

# JANUARY 2008 Chadashot

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## Israel Tour

Since winter seems upon us already, and summer seems so far behind, it is hard to imagine that only two months ago I was experiencing my Israel experience with AJ6 – the Association of Jewish 6thFormers. It seems unbelievable that my time there was only 15 days as, looking back now, it feels like we spent so many weeks doing, seeing and enjoying. Days and nights were filled with activities and sights, evoking true meaning, and a lot of fun.

My first view of Jerusalem was on Mt Scopus, where I was led blindfolded off the coach at six in the morning after a whole night of travelling. However, I could hardly feel sleepy as the excitement of seeing Jerusalem dawned, and I removed my blindfold, blinked from the bright sunlight and looked out over the stunning view ahead. By Day 15 on tour, day one was a distant memory, yet this one moment will perhaps stay with me forever. This feeling is so personal, and many people put it down to a sense of home, or religious insight. However, for me, it was simply a sudden flood of warmth through my body, which I'm sure was not only down to the early morning sun.

And as our adventure across Israel set off, we began with two days in Jerusalem, covering history, hiking, and of course great social times dancing to the singing of crazy Israelis at the Mega Event. By our first Shabbat, we had travelled via a Druze village near Haifa, to Tzefat, the home of Kaballah and spiritualism. We used the day of rest to revive ourselves for the week ahead.

One of my favourite periods was our time spent in Shlomi, a town in the north of Israel, twinned with AJ6. Here, I stayed with a girl my age called Tomer, who was so hospitable, stunning and brilliant at English. Spending time with the Israelis in the group was amazing, as they were great, and made the trip more contemporary and real for us. In Shlomi, we spoke a lot about last year's war with Hezbollah in Lebanon, and how our friends coped with having to move out of their houses located so near to the Northern border.

Shocking and hard to believe for us, it seemed a normal phenomenon for them as we were shown the bomb shelter in the local community centre, and dents in buildings left by shrapnel. Shlomi also brought a number of activities, such as abseiling, rafting and volunteering in a children's summer camp. I was placed in a class for about an hour, which consisted of five year olds chattering away to me in Hebrew, and myself only replying with "Ken!" (Yes), and "Lo!" (No) the only two words they understood from me.

Despite the slight language barrier, I thoroughly enjoyed this chapter of tour. The desert experience is another not to be missed giving us an opportunity to ride camels, stay in a Bedouin tent and reflect on our thoughts under the stars. Our climb up Mount Masada was surprisingly cheerful, despite the hours of sleep we were lacking, and watching the sunrise over the Dead Sea was indescribable.

And of course, Israel Tour would be no Israel Tour without a lot of socialising with both English and Israeli peers alike. I made so many friends over the course of the two weeks, many of whom I feel I will stay friends with for years to come, and this is especially a real novelty for us South Londoners, to meet and become close with Jewish teenagers.

So all I am really saying is that my time in Israel was a once-in-a-life-time, absolutely fantastic experience. I have hopefully convinced the GCSE class to all start thinking about it, as it is something that would appeal to all of you, as it is such a personal yet social trip. On arrival back in England, I spent days brooding over what I thought was the end of such an amazing experience, and the only way I could relive any of it was by repeatedly looking at the thousands of photos put on Face book. However, I now have hopes that it was only the beginning of many more Israel experiences to come.

**Chloe V**

## Young Kingston

When Martin L asked me to be an Eyshit Chayil for Simchat Torah I asked him why and told him that I did not think that we had these in our Shul. He replied by telling me that we had not had them in the past, but he thought that it would be a nice idea to offer this to both Zarah and myself as we were approaching our Bat Mitzvahs. I must admit that I did not give it much thought until the day arrived. I had been so busy starting my new school that it just seemed to arrive with very little planning. Little did I know how much care and thought had been put into it by Martin, Rabbi M and of course both Shirley B and my mother. When I walked into Shul and saw that beautiful canopy with the chairs laid out so nicely I felt quite emotional.

We felt like Queens sitting on our thrones and everyone made such a fuss of us. When arriving at Shul the following day we did know what to expect and the happy atmosphere continued. Everyone was dancing around us and making such a fuss. I also felt that this was the beginning of my own Bat Mitzvah celebrations and it made me feel very important within our community. I hope that this is the beginning of a new tradition in our Synagogue and that we continue to have pre-Bat Mitzvah girls every Simchat Torah. Of course we can only do this if there are young girls growing up in our community. So, I hope that lots of new young families join and that as I grow up I see lots of other young girls' happy faces as they sit under the beautiful canopy, donated by the Baitz's, on Simchat Torah.

**Georgia N**

When the telephone rang and Martin L asked to speak to me my reply was, "What does he want me to do now?" How humble and embarrassed I felt when I got off the telephone. Martin had asked me to accept the honour of being the Youth Chatan Torah. At first I did not want to accept but my parents pointed out that it was an honour and privilege, so of course I accepted. When I sat in the Wardens' box alongside Jamie I felt rather uncomfortable, it somehow suggested that we were special and we both felt embarrassed. Gary ensured that we soon loosened up with some liquid refreshment and after a short while we got in the swing of things. The day passed ever so quickly and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Martin spoke so kindly about us all and made us feel very special. It was so nice to have our friends and family around us to share this too. I would like to thank Rabbi M, Martin Ly and all the community for bestowing upon me this great honour and hope that we continue to do this for the Youth in our community.

**Max N**

## Baroness Deech

Baroness Ruth Deech set the tone prior to the meeting at the Shul in October by walking into the kitchen and chatting to us informally as we arranged the refreshments. We do not usually entertain a Peer of the Realm whilst standing by the sink, but she assured us she was entirely at home. As a lawyer I was very

much in awe knowing that she had been Tutor in Law at St Anne's College Oxford and subsequently Principal of St Anne's from 1991-2004.

The University had even erected an award winning building in her name. Her easy manner and skill as a communicator delighted her audience, who heard about three of the different hats she had worn. She is probably best known to the general public in her former role as chairman from 1994 to 2002 of the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority. This body looks at the ethical issues raised as a result of medical advances and regulates research and treatment of infertility. The audience were given an interesting insight into a number of the dilemmas faced by the Authority, including the Diana Blood case, where a widow wished to have a baby after the death of her husband.

She also stressed the importance of pre-implantation screening of embryos to prevent severe abnormalities such as Tay Sachs and multiple sclerosis. Baroness Deech became a BBC Governor and clearly enjoyed her time there. She took a leading role in trying to ensure there was balanced coverage in respect of Israeli news. She was created a life peer in 2005 and is a cross bencher, which allows her to vote according to her conscience. We were entertained with some interesting asides about other peers, and she told us how she introduced a motion opposing the academic boycott of Israel. After she left St Anne's College in 2004 she became the first independent Adjudicator for Higher Education, and in this position she deals with the resolution of student complaints. After her most interesting and in many places amusing talk, there was a lively question and answer session.

**.Mindi I**

## Limmud on the Move

Limmud moved on this year: For the first time Warwick University Campus was used – and what a pleasure it was to have ensuite facilities - the machaya of relaxing in a bath after a hard day's learning, chatting, dancing, and of course eating, was luxury! Conference content also moved on I think. The programme was much more varied. 2,500 people attended over 800 lectures, debates, workshops, films, walks, Chavruta (studying text on a one to one basis and then in a group), and an art gallery was a first, as was the Daily Dif-Daf, keeping everyone up to date with the day's highlights and reviewing yesterday's news. The Times even carried an article on Limmud by journalist David Baker, who confessed to me the day before that he was rather hungover due to a surfeit of booze and schmooze.

My favourite way of starting the day was, as usual, Bibliyoga, a mixture of accessing spirituality through the body guided by the versatile Marcus Freed, whose dry sense of humour and unique programme ensured his sessions were always full. In the evenings I found it very inspiring and quite moving to listen to the music of both Reva L'Sheva and Craig Taubman and watch how the audience in the packed student union space generated such a spirit of togetherness, singing, clapping and even dancing in the aisles. (Yes, of course me too!) Maybe next year even Orthodox Rabbonim will feel they are able to join in

.....**Simone**

## A View from the Box

In March this year, Alex resigned as warden, and I acted as "Locum Tennens" until the position was confirmed by the AGM in May. After I had been six months in the job, Martin L resigned at Simchat Torah. Philip Weinberg, our Hon. Vice-President, has kindly agreed to act as Warden until the next AGM.

Meanwhile, I apologise to anyone whom I may have offended in my ignorance; if your neighbour has been "called up" more often than you have, it is due to my lack of experience. Martin has done an enormous amount for the synagogue for many years; his aim was to "Keep everyone happy", and I am sure that he achieved this. We wish him and Shirley well for the future. He left on a high note, with the appointment of two Junior Chatanim (Max N and Jamie Rrg) and Nashei Chayil (Georgia N and Zarah B) at Simchat Torah. We will all remember for a long time, the sight of the ladies dancing round the flowery canopy where Georgia and Zarah sat. On a less pleasant note, I am sad to see that the attendance at Sabbath and Festival services is so low, and is still falling.

The absence of the children (except at Simchat Torah) is particularly painful. This is despite bringing in chazanim to beautify the service, and arranging special shabbatot such as the recent very successful Holiday Reminiscence Shabbat. Also, we sometimes have to wait for a minyan for "Bor'chu" on Shabbat mornings. This contributes to a late finish to the service, and means that those who have come early in order to say kaddish, are not able to do so. It is no use men complaining of the late finish, if they are not in shul by 9.45 am. The Rabbi, Philip W and I, have met to discuss a number of ideas which we hope will brighten up the service.

The results of this discussion are being presented to the Board of Management at their next meeting on 3rd December. I am away from 28th November for most of December during which time, Philip W has agreed to act as senior warden. We have decided that we will involve other members, who have not held office, as well as past wardens, to act as assistant wardens to stand on the bimah during the leyning. May I remind members that if they would like to recite a Haftorah, they should contact Michael F who maintains the Haftorah list. In particular, if you have a special occasion, we are happy to supplement the Simcha by allocating the Haftorah to you or a family member or friend. However, the Haftorot are allocated long in advance and I would recommend that you book a Haftorah early. We have a copy of the Haftorah list and if you would like to view this will you please contact either Philip W or myself. **Alan L**

## Riverside Club

I go to Riverside Club on a Tuesday,  
The Club is down by the river.  
The volunteers there are a fabulous lot,  
Each one is a great, caring giver.  
They give us a smile with our coffee or tea,  
And make us at home from the start.  
They fuss us and feed us and truly we know,  
It's sincere and straight from the heart.  
They exercise us and they let us debate,  
And simply avoid doing things that we hate.  
It's a grand day for us and it's great to be there,  
And many's the time we let down our hair.  
So we thank all you ladies for giving us pleasure,  
Tuesday's a day that we really do treasure.  
We bless you and hope you keep well and on fire,  
And that you be granted a burning desire.  
To carry on giving your time and your love,  
And earn lots of blessing from the One Above.

**Sid Dn** (a regular Tuesday visitor)

## Death Camps

I feel so alone  
But so many to see  
I live in a city  
Of death, dirt and me.  
I miss all my friends  
My wife and my son,  
I remember the good old days  
When life was such fun.  
But now I just work,  
My arms will drop off.  
I feel weak and ill  
All I can do is cough.  
The smell of fear and death  
Is too much to bear.  
All of this seems  
Like an awful nightmare!  
The child I looked after

Had a shower yesterday,  
But she hasn't come back  
To my dismay.  
I served for the Germans  
In the First World War,  
I'll never forget,  
All the things that I saw.  
I believed in my country,  
German through and through,  
But they have turned against me  
And there was nothing I could do  
They follow a man named Hitler,  
They hate and they spit.  
Because we are Jews  
We get thrown in a pit.  
My knight in shining armour  
Will come very soon,  
I must have hope  
As I look up into the moon.

**Eleni V**

A girl stands in a queue,  
Her black hair tied in plaits,  
Her Mother did them for her,  
She tied them with blue ribbons that her father had bought for her,  
"Now be brave today" her mother said  
"And remember don't be scared."  
Now she stands with lots of other children,  
Waiting,  
But not knowing what for,  
The line gets shorter,  
As the children one by one go into a room,  
Now it's her turn,  
She pushes the door and walks through,  
A man in a German uniform stands by a crate,  
He beckons her to sit down,  
He then sets to shaving her head.  
Her plaits in ribbons fall to the floor,  
She runs through the opposite door crying,  
To her horror the room is full of people,  
It's very tightly packed,  
The man in the German uniform shuts the door behind her.  
The Girl's scared, she strokes her doll's yellow hair,  
A horrible smell fills the air and then,  
Nothing.  
A blonde girl sits on the windowsill of her nursery combing her dolls hair,  
Then her mother comes in and plaits her daughter's hair,  
She stands back to admire her work,  
"Not quite finished" she says  
"Come downstairs and see your father he's home from work now."  
The girl runs downstairs into her fathers arms.  
"Look what I've got for you," he says  
And from the pocket of his German uniform he produced,  
Two blue ribbons.

By Felicity J

This is a poem written by a 14 year old schoolgirl from Derbyshire after she had visited the Holocaust Memorial Centre in Nottinghamshire with her class. The poem was read out by Abigail Blumson at the Holocaust Memorial Service in Kingfield Synagogue in April 2007. As *Holocaust Memorial Day* is in January I felt these two moving poems should be included.  
- Editor

## Kingston Wizo

In October Eva Schloss was our guest at a successful luncheon and proved to be a most inspiring and dynamic speaker. She spoke of her life in hiding in Holland and her relationship to the Frank family. She brought her books "Eva's Story" and "The Promise", about her brother, who was an artist, who died in a concentration camp.

She spends most of her time speaking to schoolchildren and promoting Holocaust education, and frequently addresses audiences who have watched the play based on her life, "And then they came for us", which has been performed throughout the United Kingdom and USA. We are most grateful to Shoshana and Stephen for their kind hospitality.

At our AGM Jackie G announced that she would be chairman for the forthcoming year. Anne L has relinquished her position as co-chairman, to concentrate on her other roles in the community. Jackie Br, entertainments manager at Nightingale Home spoke about her trip to Israel to learn about the care of the aged there. She also told us of her most enjoyable visit to the Rebecca Sieff Centre. Jackie had worked with children for some time prior to joining the staff at Nightingale. Forthcoming events: .

## My Vision for a Jewish Primary School in South West London

Since I moved to this area from North West London some 40 years ago I have been proud to belong to our thriving and vibrant community. Our synagogue seems to involve nearly every one of its various members in one or more of its multifarious activities. This has been the case for many years, and we should indeed feel privileged. One may well ask why our several flourishing communities have not expanded. In fact, the reverse is true; they are shrinking – and this despite the fact that we have an outstanding young Rabbi! The answer of course is manifest! Members, and especially our young members, having become more comfortable with their Judaism, were migrating so that their families could readily obtain a proper Jewish education. If this continues at the current rate, Kingston, Sutton and the other communities will die within a generation – and the synagogues will close.

As Jews, it is my belief that we have a role in life. We have to be beacons of light to the larger community, but we cannot fulfil our holy and historical goal by returning to – or should I say retreating into –the ghetto! You of course know or can divine what I am about to say. "If only we had a Jewish school ...." The Jewish communities will be saved, if we have a Jewish school. So last Spring I decided to set up a school. "But hasn't this been tried before?" you ask. Apparently it has been tried before – not once but several times. Previous efforts failed, so I learnt, because they had always been either half hearted or parochial. Apart from apathy, there are additional difficulties to be overcome. I am well aware of the facts that many of us prefer to live in this area precisely because it is not regarded as a Jewish area and that we shall have to compete with some of the country's finest state and private schools. I considered all this.

I announced my project at the last AGM of the Synagogue and was met with stunned silence. A little later the board declared its support and I obtained the blessing of the Chief Rabbi and the United Synagogue and the financial backing of Benjamin P, a Hendon businessman, who has set up over 20 Jewish schools, all of them – you will not be surprised to hear – North of the Thames. Following the advice of those, who had gone before me, I invited a number of people to join a small committee to advise me and we decided, albeit against our better judgment, not to carry out either a survey or any research at all but to go straight to the holding of an open meeting.

This was duly publicised by the local rabbis and advertised in the Jewish press. We held it in November and, although it was quite well attended, there were hardly any parents of young children present. We do still, however, have children in the communities. Thus I regarded this as a setback but not a failure. So it was back to the drawing board. We are now going to carry out the research that we should have undertaken at the outset. That is the current position. So I exhort you, my readers, to support me in this project and at the same time conserve what we have and build for the future. Nothing is ever achieved by short sightedness and selfishness; much can and should be achieved by selflessness and the pioneering spirit. "May our Children be our Builders!"

**Laurence Kingsley**

## Pesach 5768 Timetable

### Date Service/Comment Time

Thursday 17th April Morning Service (Fast of the First Born Siyum) 6.45am

Search for the Chametz at night  
Shabbat 19th April Stop eating Chametz by: 10.37am  
Morning Service 9.00am  
A Kiddush with challa will be served before laying and before 10.37am  
Evening service for Pesach 7.30pm  
First Seder  
Sunday 20th April Pesach Day 1  
Morning Service 9.30am  
Afternoon/Evening Service 7.00pm  
Second Seder 7.30pm  
Monday 21st April Pesach Day 2  
Morning Service 9.30am  
Festival ends 9.02pm  
Tuesday 22nd – Chol Hamoed  
Friday 25th April  
Morning Service 6.45am  
Shabbat April 25th/26th Seventh Day Pesach  
Afternoon/Evening Service 7.00pm  
Morning Service 9.30am  
Afternoon/Evening Service 7.00pm  
Sunday May 1st Morning Service 9.30am  
Festival ends 9.14pm

## 1950s Dinner Dance

This themed Dinner Dance was a happy way to conclude the year of gatherings to celebrate the 50 years our Community has been together in its present building. Although dressing up was not everyone's thing, many had made a tremendous effort and bushy sideburns and huge net petticoats (not worn by the same people!) were the fashion statements of the evening

Daryl-Anne E in a stunning red skirt with appropriate accessories and David P in an amazing bright blue long teddy boy jacket, walked off with the costume prizes. Others were content with wearing a suit or some original 1950s jewellery. The menu was obviously chosen with theme in mind, having good hot pea soup, fish pie with seasonal vegetables (no flown in Kenyan beans or sugar snaps - such things were not available in the winter in the 1950s) and chocolate cake to finish. Chocolate was still rationed in the 50s and I remember it being a Friday night treat.

Saving the best till last. The music was fantastic! It was provided by Peter P who had a huge screen showing videos in time to the music of my very early idols of Paul A, the E Brothers, Buddy H and of course, the King, Elvis P.

No-one sat down, whether we could rock 'n roll or not, we all danced. In fact one couple shamed most of us by their ability to fox trot and quick step to all the music in perfect time. 'Strictly come dancing' here they come! While we were eating the film show continued showing newsreel shots and other interesting moments caught on film of the decade. We even had 1950s celebrity and film quizzes on the tables, just in case we had a minute spare. No detail was missed to put us 'in the mood' - sorry, wrong decade! Many thanks to the committee who put so much work into the evening - Alan, Jenny and Sue C, Yasmin and Stuart S, and Sharon and David S. It was sad that more members of the Community did not support the evening as we are fortunate to still be able to run such a function, many orthodox shuls are now banned from running a mixed dance evening. Still, for those that did attend we had a fun evening which will be remembered for a long time. **Elise W**

## Gilded Lions and Jewelled Horses

The museums and art galleries in New York are among the best in the world, but the American Folk Art Museum seems to be a well kept secret. Set between West 53rd and Madison it is an absolute treasure. The current exhibition, running until March is no exception. From the shtetlach of Eastern Europe to the bustling shores of New York's Coney Island, immigrant Jewish woodcarvers and other artisans brought with them the expertise to perpetuate their trade. Spectacular huge gilded lions and jewelled horses usually seen round fairground carousels intermingle with both sacred and secular artworks from the Synagogue. A bold piece, representing a Cohen's outstretched hand, in the shape

of the letter 'shin' will always be in my mind when I see our Cohanim perform the honour in future. Because the immigrants were quite observant Jews they used their skills to carve and paint traditional items normally seen in synagogues. There were also many paper cut out drawings and paintings – something I, and probably most children, did. Folded this way and that a piece of paper was coloured in and cut out and you never knew what patterns would emerge. Get your kids to try it! **Simone H**

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## Education Report

30 children sit in front of me, waiting for my first words as the new head of the cheder. We start, as will become usual, by singing the Shema and Hatikvah. Assembly continues with discussion from the week's sedra, and then the students separate into their 6 new classes (the 7th class who are studying for their GCSEs in Jewish Studies with the rabbi do not attend assembly). Our first morning is off to a good start. The cheder runs each Sunday morning, with students from 3 to 15 years of age. We have had a busy first term, with a special Sukkoth breakfast at the shul (in the sukkah of course – for which the children had created decorations the prior week), a visit by the JLGB and of course dreidel making and our annual Channukah Bowling Party. We look forward to the start of a new term in January. **Daryle**  
(Rear Entrance)

## Roehampton University

### Jewish Resource Centre (JRC)

The Jewish Book Collection is now located on the fourth floor of the university's Learning Resource Centre. This quite comprehensive collection of books has been designated a 'special collection' by the university and is being tagged and catalogued so that it can be referred to by students, lecturers, researchers and visitors to the university. The seminar room next to the area where the five special collections are housed can be booked for meetings or lectures on for example, sacred texts, aspects of Jewish Studies or any other appropriate focus.

Dr Eric Jacobson teaches Jewish Studies and Philosophy of Religion. His area of expertise is Modern Jewish Thought, particularly 19th and 20th century German-Jewish philosophy and culture, where he has an interest in the conflict between reason and tradition. The JRC is planning occasional lectures which will be open to the local Jewish communities. This is an area of activity we would like to develop if it is of interest to South Londoners. Eric is currently organising two open lectures (February – date to be confirmed at time of going to press and 13th March) Please e-mail me at [s.lee@roehampton.ac.uk](mailto:s.lee@roehampton.ac.uk) if you would like to be added to the JRC mailing list and kept informed about our occasional activities and in particular the spring lectures in February and March. The JRC selects at least one festival each year to celebrate at the University in a way which helps friends and colleagues of other faiths to understand more about Judaism. We have just had a successful Chanukah party and we were pleased to welcome rabbis from the local communities to the event. Rabbi M lit the candles.

Last year we built a succah and had visitors throughout the week. There is a very special concert being planned for Pesach 2009 which you will certainly hear about in due course. The JRC would be pleased to accept books of Jewish interest to enhance the book collection. We also wish to increase the resources that are available for educational purposes. Do contact me if you have anything which is superfluous to your needs and which you think might be appropriate. (eg seder plate, challah cloth, goblet etc) I would be happy to discuss ideas and to receive any contributions to the collections.

**ShirleyL**

**The Editor**

### Yahrzeit Notices and Shul Bills

As you probably know, Norman S is handing over responsibility for sending out Yahrzeit notices and shul bills, after many years of devoted work for which the community is truly grateful. This handover period is likely to last until the end of January next year and possibly longer as the system is quite complicated to learn. While we will make every effort during that period, with Norman's invaluable assistance, to ensure that there are no mistakes, it is possible that something will get overlooked and we ask for your forbearance and forgiveness. If you have any questions or if there are any problems please contact Steve R

## **Emergency Pesach Appeal on behalf of the Kingston WAGS** (Whisky and Gemara Students).

This year Erev Pesach falls on Shabbat. This means that there will be 6 Shul services where there will be no Whisky at the Kiddush. May I appeal on behalf of all Kingston WAGS that bottles of Vodka (Kosher Le Pesach) would be most gratefully received. If anyone is visiting Israel, the said Vodka can be procured for around £2 or for £3 you may provide a superior blend that almost compares to its rival from Warrington. Dare I say that anyone who disregards this request will be sent for a 6 month stretch to a place called Palwins." **Philip Wg**

## **Herzl Museum**

Israel's museums always have an original approach to their subjects and none more so than the Herzl Museum on Har Herzl. It tells the life story of the founder of Zionism, as seen through the eyes of a brash modern actor, who has been chosen to play him in a drama presentation. The audience walks through several rooms as it follows his career from young lawyer in Vienna where he is part of the fashionable cafe society - but not really accepted - to his life as a writer and speaker. We enter the splendid rococo cream and gold Conference Hall in Basel where we sit amongst wax figures of delegates from all over the world, taking part in the First Congress, debating the future of the Zionist cause. Their vision is explained clearly and we see Herzl travelling all over Europe and the Middle East, conferring with the Sultan of Turkey and Kaiser Wilhelm in Palestine, and visiting Chamberlain in London, trying to negotiate land for the Jewish people. Uganda is discussed and dismissed as a possible home and Herzl dies in Vienna without seeing his dream fulfilled. The visitor walks into his study in Vienna, which has been reconstructed and his books are on display.

Finally his remains were brought to Israel in a moving ceremony and buried on Har Herzl, the historic hill overlooking the Old City. This hour long multimedia presentation is an excellent way to learn about the early history of Zionism, and is aimed particularly at young Israelis and tourists from outside Europe who know little of this period. It is especially poignant to walk outside afterwards, and wander through the lawns and paved walks, all in golden Jerusalem stone, to visit his grave and those of the great leaders of Israel. **Anne L**

### **Kingston University Jewish Society**

This year has seen a large increase in the number of Jewish students at Kingston University and the Jewish Society, run by Laura D and Sammy Kz, is flourishing there. Our Synagogue has engaged with this group as well. Elisheva and I hosted a Succot meal for students with Israeli international footballer Ben Sahar and Chazan Eliot Alderman present. Other community families have hosted students at the Kingston University with the support of the University Chaplain Stan Brown. The students come from Belgium, Germany, USA, and London and are really happy to be getting together.

Long may this continue!

**Rabbi David Mason**

## **Food**

### **CHICKEN WITH OLIVES, RED WINE, PRUNES & POMEGRANATES**

#### **Ingredients:**

4-4 1/2 lb pound roast chicken, in 8/10 pieces  
1 cup extra virgin olive oil  
8 cloves of garlic, peeled  
1 tablespoon capers in brine, drained  
1 cup green olives, pitted  
1 cup pitted prunes  
1/2 cup red wine vinegar  
1/2 cup pomegranate pieces  
4-6 sprigs fresh oregano or thyme  
1/2 cup dark brown sugar or honey

1 cup dry red wine

**Method:**

Rinse the chicken and place the pieces in a bowl. Cover with boiling water. Lift one piece of chicken out at a time, pat dry and place the pieces in one layer in an oven-to-table dish. Mix together the olive oil, garlic cloves, capers, olives, pitted prunes, vinegar, and pomegranate pieces and pour over the chicken. Scatter oregano or thyme around the chicken. Cover and marinate in the refrigerator overnight, turning once or twice. Mix the brown sugar with the wine and pour over the chicken. Turn pieces skin side up. Preheat the oven to 350°F, 180°C or Gas Mark 4. Cover the chicken and roast for 45 minutes, turning once. Remove the cover and continue to bake until the chicken pieces are a rich golden brown - another 15-20 minutes.

## Pesach, April 2008

All members together with their family and friends are invited to join in the KINGSTON COMMUNAL SEDER to be held on SUNDAY 20th APRIL 2008. In order to receive an application form, please contact Elise or Martin

A three course meat meal will be served together with lots of wine and matzah, explanations, songs and fun will make this a Seder to be very much enjoyed and remembered by all ages.

**Elise W**

## Light in the Darkness of War

A year after the Lebanon war First Lieutenant M. has recorded this, his incredible story. "I remember the two weeks of near face-to-face combat, in Lebanon, the confused orders and insufficient combat gear, the intense hunger, physical and emotional exhaustion and toughest of all, the self-imposed silence and disassociation with our surroundings.

When the news came that we were receiving a day off, our hearts soared. We suffered so much stress and hardship. Where would we go? How should we take full advantage of this gift? Rumors began to circulate that we were going to some school in Migdal Ha'Emek. "This must be a joke! Who ordered ten buses to take us to some yeshiva with some Rabbi who is just going to try and brainwash us?" Then, a few of the guys remembered. "Ah! Rabbi Grossman, that's the Disco Rabbi right? The guys all give him great respect." But what do they know? He is still some rabbi. Tired and emotionally drained, we got off the buses and stood face to face with an oldworld looking Jew, complete with a white beard, side locks and long jacket. "So here it comes," I thought, "the push to put on tefillin or to say prayers together. This is going to be some day off." "Boys," the rabbi's words thundered, "I suggest that first thing you do is take a dip in the pool and freshen up. In the meantime, we will make you something to eat."

With the echoes of war from the battlefield still in our ears, it seemed like a mirage or hallucination. Soft music came from everywhere and flowing water and greenery surrounded us. Within minutes, the tables were set with cold refreshing watermelon, cakes, and beverages, followed by cheeses, fresh vegetables, and soft rolls. Then we heard the Rabbi call, "Out of the pool, get dressed and eat something." We saw piles of new undergarments. 600 new undershirts and underwear appeared as if out of nowhere, laid out on tables for our choosing. Rabbi Grossman sat with us and laughed, "Have a good time boys! Have a great time! This evening, I will put on the most spectacular performance you have ever seen."

I am not a religious person by any means, but I can't help but envision the first Jew, Abraham, standing and personally serving his guests perfectly naturally and without the slightest hint of condescension. He respected each individual and cared for all their needs. Like Abraham, Rabbi

Grossman saw in this an obvious act of kindness, . As the evening continued,we learned quickly that this was the essence of who Rabbi Grossman is and what he is all about. He loves everyone and accepts everyone as they are with all his heart and soul. "Tell me friends," Rabbi Grossman said, "I heard you are lacking different pieces of equipment. Do me a favour. Here is a pencil and paper, just write down everything you are missing and leave the paper on the table."

That night,we enjoyed the entertainment and afterwards, slept in soft beds in air-conditioned rooms. Like in a fairytale,we awoke in the morning and could not believe our eyes. Mounds of gear which we so desperately needed had arrived at Migdal Ohr. Attached, was a small note from Rabbi Grossman, "To my dear soldiers, from all my heart!" Rabbi Grossman personally and immediately raised over \$60,000 worth of equipment from friends literally overnight!

The essential equipment included ceramic bulletproof vests, helmets, canteens, knee pads, backpack water canteens, night vision goggles, toothbrushes, socks and more. Interestingly, a few months before the war broke out, a special friend of Rabbi Grossman from France was interested in donating a new Torah scroll to the main Migdal Ohr Beit Midrash (study hall). For some reason, Rabbi Grossman requested to postpone the event until an unspecified later date. **Mordechai Bch**  
*(Second half of this story in the next edition – Editor)*

## Ostrava Sefer

As you know, our Ostrava sefer is on permanent loan from the Memorial Scrolls Trust. We recently had to repair the sefer as the lettering on one portion was very worn and the parchment was becoming torn at the edges.We took photographs of the damaged and repaired sefer and sent them to the Trust. At the same time, we made a donation towards the work of the Trust, to celebrate our Golden Jubilee. Here is a copy of the response from the Trust:

Dear David,

As Chair of the Memorial Scrolls Trust, I wanted to write and thank you for Kingston & Surbiton Synagogue's great generosity towards our work. In the course of this year, the third floor of Kent House, where the Trust has its home, is being refurbished and this wonderful donation will help us as we proceed with our plans to completely renew and update the permanent exhibition. We hope that it will be reopened in the spring and we will of course keep you informed and hope that you will visit us then to see what Kingston has helped us to achieve. Thank you also for the photos from which I can see that a very good job has been done on the Scroll. It is an ongoing problem as these precious Scrolls age and become less and less suitable for regular use. Please convey my thanks to the Synagogue for their kindness and for the sympathetic concern and care of the Scroll. Your Synagogue is the one which we hold up as an example to all communities in its relationship with its Scroll. Once again, my heartfelt thanks for your generosity. With kindest regards, Yours sincerely,  
**Evelyn Frr**