

The Congregation of Jacob Synagogue

בית הכנסת קהלת יעקב

Incorporating

חברה ישראל ובקור חולים

Chevra Yisroel & Bicur Cholim & Stetziver Synagogue

Jacobette Volume 6

You can
Be part of something special



In this issue:

1st Seder in 100 Years

1st Wedding in 40 Years

and much more.....



A note from the Editor

Once again it is Rosh Hashanah, and I have the privilege to be the Editor of our magazine this year. What a year it has been!

Our community grows from strength the strength, and our first wedding in over 40 years.

Some events this year has left standing room only. Who would have thought that we would be this strong today?

I remember when I first joined this community, I saw the crumbling concrete floor and the half painted walls, and our small community of dedicated men and women, I never dreamed that I would have such an active part in the renovation, security, web site and our magazine. But as our community is well aware, there is a mysterious force in our Shul that gets everyone involved.

Keep believing in what we have, and we will stay strong. Please G-d in the not too distant future, we will complete the renovation of the Ladies Gallery.

If you are reading this magazine and you have never visited us, come along and be part of something very special.

Please enjoy reading our magazine and more importantly, please enjoy our hospitality, our friendly congregation and our kiddush on a Shabbos.

Look forward to seeing you all.

Shanah Tova (Happy New Year to everyone.

Michael Gold

A Note from our Warden

Leading this small but very lively community is a challenge that I have relished. This year we have had a wedding plus a communal Seder. I would like thank our Shul solicitor John Samson who works for our community on a honorary basis. His Father passed away a few weeks ago and we wish him and his family a long life. John was introduced to our community by Dr Godfrey who was a significant force in our Shul and a very delightful man.

Ephraim Potash and his family are also to be thanked and he recently had the niftar of his mother and we wish him and his family a long life.

My mother Theresa Brandes has been such a tower of strength even though she is ill continues to show her character against adversity.

Yeshekoaich to our Editor who I call Rembrandt.

As Bais Shammai said say little and do much and this should be the way forward for our community. I am of the belief that gum zu latov that everything will be for the best and turn negatives into positives to strengthen our wonderful and supportive community.

Many thanks to those who have unreservedly supported me and the community for the reason of performing a mitvah.

Kasima Kasiva Tova

David Brandes

I will always be grateful to Mr Deine who early in 2003 informed me that on June 30th the Congregation of Jacob Synagogue would be celebrating its centenary. Truly it was a celebration. The Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks (now Sir) addressed a packed synagogue and we were honoured by the presence of Canon Stephen Oliver, The Bishop of Stepney, Father Francis Van Son of St Mary's and St Michaels Church. The Deputy Mayor, present too was Mark Simmons Borough Commander of the Police Force, and former Mayors and Councillors Arthur Praag and Barrie Duffey

It was an occasion appropriate for our great city in which people of many faiths and confessions must live in mutual respect, tolerance and peace.

The Kehillas Yaakov is especially dear to me. As a child eighty years ago I was brought there by Grandfather Abraham Schwalbe (olava shalom) who, with his friend Morris Davis Koenigsberg was a co-founder of the synagogue.

Since the memorable Centenary celebration service I have visited the synagogue many times. I have had the joy of introducing my wife Barbara, our children and even our grandchildren to the synagogue. All of them were deeply moved not only by the beauty and atmosphere of the building but also the warmth of the extended to them by the Reverend David Brandes and the congregants.

The kehilla, so patently cherished by those who currently worship there, is an enduring monument to those immigrants who founded it one hundred and four years ago. I agree with the sentiments expressed by the Chief Rabbi in his Centenary address

"For me coming here is like coming home"

"you are preserving and conserving something that is unique"

I am sure my grandfather Avram would have been very proud.

Monty Passes



A note from the Editor

For more information on our Centenary Celebration and the history of our Synagogue, please see our web site.



European Day of Jewish Culture and Heritage 2007

Kehillas Ya'akov "is a remarkable survival... and is all the more exceptional for continuing in use as a synagogue" (English Heritage Report 2002).

We are the last remaining East European Folk Art Synagogue in the East End of London. We Celebrated our centenary in 2003.

Come and see for yourselves. You don't have to be Jewish, Come to our open day to view our beautiful building.

**2nd September 2007
10:00am-12:00pm**

Leon and Yulia's wedding at our Shul on 1st April 2007

This was an extremely challenging time to have a wedding the day before Pesach with confirmation on the Wednesday evening that the wedding was to proceed. In spite of the problems and the close proximity to Pesach and a possible second Seder to be held at the Shul., It was finally agreed to the Wedding taking place in our Shul. We have not had a Wedding in our Shul for over 40 years so if not now when?

Yulia was originally from St Petersburg and an accomplished piano teacher. Leon was born and bred locally and is a College Lecturer. Their paths crossed from modern day technology that could equal any romantic novel. This wedding had that international dimension as the courting was conducted over several continents.

We were privileged to have the Chief Rabbi's registrar Rabbi Julian Shindler perform the marriage ceremony with gusto and assisted by Reverend David Brandes from our community.

The chupa arrived several minutes after the service was due to commence but was assembled within minutes. The service and seudah seemed to move seamlessly.

Even the bensching after the seudah was an outpouring of joy and true simchah. They are both attending the Shul quite regularly so the bensching may not have been that bad.

We are hoping to celebrate another wedding in the Shul in October so watch this space.



Photos courtesy of
The Jewish Chronicle and
Vicky Alhadeff
with thanks.

Photo by
Russell
Eisen



Aufruf for Adam and Jacqui

Parshas Korach 16th June 2007

Although the sedrah was about rebellion and insurrection the aufruf could not have been more positive and joyous for the family and friends of Adam and Jacqui. The early arrivals gave no indication of the numbers that were to be attending the Shul.

When the congregation had finally assembled there were well over 100 people. It was fascinating for the regulars as most of the faces were new and Adam was ably selecting the relevant menschen for the various aliyahs and mitzvahs. He showed his true worth when he danced with chevra with different football club affiliations.

There was a rich blend of East Enders and Essex menschen the service and the camaraderie was superb. Jacqui's meshpocha from Hull and London and we were graced with the presence of her wonderful parents who have such a warm and friendly way. Jeremy and Sarah really have to use their parenting skills to the full with Jessica and Samuel but they are such a pair of treasures. Those kinder together with Aiden and Yoelli embellish the ambience of the shul- not trying to make a shidduch or 2 but then again no harm in trying.

Adam has a very good sense of humour that will be a bonus for the future as he will need it. Adam's father shows such dignity with his present situation and we hope that he has a speedy recovery. It is a remarkable thing for so many yidden to gather in one place and be so positive and supportive for Adam and Jacqui.

We wish them hatzlocha and brocha.

The actual wedding in Hull was attended by several of our chevra. What a wonderful job the kehilla at Hull performed in ensuring that the wedding actually occurred as the shul was flooded that week of the wedding.

At least 250 people were present at the wedding and Rabbi Ozdopa conducted a very beautiful service. Although Adam was feeling a bit stressed he said his part perfectly and the happy couple danced all night with all the other guests really getting into the spirit of things.

Rev David Brandes



Bon Voyage

Good luck to David Russell, who leaves us for 2 years whilst he studies in America.

We look forward to seeing him back when his studies are finished.

Concert by Cantor Ari Cohen, Jeremy Cape and films by Jeremy Benstock.

Last September on the European Jewish Heritage day our shul fielded a concert by the wonderful voice of Reverend Ari Cohen. The common bond between Ari and Jez Benstock is Meryl wife of Ari and Jez's sister.

Jeremy Cape by day is a corporate tax Lawyer and in his spare time is quite an accomplished musician. Ari and Jeremy had never even rehearsed together but the music they produced said reams about their combined talents. All the participants enjoyed the music from "fiddler on the roof" to Italian operatics. Ari and Jeremy are such modest individuals and we are so fortunate to have such talent in our small but very talented community.

Jez Benstock is a highly acclaimed film producer and director and has won several awards for his works. He produced a very profound work on the holocaust. Jez has such natural talent coupled with his Glaswegian humour is always an excellent combination. Jez is currently working on his first documentary feature film and wish him hatzlocha in this venture.

Our Break-In

Yes the unthinkable happened, On 1st August 2007 we had a break in. The culprits forced the back door, causing major damage to the frame and surrounding brick work.

Once inside the Shul the unknown would be robbers opened the Holy Ark and then seemed to be disturbed as they fled empty handed.

We contacted every phone number in the Yellow Pages and the BT Phone Book that offered a 24 hour boarding service. We were met with a lot of very weak excuses trying to explain why they could not come out to help. Even the council contractors were unwilling to give assistance.

Luckily a long term friend of one of our members owns a security company, and although we had no contract with them, they were on the scene within 45 minutes of being called, listing our house of G-d as a priority.

A special thank you to Krypto Security of Leytonstone High Road for their outstanding support.

I am also pleased to report, that even though the Police found it unnecessary to attend, we were visited by Environmental Health so that they could deal with a complaint about the noise of the emergency repairs.

We will be inviting Krypto security to come and review and advise our security arrangements.



Urgent appeal – We need to repair the damage. Please send in your donations.

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



Krypto Security
Sutherland House, 560 High Road
Leytonstone
London, E11 3DH
020 8556 1000

For all your locks and alarm
requirements
Private and Commercial

A Seder - 100 years in the making!

Seder on second night of Pesach

We had our first Seder at our Shul probably since the community was established in 1903.

After receiving the third degree from half of the community who thought I was completely meshuga and the other half who knew I was meshuga but went along with the idea of the Seder.

My brother Gerald and my mother were both very concerned with the whole enterprise but they rallied around me and ensured that the correct food was ordered from the caterers. The issues were how we could store and serve the food without adequate facilities.

There was only 30 places available and approximately one week before the Seder had to approach people for places. Within 3 days we had 32 people counting Aiden Yitzchak and Yoelli Malka.

We had sufficient wine, grape juice and matzohs – how could we fail? The food was well received and I can't remember any complaints – which is probably a first. The participants ranged from Russia, South Africa, Israel, The Balkans, and USA.

Our services are always graced by a song from our resident crooner Cyril Hiller who really knows how to entertain the community. Present was Monty Passes a grandson of the founder Abraham Schwalbe and he possesses 4 degrees but never gives you the third degree what a mensch. Miho read the ma nishtana and Aiden Yitzchak and Yoelli Malka supplied the entertainment.

Gerald seemed to marshal the diners to serve and to clear up the premises when it was completed.

On reflection a seder night can only properly be achieved if we have proper cooking and storage facilities so we have to raise sufficient funds to achieve this wonderful goal.

Rev David Brandes

Announcements**Births – Mazel Tov**

Menachem Mendel Potash

Happy Birthday to our 1 year olds

Millie Tia Isaacs
Nosson Potash
Samuel Goldstone
Shimon Moshe Laufer
Yoelli Malka Abramson

Special Birthdays to our young members

Aiden Yitzchak Abramson (3)
Jessica Goldstone (3)
Nochum Tzvi Potash (2)

Happy Birthday and Mazel Tov to our over 90s

Albert Leiberman
Alf Krietzman
Morris Isbitt
Max Levitas
Sid Wein

Engagements Mazel Tov

Rabbi Sholom Dov Ber Cousins to Chevie Moscovitch.
Michael Russell to Lauren Carp

Marriages Mazel Tov to our Happy Couples

Leon and Yuliia Goldman
Adam and Jacqueline Katz
Levi and Ella Potash

**We are sorry to need to report the following deaths
(We wish the families "Long Life")**

Mr Brian Cohen
Mrs Lily Cohen
Mrs M Connerton
Mrs Betty Kaufman.
Miss Pearl Kligerman
Mrs Pearl Potash
Miss Annie Rosenbloom
Mr Shomor Lev Samson
Mrs D Sewell

We would like to wish a get well to all of our members that are a little under the weather. We are sorry that there are too many to mention. May you all have a Refuah Shelaimah.

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.

This publication is copyright to the Congregation of Jacob Synagogue.

Reproduction in part or in full is strictly prohibited without prior permission.

This publication is available in PDF format 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.

We regret to inform you that burial society fees are rising once again. From 1st January 2008 the following rises are taking place:

- Adath Yisroel are increasing their rates by £10 per annum per person.
- The Federation are increasing their rates by £16 per annum per person.

We will notify you when we have more details, but it is likely that we will have to pass this rise onto our members.

Contact us at:
Congregation of Jacob Synagogue
351-353 Commercial Road
Stepney
London, E1 2PS
T: 020 7790 2874
W: www.congregationofjacob.org
E: info@congregationofjacob.org
Registered in England as a charity.
Registration number: X20677

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

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

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 !!