

ETZ CHAIM

The movement for
REFORM JUDAISM

The Newsletter for the Thanet & District Reform Synagogue



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High Holy Days

It's that time of year again

With the High Holy Days fast approaching it is time to get those diaries out. Have a look at the busy schedule at our synagogue with a full range of services covered over this festival period. Please be aware of the need for tickets and information about this is given later on. If you are unsure about anything, feel free to contact the synagogue.

In this edition of *ETZ CHAIM* we all celebrate Rosh Hashanah with greetings as well as some thoughtful messages. We will also look back and some of the interesting things happening over past months both inside and outside of synagogue.

We look forward to seeing many of you over the coming months.

Shabbat



Join us for Shabbat. The atmosphere is relaxed with familiar prayers using traditional and modern melodies. We use both Hebrew and English and the Hebrew is also transliterated. Kiddush and refreshments follow each service. There couldn't be a better way to connect with your Jewish heritage - no strings attached! (However, phone the synagogue beforehand in case of a change of times.)

Please note that a ticket is required for the High Holy Day Services. Contact warden@tdrs.org.uk or 01843 851164 for further information

Festivals - Diary Dates

Shabbat services are held every Friday evening at 7.30 and on the first and third Saturday mornings at 10.30. Festival evening services commence at 7pm and morning services at 10am, unless otherwise noted below or in the monthly *What's On*

SEPTEMBER

Wed 24 Sep, 29 Elul, 7pm

Erev Rosh Hashanah service

Thu 25 Sep, 1 Tishri 5775, 10am

Rosh Hashanah service

OCTOBER

Fri 3 Oct, 9 Tishri, 7pm

Kol Nidre service (Fast commences 6.13pm)

Sat 4 Oct, 10 Tishri, 10am

Yom Kippur service (Fast ends 7.12pm)

Wed 8 Oct, 14 Tishri, 7pm

Erev Sukkot service

Thu 9 Oct, 15 Tishri, 10am

Sukkot service

Wed 15 Oct, 21 Tishri, 7pm

Erev Simchat Torah/Shemini Atzeret Torah service and celebration

Thu 16 Oct, 22 Tishri, 10am

Simchat Torah/Shemini Atzeret service

NOVEMBER

Sat 15 Nov, Shevat 22

Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner, Senior Rabbi to the Movement for Reform Judaism, will be joining us for this service. A special lunch will be held afterwards. If you wish to join us for lunch, please inform the Senior Warden.

Fri 21 Nov, 25 Cheshvan,

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

Nov 29, 7 Kislev

Mincha service, 3.30pm, followed by a presentation of the project by Christ Church Canterbury University which explored our Klatovy scroll

DECEMBER

Sat 6 Dec, 4 Tevet

Torah Breakfast, 9.15am Service, 10.30am

Tue 16 Dec, 24 Kislev

Erev Chanukkah - first candle (No Service)

Sun 21 Dec, 27 Kislev 3pm

Chanukkah Party - sixth candle



A message from Rabbi Cliff Cohen

I write this at a difficult time for Jews and for the world. I say it that way because there seems to be a difference between the two in the eyes of most people, Jew and non-Jew alike. As a Jew I see it in prayers that celebrate the difference between Israel and the nations, not Israel and the other nations. From non-Jews I see it in the difference between Hamas and Islamic extremists, not Hamas and other Islamic extremists. I see it in the way that the Jewish world seems to expect me to defend or justify Israel's every action, and in the way the non-Jewish world seems to hold me personally responsible for Israel's every action.

I am a religious pluralist. I believe that there are many paths to God, and that doing God's work on Earth is what matters, not the theology or the literature that inspires us to do God's work. In my work at Migrant Help and in my previous roles in the Thanet Interfaith Council and the multi-faith Chaplaincy team at Canterbury prison, I have learned a lot about other faiths and also learned a lot from them. I have learned that all faiths teach us to treat each other with dignity and respect, to remember that one God created us all and to pursue peace as the ultimate goal in human affairs. I have met and loved and worked with individuals

Betty Gee

Barbara and Ian would like to thank everyone for their kindness when Barbara's mother and former member Betty Gee passed away earlier this year.

Extra Shabbat Service

In November, which has five Saturdays, we shall be holding an extra Shabbat service, a Mincha service at 3.30pm on November 29th. This will be followed by a presentation of the project by Christchurch University which explored our Klatovy scroll

Newsletter

If you have anything you would like to put into the newsletter please contact Tim Spurrier at:

Post -

c/o 293a Margate Road,
Ramsgate CT12 6TE

Telephone -

01843 851164

Email - newsletter@tdrs.org.uk

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.

High Holy Days Service Tickets



This year we will as usual be holding a full programme of High Holy Day services. Tickets will entitle members and children under 18 to attend services. In common with other synagogues, if you are not a member, or have adult or student children, relatives or friends wanting to attend our services, all are welcome but you must contact the synagogue office in advance for a ticket. **Entry to services will strictly be by ticket only, so make sure you carry this with you to avoid disappointment.**

If you have student or young adult (18 - 30) relatives away from home and they want to attend a local service contact the MRJ for details of synagogues participating in this years' **Free High Holy Day Ticket Initiative**. For more information and to apply use the link below. For reasons of security, deadlines are in place, and under no circumstances can tickets be issued after these dates.

<http://www.jeneration.org/index.php/reform-judaism/high-holy-day-tickets-2014>

from small faiths who cherish these values and practice them.

I am aware that these individuals are a minority, but so are their opposites. Those misguided people, Jews among them, who will kill for God, who use religious language to spout their politics and who regard those of other cultures as less valuable than themselves, are a minority. We, the majority, are in the middle, imperfect and trying to be good. In our scriptures every Jewish hero has a blemish, and in our worship the High Holydays are an acknowledgement that we will continue to strive for the unreachable in the hope that the struggle will get us a little nearer to our potential.

So I have no message for Israel, just as I have no message for Hamas, or Syria, or Nigeria, or Russia or Ukraine or Somalia or any other particular place or people. My message is for everyone, everywhere, but especially for TDRS members before the High Holydays, and it is very simple - I could not worship a God who wants violence and killing. So whatever the grievance, perceived or real, violence is not the answer. Violence will make it worse. Violence cannot be what God wants.

If you are asked about Israel, do not seek to justify or apologise. Do not seek to blame or, worse, demonise Islam or Moslems or Arabs. Condemn violence in all its forms from whoever it comes. Look to your faith, look to its teachings, look to the purpose for which you were created. Try to be one of those rare individuals whose faith truly manifests itself through behaviour and the world will be a better place for all.



A Belated Mazeltov!

To members Louis and Reva Turze who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in May

Message From the Chairman

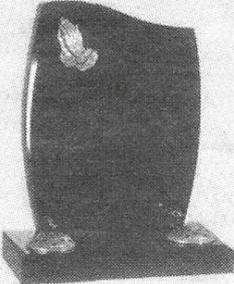
The past few weeks have been very difficult for us as Jews, rocket attacks in Israel, attacks against Jewish people and premises in Europe and demonstrations against Israel in many parts of the world. In many instances these have been blurred mixing anti-Israel and anti-Semitic feelings into one. Of course they are very separate and it is legitimate for anyone to criticise Israel's actions without being anti-Semitic.

In the coming weeks all Jewish people, irrespective of where they are in the world will be coming to Synagogue to pray, and hear the Shofar. This coming to Synagogue unites us all as one people and in our prayers we will hope that the peace that has recently been established will continue. Barbara and I wish you Shana Tova and well over the fast.

I take this opportunity to welcome Tim Spurrier as the new editor of our newsletter Etz Chaim. I am sure you all would like to join me in wishing Tim well in this role, and look forward to making sure he has plenty of material to include for us all to read. Tim may be contacted by email to newsletter@tdrs.org.uk

Ian Smiler - Chairman

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MRJ Movement Updates

For the latest news and events from the Movement for Reform Judaism and Reform communities across the country, sign up for the MRJ Movement Update.

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To subscribe, go to: <http://subscriptions.reformjudaism.org.uk/mailling-lists/> or email Martin Dix at: martin.dix@reformjudaism.org.uk

Havdallah Club

Here's an update on Havdallah Club. As our youngsters get older, we have met less frequently but to greater effect. I have been impressed, as ever at some of the insights our children share when discussing the various issues we raise. Keep an eye on the display board, always well worth the read to see their perspectives on Judaism. We will be meeting again once the new academic year begins.

Shana Tova.

Hélène

Notes from the Editor

Welcome to the new edition of Etx Chaim, the newsletter for our community. As you see there has been a re-design of the look of the newsletter. This edition has had plenty of contributions and thank you for all those who took their time and effort.

I am looking forward to being your editor. When I say looking forward I mean that in the same way you would "enjoy" organising a wedding (which I am also doing - sucker for punishment), mostly great but perhaps a tad of stress thrown in.

If there are any new sections you think may be interesting please feel free to suggest ideas.

Can I also remind people that Sainsbury's at Westwood has a great Kosher section. Use it or lose it, as they say.

Wishing everyone the best

Shana Tova

Tim Spurrier

RED SOCKS DAY

Sunday 17th August

by Zak Cohen

As usual Red Socks Day was a huge success; due to bad weather the community migrated indoors and gave the synagogue such a thorough cleaning that many might assume



Pesach had come early. From the kitchen to the ark the entire building was glistening with detox & furniture polish and the Torah scrolls are looking particularly impressive now that the light shining down on them from inside the ark has a working fitting. As well as this some of the community even braved the rain to do some weeding and tidying out the front so that, inside and out, the synagogue was cleaned, tidied, and maintained.

Of course Red Socks day would not be complete without a small memorial service where we gathered to remember Rabbi Sonny Herman and he would no doubt have been proud right down to his crimson socks to know that his memory was being honoured in such a unique, pragmatic, and unusual manner.



CELEBRATE JOURNALISM AT ITS BEST.. THE CHAIM BERMANT PRIZE

When was the last time you read an article in a newspaper, magazine or online which moved you or made you stop and think?

Perhaps you tweeted it or put it on Facebook so others could share it. The Chaim Bermant Prize for Journalism aims to go a step further and recognise the writers behind these exceptional and thought-provoking pieces of journalism.

Established in 2008, in memory of the author, journalist and commentator Chaim Bermant, the award recognises outstanding journalism on Jewish and Israeli themes.

It is being relaunched as part of Jewish Book Week 2015 and offers a prize of £5,000 for a major article or collection of articles published between **June 1, 2013 and November 30, 2014**, which furthers the understanding of contemporary Jewish life and Jewishness.



As the Jewish Chronicle's main opinion columnist for nearly 40 years, until his death in 1998, Chaim Bermant covered all aspects of Jewish life in his weekly column 'On The Other Hand'. His witty, thought-provoking chronicling of Jewish life and concerns still has profound resonance today. Chaim also wrote features and reviews for the nation's most

prestigious broadsheets and periodicals as well as over thirty books of history, fiction, satire and memoirs.

With this legacy in mind the Prize seeks out journalists who are also making their mark in this way. The judging panel this year includes Miriam Gross (former Women's Editor of the Observer and Literary Editor of the Sunday Telegraph), Gerald Jacobs (Literary Editor and former Assistant and Comment Editor of the Jewish Chronicle) and Geoffrey Paul (Journalist and Editor of the Jewish Chronicle 1977-1990).

Journalists can enter themselves or they can be nominated for the prize by colleagues or members of the public. So if you are a journalist or there is a journalist whose work you admire please send nominations or entries, ideally as a link or in PDF format by December 1, 2014 to bermantprize@gmail.com.

More information can be found at <http://www.bermant.com/chaim/news.php> or you can email Emma Shrimmsley at emma@shrimmsley.com

Summary of Board of Deputies activities March-July 2014

David Fox



As the Board of Deputies rep for TDRS, I receive a steady stream of communication from the Board. Here is a selection of highlights that gives a flavour of the on-going activities across the wider UK Jewish community. If you would like to hear more about any of these items or more generally about the Board of Deputies, please let me know.

UK Chairmanship of International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

The UK will shortly assume the chairmanship of the International

Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), a multinational association of governments and NGOs furthering Holocaust remembrance, research and education.

Meeting at Board with Matthew Gould

The Ambassador to Israel, Matthew Gould, addressed Deputies and key communal stakeholders. In an off the record briefing he spoke about the special relationship between Israel and Britain, including in investment projects, cultural tie-ups, and academia.



Board Conference on leadership

The Board convened a full day conference examining the future strategies for the leadership of UK Jewry at UCL. The conference, entitled *Vision 20 20: Leading British Jewry into the Future*, was run in association with UCL's Institute for Jewish Studies.

Interfaith & Community Relations

Interfaith activities focus on three areas:

Reactive Dialogue:

The Board of Deputies is engaging with Church organisations and bodies, on building bridges that lead away from Christian campaigns or attack on the Jewish State of Israel, and towards incubating constructive ideas on investment which would create justice and peace for the region.

Proactive Education

In Conjunction with the Council of Christians and Jews, the Board of Deputies currently runs the Insight programme, running workshops for Christian Clergy in training on Jewish ritual and theology.

Community Building

The Board of Deputies partnered with the London Jewish Cultural Centre and the Jewish Volunteering Network, to run the first Jewish Timbaking Day. 100 participants learned 20 new skills in one-hour slots, and in exchange amassed over 300 hours of time to give back to their community.

Parliamentary Engagement

In response to the attack on shechita made on by the President of the British Veterinary Association, the All Party Parliamentary Group on British Jews (for which the Board provides the secretariat) released a statement from its officers calling on leaders of all the parties to reaffirm that there will be no change to UK Legislation and the right of the United Kingdom's Jewish community to carry out shechita to the very high standards which it has always observed.



Possible unification with the Jewish Leadership Council (JLC)

Together with the JLC, the Board has commissioned consultants to carry out consultations with Deputies, and with the members of the JLC, about possible unification.

European Elections

The gain in support for the far right across Europe is a cause for considerable concern. Generally parties of protest did well and this was particularly worrying in Greece, Hungary and France. The Board will continue to work with partners in the EJC and WJC to speak out on issues of religious and minority freedoms.

Post-Holocaust Issues

The Board made a submission on behalf of the British Jewish community which was presented to Number 10. Based on evidence from over sixty Jewish and Holocaust organisations and individuals, the detailed document contains a number of eye-catching recommendations, drawing on the views of Holocaust survivors, synagogal movements, students, Jewish youth groups, schools and Jewish care organisations. Among many things the report calls for the existing Holocaust module within the history curriculum to be strengthened and to cover more subjects and age groups, and for it to be underpinned by additional specialist training for teachers. It expresses particular concern about the delivery of the module in faith and free schools, which may be exempt from the demands of the curriculum.

Young people and Jewish organisations

More than 40 leaders of Jewish organisations in the UK attended a Board of Deputies seminar designed to consider how established communal bodies might more effectively secure or retain the engagement of young adults in the 21 - 35 age group. The seminar identified the significance of developing a better understanding

of the needs and interests of this generation, and the importance of established communal organisations adapting and changing in order to engage with this age group more constructively.

The Jewish Community tackles Food Poverty in the UK

The Board of Deputies, in conjunction with the Jewish Social Action Forum (JSAF), the Trussell Trust and JGIFT, are planning to create a four page booklet on the alarming rise of Food Poverty in the UK, and what we, as Anglo-Jewry, could practically do to make a difference.

Along with a few essential facts on the crisis, the booklets will contain a list of simple and non-monetary asks, along with statements from Jewish leaders on why Food Poverty should challenge us as a community this year, especially as we begin the Shmita (Sabbatical) year, when the fields of Israel are historically opened to the poor.

We hope that during the High Holidays, every synagogue member in the UK will receive the booklet.



Remembrance Ceremony, Marking 100 years since the start of the First World War

The Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue at Bevis Marks, Anglo-Jewry's longest serving synagogue, together with the Board of Deputies of British Jews, has held a Jewish community Remembrance Ceremony, marking 100 years since the start of the First World War.



The whole community was invited to attend the ceremony - which took place at Bevis Marks on the night of Monday August 4th - which is part of the national 'Lights Out' event, in which communities up and down the UK switch off the electric lights in their congregations in order to reflect on what the First World War means to them. This national event

coincided with the most sombre night of **the** Jewish calendar - Tisha Ba'v - on which we remember and reflect on the exiles and tragedies of the Jewish people.

*TDRS held a combined service on the day of Tisha b'Av.

The next meeting of the 2012-2015 session of the Board of Deputies will be held on Sunday 20 July

L'Shanah Tovah

From
Cliff, Hélène, Sam, Joe, Benjy
& Zak Cohen

The likelihood of Sam, Joe &
now Benjy being here is
minimal, but old habits die
hard.

We have our usual open
house for Succoth on
Sunday 12th October

We are at home from
10.00am to midnight

So please join us at:
**60 Margate Road,
Ramsgate,
Kent. CT11 7SG**

We can be contacted at:
cliff@communication-
improvements.com or
helene_cohen@hotmail.com
Tel: 01843 581583

As usual, all fruit and veg will
be taken to The Pilgrims
Hospice the following day



Torah Reading

(Located by Jon Leigh)

Genesis 51.

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dorothy. Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called Amazon Dot Com. And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, dear?"

And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price. The sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent.

To prevent neighbouring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was known as Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures - Hebrew To The People (HTTP). And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. Indeed he did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others." And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or eBay as it came to be known. He said, "We need a name that reflects what we are." And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators." "YAHOO," said Abraham. And because it was Dot's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com.

Abraham's cousin, Joshua, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside.

It soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE).

Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner speaks on Anti-Semitism

Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner spoke at a rally outside the Royal Courts of Justice in London on Sunday 31 August to demand zero tolerance of anti-Semitism. The full text of the speech is below.

"Nearly 80 years ago, 100,000 people, including my grandfather, rallied near here in Cable Street. They succeeded in blocking the march of Mosley's anti-Semitic fascist black shirts. Newspapers wrote that 'Every avenue was blocked by huge crowds of people - Christian and Jew.'

Protesters stood together as we are standing today and chanted "They Shall Not Pass! They Shall Not Pass!"

They knew that hatred often starts but never ends with Jews. If the anti-Semites passed - if intolerance flourished - the freedom of every minority and ultimately all British people was under threat.

Here we are today and anti-Semitism, racism and fascism remain a reality. We know that Nazi hashtags and thuggery outside our synagogues - whether Reform, Orthodox or Haredi - spells danger for Jews first, but that it will be the black person or the gay couple or the Muslim family next.

Outdoor Service 16th August

Our yearly outdoor service was yet again blessed with great weather and a good attendance.

The Ursuline College was, as always, a wonderful location for our Saturday service and when you add the warm sun, the day was set up nicely.



With a mixture of readings, music and poetry, the service was a departure from our normal Saturday Torah service and certainly something that everyone enjoyed. Following the service everyone broke out their picnics. We all know how important food is.

Barring a few music technical issues (you can't always trust modern technology - ed), the day went smoothly and was, as always, a great success.

Thank you for those who organised the service and to Tanya Utton, Head Teacher, who made us so welcome, and we look forward to next year already.



This is broader than anti-Semitism. This is not just about Jews. These attacks on Jews are attacks on the very fabric and cherished values of Britain.

As on Cable Street, Jews cannot expect others to lead the fight against anti-Semitism but nor can we do it alone.

We must remain vigilant against extremism and stand united with our British brothers and sisters, remembering our common call to freedom: They Shall Not Pass. We call for zero tolerance."



BRITISH JEWS AND MUSLIMS CALL FOR PEACE, WISDOM AND HOPE OVER CONFLICT IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

Amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Muslim Council of Britain are issuing the following joint statement:

There is no doubt that Muslims and Jews have deeply held views about the conflict in Israel and Palestine. We acknowledge that our communities may disagree about the origins, current reasons and solutions to end the conflict. But there are also points of agreement.

The death of every civilian is a tragedy, and every effort should be taken to minimise such losses. The targeting of civilians is completely unacceptable and against our religious traditions. We pray for a speedy end to the current conflict and for a lasting peace for all.

In spite of the situation in the Middle East, we must continue to work hard for good community relations in the UK. We must not import conflict. We must export peace instead.

Whilst everyone has the right to voice their political opinion, be that in a rally or on social media, we must be mindful of how we convey our protest. There can be no excuse for racism, violence, or other forms of intimidation, when expressing views in the media, on the streets, outside shops or online.

We condemn any expression of Antisemitism, Islamophobia or any form of racism. We call for Muslim and Jewish communities to redouble efforts to work together and get to know one another.

We need constructive dialogue to limit our disagreements and identify the widest possible range of areas for cooperation. There are more issues that unite us than divide us.

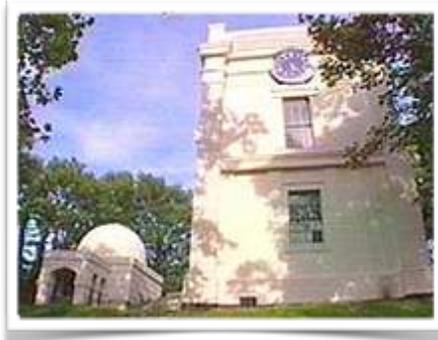
May the God of Abraham grant our World more peace, wisdom and hope.

(This statement was released on 28.08.14)

Judaism in Ramsgate

by Elliott Fox

After the first millennium travel became much easier, and as a result there was more movement of people through different countries and nations became more multi-cultural. The world was not used to this and, as a result, countries became very wary of foreigners. This was particularly apparent in Europe as the space between countries was smaller which accentuated the pace of immigration. One of the victims of this xenophobia was the Jews particularly around the 18th and early 20th century there was a lot of anti-Semitism in Europe.



I think that a clear link can be made between this and Judaism in Ramsgate as the first Jews in this area arrived in the late 1780s, during time of heightened anti-Semitism in Europe. The second Jew to arrive in Ramsgate, Levi Abraham, was born in Germany in 1752 which again coincides with anti-Judaism in that country. The results of anti-Semitism in Russia in the 19th century can still be seen today, with many Jews having to escape and settle in North London which is the main reason for the high concentration of Jews in that area.

During the 19th century, hatred intensified and this coincides with the arrival to Ramsgate of Sir Moses Montefiore in 1831. Around this time pogroms (persecution of Jews) had become very prominent in Europe mainly in Tsarist Russia and Montefiore had set about going around Europe helping Jews and other marginalised ethnic groups in those countries seeing it as his Jewish *mitzvah* (commandment).

Montefiore was born into an Italian Jewish family and was a philanthropist and dedicated Jew whose arrival in Ramsgate marked the start of a major Jewish

congregation starting in Thanet. After having visited it whilst on honeymoon with his wife Judith in 1822, he returned to East Cliff Lodge in Thanet and bought it for £5,500. After he did that he set about building the Montefiore synagogue and mausoleum in order to support Judaism in Ramsgate. In 1837, he was appointed Sherriff of London, and whilst in Ramsgate he set up six houses (three for gentiles, three for Jews) that housed the poor. As a result of this, the relationship between Jews and gentiles was very good. When he died in Ramsgate in 1885 at the ripe old age of 101, flags were lowered to half mast to commemorate his passing.



The Montefiore name is still very present in society, with Simon Sebag Montefiore being a famous writer, historian and journalist. However, Simon is not a direct grandson of Sir Moses. Lady Judith Montefiore, Moses' wife, had a back problem, and as a result was not able to have children. As a result, when the couple died they had no children to whom which they could leave their estate and wealth, and so the name went through Montefiore's sister, Sarah Sebag which is why today Montefiore has become Sebag Montefiore.

Montefiore would always go around with his own personal *shohet* who would make sure that all the food he eat had been slaughtered in a *kosher* (clean) way. When he became Sheriff of London, he was entitled to a haunch of venison, but when it was given to him he would not eat it. Instead, he found his own source and had his *shohet* slaughter it. I think that this really illustrates Montefiore's devotion to Judaism.



To what extent Montefiore attracted Jews and built up the Ramsgate Jewish community is hard to tell, according to Mark Negin, Vice-Chair of Ramsgate Montefiore Heritage and a member of the Thanet Jewish Community "he acted like an English Lord, and provided wealth to the community rather than making it bigger. However, what he did do was stop it dwindling whilst communities in Cliftonville and Margate grew rapidly."

Throughout his time as a philanthropist Montefiore was a very bold supporter of those in the minority. I think these morals are best illustrated by an anecdote that occurred whilst he was at a dinner sitting next to a well-known anti-Semite. The latter had been saying that in Japan there were no pigs or Jews, to which Montefiore replied that they should both go there so they could have samples of each.

Other examples of Judaism in Ramsgate include the Ramsgate philanthropy society which was founded by Messrs A. Henry and M. Miers and was for relieving Jews that passed through the town. To this day every August hundreds of ultra-orthodox Haredi Jews come to Ramsgate to commemorate his death and in August 2000 a Montefiore award was created by Malcolm Kirkaldie for those of any faith who had highlighted anglo-Jewish history or looked after a historical site. Montefiore has certainly not been forgotten.

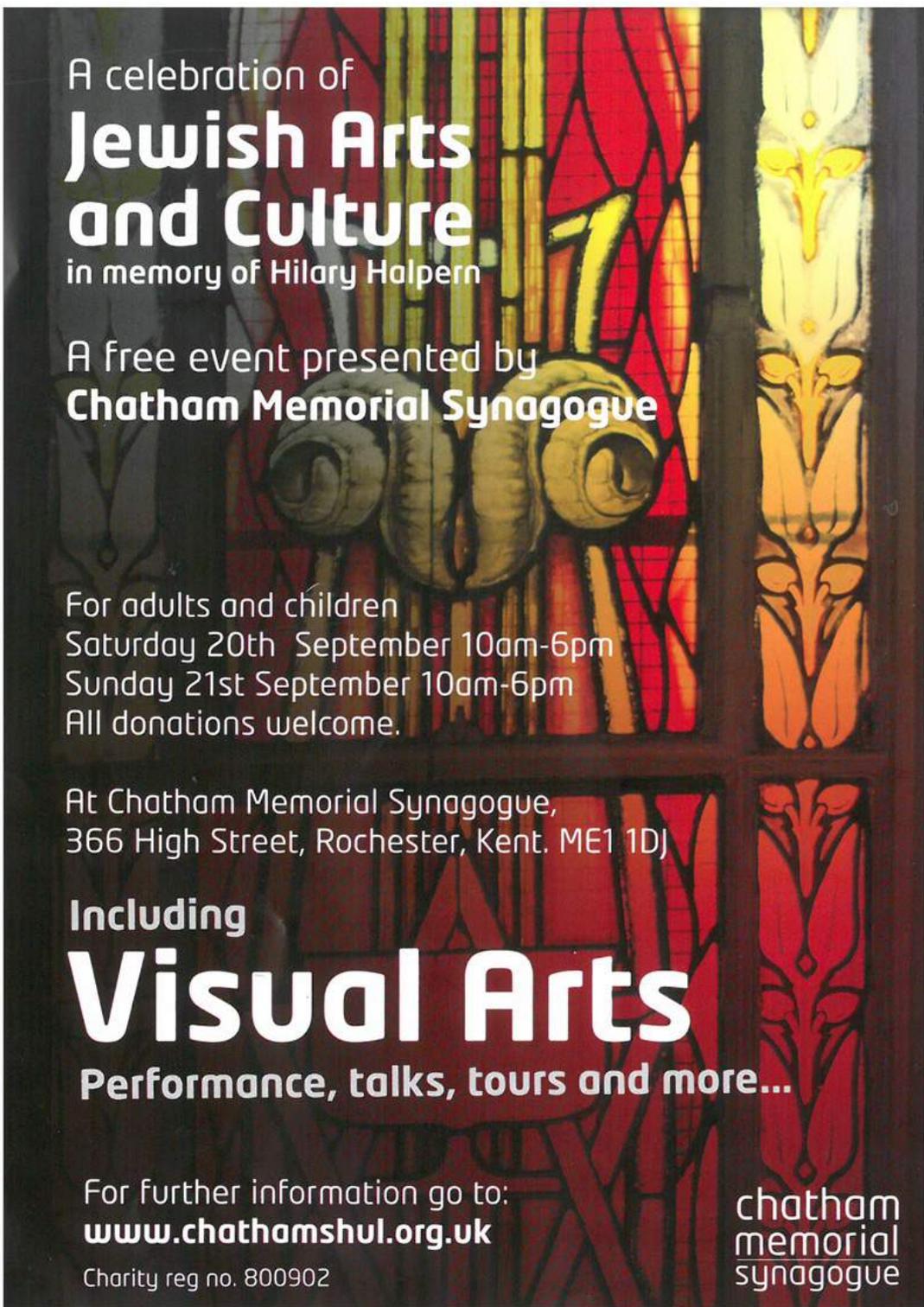
At the start of the 20th century Ramsgate's Sephardi Jewish community had dwindled, with no community and only the odd service funded by local trustee George da Costa. However, in 1987 the Ramsgate reform synagogue and community was founded and since then the community has been on the rise so now there is a community of over 65 people in addition to the orthodox community at the Montefiore synagogue.



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Montefiore is a world famous figure and therefore a towering figure in the history of Ramsgate. He was a great advocate of tolerance and philanthropy and therefore was a great champion of those in the minority as well as for Ramsgate itself. I think that his ideals can act as a great lesson to people in Ramsgate as our town becomes more multi-cultural, and his legacy can remind us of just how important his virtues are whilst building a great town.



A celebration of
**Jewish Arts
and Culture**
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ROSH HASHANAH SHANATOVAH

New Year's Messages

Rabbi Cliff, H el ene and all the Cohen family wish you all a year of health and success.

Barbara and Ian Smiler

Malka, Geoffrey & Luba

Jacqueline Rose

Muriel Bendon

Barbara Markham

Diana, Anthony, Edward, Esther & Marcus Da Costa

Rivka & Tom Dodds

Erwin & Esther David

Kay, Reva & Caleb Naphtali

Pam Brown

Lily and Cedric Rebuck

L' Shanah Tovah
Have a sweet year!



Sally & Michael Roth with Daniel & Heidi,
Leah, Leigh, Martha and Elsa, Natasha,
Scott, George and Harry

Hazel, Godfrey & Rachel, Gordon,
Jonathan and Jordana.

Marc, Hilary, Joshua, and Hannah StClare



Rosh Hashanah message 5775 – a tale of two elections from Vivian Wireman, President

At the time of writing this piece Israel is under continuous rocket attack and there is no prospect of a cease fire. I hope and pray that by the time this is read the situation will have settled. I am writing to you with what will be my final Rosh Hashanah address, as my term as President comes to a mandatory end in May next year. Being President has given me many pleasing moments and enormous pride. I am delighted that the Board has made so much progress so that we now have a first rate team led by a first rate CEO, Gillian Merron, and soon hopefully will be housed in first rate up to date premises. Our discussions with the JLC for a unified organisation of the community continue but, whether on its own or as a part of a wider organisation, the Board has a bright future.

None of what we achieve would be possible without our dedicated Deputies, from across the UK – I thank them for their hard work: they represent their constituencies and are vital to the functioning of UK Jewry. Needless to say, the Board exists on money from individuals in the community – half of which comes from the Communal Levy: still, less than half of synagogue members pay the relatively small sum of £25 a year to support our work. I think that the message here will support the fact that we are deserving of that contribution.

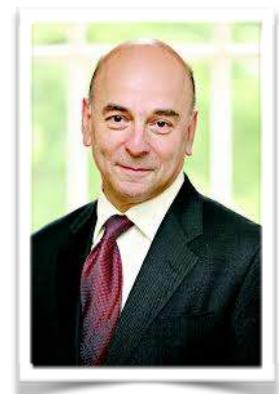
We are helping to counter BDS, witnessed by our close work with the Methodist Church leadership which led to a moratorium around BDS activity;

We are protecting Jewish education through our lobbying ministers, such as the right to teach Ivrit as a first language;

We are promoting Judaism through our revamped Jewish Living Experience exhibitions and Tours, in which thousands of non- Jewish children learn about our faith every year;

We are reaching the edges of the community through Jewish Connection, which is supporting small communities all over the UK who need pastoral, social care, networking and advocacy support from the mainstream of the community;

We consulted the community and then worked with the Equality and Human Rights Commission to produce new guidelines that clearly define the right to religious practice both at work and in education institutions;



Finally our APPG on British Jews has already drawn wide support from politicians and has helped us hone the community's lobbying on core rights issues, namely: social care, restitution of property for Survivors, protecting Shechitah, the right and value to a religious education by showcasing our excellent schools, lobbying on child benefit credits and many other issues affecting the entire spectrum of the community. You will shortly become aware of a General Election Jewish Manifesto produced by the Board, which encapsulates all the interests, concerns and aspirations of the UK's 300,000 Jewish community.

The Board will send this manifesto, which follows on from this year's successful European Elections Jewish Manifesto - to Jewish communities, policy makers, and election candidates - in order that the Jewish community has one clear policy document around the 2015 elections. The idea is that as individuals and local Jewish communities you take the Manifesto to candidates and use it as the centre piece of lobbying efforts - be it at hustings, in letters or in public debates. We recognise the diversity of the community and range of interests which is why we consulted throughout the community - reaching three hundred individuals and organisations. The Manifesto is divided into 14 sections including Religious Freedom and Observance, Israel and the Middle East, Education, and Health and Social Care. There are also a list of 'Ten Commitments' which encapsulate in a breath the key aims of the document.

The Board's 'Parliament' dissolves in May 2015, and there will be elections not only for a new President, Vice Presidents and Treasurer but for nearly 300 Deputies on the Board. We have done much good work to improve our representation in the past few years, including with our Women in Jewish Leadership project to ensure female talent is allowed to flourish, the setting up of a Youth Forum, to improve contact with younger community members, and



through working with Change in the Board: the result has been a marked improvement in our representation - but we must go much further.

5774 has been a significant year of achievement for the Board. Let's hope that 5775 will be a year of peace for Israel and the Middle East and a successful one for the community.

Shana tova



Rosh Hashanah Message from Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner, Senior Rabbi to the Movement for Reform Judaism

Let's start at the end. *Hashkivenu Adonai Eloheinu L'Shalom*. Cause us, Source of Life and Peace to let this year be one of peace and reconciliation in which we in Britain and also Israelis and Israel's neighbours wake up to peace and lie down to peace. *V'ha'amideynu Malkeynu l'chaim*. Enable us to get ourselves up and to carry on, appreciating the fullness of life. *U'fros aleynu sukkat shelomeycha*. And may You envelop us with the security of peace.

I'm writing this at the beginning of August, hopefully nearing the end of Operation Protective Edge. Our communities are made up of a rich robust gutsy diversity of people who passionately care about what is happening in Israel and Gaza. I have been surprised by just how extensive, vociferous (and often polarised) we are in our political opinions. But we are united in grief, mourning the loss of innocent life and we all pray for a just and lasting peace.

Our son, Natan, who at the moment is at RSY-Netzer Shemesh camp in mid Wales leading 14 year olds, could have been in Gaza now if we had stayed in Israel where our three children were born. Those who grew up with him are in Gaza now - their names are constantly on my mind: Nadav, Yoni, Itai, Barak and many more. I can envisage them being born and then being children of the Kol Haneshamah synagogue kindergarten in Jerusalem alongside our children. It's hard to think clearly through the images of hostilities and the profound fears.



So at Rosh Hashanah 5775 how might we approach this coming year with the situation in Israel and Gaza in the background and the possible impact on our relations with other faiths and communities? When I'm befuddled, I remember the advice of one of my rabbinic colleagues: "Laura, just be the rabbi." It might sound mundane but this realigns me and reminds me what I should try and do. Coming into 5775 "being the rabbi" reminds me that I'm not a military strategist, I don't live in Israel now and I am acutely aware of how deeply and passionately our different members feel and that part of **our** task is to try to articulate that immense breadth of reactions. So as we approach 5775, I would suggest extending the same advice. Perhaps we should "just be the Jew". What might this mean? Perhaps we should just be Jewish the way each of us

knows best. Perhaps in 5775 we should let go of others expectations of what is "the Jewish way" and instead know that there are many, many ways. Perhaps "Just Be The Jew" means that each of expresses our truth with integrity, with passion, with questions and doubts. For me, "Just Be The Jew" is enter 5775 with passion, to tell our truth out aloud especially as many of us seem to feel that the truth as we experience it is not being told by other people.

The words of Anne Frank which are quoted in our High Holy Day Machzor certainly ring true at the cusp of a New Year that follows such a turbulent time: "That's the difficulty at these times: ideals, dreams and cherished hopes rise within us, only to meet the horrible truth and be shattered. It's really a wonder that I haven't dropped all my ideals, because they seem so absurd and impossible to carry out... I must uphold my ideals, for perhaps the time will come when I shall be able to carry them out." That's the essence of Just Being A Jew - holding onto our ideals, saying our values loudly and upholding our vision day after day, year after year.

Shanah tovah - may this year bring calm, peace, health, tranquillity and *shalom bayit* - peace in our homes, cities and countries.



CST and Jewish life

CST is the Community Security Trust, a charity that provides security for Jewish communities throughout Britain so as we may lead our Jewish lives safely and in confidence. CST is also available, 24-hours a day, for those of us who are unfortunate enough to suffer, or witness, antisemitism.

CST draws upon a proud tradition of British Jewish self-defence, in which British Jews come together to play their part in defending their community. Before and after World War Two, the threats came from far right sources. Today, those threats remain: but have been joined by more modern forces, including Jihadist terrorism, such as that by Al-Qaeda and others.

CST protects British Jews from hatred and extremism, but this needs close partnerships between CST, local communities and synagogues, and the Police.

We are extremely fortunate to have had these partnerships in place for

many years now. Nevertheless, it requires everyone to participate. Please contact your local CST security team and volunteer to join us in our work.

CST is only as strong as the communities we serve. We need to share responsibility, together. This means understanding why we do security and cooperating with our local teams.

PLEASE PLAY YOUR PART BY:

- reporting information to us
- joining our local teams
- helping to fund our work

Sharing responsibility also means keeping a healthy sense of perspective. Physical and political threats do exist, but that should not stop any of us from appreciating and celebrating the overall excellence of Jewish life in Britain today.

We thank you for playing your part.

REPORT ANTISEMITISM & SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

CST is a charity that protects British Jews from antisemitism and related threats.

Please report any antisemitic or suspicious activity to the Police and CST.



London (Head Office) 020 8457 9999
Emergency 24-hour number 07659 101 668

Manchester (Northern Regional Office) 0161 792 6666
Emergency 24-hour number 0800 980 0668

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Community Security Trust is a registered charity in England and Wales (1042391) and Scotland (SC042391).



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