

Central



Make **Central** my homepage

CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE LONDON

[About Us](#) [Hire Venue](#) [Weddings](#) [Tours](#) [Events](#) [Your Visit](#) [Publications](#) [Services](#) [Get Involved](#) [United Synagogue](#)

Latest blog from the Rabbi



Rabbi Marcus – Ki Tavo
The sidrah Ki Tavo expands on the mitzvah of Bikurim as mentioned in Shmot [Ch. 23V.19]... the first fruits of your land shall you bring to the...

Video

> [Previous blogs from the Rabbi](#)



The Joséphine Murray Chicago Bridge Competition – 7th December

The Joséphine Murray Chicago Bridge Competition!!!! Sunday 7th December, 2014. Dinner 6:30pm and Bridge Competition 7:15pm-10:15pm. Tickets £25. For further information or to book tickets please call...



'Just One Shabbos Shabbaton' – 24th-25th October

'Just One Shabbos Shabbaton' Friday 24th October and Saturday 25th October, 2014. Join us for an amazing experience keeping one Shabbat together. In conjunction with the Chief Rabbi's...



'A Taste of Chanukah with Denise Phillips' – 26th November

Elaine Curtis and friends invite you to 'A Taste of Chanukah with Denise Phillips' Wednesday 26th November, 7:15pm. This cookery demonstration will show you how to create...

CENTRALSYNAGOGUE

Great Portland Street

36 Hallam Street, London W1W 6NW

Tel: 020 7580 1355 • Fax: 020 7636 3831

e-mail: administrator@centralsynagogue.org.uk

website: www.centralsynagogue.org.uk



Rabbi Barry Marcus B.A. (Hons) PGCE

Cantor Steven Leas B.Com B.Acc CA (SA)

Honorary Life President Dr. Sam Peltz

Chairman Barry Townsley CBE

Vice Chairman Melvin Lawson

Wardens Stuart Lewis • Harold Schogger

Financial Representative Stanley Salter

Board of Management

Kenny Arfin • David Baker • Jacqueline Charles • Sara Cohen • Samuel Dwek

Michael Fishberg • Aron Freedman • Harvey Goldsmith • Ian Grant • Margaret Grant

James Hyman • Roz Laren • Richard Midda • Juliet Moss • Carole Murray

Adrienne Phillips • Daphne Schogger • Clarice Shamash

Security Officer Nigel Gee

Security Liaison Officer Maurice Shamash

Welfare Officer Roger Cohen

Ladies Guild Chairman Sara Cohen

Children's Service Raquel Amit • Yoav Amit

US Council Representatives Nicola Burns • Adrienne Phillips • Laurie Phillips • Daphne Schogger

Representatives at the Board of Deputies Michael Fishberg • Maurice Shamash

Administrator Craig Levison

Personal Assistant/Community Development Officer Raquel Amit

Maternity Cover Abi Rose

Building Management Team

Douglas O'Halloran • Louise McGinty • Jayson Pillay • Sylvia Rupiewicz

Office Hours: Monday–Thursday 09:00–16:00, Friday & Sunday 09:00–12:00

Central Magazine

CONTENTS

From the Rabbi	4
Editor's message	4
From the Box	5
Chief Rabbi's Rosh Hashanah Message	7
Rabbi Marcus	8
Steven Leas	10
Purim: The Festival of Lots	12
Your Place at Ze'ev's Place	14
Involvement with Ben-Gurion University	15
The Children's Page	16
Central Through the Year	18
Limmud 2013	20
Challah Baking Workshop!	21
Bringing History to Life	22
Music of the Jewish Diaspora Concert	23
Our New Elder Nicola Burns	24
The Jewish Experience of The First World War	25
Central Goes Viral	26
Turning up the Heat	27
Dates for your Diary 2014 – 2015	28
Happy 100th Birthday	28
Ladies Guild	29
Bridge Tips	30
US Message	31
President's Rosh Hashanah Message 5775 – A Tale of Two Elections	32
New Year's Greetings/Morning Minyan	33
Social & Personal	34

Central Magazine Designed and printed by:

Brightside Print & Design Ltd. 020 7613 7070 • www.brightsideonline.com

Copyright © Central Synagogue 2014. All rights reserved. No part of this magazine may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior consent of the copyright owner.



FROM **the Rabbi** Barry Marcus

Dear Congregants,

At the time of going to print, Israel is again faced with a grave threat to its citizens by the terrorist group Hamas who this time, as opposed to a few years ago, are infinitely better equipped, having spent countless millions to procure a formidable arsenal and to build a labyrinth of tunnels from where thousands of rockets have been launched into Israel and from where murderous attacks were planned.

The expeditious shift from anti-Israel sentiment into anti-semitic incidents and outbursts that we have witnessed these past few weeks is of serious concern. The conflict in Gaza has sparked an increase in anti-semitic incidents on the continent, especially in France but also here. It has also unleashed a barrage of verbal anti-semitic violence on social media and elsewhere.

Over the High Holiday period our thoughts, hopes and prayers are for the safety and security of Israel and all its citizens and to an end to the ongoing violence in so many of its neighbouring countries.

Locally it is again most heart warming to witness the increased activities and membership of our community, details of which can be found in this magazine edition.

We look forward to welcoming you all on Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Succot, as it affords us an opportunity to come together and strengthen each other and renew our communal ties and those with Israel.

Warmest wishes for a Shana Tova.

Rabbi Barry Marcus



EDITORS' MESSAGE **Daphne Schogger and Raquel Amit**

Welcome to the 5775 issue of Central – the magazine for all our members and friends.

With a new year comes a new direction!

We have a new Chairman and 2 Editors for the price of 1!

Our thanks go to all the contributors to the magazine this year, some of whom have been cajoled and persuaded to submit articles! Others have done so voluntarily and it is good to see some articles by many who would not normally write for us.

It has not been an easy year for the Jewish community. As our Rabbi has so succinctly stated above, the fighting in Israel is, at the time of going to press, still ongoing.

We remember those who fell and their families and pray for the quick recovery of those who were injured.

Even before this war anti-semitic attacks were increasing.

With an election in the UK next year, we all need to stand up and be counted.

It is incumbent on all of us to be vigilant and to continue our support of Israel. It is certainly needed.

We wish you a happy and healthy New Year.



At the Annual General Meeting of the Synagogue in May of this year, Nicky Burns opened the meeting as Chairman.

Nicky informed the Meeting that she would not be standing again, and that Barry Townsley had been elected unopposed as Chairman.

We thank Nicky for her innovative role as the first Lady Chair of Central and for the hard work she has put in to ensure the smooth running of the Synagogue, not just as Chairman but in the many roles she has had for many years. To show the Synagogue's appreciation, she was nominated as the first Lady Elder of the Synagogue, a role which she has graciously accepted.

The Honorary Officers are delighted to report that Melvin Lawson, Harold Schogger and Stuart Lewis are continuing as Vice Chair and Wardens of the Synagogue respectively and that Stanley Salter remains as Financial Representative for the year to May 2015.

Barry Townsley is an important addition to the Honary Officers, given his business acumen and background. He is quietly working behind the scenes and has already chaired a Board of Management meeting with diplomacy and tact. He is familiar to all our members having attended Central for so many years. Stuart Lewis is serving his third year as Warden: his knowledge and experience are of great benefit in the running of the Shul. Harold Schogger is now serving his second year as a Warden and with his warm and friendly smile and detailed knowledge of the service, he is a great asset. Stanley Salter continues to keep the Synagogue's finances in very good order. Melvin Lawson continues as Vice Chairman. Together, they are an experienced and dedicated team, united in their commitment to work together to ensure the secure future of the Central Synagogue as well as the welfare of all the members. The Honorary Officers also confirm their complete support for Rabbi Barry Marcus, Chazan Steven Leas, their families and everyone else employed by or associated with the Synagogue.

Rabbi Barry Marcus continues to take the pivotal role at Central Synagogue; he leads the community in prayer throughout the year; at the very well attended Morning Minyanim, leining and delivering sermons on Shabbat mornings, and inspiring the congregation to seek a deeper meaning to life on the solemn and joyous Religious Festivals throughout the Jewish calendar. Because of his tireless work in relation to both inter-faith relations as well as Holocaust education, Rabbi Marcus is highly respected, not only within the British Jewish Community, but also among a much wider cross section of the British public and in particular with the Polish Embassy with whom he has a special relationship. He was instrumental in arranging for the Ambassador to speak after Kiddush one Shabbat morning and also in involving diplomats from the Embassy in the various functions that have been arranged by Central.

Rabbi Marcus continues to lead visits to Auschwitz and is recognised as being the lead participant in educating people on this subject: not just young people from many schools in this country but also leading politicians in our country. If you have not yet participated in one of his trips, we urge you to do so. Rabbi Marcus quietly participates on a 'one to one' basis with many individual families in our community when they celebrate happy occasions, when families have problems, and when families experience sad events. Rabbi Marcus not only welcomes visitors to the Synagogue, whether it be from other parts of London or from anywhere around the world, but he also constantly encourages every member of the congregation to look around and greet visitors and make them welcome, so that Central Synagogue can be their 'home away from home'.

Chazan Steven Leas inspires the Central Community with his beautiful voice which is matched by his sincere care for the whole congregation, for his wife Ruth, their son Jonathan and their daughters Rafaella and Danielle. On the High Holy Days, Steven's Chazanut expresses the community's hopes for a long and full life blessed with good health and happiness. At the forthcoming New Year Services, Steven will be accompanied again by the excellent Central Synagogue Choir that he has assembled. Steven and the Choir sing a combination of traditional as well as contemporary intonations of prayers at Shabbat services during the year. At Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Steven sings musical compositions that evoke memories of years gone by.

In the past year, Steven's role has expanded in that he is now arranging many successful communal events and activities including lectures, concerts and films.

Steven has outlined the events that he has arranged elsewhere in this Magazine.

Sara Cohen was once again voted in as the Chair of the Ladies Guild at the AGM in May, after a temporary break from office, and she succeeded Adrienne Phillips. We thank Adrienne for all her extremely hard work for the Ladies Guild over the past year. The Ladies Guild is well known for their kiddushim and many visitors comment favourably. We also thank Sara Cohen for the special Kiddushim she organised during Passover. The Ladies continue to plan for a number of important events and special occasions each year and their annual quiz supper is well renowned for its great atmosphere and food.

We thank the Board of Management and Synagogue Elders for their work and efforts for the Synagogue. At the meetings held though the year they give sound advice and each one of them helps in the running of the Synagogue. Phillip Collett, Guy Ornel, Lois Peltz, Terry Samek and Grazyna Solland left the Board of Management at the Annual General Meeting and we thank them all for being such a help to the Synagogue and know that they will continue to serve the Synagogue in many ways. We welcome the following new members onto the Board of Management: Jacqueline Charles, Aron Freedman, Harvey Goldsmith, Margaret Grant and Carole Murray. They are warmly welcomed and we know that they will play important roles at Central in the future.

On the first day of Rosh Hashanah in September 2013, His Excellency the Israeli Ambassador, Daniel Taub, together with his wife and family, came to Central to participate in the Services and this was an honour for the Synagogue especially as the Ambassador and his family had joined us the previous year. After the Service, Steven and Debra Tucker again hosted a Rosh Hashanah Kiddush and we thank them so much for their generosity.

The Chatanim for the Simchat Torah celebrations were Nigel Gee and Ian Balcombe. The celebration, catered by the Ladies Guild, included food from many countries and was absolutely wonderful.

Our website has continued to prosper and grow and we thank Michael Fishberg for his invaluable input. The "hits" are increasing and many non-members visit not just from within the UK but from overseas.

Many parties of school-children again visited the Synagogue in the past year from many different religious backgrounds. Our thanks must go to Steven Leas, Abigail Rose and Raquel Amit who made sure that their visits were filled with an understanding of Jewish Religion and traditions.

David Baker retired as Head of Security during the past year and our thanks go to him for his sterling work. He has been replaced by Nigel Gee. He is ably assisted by our exceptional security officers Jayson and Steve and of course, Maurice Shamash. We also thank the Community Security Trust which helps to secure the building throughout the year and for their positive suggestions to enhance our security.

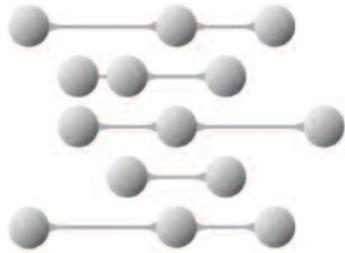
Roger Cohen continues as our Welfare Officer and his quiet work behind the scenes is much appreciated by all those with whom he comes into contact. His culinary expertise is also much appreciated by those who attend the weekly Shiur.

We thank Craig Levison, our highly experienced and informative Administrator; Raquel Amit, our very efficient Community Development Officer and Abigail Rose who is replacing Raquel whilst Raquel is on maternity leave. We also thank Douglas, our wonderful caretaker who continues to help the Synagogue in many ways as well as most considerately helping to keep the Synagogue secure.

Kol Nidre – The proceeds of the Appeal this year will once again be allocated primarily to the needs of our own growing community. In the last year, the roof and gutters have been repaired, the outside walls cleaned, the Ladies Gallery was re-carpeted. With a building as old as ours, there is always work to be done to ensure that it meets all Health & Safety Regulations which are constantly being updated.

We look forward to seeing you and greeting you in person when you visit Central Synagogue in the year ahead.

We wish all our members a 'Happy and Healthy 5775 and well over the Fast'.

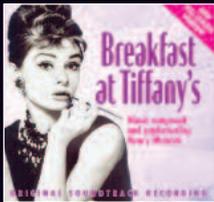


citroen wells
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

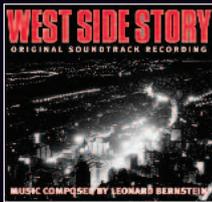
Citroen Wells Devonshire House 1 Devonshire Street London W1W 5DR
T +44 (0) 20 7304 2000 F +44 (0) 20 7304 2020 E cw@citroenwells.co.uk W www.citroenwells.co.uk



Your Favourite Soundtracks are on Harkit Records!



HRKCD 8360 Breakfast at Tiffany's – Special 50th Anniversary Edition



HRKCD 8362 West Side Story



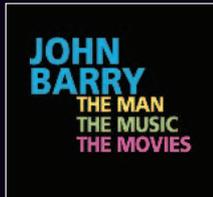
HRKCD 8377 Barbarella



HRKCD 8200 Foyle's War



HRKCD 8424 The Big Country



HRKCD 8390 John Barry
The Man, The Music, The Movies

**HARKIT
RECORDS**

www.harkitrecords.com
sales@harkitrecords.com
Telephone 020 8385 7771

Available online, Amazon and iTunes

bevismarks the restaurant
E1



From an intimate dinner party to a traditional English tea or a grand affair for 200.

Let Kenneth Arfin with Bevis Marks The Restaurant take care of it for you either in the Wolfson Hall or venue of your choice.

Call Kenneth 07989 714295

Office of The CHIEF RABBI

 [chiefrabbi](#)

 [chiefrabbimirvis](#)

 [chiefrabbimirvis](#)

chiefrabbi.org

CHIEF RABBI'S ROSH HASHANA MESSAGE 5775 • 2014

In our prayers for the High Holy Days we say *Simcha le'artzecha vesasson le'irecha* – Give joy to the land and elation to the city of Jerusalem. Following a traumatic and difficult summer it is our fervent hope and prayer that the New Year ushers in peace and security for Israel and the entire region.

Aspiration for happiness is central to our Jewish psyche. We are encouraged to celebrate what we have in a key passage in the Book of Genesis, which we will begin to read on Simchat Torah.

The Talmud (*Chulin* 139a) asks a surprising question: where can Haman be found in the Torah? Surely nowhere! The answer is mystifying: he appears in the Biblical account of the Garden of Eden.

We read: "*Hamin ha'etz ...*". With these words, God confronted Adam and asked whether he had eaten of the forbidden fruit of the Tree of Knowledge. The Hebrew *Hamin* has the identical spelling to *Haman*. On this basis the Talmud declares "This is where Haman can be found in the Torah".

As we often find in our sources, a creative interpretation of the Hebrew language is the vehicle for an insightful teaching – in this case about inner peace and happiness. The entire Persian nation paid homage to Haman. Only one person, Mordechai, refused to bow down to him. Instead of being content with what he had, Haman fumed and obsessed about the one thing he lacked – Mordechai's submission.

The Torah provides us with a guide to all situations that confront us in life. In asking where we find a phenomenon like Haman in the Torah, the Talmud answers by identifying him with the precedent of Eden. Instead of being happy with their bountiful blessings, Adam and Eve were miserable about being

forbidden the fruit of one single tree. This destructive dissatisfaction led them to lose their paradise.

A year ago, as I took up office, I called on you to 'Come with me' on a journey. During my first year in office, I have enjoyed immensely the privilege of visiting the majority of our communities in the UK. I have been deeply impressed with what I have seen. Our congregations boast spiritual and lay leaders of the highest calibre. Many dedicated and selfless men and women give contributions of inestimable value to their synagogues through their deep and unwavering commitment. We are blessed with warm and hospitable synagogues that stage beautiful services and provide a welcoming home for wonderful people, some of whom might otherwise be forgotten.

Unlike Haman, we recognize and rejoice in our many achievements and take pride in the work of our hands.

While feeling gratified and fulfilled we should not, however, be complacent. There is far more that we can and should be doing to breathe new, fresh and exciting life into our synagogues and community centres. With this in mind, I look forward to being your active partner on this journey, in our quest to build on our attainments to date in order to achieve even greater success in the years to come.

Valerie and I extend our warmest wishes to you all for a happy, joyous, healthy, peaceful and successful New Year.



Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis



RABBI **Marcus**



These pages provide a snapshot of the many and varied events that Rabbi Marcus has been involved in over the last year, including examples from Rabbi Marcus's many press articles, radio and TV appearances and public speaking occasions to a wide range of audiences.

Rabbi Barry Marcus at Blaenau Gwent Council on Holocaust Memorial Day – January 28th 2014

On January 28th 2014 over 120 guests and dignitaries attended the Blaenau Gwent Council Holocaust Memorial Day held at Ebbw Fawr Learning Community. The event was attended by Blaenau Gwent Council Leader, Cllr Hedley McCarthy, Mayor Mostyn Lewis and his wife, other elected members, the local Police, students from Ebbw Fawr Learning Community, Tredegar Comprehensive, Brynmawr Foundation School and Tredegar Youth Café, in addition to members of the local community.

Rabbi Marcus attended and spoke about the importance of remembering the Holocaust, which was then followed by a Q&A Session.

The following is an email of thanks the Office received from Huw Lewis, one of the organisers of the event.

“I wanted to send a note to pass on our sincere thanks to the Rabbi for attending our event last night and for the wonderful talk he did. He was truly inspirational and speaks with so much passion and knowledge, while being so approachable and personable. It was a privilege to be there last night. I spent much of my time watching the audience watching the Rabbi and they were engrossed. You could have heard a pin drop all night and I think everyone there learned a lot and gained so much from it.

I very much enjoyed spending time with him and cannot express my thanks, or the thanks of the Council enough.

I've attached a couple of pictures from last night too.

Thanks very much and best wishes,”

Huw Lewis
Equalities Officer



Supporting the community in Belarus

Rabbi Marcus together with Rabbi Moshe Fhima on a recent visit to Pinsk Boarding School/Orphanage, which is one of the only facilities of its kind in Belarus serving the impoverished community of close to 100,000 Jews. Our community is twinned with them and continues to support them.



A voice for us all



Rabbi Marcus interviewed on Sky News (aired on 26th July 2014) discussing the situation in Gaza and its effect on the Jewish community in the UK.



Rabbi Marcus interviewed on BBC News on the rise of Anti-Semitism in the United Kingdom, aired on 13th August 2014.

Rabbi Marcus writes for the Jewish Chronicle, 25th April 2014.



Just under a year ago we decided to start an ambitious programme of events at the Synagogue. “Why?” you might ask. “It’s hard enough to get people to come to Shul these days with so many other distractions”, and therein lies the answer. It’s precisely that life moves so fast and that we feel as if we are always on a treadmill, that we need Jewish events, talks and religion to put our lives into perspective and make us feel part of a community and the beautiful way of life that we call Judaism.

Tours

We had a number of tours this year led by the faculty of the London School of Jewish Studies (LSJS).

Rabbi Dr. Raphael Zarum took us on a tour of the British Museum just before Pesach where he made the story of Pesach and the Haggada come alive. These tours aren’t for the faint-hearted. They last around 3 hours with a coffee break in between and lots of walking, but for those who can brave it, it’s very inspiring.

Can we as Jews accept Evolution and what does that say about Creation? These were all questions answered at our Natural History Tour where we looked at Science vs. Religion. Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, in his book “the Great Partnership”, writes that Science attempts to pull everything apart to explain how things work and Religion attempts to explain the ‘why’ and give meaning to everything.

Lindsey Taylor-Guthartz took us on a brilliant tour of the National Portrait Gallery looking at what it takes to get a Jewish person into the gallery and the politics behind the Jews who made it into this museum.



Kidstuff

“I believe that children are our future” was a great song originally recorded and made famous by George Benson. Children are a vital part of any community and we had three major events for children this year. We had combined Chanuka and Purim Parties with Marble Arch Synagogue which were very successful, as well as a “Wizard of Oz” Lunch for Bar/Bat-Mitzvah kids and their families. We also held a kids pre-Pesach Workshop which was well attended and loved by all.

Shiurim

It was great to be able to reintroduce shiurim (lectures) into the Synagogue. We had varied topics including, “The Politics of Purim,” “Samson Revisited”, “How to lead a

Seder” and “A Practical Guide to Judaism”. What was great was seeing new faces at these lectures with people leaving very inspired and challenged.



Other events

We had a number of other very high quality events:

- For Holocaust Memorial Day we had a joint Central and Polish Embassy Event with a film of Jan Karski recalling his life and his work in trying to alert the West to the horrors of the concentration camps. It was attended by His Excellency the Ambassador of Poland and other dignitaries.
- Those who came to our Communal Seder on 2nd night Pesach really enjoyed an evening of food, song, learning and community. The catering by Kenny Arfin of Bevis Marks Restaurant fame was superb, even the matzah tasted great!
- I must admit the thought of having to learn how to bake Challah together with 20 ladies was a little scary, but what an event, even if my Challah looked and tasted like a rock.
- Our Shavuot Tikun Leil was well attended and we had a number of members electing to give a short drasha (talk) on a topic related to the festival. Again the food was great and people left feeling inspired and full!
- Our Chairman, Barry Townsley, together with Charles Curtis proudly led our golf team in an Inter-Synagogue Golf Day held at Frith Park near Oxford.
- A musical highlight of the year was our inaugural Royal Academy of Music event which took place on the 26th March where we showcased some of the Academy's best new talent in both the Classical and Musical Theatre spheres. The audience was thrilled and it was so lovely to see a packed hall.
- We also launched Ze'ev's Place, which is a monthly get together where we watch great movies and dive into pastries.
- Central, together with James Inverne (previously Editor of Gramophone) launched the 1st International Central Synagogue Concert Series. This is a series of classical music with musicians of international fame and David Carpenter, together with some members of the Salome New York Chamber Orchestra mesmerized a sold out audience! Harvey Goldsmith introduced the evening and helped make the concert the success it was. We have a further six concerts in this series.



Thanks must go to Craig, Raquel and Abi in the office for all their hard work in helping to achieve such a great first year of events as well as to the Ladies Guild for their sumptuous catering.

**Music of the Jewish
Diaspora Concert**

PURIM: THE FESTIVAL OF “LOTS”

This year, it was Marble Arch Synagogue's turn to host the evening reading of the Megillah.

Lots of food, lots of music, lots of Megillah, lots and lots of drink, lots of noise, lots of people, lots of fun, lots of community and of course lots of gossip. Yes, it was Purim!

All the ingredients for a lovely affair!



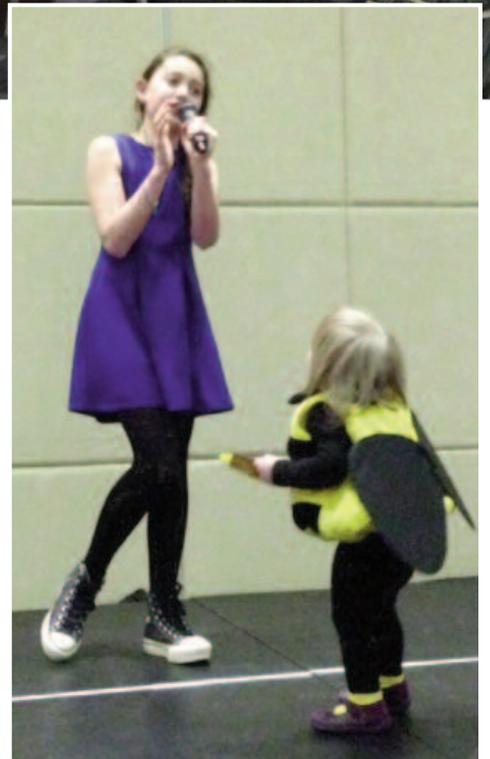
A captive audience in the Montcalm Suite

The Megilla was read beautifully, as always, by Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld from Marble Arch and then we were hosted for supper in the Montcalme Suite together with an evening of great entertainment.



First on the bill were Nicola Burns and Linda Sharpe, the coming together of the two greats from Central and Western Marble Arch. In no time they had everyone joining in.

Next on were two young kids, Ben and Emily Cohen, the grandkids of Roger Cohen the Central's ever faithful Chef and Welfare Officer. They were both brilliant, singing some modern songs which were enthusiastically received.

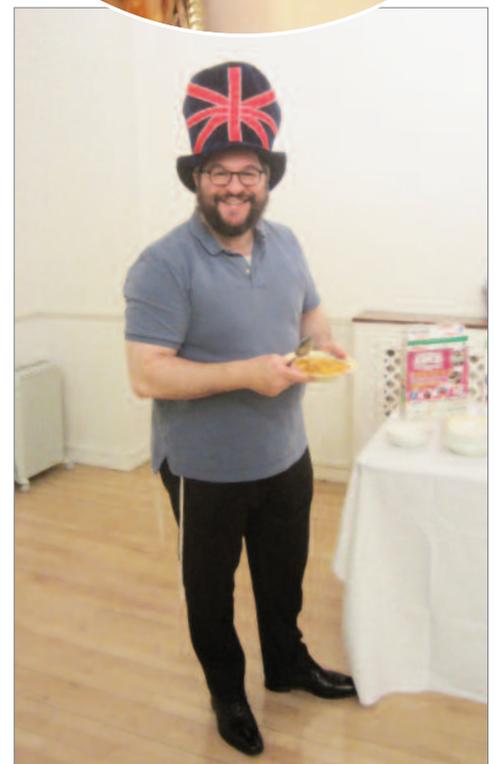


Our own Eric Charles gave a splendid rendition of “Let’s do it, let’s fall in love”. I’ve got to say this dude should have been part of the ratpack, as he is so polished and a real performer with a lovely voice. Watch out Chazan Leas! A magician, with some great tricks up his sleeve, then entertained the crowd.

On the whole a brilliant evening.

The next morning we all gathered at Central for the reading of the Megillah and a sumptuous breakfast.

A wonderful party was held in the afternoon for kids and families, hosted by all three West End Synagogues – a great idea which we hope to replicate time and again to bring more Jews back to the West End.



YOUR PLACE AT ZE'EV'S PLACE **By Ze'ev Galibov**

If you would you like to see a selection of classic films, shown on a large, high resolution screen, comfortably seated in the company of your friends from the Central, then Ze'ev's Place should be your place.

Once a month, I have been screening musicals like West Side Story, dramas such as Defiant Requiem or art related films like the opera La Fille Du Regiment, to give members of our congregation a place to come and enjoy a relaxed and regular social activity.

Our Synagogue has a rich history of social events and Friendship Clubs, many of which I have been involved with.

But, when I joined the congregation in 1982, it was one of the areas that I found was missing. I have visited many Jewish congregations all around the world and, in most of them, the Synagogue was the focus of communal life. The Shul wasn't simply for prayer, but also open daily for youth programmes, friendship clubs for retired people and, in some, there was even a cafeteria.

I felt we needed somewhere the members could meet and cement friendships outside of the Shabbat Services. In the late 80s and early 90s I created a weekly Games Evening, where we met to play Bridge, Kalooki, Chess, etc. The late Mrs Hass brought pastries and we enjoyed a cup of coffee too. More recently, I began the Friendship Club which, at its peak, was attended by over thirty people. But, gradually, the numbers dropped due to a variety of factors.

So, when I was asked to revive an entertainment club, I decided that my own home was the perfect informal setting for us to get together. If demand becomes large enough, I will move the venue to the Wolfson Hall. But, for now, if you enjoy stimulating entertainment and good company with the added enticement of coffee and pastries, I invite you to try out Ze'ev's Place. I promise you a warm welcome and a comfortable seat.

My special thanks to Steve, our Chazan, whose considerable help has been much appreciated. I look forward to seeing you at Ze'ev's Place - where everyone knows your name.



INVOLVEMENT WITH BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY By Eric Charles

In 1976 a client/friend of mine suggested that Jacqueline and I should visit Beer Sheva to meet the President of Israel's newest University and "see what we think".

We were both immediately impressed with the pioneering atmosphere of this Seat of Higher Education on the fringe of the dessert and decided to become involved.

David Ben-Gurion's dream was that "one day there should be an Oxford in the Negev". Although not yet achieved, BGU is making great strides in that direction.



In 1977 I was elected as a Governor and Jacqueline joined me on the Board some years later. I was also appointed Chair of the Finance Committee of the University's Board of Governors and in that same year I accepted the role of Honorary Treasurer of Ben Gurion University Foundation (the UK friends of the then smallest Institute of Higher Learning in Israel). By the time I chaired the Finance Committee (for the 37th consecutive year) at the 2014 Board of Governors meeting, the student population of under-graduates and graduates had grown to over 18,000. This will increase still further with the Israel Defence Forces moving their main bases to the Negev in a year or so, when the University will not only provide some scientific training facilities to men and women of the Service but will also carry out joint research with the highly technical arm of the Defence Force.

Besides the campus in Beer Sheva, BGU also runs its Desert Research Institute at Sde Boker where world class research is being carried out in the fields of arid lands, water and solar energy. There is also a small campus at Eilat.

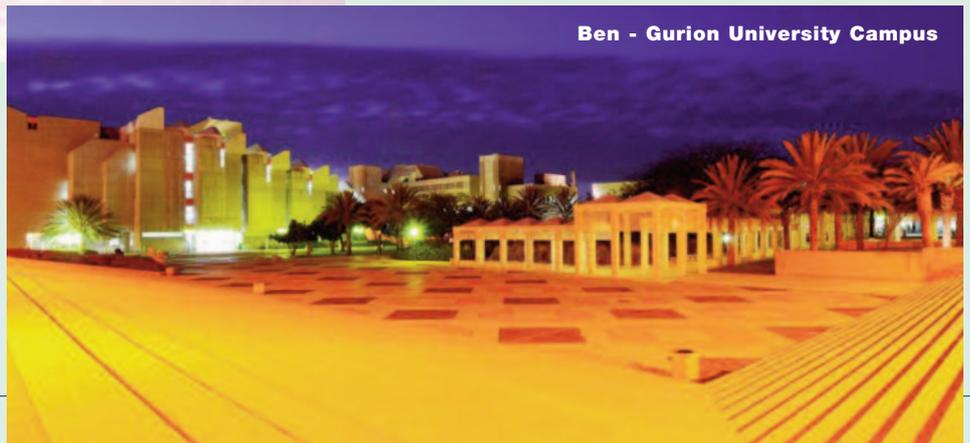
Personally, I have a special love for the students at BGU, who have not only created wonderful cultural and social activities, which are the envy of other Israeli Universities, but they also carry out good deeds with the children and needy in the poorest districts of Beer Sheva and assist with primary education for Arabs and Bedouin in the area.



Every year, I have had the honour to lead the "auction" at the Students' Evening, raising substantial sums from the visiting Governors (including yours truly!) to fund cultural and educational activities which the students cannot themselves afford. A very satisfying task which is always much appreciated.

In 2011, to my surprise and delight, I was awarded an Honorary Degree in recognition of my efforts for the University over these past many years.

Jacqueline and I hope and pray that the Almighty will grant us several more years to continue our deep involvement with the University which proudly bears the name of Israel's first Prime Minister.



THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

Hello everyone!

Last year was a first for our Yamim Noraim Children's Services - we welcomed some extra manpower in the form of Daniel, Hava, Ingrid, Nechama and Rachel so that we could split the 70 or so youngsters into 3 age groups. The dynamics of all the groups worked really well and the feedback was very positive. I'm pleased to say that all our recruits enjoyed the whole 'Central experience' enough that they agreed to come back again this year! Yoav and I look forward to hosting them all again for more lively meals together.

As our community's children approach their 12th and 13th birthdays, there is always something tangible in the air. It's a wonderful time for us in the Synagogue because we see the transition into adulthood first hand. Some may be nervous and others confident, but all excel with their own individual charm and flair. This year we held a special Shabbat lunch for the families of our pre- and post-Bar/Bat-Mitzvah children so that they could all meet over a tasty meal in a relaxed setting - certainly an event to be repeated. Since last Rosh Hashanah, we have had the pleasure of celebrating the Bar/Bat Mitzvah's of Joakim Cohen, Levi Freud, Annie Gishen, Emma Monnickendam, Carly Selby, James Waxley and Rosie and Ben Ziff. They will certainly be missed from the children's service but know that they are always welcome to come and give us a helping hand.

Of course, there have also been some brand new little faces downstairs over the past year including Raphael Abras, Joseph Netser and my own daughter, Leila. Leila's arrival meant the start of my maternity leave and a cessation of formal children's services, however, even while on leave, I still make sure to go downstairs every Shabbat so that Maya can sing, dance and play with whoever comes along to join us. I am pleased to announce that one of our Shul Wardens, Harold Schogger, will be leading a Prayer-based Children's Service once a month for our older attendees, so do keep an eye out for further information on our website.

I very much look forward to returning to my post with renewed vigour, fresh ideas and two lovely children to help lead the services. In the meantime, I've been working on some new formats to kick off 2015! Hope to see you all there!

Wishing you all a Shanah Tovah.

Best wishes

Raquel

P.S. This is a good opportunity to thank my husband Yoav for always stepping in to volunteer a helpful pair of hands whenever needed!



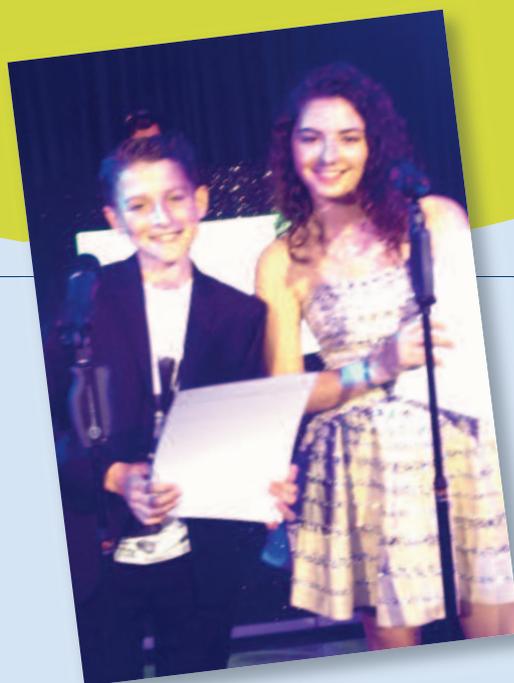
Our Joint Bar/Bat Mitzvah – by Ben Ziff

We were delighted to have shared the first Bar/Bat-Mitzvah in Central Synagogue. It was so special for us to do it together, and especially as we are the third generation to be Bar/Bat-Mitzvah at Central Synagogue and long standing members.

I was very very nervous before I got called up to read my portion, but once I was standing on the Bima with Rabbi Marcus I completely relaxed and really enjoyed it.

It was very special when Rosie stood in front of the pulpit to deliver her D'var Torah knowing that it had been donated by our great-grandparents. The day was a very emotional one and to be surrounded by our closest friends and family was amazing.

We have really enjoyed coming to Central Synagogue every week. It is such a warm and welcoming community and we look forward to continuing to come as often as we can.



Annie's Bat-Mitzvah – by Jules Gishen

What an amazing event we had at Central Synagogue for our daughter Annie's Bat-Mitzvah in November last year!

As we all know, the shul is one of the most beautiful in London with a lovely atmosphere and feeling to the service. Annie chose to say her Dvar Torah during the Havdalah service and also sang two beautiful Shabbat songs.

After the service, we went downstairs to the Wolfson Hall, which had been totally transformed into a huge disco, themed with a 1950's DJ booth, fully stocked bar and Tony Page's finest culinary delights. A live band, loads of dancing and speeches, that were notable for their brevity, contributed to an evening that we will never forget and one which people still come to us with stories of what a wonderful evening they had.

Perhaps the best part for us as a family was the interaction with the amazing people at Central in the run up to the Batmitzvah and during the evening itself. Raquel helped Annie to learn for her Batmitzvah for many months, Craig, always organized and practical, was a pleasure to deal with, and Chazan Steven Leas and Rabbi Marcus made us feel at home and very much part of this fantastic community.



A very talented Annie takes to the stage with her trumpet.



The Wolfson Hall as you've never seen it before.



CENTRAL THROUGH THE YEAR





**INTERNATIONAL CONCERTS SERIES
AT CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE**

A season of music; a journey into Jewishness.

"Wide Awake Schubert" Inon Barnatan, piano
Wednesday 10th September, 2014

"Hebrew Melody"
Jack Liebeck, violin and Danny Driver, piano
Wednesday 12th November, 2014

"From Beethoven's mouth to Bloch's ear"
Raphael Wallfisch, violin and John York, piano
Wednesday 17th December, 2014

"You don't have to be Jewish" Mark Bebbington, piano
Wednesday 4th February, 2015

"Exiles Cafe" Lara Downes, piano
Wednesday 25th March, 2015

"Three Worlds" Avi Avital, mandolin and Ray Chen, violin
Wednesday 27th May, 2015

Concerts start at 7pm. Tickets £20. Book the whole season for £100 (a saving of £20). To book tickets please call 020 7580 1355 or email bookings@centralsynagogue.org.uk



**JUST ONE SHABBOS
SHABBATON**

24th/25th October

Come join us for an amazing experience keeping one Shabbat together.

Friday - Musical Kabbalat Shabbat Service, Dinner for kids and parents followed by a Kids' Sleepover.

Shabbat - Special Shabbat Service followed by a Communal Lunch, Afternoon Activities and evening Havdalah Service.

For further information on cost/family discount and to book please call 020 7580 1355 or email bookings@centralsynagogue.org.uk

CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE
LONDON



Elaine Curtis and friends invite you to
'A Taste of Chanukah with
Denise Phillips'

Wednesday 26th November, 7:15pm

This cookery demonstration will show you how to create Chanukah healthy treats.

Everyone welcome - including men!

Price per person: £40 - to include a light supper of tasty Chanukah creations!
Event in aid of Central's Welfare Fund.

For further information or to book your place please call 020 7580 1355 or email bookings@centralsynagogue.org.uk



CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE
LONDON

www.jewishcookery.com

Bridge

**The Joséphine Murray
Chicago Bridge
Competition**

Sunday 7th December

Dinner: 6:30pm

Bridge: 7:15pm-10:15pm

Tickets £25

To book tickets please call 020 7580 1355 or email bookings@centralsynagogue.org.uk

CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE
LONDON

"Will you come to Limmud with me?"

"Whaaat!!!!.....what is it exactly? Is it very religious? Do we have to stay the night? Do we have to bring our own food?"

"It's going to be fantastic, you'll love it!"

Thus began my trip to Limmud.

It was a very wet and blustery December day. It turned out to be the first day (23rd) that howling winds and rain disrupted the trains. To be precise, my train! Staying over in Warwickshire was not an option for me and fortunately, I managed to catch the last train allowed into the capital and to add to my good fortune, a very nice man gave me his wife's first class ticket for the journey. (I don't know why she didn't use it, or what he might have done with her, but my day out was ending nicely). It had begun nicely too . . .

Limmud is a conference made up with Jews from every spectrum. It is a meeting place where all are welcome and equal. It takes place on the campus of Warwick University which is a wonderful site, and I was immediately struck by how bright and clean it is.

On arrival there are dozens of Limmud volunteers waiting to provide you with a bag containing paper and pens, a badge with your name on (I booked in advance) and a thick brochure containing details on all the lectures, talks and demonstrations taking place over the week. With easy to understand directions to whichever building or room these were taking place in, and a bio on every lecturer. There were literally hundreds to choose from!

I chose three: one before lunch, and two afterwards. The first was with Elana Sztokman who is an amazing orthodox Israeli American. She pulled no punches, explaining the fate of some women living in Haredi style communities, places where photos of women are cut out of newspapers and magazines, and where women still remain (by force if necessary!?) at the back of the bus, and she horrified us with countless other abuses such as discrimination in both the universities and the army; it was uncomfortable listening.

Lunch was great. There were many choices, all Kosher.

I opted for the dining room, where I expected sandwiches



and coffee, but got a choice of pasta with mushroom or tomato sauce, baked potatoes, cheese, etc. Very nice indeed.

A feeling of anticipation, starting in the morning, began to rise – a genuine excitement that the new Chief Rabbi, Ephraim Mirvis, was on his way to speak at the conference. The first Chief Rabbi to agree to address conference was welcomed with such delight by everyone, especially those who had felt so disenfranchised in the past by the orthodoxy. I have to admit that I was inspired by his decision to come and felt quite proud of belonging to the United Synagogue which he leads.

After this, I joined two more groups – one of them, a debate on grassroots leadership was very interesting, and listening to young people engaging in discussion on this topic, from all branches of Jewish life was really uplifting.

I had to leave after this as the skies were darkening, I went and found my friend who was at a pickles tasting and together we left the building.

There was a truly wonderful feeling at Limmud, it is a melting pot and no other exists like it. I will go again. Why don't you come too?

The 2014 Limmud Conference will take place from the 28th December 2014 until the 1st January 2015. To book please visit

<http://limmud.org/conference/sign-up/>

Limmud Conference

Stretch your mind. Relax your body.

Excite your senses.

**28 December to 1 January.
University of Warwick.**

Unmissable. Unforgettable.



CHALLAH BAKING WORKSHOP! **By Rosalie Stevens**



On 1st May 2014 visitors to Central Synagogue might have been surprised to see many women and one man – lovely Steven Leas – busy making Challahs under the tuition of Joanna Hamilton.

Not only did Joanna teach us the practical details of making Challahs but also the spiritual meaning of the ingredients:

- Flour** - the largest ingredient gives us energy for serving G-d.
- Sugar** - we should fill our homes with sweetness and warmth, thus the sugar-spoon should always be overflowing.
- Salt** - necessary criticism should come in small doses, so always level off the spoon.
- Yeast** - although it is a small ingredient it raises the whole dough, just as we should be careful that even our small words are chosen to raise the self-esteem of our family members.
- Oil** - used to anoint Jewish kings, it reminds us of the honour we should give to our loved ones (and ourselves).
- Water** - love for Torah, and flexibility to cope with changing circumstances.



Everyone discovered that making Challahs is not quite so straight forward as merely putting the ingredients together in the correct order. There is a great deal of physical effort required to knead the dough, but everybody had a great deal of fun getting messy.

One important part of making Challah is to 'Take Challah'. This means taking a small part of the dough once it has risen and saying a blessing. This portion is not for consumption it has to be burned.

We put all our dough under one cloth and Joanna took Challah and said the blessing: ***'Blessed are You, Hashem, our G-d, King of the universe, Who sanctified us through His commandments and commanded us to separate Challah'.***

We then had the opportunity to mention the name of anyone who needed a Refuah Sheleimah, which was very moving.

We braided our Challahs and took them home to bake. They were absolutely delicious and the experience was wonderful.

I hope we will have many more such events.



BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE By Raymond Laren

We were invited to 'Make Pesach Come Alive with our Pre-Pesach British Museum Tour, led by Dr Raphael Zarum, Dean of LSJS on 31 March. Although this did not sound promising, actually the event was over-subscribed and had to be repeated a week later!



Our group of 25 or so were met by Chazan Leas.

Rafi is a very engaging, learned and extremely personable lecturer. He led our tour through the Egyptian section of the BM pointing out how assimilated the Jews in Egypt had become and how they even adopted many Egyptian customs. Many of their writings from the time contain much Egyptian imagery. He explained much of the symbolism and meaning behind the rituals we still perform at Pesach.

In each of the Egyptian tablets and manuscripts Rafi discussed, the same familiar characters are mentioned: Moses ("an Egyptian name"), Pharaoh, the Red Sea/Sea of Reeds ("Yam Suf" in Hebrew), Hebrews, Israelites and the presence of slaves in Egypt.

Academics have narrowed the time period during which the Exodus might have occurred to the reign of three kings, or pharaohs, who are first called such in Egyptian texts. First was King Akhenaten, who reportedly brought monotheism to Egypt (it is plausible either that the king passed monotheism onto the Jews or that they could have influenced his theology); next was Ramses II, who moved the Egyptian capital to the delta where many "Habirus" — or Hebrews — resided and also near to where the Haggadah says that Israelites "built treasure cities Pitom and Ramses" for Pharaoh; and then there is Merneptah Stele, the son of Ramses II who, among his many conquests, conquered "Israel" in the land of Canaan — an indication that the Israelites had already left Egypt and were living in the land.

He drew remarkable parallels between the language of Egyptian papyrus (hieroglyphs - translated following the discovery of the Rosetta stone - which we saw) the Haggadah and the Bible, all of which contain references to the Exodus story proving the theory that a mass Exodus did occur and that it happened during the reign of Ramses II.

The scale of some of the statuary is awesome and my abiding memory of a most interesting morning is the huge fragment of an Egyptian statue of a king's left arm from the 18th dynasty, Thebes Temple of Karnack. (This could be Tuthmosis III or Amenophis II). This relates to the section in the Haggadah, Maggid "And G-d brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm, with great awe, miraculous signs and wonders' (Deuteronomy 26:8).



MUSIC OF THE JEWISH DIASPORA CONCERT By Juliet Moss

I am as musical as a goldfish, there I have said it! I never even got to grade 1 in piano before I gave up as a child so imagine my trepidation when I was told to write about this concert by world renowned Violist David Aaron Carpenter and his siblings and other musicians who form part of the Salome Chamber Orchestra, for the Synagogue magazine.

The Synagogue rather than the Wolfson Hall was used for this event which gave it a much more atmospheric feel to the evening and the acoustics as David Carpenter commented “were just perfect”. What was also incredible apart from the performance of wonderful music itself was the fact that all the musicians used iPads on music stands instead of sheet music to read the scores and these pages were turned effortlessly by the use of a foot pedal. ‘It is also great when you don’t have a lot of paper and ink” said Sean Carpenter. “We encourage other players and orchestras to use it because it is very advanced technology.”

The music performed alternated between modern compositions including Chicken Tarantella written only a few months ago by Alexey Shor and more established works such as Songs Without Words Op 19, No 2 by Felix Mendelssohn finally culminating in a moving rendition on viola, violin and cello of Hatikvah, which in the light of the first rockets being launched across Israel at that moment, added more pathos.

Music of the Jewish Diaspora is the first of seven concerts to be performed at the shul in the next few months and all the concerts in the series will have a Jewish theme. For more information contact the Synagogue on 020 7580 1355 or look at the website: www.centralsynagogue.org.uk



OUR NEW ELDER NICOLA BURNS

Not content with being the first Lady Chair of Central Synagogue, Nicky is now the first Lady Elder. This role culminates the many years of service that Nicky has given the Synagogue.

She has run the Children Services, served on the Board of Management, served on the Ladies Guild regularly putting in a stint preparing for the Kiddush, and spent five years as Vice Chairman before putting her vice years behind her and becoming Chairman.

Nicky has been encouraged to commit herself to the Synagogue and Community by the actions of her parents, Lois and Sam Peltz, and of course by the man at her side, Gary who is also an Elder of the Synagogue.

As with all our Elders, it is not the last that we will have seen of her. She continues to greet everyone with her warm smile and if anyone needs help of any kind, they know that a request to Nicky would be greeted with alacrity and a willingness to help.

She has continued a long family tradition. Long may it continue.



“I don’t know what this year will bring, but I do know that Camp Simcha will be there for us.”

Camp Simcha supports Jewish families with children suffering from cancer and other life threatening illnesses.

This Rosh Hashanah, please help us reach out to other seriously ill children and their parents throughout the UK, by donating at www.campsimcha.org.uk

camp simcha
supporting families with serious childhood illness



- Big Brothers and Sisters • Support for Parents and Siblings
- Hospital Transport • Outings and Parties • Respite Care
- Children’s Residential Weekends • Family Retreats

www.campsimcha.org.uk | 020 8202 9297

  [campsimchauk](https://www.facebook.com/campsimchauk)
Charity number 1044685

THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

By Daphne Schogger

Stories of Jews at War

In this, the centenary of the First World War, it is important to remember the involvement of the Jews in the war.

The Victoria Cross was awarded posthumously to Frank de Pass, the first Jewish soldier to win the highest military decoration. This was awarded for his extraordinary bravery on the front-line after leading an attack on a German trench and carrying one of his wounded comrades over no-mans-land to safety. He died the next day trying to take the same trench.

A military nurse, who served on a hospital ship during the First World War, was Florence Oppenheimer. She worked throughout the Mediterranean, in Egypt and Palestine and later went on to become the best-selling cookery writer, Florence Greenberg. Her diary was recently on display at the Jewish Museum in London. This diary recorded her experiences caring for casualties amongst the turmoil of war. She writes in 1915, in the midst of the Gallipoli campaign,

'I got landed right in the very depths of the boat, a dreadful hole with not really hardly any air... Stretcher cases were

simply pouring in... down I flew but oh what a shame - it was just agony to get these poor fellows into the bunks. I went to lie down for 2 hours then up again to hear that we were going to take on another 800 stretcher cases and by breakfast time we had 1980 cases on board. At last I realised what war really meant. All these cases straight from the battlefield... All the decks, every hole and corner of the place was utilised.'

Keeping faith while in the trenches was a great challenge for Jewish soldiers. Jewish Chaplains were finally allowed on the front-line in 1915 – the Reverend Adler held a Yom Kippur service for two hundred during the Battle of Loos, but their tiny numbers made ministering to the troops a great challenge.



At Home

War impacted everyone, not just those on the front-line. There was a textile boom which took place in the largely Jewish East End of London, where the majority of soldiers' uniforms were made. Jewish schools and boys clubs including the Jewish Lads Brigade played an active role in the war, providing soldiers for battle and recording the achievements and casualties among old boys.

Jews on both sides

A lasting legacy of centuries-old anti-semitism and the turbulent history of the Jews has been a great sense of unity.

This was broken by the First World War as Jews served on both sides. More than 100,000 out of a total German Jewish population of 550,000 served Germany during World War I, 12,000 dying for their country. Their service has many parallels with the British story but the organised anti-Semitism in the German army should also be considered.



The Legacy of War

The legacy of the war in the Jewish community gave a need for public remembrance and commemoration and this led to public memorials and ultimately the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women (AJEX) including their Annual Remembrance Ceremony at the Cenotaph.

The First World War was a pivotal time of change for the Jewish community in Britain and indeed throughout Europe and the Middle East as they fought to find their place in society and in the world.

CENTRAL GOES VIRAL **By Michael S. Fishberg**

Somebody told me that your website should be your shop window.

I believed him because I used to have a shop. Selling jewellery. You know the one up on Golders Green Road in the 70s and 80s? It always sparkled. That thought crossed my mind the first time I looked at the website for Central. It wasn't so much depressing as just downright *ordinary*. Nothing to invite you in, so to speak.

When I was elected onto the Board, one of the first things I wanted to do was to revitalise that dreary website. I was mindful of course that we are an orthodox congregation. I wasn't looking for an all-dancing, all singing thing.

I called in a friend of my son, Nicholas who had been responsible for the BBC News website, Simon Levy.

Simon as it happened, had just left the Beeb to go out on his own and Central was one of his very first commissions. Just up the road. Literally! Over several discussions with myself and some other members, Simon and his associate carefully listened to our requirements and made many solid suggestions of their own that enabled us to take our first steps in the creation of our 'new look'.

It's actually a lot harder than you might imagine starting from scratch, but my over-riding slogan that guided us was "the clue's in the name: Central". With that in mind, we eventually formed what is called a "wire frame" on which to build the site.

It's true that for very little money, you can go online and buy 'off-the-shelf' sites, but we really did need a bespoke one;

one that was highly identifiable as "Central".

Once we were relatively happy with some meat on the wire-frame, we needed to develop various departments within the site and over the following weeks Simon's team put forward proposals that finally started to look like the site you now see.

When we were ready to launch, we asked quite a lot of people what they thought. Some further recommendations were made, but overall it met with positive approval.

Just as with dressing a shop window, the merchandise on display changes all the time, and Raquel Amit, Craig Levison and Abi Rose have generally been responsible for keeping those weekly changes up to date. I come in a few times a year to film a series of weekly commentaries by Rabbi Marcus on the week's sedra; having them 'in the can' so to speak, and I'm pleased to say that Steven Leas makes sure there's always plenty of content to be read.

Speaking of which, I'm told that the site is visited not only by our own congregants, but by 'virtual' visitors from all over the world. Not only that, but we've actually been contacted by other Shuls asking if they can mimic the style of *our* site for *theirs*! Praise [the Lord] indeed!

It's a constant work in progress, so if you have any suggestions or contributions, we'll always look at them.

Make sure you are on the Shul's mailing list and see that YOU visit the site regularly and tell your friends to check us out too! The Shul's website is www.centralsynagogue.org.uk



TURNING UP THE HEAT

Lag B'Omer, the 33rd day of the Omer count, is a festive day in the Hebrew calendar and certainly in Central's events calendar. Our annual barbecue marking this day was held in May and pulled in a good crowd of hungry members (after the Central AGM) and many visitors.



Chef Roger

A delicious array of food was served; kebabs, sausages, shishlik, burgers and wings, not to mention all the accompanying salads. Thanks go to Roger for the lion's share of the cooking from 7am (!) to make sure everything was ready in good time, to Sara and Abi for the event's organisation in the run up to the event and on the day itself, as well as all those that pitched in to help.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2014 - 2015

25th-26th September

Rosh Hashanah

4th October

Yom Kippur

5th October

Decorate the Succah – all helpers welcome

8th October-15th October

Succot

8th October

Communal dinner in the Succah

17th October

Simchat Torah evening celebration with Chatan Torah Frank Lewis and Chatan Bereshit Simon Waxley

24th-25th October

Just One Shabbos Shabbaton

12th November

'Hebrew Melody' Concert with Jack Liebeck, violin and Danny Driver, piano

22nd November

Choral Shabbat

26th November

'A Taste of Chanukah with Denise Phillips'

7th December

The Joséphine Murray Chicago Bridge Competition

16th-24th December

Chanukah

17th December

"From Beethoven's mouth to Bloch's ear" Concert featuring Raphael Wallfisch, violin and John Yorke, piano

25th January

Annual Supper Quiz

4th February

"You don't have to be Jewish" Concert featuring Mark Bebbington, piano

5th March

Purim

25th March

"Exiles Cafe" Concert featuring Lara Downes, piano

3rd-11th April

Pesach

27th May

"Three Worlds" Concert featuring Avi Avital, mandolin and Ray Chen, violin

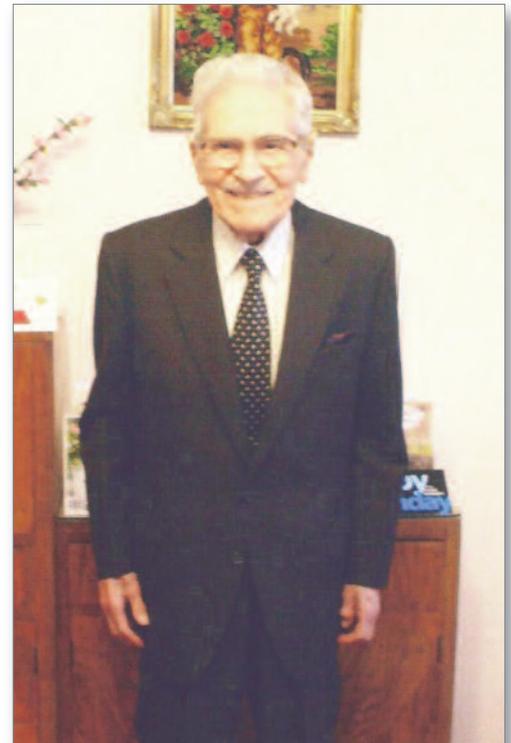
Happy 100th Birthday! by John Newman

On Friday 23rd May, our much loved and respected member, Ben Rudolf, celebrated his 100th birthday.

Until only the last few years, Ben had been very much a Shul Regular. Son Michael, daughter-in-law Beryl, family and friends in Shul, were so delighted to see him on the Shabbat. A rousing and enthusiastic rendition of 'Happy Birthday' was given to Ben during the Kiddush that followed the Service.

One of life's true gentlemen, Ben, who is always immaculately attired with his trademark top-pocket handkerchief, has been a member of the Central for over 70 years. He was married to his beloved Rene for 72 years until she sadly passed away last year. Ben has lived in the same flat in Paramount Court in Tottenham Court Road for the past 70 years. Truly a man who makes records and perhaps not surprising since he has always had a very keen interest in mathematics! Having spent his working life successfully in the waste reclamation business, Ben retains a keen interest in the world in general and his love of sport continues to this day.

All at Central wish him Mazeltov and future good health.



LADIES GUILD **By Adrienne Phillips**

Once again the Ladies Guild had pleasure in providing the congregation with Kiddushim after the Shabbat and Yom Tov Services.

This has been punctuated throughout the year with special and sponsored Kiddushim by members celebrating all manner of Simchas from births to Aufrufs, and everything in between. We also instigated an enhancement of the Kiddush so that we could introduce more healthy foods.

On Simchat Torah we had a new and exciting themed musical evening where we catered with different food and drinks: amongst which we had borscht & vodka from Russia, hummus and falafel from Israel, and of course pizza and cornettos from Italy. We also catered to themes from Disney, My Fair Lady and South Pacific. It was the most marvellous Simchat Torah party and thoroughly enjoyed by over 200 people. A very special thanks to Steven Leas for his musical inspiration,

Grazyna Solland for her artistic decorations, and especially our Chattanim Nigel Gee and Ian Balcombe for their generosity. In January we held our annual quiz supper which was attended by over 100 people. It was a great success and we raised £1200.00. This enabled the Ladies Guild to continue their support of various charities.

We combined Purim as usual with Marble Arch, and after the reading of the Megillah on the Sunday morning, over 130 people had a very pleasant breakfast in the Wolfson Hall.

We provided a Kiddush after the service throughout Pesach and are possibly the only Shul to do so.

Last year Sara Cohen stepped down as Chair of the Ladies Guild. I was happy to 'fill the breach' for a year and am delighted that she now feels able to take up the position of Chair once again. My thanks for her continued support.

My thanks to the merry band of ladies who help in the preparation of the Kiddushim, especially to Mary, who after a difficult few months was welcomed back with open arms.

Last but not least my thanks to Doug and Louise for their willingness and invaluable help to ensure the 'wheels are oiled' and everything runs smoothly.

I am delighted that many of the congregation have taken up our suggestion to sponsor, co-sponsor or enhance our weekly Kiddushim. It is a lovely way for members to celebrate or mark a special occasion.

I wish the new executive every success in the forthcoming year.



The winning team

BRIDGE TIPS by Harold Schogger

What to lead against a No Trumps Contract

Dealer East	♠ Q 10 8 6		
Love All	♥ 10 8 5		
	♦ J 6		
	♣ Q 8 7		
		N	
♠ K 5 4 3			♠ 9
♥ 3 2			♥ A Q J 7 6
♦ 8 4 2	W	E	♦ 10 9 7 3
♣ 10 5 4 3			♣ K 9 2
		S	
	♠ A J 7 2		
	♥ K 9 4		
	♦ A K Q		
	♣ A J 6		

W	N	E	S
NO	3NT	NO	2NT
NO		NO	NO

Do you always lead the same boring old thing against a No Trumps Contract? Most people seem to have it drummed into their heads to lead 4th highest of their longest suit (ie 4th one down from the top.) Is this always correct?

Well the order of importance should go as follows:-

1. Always Lead Partner's Suit (ALPS) if he has bid during the auction



2. Top of Sequence in your longest suit: King from KQJ9 - you certainly would not want declarer winning the first trick cheaply with the 10 would you, if you incorrectly led 4th highest, the 9?
3. Now 4th highest of your longest suit, but this too has provisos as we shall see in a minute.

What about the hand above? One should lead 4th one down in one's longest suit if there is a chance of establishing the suit and also if there is a chance to regain the lead. On the hand above our Spade suit is pretty crummy with little chance of generating winners and even if the Spades were established can we regain the initiative? NO on both accounts. Therefore when we have a situation like this we need to RETHINK our lead strategy. We know that we are not going to be taking any part in the defence of this hand, so we need to TRY & FIND PARTNER. The opponents have not tried Stayman or Transfers which suggests they are not interested in Hearts. We have lousy Hearts so we deduce that somebody at the table must have Hearts and that somebody MUST BE PARTNER. So without much ado we make a short suit lead and play the ♥3. and after winning partners' Jack with the King declarer plays a Spade. We win and persevere with another Heart and partner reels off 4 winners and we defeat the contract by one.

NB Any other defence and declarer wins the race for 9 tricks. When you lead the ♥3, Partner must in no way sit there with a big smile on his face showing contentment (which of course would be understandable) as that is tantamount to cheating ☺



Harold Schogger
0208 905 3877
www.haroldschogger.com

mgr.westonkay
 chartered accountants

Our clients
 Theatre, Film and Television
 Property
 Music and Touring
 Fashion and Retail
 Sport
 Restaurants
 Medical, nursing and care homes

Our services
 Financial accounting, support and advice
 Business, personal and international taxation
 Business management and book keeping
 Forensic accounting, investigations and litigation support
 Mergers, disposals and acquisitions
 Outsourcing services for asset managers
 and of course all the usual services you'd expect from an accounting firm

MGR Weston Kay LLP
 73-75 Mortimer Street, London W1W 7SQ
 T 020 7636 7493 F 020 7636 8424
 melvin.kay@mgrwk.com
 55 Loudoun Road, London NW8 0DL
 T 020 7625 4545 F 020 7625 5265
 robert.braham@mgrwk.com
www.mgrwk.com

Wishing you a Happy New Year

ALL ABOARD
 CHARITY SHOPS

...raising money for UK Registered Jewish Charities

Collections of the following:-
 Clothing
 Bric-a-brac
 Jewellery
 Linen
 Household items
 can be arranged by contacting us!

NOW COLLECTING
 MONDAY TO FRIDAY

020 8381 1717
 collections@allaboardshops.com
 www.allaboardshops.com
 all aboard

Established Since **1987**
 All Aboard Shops Ltd
 Registered Charity No 1125462

We turned your unwanted items into much needed equipment and services for over 50 charities in 2013!

US MESSAGE

Our Future's Foundations

In recent weeks, over five thousand US members have taken the time to share their views with us in probably the most comprehensive survey our community has conducted. The extent to which our members have been willing to participate in this process demonstrates on a grand scale that they care passionately about the future of their community. As I begin my second three-year term as President of The United Synagogue I am acutely aware of the responsibility that I and my fellow Trustees have to meet the many needs of our community. Following the Trustee elections in July I am particularly pleased that we have a talented and experienced mix of former trustees as well as some new younger faces and that we now have four women trustees helping to shape the governance of The US.

Thankfully we are building on extremely solid foundations. Just twelve months ago we installed our new Chief Rabbi, Ephraim Mirvis, who has already demonstrated his strong leadership and vision for our community. His recognition as the pre-eminent voice for the wider Jewish community and his launch of 'The Chief Rabbi's Shabbat UK' testify to his masterful assumption of one of the most important and challenging roles in Jewish public life.

The United Synagogue firmly supports Israel as it continues to face the terrible challenges with which we are all too familiar. This crucial aspect of our Jewish identity is one that we can never take for granted and our work continues to strengthen our members' connection with and love for Israel. I am very proud that dozens of members of Tribe had the transformative experience of Israel Tour this summer. Closer to home, many of our communities have excellent new Rabbis, Assistant Rabbis, Rebbetzins and dedicated professionals providing the services, programmes and support that our members want and need. In addition, it has been a great pleasure to have welcomed a number of new member Synagogues this year, including the addition of Sheffield as our first ever provincial community.

Looking to the future, a real priority is to connect with our younger membership. The work of Tribe and Young US have

continued to provide opportunities for our youth and young professionals with events such as Chanukah on Ice and Learn2Lead alongside summer camps and schemes. It may come as a pleasant surprise to know that this work is bearing fruit, and that our younger membership is beginning to see real growth. My trustees and I are optimistic about the future of the US.

I am extremely proud of the 70 Days for 70 Years project which will launch in January. This should connect thousands of people around the world who will learn for 70 days in memory of those lost in the Holocaust. It carries a message that resonates so strongly with the United Synagogue: Remember the Past to Build the Future.

Building a strong future for our vibrant and engaged communities is huge task and so I look forward after the Yomim Tovim to working with our new Chief Executive, Dr Steven Wilson, and many others across the US family. The task that lies ahead for us all is a great one and with the support of so many dedicated professionals and volunteers throughout our many local communities I am confident that the future for The US is something we can all anticipate with excitement.

With best wishes for a Shana Tova Umtuka - a happy, healthy and sweet new year.

Stephen Pack
President, The US



PRESIDENT'S ROSH HASHANAH MESSAGE 5775 – A TALE OF TWO ELECTIONS



At the time of writing this piece Israel is under continuous rocket attack and there is no prospect of a cease fire. I hope and pray that by the time this is read the situation will have settled. I am writing to you with what will be my final Rosh Hashanah address, as my term as President comes to a mandatory end in May next year. Being President has given me many pleasing moments and enormous pride. I am delighted that the Board has made so much progress so that we now have a first rate team led by a first rate CEO, Gillian Merron, and soon hopefully will be housed in first rate up to date premises. Our discussions with the JLC for a unified organisation of the community continue but, whether on its own or as a part of a wider organisation, the Board has a bright future.

None of what we achieve would be possible without our dedicated Deputies, from across the UK – I thank them for their hard work: they represent their constituencies and are vital to the functioning of UK Jewry. Needless to say, the Board exists on money from individuals in the community – half of which comes from the Communal Levy: still, less than half of Synagogue members pay the relatively small sum of £25 a year to support our work. I think that the message here will support the fact that we are deserving of that contribution.

We are helping to counter BDS, witnessed by our close work with the Methodist Church leadership which led to a moratorium around BDS activity.

We are protecting Jewish education through our lobbying ministers, such as the right to teach Ivrit as a first language.

We are promoting Judaism through our revamped Jewish Living Experience exhibitions and Tours, in which thousands of non-Jewish children learn about our faith every year.

We are reaching the edges of the community through Jewish Connection, which is supporting small communities all over the UK who need pastoral, social care, networking and advocacy support from the mainstream of the community.

We consulted the community and then worked with the Equality and Human Rights Commission to produce new guidelines that clearly define the right to religious practice both at work and in education institutions.

Finally our APPG on British Jews has already drawn wide support from politicians and has helped us hone the community's lobbying on core rights issues, namely: social care, restitution of property for Survivors, protecting Shechitah, the right and value to a religious education by showcasing our

excellent schools, lobbying on child benefit credits and many other issues affecting the entire spectrum of the community.

You will shortly become aware of a General Election Jewish Manifesto produced by the Board, which encapsulates all the interests, concerns and aspirations of the UK's 300,000 Jewish community. The Board will send this manifesto, which follows on from this year's successful European Elections Jewish Manifesto – to Jewish communities, policy makers, and election candidates - in order that the Jewish community has one clear policy document around the 2015 elections. The idea is that as individuals and local Jewish communities you take the Manifesto to candidates and use it as the centre piece of lobbying efforts - be it at hustings, in letters or in public debates.

We recognise the diversity of the community and range of interests which is why we consulted throughout the community - reaching three hundred individuals and organisations. The Manifesto is divided into 14 sections including Religious Freedom and Observance, Israel and the Middle East, Education, and Health and Social Care. There are also a list of 'Ten Commitments' which encapsulate in a breath the key aims of the document.

The Board's 'Parliament' dissolves in May 2015, and there will be elections not only for a new President, Vice Presidents and Treasurer but for nearly 300 Deputies on the Board. We have done much good work to improve our representation in the past few years, including with our Women in Jewish Leadership project to ensure female talent is allowed to flourish, the setting up of a Youth Forum, to improve contact with younger community members, and through working with Change in the Board: the result has been a marked improvement in our representation - but we must go much further.

5774 has been a significant year of achievement for the Board. Let's hope that 5775 will be a year of peace for Israel and the Middle East and a successful one for the community.

Shana tova,



Vivian Wineman

**President of the Board of
Deputies of British Jews**

NEW YEAR'S *Greetings*

Wishing everyone at the Central a Shanah Tovah U'Metukah! Raquel, Yoav, Maya and Leila Amit.

Wishing all our family, friends and fellow members a happy and healthy New Year. Mandy and David Baker.

Pauline and Frank Barnett with all their family wish the Rabbi, Chazan and all the congregation a very happy and peaceful New Year and well over the Fast.

Nicola, Gary, Madeleine and Hannah Burns wish the Rabbi, Chazan, and all members of Central Synagogue a Happy New Year and well over the Fast.

Jacqueline and Eric Charles send best New Year greetings to Rabbi Barry Marcus, Chazan Steven Leas and the entire Community.

Ze'ev Galibov wishes Shanah Tovah and well over the Fast to all at the Central Synagogue.

Shanah Tovah to you all from Margaret Grant.

Reverend Simon Hass wishes all the community at Central Synagogue a happy and healthy New Year.

To all my friends at the Central. A happy New Year and well over the Fast from Coral Jowell.

Peter Koritschner wishes Rabbi Marcus, Steven Leas and the Central community a happy and healthy New Year.

Caroline, Craig, Yonah and Meir Levison wish Rabbi Marcus, Steven Leas, the Honorary Officers and everyone at Central a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Zea Lewis and all her family wish their fellow congregants a new year of good health, happiness and peace and well over the Fast.

Wishing all our members a very happy New Year. Doug, Louise, Matt, Jayson, Bernie and Callum.

Terry Samek wishes her family, friends and fellow members a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Daphne and Harold Schogger wish all at Central a Happy New Year.

Clarice Shamash and Maurice wish their family and friends and congregation a happy New Year and well over the Fast.

Sylvia Shine and family wish Shanah Tovah to Rabbi Marcus, Chazan Leas, their families and all our friends at the Central. May our Central Synagogue, b'ezrat Hashem, continue to thrive and flourish.

The Morning Minyan

We, the members of the Morning Minyan, send our very best wishes for a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year to our esteemed Rabbi Marcus, the Officiants, Honorary Officers and all the members of the Central Synagogue.

Yoav Amit	Jeremy Curtis	Norman Gutkin	Steven Livingston	Paul Rosen
David Arad	Stephen Davis	Steve Haffner	Paul Martin	Richard Rosenberg
Kevin Arenson	Russell Dunstan	Paul Harrison	Allan Messing	Bob Rubin
Adam Arnold	Leon Dwek	Peter Hoffman	Jonathan Metliss	Stanley Salter
Howard Ash	Sammy Dwek	Michael Howard	Jeffrey Nedas	Stephen Schaffer
Colin Baker	Nick Esses	David Judah	John Newman	Maurice Shamash
Jonathan Barnett	Leonard Fertleman	Chuni Kahan	Mark H Newman	Leslie Shull
Simon Barnett	Simon Finberg	Melvin Kay	Peter Ohrenstein	Aubrey Silverstone
Daniel Baum	Laurence Finger	Stephen Kay	Guy Orndel	Geoffrey Simmonds
Michael Bayer	Aron Freedman	Lloyd Keisner	Mark Phillips	Michael Sinclair
Rael Berelowitz	Clive Freedman	Peter Koritschner	Martyn Pizer	Neil Sinclair
David Berkley	Nigel Gee	David Kosky	Jonathan Plant	Abner Solland
Tom Boltman	Ben-Shalom Gentely	Raymond Laren	Sydney Pochin	Stuart Stanton
Harris Bor	Jonathan Gibbons	David Laurie	Gennadis Raivich	Jonathan Stein
Gary Burns	Roger Gibbons	Melvin Lawson	Darren Richards	Simon Stone
Eric Charles	Shlomo Gotsi	Steven Leas	Michael Richards	Ian Stowe
Marcos Chazan	Stanley Goldstein	Edward Lee	Westley Richards	David Teacher
Ron Cohen	Andy Graham	Nick Levene	Joel Rockman	Jeremy Trent
Simon Cohen	Malcolm Green	Craig Levison	Gregory Roediger	Colin Wagman
Philip Collette	Billy Grossman	Julian Lewis	Sam Rogoff	Joe Weston
Bryan Coyne	Ilan Gutkin	Michael Lewis	Issy Rondel	Gary Zylberszac

The Morning Minyan has often been commented on by visitors as being the most friendly and successful minyan that they have attended. It is renowned for its magnificent breakfasts given by members to celebrate Rosh Chodesh, Yahrzeits, celebrations of happy events and on other occasions just because members enjoy having breakfasts together! 'Membership' is free and you qualify simply by turning up! Come along and enjoy a great experience.

Welcome to New Members

- Helena Abram
- Eve Caro Wing
- Nessim Cohen
- Jessica Conway
- Chloe and Charles Curtis
- Anna and Henry Ejdelbaum
- Alix and David Fine
- Galia and Jonathan Fishman
- Candice and Larry Galansky
- Susan and Raymond Haas
- Irene Harris
- Susan Harris
- Alexandra and David Kelly
- Simon Korn
- Ariel Lant
- Jayne Lawson
- Martin Lederman
- Nicole Newman
- Naomi Press
- Jane and Marc Roth
- Sally and Anthony Thwaites

Births.

Mazeltov to the following parents and their families:

- Ria and Natanel Abras on the birth of a son
- Raquel and Yoav Amit on the birth of a daughter
- Carla and Louis Ditz on the birth of a son
- Hayley and Gabriel Netser on the birth of a son
- Robert Rees on the birth of a son
- Talya Weigl on the birth of a son
- Eleanor and Simon Wolfson on the birth

of a son

- Susan and Ian Grant on the birth of two grandsons
- Cheryl and Ian Gordon on the birth of two grandchildren
- Coral and John Lawson on the birth of a granddaughter
- Betty and Alfred Lawson on the birth of a great granddaughter

Bar Mitzvahs

- Joakim Cohen
- Levi Freud
- James Waxley
- Ben Ziff

Bat Mitzvahs

- Annie Gishen
- Emma Monnickendam
- Carly Selby
- Rosie Ziff

Engagements.

Mazeltov to:

- Jonathan Metliss on the engagement of his daughter Elizabeth to Michael Conway

Marriages.

Mazeltov to the families of:

- Chloe and Charles Curtis
- Alix and David Fine
- Galia and Jonathan Fishman
- Alexandra and David Kelly
- Nicole and Daniel Newman
- Sally and Anthony Thwaites
- Fay Sandler on the marriage of her

daughter

Bereavements.

Condolences go to the families of the following members who have passed away in the past year:

- Josie Cresner
- Annette Feldman
- David Goldring
- Jessell Harrison
- Hermann Herlinger
- Anthony Jacobs
- Helen Kaye
- Babette Kent
- Celia Kosky
- Cecily Kurtz
- Rachel Mandell
- Raynor Page
- William (Billy) Sharron
- Philip Silkin
- Yank Silver
- Pamela Simmonds
- Harry Sunshine

Condolences go to:

the following members who have lost loved ones in the past year:

- Philip Gishen on the loss of his brother
- Eva Goldenberg on the loss of her mother
- David Green on the loss of his mother
- Michael Green on the loss of his mother
- Victoria Lawson on the loss of her father
- Peter Levene on the loss of his brother
- Richard Lister on the loss of his father
- June Rose on the loss of her mother
- Debra Tucker on the loss of her mother

Mazeltov to:

- Michael Garson on his 2nd Bar Mitzvah
- Clive Moss on his 2nd Bar Mitzvah
- Monty Ainsley on his 90th Birthday
- Elsa Brown on her 90th Birthday
- Dennis Freidman on his 90th Birthday
- Rachel Joseph on her 90th Birthday
- Edith Hoffman on her 90th Birthday
- Gary Keane on his 2nd Bar Mitzvah
- Michael Keane on his 2nd Bar Mitzvah
- John Marks on his 90th Birthday
- Ben Rudolf on his 100th Birthday
- Celia Spence on her 100th Birthday
- Rachele and John Harrison on their 25th Anniversary
- Agnes and Edward Lee on their 25th Anniversary
- Elizabeth and Daniel Peltz on their 25th Anniversary
- Anne and Raymond Allen on their 30th Anniversary
- Shelley and Merrick Wolman on their 30th Anniversary
- Malcolm and Anna Kafetz on their 30th Wedding Anniversary
- Helen and David Baker on their 40th Anniversary
- Gillian and Richard Glyn on their 40th Anniversary
- Roz and Raymond Laren on their 40th Anniversary
- Lynne and Nigel Ross on their 40th Anniversary
- Victoria and Robert Stone on their 40th Anniversary
- Shoshanah and Manoucher Aaron on their 50th Anniversary
- Naomi and Harold Elton on their 50th Anniversary
- Jane and Basil Hyman on their 50th Anniversary

PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

The One-Stop Financial Shop

The London based Chartered Accountants with an entrepreneurial edge

Simmons Gainsford LLP, part of the Simmons Gainsford Group, is a leading chartered accountancy firm based in Central London, delivering world-class financial advice to UK and international clients seeking financial security and success.

We provide a comprehensive array of tailored financial services to help maximise the value of our clients' wealth and value.

Services provided include:

- Tax mitigation and compliance
- Strategic and financial planning
- Audit and accounts
- Corporate finance and business consultancy
- Inward and outward investment
- Wealth management
- Mortgages and associated insurance solutions

- Company secretary and company formation
- Payroll services and HR assistance

Contact us to find out how we can tailor your financial requirements.



Simmons Gainsford LLP
7/10 Chandos Street
Cavendish Square
London W1G 9DQ

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7447 9000
Fax: +44 (0)20 7447 9001
Email: mail@sgllp.co.uk



Back page photographs:

From top left across: Levi Freud, Carly Selby, Chloe and Charles Curtis, James Waxley, Joakim Cohen, Joseph Netser, Leila Amit, Raphael Abras, Zachary Ditz, Levi Weigl, Emma Monnickendam, Annie Gishen, Galia and Jonathan Fishman, Nicole and Daniel Newman (Paul Lang photography), Rosie and Ben Ziff

