

L'HAYIM

THE S&P MAGAZINE



the
S&PHARDI
community ק"ק שער השמים

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MESSAGE FROM SENIOR RABBI

Kahal Kadosh

It is with great pleasure that I present to you our new synagogue magazine, and I am thrilled to highlight all the positive changes that the S&P has undergone of late. I am proud that, as a community, we are steeped in hundreds of years of tradition and rich heritage and yet, at the same time, we are actively embracing the future.

At this time of year, with autumn approaching, the Jewish people gather *en masse* to look forward in contemplating our lives and examining our deeds and goals while scrutinising our past. 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 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 our current circumstances and we participate more consciously in our lives. The days of Rosh HaShana, however, act 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 so doing 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 us.

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 become introspective with everyone at once because that is a true manifestation of our being. We do not live in isolation, and when we integrate with a strong and thriving community we as individuals thrive and flourish as well.

While on the threshold of these special days I encourage our S&P Sephardi Community — members, affiliates and friends — to continue our efforts in building the community's strength in all ways possible and, as you leaf through this new and exciting magazine, you will see our accomplishments to date and learn about the diverse programming we've recently put in place. There is the production of 'Fiddler on the Roof' performed by our talented youth; the poignant visit of the Israeli soldiers which touched the hearts of all our members; profiles of our dedicated Rabbis, who stand with me in serving this great community; and, on a lighter note, you will learn some lesser-known but interesting facts about them – I certainly did (oh, and there's one on me too). You will also find mouth-watering Sephardi recipes, places of interest to visit and members' profiles. Overall it is immensely rewarding to know that the community is so active with something to suit everyone, from our children and youth through to our families and older members.

We have much to be proud of, and indeed much to work towards, and I look forward to experiencing, along with you all, a future in which we will learn and grow together to build on our precious past, enhance the present and shape our grand future for ourselves, our children and generations to come.

I am looking forward to the journey!

With warm blessings for a year of peace, happiness, health and good fortune, and enjoy the magazine!

Tizku LeShanim Rabot,



Rabbi Joseph Dweck

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Simon Tobelem *Former Treasurer & former member of the Mahamad*
Anthony Tricot *SKA Board, Human Resources*
Sabah Zubaida *Parnas Presidente*

MESSAGE FROM THE PARNAS PRESIDENTE

Dear Friends

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

Over the past year the Board, together with the executive and the ecclesiastical teams, have made great efforts to strengthen the infrastructure and profile of our community.

We have strengthened our Beth Din with the appointment of Dayan David as head and Dayan Dadoun as member. Rabbi Kada continues to work with the Dayanim on improving communications with the users of the Beth Din and to modernise the infrastructure surrounding it. We have also worked with the Beth Din and the newly appointed Rabbi Yossi David, as a Kashrut expert, who is joining Mr Chaim Richman, our SKA Director, in taking the SKA forward to cover new ground.

The executive team was strengthened with the appointment of David Arden as our new Chief Executive. We wish David and the team much luck in their endeavours to help the community move forward.

Preparations for the second phase of the application for the HLF grant are progressing very well. The HLF committee has worked extremely hard on assembling teams of experts to help plan the crucial second phase of the application and we look forward to this as they take Bevis Marks into the next stage of its evolution.

A number of successful events took place at Lauderdale Road during the year, including the summer cooking event organised by Margalit Dweck and Linda Khalastchi. The children of the community put on a wonderful production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Rabbi Elia had a busy year organising a number of events and functions at Lauderdale Road.

Rabbi Shalom Morris continued to arrange various lectures and events at Bevis Marks Synagogue as well as other locations around the City of London which were very well attended.

Rabbi Dany Kada continued conducting Shiurim at Wembley Synagogue which were open to other Jewish communities in the area and were very well received.

Our Senior Rabbi, Rabbi Dweck, continued to motivate

through his Shiurim and lectures at Lauderdale Road and other locations. He has been an inspiration to our community as well as the wider Jewish community in the UK.

We would like to thank all our Rabbis for their ongoing efforts to inspire our Kahal and bringing the community closer to Torah learning.

Finally, we would like to thank all our members for their support and generosity during the past year. We look forward to another year of working together to strengthen our community under the leadership of Rabbi Dweck and his Rabbinic colleagues.

Sabah Zubaida,
Parnas Presidente



CONGREGATION NEWS

The community would like to wish Besiman Tob to:

**Engaged
Couples**

- Danielle Levy and Jonathan Peters
- Elana Wall and Eden Dwek
- Ruth Bitran and Bradley Abrahams
- Abigail Cohen and Alastair Darwood
- Talia Dawood and Ory Moussaieff
- Natalia Segal and Mark Mesrie
- Tania Halban and Samuel Cherkas
- Ruth Waxman and Gideon Barth
- Jennifer Murad and Salomon Aaron
- Sarah Shemtob and Joshua Nagli
- Abigail Ben Guira and Menachem Portnoy
- Limor Azouz and Alex Silver
- Charlotte Lewis and Michael Esfandi

**Married
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 Telford and Ben Shamash
- Simone Abadi and Samuel Millet
- Rachel Gentely and Daniel Smith
- Natasha Isaac and Samuel Freeman
- Natalie Futter and Adam Davis
- Naomi Gaffney and Simon Zuckerman
- Shier Ziser and Alexander Dawood
- Chloe Delmonte and Adam Baroukh
- Avital Mendelsohn and Sam Menachem

Births

- Nadia and Olivier Lesser – Baby girl (Annabelle)
- Dayle and Richard Fattal – Baby boy (Jonathan)
- Sascha & Sukina Khakshouri - Baby girl (Aleya)
- Nelly and Daniel Levene – Baby boy (Harry)
- Romy and Joel Shamash – Baby girl (Noa)
- Hannah and Joseph Bekhor – Baby girl (Naomi)
- Gemma and Jason Silver – Baby girl (Emily)
- Davina and Jason Katz – Baby girl (Uma)
- Lia and Aron Azouz – Baby Girl (Anouk Zehava Sharon)
- Naomi and Motty Goldman – Baby boy (Joseph)

**Welcome
to our New
Members**

- Benjamin Aaron
- Chana and Joel Abrams and family
- Regina Israel Atance
- Lee Baroukh
- Michael Baroukh
- Jonathan Beloff
- Sandra and Gregory Benhamou and family
- Michael Black
- Benjamin and Tilla Crowne
- Dahlia Dana
- Miriam de Beer
- Hanna Eichenberger - de Beer
- Isabel Ereira
- Daniella Fattal
- Emil Fattal
- Michelle Fattal
- Simon Fattal
- Nicola and Philip Garcia
- Sandra and Andrew Graham
- Laura Graham
- Helen and Professor Donald Grubin
- Joseph Haim
- Xosé Hermoso-Buxán
- Leon and Myriam Kamhi
- Yossi Koffler
- Louis Lederman
- Michael & Fiona Mocatta & family
- Michael Poll
- Jackie and Neil Prosser
- Ze’ev Portner
- Lara and Alex Shamash
- Dr Aron Sterk
- Irene and Eric Wallis

The community sends its deepest condolences to the families of:

Funerals

- Eleanor Mendoza
- Myrtle Russell
- Tanya Tricot Saragosi
- Freddy Zelouf
- Louise Berchanpour
- Kenneth Rubens OBE
- Alice Shashou
- Marian Lily Horesh
- Samuel Lopes Dias
- Samir Tricot
- Meyer Menashy
- Pearl Friend
- Teffeh Shamoon
- Henry Baruch
- Murad Eleini
- Reine Arwas
- Edward Dangoor
- Fortunee Gammell
- Fuad Gabbay
- Genny Sasson
- Nissim Musry
- Nita Corre
- Vera Goodman
- Henry Keith Paiba
- Queenie Elias
- David Khalastchi
- Menachem Hanan
- Parvin Rayhani-Kashani
- Kurt Albrecht
- Sheila Ricardo
- Saleh Shohet
- Saleh Masri
- Ceki Alaluf
- Shaoul Imzayin
- Joy Isenberg
- Eve Garcia
- Farah Shashou
- Caroline Jay
- Menahem Baroukh
- Jacques Onona
- Elias Fahimian
- Semcha Cohen
- Mireille Malley

HHD Cemetery Visit Hoop Lane 02/09/2018 11.00am
HHD Cemetery Visit Hoop Lane 16/09/2018 12.00pm
HHD Cemetery Visit Edgwarebury 02/09/2018 1.00pm
HHD Cemetery Visit Edgwarebury 16/09/2018 10.00am

September 2018

Freddy Zelouf Edgwarebury 02/09/2018 1.45pm
Kenneth Rubens Hoop Lane 16/09/2018 11.00am

October 2018

Genny Sasson Hoop Lane 07/10/2018 11am
Meyer Menashy Edgwarebury 14/10/2018 9.15am
Marian Horesh Hoop Lane 21/10/2018 10.15am
Samuel Lopes Dias Hoop Lane 21/10/2018 11.15am
Henry Isaac Baruch Edgwarebury 21/10/2018 12.00pm
Pearl Friend Hoop Lane 28/10/2018 11.00am

November 2018

Alice Shashoun Edgwarebury 11/11/2018 10.15am

December 2018

Queenie Elias Edgwarebury 09/12/2018 1.00pm
Reine Arwas Edgwarebury 16/12/2018 1.45pm

February 2019

Sheila Ricardo Edgwarebury 24/02/2019 10.15am

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We would like to wish our dearest friend and colleague, Linda Granville, a happy retirement after nearly forty years of devoted and distinguished service as the secretary of the S&P Welfare Board.

Thank you for your dedication and hard work and enjoy this new phase of your life. You will be missed!

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Just six months into my role as Chief Executive, it is difficult to know where the time has gone!

As the High Holidays approach it is an opportunity to update you on where I think we are as a newly incorporated charity and also what I see as the biggest opportunities and challenges over the next twelve months.

I have spoken to so many enthusiastic and committed members of the Kahal that I do believe there is a bright future for the S&P and it is a constant reminder of the spirit of the Kahal which has enabled it to endure, at times, against the odds. However, to move forward requires change and change always brings uncertainty. I am a great believer in embracing uncertainty because out of this breeds more opportunity: this imbues greater creativity and therefore allows for more innovation.

Internal office and organisational changes:

Over the last few months we have started a modernisation of Hebra (burial) which has meant putting a new system in place. This will provide us with the ability to manage and administer burials for members and non-members in a much more efficient, transparent and consistent way.

I am also looking to review other aspects of the central office including Finta and lifecycle. I want to create a modern, professional, effective, operational office which provides the services that the community needs and deserves so in the meantime, please be patient – we want to make sure we get it right!

The Beth Din & SKA

I am sure you are all aware that over the past few

months we have a newly formed Beth Din. It is extremely important for the Kahal that it and the wider Sephardi community has a credible, reputable Beth Din which is there to serve the community on halachic rulings, marriages, conversions, and more. I am really excited by the establishment of Dayan David as Head, and the introduction of Dayan Dadoun to the team. This represents a real step forward and ensures continuity for the Beth Din.

The SKA has a bright future and I do believe there are exciting things to come – there is definitely more to do but, with the introduction of Dayan Yossi David to oversee Kashrut, we have the ability to create a strong business model and a place that caterers and restaurants alike should be turning to for both licences and support. We need to build on the collaborative success of Zest to create more exciting opportunities to serve the community.

The future

I have spoken at length with various members of the Kahal, the Board, Rabbi Dweck and colleagues about the need to look into the future and we all share the same vision. Long term planning is essential in obtaining clarity on where we want to be and how we want to get there. It goes without saying that the youth and young families are absolutely key. I am therefore determined to build the strategy, infrastructure and support to attract and retain the future of the community. One of the areas being explored is the opportunity to create a day nursery in Ashworth Road. I am under no illusions that this will be easy but I am convinced it is something that could really revitalise the area.

We need to look at stretching the community further afield to attract affiliate synagogues, independents and those not associated with any synagogue. We must therefore have a model which incentivises, which looks different and exciting and which we can build on. We must look to establish strong relationships with our Sephardi brethren both within and outside the community. Let us work together, proactively and supportively, to create a bright future for the S&P Sephardi Community.

I could cover a lot more but I will leave you to explore the contents of the newly-designed magazine which I am sure you will agree is refreshing, insightful, vibrant and representative of the organisation that I believe we have the potential to become.

Wishing you a sweet and happy New Year!



David Arden
CEO



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES

September 2018 / Tishrei 5779

5778 will be remembered as the year that the Jewish community came together to say 'Enough is enough' to antisemitism.

It was unprecedented and heart-warming back in March to see so many people from all parts of the community join like-minded non-Jews and parliamentarians to stand in front of the Palace of Westminster to protest against the antisemitism that, staggeringly, is tolerated in our country's official party of opposition.

Several aspects of this protest were meaningful. I was gratified by the speed with which we, the Jewish Leadership Council and other partners, devised and executed the idea. We were overwhelmed by the response from the two thousand people who travelled to Westminster at twenty-four hours' notice, including more than thirty MPs from Labour and other parties and friends from the Muslim, Christian, Sikh and Hindu communities. Our community has never made a more powerful statement that we will not tolerate antisemitism in the Labour Party. Perhaps most important of all was the near unanimity with which we spoke. And it is this unity which we as a community need as we go forward to face challenges such as this.

Although the overwhelming majority of the community was behind us in our protest against antisemitism, there are issues which divide us. Of course, we will never agree on everything but there is a right and a wrong way to disagree. For example, when the Kaddish for Gaza event took place following the Hamas-sponsored violent protests at the border with Israel, nobody was more appalled than me. However, the tone and

tenor of some of the comments aimed at the protesters has bordered on hateful and abusive. Such ferocity does nothing to advance the argument but rather discredits the point being made and leaves our community in a less civil place.

While we must fight against hate, prejudice and injustice, much of my work as President of the Board of Deputies is in promoting projects which work for a positive outcome. My first action as president after my election in May was to travel to Manchester for discussions with leaders of northern communities and the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, then on to Glasgow and Edinburgh for talks with Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and discussions with my Scottish Jewish colleagues. I intend to be a leader for Jews of all denominations across the country and none of us is more important than any other.

We also need to reach out beyond our community which is why I have prioritised interfaith work, in particular creating links with Muslim partners. This summer, for the first time, the Board of Deputies hosted an interfaith Iftar for senior Muslims and Jews including the Chief Rabbi. I have travelled the country meeting Muslims from Leeds to Luton and points in-between. Jews and Muslims have much in common and my objective is to create relationships which will strengthen us all and fight the prejudice and ignorance which has divided us in the past.

This was also the year that in the United Kingdom we celebrated our crucial role in the creation of the State of Israel, with celebrations

to mark the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, culminating in the Parliamentary Balfour Reception attended by many ministers, MPs and peers. And in this 70th anniversary of the birth of the State of Israel, we have been promoting a dialogue for peace between Israelis and Palestinians through Invest in Peace. This project, undertaken with Christian communities, is interfaith work at its most meaningful, tackling difficult issues positively and head on. We are determined that, rather than import the Middle East conflict, we should work together to support a constructive conversation towards reconciliation.

Those of us who love Israel were delighted that the Duke of Cambridge undertook the first official royal visit to the country. It would be hard not to be touched by his moving message in the Yad Vashem guest book, and the goodwill and friendship in his speech at the Ambassador's reception left an impression on all of us who were present. A key message of the visit was about the importance of engagement. In addition to supporting coexistence with the young Israeli and Arab footballers, the fact that President Rivlin and President Abbas felt compelled to offer messages of peace in their meetings with the second in line to the British throne was a real tribute to the enduring 'soft power' of the British monarchy. This was clearly a man with a genuine warmth and friendship for the Jewish people and, going into 5779, amid all the political turmoil we have encountered this year, the image of the Duke, both at the Western Wall and playing football on the beach, gives me wonderful memories to take into the new year. May this Rosh Hashanah bring

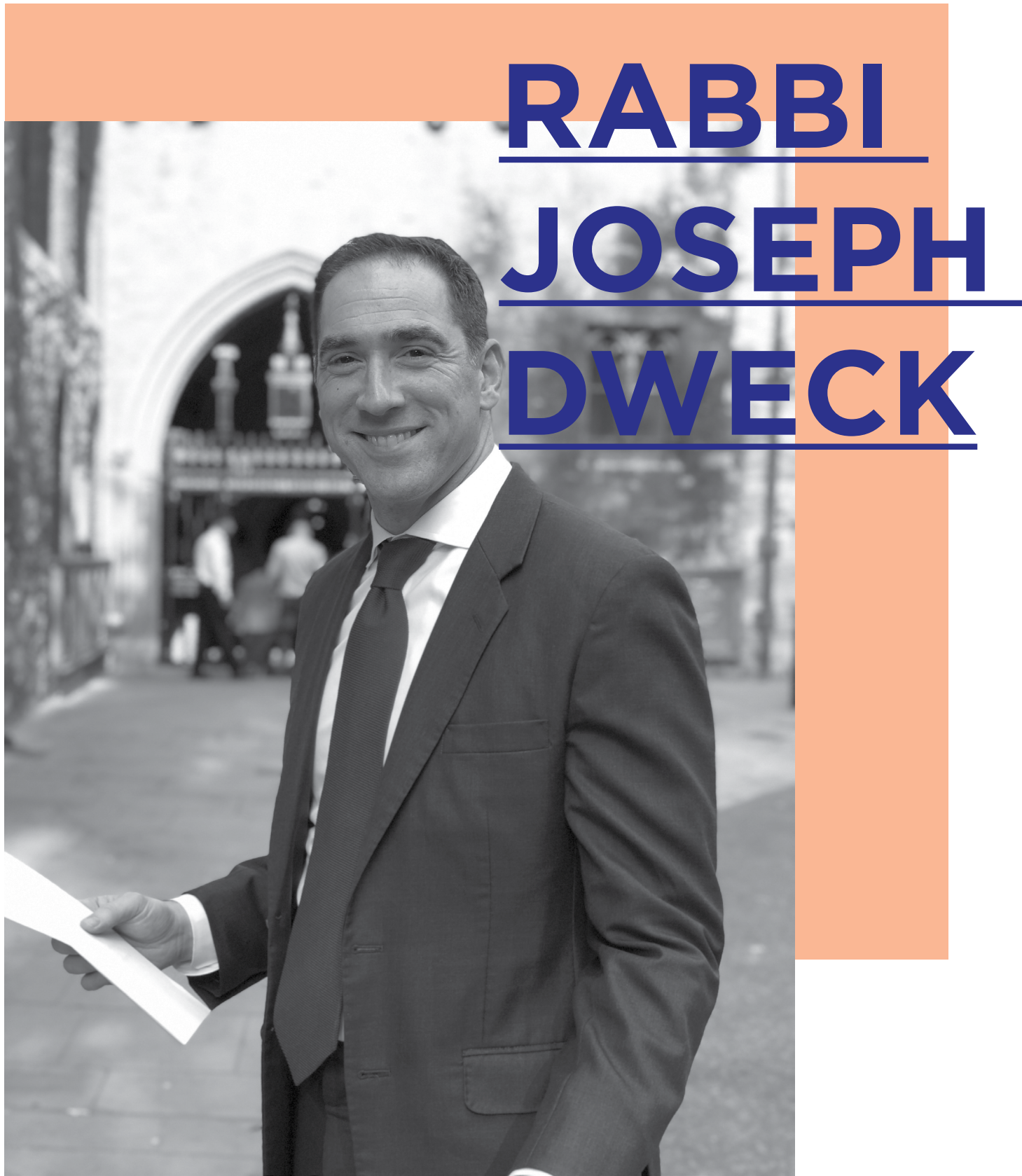
you, your families and all of Am Yisrael good health, strength and peace.

Marie van der Zyl

Marie van der Zyl
President



 **BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF
BRITISH JEWS**
ADVOCACY FOR THE COMMUNITY



RABBI JOSEPH DWECK

Senior Rabbi of the S&P
Sephardi Community
Born in Los Angeles
Senior Rabbi since 2014

1
WHAT WAS THE
MOMENT YOU DECIDED
TO BECOME A RABBI?

I never really had a moment that I decided to become a rabbi because I was never intending to be a rabbi. I studied the materials that you need to study to become a rabbi because I loved it but I wanted it for myself. It happened as a result of events. I took a temporary job filling in for a rabbi in a synagogue in Brooklyn and I ended up staying for sixteen years.

2
WHO
INSPIRES YOU?

Young people working hard to achieve great things and fulfil their potential. I am always deeply impressed and inspired by them.

3
WHAT IS YOUR
FAVOURITE THING
TO DO IN THE LITTLE
SPARE TIME YOU HAVE?

I love reading and I feel like I never have enough time to do it. One of my favourite things to do is lie back with an interesting book and read for a few hours. I read mostly non-fiction but every now and then there is nothing better than getting into a really good story and being able to lose yourself in it.

4
IF YOU COULD LIVE IN
ANOTHER TIME (ERA)
WHICH ONE WOULD
IT BE?

I would not want to live in any other time than the one we are living in right now.

5
IF YOU WERE A
SUPERHERO WHICH
SUPERPOWER WOULD
YOU LIKE TO HAVE?

Super speed, so I can get more done and get to places quicker.

6
IF YOU WERE NOT A
RABBI WHAT WOULD
YOU DO?

I would probably be involved in writing and directing films so either a director, screenwriter or producer.

THE S&P SEPHARDI PATRONS' AND SUPPORTERS' CIRCLE

The S&P Sephardi Community Patrons' Circle and Supporters' Circle programmes 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 programmes offer recognition and benefits to those involved and the opportunity to receive invitations to special events throughout the year.

THE PATRONS' CIRCLE

Those who have joined the Patrons' Circle have made a significant commitment or three years. It is for members and friends of the kahal who wish to us to widen and enhance our learning and education programmes, support our welfare work and preserve our unique heritage. Equally, contributions will help to maintain our facilities.

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

THE SUPPORTERS' 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 Supporters' 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.

S&P SEPHARDI COMMUNITY PATRONS' CIRCLE

GASTER PATRONS

Edward Azouz
Judy and David Dangoor
Joey Esfandi
Joyce and Edward Misrahi
Vivian and Michael Rahamim
The Sephardi Centre
All our Anonymous Gaster Patrons

GAON PATRONS

Lewis Cadji & family
Shirin and Michael Elghanayan
All our anonymous Gaon Patrons

S&P SEPHARDI COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS' CIRCLE

Linda and Frank Khalastchi
Khakshouri Family
Sabine and Jeremy Smouha
All our anonymous Supporters' Circle Donors

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 Patrons' Circle or Supporters' Circle for the forthcoming year. For further information, please contact patrons@sephardi.org.uk or supporterscircle@sephardi.org.uk

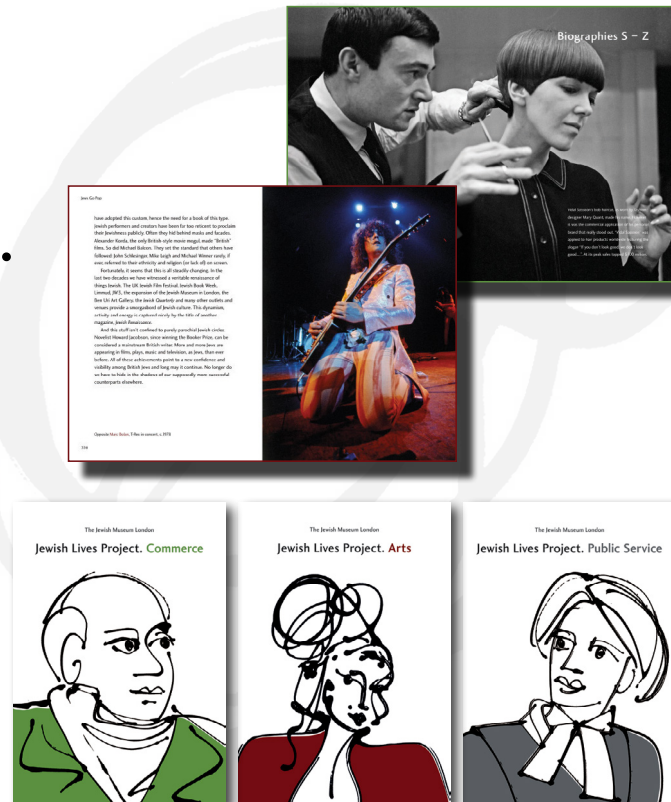
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THE WOLF OF BAGHDAD

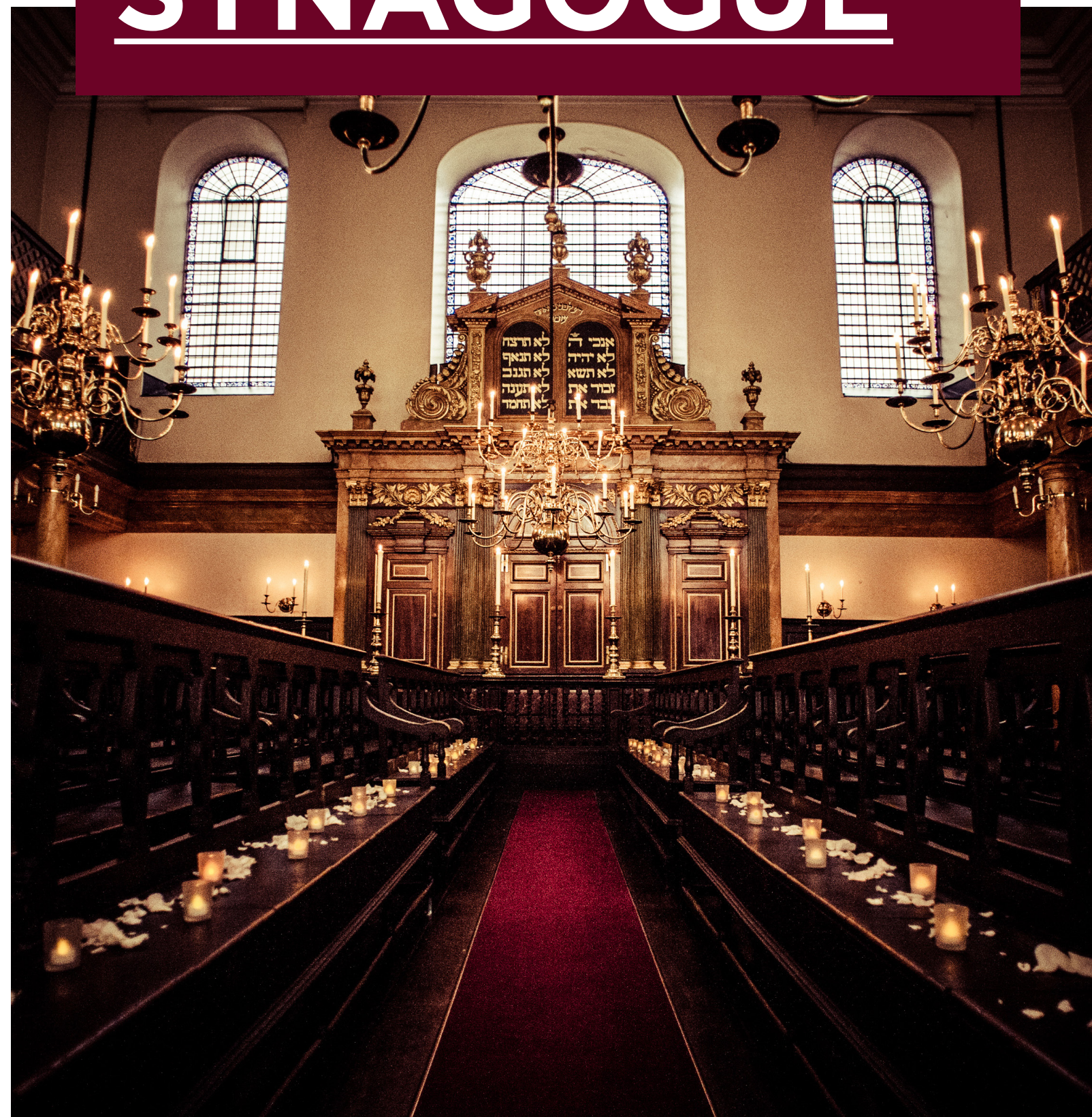
21 and 22 November

The Wolf of Baghdad is an audio-visual journey through a Jewish family's memories of their lost Iraqi homeland. Projections of the graphic memoir will be accompanied by a live band playing the music of Iraq and its Jews. Led by musician/artist Carol Isaacs AKA The Surreal McCoy and accompanied by the band 3yin.

Find out more at jw3.org.uk/baghdad

We look forward to seeing you soon, and wish you and your family a sweet and happy new year.

BEVIS MARKS SYNAGOGUE





RABBI SHALOM MORRIS

Rabbi of Bevis Marks Synagogue
Born in Harrisburg, PA
Rabbi since 2015

1
WHAT WAS THE
MOMENT YOU DECIDED
TO BECOME A RABBI?

It took me some time to decide to become a rabbi. I have many rabbis in my family (brother, father, two uncles, grandfather, great grandfather...all the way back to King David), and I grew up in a family deeply involved in communal leadership although I never intended to become a rabbi myself. However, During my time at university I became involved in teaching in synagogues across the United States, and I found that I really enjoyed working with people and strengthening Jewish communities. The rest is history.

2
WHO
INSPIRES YOU?

I'm inspired by kindness and devotion. Those qualities describe so many of the people at Bevis Marks who, whether through family heritage or personal choice, have worked to ensure that Jewish life at Bevis is maintained. And yet despite the challenges and stresses of such an endeavour, they remain remarkably focused on the most important things in Judaism: respect and kindness to each other.

3
WHAT IS YOUR
FAVOURITE THING
TO DO IN THE LITTLE
SPARE TIME YOU HAVE?

One of my favourite things to do is to get out of the city and enjoy nature. Since moving to the UK I've been introduced to rambling - walks through the countryside along centuries-old paths that cut across fields, estates, and villages. I love the fresh air, moving about, and seeing England in a completely different way.

4
IF YOU COULD LIVE IN
ANOTHER TIME (ERA)
WHICH ONE WOULD
IT BE?

At a time of growing intolerance I look to an age when the world seemed to be moving in the direction of greater understanding. The turn of the nineteenth century and the spirit of Humanism held out great hope for minorities and those less fortunate, and therefore for society in general. Of course we live in our own time, and must therefore always work to ensure that we never lose sight of the features that unite us more than those that divide us.

5
IF YOU WERE A
SUPERHERO WHICH
SUPERPOWER WOULD
YOU LIKE TO HAVE?

It might sound cliché but superpowers don't interest me. We do the best we can with the G-dly gifts we are given. We all have strengths and weaknesses, and so when we work together and help each other we can collectively achieve great things. That is the beauty of community and why compassion, mutual respect, support, and collaboration are the hallmarks of any successful enterprise, team, or congregation.

6
IF YOU WERE NOT A
RABBI WHAT WOULD
YOU DO?

Startup! Product development! While being the rabbi of a historic synagogue would seem to be the opposite of that, so much of what we do at the Bevis of today draws on these same ambitions as we work to revitalise our remarkable community.



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- Male infertility
- Cancer fertility preservation
- Intimacy issues
- Early pregnancy concerns
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BEVIS MARKS COMMITTEE

The year 5778 has been an exciting one for Bevis Marks, filled with special Shabbats, lectures and events attended by an ever growing number of worshippers and guests.

New people continue to come to our beautiful synagogue thanks largely to Rabbi Shalom Morris and his lectures, meetings and general outreach to city professionals and students. This is not simply due to growth in membership numbers or attendance to events, but also includes young professionals and students becoming increasingly regular worshippers during our weekday, Shabbat and Holiday services. Rabbi Morris's knowledge of the musical minhag continues to grow ever stronger and we are beginning to see the results of his focus on the sustainable growth of our Kahal and the conservation of our heritage and values.

We are also lucky to have the lasting support of our team of lay readers, continuing their great effort in keeping our services running to a standard of which we are proud. Repeat visitors frequently mention that the high musical standard is one of the reasons why they keep coming back to Bevis Marks. This year we have also enjoyed hearing the excellent hazanut of Philip Maurice and Nachson Rodrigues Pereira of Amsterdam who visited on Tisha B'Ab. We had the pleasure of listening to the unique melodies in the synagogue which was draped in black and illuminated by candlelight.

Rabbi Dweck's Shabbat visits to Bevis Marks are a source of inspiration and a strong attraction for everybody, as are his regular lectures. We are also grateful to him for reading the book of Esther, and his inspiring stewarding of the congregation.

Bevis Marks continues to be popular with visitors. Schools, walking tours, synagogue groups, colleges, universities, U3A groups, National Trust members and guests from all over the world have visited the synagogue. Open House continues to be a very successful event with plenty of visitors passing through

the door. At the most recent Open House, numbers were so high that people were asked to wait due to lack of space inside.

The community is grateful to Maurice Bitton for keeping the building at a very high level of maintenance and for welcoming large numbers of visitors to the oldest synagogue in continuous use in the country, if not in Europe, or even in the world.

We look forward to the year ahead and to continuing with our goal of safeguarding the synagogue as a dynamic place of worship.

PERMISSION TO TRANSMIT IS GRANTED

In April 2017 the S&P Sephardi Community was gratified and proud to receive, after a competitively run campaign, a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £221,100 towards its substantial plans for a once in a generation project at Bevis Marks.

This multi-faceted project aims to achieve many long-held objectives, starting with the creation of a contemporary and comprehensive educational programme to attract young professionals, new and established members of the synagogue, people of the City and indeed all Londoners who love to learn and acquire knowledge.

Most important are plans to display appropriately some of the priceless heritage collections and unique treasures housed by Bevis Marks bringing to life the rich and complex history of the S&P Sephardi Community in London, from the 17th century through to the present day.

There will be some restoration work in the form of additional lighting in the synagogue, famously known for the hundreds of candles resting in glorious original candelabras which have historically lit the interior, creating a unique ethereal atmosphere. However, there will be no major changes to the synagogue's internal structure. We will be creating level access to the annex so it can be used for schools, tourists and general visitors - all groups whose footfall we want to increase significantly.

The space available is limited and it is proving a challenge for our architects to fit everything in - although we have no doubt they will rise to the occasion - and historians everywhere can rest assured that anything new will be introduced showing the greatest integrity towards the original architecture.

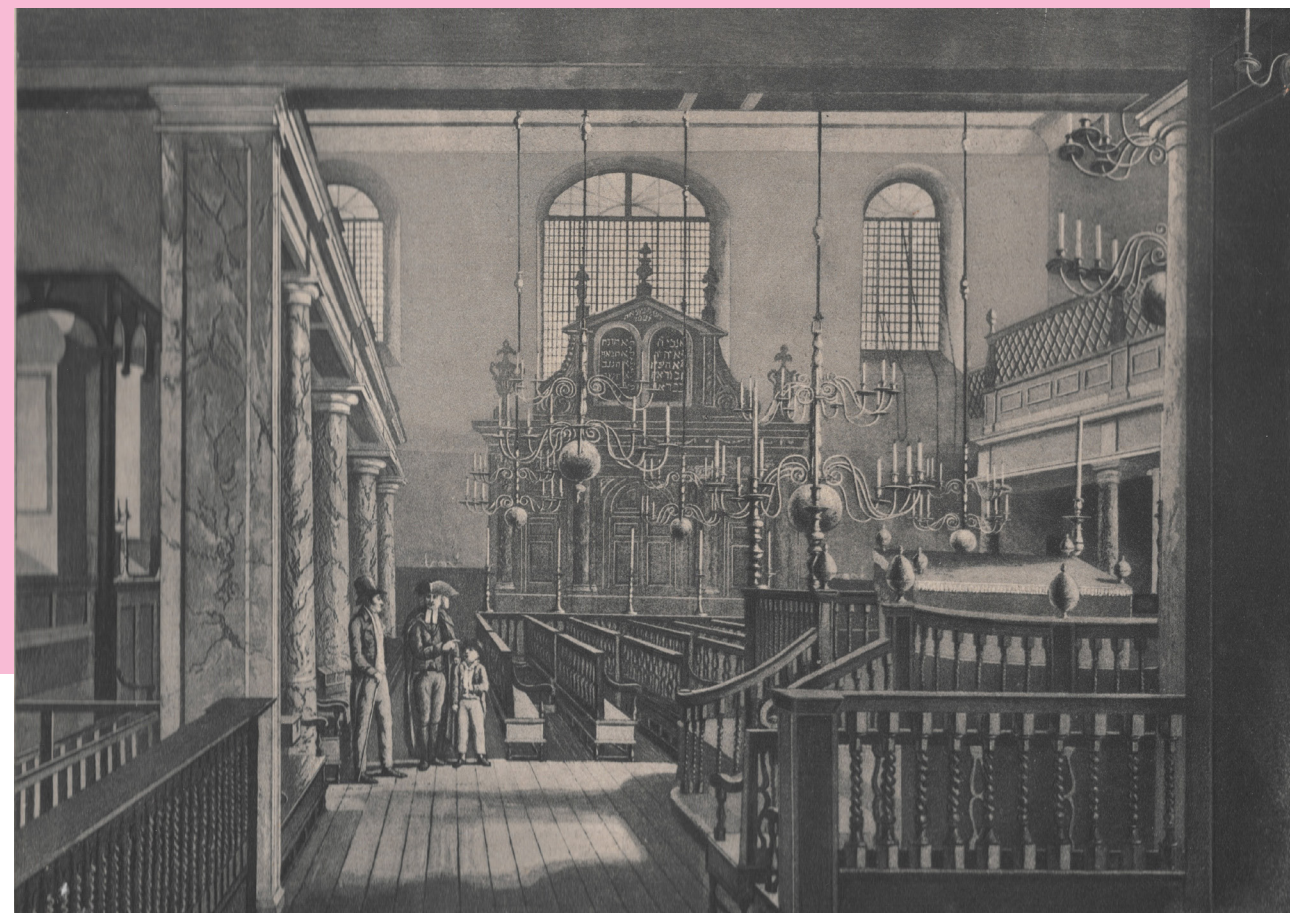
The primary aim is to ensure that Bevis Marks

has long term financial sustainability so it can move seamlessly into the future, secure in the knowledge that it can continue to be a pivotal historic site and of course a place of continuous worship, as it has been for the past 300 years.

We are hoping to submit our second round application to the Heritage Lottery Fund in December but before that, in light of the fact that the HLF grant was intended only to part-fund the project, we need to fundraise for the remaining money required to fully deliver the project. We are actively working on this together with those who appreciate Bevis Marks as a heritage site of deep and lasting significance not only to the Jewish community and the City of London, but to the cultural world as a whole.

Thank you to all those who took part in the consultation on the Conservation Plan and the Interpretation Plan completed earlier this year, taking great commitment and hard work from everyone involved. We will be continuing our consultations over the summer and into the autumn. Everyone will be invited - we are always pleased to hear feedback and input.

Do you have any historic photos of Bevis Marks? We are looking for photographs of Bevis Marks and its congregation to feature in the exhibition boards or film. So far we have been unable to find many photographs in the synagogue's archives or libraries, so we are asking for your help. If you have any photographs of you or your family, particularly historic images, and would be willing to allow them to be considered for featuring in the new exhibition then please get in touch with Catherine Morton: Catherine.morton@mail.com. Photographs could have been taken inside or outside the synagogue, while attending a service or celebrating a festival, wedding, bar mitzvah or other life event.



The S&P Sephardi community
Welfare Board

A HELPING HAND TO ALL SEPHARDIM

Since the 17th century the Synagogue has helped those less fortunate in the community. There are still those who need our help - with grants at Rosh Hashana and Pesach, holiday schemes for children and essential household items. We also give grants towards winter fuel bills.

We are very grateful to our donors' generosity which makes possible a positive change to many lives. Please help as much as you can.

A donation can be made online: [Sephardi.org.uk](https://sephardi.org.uk)
or by phone: 0207 432 1305.

the
S&PHARDI
community ק"ק שער השמים

Registered Charity no. 230824

SEPHARDI LONDON WALKING TOUR



CREECHURCH LANE



Following the 1290 expulsion, London's first openly-Jewish inhabitants arrived in secret. They were conversos - Iberian people whose ancestors were converted from Judaism to Christianity - who settled in London in the 1650s to engage in trade. When Spain and England went to war in 1656, all Spanish vessels docked in the port of London were seized. One ship owner, Antonio Carvajal, argued that he wasn't truly Spanish because he was a Jew. Amazingly, even though Jews weren't technically permitted in England either, his vessel was returned to him. He took this as an indication that England was now a place where Jews could pray freely. He therefore rented space on Creechurch Lane and set up the First Synagogue of the Readmission.

BURY ST

According to synagogue records, following a visit of curiosity to the synagogue, it was on this street that Princess Anne (later Queen Anne) visited the home of the congregation's parnas for kiddush.

BEVIS MARKS SYNAGOGUE

In the late 18th century, the community continued to grow with new Sephardim arriving from Amsterdam, Hamburg and Portugal. Soon they outgrew their prayer space and embarked on constructing England's first purpose-built synagogue. They completed it in 1701, just before Rosh Hashanah. Today it is the world's longest continuously worshipping synagogue.

DUKE'S PLACE



Ashkenazim also began to settle in London. At first they attended the synagogue on Creechurch Lane. However, their numbers grew enough that they were able to establish their own congregation in 1690 on Duke's Place. In 1730 they built their own synagogue in that location which became known as London's Great Synagogue. Unfortunately, it was severely damaged in the Blitz and ultimately demolished.

ALDGATE HIGH ST

From this vantage point you can see the three epochs of Anglo Jewry. Straight ahead is Jewry St, site of Medieval Jewry's home. To the left is the East End, the home of Ashkenazi Jewry in the 19th and 20th centuries. And to the right is the City of London, the home of Sephardi Jewry in the 17th and 18th Centuries.

THE HAMBRO SYNAGOGUE

The Ashkenazi community split into two in 1707. The second congregation was established by Ashkenazim from Hamburg who ultimately established their synagogue on this location, now a Pizza Express. It remained an independent congregation until 1923 when it merged back into the United Synagogue.

PEPYS



On this street lived Samuel Pepys. In fact upon his death he was buried in the crypt of the church at the end of the street. Pepys is important for the history of the Sephardim. He visited the synagogue on Creechurch Lane and described the way the Jews were dressed for prayer, and the commotion of the Simhat Torah service. This was in 1663, the year before the community wrote its Ascamot (rules) and when the community's first rabbi, Hadam Yakob Sasportas, arrived. From that point onward the services became more carefully regulated according to the Western Sephardi tradition (minhag).

WATERFRONT

Our stop along the waterfront is important because the River Thames provided the livelihood of the early Sephardim. Mainly international merchants, their goods arrived along this thoroughfare from all over the Mediterranean and Atlantic. This brought great wealth to these merchants, though most of the community lived in poverty and were, in turn, supported by the finta (community income tax) of the wealthy.

MONUMENT



The 1666 Great Fire of London was a significant event for all of London's residents. However, it was particularly important for London's Sephardim. The Jewish area around Creechurch Lane was spared from the westerly-moving blaze, and therefore Jews in Medieval times would probably have been blamed for the fire. The fact that they were not showed that London had become a safe haven for Jews. In fact, while the community's yehidim suffered significant financial losses, the community prevailed, and even contributed funds to the rebuilding of St Paul's Cathedral.

EXCHANGE ALLEY

This alley was the location of many of London's coffee shops where merchants would engage in trade. Sephardim frequented this area, making deals to offload their newly arrived goods. Soon London would construct its Royal Exchange nearby, a place where people called 'stock jobbers' could trade shares in companies. Twelve Jews were permitted to participate, amongst them a young Moses Montefiore.

MANSION HOUSE



While Jews were eventually permitted to settle and trade in London, at first they were unable to assume public office as the oath of office was a Christian oath. This began to change in 1835 when the Ashkenazi David Salomons was elected Sheriff of the City of London (Sir Moses was elected to this post the following year). In 1855 he became the first Jewish Lord Mayor of London, making his home in Mansion House. In Salomons won a seat in Parliament in 1851, however, he was not permitted to govern on account of his refusal to recite Parliament's Christian oath of office. The oath finally changed in 1858 and that year Lionel Rothschild became the first openly professing Jew to sit in Parliament. It took two hundred years, but Jews finally achieved full emancipation.

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the
S&PHARDI
community ק"ק שער הטהמים

LAUDERDALE ROAD SYNAGOGUE



RABBI ISRAEL ELIA

Rabbi of Lauderdale Road
Synagogue
Born in Djerba, Tunisia
Rabbi since 1982

1
WHAT WAS THE
MOMENT YOU DECIDED
TO BECOME A RABBI?

2
WHO
INSPIRES YOU?

3
WHAT IS YOUR
FAVOURITE THING
TO DO IN THE LITTLE
SPARE TIME YOU HAVE?

4
IF YOU COULD LIVE IN
ANOTHER TIME (ERA)
WHICH ONE WOULD
IT BE?

5
IF YOU WERE A
SUPERHERO WHICH
SUPERPOWER WOULD
YOU LIKE TO HAVE?

6
IF YOU WERE NOT A
RABBI WHAT WOULD
YOU DO?

I do not think there was a moment. It was a process from part-time to partial commitment. I was teaching some classes as a student then became a youth leader and it grew into a full-time job. I cannot say I was yearning or always wanting to be a rabbi. I fell into it by accident.

It's important to learn from everybody and to benefit from any experience. You should be willing to learn from a great person, a less great person, a humble person: everybody has something to offer. If we look carefully we can discover wonderful things about people, about their deeds and actions. Sometimes you can learn quite a lot from the least obvious people. Just be prepared to listen and learn and keep an open mind. I admire a lot of people. Can I say one in particular? I can give you a long list but one person? Not really.

A long time ago I used to like drawing believe it or not. That was something I enjoyed doing. I speak few language so I like keeping in touch with the world with more than just one language. It's very restrictive if you just listen to one broadcast or one news bulletin. You have a limited view of things. In my case I would listen to the Arabic and Hebrew bulletin. If I have time it's nice to be more informed. It's always wonderful to have some spare time for reading and to keep up with what's happening. To follow a book properly I have to divide it into many sessions. I also like listening to lectures online because attending them is almost impossible with my timetable. Studying is extremely important. It is the most enjoyable thing you can do if you have proper slots. To find time to study is a priority because if you stop studying you go stale.

There is no better time than now. What's gone is gone and you have no control of what is coming in the future. Anything can happen. We should embrace the opportunity of here and now. At least you can do your best with what you have now and build as much as you can in order to make the immediate future better.

Superpower is such a debatable thing: What is superpower? What makes people powerful? Is it strength, wealth? I think the most important power is knowledge - being knowledgeable, having excellent observation skills so you can read a situation correctly, interpret it and have an answer. Being able to predict what action to take to heal the world or to make it better would be a superpower farmore powerful than having an unlimited amount of money to rectify a situation. The world and world affairs are very complicated. There are amazing people out there but they can't crack certain problems. Can you imagine if there was someone incredibly powerful in their ability to make predictions? The benefit is endless.

I would work either in advertising or catering.



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the
S&PHARDI
community ק"ק שער השמים

LAUDERDALE ROAD COMMITTEE

5778 has been quite a busy and enjoyable year for the Lauderdale Road Committee. Our Hagim went well and putting up a marquee in the forecourt for Succot guaranteed that the Succah did not leak for once! The Festivals culminated with our Shabbat Bereshit celebrations. As usual, a beautiful choral service was held in the synagogue under the direction of Adam Musikant after which ninety-two congregants had dinner in the Montefiore Hall with Jonathan Djanogly MP as guest of honour.

The committee has been active in holding Shabbat lunches for families with younger children. The lunches are regular, but the standout events were those held just before Chanukah and Purim.

Purim also saw two readings of the Megillat Esther, our communal reading in the main synagogue and a women's reading in the Dangoor synagogue. Afterwards, one hundred and twenty members braved the snow and ice to celebrate with Shashlik and Suzanne Magnus' famous hot punch.

Our Pesach matzah ramble was foiled yet again by the weather this year. However, we will definitely make another attempt next year.

In May, we were delighted to help Rabbi Elia with his hosting of the wonderful Israeli soldier dog handlers who were with us as part of Metiv's Peace of Mind programme. We had a rota for cooking and serving them lunch for the week. We very much look forward to helping again next year.

At the end of May the women in our community undertook a moonwalk for Kisharon. It was held on a night of driving rain, thunder and lightning and was definitely not a pleasant experience. However, through generous sponsorship, we managed to raise just over £600 for the charity.

In June we made a visit to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford when Rachel Abrams took us to view some of the exhibits she wrote about in her book *The Jewish*

Journey: 4000 years in 22 objects. In the afternoon, we enjoyed an interesting walk around Jewish Oxford, led by Blue Badge guide Victoria Bentata.

The synagogue was again adorned with stunning flowers for Shavuot, which made our celebrations all the sweeter.

We are now planning for a full and exciting 5779 and are thrilled to welcome our three new youth leaders, Tom, Saul and Jason, who start work in August. They are promising many new and fulfilling activities for our young people from which they will all undoubtedly benefit.

Finally, at the moment we are a small committee and we would be delighted to welcome new people who could contribute to the work we do for the congregation. It is an opportunity to meet new friends and get involved with hands-on activities that benefit everyone.

Barbara Simon

Chair, Lauderdale Road Committee



PEACE OF MIND – ISRAELI VISIT TO LAUDERDALE ROAD

By David Dwek

For a week in early May, Lauderdale Road was privileged to host a group of exceptional young men in their early thirties who had served in the Israeli army for the mandatory period. This is the second year that Rabbi Elia has led the effort to raise the necessary funding and to encourage seven host families amongst our community to participate in the programme. Our group was part of Oketz, the independent canine special forces various IDF units. Thirteen soldiers joined us in London together with professional counsellors.

Peace of Mind is a unique and successful programme that has been successfully developed by METIV, a Herzliya-based organisation, for analysing extreme experiences and the treatment of post trauma. It provides a pathway for men and women who have served a minimum of three years in high risk combat units of the IDF. More than sixty groups have attended the nine-month programme including one-week intensive sessions in Europe, US or Canada, hosted by local synagogues and their members. There are over 100 former combat units (1500 soldiers) currently waiting to join the programme.

The key purpose of the visit was the daily group session with the professionals to allow the participants to discuss their experiences in detail in a safe environment with their colleagues. Families typically hosted 2-3 participants and arranged breakfast and some evening meals. There were also several group dinners together with all participants including one night hosted by Audrey & Michael Dangoor as well as a special Friday night dinner in the Montefiore Hall.

We learnt about the unit and the special training the

soldiers received. Most interestingly we obtained an insight into the close relationship that developed between the soldiers and their Belgian Shepherds during training. It was fascinating to learn how the soldiers direct and collaborate with their dogs to the benefit of various IDF units in a variety of situations. This also led to strong emotions when the soldier and the dog were separated at the end of the military service. One soldier mentioned that it was as hard as breaking up with a girlfriend!

One of the highlights of the week for the participants was the trip to Wembley Stadium to watch Tottenham Hotspur beat Newcastle 1-0 in the Premier League. This was an exciting experience for everyone, although the soldiers had to learn to drink a pint of beer very quickly before kick-off!

We had some very sporty members in the group which meant gym sessions at the Primrose Hill outdoor gym every morning at 06:45 before a hearty breakfast and a brisk walk to Lauderdale Road for 08:30.

We were all delighted to have acted as hosts, and all the families built a close bond with their soldiers who would regularly call us “Abba and Imma”. The experience also helped to bring members of the Lauderdale Road community closer together through our shared experience.

We hope that in a small way we have been able to assist these special young men.

NOTES FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL ARCHIVES

By Miriam Rodrigues-Pereira, Honorary Archivist

Burials at the Velho Cemetery

On Monday 18 March 1689 an American writer, Judge Samuel Sewell of Boston, went to see the 'Jews Burying Place at Mile End' i.e. the Velho (old) Cemetery. He recorded that "some Bodies were laid East to West but now all are ordered to be laid North and South. There were many tombs and engravings were in Hebrew, Latin [Portuguese?], Spanish and English sometimes on the same stone. Part of the ground is improved as a garden. The dead are carried through the Keeper's house. I told the Keeper afterwards I wish't [we] might meet in Heaven he answered 'and drink a glass of Beer' as we were then doing."

Destitute Children

In July 1819, Haham Meldola intervened having been informed that 'for extreme need three sons

of Ishac de Joseph Nunes Martines were taken into the workhouse. To keep them there was against our Holy Law and disgraceful. In view of the urgency of the case the Mahamad authorised the Samas [Shamash] to procure some person to take care of the children at a price not exceeding 4 shillings a week each. It appearing that the said children were full of disease and naked, 20 shillings was allowed to purchase 'cloathing' for them under the care of our assistant Samas Abraham Lyon.

No Railings

In January 1875 a request from Mr Michael de Pass on behalf of the family of David Morales to have rails put round his tomb was refused as being contrary to Ascama.



FIDDLER ON THE ROOF JR.

In June 2018 the S&P Sephardi Youth Theatre held their second production. This time our talented and enthusiastic children performed Fiddler on the Roof under the dedicated directorship of Melanie Garson and Jack Ferro.

Seeing the progress made by the children from their first rehearsal to their final performance of this wonderful production was really extraordinary. In both spoken and singing roles the children came to understand their characters and this enabled them to give such compelling performances. However, this did not come about by chance but by numerous rehearsals, repetitive practice and the unswerving support from parents ferrying their children to and from rehearsals. Our children worked really hard but

also had lots of fun during the rehearsals, aided by a plentiful supply of pizzas!

The enthusiasm from the cast and audience has already encouraged Melanie to plan for her next production.

We felt that the proceeds should go to the same children's charity as last year, Zichron Menachem, which supports children with cancer in Israel and their families.



WEMBLEY SYNAGOGUE

Wembley Synagogue | 41



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RABBI DANNY KADA



Rabbi of Wembley Synagogue
Born in London
Rabbi since 2014

1
WHAT WAS THE
MOMENT YOU DECIDED
TO BECOME A RABBI?

Well, if you're looking for a magic moment, I never experienced it! The truth is, my route into the rabbinate wasn't really my own decision but actually G-d's! I've always had a love for learning and teaching Torah and serving the community but I never really thought this passion would be manifested in the role of a community Rabbi. However, almost five years ago, having just moved back from studying in Israel, we spent a Shabbat with my wife's grandmother who lives in Wembley, a few minutes away from the synagogue. 'Coincidentally' the regular minister wasn't there for Shabbat and I was asked to read the Parasha. Once I finished the Parasha, I was asked to speak, which I did. Just a few months later I received a phone call from the Chairman informing me that the current minister was retiring and asking if I would be interested in the position. The rest is history!

2
WHO
INSPIRES YOU?

My wife certainly inspires me! Rambam continues to fascinate and inspire me. What inspires me is, firstly, his ability to synthesise a life dedicated to learning and practicing Torah together with his professional career. Secondly, despite living in the 13th century his teachings are still so pertinent to our generation. Thirdly, his proficiency and erudition in such a wide range of subjects including Halacha, theology, philosophy, astrology, medicine etc. In more recent times, the Dean of the institution where I studied to become a rabbi, Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu, alav hashalom, former Chief Rabbi of Israel, was a great inspiration to me. His funeral was attended by over 100,000 people from all strands of Judaism and attested to the way he loved and cared for every Jew that he came across, regardless of their affiliation.

3
WHAT IS YOUR
FAVOURITE THING
TO DO IN THE LITTLE
SPARE TIME YOU HAVE?

Spare time? What's that? Apart from being an avid reader, I love jogging in Hampstead Heath in the morning. My father is a strong believer in jogging being vital for a healthy mind. And a healthy mind means a healthy body. We need to be in good shape to serve our communities in a positive fashion!

4
IF YOU COULD LIVE IN
ANOTHER TIME (ERA)
WHICH ONE WOULD
IT BE?

The Garden of Eden before Adam sinned! I hope I would have done things differently! To be honest, I think this is the best era to live in. With all the advances we have today in science, technology and medicine, I can't really think of living in a different era. Of course, access to so much information creates more challenges, but life is about standing up to challenges, not hiding from them.

5
IF YOU WERE A
SUPERHERO WHICH
SUPERPOWER WOULD
YOU LIKE TO HAVE?

Not needing to sleep! Life is too short and there is too much to learn and do.

6
IF YOU WERE NOT A
RABBI WHAT WOULD
YOU DO?

Definitely a doctor. My father was a doctor and I have a great admiration for those working in the medical field.



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WEMBLEY COMMITTEE

I am pleased to report that 5778 has been an eventful year at Wembley!

Immediately following the busy Hagim we celebrated Shabbat UK in October with a full day of activities. We were pleased to welcome two guests for the Shabbat, Rabbi Amram Nemeth of Naima JPS and the Montefiore Endowment, and Dr Elisha Kahen of Hendon. The entire service – Shahrit, Musaph and the Parasha – was read beautifully by the youth of our community. The teenagers also gave some fascinating presentations on 'What G-d means to Me'. Rabbi Nemeth gave a talk and conducted a play about the Balfour Declaration. Dr Kahen gave a talk about the challenges Orthodox doctors face in keeping Shabbat. The programme was attended by over seventy people and was thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees.

For Mitzvah Day in November, our children's choir, comprising sixteen boys and girls, sang Shabbat songs to the residents of Choice House. Chanukah was celebrated with a fun party for the children at the home of the Kada family.

2018 began with a spectacular fruit Kiddush celebrating TuBishvat which was followed a few short weeks later by Purim. People made the effort to get to shul through the snow and there was a fantastic atmosphere in the synagogue with the children (and some adults!) dressed in fancy dress and a sumptuous banquet, fit for a king, following the reading of the Megillah.

We were delighted that Rabbi Dweck visited us on the Shabbat closest to Yom Ha'atzmaut and joined with us to celebrate 70 years since the birth of the State of Israel. The service was followed by an Israeli-style luncheon enjoyed by one and all.

After Pesach we held a nutrition evening and were pleased to invite Dr Michelle Braude who gave much-needed nutrition advice after the indulgences of the festival! More recently we held an art evening where Mrs. Betina Caro, a member of our Kahal and a professional artist, inspired members to create some beautiful paintings.

The jewel in our crown every year is our BBQ. Unusually this year we were concerned that the weather might be too hot! Nonetheless, we managed to create some shade so that everyone could sit comfortably whilst they enjoyed the sausages, burgers and a nice glass of Pimms. The children were entertained making sand cocktails and having their hair plaited.

As well as these wonderful events, we have also run some very good educational series this year. Rabbi Kada has been giving a series entitled Maimoides: 13 Principles of Faith which have been very well attended. The series is now at Principle 6 and will continue into next year. Rabbi Dweck has also given two talks entitled 'Adar and Happiness' and 'Succot and the Sadness of Happiness'. We also continue to join with KKW5 for their weekly talks and films.

Perhaps our most successful educational series this year was 'Innovative Jewish Women through the Ages'. This involved ten women in our community giving talks on ten different women – four biblical, three from the Middle Ages and three modern women. For some women, it was the first time they had given a talk and so they were understandably nervous but all acquitted themselves very well. Indeed, the series was so successful that although it was originally only intended for women, the men were soon begging to be allowed to come as well!

With the High Holidays fast approaching we have much to look forward to in the coming months at Wembley. We look forward to welcoming Philip Maurice and Amos Haddad over the Yamim Noraim. Succot will be celebrated with a Sushi Kiddush in our Succah and we will be having a Winter Wonderland Melava Malka as well as our famous bingo evening.

Julia Cushnir
Co-Chair Wembley Committee

THE ROSH HASHANAH SEDER

The Rosh Hashanah Seder is a special ceremony we perform at home on the nights of Rosh Hashanah during which we recite blessings over a variety of foods which symbolise our hopes and desires for the year ahead.

We begin by gathering a range of fruits and vegetables that are specifically chosen because their Hebrew names relate to other Hebrew words, each of which conveys our wishes for the coming year. We recite a prayer over each of these symbolic foods, while holding the food in the right hand, following which the food is eaten.

After reciting Kiddush, washing, and breaking bread, the following foods are eaten:

תמרים DATES

From the Hebrew word תם—to end.

Take a date and recite the normal blessing over fruit which will then cover all the other fruits you eat subsequently:

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם בורא פרי העץ

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the tree.

After eating the date, take another one and say the words that the food symbolises for us:

יהי רצון מלפניך ה' אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו, שיתמו אויבינו ושונאינו וכל מבקשי רעתנו

May it be Your will, L-rd our G-d and the G-d of our fathers, that there come an end to our enemies, haters and those who wish evil upon us.

לובי/לובי' BLACK EYED BEANS

From the Hebrew words רב—many, and לב—heart.

Before we carry on with the blessings over our symbolic foods, we first eat a piece of banana. It is not actually a part of the Seder but a question of a technical halachic issue.

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם בורא פרי האדמה

Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the earth.

Then, take a bean and recite the following:

יהי רצון מלפניך ה' אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו, שיערבו זכיותינו וזלזולנו

May it be Your will, L-rd our G-d and the G-d of our fathers, that our merits shall increase and that You hearten us.

כרתי LEEK

From the Hebrew word כרת—to cut.

יהי רצון מלפניך ה' אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו, שיכרתו אויבינו ושונאינו וכל מבקשי רעתנו

May it be Your will, L-rd our G-d and the G-d of our fathers, that our enemies, haters, and those who wish evil upon us shall be cut down.

BEETS BEETS

From the Hebrew word סלק—to depart.

Take a beet and say:

יהי רצון מלפניך ה' אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו, שישתלקו אויבינו ושונאינו וכל מבקשי רעתנו

May it be Your will, L-rd our G-d and the G-d of our fathers, that our enemies, haters and those who wish evil upon us shall depart.

GOURD קרא

From the Hebrew word קרע—to rip apart, and also קרא—to announce.

Take a gourd and say:

יהי רצון מלפניך ה' אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו, שתקרע רוע גזר דיננו, ונקראו לפניך זכיותינו

May it be Your will, L-rd our G-d and the G-d of our fathers, that the evil of our verdicts be ripped, and that our merits be announced before you.

POMEGRANATE רימון

Take a pomegranate and say:

יהי רצון מלפניך ה' אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו, שנהיה מלאים מצות כרמון

May it be Your will, L-rd our G-d and the G-d of our fathers, that we be filled with mitzvot like a pomegranate [is filled with seeds].

APPLE AND HONEY תפוח בדבש

Take an apple cooked with sugar, dipped in honey:

יהי רצון מלפניך ה' אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו, שתחדש עלינו שנה טובה ומתוקה כדבש

May it be Your will, L-rd our G-d and the G-d of our fathers, that You renew for us a good year, sweet like honey.

RAM'S HEAD ראש כבש

(Or fish head)

יהי רצון מלפניך ה' אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו, שנהיה לראש ולא לזנב

May it be Your will, Lord our G-d and the G-d of our fathers, that we be a head and not a tail.

(The following is added only over the head of a ram:

ותזכר לנו עמדתו ואילו של יצחק אבינו בן אברהם אבינו עליהם השלום

...And You shall remember for us the binding and the ram of our forefather Isaac, the son of our forefather Abraham, peace be upon them.)

Here are a few delicious recipes for the Rosh Hashanah Seder. Enjoy this very special holiday and we wish you and your family only the best for the year ahead!

CHARD PANCAKES

Ingredients:

A bunch of chard leaves
2 eggs
3 tbsp flour
½ tsp baking powder
Salt and pepper to taste
Dill to taste
1 tsp sugar (optional)
Oil for frying

Method:

Wash the leaves well, check for insects, then shred the leaves into small pieces. Mix all the ingredients well together in a bowl. Heat oil in a frying pan and once heated add half the batter. Cook on both sides on medium heat until the pancakes are cooked on both sides. (It may help to use a plate to flip it over).



LEEK PANCAKES

Ingredients:

4 medium leeks
2 eggs
3 tbsp flour
½ tsp baking powder
Salt and pepper to taste
Dill to taste
1 tsp sugar (optional)
Oil for frying

Method:

Remove dark green part of the leek, wash well, check for insects, and cut into small pieces. Mix all the ingredients well together in a bowl. Heat oil in a frying pan and once heated add half the batter. Cook on both sides on medium heat until the pancakes are cooked on both sides. (It may help to use a plate to flip it over).



BLACK EYED BEANS (LUBIYA/RUBIA)

Ingredients:

Black eyed beans
1 chopped onion
1 tbsp honey
Ground cumin to taste
Turmeric to taste
Salt
Oil for frying

Method:

Heat a little oil in a deep saucepan and fry the chopped onion until golden brown. Add the black eyed beans, season with honey and spices, add water, bring to a boil and cook for a long time on low heat until the water is dried and golden.



GOURD JAM (DADU)

Ingredients:

One gourd
½ cup water
½ cup sugar
2 tbsp honey
Drop of lemon

Method:

Shred the gourd. In a small pot bring the water, sugar and honey to a boil and stir. When the syrup is ready add in the gourd and simmer until cooked for approximately 10 mins.



KOSHER SUMMER DINING AT ITS FINEST

Times are changing, the world is changing, and the landscape of kosher food is changing too. No-one knows that better than JW3, and they've always ensured that Zest is constantly at the forefront of the restaurant game.

Following the wildly successful pop-up Zest in Bevis Marks, it makes sense that the flagship restaurant would eventually follow suit and deliver a meaty menu. The restaurant has undergone some big changes this summer, and with the full support of the Sephardi Kashrut Authority, they have changed the layout of Zest to serve meaty dishes while simultaneously keeping the café milky, under Glatt certification. Dayan David, the Rosh Beth Din confirmed their status as *"the highest standard of Kashrut Le'mehadrin"* and wished the restaurant manager "great success" with the new venture. It's a first for the kosher London scene, and offers diners the opportunity to enjoy a milky snack with their first rate salads, or sit down to a fuller meaty meal.

The interiors have had a makeover as well, and the food is no longer the only element of the dining experience that promises a real taste of modern Israeli culture. Inspired by the vegetation and international architecture of Rothschild Boulevard in Tel Aviv, the restaurant now features a striking four metre ficus which dominates the restaurant foreground and sets an impressive scene.

ZEST | 341-351 Finchley Road, London, NW3 6ET | www.zestatjw3.co.uk | 020 7433 8955



The menu concept has had a facelift, and instead of traditional courses, diners are now offered a sharing menu of smaller dishes, still retaining their Middle Eastern influence and the promise of a real taste of Modern Israeli cooking.

Among the stand-out dishes in the new menu are a few real stars that offer a palette of tastes you'd be hard pushed to find in another kosher eatery. The chicken with date molasses, almond and laffa started life in the Zest Syrian pop up restaurant and sold over 700 portions in 5 days. It's been refined here, and inspired by rich Moroccan tagines, the chicken is served in a flash marinade of zingy freshly squeezed orange juice, date molasses and soy sauce.

The bream chraime takes all the Sephardi tradition of a slow cooked tomato stew (it takes 8 hours to prepare), adding monks beard and samphire to lift the dish with texture and a marine savouriness. But as for the challah bread pudding – you'll have to try it to believe how good it is.

THE SEPHARDI KASHRUT AUTHORITY, SKA

There are several kashrut authorities in the UK and perhaps the SKA is the smallest. It was originally set up to serve the Spanish and Portuguese community, but has since broadened its outlook. Unlike other Kashrut authorities, the SKA is offering something different.

While others supervise thousands of products and dozens of caterers and restaurants, the SKA concentrates on a smaller number, with which it has more personal contact and input. Its main endeavour is to bring kashrut to the wider community.

Being a non-profit organisation, it works tirelessly to search out products and companies that will enhance the life of all observant Jews. At the same time standards of Halacha and supervision are maintained by a Rabbinical team under the auspices of the Sephardi Beth Din. In this way it makes kashrut as affordable and accessible as possible.

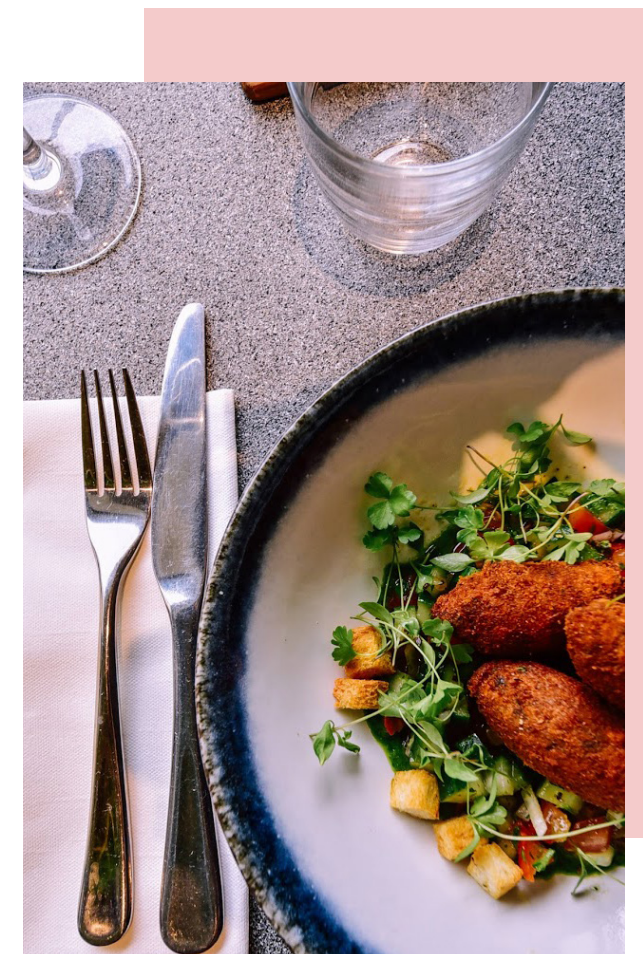
In many ways the SKA has been at the forefront of bringing kashrut to more Jews in the UK. For example, it was the first to work with one of the biggest bread producers, Allied Bakeries, so that it is now possible to find kosher bread (Kingsmill) under its label in supermarkets around the country. This is vital for those who find themselves far from a kosher bakery.

The SKA has recently licensed the first Chalav Yisrael ice cream company, Bella del Gelato, and is eagerly awaiting the opening of the first vegan kosher supervised restaurant in the UK. This is based on the model of a hugely successful chain in America and promises to improve the lives of students, residents and visitors in central London by offering kosher supervision of reasonably priced non-meat meals.

In addition to the high standard of kashrut there is an emphasis on food hygiene, so the Shomrim

are not only supervising halachic details, but are making sure that food is prepared in ways that reflect modern standards.

The Sephardi Kashrut Authority welcomes caterers with kosher certification to their halls and synagogues. The SKA is happy to work with others for the benefit of the whole Jewish community, regardless of affiliation.





RABBI ABRAHAM LEVY

OBE PhD

We met with Rabbi Abraham Levy OBE PhD on a sunny afternoon in his beautiful garden where his wife Estelle has planted many plants that have been given to them over the years, providing a colourful and lasting display of all the joyous moments they shared with the kahal. We discussed his new book, 'A Rocky Road', and reflected on his lifelong service to our community and the wider Jewish community.

Being born into a 300-year-old Jewish community in Gibraltar, what was it like for you?

I was born in Gibraltar in 1939 but we could not stay there as the Second World War was starting and Britain was convinced that Franco was going to give Gibraltar to Hitler. We were evacuated to Madeira and stayed there for five years.

I lived in Gibraltar for a very short time from the age of six, when I returned there from Madeira, until the age of twelve, when my father sent me to Carmel College.

When I lived in Gibraltar I remember a community that had not functioned during the war. The Jews of Gibraltar were intrinsically very religious. To this day, you will not see a Jewish shop open on Shabbat even if the cruise liners come in and there are thousands of tourists.

We did not know the meaning of politicising religion. To be a Sephardi is not ideological, it is geographical. When you have ideological adjectives you destroy the religion because one is Orthodox, Reform or Conservative and then quarrels arise. We have always said in the synagogue that anybody who is a Jew is very welcome.

What do you consider the most important value your family instilled in you?

I think it was integrity because without integrity everything goes to pieces. The idea of telling a lie or using religion for your own power was repugnant to my parents. Religion was there to ennoble your character. My father would do anything to show people the importance of integrity. Gibraltar was a very old community and had quite a few houses and shops that belonged to the Jewish poor in Gibraltar. Once my father saw that a trustee of the charity had given a very cheap lease to a shopkeeper and my father said: 'You are there to protect the charity of the poor people and if you don't increase the rent I

will take you to court'. That was my father.

What are your memories of studying at Carmel College?

I arrived when I was twelve years old. We were living in an old building in Greenham, which was a beautiful country house, for a couple of years before we moved to Mongewell Park.

I was so impressed by the headmaster, Rabbi Kopul Rosen, who was a very handsome and eloquent man. His idea was to create a Jewish Eton. He would say to us, "You have to be good Jews and good Englishmen." For example, when he started the rowing club he would say to us, "I'm looking forward to the day when there will be so many Carmel College students rowing for the Oxford and Cambridge race that they would have to change it for another day because we couldn't do it on Shabbat."

What does it mean to you to be the spiritual leader of the community?

To me, a spiritual leader is there to be available when he is needed. If anybody needs you, you have to be there to help them. I took the role very seriously.

In addition, the most important part of being the spiritual leader is Jewish education and that is what I have dedicated my life to. When the rabbi of Gibraltar, Rabbi Pacifici, who did marvellous work in Gibraltar, told me to devote a lot of my energy to education I ran weekly classes for many years and in those classes we produced boys who are rabbis now. Two or three of my pupils became very distinguished. One of them is Jonathan Rietti. He was brought up only from classes at Lauderdale Road Synagogue and now he is world-renowned.

What do you consider your biggest achievement during your time as a rabbi?

When I realised that the classes were not having enough effect I decided to start the Naima JPS but the Mahamad, which is like the Board today, were annoyed with me. I disagreed with them and started the school anyway. I needed the premises at Lauderdale Road for the first two years, so I paid rent to the synagogue, and then I built the school. At the time, the whole of Maida Vale was owned by the Church of England, including our synagogue. The trustees were bishops of the Church of England and one of them was the Bishop of Birmingham who was, strangely enough, called Bishop Montefiore. And, even more strangely, he actually had a Bar Mitzvah at Lauderdale Road! I told him, “Bishop, you had your Bar Mitzvah in our synagogue and I need a building for the school in the area where the Church own land”. He helped me tremendously. The school is the only way we will survive and that will be the only place where the Spanish and Portuguese traditions will be learnt. Although, sadly, now the number of Spanish and Portuguese students at Naima JPS are very few.

Can you share a happy moment that stands out about your time as a senior rabbi?

I remember the time when I found a big backer for the school, Lord Sainsbury. This was about thirty-five years ago. Lord Sainsbury’s mother was Jewish but he was brought up as a Christian. He had never seen his mother’s grave in Ramsgate, so he asked me to take him there. We went together and I said prayers. He was very emotional, and as we left the cemetery he said, “Rabbi Levy, tell me what you want and I will do it for you.” I said that I wanted him to help me with my school, and he certainly did that. He helped us considerably - he would often visit the school and he also donated large sums of money, and when he died a part of his charitable trust came to Naima JPS.

What challenges did you encounter during your time at Lauderdale Road?

I had certain confrontations with the lay leaders of the congregation. You cannot be an effective rabbi if all you do is listen to what the lay leaders are saying. I had some marvellous lay leaders and some not so good ones. I always say that the best lay leaders are people who are happy at home and at work. If they are happy they will allow me to be happy at work. It’s also important to have leaders who give honour to the office rather than get honour from the office.

I succeeded the most with leaders who gave honour to the office.

Can you tell us about the Montefiore Endowment?

Going back in history, Moses Montefiore, who lived in Ramsgate, started a college in his wife’s name, which is called to this day the Judith Lady Montefiore College. After the war Haham Gaon did a marvellous thing with the Jewish Agency: he used the college to bring many boys from Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria to be students and to learn to become teachers and rabbis, for example Rabbi Elia and others. By about 1960 he decided to move the school to London. About fifteen years ago the elders decided, together with Lucien Gubbay, who is still the chairman, to change the Trust. The Trust remains connected with the Spanish and Portuguese, who confirm the trustees. We didn’t have much money and I realised that we had a collection of manuscripts that were priceless. I persuaded the trustees to sell some of them. With that money we are doing good work and still seeing its results, for example, we are training rabbis and dayanim.

We also help a secular yeshiva in Jerusalem for people who are irreligious but want to know about Judaism. We have undertaken a lot of work with David Dangoor in Mishkenot Sha’ananim and we also fund a gap year for Montefiore students who go to Jerusalem.

How can young Jews live a modern life and at the same time keep up with the traditions?

It is very difficult. I believe that we stand a chance if we at least give our children primary Jewish education to the age of eleven. When I started the school I promised the parents that their children would go to the top schools and thank G-d they do.

Now, with the Immanuel Jewish school, which is a continuation of Naima JPS, more and more of our children decide to continue with their Jewish education.

As a collector of antique books, what is your favourite?

The personal annotated bible of Sir Moses Montefiore.



A SEPHARDI JOURNEY: THE MENDOZA FAMILY FROM PORTUGAL TO LONDON

By David Mendoza

In 1492, after more than a thousand years in Spain, the Jews were expelled. Some headed to North Africa, Italy and the Ottoman Empire. Others, my ancestors included, trudged across the Portuguese border. There was no respite. In 1496 Jews in Portugal were forced to convert with no option of exile.

There was no Inquisition in Portugal until 1536, and many 'New Christians' did not receive Catholic religious instruction. They faced discrimination. With many jobs closed to them due to their Jewish ancestry, they evolved into a merchant class. Some were sincere Christians, some secretly still identified with their Jewish past, and probably most were somewhere in-between.

The Inquisition arrived in Portugal with ferocity. King Sebastian of Portugal died on crusade in Morocco leaving no heir. Philip II of Spain annexed Portugal in 1580. Many Portuguese New Christians were attracted to the opportunities in Spain, which was booming thanks to the conquest of Mexico and Peru. In Spain 'Portuguese' became almost synonymous with 'Jew'. Indeed, throughout Europe these Western Sephardim were known as the 'Portuguese Nation', presumably much to the annoyance of the Portuguese government.

The earliest records I have of my family are the births of Juan de Castro and Antonio de [Castro y] Mendoza in Jaen, an olive oil town in Andalucía, in 1650 and 1655. The family are very likely part of

a wider Castro clan from Braganza in northeast Portugal. They were probably cousins of Isaac Orobio de Castro who later became a leader of the Jewish community of Amsterdam, and a critic of Spinoza.

How the family came to Jaen is not yet clear. The brothers' father may also have been born in Spain. It is possible that their mother's family were part of the New Christian network persecuted by the Inquisition in the Algarve in the 1620s and 1630s. This network included a Mendonca family. Portugal is digitising its entire historic archive, but virtually nothing is indexed. We are often looking for needles in haystacks.

After Antonio's birth in 1655 the family moved to Malaga. His early years are unclear, but it seems that his brother Juan got a government job in Malaga, only to be arrested by the Inquisition in 1676 for alleged 'Judaising'. Juan, his wife Ana Maria and her brother appeared in the grandest auto-da-fe in Spanish history, held in Madrid's Plaza Major in 1680 in the presence of the King and Queen of Spain. The family were 'reconciled' – meaning that they admitted and recanted their heresy, lost all their property and were readmitted to Catholic communion. The Inquisition was funded by what it confiscated, with the Crown taking a cut.

Juan and Ana Maria were sent to live in the city of Valladolid where they started a family. Ana Maria's brother seems to have smuggled himself across the border to Portugal where he was later

arrested. Juan's brother Antonio disappears from the record at this time. I suspect he may have been in the Algarve in Portugal. Antonio taught fencing, which might suggest he had been in the army at some point. His great-great-grandson was also a fighter, the boxer Dan Mendoza.

Antonio got married, possibly to Ana Maria's sister, and started a family. He seems to have travelled around, to places including such as Seville, Granada and Badajoz, but was based in Cadiz. He was arrested by the Inquisition in 1696 and placed in their Seville dungeon. Unfortunately, much of the Spanish Inquisition archive has been destroyed over the years and we do not know the full details. He was reconciled to the Church at a small auto-da-fe in the Church of Santa Ana in 1698.

Possibly spooked by Antonio's arrest, his sister-in-law Ana Maria (Juan seems to have died earlier), scooped up her children and crossed into Portugal. She arrived in Amsterdam in the pre-1700s with ten children and was helped by the community there. A couple of years later the Seville Tribunal of the Spanish Inquisition wrote to all the other Tribunals and the Suprema in Madrid alerting them that Antonio had jumped bail. He surfaced a few years later in Amsterdam, as David de Mendoza, as a witness at a family wedding.

Much of Antonio's history emerged from the Portuguese Inquisition file of his nephew, Miguel de Mendonca Valladolid. Miguel was born in Valladolid, youngest son of Juan and Ana Maria, and seems to have lived with his uncle Antonio/David in Amsterdam and a maternal uncle in Bayonne in France. He later travelled from Porto to Brazil where he worked in a number of jobs, including transporting slaves to the mines. It is possible he was providing Jewish education to New Christians in Brazil. He was denounced to the Inquisition by a cousin, possibly under torture. Arrested near Sao Paulo in 1728, Miguel was taken back to Lisbon. He refused to be reconciled and apparently tried to keep kosher in the Inquisition dungeon. He was burnt alive in Lisbon on 17 June 1731.

The Amsterdam Sephardi community found

it difficult to cope with the influx of destitute former New Christians, and people were paid to move elsewhere. In 1714 Moses and Daniel, two of Antonio/David's sons, were paid to move to London. Antonio/David also moved to London where he died in 1722 and is buried in the Velho cemetery off the Mile End Road. His widow, now called Abigail, died in 1751 at the ripe old age of 98.

This is not quite the end of the story. Moses lost all his children. Daniel's only son, Aaron, wrote the first book published by the London S&P, a translation of part of the Shukhan Aruch published in 1733 to help 'vindos' (new arrivals) understand kashrut. In 1743 he and his wife Benvenida Tubi left London. A few years later, in 1749 the Mahamad paid for a destitute Mendoza family to be brought from Ireland to London. Benvenida Mendoza was the largest recipient of sedaca (charity) from the congregation in 1750. Presumably Aaron died abroad.

Aaron and Benvenida were grandparents of the boxer Dan Mendoza. The London Mendozas mostly descend from Dan's uncle Moses Mendoza. Benvenida means 'Welcome' in Portuguese. Like Ana Maria, she took charge of the family at a desperate moment. Her name passed down the family to the twentieth century, where a Welcome Mendoza was the actor Peter Sellers' grandmother.

Return Ticket?

Sephardi family history has recently taken on a new relevance. In 2015 both Spain and Portugal passed laws granting citizenship to descendants of Iberian Sephardim. The process is relatively simple for Portugal, less so for Spain. If you are interested in applying for Portuguese or Spanish citizenship based on Sephardi ancestry, then please visit our website. Under the About drop-down menu, go to the Genealogy page and complete the form.

David Mendoza is Genealogical Researcher at the S&P Sephardi Community.

He can be contacted at genealogy@sephardi.org.uk

THE MONTEFIORE ENDOWMENT

A significant event in the history of Torah learning worldwide will occur in London after Rosh Hashanah with the admission of a large group of American and Australian rabbis to the Montefiore Endowment's academically structured programme of study of the laws of Ishus (marriage), Gittin (divorce) and Giyur (conversion).

Endorsed by the Rabbinical Council of America, and intended for well-qualified rabbis in the diaspora, the programme employs the latest remote learning techniques combined with face-to face teaching. The Montefiore Dayanut Programme, which opened two years ago, has now attracted nearly thirty rabbis from the U.K., the Netherlands, Germany, Israel, Turkey, Hong Kong, the U.S.A. and Australia. The U.K. participants come from all sections of the orthodox spectrum, including the United Synagogue, the Sephardi community and Chareidi Kehillos. This diversity is enriching and enhances mutual respect for differing approaches and interpretations



Following the success of its Semichah Programme, now in its fifteenth year, the Montefiore Endowment opened its Dayanut Programme in close association with the Eretz Hemdah Institute of Advanced Jewish Studies in Jerusalem. Eretz Hemdah is responsible for teaching and examining the students and will confer semichah 'Yadin-Yadin for the Diaspora' on graduates for the three topics studied.

By adding the Dayanut Programme to its educational projects, the Montefiore Endowment - inspired by Rabbi Abraham Levy, the Hon. Principal of the Judith Lady Montefiore College-a part of the Endowment

keeps faith with the ethos of Sir Moses Montefiore and the Sephardi custom of presenting the traditional values of Judaism without compromise in an appealing and inclusive manner. Though Sir Moses died more than 130 years ago, work continues to preserve his heritage and extend it in ways of which he would have approved in the very different circumstances of today's world. In Sir Moses's own words, one of its primary aims is The promotion of the advanced study of the Holy Law as revealed on Sinai and expounded by the revered Sages of the Mishna and the Talmud.

In addition to the above, the Endowment also runs, in partnership with a yeshivah and a midreshet in Israel, a Gap-Year Fellowship Scheme for school-leavers. It supports the Montefiore Kollel in Manchester, helps to support other institutions with aims similar to its own, and sponsors academic research in advanced Torah learning at English universities. It also runs courses for university graduates and potential lay leaders of the community as well as staging occasional public seminars on problems of current interest .

The Montefiore Endowment, a charitable company limited by guarantee, owns and maintains the Montefiore



Synagogue and Mausoleum at Ramsgate together with rich collections of manuscripts, books, artefacts, ritual textiles and silver. Though no longer in regular use, the synagogue welcomes visitors and especially local schoolchildren who are given an introduction to Judaism. Those items of silver too valuable for regular use are on display at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge.

The Endowment is also heavily engaged in cataloguing, translating, digitising and publishing online its unique collection of manuscripts. After some nine years of work, projects on the Montefiore Censuses (with search engines in Hebrew and English), the Montefiore Testimonials and the Montefiore Petitions have been completed. These present a fascinating picture of conditions in the Jewish communities of Eretz Yisrael and the wider world in the nineteenth century and have attracted many thousands of visitors to the Endowment's website www.montefioreendowment.org.uk. Similar work continues on the Montefiore correspondence in the Endowment's possession.

Lucien Gubbay

Chairman, Montefiore Endowment

DAVID ISHAG SYNAGOGUE

NEVEH SHALOM SEPHARDI

COMMUNITY

Contact information

Address: 352/354 Preston Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 0QJ

Email: info@nevehshalom.com

Website: www.nevehshalom.com

Times of services

Friday Evening: Approximately 15 minutes after the commencement of Shabbat.

Shabbat: Shahrit 9:05 a.m.

Minha, approximately one 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 Shahrit and Kiddush.

Any changes will be announced in the morning on Shabbat.

Sunday morning: Shahrit 8:15 a.m.

Background and history

The David Ishag Synagogue's first temporary premises were opened in early 1970. The community was mainly formed from Sephardi families who escaped persecution in the Middle East. Members come from Africa including Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and the Sudan, from the Middle East including Turkey, Iraq and Aden, as well as from India. A number of members have joined from the United Synagogue and the Spanish and Portuguese communities. Although the members are from many diverse backgrounds, Neveh Shalom is an independent community working as one large family. The community moved to its current premises in 1982.

Events

Our community is very lucky to have a fantastic team of events volunteers who are never at a loss for new ideas and have again delivered a wonderful programme of enjoyable events.

As part of Shabbat UK we held our first challah bake-off. Shmuli directed proceedings and women and men who turned up got their hands messy and tested their mixing and kneading skills. There was a lovely communal atmosphere and everyone had lots of fun.

In November, around a hundred people turned out to hear Yehuda Erdman give a presentation about the Balfour Declaration to celebrate its centenary. The meeting ended with the singing of Hatikva led by Zvi. Many thanks to Yehuda for coming up with the idea, organising the event and making sure it was such a success.

In December the community enjoyed a wonderful Chanukah party. The events team worked hard to

organise a number of activities to keep us busy and entertained including Israeli dancing, arts and crafts activities, tattooing, table tennis and table football. We all then gathered to light our Chanukiyah which was donated to the synagogue in memory of Gilda Cohen.

We had a fantastic turnout for Purim despite the freezing snowy weather brought on by the "Beast from the East" which made the journey to synagogue somewhat treacherous. As always, the megillah was expertly read by Zvi, following which we were treated to a delicious spread. Fully sustained, we all took part in an entertaining workshop with a professional balloon twister.

This year was the 70th anniversary of the State of Israel. We held a special Shabbat service in the week of the anniversary. After the morning service members of the community read out the Declaration of Independence and praise for Israel. We finished the morning with a spirited rendering of Hatikva and an Israeli-themed kiddush.

In summer we held a barbeque and enjoyed delicious dishes in the scorching summer weather. The events team arranged a wide range of entertainment including a photo booth, bouncy castle, henna hand painting, and other events. We were all delighted that Rabbi Jacobs together with his family were able to join us.

During the winter months we held Cholent Shabbats which proved very popular. Many thanks to all who have sponsored these Shabbats and all the kiddushim that our members sponsor. We are always looking for new ideas so if anyone has any thoughts please let us know.

Rabbi Jacobs Sermons

Although Rabbi Jacobs has not been well enough to attend Shabbat services on a regular basis, he has very kindly continued to record video sermons throughout the year. We all look forward to hearing these sermons as they are always a source of original spiritual thought. We wish Rabbi Jacobs refuah shelema.

Upcoming Events

As we approach the festivals we would like to wish everyone Shanah Tova, and may it be a happy, healthy and successful year for everyone.

This year Hatan Torah and Hatan Beresheet will be Michael Sitton and Alan Sebti. We wish them and their families a big Mazel Tov and we look forward to celebrating with them on Simhat Torah.

Excitement is beginning to build towards the 50th anniversary of our community, which will be at the end of 2019, as we begin to give thought to how we will celebrate this significant milestone. Our community, our membership and our activities are as strong as ever and as we approach this anniversary we look forward to another 50 years of success.



Mazaltov

The community is delighted to wish Mazaltov to:

The community is delighted to wish Mazaltov to:

Michael and Alison Sitton on the birth of their grandson, Jesse Michael, son of Geraldine and Brett Levin and brother of Zachary.

Jack and Brigitte Hikmet on the birth of their grandson, Ari Saul, son of Samantha and Nigel Hikmet.

Faiz and Bushra Khalastchi on birth of their grandson, Ira Gerald Haron, son of Francis and Rudi Khalastchi. Mazaltov also to Ira’s great grandmother, Mrs. Jacqueline Khalastchi.

Neville and Rosalind Spiers on the birth of their granddaughter, Skye, daughter of Jonny and Agna Bluestone.

Leon and Rosie Cohen on the birth of their great-granddaughter, Esther, daughter of Florence and Raphael Kattan.

Richard and Sally Delmonte on the birth of their granddaughter, Belle (Bayla Ahuva), daughter of Lea and Jonathan Delmonte.

Robin and Shafit Samra on the birth of their granddaughter, Anna Esther, daughter of Monica and Oliver Ziff.

Edward and Sarah Cohen on the bat mitzvah of their daughter, Jessica.

Shalom and Elana Nissim on the bnei mitzvah celebrations of their grandsons, Shimon and Samuel.

Benny Gentely on the celebration of the bar mitzvah of his grand nephew, Benjamin Howard.

Joseph and Caroline Cohen on the celebration of the bar mitzvah of their son, Benjamin.

Alan and Avril Tysman on the celebration of the bar mitzvah of their grandson, Aryeh, son of David and Deborah Tysman.

Justin and Orlina Bannerman-Lloyd on the celebration of the bat mitzvah of their daughter, Macey.

Joseph and Claudia Cohen on the celebration of the bat mitzvah of their daughter, Tara.

Robin and Shafit Samra on the celebration of the marriage of their daughter, Myra, to Jacob Confino, son of David and Noga Confino.

Reverend Zvi and Batya Amroussi on the wedding of their daughter, Keren, to Yotam, son of Doron and Anna Levy.

Jack and Brigitte Hikmet on the marriage of their son, Ashley, to Sinem Sipahioglu.

Yaakov Tamir on his wedding to Yakira Stein.

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

Benny and Lynda Gentely on the marriage of their daughter, Rachel, to Daniel Smith.

David and Rebecca Menahem on the marriage of their son, Sam, to Avital, daughter of Alan and Rachelle Mendelsohn.

Harry and Yvonne Fattal on the marriage of their son, James, to Ashley, daughter of the late Dr Felice Woolrich and Dr Arthur Taubman.

Condolences

We extend our deepest sympathy to:
Gladys Benson on the passing away of her brother, Dr Benoit Dwek, and her sister, Fortune Gammell.
Ralda Elton and Nader Baher on the passing away of their uncle, Jacob Baher.
Jacob Kanzen on the passing away of his sister, Tova Cameron.
Steve, Jo and Fouad Katan and Rita, Sana and Souad Katan and Nadia Steiner on the passing away of their mother, Najat Katan.
Carmen Gabra on the passing away of her sister, Laman Bekhor.
Roni Rashti on the passing away of his mother, Khatoun Smouha.
The family and friends of Valerie Schneider.
The family and friends of Mauri Eleine.
The family and friends of Saleh Masri.

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

Stonesetting

The stone setting of David Abadi, husband of Becky, was held on Sunday 29th April. We wish her a long and peaceful life.



KIDDUSHIM AND SEUDOT

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

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

Saleh, Zaki and Elie Ishag in memory of their father, David Ishag.

The Hatanim, Simon Hikmet and Ronnie Rashti and their families, for both kiddushim on Simchat Torah evening service and the following morning service.

Benny Gentely in honour of the bar mitzvah of Benjamin Howard.

David and Noga Confino on the celebration of the marriage of their son, Jacob, to Myra Samra.

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

Shalom and Elana Nissim on the bnei mitzvah celebrations of their grandsons, Shimon and Samuel.

Suad Khalastchi and family on the celebration of her brother Haki’s marriage to Natalie Hirsch.

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

Sue Khazoom in memory of her mother, Daisy Peres.

Harry and Yvonne Fattal on the engagement of their son, James, to Ashley.

Lina Hanen on the 90th birthday of her mother, Arlette.

Justin and Orlina Bannerman-Lloyd on the celebration of the bat mitzvah of their daughter, Macey.

Joseph and Caroline Cohen on the celebration of the bar mitzvah of their son, Benjamin.

Leon and Rosy Cohen on the celebration of the bat mitzvah of their granddaughter, Tara.

Alan and Avril Tysman on the celebration of the bar mitzvah of their grandson, Aryeh.

Helene Levy on the celebration of the 90th birthday of her mother, Arlette.

Esther Kamhi to mark the thirty days in memory of her step-mother, Esther Cohen.

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

Saleh, Zaki and Elie Ishag in memory of their father, David Ishag, and in memory of their mother, Oro Ishag-Dwek

Benny Gentely for two kiddushim in memory of his mother, Miriam Gentely, and in memory of his father, Zevulun Gentely.

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

Jeff Solomon in memory of his father, Isaac Solomon.

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

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

Elie and Rosette Ishag for a tefillin breakfast on the celebration of the bar mitzvah of their grandson, David, son of David and Esther Ishag.

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:

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

Parnasim

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

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

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

Elliott Myers on **020 8346 8744** or via email at elliottmyers@nevehshalom.com

Jack Sitton on **020 8422 2653** or via email at jack@yomans.co.uk

Further information

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

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

Anyone wishing to have an announcement included in the S&P Magazine should contact Liza Yehuda on **020 8908 2261** or via email at yariv_yehuda@hotmail.com.



SPANISH & PORTUGUESE SYNAGOGUE, HOLLAND PARK

Contact information

Address: 8 St James's Gardens, London, W11 4RB

Email: info@nevehshalom.com

Website: www.hollandparksynagogue.com

Tel: 020 7603 7961/3232 **Fax:** 020 7603 9471

Congregation founded: 1910

Synagogue opened: 1928

Minister: Rabbi Abraham Lavi

Times of Service

Friday Evening: Minha followed by Arvit. Times to be announced in the synagogue.

Shabbat Morning: Shachrit at 8:45 a.m. 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 19th August at 7:30 a.m. and followed by breakfast in the Susanne Dellal Hall.

Yamim Noraim

Times for all High Holy Days Services will be sent out separately with the admission tickets.

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.

President Leon Benardout, and Life President Leon Sassoon, together with the Honorary Officers and Executive Committee, wish Rabbi and Mrs. Lavi and their family as well as the entire congregation a very happy and peaceful new year.

Chatan Bereshit | Cedric Littman

Chatan Torah | Victor Sweiry

Pre-Rosh Hashanah Cemetery Visits

These will take place at the following times on Sunday 19th August

Edgwarebury: 12:30 p.m.

Hoop Lane: 1:30 p.m.

Rabbi Lavi will recite a memorial prayer in the Prayer Hall.

Adult Education

Wednesdays

Shiur on Parasha with Rashi and Pirkei Avot.

Semoff Hall at 8:30 p.m.

Over the past year, the synagogue hosted several successful events, including:

B'nai B'rith

On 10th September, as part of the European Days of Jewish Culture & Heritage 2017, more than ninety visitors came to our synagogue, including our neighbours, congregants from St James's Church, members of the local faith communities and participants in the B'nai B'rith Heritage Day. They were there for a special event, Holland Park in the Community. The synagogue was abuzz with activity – a lively talk about the community, the synagogue and Jewish life was given by Ken Emmanuel, ably assisted by Richard Sidlin, Andy Finkel and Leon Sassoon.

There were fascinating local anecdotes from the members of the founding families.

There was a lively Q & A session followed by tea, coffee and danish pastries in the Semoff Hall.

Our neighbours really enjoyed the day – only a few had been in the synagogue before – and we have already received requests to repeat the event for those who were unable to attend.

Elders Shabbat

The congregation was invited to attend a special Kiddush, following Shabbat morning service, to show appreciation of the Life Elders of the congregation. This year Victor Sweiry and Stanley Cohen were elected as Life Elders.

Shabbat UK

On Shabbat 28th October / 8th Heshvan, we celebrated Shabbat UK in great style. Our special guest was our old friend, Dayan Pinhas Toledano, former Av Beth Din of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews congregation, accompanied by his wife Janet.

Dayan Toledano addressed us during the morning service and again with a question-and-answer discussion after a delicious lunch. His melodic hazanut was a pleasure to hear during the services as were his knowledgeable insights into many Halachic questions.

Many people stayed for the entire Shabbat and enjoyed the afternoon service followed by the third meal (Seuda Shlishit), evening service and Havdalah.

The day was made especially wonderful as Rabbi Lavi celebrated his seventieth birthday and together with his wife Dvora they also celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary.

Rabbi and Mrs. Lavi received a very special gift, the surprise appearance of their children and grandchildren from North London and Israel, which brought them to tears of happiness.

Our thanks go to all those whose efforts contributed to a truly special Shabbat.

AJEX Shabbat

On Shabbat 18th November a memorial prayer was recited for members of the community who fought in the two world wars and in the Israeli conflicts, to honour the ex-servicemen and women of the congregation. The service was followed by a special Kiddush to honour Ralph Levy, son of the late Reverend Nissim Levy of blessed memory, who was celebrating his ninetieth birthday. Ralph was accompanied by his wife Juliet.

Matzah Bake

On 21st March a joint Mazah Bake event with Chabad of Notting Hill took place, a fun, hands-on educational workshop for the entire family. Wine-tasting and a wine shop were offered to the adults, while children could purchase their favourite Hagadot and other Pesach supplies.

Chanukah Party

On Sunday 17th December we had funfair games, doughnuts, latkes and lots of lovely Chanukah food, for children and parents, followed by candle-lighting and singing Chanukah songs in the synagogue.



Purim Party

What a wonderful event we had on Purim. It was lovely to see the hall so full. The evening and dinner were really enjoyable, and the synagogue had a wonderful atmosphere.



Uprooted Book Launch

Lyn Julius, the co-founder of Harif, the UK Association of Jews from the Middle East and North Africa, launched her book "Uprooted: How 3,000 Years of Jewish civilisation in the Arab World vanished overnight" in our synagogue and it was a huge success. A fascinating subject, and visuals captivated congregants and guests alike.



School Visit

The school visit from Old Oak Primary was a resounding success. Rabbi Lavi was fantastic, supported by David Oz and Leon Sassoon. Our administrator provided sweets and water for the children who were enthralled by the synagogue and in particular the Sefarim. They all had different ethnic backgrounds and asked intelligent questions. Their teachers were most grateful and asked to come again.



Grenfell Silent Walk on 14th June to mark the one-year anniversary of the fire

A group of several thousand people came to march together in silent remembrance. It began at the Maxilla Social Club under Westway Flyover and wove its way slowly and with dignity to the foot of Grenfell Tower and continued up Lancaster Road. From there, the route turned left onto Ladbroke Grove. The marchers slowed at the junction of Ladbroke Grove and Cambridge Gardens where a group of firefighters stood in uniform enabling individuals to shake their hands in gratitude for their work that night. The march continued and turned left onto St Mark’s Road where it ended at Kensington Memorial Park. At the park, there was food and water for all to break the Ramadan fast and an opportunity for people to speak to one another and share their thoughts.

By Ruth Finkel

Julian Green’s First Aid Course

On Sunday 17th June a small group of our members attended a Life Support Training Session from Julian Green, who volunteers with the London Ambulance Service.

Julian taught us to administer CPR and actions to be taken in the event of a congregant suffering cardiac arrest. We practiced using the synagogue defibrillator which is situated in the book room at the rear of the synagogue. We are most grateful to Julian for this training that might enable us to save a life. Please contact the office if you are interested in attending future training sessions.

Games Night

BACKGAMMON - SCRABBLE - DOMINOES - CARDS – CHESS. The first event was a great success, a delightful evening spent playing mostly backgammon. Similar events are being planned throughout the

With sadness, we record the passing of the following during the year and the congregation renews its condolences to the mourners:

Maurice Benzimra (in Israel) – Secretary of the synagogue for many years	Paul Franklin – brother of Patricia Franklin
Audrey Veissid	Lionel Haim Touboul ben Yonatan – father of Jeremy Touboul
Lillian Beraha	Ya’acov ben David Finkel – father of Andy Finkel
Edward Dangoor	
Pinchas ben Moshe Uzan – father of David Oz	

Stonesettings

Tuesday 11th December - Lillian Beraha’s stonesetting, 1:30 p.m. at Hoop Lane, Golders Green.

Besimantov on happy occasions are extended to

Births

Besimantov to Shimon and Michal Julius on the birth of their first baby, a daughter. Besimantov to proud grandparents Lyn and Laurence Julius and Nellie and David Brotzen. Besimantov to Bertha Bekhor on her first great-granddaughter and Besimantov to Pat and Cyril Julius on the birth of their second granddaughter.

Besimantov to Cedric and Danielle Boghanim on the birth of a baby girl in October 2017.

Besimantov on the birth of a grandson for Doreen and Barry Kruger, first child for Michael and Samantha Kruger, on 1st February 2018

Besimantov to Michael and Linda Benardout on the birth of a granddaughter in April 2018.

Barmitzvah Celebrations

Congratulations to the following who celebrated their Barmitzvah and those who will do so in the near future Be’ezrat Hashem:

Jake Benezra, Saturday 27th January 2018

Adrian Benosiglio’s son in Hendon on 3rd February 2018

Alexander Serero, Saturday 10th March 2018

Samuel Benardout, Saturday 24th March 2018

Raphael Cassin, Saturday 19th May 2018

Berrebi Barmitzvah - Saturday 6th October 2018

Oliver Saragoussi - Saturday 5th January 2019

Jaden Shem-Tov - Saturday 18th May 2019

Engagements

BESIMANTOV! Julian and Naomi Green are delighted to announce the engagement of their eldest daughter, Hannah Sarah Green, to Bradley Oliver Singer of Hadley Wood, son of Janice and Stuart Singer. Hannah is Rochelle Saragoussi’s granddaughter.

Besimantov! Josh Garson and Katie Meltzer

BESIMANTOV! On the engagement of Daisy Abboudi to Barney Pell - Scholes. Daisy is the daughter of Gila Godsi and the granddaughter of Maurice Abboudi and granddaughter of Sara Godsi

Weddings

BESIMANTOV! to Michelle Jacob and Alexander Barnes on their wedding in November 2017

BESIMANTOV! to Sara Godsi and Shlomo and Vered Godsi on the wedding of their daughter Taphat in Israel to Tamir Ronen in January 2018

BESIMANTOV! to Yakov & Denise Banin on the marriage of their son Michael in January 2018 to Shellie Wilks daughter of Jenny and Stephen the year.

BESIMANTOV! to Michelle Woolf and Daniel Bryk on their wedding in June 2018

Wedding Anniversaries

Congratulations to Ian and Jill Benezra who celebrate their 50th (Golden) Wedding Anniversary in September

Life Elders

The following members were honoured during the year as Life Elders:

Stanley Cohen, Victor Sweiry

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.

Torah Chadash

At Torah Chadash classes we convey Jewish tradition and heritage to the next generation of our communities. The cheder starts each week together with shacharit prayers and Havdalah, exposing the students to the constant values of Judaism and closeness to Hashem in daily life. During our Sunday classes we teach about the Chagim, their practices and the reasons for them. In addition to this, we cover the weekly Parsha and explain the significance of the stories and the mitzvot they contain. These topics are taught through using interactive slideshows, review worksheets and arts and crafts activities, allowing the classes to be fun as well as informative. Each week we complement these activities by devoting a lesson to Hebrew reading and writing skills, which enable our students' progression to their Bar and Bat Mitzva preparations, and beyond.

Keren's Nursery

We are happy to introduce Keren's Nursery which is operating from inside our synagogue. Keren's is a Jewish nursery with two other branches in Belsize Park and Hampstead, both of which are Ofsted Outstanding. For more information please contact the manager office on **020 3457 8020** or on hollandpark@kerensnursery.com

Future Events

Bnai Brith Event - 14th October. A 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.

Melaveh Malkah with Rabbi Dr Raphael Zarum - Saturday 3rd November, details will be announced closer to the time.

Selichot Service will take place on 19th August at 7:30 a.m. and will be followed by a delicious breakfast in Suzanne Dellal Hall. To book your place please call or email the synagogue office as soon as possible.

Children's Service in the synagogue - 29th September 2018

Challah Bake - details will be announced closer to the time.

AJEX Shabbat - 17th November 2018

Mitzvah Day - 18th November 2018

Shabbat UK - 2nd March 2019 - details will be announced closer to the time.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 9th December at 12:00 p.m. in the Suzanne Dellal Hall followed by **Chanukah Party and Candle Lighting at 3:30 p.m.**

On Sunday 10th March 2019 at 3:30 p.m. we shall be commemorating the **90th anniversary of the founding of the synagogue** with a special service of thanksgiving followed by a reception. Many guests of honour will be invited, including Chief Rabbi Mirvis and Rabbi Dr Abraham Levy OBE.

Purim - Purim will be celebrated by a party for the congregation following the Megillah Reading - Thursday 21st March 2019.

Luncheon to celebrate the 90th anniversary for the community - Sunday 30th June 2019 - details to be announced.



THE FIRST MEETING LEADING TO THE BALFOUR DECLARATION WAS HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 1917 AT THE HOME OF HAHAM MOSES GASTER IN MAIDA VALE, JUST AROUND THE CORNER FROM THE SCHOOL.

The technological prowess of Naima JPS pupils helped the independent Sephardi primary school to earn an enthusiastic report from inspectors. Naima received the top rating of excellence for both the achievements and development of pupils.

The report states, "The daily reading of Jewish texts improved their concentration, while the values they learned from Jewish studies, such as honouring parents, strengthened links between school and home."



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LEARNING IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

If you've got young children or grandchildren, you may very well have heard about a new method of schooling known as Forest School. The approach has found a firm place in many schools and nurseries across the Jewish community. But what does it entail, and why is it so popular? And does it mean little Abe will be asking to camp out and go trekking at every possible opportunity?

We find out more from Keren be Ezra, founder of Keren's Nurseries, a chain with three London pre-school sites including Holland Park Synagogue.

Keren's offers Forest School to children as young as two, and the demand for her classes is higher than ever. The process has proven developmental benefits, even for such young children. It raises self-esteem and confidence, due to the element of risk-taking and the freedom of being outside for long periods of time. That doesn't mean children run wild – far from it; but it does offer opportunities for learning that children are unable to experience in a classroom.

Activities at Forest Schools are the most fun you could possibly imagine as a pre-schooler. Teachers organise activities such as sensory walks, foraging, shelter building, mini beast hunts, tree climbing, campfire cooking, woodwork, nature art, and games like puddle- and mud-jumping. Every activity is designed to promote independence, measured risk-taking and enhanced decision-making.

Children at Keren's attend Forest School sessions weekly throughout the year, whatever the weather. Preparation for outdoor learning sessions happens in the classroom before any venturing outside. During the cold and wet winter months, children are protected from the elements in special all-in-one waterproof clothing.

Forest School is a long-term process, requiring intensive teacher training to be awarded Forest School accreditation. Within the Jewish community, the approach tends to be an add-on to existing Early Years Foundation and Jewish Studies curriculum, rather than an alternative – so children really do get the best of all worlds.

Keren has a unique take on why it's such a popular trend: 'Forest School is outdoor, nature-based learning that centres on the rounded development of each child. In Forest School, activities are provided, but it's the children who determine which activities suit them, while teachers observe their

progress. It's very much akin to kibbutz philosophy, which is why it works so well for us, even in our urban sites such as Holland Park.

With so much of our children's childhood taken up online and in front of screens, parents and children alike just can't get enough. Demand has been so high that we're opening another class in our Hampstead Garden Suburb site this year, and we run regular weekend parent and child sessions.'

If you don't have a Forest School close to home, Keren recommends getting outdoors with your children as often as possible, whatever the weather. Online resources such as Nature Detectives from The Woodland Trust, RSPB and Wildlife Watch all have incredible downloadable activity packs to encourage children to enjoy the natural world. Use these packs on the weekend or during camping trips, and encourage children to learn as much as possible about the great outdoors by spending as much time outside as possible. From nature trails to bird spotting, puddle-jumping to Pooh sticks, children of all ages can get involved.

The OFSTED Outstanding chain, Keren's Nursery, is Forest School accredited, and is located at three sites including Holland Park Synagogue, the Pavilion in Lyttelton Playing Fields and Belsize Park. It is accredited by The Forest School Association, and the method is included as part of the curriculum at all three sites.

*For more details visit www.kerensnursery.com and www.forestschoollassociation.org
Online resources can be found at www.woodlandtrust.org.uk and www.rspb.org.uk*

RAMBAM SEPHARDI SYNAGOGUE

Contact information

Address: Yavneh College 6th Form Block Hillside Avenue, Borehamwood, Herts. WD6 1HL

Website: www.rambam.org.uk

www.facebook.com/rambamsephardi

Honorary Chairman – Nathan Hasson | drnathanhasson@gmail.com

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

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

Fundraising – Lea Misan | lea@rambam.org.uk

Religious Affairs – Moishe Gotlieb | fgotlieb@hotmail.com

Religious Affairs – Gary Somers | gsomers76@gmail.com

Hazan – Raphael Lavi | raphilabi@yahoo.co.uk

Parnasim – Moishe Gotlieb Gary Somers, Uri Kamara | parnas@rambam.org.uk

Events & Children's Education – Rivka David | rivka@rambam.org.uk

Kiddushim – Rimonit Shriki , Ety Gafan | office@rambam.org.uk

Hebra – Michael Hilsenrath | michael@hilsenrath.com

Sephardi Centre – David Albohayre | dalbohayre@hotmail.com

Security Rota – Natan Servi | nathanever82@hotmail.com

To stay in touch and receive our weekly newsletter and details of all our events, sign up at www.rambam.org.uk/rssnews

Service times

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

Minha/ Kabbalat Shabbat - 7:15 pm 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, please contact us at crp@rambam.org.uk

High Holy Day Services

Services will be held throughout the High Holy Days. Please check our website for full details

OUR SUMMARY

During our 7th year 2017/18, Rambam Sephardi saw membership grow to more than sixty families with more than one hundred children now under our wings. Building on the momentum of 2016/17, we continued to see an increase in participation in our Tefillot and our trademark events – Tu B'Shvat, Purim, Lag LaOmer, our Summer BBQ and Camp Rambam.

What made this past year truly special were the November 2017 Shabbaton with Rabbi Joseph & Margalit Dweck and their children, and the March 2018 Shabbat visit to our community by HE Israel's Ambassador Mark Regev.

Sadly we acknowledge the decision by Rabbi Jeff to step back as Rambam's Rabbi as of 31st July 2018 and we are now undergoing a search for a successor. In tribute to their pioneering work, we will be celebrating Michie as this year's Eshet Hayil and Rabbi Jeff will be our Hatan Bereishit. Thankfully, the Bergers will continue to live in Borehamwood for the time being.

Hazan and Ba'al Koreh Raphael Lavi continued to bring a renewed energy and enthusiasm to our services. Equally, we've seen a focused discussion on the choice of Nusakh used, as well as an increase in volunteering especially among women in our community. We've therefore created a series of community meetings and surveys designed to help us plot the best course of our future.

In other programming during the year, we hosted Rabbi Jeremy Meyer, Hazan Aaron Hass and Rabbi Daniel Levy as scholars-in-residence and held adult education talks under the banner of our National Lottery grant covering the topics of household finance and mental well-being. We continued with our popular Shesh Besh Tournaments and we aired a local screening of the film Remember Baghdad.

Finally, this year we had 31 sponsored Kiddushim to celebrate 2 baby namings, 6 bar & bat mitzvot (including a 2nd bar mitzvah), bar mitzvah anniversaries, a wedding & sheva berakhot, and numerous nahalot.

Our children's services are now being looked after by Rivka David, Aida Benhamu, Lisa Penn Solomon, Laura Sasson and Benjamin Cohen. Happily, many of our post bar/bat mitzvah students are still attending Shabbat and Festival services.

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 Hertsmere, one of the fastest developing Jewish areas since the 2011 census. In July 2018 it was two years 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 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 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 5779

B'Siman Tob to Yigal Samuel (Hatan Torah) and to Rabbi Jeff (Hatan Bereishith). We wish them and their families a wonderful year to follow.

OUR EVENTS 2017-2018

7 September – The Secret Life of Money This very hands-on workshop on household finance by Michael Ross received much positive feedback from audience members. Its aim was to show participants how easy it is to blow one's budget and how important financial discipline is for family life. It was the first of our National Lottery sponsored programmes for the wider community.

15 September – Eshet Hayil Dinner Nearly 100 people attended our 1st Eshet Hayil dinner to recognize and honour the achievements of Rivka David, the creative genius behind so many of Rambam's activities. Volunteers helped cook the themed Friday night dinner. Sincere thanks to Rivka's family, including her parents and siblings, who came out in force to teach us how to cook authentic Indian food. Many thanks as well to all those who helped with logistics on the night.

13 October – Simhat Torah Hatanim Lunch We probably went a bit over the top this year in cooking our Hatanim lunch. But for the more than 175 people who showed up it was a great afternoon of celebration with Neville Levy, Eric Misan and their families. Many thanks for an event that set a new bar for being joyous in Torah.

11 November – Shabbaton with Rabbi Joseph & Margalit Dweck and family Sincere thanks to Rabbi Joseph Dweck & his family for joining us on Shabbat and to all who helped prepare the superb lunch including: Abe Wahnon as head chef, and Margalit Dweck, Derek & Claudia Sheena, Rebecca Coriat & her mum, Mira Grant, Rachel Cohen, Lea Misan, Iris Cohen, David Chriqui, Rivka David, Rabbi Jeff and Michie & Justin Berger. Nothing would ever get done properly at Rambam Sephardi without the input of our logistics maven Brian Kaye. Plus, our deep thanks to Derek Sheena for his meticulous planning and management of the entire Shabbaton. Rabbi Dweck's inspiring talks on Educating Our Children and on the Future of Sephardi Anglo-Jewry gave us enough food for thought to last several months.

30 January – Tu B'Shvat Our sincerest thanks to Rivka David, Yuval & Ron Cohen, Etty Gafan, Aida Benhamu, Michael Ross, Sylvia Kozon and Nathan Hasson and all who helped celebrate Tu B'Shvat in Rambam Sephardi style. There was a discrepancy in the official total of fruits represented - but by all counts, including our signature Jack Fruit, more than 63! Thanks as well to Rabbi Amos Azizoff for launching the evening with words of inspiration, and to Rabbi Mino Lavi for joining our Seder.

19 February – Film Screening: Remember Baghdad Perhaps because Edwin Shuker agreed to answer questions afterwards, the specially arranged showing of Remember Baghdad in our local Reel Cinema was fully subscribed. The film conveyed a feeling of nostalgia for the 'old country' and way of life to many in the audience with a connection to Iraq.

28 February – 1 March – Megillah Reading & Purim Play A rousing round of applause to all of our Rambam players, to the Seudah chefs and to both of our Megillah readers - Charles Darwish & Raphael Lavi. Despite the snowy weather, it was a fantastic celebration this year! Special thanks to David Hadley for the wonderful photos. Thanks also to Adrian Kelaty for use of his video equipment.

13 March – Mental Well-Being Talk & Jami Partnership On Tuesday 13 March, a comprehensive 2-hour workshop on emotional well-being was led by Victor Itzhak with input from Lea Misan and other Rambam members at Yavneh College. Victor's full-on presentation on emotional well-being reinforced the need to step back, be a bit less serious, and look at ourselves in a more relaxed way. His talk focused on 'positive mental health awareness' and the zones of regulation tool kit. Participants identified a desire within the community to set-up support groups for our children and for adults. Separately, in June Annette Henley was

appointed our community's Jami ambassador for the coming year and Rambam Sephardi has been selected to partner with Jami for the 2018/19 programming year.

19 March & 6 June – Shesh Besh Tournaments We hosted two Shesh Besh tournaments this year at Orli Café. The excitement at both was palpable. During the final match the winners were both decided by their last roll. Our thanks to Yuval Cohen and Joe Arazi for taking the lead to organize these fun events and to Nick for hosting us with tasty refreshments.

10 March – Visit by HE Israel's Ambassador Mark Regev As many as 90 congregants had the pleasure of hearing HE Israel's Ambassador Mark Regev's talk, about Parah Adumah & Why I'm Optimistic about Israel, on Shabbat 10 March. The ambassador also spent a good bit of time meeting with our young members. It was an inspiring event that many will remember for years to come.

17 March – Visiting Hazan Aaron Hass Sincere thanks to Hazan Aaron Hass who joined Rambam Sephardi leading an uplifting Kabbalat Shabbat service and delivering an informative drasha on The Mitsvah of Loving One's Friend as One's Self. His talk during Seudah Shilishi at the home of the Wahnon Family included much useful information about preparing for Pesah. Sincere thanks to the Gotlieb & Gasc families for hosting Aaron and to Abe & Annette for a delicious Seudah.

30 March – Matzah Baking For the first time in our community's short history some of us baked our own soft matzah. For those lucky ones who could find time on the eve of Pesah, they were rewarded with a very tasty result.

19 April – Yom HaAtsmaut Those who joined us on 19 April to celebrate Yom HaAtsmaut at Yavneh College enjoyed delicious Israeli food, wonderful arts & crafts and great family fun as well as a talk on Israel advocacy. Our thanks to D'vora Kafi from Israel who led the discussion.

3 May – Lag LaOmer Bonfire Thanks to Nivi Feldman, Michael Ross and Rivka David for organising and hosting our annual Lag LaOmer Bonfire and BBQ. Thanks also to Abe Wahnon for preparing chopped salads, to Raphael Lavi for leading us in song and to the Rabbi for his talk on Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai. This year saw a number of new faces and first time visitors as well as many who returned from previous years. Thankfully, there was plenty to eat, lots of archery fun, and a queue of children waiting to roast marshmallows. The weather held out nicely - perfect sunshine and a cool breeze.

15-16 June – Scholar-in-Residence Sincere thanks to Rabbi Daniel & Naomi Levy and their daughter Gabriella for joining Rambam Sephardi on Shabbat Korah. Many thanks to those who hosted them and to those who helped with the different communal activities in which the Levy's participated.

17 June – Rambam Sephardi Annual Summer BBQ Sincere thanks to Natalie & Neville Levy for once again so graciously hosting this year's Rambam Sephardi annual summer BBQ on Sunday 17 June. A delightful time was had by all.

16 July – Community Meeting On Monday 16th July more than thirty members gathered for an evening to discuss Rambam Sephardi's ethos and future direction. The follow-up has included a weekly editorial in the newsletter and a series of surveys. We've identified ten key themes of importance and are already addressing four of them: Youth Programming, Nusah, Women's Roles & Engagement, and Communal Direction. Our next meeting is scheduled for 4 September.

29 July – 10 August – Camp Rambam This year Camp Rambam ran for two weeks (excluding Shabbat) instead of one. From 29th July – 10th August we hosted as many as thirty children overnight at the Well End Scout Activity Centre. We are the only synagogue offering a locally-based opportunity for children to engage with nature and it's growing in popularity from year to year. We also ran a pre-training programme for camp leaders and arranged for special hoodies for the children. Friendships made at camp seem to last

OUR PASTORAL CARE

Congratulations & Mazal Tob to:

New Members:

Baher Family	Jordan Jay
Benhamu Family	Richard & Janette Sassoon
Ross Family	Raymond & Daisy Benjamin
Shaw Family	Solomon Family
Shenker Family	Ziman Family
Charles & Hannie Ezekiel	

Marriages:

Daniella Kamara & Alex Kaye

Births:

Noa Kaye	Oscar Bahar
Yehuda Chriqui	Naomi Carmel
Raphi Gotlieb	Trent Sitton
Noah Halfon	Hannah Burnstein

Bar/Bat Mitzvahs:

Yosef Azair	Levi Sasson
Justin Berger	Shiri Autmazguin
Evie-Rose Cohen	

Long Life (Hayyim Arukhim) to:

Lea Misan on the loss of her mother Ida bat Aryeh veRivka
Jordan Jay on the loss of his grandmother Keter bat Michael
Jason Sasson on the loss of his mother Genny Sasson

OUR SINCERE THANKS

Kiddush Sponsors:

2017-2018

Thanks to the many families who sponsored thirty-one Kiddushim this past year. To book a Kiddush please contact the office.

Other Esteemed Thanks:

Over the last year volunteers have helped lead services, read the parsha and taken on other responsibilities such as running our events, preparing our kiddushim and educating our children. We wish to thank every single one of you for all the time you give to help make Rambam Sephardi the spiritually uplifting experience it is.

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

OUR ADMIN

Get Well List:

Prayers are recited every Shabbat morning for Refuah Sheleimah in front of the Echal. To be included please send us 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 David with help from Aida Benhamu, Lisa Solomon & Benjamin Cohen.

Requests for Aliyot:

Members are asked to please advise the parnasim (contacts above) at least a week 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

OUR RABBI

In 2017/18 Rabbi Jeff Berger continued to lead the community and offer pastoral care. But after consultation with the Board in January, he asked to step down from the daily running of the synagogue effective 31st July 2018.

Along with celebrating their son Justin’s bar mitzvah, this past year the Rabbi and Michie helped with bar/bat mitzvah training, marriage consultations and their ceremonies. The Bergers entertained socially in their home during Shabbat and Festivals throughout the year.

The Rabbi engaged with local schools leading Jewish Assemblies at Hertsmere JPS, Yavneh College and Haberdashers Aske’s Boy’s School; and this year visited the Cockernhoe School as well as revisiting the Wareside Primary School, to give talks on Judaism.

He submitted articles to the Jewish News and gave interviews to the Jewish Views and BBC 3 Counties Radio. He helped facilitate Scriptural Reasoning sessions in St Ethelburga’s Center for Reconciliation and Peace, and delivered his talk on the History of Jewish Settlement in Japan to Bnei Brith chapters in Northwood and in Pinner.

The Rabbi was invited to speak at Limmud Italia in Venice delivering a talk on The Italian-born Hakhamim of the Spanish & Portuguese Community. Separately, he continued to chair for the 8th year the Society for Jewish Study, an organization formed in 1948 to promote Jewish adult education in the north-west London area.

Rabbi Jeff expanded his interest in interfaith dialogue attending conferences in Philadelphia, Vienna, Oxford, Sarajevo and Caux, Switzerland. The Rabbi is also a member of the Hertsmere Forum of Faith.





K.K. SHA'ARE RATZON SPANISH & PORTUGUESE CONGREGATION IN JERUSALEM

Contact information

Address: 18 Bet El Street, The Jewish Quarter, The Old City, Jerusalem

Email: Shaare_ratzon@yahoo.com

Website: www.sandpjerusalem.org

K.K Sha'are Ratzon Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue (Jerusalem)

Sha'are Ratzon, the only Spanish and Portuguese community in Jerusalem, welcomes all members and readers of the Sephardi Community to its services and activities in the historic Istambuli Synagogue in the Old City and elsewhere.

If you are planning a trip to Israel this year, please take a look at our service schedule:

<https://bit.ly/2KU0gvZ>

Email us in advance if you are coming or if you would like to know more about us, we will be happy to assist. Visit our website or join our Facebook group for updates and news of other events during the year.



Rambam Sephardi
רמב"ם ספרדי
ELSTREE & BOREHAMWOOD

Dear Rabbi Jeff and Michie Berger,

*Thank you both for your 7+ years of uplifting
and amazing Rabbinic leadership.
We wouldn't be what we are today without you.*

Your Board and Kehila



Claudia Sheena
Accountancy
Services Ltd

**Wishes all the community Shana Tova
and well over the "Making Tax Digital" season**

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THE SEPHARDI CONGREGATION OF SOUTH MANCHESTER, SHAARE HAYIM

Contact information

Email: shaarehayim@clara.co.uk
Address: 24 Wicker Lane, Hale Barns Cheshire WA15 0HQ
Tel: 0161 980 1877

Elections

The following were elected for the forthcoming year:

President: Michael Khodadad
Chairman: Anthony Sultan
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

Events

Last November our beloved Rabbi Shlomo Ellituv and Rivka Clayhills celebrated their marriage at the Shaare Rachamim Synagogue in Didsbury. The Shaare Hayim congregation wished them Mazel Tov on this memorable occasion.

We celebrated Purim in the traditional manner with the reading of the Megilla followed by a fancy-dress competition and our superb Persian Dinner. Our thanks go to Mike Khodadad and Igal Farshi and their team for putting on such a magnificent meal.

At the end of May, we visited Hardwick Hall in Derbyshire, a National Trust property. This amazing building is 400 years old, built by Bess of Hardwick, and houses some of the largest tapestries in Europe. Thanks are due to Jennifer Cohen for organising a very successful day.

In early July, we welcomed Lyn Julius who gave us an insightful talk about her new book “Uprooted”, describing the background to the expulsion of the Jews from the Arab lands. Mickey Akka added his own personal experiences in Iraq. Thanks are due to Lesley Sher and Candice Dwek who helped to ensure a successful evening.

Our Hatanim this year will be Ian Starr (Hatan Torah) and Mark Benson (Hatan Bereshit) in Didsbury and Michael Filson (Hatan Torah) and Michael Ozon (Hatan Bereshit) in Hale.

Engagements:

Montana Bloom to David Sciama
Jake Ailion to Melissa Korn
Joshua Hodari to Lauren Keefer

Marc Mesrie to Natalie Segal
Adam Gottlieb to Anny Marcus
Jamie Hodari to Olivia Martyn

Weddings:

Georgie Davis to Omri Gelbart
Rabbi Shlomo Ellituv to Rivka Clayhills
Daniel Linton to Hannah Andrews

Barmitzvah:

Toby Khanzadeh
Ben Davila

Ben Bentley
Aaron Jebreel

Bat Chayil:

Eden Cainer
Roxy Kingsley

Funerals:

Cecil Baker, Renee Collins, Renee Hodari, Terry Greenfield, Anwar Aslan, Sarah Moses, Rosie Sassoon, Gladys Sassoon, Andrew Cohen, Massoud Halimi, Fortune Hazan, Bury Mesrie, Nissim Musry, Ashraf Mofarah, Gerry Maratchi, Rosie Fernandez, Iris Sufrin.





*Vera Goodman,
moving force behind the window's installation.*

© Peter Fisher

VERA GOODMAN

Born: London, February 3 1915

Died: London, March 23 2018

Vera Goodman was, by any standards, a dynamic personality who made her mark in the various spheres in which she was actively involved. An accomplished speaker, she had the courage of her convictions, and was never deterred by popular opinion from pursuing policies or ideas which she thought were right.

She entered the London Sephardi Jewish Community through her late husband, Maurice, whose father, Paul Goodman, had been its distinguished Secretary for 50 years. Vera was one of the first women to be elected a member of the Board of Elders, as well as Chairman of the Women's Guild. She was a member of the British Council of the World Sephardi Federation, and represented the Spanish and Portuguese Congregation on the Board of Deputies of British Jews for some 21 years.

Her two lasting achievements at Lauderdale Road Synagogue were in encouraging the Elders to commission a portrait of the late Haham, Dr Solomon Gaon, as a tribute to him on the occasion of his 70th birthday; and the second was her involvement in the commissioning and installation of the large stained glass window on the south side of the synagogue to commemorate the synagogue's centenary. The window replaced one of plain glass installed after the original window was destroyed during the Second World War.

Vera gained knowledge of social problems during several years as a voluntary School Care Committee Worker in London's East End. This proved a good foundation for her later work as a Governor of the historic Russell School in Petersham, Surrey, near to where she and Maurice moved to live in 1966. She was also a volunteer for many years at Richmond's

Royal Star and Garter Home for ex-servicemen and women, and in 2004 was presented with a Volunteer Award in recognition of her service.

A lifelong Conservative, Vera threw herself into working for the local Conservative Association being elected Chairman of the Richmond and Barnes Conservative Women's Constituency Committee. One of her proudest achievements was the organisation of a very successful conference "Britain in Europe" at Richmond's Old Town Hall in 1978 at which the then Minister at the Foreign Office, Douglas Hurd, was one of the speakers. Subsequently, Vera took over as the Chairman of the 372 Group of the constituency party that organised events within the Association.

In 2006 she was proud to host the Rt Hon David Cameron at a lunch just after he had become Leader of the Opposition, and in 2007 Sir John Major addressed the 170 attendees with Vera presiding. An active member of the Conservative Friends of Israel, she did her best to present Israel's case positively at every opportunity.

For her 100th birthday, her MP Zack Goldsmith held a party for her in the House of Commons. She was in a dazzling form.

Alongside her political and communal activities, Vera's great love was travelling. Together with her late husband Maurice, she visited many parts of the world, but they never tired of walking in the beautiful surroundings of Richmond and the river. She will be sadly missed by her relatives and many friends.

HOME ENTERTAINING MASTERCLASS

By Alexia Goldstein

When I received the call from Sharon Buenos, from the S&P Head Office, suggesting we write an article for the Annual Magazine, I had a great idea: why don't we set up a beautiful photo shoot showcasing three different looks for 3 home entertaining options. In high excitement, I immediately contacted my favourite florist, photographer, linen suppliers and a new company I've started working with who've created a range of exquisite table toppers, and gave them their starting orders!

After the hard work of choosing the looks and designing the table styles, the day of the shoot finally arrived. The team descended upon the venue and straightaway set to work creating the first table.

TIP!

Invest in a padded table protector to put on your table before laying your cloth over it – this will give a more luxurious heavy feel to any cloth

SOFT & FLORAL

This is a very delicate look, perfect for a ladies brunch, tea party or Bat Mitzvah. The base cloth is a soft pretty pink with a fabulous texture that provides the ideal base for the stunning floral organza topper that we placed over it. For a buffet table I would suggest using mirrored shapes to break up the table. I arranged for an assortment of different sized glass vases to grace the table and placed within them co-ordinating flowers in pale pastel greens and pinks. I also chose to feature hydrangeas in bolder, vibrant colours on this light table in order to bring out all the different shades used. We were lucky to have wonderful crockery and cutlery to use, but look to your cupboards for either matching tea cups and saucers, be bold and do a mix and match look, or be really daring and hire in from a vintage rental company. Also bear in mind there is fantastic luxe plasticware available out there as well, and these can look stunning - tea forks and teaspoons from these ranges will look especially effective. Dig out or borrow family heirloom silver tea sets to add a touch of the antique and remember that everything does NOT need to match!

The menu for the classic tea party is strawberries and cream, scones, fresh pastries, fresh fruit, along with cucumber, smoked salmon or cod roe sandwiches plus poached salmon, new potato salad, homemade mayonnaise and tartar sauce. Or opt for a modern twist and serve teriyaki salmon skewers, mini sushi style wraps, avocado guacamole with toast, crustless quiches, grilled asparagus, mini peppers and even mini pots of greek yoghurt with toppings of fruit and granola or you could go for Bircher Muesli!

TIP!

Call on family and friends for a few settings of their best tea sets to mix and match and give a fun look to the table!



MODERN DINNER

This is an ideal look for a special occasion dinner, corporate hosting or pre-party dinner. The napkin and base cloth to the floor is a gold cloth reaching with a heavy lattice-work style; the top cloth used is a fabulous grey and muted gold design. I chose a bold coloured flower as I wanted the magnificent gold chargers to stand out. We intertwined the smoke grey votives to bring some glamour to the table. The place settings were perfectly matched with gold cutlery and then the beautiful white and gold plates. Using family crystal glasses something more modern gives the table a lot of gravitas!

I would suggest purple asparagus, orange gel & beetroot hollandaise as an impressive starter with a main course of sliced roasted duck breast on a celeriac puree with assorted heritage carrots and potato dauphinoise. A cool dessert of blackberry sorbet with a slice of bitter chocolate tart.

TIP!

Don't be tempted to use gold vases or tea light holders or this will look too gaudy; and the flowers should be a bold colour - we chose a rich deep red or purple which adds to the opulence of the setting.



SHABBAT

They say never mess with a classic and I couldn't agree with this more - there should only ever be a white cloth on the table for Shabbat as far as I am concerned!

Here we used a base cloth of a heavy crisp white flaxen cloth and overlaid it with a magnificent beaded sheer cloth which looked so elegant and stunning that it literally took our breath away. The incredible table centre arrangement - a deep silver wine cooler filled with grand prix white roses - only added to the sense of occasion. We used silver cutlery and laid for four courses and, once the vintage wine glasses were on the table, along with all the traditional Shabbat silverware, the table was almost complete and looked simply magnificent. The fan-effect napkins finished off the grand look perfectly!

Menu ... well this, as I have learnt (and especially speaking as an Ashkenazi girl!) is an intensely personal thing. Every family has their chosen special favourites and each family's histories and customs make every Shabbat table as individual

TIP!

When serving red wine at a meal, open the bottle, pour the contents into a jug and then pour back into the bottle as this allows the wine to 'breathe' FAST!



THANK YOU OUR SUPPLIERS FOR THIS FANTASTIC PHOTOSHOOT:

Alexia Goldstein

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Le Decore

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Flowers by Miri

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DEBBEST KOSHER RESTAURANTS IN ISRAEL

By Debbie Kandel

Wherever you go in the world, it is always helpful to receive restaurant recommendations from locals and with the Israeli restaurant scene changing so regularly, this guide aims to provide a list of must-try kosher restaurants for your next trip to Israel. There is a carnivorous focus to this list as people seem to prefer to make the most of the abundance of meat options available in Israel, but most places on the list also offer great fish and vegetarian dishes.

JACKO'S STREET, JERUSALEM



Top of the list is [Jacko's Street](#), due to the creativity of the menu and the energetic atmosphere in the restaurant - it epitomizes the expression “fun-dining”. The menu concept is Middle Eastern fusion, with many dishes offering elevated versions of traditional home-style Middle Eastern recipes. Popular starters are the Asado Bruschetta and the Red Tuna Fricassee and its Gourmet Burger is probably one of the best in the country. Other delicious mains include the Goose Breast Focaccia, the Charred Steak and the Turkish-Spiced Fish Fillet. After 9pm the music is lively and sitting at the bar, overlooking the open kitchen, is a great option.

LA REGENCE, KING DAVID HOTEL, JERUSALEM



For those looking for truly creative kosher dining, [La Regence](#) is a unique kosher experience. As you would expect from the King David Hotel, the service is efficient and attentive. The style of the menu is European with an Israeli twist. Signature dishes include starters Tomato Leather filled with Sea Fish Salad, and the Chicken Consommé, Roasted Duck confit with Black Garlic for main course, and the extraordinary dessert, Chocolate & Olive Oil, to finish. The tasting menu is a great way to experience the best dishes from the menu.

MAMILLA ROOFTOP, MAMILLA HOTEL, JERUSALEM



For the ultimate “Jerusalem” setting, [Mamilla Rooftop](#) is a must. The view over the Old City is incomparable and the menu is always fresh and interesting offering Mediterranean dishes with a Middle Eastern influence. Interesting starters include the Iron-Rich Herb Salad, Duck in a Blanket, and Grouper Shawarma. For main course the Entrecote, Salmon, and Bass are all great dishes. The service is slightly hit or miss but the view and quality of the food make it worthwhile.



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**HERBERT SAMUEL,
RITZ CARLTON HOTEL,
HERZLIYA PITUACH**



[Herbert Samuel](#) in the Ritz Carlton Herzliya is a great restaurant for business and pleasure, with a lovely view of the Herzliya Marina. The starters include a number of light raw dishes such as the Red Tuna Crudo, Salmon or Beef Tartare, and the Tomato Salad is the very popular Herbert Samuel signature dish. If you are dining with a fellow carnivore, the Beef Chateau or the Prime Rib are both great options for a minimum of two diners. The fish dishes are also delicious, especially the Salmon and Grouper. All the Chocolate-related desserts are worth saving room for. There is an impressive wine menu and the wine fridges line the length of the restaurant.

**BLUE SKY BY MEIR
ADONI, CARLTON
HOTEL, TEL AVIV**



Yet another hotel restaurant, but the rooftop setting overlooking the Tel Aviv skyline and shoreline is a spectacular backdrop, even in the winter. Chef Meir Adoni is an incredibly creative chef who experiments with unusual flavour and texture combinations. The only dairy restaurant on this list has a fish menu which changes regularly and has more of an Asian twist than when it first opened. They also serve a wonderful brunch on Fridays.

**MEAT KITCHEN,
TEL AVIV**



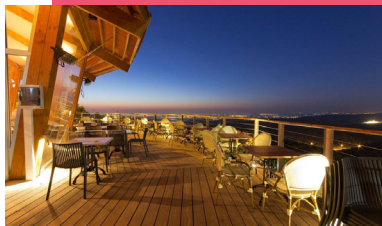
Located in a business area of Tel Aviv, [Meat Kitchen](#) is a large restaurant with a busy atmosphere and a large meat-aging fridge at the back of the restaurant. Outstanding starters include the Foie Gras with Salted Caramel and Churros, and the Beef Fillet Tartare with Roasted Almonds, Balsamic Caviar and bone Marrow. Main courses include various meat dishes like Beef Fillet with Mushroom Confit, Mashed Potato and Amarena Cherries, Tournado Rossini, and Prime Rib served by weight, with Bone Marrows. Despite the name, the menu also includes many chicken, fish and vegetarian options. The overall quality of the ingredients, interesting flavours combinations and efficient service, make it a great kosher option in Tel Aviv.

**5TH AVENUE,
EILAT**



Beautifully presented food, great raw ingredients and rich and flavourful dishes. [5th Avenue](#) became kosher in February 2018 and the menu was designed by Chef Aviv Moshe of Messa and Quattro in Tel Aviv. Delicious starters include Beef Empanadas, Salmon Tartare and Goose Liver Mille-Feuille. For the main course, indulge yourselves with Beef Fillet And Truffle Mash, or the Tortellini of Veal Cheek Served with a Goose Liver and Teriyaki Sauce. The desserts are worth trying, especially the Crème Brulee Semi Fredo and the Textures of Chocolate – hard to believe they are actually parev.

**MUZA BAHAR,
SHORESH**



Day or night, [Muza Bahar](#) is a scenic way to enjoy a very good meal. The Duck Fillet is a clear winner in the starters. The duck is well cooked and it is served with caramelized apples and Calvados foam, which perfectly complement the flavours of the duck. For main course, the Cote de Boeuf (500g Rib Eye) is a serious piece of meat which is well-aged and served with a bone marrow, and the Salmon Fillet is a great alternative for non-meat eaters. The desserts are all beautifully presented but the Deconstructed Lemon Pie is the most interesting and least parev-tasting of them all.

**GILLIS STEAK HOUSE,
MOSHAV NOV**



Although Gillis is not a traditional restaurant, the food and the experience are so good it still qualifies for this list. [Gillis Steak House](#) is only open on Thursday night; the rest of the time it is a cattle farm and butcher. The most unique aspect about the place is that the cooks are actually the farm workers who just know how to cook the meat well and honor its true flavour – there are no special sauces or fancy plating, just delicious well-cooked high-quality beef. The menu is simple – meat! Some dishes can be ordered individually, including a token chicken dish, but for real carnivores, the tasting menus are the way to go. There are various options depending on how much meat you want to receive, but it is all unbelievably delicious so if you want to go all out, get the Just Beef tasting menu at NIS 238 per person. The service is incredibly warm and the Gillis family personally hosts all their guests, adding to the experience.

**MINATO, HERZLIYA
PITUACH**



Possibly one of the best sushi restaurants in Israel, the quality of the ingredients and the precise nature of the preparation is what distinguishes [Minato](#) from most other sushi places in Israel. The menu also includes some delicious cooked dishes like Agedashi Tofu, Katsu Chicken and Minato Yakimiku (entrecote with a mild mirin sauce). The design of the restaurant and the dishes used are beautiful and add to the dining experience. The only downside is that the restaurant is on the small side so space is limited.

There are so many other great kosher restaurants all around Israel like **1868** and **Anna Italian Café** (Dairy) in Jerusalem, **Olive Leaf** in Tel Aviv, Oratorio in the **Elma Hotel** in Zichron and the restaurants in the Beresheet and Cramim hotels.

Debbie Kandel is a food writer for The Jerusalem Post and Debbest Israel, her own personal blog. Debbie has been living in Israel for 10 years but is originally from London. Her family has been part of the Spanish & Portuguese community in London for many generations.

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SLOW COOKER HONEY GARLIC CHICKEN



INGREDIENTS

8 chicken thighs	1/2 tsp red pepper flakes
1/2 cup honey	1/2 tsp black pepper flakes
1/2 cup soy sauce	500 g baby red potatoes
4 cloves of garlic crushed	500 g baby carrots
1 tsp dried basil	500 g green beans
1 tsp dried oregano	

METHOD

Mix honey, soy sauce, garlic, and spices.

In a slow cooker pot arrange 4 chicken thighs, and pour over half of the sauce.

Add the potatoes and carrots and 4 more chicken pieces. Top with the rest of the marinade.

Cook on low for 8 hours or high for 4 hours.

For the last 30 minutes add the green beans. Serve and enjoy.

CHALLAH FOR SHABBAT



INGREDIENTS

2 cups of warm water
2 tablespoons yeast
2 tablespoons sugar
4 cups of strong bread flour
2 tablespoons salt
Oil for greasing the bowl
Egg wash and sesame seeds

METHOD

Take 2 cups of warm water and add 2 tablespoons of yeast plus 2 tablespoons of sugar and mix together in a bowl and leave for around 10 minutes to rise.

Fix the plastic dough blade to the Magimix. Place in Magimix bowl 4 cups of flour along with 2 tablespoons of salt, and blend mixture together. This stage can equally be done by hand in a large mixing bowl.

Add the water/yeast/sugar, which has now risen, gradually into the flour/salt mixture in the Magimix bowl, combining together for 2 minutes, until a smooth dough is formed.

Add more flour to this dough, as necessary, in order to achieve your preferred consistency. Pour the final challah dough into an oiled bowl and leave to rise for an hour, making sure to cover the bowl. After the challah has risen take the dough and braid it. Leave your braided challah to rise yet again for a further half an hour on a greased sheet or greaseproof paper-lined baking tray.

Finally, take your freshly prepared challah and brush the surface with egg wash and sesame seeds. Place in an oven at 200 C and cook until nice and brown.

TABBOULEH SALAD



INGREDIENTS

1 cup bulgur
1 bunch of parsley
1 bunch of green onions
1/2 cup fresh mint (leaves only)
1 tomato
1 red pepper
2 green cucumbers

For the dressing:
Juice from 1 lemon
1/4 cup olive oil
Salt and pepper, to taste
Pomegranate seeds for decoration

METHOD

Rinse the bulgur thoroughly and simmer in lukewarm water for about 20 minutes.
Drain and place in a bowl.
Finely chop parsley, mint and vegetables. Add to bulgur and mix to combine.
Mix the dressing ingredients and pour over the salad. Mix well and let sit for 20 minutes.
Decorate with pomegranate seeds and serve.

SWEET AND SOUR PUMPKIN AND MEAT STEW



INGREDIENTS

500g lamb shank or stewing
steak, cubed
700g pumpkin or butternut
squash, peeled and cubed
4 heaped tablespoons sultanas
10 prunes, coarsely chopped
1 piece fresh ginger 5cm long,
finely chopped

400ml tinned tomatoes, chopped
1 onion, coarsely chopped
1 garlic clove, coarsely chopped
3 lemons, juiced
Zest of 2 oranges
3 tablespoons sugar or agave
2 tablespoon olive oil
Salt to taste

METHOD

Gently fry the onion, garlic and ginger on a low heat until soft.
Add the meat and then turn the heat up to high and stir to seal on all sides.
Add the tinned tomatoes and simmer until all the juices are reduced.
Mix in the orange zest, sultanas, prunes, salt and pepper. Cook for a few minutes. Add enough water to cover the meat and bring to the boil. Cover and lower the heat to medium. Cook for 30 minutes or until the meat is tender. Ensure that the water does not dry out, adding small quantities of hot water as necessary. Add the bite-sized cubes of squash and bring bring to the boil. Then, lower the heat to medium and cook for a further 20 minutes. Add the lemon juice and sugar. At this point, taste and adjust the flavour of the sauce to your liking. If you find it too lemony, add a bit more sugar and vice versa. Cover and continue to cook for another 15 minutes or so until the squash is very well cooked. Watch the sauce does not boil away, adding small quantities of hot water as necessary, until you have a slightly thickened sauce. Serve hot with rice or mashed potatoes.



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JEWISH
CALENDAR
2018/19

SEP
2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					01 7:35 PM	01 8:36 PM
02	03	04	05	06	07 7:19 PM	08 8:19 PM
09 Rosh Hashanah 7:15 PM	10 Rosh Hashanah	11 Rosh Hashanah 8:12 PM	12	13	14 7:03 PM	15 8:03 PM
16	17	18 Yom Kippur 6:54 PM	19 Yom Kippur 7:53 PM	20	21 6:47 PM	22 7:46 PM
23 Succot 6:42 PM	24 Succot 7:41 PM	25 Succot 7:39 PM	26	27	28 6:31 PM	29 7:30 PM
30 Hoshana Rabbah 6:26 PM						

OCT
2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	01 Shemini Atzeret 7:25 PM	02 Simhat Torah 7:23 PM	03	04	05 6:15 PM	06 7:14 PM
07	08	09	10	11	12 5:59 PM	13 6:59 PM
14	15	16	17	18	19 5:44 PM	20 6:44 PM
21	22	23	24	25	26 5:30 PM	27 6:31 PM
28	29	30	31			

NOV
2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				01	02 4:17 PM	03 5:19 PM
04	05	06	07	08	09 4:05 PM	10 5:08 PM
11	12	13	14	15	16 3:55 PM	17 5:00 PM
18	19	20	21	22	23 3:47 PM	24 4:53 PM
25	26	27	28	29	30 3:41 PM	

DEC
2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						01 4:48 PM
02 Hanukah 1 Candle	03 Hanukah 2 Candles	04 Hanukah 3 Candles	05 Hanukah 4 Candles	06 Hanukah 5 Candles	07 Hanukah 6 Candles 3:37 PM	08 Hanukah 7 Candles 4:46 PM
09 Hanukah 8 Candles	10	11	12	13	14 3:36 PM	15 4:46 PM
16	17	18	19	20	21 3:38 PM	22 4:48 PM
23	24	25	26	27	28 3:43 PM	29 4:53 PM
30	31					

JAN
2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		01	02	03	04 3:50 PM	05 5:00 PM
06	07	08	09	10	11 3:59 PM	12 5:09 PM
13	14	15	16	17	18 4:10 PM	19 5:19 PM
20	21 Tu Bishbat	22	23	24	25 4:22 PM	26 5:29 PM
27	28	29	30	31		

FEB
2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					01 4:35 PM	02 5:41 PM
03	04	05	06	07	08 4:47 PM	09 5:53 PM
10	11	12	13	14	15 5:00 PM	16 6:05 PM
17	18	19 Purim Katan	20	21	22 5:13 PM	23 6:17 PM
24	25	26	27	28		

MAR
2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					01 5:25 PM	02 6:29 PM
03	04	05	06	07	08 5:38 PM	09 6:41 PM
10	11	12	13	14	15 5:50 PM	16 6:53 PM
17	18	19	20 Fast of Esther	21 Purim	22 6:02 PM	23 7:06 PM
24	25	26	27	28	29 6:14 PM	30 7:18 PM
31						

APR
2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	01	02	03	04	05 7:26 PM	06 8:31 PM
07	08	09	10	11	12 7:38 PM	13 8:43 PM
14	15	16	17	18	19 Pesah 7:49 PM	20 Pesah 8:58 PM
21 Pesah 9:01 PM	22 Pesah	23 Pesah	24 Pesah	25 Pesah 7:58 PM	26 Pesah 8:01 PM	27 Pesah 9:10 PM
28	29	30				

MAY

2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			01	02	03 8:13 PM	04 9:23 PM
05	06	07	08 Yom Hazikaron	09 Yom Ha'atzmaut	10 8:24 PM	11 9:36 PM
12	13	14	15	16	17 8:35 PM	18 9:49 PM
19 Pesah Sheni	20	21	22	23 Lag Baomer	24 8:44 PM	25 10:01 PM
26	27	28	29	30	31 8:53 PM	

JUN

2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						01 10:12 PM
02	03	04	05	06	07 9:00 PM	08 10:20 PM
09 Shabuot 10:28 PM	10 Shabuot 10:29 PM	11	12	13	14 9:05 PM	15 10:25 PM
16	17	18	19	20	21 9:07 PM	22 10:28 PM
23	24	25	26	27	28 9:08 PM	29 10:27 PM
30						

JUL

2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	01	02	03	04	05 9:05 PM	06 10:23 PM
07	08	09	10	11	12 9:00 PM	13 10:16 PM
14	15	16	17	18	19 8:53 PM	20 10:06 PM
21	22	23	24	25	26 8:44 PM	27 9:55 PM
28	29	30	31			

AUG

2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				01	02 8:33 PM	03 9:41 PM
04	05	06	07	08	09 8:20 PM	10 9:27PM
11 Tisha B'Ab	12	13	14	15	16 8:07 PM	17 9:11 PM
18	19	20	21	22	23 7:52 PM	24 8:55 PM
25	26	27	28	29	30 7:37 PM	31 8:38 PM

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