

A View from the Box .....	1
Ladies Guild .....	2
Schools Visits to our Shul .....	2
Wizo Report .....	3
The Shul in Barbados.....	3
Nursery.....	4
Chief Rabbi’s Rosh Hashanah Message .....	5
Rabbi David Mason - Farewell Tea.....	6
Elisheva Mason - Farewell Tea.....	7
New Sefer Torah.....	8
TIMETABLE OF HIGH HOLYDAY AND FESTIVAL SERVICES .....	8
Recipe.....	10
Rosh Hashonoh .....	10
Riverside Club .....	11
Letter Page .....	11
South West London Jewish Primary School.....	12
Education Report .....	12
Joke .....	13
Who Am I?.....	14
Kingston Homeless.....	15
Chai .....	15

## **Chadashot September 08**

### **A View from the Box**

These are exciting and potentially difficult times for the community. Once this is read Rabbi Mason will have departed from Kingston to meet new challenges in Muswell Hill. However, he will have left a lasting legacy of reinforcing and building on the identity and sense of community inherent in the Kingston & Surbiton membership. Rabbi Rosenfeld will not yet have taken up his post but we look forward to him, and his wife Joy, continuing to develop this legacy and introducing and establishing their own ideas to further develop and invigorate the community. Having been “in post” for three months it appears one of the major challenges, as has been commented on by previous writers of this column, remains the attendance (or lack of) at services – particularly on Shabbat - especially by the younger members and their parents including at the monthly children’s service.

The Synagogue, though primarily a place of worship, is at the heart of the community. Without using it for this prime purpose the community will wither and die. The Board, Honorary Officers and congregation endeavour to make it a welcoming environment for all ages and the Kiddush after the service is an opportunity to meet people and cement ties.

On a more positive note we have seen the inauguration of the new Sefer purchased by you the community. This, with its golden cover, to celebrate 50 years, enhances the Shabbat service. The Shalom nursery is due to start on 8th September with more than the anticipated number of children. It is to be hoped that the nursery and the Cheder will further develop their links with the synagogue. One of these links is the establishment of the Junior Chatanim and Eshet Chayil at Simchat Torah. Congratulations to this year's Chatanim Joseph de V and Alex E and Nashei and Freya. On a personal note I would like to thank my colleague in the box and the members of the congregation, in particular Arnie K, for their help, support and encouragement.

## Ladies Guild

We have had a very busy year. We continue to provide kiddushim every week. Shabbat Bereshit saw delicious chocolate brownies, fairy cakes and flapjacks being wolfed down by the children and adults alike. Everyone loves Sarah's cakes, especially the cheese cake, and we owe Sarah a big thank you for all the hard work she puts in as Catering Chair. She is ably supported in the baking by Bernice and Sheila. Thank you to all those Ladies who so readily come to our aid when we are 'short staffed'. The Simchat Torah party and Purim lunch were catered by The Guild. We had great pleasure in celebrating our Life President, Floras, 100th birthday in Shul and at a splendid Kiddush provided by the family with a beautiful birthday cake provided by The Guild. We funded the polishing of the floor in the annexe. We decorate the succah. Last year we held a very successful jewellery evening, a joint event with Chabad which was very well attended, by mums and daughters. Snow W, a pantomime at Wimbledon Theatre was enjoyed by many. Thanks to Yasmin for arranging this. The Ladies Guild quiz team came joint second in the Annual AUSW quiz. Well done and thanks to everyone on my team. Israeli Dancing has been taking place about every 6 weeks, led very ably by Hazel G.

It is great fun and brilliant exercise and there is always time for a chat, drink and nosh half way through the session. We all really enjoy it. Look out for our next session in September. Beginners welcome! A stimulating and informative walking tour of the East End was enjoyed by many. We hope to organize another tour next year and will certainly use the same tour guide. The Ladies Guild continues to donate to the following worthy causes: Princess Alice Hospice, Nightingale, Wimbledon Mikveh, A.U.S.W., Jewish Childs Day, Jewish Women's Aid and Friends of Hebrew University where we sponsor a student in memory of Ann. Look out for our advertising of our Annual Dinner in the New Year. New members are sought to sit on the committee -it really is not very onerous. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Ladies Guild to wish Rabbi David, Elisheva and their family much mazel in Muswell Hill. Elisheva, you will be missed by us. **Linda K**

## Schools Visits to our Shul

For many years we have had visits to our shul from various local schools. The ages range from 8 - 18 years old, in class groups. We have also welcomed groups from Scouts and Cubs, Guides and Brownies. All groups have been greeted and given a tour round the Synagogue by our Rabbi, assisted by one of a small group of interested people.

Questions we have been asked vary considerably and include "Why do men and women sit separately for services?", "What is kosher food?", "What is circumcision?", "How long is a Torah scroll and how long does it take to write?", "What is a Shofar for?", "Why do you use a Yad to point out the words?". We always receive letters of appreciation from the pupils, many of them illustrated with small drawings of what they have seen or heard. The most memorable was one a few years ago from a 9 or 10 year old - "Thank you Rabbi for wasting your afternoon with us - we learned a lot." We need to expand our group so that we have a list of helpers able to help at different times, to talk about the Shul and its work, and for new suggestions. Possibly we could offer talks in schools rather than in the Shul. Please contact Monica P, our school visits co-ordinator

## **Wizo Report**

The relationship between a Palestinian family who left their home in Ramallah in 1948, and the Bulgarian refugee family who later lived in the same house, unfolds in "The Lemon Tree" by Sandy Tolan. Together with "Resistance " by Owen Shears, these books were discussed at the Book Circle. More than a dozen people enjoyed the course, and our thanks to Dr Helen who gave us a valuable insight into these books. In July, Chief Superintendent Laura Nicolson, Borough Commander of Kingston Police spoke about her life and career, and the challenges facing a woman in a senior position in the police force. Our grateful thanks to Monica and Alex for their generous hospitality, at another of their very enjoyable summer lunches.

### **Forthcoming events**

#### **Monday 27th October 8.00pm**

Annual General Meeting of Kingston WIZO at Kingston Synagogue

Guest speaker :

Corinne Rosenberg - Training consultant on global diversity

Coffee and cakes.

No charge

#### **Sunday 14th December 7.00pm**

Bridge Supper

At the home of Sheila and Trevor Donation £25.

Please book your place with Monica

## **The Shul in Barbados**

Last December we enjoyed a few days on Barbados, pre-Caribbean cruise. Our usual habit is to find as much as we can of Jewish interest wherever we travel. This time we knew that there was a Shul in Bridgetown, the capital of Barbados, having researched the Caribbean islands before we left. The community in Barbados dates back to the 17th century and there are a number of websites that can portray its history better than us. Approaching the imposing Shul building down Synagogue Lane in the centre of Bridgetown one first notices that it is pink. Set against the blue Caribbean sky it really looks special.

Next you notice that is surrounded on three sides by a cemetery with both flat Sephardi and upright Ashkenazi headstones, some nearly 300 years old. The older Sephardi stones date back to the earliest days when settlers arrived from Brazil, while many of the newer Ashkenazi stones bear witness to an influx of immigrants from Poland in the 1930s. Entering the Shul, modelled on Bevis Marks, we were greeted by the keeper of the Shul, Henry Altman.

Henry's father, Moses, was one of the original immigrants from Poland and it was through his efforts that the Shul and the community thrives today. Although very well advanced in years Henry Altman greets every visitor to the Shul and ensures that they sign the latest volume of the impressive visitors book. The fixtures and fittings in the Shul, once sold off when the building was used as, amongst other things, a warehouse, have been bought back and lovingly put back in position. The warehouse was about to be sold to be demolished and rebuilt as the Supreme Courthouse when a campaign by Mr Altman and his son Paul persuaded the then Prime Minister to allow them to buy the land and building and convert it back to a Shul.

After touring the Shul we visited the Nidhe Israel Museum in the grounds, which had just been opened. In contrast to the antiquity of the Shul this is a very modern museum using the latest display techniques to tell the story of the community from the earliest settlers to the present day. Most memorable were the displays set into the ground, and the electronic visitors book allowing pages of all past books to be "turned" and read. Before leaving we enquired as to whether there was a Friday night service that week and were invited to join. In the off-peak weeks the community meets in another Shul nearer to the residential areas but from December to April meets in Bridgetown, and visitors are made most welcome.

Our visit coincided with the fourth day of Chanukah and was the first week of the "season". The congregation consisted of local residents, visitors from the US and Canada ("snowbirds" migrating for the winter) and tourists. The service was akin to our United Synagogue, using the Arts Scroll with a few key differences. Firstly men sat with women, which is the local custom, and secondly some decidedly non-Jewish looking males were in the congregation. It was later explained that some local Rastafarians attend services, although not counted for a minyan. We very much enjoyed our experience; the first time our travels had allowed us to join a service. If you ever find yourself in Barbados, the Shul and museum are open year-round and well worth a visit!

**Michael and Hazel M**

## **Nursery**

Members attending the Yomim Norayim services this year will notice an exciting change in the Shul. In the Succah area you will see the decorations and presence of the Shul's new Nursery, Shalom Nursery which opened its doors to its first children on Monday September 8<sup>th</sup>. After a gap of over 7 years since our previous nursery, Kitty's, closed, once again during the week the Shul is reverberating and alive with the toddlers who are the pioneers of our Nursery. This major project has been over 2 years in planning and we are starting with more children than our business plan assumed.

Five will join in September and we expect a sixth in October. This, together with our high staff to child ratio, has the advantage that the Nursery's programme can be geared to the individual needs of each child and they are guaranteed personal attention as well as a friendly atmosphere with children of their own age. Our learning programme which is closely aligned to the National Curriculum will be fun, stimulating and exciting. The Nursery is open 5 days a week from 9.30 to 12.30. We are being helped by Fun Plus Limited, a successful organization owned and run by an Israeli lady living in New Malden which also

runs three other child care facilities/nurseries in the area. Through their other Nurseries, we are able to offer our children all-day care if they need it and also a nursery during the school holidays if both parents are working. Shalom Nursery is a Jewish Nursery where the children will learn at an early age the delights of Shabbat, the Festivals and their religion.

The four Jewish children will be joined by a Hindu and a Christian child who will participate fully in the Jewish activities. This follows a pattern successfully operating in many Jewish educational establishments in the UK. We hope this will become a nursery for all the Jewish Communities in the surrounding area. This has been a great communal project with over 45 members of the community helping in one way or another. We would like to thank them all for their support and hard work without which we would not have succeeded in opening the Nursery, and to congratulate the Board for the vision and leadership it has shown in deciding to re-establish a Nursery in Kingston.

We are also grateful to Benjamin P for his support. Mr. P has been instrumental in establishing and funding several new schools resulting in a transformation of Jewish education in the UK. He has kindly donated £5,000 towards the set up costs of the Nursery. This is his first venture south of the river. We are also grateful to the family in our community who donated £3,000 towards these costs. It has been a long road to get to this stage and we wish Shalom Nursery every success for the future. Visit our website [www.shalomnursery.org.uk](http://www.shalomnursery.org.uk)

## **Chief Rabbi's Rosh Hashanah Message**

As I write these words, the world -- not just the Jewish world -- is facing a period of turbulence and uncertainty. The international political situation is hard to read; the economic situation harder still. We face recession; no one knows whether this will deepen into depression. 'These are the times', said Paine, 'that try men's [and women's] souls'. Wrestling with this challenge, I found my mind going back to a Rosh Hashanah long ago, in the mid fifth century BCE. The Babylonian exile was over. Many Jews had returned. The Second Temple had been rebuilt. Yet there was no miraculous transformation in the situation of Jews. They continued to face enemies without and divisions within. Outmarriage was high. A significant part of the population was deeply assimilated. Half could not even speak Hebrew (Neh. 13: 24). That Israel survived at all at this time was due to two remarkable leaders, the statesman-diplomat Nehemiah and the scholar-teacher Ezra. They realised that something radical had to be done to give the nation the strength to endure: not military or political but spiritual. The people needed a clear identity, a framework of values, a set of beliefs, a way of life.

The national imperative was, in short, a return to Torah and a renewal of the covenant between the Jewish people and God. On Rosh Hashanah they gathered the people before the Water Gate in Jerusalem. Ezra read the Torah to them. Educators were placed throughout the crowd to explain what was being said. The people, realising how far they had drifted from their mission, began to weep. It was then that Nehemiah said words that, for me, contain one of the secrets of Jewish survival. He said: "This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep . . . Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength" (Neh. 8: 9-10). Let those words echo in the mind: "the joy of the Lord is your strength".

Jews never lost the capacity to rejoice. At times of poverty and oppression, they celebrated Shabbat and the festivals as if they were royalty. They studied, like aristocrats of the mind. They celebrated weddings as if they had no care in the world. I sensed that same resilience in Israel throughout the difficult years of suicide bombings, Katyushas and Kassams. The strength of the Jewish people is that we never allowed our enemies to rob

of us of our ability to laugh, and celebrate, and say Lechaim, and sing. Nehemiah, the shrewd statesman, was right. "The joy of the Lord is your strength". It is not easy to rejoice in hard times. It calls for real disciplines of body and mind. It needs habits of gratitude, rituals of giving thanks, sacred times when we stop thinking of what we lack and instead focus on what we have. It means celebrating family and home and children, love and friends and community. That is what Judaism trains us to do. Half its rituals are about celebrating and sanctifying life.

Rosh Hashanah is a sustained prayer for life. There have been civilizations that worshipped power, wealth, art, science, victory in war, dominance over others, privilege, hierarchy, superiority. Judaism found joy in life itself: life in love, life in community, life in the birth of a child, the life that flows through the generations as we honour the past and cherish the future. Jews knew that you could lose all else and still celebrate life. In life we find G-d. His is the breath we breathe, the call we hear, the forgiveness we feel, the strength we need. No other religion has so focused on and sanctified the blessing of being. This sustained our people in the past. May it sustain us in the coming year. May G-d bless us all with life, and health, and peace. Bebirkat ketivah vechatimah tovah lekha ulekhoh Yisrael

**Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks**

## **Rabbi David Mason - Farewell Tea**

**K**now all of you that my love is strong, for that Shul in Kingston and Surbiton

**I**came five years ago with a wife at hand, and I leave with three kids, what a merry band.

**N**ot willing to be a quiet Rabbi, much did happen as the time did pass by

**G**oing first is our Cheder our pride and our joy, where proper Jewish education reaches every girl and boy.

**S**hul services I loved taking the lead all the while, and my vote is for a House of Prayer with a smile,

**T**uesday night once a week did come to pass, Talmud and Whisky an unforgettable class.

**O**n festivals many did have a ball, Pesach Seder, Tikkun Leyl and the Sukkah crawl.

**N**ot at home, inter-faith was a pleasure to do, to have the Imam in our Shul was quite a coup

**S**eder Torah is the next event to bring, taking it down the Thames with a dance and a sing,

**Y**ou cannot believe how important that was in my mind, to bring the Sefer into Shul gave me so much pride,

**N**ow monthly in Kingston at Marks Bloom, we had Lunch and Learn whose numbers did

bloom

**A**nd Israel in our community is one of the central components, who will forget this year's Magic Moments.

**G**reat learning was done away from the home, to Poland we had two trips, to Israel we had one

**O**nce a year was Holocaust Memorial Day, the Shoah was a topic on which I had much to say

**G**oing next are the high holydays, I loved their ruach in so many ways

**U**ndoubtedly I could not have lead all alone, an inspiration to me was my wife at home,

**E**nergised I move to Muswell Hill after making so many friends, KS and DS I will never forget you, and that folks is the end

## **Elisheva Mason - Farewell Tea**

On 12 August 2003 a young Rabbi and his wife arrived at 42 Villiers Avenue. They previously lived in a mobile home in a yeshiva in Israel and came here- the community South of the river. The first thing they did after their arrival was to sit down on the floor in their- to be- living room and look on the ginormous house - thinking- "How are they going to fill it up:?" Oh yes, after 5 years we did fill it up very well!!! 5 years have passed and it went very quickly We were busy getting to know you, trying to get involved in the community life, and we also were busy with our growing family!!

You accepted us, got to know us, and made friends with us and our children- Hodaya, Netanel and Akiva. . Oh yes- it helped us a lot that we could find so many friends in the community. I feel personally very close to Kingston community. You went through our joyful moments and our difficult moments and you were a tremendous support to us- for which we want to thank you very much. It is said in Pirkei Avot- "Who is wise- the one who learns from everyone".

We learned greatly from all of you, from our shared moments, experiences and new situations. You taught me how to make tea the English way and taught me the national anthem!!. But seriously- we are leaving the community with great sadness but much stronger people and much more confident, thanks to all of you. I would like our friendship to continue. We want to still be able to share experiences together with you. And I know that we live now very far away- and we need passports now to cross the river, but please stay in touch. I want to wish you all much health, success and happiness in the New Year and in the future, may Hashem give you all the blessings. And a big thank you once again!!

**Elisheva Mason** *There was more than one tear shed as the above were read out at the farewell tea for the Masons held in our shul recently. Glowing tributes were paid to a family who have added so much to our community with love and understanding. We wish them well in the future.*

**Editor**

## **New Sefer Torah**

What a strange sight it must have been. Some one hundred people walking, singing, or dancing (or all three) down Uxbridge Road, across the Portsmouth Road and along the river. They were preceded by a large canopy carried by four men under which two other men wearing white shawls with black lines were each carrying a large scroll wrapped in velvet and silver. As if this wasn't enough someone was blowing into a ram's horn which emitted blasts of various lengths. This odd procession evoked odd reactions. Most onlookers stood and looked. One lady with a child in a pushchair was determined not to be diverted or fazed as we came towards her, and just barged through.

Others asked what it was all about. They were told that it was all part of the celebration by the Jewish community of Kingston of the first time in their history they had commissioned and completed the writing of a brand new scroll of the Torah for the community.

Inspired by Rabbi Mason some months before, a small committee (Philip W, Sheila M, Gary B and myself) had taken on the task of fulfilling the dream. Appeals to the members to sponsor sedrot, verses, or even letters were met with an overwhelmingly generous response, even exceeding the £30,000 needed. In addition the two eitzei chaim (wooden rollers on which the sefer is wound, were generously donated in memory of the late Leonard St. The appeal also stirred the 50:50 club run for our shul by Leon F to donate from its proceeds the cost of buying another (this time second-hand) sefer; thus almost two for the price of one! It was truly a communal event and the celebration of this Hachnasat Sefer Torah on Sunday 1st June was a really fitting end to our Jubilee year celebrations. The shul was packed with our members, and we were honoured by the presence also of the Deputy Mayor (Rohan Yoganathan), Simon Hochhauser (President of the United Synagogue), Dayan Menachem Gelley (head of the London Beth Din) local Rabbonim, and past Rabbis of KS & DS. Prior to the service members who had contributed were invited actually to write the letters needed to complete the scroll (under heavy supervision by the son of Rabbi Leon Benarroch who had organised everything for us). It was most inspiring and moving to take part and to see the effect on those who did.

They completed the two years it had taken to write the new sefer, and fittingly the shul had given the mitzvah of writing the final letter as a centenary birthday present to Flora M whose grandson fulfilled it. The service was beautifully conducted by Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld with a choir, and we were exhilarated by the whole afternoon including the speeches from Dayan Gelley and Rabbi Mason. A lavish reception followed, and the excitement was palpable. Thus another milestone in our history was passed. We had fulfilled the mitzvah of writing our very own Sefer Torah. This and the blowing of the shofar signify rebirth. We in Kingston have so much to look forward to in the community. Let this be our inspiration for each of us to play our part and go forward together. **Anthony**

## **TIMETABLE OF HIGH HOLYDAY AND FESTIVAL SERVICES**

### **ROSH HASHANAH**

Monday 29 September

Yom Tov Candles 6.29 p.m.

Afternoon & Evening Services 6.30 p.m.

1st Day Tuesday 30 September

Morning Service 8.30 a.m.

Shofar 10.30 a.m.

Tashlich at the River 5.30 p.m.

Afternoon & Evening Services 6.30 p.m.

First day Yom Tov ends 7.32 p.m.

2nd Day Wednesday 1 October

Morning Service 8.30 a.m.

Afternoon & Evening Services 6.30 p.m.

Festival ends 7.29 p.m.

**FAST OF GEDALIAH**

Thursday 2 October

Fast begins 4.25 a.m.

Morning Service 7.00 a.m.

Fast ends 7.18 p.m.

**SHABBAT SHUVAH**

Saturday 4 October

Morning Service 9.30 a.m.

Shabbat ends 7.23 p.m.

**YOM KIPPUR**

Wednesday 8 October

Fast & Festival begin 6.08 p.m.

Kol Nidre 6.10 p.m.

Thursday 9 October

Morning Service 9.30 a.m.

Yizkor 12.45 p.m.

Concluding Service – Neilah 5.35 p.m.

Maariv 7.00 p.m.

Fast & Festival end 7.12 p.m.

**SUCCOT**

Monday 13 October

Yom Tov begins 5.57 p.m.

Afternoon & Evening Services 6.00 p.m.

.1st Day Tuesday 14 October

Morning Service 9.30 a.m.

Afternoon & Evening Services 6.00 p.m.

2nd Day Wednesday 15 October

Morning Service 9.30 a.m.

Afternoon & Evening Services 6.00 p.m.

Yom Tov ends 6.59 p.m.

Chol Hamoed

Thursday 16 / Sunday 19 October

Thursday 16 October

Morning Service 6.45 a.m.

Friday 17 October

Morning Service 6.45 a.m.

Shabbat begins 5.47 p.m.

Shabbat 18 October

Shabbat Morning Service 9.30 a.m.

Shabbat ends 6.53 p.m.

Sunday 19 October Morning Service 8.00 a.m.

**HOSHANA RABBA**

Monday 20 October

Morning Service 6.30 a.m.

Yom Tov begins 5.42 p.m.

Afternoon & Evening Services 5.45 p.m.

**SHEMINI ATZERET**

Tuesday 21 October

Morning Service 9.30 a.m.  
Yizkor 10.45 a.m.  
Afternoon/Evening Services & Hakofot 5.45 p.m.

### **SIMCHAT TORAH**

Wednesday 22 October  
Morning Service 9.00 a.m.  
Afternoon & Evening Services 5.45 p.m.  
Yom Tov ends 6.45 p.m.

chad SEP 2008 INSIDE:chad SEP 2008 INSIDE.qxd 9/11/2008 10:05 AM Page 25

## **Recipe**

### **Sole Delight**

#### **Ingredients:**

4 sole fillets • 3 large leeks • 10 fluid ounces cream •  
1/2 bottle dry white wine • salt, pepper • 4 oz butter

#### **Method:**

Bring white wine, salt and pepper to a boil. Meanwhile wash and thinly slice the leeks, discarding the green parts and wash again. Melt the butter and add the leeks, cooking them over a low heat for a few minutes or until wilted. Add the wine, reduce the heat and continue cooking the leeks, stirring often until they almost form a paste. Add the cream salt and pepper and reduce some more over very low heat. Now poach the fish fillets in simmering water for a few minutes. While the fish cooks, place some of the leek cream on individual plates. Carefully remove the fish fillets from the water and place them on top of the cream. Decorate with parsley, chopped tomatoes, and chives.

### **Honey Cake**

#### **Ingredients:**

2 tbspc. instant coffee dissolved into 3/4 cup hot  
water • 3 eggs • 3 Tbsp. oil • 3/4 cup honey • 3/4 cup  
brown sugar • 2 1/4 cups flour • 3/4 tsp. baking powder  
• 1/2 tsp. baking soda • 2 tsp. cinnamon • 1/2 tsp. salt

#### **Method:**

Dissolve coffee into water. Cool. Spray a 9x13 baking pan with non-stick cooking spray. Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit (180 degrees Celsius). Mix eggs, oil, honey and sugar in a bowl using an electric mixer. In a separate bowl, combine dry ingredients (flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon and salt). Alternating, add flour mixture and coffee to the egg mixture in the bowl. Mix lightly until just smooth. Bake, uncovered, for 30 minutes, or until a knife inserted in the middle of the cake comes out dry.

chad SEP 2008 INSIDE:chad SEP 2008 INSIDE.qxd 9/11/2008 10:05 AM  
Page 28

## **Rosh Hashonoh**

THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT WISH THE COMMUNITY AND THEIR FAMILIES  
A HEALTHY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR THE LADIES GUILD WISHES THE  
COMMUNITY A HEALTHY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR AND WELL OVER THE  
FAST KINGSTON WIZO SENDS BEST WISHES TO THE COMMUNITY FOR A

HAPPY NEW YEAR AJEX, THE HONORARY OFFICERS OF THIS BRANCH WISH OFFICERS OF THE SYNAGOGUE & ALL CONGREGANTS A HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND ALL AT KINGSTON CHEDER SEND BEST WISHES TO THE COMMUNITY FOR A VERY HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR **MAZAL TOV TO CHATAN TORAH ADAM N CHATAN BERESHIT CECIL B**

## Riverside Club

By 10.30 each Tuesday morning we volunteers are waiting to serve tea and coffee with biscuits. A three course meal will be well organised by then, and we always look forward to welcoming our guests. Some do handicrafts; others air their views on current affairs and discuss matters volubly and eloquently. After a delicious lunch there will be entertainment, often musical, followed by afternoon tea. Are you ready to join us? **True Story** Grandpa took his two grandsons to a Friday night service. On their return, Grandma asked the boys, aged 6 and 4 what had happened in Shul. The older one shrugged his shoulders, smiled wryly and said: 'We played, they prayed.'

## Letter Page

Dear all,

I do hope that this finds you well. We are now packing our suitcases and making the final preparations for our move to Kingston, and we are all very excited about joining you in October. As the High Holydays approach, I wanted to share with you one thought. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are often referred as the Days of Awe. They are the days of judgment when our prayer services are long and the atmosphere feels very solemn. But that is not the whole story. Our rabbis teach us that they should also be days of Yom Tov. We dress in our finest clothes, eat large festive meals and feel a sense of celebration. In some ways these may seem contradictory.

But I think that the key lies in one halacha which is beautiful and inspiring. The tradition tells us that when we eat our Yom Tov meals, we should be sure to invite others to join us. In particular, we should look out for people who may be on their own over Yom Tov. When we do this, we combine the awe and joy of the festival with the sense of communal warmth, love and giving which is so crucial to being a Jew. The Kingston community has a wonderful reputation for being a warm and caring community. We experienced that warmth during our visit in May, and we look forward to being part of that tradition. **Shana Tova,**

Rabbi Michael Rosenfeld

Dear Editor,

It is customary to read out the names of members who are observing a Yamtzeit whilst the Scrolls are being dressed. There are usually several men on the Bimah which makes the announcement difficult to hear especially in the ladies section. This space seems to be a time which many ladies use for chatting. It is customary to wish Long Life to the member if only it could be heard, and it would be useful to know which relative, i.e. mother, father, wife, husband etc.

As this article is to do with observing customs, can I please ask why in the Yiskor Prayer Books that are issued for Yiskor, why is it that only Ostrava is mentioned re the suffering and no mention of Poland, whose Jews suffered equally. The entire family of my late father as I have since discovered when I went to the Shtetl where he was born, also suffered the same fate as the Jews of Ostrava. I shall continue to read the Yiskor prayer for my late and lost Polish family. In spite of this gloomy subject I hope every one will look forward to happy times. Yours faithfully **Rita**  
*Thank you. The points about the Yahtzeits are well made, and we will try to implement them.*

## **South West London Jewish Primary School**

Despite rumours to the contrary this project has not been abandoned. I write now to inform the community of the current situation.

Regrettably there has, however, been very little progress since the last Committee Meeting, which was held on 5 February. At that meeting it was resolved that a vision statement should be drawn up, which was duly done, and it was agreed that we should ascertain potential pupil numbers. This should then be followed up by the parents being visited on a one to one basis by an educational consultant cum marketeer, for whom funding might have to be found. With regard to the latter, I have spent the last few months making numerous calls and inquiries and even advertising for an educationist with the Society of Educational Consultants.

I have spoken to numerous teachers but have yet to find anyone willing and able to take on the job. One might have thought that the Association for Jewish Education would want to be involved in setting up a new school but apparently their function (and usefulness) is somewhat limited. I have therefore reluctantly come to the conclusion that we on the Committee and others, who may be interested in supporting the project – and I now call for volunteers – will ourselves have to undertake this task, however imperfectly. It will not be easy, which brings me back to the first aspect, namely identifying the market.

Now for the good news! The time is right to sound out the parents. I have recently discovered a number of unaffiliated Israelis, who have expressed interest in the project and been supplied with a list of names in the Sutton community apart from others in the surrounding communities, of whom I am aware. So there should be a goodly pool of potential children. As soon as we have the five or six children necessary to start a school, we shall set about finding premises. The favoured area is presently Old Malden but as the premises will initially be temporary the venue could follow the children to the area that suits the majority. We then will find the teachers and raise the money. If any of you out there is remotely interested in saving our community, Jewish education or simply charitable work, please contact me. You would be fulfilling several mitzvot! "May our Children be our Builders!"

**Laurence K**

## **Education Report**

Is it Autumn already? Another dismal summer is at an end – little sunshine, a lot of rain and the BBQ stays firmly stationed in the shed for yet another year. Whatever happened to the 'Mediterranean Climate' we were promised as a result of global warming? Despite the weather, there is much to look forward to at the start of this Cheder year. Gill V has taken over as Headteacher from Daryls and, with her usual enthusiasm, has set out to make this year fun and different (as well as educational!). We are planning a 'Rosh Hashannah fun day' and a special Succot breakfast for the first half term. At the end of last term we enjoyed an 'under 5s' summer party and, of course, our traditional Prizeday.

This year Prizeday was a sad as well as a happy event, with us having to say goodbye to a number of teachers from the Cheder (including Linda who has taught for many years) and, of course, Rabbi Mason. Along with the whole community we hope that the Rabbi, Elisheva and their family settle in quickly at Muswell Hill but, at the same time, we hope that they do not forget their friends at Kingston! The synagogue has again been wonderfully supportive to the Cheder this year and we were very grateful to Anthony Cowan for presenting the prizes with such panache and good humour. It was also great to see so many Board of Management members in the audience. Cheder will of course continue on a weekly basis at Hollyfield with classes stretching from nursery to GCSE. We also run a parent and toddler group on a monthly basis. There will be regular shabbatons, cheder breakfasts, a parents' social evening and our traditional Chanukah bowling party. Perhaps the weather will have improved by Chanukah. If you would like to find out more about the cheder, know of families who are looking to provide some Jewish education for their children (in a fun and stimulating environment) or would like to volunteer to assist us, please contact me or Gill

Dates for your Diary

– Events scheduled so far include:

• **23rd October: Literature**

**Maureen Kendler**

(Head of Educational Programming at the London School of Jewish Studies)  
Jewish identity in post-war to modern Anglo-Jewish & American Literature  
(presentation linked to the JRCC)

• **January / February: Music**

**Dr. Alexander Knapp**, (Research Associate, SOAS)

The life and music of Ernest Bloch  
(presentation linked to the spring concert)

• **12th & 14th February: Bloch Concert**

supported by the JRC and the Jewish Music Institute  
A chamber arrangement of Ernest Bloch's Sacred Service. Part of the Jubilee Festival celebrations, on the 50th Anniversary of the death of the composer Ernest Bloch.  
Roehampton University Chamber Choir and Orchestra / Conductor Leslie Anne Lewis

• **May: Visual Arts**

**Judah Passow, photographer**

Judah Passow has won four World Press Photo awards for his coverage of conflict in the Middle East. His beautiful book, Shattered Dreams: Israel and the Palestinians, is a new addition to the JRCC.

• June: Interfaith dialogue / Confronting current issues

Looking forward to seeing you at our future events.

Please email for times, concert tickets, venues and further details: [i.wise@roehampton.ac.uk](mailto:i.wise@roehampton.ac.uk)

**Irene Wise**

JRC Co-ordinator

Enquiries: telephone: 0208 392 3389 email: [i.wise@roehampton.ac.uk](mailto:i.wise@roehampton.ac.uk)

**Shirley Lee**

Chair - JRC Management Committee

[s.lee@roehampton.ac.uk](mailto:s.lee@roehampton.ac.uk)

## Joke

### **Pecans in the Cemetery**

On the outskirts of a small town, there was a big, old pecan tree just inside the cemetery fence.

One day, two boys filled up a bucketful of nuts and sat down by the tree, out of sight, and began dividing the nuts. 'One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me,' said one boy. Several dropped and rolled down toward the fence. Another boy came riding along the road on

his bicycle. As he passed, he thought he heard voices from inside the cemetery. He slowed down to investigate.

Sure enough, he heard, 'One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me.' He just knew what it was.

He jumped back on his bike and rode off. Just around the bend he met an old man with a cane, hobbling along. 'Come here quick,' said the boy, 'you won't believe what I heard! Satan and the Lord are down at the cemetery dividing up the souls.' The man said, 'Beat it kid, can't you see it's hard for me to walk.' When the boy insisted though, the man hobbled slowly to the cemetery. Standing by the fence they heard, 'One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me.' The old man whispered, 'Boy, you've been tellin' me the truth. Let's see if we can see the Lord.'

Shaking with fear, they peered through the fence, yet were still unable to see anything.

The old man and the boy gripped the wrought iron bars of the fence tighter and tighter as they tried to get a glimpse of the Lord.

At last they heard, 'One for you, one for me. That's all. Now let's go get those nuts by the fence and we'll be done.' They say the old man made it back to town a full 5 minutes ahead of the kid on the bike. chad SEP 2008 INSIDE:chad SEP 2008 INSIDE.qxd 9/11/2008 10:05 AM Page 43

## **Who Am I?**

**Here are the Answers to "Who Am I?" – Vladimir 'Ze'ev ' Jabotinsky**

Rabbi David Mason was the first person to guess my identity and I donated £25 to his choice of charity – Efrat Aguda Leidud Israel. I came from the East (Odessa) and was buried in the West (New York). I was born in October (18th) 1880 and died during World War II (1940). Had I lived, I might well have been Israel's first Prime Minister. Though I died nearly 70 years ago my fame and philosophy survive to this day! I am a modern day Jewish prophet but few know my name. I spoke 10 languages fluently, wrote plays ("Blood" and "In Alien Lands") and translated Hebrew poetry (by Bialik) into Russian; for many years I was a journalist (Odeskiya Novosti and Russkiya Vodomosti). I was a zealous Zionist but for the nearly 20 years prior to the setting up of the State of Israel I never visited Palestine (because I was prevented from doing so by the British). I was a follower of Herzl but he disowned me; later I fell out with Weitzman and Ben Gurion. Although I was a British officer, I also fought against the British! I was accused of murder and imprisoned (in Acre for three months) but released after a public outcry preceded my successful appeal (1921). When I was young I espoused pacifism and even wrote a play about it ("Blood"). I was also both a socialist and a nationalist, though I wasn't a national-socialist; in fact I opposed Hitler and devised an ambitious escape plan (announced in Poland in 1936) for European Jewry.

**Answer to "Who Am I?" (No. 2) – Lord George Gordon**

David Prager was the only person to guess my identity and I donated £25 to his choice of charity Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. I am infamous for the Gordon Riots of 1780. When I was an MP I became most concerned about the increasing tolerance towards Roman Catholics. So I founded Protestant associations. These gathered numerous adherents, whose enthusiasm led them to march on Westminster with a huge petition. It all got out of hand and the Gordon Riots ensued. I was indicted for treason but, as there was no treasonable intent, the great advocate, Thomas Erskine, secured my acquittal. When I was 36 I converted to Judaism. I died aged 42.

**Who Am I? (No 3) – (as related to Laurence**

If you are the first person to guess my identity or tell me who I am by Chanukah, I will donate £25 in your name or (provided it is not a political party) anonymously to any charitable cause of your choice!!

I was a middle class Jewish atheist, who became a diplomat before becoming influential in left wing politics. Before that, however, I was arrested and imprisoned twice and forced to flee abroad. I was an adviser to my President and helped negotiate a treaty for my country. For over 30 years, whilst I held the highest offices in the land, I developed democracy, intensified international dialogue and promoted electoral, educational and legal reform. During this time my country achieved unprecedented levels of prosperity. I was respected by heads of state from India to the United States and from Russia to Egypt and there is a human rights award in my name. **Laurence 4**

## Kingston Homeless

Some time ago I wrote appealing to members of the Synagogue to help the homeless in Kingston. There was a good response at that time and I am now writing to you again for help. The Kingston Council of Churches Action on Homelessness aims to help people before they end up on the streets. Among other things, it helps individuals to fill in forms to claim Housing Benefit and it counsels people wherever necessary. One of the most positive ways it helps is to create short stay accommodation for those in need, thus helping those who would otherwise go onto the streets, starting a cycle of homelessness difficult to break. As each new person is helped into short stay accommodation, he or she is given a starter box containing: 1 toilet roll: 1 tea towel: 1 pack of 2\*60watt light bulbs: 1 black bin liner: 1 mug: 1 box of salt: small pepper pot: jiff oven cleaner: washing up liquid: dish cloths: washing up brush: washing up bowl: saucepan scourer: toothpaste: soap: welcome to your new home card. If any person would be willing to contribute to a box or make up a box, would they telephone me at home on 020-8390 1692. There is also a need for good condition duvets, pillows and bed linen generally. However, because the Action Group has limited storage space, these can only be collected when new accommodation is available. Nevertheless, if you have these articles, please contact me to see if they can be used. This is a very small way in which our Community can help those in our midst less fortunate than ourselves and I hope you will contribute. Everything that is donated is given under the auspices of the Jewish Community of Kingston  
**Rosalynde L**

## Chai

As a Wimbledon resident and Chief Executive of Clapham based care home Nightingale, I am delighted that one of the Community's most wonderful organisations has now set up shop at Nightingale. Chai Cancer Care and Nightingale have teamed up in a unique charitable partnership to bring Chai's expert support services to the South London communities. Whether personally, a family member or a friend, sadly everyone is touched by cancer somehow. Chai Cancer Care will offer its amazing support and therapy services every Thursday in the luxury of Nightingale's rooms. From counselling for cancer patients, their families and friends, acupuncture, aromatherapy and reflexology to expert practical advice in areas such as benefit eligibility, access to second opinions, liaising with the NHS and receiving help from local authorities, Chai's professional team is available by appointment every week. If you can't make it to Clapham, Chai's services are also available six days a week in clients' own homes. Nightingale's own residents, their families and friends will also be able to benefit from these services if needed. Both Nightingale and Chai are leading experts in all that they do – Nightingale in all aspects of care for the elderly, and Chai in supporting anyone affected by a cancer diagnosis. Both are independent organisations that are open to all members of the Jewish community, regardless of their affiliation. Both are known for their excellent operational standards. This partnership is therefore a natural fit. If you think that this service might be of interest to you or to a loved one, feel free to call 020 8202 2211 for more information. You can

also log onto [www.chaicancercare.org](http://www.chaicancercare.org) or [www.nightingalehouse.org.uk](http://www.nightingalehouse.org.uk) to find out more about the services on offer **Leon Sh,**