvah
- Shmuel Yosef Belovski, on his Bar Mitzvah
- Raphael Bendor, on his Bar Mitzvah
- Sophie Kiersz-Brownstone, on her Bat Mitzvah
- Max Levey, on his Bar Mitzvah
- Lionel Blumenthal, on his second Bar Mitzvah
- Jeffrey Lewis, on his second Bar Mitzvah

- Myriam and Brian Baderman, on the marriage of their son Hillel to Saskia
- Julia and Benny Chain, on the marriage of their son Gideon to Melissa
- Miriam Davis and Daniel Polden, on the wedding of their daughter Ella to James
- Rob Cohen and Orly Lehmann, on their wedding
- Jonathan Gabor and Charlotte Spencer, on their wedding
- Sarah Waimann and David Mackie, on their wedding
- Diana Wolfin, on the marriage of her son Andrew to Emma

- Gideon Cohen and Ramie Smith, on their engagement
- Yoav Greenberg and Michali Belovski, on their engagement
- Guido Rauch and Cate Shamoon, on their engagement
- Benjamin Lagnado-Agami and Annaelle Betanne, on their engagement
- Paul and Claire Morland, on the engagement of their daughter Sonia

- Rabbi Barry Kleinberg, on receiving semicha
- Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, on receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Night of Heroes Awards' ceremony
- Alan and Rosalind Witte, on their 60th wedding anniversary



THREE OF OUR BAR MITZVAH BOYS:  
MAX LEVEY, SHMUEL YOSEF BELOVSKI AND AARON BENDOR

**Mazel Tov** to Charlotte and David Lang on her first Bat Chayil and his second Bar Mitzvah. Charlotte escaped from Austria in 1939 as a child and did not have the opportunity to celebrate then, and so with David they took this opportunity to celebrate both occasions in Barnet Synagogue where their son, Paul, is a warden.



## MAZEL TOV TO THIS YEAR'S CHATANIM

<b>Chatan Torah</b>	David Scott
<b>Chatan Bereishit</b>	Alan Witte
<b>Eishet Chayil</b>	Eveleen Habib
<b>Junior honourees</b>	Shevi Goodman
	Michal Kelly
	Rebecca Woolich

As always, we are delighted to honour six people who have given to our community in different ways, and look forward to celebrating their achievements at the Simchat Torah tea on 1st October. As the community evolves, we have taken the decision to expand the age range for our junior honourees to university level and below, and will look to honour those young people who have made a valuable contribution to GGS in different ways. Between them, Shevi, Michal and Rebecca have ensured the continued success of Bnei Akiva and children's services in recent years and this is a wonderful opportunity to thank them and recognise their contribution.

## DEATHS

We send condolences to the families of the following members who have passed away:

- Robert Ackerholt
- Miriam Benjamin
- Herbert Frank
- Alan Ferster
- Ina Fryer
- Marilyn Gilbert
- Avelina Gilston
- Ursula Hillman
- Josef Kiersz
- Henry Knobil
- Doris Landau
- Sam Melnick
- Joy Paul
- Sam Pivnik
- Henry Prevezer
- Gerald Rose
- Marja Ryba
- Frances Schaffer
- Arnold Shepherd
- Jean Tosh
- Kurt Treitel
- Harold Tuwie

and to the family of Frank Matthews, who was our caretaker for many years.

## WE WISH LONG LIFE TO OUR MEMBERS:

- Dorothy, Jason and Stuart Ackerholt, on the death of their husband and father
- Jack Benjamin, on the death of his wife
- Moshe Cohn, on the death of his brother
- Felicia Epstein, on the death of her mother
- Martin Gilbert, on the death of his wife
- Alison Kiersz-Brownstone, on the death of her father
- Robert Levy, on the death of his father
- Liz Manuel, on the death of her father
- Hanna Nisse, on the death of her brother
- Ian Platsky, on the death of his sister
- Stephen Shaw, on the death of his father
- Sam Walden, on the death of his father

## JOIN US FOR A MEMORABLE YOM TOV SEASON AT GGS

We welcome our new Baalei Tefillah for this Yom Tov Season: Noch Spitzer and Joey Israel. We wish them and Rabbi Zimmels – who has an increased role – every success.

The Belovskis and the Fromsons are delighted to invite you to a Sukkot party on Wednesday 26th September at 41 The Ridgeway, NW11 8QP, between 6.30 and 9pm. Light supper served throughout, Children's activity from 7pm, entertainment for adults from 7.30pm. RSVP not essential but welcome - 020 8458 8824 / rebbetzin@ggshul.org.uk

We are delighted that the Emeritus Chief Rabbi, Lord Sacks, will give a guest sermon on Shemini Atzeret.

Our Simchat Torah tea, in honour of our Chatanim, Eishet Chayil and Junior honourees, will take place on Monday 1st October following Minchah at 5.30pm



# 60 SECONDS WITH... JOANNA LINDEN AND SHARON GLICK

GOLDERS GREEN SYNAGOGUE ADMINISTRATORS JOANNA AND SHARON HAVE KNOWN ONE ANOTHER SINCE THEY WERE 18 AND NOW JOINTLY RUN THE OFFICE WITH CALM, DILIGENT EFFICIENCY



SHARON GLICK  
(LEFT) AND  
JOANNA LINDEN  
IN THE BARBARA  
JACOBS GARDEN

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

- Robert and Orly Cohen
- Claire Crystal
- Juliet De Beck Spitzer
- Lilian Finer
- Sheila Finn
- Claire Goldsmith
- Sarah Gumb
- Alon and Ali Gurfinkel
- Dorothy Holt
- Rowan and Sarah Jacobson
- Charles and Jane Johnson
- Lance Kammer
- Elana Kenton
- Barry and Sharon Kleinberg
- David and Gabriella Mimran
- Daniel and Victoria Rodney
- Esther Rose
- Robert Sanger
- Betty Segal
- Matthew and Sophie Somers
- Bobby and Jess Talalay

## JOANNA

**AGE:** 44  
**HOME:** Wembley  
**FAMILY:** Married to Richard with a daughter, Grace, 3. I met Richard at a pub quiz in 2012 and we married in 2014  
**WHY I LOVE GGS:** Because it's such a warm community  
**INTERESTS:** Cooking, salsa dancing and graphology (the study of handwriting)  
**LAST HOLIDAY:** Gibraltar, to see my family  
**FOOTBALL TEAM:** Arsenal  
**PREVIOUS JOB:** Noam Primary School, where I worked for 12 years

## SHARON

**AGE:** 44  
**HOME:** Edgware  
**FAMILY:** Married to Haydn with a son, Dylan, 6, and a daughter, Kira, 2. Haydn was my neighbour and we married in 2006  
**WHY I LOVE GGS:** Because it's so friendly and everyone is very nice  
**INTERESTS:** Pilates, music, concerts  
**LAST HOLIDAY:** Israel, for a wedding  
**FOOTBALL TEAM:** Arsenal  
**PREVIOUS JOB:** A commercial property company in Soho



## GOLDERS GREEN SYNAGOGUE

### This year, Help Leket Israel Continue its Mission to Rescue Fresh Fruits & Vegetables for Israel's Needy

**Every £180 donated will provide a family of 4 with a year's supply of fresh fruits & Vegetables.**  
(as per government recommendations)

Serving as Israel's National Food Bank and leading food rescue network, Leket Israel actively works to alleviate nutritional insecurity in Israel through its many food rescue and redistribution projects. Healthy excess food that would otherwise be destroyed is collected from 1,000+ Israeli food suppliers and manufacturers and delivered to 200 nonprofit agencies feeding Israel's needy; providing fresh food to 175,000 people weekly.

### Project Leket Gleaning Programme

Project Leket, Leket Israel's gleaning initiative, was established to prevent unnecessary waste of agricultural produce. Through the programme, Leket Israel staff and volunteers enter fields and orchards at the end of the season's harvest to glean fruits and vegetables slated by farmers for destruction.

### Leket to Table Meal Rescue Project

Each week, Leket Israel staff and volunteers rescue tens of thousands of meals from hundreds of food vendors across Israel (ie: IDF bases, hotels, restaurants, catering halls and corporate cafeterias) for delivery to nonprofit organizations feeding the poor.



Leket UK • CP House, Otterspool Way, Watford WD25 8HP • [zara@leket.org](mailto:zara@leket.org) • [www.leket.org](http://www.leket.org)  
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