

# ETZ CHAIM The movement for REFORM JUDAISM

The Newsletter for the Thanet & District Reform Synagogue

## High Holy Days Edition



"Jews Praying in the Synagogue on Yom Kippur" by Maurycy Gottlieb, 1878. (Wikimedia Commons)

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](http://www.tdrs.org.uk)

## 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.)

You can contact [warden@tdrs.org.uk](mailto:warden@tdrs.org.uk) or 01843 851164 for further information

## Services and Festivals Calendar

Our 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 occasional Mincha services, Torah Breakfasts, Shabbat Suppers, etc.

### 2017/5778

#### SEPTEMBER 5778

Wed 20 Sep, 29 Elul, 7pm  
*Erev Rosh Hashanah service*

Thu 21 Sep, 1 Tishri 5777, 10am  
*Rosh Hashanah service*

Fri 29 Sep, 9 Tishri, 7pm  
*Kol Nidre service (Fast commences 6.17pm)*

Sat 30 Sep, 10 Tishri, 10am  
*Yom Kippur service (Fast ends 7.24pm)*

#### OCTOBER

Wed 4 Oct, 14 Tishri, 7pm  
*Erev Sukkot service*

Thu 5 Oct, 15 Tishri, 10am  
*Sukkot service*

Wed 11 Oct, 21 Tishri, 7pm  
*Erev Simchat Torah/Shemini Atzeret  
Torah service and celebration*

Thu 12 Oct, 22 Tishri, 10am  
*Simchat Torah/Shemini Atzeret service*

**NOVEMBER**

Fri 3 Nov, 15 Cheshvan,  
*Shabbat Supper, 6pm for 6.15pm*  
*followed by a shorter service at 8pm*

Sat 18 Nov, 29 Cheshvan  
*Torah Breakfast, 9.15am*  
*Service, 10.30am*

**DECEMBER**

Tue 12 Dec, 24 Kislev  
*Erev Chanukah - first candle (No Service)*

Sun 17 Dec, 29 Kislev 4pm  
*Chanukah Party - sixth candle*

Sat 30 Dec, 12 Tevet 3.30pm  
 Mincha service



(Yom Ha'Atzmaut 2017 at TDRS)

**TDRS Chesed**

Need a chat?

Require some help?

Under the weather?

Our community cares.  
 Let us know at  
**chesed@tdrs.org.uk**

**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.

## Notes from the Editor

Welcome to the new edition of Etz Chaim. First of all a big thank you to all the contributors for making this such an interesting and varied edition.

Please keep your contributions coming in as they are what is needed to keep our newsletter lively and informative. When items are sent to the editor by email, there is normally a response to say it has been received. If you do not get this please feel free to email again. There have been some incidents where articles have been unfortunately missed (blame the hapless editor - ed)

With the High Holy Days fast approaching, it is a busy period for our community. So keep an eye on the upcoming events and dates as well as the "What's On" guide to upcoming events.

Enjoy this edition and may this New Year be a fruitful and peaceful one for all of you.

Tim Spurrier  
Editor

## A message from Rabbi Cliff Cohen

The Mishnah tells us that in the Temple there was a Chamber of Secret Charity. God-fearing people used to put their donations in it secretly, and the poor were supported from it in secret. Whether or not this is historically accurate, the point is clear and well-made. Tzedakah is an indicator of a compassionate society, and when neither the donor nor the recipient know the identity of the other, Tzedakah is working well. So well, in fact, that when Maimonides, 1000 years later, included his famous eight degrees of Tzedakah in his commentary to the Mishnah, this was the second highest level, just below that form of Tzedakah which enables the recipient to be self-sufficient.

Parallel to this, our tradition tells us that "prayer, repentance and Tzedakah can annul the severity of the decree". Judaism requires us to aim for moral standards which we know we shall not consistently reach. When we fall short, as we all must, it damages our relationship with God and our fellows, but we can repair that damage through speaking honestly to God, through being honest with ourselves and through giving tangible support to those whose needs are greater than our own.

The High Holydays are the time to do this. In Temple times, the assumption was that priestly rites, correctly performed, would do the job for us, but there is no Temple now, and though some regret that, as Reform Jews we accept that the responsibility for the repair falls on each of

us. Let us then approach the High Holydays, not with resignation that we need to do what a Jew does, but with enthusiasm and hope. This solemn period is Judaism’s mechanism for repairing damage, for renewing our spiritual energy, for reminding ourselves of who we really are and for showing God that even when we fall short, we have not forgotten the kind of world that we are trying to build.

When we gather as a community, let our words be sincere. Let our self-exploration be genuine. And above all, let us remember that words are not enough, that the High Holyday appeal is not “mere charity” but is an essential part of our growth. Tzedakah means righteousness, not charity. The High Holyday appeal gives us all an opportunity to be righteous. Please give generously.

I wish you a fruitful and happy New Year.

Cliff Cohen

## 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.

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# Rosh Hashanah Message from Rabbi Laura Kanner- Klausner



Another year has come and gone; on a national level, this past year has not been our best. Conflict, deprivation and division continue to play huge roles, not just many miles away, but also right on our doorstep. It might be hard to see initially what there might be to celebrate about the past year, but we simply cannot succumb to cynicism. If there is one thing for sure we can celebrate about the year just gone, it is our resilience.

Some of the most memorable and uplifting events of the year have come against negative backdrops as our community, our nation and our world have proven time after time that we have tremendous reserves of resilience. It is at times where we need strength that community takes on a new level of importance. As we say as we reach the end of reading each book of Torah: we are strong and we strengthen one another - *chazak v'nitchazek*.

Each of us is lucky to be part of a community which strengthens us, supports us and gives us meaning. Across the country, Reform Judaism is connecting people to our spirituality and to each other. We too have shown great resilience and reason for positivity and celebration as we face the year ahead. The recent Jewish Policy Research report which caused much concern across the UK Jewish community with its findings that Jews are increasingly leaving synagogue communities behind also showed the stability and strength of Reform Judaism. We are bucking the trend and remaining steady against the tides of decline of the non-Haredi community.

Together, we form a national community worthy of celebration.

We should celebrate the many amazing indicators that our community has a very bright future ahead. I am privileged to have the opportunity to travel around Britain, seeing for myself the vibrancy of Reform Judaism in every corner of the country. Everywhere I go, there are synagogue communities doing amazing work: spreading learning, caring for one another and inspiring the next generation in the chain of tradition. It's a great joy to work in partnerships with synagogues to enable our national movement to thrive. In every place, I see the same willingness to evolve and strive to do even better.

Our overall success as a movement is a product of that desire to never stand still, that belief that there is always more that we can do to bring our Judaism to life. In the year ahead, our movement is ready to do even more.

What can you expect from us in the year ahead? We're bringing on-board new staff to help deliver in some key areas of importance during the year ahead. Already we have our ground-breaking young person's mental health and wellbeing officer, an invaluable support in an area which has become ever more important with the sharp increase of mental ill-health among our young people. We are also adding a new Young Adult Worker and Student Chaplain to help boost provision for students and young adults seeking their own meaningful path to connect with Judaism, in our existing congregations and meeting them where they are. Ensuring there is a route for our 18-35 year olds to find their place in our communities is vital to maintaining our stability as a movement long into the future.

Strengthening our nation-wide community and every individual community within it remains our top priority. We have launched the process of forming a Covenant which will link together our communities, clergy and professional staff, articulating and defining what it means for all of us to be part of one national movement. The process of shaping a document for consultation this will take place throughout the year, leading to our biennial Chagigah in 2018. The principles of covenantal relationship and duty to one another are core principles we hold as Jews - it is only right we make them a core part of our Reform Judaism. Our initiatives to strengthen communities will continue, including a new initiative to be launched focussing on maintaining financial resilience in our communities.

As a new year is upon us, we consider our deeds from the past year and carry out some *cheshbon nefesh* - a personal accounting. There will always be more we can and will do, but we should look back and be proud of the resilient and vibrant community we have built together. I pray that 5778 will only be sweet, calm and creative year.

*Shana Tova U'Metukah.*



# Message from the President of the Board of Deputies



In my New Year message 12 months ago I wrote that 2016 had been the most tumultuous year in British political life in living memory. This year has barely less eventful with a surprise General Election producing an even bigger surprise, resulting in the turbulence of a hung Parliament, coalition negotiations and a shaky start to talks with the EU over the future of the United Kingdom in Europe.

Through this period of political uncertainty the Board of Deputies has represented the Jewish community with a clear and calm voice. We produced our Jewish Manifesto for the election campaign, a document newly updated for 2017 with its detailed advocacy of the policies of interest and concern to UK Jews. We asked politicians to support our 10 Commitments – the policies which we consider crucial on everything from education and religious freedoms to the Middle East. We sent out a copy of the Jewish Manifesto to every prospective parliamentary candidate and received a large and supportive response including video messages from the Prime Minister and the leaders of the next three largest parties.

Our approach to politics is bipartisan. We do not support any single party but we do hold politicians to account. In a year characterised by a shameful upsurge in antisemitism in British politics we continue to call on party leaders to act swiftly to expunge hatred wherever it rears its ugly head. Former Liberal Democrat Leader Tim Farron acted swiftly to expel David Ward, a man with a track record of antisemitic statements. We call on Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn to act in a decisive manner during this coming year against the scourge of antisemitism which has plagued his party. And whenever we discover antisemitism in the Conservative and other parties, be in no doubt that we act in a similarly robust manner.

This year, having been thwarted for 12 years, criminal murderers finally managed to claim innocent lives in our country – at Westminster, in Manchester, at London Bridge and Finsbury Park. I am sickened by the extremists who are prepared to kill children to further their depraved views. The attacks by Islamist extremists on concert goers and random pedestrians and the attack on worshippers outside a

mosque in north London, lend an urgency to my longstanding commitment to building bridges with Muslim communities. It is vital that we have the relationships that allow us to share sometimes difficult opinions with one another, as well as making joint progress on our issues of common concern. It is crucial to strengthen the moderate centre and marginalise the extremists.

So I have travelled the country speaking to Muslim communities - so far including London, Bradford, Leicester, Leeds and Birmingham. And we don't just exchange pleasantries over tea and biscuits, we go straight for the toughest topics: hate crime, violent extremism and religious values.

This country is not the only one to suffer the tragedy of extremist murder this year. Israel has also lost innocent Jews, Christians and Muslims to terror attacks this year. And of course the difference between Israel and the UK is that Israel has never had respite from those whose mission it is to subvert the democracy of the world's only Jewish state. While the ramming of tourists and commuters on Westminster Bridge made the world's headlines, similar attacks in Israel have often not even warranted a passing mention on the evening news. We at the Board of Deputies stand resolutely behind Israel, whether it is speaking at demonstrations, making the case in the media, challenging BDS or supporting grassroots advocacy organisations and Christian allies. We leave nobody in any doubt as to our commitment.

While our enemies continue to promote terror and division, we have been unstinting in our desire for peace. This year, we launched the pioneering 'Invest in Peace' programme with church umbrella body Churches Together in Britain and Ireland to support Israelis and Palestinians who reach across the divide for reconciliation. Our first series of events in London in May drew 300 Jews, Christians, Muslims and people of no faith to the cause, and we are already planning the next series of events in Manchester, Leeds and Glasgow for later this year.

At home, we have continued to interact through all levels of government, from desk officers to secretaries of state, and we have worked internationally through our relations with foreign embassies and links with our Jewish partner organisations overseas. Our highly successful series of seminars for local councillors on Jewish issues took us to Manchester and Newcastle/Gateshead this year, with events in Leeds, Birmingham and London to follow in 2018.

We have staunchly defended Jewish schools and Jewish education in both the mainstream and Charedi sectors. Our efforts are also outward looking - the Jewish

## Kol Nidre Appeal

Every year our community chooses charities to support for our Kol Nidre Appeal.

This year the charities we have chosen are:

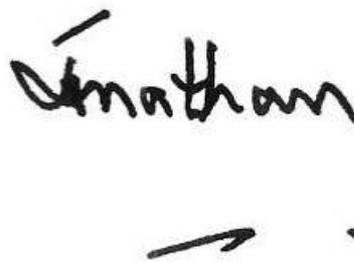
**Homestart**, a national family support charity who are based in Broadstairs. It offers support, advice and help to families and has helped over 2000 families since 1987.

**Leket Israel** is the largest food bank in Israel who aid the quarter of Israel that live below the poverty line. They collect and redistribute perishable foods that would otherwise be considered as waste.

Turn to the back page for full details of the appeal and the the chosen charities. As a community we are known for our great generosity and these are certainly 2 charities that would be assisted by our kindness.

Living Experience exhibition has travelled around the country and informed thousands of non-Jewish children and adults about our way of life. Our research partnership with the Institute of Jewish Policy Research has borne fruit, with groundbreaking new reports on Jewish schools and patterns of affiliation to the synagogue movements, releasing data that is vital for planning for our community's future.

In 5778 we will continue to represent your interests and wishes as a democratically elected and accountable organisation. May this New Year bring you, your families and all of Am Yisrael health, strength and peace.



**Jonathan Arkush, President**



## A message from the chairman

Dear All

I want to draw your attention to two features in this newsletter about recent activities. Firstly, on Red Socks memorial Sunday we built a "Scrollometer" to record progress as we move towards the target sum in our appeal for funds for repairs to our Klatovy Sefer Torah Scroll, and secondly in April we welcomed the Mayors of Ramsgate, Margate and Broadstairs together with Ramsgate MP for a special dedication service for the new Klatovy Memorial Tree.

In our Kol Nidre appeal this year we have carefully selected two charities that support the those in need, a local charity to help families with children through mentoring and support to parents, and a charity that provides food banks to the needy in Israel where, in addition to the security issues there are as complex social & welfare needs as found in any other country. I do urge you to support these worthwhile causes generously.

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

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Please join us at the Synagogue on Monday 2nd October at 10am to help with building the succah. Also, donations of fruit and foliage will be especially welcome.

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If you have a significant event coming up in your life why not share it with us, let our Newsletter editor Tim know and he will include in in the newsletter.

## Synagogue Council

### Chairman/Treasurer

Ian Smiler

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David Fox

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### Council Members

Hélène Cohen,  
Roberta Byrne,  
Sally Roth,

### Community Rabbi

Rabbi Cliff Cohen

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## Synagogue Contacts

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[chairman@tdrs.org.uk](mailto:chairman@tdrs.org.uk)

### Rabbi

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### Senior Warden

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### Newsletter

[newsletter@tdrs.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@tdrs.org.uk)

## What a Difference a Day Makes

**Helen Martins**

As the daughter of German refugees, I have never known an aunt, uncle or cousin, or an Oma or Opa. Experiencing Auschwitz turned out to be a journey of two parts - lost and found.

Three hours at Auschwitz 1 left me reeling. It was extremely painful to see and hear about the killing apparatus - to stand in the gas chamber, to see the stocks and the gallows, and to stand by the wall of death where 5,000 people were shot.

It was also incredibly poignant to see the mountains of shaved hair, sometimes with a lopped-off whole plait, along with the mountains of mangled spectacles, shoes, hairbrushes and shaving brushes, suitcases and cooking utensils, and the prayer shawls.

We heard many many dreadful stories of individual and mass murder. The levels of Nazi sadism and cruelty, and the total degradation and humiliation they inflicted gleefully were truly unimaginable.

However, that morning's journey turned out to be just the curtain raiser to the actual killing machine.



*At one end of the line, the station of deportation in Berlin, the memorial reads "6.3.1943 • 662 Juden • Berlin–Auschwitz"*

The afternoon saw us walk towards that most famous of landmarks, the entrance building to Auschwitz 2/ Birkenau, with the brick arch over the railway line, that continued as far as the eye could see. Climbing up to the watchtower, we tried to cope with the seismic shock at seeing the massive scale of the camp. This was extermination and murder on a factory, industrial, mechanised scale, with the capacity for murdering 10,000 people a

day compared with 350 in Auschwitz 1. Looking out of the watchtower, on a clear day, you couldn't see the end of the camp - it was that huge. Walking right round the barbed wire perimeter took several hours, revealing more and more horrors.

One example: earlier, we had seen a photo of a group of naked women running from a wood to what they thought were showers; they had been held in the woods until there was space cleared for them in the gas chamber. Listening to this story again, we discovered that we were standing in the wood in that very spot. Very chilling and disturbing.

The visit drew to a close at the end of the infamous railway line. Five years earlier I had stood at the railway station of deportation in Berlin and found the memorial to the actual transportation that took one of my father's six brothers, Erich Gross, to Auschwitz. Now, standing at the other end of the line, we lit a candle while listening to our guide reciting the Kaddish for mourners. Just then, I felt as though my heart was breaking.

Back to the theme of lost and found...

After a few days of reflection, I continued to feel an indescribable sadness and profound sorrow at the loss of six million Jews in such a torture chamber of horrors, suffering, depravity, terror and sadism. Unbelievably, though, I also felt an indescribable joy at having - literally - shared a footstep and a footprint on the railway platform at Auschwitz with my father's brother. I discovered, to my joy, that Erich is no longer my father's brother. I have found my long lost Uncle Erich.

What a difference a day makes.



*At the end of the line, Auschwitz*

## Some to Care: Reflections on a Journey to Ukraine.

**Helen Singer,  
World Jewish Relief**

Kriviy Rih is just a short flight from the UK but you could be forgiven for feeling like you're going back in time to a northern industrial city in the 1970s. Built along a seam of iron ore, the city is more than 100km end to end and is one of the largest centres for mining and steel in Eastern Europe. The streets and houses are covered in a fine red dust from the open iron-ore mines scattered along the length of the city and our jovial translator, Arkady, tells us it's not unusual for the birds and stray dogs also to turn red, as well as the snow in winter.

Arkady speaks and teaches seven languages and lives in Kriviy Rih with his wife and four children. A warm, dark humoured man, he relates the long history of the city and the struggle to adapt after the fall of the Soviet Union. Life in Eastern Ukraine is hard and after three years of fighting, the conflict is making it



increasingly difficult. As you drive along the potholed roads you pass low rise Soviet era apartment blocks, tired and worn with peeling paint and disheveled windows. The view from inside is even more depressing with many families and older people living in dilapidated homes, often without proper heating, bathing or cooking facilities. Inflation is high and even affording the basics can be an enormous struggle.

It's no wonder so many of the younger generation have chosen to leave, Arkady tells us, moving away to find work in other, more prosperous cities. We meet some of those who have decided to stay or don't have any other option, supported by a World Jewish

Relief programme that helps them get back into the job market or establish their own businesses. It's quite a different experience for the older people in the Jewish community.



Growing older is never easy. Even in the UK, advancing age comes with its challenges. In Ukraine, it can be a constant struggle. With non-existent social services, virtually no state support and no savings, many older people in the Jewish community are having to choose between eating, staying warm and being able to afford to buy medicine.

As well as the physical hardship, many older Jews in Ukraine face crippling loneliness, isolation and depression. Large numbers are widowed and they are often either childless or left behind when family members move away or abroad.

The lucky ones are those we meet in the Jewish Community Centre. A place where they can meet friends, stay warm, sing, dance and join in with the array of social and cultural activities funded by World Jewish Relief. It's older Jews who are unable to get to the centre, for whom life can be even more unbearable. Unable to leave their homes without support, they're cut off from their friends, family and community. Suffering from illness and often immobile, they are unable to care for themselves and with very few visitors, they have virtually no opportunity to speak to or see their family or friends and depression is frighteningly common.

Living alone in a small, one room rundown apartment is Lyubov Steinbach, 68 years old. She studied languages at University and worked as an English teacher and translator for many years. Life has been tough for Lyubov. She has had rheumatoid arthritis for many years, which means it's severely painful to even move around her own home and she can't leave her home because getting down the flight of stairs in her block of flats is impossible to manage alone. She has also become blind in one eye.

Lyubov can't take care of herself. Simple tasks like warming up food or pouring a glass of water are impossible for her to do on her own. Bathing, dressing and cooking are unimaginable without someone to help. Like many older people in Ukraine, she has no children, family or friends to help care for her, and the cost of hiring help is much too high for state pensioners like Lyubov to afford. She is terrified of being left alone in her

home - being bedridden and without any help, she is certain she would die alone from starvation.

World Jewish Relief's work supporting older people in Eastern Europe helps to ensure that people like Lyubov aren't left alone to cope by themselves. Every day, Lyubov welcomes Iryna into her home. Iryna is home care worker, funded by World Jewish Relief and provided by the local Jewish welfare service, *Hesed*. Not too far removed from a fairy



godmother, Iryna cooks Lyubov's meals, washes her, does her laundry and cleans her apartment. She'll also do the shopping and deliver food and medicine.

But just as importantly, she provides Lyubov with vital regular companionship, bringing news of family, friends and the wider Jewish community. For Lyubov, this is her only connection to the outside world and without Iryna's visits she wouldn't see anyone for weeks. She can't praise Iryna highly enough. She talks about looking forward to her visits and continually stresses how she wouldn't have survived had it not been for Iryna and the moral and physical support she provides as a home care worker.

Home care workers enable older Jewish people to retain their dignity and help combat the devastating loneliness, fear and isolation they experience on a daily basis.

"Because of my pain, I cannot take care of myself. I am so grateful for my home care worker Iryna and for all the things she does for me," says Lyubov. "I'm also grateful for *Hesed*. Without *Hesed*'s assistance, I could not survive."

To help us provide home care workers for vulnerable older Jews in Eastern Europe, like Lyubov, this Rosh Hashanah, please visit [www.worldjewishrelief.org](http://www.worldjewishrelief.org).

If you're interested in travelling to see World Jewish Relief's work in Eastern Europe please get in touch with Rebecca on [rebecca@worldjewishrelief.org](mailto:rebecca@worldjewishrelief.org) or 020 8736 1250.



# SHANA TOVA FROM CST

CST is Community Security Trust, the charity that provides security for British Jews. We want to take this opportunity to wish all of our community *Shana Tova*, well over the Fast and to ask for your help in our work.

CST is here to facilitate Jewish life at a time when terrorism, extremism and antisemitism can sometimes feel hard to escape from. We literally give our community the chance to play its part in the continuing challenge against those negatives. Above all, we need men and women to step forward and play their part as security volunteers, joining our teams and being trained in self-defence and community protection.

In recent years, CST has spent nearly eleven million pounds on enhancing the security of Jewish communal buildings throughout the UK. CST is also responsible for obtaining and managing Government funding for commercial security guards at Jewish schools, synagogues and other venues.

CST has offices in London, Manchester and Leeds. Over 80 staff and more than 3,000 communal security volunteers work in partnership with synagogues, schools, and community centres to help keep our community safe. Together, we secure over 600 Jewish communal buildings

and approximately 1,000 communal events each year.

CST helps and supports victims of antisemitism, and monitors and records antisemitic activities and incidents. CST is the only UK organisation that records, analyses and publishes nationwide statistics and information about antisemitic incidents and hate crimes. Sadly, the number of antisemitic incidents has grown. During 2016, CST often dealt with over 100 such reports per month and this unhappy trend has continued into 2017.

CST represents British Jewry to Police, Government and media on antisemitism and security. It works in operational partnership with Police and enjoys the full support of Government and Opposition. CST is widely held to be the role model of its type.

All of CST's work is provided free of charge, but we rely upon the partnership and active participation of our entire Jewish community: for our volunteer recruits, for our funding, for reporting, and also for the willing co-operation that underpins every one of our activities throughout UK communities. Please, play your part and join us in our work: you may well find it challenging, but it will certainly be highly rewarding.

 [www.cst.org.uk](http://www.cst.org.uk)

 Community Security Trust  @CST\_UK  CSTmedia

 National Emergency Number (24-hour) **0800 032 3263**

London (Head Office) **020 8457 9999**

Manchester (Northern Regional Office) **0161 792 6666**



Community Security Trust is a registered charity in England and Wales (1042391) and Scotland (SC043612)

## JLGB much more than a youth group: it's a proven investment in your children's future.

Shana Tova from JLGB, we hope you've had a great 5777. As we enter 5778 and think about the year ahead, this year why not make an important commitment to your children's future by enhancing their potential with JLGB.

At JLGB we focus on the individual and aim to recognise and enhance every young person's potential, building their character to develop their leadership, communication, organisation, initiative, resilience, confidence and creativity.. Our local weekly groups have skilled up and empowered Jewish young people across the UK, giving them a wide range of new skills while honing their unique abilities to enable them to achieve in the future.

On a national level, our 'evolve - youth volunteering & skills initiative', continues to remove barriers so that all Jewish young people can participate in programmes and national volunteering awards recognised by universities and future employers, such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and National Citizen Service, without compromising on religious practice.

JLGB have been part of several national studies which highlight some of the benefits from the programmes we offer:

- **82-83% of young people who were part of structured youth organisations said their confidence and leadership skills had greatly increased**
- **68% of young volunteers in higher education felt greater motivation and self-discipline as a result of volunteering**
- **84% of Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants said the Award increased resilience and responsibility**

Building young people's assets and enhancing their skills starts from as young as 8 years old at your local JLGB group. This year alone over 1,000 unique skills programmes, run by young leaders, were delivered at our 30 weekly groups across the UK, including, Jacob, aged just 11 who taught an entire coding course at JLGB's Woodford Juniors.

With a proud history of over 122 years, JLGB's values are deeply rooted in social action and service to the Jewish community and wider society. We were incredibly humbled and proud that JLGB weekly groups combined refugee project was awarded Mitzvah Day's 'Biggest Impact Award' in November.

It has been another phenomenal year at JLGB and we were enormously honoured to showcase the whole range of JLGB's provisions to HRH Prince Charles at Yavneh College in February. The display particularly focussed on British citizenship and Jewish identity and how these traditions and values intertwine seamlessly at JLGB to create proud British Jewish ambassadors and role models. In the same week HRH also heard JLGB Redbridge Band perform at Buckingham Palace while receiving an award for their social action in the local community.



Ask anyone and they will say JLGB is one giant family, bringing together young people in school years 3-13 from communities across the UK and wider world, creating networks and forging friendships that last a lifetime. In addition to weekly meetings, JLGB hosts a series of regional and national events, camps and competitions throughout the year. This year's emoji themed Summer Camp united 560 people from England, Scotland, Wales, France, Russia, Israel and the Netherlands, making it the largest camp in over 20 years. Following on from this success, hundreds of people have already signed up for JLGB's Maze-themed Winter Camp which will run in the last week of December, including a New Year's extravaganza.

When making important choices for your children, we understand that there is a huge pressure on parents to enable their children to take part in every extra-curricular activity on offer and it can be difficult to decide what is best. JLGB is dedicated to ensuring a positive future for all Jewish young people and presents a unique opportunity for your children to gain transferrable skills and positive values, in a fun and engaging environment so that they can become the leaders of tomorrow.

**Make a commitment you won't regret this academic year. Register your children for two weeks free at your nearest local weekly group in September now at [www.jlgb.org/september](http://www.jlgb.org/september).**

**For more information email [getinvolved@jlgb.org](mailto:getinvolved@jlgb.org) or call 020 8989 8990**

## Red Socks Mitzvah Day 2017

Another successful **Red Socks Mitzvah Day** For TDRS. There was plenty of work to be done both inside and outside schul.

The garden and hedges had become a little overgrown and so a team took on the task of a good tidy up outside. The weather was good on the day, which was helpful, and so apart from the odd sore back it wasn't the most unpleasant of tasks.

Others took on the task of a general tidy up inside the schul with a little rearranging here and there.

Pictured at the top, a team worked on the Safeguard Our Sefer scrollometer. Thanks to David Fox for supplying the drawings and materials. The finished job can be seen in the bottom picture. Blue Peter would have been proud!

Thank you for all those who turned up and gave there time and energy to ensure much needed tasks were completed. . A special thank you to those of us who donned the "red socks" in memory of Rabbi Sonny Herman. A good job done by all. See you all next year.



## Reims Synagogue

During a visit to Reims, Jacqui Rose took these pictures of the Synagogue . Built in 1879, it has been registered as a historical monument since 1989. There has been a Jewish community in Reims from 1077, then expelled in 1270 and returning in the 1820s. In front of the synagogue is a stele erected in memory of the 253 Jewish deportees of Reims inaugurated in 1949. On this stele are the names of 214 people with the biblical verse in Hebrew "the crown of our head fell". Jacqui was unable to go inside the synagogue but was able to take these lovely pictures.





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## **Advertising**

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Quarter Page Advert - £20.00 per annum

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

## Gilding in Hebrew Illuminations

**Mark Negin**

Much of the work hanging on the walls of the TDRS synagogue in the Margate Road shine brilliantly with the use of raised gold leaf; the postcards on sale are also made lively by the use of this medium going back several thousand years.

Ancient Hebrew manuscripts and the elaborate baroque decorations of 18<sup>th</sup>. Century Polish Wooden Synagogues were part of my research for the designs of Ansky's "The Dybbuk" which toured Canada and the United States in 1973-5.

Looking at those rich images piling up before me, I was reminded of my Brighton school days just after the war, attending services at the now listed Victorian Synagogue in Middle Street, and of its stained glass windows.

These Jewish worlds, joyful and rich in colour and design going back to the Middle Ages, worlds now forgotten, are the inspiration for much of this work.

It has taken some time to perfect the ancient techniques of using gold leaf, of making and using the gesso which is the base on which the gold leaf adheres and it has been suggested that I might share the secrets with you.

Gesso (pronounced Jesso) is a plaster and glue compound used by Painters as an undercoat on canvas and wood for the elaborate furniture and gilded surfaces that dazzle you in Palaces and great houses around the world. Craftsmen use it as an undercoat on furniture and framing, which is to be gilded. It serves to seal the canvas or wood to give it a hard and smooth foundation with which to cover with gold leaf. Its preparation is relatively simple: it is a mixture of whiting and animal glue which, when dry and sanded, is then, if to be gilded, given a coat of coloured chalk before placing the gold leaf, which will be burnished until the gold reaches its full brilliance.

However, the use of gold leaf in the illumination or illustration of works on paper and on parchment requires a different approach. There are several ways to apply gold leaf to paper or parchment, each of which gives a slightly different effect. I will only discuss the one I use most of the time and which is what has been used on work in the Thanet and District Reform Synagogue.

Gesso for paper and parchment is required to be extremely flexible and to be fine enough with which to write and to draw very thin lines. Its flexibility is of prime importance since it may be used on a scroll or in a book; it must be flexible enough to bend on the page and not crack.

It seems that the recipe for this gesso goes back many centuries. Its use is seen in China and India and was already in use in Europe 2000 years ago.

Of all methods, this gives the most brilliant finish as it can be burnished. That means it can be rubbed or polished until it shines. Much can be achieved by the play of burnished and unburnished gold leaf surfaces.



Unlike Gesso for wood and canvas, the gesso used by Scribes and Illuminators is more refined; it is made up of slaked dental plaster and of fine fish glue, which serves as a fixative to the paper or parchment and for the gold leaf,. This "slaked plaster" is plaster that has been rendered inert by many soakings and left to dry. The plaster gives body to the mixture. Lead and sugar or honey are added: these give flexibility and hygroscopic resilience. To give colour to the mix, some coloured chalk, called Armenian Bole, is added. Distilled water helps combine the ingredients.

This mix is allowed to dry; small portions are broken off from the resultant cake as needed. These dried out pieces are then crushed and ground to a powder and moistened with water. The resultant cream-like substance can be used with pen or brush. I build up shapes and model with strong contrasts in a way which many illuminators will find unorthodox.

When the shapes, lines, letters are set, the gold leaf is applied by dampening the shapes just enough for the gold leaf to fix to the gesso. As the method of dampening is by blowing through a "breathing tube", a small piece of bamboo, only a very small area is damp at any one time. This means that the gold leaf must be cut into small pieces and held with a tweezers to be applied.

Once the gilding is finished and dried the final job is the burnishing: polishing the gold surface with a piece of agate which makes the gold shine and give it that hard warm glow so typical of this ancient art form.

I hope these details have given some understanding of the work and the care that go into gilded gesso, the recipes for which have come down over many hundreds of years.

## Thanet shul honours lost Czech community

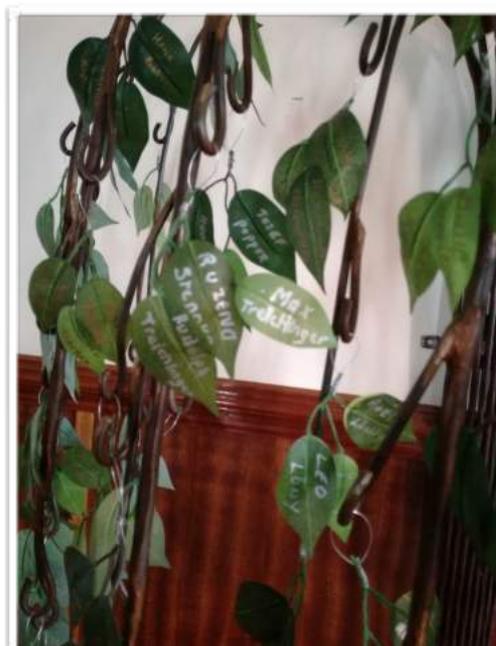
(originally published on Reform Judaism website)

The Thanet & District Reform Synagogue (TDRS) in Ramsgate included a dedication service for their newly commissioned sculpture, The Klatovy Memorial Tree, at their recent Yom HaShoah service conducted by Rabbi Cliff Cohen.

Over 50 people attended the civic service including the Mayors of Ramsgate, Margate and Broadstairs, South Thanet MP Craig Mackinlay and members of Christ Church Canterbury University who had chosen the Klatovy scroll for a special project.

A special guest was Tom Barth, whose family came from Klatovy. He brought with him the Klatovy Scroll in the care of North West Surrey Synagogue.

The town of Klatovy in the Czech Republic was home to 278 Jews in the early 20th century but the community was wiped out as part of the Nazi programme of deportations to death camps in 1942. The Torah scrolls from Klatovy and the



Lauren Fox (Sculpter)

surrounding district were rescued in the 1960s, refurbished over the next 20-30 years under the auspices of the Westminster Synagogue and the Memorial Scrolls Trust and re-distributed to synagogues. The Thanet community is custodian of one of the Klatovy scrolls which is used regularly for their services.

Last year TDRS, whose Hebrew name is Etz Chaim, commissioned the memorial tree, created by Glasgow-based metalwork artist Lauren Fox, to form a centrepiece in the synagogue building. It includes 278 leaves, each individually inscribed by members of the community with the names of the lost Klatovy Jews, providing a personal and persistent link between the communities.



Below: Left to right: TDRS President, Godfrey Fischer; Mayor and Mayoress of Broadstairs, Cllr Peter Shaw and Frances Shaw; TDRS Chair, Ian Smiler; MP for South Thanet Craig Mackinlay; TDRS Life President, David Mirsky, Mayor and Mayoress of Margate, Cllr Robin Edwards and Dorothy Collins; Mayoress of Ramsgate, Mandy Shonk; Mayor of Ramsgate, Cllr Trevor Shonk; Rabbi Cliff Cohen.



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# Thanet & District Reform Synagogue What's On!

September/October 2017 Elul/Tishri 5777/5778

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**L'Shanah Tovah**  
*"May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year."*

**L'SHANAH TOVA TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE COMMUNITY. MAY 5778 BE A YEAR OF GOOD HEALTH, PEACE AND HAPPINESS**

Erev Rosh Hashanah is on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September and our services start at 7 pm  
The morning service on the following day is 10 am.  
If you are attending the High Holy Day services you will require our ticket/calendar which shows all the details and times.  
This will be sent out shortly with our autumn newsletter

**Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur services**

 **Kol Nidre - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 7 pm**  
(Fast commences 6.17 pm) 

**Yom Kippur - Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 10 am**  
(Fast ends 7.24 pm)

**SUKKOT**

 **Let's make our sukkah as beautiful as always – help us dress it with greenery, fruit and vegetables on the evening of Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

**The erev Sukkot service starts at 7 pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October and the following morning's service at 10 am** 

**L'Shanah Tovah**  
לשנה טובה  
5778  
From  
Cliff & Hélène

We have our usual open house for Succoth on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October**  
We are at home from 10.00am to midnight

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

 [rabbicliff@yahoo.com](mailto:rabbicliff@yahoo.com)  
 [helene\\_cohen@hotmail.com](mailto:helene_cohen@hotmail.com)

**Tel: 01843 581583**

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

**Celebrate Simchat Torah**

Let your hair down, dance with the scrolls and enjoy the celebration of Simchat Torah, rejoicing the Law, on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm.**

We will honour the completion of the cycle of readings and start off over again!

**We are happy to have Chatan Torah, Godfrey Fischer and Chatan Bereshit, Hazel Fischer** 

Join us, also, for the completion and commencement of Torah readings at the morning service the next day at 10am

## MAZELTOV!

A double Mazeltov to Lies Lanckman firstly because her PhD thesis has been accepted and she is now Dr. Lanckman and also because she is soon to move to the USA to get married. It's been lovely to have you as part of our community. We wish you every success for the future.

## CONDOLENCES

We send our condolences and prayers to:  
 Lou Turze and family  
 following the sad loss of his beloved wife, Reva.  
 Zichronam livrachah, May her memory be for a blessing.

## Tom and Rivka Dodds' Grandchildren

Grace their youngest granddaughter is choosing her GCSE's. She is a member of the National Youth Orchestra and has spent some time recently at their residential course. She had her Bat Mitzvah in January.

Abigail is 18 years old and has been involved in musicals and drama at Pate's Grammar School in Cheltenham. She is now going to the University of Bristol to read German and French.

Rossana has won a months course in Kassell in association with the University of Freiburg and is working with the British Council teaching English in a school in Frankfurt. She will be returning to Cardiff to complete her 4 year degree.

Helena has spent her gap year doing voluntary work including working with children and also in an animal sanctuary in Thailand. She now goes to Durham University and is reading Pure English.

Phoebe is in Amsterdam as a consultant advising start up new businesses in Holland.

Our three older grandchildren have completed their education. Alex is a financial lawyer, Jessica works for the an international hotel chain in the public affairs team, and Matthew works in the entertainment business as an agent for Craig David.

On the following page is the personal statement that Rossana (written by her when she was 18 and is now 20 years old) completed for university. It is an interesting read and something Tom and Rivka feel they should share with the community.

I think all will agree that they have every right to be proud of their grandchildren.

Personal Statement v13

18yrs

Rosanna Towle

NICKY  
CLARE DAUGHTER

Vergangenheitsbewältigung: the process of coming to terms with the past. Germany is still experiencing this; its language has not only survived, but been irreversibly altered by, a tumultuous history. Likewise, Literature is created by and reflective of contemporary events, a method of reconciling with the past and exploring the future. Although Tolstoy's 'Anna Karenina' and Greene's 'Brighton Rock' are contextually disparate, they are essential for understanding the societies they discuss, from aristocratic Russia to the underworld of 1930s England. A literary study is thus essential to achieve an understanding of any culture or era.

The residual political and social conflict in Germany as well as its progress through unification, division and reunification to become a modern world leader fascinates me. I explored this conflict through my Extended Project on the work of Kafka, discussing censorship and the dangers of literature. Change occurs when people start to question convention; literature has the power to influence this, particularly if it raises socially taboo subjects. Studying 'Der Vorleser' this year - examining one text in two languages - encouraged me to examine my attitudes towards contentious subjects and their place in German cultural consciousness.

Playing Portia in 'Julius Caesar' and Miranda in 'The Tempest' has opened my eyes to Shakespeare's treatment of the morality of politics, and how the behaviour of those in power influences the lives of their people. Literature not only represents this impact, but acts upon it, effecting its own form of change upon its readers. Larkin advocates a movement towards greater concern for the environment in his poem 'Going, Going', protesting against what he perceives as negative modern morals, "a cast of crooks and tarts"; this capacity for provoking change was the focus of a discussion I led for the Pate's Literature Society. Shelley alludes to this longevity in 'Ozymandias'; political influence is transient, but the power of poetry transcends time and place.

Through its evocation of emotion, literature enables the transgression of social and cultural boundaries, facilitating tolerance and understanding. I recently attended a poetry event by the Forward Prize-winning poets Kei Miller and Liz Berry, who evoked a clear sense of their own, often under-celebrated cultures through their poetry, with particular focus on dialect. In the words of Shelley, "poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world"; rather than being the reserve of the elite, literature is utterly necessary to enhance cultural cooperation.

Languages are sometimes considered similarly challenging. However, I believe that their promotion among young people is key to maintaining Britain's position in world politics, especially in working with other cultures. Experience in a German kindergarten contributed to my love of the language; following this immersion I set up a German study group at school, which gathers to discuss films and music. The Language Leaders scheme developed teaching skills, culminating in a language festival for sixty primary school children. My listening skills have been improved through singing in my school's Senior Vocal Group; as a House Official, I conducted the Girls' Choir of my house. I play the French horn in First Orchestra, and volunteer at my synagogue, encouraging an awareness of Jewish heritage among young children.

In order to truly appreciate a culture, one must become fluent in its language; fluency in literature magnifies one's perspective tenfold. Although German may not be my native language, I find its literature engaging and easily relatable; English allows me to identify and connect with the nation to which I belong. Both languages have long been interests of mine, and I feel that they work cohesively as a degree due to their shared concern with culture, conflict and, ultimately, humanity.



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### **KOL NIDRE APPEAL 5778/2017**

Our chosen charities for this year are  
**Home-Start** and **Leket Israel**



**Home-Start** is one of the leading family support charities in the UK and Thanet's independent organisation, based in Broadstairs, has helped over 2000 families and almost 5000 young children since 1987. It offers support, friendship and practical help to parents with young children by recruiting and training volunteers to become mentors for families that have at least one child under 11. Mentors operate with a "friendly, non-judgemental approach" and by providing individual support, enable parents to make positive changes to improve the quality of life and outcomes for themselves and their children and to widen their links with the local community.



**Leket Israel** is the largest food bank in Israel, and has been a leader and an expert in food rescue nationwide since 2003. The organization sources, collects and redistributes fresh, perishable, quality food, which would otherwise be considered waste, from farms, hotels, military bases and catering halls. This is done in an effort to aid the quarter of the country's population that lives below the poverty line. Leket works with 195 non-profits throughout the country to provide nutritious food to over 175,000 Israelis weekly. Last year alone, Leket collected and delivered over 30 million pounds of fresh, healthy food for the needy.

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I wish to make a donation of.....for this year's Kol Nidre Appeal to:  
(Please tick the relevant box unless you wish your donation to be divided equally)

- 1. Home-Start
- 2. Leket Israel

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**We thank you in advance for your kind donation**

Please make cheques payable to "Thanet & District Reform Synagogue" and send to:

The Treasurer, Thanet and District Reform Synagogue, 293a Margate Road, Ramsgate, CT12 6TE  
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