

# 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

### The Jacobette Vol. 7

*Newsletter of the Congregation of Jacob Synagogue*

#### **Foreword**

Dear Chevra,

This year has been a very mixed year for me. Two wonderful weddings in the shul and an equally brilliant Bar Mitzvah as itemised in our magazine.

The loss of my mother was a sad period but has inspired me and my family to work on rebuilding the building which culminated in the stone setting several weeks ago.

Unfortunately due to Mike Gold's mother's illness he was unable to produce and edit the magazine. David Russell has filled the breach at the eleventh hour with our thanks.

My special thanks to the Board of Management and community for their support in the past year. Ronnie and Gerald have really excelled in the many roles they undertake.

Mazel tov to Yaakov Potash on his engagement and shekoiach to the Potash clan.

We will be hosting a Shabbaton on Shabbos Shuva for mum's yahrzeit. As ever, all are welcome.

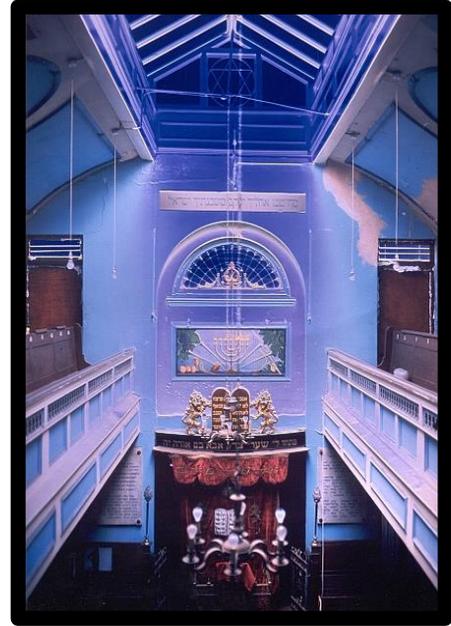
Kasima Kesiva Tova.

***Rev Dovid!***

#### **Shabbos Cholent – Coming to the Shul this Winter!**

This Shabbos Ki Tzeitai the shul enjoyed its first cholent kiddush thanks to Nosson Potash who was the mastermind behind the event.

Everybody stayed to enjoy the wonderful food and kiddush and the community will not look back as we are arranging a monthly cholent kiddush - which I'm sure you'll enjoy over the winter months!



*The Congregation of Jacob Synagogue  
(Catherine Yass)*



*Newly restored stained glass window*

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### Rosh Hashana Message from Ephraim Potash



*Rabbi Ephraim Potash  
(Stuart Burns)*

Another Jewish Year is almost upon us. The outgoing year has been an eventful one with many good things and some pretty awful things happening in the world but it is ending on an anxious note for every inhabitant of the planet. When there is financial instability on the scale we have just seen, everyone is affected sooner or later and a simple matter such as the price of oil or food can send shock waves through whole populations especially in the poorer countries. Even the wealthier nations do not escape these threats.

One effect this has is for us to realise that the institutions that we trusted in are not so stable after all. There is a folk saying "safe as houses" – but now we know that houses aren't such a good investment either. Putting money in the bank has always been regarded as a safe haven but now with banks falling like flies we are not so sure.

So what are we Jews supposed to make of it all?

These world shaking events make us realise that there may be other more stable investments. Just like we invest and save for retirement we should be wise and save for our future life after spending our time in this world. In the world to come, however, the currency is not cash but Torah and Mitzvot. No-one takes sterling or cheques in heaven! The hard currency over there is shul attendance, earnest prayer, charitable giving, Torah learning and the like.

So the lesson for us is to increase our investment in the values that really matter: more Torah learning and more Mitzvot. And remember contrary to the warning given by financial advisers, THE VALUE OF SPIRITUAL INVESTMENTS ONLY GOES UP AND NEVER GOES DOWN!

To this end it has been suggested that Congregation of Jacob revives the monthly shiur (lecture) that ran for some years. Watch this space for details. (Suggestions as to matters of interest are always welcome).

Wishing you all a Ketiva Vachatima Tova – to be written and sealed for a good and sweet new year – and especially with the coming of Moshiach very, very soon.

***Ephraim Potash***

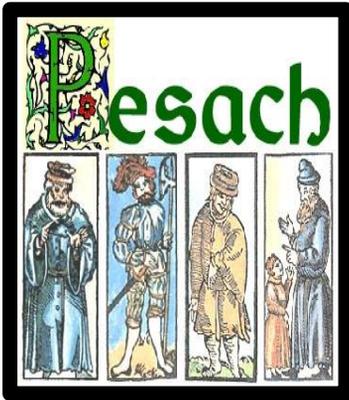
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### **Seder smashing success!**



This Pesach (Passover) was a special one for our community as we were fortunate to receive two seder nights graciously hosted by David.

The first one took place in the shul, and to all who attended I think I can safely say it was a brilliant evening. We had a few ups and downs, but then it wouldn't be our shul if things were straightforward!

Hermolis were our caterers for the evening, but as the guests found out, catering isn't all it's cracked up to be. It started when just the night before David had to rush around all the kosher shops in London in the dark of night trying to scramble together a meal for the tens of people as the food from Hermolis still hadn't arrived!

Fortunately it didn't come to cold cuts and cheese slices as hours before the deadline the ordered dishes were delivered. Much to everyone's surprise, however, we found most of the meal still frozen!

Many trips to and from David's flat and oven later (with many thanks to Gerald, Angelika and Christina for doing all the hard work), we were all able to enjoy a delicious and traditional seder – a meal that was filling not only physically but spiritually. And, of course, the next night... we did it all again!

David was a mensch in providing his home as the setting for an intimate second seder.

On a personal note, I want to say thank you to everyone for making the evenings such a success – this was my first pesach in the Jewish community and everyone made me feel welcome, and did their best to educate me on the meaning and importance of the festival. Where would our shul be without all of us working and celebrating together?

I can't wait for next year!

***Ross Burns***

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### Celebrations at the Congregation of Jacob

#### Eliot's Bar Mitzvah



12 January 2008, a very important date for our family and community.

It was the date of Eliot's Bar Mitzvah. Although Eliot had been to the shul several times when quite young, he hadn't been back until his great uncle's death. Immediately he felt very comfortable with the congregation who were all kind and encouraging to him.

Because Eliot is tall and looks older than his age, he was offered alcohol after Saturday morning service. When he asked permission for this, his age came out and the question of a Bar Mitzvah... the seed was set. He didn't make a final decision until October 2007 which didn't leave much time.

Rev David was fantastic – very patient and hardworking. It was to be Rev David's first bar mitzvah in the shul so no effort was spared, even down to warm soup for the evening coaching sessions!

Eliot's mum, auntie and I (and even David!) helped with the shopping for the Kiddush and the shul was taken care of by David, Gerald and Ronnie.

The day dawned and Eliot was subdued. He wanted to walk to shul on his own and did. It all went well. All our family (we are not very big) were there and also many people I hadn't even seen in shul before.

I want to thank David, Gerald and Ronnie and everyone who helped, and I hope everyone enjoyed Eliot's day as much as we did. The party at home just put the finishing touches to a very happy, emotional day.

Eliot said it made him feel very special and was a day he would always remember.

***Shirley Szabo*** (A Proud Nana)

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### Wedding of Sophie Kallin and Stephen Levi (April 2008)

Dear Reverend Brandes,

This email is to express our sincere thanks for giving Sophie and Stephen Levi-Kallin such a wonderful wedding at your beautiful Shul. We were all greatly moved by the ceremony and have had so many compliments about the warmth and special quality of the service and the Shul itself.

The Shul looked so lovely with the Chuppah and the flowers. Thank you for having everywhere cleaned so well beforehand, and for being so accommodating to all our needs. We appreciated the use of the bridal suite for Sophie and the warm welcome to her and her two friends. The seating all seemed to work out comfortably in the end and even those upstairs managed to see quite a bit.

Thank you for allowing the musicians to play and for moving all the chairs to suit our needs. We honestly feel that the marriage ceremony was perfect in every way and we are so glad that we decided to hold it at The Congregation of Jacob Shul. We felt privileged to be at their wedding there.

Sincere thanks,

Jenny and Ivor Kallin (Parents of the Bride)

### Your Shul Needs You!

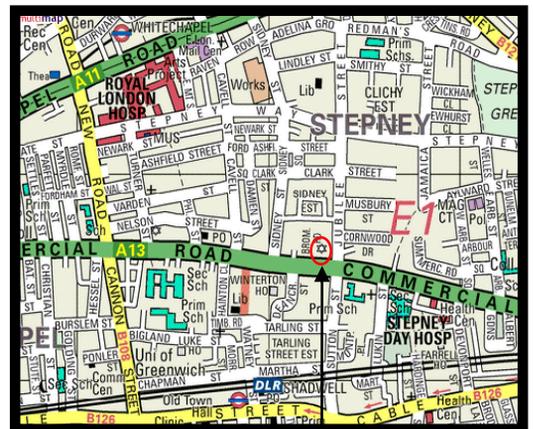
The Congregation of Jacob will be holding services through the High Holy Days. For times please see the enclose flyer, or visit our award-winning web site (maintained and regularly updated by Mike Gold) at:

[www.congregationofjacob.org](http://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)