

# SUSSEX JEWISH NEWS



WHAT'S INSIDE....

**CHIEF RABBI'S VISIT | NYMANS GARDENS | A CONVERSATION WITH  
BARBARA COMISKEY | REVIEWS | WHAT'S ON | AND MORE**

JULY 2014 • TAMMUZ / AV 5774 • ISSUE 243

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## Pause for thought

As this issue of the SJN amply demonstrates, when the occasion merits it, the Jewish community of Brighton & Hove knows how to come together. The recent visit of Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis was no exception.

Jews of all denominations and dispositions, turned out to welcome one of the country's leading religious figures as he made his first visit to the South Coast since ascending to Orthodox Jewry's top post.

More sombre events bring us together as well. Witness the community gathering at Ralli Hall in mid-June in solidarity and prayer for the three Israeli teenagers abducted at gunpoint. Their fate, as of this writing, remains perilously uncertain.

And then there is the Hebrew calendar's own magnetic pull as the days incrementally grow shorter. Before we know it, Tisha b'Av is upon us and Jews around

*Let us redouble our efforts and make sure that our greatest strength lies in what we have in common and not what pulls us apart.*

the globe mourn the destruction of the First and Second Temples as well as the loss of Jewish

sovereignty for more than two millennia.

While hardly celebratory, Tisha b'Av is a poignant reminder that, even as we relax during the most holiday-packed time of the year, the call for reflection is always nigh - especially if we take seriously the rabbinic notion that the Second Jewish Commonwealth came to an end because of our own sinat chinam, or baseless hatred.

So as we disperse on our summer journeys with an eye to the next event that brings us together, let us redouble our efforts to making sure that our greatest strength lies in what we have in common - not what pulls us apart.

SJN brings local news, events, articles, reviews, announcements, people, congregations, communities, contacts and more. Delivered at the start of each month, SJN is run entirely by volunteers for reporting, editing and circulating each edition that has become the cornerstone of the Jewish community across the region.

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# Community life

## Your news

### Special Birthdays

Mazel tov and happy birthday to Sheila Austin, Barbara Bell, Elizabeth Carstairs, Amber Charach, Albert Darwin, Steven Jackson, Rosie Kallenberg (90), Stephanie Megitt, Lily Ratner (90), Betty Sniders and June Temerlies, all of who are celebrating special birthdays this month.

### Engagements

Mazel tov to:

- Rabbi Pesach and Penina Efuno on the engagement of their son Shalom Ber to Devorah Ebraini from Los Angeles.
- Simon Grant and Rachel Simmons, wish all good wishes from their families.



### Weddings

Mazel tov to:

- Judith Greenwood and Daniel Krimholtz (pictured) who were married at Marble Arch Synagogue on 18 May 2014.
- Robin & Margaret Wood on the marriage of their son Benjamin to Rachel in Sausalito, California.
- Rabbi Hershel and Perla Rader on the marriage in New York of their son Yehuda to Chaya Markovits of Sydney, Australia.

### Anniversary

Mazel tov to Rabbi Elizabeth Tikvah Sarah on the 25th anniversary of her ordination as a Rabbi.

### Achievements

Mazel tov to:

- Mark I Borkum on gaining a PhD in Computer Sciences from the University of Southampton.
- Gabriel Webber on graduating from the University of Sussex in Politics & International Relations and has been appointed as Communities Youth Co-ordinator with LJY-Netzer, the youth movement of Liberal Judaism in the UK.
- Gail Louw, whose new play 'Duwayne', (reviewed in this issue) won best new play at the Brighton Festival Fringe for its accomplished script, its originality of dramatically bringing to life a real event and for bravely hitting the zeitgeist.

### Jewish Students at Sussex beat the BDS referendum

Mazel tov to the students at the University of Sussex who voted to reject an academic and cultural boycott of Israel. The referendum result, in which the pro-BDS resolution: "Should the Students' Union endorse a boycott of Israeli academic and cultural institutions?" was defeated by 904 'no' votes to 667 'yes' votes. The voting followed a 'no to the boycott' campaign run by three Jewish students whose tactics focussed on dialogue and humanity.

### Get Well

We wish a sheleima to Rene Arlen, Aubrey Cole, Adrienne Davids, Stephen Hempling, Frank Lazarus, Robin Wood and to all those members of our community who are unwell or in hospital at the present time.

## Eastbourne Liberal Jewish Community

by Yvonne Greene

At the Liberal Judaism Biennial at Reading last month, Suzanne King and Yvonne Greene, ELJC's Chairman and Vice-chair, graduated from the Ba'alei Tefillah (lay service leaders) course. At the graduation ceremony, they were each presented with certificates by Rabbi Danny Rich (Chief Executive of Liberal Judaism) and Lucian Hudson (Chairman of LJ). Suzanne and Yvonne were part of the third cohort of graduates of the course tutored by Rabbi Richard Jacobi.

In addition, Suzanne King won the prestigious Liberal Judaism Chairman's Award. She said: "I would like to thank everyone who submitted a vote for the LJ Chairman's award. I was very privileged to win, along with the two other chairmen from among the forty congregations belonging to Liberal Judaism. As ELJC is a recently-founded community just about to celebrate our "bar mitzvah", it is especially gratifying to receive this honour alongside other community leaders with around half-a-century's service each. I am so proud that ELJC is being recognised as a warm, friendly, active community. Many people stopped me after the award ceremony to ask what sort of things we did here on the south coast and were quite amazed at how much we do and what we have accomplished in a short time."

Forthcoming events at ELJC include a communal Bar Mitzvah on 12th July, Parcha in the Park (service and picnic) on 9th August

and Torah on the Beach (service and BBQ) on 30th August. Everyone is welcome. For details visit our website at: [www.eljc.org.uk](http://www.eljc.org.uk) or our facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/ELJCommunity>.



Graduation of Yvonne Greene (Ba'alei Tefillah) with Rabbi Danny Rich and Lucian Hudson

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# Community life

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## Lox, Shmocks and Two Smoking Bagels

by Neil Duncanson

Sussex Friends of Israel successfully held their latest and greatest party event at the EcoStream Store on Western Road, Brighton, on 31 May.

The pro-Israel rally regulars were joined by friends from across the country as well as special guests, the Jews on Bikes, stars of the Sky Atlantic TV show.

Lox and Shmocks, as the event came to be known, was months in the making and was designed to celebrate Israel with music, fun and food whilst, at the same time, countering the continuing boycott campaign of EcoStream and Israel.



Sussex hosted SFI supporters from as far afield as North Wales, and they had the unenviable task of a 5.00 am alarm call to get to the party on time.

Rosalind from Bournemouth, another SFI friend, arrived on the Friday night before Shabbat. She was joined by supporters from London, Essex and of course, the four corners of Sussex. We are so grateful to everyone who has joined us at our regular weekly rally.

With more than 150 supporters, we filled all the available space outside the shop and ensured that passers-by were able to take a salmon-filled bagel or a cake, as well as an SFI leaflet, as they walked passed.

SFI had also produced a variety of new leaflets for the event. There are six new leaflets with six different messages, designed especially for SFI and kindly donated by a Sussex-based supporter.

The highlight of the event was an appearance by the Jews on Bikes, a group of Jewish motorcyclists famed for their antics in America, who came to Brighton to support Israel and to counter the boycott of EcoStream.

The bikers arrived in their inimitably unassuming style, with Harley Davidson baffles blowing, engines revving and horns blaring. As they rode past they were greeted on both sides of Western Road with cheers and applause, flag-waving and shofar-blowing.



Not content with one drive-by, the bikers rode around the block five times, much to the delight of SFI and also of the passing public.

After their sixth tour, they parked up



and joined the rally, handed out leaflets, talked to passers-by, trying unsuccessfully to engage with the boycott brigade.

Perhaps through their willingness to come to Brighton and the camaraderie they showed with SFI, they proved the point, if ever one was needed, that across the country more and more people are standing up to counter the hate-filled rhetoric of the BDS movement.



## SFI in Tel Aviv

While the SFI band was practising its chords for the Rolling Stones classic Paint it Black for the regular Saturday performance, the Stones were on stage in Tel Aviv performing the track live and SFI were there too - well, one of our merry band anyway.

The Rolling Stones had faced loud calls to boycott Israel, but instead rocked Tel Aviv and showed the haters that they will not be told where they can and cannot perform. Another BDS Failure.

With more than 8000 followers on our Facebook page, SFI called upon their friends in Israel to send their pictures of the gig, and this is just one of them.



SussexFriendsIsrael @SussexFriends  
Would you believe it? SFI at the Rolling Stones gig in Tel Aviv. Now that is satisfaction!

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## Community life

### Ralli Hall Lunch and Social Club

by Jacquie Tichauer

We are very happy that summer is nearly here. We have planned a few outings so that our members can enjoy the nice weather. On 11 June we went to Rushfields Garden Centre for lunch and afternoon high tea. On 22 August we have planned another weekend away to our favourite hotel, the Cumberland in Eastbourne. Our last three weekends away have been a great success and we are all very excited about our next trip.

We have had our choir afternoon with high tea and I am planning to have some lovely photos for you in the next SJN. We are delighted to say that we sold over 100 tickets. Sue Rea, our Fundraising Volunteer, is also a member of the Police Choir (a lady with many talents).

We are also planning a day out in July to Golders Green, providing we have enough members and this will include a lovely kosher lunch and of course, shopping.

In September we are having a Bingo and Brunch afternoon. So Mickey, Suzanne, Sue and I went to see how the professionals do it at the Gala Bingo Hall. I can say that we were all exhausted after trying to keep up with the caller as he called the numbers so quickly. I am happy to say Mickey, our Bingo caller on a Thursday afternoon, will definitely take it much more slowly.

On Tuesday 3 June we had some lovely cheesecake to celebrate Shavuot: a big thank you to Laura as it was the best cheesecake I have ever tasted.

So if you fancy a good kosher meal and some nice company, just pop in. You will be made most welcome.

### Ralli Hall

by Roger Abrahams

I would like to start by stating how delighted my Board was to have hosted the Representative Council-arranged reception for our new Chief Rabbi, Ephraim Mirvis, at Ralli Hall on 1 June. He is a delightful gentleman and an excellent speaker, while his family connection to Rabbi Silverman is no doubt an added benefit for the Community.

Unfortunately, one of our bones of contention with the Community is its unwillingness to acknowledge the importance of having an independent Jewish Community Centre, with milk and meat kosher kitchens, plus the facilities to hold communal meetings and functions, as well as activities such as the Lunch & Social Club, etc.

In fact, for 2013, only 3.2% of our income came from membership fees, which meant that we had to struggle to raise the remainder of the funds required to run the building from other sources, mainly from room lets, which comprised 93.7% of the total. We know that many of you ask, "What's in it for us?" when asked to become members of B&HJCF which is a charitable private members club. But frankly, we believe that Ralli Hall would be sorely missed if it were no longer there, especially as it is mainly being paid for by outside sources.

Last month I informed you of the cost to upgrade the entire electrical installation so as to comply with modern requirements. In addition, I told you that the insurance company dictated that we were also obliged to replace the last eight windows at the end of the building, some with frames so rotten that the light showed through.

Our Annual General Meeting for 2014 took place on 19 June and next month I will let you know the names of our new Board of Management, plus any item that was discussed which is of particular interest to the Community.

See you at Ralli Hall!

#### Voluntary Support Agencies

- Ralli Hall Lunch & Social Club (Day Centre) 01273 739999  
ralliday@tiscali.co.uk
- Norwood/Tikvah, Rachel Mazzier House 01273 564021
- Hyman Fine House 01273 688226
- Helping Hands 01273 747722 helping-hands@helping-hands.org
- Brighton & Hove Jewish Welfare Board 07952 479111 or info@bhjwb.org
- Brighton & Hove Jewish Housing Association bahjha@googlemail.com
- Welfare at Brighton & Hove Progressive Synagogue/L'chaim project 01273 737223
- Welfare Officer at Brighton & Hove Reform (Sue Rosenfield) 01273 735343
- Jewish Community Centre at Ralli Hall.  
Various communal activities. 01273 202254  
or rallihall@tiscali.co.uk

#### IMPORTANT MESSAGE HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY VISITS

**If you are in hospital or know anyone being admitted into hospital, please get in touch with info@sussexjewishrepresentativecouncil.org or telephone 07789 491279 so that a Jewish chaplain can be contacted to visit.**

## Dennis Hollis MM

by Sidney Lipman

When Dennis Hollis joined AJEX I was really chuffed when he agreed to recount the high spots of his career in the Armed Forces in WWII and thereafter. I strongly suspected he had led an adventurous life to match his distinguished looks.

His reply to my first question, "Why did you volunteer to join up?" was totally unexpected, "People around me were being oppressed and I felt it my duty". He lived in the East End of London amidst the Jewish population, whom he regarded as friends, when he learned the truth of Fascism.

That's why Dennis presented himself at the London Station recruiting office in May 1941, when he was under age. The Sgt Major said he was 18! After a perfunctory medical test, he swore on oath to serve the King, was paid one shilling (a day's pay) and sent off to Maidstone, where he joined the West Kent Regiment.

It would appear that was not enough for Dennis, so he volunteered once again, this time for the 12th Battalion Parachute Regiment, plus extra pay. They earned it the hard way. Marching ten miles in two hours in full battle order, a real killer. When the time came, his unit was parachuted into a field

near the Rhine, where the enemy were concealed in haystacks.

What followed is described in this extract from a newspaper of 1947:



"L/Cpl Hollis won his MM for what he did on March 24 1945. The Paratroopers and gliders carrying the airborne forces had landed on the other side of the Rhine but a small party of paratroopers were cut off by the enemy, and it was essential to contact them by radio in order to guide them to the main body and also to communicate with Divisional Headquarters some miles away. Unfortunately the only radio was in a

glider some distance away, which the Germans had covered with Spandau fire. [Spandau is the locality in Berlin where the MG42 machine gun was manufactured.] Two volunteers went out to try and bring the radio back. One was killed, and the other badly injured.

L/Cpl Hollis, (a private at the time) then volunteered and succeeded, as the official citation reads, "at great personal risk to himself". As a result, the small isolated party was guided back to the main body and contact with Divisional Headquarters.

As the war progressed, many prisoners were taken, but Dennis emphasised there was no hostility towards them from our side and they were treated according to convention. In a subsequent action he was hit by shrapnel in the leg and it was back to England.

After this major conflict, Dennis returned to the newsprint industry, but once again he volunteered and much to the dismay of his ever-loving wife, whom he married in 1944 and who passed away in 1999, he served another three years in the Territorials.

*Photo courtesy of the Argus*

## An Empty Shul

by Godfrey R. Gould

As has been the practice for very many years, Middle Street Synagogue was again open this year during the Brighton Festival Fringe. On five successive Sundays from 4 May to 1 June we were open to the public from 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm each day, a total of twelve and a half hours. In that time 1057 visitors came to view this amazing building and to hear about its history, artefacts and the practice of Judaism. They came from all parts of the globe and from all beliefs and none. Apart from leaving with a sense of wonder at such an iconic edifice in their midst, they also had a true understanding of Jews

and of Judaism, instead of the bias so often perpetrated in the media. Thus, what happened is not just looking at a splendid part of Brighton; it is also another valuable plank in all our efforts to combat anti-semitism.

Amongst our visitors were members of a family from London who had been to a family wedding (also from London) at Middle Street recently. They were so impressed with our Shul that they determined that it was the ideal venue for the wedding of their daughter next year. Many others have been more than a little surprised that so little use is made of this, the most impressive place of Jewish worship in Brighton and Hove. For instance, one has to wonder why Sussex and Brighton University

students, with Hillel adjacent, do not pray there occasionally on, say, a Friday evening, preferring, apparently, to daven off-site? The opportunity for so much is there; there just does not seem to be the willingness to take any initiative.

Recently we had a professional visit from a group who may be able to find funding for the now critical repairs, restoration and redecoration. Indeed, the situation is far worse than we had ever thought. But, perhaps, the most important aspect is that there seems to be so little interest in the community for the future of Middle Street Shul. There are a few of us who are concerned and we do what we can. But we are getting older and time is not on our side - or yours?

## Remembering Stanley Faull, z'l

Stanley Faull died peacefully at home on 11 May 2014 at the age of 84. This eulogy was given by his oldest son Steven Faull.

My wonderful father was a true Mensch in every meaning of the word - a fantastic husband to my mother Dian for almost 60 years of marriage and a brilliant rôle model to me and to my two brothers, Maurice and Ashley. He was an inspirational presence to us and to his four grandchildren, Matthew, Emily, Harrison and Mackenzie. He was also a pillar of the community - generous and caring to all who knew him. He had that rare trait in an individual: real humanity.

Many of you have been kind enough to share with us your own personal examples of what my Dad meant to you individually. We all appreciate that and thank you for your support. We know how lucky we were to have had him in our family. You have told us how he was so kind, generous, charming, humorous and incredibly thoughtful. Ironically, he dubbed himself "the wicked uncle" to his nephews Jonathan and David and his five nieces, because of course the exact opposite was true. He was hugely proud of his extended family and all their children as well. His great gift was to be able to connect with people of all ages and backgrounds no matter what their circumstances.

To me, this is particularly amazing given his tragic start in life. I would like you to hear part of his testimony given in Portraits for Posterity, a project conceived by Steven Spielberg for capturing Holocaust Survivors' first-hand testimonies. It speaks of his early years far more eloquently than I ever could;

"I was born Salek Falinower on 29th October 1929 in Warsaw, Poland, to a loving, middle-class family who owned a metal foundry. I was not quite ten when the war broke out and we were all crowded into the Warsaw

Ghetto living in squalid conditions for almost four years until the Warsaw uprising in 1943. My sister Henia had left home to join the Resistance and was never heard from again. My father was killed in a bunker in the Ghetto. After the Warsaw uprising was brutally suppressed, my mother and I were taken as prisoners to Majdanek concentration camp, where my mother was murdered in the gas

into the unknown lasting about two weeks. It was freezing. There was no food and little water. Very few survived. On arrival at Theresienstadt Concentration Camp, a miracle occurred. Suddenly all the SS guards disappeared and we were liberated by the Soviet Army on 5th May 1945.

Over 90 of my family members in Warsaw perished. However, my elder brother Cheil (Gerald) had been sent by the family before the war to

join an uncle in Brighton. When the war broke out, he immediately enlisted in the RAF and became a Lancaster Bomber pilot. I arrived in Britain with 'the Boys' in August 1945. After recuperating in Windermere, I was reunited with my brother and uncle in Brighton and my life began again."

All this happened before his 16th birthday.

My father mentioned 'the Boys'. These were a group of boys and girls who had survived the concentration

camps. The Home Office agreed to allow a maximum 1000 of these children under 16 to come to Britain. However, only 732 were found alive. Sir Martin Gilbert, in his book *The Boys - the Story of 732 Young Concentration Camp Survivors*, used the subtitle: *Triumph over Adversity*. My father's subsequent life totally epitomised that phrase. He was always incredibly positive, happy and forward-looking, never seeking to look back or to dwell on his horrific experiences.

Most of the Boys had nicknames among themselves. My father's nickname was The Philosopher. Even as a teenager, his peers recognised that my father had a wise head, strong intellect and a forensic curiosity about everything. In addition, he had a powerful determination to succeed, which was probably the single defining thread running throughout his life.



Stanley Faull with Judge Israel Finestein (l) and the previous Chief Rabbi, Lord Jonathan Sacks (r)

chambers, whereas I was put to work as a slave labourer.

So here I was at the age of 13½, having never spent a day away from my loving parents, suddenly alone in terrible circumstances and having to fend for myself. I witnessed some horrific scenes (beatings, torture, and murder by the guards were all commonplace and death by starvation, exhaustion or disease was rife), but somehow I survived.

I recall my first job as a slave labourer was in an ammunition factory, boiling soap for machine lubrication. Late in 1944, I was taken to Buchenwald concentration camp to help clear the damage caused by Allied bombing in the streets in Weimar. However, the worst was yet to come.

In March 1945, I was among 1300 people loaded into open cattle trucks for a journey known as the infamous Death Train. It was a horrific journey

In business, from the humblest of beginnings, he rose to the absolute pinnacle. Even here, family ties were incredibly important to him. He set up a scrap metal business in Maidstone with his brother Gerald, who had been an RAF pilot during the war. The business succeeded in no small part due to the extra special support they received from his wonderful sister-in-law, my lovely Aunty June, who offered her engagement ring to be pawned for additional seed capital for the fledgling company.

From this small operation, my father was immensely proud to have risen to become a Director of a major British public company, quoted on the London Stock Exchange. The family connection continued: Gerald was its Chairman and their cousin, Philip Freeman, was also a Director. British Anzani was an engineering company famous, among other things, for producing the aircraft engine for Louis Bleriot's first ever flight over the English Channel. My father, together with Gerald and Philip, significantly diversified the company into one that could properly claim to be one of the earliest 'environmentally aware' organisations in the UK. The company's activities included metal re-cycling, hessian bag repair and reuse, as well as paper pulping and reprocessing. In the field of engineering Anzani produced one of the first ride-on lawnmowers – The Lawnrider – and its range of outboard motors included the innovative Jet, which won safety awards for being a non-propeller outboard engine and therefore suitable for use amongst swimmers and children in the sea.

In property, Anzani transformed a 90-acre disused stone quarry into the thriving Quarrywood Industrial Estate in Aylesford, Kent. The company was also one of the pioneers in reclaiming land from the sea in order to build the first commercial buildings for the Port Authority in the container port of Felixstowe.

In later years, and for many years, my father ran a successful property business in the Brighton area with Philip, who has been a rock of support to my father throughout his life.

Despite his many business successes, though, I am sure that if you were to have asked my father, he would have said that his greatest achievement in life was his family.

He met my mother in Brighton and they were married in Middle Street shul in October 1954, nearly 60 years ago. Throughout the whole of that time they were virtually inseparable. He was the yin to her yang. They formed a formidable loving partnership - I hardly remember a cross word being spoken between them in all that time. My mother was particularly heroic in the final few months of my father's life – demonstrating the meaning of true love in its purest form. Together, they

**He was able to connect with people of all ages and backgrounds no matter what their circumstances. This was amazing given his tragic start in life.**

created a happy, safe, Jewish home for me and my two brothers. They were wonderfully supportive, both of each other and of their three sons.

Having lost the vast majority of his family at an early age, my father positively kvelled in the achievements of his children and, more recently, his grandchildren. The one thing he always impressed on us all when we were away at school or university was only to talk about successes once they had actually been achieved, rather than speculate on what might be. This was shortened in family folklore to the phrase: "Don't want to hear '**am going to**'; want to hear '**have done**'."

The achievements of his offspring are too many and varied to be listed in full here, but include two Cambridge University degrees, an LLB from Kings College, London followed by an MBA in Business, a Chartered Surveyor, a Forensic Accountant and a successful businessman.

His grandchildren ensured the nachas kept coming for him:

A triple-scholar at Brighton College (academic, sport and music), a three-times-running National Champion (who is still undefeated) in powerboat rib racing, rugby honours with Harlequins youth team, achieving a merit in high-level drama exams, footballing achievements with Southampton and Bournemouth academies, brown belt in karate by the age of ten, 10 A\*s at GCSE, horse-riding awards, members of touring Swing Bands, cricketing centuries and so on.

Each and every one of these successes thrilled my father – probably more so than if he had achieved them himself. He was immeasurably proud of all our achievements – as we were proud of him for setting such a wonderful example throughout his life.

My father provided evidence to Lynne Smith for her book *Forgotten Voices of the Holocaust*. He survived what he called "some very terrible years" and believed that his parents and sister were watching over him and protecting him throughout his life. He believed the purpose of his survival was so that he would have the opportunity to go on and found his own personal dynasty. My father was particularly delighted to have recently received a handwritten letter from the former Chief Rabbi, Lord Sacks, describing him as "a rôle model of courage".

There is no doubt in my mind that there is no-one more deserving to go to heaven than my father for having suffered, lost, survived, and then thrived and contributed immensely in his lifetime. He deserves his eternal rest and to be reunited with his parents, brother and sister in the life everlasting. I am sure I speak for everyone here when I say, Dad, you certainly "have done". Your work here in this world is complete.

I am sure my father would appreciate it if I thanked you all for coming and ended with one of his favourite expressions by wishing you all, "Zei mir gezint".

# 10 Features

## The Chief Rabbi's Visit

by Peter Bennett Speck

The Sussex Jewish Representative Council hosted another very successful cross-communal event on Sunday, 1 June with its invitation to Ephraim Mirvis, the new Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, to come to Brighton. The Chief Rabbi accepted SJRC's invitation and arranged to spend the whole weekend in our City with Valerie, his wife and his two younger sons. He went to services at Hove Hebrew Congregation, Brighton & Hove Hebrew Congregation and visited Hyman Fine House and Hillel House, where he addressed each of his audiences with interesting and thought-provoking discourse.

The event hosted by SJRC at Ralli Hall on Sunday morning, June 1st, had over 100 people from across the community in attendance, including

Rabbis Silverman, Rader, Efuné, Lewis and Stein as well as various local dignitaries: the Mayor of the City of Brighton & Hove, Councillor Brian Fitch and his wife, Nora; the Archdeacon of Chichester, the Venerable Douglas McKittrick, Imam Dr Mufti Sajid and several ministers from various churches in our city.

It was evident through Rabbi Mirvis's affable and easy way with everyone, why he has been chosen as The Chief Rabbi. His address was insightful, reminding us of some of the key messages Torah teaches us, peppered with delightful humour and modern day context. One theme of his address had particular resonance for the Sussex Jewish Representative Council: he spoke of our need to work together, both within and outside the Jewish community. He spoke of the

power of the individual being much greater when the individual is part of a much larger, cohesive, group. This message from The Chief Rabbi affirms the importance of the work of the SJRC and the value of supporting it and coming together as one community.

After a number of questions from the floor, which were clearly and insightfully answered and a grateful vote of thanks to the Community Security Trust, the Chief Rabbi was presented with a painting of a Brighton scene by local artist, Martin Wertheim-Gould. Following his address, everyone was served coffee, tea and pastries, which gave all those present a chance to personally meet and speak with him. It was a real simcha to experience the Jewish community at its best and connecting with the new Chief Rabbi.

## A Day To Remember

by Susan Conway

Brighton & Hove Hebrew Congregation waited eagerly for the visit of The Chief Rabbi, Ephraim Mirvis to our Synagogue and Community.

At last the day arrived – everything was prepared down to the last detail. One hundred people filled the Mark Luck Hall for the Seudah. The tables looked beautiful and the ladies who volunteered had done a magnificent job. When the Chief Rabbi entered, those present stood up to applaud his arrival and that of his wife and his two sons.

The Cheder pupils, under teacher Efrat Burman, sang a song for Shavuot that included a recitation of the Ten Commandments. They then led everyone in the room in the singing of Ya'aseh Shalom. The Chief Rabbi presented each of the Cheder children with a book inscribed with the words "Presented on the Occasion of the Visit of the Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis". He then answered the questions from the children. Did he always want to be a Rabbi? Did he ever play football and do normal things like other children? Would he visit us again? He answered all questions with humour and humility to engage the children as well as the adults before promising to visit the Congregation in future.

After a very generous meal, the audience were very anxious to hear Rabbi Mirvis talk on a number of themes. He did not disappoint, beginning with the distinction between the two mountains - Mount Sinai, and Mount Moriah. He asked in a joking manner why, in this day of excess in simcha planning, there were no Bar Mitzvahs held on Mount Sinai and no celebrations on that mountain. He then spoke of the celebrations of Yom Yerushalayim and the importance of Jerusalem and the reason for it to be chosen as Israel's capital.

He said that Community was of importance when learning of Mount Moriah and the themes of Shavuot. He emphasised the importance of giving of oneself within the wider world and not just the importance of prayer and religion in one's life. He defined the meaning of the word "mensch" and stressed the importance of the Community enjoying the strength created by unity.

He referred to the importance of "doers". Whilst people might dream, doers are needed to carry out the actions that make things happen.



He thanked the community for its hospitality and generosity of welcome and praised the work of the Cheder and the importance of the education of our young people.

He spoke with many of the audience on an individual basis and then led the congregation to the Synagogue for the Mincha Service. Afterward, he talked to individual members of the congregation.

What was particularly noteworthy was the Chief Rabbi's humility, his easy flowing speech, his clear diction, and his warm style. He certainly left everyone with the impression that a very wise choice had been made of a Chief Rabbi of the people.

Brighton & Hove Hebrew Congregation were grateful for enjoying a wonderful afternoon full of pleasure laughter, and enjoyment and yet at the same time with clear messages and inspirational words on which to ponder and help guide our future.

## Chief Rabbi visits Students

Food, kosher Zumba and a cool and welcoming environment are essential to engaging students in Jewish life while at University, according to the Chief Rabbi.

In an hour-long meeting at Brighton's Hillel House in Middle Street, Chief Rabbi Mirvis entertained local university students with a fascinating and humorous description of his recent visit to Scotland, where he was a guest of HRH The Earl of Wessex and Sophie Countess of Wessex at the Palace of Holyrood House.

Economics student Josh Crisp told SJN that the Chief Rabbi offered a number of practical suggestions and provided a better understanding of how JSoc could encourage other Jewish students to get involved.

Josh explained that, "While the Jewish student population at Sussex is relatively small in comparison to Leeds,

Birmingham or Nottingham, the Chief Rabbi maintained, "There is something valuable in such a small community", and reminded us that we ourselves "are the best ambassadors" to engage with other Jewish students."

In between bites of delicious homemade cheesecake, the Chief Rabbi answered questions on a number of important issues. The meeting coincided with the pending outcome of the vote at University of Sussex's student union on a proposed boycott of Israeli Academic and Cultural Institutions, which cast a shadow on an otherwise upbeat and light-hearted event. The Chief Rabbi offered words of support and encouragement, telling the students that whatever the outcome of the vote, their efforts to give a pro-Israeli perspective does make a difference in the long term.

On Sunday morning, during his talk at Ralli Hall, the Chief Rabbi expressed his delight that the proposal was subsequently defeated. The students were amused, and somewhat taken aback, when the Chief Rabbi's security officer interrupted the conversation for the obligatory 'Twitter Picture'.

The relaxed and informal meeting, held on the Friday afternoon of the Chief Rabbi's recent weekend visit, was arranged by Rabbi Zalman Lewis of Chabad at SE Coast Universities, together with the local JSoc committee. Rabbi Lewis thanked the Chief Rabbi on behalf of the local Hillel Committee and the JSoc for taking the time out of a very busy weekend to meet and support the local students. Also in attendance were Mrs Beryl Sharpe and Mrs Sarah Wilks, on behalf of the SJRC.

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## Chief Rabbi's Mission to Israel

by Rabbi Vivian Silverman

I was one of forty-eight Rabbis from across the country who spent three days in Israel during mid-May, to see for ourselves life across the religious spectrum and to meet religious leaders – Druze, Bahai, Anglican, Catholic, Moslem and Jewish. It was amazing to hear these religious representatives speak perfect Ivrit and to see how warm and friendly they are to each other.

We spent a morning in the West Bank settlement of Eli, where we met the Rosh Yeshiva and his students, who are learning and doing their army service concurrently – the Hesder Programme. Uniquely, there is a second Yeshiva, a military one, set up especially for those, including Officer rank, who have completed their army service and wish to resume learning in a Yeshiva environment.

Kemach is an organisation that illustrates the interaction between the very frum community (Hareidi) and the general Israeli public. Some of the Hareidi community are now working within Israeli society and the expectation is that this will accelerate in the years ahead.

We had an interesting visit to the Hebrew University on Mount Scopus where we were introduced to the Rector, to professors and met students from Africa, India and the Far East, who have been given scholarships to pursue their medical studies, graduate and then return to their own countries where they will be able to put their skills to good use.

At the Knesset, we talked to the leaders of the main parties – Yitzhak Herzog, Naftali Bennet, Dov Lipman and Ruth Calderon. Interestingly, Ruth Calderon is a secular MK who founded a Beit Midrash for secular women wishing to study Talmud. She herself learns a page of Gemara every day.

That same evening, we were in the Old City of Jerusalem, at the Cardo Roman Colonnade, with students from the UK who are spending their gap year in Israel. They spoke movingly about the centrality of Israel in their young lives.

The morning of our final day we spent in Sderot, which has been in the firing line for rockets from Gaza, and we saw the difficult circumstances under which the people live: concrete roofs on their

homes, a shelter (Miklat) every few metres in case of sudden attack. We could see Gaza City in the distance. UK JNF has helped by providing funds to the municipality in order to beautify the surroundings.

On the way back to Jerusalem, we met the Bedouin Mayor of a Negev town, who explained about the Bedouin life – both in tent and in town.

The evening we were leaving, we had supper with Palestinian and Israeli business leaders who share a common goal: to build a better future, despite differences of opinion. During our visit, we saw many contrasts within Israeli society today. Yet, at the same time, the importance of working together (where possible) to create a more just environment for all – with Shalom the operative word and ultimate quest.

# 12 Features

## Nymans, A Garden with Jewish Roots

by Bernard Swithern

Within twenty minutes' drive of Brighton lies a magnificent country estate and gardens overlooking the Sussex Weald. It is owned by the National Trust, whose dedicated gardeners ensure that its walks and vistas are a spectacular delight throughout the seasons of the year. Although the house has been diminished by a tragic fire, it forms an eerie backdrop to the estate.

This quintessentially English setting was the achievement of a far-sighted Jewish immigrant by the name of Ludwig Messel who came from a well-established German banking family. After the early death of their father Simon, Ludwig and his brother came to England in the 1860s. In 1871 he married Anne Cussans and ultimately the Messel household was blessed with six children.

In 1873, Ludwig formed the successful stockbroking house of L. Messel & Co. in the City of London. Thus established, he started looking for a home that would enable him to seek refuge from the chaos of London. He had inherited what was said to be a Jewish tradition of collecting plants and wanted to find somewhere to further his horticultural interests. In 1890 he first set eyes on Nymans and subsequently proceeded to purchase the property. It was ideally situated because the new railways had made Sussex Weald easily accessible.

The existing house was not ideal and, using designs submitted by his brother Alfred, who was architect to the Kaiser, he set about extending and altering it. The project offered a wonderful opportunity to create a garden from scratch and to put his pioneering ideas and horticultural talents into practice.

Messel was a horticultural experimenter and innovator and by 1895, the gardens had been planted with many rare and expensive plants and newly discovered trees from all over the world. The extent of the expenditure can be assessed by the fact that each tree probably cost in the region of £400 in today's money.

Despite his success and position, the obviously German name of Messel created an obstacle to being fully accepted in wider society. This was at a time when Disraeli, the Prime Minister, had turned his back on his Jewish roots but remained subject to antisemitism. However, the love of horticulture created a common ground with neighbours, such as the owners of nearby Borde Hill, High Beeches and Leonardslee.

Ludwig's daughter Muriel influenced the design of the herbaceous borders, which were a deliberate reaction to the formal Victorian gardens of the time. In 1918 tragedy struck. Muriel succumbed to the influenza pandemic and died before reaching her thirtieth birthday.

The advent of the First World War was a cause for contemplation. Many Messel relatives still lived in Germany and it was a time when loyalties were under scrutiny. This was a dilemma even for King George V, whose cousin was the Kaiser. The Royal Family reacted by changing its name from Saxe-Coburg and Gothe to the now familiar Windsor. Leonard Messel was an officer in the British Army, but had his war duties restricted by being debarred from serving abroad.

In 1915 Ludwig died and the estate was inherited by his son Leonard, whose wife Maude did not like the house at Nymans, describing it as a 'hideous German folly'. They did move to Nymans and Leonard agreed to remodel it. By 1923 the house was rebuilt on a grand scale in the style of a 14th century stone manor house that appeared to have had later Tudor additions.

Lionel and Maude furnished the home with treasures collected on their various European tours. It included a prized library of herbal manuscripts dating back to the 13th century. Recognition of the magnificence of Nymans was exemplified by the house being featured in Country Life magazine and coveted Royal Horticultural Society prizes being won by the newly completed gardens.

By the 1930s Nymans had become the

centre of rounds of garden parties and social events. Members of the Messel family won acclaim. Leonard's youngest son, Oliver Messel, became a celebrated stage and film designer. His daughter Anne married Ronald Armstrong-Jones and it was their son Anthony, Earl of Snowdon, who married Princess Margaret. Anne later married the Earl of Rosse who had lived at Birr Castle.

But storm clouds were literally on the horizon. February 1947 was the worst winter on record: in order to thaw frozen pipes, plumbers used blow lamps. The household was awoken in the night by smoke - Nymans was on fire. By the time the fire was extinguished, the house was devastated. Many of its contents were lost, including the famous library containing an irreplaceable collection of rare botanical books.

Leonard and Maude partially rebuilt the house and kept the gardens going. When Leonard died in 1953 the family fortune had become diminished and it was decided to bequeath Nymans to the National Trust.

More storm clouds in 1987. The Great Storm left Nymans in a sorry state. Hundreds of trees were lost, including the 100 year old monkey puzzle tree. However there was a bonus. From the wreckage of devastation came the opportunity to open up the garden.

Throughout the year Nymans offers its visitors the opportunity to stroll amongst an ever-changing backdrop. The genius of Ludwig Messel and the devotion of his successors is evident at every turn.

Photos by Bernard Swithern





## Eyes Wide Open

by Jackie Fuller

On Sunday 27 July the Sussex Jewish Film Club at Ralli Hall will be showing its last film before a summer break in August. It's *Eyes Wide Open* (Einayim Petukhoth), an Israeli/German/French collaboration (90 mins). The film is in Hebrew and Yiddish and is subtitled.

One day a respectable family man, a butcher in Jerusalem's ultra-orthodox Jewish community, meets a handsome young student and falls in love. He starts to neglect his family and community life, swept away by his love and lust for Ezri. Meanwhile, paralleling this relationship, a neighbouring shopkeeper persists in seeing a man of her own choosing even though she's been promised by her father to another. Eventually guilt, torment and pressure from the community catch up with the forbidden affairs, leading those involved to have to make radical decisions...



All are welcome. Just make a small donation at the door, but free to Ralli Hall members and full-time students with proof of status. Cold drinks will be available from 7.00 pm and the film starts at 7.30pm. We hope to see you there.

## JACS Facts – Alive and Kicking!

by Shirley Jaffe

At a recent well-attended meeting of the Brighton branch of the Jewish Association of Cultural Studies, we heard about Blind Veterans UK, and now look forward to an active association with this wonderful organisation (formerly St Dunstons). In the future, we will be challenging them to a quiz competition and supporting some of their activities, such as their garden party on 12 July. Would you like to come? Do you need a lift? Anyone want to knit some squares for a tank-top? Not to fit a woman, but to fit a real TANK!

Members of the community may have heard JACS is going through a bad, sad patch; about our numbers dropping; only 3 members turning up at one rainy meeting; membership at an all-time low. Sadly this has been caused by illness, members going into rest or nursing homes or unfortunately passing away. Generally we are not replacing our lost members because of a reluctance of slightly younger people willing to join JACS.

Our members have been lawyers, shop owners, lived in different parts of the world, run national organisations and, in my case, sung with Michael Jackson and shared a limousine with Dracula! People don't become dull just because they are older. Most were recently retired when they first joined JACS, and STILL members, keen to keep the organisation going. There must be something about it that should be celebrated.

We are a cultural society. Two or three times a month we host speakers on a variety of subjects, from travel to local history to organisations such as the Royal Lifeboat Association. There is nothing quite like it on offer to the Jewish community on a weekly basis, and in the daytime. We also have entertainers, musical presentations, films and quizzes. Afterwards we enjoy tea and biscuits and an opportunity to discuss topics, and meet or make new friends.

The cost is the princely sum of £2.00 per meeting, or £2.50 if you come as a visitor. So come along on a Wednesday afternoon and try us out. If you decide to join, it is only £4.00 per year – and you may also like to go on the very popular National JACS holiday in Eastbourne in December.

I came along to JACS about fifteen years back, so I could be involved in the Jewish community. I was not affiliated to any shul. Still working, I cannot commit to coming every week, but I really miss the meetings that I do miss – if you see what I mean!

We'd welcome a few more active people who can occasionally help with lifts perhaps, or have new ideas to keep this vibrant group going. Has anyone a garden for a summer meeting? Have any children of prospective members time to spend a couple of hours with their relatives on a Wednesday afternoon, so that they can get to the meetings – and share a stimulating talk? If mum/grandma doesn't get out of the house, it is sometimes hard to find something to talk about. THERE REALLY IS NO AGE LIMIT! Everyone from the Jewish community is welcome. Indeed, if you have gentile friends or neighbours who are interested in any of our activities, they are welcome to come as visitors.

Plans for the future include a garden centre visit when the roses are in bloom, a cookery demonstration and a talk about a Jewish boxer! What about a games afternoon (board and card, rather than sporting) If you have had an exciting holiday but have run out of family to show your slides to, and can give us an interesting talk – or tell us about your pet hobby, or share your passion for an author or a composer. This is your chance. Even if you don't want to join us on a regular basis, if you can offer a talk, please get in touch with me (01273 775461) or our wonderful secretary Janice Greenwood (01273 772812).

# 14 Culture

## To Life

**Author Barbara Comiskey** talks to Prue Baker about her story on how to survive what life can throw at you and your family.

**Prue Baker:** Your book covers two decades in astonishing detail; how did you manage to record every moment so clearly?

**Barbara Comiskey:** It was important to me to document Victor's experiences in detail because so often I needed to complain or try to achieve a better result for his care. My professional work as manager gave me those skills. As Reuben's care was so good, I recorded much less; but the illness of a child is something you remember so clearly. I felt the excellence of his treatment highlighted the ageism in the NHS when compared with the way Victor was treated.

**PB:** You have been extremely effective in your professional life as a manager for Russell and Bromley. How much did the skills you acquired there help you in dealing with the NHS?

**BC:** In so many ways! I had learnt the value of listening, so when I was confronted with anger I 'let the bubble burst' and tried to be quietly determined. You also need to be proactive in achieving care for a relative or yourself. Generally that gets results! As a manager you sometimes have to be tough, but always fair. Management can be a lonely place. One difference though: in retail management you are always working with positives. The medical profession cannot always offer you positives and that is hard.

**PB:** Tell me how you found the time to write.

**BC:** The idea for the book goes back to when I was diagnosed. I wanted to leave my family a record of my feelings. I wrote whenever I felt well enough – mostly mornings when my energy level was highest.

**PB:** The book opens in 2010 with your discovery that you had breast cancer. The account of your experience is interleaved with Victor's and Reuben's; how did you decide on that structure?

**BC:** Honestly it just flowed. It just seemed right – I didn't plan it beforehand.

**PB:** Tell me about fear; you quote Victor, "It's the dying that scares me not death". So tell me about your response – does it have layers of intensity?

**BC:** You experience fear when your body is under attack. Fear for a loved one is intense and physically painful, especially when you fear for a child. There are triggers which bring on feelings of fear. And of course night time can be the worst time. I felt fear especially when I was undergoing treatment. Now it is my three-month checks and six-monthly CT scans that send my imagination and fear into overdrive.

**PB:** And when you hit a low?

**BC:** I cry if I want to and call it a 'bad hair day'.

**PB:** You have chosen a remarkably positive title, *To Life*, for a book about repeated challenges to the lives of four people in your family. Did you ever consider another title?

**BC:** I thought about *L'Chaim!*, but fewer people would have understood it. I also thought about relating the title to my breast cancer, but really it is about Victor and Reuben as well. The story is centred around the breast cancer, whatever else happened to us.

**PB:** I believe your book is being read by nursing personnel and social workers. How does that make you feel?

**BC:** Wonderful. Individuals are reading it but they are concerned at being seen as whistle-blowers if they try to introduce the book in any official way. It is being featured on the Breakthrough Breast Cancer Facebook page, which reaches a wide range of the concerned public. I wanted to show that the well world and the ill world are two different entities, and also to highlight the needs of older people, which are so often not met sensitively by the NHS.

*To Life* by Barbara Comiskey is available from Amazon (£4.99/£1.02 Kindle. Proceeds to Breakthrough Breast Cancer.



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## Duwayne - A play by Gail Louw

review by Maxine Toff

This powerful play about the boy who was with Stephen Lawrence when he was murdered, in a racist attack, in 1993 is not as widely known as it deserves to be.

The play opens in darkness and we are immediately shocked by the sound of a blood-curdling scream. We see the young Duwayne Brooks discovering the dying Stephen who has been stabbed. Duwayne is almost incoherent with the shock but the policeman who comes to see what is going on is less than sympathetic. The story of the way the police treated this young seventeen-year old, is revealed.

It is a shocking portrayal of the treatment of one young man because he is black and of the police's mindless brutality and casual racism. How many more young black boys have had similar treatment, one shudders to think.

It took eighteen years before justice was eventually carried out and two white men were convicted of Stephen Lawrence's murder. We follow this young man's trials of being accused by the police of many crimes, none of which he committed. He was let down by his first solicitor;

his second, a young woman is rubbished by the police and he spends time in prison without much comfort.

Many people would be ground down by this treatment but he was made stronger and we see him maturing, despite all the odds. He eventually does get fairer treatment and becomes, with the help and support of the Liberal Democrats, a Councillor in Lewisham. In May 2014 he stood for Mayor.

Duwayne Brooks took questions from the audience and it was a pleasure to see this strong, beautiful man, quietly spoken, describing his present work and possible plans for the future. One of which was to stand again for Mayor in 2018, as he didn't win that particular battle this year.

This play, directed by Tony Milner, was brilliantly written by Gail Louw and superbly acted by four very talented people; Adrian Decosta, David Ajao, Andy De Marquez, and Paul Moriarty. I hope that many people will have a chance to hear this story and see it brought to life, as we did at The Old Market, Hove on May 26th 2014.

## The Morning Gift by Eva Ibbotson

review by Gillian Rich

I recently reviewed a book called 'Manja' by Anna Gmeyner. The preface to that book was written by the author's daughter, Eva Ibbotson. Eva's novel, *The Morning Gift* was mentioned and I thought it would be interesting to read it, especially as it was said to be based on her own and her mother's life stories. I had not realised that *The Morning Gift*, published in 1993, was written as a teenage novel. Bear that in mind, but don't be put off, as it is still an enjoyable read.

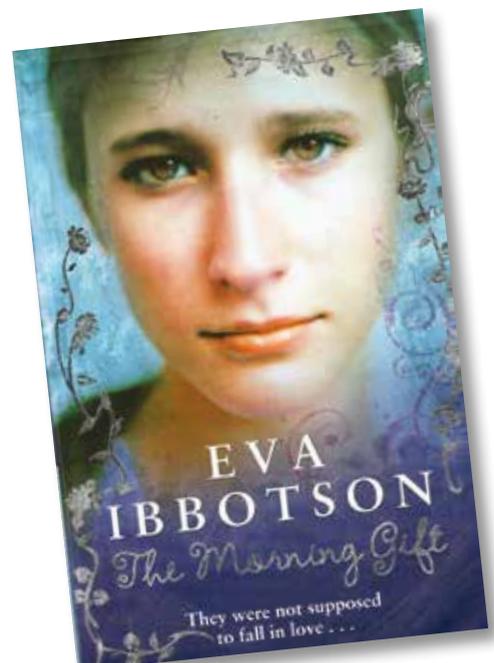
The novel describes the lives of the various members of the Bergers, a Jewish Viennese family, starting in the mid 1930s. The head of the family is Kurt Berger, Professor of Vertebrate Zoology. He is married to Leonie and they have one child, Ruth. They live with Kurt's mother and sister, together with Leonie's uncle, all slightly eccentric. A distant relative from Budapest, Heini, is seen as Ruth's future husband.

Professor Berger has contact with a young academic, Professor Quinton Somerville, lecturing together at symposia in Vienna. He comes from landed gentry in Northumberland. When the situation deteriorates for the Bergers, Quinton Somerville devises a plan of a marriage of convenience to allow Ruth to get to England.

The family, plus Heini, all manage to emigrate to England where they have to get used to living in impoverished circumstances in Belsize Park and are surrounded by many other central European refugees. Ruth is accepted to study at a college, highly thought of in London. She

does not realise that Quin lectures there. This causes many problems. Heini develops a musical career, leading him to life in America.

The author paints a believable, if slightly rosy, picture of life in an immigrant community during wartime. She had lived an immigrant life and her mother must have told her of many memories to help with the writing of the book. Eva Ibbotson lived in NE England, writing mostly children's books. She married and had four children. She died, aged 85, in 2010.



## A Wedding in Spain – An Exercise in the Unbelievable

by Rabbi Hershel Rader

Last month I had the privilege of conducting a wedding in the Spanish town of Marbella. I say privilege, not because of the location but because every Jewish wedding under a Chuppah conducted in accordance with authentic Jewish law and practice is such a great mitzvah and it is indeed a privilege to be involved in such an occasion. As the time for the ceremony to commence drew close and I stood there on the beach by the Chuppah the following thought occurred to me 'this ground is drenched in Jewish blood'.

Till that moment I had been preoccupied with my travel arrangements and the preparations for the ceremony but suddenly the historical context and significance of what was about to happen hit me. I know that most people regard Marbella as a desirable holiday destination and I have to say that the sea is the deepest blue I have ever seen. But from a Jewish perspective Spain has been the scene of great suffering and persecution, not to mention the expulsion of Spain's entire Jewish community in 1492.

But then another thought occurred to me; one I found tremendously uplifting. Picture the following: It's 1492 and a Jewish man with his meagre belongings clutched in one hand and his child's hand grasped in the other is walking along the Spanish coast. He walks together with his wife who carries their baby. They journey together hoping to find a boat that will take them from Spain, the country that has rejected them, to North Africa. Someone comes over to the man and his wife and says to them, 'You know, one day a Jewish couple from England will stand here under the Chuppah with their Rabbi, family and friends and publicly celebrate their wedding.'

What would their reaction be? Given the fact that Jews and Judaism were forbidden in Spain, not to mention that the Jews had been expelled from England 200 years before

in 1290, our weary travellers may have been forgiven for questioning that person's mental state! Such a notion would have been considered absurd and unbelievable.

Today it doesn't seem unbelievable to us because things have changed. We are Jews who live in England and holiday in Spain. Some of us have homes in both countries. In 1492 it would have been unbelievable – except to a person of faith.

It is not only positive things that can be considered unbelievable or the result of some irrational fantasy. Which German Jew would have believed that the Holocaust could be perpetrated on our people by the Germans? The Jews of Germany were supremely proud of their country which they regarded as having reached the pinnacle of civilisation and human accomplishment. Any suggestion of the Holocaust, which we now know happened, would have been dismissed as unbelievable.

The father of a friend of mine, a Holocaust survivor who created a wonderful life for himself and his family in this country, was once questioned about his faith and specifically his belief in the Moshiach. He replied 'I have already seen something totally unbelievable happen in my lifetime – something bad. Why should I not believe in a good thing which appears to be unbelievable?'

We live in the era of the unbelievable. So many aspects of our society, from the incredible accomplishments of medical science to the internet to the instant communication we now take completely for granted, would have been unbelievable to previous generations. Let us recognise that the fulfilment of the Torah's 'unbelievable' prophecies of a Messianic era of peace and universal harmony can be close at hand and strive to create a better world. For it is only by dreaming the impossible that we can achieve the improbable.

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## BHHC – Forthcoming Events

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### Weekly Shiurim

- Shabbat afternoons - half an hour before Mincha (times vary).
- Wednesdays – Lunch & Learn, 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm with a delicious lunch for £3
- Thursdays – Ladies Shiur, 11.00 am to 12.00 noon.
- Thursdays - Talmud Shiur, 12.45 pm to 1.30 pm at the offices of Graham Gordon, Phoenix House, 32 West Street, Brighton

### Services

- Weekday mornings: Sundays at 8.30 am; Mondays and Thursdays at 7.30 am
- Erev Shabbat - Mincha and Maariv, 7.30 pm during the summer months and are followed by our Whisky Kiddush
- Shabbat mornings at 9.15 am followed by Kiddush. Shabbat afternoon after Shiur (times vary), followed by Seudah Shelitit and Maariv.
- Other Shacharit, Minchah and Maariv services can be arranged by contacting Rabbi Hershel on 07775 653897

For all other events and variations due to special occasions, please check our website at <http://www.bhhc-shul.org>

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## Tisha B'Av is approaching

by Rabbi Andrea Zanardo

Prophetic literature probably seems foreign to many of us. Passages from Isaiah and Ezekiel are incorporated in our liturgy: for example in the Kedusha and the third blessing of the Amidah.

On Shabbat we read from the Haftorah and many of the Haftorahs are from Isaiah and other prophetic books. But, perhaps for the somehow pompous English translation that we have in our hands, it is difficult to relate to them.

First and foremost it is difficult to understand the context. All the polemic of the Prophets against "idolatry" is perplexing, because, to be completely honest, what is "idolatry" in today's world?

Brighton is an incredibly diverse city, we have so many religions and cultures around us, even some neo-pagan, but certainly no-one is engaged in ritual murders, or shedding blood for religious purpose, as was customary for the idolaters of old. Therefore all the passages against idolatry, by Isaiah and other prophets, seem to us just a piece of ancient literature, with little or no connection with the current world.

But wait a minute. What is an idol? As we read in the Haftorah for Vaykra, (more specifically in Isaiah 44:15), human beings build idols and then worship them. They prostrate and venerate, knowing very well that idols are the work of human hands. Plus in the old days they also used to sacrifice to these idols.

I believe that nationalism can become the modern day equivalent of idolatry. A religion, somehow, with its idols, (the national symbols), and with its human sacrifices: first and foremost, war. That is not to say that there are no good reasons to love the country in which we live. But it is certainly idolatry, therefore opposite to Jewish ethics, when nationalism becomes close to a religion, or a cult, with its own fanatics and fundamentalists, like those thugs who attempt to march in Brighton every year around April 23rd.

We Jews know very well the dangers of exasperated nationalism. Every nationalist movement has come to see the

Jews as foreigners and invaders, even when the local Jewish population has a history that predates Christianity: Italy and Greece are good examples, and there are plenty more. Our tradition, our history, and our religion, give us Jews so many good reasons to oppose nationalism, when it becomes close to idolatry.

For all these reasons, Tisha B'Av this year is a very important occasion. It marks the centenary of the beginning of the First World War, a moment in history when the craziness of different nationalisms devastated Europe, claiming human blood. And more human sacrifices were actually claimed in Europe, specifically from the Jews, only a few years after the end of World War One.

This year, at Brighton and Hove Reform Synagogue, we approach Tisha B'Av knowing that it will be special, and offer to the whole community the opportunity to commemorate, to remember, to learn and to teach.



Richard Reed meets the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregation on his visit to the Hyman Fine House.

### BULLETIN BOARD FOR JULY

#### Saturday 5th

Book Club, 9.15 am  
Shabbat Doroteinu followed by Thank You Kiddush for Cheder, 10.30 am

#### Sunday 6th

Cheder trip to Jewish Museum  
BHRS Tea, 2.30 pm

#### Saturday 12th

Shabbaton 10yrs +, 10.30 am  
Aufruf of Alex Rubin followed by a special Kiddush

#### Sunday 13th

Shabbat Kolot, 6.30 pm

#### Saturday 19th

Aufruf of Richard Dargavel followed by a special Kiddush, 10.30 am  
Havdala, 5.30 pm

#### Sunday 20th

AGM plus Special Guest Speaker Alex Brummer, 6.30 pm

#### Saturday 26th

Shabbat service followed by a special Kiddush hosted by Rabbi Andrea & Sara, 10.30 am

#### Monday 28th

Rosh Chodesh, 7.30 pm

Brighton & Hove Reform Synagogue



תשעה באב

## Tisha B'Av

Please join us for  
Tisha B'av Service  
on Monday 4th August  
at 6.30pm  
incorporating  
World War I Centenary  
Memorial Service



## A Plot to Kill Hitler

by Rabbi Vivian Silverman

Following D-Day, a group of German army officers conspired to assassinate the Fuehrer. They were sickened by Hitler's brutality and determined to bring the war to an end.

Among those anti-Nazis were Field Marshal Von Witzle Ben, Field Marshal Rommel, General Von Beck and Colonel Count Claus Von Stauffenberg. They proposed to kill Hitler, take over Berlin, eliminate the SS and set up a government headed by the former Lord Mayor Leipzig, which would negotiate peace terms with the Allies.

Von Staffenberg, a member of the General Staff, would leave a briefcase containing a time bomb under the table at which Hitler would be receiving a briefing from his staff. July 20, 1944 was the date that the briefcase was placed under the table, as close as possible to the Fuehrer without being noticed, and then Von Stauffenberg apologized and left the room at Rastenburg. Minutes later there was a huge explosion and the conspirators immediately put their plan into action, thinking the Fuehrer was dead.

Tragically for them, Hitler was badly injured but not killed, because the thickness of the table took the full force of the blast. The telephone lines to Berlin had not been cut, and so counter measures could be immediately taken to round up the perpetrators.

Hitler took savage reprisals. Around one hundred and fifty were executed, including Witzle Ben, Beck and Stauffenberg and twelve other Generals. Fifteen committed suicide, Rommel among them.

The Nazi tentacles reached out to young German liberals, influenced by the anti-Nazi preaching of the Lutheran Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who had urged resistance to the Fuehrer from before the war, and who also suffered during the days of terror.

"They came for the Communists, but I did not speak up because I was not a Communist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists, but I did not speak up because I was not a Trade Unionist. Next they came for the Jews, but I did not speak up because I was not a Jew. Finally they came for me, but there was now no-one to speak up for me."

Apart from collaborators, there were too many onlookers and bystanders during the Nazi era. So those who had the courage to stand up and oppose Hitler, even at the cost of their lives, should be remembered always by the Jewish people and by people of goodwill everywhere.

## Janet's Column

by Janet Cowan

The Brighton & Hove Jewish community welcomed Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis and his family for the whole weekend of 30 May to 1 June.

Our shul was honoured and privileged to have him for the Friday night service and again on Shabbat morning when he was joined by his wife Valerie and two of his sons. Chief Rabbi Mirvis is part of our shul family and the warm atmosphere that permeated throughout on the Shabbat morning showed that he was very much at home at Holland Road. After all, he is the brother of Lynette, the wife of our own Rabbi Silverman – so it was truly a family affair.

The synagogue was well attended and our congregants were eager to participate in the service and to sing lustily, waiting anxiously for the Chief Rabbi to speak to us from the pulpit. His address was given with great humour, yet with great wisdom, and he reminded us of our commitment and connection not only to each other but also to those outside our community, but never to forget our Jewishness.

Stanley Cohen, our Chairman, thanked the Chief Rabbi for honouring us with his visit and said that he was an inspiration to the whole Jewish community.

After the service Chief Rabbi Mirvis was led into our refurbished Talmud Torah Hall where a splendid Kiddush had been lovingly prepared by Michele and her helpers. It was so nice that he mingled with all of us, answering our questions and just chatting to us. I personally feel that Chief Rabbi Mirvis is a wonderful ambassador for Anglo Jewry, and I hope that he will come down and visit his HHC family again soon.

No sooner than this special weekend had come to an end, than it was time to prepare for Shavuot and, once again, our shul looked lovely, adorned with flowers and greenery, which Penny Phillips and her team had organised. The famous cheese cake Kiddushim awaited us after the services, again prepared by our own Masterchef, Michele.

No recipes this month, but I do hope that we have some warm and sunny days for everyone to enjoy.



## Twenty-Fifth Anniversaries

by Rabbi Elli Tikvah Sarah

The 200th anniversary of the French Revolution on July 14 1989 proved to be just one key date in a year of revolution and of world-events that still impact on us to this day.

As 1989 began, January 14 saw 1,000 Muslims in Bradford burning Salman Rushdie's Satanic Verses. Iran's Grand Ayatollah Khomeini, who had issued a fatwa against Rushdie, later died on June 3. On January 20, US President George H W Bush, later of Gulf War fame, was inaugurated into office.

On the other side of the world, April saw the beginning of student protests in China, which culminated in Beijing students taking over Tiananmen Square on April 27. On June 4, the tanks moved in and thousands were killed in what became known as the Tiananmen Square Massacre.

In Africa, there were also massive changes going on in 1989 that would resonate down the years. On April 18, Zimbabwe gained independence. Next: the beginning of the transformation of apartheid South Africa. On July 5, President Pieter Botha visited then ANC leader Nelson Mandela. On August 14 Botha resigned and, on September 20, FW De Klerk was sworn in as the new president. He worked quickly. On October 15, De Klerk freed Walter Sisulu and four other political prisoners. On November 16, he announced the abolition of the Separate Amenities Act.

And then there was Eastern Europe and beyond 'the Iron Curtain'. On May 25 Mikhail Gorbachev assumed the

Presidency of the Soviet Union. June 2 saw the victory of Solidarity in the Polish elections. In the last three months of the year, the pace of change quickened. On October 18, the East German leader, Erich Honecker, resigned, and on November 9, East Berlin opened its borders, and the Berlin Wall began to fall. The next day, as Germans were demolishing the Wall, Bulgarian Party President, Todor Zhjivkov resigned. Meanwhile, on October 23, Hungary proclaimed a republic and declared the end of communist rule. Czechoslovakia was to follow: on November 24 the Communist Party resigned, with President Gustav Husak going on December 10. On December 3, Presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush, Snr, declared the Cold War over. Finally, on December 22 Romania ousted Nicolae Ceausescu after 23 years of tyranny.

1989 was also marked by more sobering events. On July 20 the Burma government put Aung San Suu Kyi under house arrest. Closer to home, none of us will forget that on April 15, 96 football supporters were crushed to death at Hillsborough football stadium in Sheffield.

I have my own reasons for remembering 1989: I was ordained as a Rabbi on July 9. And so, with the inclusion of LGBT Jews in Jewish life, the last 25 years has also witnessed another kind of revolution.

## Events@BHPS

### 5 July

Miriam Segal, Connie Ward-Lee and Emma Williams will lead the Shabbat Morning service to mark their Kabbalat Torah graduation.

Since their Bnei Mitzvot they have continued to develop their understanding and knowledge of Judaism, studying with Rabbi Elli and two other teachers. They followed a varied programme including considering the wider issues of religion and belief and what being Jewish means to them. The topics have also included Ivrit, Israel, Musar and mindfulness. In addition they have all worked as classroom assistants in the Beit Lamed. We wish them Mazel Tov and look forward to their continued involvement in the community.

### 12 July

Special Kiddush - see the invitation on this page.

### 19 July

The Shabbat Morning Service will be led by Gabriel Webber and the Beit Lamed students.

We will also be marking the graduation of several of our "Shabbatotots" (younger group) who will be starting the Beit Lamed in September. Sadly we will be saying goodbye to Gabriel who has acted as Beit Lamed teacher and co-ordinator for the past two years. However we look forward to him visiting us regularly in his new role as Communities Youth Co-ordinator with Liberal Judaism.

### You are cordially invited to a Special Kiddush

**Shabbat Pinchas, 12th July 2014 – 14th Tammuz 5744**  
**At the Ralli Hall Jewish Community Centre**  
**To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the S'mikhah/ Ordination of**

**Rabbi Elli Tikvah Sarah (Brighton & Hove Progressive Synagogue) & Rabbi Danny Rich (CEO, Liberal Judaism)**

Kiddush will commence at 12:30 PM, following the Shabbat Morning Service.

You are very welcome to attend the service, which will begin at 11 AM.

The service will be conducted by

Rabbi Elli Tikvah Sarah, Rabbi Danny Rich and Jess Wood Sarah.

Anneloes ter Horst and Harriett Goldenberg

**RSVP**

**Please email: jesskangaroo@yahoo.co.uk by July 1st**

## MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY

**Sunday 20th July 3pm at the home of Jean Jay (Hove)**

**The best hat will win a prize**

**£7.50 (Children free) entrance to include afternoon strawberry tea**

**Please bring a chair or picnic blanket to sit on**



**SHABBAT SHALOM – BRIGHTON TIMES**

In	Light Candles	Out	Havdalah
Fri 4	8.58 pm	Sat 5	10.26 pm
Fri11	8.54 pm	Sat 12	10.20 pm
Fri 18	8.48 pm	Sat 19	10.11 pm
Fri 25	8.40 pm	Sat 26	9.59 pm

**MEMORABLE DATES**

Tuesday 15 Fast of Tammuz

**EVENTS IN JULY****Sunday 6**

- ☛ **BHRS Tea** at AJEX Centre, Eaton Road, Hove 2.30 – 4.30 pm. Non members welcome, but please phone 01273 735343 to book.

**Tuesday 8**

- ☛ **Sussex Jewish News – submission deadline for the August issue. Send your articles, thoughts, photos and announcements to [sjneditor@sussexjewishnews.com](mailto:sjneditor@sussexjewishnews.com)**

**Wednesday 9**

- ☛ **Jazz Spectacular 'Duo Art'** with world class musicians Gwilym Simcock (piano) and Yuri Goloubev (contrabass). St George's Church, Kemp Town, Brighton at 8.00 pm. Tickets £17.00 from the Dome Box Office 01273 709709 or on the door.
- ☛ **SARID (Association of Jewish Refugees) General Discussion** Bring a poem or a book that means a lot to you. 10.45 am at Ralli Hall

**Sunday 27**

- ☛ **Sussex Jewish Film Club** presents 'Eyes Wide Open' at Ralli Hall, 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Drinks available from 7.00 pm.

**Monday 28 July – Friday 8 August**

- ☛ **Camp Gan Israel – Summer Day Camp** for children aged 5-12 years. 10.00 am – 3.00 pm at 31 New Church Road, Hove. Contact Rabbi Efune on 07885 538675

**REMINDER**

*Could people please send in their New Year greetings (form enclosed) as soon as possible.*

**Grodzinki's challos, rolls and Kosher bread available weekly by courtesy of Lubavitch Brighton from Premier Convenience Stores in Hove Street (tel. 01273 735131)**

*Please be sure to reserve your order so that we know how many to supply. Orders can be collected on Thursdays or Fridays.*

**REGULAR ACTIVITIES****Sundays**

- ☛ **Carmel Tennis Club** 10.00 am - 12.00 noon. Weekly. All levels welcome. Tel: Adam on 07720 598087

**Mondays**

- ☛ **Discover, Play and Dance!** Torah Montessori Playgroup for 0-2 year olds. 10.00 am to 12.00 noon. Tel Penina on 01273 328675 or email [torahacademy@btconnect.com](mailto:torahacademy@btconnect.com)
- ☛ **Lunch & Learn** with Rabbi Efune 12.30 - 1.30 pm at the Brighton Hillel Centre, 66/67 Middle Street, Brighton Tel: 01273 321919
- ☛ **Afternoon Club** with tea 1.30 pm. Ralli Hall Tel: Reba 01444 484839
- ☛ **Rubber and Duplicate Bridge** 1.30 pm - 4.30 pm £2.00 Ralli Hall. Tel: Reba 01444 484839
- ☛ **Contemporary Basic Talmud** with Rabbi Efune - Men only 8.15 pm at Chabad House 01273 321919
- ☛ **Tanya (Kabbalah)** Learning Group with Penina Efune - Ladies only 8.00 pm at Chabad House 01273 321919
- ☛ **SARID (Association of Jewish Refugees)** meets every 3rd Monday of the month at 10.45 am, Ralli Hall. £1.50 Tel: 0208 385 3070 or email [esther@ajr.co.uk](mailto:esther@ajr.co.uk)

**Tuesdays**

- ☛ **Ralli Hall Lunch and Social Club** 10.30 am - 4.30 pm Tel: Jacqueline 01273 739999 Weekly at Ralli Hall
- ☛ **Art in the studio with Martin** 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm Ralli Hall
- ☛ **Painting with Rochelle (JAS)** Studio at Ralli Hall, 7.00 – 9.00 pm. Tel: 01273 503708
- ☛ **Israeli Dancing** 7.45 pm - 9.45 pm Ralli Hall. Tel: Jacky 01273 688538

**Wednesdays**

- ☛ **JACS** at the AJEX Centre, Eaton Road, Hove at 2.00 pm. £2 members / £2.50 non-members.
- ☛ **Art in the studio with Martin** 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm Ralli Hall

**Thursdays**

- ☛ **Ralli Hall Lunch and Social Club** 10.30 am - 4.30 pm Weekly Tel: Jacqueline 01273 739999 (RH)
- ☛ **Ladies Who Learn** at Chabad House, 15 Upper Drive, Hove 2.30 – 4.00 pm, to include herbal teas and healthy treats. All ladies welcome
- ☛ **Bridge** at Ralli Hall 11.00 am
- ☛ **Weekly Torah portion** with Rabbi Efune 8.15 pm at Chabad House. Tel: 01273 321919

**Fridays**

- ☛ **Kuddle Up Shabbat** parent & child playgroup with Sara Zanardo and her guitar 10.00 am – 11.30 am AJEX Centre
- ☛ **Eastbourne Liberal Jewish Congregation** service on the 4th Friday of each month, WVRS, 24 Hyde Road, Eastbourne or CTK Church small hall, Princes Road, Langney Roundabout, Eastbourne, 6.00 pm. For details contact [malka.seltzer@gmail.com](mailto:malka.seltzer@gmail.com)

**Saturdays**

- ☛ **Eastbourne Hebrew Congregation** Shabbat services at 22 Susans Road, Eastbourne, 10.00 am. Contact 01323 484135 or 07739 082538
- ☛ **Stand Up for Israel** at Ecostream, Western Road, Brighton, 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm

**COMMUNITY EVENTS –  
IMPORTANT REMINDER:  
Contact the Communal Diary before  
planning your events!**