

ETZ CHAIM

The movement for
REFORM JUDAISM

The Newsletter for the Thanet & District Reform Synagogue

High Holy Days Edition

Welcome back to Etz Chaim, our community newsletter. We are back round to the High Holy Day period again where there will be a great deal happening. So get your diaries out and make a note of all that is going on. There is plenty to do and get involved with. In this edition we have a mixed bag of interesting articles, news and messages for you to enjoy. It is a good reflection on the vibrant and busy community we are.

Synagogue Council

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Vice Chairman
David Fox

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Hélène Cohen,
Dr Sam Borin,
Sally Roth,
Janine Chilley,
Pam Brown

Community Rabbi
Rabbi Cliff Cohen

Life President
David Mirsky

President
Godfrey Fischer



(Yemenite Jew blowing the Shofar in 1930's)

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

Services and Festivals Calendar

Shabbat services are held every Friday at 7.30pm and the first and third Saturday of the month at 10.30am and are not, therefore, listed below unless there is a variation such as Torah Breakfasts, Shabbat Suppers, etc.

NB. Watch out for the changes in the above during October

2015/5776

SEPTEMBER

Sun 13 Sep, 29 Elul, 7pm
Erev Rosh Hashanah service

Mon 14 Sep, 1 Tishri 5775, 10am
Rosh Hashanah service

Tue 22 Sep, 9 Tishri, 7pm
Kol Nidre service (Fast commences 6.38pm)

Wed 23 Sep, 10 Tishri, 10am
Yom Kippur service (Fast ends 7.42pm)

Sun 27 Sep, 14 Tishri, 7pm
Erev Sukkot service

Mon 28 Sep, 15 Tishri, 10am
Sukkot service

OCTOBER

Sat 3 Oct, 20 Tishri, 10.30am
Shabbat Service

Sun 4 Oct, 21 Tishri, 7pm
*Erev Simchat Torah/Shemini Atzeret
Torah service and celebration*

Mon 5 Oct, 22 Tishri, 10am
Simchat Torah/Shemini Atzeret service

Sat 17 Oct, 4 Cheshvan
*Special Klatovy Memorial Service
 at North West Surrey Synagogue
 Weybridge. There will be no service
 in Thanet today.*

Sat 24 Oct, Cheshvan 11, 10.30am
Reform Judaism Shabbat (See page 12 for details)

Sat 31 Oct, 18 Cheshvan, 3.30pm
*Mincha Service followed by an illustrated talk ,The
 Jews of Ostrava - Archive of a Virtual Community' by
 David Lawson*

NOVEMBER

Fri 13 Nov, 25 Cheshvan,
*Shabbat Supper, 6.30pm for 6.45pm
 followed by a shorter service at 8pm*

DECEMBER

Sat 5 Dec, 23 Kislev
*Torah Breakfast 9.15am, Service 11am
 Service, 10.30am*

Sun 6 Dec, 24 Kislev
Erev Chanukkah - first candle (No Service)

Sun 13 Dec, 1 Tevet 3pm
Chanukkah Party - eighth candle



Havdallah Club

During the past year, the Havdallah Club has met several times. Most importantly, we have put together a display about our Klatovy Torah scroll. This complements the leaves on which the community printed the names of those from Klatovy for our 'Red Socks Day' activity this year. All of us at Havdallah Club would like to wish our community a happy, healthy and peaceful new year.

Shana Tova.
 Hélène

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.

Next Deadline for
 submissions to next issue:
 11th December 2015

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.**

(cont on page 5)

A message from Rabbi Cliff Cohen

A teacher once asked his class, "How many of you had breakfast this morning?" A few hands went up. Then he asked, "How many of you skipped breakfast because you don't like breakfast, or because you didn't have time?" Lots of hands went up, but not all. He was fairly sure the remaining children had not eaten but he didn't want to ask directly about poverty, so he asked, "How many of you didn't have breakfast because your family just doesn't usually eat breakfast?" All the other hands went up, except one. "And why didn't you have breakfast?" asked the teacher. "Because it wasn't my turn".

No matter how hard we try, no matter how perceptive or well-read or well-prepared we are, we cannot know the reality that someone else faces. Yet we constantly pretend that we do - we have expectations, we make judgements, we give criticism or praise to people to their faces or behind their backs.

Moreover, without that pretence our human society would be impossible - we are social beings precisely because we believe our predictions and expectations of the behaviour of others will be right more often than it will be wrong. And it is. After all, only one boy in the whole class fell outside the teacher's expectations. Society is possible because the probabilities work most of the time. The price we pay for that is the embarrassment of one boy on the odd occasions when the probabilities fail us.

But the High Holydays are "other" time, the time when probabilities are suspended and the one boy has to matter. For a brief period, we remind ourselves that if we cannot know the reality of

others, then we cannot judge them, that we have to forgive those who, for all we know, may well be embarrassed or ashamed or seeking their own Teshuvah. For a brief period we remind ourselves of two profound truths - we can only judge ourselves, and only we can judge ourselves.

Judaism stubbornly insists that there is no intermediary between ourselves and God. The task of facing God is ours alone. So let us not beat the breast of our neighbour; that is between our neighbour and God. Let us not be God's envoy to others because that is heresy. Let us not pretend we know the reality of others, no matter what the probability. Rather, let us look honestly at who we are, at who we could be, at who we are called to be, and may we be rewarded for the effort by moving a little closer to our potential.

A very happy and healthy new year to you all.



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(cont from page 4)

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://news.reformjudaism.org.uk/high-holy-day-tickets-for-18-27-year-olds.html>

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.

This newsletter email goes out fortnightly and we won't use your email address for anything other than this.

To subscribe, go to:
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 or email Martin Dix at:
martin.dix@reformjudaism.org.uk



Notes from the Editor

With a newsletter filled full of interesting things that have just gone and yet to come, TDRS has yet again shown itself to be a busy and diverse community.

This edition covers a broad range of things from walking to cricket and from kosher food to writing on leaves. Thank you to all those who have taken the time to contribute and I would say a special thank you to Nathan Fox for his achievements and taking the time to tell us about them.

It is always a pleasure to receive contributions and to get to know more about what is happening in and around our community. Please feel free to contact me if you're thinking of putting something together or have any questions.

Wishing everyone the best for the High Holy Days and, of course, Shana Tova

Tim Spurrier

RED SOCKS DAY Sunday 2nd August

Red Socks Day this year focused on the important task of commemorating the Jews of Klatovy.

Neat handwriting was needed to write names on individual leaves to



decorate the tree in the synagogue. A big thank you to all those who attended not only to keep the synagogue's tradition of Red Socks Day but also reinforce our connections to and memory of all those Jews in Klatovy who lost their lives.



THE HAVDALLAH CLUB CODE FOR THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

On the 16th May 2015 the Havdallah Club decided to create our own commandments. After looking at the Holiness code, the Noahide code and the Ten Commandments, we looked at the commandments from all three and sorted them into the correct codes. After that, we discussed the meaning of each and the relevance of them to today's world.

Then came the tricky task of creating our own commandment code. With very few



disagreements along the way, the group decided that, from an initial 20-30, we had pulled together the ten most important (we even added in some of our own).

All in all a fun day learning about the codes and preparing for Shavuot.

The 10 Commandments -

The Havdallah Code:

- Observe the Sabbath day
- Honour your fellow people
- Establish courts of justice
- No idolatry
- Do not speak badly of others, even if they speak badly of you
- Do not murder
- Do not place a stumbling block before the blind
- Do not steal out of jealousy
- Do not reap to the edge of you field or gather the gleanings
- No adultery

Nathan Fox, on behalf of the Havdallah Club

Caring for Each Other Within the Community - Launch of Chesed

David Fox

As discussed at this year's AGM, the synagogue Council is changing the way it maintains contact with community members outside of the normal cycle of services and events. Up until now, members would be contacted by telephone on a regular basis and over the last few years, Janine Chilley has been

kind enough to take on this role on behalf of the Council and this has been an invaluable service to the community.

However, as time has gone on, this system has proved less than ideal. Not least, it can at times be a little awkward for both the caller and the person being called. In addition, it places quite a burden on the individual responsible for making the calls and then following-up on specific items.



As we launch our new community support project **Chesed** for community members and their families, we formally announce that Janine is no longer responsible for maintaining phone call contact with the wider community members and we thank Janine for all the hard work she has put in over the years and for the sensitivity and commitment she has demonstrated in this role.



The basis of Chesed (which means loving-kindness, compassion) is to provide an opportunity for community members to draw upon the wider synagogue community for help, social contact etc.

The scheme offers an email address (chesed@tdrs.org.uk) and telephone number (01843 851164) for community members to contact the synagogue Council. The Council, collectively, will then identify potential fellow

community members who might be able to provide support and/or address a specific need (based on geographical proximity, familiarity etc) and then provide a way of linking the relevant people together.

It is important to stress that this is the extent of the scope and objectives of the scheme and that there is no guarantee that Chessed alone will bring problems/ requests to resolution and the scheme is most definitely not a source of professional advice such as legal advice, medical advice etc. It is also worth noting that we are launching Chessed as a pilot with a decision to be made during 2016 on whether to continue - so please let us know what you think of the scheme as it unfolds.

Business cards with the details of the scheme are included in the newsletter and additional cards are available from the synagogue.



Message From the Chairman

As I write this passage Barbara and I are travelling by train to meet our niece to celebrate her birthday. At this time of the High Holy Days we all think of our families, often meeting in person to share the solemnity of these days. This coming together is an important aspect of our lives and at a time of ever more available electronic communications there is still something special about being in the same place as one's loved ones, greeting with a kiss & hug and sharing life's experiences across the generations. These are common traits we share with all peoples worldwide and long may they continue.

Barbara and I wish you Shana Tova and well over the fast.

Ian Smiler



Help with Building the Succah

Please join us at the Synagogue on **Sunday 27th September at 10am** to help with building the Succah. Also, donations of fruit and foliage will be especially welcome.

My Cricketing Summer

Nathan Fox

As you may know I enjoy playing cricket and I play for Broadstairs, Kent and Simon Langton Boys School. This season has been a successful one for me and I would like to share some of my success.

First, I captain my school team and we entered the Kent cup. We had only ever won the competition once before in 2005 and in a close final, we managed to defend 121 in 30 overs winning by 15 runs. This means that next year we will represent Kent in the national competition. I also got my first hundred in a school friendly game this season and a hat trick.



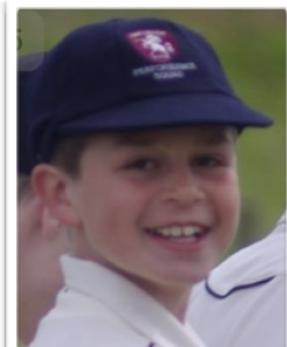
Next is my club team (Broadstairs) and for the second year running, we got to the south east of England finals at Horsham but this year we went a bit further

than last year. We won our first game easily and found ourselves in the final against Guilford. We batted first and I got 26 in a total of 101 in 20 overs. However, it wasn't enough and we lost. Guilford then went on to win the national competition as well.



Finally, I play for the Kent under 12s and we went to a festival in Taunton with 4 teams there. In the second

match, I got 31 of very few balls (hitting 7 fours in the process) and 3-16 off 5 overs. Because of this I got man of the match. However, in the final of the tournament, we were outplayed by a South African school who beat us by over 150 runs.



L'Shanah Tovah

From
Cliff and Hélène Cohen

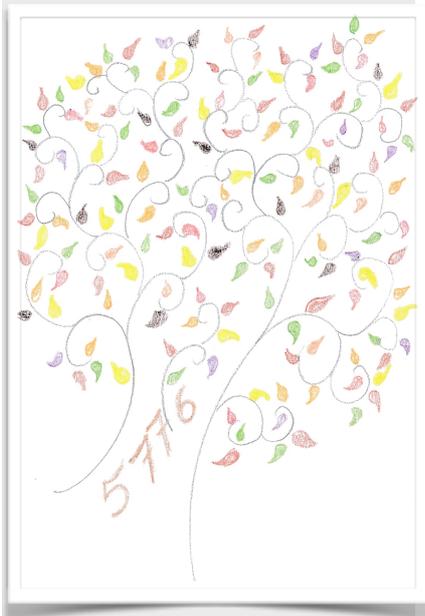
We have our usual open
house for Succoth on
Sunday 4th October

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



Is it Kosher? Well Perhaps Not.

Godfrey Fischer

So, do you need a *shochet* for a Toilet Duck? The last one we bought did not have a kosher *hechser* but all the instructions and details were all in Hebrew. Would have been nice to have purchased it in Tel Aviv but it was a Thanet supermarket. There's globalisation for you.

On the subject of cleaning products, Aldi were selling a most amazing cleaning paste called 'Astonish Pro'. It's made in England. All the instructions are in English. It's certified kosher by two Jewish authorities and approved by Vegetarian Society. It's also kind to the hands, contains Tea Tree and Eucalyptus and it works a treat on the cooker.

Not approved by the Vegetarian Society is chopped herring, of course. It's a pity Sainsbury's Westwood Cross is no longer stocking it. However, if you are not too concerned about the kosher *hechser*, then Marks & Spencer's are selling both chopped herring and gefilte fish balls in their Canterbury and Thanet stores.

Have you been converted to the little, long-burning Shabbat candles that fit into a glass holder? For some reason Sainsbury's kosher section in Westwood Cross only sell the standard size ones. A request to restock the small ones been made and we await to see the light.

Shochet - a person who has been specially trained and licensed to slaughter animals and birds in accordance with the laws of shechita

Shechita - the Jewish religious humane method of animal slaughter for food

Hechser - rabbinical approval of meats and other foods that comply with the ritual requirements of Jewish dietary laws, usually issued in the form of an endorsing mark or stamp on the products so approved.

It's all Change for October

Make a note in your diary because the sequence of some of the services will vary in October. And there will be additional events.

Friday evening Kabbalat Shabbat services remain unchanged at the usual time of 7.30pm and our first Shabbat morning service on 3rd October will still be at 10.30am.

However, for our service on the second **Saturday, 17th October**, we have been invited to the North West Surrey Synagogue (Reform) in Weybridge for a special service in remembrance of the Klatovy community. Like us, NWSS are proud to be custodians of a Klatovy scroll. Also, we will be able to see the travelling exhibition from the Memorial Scrolls Trust. If you wish to attend this special service please let our Chairman (Ian Driver) know (Email: chairman@tdrs.org.uk or Tel: 07798 555391). If you have spare seats in your car or if you need transport, again, please let us know.

Saturday 24th October (and Friday evening) is *Reform Judaism Shabbat* when we will join Jews around the UK to celebrate. Full details of our service will be in the October 'What's On' but general information about the day may be found on <http://news.reformjudaism.org.uk/assembly-of-rabbis/rj-shabbat-23-24-october-2016.html>

If you do not have access to a computer, please call the Senior Warden on the synagogue number.

Saturday 31st October (because October is a five-week month) we will be holding a Mincha service followed by Havdalah and an illustrated talk by David Lawson titled "Jews in Ostrava - Archive of a Virtual Community - This is the story of our project. How it started and developed to what it is now". The Kingston Synagogue Ostrava Project, whose Sefer Torah they hold, is about the Ostrava Jewish Community and Kingston's attempts to make contact with any Jews from there, or their descendants. Our own member, Heinz Vogel, who was a member of the Kingston Synagogue before moving to Canterbury, came from Ostrava and was involved in the project. He will join us for this illustrated talk.

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

A constituent member of the Movement for Reform Judaism - website: www.tdrs.org.uk

Outdoor Service 15th August

The yearly departure from our synagogue's Torah service was once again held in the idyllic setting of The Ursuline College in Westgate on Sea.

Luck was once again on our side with the weather with some anticipated rain holding off to have a pleasing outdoor service. Not only does the location change but also the nature of the service with a lovely mixture of Torah, poetry, music and readings. The service was followed by a picnic and tea as well as the usual conversation amongst those assembled.



Thank you once more to Cliff for making the well attended service entertaining. Another thank you for those who organised the service and and to Tanya Utton, Head Teacher, who made us so welcome, and we look forward to next year already.

Walking for Pleasure

Riff and Tom Dodds

This article first appeared in the synagogue newsletter 25 years ago in 1990. This is not only an interesting piece on the benefits and pleasures in walking, but also a journey back into a Thanet of 25 years ago. Although some places never change, others do. It will be interesting to note what has and has not changed since this was written(ed).

Almost seven years ago whilst holidaying in Derbyshire, we were resting in a beauty spot and suddenly noticed a group of people walking up a steep hill. They were mostly elderly but tanned by the sun and generally very fit looking. We then noticed they were "walkers" and thought to ourselves, "well, how about us becoming *walkers*?"

Back home we started off with a short walk along the Cliftonville seafront (about a mile), then progressed weekly until we now walk anything up to about eight miles during the day. This might seem an enormous amount of miles to walk, but what we do is start off from home about 10.30 to 11am suitably dressed with good stout shoes, a cagoule in our rucksacks in case of rain and sandwiches, fruit and hot drink. We walk for a couple of hours or so, stop for lunch and a rest, perhaps read a book from the library, then we are ready for the walk back home.

We've broadened our local range of walks and now go from Reculver to Herne Bay, Sandwich to Deal, Deal to St Margaret at Cliff, St Margaret at Cliff to Dover. Each of these walks takes approximately 2 and a half hours each way but here are a couple of walks which you might be interested in trying; easy walking being mostly flat or with just a slight incline.

Starting from Cliftonville seafront, walk until you come to the pitch and put at Palm Bay. Take the path on your left with the pitch and put on your right and the sea on your left. Follow this path all the way to the Fairness Hotel. this walk is approximately one and a quarter miles; very easy and flat all the way. To continue the walk, follow the path until you come to the golf course which is on the right hand side. Follow this path until you come to the Captain Digby.

For the more adventurous, turn left in to the main road past the Captain Digby and continue up the hill to the Castle Keep. By the entrance, cross the road and on the right find a gap in the hedges which leads on to the Foreland Golf

Course. Bear left keeping the road on your left and in front you will see the North Foreland Lighthouse. On reaching this point, turn left across the road to the other pavement and walk straight ahead past the Dutch House Hotel. Keep on for about a quarter of a mile passing the Foreland Manor House on your left and about 50 yards past this you will see a sign reading "public footpath". This leads directly down to the seafront. Turn right at the seafront and continue until you reach the Broadstairs jetty (see pic below - ed).



Viking Bay, Broadstairs

We should like to point out that you can, of course, stop at any point for a rest or lunch and return the way you came but the distance of this complete walk is approximately four miles (2 hours) there and double this for the return.

As an alternative walk, when you reach the lighthouse, you will see an iron gate on your right. So instead of proceeding towards Broadstairs, go through the iron gate, follow the path round, keeping the lighthouse on your right you will find a white gate. Go through the gate and follow the footpath directly in front of you. Continue across the field until, on your right, you will see some stables. Follow the footpath round to the stables until you come the main road. Turn left and about 50 yards on your right is Reading Street Village. Go through the village, cross the main road on your left, past allotments and you will find a footpath that runs parallel with the road your right. Follow the path until you eventually come out to Northdown House in Cliftonville.

Walking is a very pleasant, relaxing pastime, away from the telephone, television and traffic and out in the fresh air. Even if the sun isn't shining and provided you're properly dressed, you can enjoy the sea, countryside - and you see so much more than if you're in a car. why not give it a try?

Happy walking.

ROSH HASHANAH SHANATOVAH

New Year's Messages

Rabbi Cliff, Hélène and all the Cohen family wish you all a year of health and success.

Barbara and Ian Smiler

Kay, Reva and Naphtali

Barbara Markham

Jacqueline Rose

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

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





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Rosh Hashanah message 5775/6 – a message from the President

This is my first Rosh Hashanah as President of the Board following my election in May and I have much to do in order to continue the fine work we have been doing over the past 12 months.

It is a year which we can look back to with some pride in our accomplishments. We have worked closely with the Government to ensure that our community is protected against the evil of antisemitism. The good relations we have fostered led to Home Secretary Theresa May and Communities and Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles attending our monthly Board meeting to reassure our community in the wake of the terrorist attacks against Jews in Paris in January.

This trustful relationship proved its worth in July when a small antisemitic group on the far right threatened to rally in Golders Green. We felt that the whole community should demonstrate its united resolve against bigotry and the Board, in partnership with the London Jewish Forum and anti-fascist organisation HOPE not Hate, together with the support of the Community Security Trust, formed Golders Green Together to turn a hateful occasion into a positive outcome for our community. The result was that all races and faiths in Golders Green came together to celebrate both their unity and diversity while behind-the-scenes work with the Government and police led to the rally being moved to central London - well away from the Jewish community that the racists were hoping to intimidate. The long-term work of the Board in building alliances and deepening mutual respect and understanding often goes unsung, but this episode demonstrates the benefits that it brings to our community.

We also acted against attempts to boycott Israel and antisemitism masquerading as anti-Zionism and have won some important battles - including against Rev Stephen Sizer, who has now been effectively disciplined by the Church of England after one rant too many. We also took prompt action against an anti-Israel conference at Southampton University and the conference was cancelled following representations led by the Board. We have been very active against those calling for boycotts, divestment & sanctions.

Our document, 'A Better Way than Boycotts' highlighted a more constructive path to peace in the Middle East and has been very well received by major non-Jewish bodies in Britain and abroad.

Of course, my election was not the only one in May. There was also the small matter of a General Election. Ahead of this the Board produced its Jewish Manifesto - the most comprehensive ever produced which covered 14 areas of interest including religious

freedom, antisemitism, Israel, education, social care and social Action – all produced after consultation with more than 300 organisations and individuals. The Jewish Manifesto and its 10 Commitments which encapsulated the key aims of the document was sent out to every parliamentary candidate. We received videos of support from all three main party leaders supporting the Manifesto and its pledges.

In education, we have been working hard to maintain GCSE Ivrit and Biblical Hebrew and we are promoting Judaism through our Jewish Living Experience exhibitions and tours, in which thousands of non-Jewish children learn about our faith every year.

We have also been reaching out through Jewish Connection, which is supporting small communities all over the UK needing pastoral and social care, networking and advocacy support from the mainstream of the community.

In 5776 we will be pushing ahead with our new, dynamic team of Honorary Officers, dedicated Deputies* and professional staff. Jewish core beliefs and practices are not currently threatened in the UK and that is the way we want to keep things – we must retain our ability to continue to practise brit milah and shechitah and there should be an understanding of the importance of these traditions. Our relationship with the Muslim communities of the UK will be a priority. Jews have an important role to play in showing to them and other faiths that it is not only possible but admirable to combine British values with adherence to religious tradition, and that these two things are not mutually exclusive.

We will be working with the Government to safeguard the security of our community and the continuation of that productive relationship is a priority, particularly in light of the shocking rise in antisemitism. The fact that the Government has pledged millions of pounds to enable effective security to be provided outside schools, synagogues and other institutions is welcome but cannot hide the grotesque fact that such vigilance is still required because hatred of our community remains in some, albeit very limited, corners in our society.

I hope that 5776 is a peaceful one for members of our community. We will continue to represent your interests as only a democratically elected body can.

May this New Year bring you and your families health and strength, and may it be peaceful for Am Yisrael.

Jonathan Arkush



* David Fox is the TDRS Deputy at the Board of Deputies of British Jews



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

"Older people dream dreams and your youth will see visions" (Joel 3:1). It's this prophetic blend of dreaming and vision that works beautifully for us as Reform Jews.

The adults in Reform Judaism have often taken the lead from our youth movement. I think it's the right way around! Our young people have always posed intellectual and ideological questions for the Movement as a whole to respond to.

The changed commitment to *kashrut* at our central Movement events was inspired by a consistent dedication to *kashrut* in the early 1980's by RSY. More recently, RSY-Netzer passed a motion at their annual meeting - *Veidah* - on Jewish status, to proactively involve those with patrilineal Jewish status in RSY-Netzer. This, in turn, galvanised our communities and our lay leaders, the Reform Judaism Board and then our Rabbinic Assembly.

The proposals made to our communities by the Rabbinic Assembly would enable rabbis to confirm Jewish status on people with one Jewish parent. This status would then have to be ratified by the Beit Din. We have aligned our core values of a love of tradition and providing a proactive welcome, with our ability to adapt and our commitment to equality. Here it is - loving Judaism, evolving Judaism, sustaining Judaism.

Next year RSY-Netzer will focus on Reform Zionism. This has inspired me to make one of my key aims for this coming year to re-emphasise teaching Reform Zionism. I am also focussing on Israel education as I believe that increasingly, especially for people under the ages of 35, the arguments for the existence of the State have become too opaque.

Just four words contain the multiple and dynamic concepts of Zionism. The educational exercise of expanding these four small words is one of the simplest and most effective ways of explaining Zionism that I have been taught. Try this for easy, memorable and enriching: take these four words from the *Hatkvah*: "*lehiot Am chofshi b'Artzeinu*." They translate as "*To be a free People in our Land*", which, admittedly, is slightly longer in the English!

Take each word, place it in one part of a grid and start to broaden out these words into a concise and clear explanation of Zionism. For instance: '*lehiot*' - "being". It's about the meaning of existing, flourishing and being safe. This brings together the Herzlian

idea of Zionism as providing a safe haven for Jews to exist in with the vision of Ahad Ha'Am in which Israel will provide cultural impetus for the whole Jewish world to live by. The next tiny word, "Am", is the dynamic concept of "Peoplehood." Jews are far more than a narrow definition of 'religion'. Instead we are a People, like other people who deserve national self-determination. We have a common language, culture, literature, land and religious civilisation.

The third word, "*chofshi*", is our "freedom" to develop ourselves in a modern democracy. Lastly "*b'Artzeinu*" - "in our Land" - in Israel due to Biblical covenantal connections, historical continual Jewish presence.

So as the Prophet Joel said, "the older people dream and our youth will see visions." We need our next year to be one that brings together the dreams of older generations and the new visions of younger generations. This would provide us with a Reform Zionism that encapsulates an inspiring progressive vision for Israel for 5776 and beyond.

Shanah tovah!

Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner
Senior Rabbi to Reform Judaism




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Advertising

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

How much do you know about the Isle of Thanet?

Here is a mini quiz about some facts about Thanet you may or may not know. How a go and see how you do but no cheating! The answers are below. If you have any facts you would like to share with the community then send them to the newsletter. Enjoy.

1. The first bridge built over the Wantsum Channel to connect the Isle of Thanet was built in 1485, where that had previously been a ferry crossing. Where was the bridge situated?
 - a. St Nicholas at Wade
 - b. Richborough
 - c. Sarre

2. When was the last time the Isle of Thanet was officially cut off from the English mainland?
 - a. 1753
 - b. 1853
 - c. 1953

3. Thanet has long been associated with artists but which artists spent 1876 in Ramsgate teaching french?
 - a. Claude Monet
 - b. Vincent Van Gogh
 - c. Paul Cezanne

4. There was a workhouse opened in Thanet in 1836 which eventually was converted to a hospital which did not close until 1986. Where was it situated?
 - a. Minster
 - b. Margate
 - c. Ramsgate

5. Ramsgate has the only Royal Harbour in the UK. Which King made it a Royal Harbour?
 - a. George II
 - b. George III
 - c. George IV

Answers

1. C - Sarre 2.C - 1953 During the North Sea Flood of 1953 Thanet was cut off for a few days 3. B - Vincent Van Gogh 4. A - Minster 5. C - George IV in 1821

CST Protecting our Jewish Communities



CST, Community Security Trust, is here to help ensure that our Jewish communities throughout the UK are **protected all year round and able to lead their Jewish lives with peace and dignity.**

CST's work at Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur depends upon the **cooperation and participation** of all of our Jewish communities. There is no other time when the partnership is more obvious, nor more necessary, and thousands of volunteers help to make that a reality.

This year, CST will once again be working in **close cooperation with Police, synagogues, security volunteers and security rotas** at hundreds of synagogues over the chagim, but you may also see more commercial security guards working at synagogues than has previously been the case.

These additional guards are now largely paid for by government and are organised by CST and synagogues, as part of our joint security response to the tragic terrorist attacks in Paris and Copenhagen earlier this year. We regret that the additional security is necessary, but we sincerely hope that it provides a **practical and reassuring response to the current situation.**

Thank you once again for cooperating with our security teams at this busy time, and thank you for playing your part in our joint security efforts. **Shana Tovah and well over the fast to all of our community, and to all of our volunteers and their families, to whom we all owe a special thanks.**

Yours, CST.



In an emergency contact the Police on 999, then contact CST,
London: 0800 032 3263 Manchester: 0800 980 0668

In a non-emergency, please call the Police on 101, then contact CST,
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