



# Simcha Times

January 2021

## Birthday Honours in C & B *by Paul Stanton*

*It's just like waiting for a No 37 bus. Catford & Bromley Synagogue community has had few centenarians but Pearl Young celebrated her 100th last November and now another two turn up at virtually the same time. In February Joy Springer will celebrate her 100th birthday and in March our First Lady, Auntie Marie, will also be expecting a message from Her Majesty the Queen to recognise her century.*

In 1921 the Irish Free State – later was to become the Irish Republic – came into being. While this had little to do with Joy, the year was no less momentous for her because, on the first of February, she was born in Dublin. She moved to England as a youngster and was eventually introduced into the Catford community when she met and married our long-serving chairman, Morris Springer. Morris was heavily involved in all things Catford and Bromley Synagogue and Joy felt that it was best to keep very much in the background. We wish her well on her big birthday. She would be delighted to hear from members of the community.

It is not often that our First Lady, Auntie Marie, plays second fiddle to anyone but in this case she has little choice as, a month after Joy's arrival, she was born into the Sugarman family in Catford. Judah, her father, had a fruit stall in Catford market and Marie grew up with her two brothers and her sister, Gertie. The Sugarman family joined the synagogue when it reopened in Catford Hill after WW2. Their extended family became central to community life, including the Wagman, the Courman and the Jacobs families. They even have links to the Isaacs dynasty.

Auntie Marie has immersed herself in community life over the years within the Ladies Society, WIZO and latterly the Friendship Club. In her working life she was honoured by Lewisham Council when they named her 'Woman of the Year' in 1986 and she was honoured by the Catford community when she became our 'First Lady' in 2015. As a friend to everyone in the shul, with her motto of "Be kind to everybody and be nice," Marie is affectionately known as Auntie Marie by all. Can there be a finer compliment to this special lady? If you ask her what she has done to keep her verve over the years she will say, "Nothing special." I suspect that it is her continuing interest in "her young men." I am sure that the whole community will wish all our centenarians the very best of health and happiness. Mazeltov to you all.



**Marie, Morris and Joy**

### 1921

- 1/1 Car tax discs introduced
- 17/1 First woman sawn in half on stage
- 1 / 2 **Joy was born**
- 12/2 Winston Churchill appointed Colonial Secretary
- 1 / 3 **Marie was born**
- 3 / 4 Coal rationing introduced due to strike action
- 23/4 Tottenham beat Wolves in the FA Cup final
- 24/6 R38 airship maiden flight
- 24/8 R38 airship exploded
- 6/6 King George V opened Southwark Bridge
- 17/9 Ernest Shackleton set off to Antarctica – It didn't end well
- 11/11 The first Poppy Day
- 16/12 Irish Free State granted Independence

## Asher's BarMitzvah Celebration

Saturday 30 January at 7.30 pm



Join the family on Zoom:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82824033000>  
ID: 828 2403 3000  
Mazeltov to the  
Falcons and Goldbergs

