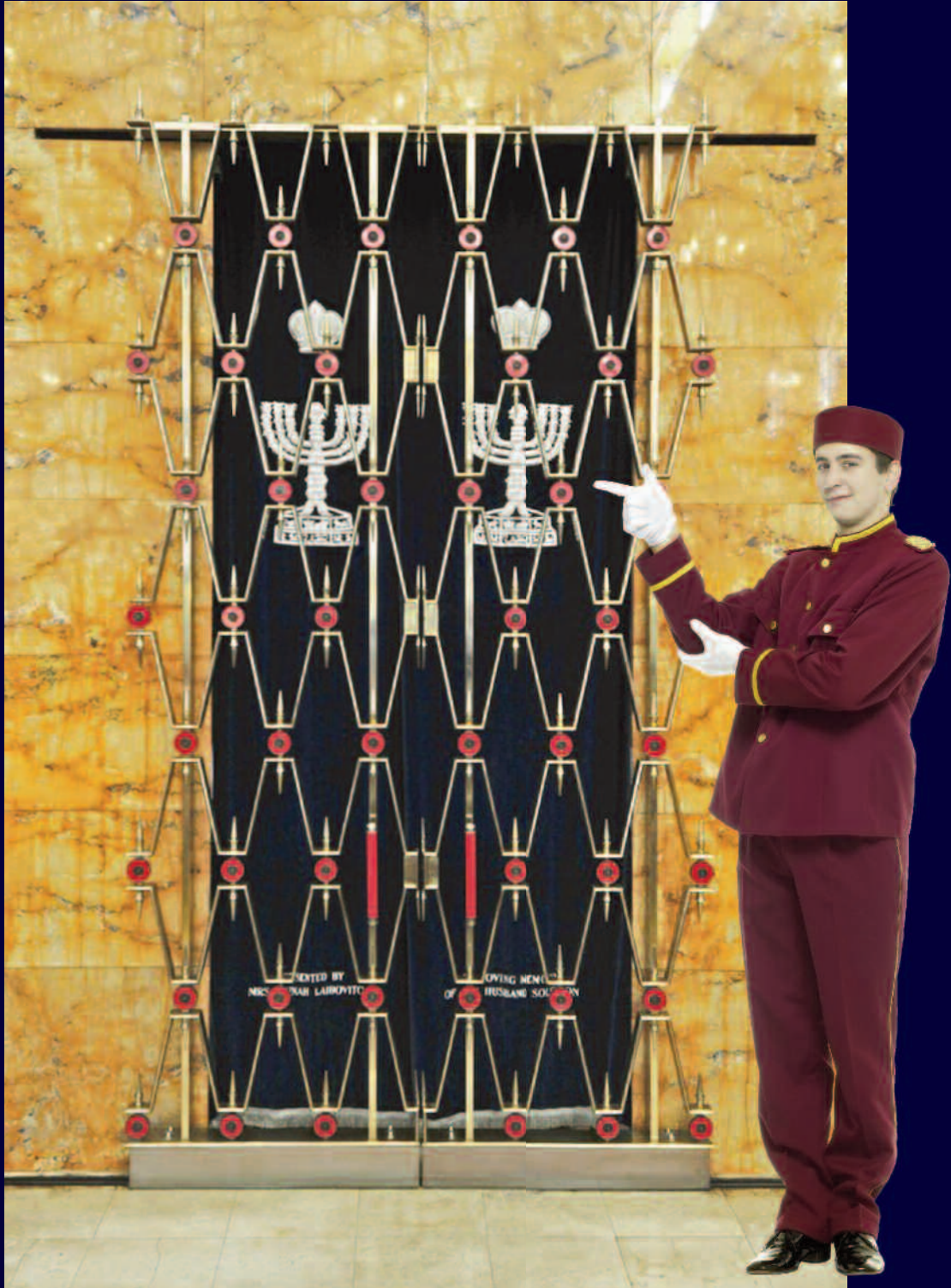




Central Magazine



There has always been a Shabbos lift at the Central



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CentralMagazine

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FROM **the Rabbi** Barry Marcus

Dear Congregants

It is most gratifying to report on another positive year for our community. We have seen growth both in membership and increased activities – details of which can be found in this magazine edition.

We live in testing times. The sheer pace of life often threatens to overwhelm us. Events and circumstances in once distant lands affect us more often than ever before whether it is volcanic ash from Iceland or the crippling debt crisis of European and other countries.

The recent violent and ugly scenes of rioting and looting in London and further afield have shocked us all and has caused genuine disquiet amongst all parts of the wider community.

Coupled with this, the past year has seen ongoing anti-Semitic incidents and anti-Israel sentiment both here and abroad. The ever present threat of acts of terror, boycotts against Israeli academics, politicians and products, flotillas, attempts to delegitimise Israel and attempts to label Shechita products are all matters of growing concern.

It would appear that despite the technological sophistication of our age when social networking can ignite revolutions in the most unlikely places, old prejudices still remain well entrenched and unchallenged.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur offer us an antidote to much of the negativity of the past year, as expressed in Psalm 27, the special Psalm we say this time of the year. The Psalm ends on a positive and encouraging note "קוה אל ה'" 'Have hope in the Lord'. Be strong and of good courage and hope in the Lord.

The High Holydays indeed provide us the opportunity to come together to strengthen each other and renew our communal ties and those with Israel.

It is in this spirit that I hope to see as many of you as possible in Synagogue over the next few weeks.

Warmest good wishes for a Shana Tova.

Rabbi Barry Marcus



EDITOR'S MESSAGE **Nicola Burns**

Welcome to the 5772 issue of Central Magazine.

Here at the Central we have had a varied and exciting year beginning last autumn when the Wix hall played host to several events such as the Joseph Levinson presentation and the Eichman trial lawyers' retrospective (see page 8).

This was followed by the High Holy Days and a wonderful Succot supper in the beautiful Succah which also lent itself to the Lag B'omer barbecue in the spring.

Our tennis and football teams made the most of the infrequent sunshine and it was great to see so many young people attending the matches. (Do you recognise yourself in our pictures?)

Purim as always was exceptional fun, and thanks mainly to our wonderful and patient Chazan, Steven Leas, our extraordinary lyricist Nigel Gee, and the fabulous scenery courtesy of Grazyna Solland, we all had a wonderful time.

Also in this issue we include articles on our new ladies shiur and the refurbishment of the children's Synagogue, Friday night dinners at Central, the Jews of Shanghai and much more. Perhaps though, what we have all really been waiting for is..... the lift!

The lift brings even more change to Central. Together with a newly built disabled lavatory it will not just be easier for our members but also fit the requirements necessary to hold large independent functions here. Changes abound with a new Chairman, Laurie Phillips and Financial Representative, Stanley Salter. Find out about our Ladies Guild led by new Chair Sara Cohen, together with Vice Chair Roz Laren, Treasurer Adrienne Phillips and Secretary Raquel Amit.

On a personal note I would like to thank Craig Levison who this year won a United Synagogue award, for outstanding administrator. He is a calming influence, a constant source of good humour and a person of great instincts. Douglas O'Halloran our exceptional caretaker is thankfully back to good health and together with Louise and Matt are quite 'simply the best'. Thanks also go to Yoav Amit and Jason Pillay who do so much for the Shul and are such an important part of our community here.

A huge thank you to Gary for his unfailing support and help, to Rabbi Marcus and Chazan Leas for their continuing warmth and leadership and finally to Raquel Amit who wears so many hats – community development officer, youth leader, assistant editor, personal assistant and of course friend – thank you.

Happy new year to you all.

At the Annual General Meeting in May of this year, Laurie Phillips was appointed Chairman of the Synagogue – this post had been vacant for one year since Dr Sam Peltz became Honorary Life President; in addition, Stanley Salter was appointed Financial Representative. The full list of Honorary Officers at the Central is now Laurie Phillips – Chairman, Nicola Burns – Vice Chairman, Nigel Gee and Richard Glyn – Wardens and Stanley Salter FCA – Financial Representative. The Honorary Officers plan to continue to work together in friendship and goodwill with their constant aim being the welfare of Central Synagogue and all its members.

From 1990 until 2011 Eric Charles took on the important role of Financial Representative of the Synagogue – during this incredible period of twenty one years Eric cheerfully greeted thousands of congregants and visitors; he leaves office in good health and we wish him well to witness the continued success of Central for many years to come. The Honorary Officers thank Eric sincerely for his tireless efforts; the membership of the Synagogue has grown every year for the past few years and Eric's contribution towards this success cannot be overstated.

The leading role of Rabbi Barry Marcus, with his deep knowledge of Torah, is a source of happiness for the whole Community. Rabbi Marcus leads the Synagogue services every Shabbat as well as on festivals throughout the year. The morning services which are held every day of the year bring enjoyment to all the members and visitors who attend; many birthdays and family celebrations are marked, whilst at other times those services are also an occasion for healing consolation. Rabbi Marcus is a force of strength and is deeply appreciated by the many members of Central and their families. Central is most fortunate to have a Rabbi who talks with great understanding of the continuing challenges to the Jewish people in many parts of the world.

Chazan Steven Leas remains another great source of pride for the Synagogue and his magnificent voice continues to move the congregation. The prayers sung by Steven allow the community of the Central the privilege of listening to the beautiful music that sums up the hopes of our congregation as well as the generations that have gone before. Steven has also introduced many new melodies to the Synagogue and new interpretations of traditional music; much of this has been achieved with the Central Synagogue Choir which Steven formed seven years ago. The Choir will sing with Steven again for the New Year Services. This year we welcome the Choir's new conductor as we say farewell to Michael Etherton who has ably conducted the Choir since its inception. We wish Michael well as he moves on to direct two major choirs in this country. Steven, his wife Ruth and their three children, Jonathan, Rafaella and Danielle are treasured members of the Community; Jonathan and his sisters join Steven in song for some of the closing hymns on many Shabbat mornings.

Laurie Phillips became Chairman in May 2011: Laurie was a member of the Board of Management for many years and his new role will help the Honorary Officers to spread the load of responsibility. Nicola Burns continues as Vice Chairman; she has a warm and sincere personality that acts as uniting force that helps mould the community of the Synagogue into an extended family; her work as editor of the Central Magazine is tireless, she is completely inclusive of all our members in our communal activities. Nicola became Acting Chairman for the past year, a role which she fulfilled in a most capable manner. Richard Glyn does great work to ensure the smooth running of the Synagogue services and gives up a great deal of his time in inter-denominational education at our Synagogue and elsewhere. Nigel Gee continues to work with our Security Officer to ensure all aspects of safety and he also plans for the continued maintenance of the Synagogue building and the improvement of the facilities where possible. Stanley Salter is the new Financial Representative and is a familiar face at the Synagogue both on Shabbat as well as at the Morning services. His background as a Chartered Accountant stands him in good stead to continue to maintain the financial stability of the Synagogue.

The Ladies Guild welcomes Sara Cohen as the new Chair; Sara has taken over this role from Terry Samek who serenely chaired the Guild for some years. Sara has been Vice Chair for the past four years and there has been a seamless transition. Sara introduced Kiddushim over Passover four years ago and this has

added to the warmth of welcome in the Synagogue. The Ladies continue to plan for a number of special events and occasions each year, many of which celebrate important events in our calendar. The Kiddushim every week, the festive Succot dinner, the catering for the Annual Supper Quiz and the Purim Supper and Party with a selection of vodkas are all events which mark the seasons and where the inclusion of delicious food is an essential part of the occasion. Warmth and goodwill are generated by our Ladies Guild. We thank the Ladies Guild for their hard work and all their efforts which they undertake with swan like grace.

On 14th May 2011 a Choral Shabbat took place to commemorate the Tombstone Setting of Lord Leonard Wolfson of Marylebone z'l. Lord Leonard Wolfson will never be forgotten by Central Synagogue as the man who along with his father, Sir Isaac Wolfson, took on the task not only of raising the funds for the rebuilding of Central Synagogue, but also over-viewing the works to ensure that the result was a proud and lasting monument. The Honorary Officers pledge to maintain the drive and determination that Lord Wolfson showed towards Central Synagogue throughout his life.

We greet guests from around the world every week and during the Summer months we are honoured by a number of groups of overseas visitors who attend the Services. Being in the 'medical district' of London, we are also a Synagogue that on many occasions is a safe haven for relatives of patients that are in a hospital or clinics in the area. We therefore thank the volunteers who are on 'Greeting Duty' every week; they help to make Central the friendliest of Synagogues.

We thank the Board of Management and Synagogue Elders for their work and efforts for the Synagogue. At the Meetings held throughout the year they give sound advice and each one of them helps in the running of the Synagogue. We welcome Stuart Lewis and David Baker who were elected as new members of the Board of Management and we hope they will play increasingly important roles at Central in the future. Ze'ev Galibov and Maurice Shamash have stepped down from the Board, and we thank them for their work on the Board and for the important roles that they continue to play in the Synagogue.

A number of special events took place at the Synagogue in the past year and among these were the Simchat Torah celebrations in September 2010 when Julian Konviser and Peter Abbey were the Chattanim; the Children's Chanukah Party was held in December 2010; a Shabbat visit of the Chief Rabbi, Lord Sacks took place once again during Chanukah; in January and May 2011 Young Professional's Sephardi Friday Night Dinners were held in the Wix Hall; the Annual Ladies Guild Supper Quiz took place in February; the Purim Party this year at the Central in association with Marble Arch Synagogue; The Lag B'Omer BBQ was held in May; and the Shavuot Dinner in June; We thank all the participants in these events.

Our thanks go to Roger Cohen who has been our Security Officer and who continued to carry out this role for much of the past year; Roger has now been appointed Welfare Officer and keeps special watch over several members of the community who need care and consideration. The new Security Officer is David Baker and we wish him well and offer him our help whenever needed. We thank the Community Security Trust who help to secure the building throughout the year.

We thank Craig Levison, our most reliable and informative Administrator; and also Raquel Amit, our indispensable Community Development Officer. We also thank Douglas, our super caretaker who continues to help the Synagogue in many ways as well as helping considerably to keep the Synagogue secure.

Kol Nidre – The proceeds of the Appeal this year will once again be allocated primarily to the needs of our own growing community.

We look forward to seeing you and greeting you in person when you visit Central Synagogue in the year ahead.

We wish all our members a 'Happy and Healthy 5772 and well over the Fast'.



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Rosh Hashanah Message



"Penitence, prayer and charity avert the evil decree." We say those words at one of the climaxes of our worship on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. For centuries our ancestors said those words, knowing what each of them means. *Penitence* defines our relationship with ourselves. *Prayer* is part of our relationship with God. *Charity* is about our relationship with other people. We still know what it is to be penitent. We fall short, make mistakes, and seek forgiveness. And we know what it is to be charitable. We remain a generous community, giving out of all proportion to our numbers.

But for many, prayer has become difficult. They find it hard to connect to the synagogue service or to the prayers themselves. Too few people nowadays find prayer meaningful, especially on the High Holy Days when the prayers are long and complicated.

That is why, together with a wonderful team, I've undertaken a new project that I hope will make a difference. We've created a new Rosh Hashana machzor. Of course, in Judaism, the word "new" is relative. The Hebrew stays the same. But everything else is different: the translation, the introduction, the commentary, and the actual physical appearance of the machzor.

We think this is a first in Anglo-Jewish history. The siddur – familiarly known as "the Singer's" – has always been produced by Chief Rabbis, but not the machzor, "the Routledge". We felt the time had come for this to change. Prayer has to speak to us if it is to speak to God. We have to be able to understand it if we are to put into it our heart and soul.

In the translation, we've tried to bring out the poetry and power of the prayers. In the introduction, we explain the meaning and history of Rosh Hashanah. In the commentary, we've provided not just explanation but also reflection on what these holy days mean for our lives.

Eventually we hope to bring out machzorim for the other festivals as well.

Prayer matters. It's our conversation with God. Imagine having a relationship with your spouse, your child or your parent, in which you never speak to them. It can't be done. A relationship without words is almost a contradiction in terms. So it is with God. When we converse with God – when we pray – we enter into a relationship with the Force that moves the universe, the Voice that spoke to our ancestors, the Power that shaped our history as a people, the Presence that still listens to our hopes and fears, giving us the courage to aspire and the strength to carry on.

Prayer makes a difference. It's our way of giving thanks for the good in our lives and of enlisting God's help as we wrestle with the bad. It's our regular reminder of the world beyond the self, of the ideals and aspirations of our people. When we pray we speak with the words of our ancestors, joining the great choral symphony of the Jewish people throughout the ages and the continents. True prayer, said from the heart, has the undiminished power to make us feel that "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for You are with me."

May we, this year, pray from the heart. May our prayers be answered, and may it be for you, your families, and the Jewish people, a good and sweet New Year.

Bebirkat ketivah vechatimah tovah

Chief Rabbi, Lord Sacks
Rosh Hashanah 5772

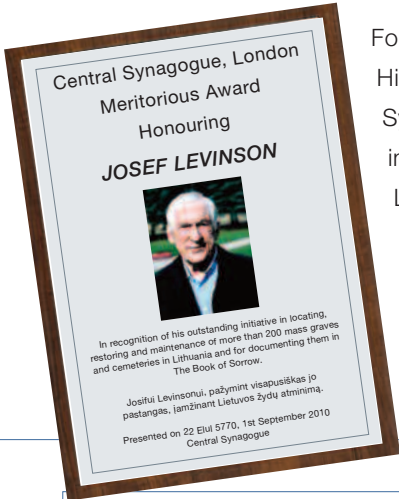




RABBI Marcus

Another eventful year has passed with Rabbi Marcus’s active involvement within the community and beyond. A small testament to some of these activities can be seen on these pages.

Honouring Josef Levinson



Following last summer’s Surviving History Exhibition held in the Synagogue foyer, we held a most inspiring evening to honour Josef Levinson and to present him with a meritorious award in the presence of a packed hall. Speakers and guests of honour included HE Ron Prosor, The Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith as well as several Holocaust Survivors.



Rabbi Marcus with Ambassador Prosor, Josef Levinson and the Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith

Yom Hashoah

In May, over 500 people attended the Yom Hashoah Memorial Service at the Dell in Hyde Park. Rabbi Barry Marcus, Chazan Steven Leas and the Central Synagogue Choir took various parts of the service.



Rabbi Marcus with the Chief Rabbi and Lord Michael Howard

Chazan Steven Leas and the Central Synagogue Choir



The man who tried Eichmann

At an event hosted by the Central Synagogue and organised through the British Friends of Yad Vashem in October 2010, Gabriel Bach spoke about his key role as Deputy Prosecutor in the Eichmann trial.



(From left to right)
**Jonathan Metliss,
Judge Bach, Gordon
Hausmann and
Rabbi Marcus**



**Judge Bach with
Rabbi Marcus**

Restoration of Jewish Belarus

In June 2011, Rabbi Marcus paid a visit to the Jewish Community in Belarus. Here he is pictured with Rabbi Moshe Fima in the Confederazia Synagogue which served Pinsk before the war and has since been given back to the community to be restored according to its original design.



This year has been the year of the community where we have offered lots of different activities to attract and make you feel a sense of community within our Central family.

In November, we put on a very successful show entitled 'From Bernstein to Broadway' which included songs from the Jewish, Musical Theatre, Opera and Yiddish repertoires. Melinda Hughes, Synagogue member and soprano in residence and Alan Parmenter, a world class violinist who was very well received, performed alongside me. It was a lovely evening which was very well attended and like all Jewish events had ample refreshments provided during the interval.

On the subject of food, in January we hosted a Young Professionals Moroccan Friday Night Dinner in conjunction with the United Synagogue Living & Learning Department with all proceeds going to the US Chesed project. Rabbi Marcus was our guest speaker on this occasion and spoke about his involvement with pioneering educational visits to Auschwitz.

In May, with assistance from our 'French representative' Michael Benguigui and friend Raphael Cwaigenbaum we held another amazing sell out Sephardi Friday Night Dinner for 120 people. Michael has been attending our Services for around four years since his arrival from France and we wish him mazeltov on his recent marriage to Rivka.

Another recent Friday night activity that we wish to recreate was a Carlebach Friday Night Service followed by a Sushi and Schnapps in the foyer. This was well attended not only by members but also numerous students and young city workers. It was lovely to have so many people singing along in the Service before the chance to mingle over a bite to eat.



**Melinda Hughes
in 'From
Bernstein to
Broadway'**

On a last 'food note', we also had a communal Shabbat lunch in June organised by the new Ladies Guild Committee which was well attended by our regular Shabbat morning members. It was both an opportunity for an enjoyable 'get together' as well as an opportunity to thank the Choir for their great work under the direction of Michael Etherton who has now sadly left us due to his success in his vocation and increased demands on his time. We wish Michael much success in the future – he always has a place here at the Central if he wishes to return. The lunch was very enjoyable, with singing from the choir between the plentiful courses.

Speaking of the choir, I would like to thank Anthony Caplan who has agreed to undertake the mammoth task of preparing the choir for Yom Tov. Anthony has sung with us as a tenor in the choir for the past 5 years.



For the tennis enthusiasts among you, we had a tennis social and invited Western Marble Arch Synagogue to join us. It was lovely to see the two West End Synagogues getting together for social events and hope to do this more often in the future.

This Purim we had a Sound of Music show. This was the culmination of many rehearsals by both our younger members and not so young members and was thoroughly enjoyed (please see page 18 for a full description of the show). What came out of this was the desire expressed by many people to have a monthly sing-along at the Synagogue which I will lead and where we will sing a medley of songs from musicals or Hebrew songs etc. as desired. No voice is needed for these events, just a desire for a good cup of tea and a bit of socialising.

We also plan to have a concert on 9th November with Melinda Hughes and a violinist and myself where we will not only sing a kaleidoscope of beautiful songs but also introduce you to songs from Melinda's new CD.

If any of the above events are of interest to you, please call the office and we will keep you notified of dates in the coming months. We are also happy to hear from you if you have any ideas for other events for us to experiment with!

I am also encouraged by the fact that we now have a few younger members who come to Shul on Shabbat and join me on the Bimah to sing avinu shebashamayim, ein kelokeinu, anim zemirot or adon olam and know that this is well received. I am always happy to encourage more young singers and would ideally like to create a children's choir, so please let me know if your children are interested.



Father and son



Jonathan and Rafaela Leas

On a personal note I have just recorded another CD in Israel together with two other singers as well as a 10 piece ensemble under the direction of Raymond Goldstein. We are called the 'Jewish Harmony Singers' and have recorded a variety of different genres – examples of songs are There's No Business Like Show Business, a Yiddish medley, an Elvis medley and some Israeli songs.

I wish you all a Shana Tovah and look forward to seeing you at many of our events in the coming year.

BUSY TIMES AT THE JEWISH MUSEUM

The past 18 months have been an exciting period for the Jewish Museum. They have completed a £10 million redevelopment, which increased their space three-fold, with four new permanent galleries displaying a huge variety of objects, films, photography and hands on exhibits, their gallery 'Judaism: a living faith' shows some of the very finest examples of Judaica in the world. One of the highlights, a 17th century Italian Synagogue Ark provides a contrast with their recently launched blockbuster exhibition, Entertaining the Nation: Stars of Music, Stage and Screen.

With a bold and brash iconic gold suit worn by T-Rex's Marc Bolan, I think you can sum up what the Jewish Museum represents; a celebration of the incredibly diverse and eclectic influences that Jewish people have contributed to British culture. And what a contrast. In Entertaining the Nation, we explore the fascinating and untold story of Jewish participation in the British entertainment industry, from theatre and film, to television and pop music. I am sure that many, both within and outside of the immediate Jewish community, will be surprised to learn the extent to which Jewish people have influenced the British entertainment scene for over a century.

Running until 8 January 2012, the exhibition demonstrates the importance of immigration and diversity as a source for cultural creativity in Britain. Through music, displays, film and props, as well as a theatre and stand-up comedy stage, we tell the story of recognisable names from past and present, including actors Maureen Lipman, Warren Mitchell, Sid James and Ron Moody; comedians Peter Sellers, Simon Amstell and Sacha Baron Cohen; musicians Joe Loss, Frankie Vaughan, Alma Cogan, Marc Bolan and Amy Winehouse; writers Jack Rosenthal, Harold Pinter and Stephen Poliakoff; and director Mike Leigh.

Of especial interest to the Central is Joe Loss, who is fondly remembered along with his wife Mildred at the Synagogue. He was the youngest son of Russian immigrants, and was born in 1909 in London's East End. His father was a cabinet-maker who set up an office furnishing business. Joe was educated at the Jews' Free School and started violin lessons at the age of seven. He subsequently trained as a classical violinist and won scholarships to Trinity College of Music and the London College of Music. At the age of 20, Joe Loss became Britain's youngest bandleader and was soon one of the most famous with his signature tune 'In the Mood'. Over 60 years in show business, Loss proved adept at guiding his orchestra's style to suit changing tastes. In the late 1950's and 60's, they regularly appeared on television, including the BBC's 'Come Dancing' the forerunner of 'Strictly Come Dancing'.

The Museum's development project provided an opportunity to reevaluate how the narrative of British Jews is told. The galleries present the story of Jewish people as part of the wider story of Britain, one of the country's oldest minority groups, that has overcome adversity over the centuries, and evolved into a dynamic, engaging and vibrant community that is very much woven into the DNA of British society. Add to this an ongoing daily programme of education activities, the hundreds of school and adult group visits they attract, family workshops, performances, talks, and films and you gain a sense of the daily busy, but gripping, business of work at the Jewish Museum.

Entertaining the Nation: Stars of Stage & Screen runs until 8th January 2012

Address: The Jewish Museum, Raymond Burton House, 129-131 Albert Street, Camden Town, London NW1 7NB



ERIC CHARLES by Nicola Burns

Eric Charles has been a member of the Central since 1978 when he and Jacqui and their three children moved into the area.

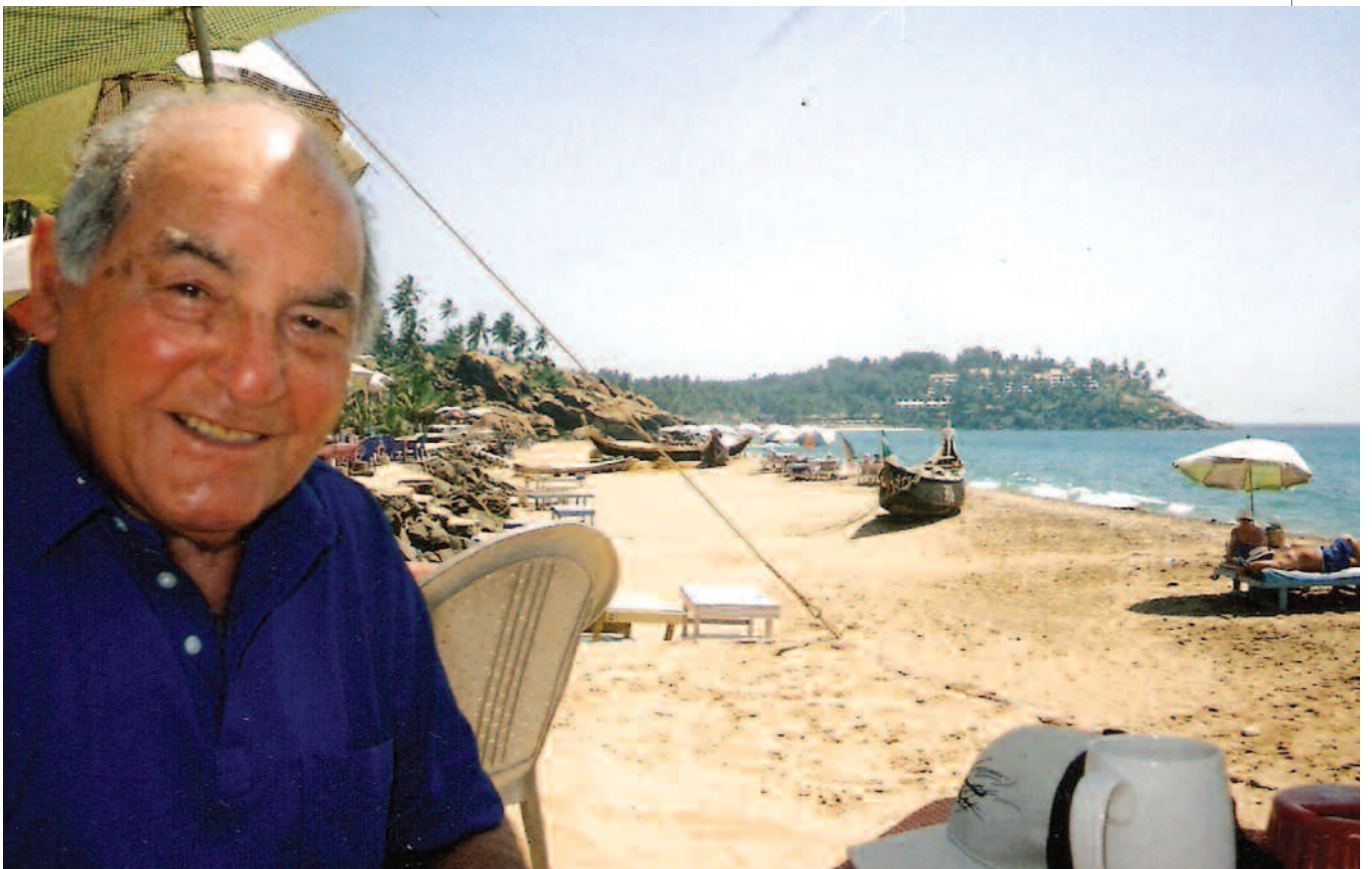
Joining the Board of Management in 1983 he served for two years and then in 1986 he rejoined the Board and went on to become the Shul's Financial Representative in 1990, where he remained until earlier this year. His support for the United Synagogue is well known, especially as a keen supporter of Tribe.

Forming close ties with the United Synagogue, Eric's determined efforts to promote the wellbeing of the Central are legendary.

Eric has varied interests outside the Shul – as Chairman of the Finance Committee for Ben Gurion University, Eric's commitment to Israel is strong and unshakeable.

His love of music, especially classical music, is well known, and he and Jacqui travel frequently in order to attend concerts and recitals. Performing in the style of Frank Sinatra, Eric himself treads the boards at Central each Purim to great acclaim! Of course, it is at White Hart Lane where Eric's passion for Tottenham Hotspur can be found – his bravery in the face of total Highbury fervour for the Arsenal amongst the other Honorary Officers is to be admired!

In thanking Eric, we pay tribute to a remarkable Elder of this Community.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2011

13 September –

Launch of Autumn Semester of Ladies Shiurim. A light lunch will be provided

29 September –

1st Day Rosh Hashanah

8 October –

Yom Kippur

10 October –

Decorating the Succah – all helpers welcome

12 October –

Festive Succot Dinner

13 October –

1st Day Succot

20 October –

Shemini Atzeret (Yizkor will be recited)

20 October –

Simchat Torah Eve celebrations with Chatan Torah Raymond Laren and Chatan Bereshit Anthony Harris

29 October –

Choral Shabbat

9 November –

Central's Soiree with Steven Leas and Melinda Hughes

12 November –

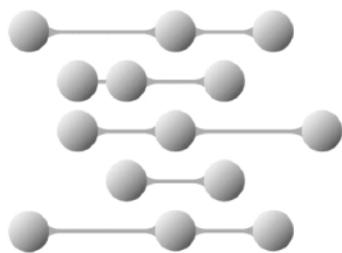
Choral Shabbat

19 November –

Choral Shabbat

17 December –

Choral Shabbat



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GRILLERS IN THE MIST

Once again, this year we held our Lag B'Omer Barbecue.

On a lovely warm evening, over 50 members and friends came to enjoy the delicious food. In true Lag B'Omer style, Leo White's son, Rafi, came along with guitar in hand and a lively impromptu singing session took place.

It was wonderful to see such a lovely mix of members aging from Craig's son Meir (who spent most of the evening asleep in his buggy) to our more senior members of the community.



Gillian Balcombe, David Baker and Gary Burns

We would like to thank all those people who helped to make the food and prepare the delicious salads and desserts, even the marshmallows that melted on the barbecue itself.

Of course, we are planning to hold a barbecue again next year, in fact, the ice is already chilling in the freezer!



Leo White and family



The Lister Children with Jonathan and the marshmallow mess



TRIBE BURSARY FUND

Every week a parent in our community has to say "I'm sorry we can't afford it".

Tribe is an important focus of the United Synagogue, absolutely central to its plans for the continued existence of a vigorous Anglo-Jewish community. It's not about just attracting young people to US activities and keeping them occupied and well behaved when in Shul or giving them something to do in the school holidays, it's about much, much more. Tribe is about building connections. It is about attracting Jewish youth from all across the spectrum of observance and showing them, bringing them, into the richness of Jewish life and culture, building their pride in their people and cementing them into the Anglo-Jewish community.

A visit to Israel has a huge impact on our teenagers, a unique opportunity for young Jews to socialise and embrace their Jewish identity with pride. This year Tribe has for the first time taken a group of youngsters to Israel. For many this has offered an exciting opportunity. Yet the sad reality is that some families simply cannot afford the cost. We believe no child should miss out on this opportunity to forge a lifelong Jewish connection. That's why we have created the US Chesed Bursary Fund. The role of the Chesed Bursary Fund is simple. We don't want any child to miss out on a Tribe programme simply because his or her parents can't afford the cost. The costs are kept to a minimum, of course, but it is a fact that not all families can pay all, or even part, of the price. The Bursary Fund's job is to receive applications in confidence and to scrutinise them rigorously and then do its best to make sure that no Jewish child is denied a place on a Tribe programme because his or her parents can't pay.

We have had to deal with a variety of bursary applications from people who really need our help and are determined to keep their connection to the Jewish community. The money we raise is ring fenced and goes directly to enable a young

person to visit Israel, which is central to their personal Jewish identity and education, attend one of Tribe's other programmes or to support and encourage them in enjoying their rich heritage. The US Chesed Bursary Fund enables us to reach out to young Jews, whatever their economic circumstances, giving them positive experiences.

If you would like to donate to our Fund or learn more about our latest fundraising activities just email us for more information
cbf@theus.org.uk



If you would like to apply for a bursary please email us at chesed@theus.org.uk and we will deal with your application in confidence.

Gaby Morris –
Chair, US Chesed Bursary Fund

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

Hello everyone!

Yes, we're back with another report on this year's activities, which had a more sporting emphasis all round. Football has been our main attraction in 2011 and our teens and have played against Barnet, St John's Wood and Southgate Synagogue's in mini s aside tournaments. Though we have yet to win a trophy, it's early days for our teams and we have every hope for glory in the future!

Tribe's 'Chanukah on Ice' event pulled in 200 Tribe members from different communities to the Tower of London's ice rink on Chanukah where we enjoyed a private session followed by a very public lighting of the giant chanukiah and singing of Ma'Oz Tzur. Of course, there were plenty of delicious doughnuts on offer too.

Of course, within the Shul, we continue to hold our weekly Children's Services and are thrilled to be able to use the newly refurbished Children's Synagogue. It will be a delight to make full use of it during the High Holydays and hope to see as many of you as possible during the period.

Wishing you a Shana Tovah!

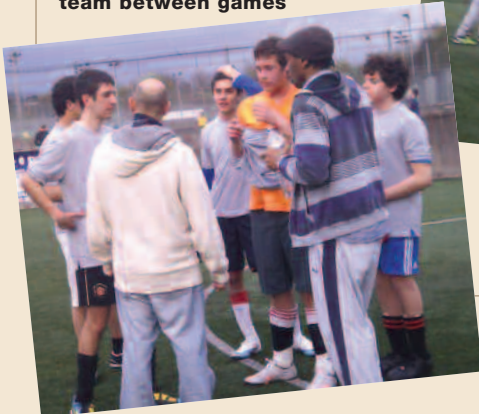
Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Raguel & Yoav



The Team

Gary Burns coaching the team between games



IT'S PURIM AT THE CENTRAL **by Nigel Gee**



Malcolm Miller and
the Von Trapp family

It's a **'Sound of Music'** Tribute Evening
The song is "How do you solve a problem like Maria"

But the words have been changed (and changed and
changed)

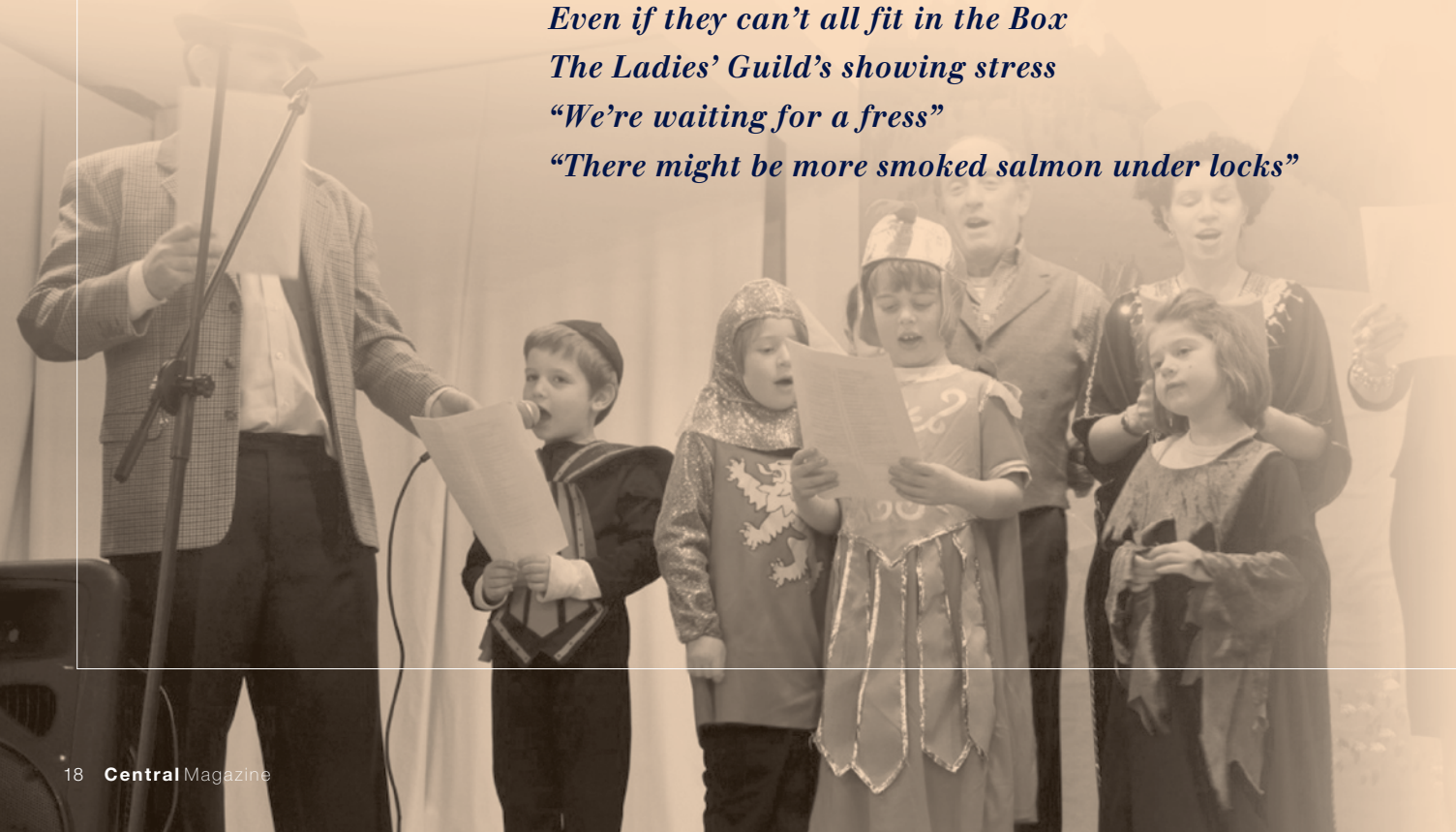


The Miller and Leas Children



*Purim's the time to be a bit meshugga
Even if there's a service on in Shul,
Lionel chants a really mean Megilla
And everyone else can try to play the fool,*

*Wardens work hard to keep a sense of humour
Even if they can't all fit in the Box
The Ladies' Guild's showing stress
"We're waiting for a fress"
"There might be more smoked salmon under locks"*





Raquel and Ze'ev

Coyne family



*'Cos – Purim's the time to be a bit meshugga
And everyone wants a 'double' 'on the rocks'*



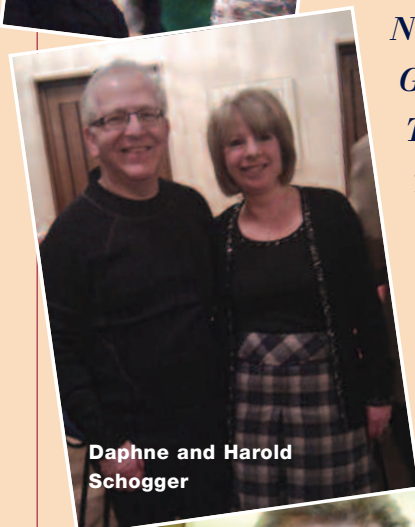
*Purim's the time of year to be myopic
Everyone likes to 'shikker' once a year
Vodka on ice is flowing like it's water
And even the Rabbi's grinning 'ear to ear'*



Emily Cohen and
Jonathan being
introduced by Steven

*Now it's the children's turn to sing a medley
Grandmas are kvelling – what a site to see!
The Chazan's in a yodeling hat!
The peasants sing awfully flat
But everyone loves the Salzburg scenery*

*And Purim's the time to be a bit meshugga
The play is the thing – the Hammentaschen's
free!*



Daphne and Harold
Schogger



Nicky Burns with Rabbi
Lionel Rosenfeld





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CHILDREN'S SYNAGOGUE by Linda Diamond

The Refurbishment of the Children's Synagogue



For those members who knew Sydney Diamond, a warden for some 18 years, it was no secret that his life centred around the Synagogue. The son of one of the founders of the West End Talmud Torah Synagogue in Dean Street, Sydney Diamond was responsible for amalgamating the Hebrew Classes of Dean Street Synagogue with that of the Central in Gt. Portland Street. In those days there were few Jewish Schools and the only way children received a Jewish education was by attending Cheder – usually on a Sunday morning.

The original Synagogue in Gt. Portland Street had been destroyed during the blitz and a temporary single story building erected after the war. When the present day Synagogue was built Sydney had the idea of creating a small Synagogue for the children where they would be able to learn about the different aspects of worship and conduct their own Services.

Together with Rosy Randall and Rabbi Shine, a Parents Association was formed and a number of very successful dinner dances and other functions were held to help raise the money. Finally on April 3rd 1960 Sydney had the pleasure of opening the Children's Synagogue.

Over the years the Synagogue has played an important role not only for the Jewish children of the Central but also for other faiths who come to the Shul to learn about the Jews and their religion. Slowly over the years, the appearance of the Children's Synagogue deteriorated and it wasn't until Alan and Linda Diamond were looking for a way to commemorate their parents that the Children's Synagogue came to be refurbished and rededicated.

Through the Alan and Sheila Diamond Trust Fund the Children's Synagogue has now been completely refurbished with a new ceiling and modern concealed lighting, a new carpet and a false back wall to hide all the ugly pipes and lastly, all the wood has been French polished, giving a wonderful, gleaming, pristine new look.

Richard Glyn who conducts many of the school visits to the Central, is delighted with the refurbishment. The children visit the main Synagogue first and the tour ends at the Children's Synagogue. When the children now enter the Children's Synagogue they are really impressed and Richard says it is a joy to behold the expression on their faces.



Today with the rise in anti-Semitism it is very important that children of different faiths have the opportunity of learning and actually seeing for themselves exactly what goes on 'behind closed doors'.

Neil Portman in his book 'The Disappearance of Childhood' wrote "Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see." We believe this newly refurbished Children's Synagogue will help children, both Jews and non Jews to send out a good message.



HAT OR NOT A HAT? – THAT IS THE QUESTION!

By Nicola Burns

I am often questioned by women from different communities who are surprised that we do not require married women to cover their heads at Central.

There is no explicit command in the Torah for women to cover their heads. There is however the lesson of the adulterous woman (Bamidbar 5.18) who has her hair 'loosened' during a shaming ritual.

From this our great Rabbis of the 1st and 2nd centuries deduced that married women did not wear their hair loose and over the last 1900 years this has expanded to married women keeping their heads covered in Shul, and more observant women keeping their heads covered always.

Hats can look lovely, indeed when I was a child I remember every man and woman in the street wore a hat – it was the custom then to do so.

Custom is, I believe, what this is all about – different communities have different customs and in Jewish law where a minhag (custom) is in evidence then it becomes itself the law. It seems to me that the minhag at Central is not to wear a hat!

Rabbi Marcus has always been very supportive of the women in our community, and he does not believe in 'policing' the ladies gallery. We are very fortunate to have him.

We are also very lucky to have one of the worlds most acclaimed milliners as a member - David Shilling, who would love to have us all back in hats! (See David's article)

I guess ladies, if it's a hat you want then it should be a fabulous hat, and as David points out, a new generation of talented milliners is with us – one of these is Rosie Olivia (www.rosieolivia.com)
Tel: **07780668885**) an amazing young milliner with a growing clientele.



Hats made to order by Rosie Olivia

By David Shilling

Do you remember that there was a time not so long ago, when the ladies gallery on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur was a riot of hats - large or small?

Most were worn happily; some reluctantly and even "downstairs" many men wore hats and it was rarely, if ever, that you saw a kippah worn on the streets of the West End of London.

You can't say 'No' to Nicola, but you can answer a question with another - so when she asked me to write about hats, my first thought was that this year's Royal weddings in the UK and Monaco sent out a clear message that hats are back on the agenda.

Will we see more hats in Shul during the High Holydays? Only you can answer that. Whereas choosing a hat for yourself should give you a lot of pleasure, for the "girl who has everything" they make a perfect gift and are less expensive than jewelry or a divorce!



Gertrude Shilling, who was on the British Board of Deputies for 30 years, in one of the hats that made her famous. Gold brocade and ostrich feathers



Musée des Arts Décoratifs – Showcase Louvre

Ideally a hat should be smaller than a Succah and larger than a kippah! Today you have fantastic choice as two new generations have followed me into hat designing. Equally for "the man who has everything" choose a classic shape, in straw or dark felt and clearly today the fashion is for a neat fairly narrow brim. The great thing about a hat is it gives pleasure to the wearer and also to everyone around them, which if you think about it, sends out a very appropriate message at this time of year! A hat well chosen, makes you smile and others smile with you! But don't call your hat a fascinator, please! Stand proud and call it a hat! I seriously think it is time that we stop using the current word in vogue, for like "anti semite" the word just skirts the issue rather than describes it. And we should use the term "anti-Jew" when that is what it is.

I hope we can all look forward to the years ahead, full of much more happy hat wearing and much less anti-Jewish action.

SHANGHAI AND ITS JEWS by Arthur and Joan Bovarnick

Between 1933 and 1941 Shanghai opened its borders to European Jewry fleeing the Holocaust. By the end of the Second World War approximately twenty thousand Jews were living and working in harmony with the local population.

In the historic area of Tilanqiao this well preserved Jewish haven is an absolute must for the visiting tourist. From the Huoshan Park where the refugees came to sit and relax, a monument stands to remind us that it is a place for 'Stateless refugees'. Nearby is the Russian Jewish Club – the Russians were great Zionists in China and it was from this club that the Jewish community were read David Ben Gurion's declaration of the establishment of the State of Israel.

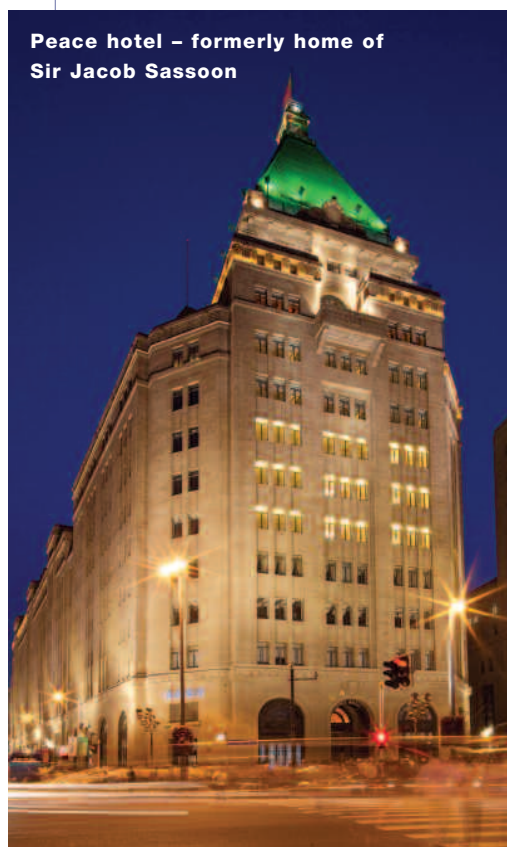
There are many varied and fascinating sites commemorating Jewish Shanghai, cafes and music centres - places where normal life went on whilst the world outside raged. The Ohel Moshe Synagogue is definitely worth a visit - it has been completely and lovingly restored to its former glory - first built to accommodate the Baghdad Jews in 1920, it houses a wonderful museum which contains multi media displays and a large stone tablet with the words of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin 'to the people of Shanghai for their unique humanitarian act of saving thousands of Jews during the Second World War - thank you in the name of the government of Israel'.




Huoshan Park Monument



Ohel Moshe Synagogue



The Ohel Rachel Synagogue on Shaanxi North Road had been the primary Sephardic Synagogue. Founded by Sir Jacob Sassoon it is now occupied by the Shanghai education bureau. Visit also Sassoon house built in 1929 which today is the Peace Hotel, with its wonderful view from the roof garden, and Sir Jacob's own private apartment is open to the public.



Staying with the Sephardi community, go to the Jing'an district and see the Kadoorie House - this family originally from Iraq were famous industrialists and very generous philanthropists - the house is now a children's palace and an activity centre for the many children of Shanghai. A wonderful legacy.



Ohel Rachel Synagogue



Tilangqiao District

WHOSE FRONT DOOR IS THIS?



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Why belong to the United Synagogue?

The chances are that if you're reading this, you're a member of the United Synagogue. You are in good company; there are over 25,000 families who belong to one of the 62 local communities that make up the UK's largest Jewish communal organisation. Despite gloomy predictions about the fate of the Jewish population overall there is every reason to believe that, against that trend, the future holds a growing membership of the US. Why?

At a time when more and more people are not content to take decisions on the basis that "that's what we've always done" any membership organisation has to be able to articulate what it stands for. In the case of the US I believe that this can be done in a way that resonates strongly with our community: we are an authentic, inclusive and modern community built upon Jewish living, learning and caring.

In a nutshell, we represent thousands of years of authentic tradition, scholarship and practice made available in a modern way to any Jew - no matter what their level of observance. To be sure, we are not merely talking about the routine of shul services (something which for many is one of the least accessible parts of their Judaism). Rather we are talking about the incredible richness that exists within 21st Century Jewish life as part of a vibrant and varied community.

When we talk about 'living, learning and caring' we are talking about the foundation stones of what it is to be a Jew. For example, our Living and Learning programmes, which are just beginning to be felt by our members, are generating hugely positive feedback. Take the Tribe Kosher Apprentice initiative. This competition, which ran at a number of Jewish primary schools, saw pupils from Year 6 competing to create a new kosher product ideal for the kosher nosh guide. The project was integrated into a number of different classes as the teams came up with ideas for their products and spent time creating and designing the branding, packaging and promotional materials. Once the products were ready and presentations prepared, each school had a final where teams pitched their products in front of a panel of judges with backgrounds in Marketing, Kashrut and working with children. Marks were based on originality, nutritional content, design and marketing of the product, and presentation skills.

The point of this programme was not just about engaging with our kids. It was not just about educating them in kosher cooking. And it was not just about asking them to consider whether food is kosher when they go shopping. It was also about enthusing them about the Tribe Programmes, encouraging them to participate in the range of activities that follow on from this in our Shuls through their teenage years, their Israel experiences, their campus activities, and eventually participating in community life through Tribe Community Membership and ultimately full membership and participation in the United Synagogue. This is just one example of how creatively presenting what we stand for powerfully engages our membership. There is so much more we are doing now and planning for the future – across all ages.

With younger people still in mind we have seen a significant growth in the number of kids registering for our Summer Schemes, our Summer Camps are bulging at the seams, and our first Summer Tour in Israel has been astonishingly successful. This along with the MiniGap programme which we laid on for pre-university students, shows that our presence in Israel is becoming significant.

Outside the confines of youth, this year has seen the development of a growing number of programmes such as The Tishrei and Pesach guides which were widely applauded, the You & US website which has been greatly appreciated and an ever more effective network of US Community Cares activity which represents one of the hidden gems in the whole of the Anglo-Jewish community. With over 1000 volunteers coordinated both centrally and at a local level every single US family should feel proud of belonging to a community where the practical application of the Jewish value of caring for each other is so incredibly strong.

As Chief Executive of the organisation I am not surprisingly passionate about what it stands for. My belief is that the hard work that is being put into developing the US by its professionals and volunteers will bring about a proud, strong and numerous membership well into the future. I and my team look forward to continuing this vital work for British Jewry, ultimately to ensure that we retain our traditions and values, grow in our Jewish lives, and ensure that our grandchildren remain Jewish.

May I wish you all a wonderful, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Jeremy Jacobs

July 2011



LADIES WHO . . . SHIUR!

In June due to a groundswell of female agitation, a ladies shuir was arranged.

We were fortunate to have Ruth Simon, a well known educator from Kesher, come and speak to us on the subject of Shavuot and the story of Ruth.

A most informative and enjoyable hour was spent in learning and conversation. It was unanimously agreed that we should have the shiur every two weeks and that as it was held between noon and 1.30pm we should provide sandwiches for lunch.

Two weeks later we had our second shiur and this was followed by a third given by Richard Glyn – a fascinating insight into the emperor Vespasian and his assault on the temple in 70AD.

We look forward to resuming these shiurim after the summer break and will add another teacher Liat Meyerfield from Aish.

Please come and join us.



Ruth Simon with Nicky Burns, Jacqui Charles, Cheryl Abbey, Mandy Baker, Lois Peltz, Adrienne Phillips, Valerie Cohen, Margaret Grant and Raquel Amit.



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Producers of the Central Magazine

Rich Red Cabbage à la Maison

By Denise Cohen

Ingredients

1 medium sized red cabbage, shredded
2 large onions, coarsely chopped
2 eating apples, peeled and roughly chopped
4 tablespoons red wine vinegar
3 tablespoons Demarara sugar
250ml olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste



Method

Sauté the onions in olive oil. When the onions are transparent add the apples. Then add the cabbage ensuring that it is well coated with the oil. Add the wine vinegar and the sugar, stir well and bring to the boil. Cover and simmer for 1-1 ½ hours remembering to stir the cabbage every 20 minutes or so. It will be cooked when the cabbage has lost its purple tinge. Season with salt and pepper and if necessary add more vinegar and sugar as most of the liquid will have evaporated at the conclusion of cooking. Reheat on a low light stirring vigorously. Freezes very well.

LADIES' GUILD REPORT

As a result of Terry Samek's retirement as Chairman of The Central Synagogue Ladies' Guild, I was elected to succeed her at our AGM in June, along with Roz Laren our new Vice-Chairman, Adrienne Phillips our new Treasurer and Raquel Amit, our new Secretary. Having been Secretary and then Vice-Chairman, this is a role I feel very proud to take on since I am following in the footsteps of my mother and my late grandmother who were both Chairmen of Central's Ladies' Guild.

It seems like yesterday that I became involved in the Ladies' Guild – turning up at meetings and being put to the task of arranging biscuits in the kitchen on Shabbat morning and subsequently being promoted to cutting cake in Terry's absence and pouring wine and whiskey when our resident super-speedy pourer Clarice was away. However, it quickly became evident to me that the success of the Ladies' Guild was not down to any one individual but very much a team effort, not only with the physical preparation of kiddushim and other events, but with the exchange of ideas about what we could do to benefit our community.

In her last Chairman's report given at the Shul AGM (see next page) Terry has thanked many individuals. However, I really want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to her and to thank her for the time and effort she has put in over the years to make the Ladies' Guild the success it has become.

by Sara Cohen



Quiz table – Nicky and Gary Burns flanked by their winning team for 2011

LADIES' GUILD REPORT **by Terry Samek**

I am pleased to report another successful year for the Ladies Guild. It has been an extremely busy year catering for many sponsored Kiddushim as well as the regular ones whilst always endeavoring to maintain the high standard with which the Guild has become associated.

Notable events of the year were the First Night of Succot Dinner, Kiddushim for Shavuot and on Chanukah in honour of the visit of the Chief Rabbi, Simchat Torah parties, the Purim Party and our own annual Quiz Supper.

The Ladies Guild also formed a team for the United Synagogue Ladies Quiz Evening to ensure that Central Synagogue was well represented.

I would like to thank all the Ladies' on the Guild for all their efforts during my years as Chairman, especially our Vice-Chair Sara Cohen, Treasurer Coral Jowell and Secretary Elissa da Costa-Waldman for their tireless work and support.

I would also like to thank Mary and her team of waitresses for all their hard work during the past year as well as Doug and Jason on security. I wish the incoming committee and Executive every success in their endeavours.



Terry tells a lovely story about her first encounter with the Ladies' Guild. When her late husband, Paul, became a warden of the Shul he told her that she should become involved with their endeavours. So, dutifully, a young Terry turned up at her first meeting to be faced with the Wix Hall packed full of seemingly old women all wearing hats, and the Executive of the Guild seated behind a table on the stage. Not quite what she was expecting and rather daunted by the sight, she turned and ran! I imagine that one of the women sitting on the stage wearing a hat was quite possibly my Grandmother and, thankfully, at some point she returned and has been one of its mainstays ever since. Her tenure as Chairman followed many years as Vice-Chairman, and her elegance and attention to detail are evident to anyone who attends regularly, or even occasionally, on Shabbat or any other event organised by the Ladies' Guild, something I will do my utmost to maintain.

It would be very remiss of me if I did not also give a big thank you to Coral Jowell who retired as Treasurer. Many of you will know Coral from her time as administrator of Central and after her retirement her involvement with the Shul transferred to the Ladies' Guild. Not only has she looked after the accounts, done the ordering and arranged our annual Shul outings amongst many other things, she has also borne the brunt of people's complaints about the fishballs!

I hope that both Terry and Coral will continue to be active members of the Ladies' Guild and will still come to the kitchen on Shabbat morning, if only for a chat and a cup of coffee, and I would personally like to thank them for all the support and advice they have given me over the last few months.

Although nothing will outwardly change with what we do, we have gone hi-tech and we now have an email address for the Ladies' Guild – ladies.central@gmail.com. We are also developing a page on the Shul website and any ideas or articles for this would be very welcome.

Rule of 15 and Opening One of a Suit in 4th Seat.

In 4th seat how many points do you need to make a normal Opening bid of One of a Suit. Do you need an especially strong hand or can you take liberties in 4th seat?

Once the bidding has gone Pass Pass Pass if you have a normal 13+ points then Open the bidding and the bidding will probably be won by your side.

If you have a minimum Hand you can still Open because in 4th Seat you do not need to have a rebid ready (NB you don't need to have a rebid ready in 3rd seat either) as partner is already limited because they didn't manage an Opening bid in the first place.

However, if you open very light and suddenly you give the opponents an opportunity to compete then you will wish you had kept quiet. If you have the Majors, particularly Spades, then if they do compete you can outbid them without raising the level.

The Rule of 15 helps you decide when to Throw The Hand in and when to take your chances. You add your High Card Points plus the number of Spades you have and if the total is 15 or more then make an Opening bid in 4th Seat.



♠ AQ 9 6 5
♥ K J 6
♦ 7 6 5
♣ 3 2

Hand 1

♠ 3 2
♥ 7 6 5
♦ K J 6
♣ A Q 9 6 5

Hand 2

♠ 5 4
♥ K 8
♦ A K 9 8 7
♣ J 4 3 2

Hand 3

On Hand 1 you have 10 High Card Points with 5 Spades so you can comfortably Open 1S ($10 + 5 = 15$) and just pass any reply partner makes (hopefully it will not be 2C).

On Hand 2 same hand but different distribution of suits 10 High Card Points and only 2 Spades ($10 + 2 = \text{only } 12$) so throw the hand in and Pass.

On hand 3 you have fairly normal opening bid BUT the one thing you don't want to do is risk opening the door for the opponents and let them compete in the Majors (again the rule of 15 helps here $11 + 2 = \text{only } 13$) so again Pass.

If you want to know more about the rule of 15 and the Open door policy then you might like to visit:

www.haroldschogger.com/teachingmovies.htm#The_Rule_of_15



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FIRST IMPRESSIONS — Ze'ev Galibov by Nicola Burns



Over a cup of coffee with Ze'ev Galibov I asked him to tell me about his life. I am writing his story as he told it to me. I was impressed and I think you will be too.

"It is a hard task to try and condense a busy life time spanning 84 years into a short article so I hope that this synopsis will do.

I was born and grew up in Jerusalem a 7th generation Sabra, one of seven children who all bore an animal name. Mine is Ze'ev meaning Wolf. (We were all part of a private family Zoo!) My father was of Bucharian descent and my mother of Spanish descent and their marriage joined two different communities.

My father was a Journalist, Editor, Author and Translator, who spoke 9 languages my mother spoke 6 but we all were educated at home to speak only Hebrew, following the motto "A Jew speaks Hebrew". I started my studies in Beit Midrash and continued in a private mixed college, but I could not complete my studies there as we moved to Tel Aviv where I started working during the day and studying at evening classes. For a period of time I worked as an electrician and then converted my hobby as an amateur photographer into a professional one. In a few years I photographed more than 500 weddings, events and other occasions.

I absolutely loved classical music and at home we had an open house every Tuesday evening for friends to come and listen to music, including friends from the IPO. At one of these evenings a clever and lovely young lady from England came as a visitor; her name was Esna. After a few visits we started meeting frequently and we decided to share our lives together. She lured me to London with the prospect of marriage.

We married in 1958 and shortly after our wedding, I tried my luck as a stamp dealer, opening up a shop in Regent Street, building up a business and I fell in love with stamps - not just as a business, but as a hobby too. Today, I am the proud owner of the second best Palestine Mandate collection in the world. Winning many awards, in International Exhibitions, including a great number of gold medals, culminating with my two prestigious large gold medals, a great achievement in Palestine and world philately.

I was President of the British Holyland Society for eight years, and in that time I published four books, and with my knowledge helped on other publications on this subject. To this day, I am still refining my collection and carry on dealing with the Holyland material that I have known for more than half a century.

Moving to grey and foggy London was somewhat bizarre to an Israeli, but Esna preferred it over the high humidity of Tel Aviv. I eventually acclimatized and realized how wonderful London is with its Culture and Architecture. We were blessed with two lovely children, Benita and Rafi, whom each were in turn blessed with three children. Esna and myself loved to see the world and enjoyed fourteen cruises in our time together, beside many other trips and our annual Pesach in Israel - a tradition started by Esna 40 years ago, which we still carry on, (although with great sadness at her absence as she was the pivot in each event). We enjoyed our life together for 45 sweet years, sharing so many things together, Art, Drama, Musicals and Opera, Trips, Quizzes and political discussions with Israel being the main topic.



Esna and Ze'ev, 1958

We moved to Portland Place in 1982 and joined the Shul. Since then we worked as volunteers in many aspects of the Shul, including me being on the Board of Management for approximately 20 years, and Esna in the Ladies Guild as Treasurer and kiddush helper up to the last weeks of her life.

She left me with a great vacuum, although I carry on with all these subjects, as life must go on. G-d Bless her soul. I can tell you more, but I will stop here, One day maybe you will read my autobiography..."

P.S. if you like to know more about Ze'ev please contact him on
[<zeev@galibov.com>](mailto:zeev@galibov.com)



Established 1760

Rosh Hashanah is the time of year when according to tradition the whole world is arraigned before God in judgement. It is an appropriate time therefore for introspection and for reviewing the past year. Even by recent standards for the Board of Deputies the past year has been an eventful and challenging one. There has been unprecedented activity both in terms of the activities carried out by the Board and in terms of the issues faced by it.

On the positive side we celebrated the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the Board in 1760. The celebrations comprised some interesting and some very moving events with record attendances and interest shown in the work of the Board. It culminated in the Summer Banquet at the Guildhall where our guest was HRH The Prince of Wales. The fact that Prince Charles attended the dinner accompanied by the Duchess of Cornwall and the fact that his moving address to us was so personal, illustrates the regard which he has for the Board and by extension for the community.

Yet though we live in an extremely benign and tolerant society where our religion is protected by law, we face continual challenges in the practice of it. A most obvious example is Shechita which is under constant threat. This year threats came not merely from this country but also from the European Parliament. The Board played a vital role in countering that threat both by as a constituent member of Shechita UK and also as a link between them and the European Jewish Congress. In the end the community's efforts were successful but we should not be under any illusions. The danger to Shechita has not gone away. It will return both because of the misplaced concerns of the animal welfare lobby but also in the form of requests for greater consumer information which could make the economics of Shechita prohibitive.

In numerous other areas the Board has been at the forefront of efforts to protect the community's position, advising communal groups where appropriate and lobbying where necessary. In all these activities the Board shows two of its most important characteristics. First we are resolutely cross-communal, representing all strands of the community. Even those groups in the community which withhold formal support from the Board and are not represented on it come to us for help and political support when they need it. We never reject them.

Secondly the Board achieves its success by cooperating with dedicated groups in the community working on the principle that there is no limit to what one can achieve as long as you do not care who takes the credit. To list but some of the examples; in countering the institutional antisemitism of the UCU we have worked alongside the JLC, in campaigning against hate speech on campus we have worked alongside UJS and CST, in countering antisemitism generally we have worked with the CST, in educational matters with the synagogal bodies and with the UJIA, on behalf of Israel with BICOM the UJIA and the Zionist Federation, on Brit Milah with the Initiation Society. One could go on - the list is almost endless.

In all these matters the Board's democratic mandate and cross-communal character gives it a unique authority. For example when the Advertising Standards Authority ruled that a poster prepared by the Israeli Government Tourist Office showing the Western Wall was misleading they defiantly told the community they would not listen to any complaints. At the same time they themselves phoned the Board asking for a meeting on the basis that a complaint from ourselves could not be ignored. Government and NGOs know when they deal with us that we speak for the community as a whole and that our voice is persuasive and rational.

The year that has passed has seen many challenges to the community and we must expect that the new year will do likewise. You can rest assured that the Board will meet those challenges with all its force and with the backing of the community. At this sacred time of the year let us hope and pray that in the new year we have the same success that we have enjoyed in the one that has passed.



Vivian Wineman

President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews

NEW YEAR'S *Greetings*

Shana Tova U'Metuka to all at Central Synagogue from Raquel and Yoav Amit.

Wishing all our family, friends, and family members 'Shana Tova' – Mandy and David Baker.

Nicola, Gary, Madeleine and Hannah Burns wish the Rabbi, Chazan, and all members of Central Synagogue a Happy New Year and well over the Fast.

Jacqueline and Eric Charles send best New Year greetings to Rabbi Barry Marcus, Chazan Steven Leas and the entire Community.

Pat and Ashley Davidson wish everyone at the Central a happy and healthy New Year.

Ze'ev Galibov wishes Shana Tova and well over the fast to all at the Central Synagogue.

Shana Tova to our family and friends – Philip and Lois Gishen.

Shana Tova to you all from Margaret Grant.

Peter Koritschoner wishes Rabbi Marcus, Steven Leas and the Central community a happy and healthy New Year.

Zea Lewis and all her dear family wish their fellow congregants a healthy and peaceful New Year and well over the Fast.

Shana Tova to Rabbi Barry Marcus and Steven Leas and family.

Murray; Joséphine and Carole, would like to wish Laurence and Cheryl, their families, relatives, friends and the congregation, a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. They would like to thank also those people who were enquiring after Joséphine during her recent illness.

Terry Samek wishes her family, friends and fellow members a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

We send peaceful New Year greetings to all our family, relations, friends, Rabbi Marcus, Shul staff and congregation.

We wish you well over the Fast. Pamela and Sydney Simmonds.

Clarice Shamash and Maurice wish their family and friends and congregation a happy New Year and well over the Fast.

Sylvia Shine and family wish Shanah Tovah to Rabbi Marcus, Chazan Leas, their families and all our friends at the Central.

Happy New Year to all the members of the Central. In memory of our dear Father. He will always be in our hearts.

Danita Winstanly, Hermione Levy, Jared Bernstein.

The Morning Minyan

We, the members of the Morning Minyan, send our very best wishes for a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year to our esteemed Rabbi Marcus, the Officiants, Honorary Officers and all the members of the Central Synagogue.

Yoav Amit	Robert Davis	Richard Glyn	Peter Koritschoner	Guy Ornadell	Billy Sharron
Yoini Apter	Stephen Davis	Shlomo Godsi	David Kosky	Martyn Pizer	Leslie Shull
Kevin Arenson	Ashley Davidson	Stanley Goldstein	Gideon Lack	Sydney Pochin	Lindsay Shure
Adam Arnold	Russell Dunstan	Andy Graham	Melvin Lawson	Gennadis Raivich	Anthony Silverman
Howard Ash	Leon Dwek	Ian Grant	Steven Leas	Paul Rayden	Aubrey Silverstone
Colin Baker	Melvyn Epstein	Malcolm Green	Edward Lee	Darren Richards	Michael Sinclair
Jonathan Barnett	Leonard Fertleman	Billy Grossman	Nick Levene	Michael Richards	Neil Sinclair
Simon Barnett	Laurence Finger	Ilan Gutkin	Craig Levison	Westley Richards	Abner Solland
Michael Bayer	Aron Freedman	Norman Gutkin	Julian Lewis	Joel Rockman	Jonathan Stein
Rael Berelowitz	Clive Freedman	Steven Haberman	Michael Lewis	David Rodney	Simon Stone
David Berkley	Mordechai Friedman	Steve Haffner	Steven Livingston	Sam Rogoff	Ian Stowe
Gary Burns	(Israel)	Peter Hoffman	Paul Martin	Issy Rondel	David Teacher
Eric Charles	Adam Gamzu	Yaron Hupert (Israel)	Allan Messing	Paul Rosen	Jeremy Trent
Marcos Chazan	Nigel Gee	David Judah	Michael Milston	Richard Rosenberg	Daniel Whitefield
Roger Cohen	Ben-Shalom Gentely	Chuni Kahan	John Newman	Stanley Salter	Greg Woolf
Simon Cohen	Jonathan Gibbons	Melvin Kay	Mark H Newman	Stephen Schaffer	Norman Yellon
Bryan Coyne	Roger Gibbons	Stephen Kay	Peter Ohrenstein	Maurice Shamash	

The Morning Minyan has often been commented on by visitors as being the most friendly and successful minyan that they have attended. It is renowned for its magnificent breakfasts given by members to celebrate Rosh Chodesh, Yahrzeits, celebrations of happy events and on other occasions just because members enjoy having breakfasts together! 'Membership' is free and you qualify simply by turning up! Come along and enjoy a great experience.

Welcome to New Members

- Michael Becker
- Madeleine Burns
- Patrice Cohen
- Janice and Peter Gold
- Claudia and Jeremy Godley
- Muriel and Brian Goldstein
- Ronald Harris
- Sharon and David Hudaly
- Doreen Hyman
- Juliet Josephs
- Jasmine and Richard Lister
- Claire and David Konviser
- Saul Konviser
- Laura and David Lambert
- Victoria and Paul Lawson
- Gillian and Arnold Livingstone
- Angela Morrison
- Gilberte Norton
- Benjamin Paisner
- Michael Parnes
- Annabel and Simon Passer
- Alice Prevezer
- Thomas Prevezer
- Samantha and Paul Rosen
- Suzanne Ritblat
- Suzanne Ritblat
- Melanie and Michael Sherwood
- Andrew Somper
- Lee Stone
- David Sugarman
- Irene Unterberger
- Shelley Wallis
- George Whyte
- Judith and Eytan Zlotorynski

Births. [Mazeltov to:](#)

- Victoria and Richard Benson on the birth of a daughter
- Abigail and Daniel Bobroff on the birth of a son
- Gail and Samuel Dwek on the birth of a daughter
- Alicia and Paul Fertleman on the birth of a daughter
- Alexandra and Nicholas Fineman on the birth of a son
- Kate and James Hyman on the birth of a son
- Saskia and Edward Jackson on the birth of a daughter
- Annabel and Simon Passer on the birth of a son
- Adrian Benson on the birth of a granddaughter
- Elizabeth and Roy Berger on the birth of a grandson
- ane and Robert Bobroff on the birth of a grandson
- Patricia and Ashley Davidson on the birth of a granddaughter
- Rochelle and Steven Davis on the birth of a granddaughter
- Freda and Leon Dwek on the birth of a granddaughter
- Rosemary and Leonard Fertleman on the birth of a granddaughter
- Angela Fineman on the birth of a granddaughter and grandson
- Melanie and Martin Fishman on the birth of a grandson
- Susan and Ian Grant on the birth of a granddaughter and grandson
- Jane and Basil Hyman on the birth of a grandson
- Stephanie and Michael Jenkins on the birth of a grandson
- Dawn and Frank Lewis on the birth of a granddaughter
- Suzanne and Jeffrey Nedas on the birth of a granddaughter

- Myra and Juan Schehtman on the birth of a grandson
- Adrienne and John Troostwyk on the birth of a grandson
- Estelle Wolfson on the birth of a granddaughter

Bar Mitzvahs

- Jordan Freud

Bat Mitzvahs

- Samantha Mishon

Engagements. [Mazeltov to:](#)

- Cheryl and Peter Abbey on the engagement of his daughter Juliet to Jamie Avi-Ban
- Louise and Isaac Behar on the engagement of their daughter Annabel to Jimmy Ayad
- Edna and Zorach Gehl on the engagement of their son Amir to Natalie Michaeli
- Joshua Lawson on his engagement to Chloe Wolfe-Cowen
- Richard Lawson on his son Joshua's engagement to Chloe Wolfe-Cowen
- Richard Lubbock on the engagement of his son James to Joanne Carton
- Ian Reuben on the engagement of his son Alexander to Lauren Posner
- Sylvia Reuben on the engagement of her grandson Alexander to Lauren Posner
- Adrienne and John Troostwyk on the engagement of their son David to Lucinda Cohen

Marriages. [Mazeltov to the families of:](#)

- Claudia and Jeremy Goldley
- Claire and David Konviser
- Laura and David Lambert

- Annabel and Simon Passer
- Samantha and Paul Rosen
- Susan and Stuart Harrison on the marriage of their son James to Lisa Zeitlin
- Doreen and Jessel Harrison on the marriage of their grandson James to Lisa Zeitlin
- Anne and Clive Moss on the marriage of their granddaughter
- Caroline and Daniel Tamman on their son Jonathan's marriage to Bianca Ralph.

Bereavements. Condolences go to the families of the following members who have passed away in the past year:

- Michael Arnold
- Frances Barnett
- Sheila Burns

- Taube Clifford
- Cybil Collin
- Maurice Cutner
- Sally Davidson
- Norman Freed
- Betty Freedman
- Phyllis Hart
- Victor Lang
- Henrietta Marks
- Len Sherman
- Irene Silver
- Diana Steinberg
- Gerald Stone
- Ruth Winter
- Dinah Zelkha

Condolences go to: the following members who have lost loved ones in the past year:

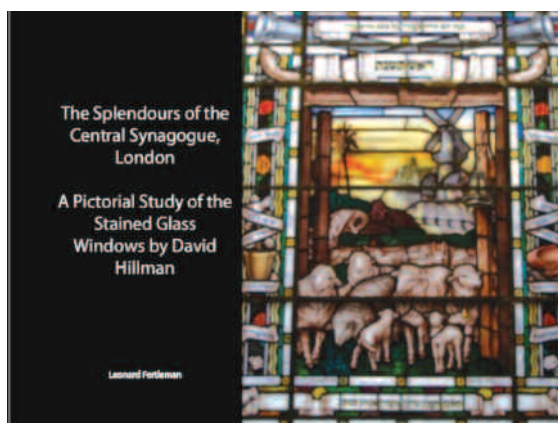
- Yoav Amit on the loss of his Brother
- Diana Goldsmith on the loss of her Mother
- Anna Kafetz on the loss of her Mother
- Trudie Malawer on the loss of her Brother
- Dan & Guy Ornadel on the loss of their Father
- Simone Ritterman on the loss of her Brother

Mazeltov to:

- Craig Levison on receiving an Administrator's award from the United Synagogue



*IT'S OUT
IT'S READY
IT'S COOKED*



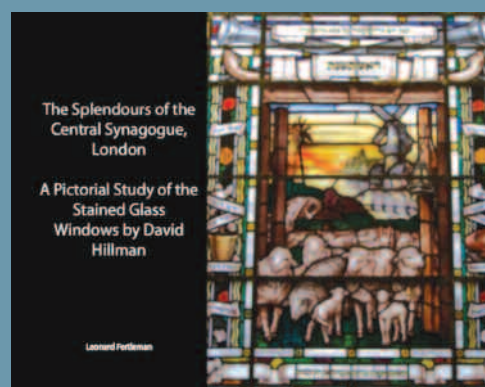
Jam packed with a variety of recipes to cater for all the Festivals and Shabbat. This book will make an ideal gift for Rosh Hashanah or any occasion

Only £10 and available from the Synagogue Office.
Please telephone 0207 580 1355 to order your copy.
(Delivery can be arranged for multiple orders.)

The Splendours of the Central Synagogue

A Pictorial Study of the Stained Glass Windows by David Hillman

[By Leonard Fertleman]



All 26 stained glass windows are displayed with accompanying explanations to create a beautiful hardback book fit for any coffee table.

Copies can be ordered via the Synagogue Office.
Please call 020 7580 1355 for more information.
Please feel free to visit the office to browse through the book prior to purchase.

Back cover photos: (From top left to bottom right) Carla and Louis Ditz, Nadine and Steve Engelbert, Max Hyman, Lisa and Michael Wolman, Sadie Rae Davidson, Jordan Freud, Samantha Mishon



Central Magazine

