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the S&P HARDI bulletin

THE MAGAZINE OF THE S&P SEPHARDI COMMUNITY

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The home of the Sephardi community since 1656

the
S&P HARDI
community ק"ק שער השמים





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The Sephardi Bulletin

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Editor

Edward Howard

Contributions

Any submissions for inclusion in the Bulletin should be sent to the editor edward@sephardi.org.uk. The next issue will be September 2018 and the deadline for submissions will be published nearer the time. Text should be typed and sent as a Microsoft Word document. Photographs or illustrations should be sent as either tiff or jpeg files, and should be emailed or sent on CD. Only high resolution images can be used.

Environmental policy

The paper used in the printing of the Sephardi Bulletin is made from pulp manufactured using timber from sustainable forests.



S&P Sephardi Community

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DEBAR TORAH

When autumn comes and the leaves fall from the trees, the temperatures drop and the Jewish people gather on mass to contemplate their lives. We examine our deeds, our goals, our past and our future. We awaken our spirits with the sound of the shofar and for two days at the year's beginning we live in the place of memory on the Yom haZikaron — the Day of Memory. The past present and future come before us as one on these days.

We are often encouraged to live in the moment. In doing so we are more present and aware of our immersion in the current circumstance and we participate more consciously in our lives. The days of Rosh HaShana, however, are as if they hover above all time. On Rosh HaShana we do not stand in any single moment, but rather, it is as if we stand above and watch the entirety of our lives in full consciousness.

In doing so we see ourselves from the 'outside' and contemplate our position in the world. Who are our friends? With whom do we interact and associate? By whose thinking do we define ourselves? All of these vital questions arise when we encounter ourselves as members of a greater society. Becoming aware that we are part of a unit, allows us to remember, move out of our isolation and integrate more fully. Remembering integrates.

Community has therefore always played a great role in our observance of the Days of Awe. Rosh HaShana could have been a day of private meditation and self-awareness — but it is not. It is a day of self-integration and memory on which we look at ourselves in the world, in society and in community. We introspect with everyone at once because that is the truer manifestation of our being. We do not live in isolation.

It is upon the threshold of these special days that I encourage our S&P Sephardi Community — members, affiliates and friends — to redouble our efforts in our involvement in building the community's strength in all ways possible. When the community is strong and thriving, we as individuals are as well.

I wish all of our beautiful congregations a year of peace, happiness, health and good fortune. May our Torah shine in our lives and guide us as never before, and may we go from strength to strength.

Tizku LeShanim Rabot,

Rabbi Joseph Dweck

Rabbi Joseph Dweck
SENIOR RABBI



MESSAGE FROM THE PARNAS PRESIDENTE

On behalf of the Board of the S&P Sephardi Community I would like to wish you a Shana Tova.

The year 5777 has been a momentous one for our kahal.

Under the auspices of Rabbi Morris, Bevis Marks continues to grow as a hub of activity within the City and this year we took receipt of a National Lottery development grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This will enable us to develop further our work to ensure that Bevis Marks welcomes, inspires and enriches our lives for generations to come.

We celebrated Wembley synagogue's 40th Birthday and congratulate Rabbi Kada and the entire Wembley community on reaching this happy milestone. We are delighted to have witnessed the thriving activity at Lauderdale Road under the auspices of Rabbi Elia, with growing involvement of our younger people, reflected in increased numbers attending Heder, and including the wonderful production of Joseph, and the welcoming of over two hundred people to the "Challah Make" for Shabbat UK. We thank our departing Youth Leaders, Nathaniel Carlebach and Katie Shemtob, for their hard work and dedication.

You will see that this Bulletin includes articles from several other Sephardi communities and we are delighted to have continued our close associations with Manchester's Sha'are Hayim; Holland Park; Neve Shalom; Rambam and S&P Jerusalem.

As many of you know, this year was also one for our kahal of unusual and extraordinary challenge. Under such difficult and troubling circumstances, the Board took great strength from the overwhelming support of our community and our friends here and abroad, for which we offer our greatest thanks.

Under the inspiring leadership of our Senior Rabbi, Rabbi Dweck we look forward to a strengthened and flourishing future, proud of our rich traditions and unique status in British Jewry. We wish Rabbi Dweck, together with his family, continued strength, courage and wisdom in leading us all now, and in the years ahead.

On behalf of the Board, we look forward to seeing many of you in synagogue and at our programmes in the coming year.

Tizku L'Shanim Rabot.

Sabah Zubaida

Parnas Presidente

LEGACIES

LEGACIES

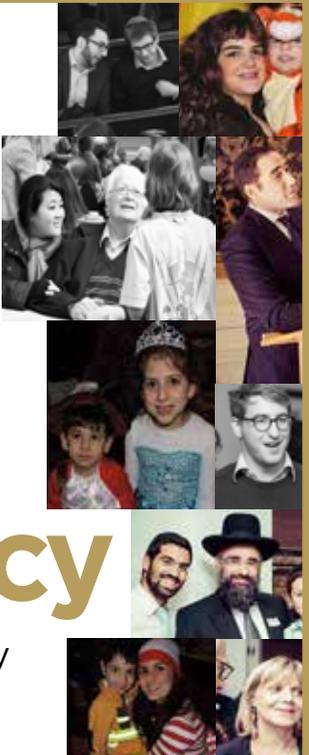
A Legacy Tea was held in November 2016 at which Lord Woolf kindly spoke.

A couple of Legacies have already been generated, however this is thought to be a long term project and as the Kahal becomes more aware of "Legacies" and their need, hopefully over the years more Yehidim will decide to leave a legacy to the synagogue in their Wills.

Measures are being put in place to make the Yehidim aware of the need for Legacies such as the weekly E-Mailed newsletter.

Alfred Magnus

Alfred Magnus



**Leave a
lasting legacy**

Help ensure the future of our community

FROM ALISON ROSEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to wish you a Happy New Year from the S&P Sephardi Community and although it has been a challenging year, we have moved ahead in a number of areas and the team at 2 Ashworth Road are looking forward to the New Year and continued growth in the community. We are particularly excited to have received a development grant from the National Lottery this year and this project will be a key focal point for the year to come.

We have also had a strong start to our Fundraising Patronage campaign. We would like to thank all those who have donated to this campaign as well as the Kal Nidre Appeal and other fundraising projects we have undertaken.

HLF GRANT

The S&P Sephardi Community has received a National Lottery development grant, of £221,100 (64% of the initial planning costs) from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to develop plans for an exciting new project at Bevis Marks Synagogue. If successful in securing the full grant in Spring 2019, the project, costing some £4.6 m with a 64% contribution from HLF, will vastly improve facilities and access at Bevis Marks. It will ensure that Bevis Marks can be maintained as a living place of worship and community, a cultural centre and an historic attraction. It will also enable Bevis Marks to reach out to a wider community with a rich and engaging educational programme.

The Bevis Marks synagogue has faced the threat of closure many times. A change in geo-demographics has led to a migration of the Spanish & Portuguese Jewish population away from the City, however the community has remained faithful. The building and its collections stand as a living monument to 300 years of continual worship in the City of London. It is this intrinsic combination of use and heritage that is at the heart of the significance and value of Bevis Marks Synagogue.

There are many reasons that can be cited as to why Bevis Marks synagogue is a significant heritage asset - *its grade 1 listing; its intact Wren-style furnishings; it being the oldest synagogue in use in the UK* - but fundamental to all of these is its continued use since 1701. No other synagogue in Europe has this continuity of practice, of community, of building, of collections. As a result, Bevis Marks is more than just a historic building, it is the repository of a unique inheritance, both of physical collections such as ritual silver, textiles and furniture, and of intangible heritage - a minhag - of melodies and customs, handed down from generation to generation for over 300 years.

New staff and a dynamic activity programme will see a step-change in operation and heritage management, with an aim to dramatically increase visitor numbers. Previously un-displayed collections will be made accessible. Crucially, the site will become financially sustainable, with income generating activities sympathetic to an active place of worship. Heritage assets will be safeguarded for future generations.

THE BOARD

In March we were pleased to announce that Anthony Morris and Caroline Jackson Levy had joined the Trustee Board (Board of Elders). Anthony brings a wealth of legal expertise and Caroline marketing and PR. The new governance structure of a 9 person Board is working as is the Advisory Council chaired by David Dangoor.

STAFFING

Below is a list of staff who you may wish to contact on administrative matters:-

SMT

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Alison Rosen | Executive Director | alison@sephardi.org.uk | 02074817822 |
| Edward Howard | Programme & Marketing Director | edward@sephardi.org.uk | 02074817830 |
| Les Dittrich | Financial Controller | les@sephardi.org.uk | 02074817824 |
| Alan Abrahams | Office Manager | alan@sephardi.org.uk | 02074817821 |
| Ben Morrison | Fundraising Consultant | ben@sephardi.org.uk | 02074817831 |

OTHER OPERATIONAL STAFF

| | | | |
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| Maurice Bitton | Bevis Marks Manager | maurice@sephardi.org.uk | 02076211188 |
| Diana Zelouf | PA to Rabbi Elia Lifecycle Manager | diana@sephardi.org.uk | 02074817827 |
| Rachel Menachem | PA to Exec Director | rachel@sephardi.org.uk | 02074817823 |
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| Monika Kruk | Accounts Manager | monika@sephardi.org.uk | 02074817825 |
| Minna Birshan | Finta/donations | minna@sephardi.org.uk | 02074817826 |
| Harvey Spillman | Hebra Manager | harvey@sephardi.org.uk | 02074817843 |
| Linda Granville | Welfare charities | linda@sephardi.org.uk | 02074817832 |
| Khulaan Dav | Marketing & events | khulan@sephardi.org.uk | 0207487840 |



E-MAIL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CONGREGATION

If you have not yet subscribed to our weekly newsletter you can do so at www.sephardi.org.uk

CONGREGATION NEWS CONT.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND ADVISORY COUNCIL

Board of Trustees

Sabah Zubaida
Parnas President

David Ereira
Vice Chair

Alan Mendoza
Vice Chair

Caroline Jackson-Levy

Anthony Morris

Kris Musikant

Rony Sabah

Mark Salem
Gabbay

Anthony Tricot

Advisory Council

David Dangoor
President of Advisory Council

Simon Aron
Security Adviser

Jenny Arwas
HR Consultant to the Board

Edward Azouz
Investment Committee

Alan Bekhor
Montefiore Endowment

Julia Cushnir
Co-Chair Wembley

Simon Dangoor
Children's Fund

David Dwek
Chair of Investment
Committee, Chair of Seating
Committee & Vice Chair
Finance

Sebastian Ereira
IT Consultant

Clare Ettinghausen
Sylvia Graham
Chair of Welfare Board

Lucien Gubbay
Chair of Montefiore
Endowment

Judith Hassan
Children's fund

Sara Jackson
Chair of Education Committee

Robert Kandel
Parnas LR
Rabbi Dweck's Cabinet

Susan Kandel
Welfare Board, Seating &
Finta Committee

Lesley Khalastchi
Friendship Club

Lawrence Kilshaw
Chair of Bevis Marks

Roger Leon
Wembley Treasurer - Hebra

Alfred Magnus
Chair Brandon Endowment

Frank Martin
Parnas of Hebra

Bernard Mocatta
Coals & Blankets

Stuart Morganstein
Welfare Board &
Investment Committee

Adam Musikant
Chair of Fundraising HLF

Barry Musikant
Welfare, Building Committee
& Chair of Disused Cemeteries
Committee

David Obadiah
Holland Park

Marc Pereira-Mendoza
Fundraising Committee &
Education Committee

Rony Sabah
Chair Wembley

Mark Salem
Treasurer, Board & Finance

Jeremy Schonfield
Thesoureiro de Heshaim
& Rabbi Dweck's Cabinet

Jonathan Seres
Ascarnot Committee

Robert Shemtob
Sephardi Centre

Barbara Simon
Chair of Lauderdale Road
Committee

Jonathan Solomans
HLF & Bevis Marks Committee

Rick Sopher
Montefiore Endowment &
Sephardi Centre

Daniel Sopher
Finance & Youth Liaison

ECCLESIASTICAL

Please note full details of our festival services are included in a separate new published programme which is also available on our website.

We wish Besiman Tob to our Chatanim and their families.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

MARRIED COUPLES

Katie Phillips and Samuel Murray

Dina Kalinko and Daniel Moses

Laura - Lisa Saunders and Maurice Esterkin

Natasha Nineberg and Elliott Stern

Charlotte Farleigh and Joe Green

Bettina Caro and Gerry Defries

Hayley Musry and Jonathan Weisz

Julie Dwek and Dan Endlar

Jessica Elias and Benjamin Charkham

Charlotte Ashton and Alex Baroukh

Jennifer Dallal and Gideon Mendel

Natalie Howard and Paul Macatonia

Maytal Kuperard and Eddie Marshbaum

Georgia Aaronson and Isaac Dwek

Jessica Lever and Alexander Halban

Nicole Dousie and Toby Marks

Carla Bradman and Alex Segall

Leanne Moses and Daniel Orelowitz

Abigail Sofer and Alberto Elias Levi

ENGAGED COUPLES

Hannah Eder and Andrew Waidhofer

Romy Lewis and Joel Shamash

Hana Pike and David Shellim

Francesca Lawi and Samuel Elia

Myra Samra and Jacob Confino

Sinem Sipahioglu and Ashley Hikmet

Jodie Fleischmann and Adam Ludwin

Chantelle Angel and Adam Benjamin

Leonie Furman and Daniel Garfield

Lucy Hayim and Eli Cohen

Juliette Cooney and Darren Hill

Natasha Isaac and Samuel Freeman

Natalie Abraham and David Hakimiam

BIRTHS

Karen and Daniel Benamran
Boy - Liam

Lauren and Brice Benoliel
Girl - Eva

Lily and Darren Fogelman
Boy - Freddie

Emma and Marc Haguenaer
Boy - Jacob

Laura and Lewis Maleh
Girl - Beatrix

Melissa and Denny Sabah
Boy - Asher

Rachael and Daniel Sacerdoti
Girl - Gabriella

Laura and Andrew Abdulezer
Girl - Ava

Rebecca and Daniel Zubadia
Girl - Hanna

Anna & Jeremy Sanders
Boy - Jack

Zoe and Adam Keats
Girl - Eve

CONGREGATION NEWS CONT.



NEW MEMBERS

Janine & Scott Aaron & Family
 Alex Ben-Nathan
 Jeremy Ben-Nathan
 Karen & Daniel Benamran & Family
 Patricia & Robert Benjamin & Family
 Jeremy Bliss
 Julie Cohen
 Sasha & Michael Douek & Family
 Zoe Dwek - Adams
 Michael Green
 Johanna & Antoine Guivarch & Family
 Miles Halford
 Lara & Edmond Harbour & Family

Jordan Jay
 Louisa Joseph
 Michael Joseph
 Rosa Katan
 Philip Kelvin
 Ilan Lazarus
 Samuel Levy
 Gabriel Mahgerefteh
 Kathleen & Xavier Mayer & Family
 David Mendoza
 Lucy & Phillip Morelle
 Sabrina Morris
 Winifred Moses

Joseph Nyman
 Jonas Praver
 Lawrence Salem
 Philip Salem
 Joel Shamash
 Joseph Shamoon
 Ornella Sorani
 David & Hesta Spiro
 Isaac Treuherz
 Renee & Simon Wasserman
 Susannah Zelkha

FUNERALS

Esther Fineberg
 Rhoda Garcia
 Clara Nahon
 Victoria Gareh
 Sylvia Kedourie
 Jaqueline Cohen
 Alan Shamash
 Sarina (Tina) Colover

Albert Dwek
 Isaac Alfred Brewer
 Jamil Ezra Sofer
 Charles Katan
 Renee Garcia
 Tafaha Murad
 Isaac Benjamin Isaac
 Ezekiel Menashy

Jasmine Menashy
 Matilda Perez
 Diana Lynne Battat
 Derek Maurice Ereira
 Shayna Tabbuh
 Claire Judah
 Edmund Perez

PRE ROSH HASHANA CEMETERY VISITS

| | | | |
|-------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| Edgwarebury | 03/09/2017 | 10.30am | Rabbi Kada |
| Edgwarebury | 10/09/2017 | 10.30am | Rabbi Berger |
| Hoop Lane | 03/09/2017 | 12.30pm | Rabbi Kada |
| Hoop Lane | 10/09/2017 | 12.30pm | Rabbi Elia |

FUTURE STONESETTINGS

| | Name of deceased | Cemetery | Date of service | Time |
|----------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------|
| September 2017 | Albert Dwek | Hoop Lane | 17/09/2017 | 2.00pm |
| | Victoria Gareh | Hoop Lane | 17/09/2017 | 2.45pm |
| October 2017 | Clara Nahon | Edgwarebury | 01/10/2017 | 10.15am |
| | Jacqueline Cohen | Hoop Lane | 15/10/2017 | 2.00pm |
| | Dr Alan Shamash | Hoop Lane | 22/10/2017 | 11.30am |
| | Muriel Azouz | Hoop Lane | 22/10/2017 | 2.30pm |
| | Kitty Abraham | Hoop Lane | 29/10/2017 | 11.30am |
| | Renee Garcia | Hoop Lane | 29/10/2017 | 1.00pm |
| November 2017 | Charles Katan | Hoop Lane | 26/11/2017 | 11am |
| | Sarina (Tina) Colover | Hoop Lane | 26/11/2017 | 2pm |
| December 2017 | Jamil Sofer | Hoop Lane | 03/12/2017 | 12pm |
| March 2018 | Derek Ereira | Edgwarebury | 18/03/2018 | 1.30pm |

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THE S&P SEPHARDI PATRON'S AND SUPPORTER'S CIRCLE

The new S&P Sephardi Community Patron's Circle and Supporter's Circle programmes were launched in September 2016 at a reception at Rabbi Dweck's house and have gone from strength to strength.

The two schemes are initiatives for valued members and friends of the S&P Sephardi Community who wish to deepen and demonstrate their responsibility and dedication to our Kahal, in order that we may continue to build on our rich heritage for our children and grandchildren.

Both offer a number of recognition and benefits to those involved and the opportunity to receive invitations to special events and benefits throughout the year.

THE PATRON'S CIRCLE

Those who have joined The Patron's Circle have made a significant commitment for three years and is for members of the kahal and friends who wish to enable us to widen and enhance our learning and education programmes, support our welfare work, preserve our unique heritage and maintain our facilities and help us build for the future.

There are four levels of Patron commitment ranging from £10,000 to £100,000, known as Gaon, Gaster, Nieto and Maimonides levels.

THE SUPPORTER'S CIRCLE

For those giving a minimum of £1,000+ per annum in addition to their existing support through donations such as for Mitzvot, Nahlot, and the Kal Nidre appeal, the Supporter's Circle programme is a perfect way for members and friends to help enhance every aspect of our work on behalf of the S&P Sephardi Community, generously helping to sustain and grow our community.

The Board of the S&P Sephardi Community and our Rabbanim would like to thank all those who have already committed their support to both programmes and look forward to welcoming other yehidim who wish to join either the Patron's Circle or Supporter's Circle for the forthcoming year. For further information, please contact patrons@sephardi.org.uk or supporterscircle@sephardi.org.uk



S&P SEPHARDI COMMUNITY PATRON'S CIRCLE

GASTER PATRON'S

- Edward Azouz
- Judy and David Dangoor
- Joey Esfandi
- Joyce and Edward Misrahi
- Vivian and Michael Rahamim
- Susan and Stephen Saady
- Our Anonymous Donors

GAON PATRON'S

- Lewis Cadji & family
- Nathalie and Jonathan Esfandi
- Our Anonymous Donors

S&P SEPHARDI COMMUNITY SUPPORTER'S CIRCLE

- Linda and Frank Khalastchi
- Khakshouri Family
- Sabine and Jeremy Smouha
- Our Anonymous Donors

List as at 1st September 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES

September 2017 / Tishrei 5778



In my New Year message 12 months ago, I wrote that 2016 had been the most tumultuous year in British political life in living memory. This year has been barely less eventful with a surprise General Election producing an even bigger surprise, resulting in the turbulence of a hung Parliament, coalition negotiations and a shaky start to talks with the EU over the future of the United Kingdom in Europe.

Through this period of political uncertainty the Board of Deputies has represented the Jewish community with a clear and calm voice. We produced our Jewish Manifesto for the election campaign, a document newly updated for 2017 with its detailed advocacy of the

policies of interest and concern to UK Jews. We asked politicians to support our 10 Commitments - the policies which we consider crucial on everything from education and religious freedoms to the Middle East. We sent out a copy of the Jewish Manifesto to every prospective parliamentary candidate and received a large and supportive response including video messages from the Prime Minister and the leaders of the next three largest parties.

Our approach to politics is bipartisan. We do not support any single party but we do hold politicians to account. In a year characterised by a shameful upsurge in antisemitism in British politics we continue to call on party leaders to act swiftly to expunge hatred wherever it rears its ugly head. Former Liberal Democrat Leader Tim Farron acted swiftly to expel David Ward, a man with a track record of antisemitic statements. We call on Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn to act in a decisive manner during this coming year against the scourge of antisemitism which has plagued his party. And whenever we discover antisemitism in the Conservative and other parties, be in no doubt that we act in a similarly robust manner.

This year, having been thwarted for 12 years, criminal murderers finally managed to claim innocent lives in our country - at Westminster, in Manchester, at London Bridge and Finsbury Park. I am sickened by the extremists who are prepared to kill children to further their depraved views. The attacks by Islamist extremists on concert goers and random pedestrians and the attack on worshippers outside a mosque in north London, lend an urgency to my longstanding commitment to building bridges with Muslim communities. It is vital that we have the relationships that allow us to share sometimes difficult opinions with one another, as well as making joint progress on our issues of common concern. It is crucial to strengthen the moderate centre and marginalise the extremists.

So I have travelled the country speaking to Muslim communities - so far including London, Bradford, Leicester, Leeds and Birmingham. And we don't just exchange pleasantries over tea and biscuits, we go straight for the toughest topics: hate crime, violent extremism and religious values.



This country is not the only one to suffer the tragedy of extremist murder this year. Israel has also lost innocent Jews, Christians and Muslims to terror attacks this year. And of course the difference between Israel and the UK is that Israel has never had respite from those whose mission it is to subvert the democracy of the world's only Jewish state. While the ramming of tourists and commuters on Westminster Bridge made the world's headlines, similar attacks in Israel have often not even warranted a passing mention on the evening news. We at the Board of Deputies stand resolutely behind Israel, whether it is speaking at demonstrations, making the case in the media, challenging BDS or supporting grassroots advocacy organisations and Christian allies. We leave nobody in any doubt as to our commitment.

While our enemies continue to promote terror and division, we have been unstinting in our desire for peace. This year, we launched the pioneering 'Invest in Peace' programme, with church umbrella body Churches Together in Britain and Ireland to support Israelis and Palestinians who reach across the divide for reconciliation. Our first series of events in London in May drew 300 Jews, Christians, Muslims and people of no faith to the cause, and we are already planning the next series of events in Manchester, Leeds and Glasgow for later this year.

At home, we have continued to interact through all levels of government, from desk officers to secretaries of state, and we have worked internationally through our relations with foreign embassies and links with our Jewish partner organisations overseas. Our highly successful series of seminars for local councillors on Jewish issues took us to Manchester and Newcastle/Gateshead this year, with events in Leeds, Birmingham and London to follow in 2018.

We have staunchly defended Jewish schools and Jewish education in both the mainstream and Charedi sectors. Our efforts are also outward looking - the Jewish Living Experience exhibition has travelled around the country and informed thousands of non-Jewish children and adults about our way of life. Our research partnership with the Institute of Jewish Policy Research has borne fruit, with ground-breaking new reports on Jewish schools and patterns of affiliation to the synagogue movements, releasing data that is vital for planning for our community's future.

In 5778 we will continue to represent your interests and wishes as a democratically elected and accountable organisation. May this New Year bring you, your families and all of Am Yisrael health, strength and peace.

Jonathan Arkush

Jonathan Arkush
President



THE PR OFFICE

is proud to support **the S&PHARDI**
community ק"ק שער השמים

and wishes everybody a very happy,
healthy and sweet New Year!



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the **S&PHARDI**

PHOTOS

A COLLECTION OF PHOTOS
FROM OUR EVENTS AND
PROGRAMMES IN THE PAST YEAR

For more information on any of our events visit
sephardi.org.uk/events





the S&PHARDI
photos





the S&PHARDI
photos



קק כנסת ישראל - UNITED SYNAGOGUE
 WEMBLEY SYNAGOGUE
 THIS SYNAGOGUE WAS OPENED BY
 JOSEPH CLAPMAN, ESQ.,
 AND CONSECRATED BY
 THE VERY REV. THE CHIEF RABBI, D^R ISRAEL BRODIE.
 15TH JUNE 1958 - 27TH SIVAN 5718.



**WEMBLEY 40TH
 ANNIVERSARY**





WEMBLEY 40

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR was the service held at our synagogue to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the synagogue's building. The service was attended by over 150 people and the community was addressed by Rabbi Dweck, Rabbi Kada and Dayan Toledano. Dayan David, Rabbis Elia and Levy and the rabbis of Kingsbury and Neveh Shalom synagogue were also present.



HIGH HOLY DAYS INFORMATION



PRE ROSH HASHANA DAYS AT CEMETERIES

Sunday 3rd September with Rabbi Kada
10:30am
Edgwarebury Lane

Sunday 3rd September with Rabbi Kada
12:30pm
Hoop Lane

Sunday 10th September with Rabbi Berger
10:30am
Edgwarebury Lane

Sunday 10th September Rabbi Elia
12:30pm
Hoop Lane

SECURITY

Please be extra vigilant during this time of heightened security when arriving and leaving Synagogue premises. No bags other than small handbags will be allowed into any of the Synagogues.

Mobile telephones should not be brought into any of the Synagogues. They may be removed at the entrance by the security officers.

At Lauderdale Road any non-member who has not been issued with tickets may be refused admission on the first day of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur.

MINISTERS

ROSH HASHANA

BEVIS MARKS:

Rabbi Shalom Morris
and Philip Maurice

LAUDERDALE ROAD:

Main Service: Rabbi Israel Elia, Rabbi Joseph Dweck, Adam Musikant and Amos Haddad

Mizrahi Service: Rabbi Joseph Dweck and Chaim Cohen.

RH DAY 1 R' Dweck will speak after Sepher in the Main Synagogue and before Musaph in the Mizrahi service

RH DAY 2 R' Elia will speak before Musaph

WEMBLEY:

Rabbi Daniel Kada and
Nachshon Rodrigues Pereira

YOM KIPPUR

BEVIS MARKS:

Rabbi Shalom Morris,
Lawrence Kilshaw and Philip Maurice.

LAUDERDALE ROAD:

Main Service: Rabbi Israel Elia, Rabbi Joseph Dweck and Adam Musikant

Mizrahi Service: Rabbi Joseph Dweck and Chaim Cohen

KN R'Dweck will speak before Arbit,
R'Dweck will give a Shiur after Arbit.

YK DAY R'Dweck will speak before Musaph, R' Elia will speak before Neilah.

Rabbi Farhi will lead an explanatory service from 12:00pm - 3:30pm

WEMBLEY:

Rabbi Daniel Kada and Amos Hadad

HATANIM

BEVIS MARKS:

Hatan Torah: Rabbi Shalom Morris

Hatan Bereshit: Ilan Lazarus

LAUDERDALE ROAD:

Hatan Torah: Gerry Mizrahi

Hatan Bereshit: Alex Hayim

WEMBLEY:

Hatan Torah: Richard Sassoon

Hatan Bereshit: Malcolm Setton

HIGH HOLY DAY BOOKINGS (ONLINE)

BEVIS MARKS:

www.sephardi.org.uk/product/hhd-bm

LAUDERDALE ROAD:

www.sephardi.org.uk/hhd-lr

LULABIM

Lulabim will be available to order online for £30 per set. Please visit www.sephardi.org.uk/product/lulabim/ for more information.

PRAYER BOOKS

Prayer books for Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur and Succot may be purchased from the office. Full details, including prices, may be obtained from the office.

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Bevis Marks Synagogue



2 Heneage Lane, London EC3 5DQ. T 020 7626 1274 www.sephardi.org.uk

The past year has been especially pleasing in terms of congregational growth. Bevis Marks has increased its membership and surpassed the objectives set at the beginning of the year, welcoming ten new members and five new Friends of Bevis Marks. This is largely due to the extensive effort of Rabbi Morris, who has inspired many to be more than just one of the numerous visitors our historic synagogue so deservedly attracts.

Having now completed two full years at the pulpit, Rabbi Morris remains indefatigable, leading a rich programme that includes Friday night dinners and ever-popular Young Professional events. His regular talks about subjects of interest that pertain to the rich history of Bevis Marks and the Spanish & Portuguese legacy in general, continue to be a big success and draw for people. In particular the Historic Jewish London Walking Tours led by our Rabbi have been a great success and are always oversubscribed. In addition to all this, he leads a weekly Talmud class held after the morning service, as well as participating in the usual life-cycle ministry of the kahal. With his clear eye on sustainable growth in keeping with our heritage and values, Rabbi Morris has integrated beautifully at Bevis Marks. He has developed his knowledge of the liturgy and expanded our knowledge of our own history. In the words of one senior congregant “he is now one of us.”

Complementing Rabbi Morris’s work, with their enthusiasm and dedication is our team of lay readers, Maurice Martin, Jeremy Schonfield, Frank Martin, Lawrence Kilshaw, Aaron Kaiser-Chen, Ilan Lazarus and Joseph Smith. All have continued their great effort in keeping our services running to a standard of which we are proud. We have also had the honour of hearing the incomparable hazanut of Philip Maurice, Nachshon Rodrigues Pereira and Eliot Alderman on special occasions. Rabbi Dweck’s Shabbat visits to Bevis Marks, often with much of his family, always proves a strong attraction and a richly rewarding experience. We are also grateful to him for reading the book of Esther, and for his classes at the weekday services, and his inspirational stewarding of the Congregation.

Kiddush after Shabbat morning services provides an ever crucial space for Bevis Marks to extend a warm hand of friendship to regulars and visitors alike. This could not be achieved without the care and dedication of the team including Adele Leffman, Carole Morganstein, Gusti Martin, Joyce Nunes Vaz, and Lesley Bennet, to whom we extend very heartfelt thanks.

This year Bevis Marks scored a particular success, gaining the first stage of support from the Heritage Lottery Fund. A development grant has been awarded, in anticipation of a full grant in Spring 2019. This £4.6 million project also includes 36% funding from other sources. It aims to develop the Synagogue’s access and facilities to increase visitor numbers substantially, making the site self-funding and safeguarding it as a place of worship for the long term. We are grateful to all those who led this bid and continue to steward this truly game-changing project.

There has been a record number of visits from schools. More than 2,500 children have had a first-hand opportunity to learn about Bevis Marks heritage. In addition, general public visitor numbers have been steady and we continue to welcome walking tours, synagogue groups, U3A groups, colleges, universities, National Trust members and visitors from all over the world. Open House was a triumph, with over 2,000 people passing through the doors in the space of 4 hours. The Synagogue is especially grateful to Maurice Bitton for keeping the building so resplendent and for all his efforts in welcoming so very many visitors to our ancient walls.

Lawrence Kilshaw,
Chair of the Bevis Marks Committee



LAUDERDALE ROAD SYNAGOGUE

9 Lauderdale Road, London W9 1LT T 020 7289 2573 www.sephardi.org.uk

the **S&PHARDI**
bulletin

LAUDERDALE ROAD COMMITTEE

This year we held a second new members' Kiddush, which was sponsored by members of the congregation. We have continued with the successful Lauderdale luncheon club and wonderful Chanukah and Purim lunches were held, which were enjoyed by adults and children alike. Our work will be expanded this year as we are taking over some of LRSA's events - Succot, Hoshana Rabba and the parties for Purim and Simhat Torah.

Our committee is small but effective. We are very fortunate to have some young, efficient and enthusiastic members for which I am eternally grateful.

We are prioritising finding a new Youth Leader to replace Nathaniel Carlebach and Katie Shembtob and enlarging the list of people willing to do Greeting and Kiddush duties. The more people we have, the fewer times we have to be involved. Neither duties are really taxing and both enhance our Shabbat services.

I shall be shortly putting out a notice asking for volunteers to help with security over the Hagim - a vitally important service.

Barry Musikant is doing sterling work on the maintenance of Lauderdale Road and we are slowly getting to grips with visiting people who are lonely or ill. As ever, we are only effective if we are informed about them either personally or through the office.

We would still love to enlarge our committee so please contact me if this appeals.

Barbara Simon

Barbara Simon



FRIENDSHIP CLUB ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY

On one of the hottest days of the year, we held our Garden Party at the home of Lesley Khalastchi. The garden looked beautiful, with many colourful parasols to shade our members. As always, a delicious tea of sandwiches, scones, cream cakes, cheese cake & shortbread biscuits was served, along with fruit juices, ice creams and a good old "English Cuppa."

One of our favourite entertainers, Oleg Lapidus, played his clarinet, and also brought along his 3 year old daughter Olivia, who stole the show with her dancing, her piano pieces and her rendition of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" played on the violin!

The Club continues to attract new members, both from our synagogue and others. We celebrate the Jewish highlights, we take our members on an annual theatre outing and we provide weekly teas and entertainment.

This year we went to the Richmond Theatre to see Gilbert & Sullivan's "The Mikado" performed by an all-male cast!. It was a wonderful afternoon and we were able to charge our members a minimal amount, due to an extremely generous donation by a family who attend Lauderdale Road.

We also have a band of wonderful volunteers who chauffeur in those members who are no longer able to use public transport. We are always on the lookout for more drivers, so please come forward if you are able to help. Also, if you know of any elderly person who might benefit from a weekly social gathering, please let the synagogue know and we will welcome them at the club.

Monica Gubbay

Chairperson



WEMBLEY SYNAGOGUE

the S&PHARDI
bulletin

46 Forty Avenue, Wembley, Middx, HA9 8LQ www.sephardi.org.uk

Co-chairmen: Julia Cushnir & Haroun Mahgerefteh Email: committee@wsps.org.uk

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For enquiries contact
Headteacher Rabbi Shalom Morris
at rabbimorris@sephardi.org.uk

KIDDUSHIM

Many thanks for the donation of kiddushim to: Maurice Rahamim, Sonia Sassoon, Moshe Dallal, Matatia Mahgerefteh, Reine Arwas, Ira McMull, George Dallal, Marilyn Segall, Olivia Cowan, Rony Sabah, Denise Cushnir, Jackie Mahgerefteh, Martin Ben-Nathan, David Ben-Nathan, Marie Del Monte, Geoffrey Ben Nathan, Jane Azizoff and Esther Gershuny.

Kiddushim are central to the community aspect of our Synagogue and we are highly appreciative of any kiddush which is donated by members of the community, as this helps with this all-important aspect and adds a personal touch to kiddushim. It also allows for the donor to mark a special occasion and share it with their community such as a wedding anniversary, the anniversary of a Bar Mitzvah, a birthday, in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a birth, an engagement, a marriage etc.

Please visit our website: www.sephardi.org.uk/wembley/ to see a list of dates available for sponsorship and also a scale of charges. You may also book by emailing: committee@wsps.org.uk

BIRTHS

Congratulations to Denny and Melissa Sabah on the birth of a son, Asher, and to grandparents Rony and Yaffa Sabah, and Murray and Linda Nussbaum of Toronto.

Congratulations to Allan and Susan Howard and Lesley and Barry Prais on the birth of a grandson, Monty Ezra and to parents Jonathon and Miriam Howard.

MARRIAGES

Congratulations to Jennifer Dallal, daughter of Ronnie and Jean Dallal, on her marriage to Gideon, son of Naomi and Stephen Mendel.

Congratulations to Bettina Fox on her marriage to Gerry Defries.

BEREAVEMENT

The community offers its deepest condolences to:

Joy Katan on the passing of her husband, Charles, and to their daughter Rosa. Charles was an active member of our community and one of the regular faces on Shabbat morning.

Julia Cushnir on the loss of her mother, Denise Cushnir.

Alan MacMall on the loss of his brother. Alan Tabbush on the loss of his wife, Shayna.



WEMBLEY SYNAGOGUE

46 Forty Avenue, Wembley, Middx, HA9 8LQ www.sephardi.org.uk
Co-chairmen: Julia Cushnir & Haroun Mahgerefteh Email: committee@wsps.org.uk

EVENTS:

Shabbat UK was once again a beautiful and most inspirational Shabbat. There was a full day programme lasting until Motsei Shabbat, with a lunch and lectures from Rabbi Kada and visiting Rabbi, Amram Nemeth. There was also a Shabbat Bingo and a musical Havdala.

In December, six rabbinical students from the Montefiore Kollel came to Wembley and gave 20-minute talks on Chanukah to approximately 50 people. They each spoke very well and there was a light supper following their talks.

70 boys and girls from Year 1 and 50 boys and girls from Year 5 of St Johns Catholic Primary School in Wembley came to the synagogue in February as part of their religious studies programme. They each had a chance to learn about the synagogue and the basic principles of Judaism and to ask Rabbi Kada any questions they had about Judaism.

As a pre-Purim initiative, the parents and children of our community arranged Mishloach manot gifts and decorated gifts for the elderly and sick members of the community, which were distributed before Purim.

A pre-Purim Party for the younger generation of our community consisting of games, music and Torah was also held at the Rabbi's house.

On Purim evening, we held our annual Purim party. It was wonderful to see so many children at the synagogue and wearing such an impressive array of costumes. On the morning of Purim, we shared a service with Rambam S & P of Borehamwood (because the road to the Wembley synagogue was closed due to a Fun Run!).

During March and April, Tammy Kada arranged a Parenting course of 6 sessions for the young couples of the S & P community. The course was attended by 17 mothers who all found it thoroughly informative and inspiring.

The highlight of the year was the service held at our synagogue to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the synagogue's building. The service was attended by over 150 people and the community was addressed by Rabbi Dweck, Rabbi Kada and Dayan Toledano. Dayan David, Rabbis Elia and Levy and the rabbis of Kingsbury and Neveh Shalom synagogue were also present.

In July, a bingo evening was held which was a great success, with several dozen people in attendance.

Also in July was Wembley's first 'Rabbi Swap'. Rabbi Berger of Borehamwood Sephardi spent the Shabbat in Wembley whilst Rabbi Kada spent the Shabbat in Borehamwood. The Wembley Kahal enjoyed hearing lectures from both Rabbi Berger and his wife, Michie. A special seudah shelishit was also held

in the afternoon.

Rabbi Kada's monthly lectures have been well attended and have ranged from talks about The Age of the Universe, The Role of Women in Orthodoxy, Kaddish, the book of Ruth and other interesting topics. Rabbi Shalom Morris came to Wembley before Purim to give a talk about the hidden connection between Purim and the S & P community.



THE SEPHARDI BETH DIN: 2016 – 2017

The S & P Sephardi Beth Din is the oldest known Beth Din in the United Kingdom and has operated continuously since 1656. In this past year alone, the Beth Din has dealt with an extensive array of issues ranging from marriage authorisations to complex monetary Halachic judgments.

This year has seen an increased number of applications for synagogue membership. Any membership application must be examined by the Beth Din to ensure that the applicant is Jewish according to Halacha. Certain documentation will need to be provided in order to ascertain the Jewish status of the applicant.

All marriages conducted under the auspices of our community have to first be authorised by the Beth Din. Although this is normally a straightforward procedure, there are sometimes situations where a marriage may contravene Jewish Law and the Beth Din will attempt to rectify the situation. This past year, the Beth Din has dealt with over 25 marriage applications.

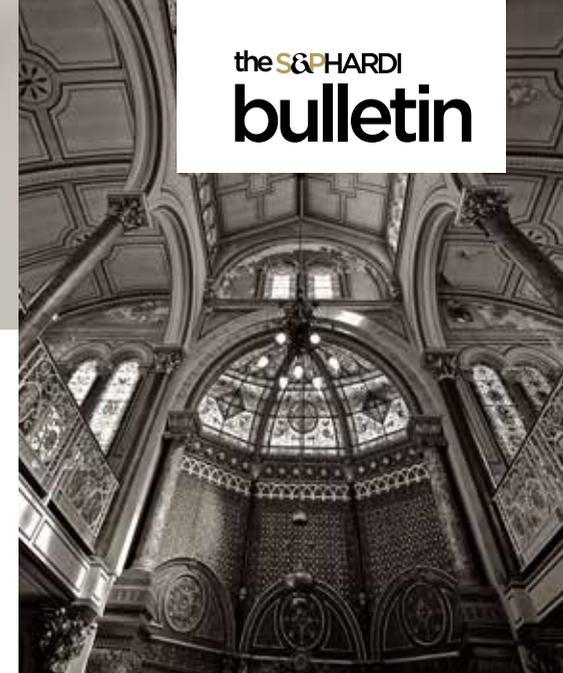
In the sad event of a marriage breaking down irretrievably, the Beth Din will effect the issuance of a Get from the husband to his wife. The Beth Din has unfortunately had to deal with a number of Gittin this past year.

Following the recent appointment of Mr. Chaim Richman as Director of the Sephardi Kashrut Authority (SKA), the Beth Din has been working very closely with the SKA. The Beth Din has overseen the important work of the SKA and ensured that all its licensed caterers, restaurants and food manufacturers are being run according to the letter of Halacha. In May, the Beth Din visited Manchester in order to advance the Kashrut operations of the SKA. Dayan Yaron Navon, Dayan Abraham David of the Beth Din travelled to Manchester alongside Rabbi Yossi David (Rabbinic Consultant for the SKA), Rabbi Daniel Kada (Registrar of the Beth Din) and Mr. Chaim Richman.

The Beth Din has continued to process conversion to Judaism applications. If one is accepted upon a conversion course it will normally take approximately two years to convert. During this period the Beth Din oversees the progress in study and observance of the potential convert and when successful, will conduct the conversion ceremony. The Beth Din currently has applications from all over the world including Israel, Spain, Portugal, France and Germany.

Another important function of the Beth Din this past year has been to adjudicate Halachically between two or more observant litigants in financial, civil and domestic matters and attempt to dispense justice and peace.

The Dayanim of the Beth Din, together with Rabbi Kada, participated in numerous Conferences and other Rabbinic Conventions throughout the year, both at home and abroad. Dayan Navon, Dayan David and Rabbi Kada, together with Dayan Ehrentreu and the Dayanim of the LBD participated in a conference of European Batei Dinim, held in Jerusalem. Dayan Navon and Dayan David have worked hard to strengthen the already existing relationship between the Sephardi Beth Din and the London Beth Din.



To find out more regarding the services of the Beth Din, please do email bethdin@sephardi.org.uk.

We are delighted to be associated with the S&P Sephardi Community and wish everybody a very happy, healthy and successful New Year

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SEPHARDI KASHRUT AUTHORITY

Hello everyone!

Since I joined the SKA exactly one year ago, I've been privileged to work with a number of very talented and dedicated members of the S&P community. I must say, how impressed I've been by the energy and time, freely given by many of them, for such worthy Jewish causes that support Sephardim around the globe!

As for myself and my own small corner among these amazing endeavours, I have been tasked with "looking after our Kashrut". Not as simple as one might first think! The Sephardi Kashrut Authority is a dynamic and potent force within the Kashrut world with proverbial fingers in many many pies!

Our Catering business boasts many superlative achievements. Reuben's,

the only kosher deli restaurant in the West End of London; Zest the only kosher London restaurant...with a beach?! And not to forget Hendon Park Café - again the only kosher restaurant in a park!

...and it doesn't stop there!

The SKA now licenses in Manchester, with - again, Lulu's, the only kosher deli dinner in South Manchester. However the jewel in the crown (at least for the moment) is the Belong Morris Feinmann retirement village in Didsbury. A brand new complex, that many Jews now call their home from home. The BMFH uniquely incorporates a Bistro that's used by residents, their visiting families, locals and travellers alike!And yes! It's exclusively under the SKA's Manchester Supervision. Yet again, it's the only retirement village of its kind in the UK!

As for our catering arm, the SKA is very proud of its impressive list of caterers. Philip Small, Zest, Eat Me and Toby Levy, who are often chosen to host prestigious events and do it with much aplomb, pomp and circumstance, as befitting our princes and princesses, Bar and Bat Mitzvot alike.

Indeed they have outdone themselves again this year! Having hosted birthday parties in The Houses of Parliament, a reception for over one thousand, in the QEII Hall on Holocaust Memorial Day in the presence of HRH the Prince of Wales and Her Majesty's Government... and the list goes on...

Possibly the least glamorous but probably the most important area of growth this year, has been with our manufacturing base. The SKA has now secured contracts with Allied bakeries and McCain which will significantly boost our revenues from existing food production certification. Furthermore, with collaboration from these National and multi-national corporations we already license, SKA are projecting exponential growth in the coming



year! In the coming months, discerning shoppers will be seeing our logos on many more products in high-street supermarkets all over the U.K!

Finally may I take this opportunity to personally thank all the hard working staff at the S&P, The Sephardi Beth Din and all the wonderful and dedicated Board Members without whom none of these remarkable achievements would be possible.

Best wishes
Chaim Richman
(Director)



THE HOME OF THE SEPHARDI KASHRUT AUTHORITY



WHAT DOES THE LONDON BOARD FOR SHECHITA (LBS) DO?

The LBS is a charitable organisation operating on a non-profit basis to ensure the provision of kosher meat to the Jewish public. It has fulfilled this role for over two centuries. In simple terms, it's the job of the LBS to make sure that every one of its licensed kosher butchers and meat product manufacturers is able to get kosher meat and poultry throughout the year, for every Shabbat and every Yom Tov. In doing so, it will know the source of every leg, wing, steak, chicken liver and chop that crosses a counter or decorates a dinner plate. That capability and certainty of knowing where it all came from and where it's all going is what gives the LBS its cachet in today's world. The LBS plays no role in buying livestock or in wholesaling meat and poultry.

Its role is to employ teams of shochetim – Jewish religious slaughtermen (and their aides, who do the checking and the sealing) at abattoirs, whose job is a religious calling, requiring years of training before even picking up a knife. The Board also employs shomerim, essentially Food Inspectors, who oversee kashrut operations in the premises of Licensees and, particularly, the porging (removal of forbidden fats and sinews) and the koshering. It finds abattoirs who are willing to provide facilities for shechita – there are very few in England – and will award Licences only to butchers and factories it deems

fit and worthy to handle kosher meat and poultry. When consumers see an LBS Licence Certificate displayed in a shop window, they can be safe in the knowledge that what it says on the label of what they're buying is what they will get in their basket.

IS KOSHER MORE EXPENSIVE THAN NON-KOSHER MEAT AND POULTRY?

Apart from the high standards of quality the LBS is always trying to keep its shechita fees as low as possible to keep the cost of kosher down to the consumer. The Board recently compared the average price of its Licensees' poultry and meat products to that of an independent non-kosher butcher (not organic, Halal or supermarket butchers) based in North West London and was pleased to note that the average cost was slightly lower than the average non-kosher butcher. Interestingly, the price of fresh salmon in the UK hit the news again since the national UK average price is at a staggering £15 per kilogram and there are many more kashrut requirements and staff needed with kosher poultry than salmon. The price of a whole chicken can be as low as only £4.19 per kilo (the price is available in at least half of the LBS butchers) and we are very proud to play an important part in keeping kosher affordable for the wider Jewish Community.

CHALAK BET YOSEF MEAT?

For several years now the London Board for Shechita has made available beef that has a Kashrut standard known as "Chalakov Bet Yosef". This is a technical term referring to the absence of adhesions on the lungs of the cow as required by Sefardic Halachic codifiers. There are some London Board butchers who are licensed by the Board exclusively to sell Chalakov Bet Yosef meat alone.

The London Board for Shechita regularly sends Rabbonim to inspect abattoirs abroad in which Chalakov Bet Yosef meat is separately identified and sealed. This is a complicated process but the LBS has developed systems of ensuring that those who keep to this strict Halachic opinion are able to rely on the Board's hechsher to confirm that what they read on the label is what appears in the packet.

We in the LBS make sure that for the Chalakov-Bet Yosef standard, all the rules are kept in the most stringent way, so even the most stringent Minhagim of both the Sefardim and Ashkenazim are kept. In doing so, the Chalakov Bet Yosef "gold standard" is a gold standard also for the Ashkenazi clientele as well.

"I have had personal experience with Rabbinical authorities supplying kosher meat in other countries. I can confidently say from my inspection of

the LBS abattoirs that the standards of Chalakov Bet Yosef supplied by the LBS are from the best that I have seen, it is truly Chalakov to the strictest opinions of Maran - the Bet Yosef and at no extra cost to consumer."

Dayan A. David Shlita

DAYAN A. DAVID'S ROLE ON THE BOARD'S RABBINICAL AUTHORITY?

Dayan A. David is the representative of the S&P Bet Din and with his LBS Rabbinical Authority colleagues, helps to answer a range of she'eilot (Halachic questions) that the inspectors / shomerim come across on a regular basis. The Rabbinical Authority acts as the ultimate cross-communal Halachic guide and authority in respect of all the Board's operations to ensure reliability of the highest standards of kashrut which are respected worldwide.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LBS?

Whilst the LBS was established over 200 years ago we seek to connect with the community in many 21st Century ways including via social media. Please check out website: www.shechita.org/ and 'Like' us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/LondonBoardForShechita/





THE S&P SEPHARDI COMMUNITY WELFARE BOARD

Established 1837

For nearly 200 years, the Welfare Board has helped needy Sephardi families in the British Isles.

This year has brought increased requests for help, as poorer families face further economic difficulties. The Board provides grants at Pesach and Rosh Hashana to over 100 families. In addition, many children have been helped to attend activities over the summer holidays; mostly day camps though some severely disabled children have attended a two-week residential camp, giving them, their parents and carers a much-needed break. Several post-GCSE youngsters have been helped to join their friends on Israel camp.

Grants are also given for essential household goods - fridges, cookers, beds and wardrobes.

The families that are helped have problems that Government Social Security cannot fully meet. Many suffer from the long-term illness of parent or child. Such illness leads to social isolation, made worse by the inability to undertake paid work. For these specially disadvantaged families, the Welfare Board is a lifeline.

Home visits are made to everyone requesting help, so that need is properly assessed.

Please help the Welfare Board to continue offering relief when needed.

Sylvia Graham

Sylvia Graham, President

For further information, please contact Linda Granville, Tel: 020 7481 7832



LAVADORES' APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

SEPHARDI MEN AND WOMEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Over 350 years ago, Jews were allowed to re-enter Britain; one of their first actions was to establish (in 1678) the Society of Lavadores.

It was essential for this new community to buy land for a cemetery and to form a group to carry out the rites necessary in preparation of burial – as burial of the dead is of paramount importance.

Since that time, the Society of Lavadores (originally known as the Brotherhood Mikveh Israel) has carried out these holy duties. The ritual has been written down and texts revised over the years, always with the hope that the sacred rites our predecessors followed will continue to be carried out in the future.

Currently, we need more volunteers (both men and women) to carry out this mitzvah – the final mitzvah that one person can do for another with devotion, respect and dignity and with the reward in the act and not in thanks. We urgently require more members from amongst the S & P Sephardim who are willing to consider becoming Lavadores.

It is not a sinister or worrying experience and no special qualities or qualifications are required. It is one of the most important mitzvot you could perform for your fellow Jew and your Community.

Please contact any one of the people listed below to find out more about becoming a Lavador or Lavadora. You will not be pressurised into making a commitment but we will aim to answer your questions and take away the mystery and fear that surrounds this mitzvah.

PLEASE CONTACT

**DANIEL ON 020 7266 7633, ROGER ON 020 8958 0126,
KRIS ON 020 7624 3836, OR VIVIANE 020 7266 7633**

DAVID ISHAG SYNAGOGUE

Neveh Shalom Sephardi Community
352/354 Preston Road, Harrow, Middx HA3 0QJ
Tel: 020 8904 9402 Website: www.nevehshalom.com E-mail: info@nevehshalom.com

TIMES OF SERVICES:

FRIDAY EVENING: Approximately 15 minutes after the commencement of Shabbat.

SHABBAT: Shaharit 9:05 a.m. Minha, approximately 1 hour before the termination of Shabbat followed by a Shiur and Arvit Motzae Shabbat, although times for afternoon services will vary when there is a Seudah Shlishit. During winter Minha is held after Shaharit and Kiddush. Any changes will be announced in the morning on Shabbat.

SUNDAY MORNING: Shaharit 8:15 a.m.

MAZALTOV:

The community is delighted to wish Mazal Tov to:

Mr. Alan and Mrs. Judy Sitton on the birth of their granddaughter, Poppy Rae, daughter of Jonathan and Charlotte Sitton.

Mr. Michael and Mrs. Pricilla Dale on the birth of their grandson Luca Jesse Dale (Zohar ben Avraham ha-Kohen), son of Jo and Alex Dale.

Mr. Neville Spiers on the birth of his grandson, Ari Lev, son of Delia and Ben Bueno de Mesquita.

Mr. Jamil and Mrs. Sue Khazoom on the birth of their granddaughter, Kira, daughter of Sharon and Haydn Glick.

Mr. Richard and Mrs. Beverly Persky on the birth of their granddaughter, Talia, daughter of Sarah and Paul Persky.

Mr. Chaim and Mrs. Ety Someck on the birth of their grandson, Lev Avraham, son of Allen and Dalia Someck.

Mr. Chaim and Mrs. Ety Someck on the marriage of their son, Nigel to Danielle, daughter of Mr. Michael and Mrs. Sally Keisner.

Mr. Eli and Mrs. Tsippi Howard on the birth of their grandson, Leo Lev, son of Emma and Elliot Norman.

Dr. Allan and Mrs. Avril Tysman on the birth of their granddaughters, Zohar, daughter of Ruth and Eyal Landesman and Tamara, daughter of Deborah and David Tysman.

Mr. Elliott and Mrs. Freda Myers on the bar mitzvah of their grandson, Eliyahu, son of Rabbi Mayer and Mrs. Michal Myers.

Mr. Edward and Mrs. Sarah Cohen, on the bat mitzvah of their daughter, Jessica. Mazal Tov also to the grandparents Mr. Albert and Mrs.

Joyce Cohen and Mr. Solomon and Mrs. Rosalind Tamman. And also to the great-grandparents Mr. Gabi and Mrs. Lina Tamman.

Mr. Shalom Nissim, on the Bnei Mitzvah celebrations of his grandsons, David Nissim and Benjamin Shalom.

Rev. Zvi and Mrs. Batya Amroussi, on the engagement of their daughter, Keren, to Yotam, son of Mr. Doron and Mrs. Anna Levy.

Mr. Yaakov Tamir on his engagement to Yakira Stein.

Mrs. Samira Elias, on the engagement of her son Haki, to Natalie, daughter of Mr. Michael and Mrs. Rose Hirsch.

Mr. Yehuda and Mrs. Margaret Erdman, on the marriage of their son Jonathan, to Sivan, daughter of Mr. Yehuda and Mrs. Thia Rubinstein.

Mr. Richard and Mrs. Sally Delmonte, on the marriage of their son, Jonathan, to Lea, daughter of Batya and Motti Richman and Mayer Pessin. Mazal Tov also to the grandmother Mrs. Marie Delmonte.

Mr. Michael and Mrs. Alison Sitton, on the marriage of their son, Eliot Isaac, to Emily, daughter of Mr. David and Mrs. Gill Prager.

Mr. Harry and Mrs. Yvonne Fattal, on the marriage of their daughter, Elizabeth to Jeremie, son of Mr. Albert and Mrs. Annie Obadia.

Mr. David and Mrs. Rebecca Menahem on the marriage of their son, Benjamin to Charlotte, daughter of Mr. Phillip and Mrs. Jill Hamilton.

Mr. Cesar and Mrs. Gladys Benson on the marriage of their granddaughter Samantha, daughter of Geraldine, to Jason Davis, son of Mandy and Andrew Davis of Radlett, at the Western Marble Arch synagogue.

ACHIEVEMENTS
Congratulations to:

Georgia Maurice, daughter of Mr. Michael and Mrs. Alison Maurice, on graduating with a 2:1 BSc in Speech and Language Therapy.

Sarah Shamia, daughter of Mr. Abie and Mrs Wendy Shamia, and granddaughter of Mrs. Suad Shamia, on graduating with a BSc in physiotherapy.

Samir Shamia, son of Mr. Abie and Mrs Wendy Shamia, and grandson of Mrs. Suad Shamia, on graduating in Sport and Exercise Science with triple distinction.

DAVID ISHAG SYNAGOGUE

SUCCOT KIDDUSH

The Events team prepared a sumptuous Kiddush in the Succah, on Monday 17th October, after the service. Many thanks to the Events Team and everyone who helped to make it such an enjoyable one with particular thanks to Ralda Elton and David Menachem.

ORIENTAL CONCERT

In early September 2016, we held our first Oriental concert which was arranged by Yaakov Tamir. The band and the hazanut were fantastic and highly professional. With most of our community from Oriental lands the evening took many of us back to our roots and it was clear from the swaying heads, singing and clapping that many in the audience were in their element. We look forward to having another concert like it again in the future.

CHANUKAH KIDDUSH

In December the community enjoyed a Chanukah Kiddush. A beautiful spread was laid out with lots of doughnuts. Many thanks to the Events Team and everyone who helped to make it such an enjoyable one with particular thanks to Ralda Elton and David Menachem.

RABBI JACOBS'S TALKS

Although Rabbi Jacobs has not been well enough to attend Shabbat services he has kindly recorded video sermons during the year which have been enjoyed greatly by the whole community.

CHOLENT SHABBATS

During the winter months, members of the community sponsored a series of cholent Shabbats, where cholent, kugel and rice were served with a selection of alcoholic beverages with the Kiddush. These Cholent Shabbats have proved very popular and successful and members enjoyed the warm filling food. Many thanks to Ralda Elton and the Events team for organising them all and to Keren Amroussi who always produces a beautiful flyer for all our events.

SHABBAT BO

On 4th February our community took part in a Mental Health Awareness Shabbat after being approached by the UK charity JAMI (Jewish Association for Mental Illness) to raise the awareness of mental health issues, a subject that often doesn't get enough attention. This particular Shabbat was chosen as it was the week of Parashat Bo, which tells of the Plague of Darkness - a suitable launch pad for discussions on the nature of mental health. Zvi gave a poignant sermon to help us reflect on this important matter.

DKMS CHARITY

We would like to thank all the community members, who responded to the call for help to provide a DNA sample and register as a bone marrow transplant donor.

In a call to help one of our community members, DKMS held a registration

event on 19th February in the synagogue and some 40 potential donors from our community arrived to give a sample and register.

The Jewish community is under-represented in the donor register and everyone who registers makes a difference to anyone else, who might be suffering.

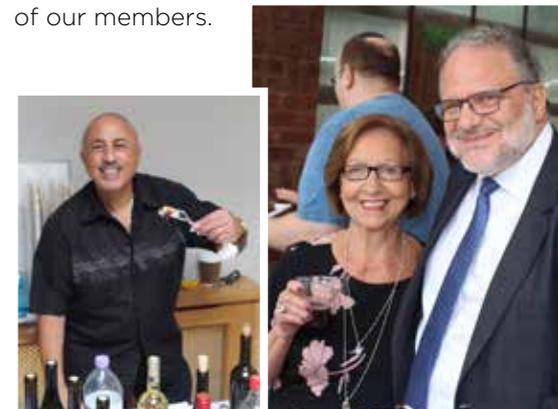
It required a swab to be taken from the mouth and tested against other patients, who need these crucial transplants to save their lives.

If you are still interested in helping you can still register yourself online at www.dkms.org.uk/en/register-now, where the swab kits will be sent through to your home.

SHABBATON

After a lot of hard work we held our second full Shabbaton on 24th and 25th March. Like last year we were amazed by the fantastic response and support of the community with around 100 members attending both Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. It was wonderful to bring in and then celebrate the Shabbat together and there was a real family and community spirit. There was an active programme of events throughout the Shabbaton. We were treated to shiurim by Zvi and Yossi as well as Rabbi Amron Nemeth who spent the Shabbat with

us together with his young family. They also hosted a marathon Ask the Rabbi session and managed to deal admirably with the broad range of questions thrown at them. During the Shabbaton we honoured our beautiful sepher from Sudan. Following a recent check by a sopher we were able to read from this sepher for the first time in many years. We were also treated to an interesting synopsis of the history and life of the Sudan Jews by Berto Cohen and Abner Tamman. Finally, we were entertained by an excellent play about Pesach written by Zvi and performed by a brilliant cast of our members.





DAVID ISHAG SYNAGOGUE



the **S&PHARDI**
bulletin



PURIM

This year we were delighted to welcome Elvis Presley, Superman and Superwoman, Tiger, Ketchup and Fries, angels and princesses, soldiers and cowboys, a sumo wrestler, a pirate and many others to our Purim service on Saturday 11th March. There was a fantastic turn out to hear the megillah reading, as ever beautifully read by Zvi.

We were then treated to a wonderful party. There was a great spread of food following which our Casino Royale, run by professional croupiers, was opened for business. Heavy gambling took place and major bets were placed on roulette, blackjack and poker tables. There was also a game of "dosa" for the younger children. It was a fun evening and both winners and losers went home happy.

SHAVUOT KIDDUSH

Cheese cake, bubbly, lollipops and sweets galore were in abundance with delicious cakes, biscuits and sandwiches on Sunday 12th June to celebrate the festival of Shavuot. The synagogue was adorned with flowers giving a beautiful ambience and festivity to the place.

Many thanks to all those who organised the fabulous Kiddush and Mrs Gladys Benson, who as in previous years, bought the beautiful flower displays. Many thanks also go Dan, Thom and Daniel for organising a thought provoking children's service on the Shabbat with a quiz and Shavuot games.

SUMMER BBQ

After the hustle and bustle of the morning preparations, the summer annual barbeque was held on the 23rd July. It was thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended and went well with the rain miraculously holding off until all the party goers had made their way home. The food was excellent and flowed in abundance comprising the barbecued meats, latkas, rice and salads, followed by a multitude of sweets, watermelon and ice cream and ending with teas and coffee with cake and baklava.

The children were spoilt with fantastic entertainment, including a bouncy castle, bubble machine, face painting, hair braiding, football, and table tennis ensuring that the young and adults were kept busy and enthralled. As usual the community's enthusiasm made it a wonderful success. We would like to thank Ralda and the Events Team for all their considerable hard work in organising the barbeque and making it such a successful afternoon.

DAVID ISHAG SYNAGOGUE

KKWS TALKS AT NEVEH SHALOM

Over the last year we have had a series of excellent speakers come to address us on different subjects such as, Transforming attitudes by judging favourably, The world is built on kindness, Realising your potential, How to make the Seder meaningful to you and your children, The big debate, Men are from Mars - Women are from Venus, just to name a few. The speakers, Rabbis Heller, Yossi David, Danny Kada, Dov Levy, Moshe Levy and Jonathan Tawil all gave inspiring talks, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended. We are grateful to David Ishack for helping to organise them and we intend to continue this series of talks in the future. Information on these talks will be circulated as they are organised and we encourage everyone to try to come along.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SYNAGOGUE

During the year we have been busy improving the decor and infrastructure of the synagogue including repainting the exterior and parts of the interior of the building as well as making necessary repairs to the roof. We are continuing to improve the facilities of the synagogue and have developed part of the upstairs area of the synagogue to provide a unique facility comprising a few bedroom suites for use by members of the synagogue and

their immediate families only. This is available to be used by members who are unable to walk to synagogue on Shabbat or festivals or for celebrations where members and their family would prefer to stay at the synagogue.

SHABBAT CHATTAN - BAMIDBAR - DVAR TORAH BY NIGEL SOMECK

BAMIDBAR

Nigel Someck gave a beautiful talk during the kiddush to celebrate his marriage

Shabbat Shalom everybody. Firstly, thank you very much to my mum for organising this wonderful Kiddush. As always she has put her heart and soul into this and Danielle and I are so grateful.

I wanted to tie-in my words today with this week's parasha - Bamidbar and at first glance this is no easy task let me tell you!! Bamidbar is fundamentally about counting. Hashem commands Moshe to go out and count the Jewish people, in other words a census. What possible learnings or teachings can be derived from a boring census?

Well, the answer is actually obvious when you think about it (and when you Google it!). Hashem doesn't need

to count people; he already knows the answer, he knows everything!! Therefore, there is a symbolic reason behind the census, Hashem is trying to teach us something. The rabbi's say that Hashem wanted to teach bnei yisrael two important lessons 1) that no person is worth less than anyone else and 2) that no person is worth more than anyone else.

It's such a powerful lesson delivered in such a simple way, that Hashem can simultaneously make those that feel inadequate feel loved and equal and at the same time abolish the egos of those who are aloof and think they are better than others.

However, there is a 3rd lesson even more powerful than this that the census teaches us. The Torah actually goes on to state the grand total of the census (excluding the Levi tribe) is 603,550. In this He also teaches us the power of the collective that alone we are one, an individual and together we are a strong nation of over 600,000.

These lessons got me thinking about this synagogue and this incredible community. Out there in the big world, we are all just one, individual people going about our daily lives we are no more or no less than anyone else. However, when we come in here we are a community, we are hundreds and

not only that when we are out there in the big world, just knowing that we have a community waiting for us, our equivalent of the 600,000, makes us feel loved and safe.

Every time I come here I feel so much love and generosity from the entire community. It always overwhelms me and humbles me. Even if I haven't been able to come for a while I still get showered with warmth and love from everybody and I realise that I am not just one person but like the ancient bnei yisrael, I am part of something bigger and stronger. This is the place where 25 years ago, I was one of those kids who ran onto the Bima to collect sweets, I then learnt my Bar Mitzvah parasha with Zvi on that very same Bima, I celebrated my brother's wedding and the birth of his children here and now today I stood on the same Bima celebrating my forthcoming wedding.

This community has always been a great source of strength to me and my whole family and we must protect it and cherish it because one day be'ezrat hashem I want to be standing here hosting a Kiddush for my children, their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and their weddings.

Shabbat Shalom!



DAVID ISHAG SYNAGOGUE

CONDOLENCES:

We extend our deepest sympathy to:

Mrs. Sylvana Tamman on the passing away of her mother, Mrs. Guillia Palermo.

Mrs. Becky Abadi on the passing away of her husband, Mr David Abadi.

Mr. Michael, Mr. Eli, Mr. Gaby and Ms. Mouna Howard and Mrs. ETTY Kanzen on the passing away of their mother, Mrs. Hannah Howard.

FLORINE WAHBA - EULOGY

Florine Joseph Wahba, known as Loula to her family and friends, was the second born of six children.

As a teenager, Loula played the piano and was a very talented petit point embroiderer and at twenty she married Joseph Wahba.

Loula, her husband and their son Joseph ultimately moved to England and settled in Harrow, Middlesex to be close to her youngest sister Ruth Palmer.

Later in life Loula and her husband set up a wholesale jewellery business, the success of which was largely due to Loula's hard work and good business sense. In her final years, Loula suffered a succession of serious personal losses, as well as failing health, which she bravely accepted with the constant support of her cherished sister Ruth. Loula's final illness was due to complications of a hip fracture following a fall at home.

She is survived by her devoted sister Ruth.

STONE SETTING

The stone setting of Mrs. Tanya Palmer, daughter of Paula and Jack Sitton and sister of Michael was held on Sunday 30th April, 2017. We wish her parents, Paula and Jack, her brother Michael, her husband and children a long and peaceful life.

Mrs. Diana Iny, Ms. Naomi Iny, Mrs. Elizabeth Ezra and Mrs. Jacqueline Iny on the passing away of their son, brother and husband, Mr. Oliver Iny.

Mrs. Ruth Palmer, on the passing away of her sister, Mrs. Florine Wahba.

The family and friends of Mrs. Mary Simons.

The family and friends of Mrs. Laura Sinason.

We wish them and their families a long and peaceful life.

KIDDUSHIM AND SEUDOT:

Our appreciation goes to the following for their kind donations of kiddushim and seudot:

The Hatanim, Mr. Richard Delmonte and Mr. Yaakov Kanzen and their families for both kiddushim on Simchat Torah evening service and the following morning service.

Messrs. Robin and Sam Samra for two kiddushim in memory of their father Mr. Ovadia Samra and another in memory of their mother Mrs Mounira Samra.

Mr. Morris Dwek and family, Messrs. Saleh, Zaki and Elie Ishag, in memory of Mimi Dwek.

Mrs. Monique Arazi and her children Shafit, Simone and Joseph in memory of their husband and father Mr. Ram Arazi.

Mrs. Arlette Hanen and her children Victor and Lina in memory of their husband and father, Mr. Raymond Hanen.

Mmes. Joyce Cohen, Edna Harrison, Aimée Leon and Myrna Doppelt for two kiddushim in memory of their father Mr. Edward Dwek HaCohen and another in memory of their mother Mrs. Fortunée Dwek HaCohen.

Messrs. Saleh, Zaki and Elie Ishag in memory of their father Mr. David Ishag and another in memory of their mother Mrs. Oro Ishag - Dwek

Mr. Ben-Shalom Gentely for two kiddushim in memory of his mother, Mrs. Miriam Gentely and another in memory of his father Mr. Zevulun Gentely.

Mrs. Denise Shemtob, Mr. Sam Shemtob and Mrs. Susan Shemtob in memory of their son, brother and husband Mr. Jack Shemtob.

Mr. Jeff Solomon in memory of his father Mr. Isaac Solomon.

Mrs. Jacqueline Khalastchi, Mrs. Suad Sebti and Mr. Jamil Khazoom in memory of their father, Mr. Yousef Khazoom and of their late aunt, Mrs. Margeurite Al-Akri bat Dina.

Mrs. Betty Ishag, Mrs. Freda Myers, Messrs. Leon and Berto Cohen for two kiddushim in memory of their father Mr. Joseph Aslan Cohen and another in memory of their mother Mrs. Marie Cohen

Mr. Elliott and Mr. Eyal Myers, Mrs. Alice Levy and Mrs. Ilana Hebert for two kiddushim in memory of their mother Mrs. Liliane Myers and another in memory of their father Mr. Mayer Myers.

Mrs. Sue Khazoom in memory of her mother Mrs. Daisy Peress.

Mrs. Jacqueline Khalastchi and her children Mmes. Bushra Khalastchi and Brigitte Hikmet and Mr. Freddy Khalastchi in memory of their husband and father Mr. Haron Khalastchi.

Mr. Jack Hikmet in memory of his parents Mr. Naji and Mrs. Juliette Hikmet.

Mr. Chaim and Mrs. Ety Someck, to celebrate the marriage of their son Nigel.

Mr. Michael and Mrs. Alison Sitton to celebrate the marriage of their son, Eliot Isaac.

Mmes. Rosy Cohen, Joyce Tamam and Claudy Hutterer in memory of their mother Mrs. Jacqueline Fiss.

Mrs. Becky Abadi to mark the shloshim of the passing away of her husband, Mr David Abadi

Mr. David Judah for a seuda in memory of his mother Mrs. Rachel Judah.

Mrs. Palmer in memory of her sister, Mrs. Florine Wahba.

Mr. Fawzi Lichaa and family in celebration of his birthday.

Mrs. Michelle Levy and Mr. Moshe and Leon Kamhi and families in celebration of their mother's birthday, Mrs. Esther Kamhi.

Mrs. Marie Del Monte, Mrs. Sally and Mr. Richard Del Monte for a seuda in memory of their husband and father, Mr. Sydney Del Monte.

Rev. Zvi Amroussi for a seuda in memory of his father Rabbi Orani Amroussi.



DAVID ISHAG SYNAGOGUE

THE NEVEH SHALOM CLUB:

The club, which is open to all synagogue members and their friends, meets regularly every Tuesday from 1:00 to 4:00pm and on the first Sunday of every month from 1:00 to 4:00pm. New members are always welcome.

Please contact the following members of the committee for details of any activities:

Mr. Jamil Khazoom on 020 8958 8149 and Mr. Yehuda Erdman on 020 8904 3911

LIBRARY:

All those wishing to borrow books from the Synagogue library lending section are very welcome to do so.

Please remember to note the details of the book, your name and contact information in the blue file which is kept in the library. This way the librarians, Mr. Yehuda Erdman and Mr. Jack Sittton will know where these books are.

Thank you for your co-operation and enjoy your reading!

PARNASIM:

Anyone wishing to be called to the Sepher (aliyah) and on any other matter concerning the wardens should contact the following members:

Mr. Ben Gentely on 020 8908 3065 or via email at gentely@hotmail.com

Mr. Freddy Khalastchi on 07956 360 690 or via email at FKhalastchi@Menzies.co.uk

Mr. Jack Sittton on 020 8422 2653 or via email at jack@yomans.co.uk

Mr Elliot Myers on 020 8346 8744 or via email at elliotmyers@nevehshalom.com

NOTE:

A central diary of events is held by the secretary, Mr. Elliott Myers, who can be contacted on 020 8346 8744 or via email at elliotmyers@nevehshalom.com.

Anyone wishing to sponsor a regular Kiddush or arrange a special Kiddush should contact Mr Albert Harrison on 07976 632 515 or via email at harrison644@btinternet.com.

Anyone wishing to hold a special function or book accommodation at the synagogue should contact Mr. Albert Harrison on 07976 632 515 or via email at harrison644@btinternet.com.

Anyone wishing to have an announcement included in the bulletin should contact Mrs. Liza Yehuda on 020 8908 2261 or via email at yariv_yehuda@hotmail.com.

Your Sephardi Roots Turned into a European citizenship

Lisa Advisors is a Sephardi-cause organization based in Spain that was founded by Dr. Maya Dori and is named after her beloved Sephardic grandmother, Lisa Romano.

Maya Dori is a Sephardic lawyer who received her Spanish citizenship several years ago after a long battle with the Spanish authorities during which she proved that her family fled from Toledo, Spain back in 1492. Maya holds an L.L.B from the Tel Aviv University, an MBA from IESE business school, an MA (cum lauda) and a PhD in Economics.



Dr. Maya Dori, Adv
Founder & CEO

Lisa Advisors was the first to obtain the Spanish citizenships and the actual passports under the new laws and continues assisting the Sephardi descendants and their families around the world to obtain their Spanish and Portuguese citizenships.



Lisa Advisors achievements and endeavours for the Sephardi worldwide community received the recognition of the Spanish authorities and featured some of the most known Jewish newspapers as the Jewish Journal and the Jerusalem Post.



Lisa Advisors continues to expand and will be delighted to offer its services to the Sephardi Community members with their Spanish and Portuguese citizenship applications.



For additional information, please contact us at: info@lisaadvisors.com or visit our website www.lisaadvisors.com

DAVID ISHAG SYNAGOGUE HIGH HOLIDAYS TIMETABLE

WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Erev Rosh Hashanah * | |
| MORNING SERVICE | 6.30 a.m. |
| (Including Selihot & Hatarat Nedarim) | |
| Festival begins | 6.48 p.m. |
| EVENING SERVICE | 7.00 p.m. |

THURSDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| First Day Rosh Hashanah | |
| MORNING SERVICE | 8.30 a.m. |
| AFTERNOON SERVICE | 6.30 pm |
| Tashlikh & EVENING SERVICE | 7.00 pm |

FRIDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Second Day Rosh Hashanah | |
| MORNING SERVICE | 8.30 a.m. |
| Shabbat commences | 6.43 p.m. |
| EVENING SERVICE | 6.45 p.m. |

SATURDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Shabbat Shuvah | |
| MORNING SERVICE | 9.00 a.m. |
| EVENING SERVICE | 6.45 p.m. |
| Shabbat terminates | 7.44 p.m. |

SUNDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Fast of Gedallah | |
| MORNING SERVICE | 8.00 a.m. |
| Fast terminates | 7.35 p.m. |

FRIDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Erev Yom Kippur | |
| MORNING SERVICE | 6.30 a.m. |
| (Including Selihot & Hatarat Nedarim) | |

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Festival and Fast begin | 6.29 p.m. |
| Kol Nidre | 6.45 p.m. |

SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

| | |
|------------|------------|
| Yom Kippur | |
| Zemirot | 8.30 a.m. |
| Shahrit | 9.45 a.m. |
| Sepher | 11.30 a.m. |
| Musaph | 12.45 p.m. |
| Minha | 4.00 p.m. |
| Hashkavot | 6.00 p.m. |
| Neila | 6.25 p.m. |
| Shofar | 7.27 p.m. |

WEDNESDAY 4TH OCTOBER

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Erev Souccot * | |
| Festival begins | 6.16 p.m. |
| EVENING SERVICE | 6.30 p.m. |

THURSDAY 5TH OCTOBER

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| First Day Souccot | |
| MORNING SERVICE | 9.00 a.m. |
| EVENING SERVICE | 6.30 p.m. |

FRIDAY 6TH OCTOBER

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Second Day Souccot | |
| MORNING SERVICE | 9.00 a.m. |
| Shabbat commences | 6.11 p.m. |
| EVENING SERVICE | 6.15 p.m. |

SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Shabbat Chol Hamoed | |
| MORNING SERVICE | 9.00 a.m. |
| EVENING SERVICE | 6.15 p.m. |
| Shabbat terminates | 7.12 p.m. |

SUNDAY 8TH OCTOBER

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Chol Hamoed | |
| MORNING SERVICE | 8.15 a.m. |

MONDAY 9TH OCTOBER

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Chol Hamoed | |
| MORNING SERVICE | |

TUESDAY 10TH OCTOBER

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Chol Hamoed & Erev Hosha'anah Rabbah | |
| MORNING SERVICE | |
| EVENING SERVICE & Limmud | 8.00 p.m. |

WEDNESDAY 11TH OCTOBER

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Hosha'anah Rabbah * | |
| MORNING SERVICE | 6.15 a.m. |
| Festival begins | 6.02 p.m. |
| EVENING SERVICE | 6.15 p.m. |

THURSDAY 12TH OCTOBER

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Shemini Atseret | |
| MORNING SERVICE | 9.00 a.m. |
| EVENING SERVICE | 6.00 p.m. |
| Simhat Torah Hakaphot | 7.00 p.m. |

FRIDAY 13TH OCTOBER

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Simchat Torah | |
| MORNING SERVICE | 9.00 a.m. |
| Shabbat commences | 5.55 p.m. |
| EVENING SERVICE | 6.00 p.m. |

SATURDAY 14TH OCTOBER

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Shabbat Beresheet | |
| MORNING SERVICE | 9.00 a.m. |
| EVENING SERVICE | 6.00 p.m. |
| Shabbat terminates | 6.57 p.m. |

* Eruv Tavshilin

SERVICES DURING THE YEAR ARE AS FOLLOWS:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| FRIDAY EVENINGS | approx. 15 minutes after commencement of Shabbat; |
| SATURDAY MORNINGS | 9.00 am; |
| SATURDAY EVENINGS | approx. one hour before termination of Shabbat; |
| SUNDAY MORNINGS | 8.15 am; |
| ROSH HODESH AND FAST DAYS | 6.45 am. |

For security reasons, you are kindly requested:

1. Not to park in the vicinity of the Synagogue nor congregate outside the front of the building at any time;
2. To be vigilant; to report anything suspicious to the Security Officers and to cooperate fully with them.



SPANISH & PORTUGUESE SYNAGOGUE HOLLAND PARK

8 St James's Gardens, London, W11 4RB Tel: 020 7603 7961/3232 Fax: 020 7603 9471
Email: admin@hollandparksynagogue.com Web: www.hollandparksynagogue.com
Congregation founded 1910 Synagogue opened 1928

MINISTER

Rabbi Abraham Lavi

TIMES OF SERVICE

Friday Evening Minha followed by Arbit. Times to be announced in the Synagogue

Shabbat Morning Shachrit at 8.45am. Service followed by Kiddush.
Mincha 1½ hours before the end of Shabbat until winter when it shall be recited after Kiddush

SELICHOT SERVICE

This will be held on Sunday 17th September at 7.00am and followed by refreshments in Susanne Dellal Hall.

YAMIM NORAIM

Times for all High Holy Days Services will be sent out separately with the Admission Ticket

SERVICES FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

The Executive Committee welcomes Rev Nissim Ashkenazi who will be assisting Rabbi Abraham Lavi. Both will address the Congregation during the High Holy Days Services.

The President, Mr. Leon Benardout, together with the Honorary Officers and Executive Committee wish Rabbi & Mrs Lavi, their family and the entire Congregation a very happy and peaceful New Year.

PRE-ROSH HASHANAH CEMETERY VISITS

These will take place at the following times on **Sunday 17th September:**
12.00 Edwarebury Lane Cemetery 13.45 Hoop Lane Cemetery
These are communal services.

ADULT EDUCATION

Monday
Modern Hebrew Classes (beginners): Semoff Hall at 8.00pm
Shiur on Parasha with Rashi & PirkeiAvot. Semoff Hall/Synagogue at 8.30pm



OVER THE PAST YEAR, THE SYNAGOGUE HOSTED SEVERAL SUCCESSFUL EVENTS, INCLUDING:

We had the great honour to celebrate **George Anticoni's Second Barmitzvah** on 4th February 2017, **Maurice Saragoussi' 70th Birthday** on 17th December 2016 and **Simon Behar's 70th Birthday** on 26th July 2017. We wish George, Maurice and Simon and their families a hearty Mazeltov

Shabbat UK was celebrated with Senior Rabbi Joseph Dweck; a Shabbat of stimulating talks, active discussion, good food and wine and, of course a poem by our laureate, Andrew Finkel.

On **AJEX Shabbat**, we had a very special address by Ralph Levy.

There was a very homely Chanukah Candle Lighting on 24th December 2016 followed light refreshments.

An amazing Purim party held jointly with Keren's nursery on Sunday, 12th March following the traditional Megillah reading with activities for all ages and lunch. It attracted over 200 people.

The UK premiere of the film Ginette in March 2017 followed by a Q&A with the producer Nathan Minsberg, Ginette's grandson. This is the story of Ginette, from her native Tunisia to her adoptive city of Marseille, in her role as the Sephardic matriarch she has become. Through intimate diary readings and unscripted anecdotes, this wife and mother recounts her upbringing in North Africa, the War, an enduring love story, her devotion to the Jewish community and reflections on modern life. What begins as a bonding experience between cameraman and grandmother, materializes into the portrait of a woman's 90-year journey. This was a co-event with Harif.



The synagogue jointly hosted Israeli veterans as part of Peace of Mind Trauma Counselling Programme along with Lauderdale Road. Two very special young men were hosted by Lyn and Laurence Julius as part of the Golani unit who participated in the programme.

A Yom Yerushalayim celebration including a stimulating talk on Sephardi Jerusalem based on her recent book "Unexpected Israel", by Ruth Corman. There were amazing stories about the Ades synagogue, the Italian synagogue, the laundry which was a secret bullet factory, the Jaffa orange and many more. It was followed by Ladino music. This was a joint event with Harif.

We held three very successful school visits for local schools and a couple of hundred children came and discovered Judaism at our synagogue from Bevington school, Colville School and Wood Lane High School. We also had a SACRE meeting at the synagogue and our engaged in the Building a Stronger Britain together campaign.

The synagogue is the closest to Grenfell Tower and has been actively engaged as part of the local community – see separate article.

With sadness, we record the passing of the following members during the year and the Congregation renews its condolences to the mourners.

- Musli bat Heskel Sweiry, sister of Victor Sweiry
- Life Elder Albert Salem.
- Elisa Eskenazi
- Jack Benghiat
- Solomon Levy MBE. Past Mayor of Gibraltar, the father of Isaac Levy and brother of Rabbi Abraham Levy.
- Muriel Channah Azouz, mother of Jeffrey, Edward and David Azouz
- Mother of Rev Ashkenazi
- Dahlia Godsi
- Heskel Goury
- Monty Levy

STONESETTINGS:

Sunday 13th August

The stone setting for Jacob (Jack) Benghiat will take place at Edgwarebury Lane Cemetery at 2.30pm (confirmed time)

Sunday 17th September

The stone setting for Albert Salem z"l, will now take place on Sunday 17th September, at 1pm, at Hoop Lane Cemetery, Golders Green

Sunday 22nd October

The stone setting for Muriel Azouz z"l, will take place at Hoop Lane Cemetery on 22nd October at 2.30pm.

BESIMANTOV ON HAPPY OCCASIONS ARE EXTENDED TO:

BIRTHS:

Benjamin and Eleanor Baroukh on the birth of a baby girl. Besiman Tov to grandparents Frank and Elaine Baroukh.

Reverend Nissim Ashkenazi and his wife, Esther, on the birth of a new grandchild. **Rabbi and Mrs Lavi** on the arrival of a new granddaughter to Roz and Raphael.

Mazal Tov to Adam and Amy Banin on the birth of their son; a grandson for Yaakov and Denise Banin.

Joshua & Amanda Azouz on a birth of a daughter. Besimantov to grandparent Edward Azouz & the late Sharon Azouz, z"l & Jack & Michelle Hecht

Sheerelle and Matt on the arrival of their first baby, a daughter. Besimantov to Rabbi and Mrs Lavi and Mr and Mrs Marks.

BAR/ BATMITZVAH:

Mazal Tov to Julian Shem-Tov and his parents Eran and Joanna on his Barmitzvah Wishing Besimantov to Joaquim Garbi - Matcham for celebrating his Barmitzvah

Wishing Besimantov to Jack Rodesano for celebrating his Barmitzvah

Rochelle and Danny Morris celebrating their son Joshua's Barmitzvah. Besimantov to the Morris and Salem families.

Wishing Besimantov to Kenny and Amanda Ibgui for their son's Robyn Hai Ibgui, Barmitzvah.

Besimantov to Andy Khodari on his Barmitzvah, and parents Charles and Gina Khodri and all the family on this joyous occasion.

Besimantov to Eric Ohayon for celebrating his daughter Leah's Bat Chayil.

Besimantov to Abe Sweiry who celebrates his son Nadav's Barmitzvah in the Synagogue's Sukkah.



ENGAGEMENTS:

Our dear friends Rabbi Elie Assis and his wife Hannah are delighted to inform the community, of the engagement to be married of his son YomTov who bears the name of his grandfather of blessed memory. We send all the family our love and congratulations on this very happy occasion. BESIMANTOV

Mazal tov to Mr. & Mrs. Yaakov Banin on the engagement of their son, Michael to Shellie Wilks, daughter of Jenny and Stephen.

WEDDINGS:

Besimantov to Jenny Levy and Adrian Lewis on their wedding in April
Besimantov to Rachel, daughter of Mandy and Robert Behar, and granddaughter of Eva Behar, who was married to Tal Geron, son of Ahouva and the late Lennie Geron. The wedding, in Israel, was conducted by Rabbi Lavi with several 'Holland Parkers' in attendance.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

Lynda (née Medina) and Michael Green on their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

LIFE ELDERS:

The following members were honoured during the year as Life Elders
Mr. Mesod Wahnnon, Mr Laurence Julius and Mrs Gila Godsfi

Kiddushim: If you have a Simcha, birthday or Nahala then why not sponsor a Kiddush. For more information please call the Synagogue office.

Donations

We are most grateful to our members, their relatives and friends and to our visitors for their generous donations, which are highly appreciated.

'OR' TORAH CHADASH CLASSES:

Mitzvah Day 2016 - Children from the top class" of Or Torah Chadash" visited Kensington Care Home in Ladbrooke Grove, North Kensington as part of Mitzvah Day 2016.

PRIZE GIVING

Our president, Leon Benardout and his wife Deborah Benardout were the guests of honour. There was a full house attendance with the children and their families and we wish them a healthy and safe summer holiday.
Mira Grant, principle of the Heder would like to thank all attendees of the ceremony, Leon and Deborah Benardout, Rabbi Labi, Laura Behar, Michael Sharon, Ricardo - the caretaker and the teachers of 'Or' Torah Chadash that make it possible.

KEREN'S NURSERY

A vibrant nursery opened at the synagogue last September. The Israeli style nursery is Ofsted rated excellent and is a sister to Keren's nurseries in Belsize Park and Hampstead Garden Suburb and follows the same ethos. It presently has around 14 children and actively expanding. It has brought the synagogue and its building to life during the week. For details, please contact 0203 457 8020.

FUTURE EVENTS:

Bnai Brith Event

10th September - tour and introduction of our synagogue to members, local community and different faith representatives as part of 'European Days of Jewish Culture and Heritage'. Please contact the synagogue to register and save a space.

Selichot Service

will take place on Sunday 17th September at 7.00 am and will be followed by refreshments in Suzanne Dellal Hall. To book your place please call or email the Synagogue office no later than 11th September.

Challah Bake

26th October - details will be announced in sermons closer to the time

Shabbat UK

28 October - details will be announced in sermons closer to the time

AJEX Shabbat with Ralph Levy's 90th Birthday Celebration

18 November

Chanukah Celebrations and Candle Lighting

17th December.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 10th December at 3.00 pm. in the Suzanne Dellal Hall.

THE SEPHARDI CONGREGATION OF SOUTH MANCHESTER – SHAARE HAYIM

ELECTIONS:

The following were elected for the forthcoming year-:

President:

Michael Khodadad

Chairman:

Anthony Sultan

Treasurer:

Stephen Elias

Hon Secretary:

Ros Farshi

Members of the Council:

Reuben Solomon, Lesley Sher, Jonathan Shasha, Ros Farshi, Lawrence Gottlieb

Wardens / Parnassim:

Michael Sherbourne, Victor Hassan, Reuben Solomon

Lady Members of the President's Committee:

Jennifer Cohen, Ros Farshi, Shelly Wagon, Helena Bower

FUNERALS:

Robert Benjamin,
Henry Ani,
Eddie Akka,
Aziz Mayeri,
Rohanieh Tojarieh,
Barbara Sultan,
Mollie Shasha,
Rosette Shohet,
Gladys Tesciuba

BARMITZVAH:

Nick Sciamia
Yosef Shlomo Ellituv

BAT CHAYIL:

Emily Bower
Libby Elias
Grace Quinn
Shoshana Ellituv
Elisheva Sultan

WEDDINGS:

Jacques Sultan to Samantha Drazin

100TH BIRTHDAYS:

Fortune Hazan and Maurice Peppi

ENGAGEMENTS:

Georgie Davis to Omri Gelbart
Daniel Linton to Hannah Andrews

EVENTS:

A pre Chanukah Ice skating for 11-18yr olds took place at Altrincham last December under the Umbrella of the South Manchester Synagogues. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

Our Annual Quiz night took place in February. The event was held in honour of the late Natalie Vallance whose contributions to previous quiz evenings and other congregational occasions are remembered with affection. Mike Khodadad, Reuben Solomon, Ros & Igal Farshi, Eddie Farshi and Geoff Leinhardt all played their part in ensuring the success of the evening.

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longing for a
baby this year?

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www.chana.org.uk

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- Cancer fertility preservation
- Intimacy issues
- Early pregnancy concerns

THE SEPHARDI CONGREGATION OF SOUTH MANCHESTER - SHAARE HAYIM



SHAARE SEDEK - OPENING CEREMONY

After a journey of some 15 years, the weekend of 1st & 2nd Shevat 5777, 27th - 29th January 2107, saw the consecration of the magnificent and impressive new Shaare Sedek Synagogue in Hale. A building that combines a contemporary Sephardi design, with its stunning hand painted turquoise ceiling, together with the heart and features of the original Shaare Sedek Synagogue.

A weekend of celebrations saw over 1000 congregants, friends, guests and dignitaries attend 3 heartwarming, uplifting and inspiring separate events. Rabbi Joseph Dweck, Senior Rabbi of S & P Sephardi Community, and his family, Dayan Navon, Head of the Sephardi Beth Din, and his family, joined the community for the entire weekend.

350 guests were present on Friday night to mark the start of Shabbat, with a magnificent dinner held in a marquee in the grounds of the Synagogue. We were treated to a genuine and heartfelt speech from Rabbi Shlomo Ellituv, followed by stimulating and edifying words from Rabbi Dweck. Let us not forget the impromptu choir of Rabbanim Amir and Shlomo Ellituv, Portnoy, Lewis, Kett and Bloch. The smiles, the friendships, the reunions, the warmth and the celebrations of a whole Kehila shone brightly for all to see.

Shabbat morning service combined the Middle Eastern and Spanish & Portuguese ha'zanut which typified the cultural roots of this community. Rabbi Dweck once more took to the pulpit and gave the most inspiring sermon engaging with all members of the community, young and old, observant and less observant, with his words resonating with everyone. The celebrations continued into the afternoon with a Kiddush and Lunch for 300 people.

Sunday morning saw the formal opening ceremony with many national and communal dignitaries, which included Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, Dayan Berger, Dayan Steiner, The Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, Warren Smith, The Mayor of Trafford, Judith Lloyd, Graham Brady MP and Mr Samuel Elia, representing the Lily Safra and Edmund Safra Foundation.

The ceremony began with the Sepharim being processed into the synagogue, the music played, the singing began and so too the impromptu Hakafot, some 30 visiting Rabbanim encircled the Bimah and created one of the most incredible pictures and memories of the whole weekend for the 400 people who attended. The community was addressed by the Chief Rabbi Mirvis, Rabbi Dweck, Rabbi Amir Ellituv and Stephen Elias as the foundation stone was unveiled.

The foresight and journey began in 2001, many people have contributed to turn this vision and dream into the reality of our new synagogue, and although the joy and pleasure experienced over this weekend gave us huge sense of a culmination and achievement, for the Shaare Hayim Community and the new Shaare Sedek Synagogue this is just the beginning of a new era.





K.K. SHAARE RATZON SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE SYNAGOGUE OF JERUSALEM

Founded 1980
Istambuli Synagogue, 18 Bet El Street, The Jewish Quarter, The Old City, Jerusalem
E-mail: Shaare_ratzon@yahoo.com. Web address: www.sandpjerusalem.org
Facebook page: K.K Sha'are Ratzon Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue (Jerusalem)

The Synagogue will have services on the following days:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Rosh Hashana First Day | Thursday | 21/9/17 |
| Rosh Hashana Second Day | Friday | 22/9/17 |
| Erev Yom Kippur-Kal Nidrei | Friday | 29/9/17 |
| Yom Kippur | Saturday | 30/9/17 |
| Succot, First Day | Thursday | 5/10/17 |
| Hosha'ana Rabba | Wednesday | 11/10/17 |
| Parashat Noach | Saturday | 21/10/17 |
| Parashat Toledot | Saturday | 18/11/17 |
| Parashat Mikketz (Hanuka) | Saturday | 16/12/17 |
| Parashat Va'era | Saturday | 13/1/18 |
| Parashat Terumah | Saturday | 17/2/17 |
| Shushan Purim (Eve) | Thursday | 1/3/18 |
| Parashat Vayikra (Rosh Hodesh) | Saturday | 17/3/18. |
| Pesach First Day | Saturday | 31/3/18 |
| Pesach Seventh Day | Friday | 6/4/18 |
| Parashat Emor | Saturday | 28/4/18 |
| Shavuot | Sunday | 20/5/18 |
| Parashat Korach | Saturday | 16/6/18 |

The morning services start at 8.00 a.m. and are followed by Kiddush.

In addition to the above, the Synagogue holds occasional Friday evening services courtesy of Kehilat Yedidya, 12 Nahum Lifshitz, Baka, Jerusalem. Details of these services, as well as other events that are occasionally held, are only available by e-mail or on our Facebook site.

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RAMBAM SEPHARDI SYNAGOGUE

Yavneh College, 6th Form Block
Hillside Avenue, Borehamwood, Herts. WD6 1HL
Website: www.rambam.org.uk

Rabbi Jeff Berger
07855 284 360
rabbijefflondon@gmail.com

Hazan - Raphael Lavi
raphilabi@yahoo.co.uk

Honorary Chairman - Nathan Hasson
drnathanhasson@gmail.com

Fundraising - Lea Misan
learning@rambam.org.uk

Events & Children's Education
Rivka Azair
learning@rambam.org.uk

Hebra - Michael Hilsenrath
michael@hilsenrath.com

Sephardi Centre - David Albohayre
dalbohayre@hotmail.com

Honorary Treasurer - Derek Sheena
0772 0 805 796
treasurer@rambam.org.uk

Membership - Brian Kaye
07912 514 547
briankaye.rambam@gmail.com

Religious Affairs- Moishe Gotlieb
fgotlieb@hotmail.com

Religious Affairs- Gary Somers
gsomers76@gmail.com

Parnas - Uri Kamara
uri.kamara@ntlworld.com

Kiddushim - Michie Berger
07887 485 963
ladiesguild@rambam.org.uk

Security Rota - Natan Servi
nathanever82@hotmail.com

OUR SERVICE TIMES

Kabbalat Shabbat Services
6th Form Block at Yavneh College,
Hillside Avenue, Borehamwood WD6
1HL.

Minha/ Kabbalat Shabbat
7:00pm throughout the summer
10 minutes before candle-lighting in
winter

Shabbat Morning Services
6th Form Block at Yavneh College,
Hillside Avenue, Borehamwood WD6
1HL.

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Zemirot | 9.30am |
| Shaharit | 10:15am |
| Parasha | 10:45am |
| Children's Services | 10:30am |
| Musaf & Sermon | 11:30am |

Followed by Kiddush

Rambam Sephardi Synagogue qualifies for the "attendance point" system (CRP) for admission purposes at Jewish schools. If you wish to be included in our email list, please enter your details on our website. www.rambam.org.uk

High Holiday Service Times
(all services at Yavneh College unless otherwise indicated)

1st Eve Rosh Hashana - 18:45
Wed 20th September

1st Day Rosh Hashana - 8:30
Thur 21st September

2nd Eve Rosh Hashana - 18:30
Thur 21st September

2nd Day Rosh Hashana - 8:30
Fri 22nd September

Kabbalat Shabbat - 18:45
Fri 22nd September

Shabbat Shuvah - 9:30
Sat 23rd September

Eve Yom Kippur - 18:25
Fri 29th September

Yom Kippur - 8:00
Sat 30th September

1st Eve Sukkot - 18:10
Wed 4th October

1st Day Sukkot - 9:30
Thur 5th October

2nd Eve Sukkot - 17:30
Thur 5th October

2nd Day Sukkot - 9:30
Fri 6th October

Kabbalat Shabbat - 18:00
Fri 6th October

Shabbat Hol HaMoed - 9:30
Sat 7th October

Eve Shemini Atseret - 17:55
Wed 11th October

Day Shemini Atseret - 9:30
Thur 12th October

Eve Simhat Torah - 17:30
Thur 12th October

Day Simhat Torah - 9:30
Fri 13th October

Kabbalat Shabbat - 17:45
Fri 28th October

Shabbat Bereishith - 9:30
Sat 29th October



RAMBAM SEPHARDI SYNAGOGUE

OUR SUMMARY

During our 6th year 2016/17, Rambam Sephardi reached out to a growing community to engage them in our future. We saw greatly increased participation in our weekly Tefillot and in our trademark events – Tu B'Shvat, Purim, Lag LaOmer, our Summer BBQ and Camp Rambam. Members & Friends sponsored Kiddush 34 times this year.

This was our 2nd year to participate in the Maccabi GB Community Fun Run, and an opportunity to test a new approach to adult education with a series of weekday evening Controversial Conversations.

Beyond that, we experimented communally - with themed Sephardi traditional food, preparing and serving on 3 separate occasions; an Iraqi, an Indian and a Persian meal. The turnout exceeded expectations!

We returned to our familiar Shesh Besh Tournament and added member-driven events. We even did a Rabbi Exchange for one Shabbat with Wembley Sephardi Synagogue that was well received by both communities.

Toward the latter part of the year, in an effort to be inclusive of other Nusahot, we engaged Hazan and Ba'al Koreh, Raphael Lavi who has brought a renewed energy and enthusiasm to Rambam Sephardi services.

These new activities helped increase awareness among the wider community of our presence in Borehamwood, which helped reinforce and add to our list of Members & Friends. We're delighted to announce that in July, our community received a National Lottery grant to support our youth and adult education programming in 2017/18.

OUR THANKS TO DONORS & SPONSORS

Rambam Sephardi has become known as the destination for Sephardim in Hertfordshire. Our social events are recognized as providing well-above-expectations for a community of our small size. At the same time we can't emphasize enough our immense gratitude for the continuing financial support received from both within and outside of the wider S&P community.

OUR DEVELOPING NEIGHBOURHOOD

Our community is situated in Hertsmeare, one of the fastest developing Jewish areas since the 2011 census. July 2017 is a year since we moved into the Yavneh College 6th Form Block which everyone recognizes was a brilliant boost for our Kahal - for the time being it gives us a sense of permanence without the responsibility of our own premises. Administratively, the new Rambam Sephardi Website based on Shul Cloud software is also functioning brilliantly and allowing us to manage our administration while continuing to keep member fees low.



As a family-friendly neighbourhood, Elstree/ Borehamwood continues to attract young couples; primarily due to good schools (HJPS, Yavneh) and the extensive Jewish living infrastructure (i.e. Eruv, Mikveh, kosher shops and restaurants). House prices have risen steadily over the past few years, yet much new building is going on so the supply still outpaces demand.

Please let your friends and family know there is a warm, caring Sephardi community to welcome them in Elstree/ Borehamwood. Hospitality is available for Shabbat and Festivals but kindly let us know your plans in advance.

OUR HATANIM 5778

B'Siman Tob to Eric Misan (Hatan Torah) and to Neville Levy (Hatan Bereishith). We wish them and their families a wonderful year as our Hatanim.

OUR MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Thankfully, we now have approximately 45 member families and more than a dozen friends.



RAMBAM SEPHARDI SYNAGOGUE



OUR EVENTS 2016-2017

23 SEPTEMBER

IRAQI FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER:

We hosted our 1st themed Shabbat meal on Friday Night 23rd September attended by 72 people. Sincere thanks to Lisette David & Arlette Sheena with the help of Rivka David and Iris Cohen for cooking an exhilarating Iraqi menu and to all those who helped on the night.

17 NOVEMBER

4TH SHESH BESH TOURNAMENT:

On Thursday 17th November, Yuval Cohen helped organize our 4th Shesh Besh Tournament at Yavneh College. About 20 participants competed in a series of knock out rounds, until the evening's winner emerged.

11 DECEMBER

COMMUNITY MEETING & INDIAN DINNER:

On Sunday 11th December 60 members and friends gathered for an evening to discuss Rambam Sephardi's Mission & Core Values. An elaborate Indian dinner was served and the follow-up has led to a number of new, well-received efforts. Sincere thanks to Lauren Carmel, Yosef David, Rivka Azair, Derek Sheena and Nathan Hasson for their talented help and enthusiasm in preparing the dinner

3-4 FEBRUARY

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS SHABBAT:

Rambam Sephardi participated in the nationwide campaign to raise awareness for mental health issues in our community. More than 70 people joined for Shabbat lunch in the synagogue and highly informative presentations by Sharon Ross & Annette Henley.

12 FEBRUARY - TU B'SHVAT:

Rivka Azair and a team of volunteers helped prepare a sumptuous Seudah Shilishi and Melaveh Malkah for more than 50 participants. Coincidentally, there were also more than 50 species of fruits, berries and nuts represented on the tables, including our trademark Jack Fruit.

11-12 MARCH - MEGILLAH & PURIM PLAY:

The Megillah was read on Purim evening by Raphael Lavi and in the morning we were delighted to host Wembley Sephardi Synagogue for services at our Yavneh College location. The morning Megillah was read by Rabbi Daniel Kada. And more than 150 guests joined for an authentic Persian meal, followed by our annual amateur Purim play.

Many thanks to Jason Sasson, Lauren Carmel & Derek Sheena for preparing this delicious, huge Seudah with much charm, and to Rivka Azair & Yuval Cohen for their enormous efforts in

running the play. Congratulations to our young Rambam Sephardi actors & actresses, stage hands and prompters and to Brian Kaye for sourcing the Purim Seudah. Scenes from the play can be seen on our website.

23 MARCH

ANTI-SEMITISM TRAINING IN THE UK:

On Thursday evening 23rd March, Natan Servi gave a talk on Anti-Semitism Training in the UK as part of a new initiative in reaching out to the community in a series of secular topics called Controversial Conversations. Natan spoke again on 10 May about UN Resolutions & Israel.

14 MAY - LAG LAOMER BONFIRE:

We had a very large number of participants joining our annual Lag LaOmer Bonfire held at Well End Scout Activity Centre on Sunday 14th May. In addition to the bonfire, guests enjoyed a BBQ, Sephardi singing led by Rabbi Mino Lavi and a talk about Rabbi Shimon Bar Yohai. Sincere thanks to Rivka Azair for coordinating this event.

11 JUNE

MACCABI GB COMMUNITY FUN RUN:

On Sunday 11th June, Rambam Sephardi fortunately was again sponsored in this year's Maccabi GB Fun Run, having a table in the pavilion as well as fronting nearly 20 runners. Money raised goes to our Summer Programme.

25 JUNE - SUMMER BBQ:

We hosted more than 100 guests of all ages at this year's Rambam Sephardi Summer BBQ on 25 June. Blessed with good weather, and once again hosted by Natalie & Neville Levy, this year we included a treasure hunt along with our usual talent contest, penalty shoot-out and table tennis tournament.

Special thanks to Yuval Cohen & Brian Kaye who took the lead. Additional thanks to our spirited cast of characters including; Activities Directors Rivka Azair, Sam Misan, Benjamin Cohen, Impromptu Entertainer Gerry Cohen, Grill Team Dr Nathan Hasson & Joe Arazi, Prep Team Derek & Claudia Sheena, David Chriqui, Abe Wahnnon, Michie Berger, Jonathan Bahar & David Albohayre, Transport Team Uri Kamara & Moishe Gotlieb, Photographers Jonathan Baron & Leo Arazi and countless others.

6-11 AUGUST - CAMP RAMBAM:

We anticipate a nice turnout for this year's Camp Rambam from 6th - 11th August at the Well End Scout Activity Centre. Camp Rambam is a unique locally-based opportunity for children and one that's grown in popularity from year-to-year. This year we've also run a pre-training programme for camp counselors and arranged for special 'hoodies' for the children.

OUR PASTORAL CARE

CONGRATULATIONS & MAZAL TOB TO:

MARRIAGES:

Daniella Kamara & Alex Kaye (Engagement)
Ben May & Elana Seaton
Eliot Kent & Riva Black
Eliot Sitton & Emily Prager
Malka & Zachary Edinger

BIRTHS:

Shirley & Stanley Lerner - Great Grandchild
Rosalind & Raphael Lavi - Daughter
Charlotte & Jonny Sitton - Daughter
Sheerelle & Matt Marks - Daughter

BAR/BAT MITSVAHs:

Sasson Family - Ollie's Bar Mitzvah
Saleh Family - Katie's Bat Mitzvah
Pritchard Family - Elior's Bar Mitzvah
Wahnon Family - Rafi's Bar Mitzvah
Morris Family - Joshua's Bar Mitzvah
Marks Family - Saskia's Bat Mitzvah
Gotlieb & Giffen Families - Meir's Bar Mitzvah

ANNIVERSARIES:

Shirley & Stanley Lerner - 61st Wedding
Lizette & Jack David - 50th Wedding
Arlette & Aubrey Sheena - 50th Wedding
Mandy & Anthony Kent - 28th Wedding

OTHER:

Oliver Hazan - Aliyah to Israel
Joe Akerib - Relocation to Manchester
David Dangoor - Honorary Doctorate
Annette Henley -
Rising Star 2017 Award
Sam Hilsenrath - Joining the RAF Officers
Training
Leo Arazi - Head Boy at HJPS

GET-WELL WISHES:

We wish a continuing Refuah Sheleimah to:

Hava bat Diana, Michal bat Sol, Monique bat Simi, Ahava Emunah bat Chava Ehta,

Miriam bat Avishy, Shisha bat Chaya Feigel, Estella bat Rhoda, Ida bat Rivka, Sarah bat Sadie, Irit bat Rahel, Elah bat Basyah, Rafi Shmuel ben Tova Leah, Yehuda Daniel ben Chava, Yitshak ben Rivka Gitel, Yeoshua Serge ben Levana, Ariel Tuviya ben Leah Esther HaKohen, HaRav Adin ben Rahel Leah, Rafael Shmuel Ben Orit, Shlomo Yacob ben Rachel, David Reuven ben Tziviya, Avraham Motke ben Sarah Esther, Moshe ben Chana Beila, Oded ben Rivka, Shalom Barukh ben Breinah Leah and all in our community who are unwell.

LONG LIFE:

Hayyim Arukhim to:
Alizade Family, the passing of husband & father Albert Alizade
Natalie Levy, the passing of her mother Beryl Bookey
Brian Kaye, the passing of his cousin Leah Berkowitz
Juliet Levy, the passing of her sister Esme Daniels
David Saleh, the passing of his father Elias Raymond Saleh
Renee Wasserman, the passing of her mother Rose Menir
Ereira Family, the passing of brother and father Derek Ereira
Patrick Memmi, the passing of his father Gilbert Hayyim Memmi
Arlette Sheena, the passing of her brother Hezkel Joury

OUR SINCERE THANKS

KIDDUSH SPONSORS: 2016-2017

Thanks to the many families who sponsored 34 Kiddushim this past year. To book a Kiddush please contact Michie Berger Tel: 020-8386-4386



RAMBAM SEPHARDI SYNAGOGUE

We enthusiastically welcome volunteers to read Parasha, Haftarah or to take Tefillah. A new programme, initiated by Moishe Gotlieb, encourages young boys below the age of bar mitsvah to read the Maftir portion from the Torah. To participate, please contact Moishe at 07723-052-114 to get on our Rota.

OTHER 'ESTEEMED THANKS':

VOLUNTEERS TAKING SERVICES

Over the past months volunteers have helped read services or parts of the parasha or have taken on other responsibilities. We wish to thank the following: Gedalya Alexander, Joe Arazi, Joshua Benjamin, Shlomo Biton, Daniel Carmel, David Chriqui, Yuval Cohen, Freddy David, Sammy Ezrahi, David Gasc, Moishe Gotlieb, Oliver Hazan, Michael Hilsenrath, R Daniel Isaac, Anthony Kent, Raphael Lavi, Neville Levy, Michael Loewe, Yosef Menhaem, Asher Moses, Natan Servi, Charles Silas, Gary Somers, Abe Wahnon, Joe and Mesod Wahnon.

We wish to thank the following women who have made great efforts in supporting the running of our community: Michelle Bahar, Michie Berger, Lauren Carmel, Rimonit Chriqui, Dani Cohen, Iris Cohen, Rachel Cohen, Rivka Azair, Elisheva Gasc, Elisheva Gotlieb, Lorraine Kaye, Lea Misan, Linda Samuel and Laura Sasson.

OUR ADMIN

GET WELL LIST:

Prayers are recited every Shabbat morning for Refuah Sheleimah in front of the Echal. To be included please send to the Rabbi the English and Hebrew names of the person(s) concerned.

SHABBAT CHILDREN'S SERVICES:

Rambam Sephardi offers weekly Shabbat children's services. The programme is supervised by Rivka Azair with help from Laura Sasson and Simmi Wahnon. Toddler's services are run by Michie Berger.

REQUESTS FOR ALIYOT:

Members are asked to please advise Uri Kamara or Moishe Gotlieb (contacts above) before Shabbat if they wish to be called to the Sefer for a Simha or a Nahala.

MEMBERSHIP:

A full-membership pack which includes a special rate for those holding other synagogue memberships, can be obtained from our membership Secretary Brian Kaye at membership@rambam.org.uk



RAMBAM SEPHARDI SYNAGOGUE

OUR RABBI

In 2016/17 Rabbi Jeff Berger continues to lead the community, taking services, reading the Parasha and offering pastoral care. Along with the joy of bar mitsvah training and marriage consultations – and their ceremonies – Rabbi Jeff conducted funerals, attended Shivas and officiated at stone settings. The Rabbi and Michie entertain socially in their home during Shabbat and Festivals throughout the year.

Rabbi Jeff completed his KAICIID 2016 Fellowship and as a project conducted an Inter-faith Seminar on 5 May in central London. This led to an invitation to attend July's Initiative of Change Conference in Caux, Switzerland. The Rabbi is also a member of the Hertsmere Forum of Faith.

Rabbi Jeff continued to engage with local schools leading Jewish Assemblies at Hertsmere JPS, Yavneh College and Haberdashers Aske's Boy's School; and this year visited the Hillshott Infant & Wareside Primary Schools to give a talk on Judaism.

He submitted articles to the Jewish News and again presented on BBC Radio 2's Pause for Thought as well as appearing on Ask the Alim, an inter-faith Q&A programme produced by British Muslim TV. He co-taught on the Adam Science Leadership Programme, led a Scriptural Reasoning session in Bury St Edmund's and delivered a talk to the Hebrew Order of David on the History of Jewish Settlement in Japan.

Rabbi Jeff & Michie attended Limmud Conference in December where both gave several talks. The Rabbi was invited to speak at Limmud Italia in Florence and to lead services at the historic Plymouth Hebrew Congregation. Separately, the Rabbi chairs the Society for Jewish Study, an organization formed in 1948 to promote Jewish adult education in the North-west London area.



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EDINBURGH HOUSE

What an exciting year we are having at Edinburgh House. Lots of new innovations including our re brand in September. As well as our normal activity programme we added a few extras all aimed at keeping mind and body fit and happy. We have everything from sitting quietly in the Succah reminiscing, to word games; movement with music and ball games, as well as lots of musical and film interludes.

We have been working with UCLH on an activity based research programme and we have all worked together to enhance our regular busy daily activity sheets.

Earlier in the year we had a visit from our local primary school, Noam Primary. The schoolchildren brought baskets of fruit with them to celebrate Tu B'Shvat with us. We thank them for their kindness and generosity. We love anything that supports us working across generations.

We have some regular volunteers who are long standing and incredibly committed to us. We'd like to say a big welcome back to the Wahnou Family who have been calling our bingo sessions and ensuring very generously that there are lots of little prizes to win.

Margaret Ben-Nathan continues to run our weekly discussion group which is

picking up again in Little Poppy lounge and which brings the outside world in with the topics of the day.

Our Readers Group has moved over to the Day Centre for more space. It has been greatly received by the members and we have more and more people coming especially for this group. A big thank you to Lesley and Allyson for their regular time.

Ray Sopher brings in and distributes the Jewish News every week and she also brings in lots of colourful wool which our talented carers make into the most wonderful shawls and blankets that you see our residents snuggled in.

We have two new people, one is Michelle Huberman from Harif who brings the Jewish Renaissance magazine and has given chats in the day centre. She kindly loaned us a Sephardi film recently. We hope this friendship will continue for a good long time.

A great big thank you to Kitty's son David who is now our 'go to guy' for music. He has been making all sorts of CD compilations for his mum and all residents to enjoy. He and his family are part of our wider family atmosphere.

the **S&PHARDI**
bulletin

Another new volunteer is entertainer Sidney Austin, he is such a big hit with our residents. It is wonderful to see so many residents and staff filling the dancefloor when he performs for us.

Our mini bus has been busy this year with local outings to lots of places - we have had regular trips to The Kanteen in Brent Cross for a coffee; local parks for fresh air and afternoon tea; Butlers Green farm shops; and Kenwood House which is our newest addition for trips out. The staff there have been so helpful and informative and made us so very welcome.

Our residents were offered a wonderful warm welcome at the Woodside Park Synagogue by Ben Bernstein; and the Lauderdale Friendship Club which we visit weekly continues to provide us with much merriment by inviting us to their extra outings to Richmond Theatre and Lesley's glorious garden party which had lashings of good food and lots of sunshine. Thank you.

We mustn't forget to mention our Annual holiday to the New Forest. What a fabulous time the residents have in the middle of the Forest itself with trips out to the seaside and surrounding areas. There are 6 staff for 6 residents to make it an extra special treat and we have been going there for the last 5 years. We are booked in again this year and want to thank

all our sponsors for their generosity in making this possible.

And the Choir what a wonderful performance we gave, not a dry eye in the house and such a big success that we are continuing with it. We have a wonderful new Lead called Sue from Harrow. We are building our song portfolio and will be performing from time to time.

In August, we celebrated 30 years service by Kathy Waters who is our Housekeeper. She started with us in the kitchen, became Head Cook and then took over responsibility for the supplies and the fabric of our buildings. We wish her any more happy years with us.

Last but not least we have a 'Magic Table' which is an innovative piece of interactive equipment using projection and infra-red beams which can be accessed by individuals or small groups. It is an amazing piece of technology with lively sound and visuals to engage people with dementia in creative play.

If you would like to get involved please contact us on 0208 908 4151. We would love to hear from you. Our Activity Co-ordinator is Carolyn Mitchell and the Manager is Roger Ellis. We are waiting for your call.

A MARK OF RESPECT – ‘THE PASSING BELL’

On 28th December 1659 the Great Bell of St Catherine’s Creechurch was tolled for Antonio Ferdinando (our founder Carvajal) who died of an operation of cutting of the kidney stone by Dr James Pearse. We know this from the postscript of a letter by Samuel Pepys to his patron Edward Montagu Lord Sandwich. He said when he went to the synagogue (Creechurch Lane) “for observation, they were mourning ye Portugall Jew Antonio Ferdinando ye Merchant.” Pepys had himself successfully come through the same operation by Dr Pearse.

Many years later in June 1828 the same courtesy was shown when Haham Raphael Meldola died. His funeral was extensively reported in the general Press. It lasted from 10.00 am to 7.00 pm. The Sunday Herald of 9 June reported that “as the funeral procession passed Aldgate church the bell tolled and so great was the respect show to this gentleman that the tradesmen’s shops adjacent to the synagogue were all closed during the ceremony”. The Haham was buried in the Velho cemetery in Mile End near the grave of Haham David Nieto whom he greatly revered.

(Jewish Historical Society Miscellanies II, 1935, A M Hyamson The Sephardim of England 1951)

CANDLES ON KIPPUR

Many years ago it was the custom to light the candles round the Echal and Tebah at Bevis Marks after Minha on Ereb Kippur. A Misheberach was recited announcing the name of the gentlemen who were to perform the ceremony (provided they were present): the Haham, Hatan Torah, Hatan Bereshit, Hazanim and Gentlemen of the Mahamad. The phrase used was “Que encendera as Candeias de Kippur”, who will light the Kippur candles.

F
R
FAME
RECRUITMENT

THE SEPHARDI MUSIC BULLETIN

My dear husband Sydney and I decided to start a musical evening for our friends. We inserted an announcement in the Sephardi Bulletin and had one reply. This was from Germaine and Charles Spencer z”l who, in turn, introduced their musical friends. And so, in October 1983, the “Sephardi Music Circle” was born. We met on the last Sunday of the month at 8pm at our houses, with a programme of classical music and, of course, refreshments. The meetings were extremely enjoyable and sometimes I was able to slip in a few of my favourite Sinatra recordings.

After a time, as our members did not like driving at night, we altered the time to midday in winter and 3pm in summer.

Over the years as our numbers became fewer, we decided after 33 years to end. We had a luncheon in February where we said farewell to the “Sephardi Music Circle.”

Marie Del Monte

Sephardi Liturgy

The Sephardi liturgy recited in the synagogues of the Spanish & Portuguese Jews is a precious heritage.

Following on the popularity of its international Dayanut Course, the Montefiore Endowment is planning an interactive internet course of study of this unique liturgy. This will comprise analysis of the texts and practical training in the hazanut, ranging from Shabbat services to the sublime compositions of the Spanish Golden Age. This will be supplemented by some face-to-face teaching; and the programme will include appreciation of the Western Sephardi ethos of tolerance and inclusivity.

Those interested should contact administrator@montefioreendowment.org.uk with reasons for interest and with a brief CV.



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SYLVIA KEDOURIE OBITUARY

Sylvia Kedourie, who has died aged 90, was the widow of the historian Elie Kedourie and herself a distinguished scholar of the history of the Middle East.

She was born Sylvia Haim on December 19 1925 in Baghdad and educated there at the French-language Alliance Israélite Universelle girls' school, where she experienced as an adolescent the growing oppression and persecution of Iraq's two-and-a-half-millennia-old Jewish population.

Having travelled with her father and an elder sister to visit France and Britain in 1947, Sylvia enrolled at the University of Edinburgh to study Philosophy.

She studied subsequently at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies, before completing her doctoral thesis, at Edinburgh in 1953, on the ideas of Abd al-Rahman al-Kawakibi, the Syrian writer who in the late-19th century advocated an Arabian caliphate and became seen in the 20th century as a precursor of pan-Arab nationalism.

Her work in this field led to the publication in 1962 of the highly regarded Arab Nationalism: An Anthology, a selection of texts, preceded by her introduction, that has been of use to countless scholars and diplomats.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/obituaries/2016/12/02/sylvia-kedourie-historian-middle-east-obituary/>

ALBERT SELIM DWEK OBITUARY

Albert Selim Dwek

Born: Alexandria 5 September 1926.

Died: London, 8 December 2016 Aged 90

Albert Dwek was born in Alexandria, Egypt in September 1926 where he lived for 30 years, except between 1946 and 1949 when he studied textile engineering at Epinal in France. His parents were both from Aleppo in Syria and had moved to Egypt at the turn of the 20th century when the opening of the Suez Canal a few years earlier had changed the regional trading routes. The family was always involved in the trading of textiles and spices between Manchester, the Middle East and India and they quickly established their business in Alexandria. Life in Egypt during the first half of the century was very cosmopolitan with many different nationalities and religions all generally living together harmoniously. Shortly after the war, the Jewish Community at its peak reached 75,000 members.

But in 1956, the Suez Crisis forced the second Jewish Exodus from Egypt. With a British passport, Albert had only three weeks to sell his textile business and leave Egypt – with just 2 bags, US\$200 and some diamonds that he'd swallowed. One stone was lost and another was used for the engagement ring for his future wife Suzy. He arrived in England with his parents and his brother exactly 60 years ago, speaking only French and Arabic. His two sisters made their way to Peru in South America.

His first and only Synagogue in London was the Spanish & Portuguese at Lauderdale Road, Maida Vale and it was at a community Chanukah party that he met Suzy Dwek (nee Chilton) also originally from Alexandria. They were married in 1961 and shortly after, moved to Leicester, the heart of the UK's textile industry where their three children David, Sandra and Sylvain were born.

Albert was driven and ambitious and he developed and managed three businesses during 40 years, in the knitting, printing and garment dyeing and finishing sectors. Integrity was central to his way of conducting business throughout his whole life. He always acted as a gentleman in all his dealings with his family, friends and business associates.

In Leicester, he loved the Synagogue on Highfield Street and attended every Shabbat. He was a pillar of the community and was often the only Cohen. In 2002, Albert and Suzy returned to London and both became fully involved at Lauderdale Road. Albert especially loved blessing the community as the most senior Cohen and supported it through his presence, participation – and his broad smile.

He was a pious man and knew the morning and evening services by heart and was often seen reciting the prayers to himself.



Giving to charity was very important to him especially to certain Rabbis in Israel. He was a follower of Baba Saleh from Netivot and supported an orphanage in Jerusalem. The Sunderland Kolel was also supported in memory

of his parents and his sister. He was always very respectful to the Rabbis with whom he was in contact. The Jews from Egypt have always been able to easily integrate in society and Albert built warm relationships with Rabbis across the Sephardi and Ashkenazi spectrum in the UK and in Israel.

Albert loved travelling the world, but his favourite place was the South of France, where he swam in the sea daily, whatever the temperature. Attending family events was a priority for him and most recently, he was in Belgium for his youngest grandson's bar mitzvah. He was passionate about dancing and to the end was a willing dance partner to ladies at the Lauderdale Road Friendship Club.

In January 2011, Albert, Suzy and their three children made a very special trip to Egypt, returning for the first time since their departure. Albert visited his school and the Synagogue where they prayed in Alexandria. He loved speaking Arabic with everyone once again and found the people friendly and welcoming. He delighted in toasting Viscount Montgomery at the Hotel Cecil in Alexandria, for it was Montgomery's leadership at the Battle of Alamein that was the turning point in the War in 1942 and which saved the Jews of Egypt. This special return trip was however cut short due to the uprising that was developing quickly. It was only thanks to his daughter-in-law Sarina and her Israel-based family, that the family was able to make yet another exodus – this time from Cairo to Tel Aviv.

Tradition, strong Jewish values and the importance of a close-knit family were principles Albert taught his children from early on. To them, he was a loving father, and he was especially proud of all his 6 grandchildren. He was a fighter throughout his life, right to his last days – with a characteristic “never give up” attitude that permeated through to his family. Albert fought his recent illness stoically, courageously supported by his wife who left no stone unturned to help him. He had a big presence and will be irreplaceable to Suzy, his children, grandchildren and to the whole community.

David Dwek - December 2016

GRENFELL TOWER FIRE HOLLAND PARK SYNAGOGUE RESPONSE

Every time I walk to Holland Park Synagogue on Shabbat, I can see the burnt out tower some 500 metres to the North. It sends a chill through my body.

A few weeks ago we awoke to hear the terrible news of the fire. There was a quick exchange of emails between the honorary officers and just after 8 am we offered the council to open the synagogue as a refuge and asked what we could do to help.

The council did not take up our offer as other more local centres had already opened up.

We quickly checked and ascertained that no members lived in the tower, although there is one family who lived in close proximity.

The community responded amazingly by:

- Offering to do what they could as volunteers
- Donating food, clothes, toiletries and money immediately: we took toiletries to one of the refuge centres that day.
- Our Rabbi was at the scene.
- Other Jewish groups including the local Chabad rabbi and West London synagogue were also actively engaged.

People were shell shocked – but the community spirit has been amazing with all colours, races and religions working together.

The next couple of days we focused on donations. We helped out at our local church on Thursday and Friday and Holland Park was one of the few collection centres for donations on the first Sunday for donations from all over the country.

We were overwhelmed with offers of help and support from the community – synagogues collecting donations, offers of volunteers, and tremendous support from Rabbis.

We had hundreds of calls from the Jewish community and from the wider community including World Jewish Relief and steel workers from Sheffield.

Rabbi Lavi wrote a special prayer and this was read in synagogue on Shabbat and at an interfaith vigil a week after the fire with 22 faith representatives including two bishops, several imams, Bahais, Sikhs and three rabbis.

We worked closely with Rabbi Freedman of New West End. We heard the voice of the residents who survived. We saw the media intruding on people's grief.

We are involved in local grass roots initiatives – Keren's nursery, located at Holland Park Synagogue, offered free places to victims, we have offered help rebuilding identities and we have offered counselling services.

With the number of unknown and unidentifiable victims, the coroner's office was keen to ensure the processes and ceremonies caused no offence to any religious group and we have co-ordinated the Halachic advice via Rabbi Lavi. The community has sent representatives to key meetings with the coroner, survivors and residents. There is one Portuguese catholic lady who claims to have Jewish ancestors.

We are also looking to arrange an event for the survivors with neighbouring Catholic, Sikh and Moslem communities who are also located close to St James's Gardens.

There was a special religious ceremony on 13th July before they started sifting in the tower. It was attended by Rabbi Freedman, Leon Benardout and Debbi Grant.

A further multi faith vigil is planned on 27th July and the community will be represented by a senior rabbi.

I attended an incredible centre in the shadow of the tower where children were having art therapy.

I met incredible people like the singer Adele and the local West Indian community.

It is going to be a long journey, but we will not forget our neighbours. The strength of community has been amazing and this is the legacy of the tragic events, which must be preserved.

Laurence Julius
July 2017





25 YEARS SINCE THE IRA BOMB AT BEVIS MARKS

On Friday 10 April 1992, the IRA targeted the Baltic Exchange. The blast from this bomb caused extensive damage to the surrounding neighbourhood and to Bevis Marks Synagogue, both externally and internally. The synagogue had survived two world wars unscathed but this time the damage was in excess of £300,000 (1992 price).

Barry Musikant was Chairman of Buildings at the time and remembers donning a hard hat and protective shoulder covering before entering the cordoned area with police escort. He was one of the first people allowed into the affected area. To access the synagogue, he had to follow a narrow red-taped line to keep clear of the mountains of broken glass and falling glass.

From the outside it was clear that there had been substantial damage to the windows, to the glass and lead and stonework surrounds, which had been pushed out by the force of the blast. The clock had stopped at the moment of the explosion.

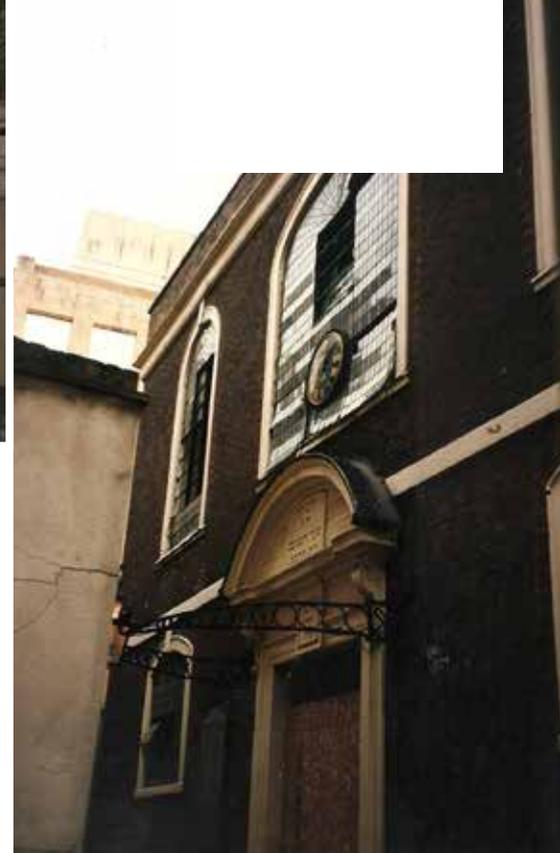
Inside, structural faults were found in the walls, above the Ark, by the front door and at the side of the building. One third of the ceiling had fallen down exposing the lathe timbers and, when renovations commenced, the entire ceiling had to be replaced. The echal was hanging at an angle and only saved from falling by a rope. The pillars were cracked and the rows of wooden benches had moved with the walls.

On the night of the bomb, the shamash with his family and friends were dining in the flat adjacent to the synagogue. When the bomb exploded, every window in the house shattered and shards of glass flew across the room and some were embedded in the walls. Fortunately no one was severely injured.

In what proved to be a miraculous escape, the shamash's baby son had been crying and been brought down to the dinner table earlier in the evening. In the explosion, the travel cot where the baby would have been sleeping was pierced by a large shard of glass.

It was fortunate that a building company was already in the process of decorating and so they were able to undertake the repair and restoration as soon as the insurance company gave agreement. This agreement was surprisingly forthcoming within hours of the inspection, without insistence of estimates, so work commenced the next day. The restoration repairs took the builders and specialist craftsmen sixteen weeks to complete. There was much interest in the work. A group of local non-Jewish children gave to the synagogue money they had made from washing-cars and, just as Joseph Avis, the original builder, donated his profit back to the congregation in 1701, the site manager hand-painted the damaged pillars at no charge.

The reopening was celebrated by a wedding on 16 August 1992.



PEACE OF MIND PROGRAMME

- MARCH 2017

A group of 20 Israeli veterans were hosted by members of Lauderdale Road and one from Holland Park in March 2017 for a unique therapy programme to deal with battlefield trauma. Unlike physical injuries which are visible and can be treated by modern medicine, mental scars pose much harder problems. The programme involved around 50 hours of intensive group therapy intertwined with bonding with host families and the community. The week was a great success for both the veterans and the host families.

The twenty young men had served in the Elite Golani first brigade and had spent many years risking their lives for the security of Israel, and they continue to do as reservists.

The high points of the visit included

- Tour of Bevis Marks and a walk through the city from Bevis Marks to Old Jewry
- Visits to the theatre and tourist sites
- Friday night dinner at Lauderdale Road
- A special Shabbat at Lauderdale Road, where one of the veterans read his barmitzvah parsha in an Ashkenazi tune

Everyone was emotionally moved. The events at Westminster also brought home the risks Israelis face every day.

Lasting bonds were made between the host families and the Israeli visitors and the host families, who each felt like they gained another two sons.

I had the honour and privilege to co-ordinate and host this ambitious programme. The success is mostly due to the wonderful hosts who took it upon themselves to look after their guests in the most extraordinary way making sure they enjoyed their stay. Also for the generous donations we received from individuals who were delighted to be part of helping this worthy project. Thanks also goes to Anthony Goldstein from Peace of Mind who gave us this opportunity to host this special group and whose help and experience to accomplish this special mitzvah was invaluable.

We would like to show our thanks and gratitude for the extremely generous lunches provided for the week by Louis Mann Ltd.

It is hoped to repeat the programme. If you would be interested in hosting on a future programme, please contact Rabbi Elia



THE GUBBAY FAMILY'S EXPERIENCE OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR (1914-18)

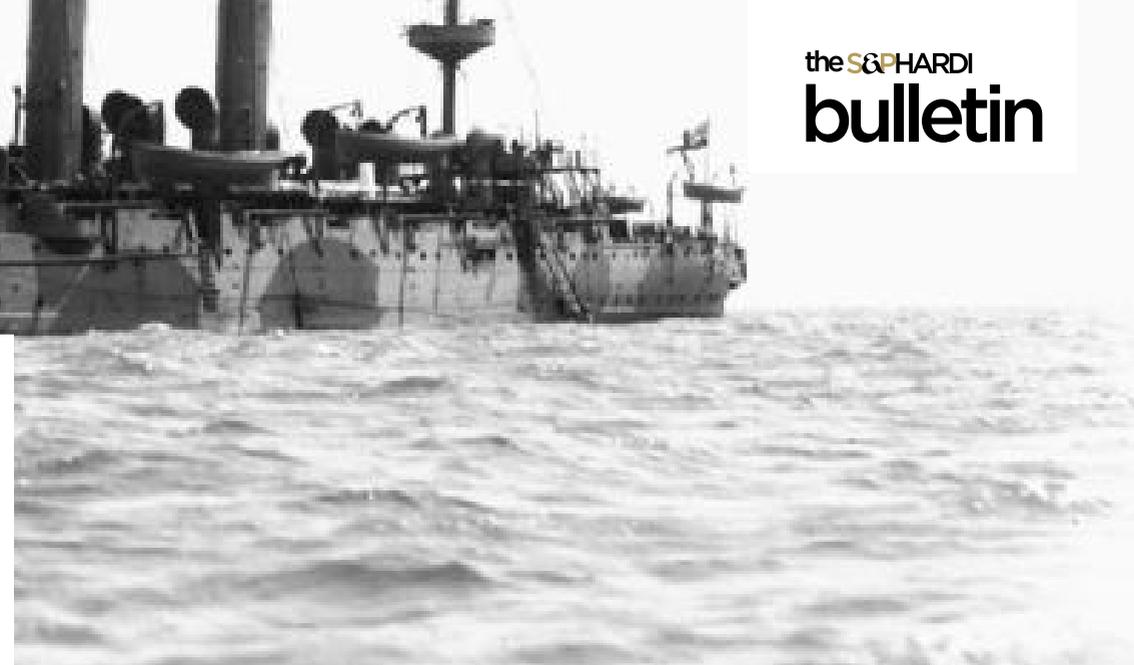
All British subjects, including my branch of the Gubbay family, were expelled from Aleppo (Syria) in 1914 when the Ottoman Empire and Germany went to war against the Allied Powers. The property of the departing Gubbays was sequestered by the Turkish Authorities and they were transported to Alexandretta (Iskenderun), Aleppo's port on the Mediterranean. There they were interned in a camp pending their removal from the country.

My father's cousin Mark Gubbay recalled the horrific scenes he witnessed then in connection with the Turks' infamous genocide of their Armenian subjects. He told his son Allen of seeing scores of Armenians buried alive in mass graves; and also of his nightmarish memory of mounted Turkish officers sporting necklaces on which the gouged-out eyes of their victims had been strung - blue was the preferred colour, for good luck and to avert the evil eye.

My own father recounted with glee his version of the events that took place when a British warship came into view off Alexandretta, which was then an open port undefended from the sea. The Turks, fearing that the British were about to bombard the town, asked the British internees to telegraph the Admiral, telling him that there were British women and children present, and begging him to desist. The official British representatives present wanted to refuse - saying that, as Britain was at war, it was their duty as loyal subjects to accept the consequences. However, the Jewish internees intervened and, having forced a vote, insisted on a compromise. In the end, the Admiral was sent a telegram requesting that no bombardment should take place unless it was in His Majesty's direct interest. Again, according to my father, a soothing reply was received, assuring His Majesty's subjects that the fleet had arrived only to check that the port was not fortified. Of course my father, in his internment camp, only knew part of the story of an important naval action, later to be documented in the official history of the First World War.



*My grandfather Ezra Gubbay's
British Passport
(note the spelling of his name)*



Land communications between Turkey and its provinces were difficult to maintain for they depended on an uncompleted railway line, interrupted by stretches of poor road over steep mountain passes. It was an important part of allied strategy to disrupt lines of communication to prevent Turkish reinforcements from reaching the more distant parts of their Empire. The main railway and road from Turkey to Syria, Iraq and Egypt emerged from the mountains just outside Alexandretta and then ran alongside the coast within easy range of naval guns. One opportunity to cut this vital communications link had been missed in November 1914 when a Turkish army passed through unimpeded on its way to attack the Suez Canal; the British were not to be caught napping a second time.

The light cruiser HMS Doris, commanded by Captain Larken, appeared off the coast of Alexandretta on the evening of 18th December 1914 and a landing party was put ashore under cover of darkness. The railway line was sabotaged and the telegraph wires cut. A train that came along the line shortly afterwards was derailed, completely blocking the track. Some of the railway bridges were also shelled from the sea at dawn of the following day - but with little effect.

Captain Larken then issued an ultimatum demanding that all military stores within the town be surrendered under penalty of bombardment. The Turkish reply was that one or more of the British subjects they were holding in detention would be executed for every Turk killed in any bombardment. Presumably, this included the Gubbays! Captain Larken responded that the Turkish Governor, Djemal Pasha, would be held personally responsible for the deaths of any allied subjects. Wiser counsels prevailed in the end, due to the intervention of the American Embassy in Constantinople and the advice of the German Consul. Most of the war material had by then been sneaked out of the town anyhow; and the Turks agreed to destroy the two locomotives trapped on the wrecked railway line.

The end of the story was pure farce. The Turks requested the loan of some dynamite to blow up the railway engines and Captain Larken offered gun-cotton, which the Turks did not know how to use. The Turks refused to allow torpedo-men from the Doris to handle the gun-cotton for them; but when warned of the damage that could result from inexperienced handling, finally agreed to let them lay the charges. An impasse was reached on who would actually fire the charges – for it was not consistent with Turkish dignity to allow a British officer to do so. It was the American Vice-Consul who finally solved the problem by proposing that HMS Doris's torpedo-lieutenant be commissioned into the Turkish navy for a single day. That was agreed. The officer turned Turk temporarily, the locomotives were blown up and the Doris sailed away with its honour intact. The Jews in their camp probably had little idea of what was really happening.

America was still neutral; and so it was an American ship that eventually moved the British internees from Alexandretta and the Ottoman Empire. This cruised the Mediterranean for a while as few countries were prepared to accept refugees in wartime. My father spoke of the arrogant treatment meted out by the refugees to local women who came aboard to tend to their needs when the ship stopped for a while at Rhodes (or was it Crete?), and their shame when it was discovered that what they had thought to be the inefficient “servants” were actually lady volunteers from the local Jewish community. He disliked smoked-salmon for the rest of his life because of the quantities he consumed on the American ship.

Eventually the family reached Beirut, where the group photograph was taken in June 1915. From Beirut, a British frigate took them on to Alexandria in Egypt.

Lucien Gubbay



*The Gubbays
as refugees in
Beirut 1915*



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