

Editorial

Congratulations to the members of the Executive Committee on their recent election and they are wished well, together with all those who are co-opted to their sub committees, in their work for the Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation.

At time of writing Israel is about to hold elections to choose a new government, however it is remarkable the amount of media attention it has attracted in this country. On this occasion Israel is portrayed as being a modern democratic society, with politicians from different strata of society, including Israeli Arabs.

Yet to some in this country Israel is a huge mega powerful state, whose very existence they attempt to delegitimise. It is our duty whenever possible to stand up to these groups, and to stand up for Israel. For how many millennia is it since Moses led the Children of Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land?

Wishing Rabbi and Mrs Jesner, Reverend and Mrs Sklan and the entire Community a Happy and Kosher Pesach.

CORINNE REIN
Editor

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A MESSAGE FOR PESACH FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SYNAGOGUE

“As for the child who does not know how to ask, you should begin to speak to that child, as it is stated: “You shall tell your child on that day saying: Because of this, the Almighty did for me when I went out from Egypt’.”



From January 1945, but especially in April and May, only 70 years ago Jewish survivors along with many others were delivered from a living hell as the camps in Germany were liberated.

Only then did the Allies fully realise the extent of German barbarism, and the tragedy that had befallen the Jewish people of Europe.

Indeed the impact was so great that those who watched the documentary film, “Night will Fall” will recall the poignant words of the Infantry British Officer, leading the troops liberating Belsen, stating, “Now I know what we were fighting for”. Since then world Jewry has gone from strength to strength, limited in numbers, but with a resolve in which the words, ‘never again’ have a meaning fundamental, like the Holocaust itself, to us.

Anti-Semitism remains. Any attempt to legitimise Anti-Zionism as a valid political stance fails as the political veneer falls away to reveal the virulent anti-Semitism that fuels it. Iran, Hizbollah and Hamas, Iran’s agents, make their aim clear. Islamic fundamentalists, whether Sunni or Shia share the aim, and commit their criminal acts against the West, particularly Jews wherever the opportunity presents itself. The illogicality of thinking that one can treat with those that talk of destruction of the Zionist State, and of Jews in the world are failing to learn the lessons of history. It seems to me that is the politics of the weak, or the politics of fear or a foreign policy of expediency. Expediency tends to be short term. Whereas the appeasement of the 1930’s could be argued to be the policy of buying time to re-arm, time in this case serves the fanatic as Mr Netanyahu sought to explain to the American Congress. Rhetoric which the President and other Western Governments, one hopes proves ultimately not to their moral discomfort.

I know that as in previous years many members will go away to celebrate Pesach with their families or to take the advantage of going to Israel where family may be. But the celebration of the Seder is universal. It is the symbol of hope, the deliverance that made the Jewish nation, and binds us in the faith of a better future, the belief that whatever the Jewish people have to face the Almighty will deliver us. That it seems to me is the message in its simplicity, however complex the adversity, and however

difficult the actuality of survival may seem.

In the forthcoming weeks there will be much for the Congregation to look forward to, especially the visit of the Chief Rabbi. This will be a weekend of celebration that hopefully will include the wider community. It is certainly expected on the Shabbat that the Congregation will turn out in force to show its respect for our spiritual leader whose words and actions assume great importance and receive respect from the Nation both religious and secular.

The quest for alternative accommodation goes on. It is possible that the next few months may well define what we have to do, but as before the Congregation will be kept informed of developments and consulted. It is a fact that the Executive do know more of what is happening than members, but is not a fact that important decisions affecting the future of the Congregation are made by a clique. Nothing of importance, going to the welfare of the Congregation is decided without the approval of the Executive Committee and ultimately the Congregation.

The day to day running of the Congregation is in the hands of the Executive. Where it is necessary to make decisions quickly they are made within the delegated authority. This will continue. What members want to believe is of course a matter for the individual member, but without prejudice to negotiations that may be continuing, any member that asks a member of the Executive a question will get an answer, even if they do not like the answer because it is not the one they wanted. That is the way of the world, and the world of the Congregation will continue.

It is equally the case that those who work for the Congregation are appreciated, whatever their capacity, and there are, thankfully, a lot of members who do give their time to help as the President’s annual report shows. There are very few requests that are rejected by the Executive, however small, or very big ones by the Executive Committee. However decisions that are made must be based on the information supplied and the interests of the whole Congregation within the rules of its Constitution. I think that is simple and easily understood.

I wish you all a happy and kosher Pesach wherever you may be and look forward to your return in good health.

“And it is this that has stood by our fathers and us; for not only one has risen up against us to destroy us, but in every generation they rise up against us to destroy us; and the Holy One, Blessed be He, rescues us from their hand” Haggadah.

Chag Sameach

IVOR WEINTROUB
President

PESACH MESSAGE FROM RABBI JESNER

The Fifth Son

Many of us are aware that there is a detailed discussion amongst the commentators to the Seder Night Hagadah regarding the possibility of a fifth cup of wine as part of the Seder Service. Some are of the opinion that the cup of wine that is designated as the Cup of Eliyahu serves as this fifth cup. Be that as it may, I wish to discuss another foursome that in our time may have developed into a fivesome.



We are taught in the Hagadah that there are four categories of children in the Jewish world. They are: the wise son, the wicked son, the naïve & simple son and the son who knows nothing and cannot even begin to ask anything intelligently.

We are all acquainted with the wise son. He has had a thorough Jewish education and is intelligently loyal to the Torah and its values system and traditional way of life. We unfortunately are able to clearly identify the evil child amongst us – the apostate, the self-hater, the one who is addicted to anti-Jewish ideologies and practices.

The simple son is also known to us. He has no real animus towards G-d and Torah though he certainly may be repelled by the behaviour and statements of those of us who arrogantly claim to represent Him and His Torah. He only asks: “What is this all about?” It is a legitimate if somewhat depressing question.

After all, after 3500 years of Jewish life and history, that son should, by now, have an inkling of what it is all about. Nevertheless there is still hope for this son – life and its events and the non- Jewish world will eventually help explain the matter to him.

And finally the son who knows nothing, not even what to ask can also be salvaged by education, warmth, direction, role models and proper mentoring. Even the evil son can be corrected and redeemed but apparently not without pain and discomfort. After all it was Stalin that basically cured the Jewish communists of their malignant Marxist disease and made them Jews once again.

But there is a fifth child that sits at the Jewish Seder table in our time. He has no qualms about marrying a non-Jew, he is probably liberally pro-Palestinian, he has never visited Israel, though he knows it to be a racist and apartheid place, he considers himself to be part of the intellectual elite, he has no real knowledge of Torah or Judaism and yet considers himself an expert on these matters.

He knows the best policy for Jews and Israel to follow and he is so convinced of his rectitude and astuteness that he is willing, nay even demanding, to use all types

of force to coerce the Jewish people and its small national state to adopt his will. He is out to fix the world and is willing to sacrifice Israel, Judaism and Jews in the process. He sits on boards of Jewish organisations, he chooses rabbis and proclaims himself to be a faithful Jew. Yet he will contribute generously to general non-Jewish charities but gives only a pittance towards Jewish educational projects. He is not an evil son nor is he a wise one.

He certainly will deny that he is somehow simple or naive and he certainly claims that he knows what questions to pose. Yet he may be the most tragic of all of the sons, for though he is able to pose the questions he is unwilling to hear the answers.

In the words of the prophet Isaiah “the heart of the people is overladen with fat and their ears are stopped up”.

It is this hedonistic, intelligent, but very deaf son that troubles us so deeply. For we have developed no plan or method to deal with him – either to exclude him from the Jewish society completely or to somehow redeem him and bring him closer to Jewish reality and positive participation in Jewish life. It is certainly not clear to us how to accomplish this second option.

So perhaps we will have to rely on the inspiration represented by the fifth cup of wine – on the miraculous powers of the prophet Eliyahu and on his unfailing faith in the restoration of Jews and the Jewish people generally. Pesach teaches us never to say never. It is the holiday of rebirth and constant renewal. So will it be for all of our different children all of whom we gather and embrace around our Pesach Seder table.

I would like to conclude by wishing the Executive and the new Executive Committee Mazal Tov on their appointment.

To Reverend and Mrs Barry Sklan, all the office team and the whole Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation, Pamela and I wish you a Chag Kasher V'Sameach.

RABBI ADRIAN JESNER

A PESACH 5775 MESSAGE FROM OUR ASSISTANT MINISTER REVEREND BARRY SKLAN

The Haggadah's narrative of "Avadim Hayinu" states, "And had the Holy One not taken us out of Egypt, then we, our children and grandchildren would still be slaves to Pharaoh..."

What does this mean? Even if the Exodus had not occurred, how can we confirm that we surely would still be enslaved to Egyptian monarchy? There is no present Pharaoh in Egypt, and the Egyptian rulers of today do not practice slavery. So, how can the Haggadah's text declare that we today would be enslaved if not for the Exodus?

Perhaps the answer is that Bnei Yisrael would not have reached the basic religious status of Bnei Chorin (free people) if not for Yetziat Mitzrayim, the coming out of Egypt. We would have remained stuck in the spiritual state of being enslaved to Pharaoh. The Exodus converted us from "avadim l'avadim" ("servants of servants") to avadim LaMakom" ("servants of G-d"). Rashi quotes Chazal, that the beginning of Yetziat Mitzrayim marked the sealing of the bechorah (birthright) which Ya'akov purchased from Eisav.

This means that Bnei Yisroel's unique position of closeness to Hashem and leadership in His avodah was crafted by the Exodus. When G-d redeemed us, He elevated us and took

us to Himself as a groom relates to his bride at the time of Erusin (betrothal). This transformation of our status to avadim LaMakom, marked by a unique, incomparable closeness and dedication to Hashem, blessed us with the fundamental title of Bnei Chorin.



Prior to commencing the Seder meal, we recite the bracha of Ga'al Yisroel", thanking G-d for "redeeming us and our ancestors from Mitzrayim..."

Why do we thank Hashem for redeeming us? The answer is the same as above, for we thank Hashem for the geulah from Mitzrayim as it directly affects us today in relation to our basic status as Bnei Chorin.

Angela and I wish Rabbi and Rebbetzen Jesner, the Executive and the warden and all our wonderful kehilah, a Chag Kasher vSameach, and may our Emunah be strengthened and may we all only know peace.

REVEREND BARRY SKLAN
(Assistant Minister)

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**Plus – 2 litres Whisky if desired,
which must be supplied by the
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Please Note:-

With the exception of the Whisky, everything must be ordered from the Shul Shop. You are responsible for buying and delivering the Whisky. Please inform **Thelma Cowan (01202 290798)** of the date, etc., of your Kiddush so that she may liaise with the Ladies Guild. Please contact her if you have any problems whatsoever.

You may wish to give a donation of £25.00 which the Shul will pass on to the Ladies Guild.

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CHIEF RABBI'S PESACH MESSAGE

5775 • 2015

At our Seder tables we will declare: "My father was a wandering Aramean and he went down to Egypt ... and there he became a nation." (Deuteronomy 26:5)

However, after our deliverance from Egypt, at the time of our acceptance of the Torah, the Almighty declared: "Now if you obey Me fully, and keep My covenant, then you will be My treasured possession out of all the nations ... you will be for Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." (Leviticus 19:4-6)

So, when did we become a nation? Was it during our time in Egypt, arriving as an extended family group, which then expanded into a people that was cruelly persecuted, or was it through our commitment at Sinai to a life of Torah and mitzvot that we became God's chosen people?

There are two routes through which a nation can be formed. One is through a shared past and the other is through a shared future. A group of people can meaningfully be fused into a national entity not just on account of where they have come from, but also based on where they are going to. When a group of people shares a common set of ideals, values and dreams, they are bound together by a treasured common destiny.

At Pesach-time, while we celebrate our historic redemption from Egypt, we are particularly mindful of our eventful past. Looking back through the history of British Jewry, we can be immensely proud of our achievements, many of which were

attained through adversity and hardship. On my travels to communities large and small I always hear memories of previous eras with their highs and lows, their challenges and achievements. We can be immensely proud of where we have come from.

At the same time, what is even more important is how we approach our future. This recognition has inspired the United Synagogue to engage in a strategic review, while many other communities throughout the UK are likewise carefully investing in developing a clear, realistic and ambitious approach to their future.

As is the case at the Seder table, within British Jewry we are deeply aware of our origins and are keenly anticipating our shared future. With attention to strengthening our communities, deepening our Jewish awareness through education and enhancing our environment through acts of kindness we will invest in a great destiny for ourselves, our families and our communities.

Valerie and our family join me in wishing you all a *chag kasher vesameach*.

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis



BOARD OF DEPUTIES PRESIDENT'S PASSOVER MESSAGE

As I write my final Pesach message as President I reflect on a period of great challenges and achievements. The challenges are obvious; the achievements made possible with our new team, new premises and new leadership are becoming ever more so.

First within a matter of weeks there is the General Election. We at the Board have been attempting to seize on a historic opportunity to ensure our programme of Ten Commitments, that summarises our key policy asks, is adopted by as many MPs and prospective parliamentary candidates as possible. The 2015 General Election: A Jewish Manifesto has already been sent out to all selected candidates and there has been a hugely gratifying response. We have also been urging our Deputies and members of the community to join our online campaign, launched in association with We Believe in Israel. By using a new online tool you are able to enter your postcode and simultaneously write to all prospective parliamentary candidates to request their support for our Ten Commitments. We hope these efforts will result in a Parliament with MPs aware and responsive to the needs of our community.

In the meantime whilst there has never been a boring period during the last two triennia no time has been quite as challenging as this. At the time of writing we have just received the report of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Antisemitism - their first since 2006. This followed the awful events in Paris and Copenhagen. The community itself has been rocked by the upsurge in antisemitic incidents which in 2014 exceeded all previous years for which records have been kept. Paris and then Copenhagen remind us all how terrorists can easily be inspired by one another.

In the face of this upsurge we have had a continuous dialogue with the Government over the measures we hope will ensure the continued safety of our community. Alongside our communal partners we have met the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Communities Secretary and Education Secretary. In addition we have met the Shadow Home Secretary and London's Deputy Mayor for crime and policing. It has been gratifying to see the firm response of the government and of all the mainstream political parties and particularly pleasing that the Home Secretary and Communities Secretary were prepared at very short notice to attend our plenary meeting, reassuring Deputies of their continued commitment to stand "shoulder to shoulder" with the Jewish community in the fight against antisemitism.

The Board have been at the forefront of tackling antisemitic attitudes – from politicians, the media and clerics. Yet we see also that though the level of reported antisemitic incidents was up, the proportion of violent incidents was down with only one incident of extreme violence and according to the research carried out by the Fundamental Rights Agency of the EU, the UK remains the most secure place for Jews in Europe. The APPG report mentions this as well and also specifically commends the Board's outreach to the Muslim community. Nevertheless we cannot afford to be complacent.

Antisemitism, however, is not our only problem. The campaign for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions directed against Israel is going to get stronger as will the calls for the UK to recognise a

Palestinian state independent of any peace or even negotiations with Israel.

Directly but also through the Fair Play Campaign Group, we fight a constant battle against the growing anti-Israel campaign whether on campus, in the media, the unions, local authorities or anywhere else it may arise. Although some question whether that the Board has a role to play on Israel, we recognise its centrality to the community and the consequent need for the community's representative body to speak out on Israel's behalf.

On the domestic side, the challenge to shechitah is growing with calls for a ban even from quarters normally sympathetic to our community. In education matters, many of our schools have come under pressure because of reasons utterly unconnected with them. We continue to challenge misunderstanding and malicious attacks with clarity and vigour.

There are however, plenty of positives for Jews in the UK. Britain is also home to a community which for its size is probably the most vital in the diaspora. Our schools are flourishing with outstanding standards and ever greater numbers of pupils. The Board through its advice and above all through Pikuach, its inspectorate, is playing an important role here. Our service to small communities, Jewish Connection, sustains a fulfilling Jewish life for the approximately 20% of the Jews of this country living in communities too small to support a minister.

Throughout the country, at cross communal events such as Jewish Book Week and Limmud, the Board has been active in making presentations and appearing at more events than ever before. The Board also continues with its work with the Jewish Living exhibition – attended by over 8,000 adults and school children in the past year alone - explaining Judaism to the outside world.

Finally we should mention our efforts to reach out to parts of the community not previously represented on the Board. We have increased substantially the representation of students and young people and are working with the Israeli community in London. The Charedi community remains largely outside the Board but we work very closely with them and by their account our relations with them have never been as good as they are now.

Pesach is our festival of freedom but it is also the defining seminal event in our history. Whatever the challenges the Board will be determined to meet them and we know that this country continues to offer benefits that few other Jewish communities boast. Of that we continue to be proud.

Chag sameach



VIVIAN WINEMAN

President, The Board of Deputies of British Jews

FROM CONOR BURNS MP

Given recent events in Paris and Copenhagen, and the publication of a report by the Community Security Trust (CST) showing that anti-Semitic attacks in the UK have grown, I was pleased to be invited by Corinne Rein to offer a message of support to the readers of this magazine and to Bournemouth's wider Jewish community.

I am clear that our condemnation of the attacks both abroad and at home must be absolute. There should be no place for anti-Semitism in the UK or elsewhere. As the Prime Minister recently said, the Jewish community is a vital part of British society, and it would be a tragedy were you to no longer feel that you had a safe and secure home in the United Kingdom, which is as much yours as mine.

I wanted therefore wanted to take this opportunity to reassure you that I will always do what I can to support and protect the Jewish community both in Bournemouth and across the country, and

foster an atmosphere in which you can thrive and grow as a key part of our society.

In light of recent events, I have spoken to Dorset's Police and Crime Commissioner, Martyn Underhill, who has had a number of meetings with the Chief Constable and with the Jewish community in order to hear your concerns and explore security matters. Our shared aim is to reassure you not only about the measures in place to safeguard your physical safety but also about our commitment to ensuring that Jewish people will continue to enjoy the warm welcome and friendship that has always been extended to you in Bournemouth and across Britain.

More generally, the Government has set out in a major report how it believes anti-Semitism should be tackled, and the Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG) hosts the Anti-Semitic Working Group which bring together community representatives and officials from across Government to ensure a coordinated response as issues arise.

The Prime Minister has also pledged to maintain the funding for security at state-aided Jewish schools, and I know the Education Secretary is considering the community's request to help fund security at independent schools too. Moreover, I

know that the Government is considering its response to the Jewish Chronicle's campaign to secure government funding for synagogue security, and I will monitor its response with interest.

Any person or group who in deed or word seek to incite anti Jewish sentiment have no place in our liberal tolerant democracy and they must be faced down.

As the Jewish community prepares for Passover and the Christian community remembers the Last Supper when Jesus shared Passover with his friends I will reflect on the shared values and heritage of our faiths. I will remember you in my prayers and I ask that you remember me in yours.

Shalom.

CONOR BURNS
MP for Bournemouth West



Adult Education Spring Term

Monday 20th April 2015 at 8.00 p.m.

In the Murray Muscat Centre, Glen Fern Road, Bournemouth

Admission free – all welcome

Doing Justice to the Past? Doing Holocaust Remembrance and the Absence of Perpetrators

A CD presentation of the Glasgow University Holocaust Memorial Lecture given by Mary Fulbrook, Professor of German History at UCL. (Yom Ha'Shoah is Thursday 16th April)

Suggestions for topics and offers of papers for summer term 2015 will be most welcome.

I can be contacted at spencer.nathan@lineone.net or contact the Synagogue Office.

SPENCER NATHAN
(Adult Education organiser)

OUR NEW BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2015 - 2016

Following the Synagogue AGM Sunday 22nd February in the Menorah Suite

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Harry Ellis



John Kasmir



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RABBI HAMMER SPEAKS TO THE YOUTH OF BOURNEMOUTH – A TRULY MEMORABLE OCCASION

It was an absolute privilege to have heard the correctly described, inspiring and dynamic educator, Rabbi Shalom Hammer, make three different speeches on 10 January, at the Shabbat Lunch, Seudah Shlishit and finally, at the event held for the Young People of Bournemouth on Motzei Shabbat. By ‘young people’, I mean those in their teens and twenties!

A few weeks earlier, following the success of Clive Lawton’s discussion group one Shabbat afternoon last summer with some of the youth, Rabbi Jesner asked me to organize an event after Shabbat, when Rabbi Hammer, would be able to speak to the young people.

Believe me, this was not an easy task, but I was delighted that more than 20 young people attended the event, which took place in the Menorah Suite at 6.30pm. Because of the wide spread of the ages among the youth – remember that when you are young, age difference is more important – Rabbi Hammer had to gauge his speech appropriately. He did this very cleverly, including the week’s Parsha, focusing on Moses being ‘a boy’.

His audience were enthralled. A few ‘older people’, who were there to help or had wanted to hear what Rabbi Hammer would be saying to the youth, having heard him speak earlier in the day, sat at the back of the hall and were equally enthralled.

The youth then asked questions, some of which were about Rabbi Hammer’s role in the IDF. One of the reasons for Rabbis being with the troops is to be able to give them a proper burial, should the need arise. He elaborated on this, which was quite shocking to hear, but he certainly earned everyone’s respect for this role alone.

Rabbi Hammer had not tried to indoctrinate the young people with religion, but told them that what they must do is to keep asking questions.

A vote of thanks was given and Rabbi Hammer was presented with a gift. Most unexpectedly, I was presented with a bouquet of flowers, which was greatly appreciated! As Rabbi Hammer was anxious to start his drive to London, he would not stay for the supper that had been prepared for the youth. However, he took the time to talk to one young man who is intending to join the IDF. How Rabbi Hammer had the energy to drive to London after such a long day, having made three such diverse, interesting speeches given in such a dynamic

way, I do not know! If Shabbat is a day of rest, I wonder what Rabbi Hammer does during the week!

The quote, which I had previously read, written by Rabbi Andrew Rosenblatt of Shaarey Tzedek, Vancouver BC, was certainly a good one:

“Some speakers have good scholarship, but poor presentation skills. Others present well without depth. Rabbi Hammer has a unique combination: depth, vision and the ability to captivate; participants left his lectures, both engaged and inspired.”

After Rabbi Hammer had left, the youth sat around tables and were presented with a supper which included cholent, viennas, chips, latkes and salad, followed by fresh fruit. They stayed for quite some time, catching up with old friends and making new ones.

There had been a wonderful atmosphere and I thank all the young people for attending. I also thank those who helped in the evening with security and with the supper. In particular, I would like to thank Ruth Greenberg and Jane Victor for their support with the organization of this event.

At least one of the young people filled in the questionnaire from the Chief Rabbi’s office, that was sent out from the BHC Shul office. During the next few days, I received the following emails from some of the others, as I had asked for some feedback:

“Firstly thank you for hosting such a great evening. I had no expectations for what the night would entail but I was more than pleasantly surprised. Rabbi Shalom Hammer was not only entertaining but very interesting to listen to!”

I really did enjoy the evening; it was lovely to see old faces that I used to see at BBYO. It was a fun evening for all ages.

Thank you again and I look forward to the next date!”

Bianca

“You and your team put on a really nice event and worked hard to ensure it ran smoothly! I enjoyed the fact that Rabbi Shalom Hammer was young and current and it was interesting to hear what he had to say and the experiences he has had.

It was great to catch up with old friends and socialise with them! Thank you for organising it, see you soon,”

Melody

“Thank you for inviting me to hear the guest speaker on Saturday. You asked for my view on the evening.

The guest speaker was very interesting and I enjoyed it very much. I met and spoke to quite a few new people. Also the food was great!”

Marcus

“It was clever how the Rabbi emphasised the importance of a youth by explaining it through the well known story of Moses as a baby. This way we found it easy to understand, making it a very interesting talk. We really appreciated the effort that everyone

then went to in providing us with a lovely and tasty dinner. It was delicious! We would especially like to thank Rochelle Kurt along with everyone that helped and supported her in bringing together so many young Jewish people from the area and making the evening a huge success. It is not often young Jewish people come together in Bournemouth. We look forward to many more events in the Shul where we can learn more about Judaism.”

Tanya and Natasha

“The reason we went: it was a good opportunity to get together with the Jewish community and meet new people as well as old friends; it was also an opportunity to meet a new rabbi and see what he is like. The talk was very interesting and informative. It gave us a different perspective on Judaism and a particular passage from the Torah.”

Manda and Yoshi

“He also spoke about some times he had in the IDF which I was quite interested in as I am thinking of joining at the end of the year; it was nice to speak to him on a one to one basis, but I would enjoy having more time with him on a one to one, to talk more about the IDF and his experience there.”

Yoshi

“Rabbi Hammer delivered a speech that didn’t just teach us something, but let us further understand aspects of Judaism. He spoke in an engaging and exciting way and we all went away from the talk feeling uplifted”

Eliana

What these young people wrote is proof that the event really was a great success and certainly made everything worthwhile!

ROCHELLE KURT

FROM HADASSA COWLAND TO HER GRANDMA JANE VICTOR

Jane Victor’s grandchildren ran for Yachad, which is an international non profit organization dedicated to addressing the needs of all individuals with disabilities and including them in the Jewish community.

Yachad members participate in several inclusive activities and events per month. There are many Yachad Chapters located throughout the United States, Canada and Israel.

This Friday was the Jerusalem marathon, and I was proud and honoured to run and represent team Yachad!

It’s was epic!

Me and my fellow advisors ran with our incredible Downs Syndrome member Yaakov Braun, who was a superhero! It was perfect weather for a run, the sun was out with a lovely breeze and we went for it! We skipped, hopped, ran, danced and sang our way to the finish line! We were cheered on by the crowd, who absolutely loved Yaakov!

Due to our pace we found ourselves on empty streets and Yaakov told me that he was ready to start running again. We turned onto King George and decided to run till the train tracks. Half way through Yaakov wanted to stop, and we encouraged him to keep on going, but he really wanted to stop.

And then something changed.

We began to hear a round of applause.

Yaakov looked up and saw thirty service workers, policeman, paramedics and volunteers clapping.

We were the only runners on the street, the applause was all for him. Slowly but surely a slow chant started, that picked up pace until the entire street was chanting in unison: YAAKOV! YAAKOV! YAAKOV!

Yaakov began to smile and ran. He ran until the train tracks and wouldn’t stop. Neither did they. His face was priceless. A mixture of pride, happiness, effort and belonging.

We were advised to skip the Old City, so we ran 7k all in all.

When Yaakov saw the finish line, he got a burst of power and began to sprint the last 200 metres. The crowds heard us cheering him so they joined for the second time: “Yaakov!



Yaakov! Yaakov!” He beamed and ran faster.

Yaakov ran across the finish line with the cameras flashing and smile that I can’t even describe. We were so proud of him. We did 7k in 1:21. Not bad. Not bad at all.

I really wanted to thank you for your support towards Yachad Israel.

We ran for inclusion.

We ran with inclusion.

We accomplished our goal.

Thanks to you.

It was such an inspiring run I felt like I had to share it with you, enclosed are a couple of photos that were snapped. I hope they give you a feel of what we accomplished this Friday.

Have a lovely week, and thank you again for sponsoring me

**HADASSA (19), MEIRA (16), ELYA (13),
TOGETHER WITH YAAKOV BRAUN AND
THE WHOLE YACHAD ISRAEL FAMILY**



Yaakov gets his medal

AUSCHWITZ MEMORIAL

To commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz the Bournemouth and Poole Holocaust Memorial Day Committee funded a small monument to mark the event, using funds collected at previous events.

Around three hundred people gathered in Bournemouth Gardens close to the Cenotaph to watch the unveiling ceremony by the Mayor of Bournemouth, Councillor Chris Mayne and the High Sheriff of Dorset, Mrs Jane Stichbury.

Bournemouth Council who have been described as very supportive by the HMD Committee, their only request was that it was made of Purbeck Stone as others commemorative items in the Gardens. The design of the wording was under the direction of Justin Cohen, HMD local Treasurer.

The short moving ceremony introduced by local HMD chair, Lynda Ford Horne, included readings by Henry Schachter, whose parents who sadly perished in Auschwitz shortly before its liberation, Susanne Ellis, who also lost family members there, and Councillor Barry Goldbart, a former Mayor of Bournemouth, who was a founder member of Bournemouth and Poole HMD Committee. One of the candles designed by Anish Kapoor was lit by Walter Kammerling, who arrived on the Kindertransport as a teenager.

“Al Ha Rachomim” was sung by Rabbi Maurice Michaels of Bournemouth Reform Synagogue and Kaddish by Rabbi Adrian Jesner of Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation.



CHRISTCHURCH HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

A moving ceremony took place at Christchurch Quay when a Holocaust memorial was unveiled and a tree planted to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and the other concentration camps.

Invited to be present were Josie Lipsith, whose grandparents were murdered at Auschwitz, and Bilha Weider, whose mother Lilly

Ebert, survived Auschwitz, together with her two sisters.

Beginning with prayers from Rabbi Adrian Jesner and Reverend Richard Partridge of Priory Church, it continued with a heartfelt speech from the Mayor of Christchurch, Councillor Denise Jones. In her conclusion she said, “It’s up to us to keep the memory of these events alive and always treat everyone with the respect and dignity they deserve.”

The Mayor then unveiled the memorial and planted the tree with the help of the children from the Priory School who were present.



BELSEN

Whilst attending the moving ceremony of the Holocaust Memorial in the Bournemouth Gardens my mind immediately went back exactly seventy years.

I was on holiday in Bournemouth in the Spring of 1945 with my parents. We went to one of the local cinemas, situated no more than 200 yards from the Memorial.

What film we saw I cannot remember. However the Newsreel

footage still sticks in my mind to this day. It showed the liberation of the Belsen Camp. As I was aged 6 and to save me knowing the full horror of what I was actually watching my parents told me that all the bodies in the Newsreel were just dolls.

What else could they have said to someone of that age? We weren't as worldly in those dark days just after the war. How else could they describe what I had seen so that I shouldn't worry and have sleepless nights?

To Life!..... L'Chaim!!

CHRIS WOODWARD



Dear Friends,

Date: Sunday 19 April 2015. Venue: Barnet Copt Hall Stadium, Hendon, London NW4 1RL.
Time: 2pm.

Our aim is for this event to be the largest Remembrance gathering EVER HELD by British Jewry, on this iconic, 70th 'lifespan' year of commemoration - We believe that each and every member of the British Jewish community, man, woman and child has a duty and a responsibility to honour the memory of each and every man, woman and child Victim of the Holocaust.

A 'lifespan' might have passed, but this commemoration and remembrance will ensure that the Victims have not and will never be forgotten, nor did they perish in vain.

Tickets & parking spaces are free but need to be pre-booked www.yomhashoah.org.uk/events. Commemoration content, if required, can be found on our website

A very big thank you in advance for your wonderful support.

Kind regards

Sue Shefras

Yom HaShoah UK, Tel: 0207 543 5448



Date On A Plate

This is a really successful format for meeting new people – six men & six women learn to cook a three-course meal, and then eat it!

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Sun 26 April:	Age: 30-40	Gourmet Greek
Sun 3 May:	Age: 45-55	Sushi
Sun 10 May:	Age: 35-35	Turkish Delights
Sun 17 May:	Age: 35-45	Shavout Special
Sun 7 June:	Age: 50-60	Best of American
Sun 14 June:	Age: 35-50	Sensational Summer
Sun 21 June:	Age: 40-55	Lebanese Feast
Sun 12 July:	Age: 25-35	French Bistro
Sun 19 July:	Age: 40-50	Taste of the Med!



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Tues 9 June:	English Favourites
Wed 10 June:	Slimmer Dinners
Sun 28 June:	Perfect Macaroons
Tue 14 July:	French Bistro
Wed 15 July:	New Ideas family dining

Venue: Northwood. Times: Weekdays 10am –1.30pm. Sunday: 6pm-10pm

Cost: £65 including three course meal and all ingredients

More info : www.jewishcookery.com or denise@jewishcookery.com

Or phone Denise on 01923 836 456.

TU B'SHEVAT

To commemorate Tu B'Shevat the Bournemouth Jewish Representative Council planted a plum tree in the grounds of Hannah Levy House.

At the brief ceremony Paul Solomons, co chairman of BJRC and Rabbi Adrian Jesner spoke of the importance of Hannah Levy House and thanked the community for the support it gives.



David Weitzman, Trustee of HLH, Paul Solomons co-chair BJRC, Irvin Shindler, Trustee HLH and Rabbi Adrian Jesner of BHC



Paul Solomons and Rabbi Adrian Jesner



PURIM AT BHC

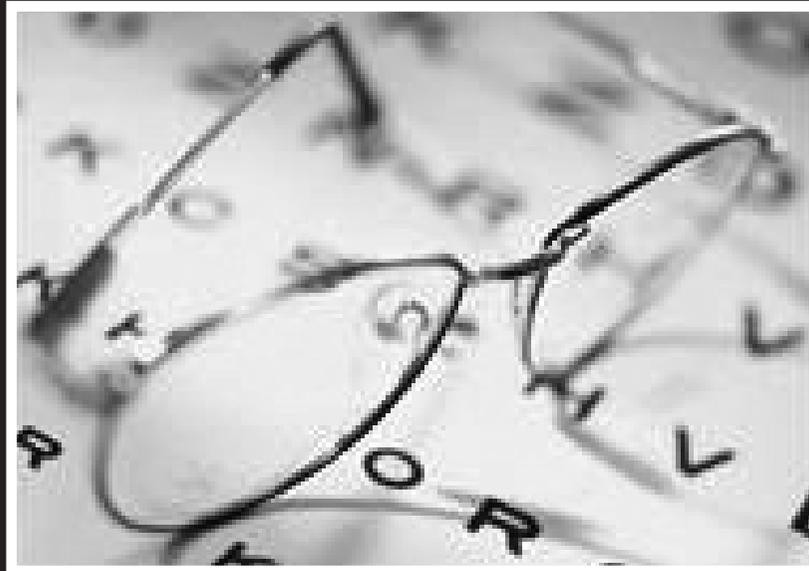
*Ladies in the Box!
Arabs detained in the
Menorah Suite!
It must be Purim at BHC!!!*



BHC Member Alf Sylvester (back row third from the right) celebrated his birthday by entertaining the congregation at the Purim Seudah!



Rabbi and Rebetzin Jesner having fun at the Purim Seudah with the Evergreen singers.



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CONFESSIONS OF A SERIAL BIOGRAPHER

I've spent a great deal of time giving "My job" talks, usually on cruise ships. In the last month or so, I've gone round synagogues and Jewish organisations giving those talks a new look. As I say, I ask myself, "Why is this ship different from all other ships?" If I can sustain that after Pesach, I will have surprised myself.

My autobiography, "Confessions of a Serial Biographer" has been republished in a revised new edition because I wanted to pay tribute to my darling late wife Sara and to our daughter Fiona who died two years after her. But it essentially is a career resume. That's what I talk about.

There was another difference about the talk I gave when I came to this shul. I have gone from place to place and spotted a few familiar faces. Here I was home. I knew (almost) everybody. The surroundings have been part of my life. I could write a detailed plan, indicating every inch of carpet, every loose floorboard, every picture or plaque on the wall. More though was the fact that in other places I can walk away after a disastrous attempt at getting through to an audience and not worrying too much. Here, my stories live after me. People talk. Going to a social event in the community is like listening to an episode of *The Archers*. Except the stories are all true – well, most of them.

We do love gossiping – which is why I have made my living at it. In fact, I really could sub-title my talks, "Namedrops Keep Falling From My Head". It's not that I like name dropping, which I do and which sometimes can be embarrassing. It's like describing a spiral staircase without hand movements. You can't do it. Or if you tried, you'd never get to the top (of the spiral staircase, that is). Names have formed the backbone of my career, without them there would be no talks, which I suppose some of you would think was a pretty good idea. Sorry, too late.

From my point of view, the fact that so many of my subjects have been Jewish has been a great help.

If I might be allowed a moment of qvelling – there aren't many of those, I have to admit - when I wrote my biography of Leonard Bernstein, a critic compared my book with a couple of others and said, "Freedland knows his Talmud..." Which, actually, I don't, sad to say. But I knew what the critic meant. If being Jewish (or a table tennis player or an ex con) is an important feature in a person's life, then it's not a bad thing for a writer to show his own homegrown knowledge.

Bernstein was very much a case in part. His love of Israel, entertaining in the Six Day War (to the point that the Egyptians thought the huge number of vehicles making their way across the desert to a concert indicated a coming battle) or his parents' reaction when they heard he was about to make his surprise debut with the New York Philharmonic – an instant shout of "gevult" - informed the story.

Al Jolson's life as son of a chazan was a factor of so much that

he did – even though he married out and took little interest in religious life. But he was a gefilte fish Jew. He constantly talked about his love of the dish on stage. As he did about his father. He loved to tell the story of the overcoat he bought for the old man for \$200, which was a huge sum in the 1920s. He asked the shop assistant to change the price ticket to \$10 because he knew that Cantor Yoelson would hate his son to be so extravagant. A few weeks later the younger man asked him what he thought of the coat. "A lovely coat," he replied. "And you know what, I sold it to Uncle Moshe for \$15. You didn't know your father was a businessman, did you?" He was also a victim of antisemitism. Once he was on a plane, looking forward to seeing his little adopted son who was going to be there without Jolson's estranged wife. He trundled down the gangplank, spun the boy around in a giant cuddle and asked, "Who am I, Sonny Boy?". The child looked at him and said, "You're the Jew". A witness of the experience was the actor George Jessel (he had played what would be Jolson's role in the first talkie *The Jazz Singer*, when it was a Broadway play about... a chazan's son who chooses the stage instead of the shul). He told me, "Al blanched under his suntan."

I did a biography of Sophie Tucker, a big star in her time but now mostly forgotten, and heard the story of the showbiz shul in New York. Her pianoplayer told me: "Yom Kippur was like the opening of a new show. The rabbi would take donations in the appeal and then give all the entertainers billing. "Where are you playing, Sophela?" he'd ask with a look to the gallery.

The shul is now in full operation in Los Angeles. For years, the gabbai was Walter Matthau, who told me how much it had changed his life – as it has for Kirk Douglas who davens each morning and has taught his wife how to light Shabbat candles.

Matthau's meeting with me, incidentally, will always be one of my favourite interviews. I had lunch with him as part of my research for a book on his pal Jack Lemmon (at one time the only non-Jewish member of the famous Hollywood club, Hillcrest). I wrote and suggested I do a book about him. "I'd love to," he said. "But let's wait seven years", which I thought quite biblical. Believe it or not, I wrote to him after seven years and he replied, "I remember very well. But let's wait another ten years. Think of all the great stories we could tell."

Persistence is my middle name (or, at least, should be). After that additional ten years, I wrote again, 17 years after our first meeting. "Do I owe you any money?" he asked and then added, "We've been pen pals for a long time". Indeed we had. This time we were ready to do a deal – except as he called Him, "The man upstairs" decided otherwise and Matthau died. Never again would I experience the time he drove me to my hotel, stopped at a traffic light to be met by a pedestrian who asked, "Say, aren't you somebody famous?" "Sure," said the star, "don't you know Michael Freedland of the BBC?"

I had a similar experience with Fred Astaire (only half Jewish; his father came from Austria). "How you getting to your hotel?" he asked me. The first time I ever drove in a Rolls Royce, my chauffeur was Fred Astaire.

Frank Sinatra, not at all Jewish, had many Jewish friends. In 1947, he was playing at NY's smart Copacabana night club,

underneath the offices of the Jewish Agency. The director was the future Mayor of Jerusalem Teddy Kollek, who was under the constant gaze of the police. So he asked Sinatra if he would take a parcel for him to a Mexican ship at the local waterfront. Sinatra happily did it for him, accepted the salute of the cop outside the cluband delivered a million dollars to the ship, payment for an illegal arms delivery for the Hagana.

On the whole Jewish performers liked to be known as Jews (even those who were named in the House of Representatives by the antisemitic John Rankin who at the time of the McCarthyite hearings made a speech on the floor of the House that consisted only of naming the original names of Jewish stars – among them Asa Yoelson who became Al Jolson, Emanuel Goldenberg, who was Edward G. Robinson, David

Daniel Kaminsky, who turned into Danny Kaye. Kaye was a sensation when he played the London Palladium – the future Queen’s sister Princess Margaret came every night. Part of the act was when Kaye drank a cup of tea on stage.

A woman called out, “Le Chaim” and he didn’t respond. “Le Chaim,” she repeated. After the show, the woman stopped him at the stage door. “I heard you,” he said. “But I regard everybody in the audience as being the same. I don’t like having favourites.”

There’s no doubt that these people were favourites. To their memory, I pour out my glass of Palwin and offer a “Le Chaim”.

MICHAEL FREEDLAND

A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT

As well as the more usual discussions and elections, including the lack of definitely procuring a new site for BHC, an unusual presentation was made to Harry Ellis, our Senior Trustee .

It was to mark his 75th consecutive attendance at the AGM of the Shul, and a silver tray engraved noting this exceptional achievement was presented by Ivor Weintroub and Brian Bradley, who thanked him for his many years of dedicated service to the Congregation.

L to R, Ivor Weintroub, Brian Bradley and Harry Ellis



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Simon Johnson has had a uniquely diverse and interesting career. Starting as a lawyer, Simon has followed a 20-year career, operating at the highest levels of the sports and media industries. He spent 10 years with ITV, was the senior lawyer at the English Premier League, the Director of Corporate Affairs at The Football Association, and Chief Operating Officer of England's bid to host the 2018 FIFA World Cup. He is an Independent Non-Executive Director of the Amateur Swimming Association Group Board and of the Rugby Football League, and has also run a successful sports and media consultancy business.

His involvement with sport and media has run parallel with a passionate commitment to Jewish communal activity. He is Chairman of Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue and, since October 2013, has been Chief Executive of the Jewish Leadership Council, an umbrella body for Jewish communal organisations. In these uncertain and worrying times, Simon is frequently called upon to represent Anglo-Jewry's concerns.

Here is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to hear about all these facets of a lively and successful career, leading figures he has encountered, challenges of Jewish communal work, and more.

**Tickets (£15) available from Hannah Levy House Office
(01202765361) or from Geoffrey Feld and David Weitzman.**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Subject: Batmitzah

I was interested to read in Ruach about the first Batmitzah class.

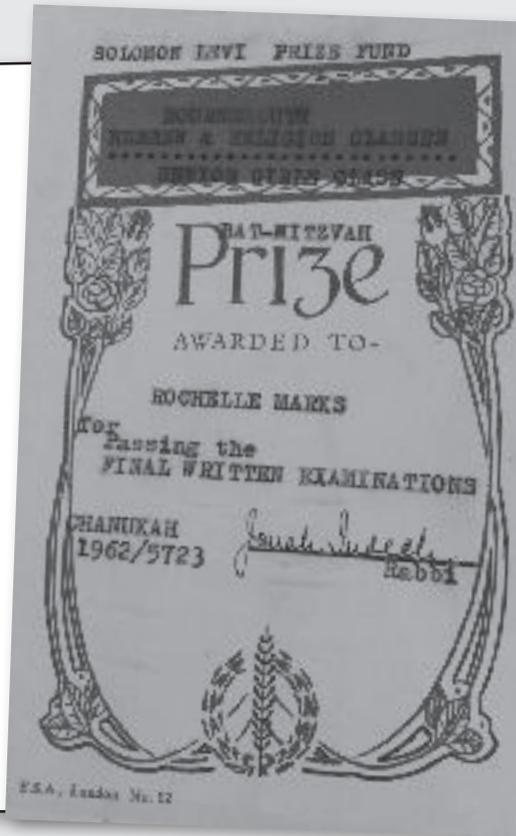
Unfortunately the article is not quite correct. I received my Machozirim in Shul with a ceremony which took place after the normal prize giving on a Sunday afternoon. We stood in the box.

If I can remember correctly there was myself and Barbara Rose now Nichols. Also I am sure Judith Indech and maybe one other.

As you can see by the enclosed photo which I took from one of my Machozirim this was in 1962!

With best wishes

Rochelle. (Selby nee Marks)



Dear Madam,

I was very concerned to read the recent announcement from the Shul office that a hat had been taken from the Synagogue without the consent of the owner. And no ordinary hat ... a black Marks and Spencer hat.

Coming so soon after a similar announcement regarding a coat, I suspect that someone, probably a visitor from London, has hit on a novel way of assembling a complete new wardrobe. I therefore urge the new Executive to put this matter at the top of their Agenda before further and perhaps more intimate items of clothing, both ladies' and gentlemen's, are removed without the consent of the owner.

But perhaps someone is suggesting a way to deal with the difficulties surrounding the relocation of the Shul. To sell the Shul and buy a new property could not be done without the knowledge of the relevant authorities, and so requiring all sorts of consents, permissions and conditions, which are apparently difficult to obtain.

What if every week one brick was removed from the Shul building and taken to the new desired location? I doubt if this would attract anyone's attention until the new Shul was built.

I realise this would take a long time. I have calculated the time required as eighty six and a half years, but even that would be a considerable improvement on the rate of progress to date.

Yours sincerely,
Bernard Wolfson

Pesach Recipes from Denise Phillips

■ French Macaroons

These dainty sophisticated macaroons are easier than you think. When you add the food colouring and flavouring add a drop at a time to get the desired look and taste. Over Pesach you can get all the colours Kosher but the flavours you are limited to almond, vanilla and rum!

■ **Preparation Time:** 20 minutes plus 25 minutes to dry

■ **Cooking Time:** 30 minutes

■ **Makes:** 15

■ Ingredients

170g icing sugar, 120g ground almonds, 100g egg whites, Pinch salt, 70g caster sugar

■ Chocolate Macaroons

85g icing sugar + 85g cocoa powder, 120g ground almonds. **Filling:** Use Nutella

■ Pistachio Macaroons

170g icing sugar, 60g ground pistachio nuts, 60g ground almonds. **Filling:** Use green colouring, fold chop nuts into icing

■ For Raspberry flavour

Red food colouring – liquid – add a drop at a time until you get the desired colour. Raspberry flavouring – add around ½ teaspoon. **Filling:** 150g butter, 75g icing sugar

■ Method

- 1) Preheat the oven to 150°C/140°Fan/GM 3.
- 2) Line 2 baking sheets with baking parchment paper.
- 3) Whizz the icing sugar and ground almonds in the food processor to a very fine mixture – then sieve – set aside.
- 4) Whizz egg white with a pinch salt to soft peaks, then gradually add the caster sugar until thick and glossy.

(At this stage you can stir in your desired flavour extract – raspberry, mint or lemon – to correspond with the colour of your macaroon).

- 5) Fold half the almond and icing sugar mixture into the meringue and mix well.
- 6) Add the remaining half, making sure that you use a spatula to cut and fold the mixture until it shiny and has a thick ribbon-like consistency.
- 7) Spoon into a piping bag – (quickly as it will dry out) fitted with a 1 cm nozzle.
- 8) Pipe on the tray 5 cm circles making sure to keep 2 cm between each one.
- 9) Give the baking sheets a sharp tap on the works surface to ensure no air bubbles.
- 10) Leave at room temperature for 20-25 minutes to form a slight skin. – This is



important you should be able to touch them lightly without any mixture sticking to your finger.

- 11) Bake for 25 -30 minutes or until firm on top.
- 12) Cool on a wire rack.
- 13) Make the filling by whisking the butter until light and fluffy, then whisk in the icing sugar. You can now add flavourings or nuts and colour. Flavour and colour in the same way as you did the macaroons.
- 14) Use to sandwich pairs of macaroons together.

■ Carrot and Cod Bake

Over Pesach one is always looking for a nourishing and satisfying family meal that can be made in advance. It is a main course dish that hopefully will delight its guests as it has no matzah or nuts! Serve with a either a salad or steamed broccoli. You can substitute the cod with haddock if preferred.

■ **Preparation Time:** 30 minutes

■ **Cooking Time:** 55 minutes

■ **Serves:** 6 people

■ Ingredients

Filling: 800g cod fillets – skinned and cubed, 450ml milk, 2 tablespoons olive oil, 2 red onions – peeled and sliced, 800g carrots –peeled and grated.

White sauce: 40g unsalted butter, 40g fine matzah meal, 300ml milk - taken from poaching liquid, 3 tablespoons parsley – finely chopped, Zest and juice 1 lemon, Salt and freshly ground black pepper.

For the Topping: 1.5kg sweet potato – peeled and roughly chopped, 1 egg white,

3 tablespoons cheddar cheese – grated
Salt and freshly ground black pepper.

■ Method

- 1) Pour the milk into a large saucepan and gently poach the cod in the milk. Drain but retain 300ml of milk for the white sauce.
- 2) Add the oil to the saucepan and sauté the onions and carrots for about 5 minutes or until soft but not brown. Combine with the cooked fish.
- 3) Make the white sauce by melting the butter in a separate pan. Stir in the matzah meal to form a roux. Let this cook over a medium heat, stirring frequently, for 2-3 minutes. Take off the heat and gradually add the reserved 300ml poaching liquid, a ladle at a time, beating well after each addition to create a smooth sauce.
- 4) Return to the heat and cook, stirring often, for about five minutes. Finish the sauce by adding the parsley, zest and



lemon juice and some salt and pepper. Stir into the fish mixture and transfer to a medium sized oven dish.

- 5) Cook the potatoes together until soft in boiling water. Drain and mash with a potato ricer. Stir in the egg white, cheese and season.
- 6) Top with the mash spreading it evenly over the cod and carrot mixture.
- 7) Bake for 40 minutes or until golden.

BOURNEMOUTH HEBREW LADIES GUILD

Annual General Meeting – 2015

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 25th February in the Menorah Suite. Chairman, Thelma Cowan, extended a warm welcome to all present.

Thelma commenced her Report by saying what a privilege it had been to serve as Chairman during the past year and reported on a successful year for the Guild. Numerous kiddushim, Shabbat lunches and functions with guest speakers were held and funds were given to welfare and various charities. As well as catering the Purim Seudah, the Tikkun Leil for Shavuot and the meal in the Succah, we catered the annual Simchat Torah lunch and the annual Chanukah Tea for our senior citizens, hosted once again by Vivienne and Mostyn Levein. The Guild also helps out the community for teas after stone-settings, and is very much involved with Meet 'n Munch which has proved to be a successful fortnightly event attracting people of all ages and all strands of the community.

Thelma expressed deep appreciation to her Vice-Chairman, Evelyn Grant, Treasurer & Membership Officer, Katarina Webb, and Secretary, Audrey Kneller, as well as the whole Committee for all their hard work throughout the year. She gave special thanks to the Guild Committee and other members of our community who arrive early on a Shabbat morning regardless of the weather to prepare kiddushim, and the Kiddush Rota is in the capable hands of Bobbie Winograd. Thelma appealed for more ladies to join the Guild, whose function is not only to prepare kiddushim and cater functions, but is also a welfare organisation, visiting and helping people who are in hospital, care homes or live on their own and are housebound.

Thanks were given to the President of BHC, Ivor Weintraub for all his help, Gilian Walker, the office administrator, Reverend Barry Sklan, caretakers Pat and Bob Nixon and the Chevra Kadisha ladies for their vital work.

Thelma concluded her Report by saying that there were four years to go to the Guild's centenary, and would like this wonderful organization to continue with its vital work. She concluded by saying that it is her hope that the Congregation will continue to thrive and share many more simchas together, and be blessed with good health and peace.

The Treasurer, Katarina Webb, presented the Financial

Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2014 and replied to questions from the floor.

Evelyn Grant paid tribute to Thelma who had recently received an honour from the Royal Bournemouth Hospital as a Bluecoat volunteer. Evelyn presented Thelma with an envelope containing a gift in the hope that she will "pamper herself" and requested that Thelma be appointed Chairman for the coming year, which resolution was passed unanimously.

The remaining Executive and Committee were willing to stand for re-election, and the following are the Executive and Committee for 2015/2016:

Hon Life Presidents:	Hilda Marks and Rhona Taylor
Trustees:	Evelyn Grant, Thelma Cowan and Katarina Webb
Chairman	Thelma Cowan
Vice-Chairman	Evelyn Grant
Treasurer & Membership Secretary:	Katarina Webb
Secretary:	Audrey Kneller
Hon Committee Member:	Pamela Jesner
Committee:	Jayne Baker, Judy Lassman, Hilary Myers, Ros Naim, Audrey Samuels, Lorraine Stein, Elfrida Strom, Hilary Waldman and Bobby Winograd

Filer Knapper were appointed auditors for the ensuing year.

Thelma then introduced Elfrida Strom, who was the guest speaker. Elfrida was born in Manchester in 1938. Her parents belonged to the Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue. She met her husband, Len, at Manchester University and after their marriage, they settled in South Norwood, London, before coming to live in Weymouth. Elfrida's interests are acting, dancing and playing bowls. Elfrida and Len love to travel to far flung places, and she told some amusing tales about a few of her hair raising, exciting and adventurous experiences, such as riding an ostrich and parasailing.

Thelma gave the vote of thanks and presented Elfrida with potted chrysanthemums.

The formalities were followed by a delicious Ploughman's Lunch.

AUDREY KNELLER

**To advertise in this magazine please
contact the Synagogue Office on
01202 557433**

BOURNEMOUTH HEBREW LADIES' GUILD - HAT SHOW AND HANDBAGS LUNCH



Rosamunde Bloom, Doreen Lee, Thelma Cowan, Hazel Woolfstein and Judy Menton

On Wednesday 11th March, 80 people attended this Ladies' Guild lunch. Our hat lady from Bushey, Barbara Kaye, who wowed us with her ware in 2011, arrived with a wide array of hats to suit every taste.

In addition, Don and Sue Carter of Hollies Handbags, local traders, brought a colourful spring collection of their fashion handbags. Following a delicious lunch, our chairman, Thelma,



Don and Sue Carter with Thelma Cowan

introduced the hat and handbag show modelled by our very own ladies who cleverly combined the wearing of the hats with suitable matching handbags.

The show was very entertaining and Rita Keene gave the vote of thanks.

A donation of £250.00 from the proceeds was handed by Thelma to Shirley Sherman, the Publicity Officer of the Friends of Bournemouth Leukaemia Fund.

AUDREY KNELLER

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 it 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!

BOURNEMOUTH JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES

Bournemouth Jewish Social Services (BJSS) was set up three years ago to provide social care and support for the Jewish community of Dorset. In that time we have developed a professional service of which Bournemouth can be proud.

New referrals are made at the rate of 2-3 each week and can range from short term help, for example accompanying a client to a hospital appointment, to supporting carers and advising on care options, completing application forms for various benefits, helping to sort out financial problems, offering emotional support or accessing more practical help. Whatever the problem we do our best to assist.

It has been a steep learning curve, whilst we knew that the demographics of the local community had changed over the years we could not have anticipated the number of referrals made since BJSS's inception.

Our team bring with them a vast expertise from a wide variety of backgrounds, just like our clients in fact. We are trained volunteers who offer a confidential, caring and professional service.

Regardless of experience, all of us have undertaken, or are in the process of completing a training programme designed, and implemented, by Jewish Care, London, to whom we are affiliated.

A small working committee co-ordinate the work, supported by approximately 25-30 volunteers. Once a referral is received, an assessment is made, and the appropriate action taken. Where we know a particular skill set is needed a matched volunteer may be assigned to help, in other cases we may circulate a general request for help. Thanks to our volunteers we have been able to respond to all requests received so far.

Sometimes a sympathetic ear is enough to make a difference, for others more practical help is needed. Often there is a period of intense activity when a referral is received, several weeks of telephone calls, frequent home or hospital visits, form filling, liaising with family and social services to provide the best quality of care and support, but once the crisis is over and things settle down, life returns to normal.

In many cases on-going longer term help is needed particularly when coping with long-term illness, and the changes associated with ageing; with families scattered it is comforting to know that someone is always on hand to help you through those difficult times.

In addition to the social care that is provided across the complete age range of the community we have a particular

focus on helping those over 65. Loneliness and boredom are the pariahs of old age, we in the Bournemouth area are fortunate that there are many groups and activities that our seniors can become involved with, where fun and friendship can be found.

For the past three years we have received a grant from the Bournemouth Council Commissioning Dept, whilst the major part of this grant helps to cover our running costs, it also includes a small component to assist and encourage people to take part in group activities such as the Israeli dancing, table tennis, bridge, art, flower arranging, gardening and "Meet and Munch" lunch club. Exercising the mind and the body of the elderly is very important and the council want to encourage all types of activities which further these aims.

In particular this year the council are supporting our initiative to increase competency and teach computer skills, to enable our seniors to order groceries on-line, send e-mails and use Skype to keep in touch with children and grandchildren. Anyone whether a complete beginner, or someone who would like to enhance their basic computer skills, should contact BJSS for further details, we can even loan them a tablet or lap-top to get you started.

In addition to the local Authority grant we have also been fortunate to receive a donation from BHC raised from a voluntary levy on members' Shul bills, together with donations from Bournemouth Masorti, and many private donations. We have also raised funds from two coffee mornings, and have received donations from the sale of charity cards on Bournemouth "Mitzvah Day". We are indebted to all our sponsors from across our community, who enable us to do the work we do.

Fund raising is always an issue and we are mindful of the need to generate future funding to enable us to continue our provision of emergency grants for those in need.

Our aims and objectives are listed on a flyer which is available either by email or post. Our email address is bjss1@hotmail.co.uk. These flyers are also being distributed to GP surgeries and social services district offices as there are sometimes Jewish people who are not known to the community.

We are always available to receive new referrals; if you or someone you know needs assistance please contact us by telephoning 01202 298817.

Thank you again to all our wonderful volunteers and patrons for their continued support.

PAT CRAVITZ, JOSIE LIPSITH, MARCIA PRESS
AND LIZ HARRIS

BHC WELFARE – COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Community Transport - reaching out into the local community to help those with real transport needs'' I wanted to make BHC members aware of the community transport service operated by Sedcat (*South East Dorset Community Accessible Transport*) which offers reliable, safe, and cost effective transport.

The following services are available:

- **THE BAT BUS**
- **COMMUNITY CARS**
- **SHOPMOBILITY**

THE BAT BUS

The BAT Bus has two fully accessible mini buses which operate within the Bournemouth Borough postcode areas BH1 – BH11. This is a door to door morning shopping service to help the elderly, and those not able to use public transport, access local services. The following service is operated four mornings a week:

Bus 1 – Sovereign Centre, Boscombe (drop off at Shopmobility)
ASDA, St Paul's Road

Bus 2 – Castlepoint Shopping Centre (drop off at Shopmobility)
Castlepoint Shopping Centre Top Mall (drop off outside M&S)
TESCO, Riverside Avenue, Castle Lane

Annual membership fee: £6. Return shopping trip: £5

In addition:

- A weekly Monday morning Bus service to Westbourne Town Centre

The BAT Bus will collect members from their homes along the East Cliff, Bournemouth Central, West Cliff, Westbourne as far as Canford Cliffs Road and within a zoned area running from Bourne Valley Road to Branksome Wood Road.

- Outings to encourage local people to get out and about, make friends and feel part of the world again, the BAT Bus takes members out to places of local interest on afternoon and full day outings. Afternoon outings cost £5 and full day outings cost £8.

For more information about joining the BAT Bus, please telephone 01202 534027, 01202 399700 or email alison.morrison@sedcat.org.uk or look online at www.sedcat.org.uk

COMMUNITY CARS

Community Cars will help anyone in the Bournemouth area who can't use public transport but still need to get out and about. It's a kind, caring and compassionate service which gives a safe and helping hand. The service is run with a team of volunteer drivers who use their own cars to go out into the community and help members with every day needs. These can include a visit to a local GP, a trip to a Friendship Group or just going to the hairdressers.

Mileage is charged at 55p per mile (minimum charge £4) which is calculated from the driver's home. All Community Car drivers are CRB checked.

For more information please telephone 01202 309433 (booking line open mornings only) or 01202 534027 or email alison.morrison@sedcat.org.uk or look online at www.sedcat.org.uk

SHOPMOBILITY

Shopmobility is available at Castlepoint Shopping Park and the Sovereign Centre in Boscombe. This service is for anyone with mobility problems to help them get around independently with freedom, confidence and dignity. Electric scooters, powered and manual wheelchairs are available for hire on a daily or long loan basis.

For more information, including prices, please telephone 01202 534027 or 01202 399700 or email alison.morrison@sedcat.org.uk or look online at www.sedcat.org.uk

For more details and eligibility to use any of these new services, please telephone the sedcat booking line on 01202 399700 or email info@sedcat.org.uk

Please contact Josie via the Shul office (01202 -557433) if you need any further information.

The Council of Christians and Jews

Bournemouth Branch

"May You Live in Interesting Times"

At the beginning of her recent talk to Bournemouth and Wessex CCJ Jane Clements, National Director of CCJ, referred to this old Chinese saying in the context of all the many important things that were happening at the moment. The title of the talk was Talking to One Another- Issues in Jewish/Christian Relations.

She started off by talking about anti semitism and said that even the Archbishop of Canterbury received antisemitic emails owing to his part Jewish ancestry. She quoted the historian, Robert Wistrich, who had called antisemitism "the longest hatred". Jane referred to the reprimand to Reverend Stephen Sizer which the Church authorities had recently issued.

With regard to attitudes towards Israel, although legitimate political criticism was acceptable we should be on the watch for the sort of criticism which served as a cloak for antisemitism. How do we deal with the long history of distrust and suspicion on both sides?

Certainly guilt was not a good basis for dialogue. She then moved on to theological issues and said that Christians and Jews might use the same words, such as "redemption", "righteousness" or "salvation", but they understood them differently. In the old days some members of CCJ thought that we shouldn't discuss theology, but now it was felt that we should and a good way was looking at texts together.

CCJ had three strands: dialogue, education and social action and this last one was derived from Jewish scripture. Jane referred to the success of Mitzva Day and also talked about the Church of England initiative against trafficking. She said that help from Jewish organisations would be welcome in this area. There was a good deal of ignorance: many Christians were ignorant of what it is to be Jewish and similarly many Jews were ignorant of what it is to be a Christian. Sometimes fundamentals, such as shechita, were not understood; there was a need to find a common language.

She ended by referring to the forthcoming manifesto which CCJ were issuing before the General Election and finally made reference to a new CCJ initiative, Snapshots in Time, which involved collecting memories of 1945 after the Second World War ended.

There was a large and enthusiastic audience and after Jane had finished her talk there were some interesting questions and comments. In particular the impassioned and heartfelt comments by Cynthia Wilson of Brockenhurst was greeted by sustained applause.

One of the topics briefly referred to by Jane was "supercessionism" or as it is sometimes called "replacement theology". Our CCJ branch feels that this topic, at the root of some antisemitism, needs to be clearly understood and so we have arranged a talk on this matter in the Autumn. We have other talks yet to come in 2015 which we feel will be attractive and worthwhile including a talk by the Senior Minister of the Sephardi Community, Rabbi Joseph Dweck.

As we are now Bournemouth and Wessex CCJ we have arranged an event outside Bournemouth and look forward to



Gerald Normie and Jane Clements

a pleasant and interesting summer evening in Brockenhurst. Last year we arranged a successful and well patronised boat trip and this year we are going on July 1st to visit the Portsmouth synagogue and also to go on a walking tour of historic Portsmouth.

We feel that we should know more about the various religious denominations we have in our region-one of CCJ's aims is to educate-and so we hope to start a series of CCJ Extra Events by arranging for Rabbi Michaels to talk about Reform Judaism.

Jane Clements in her talk referred to the value of studying texts together and we are proud of being involved in two such ventures. The first is a weekly in depth study of the Book of Samuel where we look at the wealth of Jewish commentaries and discuss the deeper meanings of the story. We also refer to the Hebrew text despite the fact that most of the Christian participants have no knowledge of Hebrew.

Nevertheless we do look at the exact meaning of various words and by now are not surprised to find three or four meanings given in the various translations we have available.

Even more ambitious is the Midrash group which strictly speaking is a collaboration between BHC and the Parkes Institute at the University of Southampton. However all its participants are CCJ members and we send out information about the dates of meetings. We understand that an article about this unique venture will appear in a future edition of Ruach.

Finally we are now in the process of arranging a visit to Israel in the spring of 2016. It is aimed both at first time and experienced visitors. There will be several options including some which are not usually found in visits such as these.

If you would like to be added to our email list of approximately 300 names please send an email to our Hon Secretary, Lisa Darling. Her email is cjbaw@gmail.com. There is no cost and no obligation, but you will be given priority for certain heavily subscribed events and will be entitled to a discount on some of them. We look forward to seeing you at future events and if you have never been before we guarantee you will be pleasantly surprised.

GERALD NORMIE

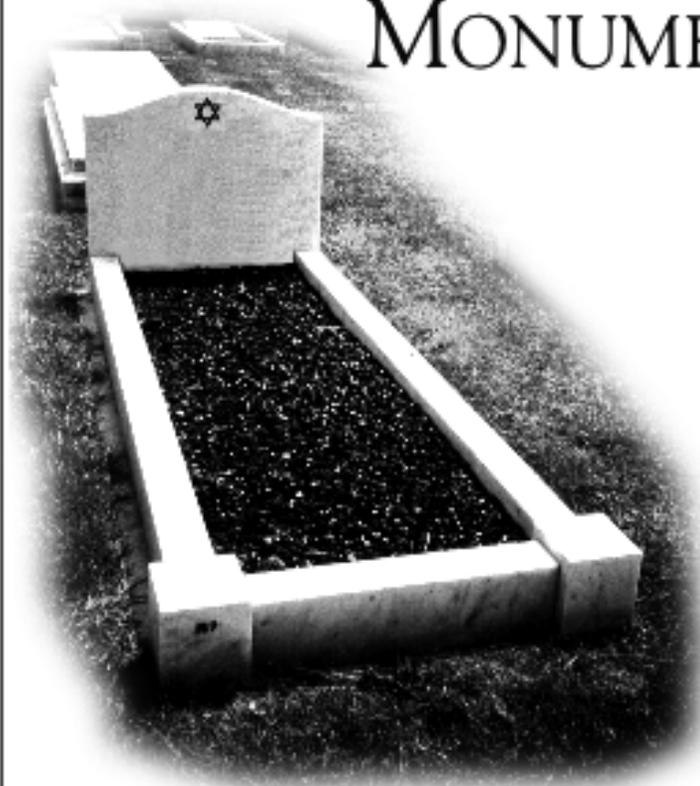
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REGISTRATION & REPATRIATION SERVICE

When a person dies and you are unsure of what to do, especially if they are a member of a burial Society or Synagogue in a different part of the Country or abroad, we can help at any time, Day or Night, 7 days a week, including Bank Holidays, to organise the paperwork, legal Registration of the Death and repatriating the body to where the funeral is to take place

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Israeli Dancing

For the past ten years, 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

Stuck For That Gift?

There is now a local source for a limited number of World Jewish Relief celebratory cards.

There are four card designs, (which are on display outside the Shul Shop) respectively wishing "*Mazeltov*", "*Thank You*", "*Happy Birthday*" and "*Happy Anniversary*" and in each case the wording on the inside reads:

"A donation has been made on your behalf to World Jewish Relief This thoughtful gift will make a real difference to one more Jewish Family"

The cards can be obtained by contacting Richard Saunders, via telephone: 01202 922468 or via e-mail: rip-saunders@tiscali.co.uk

Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation Synagogue



**is available for all your simchas.
Hear the Choir every Shabbat Mevarachim in Shul**

For more information contact the Shul Office

Wessex Jewish Golf Society

Are you a Skillful Golfer?

Are you an Enthusiastic Golfer?

Are you a Social Golfer?

If you are any of the above we of the WJGS would love to hear from you

Please call Jeffrey Cohen

Tel: 01202 701117

Modern Hebrew Classes Monday in the Classrooms

With Ori (Dora) Glaser

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

HOSPITAL VISITING



PLEASE INFORM
THE OFFICE IF
YOU, A
MEMBER OF
YOUR FAMILY

OR A FRIEND IS IN HOSPITAL AND
WOULD LIKE TO BE VISITED. BECAUSE
OF DATA PROTECTION LAW, THIS
INFORMATION IS NOT GIVEN TO THE
SYNAGOGUE OR TO OUR TEAMS OF
VISITORS TO THE HOSPITALS.
TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE
HOSPITALISED IS VISITED PLEASE
PASS ON DETAILS AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE.

Record Collection

After 25 years, Uncle
Bernie's Children's
Service is STILL my
number ONE!

Shabbatot and Chagim

C U there!



Diary

APRIL

Friday 3rd	Fast of the First Born Erev Pesach First Seder Communal Seder – Menorah Suite
Shabbat 4th	First day Pesach Sephardi Minyan Second Seder
Sunday 5th	Second day Pesach
Thursday 9th	Flower Arranging in the Classrooms Erev Yom Tov
Friday 10th	Seventh Day Pesach
Shabbat 11th	Eighth Day Pesach Yizkor
Wednesday 15th	Erev Yom Ha Shoah
Thursday 16th	Yom Ha Shoah
Sunday 19th	Rosh Chodesh Iyar
Monday 20th	Rosh Chodesh Iyar Adult Education Menorah Suite – 8.00pm
Wednesday 22nd	Yom Ha Zikaron – Israel Fallen Soldiers Day Erev Yom Haatzmaut Evening Celebration – Menorah Suite
Thursday 23rd	Yom Haatzmaut day Festive Breakfast
Sunday 26th	Stone Setting Throop The late Joseph Hyman – 2.00pm Hannah Levy House Brunch – with speaker Menorah Suite – 12.00 noon
Monday 27th	Stone Setting Throop The late Bea Green – 2.00pm
Thursday 30th	Bournemouth CCJ “Gallipoli; the Road to Jerusalem” – speaker Kevin Crombie, Menorah Suite – 7.30pm

MAY

Sunday 3rd	Pesach Sheni
Wednesday 6th	Erev Lag B’Omer
Thursday 7th	Lag B’Omer Flower Arranging in the Classrooms
Sunday 10th	Stone Setting Throop The late Gerald Simons – 2.00pm
Friday 15th & Shabbat 16th	Shabbat visit to BHC by the Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis
Sunday 17th	Yom Yerushalayim Stone Setting Throop The late Derrick Cohen – 4.00pm
Tuesday 19th	Rosh Chodesh Sivan
Thursday 21st	Flower Arranging in classrooms
Shabbat 23rd	Kiddush in memory of the late Jacques Adda Erev Shavuot Tikkun Leil

Sunday 24th	First Day Shavuot
Monday 25th	Second Day Shavuot Yizkor
Shabbat 30th	Barmitzvah of Nathan Bentley to be followed by Kiddush to celebrate his Barmitzvah
Sunday 31st	BJRC Desert Island Discs at Queen’s Hotel

JUNE

Wednesday 17th	Rosh Chodesh Tammuz
Thursday 18th	Rosh Chodesh Tammuz Bournemouth CCJ with speaker Rabbi Joseph Dweck, Senior Rabbi of Spanish & Portuguese Community – Menorah Suite – 7.30pm

JULY

Thursday 2nd	Flower arranging in the Classrooms
Sunday 5th	Fast of Tammuz
Friday 17th	Rosh Chodesh Av
Sunday 12th	Stone Setting Boscombe The late Allan (Bunty) Citron
Sunday 16th	Rosh Chodesh Ellul
Monday 20th	Adult Education – To Everest Base Camp Richard Saunders – Menorah Suite – 8.00pm
Sunday 26th	Fast of Av

AUGUST

Sunday 2nd	Stone Setting Throop The late Brian Levy – 1.00pm
Sunday 30th	Stone Setting Throop The late Trudy Margel – 12 Noon

SEPTEMBER

Shabbat 5th	Kiddush to celebrate the 30th Wedding Anniversary of Rosamunde and Neal Bloom
Sunday 6th	Stone Settings Throop The late George Ettinger – 1.45pm The late Gerald Caplin – 2.30pm
Thursday 10th	Flower Arranging in the Classrooms
Sunday 13th	Erev Rosh Hashana
Monday 14th	First Day Rosh Hashanah
Tuesday 15th	Second Day Rosh Hashanah
Wednesday 16th	Fast of Gedaliah
Shabbat 19th	Shabbat Shuvah
Tuesday 22nd	Kol Nidre
Wednesday 23rd	Yom Kippur