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Editorial

I don't normally write an editorial, believing that this magazine should contain your views and contributions, but I think an issue marking our Shul's Jubilee year is special. In fact, coincidentally this is my 50th edition of Chadashot. Some might say it is time for a new Editor, but I very much enjoy producing it and try to make it as diverse and interesting as possible. This year is a year to look back as well as forward and I hope reading it will spark happy memories, and maybe some sadness too, as we remember those no longer with us. Unfortunately I couldn't include everything this time, but if there is something very special you want to say – there is always the Rosh Hashanah edition!

The Editor

Message from Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks

Blessings and congratulations on this significant moment in the history of your congregation.

For 50 years you have been a citadel of Jewish life. During those years the situation of Jews throughout the world has been transformed yet one thing remains the same – the values on which

your congregation was built and to which it has remained faithful. It has been a true *Bet Knesset*, a "home of the community", a place where Jews can enter and feel that here, they belong, here they are part of a people and its history, here they stand in the presence of G-d, comforted by His closeness, lifted by His challenge, sustained by His word.

Through the synagogue Jews all over the world remain connected to G-d, to Israel and to Jews elsewhere. They say the same prayers, keep the same laws, observe the same holy days and share the same memories of the Jewish past and hopes for the future. The shul is the home of all Jewish people – our vehicle of continuity through which, wherever we are, we are part of something so much larger.

Your own community, blessed by outstanding leadership from your first Minister, Rev Koschland through to Rabbi Mason, has grown beyond all expectation. I have watched in admiration as you have added achievement to achievement, extending and deepening the Jewish life in ways that would have surprised and delighted your founders. My congratulations to you all, for this has been a collective achievement in which the whole community over the years have all had a share.

I am very much looking forward to joining you for your celebration in July. May G-d bless all of you and grant you strength to reach yet greater heights.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Sacks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks

An Everlasting Light

The Mizrahi Jews (or Mizrahim) are those descended from the Jewish communities of the Middle East (including the Arab countries) and other Muslim communities (including Georgia, Iran, Syria, Yemen, and India). They have their own culture and customs.

Frank Meisler is a world famous sculptor born in Danzig, educated in England, who settled in Israel in 1960. From his studios in Jaffa he has produced many items in bronze, pewter, silver and gold plate including limited editions and individual sculptures for many heads of state, and for international special occasions. He has won many awards for outstanding artistic achievement

Kingston Synagogue is in Surrey in the south of England !

What connects all three?

The answer is the Ne'er Tamid which hangs proudly in front of the aron kodesh. It was made especially for us by Frank Meisler and is unique. It is made of peutron with gold plated elements. It is based on a Mizrahi design reminiscent of the old city of Jerusalem, and was made by hand in a sand casting technique. This creates a textured, almost rough finish similar to the walls of Jerusalem built in local stone. The light comes through five arched stained glass windows above each of which is the inscription in Hebrew meaning "and may their end be peace. Amen". The research to find exactly the right colouring for the glass alone took many weeks. Each glass panel was specially hand made and painted.

Its commissioning specially for our Shule was made possible by the generosity of four families whose reasons are commemorated on the plaques around the base. It was dedicated on Shabbat Shuvah 5750 (October 1989)

We are really fortunate to be able to enjoy this feature of our Synagogue, and perhaps do not always fully appreciate the beauty and magnificence of this extremely valuable unique work of art.

Anthony C

Golden Jubilee

It is with great joy that I append pen to paper to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Kingston Synagogue; it is therefore with immense happiness that I share some thoughts with the community, from the time Sally and I and our three children arrived in November 1972. On Sunday the November 5th, we drove from Cardiff to Kingston for my Induction by Chief Rabbi Jacobovits, it was a very moving experience and at the reception following the service, Sally I were embraced by the enormous warmth of the community. A contingent of members from the Penylan Synagogue, Cardiff, also travelled to Kingston to share the experience with us.

Following the induction were all entertained for an evening meal at 42 Villiers Avenue - this was a most thoughtful gesture which made a great impression upon us, after which, we returned to Cardiff for another week of commitments.

It was on 14th November that we moved to our new home and new community in Surbiton. Kingston was my third community which I had the privilege to serve, however, Kingston was unique in every possible way, the warmth and friendship which was offered to us from the first moment of our arrival; the degree of autonomy I enjoyed was unsurpassed; the unreserved support I enjoyed from the Wardens, the Board of Management, The Education Committee The Parents association and indeed from the entire community was very special, such overall support allowed me to be creative in devising a variety of programmes which resulted in the growth of the community and the Hebrew Classes with a 150 pupil roll, which gained a reputation of being considered to be the 'jewel' of the London Board of Jewish Education.

I recall with a sense of pride how the Shabbat morning service was so well attended that there was often need to bring in extra chairs from the library the boys choir and the men's choir on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur resulted in the participation by the entire congregation. I was also grateful for the support given for the Annual Communal Shabbat and Chanukah M'lava Malkah which were always highly popular and over subscribed, as well as the Adult Education Programme which was well attended.

The Sunday morning breakfasts, where boys and girls would arrive at the Synagogue at 8.00 a.m. - the boys would join the men for prayer and the girls would prepare the breakfast - there was keen competition amongst the girls as to who would warm my milk for the serial, all that was part of the fun that prevailed, which culminated in singing the Grace After Meals and then filling my car with children, in addition to a number of other cars to Bonner Hill School and later to Hollyfield School for the 9.30 assembly of pupils; of course, the three hours of education was not all serious, there was a sense of fun too, with the House System of stars for achievement; the tuck shop at break; Choir practice and the input from the Head Boy and Head Girl.

Overall, Sally and I and our children look back to our 12 years in Kingston with a high degree of happiness fulfilment and profound gratefulness and thanks to the community for such unfailing support. Mordechai Berkovitch

Kingston Recollections

As I look back at my eleven years as minister of Kingston, Surbiton and District Synagogue I can only remember happy things. Obviously I was involved in many very sad experiences in the lives of congregants but for Frankie, myself and our family we have wonderful memories. After all, two of our children were born in Kingston Hospital and the vital early years of our marriage were spent in that exceptionally warm and welcoming community. I was asked to select some of the highlights of my eleven years as minister. One event stands out in an extraordinary way. It was of course the Six Day War in June 1967. All of us have our own special memories of that week when the whole world loved Israel. I remember walking down Victoria Road with people rushing up to me to congratulate me on "your victory" Everybody wanted to contribute to the war effort and huge amounts of money were raised. Erstwhile covert Jews wanted to identify and I heard from numerous people in small Surrey towns who suddenly realized that they were Jews. The Kingston Surbiton and District Synagogue contribution to the war effort was unique. I received a phone call from a non-Jew in the area who said that he had a large supply of tin helmets in his store. Could we use them? We could have them with pleasure! I telephoned the Israel embassy and I was told that they could certainly make use of them. So for the next couple of days Uxbridge Road was a hive of industry and excitement as the whole community participated in our contribution to the war effort. The cases were packed and they were sent to London Docks in order to be shipped to Ashdod. I don't know if they ever got there, but we all felt very good!

I think that we can claim to be the first community to have organised a communal Shabbat. In 1967 I planned a series of lectures about Shabbat and decided to enhance it with a "Shabbat Experience" for the participants. It was in fact a full Shabbat experience with all meals at the shul prepared by Frankie and her team of helpers. It was exceptionally successful and became a yearly event We always had a guest of honour and the new Chief Rabbi Dr Jakobovits z"l honoured us in the second year. I must also not forget that it was from Kingston that I initiated and organised the first Inter-Synagogue Quiz and I continued to organize it for thirteen years.

The characters at Kingston were very real and special. No doubt all of my colleagues will write about Charles Lichtenfield because he

was indeed unique I have served a number of communities including a year in Hong Kong and have never met anybody as unique as Litchie. I'm sure we could all write a book about him and maybe somebody will. I would also take this opportunity of mentioning Jack Landa z"l who was very special to me. He was an extraordinary talmid chacham and in fact my chavruta sessions with him every day were an enormous help to me during my study for my Semicha

Our years at Kingston were very very happy and they had a vital impact on my rabbinical career

Eddie Jackson

Laying Foundations

I moved from Hounslow Shul to Kinston and Surbiton, where a Community had once existed in the early decades of the 20th century. As a bachelor, my first residence was a two room flat in a non-Jewish house not far from the Shul. The latter was a fairly empty shell, with a mobile *Aron Hakodesh*. Nicholas King, a local shop fitter, was driven to almost utter distraction by the changes in design requested as he was making the various interior fittings. Eventually everything was completed for the dedication and my simultaneous induction as Minister/Secretary.

Being Secretary was quite a job, seeing I was not trained for that. I attended Board meetings for the first time in my life – what an experience! They were usually 3-4 hours long, with endless repetitions of the same points. My written Minutes were long sagas! When I mentioned that I was engaged and would need a house, the Board's main discussion centred on two points: a house for £3500 and storage shed for the Shul at about £90; the shed took more discussion! After living in the house for a while, we mentioned the need for repainting the black woodwork; the Hon.Officers came at night to inspect and stated the paintwork was sound!

But to more serious matters. The first Shul magazine was the KSDS News, produced on an ink duplicator by Mrs Moore my co-editor. The Community already had a successful Jewish Youth Study Group. We organised several three day seminars with various lecturers including, of course, Harold Levy, the mainspring of the Study Groups. What could be more thrilling than to see some 50-60 boys and girls dancing in the Shul or walking *en masse* down the road? Another successful venture was the Young Marrieds Group which functioned without committees or *machers*! We met regularly

and formed many friendships which have lasted to this day; I am still friendly with a few. I tried to start a library, but failed with Bentalls in getting them to provide some kosher food; Samuels (Butcher) of Richmond was the nearest source.

Services were held Friday night (at a pinch), Shabbat morning and for Minchah with difficulty. As Minister, I usually *davened, lained* and preached every other week or so. *Yamim Noraim* we were of course full, other than one almost empty Yom Kippur afternoon. Prince Phillip was inspecting Naval Cadets on the island opposite the Shul! Attendance on *Chaggim* depended on which day of the week they fell. The *Cheder*, which met in a school on Sundays, was quite large and staffed by teachers from other parts of London; Ruth, my late wife, also taught there. Eventually we ran a small adult Ivrit group, which, one evening, rushed to the Shul to remove Nazi graffiti from the wall. Ruth took an active part in the Ladies' Guild of which most ladies were members.

Space has limited the vast amount that I could have written. My final thought is that Ruth and I spent 5 happy years at Kingston before moving to North Finchley Shul.

Bernd Koschland

Salim Nakar – A Man of our Time

Salim Nakar was a quiet and modest man who touched the hearts of everyone he met.

I first met Salim 25 years' ago when I was asked to help the then Financial Representative, the late Morry Estrin to deal with the Shul's finances. Morry was a commanding FR but he was already of failing health and Salim had taken over much of the treasury functions as well as the Shul administration. Although Salim was retired, he devoted much of his time so what he called "Shul business" and he could be found at all hours, day and night, working for the Shul. When I was then asked to take over as FR, it was only possible so long as Salim continued to provide this continuous full-time support.

As Shul Secretary Salim was responsible for dealing with the Shul administration and he was the first point of contact for many of our members. He would handle all routine correspondence and he always replied by return. He dealt with the banking, and kept in meticulous detail the membership and Shul contribution records.

Any member who failed to pay subscription on time would feel the wrath of Salim, in the kindest possible way. Any member who had fallen on hard times would always be treated with sympathy and compassion and, of course, such matters were in the utmost confidence. Although as FR, the final decision was mine I learned to rely on Salim's wisdom and counsel and I greatly valued his judgement.

Even though the Nakar family suffered great tragedy 17 years' ago, Salim and his late wife, dear Celia took the role of grandparents and parents of the family into their stride and we can see what a wonderful legacy they have left in their grandchildren. Despite these difficulties, Salim continued his work for the Shul tirelessly for nearly 30 years until some four or five years' ago when he reluctantly agreed to retire as Secretary.

I recall Salim explaining that in 1937 he applied for a passport to leave his native Iraq. As he could produce no birth certificate and seeing this "young man", the Iraqi passport authorities could not believe his declared age but assessed him as being three years younger. Accordingly, his official year of birth was 1916 and this meant that he left school, retired and commenced drawing his pension three years' late.

I never heard Salim say a harsh word about anyone and together with Celia they were a modest couple. If anything needed doing, Salim would carry out the work without fuss and he did not want any public thanks. It was wonderful that in 2002 Salim received from the Mayor of Kingston, the Community Service Award, which was richly deserved.

Until his health failed, Salim never missed a Shul service and it has been a joy to see three generations of the Nakar family attending together, praying together and learning together. Everyone in the community will sorely miss Salim.

Philip W

Act for Change

Act for Change is a not for profit organisation that runs informal educational events for 5000 pupils around National Holocaust Memorial Day. This was the first year that volunteers from Kingston & Surbiton United Synagogue in partnership with Kingston Liberal synagogue got involved in the project and together we facilitated

200 girls from Tolworth High School for Girls. The model of cooperation between our communities follows the example set in Northwood where the United and Liberal synagogue have been working on this project for the past 4 years.

The programme aims to:

- engage school children with the Holocaust by listening to a survivor.
- explore the idea of choice in the context of our everyday lives.
- get children inspired to act for change in the world:

After a welcome from Rabbi Mason and me, the children listened to a local survivor Martin Bennett. This was the first time the children heard a Shoah survivor and they listened with fascination to his story before asking questions. It would have been difficult for the girls to absorb all of the information he was telling them as well as processing their emotions particularly as Martin's story is so powerful and distant from their experiences of society.

We then watched a short film that highlighted 3 stories of Germans who saved Jews in the second world war. The stories were poignant and did not always have happy endings. The aim of the film was to demonstrate that even in the most extreme situations where there is no trust between neighbours that people still have the freedom to make choices.

As with all things in life people take different perspectives or lessons from the hearing the same evidence so we ran small group discussions to process their understanding of the morning. The session set an informal environment where the children felt comfortable to share their opinions and feelings. The upshot was that the children reflected on their lives in the context of decisions that they make everyday knowingly or unknowingly and reflected on whether they were happy with these choices. This was formalised by the children making 3 personal commitments, one that stood out was directly inspired by Martin. He had spoken about the importance of the relationship he had with his older brother throughout his experience. This had deeply effected a girl who realised she treated her younger siblings really badly and she made an active commitment to improve her relationship with them.

This event had extremely powerful outcomes for the children on a personal level, they left the day with their own "acts for change" as well as hearing a testimony which will remain with them forever. From a societal perspective the impact cannot be underestimated, the power of bringing children into our Jewish community centre

and running a programme with a positive social message can do more for future social cohesion than anything else I can think of.

Rosalynd L

Rosalynde Lewis was presented with a Community Award by the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Cllr Mary Reid.

The award recognized Rosalynde's multi-faceted community work which includes representing Kingston Synagogue on the Council for Christians and Jews and as liaison officer for the Kingston Homeless organization.

She also represents the Jewish community of Kingston on various police panels, including an independent advisory panel for minorities in the Borough. Rosalynde chairs a recommendation committee monitoring police activity in stop and search in Kingston, and she represents Kingston on an independent advisory committee at the Metropolitan Police Authority.

Her work has included guiding school synagogue visits & acting as a schools facilitator on Holocaust Memorial Day. She also organised Heritage Open Day in Kingston synagogue, which attracted visitors from all over the Borough. She has raised funds for Kingston Hospital Cancer Care as well as Israeli & Jewish charities. Rosalynde is currently Chairman of Kingston Israel Awareness Committee.

Eretz Mitzraim

A period when we celebrate the exodus from Eretz Mitzraim seemed to be an ideal time to check that we had not left anything behind in our hasty departure 3200 years ago.

It was with a certain trepidation that this Nile cruise was booked as we had several Israeli stamps in our passports, which, in this part of the world can be the Mark of Cain. The prospects of days spent connected painfully to an electricity generator or worse still, made to watch endless episodes of Big Brother was a concern --- but I need not have worried. The Egyptian economy being in freefall, there is such a desperate need for tourist cash that Surbiton OAPs do not seem to represent a threat to security.

Day1, with the tourist guide waxing lyrical about 5th. Dynasty Pharaohs, I noted the competition from a small dark haired lady with a familiar East End intonation.

A subsequent quiet meeting by the engine room with Etty and Maurice established that we had allies on board ship. In fact, they had had business interests in Tolworth and KS&D gossip was exchanged with enthusiasm. Now we had safety in numbers! There is too much amazing archeology to list in a short report but the climax of the cruise has to be the temples of Abu Simbel built by RamsesII to feed his massive ego and frighten the neighbouring Sudanese. There must have been a contribution from the Children of Israel but I was not going to ask awkward questions and blow our cover! The rule of Ramses 2 at around 1200 BCE. marked the zenith of Egyptian superpower status, but oddly, this was timed with the sudden biblical departure of the Israelites. With Egypt's subsequent decline into third world status and a society of begging street children, this precipitous decline could only have been a coincidence. Peut-etre?

The major negative aspect of this trip however was the natives. Once out of the serenity and calm of awesome antiquity, the tourist is assaulted by waiting hordes of hawkers, peddlers and shnorrers waving T-shirts, carpets, and other Egyptian shmatter including fridge magnets. Now I know how the bulls feel when released into Pamplona High Street, no wonder they become irritable. It was useless trying to explain that we had not schlepped all the way to Africa to buy a tablecloth with napkins and anyway, I preferred to do my shopping in Bentalls where I was less likely to be mauled by the shop assistant. Something got lost in translation. Tourists must be made aware of this problem, they must be advised that caveat emptor applies big-time here and anyone complaining of Israeli rudeness should visit Egypt for a reality check. Finally, a Nile cruise with Discover Egypt is recommended and must include a day trip to Cairo and, although you do not have to differentiate between your Queen Nefertari to your Nefartitis, it helps to swot up beforehand

As a result however, I can not wait for a return visit to civilization as we know it ---- Eretz Israel.

Marcel L

Multicultural Kingston

When Simone asked me to write for the Jubilee on "Multicultural Kingston", I was delighted. In my job, I'm privileged to see many wonderful things going on within and across Kingston's diverse communities. Yet I find the story of Multicultural Kingston is not well known.

So I thought I'd start not with a worthy treatise on how important it is that we are tolerant of each other, celebrate our differences, etc,

etc, but with a short account of the people and groups I'm lucky enough to meet in Kingston.

This year I've visited Kingston Mosque with many others including Rabbi David Mason. I've celebrated Chinese New Year, with Kingston's Chinese Association, and had discussions with the Korean Ambassador, as the parliamentarian with the largest Korean community in the whole of western Europe!

As I write, I'm about to go the 21st Annual Festival of Kingston's Institute of Tamil Culture to enjoy an evening of Tamil music and dance. Next week, I'm meeting, for the first time, the "Kingston, Richmond and Surrey African Positive Outlook Group". Next month, I'm at a local "Peace Conference" to be held by Ahmadiyya Muslims, meeting the Sri Lankan High Commissioner to discuss Tamil issues and having coffee with the amazing John Azah, Director of Kingston Racial Equality Council (KREC).

The number of schools teaching languages, religion and culture to the Borough's children every weekend might surprise you. In addition to the successful Hebrew school at the synagogue, there are Korean, Tamil, Gujarati, Urdu and Arabic schools - and I wouldn't be surprised if there are others I don't know about.

So what are my reflections on this amazing diversity?

First, we must tell stories like this more often: I'm convinced the variety and strength of Multicultural Kingston is a force for good.

Second, if I have a concern it is that many of Kingston's diverse groups rarely interact. With the exception of some community leaders who really work hard at dialogue, inter-community communication rarely extends beyond school friends and work mates. Working at opening up in more profound ways is genuinely difficult and time-consuming, but it is surely the right thing. Perhaps it could start with the different language and culture schools working together? I'm convinced that it's by bringing children together that we can achieve the most profound change. That's why I was delighted recently to be asked to be a Goodwill Ambassador for a charity called Children of Peace that describes itself as "a UK based, multifaith and moderate charity that works with both Israeli & Palestinian children to build positive relationships for a future generation, whose communities might live and work in peace, side-by-side." Locally, I hope we can build on the work that happens naturally in our schools, to continue it in the communities.

Third, we must face up to the fact that not everyone has such a positive experience of Multicultural Kingston. Some people feel threatened by it.

Others are threatened personally by the racial aggression it can produce. The work of John Azah's team at KREC is central to providing good advice and support for individuals, groups and employers in combating racism.

I've at long last started reading the Chief Rabbi's celebrated work *The Dignity of Difference*, and it strikes me this should be one text to inform our debate. His sub-title - "How to avoid the clash of civilizations" - should remind us, if we really needed it, that multiculturalism doesn't work the world over. By doing more to ensure it works in our own backyard, we may make a contribution that ends up going wider than we might at first dare hope for.

Faith and Civic Life

What role does faith play in civic life?

In Kingston, key moments in the municipal year are traditionally celebrated by services in Christian churches. The mayoral year begins with a service in Kingston Parish Church where seven kings were crowned.

Then in the Autumn, the court session is heralded, literally, with bugles and a procession of the judges and magistrates into the same church. Finally the main civic Remembrance Day event is held around the War Memorial in Memorial Gardens, followed by a church service, then a march past at the Guildhall.

The only annual faith service involving civic leaders in a non-Christian setting is the remembrance service at Kingston Synagogue. I have attended this for many years as a councillor, and have always thought it offered a good model of how to welcome people of other faiths and none.

At the beginning of my year of office I decide to explore how the range of local faith communities could play a more prominent role in civic life. As an active member of a church myself, I felt I could understand some of the sensitivities, and I knew that the dialogue had already been started through the Inter-Faith Forum.

I set up a review group and invited a strong and interesting group of people to join me and the Deputy Mayor. These included my chaplains Rev'd Chris Hollingshurst, Rabbi Danny Rich, Imam

Shahid Hussain and Rev'd Dr Donghwan Kim. I also invited leaders of a number of key places of worship in the Borough, namely, Rabbi David Mason, Rev'd Jonathan Wilkes of Kingston Parish Church, Father Tony Charlton of Our Lady Immaculate, and Rashid Laher from Kingston Mosque.

I was delighted with the frankness of the discussions and the warmth of the group. We collectively decided that we did not want to hold multi-faith services that aimed at finding common ground. Instead we each wanted to express our own faith whilst making others welcome and explaining what we believed.

The outcome of the review was to establish three civic services during the year, one each in a synagogue, mosque and church. These have now taken place, and I was delighted that members of all three faiths attended each in some capacity or another. All three venues adopted welcoming strategies based on those at Kingston Synagogue.

I hope that this initiative will continue next year, hopefully with a greater involvement from other faith groups, notably the Hindus, Buddhists and Sikhs. We have proposed that the synagogue services should alternate between the Liberal and Orthodox traditions, and that the Christian service should be held in a different church each year.

At all the meetings and events there has been a real sense of friendship and respect between all the participants – and that is a wonderful basis on which to grow.

I want to congratulate your synagogue on its Jubilee, and to thank it for its 50 years of valuable support to the local Jewish community and for its positive involvement in the wider community of Kingston.

Councillor Mary Reid
Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

More news about our Ostrava Scroll.

Exhibition

The Jewish Museum in Prague had an exhibition "The Second Life of Czech Torah Scrolls" which ran until 28th January 2007. It is coming to Westminster Synagogue (Kent House, Rutland Gardens, Knightsbridge) from 24 April until 5 June and is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays and at other times by arrangement. Kingston and

its Ostrava Scroll receives a major acknowledgement in the catalogue and features quite prominently in the video that accompanies the exhibition. Although not large, it is a really interesting exhibition and recommended.

Artefacts

During our pre-Pesach clean out in shul, we discovered the Torah binder that came with our Ostrava Scroll when it arrived in 1964! It had been carefully put away at the back of the cupboard and had not been seen since! It is 3.2m long and about 12 cms wide and looks as if it is of the same age as the Scroll (about 1920)



So far, the translation of the embroidered dedication has foxed us. Please let us have your ideas. We are going to take the binder to the Royal School of Needlework for cleaning and repair. Then we hope to display it, at least for a short while

Evelyn Friedlander, of the Czech Memorial Scrolls Trust, has another sefer binder from Ostrava, dedicated at the Bar Mitzvah of Ludvig Rosenzweig:



Ludvik Rosenzweig was born on 17th October 1905 in Pribor (Freiberg). He lived and had a shop there until 1938, when the Germans annexed the Sudetenland. He was expelled and lived in Moravska Ostrava , Podebradova Street 96, together with his wife Helena (born 25th June 1906) and their daughter Mili , born on 22nd November 1935. In May 1939 he tried to emigrate to San Domingo (organized by the Zionist Organisation in Ostrava) but did not succeed.

In October 1939 he was deported to Nisko. After his return to Ostrava he, together with his whole family, were sent by the third transport to Terezín in September 1942 and from there in transport "By" to Auschwitz , where they were all killed on 26 October 1942.

The Jewish Museum in Prague has a collection of artifacts that came from Ostrava in 1942, with the scrolls. We have photographs of a Torah mantle, two *Kavannahs*, and a photo of what appears to be the Jewish School in ca 1920.



Riverside Club

Each Tuesday morning eager and welcoming helpers await the arrival of senior citizens to Kingston Synagogue. They come by various modes of travel, from a variety of area. But they have one thing in common – they know they are in for a good time.

The company is excellent, the food superb and the ambience warm and encouraging.

From 10.15 am to 3.15 p.m. they forget their aches and pains, dismiss their troubles and relax. Wouldn't you like to join them?

Pearl G

Kingston Wizo

Who would have expected to find a painting of Walton Bridge in an exhibition of the work of Canaletto in London ?

A large party of WIZO members and friends went to the Dulwich Picture Gallery to see the paintings which Canaletto executed during his stay in London, Warwick Castle and Surrey.

After a comprehensive briefing on the artist and contemporary London by Dr Helen Setright, we enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Nightingale Home before visiting the Gallery. Its intimate scale was ideal for the viewing of the detailed and beautiful paintings, and it was fascinating to see scenes of Whitehall and the River Thames from the 18th Century.

Our sincere thanks to all those who have generously contributed to this year's Jewish Women's Week Appeal. It is not too late to send your donation to Etta

We were delighted that three local families hosted teams who took part in the National Quiz which took place all over the country, with the groups sending in their answers on computer. We raised a substantial sum towards the support of victims of the Lebanon war, and are most grateful to all the participants.

The Ben Aroya Family

We met up with Korin, Sherri & Elad (Hila was at a wedding) during a trip to Israel, earlier this year.

The big news was that Sherri had a job and had just started working three afternoons a week at a "gan" (nursery) for Downs Syndrome children.

The work is challenging but very rewarding and ideally suited to Sherri's caring nature.

When one considers the extent of her injuries sustained five years ago in the Park Hotel bombing, this news illustrates the amazing progress Sherri has achieved.

The other news was that Yediot Aharonot (one of Israel's main daily newspapers) ran an extensive article about Sherri at the time of Chief of Staff Dan Halutz's resignation.

Halutz had been a good friend of the Ben-Aroya family, paying many visits to them as Sherri was a serving Air Force officer at the time of her injury and he even attended Sherri's 21st party.

The Israeli media were interested in her reaction to his resignation (in the aftermath of last summer's Lebanon war), and some radio stations also contacted the family for interviews.

Colin & Hazel

The Other Side of Eilat

Most people we know have visited Eilat, but somehow we have never been. This year, following, as you do, our Rabbi's instruction, we decided to support Israel and go. Our visit coincided with Eilat Day, celebrating its 58th birthday, and Ehud Olmert was in town. To hear the Hatikvah drifting over the water as we unpacked I found very moving. Having heard Eilat was not the most religious of places, it was also quite an uplifting experience to hear the Megillah recited to so many enthusiastic guests and visitors from all over the world.

With the hills of Jordan one side and Egypt bordering the other and to be greeted everywhere by staff in hotels, restaurants and shops with such smiley faces I found quite amazing. If only it could be so peaceful and harmonious everywhere else in Israel. I know this is a naïve remark, but I found it very sad to think of most of the youngsters we met having been through the call up procedure and seen such atrocities, yet manage to cope.

Tourism is the mainstay of Eilat and it is not only a mitzvah to visit but an unforgettable experience. Try and go!

Simone H

Barmitzvah!

In keeping up with the Rosen's and the Abelson's,
It is with great stress, emotional and physical fatigue and incredible
financial sacrifice beyond comprehension,
that we invite you to join us as our wonderful son
Jacob Adam
is called to
the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah.
Saturday, May 12th - (yes we realize its Mother's Day Weekend)
Temple Israel
14 Coleytown Road
Westport, Connecticut 06880
at the ungodly hour of 9 AM even though you don't really need to be there
until 10:20 AM to catch the real action.
If you make it through the 3 hour service, please skip the kiddush (its
just cookies and cake) and join us instead for an overly
large and ostentatious Kosher (my husband's idea) evening meal, which starts
at 7 PM,
(not 8 PM.. or you will miss out on the 2000 canapes).
Birchwood Country Club
25 Kings Highway South
Westport, CT 06880
(which we had to join just for this event and
you would not believe the initiation fees)
You will be in the presence of lots of
boisterous and expensive entertainment
and 60 to 70 unruly pre-teens wearing expensive dresses, funny hats,
fake bling and brand new white ankle socks...
as well as 80-100 middle aged+ adults, some balding, some with bad toupees,
most will be professionally coiffed, designer attire galore, lots of REAL
bling, and most "tootsed" to the nines. At least 1/3 will be hormonally
challenged and some will act stupid while under the influence. Some will
not even know where or who they are. Some will complain about the food.
Blah Blah Blah.

Please have the courtesy of showing up if you RSVP that you are attending,
or you will be billed for \$210.00 a plate if you are a no-show. Please RSVP

as soon as you get this and not a day before the cut-off date. I can't take the stress.

The gift of choice is either green, or contains a routing and account number. "Off the top of your head" gifts and Gift Cards are a waste of your time and ours.

Hope you can make it!

Lisa and David Miller

Dress: Black Tie optional

Theme: 007 James Bond

BYO Kippot. I don't have the strength.

Richmond Theatre

It is always a pleasure to go to Richmond Theatre, but when one of my favourite actresses is appearing it is even better. Maureen Lipman, probably one of the most talented, and certainly one of the bravest people I have had the pleasure of meeting, is in her element. Playing Martha, a quirky, obsessive cleaner, always counting up to five, always knocking on wood five times, this hilarious comedy, *Martha, Josie and the Chinese Elvis*, is dotted with Elvis music, but with a touch of sadness too, as single mum Josie celebrates her 40th birthday.

Maureen Lipman survived a serious illness, the loss of her beloved husband, Jack Rosenthal, and threw herself into Oklahoma! at the National. I suppose it must have been a doddle for her to ad lib for several minutes on press night when she sent a huge standard light flying and stunned cast and audience alike!

Simone H

I thought your readers of Chadoshot might be interested in this:-

While on a tour of Albuquerque, Sante Fe and New Mexico with my daughter, we were told by the Tour Guide of a famous Jewish pioneer – In 1885 Solomon Bibo a Prussian Jew, became the only non-Indian governor of an Indian pueblo. Solomon, son of a cantor, was born in 1853. In 1869, he joined his family's mercantile business in Sante Fe, New Mexico. In 1882, he began trading with the Acoma Indians, establishing the first trading post at Old Acoma. His marriage to an Acoma made Solomon a tribal member. In 1885, he was elected their governor and made tribal advances in education, agriculture, and machinery. To many Acomas, he was loved as a father. But controversy over some of his progressive policies created rifts. In the early 1900's the family moved to San Francisco, where he attended High Holy Day services. His descendants are Jews, Hispanics and Indians, - all named Bibo.