

Editorial

For those able to attend the annual Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial in Bournemouth Gardens, it was heart-warming to take part in an event of such inclusivity. It is remarkable that one hundred years after the end of a war with such terrible loss of life, those standing there of all faiths, and perhaps none, wished to commemorate the event.

In Judaism we commemorate events, often those which took place thousands of years ago, and reflect on how they affected us as a people. Perhaps for all of us being reminded of past events, serves to demonstrate how resilient mankind is in overcoming adversity, and allows us to look to the future in times of national and international uncertainty.

Together with all Jewish communities around the world, this community looks forward to celebrating Chanukah. Enjoy!

Wishing you all a very Happy Chanukah

CORINNE REIN
Editor

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Assistant Editors

Front Cover illustration by local artist Di Roberts

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A CHANUKAH MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



As I sat down to write this year's Chanukah message, news has been coming in of the terrible shooting by a nationalist white man in a Pittsburgh

synagogue, which has claimed the lives of 11 and left 2 congregants and 4 police officers wounded.

This barbaric attack was committed by a Jew-hater against our brothers and sisters who had gone to the synagogue to take part in Shabbat morning services. They were killed and maimed in cold blood for no reason other than for being Jewish. At this tragic time, our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost loved ones and those fighting for their lives in hospital.

In the past two years there has been a significant increase in anti-Semitic incidents across the world and especially in the United States and in Europe. The nationalistic rhetoric in the United States has emboldened the ultra-nationalists and their anti-Semitic agenda, resulting in increased attacks on Jewish targets. Our country is not immune from this unfortunate and deeply disturbing trend. Here in the UK, in addition to the traditional anti-Semitic elements such as the Far Right, Jeremy Corbyn's Far Left has allowed their anti-Zionist agenda to be turned into an anti-Semitic agenda. How many more massacres will it take for the Western leaders to show strong leadership in stamping out anti-Semitism in all its forms? In the meantime, we must remain strong, resolute and vigilant to defeat the scourge of anti-Semitism.

Thank G-d here in Bournemouth we celebrated Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchat Torah in peace and safety, thanks to our excellent security team. This year we enjoyed the most outstanding Yomim Noraim services led by Rabbi Jesner and ably assisted by Rev. Sklan. We were fortunate to have Zak Benarroch as our chazzan, assisted by his two cousins Yoni and Nathan. As has been the case for many years now, Zak's father, Bernard Benarroch, was in charge of the shofar blowing and this year we were delighted to welcome back Zak's grandfather, David Marriott, who came to Bournemouth to take part in this special occasion and called the shofar notes for Bernard, as he used to do before emigrating to Israel. It was wonderful to have three generations of the Marriott/Benarroch family on the Bimah, leading the services for our congregation.

During October we had the opportunity to raise money for two worthwhile charities, one in the UK and the other in Israel. We held a coffee morning in Rabbi and Rebbetzen

Jesner's flat to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Cancer does not recognise race, religion or colour, it touches all of us. Therefore, it is all the more important that we play our part in supporting Macmillan, a charity that provides essential services to cancer sufferers and their families. Thanks to the hard work and generosity of many, we were able to raise over £2000 for this worthwhile charity. The second charitable event was held in the Menorah Suite to raise funds for Magen David Adom, Israel's leading ambulance and emergency response service. You can read about this outstanding event in the article entitled 'The Green Prince Comes to Bournemouth' in this issue of Ruach.

We are now looking forward to the festival of Chanukah, one of our less demanding festivals, which requires only one mitzvah, the lighting of the Chanukah candles. We all know the story of Chanukah. In the 3rd Century BCE the Greeks led by Alexander the Great invaded the land of Israel. During the reign of Antiochus the Greeks persecuted the Jews and proceeded to dismantle and desecrate the Temple in Jerusalem. The Jewish religion was in danger of being wiped out, until a small band of committed Jews called the Maccabees after their war cry 'Mi Kamocha Ba'elim Hashem', fought back and, despite all odds, drove the Greeks out of the land and restored the Temple. They could find only one pot of oil which was not desecrated and used this oil to light the Temple Menorah. They put a small amount of oil in each cup of the Menorah and the oil, which should have lasted for only a day, lasted for 8 days. This was the last major miracle given to the Jews before they were driven out of the land by the Romans three centuries later.

The lesson to take away from the story of the Maccabees is one of trusting in Hashem. If we do our bit, He takes care of the rest. Just as in the case of the Maccabees, if we put our trust in Hashem and do our bit for each other, for our family, friends and community, He will make sure that we succeed.

I am reminded that the other name for Chanukah is Festival of Lights. Over the 8 days of Chanukah we light 36 candles (plus the 8 shammas candles) and put the Chanukiah in a place where the light can be easily seen. Light plays a central role in Jewish thought and symbolism; it represents all that is good and holy, as opposed to darkness which symbolises the opposite. Let us pray that the light of Chanukah triumphs over the darkness cast by anti-Semitism; that the light of hope overcomes the darkness of hatred.

Anne and I wish Rabbi Adrian Jesner and Rebbetzen Pamela, Rev. Barry Sklan and Angela, Vice-President Josie and Harvey Lipsith, the members of the Executive and all of the Community, Chanukah Sameach.

MAHIR OZDAMAR

RABBI JESNER CHANUKAH MESSAGE 5779

“And from the last remnant of the oil flasks, a miracle was wrought for the Jewish People, and the Sages established eight days for song and jubilation”.

What is the most worrisome threat facing the Jewish People today? The threat from a nuclear-armed Iran and its terrorist proxy organisation, Hezbollah, on Israel's borders? Or is it perhaps epidemic levels of estrangement from traditional Jewish life, leading to sky-high assimilation and intermarriage rates in the diaspora? Both certainly have the capacity to inflict significant damage to our long-term future. Let us search for an answer to this perplexing dilemma by pondering the miraculous victory of Chanukah, and the lessons it conveys.

Jewish history does not repeat itself, but it rhymes, to paraphrase the famous aphorism attributed (incorrectly) to Mark Twain. Indeed, we see in the Maccabee rebellion more than 2,000 years ago similar, though not identical, themes. That rebellion had two components: One, an internal struggle against a Hellenized Jewish leadership that desired to transform Judea into a Greek city-state, trading in the one GOD of Israel for the pantheon on Mount Olympus. And two, an external battle against Greek-Syrian domination over the struggling Judean state.

There is a fascinating halakhic detail concerning the proper location of the menorah (or “chanukiah”, as it is known in Modern Hebrew) that puts our issue into sharp focus.

Being mindful of the fact that the purpose of lighting Chanukah candles is “pirsumei nissa”, publicizing the miracle of the holiday, the Talmud rules regarding the ideal location of the hanukkah that “it is a mitzvah to place the Chanukah light by the door of one's home on the outside.” This will ensure optimal viewing by a maximum audience, thereby fulfilling “pirsumei nissa” in the best fashion.

The Talmud then acknowledges that logistics may render this impossible for some, so it adds, “If one dwells on an upper floor, he should place it at the window nearest the street.”

However our Sages conclude, the rules change in a time of danger, in which case “it is sufficient to place it on the table” (Talmud, Shabbat 21b). In his halakhic compendium “Arukh HaShulhan”, Rabbi Yechiel Michel Epstein (1829-1908) points out even though the public will not see Chanukah light, there is no problem, since the mitzvah of publicizing the miracle in our times is directed toward the members of the household (Orah Hayyim, 671:5).

In contrast, “Har Tzvi”, the response of former Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem, Rav Tzvi Pesach Frank (1873-1960), states that the custom in Jerusalem (and indeed the custom of most families in Israel) is to light the chanukiah outside the front door. Can these two starkly differing

opinions be reconciled?

We can explain this by noting that Chanukah fundamentally celebrates a victory over both aforementioned threats to Jewish survival. The latter threat was an enemy from within, the threat of assimilation at the hands of Jewish Hellenists so desperate to become Greeks that they went through surgical procedures to erase the signs of circumcision.

Assimilation, the phenomenon of taking on the total identity of a host culture, from language, to values, to religion, had penetrated even the most sacrosanct chambers of the Jewish nation, the Holy Temple itself. A Jew named Menelaus, an extreme Hellenist who had plundered the gold vessels of the Temple, even bribed Greek-Syrian King Antiochus to become a High Priest over Judea.

The rebellion of the Maccabees thus represented a double victory; a miracle that had to be publicized in the Temple as well as at home, for the outside world as well as within our own families!

I would go a step further and say that in fact, Arukh HaShulhan and Har Tzvi are not disagreeing as much as placing emphasis on different aspects of the same truth. Namely, only if we succeed within our own families to inculcate the faith in our unique Jewish destiny do we have a chance to succeed in a military and ideological battle with the other nations of the world.

We must understand that being a light unto the nations and being a light unto one's family is not a contradictory proposition. If we convey this vital message to Jews who currently relate to Chanukah as not much more than a Jewish parallel to another winter holiday, we will have discovered not only a means of stemming estrangement from Jewish life, but also a source for a resurgence of pride in our own traditions and mission to the world. This would indeed be an authentic Chanukah victory in our generation.

Pamela and I wish Reverend Barry Sklan and his wife Angela, the entire Executive Committee, Gilian Walker and the office staff and the whole community, a Happy Freiliche and meaningful festival of Chanukah.



RABBI ADRIAN JESNER

CHANUKAH THOUGHTS FROM REVEREND BARRY SKLAN

Parshah Mikeitz always coincides with Chanukah, and Parshah Vayeishev, as well, frequently coincides with Chanukah.

Various explanations have been offered to prove a connection between Chanukah and these parshiyot, which deal with Yosef and his brothers.

And I would like to offer an interpretation of this.

Yosef was separated from his family at the young age of seventeen. Faced with a strange land and language, as well as a culture of idolatry, Yosef pulled through with G-d's help to become the leader of the Jewish nation and its spiritual protector. Confronted by hatred, enslavement, physical temptation, imprisonment and scorn, Yosef steadfastly kept faith and commitment, under the most challenging of circumstances, to emerge strong and eventually confirm his stature in continuing his father Yaakov's Torah traditions.

The Chashmonaim and their supporters were in a very similar position. The Jews at the time were spiritually stifled, having to observe mitzvot secretly, while the Greek values of idolatry were thrust in their faces, backed by military threat. The challenges to Torah ways and commitment were immense, and Torah observance was banned. And yet, despite this, all the Chashmonaim and their followers persevered and emerged victorious.

Just as Yosef's salvation came about through natural means, it was clear that Hashem was behind it all. The battles fought during Chanukah lacked revealed miracles.

Only the continual flame in the Temple - representing the Shechinah - (Hashem's Presence) - showed that G-d was working it all from behind the scenes and was the source of all that transpired.

The Rambam presents the laws of Hallel in Hilchot Chanukah.

Why was the learning of the laws of Hallel present in the

laws of Chanukah ?

The Rambam was showing us that G-d's glory, for which we praise Him through reciting Hallel, is in the so-called natural scheme of things.

Events that seem natural are clearly directed from Above, which make a thinking person realise that what we term "natural" is itself a proof of Hashem's presence, and is the greatest place for Hallel.

When we try to work out the complexity of nature, and try to understand that every event in life is purposefully planned, we see that creation is designed with detailed and elaborate systems, all working together. Even the greatest of scientists cannot begin to replicate these systems. We realise that the greatest of miracles which warrant G-d's praise are present.

Realising that Hashem designs and manipulates nature, compels us to recite Hallel on Chanukah, and to persevere in Torah and mitzvot in the face of the challenge of our secular society. Inspired by Yosef and the Chashmonaim, we remember and celebrate the miracles "of those days, in these and all times".

May the beautiful Chanukah lights show us our correct paths and light up our Judaism

*Angela joins with me in wishing everyone -
Chanukah Sameach*

BARRY SKLAN

PS. So one Chanukah, Moishe said to his wife Sadie, "I think there's something wrong with these latkes, dear. They taste awful."

Sadie looked at him scornfully and replied, "That shows you what you know. The recipe book says they're delicious."



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For just two hours a week (more if you wish) you can enjoy the delights of helping in the Shul Shop.

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We already have a pool of volunteers, who are greatly appreciated, but we do need more. So please if you have some time to spare we would love to hear from you. Please give your email address and/or phone number to either Celia Bradley on 01202 303866 or celiabradley@talktalk.net or Asher Grunis 01202 555291 at Ashersam@aol.com

We look forward to hearing from you. Please help us to keep the shop open.

BHC WEEKEND IN BIRMINGHAM

18TH – 20TH JANUARY 2019

With our Shul's visit to Birmingham now less than two months away, (details of the trip are featured in this edition), our readers may be interested in the following details of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation and Singers Hill Synagogue.

Singers Hill Synagogue is home to the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation and has been the focal point for Jewish worship and community life in Birmingham for more than 160 years.

Records kept in the Archives Department of the Birmingham Central Libraries show that Jews were living in Birmingham as far back as 1750 and a Jewish Cemetery was certainly in existence in 1783.

In 1809, a building in Severn Street was dedicated as a Synagogue to provide for the growing community, but within 40 years, the community had increased to such an extent that on 15th October 1851, the Council of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation proposed that "a new and more commodious Synagogue is necessary to this Congregation"

The architect of the new synagogue, including a school and two synagogue houses, was H Yeoville Thomason, (who also designed Birmingham City's Council House and Art Gallery); the total cost was £9,363.11s 6d and the consecration of Singers Hill Synagogue took place on 24th September 1856.

The Synagogue is a Grade II* listed building and the historic entry in the records of English Heritage (now Historic England) reads:

"II*

1856, by Yeoville Thomason, altered. Red brick with stone dressings. In an Italianate style. Portico, with a rose window in the gable above, between 2 projecting wings to form a courtyard in front. Inside, 7 bays long with balconies behind a superimposed order in a Gibbsian manner. The Ark in an apse vaulted also a la Gibbs. The stained glass mostly of circa 1922 and later. Original cast and gilded gasoliers."

Extensive work was carried out in the 1930's to increase the seating capacity, and the stained glass windows were installed in the side walls in 1963.

In 2010 the outstandingly beautiful building was awarded the title of 'most improved Place of Worship in the West Midlands' by English Heritage.

A further renovation programme was undertaken in 2014 to decorate and upgrade the interior of the Synagogue, and the mosaic platform near the Ark was uncovered after more than 60 years. The magnificently refurbished Synagogue was rededicated in March 2015 by the Chief Rabbi.

Rabbi Yossi Jacobs was appointed as Chief Minister of Singers Hill Synagogue eleven years ago.

Upon receiving the call from Singers Hill in 2005, Rabbi Yossi and Rebbetzen Rachel arrived in Birmingham and settled into Singers Hill as Assistant Minister and Rebbetzen.

Following the much lamented death of the late Rabbi Leonard Tann, who was very much his mentor, Rabbi Jacobs became, in November 2007, the youngest Chief Minister ever appointed to Singers Hill.

The dynamic leadership and energy of Rabbi and Rebbetzen Jacobs has seen an increase in Shul membership and attendance, and together they have overseen a period of great advancement since their appointment.

Rabbi Jacobs is also the Rabbi and director of Jewish education to the King David School, a teacher in the BJEB Hebrew classes, a member of the Birmingham Faith Leaders Group representing the Orthodox Jewish community, and serves as chaplain to the Birmingham Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women and also the Frederick Jacombs and Eva Bloom Lodge.

RICHARD SAUNDERS

Editor's Note: this article is based on material supplied by the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, extracts from "Birmingham Jewry More Aspects 1740-1930" edited by the late Zoe Josephs and published by the Birmingham Jewish History Research Group and information from the website of the Jewish Genealogical Society, all of which we gratefully acknowledge



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18-20 JANUARY 2019 BHC WEEKEND IN BIRMINGHAM

Following the successful visit to Bournemouth by members of Birmingham Hebrew Congregation we have been invited by them for a reciprocal visit to their beautiful synagogue at Singers Hill. Join Rabbi and Rebbetzin Jesner for a Shabbat to remember and share in the bonding of our two Kehillot, supported and part funded by the Office of the Chief Rabbi.

Coach leaves at 08.30 Friday morning and returns to Bournemouth at approximately 3.00pm Sunday afternoon.

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May the light of the season be in your hearts

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REMEMBRANCE DAY 2018



Many of our congregants, including the Deputy Mayor, Lawrence Williams, and several councillors joined the large crowds who came to take part in the Annual Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial in Bournemouth Gardens.

A number of AJEX members joined the Parade from the Square through the Gardens with the standard of the Bournemouth AJEX Branch proudly on display during the service. Rabbi Jesner was one of the ministers of the major faiths in Bournemouth who had the honour to conduct the interdenominational service to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice of 1918 and to give support to the members of the Armed Forces past and present.



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

The Bournemouth and Poole Holocaust Memorial Day Committee will be holding the annual HMD commemoration on Sunday 27th January at The Lighthouse-Poole starting at 2.00 p.m. Our main speaker this year will be Joanna Millan, who was born as Bela Rosenthal in August 1942 in Berlin.

At the end of February 1943, Bela's father was taken from the streets of Berlin and sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau where he was murdered on arrival. Later that year, in June, Bela and her mother were taken from their home and sent to the Terezín (Theresienstadt) Ghetto north of Prague.

In 1944, when Bela was 18 months old, her mother contracted tuberculosis due to the conditions in the camp, leaving Bela orphaned and alone in the camp.

When she was in her early forties, she was contacted by Sarah Moskovitz, an American academic who had read a study by Anna Freud of Joanna and the other five youngest survivors of Theresienstadt. Both she and Joanna's husband pushed her into discovering her past. This has been an extraordinary and difficult path for Joanna but has now managed to discover much of her family's history and has found living relations all over the world. She speaks regularly today about her experiences during the Holocaust.

As in past years tickets will be free and available from the Synagogue office from the middle of December.

LYNDA FORD HORNE

THE BEAUTIFUL CARPENTRAS SYNAGOGUE IN PROVENCE

In July this year, Brian and I were touring in France in our Motorhome and of course, wherever we stopped we looked for Jewish influence.

In a small walled town called Pernes-les-Fontaines, in Provence one lunchtime, we came to Rue de la Juiverie!

Well, we had to find out if there was anything more than just the name. We turned a corner and came to a small square with two Museums – both of which were closing in 10 minutes! Which to choose? One looked as if it might have information about the town, so that's the one we decided on. It turned out to be mostly a bicycle museum!! However, just inside the door was an opening which led down steep steps into darkness. The woman explained it had belonged to a Jewish family in the 1500 or 1600 hundreds who had once owned the whole house and we understood it was their own Mikveh!

Just outside the house, excavations were in progress and looking at them we thought it very likely that it may have been a Synagogue. We reasoned if a family in those times were rich enough to have their own Mikveh, they would probably have the Synagogue close by. We outstayed our time a little, but the woman was so nice and really wanted to show us the bicycles, motorbikes etc., so how could we refuse?

The next day we went to Carpentras. A large and beautiful city where we knew there was a Synagogue. We found it, and again it was in a square, but this was a grand square. Although all you could see of the Synagogue was a large closed wooden door, we knew the opening times, as we had checked them the day before.

We knocked and were allowed in. We were met by a lovely lady called Gilberte Levy, who told us her family had been there 2000 years, having arrived with the Romans. The Synagogue itself was built in 1367 by the Jews of the Provence Comtat Venaissin area and is the oldest still-active synagogue in France.

Services are held mainly on Friday nights, but they don't have any during August as everyone goes away and they cannot get a Minyan. It is more than a Synagogue and Beth Knesset; it is a unique complex which, when it was built, performed multiple services for the surrounding Jewish community. The oldest part of the synagogue is on the ground floor and excavations in 1992, revealed elements of the Roman and Medieval periods.

Gilberte took us first to a room on the ground floor, with rooms and passages leading from it. This first part was used as a meeting room and had always played a central role within the building, having been a place to meet, study and pray since 1367. Apparently, religious services

took place here before the new prayer hall upstairs was built at a later date. This room was also used as the prayer hall for women, who remained separated from the men upstairs. The only communication between the two rooms was a cellar window equipped with a wire netting that opened in front of the Ark upstairs, by which women, staying in the room downstairs, could follow the religious service.

We were then showed two Mikvaot, neither of which are any longer in use.

The first was small and stone built and reasonably accessible, the other was amazing.

This second Mikvah, fed by groundwater

and dug into the rock, is reached by a seven-flight staircase.

Today the 7th flight is buried under sand. We went down a cavernous stone stairway on narrow stone steps holding on to a metal handrail. This opened out onto a metal platform. We looked down and saw there were steps leading to other platforms on different levels and going down a very long way.

The level at which the Mikveh would be entered depended on the level that the groundwater had reached when it came up. We could still see water which came up as far as the middle platform and it looked quite ominous! Apparently the water was cold for a long time but at some point in the past, a form of heating had been installed. Definitely a welcome improvement I'm sure!

Still on the ground floor, we were taken to see the two bakeries which were built all that time ago to fulfill kashrut rules. In the first, bread for use during the week was prepared, as well as Challah for Shabbat. The marble kneading table for the dough is still in place there. The wood oven, which is built deep inside the wall, is in the shape of a dome.

As was done in villages, the oven was used as a municipal oven. Once it was lit, residents of the area could bring dishes they had prepared at home to be cooked there. This oven was also used to keep dishes warm for consumption during the Shabbat, when fires couldn't be lit.

During Pesach, the other bakery room was used for making Matzos. The dough was kneaded on the marble slab with a large roller (still there) and then cut on the other marble table and



The marble stairway



The Large Mikveh

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

THE BEAUTIFUL CARPENTRAS SYNAGOGUE IN PROVENCE

flattened through the rolling mill (also still there). Its final shape was obtained by passing the dough through another roller which made slits on the dough, to prevent it from rising; this very unusual and interesting machine was also still in the room and everything was immaculate. This oven was used exclusively for baking Matzot.

Written in Hebrew on the front of the black marble kneading table, is the name of the person who gave it to the community, along with the year it was given, 1652. Also on this floor was a small courtyard used for the ritual slaughtering of poultry and small livestock. The floor drains, to wash waste water and blood away, are still in evidence.

Gilberte then took us up a beautiful wide cream coloured marble staircase to see the Synagogue itself. We entered the door to the Synagogue and were facing the Ark. Above us was the ladies' gallery with 3 large Menorahs across the railings which surrounded it in a bay shape. The ceiling, coloured pale green and cream, was hung with many chandeliers of different shapes, sizes and colours, one matching pair dating from the 15th Century. The whole room was just stunning. It wasn't very big, but was very beautiful.

The Ark was covered with an embroidered red velvet



The Matzah bakery

curtain, the walls on either side were marble with rich looking plaques and adornments. The remaining walls were wood panelled, in the same beautiful shade of pale green. On one wall, high up, was a chair of Elijah which had been used if there had been a Brit Milah. Gilberte told us they have 22 scrolls and that during the war a Nazi officer knocked on the door and said he wanted to see the building.

The door was shut in his face! Someone told the people there that they could be sure he would be back and to make sure that their Scrolls, Chandeliers and other important items were hidden. Next door had been a coffin maker and they filled the coffins with the precious Synagogue articles.

Next day the officer did indeed go back and they told him they couldn't let him in before as they had had a funeral. He actually did only want to see the building and was shown around. He also saw the coffins but fortunately didn't ask to look inside!! What an amazing hiding place!!

Visiting Carpentras, being shown around its lovely Synagogue and finding out some of our history in the area was a delightful and rewarding way to spend our day and we thoroughly enjoyed every minute.

If you are in the area at any time, do try to see this Jewish gem.

CELIA BRADLEY



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RIGHTEOUS AMONG THE NATIONS: THE HISTORY OF AN UNPRECEDENTED COMMEMORATIVE CATEGORY

On a warm August evening in the Menorah Suite, BHC's Vice President, Josie Lipsith introduced a large audience to Professor Dan Michman, who is currently Head of the Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

From his clearly illustrated Powerpoint presentation, we learnt of the number of Righteous Amongst The Nations who have been recognised at Yad Vashem and who have come from many different countries and continents, including Vietnam and Cuba. Only Denmark had insisted that the country's resistance movement as a whole should be recognised, rather than individuals.

A detailed history was given, from Maimonides to 19th century philosophers, of how the title of Righteous Amongst The Nations had been chosen and there was also a detailed explanation of the origin of Yad Vashem - A Monument and a Name - from June 1942 when the BBC first broadcast the horrific fate of European Jewry.

In 1946, the World Jewish Congress announced that if the Jewish people were to live forever in darkness, it would not be able to rehabilitate itself. The Congress therefore declared it was necessary to find 'expressions of humaneness amongst the nations of the world'. In 1953, when Yad Vashem was established, it was decided to recognise those who risked their lives to save Jews during those darkest of times. On several occasions, the Professor mentioned the influence of the 'left' in all the decision making.

In 1960, the capture of Adolf Eichmann in Argentina and the subsequent trial in Israel which was shown worldwide on television, increased general interest in the Holocaust. (I was staying with a German family at the time to improve my schoolgirl German, quite an experience!) This also led to many applying to honour their rescuers. On the 25th anniversary of the World Jewish Congress which had originally instigated the idea, it was announced that Yad Vashem would undertake this project and initially 5 rescuers were invited to Yad Vashem to plant a tree as a symbol of the recognition of their bravery and humanity, risking their own lives and those of their families.

Acceptance of further applicants has not always been a straightforward task - there have been those who may have been paid, others who had not had totally altruistic reasons for their actions and there have been some who, having rescued children, subsequently did not want to give them back to their families.



But there have also been heartwarming stories, for example, of the rescued and rescuer marrying, and of many second and third generations of families remaining friends to this day. Members of our community spoke emotionally about their own stories to this effect.

To date 28,000 have received this recognition but with the declining number of survivors, it is not sure for how much longer the project will continue.

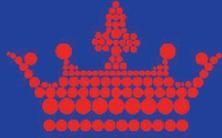
The talk, it wasn't a lecture, as Dan Michman is a charming, unpretentious speaker, ended with him recounting his own Dutch family's story and this was followed by Ivor Weintroub's gracious vote of thanks.

Then to reinforce the story of the Righteous Amongst The Nations, our speaker recalled the recent Giro d'Italia, one of cycling's Grand Tour races. In May this year for the first time in this event's history, it began outside Europe in Jerusalem. This was to pay tribute to Italian cyclist, Gino Bartali, himself a three time winner of the Giro d'Italia, and winner for the second and last time at the Tour de France 70 years ago. Signor Bartali helped rescue hundreds of Italian Jews during the Holocaust and was recognised by Yad Vashem in 2013..

This evening was not only an opportunity to socialize over a glass of wine or water, but also to be able to gain more information about the importance of Yad Vashem, to understand how it came into existence, and to appreciate more fully its pledge to honour those who played such an important role during such tragic circumstances, enabling our family of European Jews to continue and thrive.

SUSAN GOLDSTEIN

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THE GREEN PRINCE COMES TO BOURNEMOUTH

On the evening of Wednesday 17th October, we held a buffet supper in the Menorah Suite in order to raise much needed funds for Magen David Adom (MDA). It certainly was an unforgettable evening for everyone present and we have had nothing but positive comments of appreciation. What made the evening so special was the star guest, Mosab Hassan Yousef, a.k.a. the Green Prince.

It all started in early August when I was contacted by Robin Jacobs from MDA, enquiring whether we would be interested in hosting a fundraising event for MDA, and that they were bringing over to the UK this very interesting personality. "Had I heard of the Green Prince?" - he wanted to know. I told him that I had seen the movie of the same name and had read the book called 'Son of Hamas'. Furthermore, I told Robin that I was interested and more importantly, that Bournemouth Jewry would support such an event. After weeks of correspondence and negotiation, it was decided that Bournemouth would be one of the few venues in the UK to be visited by the Green Prince.

Organising an event such as this is never easy and requires a great deal of work from many people. I am always pleasantly surprised how generous our members are with their time and with their money. Once the date of the event was established, working with Corinne Rein and Vicky Cohen, we quickly decided the supper menu and the logistics. Melvin Millin and his team agreed to provide security cover. Since the guest had asked for an interview style presentation, I approached Julian Weider and invited him to be the interviewer, which he graciously accepted. I also approached Ivor Weintroub to give the vote of thanks.

On the night, the event was attended by some 110 people, the maximum capacity for a buffet style supper, of which about 20 were Christian friends of MDA and CCJ members, some of whom travelled long distances to be with us. Despite advertising the event across the wider Jewish community of Bournemouth, the response was disappointing.

After we finished our supper of salmon, quiche and salads, followed by apple pie and custard, we were given a short presentation by Robin Jacobs, describing the varied and life-saving work done by MDA in Israel, and also overseas, when responding to the natural disasters around the world.

Finally it was time for the main event of the evening; Julian and Mosab took to the stage. Julian presented



Julian Weider with Mosab

him with a Cherries football shirt, saying, as he turned it around, "What could we give a Prince?" displaying the name King, (one of the AFC Bournemouth players), on the back. This greatly amused Mosab as well as the audience. Then the serious interview began.

Mosab was born in 1978 in Ramallah, the eldest son of the founder of Hamas in the West Bank, Sheik Hassan Yousef. Sheik Hassan was in and out of jail; in Israel and his son was seen as a natural successor when he was old enough. As a teenager Mosab bought a handgun with intent to kill Israelis and this landed him in an Israeli jail. In jail, he realised that Israelis were not the monsters they were made out to be and he was approached by agents of Israeli internal security Shin Bet. Eventually Mosab started to work for Shin Bet and provided information about impending terrorist attacks, suicide bombings and the like, thus saving many Jewish and non-Jewish lives. During his 10 years working for Shin Bet, he developed a close friendship with his handler Gonen Ben Yitzhak. In 2005 he secretly became a Christian and in 2007 he decided to emigrate to the United States.

In 2010 his book 'Son of Hamas' was published. Unfortunately, the American authorities misinterpreted his book and refused him American citizenship. His old friend Gonen, who was now working as a lawyer in Tel-Aviv went to America, testified for him and helped him acquire American citizenship. Mosab now lives in the Far East, because he cannot afford to live in the US. He occasionally visits Israel.

During the interview, Julian asked a number of searching questions about Mosab's relationship with his family, what it meant to be disowned by his family, whether he was afraid for his life (after all Al Qaida had put a price on his head), what he thought about the political situation in the Middle East, and so on. After about 40 minutes of questions and answers, questions were invited from the floor.

Well, having been to many events in the Menorah Suite



Julian and Bilah Weider, Mosab and Irene and Ivor Weintroub

I have never seen anything like it; people were queuing up to ask questions. Again, Mosab answered all the questions in full. We had planned to finish the evening by 9.30 pm. In the event, it went on until after 10.00 pm and no one was complaining.

So, what were his key messages? It is not easy to condense more than one hour of discussion into a few sentences, but these are some of my takeaways. It is clear that Mosab does not have much time for politicians. He believes that the Arab leaders use the Israeli conflict as an excuse to mismanage their countries. He thinks that the Palestinians and the Arab countries should acknowledge Israel as a reality in the region and work towards a solution that will benefit everyone, especially their own people. He thinks that high-tech zones could be set up in the West Bank which would attract both Israeli and Palestinian talent to develop world beating ideas and products. He believes that the entrepreneurial spirit so prevalent in Israel could also benefit the Palestinian people and enable them to elevate their living conditions to a new plane, away from violence and hatred.

After the main event of the evening, we auctioned a copy of Mosab's book, dedicated and signed by him to mark this occasion. There was fierce bidding for the book and finally it was purchased by our Vice-President Josie Lipsith for £150, raising even more money for



Mahir Ozdamar, Mosab and Josie Lipsith

MDA. After the raffle prizes were given to their respective winners, it was time to bring the evening to a close.

What most of you will not have known is that Mosab has a liking for Scotch whisky. As soon as he arrived, he asked for a glass of whisky. He told me that he has found out that Shuls are good places to find quality whisky. We did not disappoint him; he had 4 drams from the Rabbi's special reserve and he was very appreciative.

All in all it was a very interesting and thought provoking evening which was enjoyed by all, and raised a considerable amount of money for MDA. Special thanks go to Marilyn and Stephen White and Bilha and Julian Weider for their large donations and to everyone who supported this event by taking part.

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THE JEWISH VOICE – THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES

When becoming one of Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation’s two Joint-Deputies, (the other Deputy being Nadine Woodward, who has been on the Board of Deputies for BHC for 19 years), I did not fully appreciate the wide ranging involvement of the Board in Jewish day to day life.

I am in awe of the President of the Board and her Honorary Officer for the 4 Divisions representing Community & Education, Defence and Interfaith Relations, International, and Finance and Organisation at the amount of time and travel they commit to their voluntary role. I am very proud that the President and 2 of the 4 Honorary Officers are undertaken by bright, committed women.

It is also interesting to note that all of these officers are voted into post by the hundreds of Deputies from organisations and synagogues all over the UK, and there is considerable competition from candidates who are prepared to undertake this work. Each Division also has a Vice Chair, voted on by members of each Division.

At each monthly Board Meeting, the President and these Honorary Officers present reports identifying what they or their Division have been working on since the previous Board Meeting, the meetings they have attended, what has been achieved, and what they intend to do in the future. I am most impressed at the efficiency of the Board Meeting – it is well run and, amazingly for a Jewish organisation, it adheres to the time allotted on the Agenda. Numerous Deputies ask questions or make statements, and it is interesting to identify the issues, and indeed the problems being experienced within the UK Jewish world, from the presentations given by the President, the Honorary Officers, and the comments of the Deputies.

The Board has 20 permanent staff under the highly experienced Chief Executive, Gillian Merron, who support

the President and the Divisions and undertake the extensive day-to-day work necessary to enhance the reputation of the Board of Deputies as the voice of the UK Jewish people.

There are 8 Board Meetings each year, and the President, the Honorary Officers, and the Deputies within the 4 Divisions are in place for 3 years.

These Divisions also meet approximately 8 times a year, and have sub-committees to undertake the different work that comes within each Division’s remit. I am on the Finance and Organisation Division.

Every week, Deputies receive emails identifying what has happened over the past week. It would be simple to bombard you with this information but I am not sure it would be appreciated. I, therefore, send on a monthly Bulletin to BHC, who kindly distribute it to members.

Each week presents a new issue/problem. This week, the Honorary Officers and Deputies have been attending the Memorials that have been taking place throughout the UK for those who were murdered at Pittsburgh. In previous weeks, regular updates have been provided regarding the fight against anti-semitism within the Labour Party.

The Board is working together with the Education Department to resolve issues regarding religious schools with particular reference to Jewish schools. In fact, whatever affects Jewish people in the UK, the Board of Deputies is the first port of call.

The aim of the Board of Deputies is to be transparent in its work (within certain parameters) and this is reflected in both meetings and publications.

Obviously it is expensive to run an organisation like the Board of Deputies, and it is our Jewish voice that the Board is endeavouring to make heard via its political and media contacts. Please ensure that you support the Board of Deputies through the levy itemised on your Synagogue invoice. The strength of the Board of Deputies comes from the measure of our support financially, physically and emotionally.

MARILYN KEEN

Joint Deputy for Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation

BHC 100 CLUB

Mazaltov to Norman Shapiro, who became the first winner of the BHC Lottery when the draw took place on Thursday 25th October.

If you want to take part, there are a few remaining tickets, which will be charged pro rata. The monthly draw will take place until March 2019.

Remember, as it is said "You've got to be in it to win it"



MICHAEL FREEDLAND: JOURNALIST, BROADCASTER, BIOGRAPHER AND PROUD BOURNEMOUTHIAN

Michael's love affair with Bournemouth started at a very early age, when he came for holidays with his parents, staying in kosher guesthouses. He would later bring his beloved wife, Sara, and their children to recreate those idyllic summers.

It was a big moment when, in the late 60s and Sara pregnant with their third child, they managed to move 'up market', staying in the Majestic, one of the many Jewish hotels here at the time.

It was, therefore, inevitable that the proceeds from Michael's first biography (there were to be over 40), of Al Jolson, would be spent in 1972 on the purchase of a holiday home in Elizabeth Court on the East Cliff.

In those days, when personal computers were rare indeed, Michael could be heard on his balcony, tap-tapping away on his faithful typewriter. He said that he worked best facing the sea. The other residents were probably not so amused.

During those bucket-and-spade days, Michael and Sara developed a code to inform their friends where they were sitting on the beach: DBZZ (down by the zigzag). The compact flat that they all loved, for school holidays, long weekends, and Chagim, particularly Pesach, was always full of laughter and love, swelling to make room for growing families in later years.

Michael lived life to the full here. He wrote many articles for the JC, focusing on Jewish life in Bournemouth; he gave numerous talks to the Community on his love of all things Jewish, on Hollywood stars, (the subjects of many of his biographies) and on more political issues. He loved the shul, attending every Shabbat when he was in town, dressed in his usual sartorial elegance. He was given the honour of being Chatan Beresheit in 2015. As a member of the Shul Executive he produced the 'Welcome to Jewish Bournemouth' brochure.

Most of Michael's professional life took him away from his beloved Bournemouth. He won widespread recognition for his journalism (in The Times, The Observer, The Sunday Telegraph, The Guardian and others), for his lectures on over 100 cruises and for his very popular and ground-breaking radio programme 'You Don't Have To Be Jewish' which ran from 1971 to 1994 on Radio London and LBC. He interviewed numerous Hollywood film stars and international politicians, but even with all this he would invariably pronounce, "There's no place like Bournemouth."



Sadly, Michael endured two tragedies in his later life: his dear wife Sara died in 2012, shortly after moving into their spacious new Bournemouth apartment, followed two years later by his elder daughter, Fiona, both from cancer.

Left on his own, Michael decided to learn to cook, determined to repay invitations from the very hospitable Bournemouth community. Until then he could make a good cup of tea and fine scrambled eggs. He progressed to excellent chicken soup (Sara's recipe), beetroot and horseradish soup (Fiona's) and other impressive dishes (his granddaughters'), all tested out on close friends - and there were some disasters - before entertaining others.

Michael found happiness once again in his last few years with his love for Adele, who, he said, "Brought back the sunshine."

A devoted family man, he is survived by his daughter Dani, son Jonathan and grandchildren Beth, Ellie, Ben, Jamie, Jacob and Sam.

Michael suffered a fatal heart attack on 1st October, 2018 in Aberdeen, South Dakota, dying as he lived, chasing his next story, a biography of an American lawyer. A true professional to the end.

Michael Freedland, born 18th December, 1934, died 1st October 2018.

Personal

BLOOM – Rosamunde & Neal thank their friends & the entire Bournemouth Community for their good wishes, kind enquiries & support following & during Neal's illness & Rosamunde's indisposition. We very much appreciate everyone's kindness.

Wishing you all Happy Chanukah.

KEEN – Marilyn and Jeffrey Keen would like to thank Rabbi and Pamela Jesner, the Management Board, BHC Ladies Guild, together with their family and friends for their very kind good wishes, greetings, cards and donations to World Jewish Relief and Alzheimers Research UK, given on the occasion of their Golden Wedding.

MAX LOPES DIAS – Many thanks to Rabbi Jesner, Pamela and all the friends who visited me and sent their best wishes for my well being following my recent illness, and for the excellent treatment at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital.

It is not possible to overstate the care, kindness and consideration I received at Hannah Levy House, which contributed greatly to my recovery. My gratitude and good wishes go out to the Management and Staff of this fine establishment, which we are indeed fortunate to have in our midst.

TAYLOR – Leon and Rhona Taylor thank everyone for their good wishes and amazing generosity on our Diamond Wedding to our chosen charities – Hannah Levy House and The Alzheimers Society. We were overwhelmed. Thanks also to the Ladies' Guild for the lovely Kiddush in celebration.

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT COFFEE MORNING

The Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning held in Rabbi and Rebbetzen Jesner's flat was an amazing success, exceeding all expectations.

Attended by more than sixty people, the Coffee Morning was a great community get together.

Everyone enjoyed the cakes and biscuits prepared by Louisa Rubinstein and her team of ladies, namely Vicky Cohen, Josephine Jackson, Linda Taylor and Eta Wainer. Louisa also felt she must mention Asher Grunis, who acted as their very helpful shomer and whom they regarded as an honorary member of the team.

Vicky Cohen opened the Coffee Morning with a meaningful and very personal speech and touched the hearts of everyone present.

Thelma Cowan did a great job of looking after the raffle ticket sales.

Thanks to the organisational skills and efforts of Josephine and Gerald Jackson, the event raised in excess of £2,000. The typical Macmillan Coffee Morning raises between £150-£200. Ten times that amount was raised,

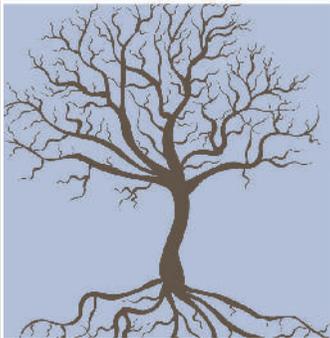


thanks to the generosity and support of all of you.

Our thanks go to Rabbi and Pamela Jesner, Josephine and Gerald Jackson, Louisa and her team, Vicky Cohen, Thelma and of course all of you for coming along and digging deep to support Macmillan.

Enjoy the pictures from the coffee morning.

'fresh insight for all seasons'



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GUIDE DOG UPDATE

The Rein family of Great Neck, NY, who many readers will remember from their visits to Bournemouth, spent the past year as volunteer puppy raisers for Audre on behalf of the Guide Dog Foundation located in Smithtown, New York. Audre recently graduated to become a guide dog.

She is a smart, sweet, and lovable 18 months old cross between a yellow Labrador retriever and a golden retriever. On Friday, November 2nd, their family was honored to meet Billie Jean who is Audre's new mom. Billie Jean lives in Georgia and became blind at the age of 35 from an eye disease. Billie Jean is a kind hearted, warm, loving person who attends church every week. Billie Jean has four children and 16 grandchildren. The Reins are delighted that Audre will be loved in her beautiful new home.



Jodi (Audre's trainer at the Guide Dog Foundation), Diane Rein, Billie Jean and Audre.



DIANE REIN

In August, the Rein family began raising (8 week old) Cashew. Her mother, Pecan, was the first dog trained by the Reins but was chosen to become a "breeder". Her first set of 6 puppies were born in June. A black Labrador retriever Cashew is now 5 months old She is a smart, well-behaved, playful, calm, easy-going puppy who is adored by everyone who meets her. We hope she will also graduate to become a guide dog!



Left to Right: Alexander, Diane, Sophia, Audre, Billie Jean, Oliver, and David Rein.



VISITS

We have a senior visiting programme once a month, on a Thursday afternoon.

Our aim is to make sure that all those who have difficulty getting out receive a visit from either the Rabbi and President, Mahir Ozdamar, or the Rebbetzen and Vice President, Josie Lipsith. We telephone in advance to arrange a convenient time, and have a relaxed informal chat, sharing information, and listening to amazing stories from our congregation.

We hope to contact everyone in time, but please let us know if you would like an early visit by telephoning the office (tel: 01202 557433 option 6) and leaving a message for Josie.



*I love my wife and she loves me.
I can't hear and she can't see.
We help each other as best we can
Because she's my lady
And I'm her man.
There are three words
Which are "may" "I" "suggest"
When I hear them
I know I am second best.
We get into a slight affray
And when that's over I get
my way.*

The poem below was written by him to his wife, Estelle

Rebbetzen Pamela Jesner with one of the couples visited, Estelle and David Gunstock

ADVANCE NOTICE TO THE BOURNEMOUTH JEWISH COMMUNITY

On Shabbat Hagadol 2019 the Bournemouth Sephardi Association will be celebrating our 20th Anniversary.

To mark the occasion, in the presence of our distinguished guests, Hacham Dayan Pinchas Toledano, Rabbi Abraham Labi, Rabbi Adrian Jesner, Rabbi Yosef Alperowitz and Rabbi Benzion Alperowitz, we will be holding joint services and celebrations with the Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation.

We would love you to join us at our special celebrations. Please note that as much as we would love to celebrate on our actual anniversary date (Shabbat Hagadol) celebrations will take place as detailed below:

Friday 22 March 2019:

Minha & Sephardi Kabbalat Shabbat and Arvit in the Gertrude Preston Hall followed by a Sephardi Shabbat Meal **for invited guests.**

Shabbat 23 March 2019:

Sephardi Shaharit in the main Shul, followed by **Kiddush Lunch** in the Menorah Suite.

Sunday 24 March 2019:

Shaharit in the main Shul, followed by breakfast in the Gertrude Preston Hall.

All the community is welcome to join us for all services, Kiddush on Shabbat and Breakfast on Sunday.

We look forward to welcoming you at our special celebrations,

BOURNEMOUTH SEPHARDI ASSOCIATION

P.S

Harif will be served on request

WHAT WILL YOU LEAVE BEHIND -

WHY BHC NEEDS YOUR LEGACY

Your legacy will make a real difference to BHC.

By remembering BHC in your will, you will help us to continue our work:

- *supporting members through our welfare and activities programmes;*
- *helping to fund our subsidised Meet and Munch Club;*
- *providing interesting programmes, and outings for all members;*
- *ensuring the safety of BHC members;*
- *providing kosher food through our Shul Shop;*
- *maintaining our wonderful shul building, Mikvah, and beautiful cemetery at Throop.*

Help BHC to continue to provide all this, and more. Your gift, however large or small, will help maintain these services enhancing the lives of all our members, enabling Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation to thrive, and remain an important part of British Jewry for many years to come.

Once you have provided for your family and friends, please remember us in your will.

If you would like more information about leaving a gift to BHC or to learn more about our **FREE WILL WRITING SERVICE** please contact Josie Lipsith.

Vice President, Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation

Tel: 01202 557433. email: josie@lipsith.com

AN EMOTIONAL JOURNEY

I've just landed from two action-packed days in Kharkov, Ukraine's second largest city - a city of 1.5 million people whose landscape is rather grey and industrial, with pockets of grand Soviet buildings and urban gentrification.

I'd actually visited Kharkov ten years ago with a delegation from the amazing World Jewish Relief led by Paul Anticoni, who had asked me to return there to meet and document some of the most severe cases of Jewish people in need. It was a humbling experience.

On the first morning, myself and Bianca (the Head of Home Repairs Campaign at World Jewish Relief) met Anna our interpreter and Alexei who I was told was our driver, but he in fact is very involved in the Jewish community and the 'Hesed' fund which distributes monthly stipends to prop up the very low state pensions received by many. These stipends are funded by WJR in the UK and the JDC in the States. I later learnt that Alexei had spent six years living in Jerusalem with his parents after the fall of the Soviet Union, and despite being Ukrainian and back in the city where he was born and raised, he admitted that "Helek ha lev sheli b'Yerushalayim", part of my heart is in Jerusalem.

I was in Kharkov specifically to document World Jewish Relief's Home Repairs Campaign, which will repair the worst damage to numerous homes in the area, through the kindness of donors in the UK. We wanted to get a sense of the damage and the chaos, then return in a few months to see the improvements - this would be so special for the donors to see the difference they had made. Our first stop was to the home of Alexander Medvedev, but as we approached the imposing apartment block where he lives Alexei warned that we shouldn't take any bags into the apartment as there is an infestation of cockroaches. The tone was set. I needed to take my camera bag with, as there was equipment I'd need, but it was zipped tightly.

As we reached the fourth floor, walking up the stone hallways, a stench drifted through the air. Alexander welcomed us inside and we had a look around the property. I moved my camera bag and cockroaches scuttled away from beneath. Alexander's parents were both in good jobs for the Government, so his apartment was a decent size, but there is no way he could afford to renovate it to a livable standard. His wife has severe mental illness and does not live with him anymore, and walking around the piles of mess on the sticky floor, the mouldy coffee cups and litter in every corner, one couldn't help but think he really was a lost soul. The challenge of documenting this was complex as we tried to show the abject squalor without being voyeuristic and I had to forge a trusting connection with Alexander through a translator... all whilst being in this terrible environment.

Often problems lead to more problems, and those vulnerable and needy people end up suffering from depression and other mental illnesses. Some hoard. Some turn to alcohol.

We met many other interesting people this week. One was

Great Grandmother Natalya Kohanovskaya, who welcomed us into her home with a broad smile and open arms, offering food and drink and giving a welcome befitting of any Jewish 'Buba'. In my mind I pictured what her life would be like if she lived in north London, as Natalie Cohen. Her home was welcoming and free of insects, but in desperate need of repair especially as she often has her daughter and disabled Grandson to stay. A large grey metal gate opened onto the pavement and there stood Natalya. We walked into a large yard, shared amongst those living in this quite ramshackle complex. The main two rooms were part of an old building, perhaps a military structure. Then there was the 'emergency extension' which housed the tiny kitchen and toilet - there was no bathroom or shower. Natalya had to do the best she could with just a sink.

This part of her home was full of gaps through which the freezing cold air flows in the winter, the tops of the ceiling were slanted and caving in. It was nowhere near adequate for her and her family.

Natalya was an amazing character, full of life despite having lived a difficult one. Her patience was endless and one senses that she enjoyed hosting visitors from abroad. She told us that as a girl she always had the feeling of being Jewish, but she never knew about her religion until the fall of the Soviet Union when her mother finally told her that she was indeed Jewish. Natalya brought out a bag full of Judaica for us to see, and proudly posed with a Ukrainian Siddur for a few photographs. It was clear to see that she truly connected to her faith.

Leonid and Olga lived in a very upmarket part of town, with views towards a famous legal institute and the Kharkov football stadium, they have two grown up children who'd moved out of their 7th floor apartment, which they now share with their cat Shira (meaning 'Song' in Hebrew). Leonid was born in Cherkasy and is now 77 years old, he worked form most of his career as the Deputy Head of Department at the Institute of Mediology. Olga, with her distinctive looks, is Siberian, which is where the couple met. Their state pension helps but does not cover their needs, as Leonid also suffers from numerous illnesses - despite this he insisted on walking down the seven flights of stairs to see us out and wave to us as we pulled away in the car. We asked how they celebrate the Jewish festival of Passover, and their brought out some traditional Matza to the table in their lounge, which is also their bedroom.

Their kitchen also doubles up as the bathroom, and is in need of a total refurbishment, whilst again issues with the toilet produced an overwhelming stench as we entered their home. Leonid and Olga were conservative and quiet but very sweet together. Their weathered faces told a million stories. I told them we'd make some photographs of them together like on their wedding day, which they were delighted with as it will be their anniversary in a few weeks time. Unlike many, their apartment has the benefit of a view, but it is otherwise bleak and as I left I thought more about their daily lives, Leonid's illness, the climb up those many stairs without an elevator... and I felt a very heavy heart. Thankfully the Home Repairs Campaign will transform parts of their home to make

it more suitable to a couple who have worked hard and raised children.

One of the most heartbreaking stories was surrounding the family we met on the second morning. 38 year old Vladimir, along with his wife Yana and their teenage son Daniel, lived in a shared apartment - a mainstay of the communist regime in areas where there was a lack of housing. They have two rooms to themselves, and kept those rooms spotlessly, but the kitchen, the one toilet and the bathroom are all shared amongst some seven families. Daniel, at 15 years of age, was the youngest person we met. He was clearly a hugely supportive presence and utterly dedicated to his parents. Tragically Vladimir had suffered an injury whilst working on a building site just a few years ago and had sustained irreparable brain damage. Yana was the rock holding it together for her husband and son, but despite the occasional smiles there seemed to be a harrowing sadness in her eyes.

They showed us the communal areas of the apartment, the mould on the walls, the insects and grease in the kitchen. I couldn't help but feel deeply saddened that Vladimir, still in his thirties, was in such a condition - unable to walk unaided or talk clearly.

Despite the Lionel Messi calendar, the mobile phone and the stylish hair, Daniel was not leading the life that a teenage boy deserves to lead - no space to himself, and shouldering a huge amount of responsibility. Whilst Yana, so small in stature, must be one of the strongest people I have ever met, she is quite simply a real-life super-hero. The Home Repairs Programme had actually just replaced their windows, which had not been previously replaced or updated since the block was first built. They had suffered from gaps in the wood work and sub-zero conditions inside their home as the Winter air whistled in, but were now enjoying the warmth of home. There were many more interesting people, each with a life full of stories and experiences, each with a reason why they find themselves in an unthinkable vulnerable position - bereavement, mental illness, strokes. Alexander Romensky was born into a family with hard working parents - his father had taught at the School of Political Sciences before being conscripted and killed in the war in 1943, when Alexander was just 5 years

old. His mother was a History teacher and later worked as Director of a school for special needs children. Alexander himself only retired two years ago after a long career as a Neuropathologist. He has since suffered badly from sciatica, pancreatitis and hypertension. As his health has declined, so have his living conditions - to the extent that his wife prefers to live with their son in a different apartment.

Alexander does not have a toilet, there is a huge hole in the bathroom wall, and like many others the window in his apartment allows the conditions outside to become the conditions inside. With his mature white beard and pony tail, he laughed out loud when I told him that he would be considered the coolest person around in some areas of London. He leads a lonely life, a 14" black and white TV sits at the end of his mattress in the lounge as the hours and days pass by.

This was a humbling experience, meeting people who deserve to live in safety and dignity but whose circumstances - like many in Ukraine - have led them to this point. The city of Kharkov had clearly developed in the last ten years which is easy to see when you drive past Tommy Hilfiger, when you see some achingly trendy restaurants with Chia Seed puddings on the menu, and when you notice numerous Porsche Cayennes cruising around the city. However, this general upsurge in wealth and living standards has stayed well away from the poorest members of society, and well away from the large Jewish community. Along with many non-Jewish causes around the globe and emergency appeals for anyone in need, World Jewish Relief is instrumental in making the lives of Ukraine's Jewish community a little bit better, a little bit safer, and a little bit more connected to their Judaism. There are 400,000 Jews in Ukraine, and clearly not all Jewish people lead a charmed existence. The support received by the Jewish community around the world makes a massive difference to Alexander, Natalya, Vladimir, Yana, Daniel and thousands of others every single day.

BLAKE EZRA

The above article was forwarded with his permission by his mother, Yvonne Cole.

Please support your Shul – Gift Aid your donations

How does Gift Aid work?

Gift Aid is one of the easiest ways to make your donation tax effective. By supporting the Shul you are supporting reclaims of the basic rate tax from HM Revenue and Customs. There is no extra cost to you and the process is simple – all you have to do is make a Gift Aid declaration. The congregation benefits by obtaining the tax back from the Revenue which of course benefits the Congregation's funds. As the Congregation is a charity, the contributions you make will be tax deductible if you are a higher rate tax payer, and claimable by you from the Inland Revenue as a charitable gift.

Many of you have already completed gift aid declarations, for which we are very grateful. These are held in the office and, half yearly, we collect Gift Aid back from HMRC on the contributions made for offerings, donations, subscriptions, Yahrzeit donations etc.

What is a Gift Aid declaration?

It is simply a statement by an individual taxpayer that they want a charity to claim from HM Revenue & Customs the tax paid on their donation. This is the way to add 25% to the value of your gift to Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation without costing you a penny more!

Gift Aid – do I qualify?

You must pay an amount in Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax to cover the amount Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation will reclaim in the tax year (from 6 April to 5 April of the following year).

Please complete the form and return it to us!

Please complete the Gift Aid declaration enclosed in your Ruach and return it to the Shul office. It won't matter if you think you may have completed a declaration form some years ago – we are happy to update our records and claim as far back as April 2000. **Thank you!**



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Bournemouth League of Jewish Women

Bournemouth LJW has continued to maintain a varied programme, with active involvement from current and new members, as well as our regular supporters.

Welfare. Our welfare programme, delivered by volunteers and supporters, includes hospital visiting at Bournemouth and Poole, home visiting and community outreach.

Support. We have a close relationship with Hannah Levy House, and our support includes making contributions to new projects and improvements.

Events. Our members and supporters, both male and female, enjoy our entertaining programme of afternoon events offering an eclectic mix of interesting speakers and talented musicians.

Outings. Our well-subscribed trips have included days out to Oxford and to the Isle of Wight, as well as the much-anticipated visits to the Theatre.

We are grateful for the community's continued support for the activities and events offered by the League and look forward to welcoming new members and supporters to enjoy our interesting and varied programme in 2019. For more information, please contact Zara Pinner by email to zara@ddiltd.co.uk, or by phone on 07900 240710.

Thelma Cowan (Chair)

URGENT REQUEST FROM BOURNEMOUTH JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP?

We are in urgent need of volunteers willing to visit people at home to assist with filling out forms for attendance allowance applications, blue badge applications, housing register applications, benefits applications etc.

Training will be given to assist in this where necessary but generally, these forms are quite straightforward.

It is interesting and important work, much needed in our community. Our clients are mainly Bournemouth based with some in Poole and a few in Christchurch, Highcliffe, Wimborne, etc. BJSS will of course pay travel expenses to any volunteer if required.

If we do not get this help, BJSS may have to fold, which would be a great pity as there is definitely a need.

If you want to know more or are already experienced with this type of work, please contact either Pat or Josie for more information.

bjss1@hotmail.co.uk or leave a message on our office phone - 01202 298817

Israeli Dancing

Since 2001, a dedicated group of dancers have been meeting every week to enjoy beautiful Israeli music, exercise and socialise. Now, due to popular demand, we have now started an Israeli dancing session for absolute beginners. There is no age limit, and no fun limit. It's only for half an hour so why not come along on Tuesday nights at 7.00 in the Menorah Suite. See the shul notices for any changes of time or venue.

MARILYN DEXTER

A. PERLMUTTER & SON
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Modern Hebrew Classes Monday in the Classrooms

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Learn Hebrew in a pleasant, friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Studying can be easy and enjoyable. Continuing Beginners
11:10 – 12:40

The class is suitable for people who have some knowledge of Hebrew print and script letters, and can say a few basic sentences in Modern Hebrew. The course will help you to participate in simple transactions and conversations on everyday topics. You will be able to 'get by' in everyday situations, like travelling, asking directions, shopping, ordering meals, talking about yourself, your family and your interests at a basic level.

There is a fee payable.

For more details telephone Ori on 023 8061 5652 or email her on ori@glasers.org

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Shabbatot and Chagim

C U there!



Diary

DECEMBER 2018

Shabbat 1st	Vayeshev. Shabbat Mevorchim. Kiddush.
Sunday 2nd	1st Night Chanukah.
Shabbat 7th/8th	Mikeitz. Shabbat Chanukah. 1st day Rosh Chodesh Tevet. Coffee and Kichels Kiddush.
Sunday 9th	2nd day Rosh Chodesh Tevet.
Shabbat 14th/15th	Vayigash. Kiddush in celebration of Geoffrey Feld's Second Barmitzvah.
Sunday 16th	Stone Setting at Kinson. 12 noon. The late Corinne Caller.
Tuesday 18th	Fast of Tevet. Fast begins 6.51am. Fast concludes 4.51pm.
Shabbat 21st/22nd	Vayechi. Coffee and Kichels Kiddush. Sephardi Minyan.
Shabbat 28th/29th	Shemot. Coffee and Kichels Kiddush.

January 2019

Shabbat 4th /5th	Va'era. Shabbat Mevorchim. Kiddush.
Monday 7th	Rosh Chodesh Shevat.
Shabbat 11th /12th	Bo. Coffee and Kichels Kiddush.
Fri 18th /Sun 20th	Visit to Singers Hill Synagogue for Shabbaton in Birmingham.
Shabbat 18th /19th	Beshalach. Shabbat Shira. Coffee and Kichels Kiddush.
Monday 21st	Tu b'Shevat.
Shabbat 25th /26th	Yitro. Kiddush in honour of the Ladies' Guild. Sephardi Minyan.
Sunday 27th	Holocaust Memorial Day at the Lighthouse Poole. 2.00 pm.

February 2019

Shabbat 1st /2nd	Mishpatim. Shabbat Mevorchim. Kiddush to honour the Security Team.
Sunday 3rd	Stone Setting at Throop. 1.00 pm. The late Cynthia Argeband.
Tuesday 5th	1st Day Rosh Chodesh Adar I.
Wednesday 6th	2nd Day Rosh Chodesh Adar I.
Shabbat 8th /9th	Terumah. Coffee and Kichels Kiddush.
Shabbat 15th /16th	Tetzaveh. Kiddush to honour the Outgoing Executive.
Shabbat 22nd /23rd	Ki Tissa. Coffee and Kichels Kiddush. Sephardi Minyan.

Sunday 24th **SHUL AGM**
10.30 am in the Menorah Suite
Stone Setting at Throop. 2.00 pm. The late Rosalind Herman.

Wednesady 27th Ladies' Guild AGM – in the Menorah Suite

March 2019

Shabbat 1st /2nd	Vayakhel. Shabbat Shekalim. Shabbat Mevorchim. Shabbat UK Kiddush.
Sunday 3rd	Stone Setting at Throop. 12.45 pm. The late Hetty Freeman. Stone Settings at Throop. 1.30 pm. The late Bertie and Joyce Littman.
Thursday 7th	1st Day Rosh Chodesh Adar II.
Friday 8th	2nd Day Rosh Chodesh Adar II.
Shabbat 8th /9th	Pekudei. Coffee and Kichels Kiddush.
Shabbat 15th /16th	Vayikra. Shabbat Zachor. Kiddush. Yavneh College Shabbaton.
Wednesday 20th	Fast of Esther. Fast commences 5:07 am. Fast concludes 7:00 pm.
Thursday 21st	Purim.
Friday 22nd	Shushan Purim.
Shabbat 22nd /23rd	Tzav. Kiddush to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the Bournemouth Sephardi Association.
Monday 25th	Stone setting at Willesden. 12 noon The late Dr. Brian Karet
Shabbat 29th /30th	Shmini. Shabbat Parah. Shabbat Mevorchim. Kiddush in celebration of Diana and Richard Barzilay's Golden Wedding Anniversary.

April 2019

Shabbat 5th /6th	Shabbat Rosh Chodesh Nisan. Shabbat Hachodesh. Tazria. Kiddush in celebration of Jeffrey Cohen's 2nd Barmitzvah.
Shabbat 12th /13th	Shabbat HaGadol. Metzora. Kiddush in celebration of Stephen H White's 70th Birthday.
Thursday 18th	Search for Chametz not before 9:02 pm.
Friday 19th	Fast of the Firstborn 4:55 am. Erev Pesach. Light candles at 7:49 pm. Communal Seder in the Menorah Suite.
Shabbat 19th /20th	First Day Pesach. Tal. Sephardi Minyan. Light candles for 2nd day after 9:05 pm.