



Etz Chaim

Volume 26
Issue 1

Reform
Judaism
The Movement for Reform Judaism

April 2008
Nisan 5768



In this issue:

Pictures from Purim

Report from Board of
British Deputies

World Holocaust Day

and much much more!

Stop Press

Kosher l'Pesach food is now instore at the Broadstairs/Westwood branch of Sainsbury's and includes some items not previously in stock.

Rabbi Emeritus:
Community Rabbi:
Chairman:

Vice Chairman/Treasurer:
Honorary Secretary:

Council Members: Brian Abraham, H el ene Cohen, Esther Solomon, David Fox, Simon Wolfe, Janine Chilley

Rabbi Sonny Herman

Rabbi Cliff Cohen

Godfrey Fischer

Ian Smiler

Eleanor Miller

Thanet & District Reform Synagogue, 293A Margate Rd, Ramsgate, CT12 6TE
TEL: 01843 851164 - A constituent member of the Movement for Reform Judaism

Shabbat services and Festivals Calendar

Saturday 19th April – Saturday 21 June 2008 / Nisan 14 – Sivan 18, 5768

Kabbalat Shabbat services are held every Friday at 7.30pm (except the Shabbat Suppers – 6.45pm.)

Saturday services are on the first and third Saturday of each month at 10.30am.

*Torah breakfasts start at 9.15am, followed by a shorter service at 10.30am.
(NB Festival times vary – see below)*

As the calendar is prepared in advance, details shown may be subject to amendment. Call 01843 851164 to check.

APRIL

Sat 19 Apr, 1030am
Shabbat Hagadol
Nisan 14
Malachi

Erev Pesach

Communal Seder 6:45pm

Sun 20 Apr, 10am
Pesach, first day

MAY

Sat 3 May, 1030am
Blessing for Iyar
Nisan 28
Kedoshim

Wed 7 May, 7pm
Iyar 2

Yom Hazikaron

Erev Yom Ha'atzmaut
Israel Remembrance Day

PARTY for the 60th

Sat 17 May, 1030am
Iyar 12
Behar

JUNE

Sat 7 Jun, 1030am
Sivan 4
Naso

Sun 8 Jun, 7pm
Sivan 5

Erev Shavuot
Tikkun leyl Shavuot

Mon 9 Jun, 10am
Sivan 6

Shavuot

Sat 21 Jun, 1030am
Sivan 18
Shelach Lecha

Coming Soon from Jewish Kent:

On Sunday 27th July, at Margate Hebrew Congregation Synagogue, the second part of The Value of Prayer with Rev Malcolm Weissman, United Synagogue's Minister to Small Communities. Please contact Ian Smiler for further details.

Shalom and Welcome to Etz Chaim

It has been a busy few months since the last issue, with many events at the synagogue alongside other events in the wider community at which our members were represented. We hope that this issue reflects how busy we have all been! As a family we were lucky enough to go to the Chanukah party, the Purim party and Benjy Cohen's Bar Mitzvah. These events were great fun and were all a good showcase for the work that H el ene Cohen has done with the Havdalah Club.

It is a daunting task to take over editing a newsletter like Etz Chaim that is both well established and well received. How-

ever we have had lots of positive feedback and constructive criticism following our first attempt. It has all been gratefully received. We would also like to thank you for all the contributions we have received for this newsletter. Please don't lose heart if we haven't found a place for them in this edition - they are the life blood of this newsletter and are always welcome.

For this issue we are trying a new layout style and we probably will keep changing for a few issues until we settle into our new role, and find the ideal style

Eleanor and Graham Miller



The Editors reserve the right to edit any material accepted for publication.

The deadline for the next issue is 14 June 2008.

All correspondence or articles to:
Etz Chaim News, 1 Wenderton Cottages, Wenderton Lane,
Wingham, CT3 1EL or email eleanor@buyjewishstuff.biz.
Tel: 01227 722182

The articles, letters, advertising and content in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Thanet and District Reform Synagogue or of the Movement for Reform Judaism.





The Board of Deputies of British Jews exists to protect and defend the rights and freedoms of British Jewry. These same rights and freedoms have evolved over many years and are enjoyed by Jews in Great Britain today. But events are seldom static. Changes to legislation, campaigns by special interest groups, outright attacks on Jews and Israel—all require a concerted response.

As the community's representative organisation, the Board of Deputies is able to engage with government, the media and wider society, providing a vehicle through which British Jews have a voice.

It is with pride that the Board of Deputies represents the rights and interests of British Jews in every walk of life. Below are some of the core things we do every day.

In the area of defence and group relations we:

- combat antisemitism
- foster relations with faith groups and wider society
- monitor moves affecting shechita and brit milah

- consult with Government on proposed legislation
- respond to racist activities

In the Jewish and wider community we:

- promote Jewish schooling and education and run the 'Pikuach' inspection service for Jewish Studies;
- create long-term policy strategies through the work of our Community Policy Research Group think-tank;
- engage in interfaith and environmental initiatives; and
- display the pioneering Jewish Way of Life Exhibition to non-Jewish children.

On the international stage we:

- represent the interests of British Jewry in Europe and around the world;
- consult on areas affecting Diaspora Jewry with the British government and foreign embassies in the UK;
- monitor European legislation; and
- work to enhance the understanding of Israel and its pursuit of peace and security;

It is important to remember that the Board of Deputies does these things by protecting the freedoms of British Jewry everyday. In the last 18 months, for example we

- headed off government proposals to bring in quotas to Jewish

schools, and leading the way on a national faith schools linking programme;

- launched the Big Green Jewish Website, merging Jewish tradition and environmental concerns;
- protested against the mass murder in Darfur, drawing on the lessons of the Holocaust;
- organised demonstrations and lobbied to free captured Israeli soldiers;
- combating anti-Israel campaigns wherever they emerge, most recently in the Church and academia;
- are directing a voter registration drive against extremism in the run up to the local London elections in May; and
- are spearheading with the CST the Jewish Human Rights Coalition UK, a U.N. Durban Review task-force

But most importantly, we're your Board of Deputies – protecting and defending the rights and interests of British Jews since 1760. With your help we'll be doing so for the next 248 years as well!

Local Elections on 1 May: An Important Message

Extremist parties, most notably the British National Party, are preparing local election campaigns in a number of local authorities across

the country, as well as in London for the Greater London Authority and other elected offices, including that of Mayor. The threshold for them to gain a seat on the GLA, together with the public funds that then become available, is a mere 5 per cent of the vote.

The good news is that extremist and racist candidates can be stopped from securing elected office if the turnout is sufficiently high, and so every vote cast on the day counts.

This is why the Board of Deputies has launched an awareness and voter registration drive in the lead-up to the May elections. Register, vote, and if necessary, obtain a postal vote.

For information and to support the cross-communal response to the local and London elections in May, see www.fight-racism.co.uk or contact admin@fight-racism.co.uk.

A core text of the Passover Hagadah is the reminder, "In every generation they rise up against us..." It is a cautionary adage that should awaken our responsibility to fight complacency and to work with people of all faiths to ensure that we live in a peaceful and tolerant society.

Each vote for a mainstream party is a vote against extremism. Vote and you help guarantee that our voice will be heard. Stay at home and you risk that their voice will. It's your voice or theirs. It's really that simple.

Jewish Music in Thanet

On Sunday 7 Sep this year we will again be holding open house in the synagogue as part of the annual **European Day of Jewish Culture and Heritage** This year's theme is *JEWISH MUSIC*,

There is a wide potential for events on the day, celebrating the huge Jewish contribution to the world of music. We can celebrate the music of our liturgy; Jewish music reflecting different traditions of the countries Jews have settled; works of Jewish composers, both classical and modern, and evergreen songs composed for Broadway and films.

We plan to have short performances during the day. Do you have any suggestions? Are you a musician or singer? Do you know anyone who would like to take part? Have you any thoughts and ideas for this exciting event? Would you like to be part of the co-ordinating team?

Any suggestions – give Godfrey Fischer a call on the synagogue number.

Charity thank you:

Ezer Mizion

Please accept this expression of our heartfelt appreciation for your support of the Ezer Mizion Bone Marrow Donor Registry.

Thanks to your contribution, the target of 500,000 donors on the largest Jewish Bone Marrow registry keeps getting closer, enabling the facilitation of literally hundreds of extra lifesaving procedures every year and for years to come. Together we can make a difference, literally between life and death for those around the world, now and in the future, desperately waiting for a life saving match.

Sincerely

Gemma Judah
Community Campaign
British Friends of Ezer Mizion

(We raised £195.50 for Ezer Mizion Kol Nidre Appeal. If you would like to see more of their work – www.ezermizion.org)

JCD – Jewish Child's Day

Thank you for supporting JCD's Chanukah appeal.

As you know, JCD is celebrating its 60th anniversary this Chanukah and our help is needed more than ever before.

Your valued contribution will go towards continuing the vital work JCD undertakes all year round in helping thousands of abused, neglected, handicapped and underprivileged Jewish children to make a better life for themselves.

Thanking you once again.

With kind regards,
Daniel Burger
Executive Director

(This money was raised by those who came to our Chanukah party by putting their loose change (and a few notes as well) in the JCD money box)

Is It Kosher?

At Thanet's local kosher grocers (AKA Sainsbury's) there is a new label on the shelf underneath the semi-perishable kosher range – Annabel Karmel. Amongst other things, Annabel has created a range of meals for youngsters who hate vegetables. There are three versions – vegetarian, chicken and beef. Is it kosher? Well, no. Don't be fooled by the name – it's not an alternative mountain transliteration! However, for readers whose interest is specifically vegetarian food, look at www.annabelkarmel.co.uk.

Godfrey, you may know, has an interest in Jewish heritage tours and kosher food abroad, received an email from a Spanish wholesaler of kosher wines whose name is María Jesús Íñiguez! Is the wine really kosher? Well, yes. Certified by the Rabbinat of Paris. Unfortunately, it's not available in the Costa del Thanet.

Havdalah Club Leads The Way In Tu B' Shevat Celebrations

To celebrate Tu B' Shevat a special service was held at the synagogue by Havdalah club members. Following preparation work at previous club meetings, prayers and readings were said by members of the club. The children were all great and their contribution made the occasion extra special. Recent Bar Mitzvah Benjy Cohen showed fantastic knowledge and maturity in planning the service together with his compilation and production of the service booklet.

As parents of children attending the Havdalah club, we say special thanks to Hélène and to all those involved. Keep up the good work!

Golda and Paul Valek



From the Bulletin of Hendon Reform Synagogue - by Larry Ross

Who on Earth would call a meeting on a Monday morning in December at 8:15am? Is that a time that you would think of calling a meeting? Whoever do you imagine would turn up? You are probably saying “no-one” and you’d be right... that is unless you were Rabbi Elaina Rothman, and the end of SEVEN LONG YEARS of being in charge of the Siddur Steering Committee, that is. The usual time for these meetings was 8:15 on a Monday.

On Monday morning December 3rd her penultimate meeting was FULL. Every single member was on time. So who are they? Well, two Rabbis, and one Rabbi Professor, three important members of the Movement for Reform Judaism staff, one Movement Board member, a well-known and knowledgeable Christian author and expert on prayer books, the person in charge of music for the new siddur, who is a member of Finchley Reform, the recent Chairman of the Services Committee at Alyth and now Chair of the Governors of Akiva School and a JCoss Trustee. Oh and one other, who is writing this. Eleven people, bright and early, eager to go... at the 60th meeting of the Siddur Steering Committee.

Not only is it the sixtieth meeting after seven long years, but at last, the end is in sight. At this special meet-

ing we saw what are virtually pages from the book itself, as it will look. We saw one or two of the stunning illustrations, some of the dedications, were able to see the actual typeface and the font and the colour... it was both exciting and emotional with a touch of nostalgic regret that these meetings are nearly over, because they have been spiritually uplifting and (for me anyway) an insight into a world I had never known.

If you think, as well you might, that the new Siddur is just the finished version of the draft we have been using for months, it is understandable. but you would be WRONG. There are 756 pages in the Siddur. It will take a lot of reading. The Study Anthology alone could be a book in itself. As soon as we know the date, there will be a special introductory Shabbat for it here at Danescroft when Rabbi Katz will guide us through our first service using it. Our books will all be embossed on the back with the name of the synagogue (except those you have ordered for yourselves) and the deluxe version will also be delivered at the same time or shortly after. Rabbi Amanda Golby has been responsible for the twenty page glossary that will be at the back, and the illustrators come from all over... especially from other European countries, some even from the Former Soviet Union, so as Rabbi Professor Jonathan Magonet said “this is truly a European Siddur”. As a nostalgic look back, there will also be an attractive collage of some of the synagogues featured in the

last Siddur, a link with the past, but with forward looking new stunning illustrations as well. There has been interest in the Siddur from South Africa and from Australia, and it is hoped that eventually, it will reach a worldwide Progressive Jewish readership.



Don't forget the Tzadekah box. It's been a great success so far, and we wish to give a full content to our next adopted charity in the coming months.



Jewish Women's Week

The appeal for this year's Jewish Women's Week is helping WIZO to work towards building a society where today's vulnerable youngsters will become tomorrow's successful adults. With their and your support, young people in Israel can and will reach their full potential.

Last year's campaign raised over £270,000 – a wonderful way to celebrate 60 years of caring.

WIZO opens the doors of opportunity to everyone in need regardless of race or religion. They do this through the many centres all over Israel and their highly trained staff works to change the lives of disadvantaged young people. As much help is needed as possible in raising funds to help maintain their crucial work which will enable today's dependent youth play a valuable role in Israel's future.

To donate you may send your donation by post to JWW Campaign, 107 Gloucester Place, London, W1U 6BY, or telephone 020 7486 2691. You may also donate online at www.wizouk.org/jww. If you sign the gift aid form WIZO can claim 25p for every £1 donated.

**Jewish Women's Week is
from**

4th to 11th May 2008.

A Word or Two...

I have to admit that when I received my copy of the last Etz Chaim News I had a touch of *déjà vu*. And why, you may ask? Well, I had the privilege and pleasure of producing the first issue in 1985 and, you guessed it, the same A5 size! However, there are some very basic differences. Never mind Life on Mars and the seventies. As I write this, BBC TV has just launched the eighties sequel, Ashes to Ashes. Look at the newly introduced computers with green print on grey screens. Few of us had such luxuries in those days. From 1985 to 1987 the newsletter was typed on a portable typewriter and, because we couldn't fit everything on the page, we used the technology of the day in the form of a photocopier and reduced the master A4 page to A5. Some readers had trouble reading the smaller print. 23 years later and I now understand that problem better. However, the solution of the day was to buy a magnifying glass. Early technology it may have been; but beloved written medium of the newly emergent Thanet Reform Community it certainly was. In 1987 we moved to an early version of desktop publishing (and laborious it was, too). The big change, literally, was to go to a larger A4 page.

So it has been for the years afterwards until December 2007. It's always a good idea to relaunch and this was a relaunch which resulted in many a compliment to the new editors. The comparison to the original A5 version; well, chalk and cheese.

I still have the archive copies if anyone would like to see them. Incidentally, for the 20th anniversary special edition of Etz Chaim News I produced a potted history based on articles in the newsletters. If you haven't seen it, just let me know.

Well, that's enough reminiscing. Since the last issue we have enjoyed happy family events. The Barmitzvah of Benjy Cohen was truly a simcha to be remembered. A look at the children in the Havdalah Club shows how we can be looking forward to more B'nei mitzvot in the future. And the month after we had another blessing, literally - Zach and Gabriella Rothman were given a special blessing as part of their naming ceremony during the Shabbat service. So when's the next chupah?

On a more serious note, the support by the local Jewish community of the National Holocaust Memorial Day service in Albion Gardens, Ramsgate, on Sunday 27 January was much appreciated. There were about 20 members and friends of both synagogues in an overall attendance of around 50.

A successful AGM has been held and I welcome Janine Chilley, who comes to Council for the first time, and a special welcome to Esther Solomon who is able to rejoin after a year's absence. May I take this opportunity to applaud the support I have been given by all the Council members, as well as that given, with much understanding, from their spouses. Along with the sterling

input from Rabbi Cohen I hope you feel we have attained a vibrant Jewish Community for East Kent. Not all of last years colleagues, however, can return to Council. I will miss Sally Bass' input, but Melbourne is a bit too far to come for the meetings. I hope that her chosen local Reform synagogue will be sensible and take advantage of her skills and experience. And Sam Cohen will be leaving the 'shores' of Thanet to go to university. He may not be back to Thanet to rejoin our Council but I am sure many a Jewish organisation will appreciate his support in the future.

Hazel and I wish you a very happy Pesach.

Godfrey Fischer



Coffee mornings – a new direction?

AS a means of raising money in a reasonably painless way, the synagogue's coffee mornings have always been popular. These usually take place in the home of a kind host and or hostess. However, times change, as does the makeup of the membership, and we need to keep abreast of these changes. We rely on the kindness of members to open their houses

and donate the refreshments, pastries and other victuals.

HOWEVER, the current breakdown of membership shows that whilst we see a gradual increase of numbers, the availability of locations has reduced. Although the coffee mornings will continue to be a must on our social calendar, it is unfair to place the burden on the same few people all the time. So, with your support, we can have a new kid on the block – the personalised coffee morning, or mini-coffee morning. Perhaps someone could come up with a catchier name!

HERE'S the idea. Invite a few people around for coffee and cakes – members living in your locale or your friends in the community and anyone else you care to ask. Charge everyone £2 for coffee and goodies and donate the proceeds to the synagogue. For the price of a coffee in a local café you get cakes, biscuits, etc., the bonhomie and the feel-good factor of everyone doing their bit to support the synagogue. Over to you! All you need is the date and a telephone!

Foster Carer's Fun Day

Our team at last year's World Food Day were asked if the synagogue would be willing to do the same at the Foster Carer's Fun Day. And that's how Jacqui Rose with Hazel and Godfrey Fischer found themselves at Pfizer's Social Club in February. The day was organised by Social Services to give foster carers and their charges a pleasant day out with all kinds of activities. Maypole dancing, steel band workshop, tai-kwondo display, cheer-leaders, Egyptology, face painting, lots of games, and more, something to suit all ages.

The Faith Zone had as its backdrop a sari and a prayer mat. On the table were various items from our Judaica Shop as well as leaflets about our community and the interfaith talks. It gave the opportunity for visitors to meet and ask questions of representatives from different faiths, or to pick up relevant leaflets about the religions. "That" said Godfrey, "was the theory. We were the only representatives in the Faith Zone and the leaflets looked as if they came from the Social Services manual of how to conduct oneself when meeting persons from other religions. However, this was a very minor point when you looked at the faces of the children enjoying themselves. And we did have quite a number of people come to chat to us, which is all we ask for". Future Fun Days could well benefit from the expertise of the proposed Thanet interfaith group. However, the funding has run

out and there are no plans for future events.



Bursaries for Abrahamic Degree

Heythrop College, a specialist college of the University of London, has launched a new BA degree in Abrahamic faiths, which is the first of its kind in this country. It offers the opportunity for Jews, Christians and Muslims to study together in a unique venture that will make considerable contribution to interfaith relations. The courses are taught by lecturers from each of the three traditions and substantial bursaries are available for students.

The range of the course covers the questions of what are the Abrahamic religions? Why are they important?; and how do they see one another?

The degree offers a chance to study the three monotheistic religions with a high level of teaching from Jewish, Christian and Muslim teachers. The U of L degree is recognised worldwide and also gives students the opportunity of a living contacts with the life of the three communities.

Heythrop College is situated in Kensington, London, within private gardens. To see for yourself, there is an open days this month - Monday 28 April. To attend,

contact the Principal's PA on 020 7795 4207

or j.crimmins@heythrop.ac.uk.

For details of the course, contact Jonathan Gorsky, Lecturer in Jewish Studies, 020 7795 4219 or j.gorsky@heythrop.ac.uk.

Full addresses:

Heythrop University of London,
Kensington Square,

London, W8 5HQ.

T: 020 7795 6600

F: 020 7795 4200; enquiries@heythrop.ac.uk; www.heythrop.ac.uk

Our first Shabbaton Supper of the year was held on February 22nd, attended by approximately 26 of our community, family and friends. The meal consisted of melon followed by fish, chips and green salad, prepared by Lorna with the able assistance of Kay. The dessert was Hazel's special chocolate cake (a great surprise for Martin on his birthday). The meal ended with tea and coffee.

WE would like to thank Lorna, Kay, Hazel and, of course, our Chairman, Godfrey - together with the 'waiting' staff who served us all so briskly and efficiently.

It was a delightful evening of eating, chatting, Sabbath songs and laughter.

Tom & Rivka Dodds.

Pictures below from Purim 2008, and one from the Foster Carer's Fun Day (spot the odd one out!)







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Caring help at hand



THE NATIONAL Health Service is the subject of much contentious discussions these days. Whether you love it or hate it, you can't do without it. If money is no object you can go private. Some subscribe to one of the various medical insurances, which can be most reassuring. But most people, even today, take comfort in a health service that may not be perfect but is there when you need it in an emergency. Many in our community have been in the emergency situation and, for the most part, our local hospital services come up trumps.

IT'S IN the aftercare that worries begin. What happens when you get home and you still need help? Not everyone has a family nearby to continue the caring. Also, when home care is provided by the social services, there may still be a charge – depending on one's benefits status.

THERE IS now an alternative in East Kent with the opening of Bluebird Care, a national company with the local franchise set up by mother and daughter team, Christine and Saffron Hudson, working from a newly appointed office 161 King Street, Ramsgate.

CHRISTINE says, " Bluebird Care offers a real alternative to residential care for older adults and disabled

persons. Many people who need some assistance with daily living tasks would rather stay in their own homes and direct their own lives. Bluebird Care makes that possible by providing a range of care services, which gives customers the freedom to carry on their lives as normally as possible. Care visits can range from 15 minutes to a full live-in service."

AN EXAMPLE of the services offered are, help getting up or going to bed, preparing meals, shopping, cleaning and laundry, personal hygiene including bathing or help with outings.

ALL STAFF are carefully chosen and then checked by the Criminal Records Bureau. Care workers are trained to provide the highest standards of customer care as well as how to meet individual needs and preferences. Bluebird Care is registered with the Commission for Social Care Inspection (the government body which regulates care provision in the UK) and will be regularly inspected to ensure quality.

CHRISTINE is a qualified social worker and manager and Saffron has worked in residential, day care and community settings providing care to those with mental health problems.

If you happen to be shopping in Ramsgate, call in for a chat and a friendly Yorkshire welcome. Or telephone them on 01843 570638

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Advertising in Etz Chaim

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Quarterly newsletter for Thanet and District Reform Synagogue

Publication for the local Jewish community including events, reports and items of general interest.

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If you would like to submit an advert for inclusion in Etz Chaim, please contact David Fox by email: davidfox@vfast.co.uk or by post.

c/o Thanet and District Reform Synagogue

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Headlines of the Board of Deputies' activities. Unabridged news items can be found at www.bod.org.uk

Board of Deputies Brussels delegation meets EU parliamentarians. A delegation from the International Division of the Board recently met high-ranking MEPs at the European Parliament in Brussels. Discussions focussed on European Union and European Parliamentary efforts and directives to counter racism and anti-Semitism in member states and also a consideration of the relevant committees and structures that are in place to implement these policies. Flo Kaufmann, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the European Jewish Congress, was joined by International Division members Prof Eric Moonman, Alex Faiman and Sidney Assor and by Public Affairs Director Elizabeth Harris. Of particular interest to the MEPs were the recent findings of the UK's All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Anti-Semitism as well as the structure, mechanism and advantages of establishing a neutral parliamentary body to explore these issues. Flo Kaufmann noted that the "MEPs thanked the Board for keeping them informed of our work and of our connections in Britain, Europe, Israel and on the international stage."

Board expresses concerns to Home Office over visas for extremists. Board officials met with Home Office counterparts to

share concerns over the impact on community relations and the welfare of the community on the subject of granting visitor visas to those expressing extremist and anti-Jewish views. "We need to understand the mechanics of the process by which these decisions are made, and Government needs to appreciate our concerns. This dialogue has served both those purposes," said Chief Executive, Jon Benjamin. The Board also joined the latest meeting of the Government's cross-department taskforce on anti-Semitism. The task force was formed to implement recommendations of the All-Parliamentary Inquiry into Anti-Semitism in the UK.

Lunch for London Olympics 2012 organiser, Richard Sumray MBE. The Finance & Organisation Division of the Board hosted a lunch for Richard Sumray MBE, chairman of the London 2012 Forum supporting London's Olympic Games, during which he recounted the dramatic sequence of events that led up to London's successful bid to host the Olympics. Mr Sumray, a member of the Mayor of London's Cultural Strategy Group and chair of Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust, said that since London won the bid in July 2005, the focus has been to make sure that the Olympics capitalises on London's key assets as the youngest, most culturally diverse communities in Europe by "creating an infrastructure that is sustainable and leaving behind permanent improvements for our

city.” Fielding questions on issues such as security, traffic, regeneration, tourism, volunteering opportunities and plans to accommodate London’s faith communities, Sumner explained that space will be created to accommodate all five major faith groups on an egalitarian basis. “My commitment is to make this an event to remember for all generations and for everyone who participates in this event”, he said. He also said that a commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Munich Olympics massacre would receive proper consideration.

Board publishes latest community statistics report; shows potential patterns of Jewish demographic growth in the UK

Co-authored by senior researchers David Graham and Daniel Vulkan, the report summarises data collected on such key statistics as births, marriages, and deaths during 2006. It reveals that more than 3,300 Jewish babies were born, a third of which were to the Charedi or strictly Orthodox community. Over recent years the total number of Jewish births has been slowly climbing. Significantly, the report found that, contrary to demographic patterns in most Diaspora communities, Britain’s Jewish population may be on the path to growth after a generation of contraction. This conclusion emerges from an analysis of several sets of indicators relating particularly to demographic trends in Britain’s Charedi community.

Totally Outdoors, Totally Adventurous, The Netzer Venture Day is Totally Fun!

This spring, how would you like to spend a day with friends trampling through the undergrowth, climbing, and even shooting air-rifles?

If this sounds like your idea of fun, or your kids idea of fun, then come to the **Netzer Venture Day on Sunday 18th May 2008**. This is an inter-community event based in the outdoors, running from 1.30pm - 6pm at Tolmers Scout campsite near Potters Bar. We have run three of these outdoor adventure days and they are great fun and very exciting. Run by experienced Madrichim (leaders) from RSY-Netzer, the Reform Movements youth movement, the 8 - 15 year olds will be rambling, playing wide games in ancient woodlands, climbing, building shelters and shooting air-rifles, all in the safety of this beautiful scout campsite. If you are coming on Shemesh Summer camp this will be a great time to meet other campers. Also if you are not sure, then come and try it out and see what we have on offer.

Its Totally Outdoors, Totally Adventurous and Totally Fun. For more information and an application form speak to your youth worker or contact Jon Littman, Youth and Community Worker for the Movement for Reform Judaism: jon.littman@reformjudaism.org.uk, 020 8349 5670

We send our condolences to

Syb Stubbs and family
following the sad loss of Rod beloved husband, father and grandfather
and also to
Roberta and Jennifer Byrne, past members of the community
on the sad loss of husband and father, Roy
and
to the family of Hetty Barrs, one time member of this community
our prayers go to all their families

Zichronam livrachah,

May their memory be for a blessing

Syb Stubbs wishes to thank the community for all the help and support she has received at this time of the sad loss of her husband Rod.

Treasurer's Tips

I thought you would be interested in some painless ways to give to charity, especially if your chosen charity is the Thanet & District Reform Synagogue!

Giving through the Self Assessment Return - Nominating a Charity to Receive a Repayment

Self Assessment taxpayers are able use their tax returns to donate tax repayments to charity. H M Revenue & Customs has given this Synagogue the following unique code reference number to be quoted on the return. This scheme is open to members and non-members alike.

The Reference is 'RAM69AG'

There is also a 'carry back' facility back scheme so that a taxpayer who makes a gift to charity using Gift Aid can elect to have his/her higher rate tax relief carried back to the previous year of assessment. More information is available from the web site address below.

For further information please contact your professional tax advisors, look at the HMRC website on the link below, or contact me at the Synagogue. I understand donations may be made anonymously if desired! Note this does not replace for the existing Gift

Aid scheme that continues to operate in the normal way.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/sa_tax_return.htm

Special message for members who have signed Gift Aid Declarations

With the forthcoming change in the level of income tax, make sure your payment was received by 5th April so that I may make a Gift Aid claim based on the old, higher rate of tax.

Payment of Membership Fees

Membership fees are payable on presentation. If you have not yet done so please send your cheque to the Synagogue office as soon as possible. If you wish to pay by internet banking or standing order let me know so I can give you the Synagogue's Bank Sort Code and Account Number.

Remember Us in Your Will

It is through the kind generosity of previous members that we enjoy the use of our Synagogue building today. If you have occasion to be writing or amending your will please do consider remembering this community with a bequest.

Ian Smiler

Did You Know...

That according to the Haggadah, it was actually Hillel who created the first sandwich (and not the Earl of Sandwich who is usually credited with the invention)...

And that Wikipedia, the popular free internet encyclopedia correctly says that Hillel created the first ever sandwich...

That the word Moshe (Moses) only occurs once in the Haggadah...

And that Yochabed, Moshe's mother, was 130 years old when she gave birth to him? (Brings a whole new meaning to the phrase 'Geriatric mother', now given to any pregnant woman over the age of 30...)

And for all of you Trekkies out there - the character Spock, in the television program Star Trek, would greet people with the Vulcan ritual of greeting. Leonard Nimoy, the Jewish actor who played Spock, copied this ritual from the handsign used by the kohanim when they blessed the congregation

And finally a thought from Golda Meir:

Let me tell you the one thing I have against Moses. He took us forty years into the desert in order to bring us to the one place in the Middle East that has no oil!



Thanks to Ian and Barbara Smiler for advising us of the following:

Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream is now available in Israel in the following flavours:

Wailing Walnut

Moishemellow

Mazel Toffee

Chazalnut

Oy Ge-malt

Mi Ka-mocha

Bernard Malamint

Berry Pr'i Hagafen

Choc-Eilat Chip

Simchas T'Oreo

It should be noted that all of these flavors come in either a cup or a Cohen.

From the Reform Judaism website (www.reformjudaism.org.uk):

Proof that Jews can change the world

Bournemouth Borough Council has become the first UK district council to adopt the Earth Charter - which offers a foundation for a peaceful, just and sustainable global society – thanks to the efforts of Reform rabbis, Neil Amswych and Jeffrey Newman.

The deputation at which the decision was made took place last month and was the culmination of a process which began almost a year ago when Rabbi Amswych invited the Director of the Earth Charter in the UK, Rabbi Jeffrey Newman, to an Inter-faith meeting attended by 70 local clergy and lay leaders, representatives of most of the religious groups in the local area. Their enthusiastic interest in the Earth Charter and its inspiring vision and ethical framework encouraged Rabbi Amswych to take it to the Council.

It is hoped now that in a series of meetings over the next year specific issues of waste and recycling, energy reduction and conservation, transport, biodiversity and eco-tourism - all issues of interest to the Council and covered by the Earth Charter principles - may be discussed and objectives agreed. Most of all, the involvement of local people and organisations in the work of

the Charter as the foundation for a peaceful, just and sustainable global society will be sought.

Rabbi Amswych commented: “For real change to take root, this must be seen as the beginning of a ‘slow-burn’ process which must be kindled over several years rather than a firework which burns itself out in a few seconds”.

Rabbi Newman added: “the Bournemouth decision is a major milestone in the fight against climate change and for a just society. It shows that, if they follow the prophetic vision offered by their tradition, Jews really can be a light unto the world.”



Mazel Tov to Benna Jane and Daniel Goldman on their recent engagement.



Holocaust Memorial Day January 2008

This year the National Holocaust Memorial Day fell on Sunday the 27th of January. In the UK this day commemorates victims of past and more recent atrocities from around the world. To us as Jews there is the special significance of the Nazi murdering of six million of our brethren. Many of us can establish a direct family connection to relatives who perished, and even for those who cannot, there is the probability that relatives from a previous generation or two with whom family connection have been lost were unfortunate victims. My father's family comes from Poland, and I know of cousins, aunts & uncles who were in Warsaw when the Germans invaded. I am a twin and I know there were others in the family left behind in Eastern Europe at this time.

In the UK there was a programme of events spread throughout the country. In our little corner of Kent there were two – in Ramsgate and in Deal. My wife Barbara and I attended them both.

The day started in Ramsgate, at a service hosted by the Mayor, Councillor Steve Ward, and held in Albion Gardens. For January we were fortunate, warm winter sunshine. I estimate approximately 50 - 60 people attended the event, members of our community, Margate Hebrew Congregation and friends from the wider world. Also in attendance was Ramsgate's MP, Dr Ladyman. There

was a short service, conducted by The Reverend Luke Dean, who is the Assistant Curate at St Laurence Team Ministry. Prayers were also read by Rabbi Cliff Cohen and David Gradus, and Godfrey Fischer sung 'Shema Kolenu'. After the service we all retired to the Council Chambers for a reception hosted by the Mayor.

In the afternoon Barbara & I went to an event in Deal, I estimate approximately 20 – 30 persons attended this event, including Elizabeth, partner of our John Ullmann who sadly passed away last year. We three were the only attendees from either of the Thanet Communities. Also in attendance was Gwyn Prosser, the MP for Dover & Deal. This event commenced with a short service held next to a Commemorative Tree in the garden of St George's Church, lead by Canon Robert Lunnon. Wreaths were laid by the Chairman of Dover District Council, Councillor Bernard Butcher, the Mayor of Deal Councillor Jim Cronk, and Elizabeth in memory of John, who was sent away to England by his parents as a result of the Kindertransport programme. After this we retired to the Council Chambers for presentations and a reception. Two sixth form students from Castle Community College gave a talk with photographs about their visit to Auschwitz, which was very moving. There was also a presentation about recent atrocities in Rwanda. Last year John spoke at this event and we remembered him. We concluded with fair trade tea, and a display of photographs of Jewish victims showing the depriva-

tion of life in the ghettos and camps. Ordinary people, put into extraordinary circumstances.

These terrible events happened only a lifetime ago, in what might have considered a cultured civilized society, just like our own. I have not visited any of the camps, perhaps one day I will. However, I did visit Berlin in December 1989, just at the time the wall crumbled. It was a place of living history, and this visit provided me with a real, almost tangible link between the past and present. Berlin was still a divided city, and to get there the aircraft had to descend to 10,000 feet and fly through a military corridor across East German airspace. Many of the trappings emphasising that this place was still under military control were still in place. I visited the Russian Sector of the city, and saw the wall. I also went to what is now the Jewish Community Centre, built on the site, and incorporating ruins of a former Synagogue. There were times when I felt shivers run down my spine, thinking of what may well have happened in my current location as I travelled on the railway, or visited former Jewish owned shops. From this city orders were issued to wipe out all members of a specific religion, wherever they were, including all the children, irrespective of whether pure or mixed parentage. This in my view differentiates the Holocaust from all other atrocities, however heinous they are.

It is nearly 20 years after my visit and with the passage of time the city has been united, and many physical reminders have gone. What is certain to me is that in another time, another place, similar events could happen again, and for this reason it is important to educate all generations with this simple message. NEVER AGAIN. Sadly, it seems not everyone is listening.

Ian Smiler



PARKING

Please take care not to park in front of our neighbours' driveways. Some entrances do not have drop-down kerbs but are, nevertheless, access entrances, especially 264 Margate Road (diagonally opposite) and 297, two doors away.



The Imam of the Margate Mosque, Union Crescent, Margate, invites you to see what happens in the Mosque; to experience how Muslims pray; to ask questions and learn about Islam.

Open afternoons are on the first Saturday afternoon of each month from 1pm to 4pm



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