

בית הכנסת קהלת יעקב

CONGREGATION OF JACOB SYNAGOGUE

351 - 353 Commercial Road, London E1 2PS

T: 020 7790 2874 E: info@congregationofjacob.org W: www.congregationofjacob.org

Words of warm welcome



Chevra, this year has been an extremely challenging one, especially with the number of repairs to our beautiful synagogue. However, several *menschen* have rallied behind the shul and created something very special for everybody to appreciate.

When we pray this coming New Year our emphasis needs to be praying for the whole world, and all people, as G-d created all living beings. We should reflect on our dealings with G-d and our fellow creatures. If only we focused on G-d's presence, then our prayers would reach the highest level. As we pray so fervently when we stand close to a great Rabbi, how much more should we pray to the Almighty as these *gedolim* were created by G-d.

We have lost some wonderful people this year, the likes of Monty Rome, Arthur Praag, Abraham Daniel, Sid Wein and Annie Izenman. None of these wonderful people can be replaced.

If we continue to speak only positive and constructive things and avoid *loshon hora* (negative speech), our *chevra* will merit a spiritual and physical rejuvenation.

We had our annual event of a wedding, namely that of David and Caroline, and David has written a superb article included in this newsletter (which he has edited!) about the magnificent wedding.

Boruch HaShem, for my wife, brother, and wonderful community – all of whom show such faith in our shul.

May you all be written in the book of life - *kasima v'chasima tova*

Rev. David Brandes

STOP PRESS

Shul champion heavyweight, Gerald Brandes, will be undertaking a sponsored diet over the course of September in an effort to lose a stone in weight. Please pledge your pounds, so that Gerald can be inspired to shed his! All funds raised will support the shul.



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The Jacobette Vol. 11

Newsletter of the Congregation of Jacob Synagogue

Rosh Hashanah Message

Another year has flown by and we once again are about to welcome in a New Year – 5773.

What kind of inspiration can we glean to take forward with a new resolve to be that little bit better than we have been so far. After all, most people are ambitious to improve their material standard of living so we should try and match that with an ambition to improve our Yiddishkeit too!

The Baal Shem Tov, founder of the Chassidic movement some 250 years ago, was fond of saying that everything that a Jew sees and hears is a lesson in how to serve G-d. Well what have we been seeing and hearing lately (and there is even more to come)? The Olympic Games of course!

So what lesson can we learn from that?

Let me suggest a few points we can work on:

Team work. Look how many sports depend on a team working together. Rowing, basketball, football and so many more. Each team member sees him or herself as crucial and indispensable. Only in that way can they hope to win. Well, a shul is no different. A minyan (quorum of 10) is needed to hold a service and it is a team effort – everybody counts!

Time keeping. Most events are strictly time controlled and measured. Winning is often based on the shortest time achieved. In Yiddishkeit time is crucial – when to pray, when to say the Shema, when Shabbat begins and ends and so on; almost everything is governed by time. This includes arrival time in shul!

Challenge. Someone once asked an Everest climber why he was so eager to climb it. “Because it's there” was the reply. Sportsmen and women appreciate a challenge: to run a bit faster, jump higher, endure longer etc. Well, G-d likes us to be challenged too. This is the lesson from the Paralympics. Sometimes he tests us by making things a bit more difficult but he gives a big cheer when we overcome. His cheer takes the form of wonderful blessings – the Jewish version of a gold medal.

There are many more things we can learn. See if you can think of your own!

Best wishes for a good and sweet Year.

Ephraim Potash



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European Days of Jewish Heritage



On Sunday 2nd September our shul was filled to capacity with visitors for the B'nai B'rith UK European Days of Jewish Culture and Heritage. Reverend David wore a fez and Sandra wore one of her Parisienne wigs.

Sandra welcomed at least 150 visitors and they all sat themselves down and Rev David had no option but to give a spiel about the shul and Judaism. Please G-d we should have such a crowd for our Friday night and Saturday morning services.

Oi Vay! Ronnie will have a fit to cater for so many people.

From our mouths to G-d's ears!

Recipe Corner by Sandra Brandes

Chicken and Rice Salad

Services 4 as a main course, 6-8 for a buffer.

4 tablespoons of raisins
1 tablespoon of margarine
1 sachet of long-grain rice, cooked
1 medium red pepper, sealed and finely sliced
4 tablespoons of walnuts, roughly chopped
Cook chicken pieces
1 tablespoon of mayonnaise (kosher)

For the dressing

4 tablespoons of olive oil
Wine vinegar (kosher)
1 glove of garlic
1 teaspoons of salt
Black pepper
Lettuce leaves for serving

Sauté the raisins in the margarine for about 5 minutes in a frying pan. This greatly enhances the flavour. Whisk the dressing together in a bowl while the rice is cooking. When the rice is cooked, discard the garlic, and then stir in all the remaining ingredients. Leave in a cool place for several hours to intensify the flavour. Line a shallow bowl with crisp lettuce leaves and spoon the salad into centre.

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The wedding of Caroline and David

When Caroline accepted my proposal of marriage in spring last year, I hoped that it might be possible for our chuppah to be held at Kehillas Ya'akov. However, aware that it is traditional for the wedding to be staged at the congregation of the bride's family, I just presumed that would be the case with us, and that our union would be at Bushey United Synagogue, of which Caroline's family were founding members.

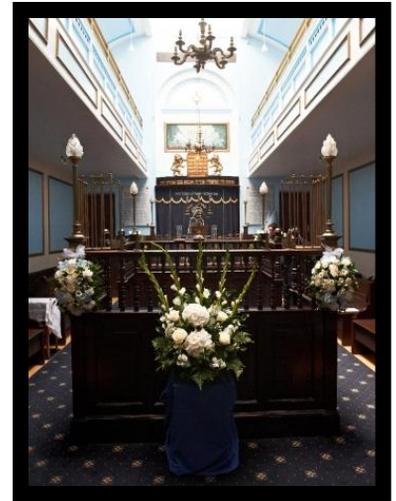
However, on breaking the news to Caroline's parents, they immediately suggested that there would be no more fitting venue than the Congregation of Jacob, knowing of my long association as a member and congregant. As such preparations soon commenced for our big day.

However, as we are all aware, not everything goes exactly to plan. Which proved to be the case with us, in the best of all possible ways, due to the unplanned (but greatly blessed) arrival of our son, Asher Judah.

As such, a date of 24th June 2012 was set for our chuppah, and with a year's notice we then had time to plan for the restoration work that Rev David had planned for the building. This included critical work on the outdoor toilets, as well as the varnishing of all the pews too. Thankfully, funds were raised just in the nick of time to complete the work with a day or two to spare, and all were agreed that the synagogue looked almost as stunning as the bride on the big day!

All of this could not have been possible without the support of every member of the congregation who helped in some form or another – whether donating towards the restoration fund, or helping out with the preparations. Special thanks must be extended to Sandra for all her help on all the organisation required to make possible the event, Ronnie for his work on all the cleaning required to ensure that everything was spick and span, and to Gerald for his guidance on the building work too. A group of my friends were even convened into helping with the schlepping of the benches, as well as the changing of the light bulbs ensuring attention to every detail.

The synagogue was adorned with beautiful flower arrangements from Kelly's Florists, and each guest received a programme with notes about the shul and our connection to it. Rev David welcomed everyone, and the ceremony itself was everything and more that we had wished.



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As I walked down the aisle with my parents, Steven Leas, the chazzan of Central Synagogue, sang *Seu Shearim*, with Caroline's mother and sister (her maid of honour) and then Caroline and her father joining us on the bimah to a rendition of *Etz Chaim*.

We were graced with the presence of not one Rabbi, but three Rabbonim, that conducted the service for us. Rabbi Salasnik of Bushey United Synagogue, along with Rabbi Biberfeld of South Tottenham United Synagogue signed our ketubah, and undertook the ceremonials, and our great friend Rabbi Meyer Braun made an emotional address which captured perfectly the joy of the day.



Every one of the newly restored pews was filled with family and friends, with an overflow of younger guests peering over the balcony from the upstairs gallery to get a bird's eye view of the proceedings. We were married under an ornate chuppah handmade by my sister for her own wedding, with silver stars embroidered on to the white satin cover with a turquoise trim that matched the colour of the synagogue as if it were tailor made for us.



Just as remarkable was that despite a week of heavy rains, the sun even managed to appear and shine upon us that afternoon. As the service concluded, and guests prepared to make the journey to Caroline's family home in Bushey for the reception, we spilled out on to the Commercial Road for some lovely and unique wedding snaps, a selection of which we share with you here.

As we think back now on the events of that day, the memories will remain with us for always. It is rare that such a highlight of a wedding is the venue, but without exception, every one of the guests commented on the specialness of the chuppah because of the beauty of the synagogue. For that we have everyone to thank who made such an effort to make possible such a special day.

We hope that there will be many other simchas in future, and that in years hence Caroline and I will walk *Asher Judah* down the aisle of *Kehillas Ya'akov* too!

David Russell

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Did you hear the one about...

Last month's Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games reminded the world that the UK may not be one of the biggest or richest nations of the world... but we are one of the funniest. The Queen parachuting into the stadium as a Bond girl, and Rowen Atkinson were all part of the fun.

British Jews have contributed a lot to the UK's comedy heritage. From the likes of Peter Sellers, Denis Norden and Ben Elton, to modern day comedians such as Simon Amstell and Sacha Baron Cohen (and let's not forget BBC3 comedian Simon Brodwin who was married right here in the shul a couple of years ago!).

So in tribute to the funny bone connection between Jews and Brits, here is some hand-picked *yiddeshe* humour for the Congregation of Jacob:

Sidney telephones Rabbi Levy. He says, "Rabbi, I know tonight is Kol Nidre night, but tonight West Ham are in the European Cup quarter finals. Rabbi, I'm a life long Hammers fan. I've got to watch the West Ham game on TV."

Rabbi Levy replies, "Sidney, that's what video recorders are for."

Sidney is surprised.

"You mean I can tape Kol Nidre"?

A man walked to the top of a hill to talk to G-d.

The man asked, "G-d, what's a million years to you?"

And G-d said "It's just a minute."

Then the man asked: "Well, what's a million dollars to you?"

and G-d said: "It's just a penny".

Then the man asked: "G-d.....can I have a penny?"

And G-d said: "Sure.....In a minute."

Q: What did the waiter ask the group of Jewish mothers?

A: "Is anything OK?"

Q: How many Jewish mothers does it take the change a light bulb?

A: (Sigh) Don't bother, I'll sit in the dark, I don't want to be a nuisance to anybody.



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Did you the hear the other one about...

Doctor: "I'm sorry to say that you have cancer and Alzheimer's."

Patient: "Well, at least I don't have cancer."

A car hit a Jewish man.

The paramedic treats him on the roadside and sits him up asking, "Are you comfortable?"

The man says, "I make a good living."

Rabbi Rabinovitz answers his phone. "Hello?"

"Hello, is this Rabbi Rabinovitz?"

"It is."

"This is the Inland Revenue. Can you help us?"

"I'll try."

"Do you know Sam Cohen?"

"I do."

"Is he a member of your congregation?"

"He is."

"Did he donate £10,000 to the synagogue rebuilding fund last year?"

"He will!"

and finally...

One sunny day in Rome, the Pope decided to go for a stroll through the streets of Rome.

While he was walking he spotted two beggars sitting on opposite corners of the street one held a sign asking for alms with a picture of a cross. The other beggar held a sign asking for alms but, with a Star of David.

The Pope watched as person after person kept placing money in the beggar's pot with the cross & ignoring the beggar with the Star of David.

The Pope walked over to the beggar with the Star of David and said to him "dear jew, this is Rome, the holy Christian city. Don't you know that with your Star of David, no one will give you money. In fact just out of spite they will give the beggar with the cross even more money, most likely even more than twice as much!"

The beggar with the Star of David shouted across to the other beggar on the other corner "Hey Moshe! Look who's trying to tell the Goldstein brothers about marketing!"



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Arthur Praag



Arthur was a member of our shul and he passed away one month ago. He was a councillor and Governor of Royal London and a local Magistrate. He started as a kosher butcher and then changed trade to electrician and then became a taxi driver and served for several years in the RAF. In his spare time he was a musician a double bass player and chairman of his local tenants association.

He was a person who would always perform a mitzvah for no reward. We wish Shirley, Howard, Regan, Frazer and Jason and all their families *chayin aruchim*.

STOP PRESS

Our shul can offer the services of an excellent Cheder teacher. This will be Sunday morning classes for a few hours.

If any of our readers would like to enrol their children to our cheder please do not hesitate to contact Rev. David who will be glad to supply more information.

Recipe Corner 2 by Sandra Brandes

Grilled Salmon

4 Salmon (steaks)
Black pepper
2 Lemons
1 Onion

Place the salmon into a baking tray with silver foil and put it into the oven; add black pepper, onions and lemons to enhance taste. Make sure that the salmon is fully cooked by cutting the salmon pieces in half.

Grill for 20 minutes on medium heat either gas or electric.

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Monty Rome



Our President Monty Rome (92) passed away last Yom Kippur. He was an extremely capable and affable individual. He started his childhood education in Virginia Road School, Bethnal Green and worked in the printing trade until the Second World War broke out and he was then fighting in the Chindits aregiment that struck fear into the hearts of the Japanese. He was a kind gentleman for our community.

He married his beloved Hilda (nee Pela) whose father was a *macher* in this shul. He was a "wise owl" when times were difficult and could be relied on to give sound and constructive advice.

He could turn his hands to anything and relished repairing old *seforim* and he brought many back to life for our shul. There were many facets to Monty. He was a Grand Master of a Lodge and a shrewd businessman.

He leaves one son Philip and several grandchildren - including David, who is a gifted chazzan, and Gila, who is studying to become a teacher.

He may be gone but he will never be forgotten. We wish his family a long life.

Your Shul Needs You!

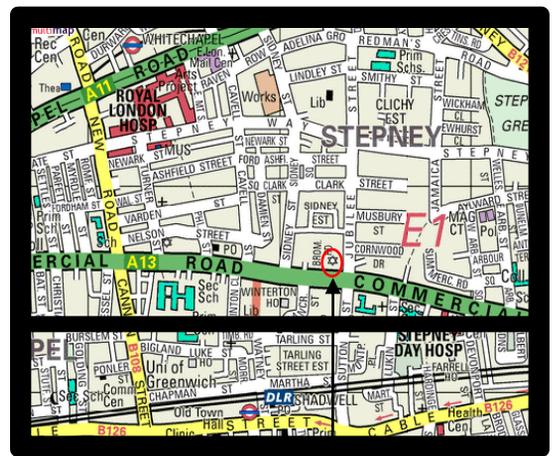
The Congregation of Jacob will be holding services through the High Holy Days. For times please see our award-winning web site (maintained and regularly updated by Mike Gold) at:

www.congregationofjacob.org

There are no tickets required for any of the services, and you will always be welcome, as well as your family and friends.

We hope to see you at your shul soon!

L'Shana Tova



How to find us: We are about 5 minutes walk from Shadwell DLR (one stop from Bank)

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Your legacy is our legacy

Leaving a gift to our community in your will leave an enduring mark on our future. Making a will is very important, even if your financial affairs are quite simple. It ensures your wishes are carried out and helps to remove uncertainty for those left behind. It is essential to review your will regularly so that it continues to reflect your wishes and circumstances. Any sum, however small, will always be appreciated!

How to leave us a legacy

If you have not yet made a will, you may like to know that there are two ways to leave a legacy:

1. Leaving a proportion of your estate
2. Leaving a fixed sum

Leaving a proportion of your estate (known as a Residuary Legacy) is generally the most effective way for you to take care of your own personal commitments, and still make a meaningful donation to the Congregation of Jacob.

You should consult a solicitor when discussing a new will. Your solicitor may use one of the following wordings to describe the type of bequest you wish to leave:

RESIDUARY LEGACY

For a proportion of your estate: "I GIVE the whole or % of my real and personal property not hereby or by any Codicil hereto otherwise specifically disposed or after payments of my debts, pecuniary legacies, funeral and administration expenses and any taxes in respect of my estate to CONGREGATION OF JACOB SYNAGOGUE and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer of the Synagogue shall be a good discharge for the gift"

FIXED SUM

For a fixed sum: "I GIVE the sum of £(amount in pounds) free of tax to CONGREGATION OF JACOB SYNAGOGUE and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer for the time being of the Synagogue shall be a good discharge for the gift"

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY MADE A WILL

You do not need to change your will to leave a legacy to the Congregation of Jacob, you can add what is called a Codicil. For this, you can use the suggested wording hereunder and forward it to your solicitor. As simple as that!

"I (your name) of (your address) declare this to be a (first or other) Codicil to my Will dated (date of will)."

Describe the proportion of your estate or fixed sum you wish to leave by using one of the wordings above; and close with...

"In all respects I confirm my said will and any previous Codicils thereto. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this (date) day of (month) (year)."

"SIGNED by the said (your name) as a (first or other) Codicil to (his / her) last Will in Our joint presence and then by us in (his / hers)."

(Your signature)

(First witness's signature, Name, Occupation, Address)

(Second witness's signature, Name, Occupation, address)