



EtzChaim

The movement for
REFORM JUDAISM

**Volume 29
Issue 1**

Autumn 2011



Yes, Red Socks Day again! This time for a spot – or slog – of weeding

Community Rabbi
Chairman/Treasurer
Vice Chairman
Honorary Secretary
Council Members

Rabbi Cliff Cohen
Ian Smiler
David Fox
Simon Wolfe
Janine Chilley, H el ene Cohen
Sam Holden, Sally Roth (co-opted)

Thanet & District Reform Synagogue, 293A Margate Rd, Ramsgate, CT12 6TE
Tel. 01843 851164

A constituent member of the Movement for Reform Judaism

L'Shanah Tovah!

Shabbat Services and Festivals Calendar

Friday 2 September – Friday 30 Dec 2011

Elul 3 5771 - Tevet 4 5772

Kabbalat Shabbat services are held every Friday at 7.30pm

*Shabbat Suppers start at 6.30pm for 6.45pm, followed by a shorter service at 8pm
Saturday services are normally 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)

*The calendar is prepared in advance and details shown may be amended
so call 01843 851164 to check*



SEPTEMBER

Fri 2 Sep, Elul 3, 7.30pm

Sat 3 Sep, Elul 4, 10.30am, Shofetim

Fri 9 Sep, Elul 10, 7.30pm

Fri 16 Sep, Elul 17, 7.30pm

Sat 17 Sep, Elul 18, 10.30am, Ki Tavo

Fri 23 Sep, Elul 24, 7.30pm

Wed 28 Sep, Elul 30, 7pm

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Thu 29 Sep, Tishri 1, 10am

Rosh Hashanah

Fri 30 Sep, Tishri 2, 7.30pm

OCTOBER

Sat 1 Oct, Tishri 3, 10.30am

Shabbat Shuvah, Ha'azinu

Fri 7 Oct, Tishri 9, 7pm

Kol Nidre

Fast commences 6.04pm

Sat 8 Oct, Tishri 10, 10am

Yom Kippur

Fast ends 7.07pm

Wed 12 Oct, Tishri 14, 7pm

Erev Sukkot

Thu 13 Oct, Tishri 15, 10am

Sukkot

Fri 14 Oct, Tishri 16, 7.30pm

Sat 15 Oct, Tishri 17, 10.3am

Shabbat Chol Hamo'ed Sukkot

Wed 19 Oct, Tishri 21, 7pm

Erev Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

Service & celebration

Thu 20 Oct, Tishri 22, 10am

Shemini Atzeret/ Simchat Torah

Fri 21 Oct, Tishri 23, 7.30pm

Fri 28 Oct, Tishri 30, 7.30pm

NOVEMBER

Fri 4 Nov, Cheshvan 7, 7.30pm

Sat 5 Nov, Cheshvan 8, 10am,
Lech Lecha

Fri 11 Nov, Cheshvan 14, 7.30pm

Fri 18 Nov, Cheshvan 21, 7.30pm

Sat 19 Nov, Cheshvan 22, 10am

Chayyeh Sarah

Fri 25 Nov, Cheshvan 28

Shabbat Supper

6.30pm for 6.45pm. Followed by a
short service at 8pm

DECEMBER

Fri 2 Dec, Kislev 6, 7.30pm

Sat 3 Dec, Kislev 7

Torah Breakfast 9.15am

Vayetze - Service 10.30am

Fri 9 Dec, Kislev 13, 7.30pm

Fri 16 Dec, Kislev 20, 7.30pm

Sat 17 Dec, Kislev 21, 10.30am

Vayeshev

Tue 20 Dec, Kislev 24

Chanukah 1st candle

Wed 21 Dec, Kislev 25

Chanukah 1st Day

Fri 23 Dec, Kislev 27, 7.30pm

Tue 27 Dec, Tevet 2, 3pm

Chanukah Party

8th candle

Fri 30 Dec, Tevet 4, 7.30pm

High Holy Day Service Tickets

This year we will as usual be holding a full programme of High Holy Day services. Tickets will be issued shortly and these will entitle members and their children under 18 to attend services. From this year, in common with other synagogues, if you are not a member, or have adult or student children, relatives or friends wanting to attend, all are very welcome but must obtain a ticket in advance from the synagogue office. **Entry to services is strictly by ticket only, so ensure you carry yours!**

NB if you have student or young adult (18-30) relatives away from home wishing to attend a local service, contact the MRJ on 020 8349 5640 for synagogues participating in this High Holy Day Ticket Initiative. Deadlines are **12 noon, Monday 26th September** for Rosh Hashanah and **12 noon, Wednesday 5th October** for Yom Kippur.



Shalom and welcome to Etz Chaim, autumn 2011

Message from Chairman, *Ian Smiler*

Hello everyone.

I am delighted our newsletter is back in publication after a short holiday. I am sure you will want to join me in wishing new editor, Alison R Noyes good luck and sending thanks to Eleanor and Graham who have recently left Thanet for Wales.

I hope you enjoy reading this bumper Rosh Hashanah edition, packed with a great mix of local news and features, as well as updates from across the wider world. This newsletter is our community's voice and I ask you to support it by submitting regular contributions to Alison and, as relevant, placing adverts in it. Its success depends on all of us so please put pen to paper and contribute!

I wish you all Shanah Tovah and well over the fast.

Message from new editor, *Alison*

I am, if 50-mile distant, a member of the shul. Originally from North West London I now live in Dungeness, in effect on the beach, though I assure you my house is stable.

I edit another quarterly newsletter, for the RSPB Dungeness volunteers. However, in this newsletter I will try not to refer too much to feathers, webbed feet, migration, nor fish and vole populations.



The editor reserves the right to edit, refuse, or postpone any material submitted for publication.

The articles, letters, advertising, and content do not necessarily reflect the views of the TDRS or the Movement for Reform Judaism.

The deadline for the next issue is Friday 25th November 2011.

Please write to Alison R Noyes at alisonlondon@aol.com or c/o 293A Margate Road. Ramsgate, CT12 6TE
Tel. 01843 851164

**Tribute to our late Emeritus
Rabbi Sonny Herman on the
Shabbat following his yahrzeit
by Lena Herman**

It is two years ago now that my husband Rabbi Sonny Herman passed away. There are still moments I can't believe it and think he is just in another room. Everybody who has lost a loved one will understand what I am saying.

Sonny will always stay part of my life and I treasure all the memories: good and even the difficult ones. He was a beautiful man, with a sweet character, though he would stand up for his opinions with an energy and power I had never seen in my life before I met him. He will always be there in my head and in my daily life.

Sonny loved life and continued to do so even when seriously ill. He struggled and lost. He told us to go on enjoying life to the fullest. He said he hoped we could find the strength to go on and enjoy every good moment that life offers us. Actually, that is an obligation according to the Talmudic words of wisdom.

This didn't mean he only lived for the fun part of life. He worked hard building a living. As a Rabbi he took care of helping people to live a meaningful Jewish life and find trust, comfort, and happiness in the tradition. But he also had great interest in the bad things that can and do happen to people. He dedicated an important part of his life to those who survived the Holocaust. He never addressed them as victims but always as survivors, strong and powerful. Having lost most of their families, friends, and everything else yet, despite all, finding a way to move on with their lives, filled him with admiration and made him feel he owed them his respect and support.

Besides his work as a Rabbi, he was a psychoanalytical psychotherapist. He came to Holland to serve our wounded Jewish community. His energetic love for life, music, joy, and learning was almost contagious to everybody who met him. He knew deep in his heart that life means finding a balance between the good, fun, and happiness on one part and the sorrow, loss and disappointments on the other.

God, our tradition, and music were the very important cornerstones in his life. He could always come up with a story or a song, uplifting the life of many and inspiring people to do good to each other and to themselves.



**Is there light after such dark
nights?**

Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers – 9.8.11

Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers of West London Synagogue reflects on the riots and looting in London and other UK cities.

It's surreal waking up to reports of rioting in London and elsewhere. In the Middle East they're protesting and rioting for freedom, here they're rioting for flat screen TVs and trainers.

There are plenty of reasons protests (not riots!) might be sparked: unemployment, social inequality and deprivation, services being slashed - none of which has a quick fix but all of which are a serious reality.

My Jewish response is to wonder what help and support the victims might need. Can we help with the clean up? Is there support we can offer, especially to the elderly too scared to go out?

Healing must be the hope for London and the world, as we continue to strive for *tikkun olam* - repair of our broken world.



Red Socks anyone?

Sunday 21st August was our second annual Red Socks Mitzvah Day in memory of our former Emeritus Rabbi Sonny Herman.

The selected task this year was to weed the synagogue's very overgrown front garden. Armed with spades, forks, trowels, garden brooms and gloves our team of gardeners set out to work – and all wearing red socks of course!

Due to lack of recent rain, the ground was dry, powdery, and hard to dig. Many of the weeds were very stubborn and unyielding.



You can imagine the immensity of the task!



Lunch came and went and so did community members. Eventually work stopped. Backs were stiff and knees were sore but the task was complete and we were all deeply satisfied!

Next year however we'll engage in a less back-breaking task!



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What's another year?

Hebrew is a very precise language. Words from related roots are always connected. The word "shanah" means "year", hence Rosh Ha-Shanah means New Year (head of the year).

The Hebrew root "SHNH" is fascinating. One of its meanings is "repeat", hence the Hebrew word "sheni" meaning "second". Thus each year is a repetition, another trip round the cycle of festivals, seasons, anniversaries, sporting events, all of which we have experienced before. This is very comforting. We like the familiar, and knowing what to expect.

But repetition is also a highly effective way of learning and teaching, so the root also means "teach" as in the Shema, where "v'shinantam" means "you shall teach them thoroughly". Each journey through the cycle is supposed to be a learning experience, an opportunity to avoid mistakes we made on previous journeys, to develop and grow as a direct result of what we learned from all the previous times we have stood where we stand now.

SHNH is also the root of the word "shoneh" which means "different". Each year is a repetition but also something different, something completely new. Just as there is no second opportunity to do something for the first time, so each time is unique; there is only one second time, only one third time, and so on. With each New Year, along with the repetition and learning, we hope to discover some more first times, some new experiences which even next year will be unique because they will then be second times (for the first time!).

May your New Year be full of meaning. May you have a year of familiar

comfort, a year of learning and teaching, a year of growth and discovery. L'Shanah Tovah to you all.

Cliff Cohen



Truly a mitzvah

I was reminded of those old Hollywood musicals – you know, the ones with Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney. *"Let's make a musical! You'll be the big singing star and I'll be the producer."*

Aside from the fact that a goodly number of Jews were very much part of Hollywood, what I'm thinking about is actually nothing to do with making films or musicals, even though music is involved. Obtuse? Well, yes!

How about a change of scenario? *"Let's start a Jewish Community! You put an ad in the paper and I'll make contact with the Movement!"* You could say that sounds just like Thanet 27 years ago. But actually it's Cheltenham three years ago. It worked in Hollywood; it worked in Thanet and, by golly, it's worked in Cheltenham.

And so earlier this year (a little less obtuse now) three TDRS families joined the Gloucestershire Liberal Jewish Community for Shabbat and a most enjoyable B'nei Mitzvah celebration. The families? The Dodds, the Cohens, and the Fischers, all by a most happy set of coincidences (and not the start of a "you know the one about ... ?" joke). Tom and Rivka's daughter, Natalie now lives with her family in Cheltenham. Both our daughter Rachel and Natalie, went to Clarendon House Grammar School, Ramsgate,

and an old friend of Cliff and Hélène's from Kingston had also moved to Cheltenham. So the said offspring of the Gloucestershire Liberal Jewish Community, along with one other family, were celebrating their first B'nei Mitzvah.

Well, it goes without saying that the day was a most happy and emotional one. All the children did their families and community proud. Their reading and chanting of the portion was of a truly high standard as were their Divrei Torah. It was clear that these are socially and ethically motivated youngsters and I have no qualms in saying that, in the hands of these young people, the future of the Jewish community is positive.

And to think, all this started with an ad in the local newspaper and a willingness to succeed!

Godfrey Fischer



The Havdallah Club

The Club has completed another successful year and is looking forward to the next one. Over the past year we have spent more time looking at Hebrew, playing games to become familiar with the alef bet. Some of the older children learned to read blessings and key passages for a kiddush and our Havdallah Club service in July.

For a few of our children the RJY Venture Day was a really special event. Using money awarded for use with our youth, we funded three of our children to attend it. Benjy compiled a film of the day and it was great fun for all involved. We're hoping to have more of our children attend the next one as they had such a super time. We're especially pleased that Toby was one of those to enjoy it as, sadly, the Millers have now moved to Wales. While we will miss them and all of their contributions, we wish them luck and hope they will come and visit us soon!

Towards the end of the year we studied the story of our Klatovy Scroll. This included a session where Rabbi Cliff replied to the children's prepared questions. He was really impressed with much that they asked and in their turn they were attentive listeners to what he had to say. Those of you who shared the Havdallah Club service with us in July will, I'm sure, join me in feeling especially proud of our youth. The service was themed around the Klatovy Scroll and included many moving and uplifting writings from our children. If this is a reflection of the depth of thought, care, and sensitivity of our youngsters, then the future is in safe hands. A copy of the service will be on the Havdallah Club notice board for all to read.

I would also like to thank Benjy and Zak for their support in running activities, leading learning, and keeping the Havdallah Club notice board fresh and fun throughout the year.

The year ahead promises to be exciting and eventful for us once more. The Havdallah Club wishes the community Shanah Tovah.

Hélène Cohen

New Voice for British Jews

The Movement for Reform Judaism has announced its appointment of Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner as its first ever Movement Rabbi, a full time position beginning in January 2012.



Rabbi Janner-Klausner, currently rabbi at Alyth (North Western Reform Synagogue), London, will represent the Movement nationally as rabbinic spokesperson. This is a new position to increase awareness of Reform Judaism and its values, widely shared by much of the Jewish community. Rabbi Janner-Klausner features regularly on the *Today Programme*, *Thought for the Day*, and BBC1's *The Big Questions*, among others.

In her new role she will represent the Movement itself in the 42 UK Reform communities, work closely with the Movement's rabbis to ensure a spiritual and rabbinic outlook in the management team, and to promote the rabbis' publications and communications in the wider arena.

Ben Rich, Chief Executive of the Movement says "In Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner Reform Judaism has identified a new national voice for mainstream British Jewry. She articulates values, beliefs, and practices that resonate with the vast majority of British Jews".

She herself says "I am completely thrilled at the prospect of working for the Movement, as we grow intellectually, spiritually and communally. I am looking forward to strengthening my support for RSY-Netzer, the Reform Movement's youth organisation, and to mentoring new

entrants to the Rabbinate as well as being involved with Jeneration. It is a great privilege to be joining the Movement team and to be taking on this role which I see as a sacred task."

Jenny Pizer, Chair-elect of the Movement says "Rabbi Janner-Klausner was the outstanding candidate for the position. She is an influential broadcaster and writer, great teacher, and a popular rabbi of one of our flourishing communities. She will be a huge asset to the Movement".

Rabbi Sybil Sheridan, Vice-Chair of the Assembly of Reform Rabbis UK, says "Reform rabbis across the UK are looking forward to working ... with Rabbi Janner-Klausner to raise the profile of Reform Judaism and the work of Reform rabbis."

Robert Weiner, Chair of Alyth says "It is a great compliment to Rabbi Laura and our community that she has been recruited to this role. She has been an important guiding hand ... at Alyth helping our community through everyday challenges, blessings, and traumas. It is not surprising that her gentle hand, loving style, personality, and professionalism have led her to ... this important position."

Rabbi Janner-Klausner has been part of the rabbinic team at Alyth since 2003, having been ordained at Leo Baeck College in 2004. She has a BA in Divinity from Cambridge, and post-graduate degrees from Brandeis University and Hebrew University, in Jewish Communal Service and Jewish Education. She lives in North London with her husband, David and three children, Tali, Natan and Ella.

For more about Reform Judaism visit www.reformjudaism.org.uk

Rich choice for Reform Judaism

After a comprehensive international search, attracting a strong list of candidates, the Movement for Reform Judaism appointed strategist and communications expert, **Ben Rich** as its next Chief Executive, to succeed Rabbi Shoshana Boyd Gelfand. He took up the post on 1st May.



Ben has been working as a consultant for the Reform Movement, with Rabbis Boyd Gelfand and Dr Tony Bayfield CBE since helping launch the new Reform *Siddur* three years ago. He is leading a strong senior team, including newly-appointed Pam Goldsmith (Co-Chair of Finchley Reform Synagogue) as Director of Community Development.

In addition to his work for the Movement, Ben has undertaken projects for Alyth, Kol Chai and Middlesex New Reform synagogues, as well as JCoSS and Mitzvah Day.

He is a member of the London Jewish Forum, a regular columnist for Jewish News, the former chair of the JC Power 100, and a Governor of the UK's first Hindu state school, in Edgware, that he helped to establish.

Prior to setting up his own consultancy advising on communications to faith and community organisations, Ben was a director of Luther Pendragon, one of the UK's largest and most successful independently-owned PR businesses. There, in addition to helping run the 50-strong consultancy,

he advised a range of blue ribbon clients. His award-winning 2005 campaign to mark Holocaust Memorial Day played a major part in his decision to re-focus his work on faith communities. Previously, he served four years as Deputy Policy Director for the LibDems.

Ben said "I feel very honoured and excited at this opportunity, heading ... a very strong team. We are at a unique moment of opportunity for Reform Judaism, representing the values and practices of the vast majority of British Jewry, even if old habits and affiliations die hard. The remarkable success of cross-communal organisations such as JCoSS and Limmud, the increased prominence of Reform Judaism, and the changing of the guard in Jewish communal leadership, all combine to throw in the air many traditional assumptions. I look forward to leading the Reform Movement on the next stage of its journey."

Stephen Moss, Chair of the Movement for Reform Judaism said "The post attracted an extremely strong field from a range of backgrounds. In the end Ben stood out as the unanimous choice because of his strengths as strategist and communicator, outstanding knowledge and contacts across the Jewish community, and expertise in leadership, stakeholder relations and fundraising."

Both Rabbi Dr Tony Bayfield CBE, Immediate Past Head of Movement for Reform Judaism and Rabbi Tony Hammond, Chair of Assembly of Reform Rabbis UK were full of accolades, confirming that Ben "brings to the post a gravitas, commitment to Reform Judaism and entrepreneurial spirit which will serve us extremely well in the years ahead" and "is well-known

to many rabbinic colleagues having worked diligently with them to raise the profile of Reform Judaism”.

Ben (44) grew up in a South London Liberal Jewish family. While at university in York (where he chaired the Jewish Society) he attended Sinai Synagogue, Leeds working closely with then Rabbi Walter Rothschild (the progressive chaplain). On returning to London he attended both West London Synagogue and the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, St John’s Wood before moving to Pinner. He is now regularly found with his wife and two young children at both Middlesex New Synagogue, Harrow and Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue. He also helped organise the first Harrow Limmud in March.

Ben Rich’s New Year message

For 50 years, my family’s Rosh Hashanah ritual included lunch at a quaint, old-fashioned Italian restaurant on St John’s Wood High Street, now sadly closed.

When my grandfather started the tradition, the restaurateur was incapable of coping with his Sephardi surname, Benedictus, so the table was booked in the name of Bennett.

Another family, another name. For years, I have told this story – sadly untrue - about Rabbi Lionel Blue’s family. Determined to fit in, his father had supposedly scanned the equivalent of the phone directory and quickly divined a pattern: there were Blacks, Greens, Browns and Whites, so he too chose a colour as his new family name.

What certainly is true is that that my university friend, Susie Albert’s great-grandfather – anxious to shake off the

dust of Eastern Europe – “borrowed” his surname off an immigration official on Ellis Island.

And while my own family folklore dictates that the Bennett name was chosen out of simplicity, I suspect that, like the Blues (an abbreviation from Bluestone) and the Alberts, it may also have reflected a desire to “blend in”.

But New Year is a time when Jews do not blend in. While tumbleweed may blow down the corridors of Goldman Sachs, most of us who “go missing” for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are the exception, not the rule.

And, for us, we have a choice: do we post a cheery “I’shanah tovah” on our “out of office” assistants and wish our non-Jewish colleagues the happiest of New Years? Or do we quietly slip away? Bennetts and Blues and Alberts: “ill” or “taking annual leave”?

All too often, we Reform Jews choose the latter route (metaphorically), lacking the self-confidence and maybe the learning to make the positive case for the choices we make.

But we should be confident and indeed proud: Judaism is progressive and our values of egalitarianism, inclusion and social justice are firmly rooted in centuries of tradition understood through modern eyes and ears.

As I approach my first Rosh Hashanah as the Chief Executive of the Movement for Reform Judaism, I set myself and the Movement this challenge: to make the positive case for Reform Judaism, be a powerful voice for our values and beliefs, prioritise learning so our choices are informed, to give our children confidence in what they do through our youth work and RSY-Netzer, and

support our synagogues to deliver the same locally.

This New Year let us all pledge to learn more about progressive halachah; make positive, informed choices about our practices and rituals; flaunt our living Judaism and demonstrate our values through charity and social action.

I wish us all a very happy, proud, New Year. L'shanah tovah!



Farewell to Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire

After 23 years, 10 of which were served as Vice-Principal of Leo Baeck College, and before that 13 years as Director of the Centre for Jewish Education (CJE), Leo Baeck College is saying farewell to Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire.



As Director of CJE, Michael supported the establishment of two pluralist Jewish primary schools and a pluralist secondary school. As Vice-Principal and later interim Principal he led the merger with LBC and chaired the international 50th anniversary rabbinic conference of the College.

He initiated a complete review of the rabbinic curriculum, introducing integration of academic and vocational subjects, established scholarship funds for rabbinic students, led five

successful LBC Summer Institutes for Jewish leadership, and was instrumental in the interfaith Clergy United seminars held at the College. The Shared Responsibility seminar held last October was the first of its kind in the world, bringing together formal and informal educators, lay leaders and rabbis to plan for the future of Jewish education in the UK. Throughout this time Michael has led the process of professionalising part-time Jewish educators. Most importantly, he set up the MA in Jewish education.

Michael was influential in highlighting the importance of family education and brought "Godly Play" to us, and was responsible for many important initiatives in UK Jewish education, such as the Israel seminars, Scholars in Residence programme, the Summer Institute, and Lay Leadership seminars. He sought and secured funding for many innovative projects, such as the Hebrew curriculum, Community of Learners and other adult learning programmes. Michael's contribution to Progressive Jewish education in this country has been immense and his influence will continue long after he leaves us.

He has been appointed Dean of the Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education and Professor of Jewish Religious Education at Hebrew College Boston from 1st September.

A spokesperson for Leo Baeck College says "Michael will be missed by his friends and colleagues at the College and we wish him all the best in his new role".

L'Shanah Tovah!

Rabbi Cliff Cohen and Mrs Hélène Cohen and family, Chairman and Council wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year, with greetings too from the following members and friends:

Pam Brown

Janine & David Chilley

Diana, Anthony, Marcus and Edward Da Costa

Esther & Erwin David

Rivka and Tom Dodds and Family

Hazel, Godfrey & Jonathan Fischer and Rachel & Gordon Fox

Betty Gee

Muriel Gillis

Daniel, Benna-Jayne, Nathan & Yoni Goldman

Kira and Summer Hilton

Henry & Helene Jacobs & Family

Jeffrey & Sarah Jacobs & Family

Kay & Reva

Jen Leigh

Jon & Anne Leigh

Malka & Luba

Marc, Hilary, Joshua & Hannah

David & Jacquie Mirsky

Jamie, Kelly, Reuben & Xander Mirsky

Dana Nathan

Alison R Noyes

Lily & Cedric Rebeck

Rosie Rolf

Jacqui Rose

Sally and Michael Roth, with Daniel, Leah, Leigh, Martha & Elsa.

Also Natasha, Scott and Georgie

Colin Seals

Barbara & Ian Smiler

Esther Solomon

Syb Stubbs

Adrienne Wainstein & Lionel Curtis

Audrey Wythe



Rabbi Cliff, Hélène, Sam, Joe, Benjy and Zak wish you all a happy and healthy New Year. We also invite you to join us at our home, 60 Margate Road, Ramsgate, on Sunday October 16th, any time from 8.00am until midnight, to make a b'racha in our Succah and sample our hospitality. No need to let us know, just turn up!



We send our condolences and prayers to those who have lost loved ones since the publication of our last newsletter

*To Jon Leigh and family
following the sad loss of his mother, Rita*

*To Anne Bellamy and family
on the sad loss of her sister, Janet*

*To Bob Taylor and family
on the sad loss of his wife, Lorna*

*And to Rosie Rolf and family on the
sad loss of her husband, Emmanuel*

*Zichronam livrachah,
May their memory be for a blessing*

Messages

Message from *Betty Gee*

I want to send a sincere “thank you” to all my friends in the community for their good wishes and delightful cards sent for my well-being after my accident. I’m very glad to say that I am making good progress and hope to see everyone in synagogue soon.

Best wishes to you all!
Betty Gee

Message from *Barbara Smiler*

A ‘big thank’ you to all the helpers who make the Kiddush which we have on Friday nights and Shabbat mornings. We are still in need of your support to keep the Kiddush rota operating smoothly – call me if you can host a Friday night or Shabbat Kiddush for us – it would be approximately once every two months.

If you have a special occasion, e.g. birthday, wedding anniversary or family simchah to celebrate let me know and I will schedule you onto the rota; this may be either a Friday night or Shabbat morning, as you choose!

Barbara Smiler

A tribute to Lorna Taylor - by *Janine Chilley*

On Saturday 25th June 2011 we as a community all lost a very special lady and this is my tribute to her.

In this life I met a lady, a friend an inspiring force.
She had a purpose, a presence, she loved from the heart, she spoke from her soul,
she talked as we all talk, but she listened with two ears not one.

She radiated and shone life, warmth, and a sense of fun. I will remember her with
such a sense of pride as she never gave in, never had such meaning been awarded
to the word win.

No tribute is ever fitting, not ever completely right but this one is for you Lorna, may
you shine forever in your everlasting light.

God Bless.
Janine Chilley



Care in the Community

I would like to talk to you all briefly about my extremely rewarding role in our special community. I am the lady responsible for Care in the Community. I would like to explain to you about the role I play. I offer our community a regular telephone call, a listening ear for anyone who wants to talk to me about any worries or concerns they may have, impartial advice, and reminder of our closeness as a community. I am there to help on any level and offer a caring sharing policy. I don't have all the answers but I may have a suggestion that can help. To contact me call 01227 263048 or 07708 457386. Please do not hesitate to give me a call.

My best wishes to everyone.
Janine Chilley



Advertising

Do have something to advertise? Why not place an advert in this newsletter? The rates are very competitive and you can be sure the community will see it!

Full Page Advert	£50.00 per annum
Half Page Advert	£30.00 per annum
Quarter Page Advert	£20.00 per annum

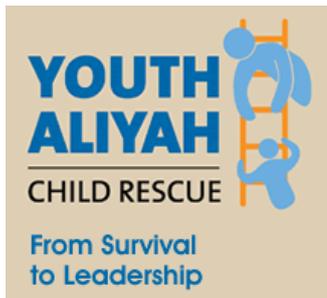
Prices are for four editions a year, colour or B&W. Please contact editor *Alison* for more details or to place an advert.

**Thanet and District Reform
Synagogue Kol Nidre Appeal
5772/2011**

Our chosen charities for this year are Mencap and Youth Aliyah Child Rescue



East Kent Mencap offers a variety of opportunities for people with a learning disability. These range from: supported and independent living; day services; two social clubs for adults; two youth clubs; leisure activities; person-centred plans; employment; social networks; advice. They also put on events throughout the year for all to enjoy and over 650 people with learning disabilities used their services last year. Their reach extends across the region of East Kent, including Thanet, Canterbury, Swale and Dover.



Youth Aliyah Child Rescue (YACR) is an Israeli charity that supports vulnerable children, rescuing them from despair and providing a safe and caring environment. The youth villages care for thousands of children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation, poverty, violence, and abuse. YACR provides love, guidance and support, helping children ultimately to grow into confident, stable

adults and future leaders of Israeli society. Currently there are some 300,000 children in Israel who are considered “at risk” according to the Israeli authorities. YACR in Israel takes care of 22,000 children referred to the villages by Social Services. YACR, the British organisation, helps five villages with over 2,000 children.

Tal’s Story

Tal is a 14-year-old teenager who lives in Aloney Yitzhak, one of the five Youth Aliyah Villages in Israel supported by YACR. “I was nine when Social Services decided my mother could no longer cope. I never knew my father because he left us when we were small so my mother was alone to bring up six children all under 10. My mum had no support, because we had come from Russia and had no family here in Israel. She became an alcoholic ... would often hit us. Here in the village I am able to be a normal boy. I go to school, do my homework, I have friends. I have just now been given the chance to learn the guitar. Last year, I celebrated my Bar Mitzvah. I loved it!”



Two brothers: one buys a ticket at a fancy synagogue for the holidays but his brother's not interested. On Rosh Hashanah night the brother who's not in synagogue gets important news that he has to convey to his brother. So he runs to the synagogue and finds a security guard at the door. He asks to go in but the guard won't let him in without the ticket. He begs and pleads to no avail. In a last ditch effort he says, please let me just run in and out for one minute and tell him the news. The guard says OK, then wags his finger at him and adds - but if I catch you praying in there ...

CST and Jewish Community Proud and Responsible

CST is the Community Security Trust, a charity providing security for many 100s of Jewish community events and locations every year. We have over 60 staff and approximately 3,000 trained volunteers all working throughout the UK and for every part of our community. In the last two years we have installed security upgrades at 100s of communal buildings, including shatter-proofing for windows (*as at TDRS! Ed.*)

CST is also available 24 hours a day for those unfortunate enough to suffer or witness anti-semitism. We aim is to protect the well-being of our community, ensuring that we are all able to lead the Jewish life of our choice.

This challenging work needs the help and co-operation of our community, its leaders and institutions. We need to share responsibility and stand firm against the physical and political threats we face.

Sharing responsibility means many things, including contacting your local CST and volunteering. It means understanding why we do security, co-operating with our personnel., and contacting CST if you have information you think may be of use to us or the Police.

Sharing responsibility also means keeping a sense of perspective. Today, our community is largely able to express its Jewishness however it wishes, whether religious, cultural, political, charitable, sporting or other. On the whole our community is successful and well integrated with the rest of society. We have come a very long way indeed since the newly arrived immigrants of the late

19th and early 20th Centuries.

Anti-semitism should not define our Jewish lives but it has been of increasing concern in recent years. It is perhaps not so much that people fear for themselves today but for our children and grandchildren. This is entirely natural. Police are keenly aware that the fear of crime can be every bit as important as actual crime itself.

CST aims to help our community feel confident someone is standing up for its rights. We take responsibility for its physical security and provide a confidential reporting service for those who experience anti-semitism, in whatever form.

Because CST works with the victims of anti-Semitism, we know the importance of people's physical and emotional well-being. This is not about statistics.

We want to deter those who wish us harm and we work with politicians, police, and others so that our community's concerns are understood, heard, and acted upon.

CST, however, can only be as strong as the community we serve. We rely on the community to be strong-minded, become motivated volunteer personnel, and work with CST as necessary, whether in schools, synagogues, community events, rallies, or elsewhere.

We do not charge the community for our services and rely upon charitable donations for our running costs.

All of this relies upon partnership between CST and our Jewish community.

We welcome you to join us in that partnership, in whatever way you can.



**IN AN EMERGENCY
ALWAYS DIAL 999**

Then call CST

London 020 8457 9999

Emergency 24hr pager 07659 101 668

Manchester 0161 792 6666

Emergency 24hr number 0800 980 0668

www.thecst.org.uk

Community Security Trust registered charity number: 1042391

Message from Vivian Wineman, The President of The Board of Deputies of British Jews

Rosh Hashanah Message 5771-5772

Rosh Hashanah is the time of year when according to tradition the whole world is arraigned before God in judgement. It is an appropriate time therefore for introspection and for reviewing the past year. Even by recent standards for the Board of Deputies the past year has been an eventful and challenging one. There has been unprecedented activity both in terms of the activities carried out by the Board and in terms of the issues faced by it.

On the positive side we celebrated the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the Board in 1760. The celebrations comprised some interesting and some very moving events with record attendances and interest shown in the work of the Board. It culminated in the Summer Banquet at the Guildhall where our guest was HRH The Prince of Wales. The fact that Prince Charles attended the dinner accompanied by the Duchess of Cornwall and the fact that his moving address to us was so personal illustrates the regard which he has for the Board and by extension for the community.

Yet though we live in an extremely benign and tolerant society where our religion is protected by law, we face continual challenges in the practice of it. A most obvious example is Shechita which is under constant threat. This year threats came not merely from this country but also from the European Parliament. The Board played a vital role in countering that threat both by as a constituent member of Shechita UK and also as a link between them and the European Jewish Congress. In the end the community's efforts were successful but we should not be under any illusions. The danger to Shechita has not gone away. It will return both because of the misplaced concerns of the animal welfare lobby but also in the form of requests for greater consumer information which could make the economics of Shechita prohibitive.

In numerous other areas the Board has been at the forefront of efforts to protect the community's position, advising communal groups where appropriate and lobbying where necessary. In all these activities the Board shows two of its most important characteristics. First we are resolutely cross-communal, representing all strands of the community. Even those groups in the community which withhold formal support from the Board and are not represented on it come to us for help and political support when they need it. We never reject them.

Secondly the Board achieves its success by cooperating with dedicated groups in the community working on the principle that there is no limit to what one can achieve as long as you do not care who takes the credit. To list but some of the examples; in countering the institutional anti-Semitism of the UCU we have worked alongside the JLC, in campaigning against hate speech on campus we have worked alongside UJS and CST, in countering anti-Semitism generally we have worked with the CST, in educational matters with the synagogue bodies and with the UJIA, on behalf of Israel with BICOM the UJIA and the Zionist Federation, on Brit Milah with the Initiation Society. One could go on - the list is almost endless.

In all these matters the Board's democratic mandate and cross-communal character gives it a unique authority. For example when the Advertising Standards Authority ruled that a poster prepared by the Israeli Government Tourist Office showing the Western Wall was misleading they defiantly told the community they would not listen to any complaints. At the same time they themselves phoned the Board asking for a meeting on the basis that a complaint from us could not be ignored. Government and NGOs know when they deal with us that we speak for the community as a whole and that our voice is persuasive and rational.

The year that has passed has seen many challenges to the community and we must expect that the new year will do likewise. You can rest assured that the Board meet those challenges with all its force and with the backing of the community. At this sacred time of the year let us hope and pray that in the new year we have the same success that we have enjoyed in the one that has passed.



Future Tense
A Vision for Jews and Judaism in the Global Culture
by Jonathan Sacks, Published Hodder & Stoughton, ISBN 978 0 340 97984 6

Albeit the Chief Rabbi does not “represent” Reform Jews, to the wider world - for whom all Jews and Judaism are essentially the same - he shows how Judaism has always maintained its identity but is now changing.

Rabbi Sacks take care in developing the thesis that, unlike the post-Judaic, Abrahamic religions, Judaism is a covenant between God and all the people rather than a contract in which the relationship is one to one. He explains that Judaism has produced a society with an emphasis on law, as compared to those with a social contract resulting in political states. States in turn produce governments (political hierarchy) to achieve stability. By comparison Jews existed in exile for 2,000 years because they were a society before they were a state.

Among other arguments, Rabbi Sacks explains why Jews tend to argue - “In order to ‘hear’ you first have to ‘listen’”. Argument is necessary for justice since, without a dialogue between opposing parties, there can be no just resolution of a dispute - “argument is for the sake of heaven” - each party must listen to the other rather than attempting to shout the other down. Argument is essential in containing conflict – “jaw-jaw” is far better than “war-war”.

Rabbi Sacks concludes that, in order to survive, Jews must continue to work towards a messianic age. Judaism is unique in believing that its golden age is yet to come and, while we do not know its form, will recognise it when it arrives. Jews are agents of hope and optimism; even in the depth of despair we look towards the future.

This book is written not just for Jews but for all to read. While we might not agree with all the points discussed, Rabbis Sacks’ final sentence sums up the Jewish position – “The Jewish task remains: to be the voice of hope in an age of fear, the counter-voice in the conversation of humankind”. **Jon Leigh**

Updates from The Board of Deputies of British Jews
COMMUNITY BRIEFING
“A Snapshot of the Board”
July 2011 Tammuz 5771

The Board’s Summer Banquet

Guildhall in the historic City of London was the perfect setting on 5th July 2011 for a Summer Banquet celebrating the Board’s 250th Anniversary. Those gathered were treated to an address by HRH Prince Charles. In his address the Prince commented on that "diverse heritage (which) has brought a deep and vibrant contribution from British Jews to every sphere of British life: in the arts, sciences and medicine, in trade and commerce." The Prince expressed regret that the contribution of British Jews is not sufficiently known or celebrated by the public at large.

Methodist-Jewish Relations Striding Forward

The Board co-organised a sell-out fringe event with the Methodist Church and Council of Christians and Jews - and the Board's Senior Vice-President met the new President of the Methodist Conference in the first week of his office. After serious Methodist-Jewish tensions following the Methodist Conference in 2010, this represented real progress. For the full update and on the Board’s relations with the Quakers in Britain, please visit www.bod.org.uk

Board Continues NGO Engagement

Over the last month the Board's International Division has been hard at work on several fronts. At the beginning of June Board staff travelled to Brussels to attend a Jerusalem Day symposium and met with civil servants and political aides to discuss a diverse range of issues, including the Israel-EU trade upgrade and Shechita. Throughout June the Board also continued its programme of engagement with NGOs and, recently, sent a delegation to **Oxfam**, to meet with senior professional staff responsible for issues such as climate change, food hunger and poverty.

Board Hosts Meeting of Leading Medical Professionals

Ben Gurion University (BGU) President Professor Rivka Carmi, who chairs the Committee of Presidents of Israeli Universities, met with leading women from the British medical profession at a breakfast briefing arranged by Professor David Katz and Eleanor Platt QC under the auspices of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. The group were updated on the pioneering work of BGU in the Negev in raising the standards of educational achievement, both among the waves of immigrants, and among the Bedouin. The group also discussed the importance of encouraging links between academics to promote understanding and intellectual enquiry, and the common issues facing women in the profession, on which more work could be done together.

For more information, and photos, on any of the above please visit www.bod.org.uk

The Board of Deputies of British Jews exists to promote and defend the religious rights and civil liberties of British Jewry. The Board connects with government, media and wider society, providing a unique means through which all British Jews can be heard and represented.

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