

G A Z E T T E

Pesach 2018

Holocaust Memorial Day at The Rivoli

by Rev. Cantor David Rome

Just a few weeks ago, three hundred people attended Lewisham's annual Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration at the Rivoli ballroom. I am honoured to have been on the organising committee, ably led by Cllr Pauline Morrison. Since my arrival in Catford six years ago I have witnessed and encouraged the evolution and development of this important event. So how have things changed?

I have personally promoted music to be a central part of the commemoration. Jewish choirs such as The London Cantorial Singers have taken to the stage performing heart- rending songs from the era of the Holocaust. One of the musical pieces - Ani Maamin (I believe with complete faith) was sung in the Warsaw Ghetto. This year the choir was unable to attend so my new band called 'ETC' stepped in and did a most admirable job. Among the songs performed was the Yiddish piece Zog Nit Kein Mol - The Partisans Song.

Three years ago, a change of venue was a major consideration. Moving from the Broadway Theatre to the beautiful and nostalgic Rivoli ballroom (also used as a venue for the TV programme Strictly Come Dancing) was hotly discussed by the committee before approval. I think we made the right decision as the Rivoli provides a more intimate setting for proceedings.

Six years ago our cheder classes had only two children attending so we had to import some children from outside the community to take part in the HMD performance. We now have some thirty children in the cheder and Maccabi, who play a central role in the HMD commemorations. This



year the children from the Synagogue were honoured to perform the welcoming piece to a full house including our guest speaker – Lord Alf Dubs of Battersea.

With every passing year we attract a growing list of VIPs. The inspirational Lord Dubs has agreed to be our keynote speaker for the last two years. This demonstrates the esteem in which the Lewisham HMD event is held by the wider community, across the length and breadth of this country. We have also welcomed Jewish communal leaders from the Board of Deputies, Olivia Marks-Woldman from the Holocaust Memorial Day Foundation and a mayor from Germany.

A number of schools participate in the production but this is not all that is happening. We in Lewisham are lucky to have the effervescent Mark Curtis directing and running the entire theatre production. He not only accomplishes this mammoth task with strength and tenacity but, with his team, goes into countless schools to educate them and hold assemblies about the Holocaust. This level of education is fundamental to the hope that we stop any type of genocide from occurring in the future.

Thus our HMD is in an evolving state and does not remain static. We are looking to the future and are developing a new project with a local artist who, together with Lewisham's youngsters, will create a large mosaic picture which will be placed in a prominent position as reminder of this great tragedy.

Lastly, but most importantly, our work with Holocaust survivors is absolutely crucial to the success of the HMD commemorations. We have the highest admiration for Rachel Levy and Liane Segal for working so closely with us every year and for their support. Their stories have been professionally recorded and are now used in schools throughout the borough to teach about the Holocaust.

All in all, it is wonderful to be working with such a fantastic team and we wish all concerned health, happiness and success in all of their endeavours.



The Minister with Lord Alf Dubs

Chairmans Chat by Joe Burchell, Chairman



Our man in the Antipodes

Pesach is my favourite festival, not because I particularly like matzo but because it involves the children and our grandchildren.

On Passover we tell the story of the Exodus and the long walk undertaken by the Israelites to journey from slavery to freedom. It is one of civilization's great narratives of hope.

We do not usually tell our children this story in the synagogue, but it is told at home with the family. The story itself begins with the youngest child asking a question. How well I remember being at my grandparents' house anxiously waiting to say the Mah Nishtanah with all eyes on me.

If anything has kept the Jewish people of all degrees of faith alive throughout centuries of dispersion and persecution surely it is the story that is told on Seder night. Not only do we pass our genes on to future generations but, through the telling of the Passover story, we pass on our dreams and aspirations.

I hope to see you soon in our synagogue enjoying all that our community has to offer. My family wish you and yours a happy, peaceful and enjoyable Pesach.

From the Warden's Box by Gerald Rose, Warden

Fifty years ago on 14 Iyar the current shul was opened by the then Chairman, Morris Springer, and consecrated by Dayan Meyer Steinberg. That was Sunday, 12 May 1968.

The service was conducted by the Reverend J. H. Rockman. It started when all the Sifrei Torah were brought to the door of the shul, taken in and then, after three circuits of the new hall by the scroll bearers, placed in the ark. This was accompanied by familiar prayers and psalms sung by a choir and the congregation.

This year, on the Golden Anniversary of our current shul, 14 Iyar will be 29 April and we will be celebrating this important date with a special rededication service. Mincha will start with the two refurbished Sifrei Torah being brought to the door at 3:00 pm and then taken on three circuits of the shul as in 1968. This is customary when a new Sefer Torah is presented to a shul. If a damaged Sefer Torah is repaired and made kosher again it can be treated in the same way.

All members of the community, past and present, will be welcome. Local and national dignitaries, both civic and of other faiths, will be invited to attend. All will need to be seated by 2:45pm at the latest to prepare for the entry of the Sifrei Torah.

I would like to thank all who have made donations to pay for the work that was carried out on the two Sifrei



Torah. Donors dedications will feature in the Order of Service.

Of course we will be extending our usual hospitality to all guests after the service and I hope that we will have a good representation from our current membership.

Catford & Bromley Ladies Society presents

The Shavuot Cheesecake Bonanza

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Three in One Shabbat

by Joan Goldberg

The celebration of Tu B'Shvat (New Year for Trees) this year coincided with the Ladies Guild Shabbat and also a Children's Service at our shul. The result of all this activity was a lovely social atmosphere, and a Kiddush with a difference.

The children attended their own service in the hall while the adults were davening. At the end of the general service, the children ably led the community in the final shirim (songs). As if in preparation for Pesach, after the service we all sat down for a Tu B'Shvat Seder/ Kiddush which was led by Rev. Rome and organised by Judith Paniri and the Cheder teachers.

Tu B'Shvat is celebrated with fruit. The festival is celebrated on the 15th of Shevat, and so the aim is to taste 15 different fruits. The emphasis is on the fruits which are mentioned in the Torah and are grown in Israel, such as dates and figs. Enough fruit was provided by the Ladies Society to fulfil this aim, and I'm sure some of our children, and at least a couple of our adults, managed this incredible feat.

Explanations were given for the inclusion of specific fruits, and the relevant Brachot were chanted by all for each type, such as fruit grown on trees, fruit grown on the ground and fruit for wine (grapes), as well as the general Brachah for everything else.

Although the Ladies Society catered the savoury Kiddush, as in previous years, it was a pleasure to see our men serve everyone, and even clear the tables. This show of support is much appreciated by the ladies.

This was a really different and busy Shabbat enjoyed by everyone present; and how delightful to see the children at our services. It was a lovely morning, with everyone taking part.

REFUAH SHELEMAH

If you know of someone for whom you would like a Refuah prayer, please let the administrator know their Hebrew name and the name of their mother.

Board of Management update

by Eddy Arram

Many of the items that are dealt with by the Board are cyclical, i.e. the festivals. Each year the Board looks at what happened in the previous year. Did everything run to plan? If not, what happened? So each year things that did not work are abandoned and those that did remain.

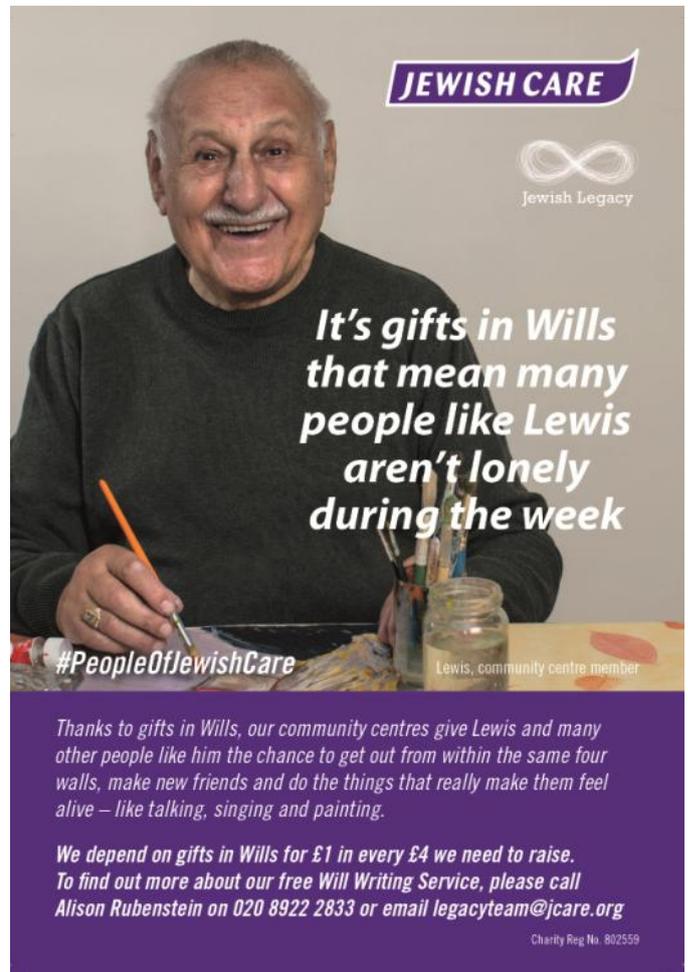
Every year thought also goes into how each festival service can be improved. This year was no exception. When discussing the communal Seder for Pesach an important factor was that this year first night will fall on Friday night, hence second night will be Motsei Shabbat and food preparation will be difficult. It was decided to hold the communal Seder on the first night, i.e. Friday. Last year the meal was bought in and this was deemed a great success so it was decided to do the same again.

Similarly last year's Tu B'Shvat Seder was held with the Cheder children taking the spotlight, which was a huge success and enjoyed by everyone. The Board agreed to repeat the same format this year.

The Board was apprised of the refurbishment works to all the toilets. Further works may be carried out to replace the ceiling tiles in the hall if funds permit.

With the approach of Holocaust Memorial Day, the Board discussed the timetable for the event to be held in the Synagogue on 28 January after the normal Shabbat service as well as the borough event to be held the following day at the Rivoli Ballroom. This year the children of the Synagogue took centre stage at the Borough event

The most important issue discussed by the Board since the last report in the Gazette was the increase in fees. As might be expected, this was not a walkover. Everyone had an opinion and none were the same, but then that is to be expected from any Jewish organisation! The original proposal put to the Board of a flat increase across all membership resulted in a very passionate debate. In the end it was defeated by a large majority. An alternative proposal of a proportionate increase was proposed and agreed by a big majority. The debate was notable for its good humour,



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civilised approach and total lack of acrimony. Not all shuls can boast of that.

Finally, this year is an election year and under the shul's constitution the Board is obliged to make the decision whether to have three or five Honorary Officers. The Board agreed that we should keep to the existing arrangement of five Honorary Officers comprising two Wardens, the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Treasurer.

Board of Deputies Vice-President at Lewisham HMD event by Carole Abrahams



Dr Sheila Gewolb with Lord Dubs

Vice-President Dr Sheila Gewolb joined members of Catford & Bromley Synagogue at the Lewisham Holocaust Memorial Day production at the Rivoli Ballroom. This was the first time that the Board of Deputies had been officially represented at this event. Sheila, who is head of the Communities and Education Division, lit one of the candles.

At the reception afterwards, Sheila told me that this was the most moving HMD event that she had attended, comparing it with those at City Hall and the Foreign Office [indeed, she observed to Debi Alper that "The words of the children were so powerful ... They will remember this all their lives and PG it will have an

effect on how they react to any Holocaust rhetoric they come up against in the future."]. Sheila later wrote about it in the BOD weekly community briefing.

This was her second visit to Catford, following her visit to the Friendship Club in 2016. During the last three years the shul has also hosted BOD Senior Vice President, Richard Verber, and President, Jonathan Arkush, who has wished our community chag sameach for Pesach.

The BOD does a great deal of work to represent the Jewish community to government and other authorities, often unbeknown to most of us: www.bod.org.uk.

All the children have been working very hard learning, enjoying various Jewish festivals and participating in Shabbat services.

We are particularly proud of how well the children's Hebrew reading and understanding is coming along... some of the children have nearly completed their Aleph Champ Scheme and are reading and using a Siddur.

One of the highlights at Cheder is our assemblies, where the children sing songs and prayers. I think you will agree how lovely it is to hear and see

the children participate during the Shabbat Services with Anim Zemiroth and Adon Olam!

Once again the children marked Holocaust Memorial Day with Maccabi. They all did a tremendous job participating in such an important event. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Maccabi for all the hard work they put into this event, helping and supporting young people and their families with a very sensitive, emotional and difficult topic.

The Cheder children have been working on a Brachot Project. The children thoroughly enjoyed joining in the Tu B'Shvat Seder, using their Brachot knowledge.

We are all very much looking forward to Purim - making Hamantaschen with Joan Goldberg, the Misloach Manot project and other Purim activities...

Thank you to Ray, Colin, the teachers and volunteers for their continuous support. A special thank you to all Cheder children, who are so engaging and make everything worthwhile.

The Chief Rabbi's Pesach Message 5778 by Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis



We have a fascinating family custom: at the Pesach Seder our family sings the words of the passage known as 'Chasal Siddur Pesach' to the tune of Chanukah's Maoz Tzur.

This has prompted me to consider what the festivals of Pesach and Chanukah have in common. Of course, both celebrate the miraculous intervention of the Almighty to save our people and both are eight days long in the Diaspora.

Interestingly, if necessary, Jewish law requires one to sell one's clothing or receive tzedakah in order to purchase candles for the Chanukah. This is strikingly similar to Pesach, when one is required to sell one's clothing or receive tzedakah in order to buy wine for the required four cups. There was also a fascinating and beautiful custom among the Jews of Izmir in Turkey to use their leftover oil from the previous Chanukah to light a small oil lamp, which they used for Bedikat Chametz, the search for chametz, on the night before Pesach.

Yet, the most substantive, thematic connection between Chanukah and Pesach is the centrality of education as a Jewish value. Both festivals lead us to appreciate the crucial importance of learning in our tradition; a lesson encapsulated by our Sages, who declared, Vetalmud Torah Keneged Kulam – the study of Torah supersedes all (Mishnah Pe'ah 1).

The Hebrew word Chanukah (dedication) comes from the same root as chinuch (education). Indeed, dedication to education is a key feature of the Chanukah narrative. The survival of our spiritual legacy, despite the intentions of the Hellenists, was rooted in our commitment to teaching Torah and its values.

The primary purpose of the Pesach seder is education - "And you shall relate to your child on that day saying, "It is because of this that the Almighty performed these miracles for me when I left Egypt" (Shemot 13:8). But, more than that, the Pesach seder itself sets out the ideal framework for the most impactful education – an audio-visual, experiential encounter which utilises storytelling, questioning and a veritable assault on our senses to ensure that the experience is an unforgettable treat. It is no accident that of all our traditions, the seder night remains the most widely observed, even in families who would otherwise consider themselves entirely secular. Research has shown that more Jews attend a Pesach seder every year than those who fast on Yom Kippur. Pesach teaches us what the best teachers already know – that the most effective education must be experiential.

This lesson is of particular relevance to us today. British Jewry is blessed to have truly outstanding schools which, year on year, are heralded as being amongst the finest in the country. I am always moved by the dedication shown by trustees, governors and staff at our wonderful schools and they would be the first to say that there is nothing more impactful or foundational to a Jewish child's identity, than a powerful Jewish experience

Whatever the setting; formal or informal, at school or at home, may this Pesach present an opportunity for us to refocus on a truism of Jewish life – the greatest key to a successful Jewish future is quality Jewish education.

Valerie and I wish you a chag kasher vesameach.

Since the last Gazette there have been two meetings of the United Synagogue Council.

The meeting held on 11 September 2017 was the first opportunity for the new President and Trustees, as elected under the revised procedure, to lay out their vision for the next three years. Although there were some old faces there was also a breath of fresh air, with the election of a number of first-time Trustees.

Michael Goldstein, the new President, defined his priorities for the organisation as being to:

- identify growth in the US membership
- make membership more attractive
- target 24-45 age group
- look at the areas of London where there is no US membership
- look at the provinces
- promote and advocate the US services, in other words talk up the US
- make the US bigger and better.

The main part of the meeting was taken up with the Trustees detailing their briefs and how they would achieve their aims.

Andrew Eder is a first-time elected Trustee with the remit of rabbinic responsibility. He displayed a huge amount of enthusiasm and wants to make our rabbis 21st century ministers without losing Halacha.

Barry Shaw's remit is community learning. Doreen Samuels is responsible for the cradle to the grave, as her remit covers formal education, schools, and the Burial Society.

Saul Taylor is looking after the young community, i.e. 20's onward. Claire Lemer is responsible for Tribe. We see these two areas frequently clashing. Fleurise Lewis takes on Membership with the aim of looking at what it offers. Finally Maxwell Nisna is responsible for Finance and Property.

The President informed the council that at each meeting one of the Trustees will be accountable to the meeting. This is a welcome new approach making both the Council and the Trustees more accountable.

Affiliate membership is dwindling

The affiliate membership is dwindling, as Welwyn Garden City has changed its status to become a full constituent member. A few affiliates remain but, as the old saying goes, it is quality not quantity that counts.

Finally, the Redbridge representative raised the contentious incident at the last Lewisham Interfaith Meeting held in the synagogue. He spoke for about 10 minutes and did not get a single fact correct. Michael Goldstone was excellent in replying that Catford had done no wrong and if he (Redbridge) had bothered to find out the facts he would not have raised the issue.

The second meeting was held on 15 January 2018 and took the place of the deferred meeting of 11 December 2017. That meeting was postponed because there was snow in north London! There was no snow in south London, thus proving that as south London is nearer the equator than north London our weather is warmer!

This was the budget-setting meeting and the budget presentation was more transparent and clearer than last year. The Treasurer laid out 3 key issues:

- Shuls should, like the United Synagogue, produce a balance budget. This year's income and expenditure was approx. £32million.
- HQ gave support and an infrastructure to some 58 constituent and affiliated synagogues plus kashrut and burial departments.
- Shuls should feel free to feed back to HQ any constructive ideas on financial matters.

Details of US income and expenditure are available from the Catford Synagogue administrator. The President reported that a recruitment fair had been held in Jerusalem for rabbis and teachers. Tribe had been busy recruiting for summer trips to Ghana and New York plus a February visit to Poland. There had also been interviews for, and the appointment, of a new head at the JFS.

A presentation was made on Communities of Potential. This was a forward look at new ideas and

challenges in new areas where Jews are living. No guesses that this was focused only on north of the river. Joe Burchell asked his usual question as to when there was going to be a similar exercise south of the river. The usual promises were made but, as in the past, actions speak louder than words.

The United Synagogue is supporting the pressure put on Mary Hassel, the Inner London North Coroner, who has attracted so much criticism regarding the burial requirements of both Jews and Muslims. We asked a senior officer of the Burial Society if there was any whiff of anti-Semitism in her actions. He has his finger on the pulse and he assured us that this was not the case, more one of 'following the rules to the letter'. All other London coroners, including those in south London, are very accommodating to the needs and requirements of the Jewish and Muslim communities.

Some Good News

Finally, some good news. The United Synagogue has been awarded a £1.7million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to open Willesden Cemetery as a place of heritage to the public. The grant will go towards Willesden Jewish Cemetery 'House of Life'; helping to create greater public access to one of London's most remarkable cemeteries. It will engage new visitors with stories of people buried there since Victorian times.

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OFFICE HOURS

All Mondays 10am - 12pm
All Tuesdays 10am - 3pm

Reality and History Collide by Paul Stanton

There are various articles in this issue of the Gazette about Holocaust Memorial Day and the acts of remembrance that take place every year. As time slips by it is becoming easier to think of the terrible crimes committed by the Nazi Reich as history. Liane Segal is one of those in our community for whom those terrible days are sharp personal memories which she is living every day.

Until Liane was 7, she lived in the Austrian Capital, Vienna, which the Nazis invaded on 12 March 1938. She regularly played in the park with her cousin, Eric, who was a few years older than her. This had been a regular treat and fun. Even before the invasion they were regularly confronted by groups of Hitler Youth who bullied Eric and teased Liane. All Jews were subjected to at least similar treatment.

One day, they left the park to go home but were unable to cross the main road outside. They waited for what seemed like an age as Nazi troops streamed by. They were on foot and on motor cycles, other transport bringing with them their equipment. Liane and Eric were watching history in the making on the day that Austria was annexed by Germany. Soon afterwards Liane, like other Jewish children, was not allowed to go to school and, like all Jews, was frightened to go out onto the streets.

The family apartment was on the third floor of the building which overlooked the street. From her window Liane watched the Nazi abuses of the Jewish population unfold. She saw harassment in the streets, watched as people were pulled from their homes and forced to scrub pavements wearing armbands with the yellow Star of David. She watched as rifle butts were used as clubs and watched as her neighbours were put in the back of trucks and taken away. She could also see the many anti-Jewish caricatures and lots of broken windows on Jewish premises.

Liane was living with her father and step-mother and there were many times when soldiers came to her apartment block trying to find out from Liane where her father was. She always managed to convince them that she did not know although she knew that he was hiding in the loft.

It was obvious to the family and their fellow Austrian Jews that they needed to leave Austria. Liane's step-mother would queue day after day to try to get visas to allow them to travel out of the country. This was a dangerous exercise because all the while she risked being tormented, knocked about or possibly even taken away by the Nazis. For Liane this was a very difficult time because she was particularly close to her grandparents, whom she visited regularly with her father. He was a strong and proud man but she watched him break down every time they visited as they did not know whether they would see each other again. Liane was only six or seven.

After Kristallnacht on the night of 9 November 1938, when synagogues were burned and horrors were perpetrated on the Jewish population, petitions were made to the British government to accept refugees from areas of Nazi influence. This was debated and approved by parliament, who agreed to accept 10,000 unaccompanied children as refugees provided that they did not seek employment in Britain and they had somewhere to live. Every child would need a guarantee of £50 sterling to finance his or her eventual re-emigration, as it was expected the children would stay in the country only temporarily. This paved the way for what has

become known as the Kindertransport.

Life was getting even more difficult for the family and there were food shortages. It was safer for Liane to go out to get rations from the soup kitchen than for her parents so she regularly ran the gauntlet of Nazi intimidation. This was very frightening but she never told her parents about that.

While trying to get exit visas, Liane's parents sought a foster family with whom she could be placed in England. Eventually they were lucky to find a family living in Wigan who were prepared to give the guarantee. It was arranged for Liane to travel to Britain on the recently set up Kindertransport to stay with a family she did not know. She was taken to see her grandparents to say goodbye for the last time. Her clothes were packed into one small case, then she was dressed up for her trip and labelled.

At the station there were so many children. She found herself on the train, squashed into a corner at the back. Parents had been told not to make a fuss of their children on the platform. She could not see them as the train left because of the children who were crowded in front of the window. It had not been a tearful affair and Liane's main memory of the journey was that nobody spoke to her as she was small and quiet, and she felt terribly lonely. On the way there were Nazis on the train keeping order, which was frightening.



The visa in Liane's Reisepass (Passport) was issued on 15 May 1939 and she arrived at a British port on 8 June. The journey itself seemed quite quick to Liane, who was worrying about her lack of English language, whether she would like the people she would see and going into the unknown. One of her first problems was being confronted with a bed made up with sheets and blankets. She did not know how to get into it. She had only ever seen a bed with a throw-over duvet before.

It is likely that Liane arrived by boat in Harwich, where her labels came into their own. Her foster parents, Harry and Ray Abrahams, found her and took her on two more trains to their home in Wigan. They were marvellously kind people who had taken Liane in despite having a younger son, Ivor, who was suffering from serious eczema and asthma. The first English phrase that she learned was, "Please may I leave the table?"

Two weeks before war was declared between Britain and Germany, Liane's father and step-mother arrived in England. They had only been permitted to come if they had a job and they had found positions as a butler and a cook for a family in Hertfordshire. Liane remained with her foster parents for two years. During that time she was able to go to school and play with children in the street for the first time in her life.

Her father joined the Pioneer Corps of the British army and her step-mother moved to Manchester. As soon as she could,

Reality and History Collide Continued...



Liane moved in with her step-mother and new baby brother, before the three of them were evacuated to South Wales.

Her father was invalidated out of the army and the family moved to Battersea. Then, because of the Blitz, Liane had to go to stay with a family connection in Hertford Heath. After this she went back to London to live with the three members of her family. They eventually set up home in Sydenham while the war was still dragging on.

Compounding all of this, Liane became ill with pleurisy. At the time, this was treated with a year in a sanatorium. Liane's was in Brentwood in Essex. It was here that she began making soft toys, which eventually led to a career in dressmaking and teaching.

When you spend a little time with Liane you soon become aware of an irrepressible spirit and a sparkle in her eyes. She has a close family and is still active in the Catford community, organising the Chai Society. It could all have been so very different.

Many children came to Britain on the Kindertransport. Without British citizens of all faiths volunteering to take them in and offering the £50 guarantee they would not have been admitted. In Lubbock Road, Chislehurst, there is a bench that commemorates the children who arrived and stayed in the Coed-Bel hospital which stood near the site.

Catford Music Club ETC

by Rev. Cantor David Rome

In January the Catford Music Club held a very special concert in the Arnold Robbins Hall.

It was the inaugural event for the newly formed band 'ETC' aka Etcetera. The band is the brain child of our Minister, David Rome, and Sharona Joshua. They performed a range of music from jazz to the Jewish repertoire. A wonderful dinner was cooked by Leila Rome and her helpers.

Passover Message by Michael Goldstein, United Synagogue President

Pesach commemorates our Exodus from Egypt. God is the one who took us out, but he appointed Moses to be our leader. Curiously, Moses was not one of the leaders of the Jewish people until that point. He wasn't an orator and we have no evidence of him filling a position of leadership within the community. So why was he chosen to lead the Jewish people?

Leadership is not about getting others to do what you want. A leader is one who takes responsibility.

'Moses ..went out to his brethren and observed their burdens and he saw an Egyptian man striking a Hebrew, one of his brethren. He turned this way and that and saw there was no man, so he struck the Egyptian' (Exodus 2: 11-12).

In saying that 'there was no man', the Torah is teaching us that Moses understood that no one else was going to stop the Egyptian and do justice. As Hillel said, 'In a place where there is no man, strive to be a man' (Ethics of the Fathers 2:6). He understood what he needed to do, he recognised the responsibility and he did it.

Pesach is the festival in which we celebrate freedom. That freedom requires a purpose. At our seder table we begin with an invitation to others to partake in the meal as a reminder that true freedom requires responsibility, namely the responsibility to give. The greatest expression of one's true freedom is the ability to give and assist others. The



seder begins with an invitation to those less fortunate, an important reminder of what true freedom entails.

So, this year, as you sit with family and friends, please consider ways in which you can give to our wonderful community. Whether it be volunteering to schools, shuls or social care facilities, putting yourself forward to lead our schools and shuls or representing your community on the Board of Deputies.

My own life is enriched by the volunteering that I am involved with as I see the fruits of our labour across our numerous and varied communities. Seeing the efforts that so many people put in to ensure the continuation of our wonderful tradition is a source of personal joy. I encourage as many of you as is possible to join our band of leaders and volunteers.

May we all be blessed with a happy and kosher Pesach.

Friendship Club by Rowena Rosenfeld



Firstly, a big thank you to all who have so generously given donations to the club. It helps pay for many of the special treats that are enjoyed by our members and the new equipment that we buy for the shul.

The club has had another successful year; our Chanukah party went well and we have organised many birthday

parties that were funded by members. Paul and I celebrated our golden wedding anniversary with the club, which was a great success.

I am so very grateful for all the help I get from members. Their contribution ensures that the club can continue as we go from strength to strength with new members joining us.

Loneliness is not necessary in our community if we use the facilities offered by our shul. We are such a friendly club that I am sure that anyone who is lonely need not be if they give the club a try.

Mazeltov

Laurence & Einat Aronberg on the birth of their daughter

Rabbi Mendy & Ruth Brackman on the birth of their son

Sharon & Dean Simmonds on the occasion of the engagement of their daughter Ami to Eren Waitzman

Frank Simmonds on the engagement of his granddaughter, Ami

Condolences

Shirley Greenberg on the loss of her husband, Henry Greenberg, father of Lindsey (Hilsum), Michael & Robert

Raymond Grabinar On the loss of his wife, Anne Grabinar. mother of Leah & Paul, sister of Doreen Wolf

Beryl Baum We are sorry to advise of the loss of Beryl

Louis Kleinman on the loss of his brother, Trevor

David Irvine on the loss of his mother, June

Stone Consecrations

Rachel Foe Sunday 22 April 2018
3.00 pm *Waltham Abbey*

Barry Burke Sunday 10 June 2018
10.00 am *Bushey*

Henry Greenberg Sunday 14 October 2018
2.30 pm *Waltham Abbey*

Lewis Alan Ruben Monday 22 October 2018
1.30 pm *Bushey*

Phyllis Price Sunday 28 October 2018
12.00 noon *Bushey*

Maccabi

by Joe and Jacob Kat, Joint Youth Leaders

We have been delighted to see attendance at club has been creeping up, especially as many of the attendees are the children (and grandchildren!) of ex-Maccabi regulars. As Catford is the only synagogue for miles around that has both a cheder and Maccabi, it's even more important to make sure that we continue into the future. There have still been occasions when we have had to cancel a session after learning no one will be there but fortunately this now happens rarely.

As well as running the regular weekly sessions, we were proud to have been invited to take part in the Holocaust Memorial Day production at the

Rivoli Ballroom again, ensuring a Jewish youth presence at this important event. The theme this year was The Power of Words and we devised a short piece called The Voice Stealer. It was a great honour to have also been asked to introduce the guest speaker, Lord Alf Dubs, whose inspiring speech reminded us of the links between the past and the present-day refugee crisis.

Thank you so much to Milly Burchell, Asher Falcon, Beau and Darcey Morton-Turner and Dov Paniri for making us so proud. Thanks also to Olive Supple-Still for her help in

Ladies Society

by Joan Goldberg

The Ladies Society has been fulfilling its duties, ably led by Benita, despite her recent operation which was followed by a further short stay in hospital. The members of the Society and, I am sure, all the community, join me in thanking Benita for her stoic leadership. We wish her a continued and complete recovery.

As usual, we have provided the Shabbat morning Kiddush every week. I would like to thank all of the ladies who cater this and the savoury Kiddushim, which really need all hands on deck!!

All of our Kiddushim give participants a chance to socialise and catch up with their friends, while enjoying a hot drink with refreshments.

On Tu B'Shvat, we provided the "15 fruits," as custom demands, which, combined with the other activities of the day, was enjoyed by all. The Ladies of the Society wish to thank Rev. Rome for his kind words on the day, as it was the Ladies Society Shabbat as well as Tu B'Shvat!

On Purim, a new venture for our Synagogue was to distribute 'Mishlach Manot' boxes to members on the day. These boxes and contents were donated by the United Synagogue. We would like to thank the very obliging children of our Cheder who assembled the boxes and their contents.

Looking forward, we will be catering the Communal Seder, and urge any participants to book in good time, as last-minute additions make catering extremely difficult.

We will be having our own version of the 'Shavuot Bake Off' prior to the festival. More details are on the poster so please volunteer to bake or come and support us at the tea!

In conclusion, Benita and all members of the Ladies Society all wish Reverend Rome, his family, and all the community a happy and kosher Pesach

The editor hopes that you have not found too many mistakes and wishes you a brilliant matzo fest

devising and directing our contribution. We are planning a joint event with cheder in the near future, to which we will be inviting Rachel Levy and Liane Segal to talk to the children and – perhaps, more importantly – their parents.

Our thanks go to all the parents who have supported us, with a special mention for Judith Paniri who has helped strengthen the links between Cheder and club. Thanks also to the trustees, Joe Burchell, Pip Wolfson and Alex Arbisman, and to Greg Kat, for volunteering to do security every week and to Debi Alper for help with admin and cooking lunches.