



EtzChaim

The movement for
REFORM JUDAISM

Volume 29
Issue 2

Winter 2011
5772



The Bar Mitzvah of Oren and Tom Valek (p. 8)



Community Rabbi
Chairman/Treasurer
Vice Chairman
Honorary Secretary
Council Members

Rabbi Cliff Cohen
Ian Smiler
David Fox
Simon Wolfe
Janine Chilley, Hélène 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

Happy Chanukah!

Shabbat Services and Festivals Calendar

Friday 9th December 2011 – Friday 30th March 2012

Kislev 13th – Nisan 7th 5772

Kabbalat Shabbat services are held every Friday at 7.30pm

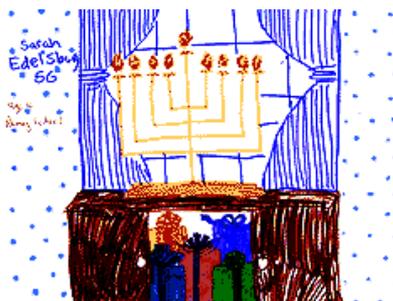
Shabbat Suppers start at 6.30pm for 6.45pm, followed by a shorter service at 8pm

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

The calendar is prepared in advance and details shown may be amended

so call 01843 851164 to check



DECEMBER

Fri 9 Dec, Kislev 13, 7.30pm

Shabbat Supper, 6.30pm for 6.45pm

Followed by a short Service at 8pm

Fri 16 Dec, Kislev 20, 7.30pm

Sat 17 Dec, Kislev 21, 10.30am

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 1, 3pm

Chanukah Party

8th candle

Fri 30 Dec. Tevet 4, 7.30pm

JANUARY 2012

Fri 6 Jan, Tevet 11, 7.30pm

Sat 7 Jan, Tevet 12, 10.30am

Fri 13 Jan, Tevet 18, 7.30pm

Fri 20 Jan, Tevet 25, 7.30pm

Sat 21 Jan. Tevet 26, 10.30am

Fri 27 Jan, Shevat 3

National Holocaust Memorial Day

Albion Gardens, Ramsgate, 11am

(and other East Kent locations, to be advised)

Shabbat service, 7.30pm

FEBRUARY

Fri 3 Feb, Shevat 10, 7.30pm

Sat 4 Feb, Shevat 11, 10.30am

Tue 7 Feb, Shevat 14, 7pm

Erev Tu b'Shevat Seder

Fri 10 Feb, Shevat 17, 7.30pm

Fri 17 Feb, Shevat 24, 7.30pm

Sat 18 Feb, Shevat 25

Torah Breakfast 9.15am

Service 10.30am

Fri 24 Feb, Adar 1

Shabbat Supper 6.30pm for 6.45pm

Followed by a short service at 8pm

MARCH

Fri 2 Mar, Adar 8, 7.30pm

Sat 3 Mar, Adar 9, 10.30am

Wed 7 Mar, Adar 13, 7pm

Erev Purim service and party

Thu 8 Mar, Adar 14, 10am

Purim service

Fri 9 Mar, Adar 15, 7.30pm

Fri 16 Mar Adar 22, 7.30pm

Sat 17 Mar, Adar 23, 10.30am

Fri 23 Mar, Adar 29, 7.30pm

Fri 30 Mar, Nisan 7, 7.30pm

Bring your chanukiot to the shul on 27th December at 3pm and make our **Chanukah Party** go with a spin! It's a Tuesday and bang in the middle of the school holidays, so please bring all your children for their Chanukah gelt. However, you must let us know please by 19th December if you are coming.



No charge for members and immediate family but donations are always welcome! - Adult guests pay £3 and children £1



**Shalom and welcome to Etz Chaim,
winter 2011**

Message from Chairman, Ian Smiler

Hello everyone. Welcome to the Chanukah edition of our newsletter. I'm sure you enjoyed reading the Rosh Hashanah edition and will join me in congratulating and thanking Alison for its quality. We'd love to hear from you with anything you want to share. Simply email or post your contribution to the Editor but, if you dislike writing, just send notes for her to write up.

Do come to our Chanukah party to enjoy latkas and other delights, with the lighting of candles and singing of Maoz tzur. I look forward to greeting you in person on this day.

Congratulations also to Sally Roth for the excellent quality of our monthly *What's On*, having taken over from Godfrey Fischer who did a sterling job with it over many years. The flyer keeps you informed about activities at the synagogue or in the wider community. Please tell us if you're not on the mailing list. Note that, to keep costs down, we email the flyer and only post it to those without email.

Message from Editor, Alison R Noyes

Winter is nearly upon us but to quote Shelley, *O Wind, If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?*

I think we should always be mindful and accepting of change and I do love the winter darkness that covers up and nurtures the land, though I certainly wouldn't mind that extra hour of BST!

I have a project to keep me anticipating spring (see page 13) and hope you all have too.

The deadline for the next issue is 15th March 2012.

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

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.

Ambivalence about Chanukah

As a Jew, I take pride in the story of the Maccabees. As a parent, I love the beauty of the candle lighting, the excitement of my children as they open presents and the gorgeous food. As a human, I renew my commitment to working for freedom of religious expression for all.

However, as a Reform Jew, I worry about a festival that places so much emphasis on human heroes. At Pesach, the Haggadah tells the Exodus story without mentioning Moses, to make it clear that it is God to whom we owe our thanks. Yet at Chanukah the emphasis is on the Maccabees. One Chanukah song, Mi Yemallel, says:

*Who can number heroes of Israel, who
can count them?
In every generation a hero arises to
save the people.
Listen! In those days, at that time
The Maccabees delivered and saved.
So in our days, may the whole people
of Israel
Be united, elevated and delivered.*

This festival was created by the Maccabees themselves and, for all their achievements, I am not happy at the place they gave themselves in the celebration. What then follows are generations of the Hasmonean dynasty proclaiming themselves kings (they were not descended from David). They were very unpopular as a result.

I am also frustrated by the insistence of Orthodoxy that the story mentioned in passing 500 years after its event be treated as historical fact. This misses the point; the legend is an allegory! The flame that should have expired is the Jewish people. The miracle is that the Jewish flame remained alight, has

always remained alight, and, however inadequate the fuel, is somehow always enough.

The customs of Chanukah are better explained sociologically than theologically. The fact is that about 2,000 years ago Judaism and Christianity both faced the same problem, namely that the Pagan midwinter festival of lights was both popular and meaningful, so people were going to celebrate it no matter what. Both religions incorporated it by instituting a festival, on the 25th of the month, involving candles, but with very tenuous historical connections. In Israel it is also the time of the olive harvest, so we Jews eat oil-soaked food.

In our time the Pagan festival has all but gone but in Europe and America it survives in the Christmas customs which surround us. I wonder whether we would devote as much attention to Chanukah if we were not still trying to provide a Jewish version of what we know Jews are going to do anyway – light candles, give gifts, eat a lot and sing songs with catchy tunes.

Nevertheless, on balance the celebration of Chanukah is probably still the best response. If we are going to celebrate, let us celebrate a Jewish story as Jews. But let us celebrate in the right way and for the right reasons. We owe our continued existence to God, who works through human tools in every generation to help us survive the constant threats to our existence. May we give God a reason to be proud of that!

Cliff Cohen



A page or two of events and useful information

Limmud – This year's conference takes place at the University of Warwick, from 25th to 29th December. Go first to www.limmud.org/conference or phone 020 3115 1620.



Jewish Museum, London – The Museum is hosting an exhibition, *Entertaining the Nation*, until 8th January 2012. Go first to www.jewishmuseum.org.uk or phone 020 7284 7384.



Israel Challenge – A Gap-Year programme of diverse possibilities for a hands-on experience of instructive and inspirational projects, including volunteering in kibbutzim, army basic training course, MDA (Magen David Adom) in emergency medical services, and social volunteering, all combined with trips and excursions throughout Israel. The Challenge also offers specialised courses such as Self Defence, Mediterranean Cuisine, Photography, Scuba Diving/Water Sports and more! Go to <http://israelchallenge.org> or phone 07838 824 315.



Maccabiah Games 2013 – The 19th Maccabiah Games in Israel are looking to recruit Sports Chairs, Managers, Coaches, Players and a Medical Team. These *Jewish Olympics* were first held in 1932 and

are now the third largest sporting event in the world, after the Olympics and the Commonwealth Games, taking place every 4 years in Israel. The 19th Games will see almost 60 countries participate in some 30 sports, with an expected 10,000 participants. Team GB are expecting to send their largest ever delegation of over 500 competitors, managers, coaches, medical staff and management team. Go to <http://www.maccabigb.org>, email jessica@maccabigb.org, or phone 020 8457 2333.



Jewish Child's Day – JCD, founded in 1947, originally just one day of the year (the first Sunday of Chanukah) now operates throughout the year. Its guiding principle is to educate Jewish children in the UK on the importance of tzedakah. JCD helps children who are physically, emotionally, or financially deprived, for whatever reason. JCD provides therapy, support and rehabilitation. For more information go to <http://www.jcd.uk.com>, email melanie.klass@jcd.org, or phone 020 8446 7370.



Jewish volunteering – JVN has been shortlisted in the Charity Times awards as Charity of the Year 2011, yet with an income of less than one million. There are loads of inspirational opportunities. Go to <http://www.jvn.org.uk> or phone 020 7443 5100.

RSY-Netzer and Israel Tour – 900 young people participated in summer

camps and Israel tours this year; a record. Another stunning tour is programmed for next year, 6th July-1st August 2012. Go to www.rsy-netzer.org.uk or phone 020 8349 5666.



Leo Baeck College Friends - Become a Friend of LBC for a minimum of £100 p.a. (£8.33 p.m.) and obtain valuable benefits. Go to www.lbc.ac.uk or phone 020 8349 5600.



Adventure Israel Tour and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award – For details of either or both go to www.jlgb.org/israel or phone 020 8989 8990.



101 Police non-emergency number

Communities across Kent now have access to **101**, the new national non-emergency telephone number for the police throughout England and Wales. Also refer to www.police.uk/101.

While 999 is the well-recognised emergency number, it was found that only 54% of the public knew how to contact local police about policing, crime, anti-social behaviour, or general enquiries.

101 has been well received by the public and led to improvements in public satisfaction and confidence when calling the police.

In an emergency the public should continue to call 999 when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

Each call to **101** will never cost more than 15p, no matter how long you are on the phone. This applies to both landlines and mobile phones.

Deaf or speech-impaired people can still text 'police' and their message to 60066.

For overseas callers 01622 690690 remains in place but is no longer promoted as the non-emergency number for Kent Police.

TDRS and the Leo Baeck College

Since we formed as a community we have enjoyed the support of the facilities of both the Reform Movement and the Leo Baeck College. During this time we have enjoyed visits from rabbis and student rabbis to conduct some of our services. Three graduates of the college have become synonymous with TDRS; our late Emeritus Rabbi Sonny Herman (who was one of the first group of rabbis to receive *semicha* from the college, our own (if we may be so bold to claim him) Rabbi Cliff Cohen, and a one-time member who studied at the college and is now rabbi of the Johannesburg Reform Synagogue, Rabbi Robert Ash.

Leo Baeck College (LBC) is of the great Rabbinical "Liberal" Jewish movement, (Hochschule) für die Judentums in Berlin (1872-1942) founded through the initiative of Rabbi Werner Van der Zyl in 1956 as the Jewish Theological College, and acquired its present name when Rabbi Dr Leo Baeck died shortly afterwards. In 1964 the College became jointly sponsored by the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain (RSGB) (now The Movement for Reform Judaism (MRJ), and the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues (ULPS)(now Liberal Judaism).



the direct European heir of the German Lehranstalt Wissenschaft des Judentums (1872-1942). The College was the initiative of Rabbi Werner Van der Zyl in 1956 as the Jewish Theological College, and acquired its present name when Rabbi Dr Leo Baeck died shortly afterwards.

The college has established a memorial Shabbat close to the *Yahrzeit* of Rabbi Dr Leo Baeck when rabbinical students and other members of the college visit communities to talk about the activities of the seminary.

For our service on the second Shabbat of November we welcomed Student Rabbi Adam Frankenberg who delivered the *drasha* on the Torah reading of the day, *Shelech Lecha*. The actual commemorative day was two weeks earlier. However, that was *Shabbat Lech Lecha* which our community has dedicated to the citizens of Klatovy, whose Czech Scroll we are the custodians. A very flexible LBC arranged for Adam to come along when he did and, as he explained during his talk, we were not alone as he had been assigned to three communities for the same purpose and none was on the actual day. Still he had two special reasons for the day with us. One was that *Shelech Lecha* was the portion he read for his Barmitzvah and the other was that he was accompanied by his delightful parents. His mother spent her childhood years in Ramsgate. We were pleased that the three were able to remain with us after the service for a buffet lunch. We wonder who was plied with the most questions afterwards – mother or son! Without doubt Adam proved that the future of the rabbinical services from the college is in safe and competent hands and we hope that he can visit us again.



Tom and Oren Valek's Bar Mitzvah



Oren



Tom

*In Efrach Synagogue Ashkelon, Israel on 10th November 2011.
They read Parashah Vayera.*



*Some 100 family members joined proud parents Golda and Paul, Oren and Tom
to celebrate in Hotel Agamim a few days later.*

Havdallah Club

The Havdallah Club sends a hearty Mazeltov to Tom and Oren on their barmitzvah! Golda and Paul are indeed proud parents and rightly so. The boys worked hard and shone on the day. They were barmitzvah in Israel to share the simchah with family. We now look forward to seeing them take part with mitzvot in shul!

The Club has yet again had an active quarter. We explored High Holy Day themes and have been learning more about the alef bet. Benjy has delivered some creative programmes to keep our youngsters learning while having fun. We move towards Chanukah, discovering the part that candles play in Judaism and look forward to the shul's Chanukah party. Look out for the next notice board display! **Hélène Cohen**



Our synagogue has been involved with inter-faith groups for many years - with TIC (Thanet Inter-faith Council) since its inception - and was represented on CANDIFA (Canterbury and District Interfaith Action).

Even before this we hosted many schools whose children learn about Judaism as part of religious education. We have no record of the number of schoolchildren, youth groups and adult societies who have visited us but it must now be in the thousands.

The annual Inter Faith Week was in November. Its three aims are strengthening good inter-faith relations, increasing awareness of different and distinct UK faith communities (celebrating and building on their contribution to their neighbourhoods and wider society), and increasing understanding between religious and non-religious people.

TDRS was kept busy as many schools take advantage of the week to make

special presentations about many of the religions. Rabbi Cliff visited King's Junior School, Canterbury and St Ethelbert's Primary School, Ramsgate, showing Jewish artefacts, answering questions, and leading assemblies. He welcomed two large groups from Herne Infants School to the synagogue, showing them our Klatovy scroll and telling the Klatovy story, as well as helping them to learn generally about what happens in a synagogue.

One very moving visit was by KRAN (Kent Refugee Action Network) based in Canterbury. They brought 16 teenage asylum seekers with no family in the UK, from Afghanistan, Iran and Eritrea. They are "fostered" by families in Canterbury, Herne Bay, Whitstable and Rainham. KRAN runs a day centre to help them adjust to life here. They were Christian or Muslim, with no knowledge of Judaism. The group was met by Hazel and Godfrey Fischer who introduced them to Jewish worship. To maintain the Jewish theme, they were treated to bagels, cream cheese and smoked salmon. Life is strange, lonely, and distressing being so far from home. Perhaps Inter Faith Week gave them understanding and hope for the future.

First Jewish woodland burial site in the UK

The Jewish Joint Burial Society (JJBS), providing funeral services for 35 Reform, Masorti and Liberal congregations, has acquired land for woodland and other burials. This is the first time woodland burials have been possible in a UK Jewish cemetery - and it is believed to be the first UK faith woodland cemetery. Members can now choose an ecological burial, in a natural environment, surrounded by newly planted trees. Naturally-decomposing bamboo or cardboard coffins can be used and, instead of a large headstone, a small memorial plaque.

The new land is presently part of an unused field next to the existing JJBS cemetery at Cheshunt. With an independent entrance and fenced roadway on the southern border of the existing cemetery, the woodland cemetery will be separate and screened from the rest of the property. In addition to woodland burials there will be an area for conventional burials. Burials in this section will be in double-depth graves. JJBS is also constructing a columbarium where cremains may be interred, a facility not possible in the existing cemetery, together with a prayer hall.



JJBS has bought this land for the greater choice of members and dependants. It will have space for over 10,000 burials in addition to the JJBS 14,000 spaces in the existing Cheshunt cemetery. Liberal Judaism has also acquired 1,000 spaces next to the new woodland cemetery and the two organisations will develop facilities together.

Work on paths and landscaping will start shortly and the first burials could take place towards the end of the year.

Mike Frankl, Chairman of JJBS said “This significant step ... will enable us to offer a much wider range of funeral services including those who want an environmentally friendly method of burial and also in separate areas for those in mixed faith relationships who cannot be buried in the existing Jewish burial ground. JJBS will continue to bury in the existing cemetery with conventional headstones”.

Rabbi Paul Freedman, Assembly of Reform Rabbis UK representative on JJBS said “The thrust of Jewish burial practice is to speed the return of the body to the ground. Biodegradable coffins are in line with the Jewish requirement for biodegradable materials and a modest coffin. Woodland burials also exemplify the general mitzvah of "Bal Tashchit", our responsibility for environmental care. Although headstones are customary, the real requirement is simply to be able to identify the grave. As Rabbi Shimon ben Gamliel taught, “tombstones are not erected for the righteous, as their words are their memorials”.

Fairtrade Synagogue



TDRS has had a stand at the Thanet Fairtrade Initiative World Food Day exhibition at the Winter Gardens, Margate since it started (save for last year when the Day fell on a Shabbat and we were represented on the Thanet Interfaith Council stand).

There was extra significance to our presence this year because we are proud of and could advertise the fact that we are now a Fairtrade Synagogue.

And what, you may ask, has a synagogue got to do with a food exhibition? Well, Jews and food? Aren't they synonymous? (eat, eat!) Actually in this case they aren't because we weren't promoting food.

But, World Food Day is also about community and how we can all do our bit to help worldwide communities in sustaining themselves. So, in the case of Jews it is also about *tikkun olam**, repairing the world.

Kosher food is of course an important aspect of Judaism. However, have you ever thought about taking it further? *Eco-kosher* or as it is also known *Eco-kashrut*** , focuses on the original intention of kashrut – that which is acceptable to God. Eco-Kashrut is not opposed to kashrut but it does ask some important questions about it. Fruit and vegetables may be kosher in the strict sense of the word but are they eco-kosher – sprayed with chemicals that pollute the ground? Is your cup of (kosher) Fairtrade tea or coffee eco-kosher if drunk from a polystyrene cup that takes hundreds of years to decompose?



Our stand displays (and sells) various Jewish greeting cards and a selection of Jewish artefacts. For our presence, as the East Kent, is the largest Jewish Community in the area, many school groups come to the synagogue as well as educational visits to the school by our rabbi. And then there are the visitors who buy cards to those who are just



us a most important aspect of Jewish life is networking. Many school groups come to the synagogue as well as educational visits to the school by our rabbi. And then there are the visitors who buy cards to those who are just interested in our community.

Godfrey Fischer

* *Tikkun olam* (literally "world repair") has come to connote social action and the pursuit of social justice. The phrase has origins in classical rabbinic literature and in Lurianic kabbalah, a major strand of Jewish mysticism originating with the work of the 16th-century kabbalist, Isaac Luria. ** *Kashrut*, Jewish dietary laws.

The Oldest Synagogue in Greece

In the true spirit of inter-faith, Rev Peter Adams of Holy Trinity, Ramsgate thought we'd be interested in some literature he brought back from his visit to Rhodes where he saw the Kahal Shalom Synagogue.

The *Kahal Shalom* is the oldest synagogue in Greece, believed built in 1577, and the sole remaining one on the island of Rhodes used for services. There were once six synagogues and prayer halls in the Jewish Quarter (called La Juderia). The full name of the building is *Kahal Kodesh Shalom* – Holy Congregation of Peace.



The Jewish community in Rhodes has a historical background dating back to ancient times. The Jewish community of Rhodes was influenced by the Jews who fled Spain in the time of the Inquisition. Many of these *Sephardim* travelled across the Mediterranean to the Island of Rhodes as well as to Salonica, Istanbul and Izmir.

The floor of the synagogue is decorated with graceful black and white mosaic stone patterns, a distinctive motif throughout the Old City of Rhodes. In the courtyard is a plaque above where a water fountain once existed that bears an inscription dated *Kislev 5338* (1577). Apparently the fountain was constructed at the same time as the synagogue.

At the beginning of the 20th Century many Jews left the island in search of better economic opportunities. Even more left during the late 1930s due to the fear caused by the passing of anti-Jewish laws by the Italian government.

During 1944 Rhodes was occupied by the Germans and on 23rd July of the same year 1673 members of the Jewish community were deported to Auschwitz. Only 150 survived. At the west entrance of the synagogue is a plaque with the family names of the victims.



The Jewish Cemetery is located several hundred kilometres outside the Old City on the road to Kalitheas, where many of the burial stones are several hundred years old. Today, only a handful of Jews live in Rhodes.

For more information visit www.rhodesjewishmuseum.org

The Watch Tower B&B, Dungeness

No, this is not a change of religion to the Jehovah's Witnesses! This is my house, in which I have just opened a B&B.

For reasons not entirely accountable I left West Hampstead for Dungeness in June 2008. Three years down the line I decided to open a B&B. Five months later, after much perplexing palaver, I am now the proud owner of my own business and my first website! If you'd like to see what I have to offer, please visit www.watchtowerdungeness.com or <http://www.romneymarshguesthouses.co.uk>.



The best things about my change of location are the fresh air, the sea, a garden for me and my cats, the local RSPB reserve, an art studio, and my new friends down here – and in Ramsgate! What I miss most about London are all the people and peoples; hence I'm hoping the world will come to my B&B instead.

Alison R Noyes



Thanet a model participant!

Valerie Bello, the B'nai B'rith Co-ordinator for the European Day of Jewish Culture & Heritage, wrote this to Godfrey Fischer:

It's nice to be in touch with you again. We are having a sabbatical this year but we have been keeping a watchful eye on proceedings and from to time find ourselves being actively involved again!

Thank you very much for returning your form, which I can read very easily, so promptly. Thanet is a model participant! It's encouraging that 80% of your visitors were not Jewish and I'm sure the article and the lovely photos in 'Thanet Extra' helped to bring them in.

Many thanks for all your efforts in arranging such varied and interesting programmes every year.



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Care in the Community *Janine Chilley*

Just to remind everyone, Janine is the shul's contact for Care in the Community. She offers the community a regular telephone call, listening ear for anyone who wants to talk about any worries or concerns, impartial advice, and reminder of our closeness as a community. Please phone Janine on 01227 263048 or 07708 457386.



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.

Updates from the Board of Deputies of British Jews

Update on Palestinian UDI at the UN

In September the Palestinian Authority made unilateral moves to declare an independent state at the UN. The Board maintains that only direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians provide any prospect for a real and lasting peace. Working with partner organisations both here and abroad, the Board has been engaged with European governments to discuss and determine their positions.

Board tackles PSC extremism

The activities of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign have intensified. This is a group committed to the destruction of Israel as a Jewish state but which passes itself off as the home for Palestinian rights activism. The Board has challenged their positions and statements, and is exposing their tactics. The PSC's latest ruse is to target cultural activities; nationally, such as the BBC Proms, and locally, with a Palestine literary festival in Tottenham, including sessions in schools.

Universal Jurisdiction Change Gains Royal Assent

The legal anomaly that saw visiting Israelis and others threatened with arrest on the basis of politically motivated accusations has now been rectified by new legislation.

Board Speaks Out Against EDL and Extremism

Earlier this month the Board released a statement that unequivocally denounced the EDL (English Defence League), their members and their actions, which serve only to stir up inter-communal tensions.

Delegates Pulled Out of Durban III

At the end of September the Durban 10th Anniversary Commemoration Conference, *Durban III*, took place at the UN. The Durban Process has been discredited from the start and, rather than leading the crucial fight against racism, has become synonymous with anti-semitism. The Board has worked hard to expose this conference for what it is and were delighted that 14 countries, including the US and the UK, withdrew from the conference altogether. This position was vindicated when the Foreign Minister of Iran took to the podium only to demonise Israel and Western countries.

For more information, and photos, on any of the above please visit

www.bod.org.uk

info@bod.org.uk

www.bod.org.uk

020 7453 5400

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