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Magazine of Kingston, Surbiton & District Synagogue



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JANUARY
2010

SHEVAT
5770

NEXT EDITION CHADASHOT:

Copy date: 26 April 2010

Publication: 18 May 2010

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The views expressed in Chadashot are not necessarily
those of the Editorial Board, or the Shul Council

MAZAL TOV to:

Jackie and Irving GORDON on the birth of a GRANDSON
Mindi and Ronald ISON on the birth of a GRANDDAUGHTER
Bernice and Leon FRIEDMAN on the birth of two GRANDSONS
Jill and David PRAGER on the engagement of ANNA to ADAM ROSS
Carolyn and Paul SOCKER on the birth of a GRANDSON
Jill and Hilton TRAUB on the birth of a GRANDSON
The ELIAS family on the Barmitzvah of ALEX
Shoshana and Stephen CARSON on the birth of a GRANDSON
Judith and Leonard SHERSKI on the engagement of ANDREW to Ruth HODES

CONDOLENCES to:

Kitty BECKWITH on the loss of her HUSBAND
Joan SAUNDERS on the loss of her HUSBAND
The Family of Sid DINKIN
Valerie ROBEY on the loss of her MOTHER

**We would like to thank the following
for providing KIDDUSHIM:**

Jill and David Prager, Bobby and Philip Weinberg, Daryl-Anne and Dan
Elias, The Cheder Committee, Stephanie and Peter Edward, Elise and
Martin Wolfson.

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If you would like a tour of the Centre, or to discuss becoming a freemason, please telephone me.



The congregation must be missing his booming laughter, his response to one of the rabbi's amusing anecdotes. This is because Cecil was a genuine good-natured extrovert with contagious joie de vivre. He contributed generously to the running of the shul in many ways for over 20 years.

An early morning phone call to make up a minyan on a bleak weekday morning would be answered with a good natured response when most members would have found an excuse and gone back to sleep. Not so Cecil.

He was the official pro bono emergency odd-job man with additional trouble-shooting work at the rabbi's house any time of the day. In fact I will never forget his description of a commando-style climb to the rabbi's toilet to free Rabbi Coten's son who had locked himself in the loo.

For a 74 year old to perform such an adventure must have been Buster Keaton-esque and gave us many opportunities for a good chuckle.



Every year, C (as he signed himself) was involved in the construction of the rabbi's Succah as all our rabbis were too engrossed in the next sermon or the leyning to know one end of a hammer from the other ---- typical Jewish problem according to Jackie Mason. Imagine C's amazement to find that our Rabbi Michael was an expert master carpenter. This too gave us considerable scope for humour at the possible fate of an inattentive congregant.

Among his many interests, his passion for the motor bike was paramount. It was amusing to see him on a Sunday morning at Box Hill chatting to the assembled young leathered bikers who must have viewed him with amazement.

Most important was Cecil's typical Yorkshire kindness illustrated by his welcome of any stranger in shul who would be invited home for a Shabat meal often to the surprise of his wife Kitty. He often recalled his time in Egypt doing National Service after the war. He would seek out the local family Cohen or Levy who always provided him with Friday night hospitality and more. This is something he was determined to emulate all his life.

Sadly, Cecil died just before Yom Kippur this year after a long struggle for life. He was a fighter to the very end and he is greatly missed by his wife Kitty, his three children, three grandchildren, many relatives and all our community.

As for me, every time I hear the rabbi's sermon I will be listening in vain for Cecil's laughter to bring back memories of a unique bon viveur and a dear, dear friend.

Marcel Ladenheim

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A concert to celebrate creativity and diversity in the Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames was held in Surbiton Assembly Rooms on Sunday November 15th at 3.30pm. This concert was one of the activities held during the Inter Faith week 15th - 22nd November and was organised by Andrea Campenelli from Sacred Space and the Kingston Inter Faith Forum. Rabbi Michael and Anthony Freedman are our representatives in the forum and Ronald Ison is our outreach contact from the Board of Management. The Cheder was asked to perform a couple of songs at the concert on behalf of the Orthodox Jewish Community in Kingston and I took Maia and Daniel Phillips, Bethany Lewis and Saul Edward just a portion of the Cheder choir who were available that afternoon to sing a couple of songs that they have been practising for the Rabbi's Induction on the 29th November! The concert included music and recitals from Muslims Christians Sikhs Hindus Bahai's and Humanists and was very interesting and entertaining but needless to say the children from Kingston Cheder performed beautifully and made all of those who came to support the concert very proud! Well done Maia Daniel Saul and Bethany!

Gill Varon



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This has been a very busy term at Cheder! Despite the holidays falling on four consecutive Sundays we still managed to fit in ten sessions of Cheder including a Cheder breakfast, a Cheder Shabbat, a Simchat Torah event and an Inter-Cheder Chanukah event all in this term!



The children are continuing to learn a little Ivrit in assemblies and they were also lucky enough to have Anthony Cowen come and talk about the lives of Jewish children in Germany before the war as part of our Remembrance Day Education.

The choir has worked very hard this term in preparation for Rabbi Michael's Induction and it certainly paid off. They were brilliant on the day!

Kingston Synagogue hosted an inter-cheder event for Chanukah on Sunday 13th December when children from Chabad Wimbledon and Richmond Shul joined our children to spend a fun morning learning about Chanukah through drama, making latkes and watching how olive oil is made! The children watched their group leaders, Rabbi Michael and Rabbi Dubov light the



chanukias and then tucked in to some Chanukah treats - latkes and doughnuts!! There were approximately 90 children and many older children came to help with teachers from the three Chederim! Great fun was had by all! This is the third inter-cheder event we have taken part in since March 2009 and the concept is a great success as our children get to meet other Jewish children plus we pool our resources to put on a fantastic day for them all.

More to look forward to next term but first we need a well earned rest!

Happy Chanukah!

Gill Varon

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A wise man once asked “what is the greatest distance in the human body?” He reflected that it is not from head to toe nor is it the length of the intestines. Rather it is the distance that spans from the head to the heart. Sometimes we disconnect and separate our intellect from our emotions. When our intellect and emotions coincide, it can be most powerful and take us by surprise.

My induction was one such experience. Being new to the UK, I had never been to an induction so I really wasn't sure what to expect. Sure, I was very involved with planning the day, and I knew what was scheduled to happen from minute to minute but I didn't have a memory to know what to expect.



Intellectually, I understood the concept of an induction and the attendant practices, but I could never have imagined how moving and meaningful the ceremony would be. When



I heard Adrian Alexander and Eliot Alderman, the melodious chazanim, sing Ma Tovv together, my heart started to catch up to my head. My eyes became wells. I later learned that I was not the only one who shed tears that afternoon. My tears were those of happiness. My tears were laden with emotions and thoughts of looking at my life's path and saying “thank you” to G-d. If my tears had a voice they would have told that I not

only felt the kavod (respect), support and love that was directed towards me, but that it was also reciprocal! I feel a deep respect, appreciation and love towards this esteemed congregation. In particular, I am most appreciative of Anthony Cowen and the Board of Management for providing such a wonderful day on my behalf. As always, Anthony spoke with a brilliant combination of humour, charisma and dignity.

Although most of my family was unable to attend, my father came from the US. His presence at the induction was important to me. We have chosen very different paths in life. My father is a reform rabbi, and I am an orthodox rabbi. Often we maintain different perspectives on many issues, but there is also a lot of love, respect and admiration between us.





His presence was a symbol of the positive qualities in our “father-son” relationship.

The Chief Rabbi is one of my role models, and it was a great honour to be given a platform to share my message and direction with him. The ceremony was inspiring. The moving readings by Jeremy Ferdman and Elini Varon and the performance of the cheder choir will be indelibly

inscribed for all time in my recollections of the ceremony. The Chief Rabbi spoke eloquently and masterfully and blessed me through three teachings about Chanukah which will become part of that which will guide my ministry and my life. Anthony Freedman did a faultless job of organizing the day, and the food was delicious. In addition to the community, I am sure that all the invited dignitaries enjoyed themselves as well.

As a community, the induction provided a boost of inspiration. It demonstrated that we are an important and healthy Jewish community, and it showed that in just over a year our relationship of “rabbi-community” is flowering. I hope that this will continue to develop based on mutual respect and trust. I am honoured to be your rabbi and I thank you for welcoming me to your community.

Rabbi Michael Rosenfeld

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A large audience was introduced to the world of publishing and book selling by guest speaker Judy Piatkus, of Piatkus Books, at a most enjoyable luncheon in November. She spoke of the development of her publishing business from its earliest days in her home, to its sale as a large and flourishing enterprise a few years ago. She now enjoys lecturing about personal development, and emphasised the importance of accepting and welcoming fundamental changes in one's life, from which one can benefit, as exemplified by her own career. We are most grateful to Shoshana and Stephen Carson for once again providing us with such warm hospitality.

At the Annual General Meeting Ruth Sotnick, the President of WIZO.uk, spoke eloquently about special projects which are being carried out in Israel. In Beersheva there is a scheme to bring girls from the streets and give them a safe haven where they can receive help and support to change their lifestyle. The vocational school at the Rebecca Sieff Centre in Jerusalem does vital work, providing a professional training for underprivileged young people in catering and hairdressing.

She emphasised the importance of leaving a legacy to WIZO in your will. The Jewish people have a tradition of charitable giving and this is a way of contributing in your lifetime. If you notify WIZO that you have included this legacy in your will you become a Lifeline and can join in various activities which are arranged for the donors. It does not have to be a large donation and the amount is not disclosed in any way. She felt it was important that friends and relations who are not necessarily WIZO members should know about the scheme.

The chairman and committee were re-elected for the coming year.

Forthcoming events:

Saturday 23rd January, 2010

WIZO.ukquiz@home.

Every year this national quiz evening gets better and more groups take part. Last year Kingston Wizo hosted 7 teams and did very well.

If you would like to host a supper for a few friends or join in as a guest, please contact Jackie Gordon on 020 8399 0926.

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Another calendar year is over. Watching the rain beat down provides an opportunity to reflect on the previous few months. The Yomim Noraim are over. Joshua Freedman provided excellent and able support to Dov Spiers.

There has been another excellent Cheder Shabbat. The continuing success of these is a testament to the inspiration of Gill Varon and the Rabbi as well as the hard work and commitment of the pupils. We look forward to the continuance of these as well as the attendance of the children (and their parents) at the regular children's services .

We are implementing some of the ideas raised at the AGM. We have had two very well supported and successful Friday night meals which attracted over 60 people on each occasion. It was gratifying to see many younger members and, at the last meal, several students from Kingston University. The Mechitzah arrangement is currently and temporarily back to the old straight arrangement. The arrangement with two wings brought forward at an angle provides some seats for ladies on each side which are closer to the Bimah. This arrangement answers the criticisms raised, and we have agreed to implement it. However, it requires extra panels. The ones we have with ropes have led to comparisons with a boxing ring. Whilst researching and sourcing the two extra matching panels required to make it aesthetically pleasing we discovered the wooden parts of the four existing panels were made by the late Cecil Beckwith. The Board has decided to raise the sum of money for the two new panels and dedicate them to his memory. Further details will follow.

The induction of Rabbi Rosenfeld was another great success thanks to the meticulous organisation of Anthony Freedman. One of the high spots of this was the performance by the Cheder choir. All these events have proved successful not only due to the support of the community but also the hard work of the members who organise them. We are always receptive to ideas. If you have any thoughts or would like to volunteer to help organise activities please contact a member of the Board. On a personal note I would like to extend my thanks to the many members who have provided, and continue to provide, help and support during Alan's enforced absence from the Bimah.

Louis Temple

Warden

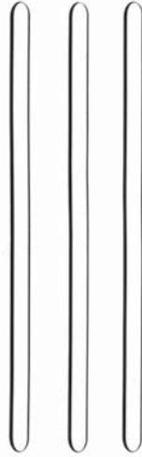


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The Holocaust Educational Trust (HET) have an extensive programme throughout the UK, providing teaching materials, speakers and support for schools and colleges.

They also sponsor a series of one-day trips to Auschwitz-Birkenau – and on most trips they allow a few MPs and journalists, to join the student groups. This October I went and Simone thought readers might be interested on my reflections.

Even though I'd visited Dachau as a young man, read about the Holocaust and last year visited Yad Vashem, this trip touched me deeply. In discussions with older HET staff we shared the same reaction. It was clear why: we all had young children.

At Yad Vashem, it was the Children's Memorial where the names of each child are spoken which had shaken me most. On the Auschwitz trip it was two letters I read on the plane, in the HET's pamphlet. They call them the "Lifetime of Love" Letters. Here is an extract.

"Dear Mirele,

I can't believe I have one night to stuff a lifetime of love into this letter.

Tomorrow morning – if 4.00 am can be called morning, I am giving you up. I am taking you, Mirele, to the back entrance of dear, brave Hermann's grocery and the child rescuers will be waiting there for you and the thirty-two other children under the age of three."

"Here is where pain mixes with rage. I rage at the animals who are making it possible for you to cry and I won't be there to comfort you."

"Mirele, do me a favour after you've grown up, after this dirty nightmarish war is over....I know there will be those who underplay the tragedies going on here every day. They will say, "A war is a war. It was just a war."Tell them, Mirele, that all the wars in the world don't add up to the agony in my heart right now as I write this."

The visit itself stays with you for days after. The visit to the pre-war Jewish sites at Oswiecim, the exhibition of victims' belongings, including piles of glasses, luggage and the room of human hair. The camps, chambers and crematoria.

Seeing this and listening to HET's educators, there was the shock of the barbarity and the imagination of the unspeakable suffering and sadness. And my head was full of two angry questions – "why?" and "how could humans do this?"

It wasn't a history lesson I needed. Or political or philosophical instruction. More some psychological explanation. HET staff helped the struggle for answers.

They introduced me to the theory of the "eight stages of genocide" put forward by Gregory Stanton in 1996, after he studied the genocides in Cambodia and Rwanda. While recognising the differences, Stanton urges us to recognise and learn from the similarities.

Classification: them and us. Symbolization: words or symbols, yellow stars or skin colours. Dehumanization: turning "them" into pariahs, the third stage which Stanton comments is the first sick step to genocide. Then organization: the SS, the Ku Klux Klan, the janjaweed. Polarization: killing the opponents to silence others. Preparation: ghettos, camps, reservations. Extermination. Denial.

Such analysis seems inadequate against the "Lifetime of Love" letters. But for Mirele, and the millions like her, we have to remember and learn.

Edward Davey MP

The Maccabiah Games occur every 4 years in Israel, they are the third largest multi-sport international event in the world. This summer I was asked to be Chairman of the Great Britain Maccabiah Rugby Squad for 2009. It was an amazing experience, being part of TeamGB consisting of 500+ athletes and managers.

Beforehand we had trialled nearly 40 good quality Jewish rugby players. In the end we had a squad of 24 (only 8 with previous Maccabi experience). We knew the standard of rugby at the competition was high but our squad was young (average age 24) and worryingly had 7 lads who were either leaving school the week before the Games or had left the year before. One of the boys was my son, Guy Tyler, who had been Rugby captain of KCS Wimbledon and was barmitzvahed at Kingston in 2002. We were going to have to rapidly turn boys into men!

I am pleased to say that the team did Maccabi TeamGB proud. We were described as the "Team of the Tournament" and not only played with distinction but were regarded as great ambassadors for GB, Jewish Sport, and Rugby in particular. Our competitors did not expect us to do well and we entered the tournament as one of the underdogs, the other teams being South Africa, Australia, USA, Canada, Israel and Chile. However no-one allowed for our superb coaches nor the talent of the boys. By the end of the tournament, we were told, the team would have held its own in an English National Division 2 league!

The team got a very tough draw and in the first rounds they were up against both Australia and South Africa (2005 champions). However the team gained more and more confidence as they went through the tournament, despatching Australia 16-6 in a very tough game and then beating South Africa in a bruising encounter 19-10.

During this time we also experienced the awesome opening ceremony in Ramat Gan stadium, not unlike an Olympic Games opening ceremony, with 41,000 people (including the Israeli Prime Minister and President) watching as we marched around behind our National Flag and our celebratory guest, Sir Bobby Charlton! We also had a few cultural visits to places such as Yad Vashem and the quite moving experience of having 5 of the team re-establish their Jewish roots in a Barmitzvah celebration for them at the Western Wall in Jerusalem with the whole rugby squad and management present as their surrogate families.

As we advanced through the competition we gained increasing TV and newspaper media coverage and it made for a particularly exciting semi-final against the much fancied USA team. They were the tournament favourites, with 4 US current and ex Internationals in the team. Our confidence and training now showed through and we trounced them 16-3. So we were now through to the final.

Sadly in the final, facing Australia again, and now as the favourites and on Live National TV, the occasion seemed to get to the boys and the team lost shape in the first half and were 16-3 down at half time. The boys showed fantastic steel and fought back and in the end lost 19-16 at the final whistle having missed a vital penalty that would have taken it to extra time.

With a silver medal under their belt, the boys are determined to stay together and play a few matches as a Maccabi side over the next 3 years. We really hope we can look for local support again when we go back to claim the Gold in 2013! We also will be looking for more good quality rugby players to join the squad and they should contact me via jonmt Tyler@hotmail.com. I can also send a more detailed and exciting competition report written by Guy, who now has been asked by Israel to play for them in their qualifying World Cup matches next year.

We are eternally grateful to anyone who sponsored us, without which we could not have achieved what we did.

Jon Tyler



30 years ago, I was living at Kfar Hanassi in Northern Israel. The highlight of the week for me was Friday night – when the whole Kibbutz sat down to greet Shabbat and eat together. The singing and general feeling of joy that was part of those Friday evenings was brought sharply back to me as I sat in my own shul last Friday night.

I had not been able to go to the previous community meals, but what a wonderful evening the community kabbalat Shabbat was on 4th December. There were about 70 people present - familiar faces, and not such familiar faces, and complete strangers – members of the Kingston University JSoc joined us – giving great nachus to their parents I am sure.

Singing (if you wanted to), sharing wine and challah, laughing, learning and of course eating together made this Shabbat evening pure pleasure.

Now that my children are grown and living away from home, and with the rest of my family living in North West London – Friday night has suddenly become a quiet dinner for two at the end of a tiring week. Even the smallest of chickens is too big for two!

I know that, in time, the circle will close and (hopefully) our children will be close enough to share Shabbat with us and we will (eventually) retire and be able to travel and share Friday nights with our now very extended family.

How nice, though, to think that every so often, Friday nights will be made just that little bit more special by sharing it with our warm, caring and inviting community.

I hope that more members of the community – young, middle and older members – will join us next time. I am sure that some members did not come because they think they will look unlearned – don't – there was not a single moment when anyone felt that way – it didn't matter that I didn't know the tunes, or that my Hebrew is not very good – the atmosphere was completely relaxed and you could join in as much or as little as you felt comfortable doing. It didn't matter if you lost your way through grace after meals – there was someone to point a finger to the right place on the page. No-one was there to judge you – just to share.

Thank you to those who organised the evening, to those who prepared the shul and the meal, the rabbi who went to NW London to collect the food (chollent, chicken and chopped liver) and to everyone who came for a really lovely evening.

Andrea Gordon

The next Friday evening meal will be February 5th.



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|---|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------|
| Beshalach (Tu B'Shvat) | Jan 29/30 | 4:30 | 4:26 | 5:39 |
| Yitro | Feb 5/6 | 4:45 | 4:38 | 5:51 |
| Mishpatim (Parshat Shkalim/Bless new moon) | Feb 12/13 | 4:55 | 4:51 | 6:02 |
| Teruma | Feb 19/20 | 5:10 | 5:04 | 6:14 |
| Fast of Esther | Feb 25 | | 5:15 AM | 5:59PM |
| Tetzave (Parshat Zachor) | Feb 26/27 | 5:20 | 5:16 | 6:26 |
| Purim Megila reading | Feb 27 (Sat) | 7:00 PM | | |
| Purim Megila reading | Feb 28 (Sun) | 9:00 AM | | |
| Ki Tisa (Parshat Parah) | Mar 5/6 | 5:35 | 5:29 | 6:38 |
| Vayakhel-Pekudei (Parshat Ha'Chodesh/ Bless new moon) | Mar 12/13 | 5:45 | 5:41 | 6:50 |
| Vayikra | Mar 19/20 | 6:00 | 5:53 | 7:02 |
| Tzav (Shabbat Hagadol) | Mar 26/27 | 6:10 | 6:05 | 7:15 |
| British Summer Time Begins March 28 | | | | |
| Pesach | March 29-31 | See other table | | |
| Shabbat Chol Hamoed | April 2/3 | 7:00 | 7:16 | 8:27 |
| 7 th + 8 th day Pesach | April 4-6 | See other table | 7:20 | 8:33 |
| Shemini (Bless new moon) | April 9/10 | 7:00 | 7:28 | 8:40 |
| Tazria-Metzora | April 16/17 | 7:00 | 7:40 | 8:54 |
| Achrei- Kedoshim | April 23/24 | 7:00 | 7:51 | 9:07 |
| Emor | April 30/May 1 | 7:00 | 8:03 | 9:21 |
| Behar-Bechokotai (Bless new moon) | May 7/8 | 7:00 | 8:14 | 9:35 |
| Bamidbar | May 14/15 | 7:00 | 8:25 | 9:49 |

Pesach Timetable



| Date | Service/Comment | Time |
|--|--|----------|
| Sunday March 28 th | Erev Pesach | |
| | Search for Chametz after nightfall | 7:26 pm |
| Monday March 29 th | Morning Service (Fast of the first born) | 6:45 am |
| | Stop eating chametz by | 10:57 am |
| | Burn/Destroy chametz by | 12:01 pm |
| | Pesach Day 1 | |
| Tuesday March 30 th | Evening Service | 7:00 pm |
| | Morning Service | 9:30 am |
| | Afternoon and Evening Service | 7:00 pm |
| | Pesach Day 2 | |
| Wed March 31 st | Second Seder | 7:30 pm |
| | Morning Service | 9:30 am |
| | Afternoon/Evening Service | 7:00 pm |
| Thursday April 1 st Friday April 2 nd | Shabbat/Festival ends | 8:20 pm |
| | Chol HaMoed Morning Service | 6.45 am |
| | Morning Service | 8.00 am |
| Shabbat April 2/3 | Shabbat | |
| | Afternoon/Evening Service | 7:00 pm |
| | Morning Service | 9:30 am |
| Sunday April 4 th | Morning Service | 8.00 am |
| | Seventh Day Pesach | |
| | Afternoon/Evening Service | 7:00 pm |
| Monday April 5 th | Morning Service | 9:30 am |
| | Afternoon/Evening Service | 7:25 pm |
| Tuesday April 6 th | Eighth Day Pesach | |
| | Morning Service | 9:30 am |
| | Festival Ends (allow an hour for chametz to be rebought) | 8:33 pm |



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- The City of Ostrava honours Karel Reisz.

On 25 September 2009 a plaque was unveiled to Karel Reisz, film director, outside the house in Ostrava, at 28 Rinja St, where he spent his boyhood. Commemorating his life in the Cinema, the plaque is in the form of a sculpture of a camera whose lens shows the photo of the pre war Reisz family with Karel and his brother Pavel as children. Only the two boys survived the Holocaust, the rest were killed in Auschwitz, but Karel's story is inspiring and his legacy alive and well today.

The house is on the site of Karel's grandfather, Ignatz', gents outfitting shop. Ignatz' son, Josef, became a prominent Ostrava lawyer and redeveloped the site of the shop. The family lived there and Pavel (now Paul) and Karel were born and lived there. Paul, who now lives in Marple Bridge, Stockport, England returned to Ostrava for the ceremony.

In 1938, sponsored as a refugee by the Quaker School at Reading, Berks, Leighton Park, where his brother Pavel was already a student, Karel arrived via Winton's Kindertransport, aged 12 with Czech as his spoken language.



At 18 he was already training as an RAF fighter pilot, proud of his impeccable English accent. Two years later he entered Emmanuel College, Cambridge to read Natural Sciences and then moved predictably into teaching,.... but less predictably to St. Marylebone Grammar School, which, immediately postwar, exposed him to working class children and their families. This proved a profound experience to a young man who had lost his own future and family just at Grammar school age.

By 1952 he had given up school teaching to become Programme Director of the National Film Theatre. He was commissioned by the British Film Academy to produce *The Technique of Film Editing*,

This book immediately became a standard work of reference, although Reisz had little practical experience himself at this time.

In 1959 he made *We are The Lambeth Boys* capturing the energy and aspirations of contemporary youth in documentary style, fuelled by his own teaching experiences. This set a pattern for the future. In making *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning* with Albert Finney, he spent real time on location in a Nottingham Miner's Welfare Centre and local factories, using the flexible medium of hand held cameras. This was followed by such 'classics' as *This Sporting Life* and *The French Lieutenant's Woman* with Meryl Streep. This brought him worldwide fame, both for the sophisticated, mysterious way it looked and for his idea of filming the 'actors' stories' in tandem with the difficult John Fowles text, adapted by Harold Pinter.

The plaque and the sculpture in his birthplace of Ostava are tangible reminders of Karel Reisz, the story and achievements of his life in developing the art of film and are a continuing inspiration.

Helen Setright
David Lawson



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The UK Jewish Film Festival this year included several films shown in Richmond which was rather nice. The first film entitled 'Bury' was a short 12 minute documentary about a Jewish mother's dilemma to subject her newly first born son to circumcision, or spare him the agony and so let him be different from all other Jewish boys – well she made the right decision in the end.

The main film, entitled 'Zrubavel' was produced, directed and played entirely by the Ethiopian community within Israel, with sponsorship from the Israeli Film Industry.

The film proved to be a very moving account of an Ethiopian Jewish family's path to integration in Israel. Getei the grandfather, was a professional within his Ethiopian community in Africa, yet now because he spoke no Hebrew, he was a street sweeper, yet still proud and determined that his family would flourish and contribute to life in their new homeland.

What a struggle it turned out to be, the loss of his own son in fighting for Israel, his grandchildren being torn between family cohesion and social upheaval – brought about by those youngsters within the Ethiopian community, who found integration too difficult due to racialism, education inequalities and lack of opportunity. This film portrayed it all, the values of religious beliefs verse conflict within modern Western culture. The pathos deepens, when Getei and family become distraught over the untimely death of his gifted second son.

Fortunately it all came good in the end, when the youngest grandson, who wants to be a movie-director persuades his grandfather to attend the wedding of his pregnant granddaughter which is celebrated in a very Ethiopian party like atmosphere and hope and happiness is restored.

Though the screening was on a Sunday mid-morning, the attendance at the Curzon Cinema Richmond was disappointing. Hopefully, in future years the efforts of the organisers of the Annual Jewish Film Festival and our Chadashot will result in improved support.

We, like the rest of the audience, were deeply moved by this superb film and thought had to be given to the immense task that integration into Eretz Israel really imposes, on all parties involved.

See you next year.

Michael & Jennifer Strauss

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Meeting friends every other Tuesday from 10.30 am to 3.15 pm has become a way of life for many senior citizens in

the area. They travel from various local districts, like Richmond, Weybridge, Twickenham and Sutton. They enjoy companionship, good food, entertainment and a sociable club atmosphere.

There is always room for new people – just try once. You will be hooked.

Pearl Gordon

Dame Myra Hess Day

A special day of events honouring Dame Myra Hess, who initiated, directed and performed in a series of legendary concerts at the National Gallery during the Second World War has taken place for the last four years and I was lucky enough to be invited this year. The Ernest Hecht Charitable Foundation supports the concerts. At lunchtime we were treated to a programme of Purcell, Mozart and Howard Ferguson, played by students from the Yehudi Menuhin School Orchestra and conducted by the exuberant Malcolm Singer. The diminutive pianist Min Young Bae started off a little tentatively but soon settled down and gave an outstanding performance.

After a short break the wonderful actress Patricia Routledge, performed a monologue of Myra Hess's extraordinary life, accompanied by international concert pianist Piers Lane playing music associated with her. Afterwards when we met I reminded her that we had worked together on Gilbert and Sullivan many years ago at the BBC and she gave a hoot and said 'I remember, I just couldn't reach that A'.

Finally the evening concert was performed by a number of the most outstanding winners of the Dame Myra Hess Award, including Martin Jones, the very first recipient. Looking round Gallery 36 at the magnificent paintings I thought just how lucky we were to live within reach of so many wonderful places to visit.

This annual event takes place in October and anyone can attend.

Simone Halfin



At our Chanukah Party around 50 people lit Chanukah candles and helped themselves to a delicious buffet at the Rabbi's house. A most enjoyable evening was had by all.



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Albert Einstein, possibly the greatest scientist of the last century, was one of the founders of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His unique relationship to the Hebrew University found a lasting expression in the bequest of his literary estate and personal papers to that institution. "Einstein's Legacy" a touring public lecture, composed and delivered by astrophysicist Michelle Supper on behalf of the British Friends of the Hebrew University, came to Kingston in November.

Michelle's talk and slideshow gave fascinating insights into Einstein's personal life - for example he was involved in the patenting of Toblerone during his employment at the Swiss Federal Office for Intellectual Property in 1909 – as well as explaining his three ground-breaking research papers - Brownian motion, the photoelectric effect, and general relativity. We heard that Albert Einstein was not just a physicist, he was a genius, a husband, a father, a musician, a cultural icon, and a Zionist and this led to many questions from the enthralled audience.

Michelle entertained us before the lecture by juggling (see picture) - one of her many hobbies.

The event was part of the shul's cultural and educational programme and a vote of thanks was given by Helen Setright.

Hazel Green



Monday 10 August, what a day that was! In the morning money from the house sale was transferred to a bond to sustain us in Israel. Last clothes were taken to the charity shop. Packing was finished at 6 pm. I was telephoning to settle gas, electricity, water and telephone when our taxi arrived at 6.15 pm accompanied by the house buyer and family. Finally we left the house with a send-off by 20-30 neighbours in the road. We arrived late at the Hendon Boy's School fortunately, as this meant plenty of space to bring in our 10 cases and register. Then we were taken to the Holiday Inn Express at Henleys Corner, near the flat where we spent our early married life (1952-3). Next morning we were bussed to Heathrow.

On arrival at Ben Gurion we were welcomed with cash and taken to Jerusalem Shalom Hotel for two nights. The next day we registered for health and chose to be covered by Maccabi Clinic. We also opened a bank account with Bank Leumi. In the evening the others of our 100 member Jewish Agency group went to the Kotel to receive their Israeli I.D.s followed by a slap-up JIA meal. We were excused because of Deborah's disability, and received our I.D.s before flying to Eilat Central airport.

We were then driven in two taxis (one for our luggage) to the Caesar Hotel, our new home. For the first ten days we were in our habitual holiday room on the second floor. Then we were offered room 544 which is really a suite, with three balcony verandahs (one with a Jacuzzi) and with a magnificent view of Eilat and Jordan. In the meantime we were informed that one of our cases was still in the Jerusalem Hotel. However, it was returned to us the following week.

Our newly appointed family doctor saw Deborah two weeks after arrival in Eilat because of her swollen legs, as arranged through Maccabi, including blood tests, a sound scan and suitable medication. Deborah recovered quickly.

We were booked for the Ulpan to learn Ivrit but on arrival discovered the lessons were to be on the second floor of a building with no lift! We have been told the problem should be resolved in two months.

On Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Succot I attended hotel shuls and I go to one of four hotels (including our own) for Shabbat, where I enjoy the Sephardi services.

We have quickly adapted to our life here. I now have a lap top (email address: herbert-tw.spencer@gmail.com). We have free laundry, and free daily Jerusalem Post (better than the JC). Last week we had our first rain – a short shower in the afternoon and the temperature dropped to about 25°C.

If you come to Eilat please pop in. We have found paradise on earth.

Herbert and Deborah Spencer



ADVANCING A REVERSE

Say you opened 1D as dealer with Axx KQJx AQxxx x and in response to 1S from partner, you bid 2H. Partner proceeds with 2NT. What now?

The hand came up recently at rubber bridge - both vulnerable, dealer N. N – S were a regular partnership.

N

Axx
KQJx
AQxxx
X

Qxxx
Xxx
Xx
KJxx

| | | | |
|-----|----------------|-----|---|
| N | E | S | W |
| 1D | P | 1S | p |
| 2H | P | 2NT | P |
| 3NT | Double.....end | | |

Result – 3 down for a penalty of 800.

This was, understandably, followed by unseasonal recriminations by N-S. – the stakes were high. S insisted his 2NT was weak – N thought otherwise. The real problem was that they had no agreement what 2NT delivered – it had not been discussed.

The above sequence: 1D 1S

2H.....is known as a “reverse” and shows a strong hand in the 16 – 21 point range. The reason you need a strong hand is that partner, who may be weak, is forced to the 3 level if he or she prefers Diamonds. The N hand, above, is a fairly typical minimum reversing hand.

By the way, partner cannot pass a reverse – opener may have a maximum hand, unsuitable for a 2C or strong 2D opening, such as:

X
AQxx
AKJxxx
AK

Have you agreed with your favourite partner which of the following bids (in bold) after a reverse are strong and game forcing (GF), and which are weak? In these example sequences, you are responder.

a) 1D 1S b) 1D 1S c) 1D 1S d) 1D 1S e) 1D 1S
 2H **2S** 2H **2NT** 2H **3D** 2H **3H** 2H **3C**

The easiest method to remember and in many peoples view the best one is called Lebenshol and works as follows:

Responder has a weak hand (up to a bad 8 points)

Bid 2NT.

2NT is forcing. It's a transfer, asking partner to bid 3C, and then the weak hand will place the contract and partner will pass.

Say responder has Kxxxx xx Qxx xxx – bid 2NT and over 3C, bid 3D to play.

If responder has Qxxx x xx KJxxxx, bid 2NT and pass partner's 3C. Note this hand is not strong enough to respond 2C to 1D, so 1S is correct.

However, if very strong, the reverser can "break" the requested transfer to 3C, and bid something else. In the maximum hand given above – xAQxxAKJxxxAK - opener would bid 3D over 2NT, instead of 3C, and this is GF. Alternatively, 3NT is a sensible bid over 2NT.

Responder has a strong hand (8+ good points)

Bid anything except 2NT and this is GF.

So in the sequence 1D 1S 2H, with:

- 1) KQxxxx xx Ax xxx, bid 2S and you will finish up in 4S, 3NT or 5D.
- 2) Axxx Kx Axx Axxx, bid 3D – the final contract will be 6D or 7D.
- 3) Kxxxx Qxxx Kx xx, bid 3H and partner will either bid 4H or cue bid with "extras".
- 4) QJxxx AQx xx xxx, bid 3C – the 4th suit, no descriptive bid being available (2S shows 6+ cards), asking partner to bid something sensible, possibly 3S, or 3NT with a club stop.

This method has a minor drawback, namely you cannot play in 2S or 2NT. But the advantages far outweigh this. You have the confidence of a simple method with just one thing to remember – 2NT is the only weak bid - and, just as important, the bidding is kept low for slam investigation. Incidentally, a response at the 2 level followed by a reverse, as in 1D 2C 2H. is always forcing to game.

Irving Gordon

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In 2004, Westminster Synagogue held a service of sanctification and commemoration of over fifteen hundred Sifrei Torah found in a Prague warehouse after the war. The scrolls were shipped to England and as many as possible were painstakingly restored by a scribe funded by a trust specifically created for this purpose.

It was shortly after this ceremony that we discovered that the Sefer Torah on loan to our shul was one of the saved and restored scrolls. A group of community members decided to try and discover more about the history of our Sefer Torah, of the town and the community from which it originated. Research and assistance from the Jewish Museum in Prague revealed that our scroll had come from Ostrava, whose twelve thousand strong Jewish community had been sent first to Teresienstadt before extermination in Auschwitz.

Our group, led by David Lawson, in discussion with and with the blessing of the shul Board, decided to create a link between our synagogue and the people of the town of Ostrava as a memorial to the Jews lost. Sadly, as in so many places from where our forbears came, there are almost no Jews left in Ostrava. We would like the non-Jews of Ostrava to know of the Jewish life which once flourished there, and to be aware of the religious and cultural diversity which has been extinguished forever.

Many of us in the group and in the wider Kingston community lost family in Europe during the Shoah, their towns and kehillot destroyed. None of us had any personal connection with Ostrava. We have adopted Ostrava and pray for its murdered Jews not because they came from Ostrava, but because, just as the Sefer Torah is a powerful symbol of all scrolls destroyed and desecrated, so Ostrava's Jews are a symbol representative of all those lost to us, whether known to us by name, by number on a Nazi inventory, by one of the many shoes taken from concentration camps and preserved in museums, or unknown to us, reduced to dust, never to be identified.

When we pray for the murdered of Ostrava, we pray for each one of the six million. When we ask the Ostravaks to remember and to pray for their own former citizenry, we hope to make a small contribution in performing our duty as Jews to repair the world.

For and on behalf of the Ostrava Group

Rosalynde Lewis

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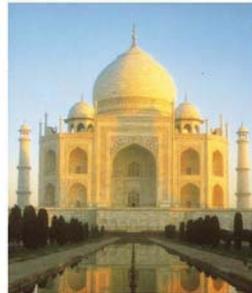
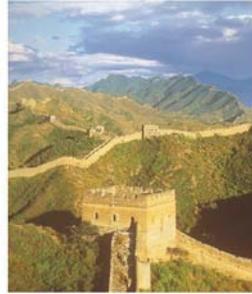
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BAKED NOODLE CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

8 tbsp. melted Tomar
8 oz. medium-wide noodles cooked
4 large eggs
1/3 cup sugar
2 tbsp. sunflower oil
1 cup orange juice
1/4 tsp. cinnamon
1/8 tsp. ginger
1/2 tsp. salt
1 cup dried apples and apricots,
cut into small bits, dried cranberries
1/3 cup finely crushed cornflakes
1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Method:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cover the bottom of a 9 x 13 inch casserole dish with 3 tbsp. of the melted margarine. Toss noodles with 2 tbsp. of the margarine. Beat eggs with sugar. Beat in oil, orange juice, 1/4 tsp. cinnamon, ginger, and salt. Add dried fruit. Fold in noodles until combined. Pour into casserole and spread evenly.

To make topping, combine the remaining 3 tbsp. Tomar with cornflakes and 1/2 tsp. cinnamon and sprinkle over noodles. Cover and bake for 40 minutes. Uncover, bake another 15-20 minutes, until firm and set. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Tu B'shvat Special Salad

Ingredients:

1 baby lettuce
Seeds from 1 ripe pomegranate
6 to 8 figs, quartered
Handful of seedless grapes, halved
2 to 4 dates, sliced
Olive oil and balsamic vinegar
Honey
Goat's Cheese (if required)
croutons

Method:

To make the croutons, take some sliced bread, cut in to bite-sized pieces (2cm to 3cm square) and place on a baking tray or casserole dish.

In a bowl, combine olive oil and oregano, basil, and/or thyme. Brush the oil and herb mixture over the bread pieces and bake at 200°C to 225°C (400°F to 450°F)

Arrange lettuce leaves on a plate, crumble the goat's cheese, dot with honey and add everything else – very easy but combines all the fruits for Tu B'shvat



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Contact Gill Varon 020 8546 8271
Youth Activities some Sunday evenings
Contact Marion Rodin
- TUESDAY:** Day Centre 10.30 am - 3.25 pm at the Synagogue
(Alternate Tuesday's)
- Bridge Club (2nd and 4th) 8.00pm prompt at the Synagogue
For further information telephone Allen Lever on 01932 344275
- WEDNESDAY:** Rabbi's Educational Programme
- THURSDAY:** Morning Service 7.00 am
- FRIDAY:** Kabbalat Shabbat Service (See Shabbat Timetable)
- SHABBAT:** Morning Service 9.30 am
Reading of the Law 10.00 am, Sermon 11.00 am
Adon Olam & Kiddush 12 noon

In addition to the above, other social, cultural and educational activities take place fortnightly or monthly - these activities are always announced in the Synagogue on the previous Shabbat, provided that they have been booked in the official Synagogue Diary. Events can then be given publicity in the NEWSLETTER and CHADASHOT in addition to announcement in Synagogue.

PLEASE NOTE: To avoid the clashing of functions and meetings and to obtain the maximum support for all communal events, Secretaries of Committees and Groups are advised before confirming a date to first clear the date in the SYNAGOGUE DIARY to ensure that the date has not been previously booked for another communal event and that the function booked will receive the maximum publicity.

THE SYNAGOGUE DIARY is kept by Ruth and Freedman: Tel: 020 8399 6652
email: ruth@freedmanfamily.plus.com
until 2nd March 2010

Obviously, unless parties, who are attempting to communicate with each other, attach the same meaning to the words they use, their communication cannot possibly be meaningful.

That I was completely baffled by the international cry generated by the decision to build 900 houses in the Gilo suburb of Jerusalem points to the imperative need to reach a common definition of the word "settlement" in relation to Israel. The anger expressed by the White House and echoed by the EU and even China, obviously stems from the impulsive conclusion that Gilo is a settlement, no different from the outposts in remote areas of the West Bank. To quote the bard, therein lies the rub. The \$64,000 question then, is whether Gilo is in fact a settlement and if so, what type of settlement .

The reality is that Gilo is very different than the outposts in the West Bank. It is not in East Jerusalem as widely reported. It is a Jerusalem neighborhood with a population of almost 50,000. The ground was bought by Jews before WW2 and settled in 1971 in south west Jerusalem within the municipal borders of Jerusalem..

We have had the good fortune to reside in Gilo, since we came to Israel towards the end of 1991. Gilo is a large picturesque neighbourhood with dual carriageway roads, beautiful parks, delightful trees and flowers, a two minute drive to the ever popular Canyon Malcha, a few minutes drive to the Knesset and very close to the city center

In his video message to the November 8, Rabin Rally in Tel Aviv, President Obama urged Israel to pursue Rabin's legacy. It is therefore relevant to recall that Rabin had no intention of returning to the 1967 lines. In his last speech to the Knesset on October 5, 1995, Rabin said "The borders of the State of Israel, during the permanent solution, will be beyond the lines which existed before the Six Day War. We will not return to the 4 June 1967 lines....."

As the Western Wall, Ramat Eshkol, French Hill and Pisgat Zeev, are all beyond the Green Line, it is important to consider its significance realistically. The Green Line is not an international border. It refers only to the 1949 Armistice lines established after the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. Its name is derived from the green ink used to draw the line on the map. Nor is it fixed, as explained by Justice Stephen M. Schwebel, who spent 19 years as a judge of the International Court of Justice at The Hague, including three years as President. He wrote "...modifications of the 1949 armistice lines among those States within former Palestinian territory are lawful (if not necessarily desirable), whether those modifications are, in Secretary Rogers's words, "insubstantial alterations required for mutual security" or more substantial alterations - such as recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the whole of Jerusalem.." and in a footnote he added "It should be added that the Armistice agreements of 1949 expressly preserved the territorial claims of all parties and did not purport to establish definitive boundaries between them".

The Palestinians never had sovereignty over the West Bank nor East Jerusalem and Justice Schwebel concluded that since Jordan, the prior holder of the West Bank and East Jerusalem had seized that territory unlawfully in 1948, Israel which subsequently took that territory in the lawful exercise of self-defense in 1967, has better title to it.

Jordan's illegal annexation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem in 1948 was recognized only by Britain and Pakistan and Jordan now makes no claim to it. Indeed, In the peace agreement which the Jordanian and Israeli governments signed, these areas were never discussed. Consequently, the Jerusalem City Council has jurisdiction over building approvals for Jewish and Arab resident in any part of the city.

It is highly relevant that the Oslo Accords do not require any freeze of building activity and even the road map which was never formally ratified, speaks only of dismantling "outposts" erected since March 2001, a far cry from Gilo, that has been a residential suburb of Jerusalem since 1971.

Mordechai Berkovitch



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