

CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE LONDON



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Central Magazine

CONTENTS



From the Rabbi	4
Editors' message	4
From the Box	5
Chief Rabbi's Rosh Hashanah Message	6
Rabbi Marcus MBE	8
Grand Central – The hub of Jewish culture in the West End	10
Children's Page	12
CONNECT	14
Spiro Ark Partnership	16
Central Makes Music	18
Mitzvah Day	20
Now THAT'S What You Call a Barbecue!	21
Visit to Side by Side	22
Chaplaincy	24
Dates for Your Diary	25
PJ Library	27
Let's Get Quizzical and Join Our Ladies' Shiur	28
Central Synagogue Ladies	29
Bridge Tips	30
US Message	31
Message from the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews	32
New Year's Greetings/Morning Minyan	33
Social & Personal	34
From West End Great Synagogue	35

Central Magazine designed and printed by:

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

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FROM the RABBI Barry Marcus

Dear Congregants,

It is said we are 'creatures of habit' – there is a sense of well-being, comfort and security from being familiar with our immediate surroundings, environment and institutions. Rapid changes can be and are unsettling as we saw in the wake of the Brexit vote – the fear of the unknown, what the future may hold, coupled with acts of terror in Europe, especially France, Belgium and Germany, have created noticeable worldwide unease and anxiety.

Bewildering changes do foster disquiet and confusion, but it must surely be comforting to know that certain things are immune from the ravages of time and remain steadfastly constant. The advent of the High Holydays is certainly one of those constants to which we can and should look forward to with eager anticipation despite or because of the uneasiness presently felt by so many in our community and beyond.

The increased acts of terror across Europe, some quite clearly aimed at Jewish targets, are an ongoing cause for serious concern, not only for those Jewish communities directly involved, but also here in the UK where there has been a marked increase in anti-semitic incidents over the past year, including, most disturbingly, emanating from MPs and other senior political figures.

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

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, strengthen each other and renew our personal and communal ties and those with Israel.

Warmest wishes for a Shana Tova.

Rabbi Barry Marcus MBE

EDITORS' MESSAGE Daphne Schogger and Raquel Amit



Welcome to the 5777 issue of Central – the magazine for all our members and friends.

Our thanks must go to all our willing contributors. It's so great that you have all contributed and we do hope you enjoy reading it. If you would like to contribute next year, do get in touch!

It has again been an extremely busy year at Central. Many of the events have been written about as you will see inside.

It's also been quite a tumultuous year politically! The UK has voted to leave Europe, we have a new Mayor in London and we have a new Prime Minister. So a time of change.

We wish you a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.



It has been another busy year in the Box.

Barry Townsley is the Chairman, Melvin Lawson the Vice Chairman, Stuart Lewis and Harold Schogger continue as Wardens and Stanley Salter the Financial Representative.

We continue to receive visitors from all over the world. And we take our lead in welcoming them from Rabbi Marcus. Rabbi Marcus continues to give us all spiritual guidance at times when we have had to contend with such sad news from Israel and around the world. The attacks have not just been physical but verbal as well.

We have been joined this past year by members of the West End Great Synagogue. It has been a delight getting to know their members and, in particular, their Minister Ari Cohen.

The Chief Rabbi, Ephraim Mirvis, together with his wife, joined us on Shabbat Bereshit. It was an immense pleasure to welcome him and to hear his rousing sermon.

We also have a Sephardi minyan once a month and are delighted to welcome Chazan Raphael Berdugo and all the members of the minyan who join us in the main Shul for the end of the service.

The lunches given by both Rabbi Marcus and Chazan Leas have been a great success. It is such a good way for us to personally get to know all of you and for you all to get to know one another.

The Connect series is now well established with Central combining forces with both the New West End and Western Marble Arch Synagogues. Chazan Leas is very much involved in arranging the Connect series. After break-out sessions, everyone gathers together for the main event, after a break for food and networking, and an opportunity to meet the members of the other synagogues. The topics have ranged from Lords of Finance to Medicine.

Steven is also instrumental in arranging the lectures, concerts, films and tours of historical significance for all our members. There was even an Ivrit class organised in conjunction with The Spiro Ark. The numbers for Ze'ev's Place have grown so much that these film events are now hosted in the Wolfson Hall. So well done Steven!

Chazan Leas will again be accompanied by the Central Synagogue Choir for the New Year and Yom Kippur services.

The "Special" Children's Services have continued to be a great success. Raquel and Yoav Amit never seem to tire of innovative ideas for the children and it is a real pleasure to watch the children so attentively listening to them both. They are so enthusiastic and their passion is infectious. The platters of fruit which the children prepared for the whole congregation during Shavuot were exceptional.

As ever, we thank Sara Cohen, Chairman of the Ladies Guild,

and her team for providing Shabbat and Yom Tov kiddushim. The Supper Quiz that the Ladies Guild put on this year was a great success and raised more money than ever before. Long may it continue!

We thank the Board of Management and Synagogue Elders for their work and efforts for the Synagogue. Clarice Shamash and Ian Grant retired at the AGM and we thank them so much for their hard work. We welcome Allan Swiel onto the Board of Management.

We were again joined by the then Israeli Ambassador on the first day of Rosh Hashanah His Excellency Daniel Taub, together with his wife and family. We certainly wish him every success for the future.

After the Rosh Hashana service, Steven and Debra Tucker again hosted a Rosh Hashana Kiddush for the entire community and we thank them so much for their generosity.

The Chatanim for the Simchat Torah celebrations were Jeremy Curtis and Glenn Unterhalter. The celebratory Kiddushim were brilliantly catered by the Ladies Guild.

We have been fortunate to have already been visited by Daniel Taub's replacement, His Excellency Mark Regev who addressed the community and kindly participated in a question and answer session after the Kiddush. The Community Security Trust help to secure the building throughout the year and we thank them for doing this job in such difficult times. We should all be mindful of security in and around the building and help Nigel Gee, ably assisted by Jayson and his team members, by following their instructions. We live in uncertain times and security is high on our list of priorities.

We again thank everyone in the office: Craig Levison, our highly experienced and informative Administrator and Raquel Amit, our very efficient Community Development Officer. Thanks must also go to Douglas, our wonderful caretaker who continues to help the Synagogue in many ways and whose welcoming face always greets us on Shabbat morning and of course Louise.

Kol Nidre – The proceeds of the Appeal this year will once again be allocated primarily to the needs of our own growing community. 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. Plans are being drawn up for the renovation of the downstairs into a more user friendly space which will have a more functional kitchen and reception hall.

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 5777 and well over the Fast'.



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF RABBI – ROSH HASHANAH 5777

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF RABBI – ROSH HASHANAH 5777

"בראש השנה יכתבו ובים צום כיפור יחתמו" – "On Rosh Hashanah it is inscribed and on Yom Kippur it is sealed"

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

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

The *Unetaneh Tokef* prayer provides an answer: תשובה תפילה וצדקה - Repentance, Prayer, and Charity.

תשובה - Repentance

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

תפילה – Prayer

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

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

צדקה – Charity/Righteousness

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

Every one of us can increase the degree to which we give of ourselves to others, whether as part of an organised charitable campaign or by investing our time and energy into kindness and generosity. There is no degree of evil that cannot be overcome and outshone by an equal and opposite desire to do good for others.

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

May this coming year be one filled with only peace and reconciliation among the peoples of the world. Valerie and I extend to you all our very best wishes for a happy and fulfilling New Year.



Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis
September 2016 • Ellul 5776





**“I WANT TO BE THE ONE WHO LOOKS AFTER MY WIFE.
BUT I CAN’T DO IT ALL ON MY OWN.”**

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

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

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

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

Please call 020 8922 2600 or visit jewishcare.org/donate to make a donation.

REMEMBER JEWISH CARE

RABBI Marcus MBE



Another eventful year has passed with Rabbi Marcus's active involvement with the community and beyond. A small testament to some of these activities can be seen on these pages.

Shabbat guest speakers

Rabbi Marcus has invited many guests over the past year to speak to the community, most notably HE Ambassador Mark Regev of Israel, HE Witold Sobkow of Poland, and Melanie Phillips, Broadcaster and Journalist, who all addressed the community after the Service.



HE Ambassador Mark Regev



Melanie Phillips



CONNECT series

Rabbi Marcus addressed one of three breakout groups at the CONNECT Russia House event in October last year. Entitled 'From Russia with Love', Rabbi Marcus gave an insight into Jewish life in the former Soviet Union, looking at Poland, Lithuania and Belarus and the emerging Jewish communities struggling to re-establish themselves.

Rabbi Marcus with friends and keynote panellists, Richard Desmond (right) and Harvey Goldsmith (left) at the CONNECT Self Made event.



Ze'ev's Place Film Club

One of the many films shown at our film club with the Spiro Ark this year was 'Mom is not Crazy?', a documentary about an extremely intelligent, sensitive wife and mother suffering from mental illness. Because of her religious background and her condition of trying to test boundaries, there is a tragic gap between her personal and psychological needs, and the expectation of the orthodox community and its leaders.

Rabbi Marcus was invited to lead the discussion following the film, with our member, Valerie Cohen's, personal and professional experience also being drawn upon.



In the Press

Besides UK based Press interviews over the last year, Rabbi Marcus has also had lengthy interviews with the Jewish Broadcasting Service, America's National Jewish Television Channel, discussing anti-semitism in the wake of the Labour party's scandals, and discussing British Jewry's reaction to the Brexit vote. These interviews can be found online.

A screenshot of a YouTube video player. The video is titled "Rabbi Barry Marcus MBE" and is described as "BY PHONE LONDON". The video has 539 views and was published on May 9, 2016. The video content shows a man in a suit speaking into a microphone. Below the video, there is a description: "Published on May 9, 2016. Rabbi Barry Marcus M.B.E., who leads London's Central Synagogue, discusses the anti-Semitic political scandals in which Labour Party members have praised Hitler and said that Israeli Jews should be 'relocated' to the U.S. In The News with Mark S. Golub". There are also other video thumbnails visible on the right side of the screen.



GRAND CENTRAL – the hub of

By Steven Leas



We have once again had an eventful year with lots for people of all ages and interests!

Here are a few of the highlights:

Concerts

The highlights of our concert series were 'The Cole Porter Songbook' and the 'Three Tenners and a Clown' concerts.

Fresh from her Carnegie Hall debut, the internationally renowned soprano, Sarah Fox, was joined by James Burton to perform The Cole Porter Songbook – their specially devised programme which presented the greatest songs written by Cole Porter. Included were: In the Still of the Night, I've Got You Under My Skin, Anything Goes and Ev'ry Time.

Our 'Three Tenners and a Clown' Concert, presented together with Hadassah UK, literally brought the Synagogue down. A 60 piece kids' choir, a 25 piece male choir and musicians, together with myself,

Cantor Jonny Turgel of Stanmore and Rabbi Danny Bergson of Pinner performed in a programme of varied Jewish and Musical Theatre pieces.

Added to this extravaganza was "Dush the Medical Clown" all the way from Israel to tell us about the very special programme that Hadassah runs for sick children. (See page 19.)

Tours

We had five walking tours in the last year and these are three of them:

The Jewish Theatreland Walking tour with Rachel Kolsky was a fun walking tour of London's Theatreland to explore connections with Jewish actors, impresarios, writers, producers and the early cinema industry. The cast included Lionel Bart, Lord Delfont, Oscar Deutsch and Barbra Streisand. Credits were also due to Lyons for the refreshments, Moss Bros for the

costumes and Freed for the dance shoes.

Rabbi Dr. Raphael Zarum took us on a Shabbat Tour of the British Museum just before Pesach where we learnt all about the culture of the Egyptians at the time of the Exodus. As usual, he brought history alive!



The Cambridge Genizah day trip, in conjunction with the Spiro Ark, started as a two hour walking tour of historic Cambridge which took us through its development over the centuries. This was followed by an introduction to the Genizah, an extraordinary collection of medieval Jewish documents with the history of how it arrived at the Cambridge University library. We had an interesting lecture as well as a close view of the uniquely interesting manuscripts which covered Jewish life during the medieval period. We were very lucky as Cambridge only open these documents twice a year.



Learning

Learning should be the aim of all Synagogues and Jewish communities and we renewed our effort to be very active in this area during the last year.

We continued hosting a beginner's Hebrew reading group with Nitza Spiro from the Spiro Ark. A small group of

Jewish culture in the West End

enthralled people came twice a week to learn how to speak Ivrit.

We had the privilege of hosting both Rabbi Dr. Raphael Zarum and Rabbi Andrew Shaw CEO of Mizrachi UK as our Scholars in Residence for a Shabbat.

Maureen Kandler once again kept us spellbound with her journey through the illustrations in the Haggadah over the last 100 years and gave us fresh insight into the Pesach story.

We had a Workshop for Cantors, Rabbis and congregants, called "Shabbat Lite" with presentations and discussion on how to provide everyone with the very finest spiritual experience in association with the European Cantors Association.

Ze'ev's place

Another great year for our monthly film club "Ze'ev's Place". From our humble beginnings of just a handful of attendees, we now get an average of 50 people. The films are now being screened in our Synagogue hall with our own huge projector screen and sound system.

To give us the edge over a regular evening at the cinema we always hold a discussion after the screening which leads to some wide ranging views. Our two most successful films to date have been, H.I. Jew Positive and Above and Beyond.

H.I. Jew Positive is a fascinating documentary, following the journey of a number of Catholic Poles as they made the discovery that they were in fact Jewish – second and third generation to Holocaust Survivors – an identity that their parents had kept from them. We had a huge audience for this, including many young Poles, and a lively discussion was held after the film.

Above and Beyond was definitely the film of the year for us. It tells the story of how in 1948, a group of World War II pilots volunteered to fight for Israel in the War of Independence. As members of 'Machal' – volunteers from abroad – this ragtag band of brothers not only turned the tide of the war, preventing the possible

annihilation of Israel at the very moment of its birth; they also laid the groundwork for the Israeli Air Force. This was a real feel-good film and left everyone with such a positive feeling – definitely worth seeing.



Children

Our kids' programmes and events have grown exponentially over the last year (see page 12). Highlights include specially themed Shabbatot and pre-festival events for kids of all ages. It is lovely to see so many children coming to Shul with their parents and grandparents – it brings a vibrancy to Shul life.

CONNECT

Connect continues to be one of Central London's most exciting new initiatives.

It's a joint initiative that we started together with other West End Synagogues in order to bring Jewish Learning back into the West End. (See photos on pages 14 and 15.)

Our first Connect theme for the last year was Connect Russia and amongst the notable panelists, we had Sir Malcolm Rifkind.

Our second event entitled "Self-



made" with Richard Desmond and our very own Harvey Goldsmith CBE on the Panel, was a great success. In what was a very entertaining evening, we heard about the highs and lows of business as well as what these very successful people had to say about success, life and more.

Connect Medicine concentrated largely on The Diabetes epidemic, with auto-immune specialist and world renowned expert on Diabetes, Dr Eli Lewis from Ben Gurion University as well as Dr. Huw Beynon, Dr. Daniel Hochhauser and Dr. Michael Fehrer, all of whom were very impressive speakers and had the audience enthralled.

Our final event of the season was "The Bankers who shape the world". Included on the panel were Michael Sherwood of Goldman Sachs and Stephen Koseff of Investec Bank. This was a very timely event on Brexit day!

Other

Our first attempt at cooking demos was a huge hit with the well known Food Blogger and Chef Hanna Goldsmith teaching us how to make a Stress Free Friday Night Dinner. A second evening followed of "Dairy free desserts." Future cookery evenings will be held during the next year, so please do look out for dates.

Our first ever "Men's Night" was an evening of Whiskey tasting, Meat and an "Ask the Rabbi" session with Rabbi Raphael Zarum. Lots of good food, drink and a lively discussion resulted in a very successful event.

Once again we held a well attended and enjoyable Pesach communal Seder. We sang, learnt and most importantly ate. Kenny Arfin of Bevis Marks Restaurant fame, now teamed with The Savoy Hotel, provided the sumptuous food.

Our first ever Shabbat cholent competition was held with our members trying out six different Cholent suppliers. I'm not sure of the winner but I do remember some very full but happy tasters! (Reich's won! – Ed.)

Please do "study" our list of highlights of the next six months on page 35 and remember if you would like to get involved in any of these events, either to attend or to help, we would love to see you.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

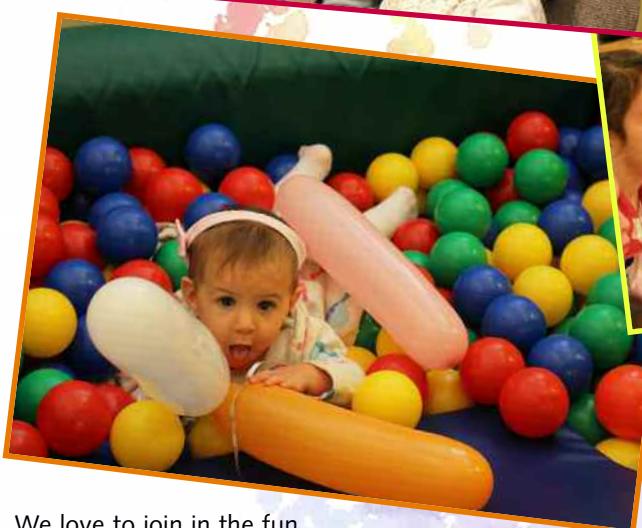
Kids Activities at Central

By the Konviser family

We have been privileged enough to join Raquel and her lovely family at some of the more recent services for children at Central. The events have been brilliantly organised for kids of all ages who enjoyed the entertainment, arts and crafts and our girls especially loved the dressing up and face painting at the Chanukah Beats drumming party!



We are grateful to have these opportunities to be involved and to help enrich our kids learning at these special times in an informal and warm environment.



We look forward to attending more events in the future and encourage you all to attend and join in the festivities. Thanks to Raquel for her time organising and preparing the parties and we look forward to joining in with future events.

We love to join in the fun and meet other young members of the community and these social events give us that opportunity.

The Big Top circus entertainment at the Purim Party kept the kids of all ages, and also the adults, entertained and was great fun for the kids to be involved in.



Got kids? We do! But we could always do with a few more...!

By Raquel Amit

If you have ventured downstairs into the courtyard on a Shabbat or Festival morning from 10:45am, you will have come across our children's services and were probably beckoned to join us! The less shy among you have come in, sat down and enjoyed seeing our youngsters sing their morning prayers and make Kiddush together, enjoy a snack and you may have even taken part in one of our many and varied sidra- or festival-related activities.

On a monthly basis we have been holding extra special themed services with the aim of 'Bringing Judaism to Life'. As such, we have concentrated on

Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations with a 'flight' to Israel and an Israel cake; all about the mishkan with a scaled down model of the moveable Mishkan (tabernacle), complete with golden cherubs and ten commandments; and Shavuot where we sat at the foot at Mt Sinai and listened to a story about why the humble mountain was chosen among the others before decorating Mt Sinai cupcakes, to mention but a few.

Our children (and parents/grandparents) delight in seeing the next generation involved and enjoying their time at Synagogue, requesting to be brought to Shul and we hope to build on this in

the future and to expand what we offer to more children. As such we have had several successful children's events over the last year too, including our Back to school carnival with petting zoo, a Chanukah drumming circle, a glow in the dark Havdalah and chanukiah lighting party, as well as an amazing circus big top Purim party!

Family Zone: This September, we are delighted to be starting a new Sunday



Cheder: While we do not yet cater for the 5+ age group on our premises, we have organised to join forces with the thriving cheder jointly held with New West End and Holland Park Synagogues, teaching the children Hebrew reading, Judaism, Jewish culture and preparing the children to live a happy and fulfilling Jewish life. The children are taught both Ashkenazi and Sephardi traditions in a fun and inclusive way. This cheder will cater for ages 5-13 years old.

CONNECTteen

Our Bar/Bat Mitzvah course is now in its second year. We hope to welcome many more of our young pre-teens to get a great practical grounding in all aspects for what it means to be a Jew in modern times.



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Connect Self Made: Harvey Goldsmith CBE, Judy Ironside MBE, Henry Grunwald OBE QC, and Richard Desmond



Connect Self Made: Richard Desmond



Connect Self Made: Harvey Goldsmith CBE



Connect Medicine: Dr Eli Lewis



Connect Medicine: Prof. Daniel Hochhauser



Connect Russia House: Rabbi Sam Taylor,
Felicity Toube QC, Douglas Murray, Steven Leas,
Gisela Stuart MP, Vladimir Ashurkov



Connect Self Made: Richard Desmond,
Judy Ironside MBE, Harvey Goldsmith CBE
and Steven Leas



The audience at Russia House



Connect Russia House: Gisela Stuart MP,
Vladimir Ashurkov, Sir Malcolm Rifkind
KCMG QC, Douglas Murray.



Connect Medicine: Dr Huw Beynon



The audience at Connect Medicine



Connect Russia House: Rabbi Aubrey Hersh



Connect Medicine: Steven Leas with
Dr Eli Lewis and Jeremy Kelly

SPIRO ARK PARTNERSHIP

The Best Possible Partnership

For years we have been looking with great admiration towards the very special brand of Rabbi at Central Synagogue as well as Steven Leas and the administrative staff who manage and select the cultural programs, making your Synagogue (Beit Knesset) a place of community, for Jewish learning, culture and entertainment.

When Steven had the idea of collaborating with the Spiro Ark, which specialises in unique quality programmes, we were delighted to join forces. This marriage between our two organisations has proved successful from the very beginning. The centrality of the venue and the welcoming atmosphere to all who come through the doors has encouraged followers of the Spiro Ark, members of the Jewish community and the general public to enjoy a large variety of programmes which are attracting an ever growing number of participants.

You may wonder what is so special in what we offer in our joint programmes:

1. Successful Weekly Hebrew Lessons

It is generally acknowledged that the Spiro Ark has no rivalry in terms of methodology, atmosphere, professionalism, dedication and great effort to look at students not only as members of group but at each student as an individual. We keep our classes relatively small where each individual feels that they are a focal point to quickly create friendships regardless of age, gender or creed.

2. Intensive Hebrew ULPAN

An increasing number of people of all ages and creeds are interested in learning the language, motivated by different reasons. Some wish to communicate with their family and friends in Israel; others know that by learning a new language often prevents the onset of Alzheimer's.



3. Learning the deeper meaning of prayers and the festivals

We started with a daytime course which explored the deeper meaning of the Amidah. It is interesting that many people who are regular worshippers on Shabbatot and Hagim and who can read the Hebrew words and translation often do not understand the meaning of the prayers.

One of the highlights of our joint programme have been about the Seder night and the Haggadah, looking at them from different perspectives. The contents were covered in the teaching but the really wonderful aspect was that Chazan Steven and his son (a Chazan in the making) taught us the melodies used at the Seder. We really believe that this course has enriched the Passover experience for those who have attended.



4. Films, Book Launches and many more types of events.

Yes, there are many venues that offer events of a similar nature but we can definitely say without arrogance that our joint ones are different. We do not choose the crowd-pullers to show our popularity but all the film, book launches and musical events are of the lesser known but higher quality; boutique offerings for those who want to combine entertainment with deeper meaning. The people who introduce these programmes are highly qualified writers, film-makers and academics who discuss their creations in a personal yet general way.

5. For a New Year resolution

There is little doubt that attending prayers on Shabbatot and Festivals is inspirational and is an essential element in one's identification with the Jewish past, present and future worldwide. However, learning the history and being exposed to the miracle of Jewish survival through the millennia, being introduced to Jewish creativity in the sciences and the arts, learning about the history of Israel and its people and its unique achievements, greatly enriches one's ability to pass on such facts to one's children.

We hope that the New Year will produce new but crucial decisions which will include your intention to participate in the myriad of activities that will be offered by the joint programmes we are now planning.

Sep 25: The Amazing Philip Sassoon

Oct 30: FILM: The Venice Ghetto

Nov 20: FILM: The Estigma?

Dec 4: Jews in Libya - 'Benghazi - Bergen-Belsen'

Dec 14: FILM: Teaching Ignorance

Jan 15: FILM: Guardians of Remembrance

Jan 18: History Course: Where the Streets Have Names

Feb 19: FILM: Apollonia

Hebrew classes throughout the year.

L'shana tova tikatevu v'techatemu.

Nitza Spiro



CENTRAL MAKES MUSIC

Enjoy our collage of some of our favourite photos from across the wide range of concerts held here over the past 12 months.



'America and the Jews' concert with violinist Daniel Hope and pianist Sebastian Knauer.



'The Cole Porter Song Book' with soprano Sarah Fox and pianist James Burton.



'Broadway to Bimah' Chanukah concert with the LJMC

CLOWNING AROUND AT CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE

by Diana Goldsmith

For all of us who were fortunate enough to have attended "The Three Tenors and a Clown" concert at Central it was indeed a wonderfully entertaining and enlightening evening.

The purpose of the evening was to bring to our attention the wonderful work of a group of professional clowns and entertainers known as Medical Clowns.



It was the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem that first initiated the criteria for The Medical Clowns in 2002 and has since expanded to other hospitals throughout the country. The Clowns have since become integral to the Israeli emergency response teams that have helped victims of trauma in Nepal, Haiti and Ethiopia.

To fully appreciate the work of the clowns, I quote from Professor Eitan Kerem who is the chairman of Paediatrics at Hadassah Hospital, "The hospital clowns have made an extraordinary impact. They forge a deep connection with the chronically sick youngsters. Once a clown reaches them, it opens the way for the medical staff to do so as well".



That is the healing power of laughter and we were party to that when "Dush" one of the Hadassah clowns treated us to his antics and had us all, young and old, laughing in the aisles.

Our Shul rang out to the wonderful performances of Rabbi Danny Bergson (Pinner), Jonny Turgel (Stanmore) and Steven Leas.

These three tenors were accompanied by The Shabbaton Choir together with the children's choirs of Morasha and Immanuel College Prep schools.

Laughter and music are most certainly a recipe for happiness, often missing from our busy day to day lives.



So I say: bring in the clowns and turn up the volume.



MITZVAH DAY

On Mitzvah Day, we give our time, not our money, to make a difference to the community around us. We introduce people to social action, to their neighbours and to local charities setting up projects which address real needs. Jewish led, we bring people of other faiths, and to volunteer side by side, with fun and laughter, with our community, to get to know each other.

On Mitzvah Day 2015, a few of our ladies kindly volunteered their time to gift wrap our collection of winter woollies and toiletries for the Homeless at St Mungo's in nearby Covent Garden. Thanks to the generosity of those who dropped in goods, we managed to donate over 50 packages of much needed supplies.



Mitzvah Day 2016 will be on Sunday 27th November and volunteers will be needed, so please put it in your



by
Kenneth

KOSHER EVENT PLANNER
THE SAVOY LONDON



Kenneth is now working alongside the Savoy Hotel to create your special Dinner, Barmitzvah or Wedding celebration. He can also cater in your own home or at the Wolfson Hall, Central Synagogue.

For more information call Kenneth on 07989 714295 or email kenneth@bykenneth.co.uk www.bykenneth.co.uk

Now THAT'S what you call a barbecue!

Lag B'omer is always a day to look forward to in Central's diary and this year the barbecue team really outdid themselves with a great deal of choice and more variety which was highly popular. We even received a call from one of our guests asking if we could give them the caterer's details as they also wanted to run a highly successful barbecue! Praise indeed! Well done to all concerned.

Our special guests were the President of the United Synagogue, Stephen Pack and his wife Cheryl.



VISIT TO SIDE BY SIDE

A SPECIAL EXPERIENCE

I knew my visit to Side by Side would be memorable, but I didn't anticipate it being as inspirational as it turned out to be. In a very modest set of buildings at the bottom of a steep hill, eighty 2-19 year-olds with a broad range of disabilities receive a comprehensive education, delivered with the warmth, creativity, and expertise which defines Side by Side's work.

The school's premises may be humble, but its aspirations and achievements are far from it. Stepping through the green entrance gates, I immediately sensed the positive energy and was cheerfully greeted by the children and staff I was privileged to meet on my way into the building.

Side by Side's nursery department is unique in its educational provision for children with disabilities alongside mainstream children, which is intended to grant mainstream students sensitivity towards their less-able peers. Indeed, the interaction and acceptance between the mainstream and disabled children was impressive, with disabled children being enthusiastically and naturally included in both organised group activities and free play.

In one striking incident, I watched Malka, a four year-old who is immobile and non-verbal, being greeted by her classmates using her unique communication style. Despite their young age, her classmates intuitively adapted to her specific needs and greeted her by going over to her special chair and patting her gently while smiling broadly. They were rewarded with the same illuminating smile I was thrilled to receive when I entered the classroom as Malka attempted to lift her lolling head. In addition to participating in general class activities, the disabled children benefit from following individualised therapy plans to enable them to achieve their utmost.

The staff/child ratio was high and the activities varied, giving every child attentive care in a stimulating environment highly conducive to learning. The snippets of activities I witnessed showed a remarkable educational standard, and the wall displays depicted joyful scenes of

the children revelling in exciting extracurricular activities. It was no surprise that Ofsted gave the School a GOOD rating.

The same ambitious, upbeat attitude carried over to the Primary and Secondary departments at Side by Side, where children and young people up to age 19 gain core skills and are aided in integration into mainstream schools where this is appropriate. I was welcomed by several ebullient young men with Down syndrome, who extended their hands to me immediately without any prompting.

The staff's genuine concern for their students, dedication and expertise was unmistakable. It was evident in every encouraging comment; in the meticulous lesson plans differentiated to meet the huge range of students' skills and abilities; and in staff members' pride in their students' achievements. The students' contentment was equally obvious; they appeared confident, engaged and simply happy as they enjoyed academic activities, sports, and hands-on engagement in current affairs and practical skills.

I was amazed at Side by Side's ability to discern the potential in every child, and the staff's determination to support students in attaining it.

Many of the teenage students have achieved or are working towards achieving ASDAN employability and youth awards, supplemented by work experience opportunities to prepare them for the most independent adulthood possible.

My visit ended all too soon. I attended Side by Side for only a few hours, yet I had seen enough to recognise that it is a special place where little miracles take place every day. I exited the building, leaving behind the singing, laughter, hopes and ambitions – and I knew that although I may have left Side by Side, my Side by Side experience will certainly remain with me.

Raymond M Laren

They care for HER, we care for all of THEM,

We need YOU to care for them too!

Charity Reg 1135723



Side by Side Special School
& Integrated Nursery
129 Stamford Hill
London E5 9HH
www.sidebyside.org.uk



To arrange a visit, contact David Mendelovitz:
0208 211 0901 ex 2 or 07980 598 629

University Jewish Chaplaincy in London – supporting students whatever their needs

Thousands of Jewish students recently began university, excited about the chance to expand their minds through academic study and, equally as importantly, to develop as young people.

University Jewish Chaplaincy (UJC), the national charitable organisation tasked with mentoring and representing students on personal and religious matters, places Chaplains (male and female rabbinical couples) in 12 regions throughout England in order that every Jewish student has support from a Chaplain.

As the London Region Chaplain, I have the privilege of representing students at 20 plus universities, supporting them and their Jewish societies (JSocs) in their personal and group development.

This past academic year London students were provided weekly Friday Night Dinners (FNDs) in Central London. We are proud supporters of these dinners. We are very grateful to Jo Hochhauser, who has been at the centre of raising the money and providing vision for the project, alongside the London JSoc Committee.

These dinners brought students together from throughout the area, who previously had no option of a Shabbat meal. This is particularly challenging in London due to the multitude of campuses spread across London and FNDs have helped to create a cohesive London student community which had previously been unconnected.

On average over 50 students attended these dinners and we hope for even more in 2016-17. Central Synagogue's support in hosting dinners has been greatly appreciated.

We have also enjoyed a second successful year utilising the Student Lounge at Central; students have been able to meet, enjoy a lunch and socialise during the week.

Other highlights from the past year have included larger events at Central Synagogue:

- The Purim party, in which 100 students attended. We read the Megillah, had a festive meal and were entertained by a magician and caricaturist. Money raised went to Emunah!
- The London J-Soc Casino Charity evening. Money raised went to Emunah.
- Our end of year BBQ.

It's been wonderful to share these occasions with Central Synagogue and to experience the resurgence of Jewish student life in our great city. I would like to offer a huge thanks to Central, in particular the Honorary Officers, Rabbi Marcus, Chazan Leas, Craig and Raquel in the office, who have been unstinting in their encouragement and practical support (and patience!). For the coming academic year, together with hundreds of students, I look forward to sharing many more events with Central Synagogue.

Whether providing over 7,000 home meals a year throughout the UK or reaching out to 3,000 students annually, UJC relies on the generosity of the community in order to offer a full range of services. Please help us to be able to support all of our students by donating at www.mychaplaincy.co.uk/donate. Wishing you and all of our students on campus a Happy and Sweet New Year.

Yours sincerely,
Rabbi Gavin Broder M.A.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2016 - 2017

S E P T E M B E R

Sunday 11 September

CONNECTteen Session
Family Zone
Sunday Morning Cheder 5-13s begins

Monday 12 September 7:30 pm

The 'Lost Shtetl' Project

Wednesday 14 September 12:40 pm

US in the City Lunch time Shiur

Sunday 18 September 7:00 pm

An evening of Yiddish poetry and music

Tuesday 20 September 7:30 pm

Building a Delicious Rosh Hashanah Menu with Hanna

Wednesday 21 September

11:00 am Ladies Shiur
7:00 pm Connect: Moral Maze

Sunday 25 September

10:00 – 11:30 am

Family Zone

Sunday 25 September 7:30pm

The Amazing Philip Sassoon

Monday 26 September 7:00 pm

Maureen Kendler presents:
'Yom Kippur: The Greatest Stories Never Told'

Tuesday 27 September 7:30 pm

Theatre Trip:
'The Pianist of Willesden Lane'

O C T O B E R

Sunday 2 October

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Monday 3 October 10:45 am

Special Children's Service

Sunday 9 October 10:30 - 11:00

CONNECTteen Session
Family Zone

Tuesday 11 October

Kol Nidrei

Sunday 16 October 6:00pm

Erev Succot Dinner

Sunday 23 October 11:00 am

Kids Succah Dance party

Monday 24 October 5:30 pm onwards

'Ashkephardi' Simchat Torah celebrations with kids party

Sunday 30 October

10:00 – 11:30 am Family Zone
7:00 pm Ze'ev's Place Film Club – The Venice Ghetto

N O V E M B E R

Wednesday 2 November 11:00 am

Ladies Shiur

Thursday 10 November 7:00 pm

Shabbat UK Challah Bake

Shabbat 12 November

Shabbat UK 2016 celebrations
Special Children's Service

Tuesday 15 November 12:15 pm

US in the City Lunch time Shiur

Wednesday 16 November 11:00 am

Ladies Shiur

Sunday 20 November

10:00 – 11:30 am Family Zone
7:00 pm Ze'ev's Place Film Club – The Estigma?

Wednesday 23 November 7:30 pm

Men's Night Out

Sunday 27 November

CONNECTteen Session
Mitzvah Day 2016

Wednesday 30 November 11:00 am

Ladies Shiur

D E C E M B E R

Sunday 4 December

Jews in Libya - 'Benghazi - Bergen-Belsen'

Sunday 11 December

10:00 – 11:30 am
Family Zone / Children's Chanukah Party

Sunday 11 December 7:00 pm

An Evening of Magic and Mindreading

Wednesday 14 December 11:00 am

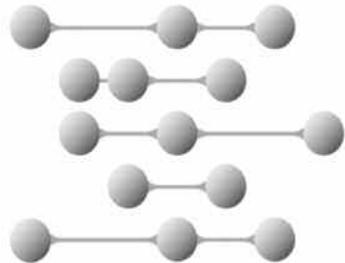
Ladies Shiur

Wednesday 14 December 7:00 pm

FILM: Teaching Ignorance

Shabbat 17 December 10:45 am

Special Children's Service



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JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES and SONGS

Happy First Birthday PJ Library!

Families at Central Synagogue have been receiving free Jewish books every month since PJ Library, the international Jewish family programme, arrived in the UK over a year ago. Central Synagogue's Raquel Amit, recently helped celebrate PJ Library's first UK birthday with other communal partners at PJ HQ. She helped bring the new books and programmes to Hallam Street, after hearing of the impact PJ Library makes on almost half a million Jewish children worldwide.

"PJ Library has enabled us to bring beautiful stories with positive morals to Central's children's services and parties, giving our children further insight into Jewish Holidays, concepts and traditions and laying a foundation for Jewish learning in a simple yet engaging way" explained Raquel.

Every month throughout the UK, PJ Library sends 3,000 Jewish books to families' homes as a gift, to connect children and their parents with Jewish festivals, values and traditions. Hugely successful in America, Israel, Mexico and beyond, the books are modern, beautifully illustrated and allow families to learn about Jewish ideas in the comfort and security of their home.



By Sara Kibel, PJ Library Community Manager



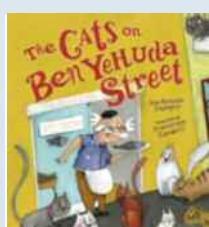
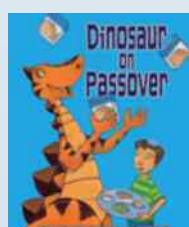
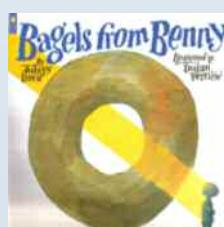
"PJ Library books have totally captivated my three and a half year old daughter", described Malena Fishberg, PJ Library parent and Central Synagogue member, "she recounts the stories to us about the Jewish Holidays with such detail as if they were fairy tales."

An important element of the programme is that the books are gifts to all recipients. This ensures that families who would otherwise not necessarily engage with the community, are signing up for the programme and starting their Jewish journey through the books. To cover the costs PJ Library partners with philanthropists and runs fundraising campaigns. Families donated to the 'pay it forward' campaign earlier in the year, which raised over £10,000 and ensured another 250 children could receive their monthly subscription.

5777 will focus on growing the programme so more children can enjoy the monthly books, and working closely with communities like Central Synagogue to strengthen that connection between Judaism in the home and the community.

It is with great enthusiasm that Raquel has used PJ Library books and led programmes at the Cheder, children services, the Chanukah event, and an interactive reenactment where children 'received the 10 commandments', at their own handmade Mount Sinai, on Shavuot.

To find out more about PJ Library visit www.pjlibrary.org.uk or ask Raquel when you next see her!



The opportunity to sponsor Central Synagogue's Pop-up PJ Library stand with 50 books for £450 is available, and can be dedicated in the memory of a loved one. If you are interested, please contact Raquel in the Shul office.

LET'S GET QUIZZICAL

By Juliet Moss

Sunday 31st January 2016 saw the date of the eagerly anticipated Central Synagogue Supper Quiz. My quizzing friends look forward to it each year and always ask me in advance as to when it is. Is it to devour encyclopaedias (do they still exist) or to get a good night's sleep in advance? I don't know but whatever it was, it certainly paid off because I am pleased to say that my table won it again this year even though there were only eight of us! It just shows you that it is quality not quantity of people that matters!

As usual the competitive spirit of Central Synagogue's congregation prevailed. Would the Peltz's table beat the Burns's table? Who would win the Marathon round? (Sara Cohen's table actually) and who could eat the most food? I made that last bit up!

The evening was a tremendous success with really interesting quiz questions set by the Nathans and lovely raffle prizes to be won. Well done to the Ladies Guild and to the camaraderie of our competitive congregation.

Now I better get ready to swot up for next year. It's never too soon!



Join our Ladies' Shiur

Liat Mayerfeld



About every four weeks, Jewish holidays permitting, the Central Synagogue holds a Shiur in the Beit Hamidrash. It starts at 11am (Jewish time) on a Wednesday and at around ten past eleven, several ladies gather together and Liat Mayerfeld, our educator (we don't consider her as a lecturer), rushes in having finally found a parking spot.

If there is an imminent festival, we tune into that or, if not, we discuss some interesting event of philosophical point from the Torah. Happily, it is a free-for-all in points of view, mostly with a very modern take on any subject. We laugh a lot as Liat is great fun but those of us with a serious bent do take notes.

Coffee and biscuits are available, and by 12:30pm we really feel we have been enthused with new ideas of interpretation not least from our lovely Liat who has so much patience and is so entertaining. Altogether a most enjoyable addition to our Synagogue's activities.

The Shiur is open to all ladies, whether members or friends of the Synagogue and we welcome new faces. Do join us.

By Jacqueline Charles

CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE LADIES

Central's Ladies' Guild has had another successful year and I would firstly like to thank Roz Laren (Vice-Chairman), Daphne Schogger (Treasurer) and Raquel Amit (Hon. Secretary) for all their hard work and support. I'm sure we will all do our best to contribute to the needs of the Shul and its members as we carry on in our roles for the coming year and that both as a group, and individually, Central Ladies will continue to help make the Synagogue a warm, vibrant, hospitable and happy place for all its congregants and visitors alike.

We continue to provide weekly Shabbat kiddushim, as well as Yom Tov kiddushim, of an increasingly high standard which receive much praise, and have enjoyed making kiddushim for many simchas during the year. Of special note was the Kiddush on Shabbat Bereishit when we had the pleasure of the company of Chief Rabbi and Mrs. Mirvis, and a special Kiddush to mark the attendance of the new Israeli Ambassador, Mark Regev.

We also provided special Ashkenazi/Sephardi Kiddushim sponsored by the Shul for our new regular Sephardi Minyan and a Kiddush sponsored by the West End Great Synagogue, both of whom are a welcome addition to our growing community.

In addition to these and the many Bar Mitzvahs, Bat Mitzvahs and Auf Rufs, we organised the annual first night Succot dinner in the Succah and the Purim breakfast, both of which were very well attended and greatly enjoyed.

Although we say it every year, this year's quiz supper was the most successful to date, and the money raised will help us to provide kiddushim over the year, to buy items needed by the Ladies' Guild and the Shul, and to make our annual charitable donations, thereby benefitting the wider community. I thank everyone who attended and those who so generously donated raffle prizes.



Next year's quiz supper will be on 5th February when I hope we do even better than this year, although I know we will all miss Barbara Nathan who sadly passed away shortly after this year's event. Barbara and Brian Nathan have organised and adjudicated our quiz supper (and many others) for years and do so at no charge. They have worked tirelessly for the Melissa Nathan Foundation, which they set up in 2006 in their daughter's memory. This year we donated £150 to the Melissa Nathan Foundation from the proceeds of our quiz supper.

On a not so successful note, our first, and probably only, Sweater Sale in March, featuring lovely French and Italian Spring fashion, was unfortunately very poorly attended despite Roz, Raquel's and my best efforts to publicise it. However, everyone who came along bought at least one item, and I must thank Ruth Isaacs for not only organising the sale, but for her generosity in donating ten percent of the profits to the Ladies' Guild to go towards our charitable donations.

Although our kiddushim and events look effortless, nothing would be possible without the invaluable help of many people so thank you to Nicola Burns, Margaret Grant, Coral Jowell, Adrienne Phillips, Terry Samek and Clarice Shamash, and also to Carole Murray, by making regular phone calls to elderly members of the Shul.

Of course, a huge thank you to Mary and her team who make sure that everything is perfect, whether it be a normal Shabbat Kiddush, a large celebratory one or any other event.

And lastly, an enormous thank you to Douglas, Louise and Sylvia who keep everything in order (including me) and for whom nothing is ever too much trouble.

By Sara Cohen

BRIDGE TIPS by Harold Schogger

Stripping the hand by Harold Schogger

Sometimes when you play out a hand instead of taking a finesse and getting the guess wrong, particularly with a two way finesse, you can get the opposition to do the work for you by endplaying an opponent with an elimination play sometimes called stripping and throwing in.

The first part of this manoeuvre is to draw trumps so that your opponent will not be able to get off lead, with a trump. Next you get rid of two suits from your hand and the dummy.

At this point you can now play "the crucial" suit not minding which opponent gets the lead as they will now help you out and give you the extra trick you might need or open up a finesse position.

On our featured Deal

2♣ was the strongest bid you can make.

2NT shows a balanced hand with 8 + points

4♣ was a cue-bid confirming Club Ace

4♦ was another cue-bid confirming Diamond Ace

4♥ was nothing else to show

6♥ was bid because South thought he could now make 12 tricks

After the Club lead Declarer takes stock and sees there are no problems in trumps nor Diamonds and everything seems to be resting on the clubs breaking or the Spade finesse working.

However there is an extra chance if he can perform this elimination play.

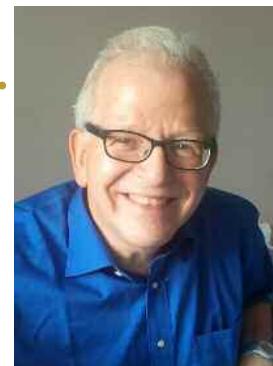
So the first thing he did was to win first trick and draw trumps in two rounds - trumps eliminated from opponents hands **task 1 achieved**.

He then played two rounds of Diamonds eliminating diamonds from his hand and dummy **task 2 part 1 achieved**.

He then tested Clubs and when they broke 4:2 he was disappointed but saw the extra chance and played a fourth round of Clubs discarding a Spade from hand and leaving West on lead **task 2 part 2 achieved**.

Now West was on lead and either had to play a Spade away from his King enabling declarer to not have a Spade loser or if he played a Diamond declarer would chuck a Spade from Hand and ruff in dummy, commonly called a ruff and discard. He was totally endplayed when he won the 4th club and declarer was able to bring home his contract despite the Spade finesse not working and the clubs breaking 4:2.

This elimination play is quite common and very often the defence will give you the extra trick you need near the end of a hand.



Dealer South	♠ 6 4 3	N	♠ J 10 9 8
North South Vul	♥ Q J 9 8	W	♥ 10 3
	♦ Q 6	E	♦ J 10 8 7 2
	♣ A Q 5 2	S	♣ 9 8
♠ K 7 5	♠ A Q 2		
♥ 6 2	♥ A K 7 5 4		
♦ 9 5 4 3	♦ A K		
♣ J 10 7 6	♣ K 4 3		
W	N	E	S
NO	2NT	NO	3♥
NO	4♣	NO	4♦
NO	4♥	NO	6♥
Lead ♣6			



Harold Schogger
0208 905 3877
www.haroldschogger.com

ק"ק בית הכנסת הגדול

WEST END GREAT SYNAGOGUE

Administrator

Chazan - Minister

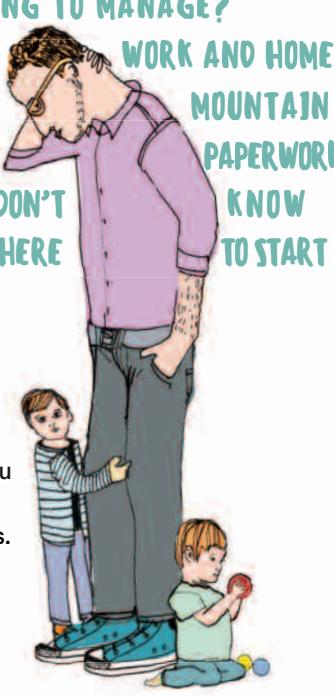
Naomi Singer

Rev Ari Cohen

West End Great Synagogue is delighted to be celebrating the High Holy Days with Central Synagogue.

We wish all members of Central a happy new year and an easy fast over Yom Kippur.

HOW AM I GOING TO MANAGE?
JUGGLING MY BOYS, WORK AND HOME
THERE'S A GROWING MOUNTAIN
OF OVERWHELMING PAPERWORK
I'M EXHAUSTED AND I DON'T KNOW
WHERE TO START



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Reflections from Stephen Pack, President of The US

Rosh Hashanah provides an excellent opportunity for us all to reflect on the past as well as to explore building for the future. Here Stephen Pack, The US President, answers a few wide-ranging questions.



What is the most important message you want to give to our fantastic communities?

I wish all of our members and their families a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. I would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone who works hard to make their communities successful.

Who have been the people who have inspired you?

I have been privileged to work closely with the Chief Rabbi and with the emeritus Chief Rabbi. They are a huge inspiration. I have also been fortunate to work with many great people over my career and have found you can learn something from everyone.

What do you think are the most exciting US initiatives that have been implemented in the last few years?

I am really excited by the new things we are doing with our communities including welcoming several new ones to The US family. The recent conference on Inspired Leadership was a great success and I was pleased we have launched the Community Development Fund to help our communities be even more successful.

What are you most proud of so far during your Presidency?

Five things: the appointment of our new Chief Rabbi, the appointment of our new Chief Executive, our women trustees and the increased role of women in lay leadership, the outstanding Strategic Review that has set out our priorities for the next few years and of course the new communities that have joined us.

What does the recent turmoil in the UK political arena mean for the Jewish community?

Political turmoil is rarely good for the Jews but I am delighted that the new Prime Minister has shown herself to be a true friend of the Jews and of Israel. I am concerned that we remain particularly vigilant about security over the coming months.

If someone is thinking about getting involved in the community what would you say to them?

I would say that the more you put into something the more you get back. Communal work can be very rewarding and you will enjoy it!

Tell us the funniest thing that has happened to you as President?

There are so many incidents but the application for Chief Rabbi from Rabbi Hyman Krustovski (of The Simpsons) was a highlight I won't forget!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

October 2016 / Tishrei 5777



In 5776, the Board of Deputies' profile has been raised to a new high. We are setting and leading the national agenda on the matters which count for Jews in this country.

When allegations of antisemitism emerged in Labour we confronted the problem head-on, raising concerns robustly in a face-to-face meeting with party leader Jeremy Corbyn. We were quoted throughout the national media on our response to Ken Livingstone's outrageous antisemitic remarks about Hitler and Zionism and when I gave evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee on antisemitism. We made a detailed submission to the Chakrabarti Inquiry into antisemitism in the Labour Party and responded to what we saw as the shortcomings in Ms Chakrabarti's report.

This has been the most tumultuous year in British political life in living memory, with a decision by referendum to leave the European Union and a new government. Throughout it all the Board of Deputies has been heard as the clear and calm voice of British Jews, addressing the issues with clarity and firmness of purpose. The Board has had a long and warm relationship with Prime Minister Theresa May. After the Paris attacks, she addressed the Board of Deputies and held up the sign "Je Suis Juif". I met with her as Home Secretary – raising issues ranging from antisemitic demonstrations to the Syrian refugee crisis – and she lit the Chanukiah at the Board's most recent Parliamentary Reception.

Early in my tenure as President, I was pleased to have a number of meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. On each occasion I assured him of the Board of Deputies' and the community's steadfast support. Whether it is speaking at demonstrations, making the case in the media, challenging BDS or supporting grassroots advocacy organisations and Christian allies around the country through the excellent work of Steven Jaffe, we have kept that promise and will continue to find new ways to do so.

We continue to be staunch defenders of Jewish schools and Jewish education in both the mainstream and Charedi sectors. When the Hebrew GCSE and A-Level came under threat again this year, we successfully campaigned to protect it. And we have continued to educate others about Judaism,

challenging prejudice and ignorance through our sector-leading new textbook on Judaism for non-Jewish schools, written by leading educationalist Clive Lawton. Meanwhile, we have redoubled efforts at interfaith relations with Christians, Muslims, Hindus and others, including through the Government-funded Muslim-Jewish Women's Network Nisa-Nashim and an interfaith project where girls from Jewish, Muslim and Catholic schools came together at Twitter's UK HQ to study computer coding.

We have continued to interact through all levels of government, from desk officer to secretaries of state. This year, we produced the first-ever Jewish manifestos for the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish elections, and are planning seminars for local councillors across the country. Our Employer's Guide to Judaism, launched by then Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Iain Duncan Smith, is available online and provides clear and comprehensive information, and we continue to support individual Jewish employees and students to get time off for religious festivals.

We have provided vital services for the community without asking for any more money for ten years. As our costs have risen over this time, this year the Community Contribution will be slightly increased from £25 to £30 per annum. By working efficiently and keeping costs to a minimum we are happy that we have been able to keep the Community Contribution down to a very affordable figure. I hope you will agree that we are providing excellent value in return for a very modest sum.

In 5777, we will continue to represent your interests as only a democratically elected body can. May this New Year bring you, your families and all of Am Yisrael health, strength and peace.

Jonathan Arkush



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	Ron Cohen	Roger Gibbons	Peter Koritschoner	Guy Ornadel	Bob Rubin
David Arad	Simon Cohen	Shlomo Godsi	David Kosky	Anthony Osoff	Philip Sandzer
Kevin Arenson	Philip Collett	Stanley Goldstein	Raymond Laren	Daniel Peltz	Stanley Salter
Adam Arnold	Stephen Davis	Andy Graham	Melvin Lawson	Martyn Pizer	Maurice Shamash
Colin Baker	Russell Dunstan	Malcolm Green	Steven Leas	Jonathan Plant	Leslie Shull
David Baker	Leon Dwek	Billy Grossman	Edward Lee	Sydney Pochin	Geoffrey Simmonds
Jonathan Barnett	Maurice Dwek	Ilan Gutkin	Craig Levison	Paul Rayden	Michael Sinclair
Simon Barnett	Leonard Fertleman	Norman Gutkin	Julian Lewis	Darren Richards	Neil Sinclair
Daniel Baum	Simon Finberg	Steve Haffner	Michael Lewis	Ellis Richards	Abner Solland
Michael Bayer	Laurence Finger	Paul Harrison	Steven Livingston	Michael Richards	Jon Spain
Harris Bor	Aron Freedman	Peter Hoffman	Paul Martin	Westley Richards	Stuart Stanton
Gary Burns	Clive Freedman	Michael Howard	Jonathan Metliss	Joel Rockman	Jonathan Stein
Eric Charles	Malcolm Freiberger	David Judah	Jeffrey Nedor	Gregory Roediger	Simon Stone
Marcos Chazan	Philip Freiberger	Chuni Kahan	John Newman	Sam Rogoff	Ben Tamary
Ari Cohen	Nigel Gee	Melvin Kay	Michael Norton	Issy Rondel	Jeremy Trent
Roger Cohen	Ben-Shalom Gentely	Lloyd Keisner	Peter Ohrenstein	Richard Rosenberg	Joe Weston

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.

SOCIAL & Personal Rosh Hashanah 5777

Welcome to New Members

- Alexander Bennaim
- Colin Bloch
- Eliot Cohen
- Emma and Elliot Graham
- Jade and Ben Graham
- Jonathan Gilbert
- Martyn Goldstein
- Diana Hoppen
- Lorraine Kemble
- Nadia Lasserson
- Barbara and Frank Milestone
- Katie Morton
- Suzanne Pomerantz
- Katrina and Andrew Renton
- Ian Rosenfeld
- Jade Reuben
- Irving Scholar
- Elena and Eli Shahmoon
- Aviva Silver
- Geoffrey Simmonds
- Sally and Jonathan Stein
- Daniel Stone
- Joanne and Jacob Turner

Births. Mazeltov to the following parents and their families:

- Carla and Louis Ditz on the birth of a daughter
- Alix and David Fine on the birth of a daughter
- Nicole and Daniel Newman on the birth of a son
- Georgia Kaufman and Robert Rees on the birth of a son
- Susan and Marc Sperber on the birth of a daughter
- Talya and Simon Weigl on the birth of a son
- Joanna and Charles Wolfson Townsley on the birth of a son
- Orli and Andrew Wolfson on the birth of a daughter
- Chassia and Geoffrey Ditz on the birth of a granddaughter
- Lola and Anthony Freeman on the birth of a granddaughter

- Carol and Joshua Berkowitz on the birth of a grandson
- Cheryl and Ian Gordon on the birth of a grandson
- Susan and Ian Grant on the birth of a grandson
- Susan and Raymond Haas on the birth of a granddaughter
- Kate and Alan Hyman on the birth of a grandson
- Madelaine and Simon Korn on the birth of two granddaughters
- Martin Lederman on the birth of a granddaughter
- Carole and Robert Morris on the birth of a granddaughter
- Suzanne and Jeffrey Nedas on the birth of a grandson
- Lynne and John Newman on the birth of a grandson
- Daphne and Harold Schogger on the birth of twin grandsons
- Carol and Joseph Tamman on the birth of a grandson
- Laura and Barry Townsley on the birth of a grandson
- David Wolfson on the birth of a granddaughter
- Leah Berkowitz on the birth of a great granddaughter and a great grandson
- Ruth Wolfson on the birth of a great grandson

- Jade and Ben Graham
- Emma and Elliott Graham
- Joanne and Jacob Turner
- Katrina and Andrew Renton
- Roberta Krendel and Irving Scholar on the marriage of their son Jeremy to Annabelle Wills
- Clarice Shamash on the marriage of her grandson, David Shasha to Shulamis Simmonds

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

- Monty Ainsley
- Brian Castle
- Josephine Castle
- Ketty Cohen
- Hannah Foley
- Zorach Gehl
- Louis Green
- Marian Harrison
- Klara Herlinger
- Francis Landis
- Ben Rudolf
- Cyril Saper
- Beverley Stockman
- Colin Winer

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

- Manoucher Aaron on the loss of two Sisters
- Paul Caplan on the loss of his Mother
- Geoffrey Ditz on the loss of his Brother
- Anna Ejdelbaum on the loss of her Mother
- Lauren Kaye on the loss of her Mother
- Jacqueline Lawson on the loss of her Father
- Andrew Michaels on the loss of his Mother
- Anthony Osoff on the loss of his Mother
- Sylvia Shine on the loss of her Sister
- Steven Tucker on the loss of his Father

Bar Mitzvahs

- Ben Arkus
- Ben Gabriel
- Joey Katz
- Jacob Lee
- Boaz Lister
- Jacob Norden
- Marcus Sieff
- Freda and Leon Dwek on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson

Marriages. Mazeltov to the families of:

- Celine and Eitan Carmona
- Stacey and Jeremy Goldstein

Mazeltov to:

83rd BIRTHDAY

- Geoffrey Leigh

90th BIRTHDAY

- Albert Castle
- Harvey Castle
- Gertrude Harris
- Clarisse Laurier
- Sylvia Reuben

25th ANNIVERSARY

- Limor and Amir Chen
- Hilary and Stephen Conway
- Pauline and Clive Mishon

30th ANNIVERSARY

- Victoria and John Hyman
- Benita and Michael Marks
- Jillian and John Ritblat
- Sally and Jonathan Stein

40th ANNIVERSARY

- Susan and Ian Grant
- Eva and Bernard Goldenberg
- Rochelle and Nicholas Hai
- Stephanie and Anthony Harris
- Loretta and Ronald Harris
- Kate and Alan Hyman
- Laraine and Harvey Lawrence
- Cheryl and Stuart Lewis
- Pamela and Neil Sinclair

- Laura and Barry Townsley

50th ANNIVERSARY

- Lynette and Raymond Davies
- Wendy and Peter Levene
- Marilyn and Robert Michaels
- Penny and Michael Sinclair

60th ANNIVERSARY

- Adele and Gary Keane

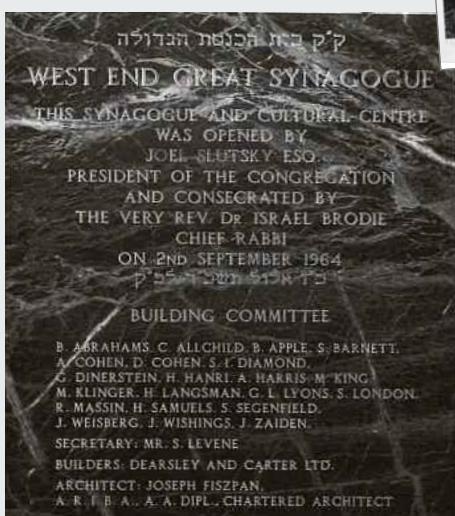
Mazel Tov

- Daniel Peltz on being awarded an OBE
- Laura Townsley on receiving an Honorary Doctorate from Hebrew University

FROM WEST END GREAT SYNAGOGUE:

The community of West End Great Synagogue feels thoroughly settled in their new premises. Since joining the services at Central, the celebrations of the Yom Tovim have been on a scale reminiscent of the Dean Street Shul of old.

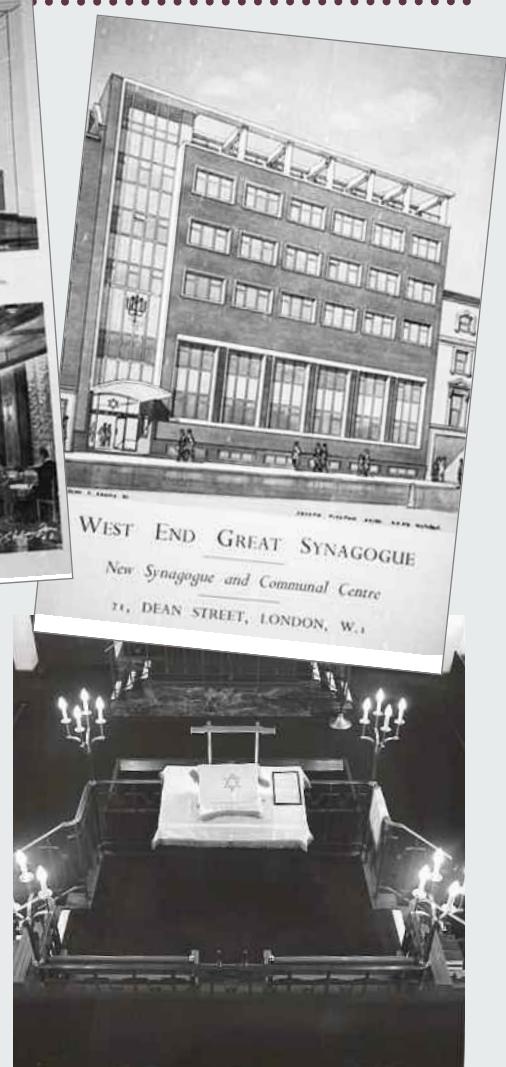
We have also been pleased to be able to share in your many other activities, from concerts to lectures. This is a new and wonderful facility for all of us. Your continuing warm



and sincere welcome enhances every contact between us and adds a joyous dimension to every activity, whether religious or secular.

So we are truly delighted to be celebrating the High Holy Days with Central Synagogue.

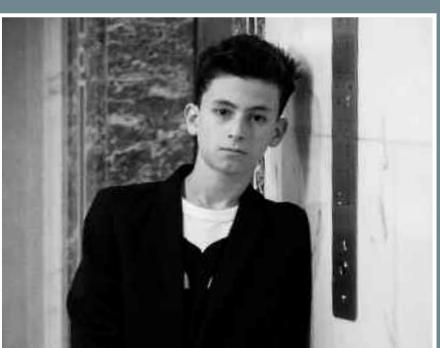
We look forward to sharing this particularly special time with our new and special friends. We pray that the New Year may be a blessing for all.



Back page photographs:

From top left across: Katrina and Andrew Renton • Jacob Norden • Lara Rosa Ditz • Leo Wolfson Townsley • Jade and Ben Graham • Melissa Sperber Abi and Jonathan Gradel • Stacey and Jeremy Goldstein • Ralph Newman • Emma and Elliott Graham • Ben Arkus • Jacob Lee • Boaz Lister Benjamin and Daniel Pellet • Kaia Caroline Fine

September 2016 • Tishrei 5777



CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE
LONDON