



Etz Chaim

Volume 28
Issue 1

Reform
Judaism
The Movement for Reform Judaism

Spring 2010



The TDRS Purim Party! From left to right: Tessa, Gabriella (second prize winner), Zak and Torin.

Community Rabbi: Rabbi Cliff Cohen
Chairman: Godfrey Fischer
Vice Chairman/Treasurer: Ian Smiler
Honorary Secretary: Simon Wolfe
Council Members: Brian Abraham, Hélène Cohen, Esther Solomon, David Fox, Eleanor Miller, Janine Chilley

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
Friday 5th March 2010 – Monday 28th May 2010
Adar 19 – Sivan 15, 5770

Kabbalat Shabbat services are held every Friday at 7.30pm
Shabbat Suppers start at 6.45pm, followed by a shorter service at 7.30
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.



MARCH 2010

Fri 5 Mar, Adar 19, 7.30pm
Sat 6 Mar, Adar 20, 10.30am
Shabbat Parah, Ki Tissa
Torah breakfast starts 9.15am

Fri 12 Mar, Adar 26, 7.30pm
Kabbalat Shabbat service

Fri 19 Mar, Nisan 4, 7.30pm
Sat 20 Mar, Nisan 5, 10.30am
Vayikra

Mon 29 Mar, Nisan 14, 6.45
Erev Pesach, Seder first night
Communal Seder

Tue 30 Mar, Nisan 15, 10am
Pesach first day, service

APRIL 2010

Fri 2 Apr, Nisan 18, 7.30pm
Sat 3 Apr, Nisan 19, 10.30am
Shabbat Chol Hamo'ed Pesach

Fri 9 Apr, Nisan 26, 7.30pm
Sun 11 Apr, Nisan 28, 3pm
Yom Hashoah

Holocaust Day Service

Fri 16 Apr, Iyar 2, 7.30pm

Sat 17 Apr, Iyar 3, 10.30am
Shabbat Atzma'ut
Tazria-Metzora

Sun 18 Apr, Iyar 5, 7pm
Yom Hazikaron/Erev Yom
Ha'atzmaut

Israel Remembrance Day service
followed by Independence Day Party

Fri 23 Apr, Iyar 9, 7.30pm

Fri 30 Apr, Iyar 16, 7.30pm

MAY 2010

Sat 1 May, Iyar 17, 10.30am
Emor

Fri 7 May, Iyar 23, 7.30pm

Fri 14 May, Sivan 1, 28, 7.30pm

Sat 15 May, Sivan 2 10.30am
Bemidbar

Tue 18 May, Sivan 5, 7pm
Erev Shavuot

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot

Wed 19 May, Sivan 6, 10am
Shavuot

Fri 21 May, Sivan 8, 7.30pm

Fri 28 May, Sivan 15, 7.30pm

Shalom and Welcome to Etz Chaim

We appreciate that not all of our readers have access to the Internet, and we hope that Etz Chaim provides useful information and a way of staying in touch with the local and wider Jewish Community.

However for those of you who do, there are now a multitude of new and trendy ways you can access information about Judaism. The Movement for Reform Judaism has both Facebook and Twitter accounts. For those of you unfamiliar with these websites, Facebook is a 'social networking site'. This means you can join up, make connections with friends and family (a great way to keep in touch), and join groups of people with similar interests. Reform Judaism has one of these groups, and if you join you will be able to see various news articles posted up by the MRJ, and discuss and comment on the issues of the day.

Twitter is also a 'social networking

site' but it has the unique selling point that any messages (known as Tweets) posted by anyone have to be less than 140 characters long. Why any Jew would want, or in fact be able, to do this, is beyond us - but the MRJ has an account on Twitter, under the name Reform Movement. Their tweets contain links to all sorts of interesting articles elsewhere on the Web, and also to more general twitter discussions on topics of interest.

Leo Baeck College is showing a series of five documentary videos on YouTube of rabbis being interviewed about their roles - see elsewhere in the newsletter for further details.

And finally - work is underway on the Thanet and District Reform Synagogue's very own website. We are hoping that it will be available to view by the time the next newsletter comes out, and we will of course keep you informed.

Eleanor and Graham Miller (editors)



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

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 deadline for the next issue is 14th May 2010.

All correspondence or articles to:

Etz Chaim News, 11 Watchester Lane, Minster, Ramsgate CT12 4DA or email

eleanormiller@hotmail.com.

Tel: 01843 822550.

A Word or Two...

At a recent Council Meeting a fellow Council Member said to me, “look at the people around the table”. “Yes”, “I said, “a very pleasant group”. “No”, she says, “look at their ages”. “Thanks a bunch”, says I, “ you’re just trying to make me feel old!”

But this observation was most astute as, indeed, I am the oldest of the group and, in fact, the only founder member still serving on Council. We now have a new generation of Council Members – some with children at our cheder. I am sure you will agree with me that after a quarter-of-a century in the life of the Thanet and District Reform **Community**, this is a very positive situation. Please God that they will all be able to enjoy the celebration of our half-century!

I referred to the Thanet & District Reform Community rather than Synagogue. You may consider this as semantics but I would beg to differ. A synagogue is a building – a very important building, nevertheless. However, you can have a community without owning a building, Indeed, you can have a synagogue without a community..... I am sure you get the drift. There are too many synagogues in the world that have become museums or heritage

sites because of the decline of the community. In some cases the reason is due to terrible historic causes. In others it is purely a matter of demographics. Unfortunately but not disastrous except, perhaps, financially.

Away from the major city conurbations the life of smaller Jewish communities tend to last between 70 and 80 years. Mainly this is due to the natural occurrence of children growing up and moving away, families moving because of work and lack of industry or commerce to attract newcomers.

Half way through our history we saw the signs of this demographic route when the cheder ceased as the children had grown up. Of course, as you know, this was but a temporary ten-year glitch because we all now *kvell* at the success of the children of the Havdallah Club.

We are not a large community, and are not likely to be. I do not see this as a problem, rather as a blessing. For the emphasis is on that word – community. It’s all about you and your involvement.

This is my final stint as Chairman. I reckon I’ve had a pretty easy run because of the support and input of my fellow Council Members. All but two have agreed to stand

again so I bow out knowing that the Community is in good hands. After many years of Council and community involvement Esther Solomon has decided to retire, although I have a feeling that 'retirement' in general terms, is just a word. Eleanor Miller has been a Council Member since 2002 (good heavens, has it been that long) and is now taking time out to concentrate on three growing children and her work. The good news is that she will continue as Co-editor of Etz Chaim News. I thank them both for their years of hard work and support. We welcomed Sam Holden last November as a co-opted Council Member and I am pleased that she has agreed to accept nomination for the coming Council year.

I cannot conclude without saying a special thank you to Ian Smiler who, as Treasurer and Vice Chairman, has proved to be an invaluable part of our Synagogue and a great help to me.

I am sure there will be other things for me to continue doing for the synagogue so I look forward to the future and the continued success of TDRS.

Godfrey Fischer

TDRS tour to Krakow – October 2010

As part of our 25th anniversary celebrations we are organising a short break to Krakow in October, after the High Holy Days and ensuing festivals.

The proposed date is Sunday 3rd to Wed 6th October and will be around £400. Details will be sent to all members and friends of TDRS. If you are interested and would like to make a provisional booking, please email godfrey_fischer@btinternet.com or write to Godfrey Fischer at the synagogue address. You will be sent an acknowledgement so if you do not get a reply please check. Once full details are published a deposit of £150 will be required. The tour will be operated by an ATOL protected tour operator and led by an experienced Tour Manager.

(Illustration: The Old Synagogue, Krakow)



CHANUCAH PARTY 2010

It is a long time since I have submitted an article for Etz Chaim News, but this time I just cannot let it slip by without adding my piece.

Whether it be as a young child, or as an adult, I have sat through many different types of Chanucah parties, Liberal , Reform and Orthodox. The same story each year, when I must admit have lately begun to switch off!

This year however, thanks to Helene Cohen, was a very different story. I enjoyed the short service from start to finish.

Through her patient efforts she brings out the interest and imagination in all her class as individuals and only the very best is shown. The comradeship shows as they work together as a team. The young ones are learning from the older and the older child is also benefiting with confidence and maturity.

An added bonus too, is Benjy Cohen too with his very musical talents. This interest does not remain within the walls of the Synagogue. It is quite incredible to think that six years old Nathan Fox was able to show us (with the aid of his brother Elliott) a repeat performance of a Power Point Presentation he had compiled for his local school explaining the meaning of Chanucah. Hearty Congratulations to you Nathan! You held my attention, I listened and I learned!

This was followed by Zak Cohen's and Elliott Fox's Quiz. Most entertaining and also very well presented.

A big thank you goes to Hazel and her team for her usual excellent array of all her goodies which were quickly devoured by young and old.

Lastly, but by no means least, goes to Helene and her wonderful Cheder youngsters for a great afternoon very much enjoyed by us all.

Thank you so much.

I am just placing my booking for Chanucah 2011!!!!!!

Jacqui Rose

Follow the family tradition – be a part of Jewish Women’s Week

Has your mother or grandmother been a collector for Jewish Women’s Week over the years? It’s more than likely that they (and maybe your great-grandmother too) have given money annually to the Jewish Women’s Week campaign. After all, it’s been going since 1947 and is without doubt the best-known doorstep appeal in the UK Jewish community.

As it has for 62 years, the money raised goes directly to support essential social welfare work in Israel. This year’s campaign focuses on Keeping Children Safe. Funding support will be given to a wide range of WIZO (Women’s International Zionist Organisation) projects including:

- ✧ National Hotline for Prevention of Domestic Violence and Children at Risk
- ✧ Centres for the Prevention and Treatment of Violence in the Family
- ✧ Multi-Purpose Day Care Centres
- ✧ Therapeutic Centres – A Warm Home for Children
- ✧ Guided playgroups for children and parents together

Your willingness to collect or donate will help children like Doron, 4, who was found abandoned in a house in Lod along with a dog. They had been there alone for at least a week. Doron is deeply traumatized. Without WIZO’s help, placement in a new home will be difficult. It is vital that he begins interacting with other children and learning to live a normal life.

WIZO cares for over 12,000 at-risk children every year. Will you help us care for them by volunteering as a collector? We ask for a very small amount of your time during the first week in May. All we ask you to do is call on a few Jewish homes in your local area. You are sure to get a welcoming response - Jewish Women’s Week is so familiar and well-respected in the community.

Please contact jww@wizouk.org or call 020 7486 2691 to offer your help.

If you can’t find time to be a collector, we hope you will give a friendly reception to the person who knocks at your door on our behalf. Please follow in the family tradition and make a donation to the 2010 Jewish Women’s Week Campaign during the week of 2-9 May. 12,000 children are counting on you.

The Saga of Me

Say Rosie and a girl comes to
mind

Two plaits, blue eyes
Matched with 'Russian skin'
Freckles
And a smile

Say Rosie and heritage comes to
mind

Russian great-grandparents, the
generations
Stretching back like Russian dolls.
They came to England, to be poor
With six children, a tiny shop.
Paternal Grandparents,
From north England,
Money from the wool trade.
So I'm a mixture.

Say Rosie and reading comes to
mind

A book-a-day,
An unorganised scatterbrain.

Say Rosie and a horse comes to
mind

A leather saddle, a grooming
brush

A horsey smell, manure and dust
"You have a horse?"
"I wish."

Say Rosie and a star comes to
mind

The Jewish symbol
A community
Food for every festival
Bubbelas, Matzo, Latkes,
Delicious

Too-sweet wine, too-sour grapes,
Delicious?

Say Rosie and a picture comes to
mind

A doodle, a spiral
A line snaking into my
Imagination

Say Rosie and a baritone comes
to mind

Ambition for something bigger
A tuba.

The explosion of a bold, brass
band

A group of shouting
Elephants.

Say Rosie and an owl comes to
mind

Up at night
But early mornings:
Disaster.

Say Rosie and a pet comes to
mind

With spiky fur
Sharp teeth
And tiny claws
Guinea Pig.

Say Rosie and a girl comes to
mind

Two plaits, blue eyes
Matched with Russian skin
Freckles
And a smile.

*A poem by Rivka and Tom's grand-daughter
Rosanna, aged 12, written for a school English
lesson in January 2010*

An Open Letter From Rabbi Dr Tony Bayfield

On the letters page of the Jewish Chronicle there is an apparently innocuous letter from the Deputy Mayor of London (p.28, headed HMD DISSENT).

The letter follows efforts by Rabbi Pinter to declare the annual HMD event at City Hall the prerogative of the orthodox community and to persuade City Hall to prohibit non-orthodox rabbis from leading Kaddish.

This has been firmly rejected and confirms the new policy of 'rotation' which we, together with our Liberal and Masorti colleagues, are working on with the United Synagogue. It also reflects the policy of the London Jewish Forum. It both symbolises and is a practical example of a new way of relating in which the reality of a plural community and the significant place of the Reform Movement within the mainstream of that community is being accepted.

This is not a matter where triumphalism is appropriate or making life difficult for the enlightened leadership of the United Synagogue. But there will be appropriate times when you can point out to our members the progress being made and the acceptance of the Reform Movement as an important part of communal leadership.

Tony

25 Years Celebrated With Prayers

The Thanet & District Reform Community celebrated 25 years since its formation with a special Shabbat Civic Service in the synagogue on Saturday 20th February 2010.

Special guests Rabbi Dr Tony Bayfield, Head of the Movement for Reform Judaism; Lena Herman, whose husband, our late Rabbi Emeritus Sonny Herman was especially remembered; the Mayor and Mayoress of Ramsgate, Cllrs David and Liz Green; Mrs Margaret Sheldrick, Chairperson of Thanet District Council were amongst the many guests and members who joined us on this very happy occasion.

The service was conducted by Rabbi Cliff Cohen who recalled how welcome he and his family had been made when first arriving in Thanet, coinciding with our 20th anniversary!

Rabbi Bayfield recalled our early days in a sermon which linked us gracefully with the sedra about the first tabernacle, ark and their furnishings.

Life President and founder member, David Mirsky gave an address with memories of the founding of the community and the support given to us then by the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain (now The Movement for Reform Judaism).

The service was followed by kiddush and a sumptuous buffet in the true manner of TDRS.

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KEEPERS: NO HIDDEN EXTRAS

So How Does The Board of Deputies Protect Your Freedoms All Year Round?

For many people in the community, the work of the Board of Deputies still remains relatively unknown. They express surprise when they hear about the breadth of work done by the Board – not so much what we do, but that it is the Board that is undertaking these vital activities. Perhaps it hasn't occurred to them that the rights and freedoms we enjoy as British Jews haven't simply materialised, or that it is the Board that works tirelessly to preserve these entitlements. Our challenge for the new decade will be to ensure that British Jewry recognises the huge amount of work that is being done on its behalf and, in so doing, we hope that more and more people will involve themselves with our activities; by representing their Synagogues or Organisations as Deputies, by supporting our work or simply by sharing their concerns with us.

It is easy to take our ability to function freely as a community for granted. But it requires extraordinary effort to safeguard these freedoms, affecting every aspect of our lives as Jews in Britain, from the youngest to the oldest, across the religious spectrum. All manner of consultations, legislative changes, policy decisions and public debates have the potential to impact on the community, from organ donation and assisted dying, to Shechita, child protection and charity law changes. Only the Board works across all of these areas to ensure that the community's views are formulated and represented effectively.

Only recently, for example, anti-circumcision campaigners sought to challenge the practice of **Brit Milah** at the time of the inquest into the tragic death of a baby following his circumcision. Our intervention, to place before the court the best possible expert testimony, helped the grieving family by explaining that the circumcision was not a factor, but also helped the general public to understand that the practice is properly and responsibly conducted in this country.



The campaign against **Faith Schools** has gathered pace in recent years with a number of secularist groups seeking to portray them as divisive and damaging to relations with other communities. Against this backdrop, the Board has consistently championed the right of Jewish parents to choose schools with a Jewish ethos if they so wish. And where they do, the Board's '*Pikuach*' service (run with UJIA) is responsible for assessing standards in Jewish education, while our experts work with OFSTED and with Government on issues concerning curricula and admissions. We are also working to ensure that our schools' contribution to cohesion and citizenship is recognised, by establishing linking initiatives with other faith schools.

Where **Marriages** are conducted in synagogues around the UK, the Jewish community is one of only two ethnic or religious groups that has special dispensation to solemnise civil marriages alongside a religious ceremony. All of the authorisations and the administration which makes them possible, are done by the Board.

There are many places around the UK which once had vibrant Jewish communities, which moved away or died out, leaving only **Jewish Cemeteries** as a reminder of their existence. Often these communities predated today's synagogal organisations and burial societies, and so these cemeteries would be at risk of neglect and disrepair, but for our intervention. At the end of 2009 the Board of Deputies created a new charitable company to take on the legal title to a number of these properties, and to help secure funding for their future upkeep, not only as important historical sites, but as the final resting places of our forebears.

Our community has a proud reputation of tolerance and **Building Relationships** with other communities, and the Board is an integral part of making this happen. We know that the best way to tackle religious prejudice is to begin by creating a greater understanding of what it means to be Jewish in younger members of society; which is why we're so encouraged by the incredible success of our travelling 'Jewish Way of Life Exhibition', designed to teach some of the most fundamental aspects of Judaism to non-Jewish school-age children all over the UK.

Our 'Seeing Jewish Way of Life Tours' for older students are also effective in tackling grassroots prejudice. These and other initiatives are driven by our dedicated professionals and Deputies, who devote themselves to building understanding, co-operation and respect with other faith and ethnic communities.



Without question, one of the key concerns for British Jewry in recent years has been the disturbing increase in **Antisemitism** and we continue to engage in this unrelenting fight on several fronts. We are fortunate as a community to have the CST working on our behalves to secure our physical safety, and we work extremely closely with them to use our political weight to make relevant representations at the highest levels of Government. We are active participants on the Government's cross-departmental task force on antisemitism, holding to account those who need to challenge prejudice in all walks of life. Equally, we assign a great deal of resource to a less publicised yet equally important form of antisemitism found in the workplace, or indeed in schools and on campus. Prejudice is of course rarely a simple issue and it can be difficult to know what to do if you've been made to feel uncomfortable about being Jewish, without actually having a specific incident to report. Have you suffered from inappropriate comments made by a work colleague or a teacher; or more simply, a lack of sensitivity or understanding, such as when an employer refuses to allow time off for religious observance? If so, give us a call.

It is also, a sad reality that **Extremism** is on the rise - predominantly on the far right and among Islamist fundamentalists, and the Board is at the forefront of the campaign against these intractable ideologies. We regularly make representations to the Government on their strategy to combat these problems and consistently take strong positions on organisations and individuals who we consider exacerbate them. We welcomed the Government's recent decision to ban the extremist groups, al-Muhajiroun, Islam4UK and their affiliate groups, and we continue to advocate for the exclusion of purveyors of racist and violent ideologies when they seek entry into the UK. Similarly, our public campaigns against the British National Party and other far-right groups reflect the fierce opposition in the Jewish community to their intolerable manifesto of racism and prejudice.

Alongside all the work we do for our community in the UK, we are of course, always driven by the fundamental Jewish principle that, *'Kol Yisrael Arievim Ze La Ze'* - 'all Jews are responsible for one another'. We continue to represent the UK at the World Jewish Congress & European Jewish Congress, ensuring that responses to **International Issues** are properly co-ordinated. This synchronised activity was perhaps demonstrated most effectively at the recent Durban Review Conference, where antisemitism and demonisation of Israel were exposed and challenged on the world's stage, at the United Nations. The Board regularly meets foreign Ambassadors to the UK to discuss issues of importance such as sanctions on Iran and Holocaust restitution, as well as the rights and freedoms of smaller Diaspora communities, for whom our intervention in matters of concern can make a real difference.



It goes without saying that the one international issue which dominates the thoughts of our community is the hostility that is shown towards **Israel** and those of us that support her. Our role is to speak for British Jews, who overwhelmingly support Israel's right to exist within secure borders and at peace with her neighbours. We therefore seek to represent that view in two ways. Firstly, by ensuring that you have the tools to counter anti-Israel invective, with initiatives such as our **BUYcott** campaign, and by giving you the information you need to write letters to the media and lobby your MPs. Secondly, whether behind the scenes in formal or informal meetings, or at our regular Board meetings, we ensure that Government ministers at the highest levels understand and hear the overall sentiments of the community.

Remember that the Board is here to represent you - so if there's something that you feel strongly about then why not let us know...

The Board of Deputies of British Jews
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Was it Bergen Belsen or Buchenwald?

This was the strange question which crossed my mind around 5am this morning at Ben Gurion airport. Fixated you might suggest; obsessed comes to mind? Actually not. I witnessed something so special this morning that it made getting up at 4am to fetch Jody Wishnia, the Mazkira of Habonim Dror South Africa, really worthwhile.

My work with groups takes me very often to Yad Vashem. In fact I have probably walked through the new museum probably around a hundred times since it opened its doors. Those of you who have been there with me know that I do not guide inside the museum; I prefer to guide outside and prepare people for a very individual experience inside the museum as I believe it works best when visited in a more private, individual way with some guiding questions I plant before entering.

Thus, unlike most educators who take people to the museum, I am free to visit myself over and over again. And I visit. I do not take the opportunity to sit in the cafeteria and discuss Lieberman, Barak and Bibi as many educators do. I discover over and over again more of this deeply devastating story. I have my 'favourite' places in the museum, the extraordinary story of Pesach in Auschwitz, the joy of VE Day as it is juxtaposed with the liberation of a death camp, the room right before you leave on the left hand side with the beautiful music and the words on the wall and the photograph of survivors during a service in Buchenwald, yes, it is Buchenwald and not Bergen Belsen, being led by an army chaplain, a Rabbi of the US army. My eyes always fall on the figure of a young boy who stands out as he is obviously younger than anyone else whose eyes look out at us and prevent me at least from just walking by.

I saw those same eyes this morning at 5am in Ben Gurion airport while I was waiting for Jody. Those eyes belong to the little boy who grew up to become Rabbi Yisrael Lau, former chief rabbi of the State of Israel. This morning he was no longer an eight year old looking out at me from a photograph which hangs opposite the video of bulldozers dumping in an obscene gesture hundreds of bodies into mass burial grounds to try and prevent those who remained alive from contracting typhus, cholera and other killers who attacked these wrecked bodies. He was a father, a grandfather and a great-grandfather arriving home in Israel with his wife to be greeted by the largest group of greeters I have ever seen, even at this emotional airport.

I counted around 15 children who were clearly under six and about an equal number of teenagers. And sons, daughters and other relatives, about fifty greeters in total.

I have to say, even though I might have disagreed with some of his actions and ideas over the years, that was irrelevant. It was so moving. This was another of those moments I treasure in Israel. If I had only had a camera with me, I would have asked the curator of the Yad Vashem museum to consider hanging another portrait next to the one of the little eight year old boy in Buchenwald. That of the 73 year old father, grandfather and great grandfather returning home, to Israel, to his family. As opposed to the plans that others had for him a long time ago, may he live to be a hundred and twenty.

Julian Resnick February 9, 2010

Condolences

We mourn the death of our member Joe Erlick, who passed away last December, and send condolences to his family.

We send our condolences and prayers to Terry & Linda Goldman and family following the sad loss of Terry's beloved brother, Philip

Also to Paul and Golda Valek and family following the sad loss of Paul's Uncle, Gilbert Thomas at the end of December and his Nan, Megan Thomas, at the end of January

And to Eleanor Miller, Janet Hardy and family, who lost their Aunt Blanche Statos in February

Zichronam livrachah,
May their memory be for a blessing

Ask The Rabbi

From <http://news.reformjudaism.org.uk/assembly-of-rabbis/jewish-divorce.html>

Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Romain of Maidenhead Synagogue addresses your questions. This week's question: I was married in synagogue some years ago, but the marriage has now broken up. How do I go about obtaining a divorce that is recognised both legally and Jewishly?

Your original marriage was done in two parts : civil and religious. When there is a divorce, both parts have to be 'unmade' for the dissolution of the marriage to be complete. The civil divorce - which is obtained via the civil courts - affects the civil side of the marriage only. It means that you also have to gain a religious divorce too. This is an independent and separate process, and is usually executed only after the civil divorce has been settled, but you can put both in motion at the same time, while it can be a condition of the civil divorce that a religious one will be executed too. In order to obtain the religious divorce, either party applies to the Beth Din (Jewish religious court) for the *get* (the Hebrew term for the religious divorce).

There is a significant difference in approach between the two divorces. Whereas in civil law, it is the court that authorises the divorce, in Jewish law it is the couple themselves who authorise the *get*, with the Beth Din only serving to supervise and ratify it. Both parties have to consent to the granting of the *get*, in which case the Beth Din issues a certificate to that effect . But if one party cannot be contacted or refuses to agree, then an Orthodox Beth Din will generally be unable to act. However, the Reform Beth Din holds that if the refusal is unreasonable (eg if the civil divorce has already been granted, then there is usually no reason why the religious one should not follow), so it will go ahead and award the *get* on its own accord. Once the *get* has been granted, both parties are free to remarry in synagogue (and although the Orthodox do not recognise a Reform *get*, everyone else does). Any future marriage can also have a full chuppah.

If you wish to contact the Reform Beth Din about a divorce or any other enquiry, email : sylvia.morris@reformjudaism.org.uk This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it or contact her on 0208 349 5657

Newly Gilded Magen David

Amongst the items passed onto us by the now defunct Derby Synagogue (ark, bimah, reading desks, etc) was a wooden Magen David which is hung at the back of our Ark.

To celebrate the community's 25th anniversary it has been repainted and gilded with 22ct gold leaf by courtesy of, and as a gift from, Mark Negin. The star now shines in true gold to complement the shimmering silver of the Torah breastplates and rimmonim – a reminder that whilst some communities may close down they are not forgotten.



Is It Kosher?

A kosher search engine. Well, it doesn't have to be food, does it?

A new search engine called koogle has been developed for the orthodox community in Israel. It avoids locking into any 'adult' or other unsuitable sites.

See for yourself on www.koogle.co.il

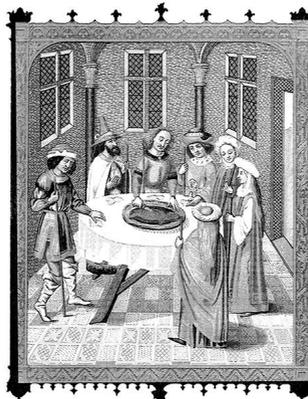
No cheating on Shabbos or festivals, though, as it automatically shuts down.



Stop Press

AGM 2010

A date for your diaries - the 2010 Annual General Meeting for Thanet and District Reform Synagogue will take place on Sunday 28th March at 11am at the Synagogue.



Pesach Stock

Kosher for Pesach-goods are now on the shelves at Sainbury's Westwood, Broadstairs. The first night of Pesach is 29th March, so there's still time to stock up.

Havdallah Club

We have been busy, as usual, at Havdallah Club. For Tu B'Shevat we decided to take a slightly different approach. So instead of focussing on growing and planting, we decided to look at how we could save more of the trees that we already have. As you'll have seen by the display, we turned our hands to making recycled paper. We experimented first by seeing what paper that we use was most absorbent - newspaper and kitchen towel won through on that score.



The Havdallah Club Tu B'Shevat Board

We all had a thoroughly good time, getting suitably messy and wet, making the paper that we displayed in time for the Tu B'Shevat seder that was enjoyed by those of us who were able to attend.

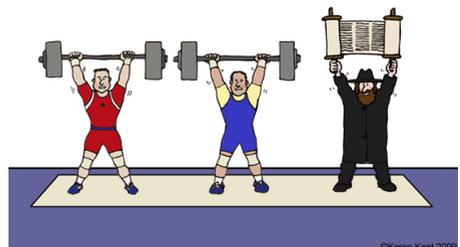
For Purim, Benjy and Zak put up a display of the story for Esther. Most of the Havdallah Club children were able to join in the Purim celebrations at shul, sporting a range of fancy dress clothing. Again it was delightful to see so many children enjoying the celebrations. We look forward to Pesach!

The Archbishop Of Canterbury
Dr Rowan Williams
in conversation with
The Editor of the Times
James Harding

The Board of Deputies of British Jews in association with the Jewish Chronicle invite you to an evening of stimulating discussion.

Wednesday 10 March 2010
6:30pm
Central London Venue

To reserve tickets, RSVP to
info@bod.org.uk or call **020 7543 5400**



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**WEBSITE: WWW.JLGB.ORG/SUMMERCAMP PHONE: 020 8989 8990
E-MAIL: SUMMERCAMP@JLGB.ORG**

Celebrate, good times – come on!! It's the JLGB's (Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade) 115th birthday, and we think this calls for a celebration! Join hundreds of young Jewish people, aged 11-16, not just from the UK but from around the world to rock the party for 10 whole days this summer.

Through National Open College Network accreditation and the six zones of our the new JLGB Enterprise Award programme, JLGB Summer Camp offers young people a well balanced programme packed full of high octane adventure, fun activities, leadership training and entertainment extravaganzas.

**Whether you've been to many JLGB Camps before or this is your first time –
we promise you it will be truly awesome!**

JLGB summer camps offer a wide range of activities to suit everyone. Daily activities include mountain biking, archery, water sports, climbing, abseiling, ariel slide, survival skills and more. New for this year are the JLGB Glee Club, interfaith sports competition, special needs awareness, puppet making and even more to be announced shortly at our website www.jlgb.org/summercamp.

JLGB camps are renowned for their stunning evening entertainment extravaganzas. From talent shows, to murder mysteries, from interactive game shows, to stunning late night discos - the fun just never stops! Have you got a talent? You can apply now to enter the Summer Camp Talent Show by emailing summercamp@jlgb.org. Once we hear from you we will be in touch to help you with music backing tracks, props and anything else you may need to maximise your performance potential to become the star of our show.

To celebrate the JLGB's 115th Anniversary, Summer Camp in 2010 will have a much larger ***international flavour***. To make the camp truly international, it is planned to host 80 or more Jewish children from communities across Europe, Israel and maybe even further afield. Let us know if you have any family or friends who live abroad who you think would like to join us at Summer Camp 2010.

Take a tour around our website www.jlgb.org/summercamp which will give you all the information you need to know, but if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact us on **020 8989 8990** or email summercamp@jlgb.org.



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