

The Congregation of Jacob Synagogue

בית הכנסת קהלת יעקב

Incorporating

חברה ישראל ובקור חולים

Chevra Yisroel & Bicur Cholim & Stetziver Synagogue

JACOBETTE Volume 10

Nicola and Mike choose The Congregation of Jacob

Special points of interest:

Nicola and Mike Choose the Congregation of Jacob

Schools pick the Congregation of Jacob for cultural education.

Joey the parrot helps with singing at the Pesach Seder.

We had a wonderful wedding day in your gem of a shul two weeks before Pesach. The building looked magnificent and the atmosphere was lovely. The management of the Shul was warmly accommodating of us and our friends and family and David Brandes in particular helped us enormously.

Our memory of a fantastic day is strongly associated with the beautifully named and wonderfully idiosyncratic Congregation of Jacob.

The idea to ask the Shul to allow us to get married here came from a long standing association of Mike's maternal family (Steinberg, Cohen, Godfrey – all names strongly associated with the history of the Shul) with Kehillat Yaakov.

Mike had visited the Shul on several occasions as a child and heard tell of it often from his grandparents. Mike's great grandparents had lived close by and his great uncle Phillip Steinberg who was a local GP and talented artist produced the painting above the ark.

It is an amazing testament to the hard work and dedication of David, his family and other members that the Shul is so superbly refurbished as a piece of living history (in what is after all a property in a row of shops).

To see it full of people enjoying the moving wedding service led by Rabbi Shlomo Levin was truly memorable. So many of our friends and family have commented on the amazing venue of the wedding often as a place they didn't even know existed and were delighted to see and enjoy.

Our party for friends and family was in the city only a very short drive away. Our transport by vintage double decker bus provided a fun backdrop on Commercial Road. David even ensured that the local police facilitated parking for the bus!

It is clear that Kehillat Yaakov sees itself as having a vibrant present and future as well as a fascinating past. With the obvious achievements of the past few years in preserving and enhancing the building and maintaining and building on regular services we are sure that future generations will also share the Kehillat Yaakov experience.

Heartfelt thanks and good wishes for a successful, healthy and happy New Year to all the leaders and members of Kehillat Yaakov. L'shana tova tichatev v'techateim,

Nicola and Mike



A Note from the Editor — Michael Gold



Seven years I have been involved with the Congregation of Jacob Synagogue, and the Shul has never looked so good.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rev. David Brandes for all his hard work throughout the year. I am in no doubt that our Shul would not be the place it is today without him.

There is a lot more work to do, and unfortunately some more money to find. However money is not all we need; please find the time

to help make a minyan as this will help keep our Shul alive.

As the Olympics come to town in 2012, London will get very busy. Hopefully visiting Jewish people will want come to the Congregation of Jacob.

I hope you enjoy this years publication, next year you might want to enhance this publication by contributing an article yourself?

There is talk that Judaism in the East End of London is

finished. Anyone that has spent any time at the Congregation of Jacob will know different.

I feel excited that I am a member of a growing community making a revival in the East End, and I am sure that we will continue to gain in numbers and strength in the year to come.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Michael Gold

"We need your support. All donations large or small are needed."

News Bites

School Visits

We have had a wide variety of schools visit our shul from local area. Marion Richardson and Gatehouse Schools were a very diverse group of students encompassing all the main faiths. They were very interested in our shul and Judaism and all the sessions went well over the time due to the number of questions they asked but was well worth the effort.

Historic Royal Palaces

All the diversity presentations conducted at the Historic Royal Palaces were by David Russell in the same locations as last year – Hampton Court Palace, Kensington Palace and the Tower of London. It could almost be claimed that this was by royal appointment (if only).

A Note from Our Warden — Rev David Brandes



The children of Israel entered Egypt at the time of Joseph with 70 souls and left with over 600,000 men able to join the army. Our shul has with help from above more than 70 souls but a lot less than 600,000.

Our community manages with nissim (miracles) from above to maintain a regular minyan but it is becoming very challenging and we are interested in enlisting as many non affiliated menschen to join us. We are a very friendly and welcoming community and want to maintain

that ambience with an increased kehilla.

The building has been restored to such a wonderful level that couples from the leafier parts of London want to get married here. Michael and Nicola's wedding in April was a testament to that claim.

Young children are attending the shul and this renaissance of younger members really lifts the spirits of all the community. We now have younger people leading on several of the services and we have been blessed with some beautiful voices that are a joy to listen to their unique melodies.

A big vote of thanks to Gerald who does a lot of good work in the background. Also to all the people who support

the shul from members of the board, congregants, family and community.

We wish a refuah shelaimah to Charlie Weinberg, Charlie and Blanche Green, Martin, Yechezkal and Marlene David, Abraham and Rebecca David, Sid, Avrohom Daniel, Monty P and Monty R, Shirley Griffiths, Shirley Szabo and Hetty Goodman.

Finally mazal tov to Elliot and Vikki on their wedding and David and Caroline on their engagement and both couples should only know simchas and nuchus.

We wish all of you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

David and Sandra Brandes

An Auf Ruf with a difference

Elliot Frankal & Vikki Miller

The Shul is a beautiful place for a Simcha, and it provided the perfect setting for our Auf Ruf.

Family from Manchester and that other far flung place, North West London, along with many friends joined the congregation for a very happy occasion on the Shabbos of 20 August (20 Av).

From Vikki's nephew Jack (aged 18 months) to her grandmother Inka (aged 86); both families fell in love with the shul. It was a joyful service, ably led as-ever by Rev. David Brandes), who also gave a fitting sermon. It got the happy couple off to the perfect start for the wedding celebrations that were to follow. The wedding itself was in the Cotswolds the following week.

Many thanks must go to David, Ronnie and to Sandra for helping with the tasty Kiddush, which was overflowing with fish balls and which had been put together by Grodzinskis.

Elliot's grandfather had spent some time living in the East End after the war and davened in a shul somewhere in the area, so it was of special significance to celebrate the Auf ruf in a shul with such a proud history here.

If you wish to do a sponsored event to raise money for The Congregation of Jacob Synagogue, please let us know.

Pesach Seder Nights

This year in the shul we held the communal Seder on the first Seder night with 25 people attending this annual event.

It is amazing to think that when I joined the Congregation of Jacob seven years ago, there was no communal Seder, and had not been for many years; and now we run a Seder that has become an important part of the Pesach celebration for so many people that would normally not have a Seder to attend.

As usual the Seder was run very skilfully by our own Rev. David Brandes;

with attendees taking turns to say prayers and passages.

A great rendition of Ma Nishtanah from one of our youngest members Jeannette.

Bitter Herbs and cups of wine later we tucked into a great fish meal, ending with song and laughter in true out of tune Congregation of Jacob style.

On the second night, we had a smaller gathering at Sandra and David's home; singing songs with Joey the parrot at least helping us keep more in tune. A great night, with great people and very

special hosts.

If you do not have a Seder to attend next year, please let David know in plenty of time as space is very limited.

Please G-d next year in Jerusalem.

Michael Gold



Security Notice

Please be vigilant

We are in a time of turmoil. We have seen the devastating effect of terrorism in London.

DO NOT BE A VICTIM - Our security team and the police do all they can to protect you from threats both old and new. Things you can do to help yourselves are:

1. Try to walk in groups
2. Do not loiter outside the Shul where it is obvious you are Jewish
3. Report any suspicious behaviour to our security team on the door
4. Report unattended packages
5. Report all incidents that may be considered racist. This helps build a pattern
6. Most importantly, if you are scared to come to Shul or walk home, tell us in advance, we may be able to help

Rosh Hashanah Message

Although it is well known that Rosh Hashana commemorates the creation of the world (5772 years ago), what is less well known is that it was in fact the day that Adam Harishon – the first man – was created whilst the world was actually created some days earlier on the 25th Elul.

So why do we stress Adam's 'birthday' rather than the world's birthday?

One suggestion is that it is to emphasise man's primary role in creation. The Rabbi's describe us as the 'bchir hanivraim' – the

choicest of all created beings – and this in turn means that everything we do is of great significance. Maimonides puts it like this:



'Imagine' he says 'that the whole world is in total balance (think of a see-saw) and you too as an individual are in total balance. Then your next action will tip

the world one way or the other! Were we to do a good deed then we and the whole world are tipped in the direction of total salvation. But were we to do a bad deed then we and the whole world will be tipped over to the negative

side.' Concludes Maimonides: 'let us imagine that we are indeed in that situation and our next act is going to either save the world or the opposite.'

Having learned how crucial our every act is for the welfare of the world, this gives us an incentive to do that little bit more to 'tip the balance' in the right direction.

Making a good resolution in this direction will serve to earn for ourselves and the whole world a good and sweet New Year!

Ketiva Vachatima Tova!

Rabbi Ephraim Potash



Service times are available in print and on our website.

Do you know someone who is sick?

Have you told us?

Please add names to our list for prayer. Speak with Rev. David Brandes for more information.

No matter what your level of understanding. Come along and be part of our growing community. You are always welcome to join us for a L'chaim after the service.

But not on Yom Kippur !!

This Yom Tov, please spare a thought for those professional people who endanger their lives every day so that we may have a relatively safe life, and the ability to enjoy our freedom.

We pray that they should all be kept from harm.

Please also spare a thought for the soldiers of Eretz Yisroel, May Hashem send a speedy end to hostilities and let the World be at peace.

Amen



"We have refurbished the building to enable more people to enjoy the wonderful atmosphere in our shul. Our community is very friendly and people are made to feel welcome whatever their level of observance."

David Brandes, Warden

Be part of the family...

www.congregationofjacob.org

Purim

Last year we had a really wonderful crowd of people. In the evening we had Shmuel Rubinstein reading the Megilah, he is probably the youngest person to ever read the Megilah at our shul, just over 13 years of age.

Among the congregation a genie was conjured up from the bottle. Russell Eisen looked the part of an eastern guru with a feather in his turban. Obviously Susan had rubbed the appropriate lamp. Jes B came with his funky hat and worked his magic on his camera. Tamara Cohen was perfect in feline disguise and Jacob B came as a monster. His friends Dylan and Rae Ferner – Rose came in very suitable disguise. Jeanette Goldman came in her best party frock.

Rev. Ari Cohen sang some of his beautiful melodies together with Meryl's tartan attire and the evening was completed with animated dancing by the men around the bimah.

The morning was a more sombre affair but still very pleasant where Shelach Monos were provided for all the participants. Again young Shmuel read the Megilah under the watchful but helpful Ephraim Potash. We had an assortment of refreshments that brought the festivities to a wonderful conclusion.

President: Monty Rome
Chairman: Gerald Brandes
Secretary: David Behr
Treasurer: Martin Alpert
Warden: Rev. David Brandes
Web Master: Michael Gold

Are you on-line?

You can receive our events notification e-mail.

Send a mail to:
subscribe@congregationofjacob.org
 putting the word "events" in the subject line.

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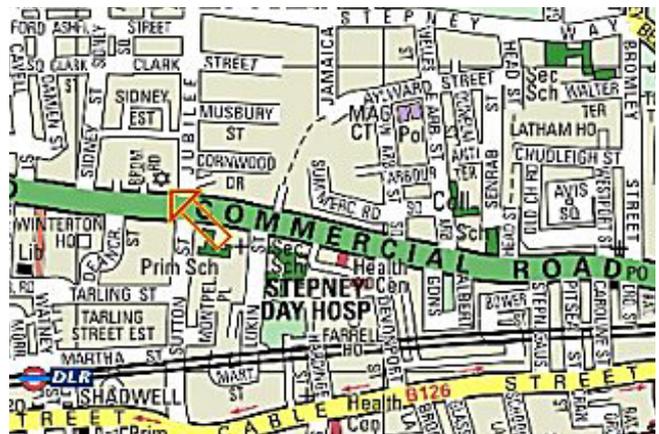
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Designed by Michael Gold