

# Central Magazine



*Inspiring Generations*

# CENTRALSYNAGOGUE

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Front cover was kindly reproduced by the artist Martin Holt at the  
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# CentralMagazine

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**Central Magazine**    **Designed and printed by:**

Brightside Print & Design Ltd. 020 7960 5111 • [www.brightsideonline.com](http://www.brightsideonline.com)

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## FROM **the Rabbi** Barry Marcus

*Dear Congregants*

I am delighted to report that this past year has yet again been a positive one for our wonderful community. We have seen growth both in membership and increased activities – details of which can be found in this magazine edition.

Beyond the walls of our beautiful Shul, the situation over the past year, both locally and internationally, has been most unsettling. We are not immune from the disturbing events both here and further afield and the re-emergence of fascist groups in Europe is most disturbing. The sight of Neo-Nazi political groups in Greece, Hungary and elsewhere rekindles memories and echoes of a time not so long ago when economic uncertainty unleashed anti-Semitism across Europe during the Shoah – scenes we thought were consigned to the past.

All around us institutions once revered and trusted, seem so fragile and scandal-prone, adding to our sense of unease. It is therefore comforting that there are some constants in our lives that can still offer us stability, calm and tranquillity.

This is precisely what a Synagogue offers, not only refuge from all the chaos and uncertainty around us, but with the advent of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur we have an opportunity to come together, 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 wishes for a Shana Tova.*

**Rabbi Barry Marcus**



## EDITOR'S MESSAGE **Nicola Burns**

Welcome to Central – the magazine for all of our members and friends.

Whilst working on this issue, I couldn't help but think what a full and interesting year we have had at Central.

We have a new warden – Stuart Lewis, new members and new faces on the Board of Management (see inside front cover).

We had a successful run of Friday night dinners for young professionals and various and varied activities for our youth, which has culminated in Tribe choosing us as a summer camp venue for the United Synagogue!

After much negotiation, we have been able to show the Olympic Games from screens set up in the shul, where a holiday atmosphere ensued (see our Olympic article on page 18).

Read about our fabulous hat show, a barbecue, a Shabbaton and our marvellous quiz. These are just a small taster on the menu at Central in the last twelve months. Dinner in the Succah, beautifully decorated by Grazyna, was superb, thanks to the Ladies Guild. Well done to Sara, Roz and Adrienne!

To all of you who come to make up the weekly Shabbat attendance, I love being in our shul with you – Rabbi Marcus and Chazan Leas bring to life our wonderful prayers and traditions and also Yoav, Edward, and Jeremy who happily help with our popular Services.

Our community is warm and vibrant, and Craig Levison, our Administrator, sets this tone which welcomes all visitors who come to Central. This also is true of Robin, Douglas, Louise, and Matt, Sylvia and Jayson, and Steve. These are the people we depend on for help and support and in keeping us safe and secure. I must also, of course, thank Gary for all of his advice and patience.

It was with enormous delight earlier in the year that we heard from Raquel and Yoav that they were expecting a baby. I know I share with everyone the joy in their wonderful news. Raquel is, and will remain a huge presence in the shul, but she is now on maternity leave enjoying her baby! My daily working routine with Raquel has been put on hold for now and I find myself stumbling along without her.

I hope you enjoy this issue, and that you have a wonderful healthy and happy new year!

**At the Annual General Meeting of the Synagogue in May of this year, Laurie Phillips presided as Chairman and continues ably in this role. Laurie has continued to work for the Synagogue in his second year as Chairman and this follows many years when he was a member of the Board of Management and a representative at the Board of Deputies.**

The Honorary Officers are delighted to welcome Stuart Lewis as the newly elected Warden of the Synagogue; he is a highly respected member of this community and he has served as a member of the Board of Management for some years; he also takes up a great deal of time supporting other organisations in the British Jewish Community. Nicola Burns, Nigel Gee and Stanley Salter continue in their respective roles as Vice Chairman, Warden and Financial Representative for the year to May 2013. The Honorary Officers are committed to work together in friendship and goodwill; their constant aim being a united effort to ensure the welfare of all the members of the Central Synagogue, as well as everyone employed by or associated with the Synagogue.

We are fortunate that Rabbi Barry Marcus continues in his leading role at the Synagogue and so ably represents our community, as well as Jews of Great Britain in general, due to his unceasing work in the fields of inter-faith relations and Holocaust studies. Our community continues to be an oasis of peace and unity in a turbulent world; every year is punctuated by both the happiest events and simchas as well as by dark moments of sadness. Rabbi Marcus is key in bringing us all together at these times, demonstrated by his great ability to bring meaning to these occasions, joyous or solemn.

Every day our Morning Minyan under Rabbi Marcus's leadership and guidance welcomes congregants and residents from across London, and over the course of each year we also welcome visitors from the four corners of the Globe. Almost every day the morning service is followed by a sponsored breakfast and perhaps this is another reason why the Morning Minyan continues to go from strength to strength!

Chazan Steven Leas has a magnificent voice which so expresses his depth of feeling for the Shul and the congregation. Together with his wife Ruth, their son Jonathan and their daughters Rafaella and Danielle Steven brings warmth to our community. The Leas family are a great source of pride for this Synagogue. On the High Holy Days we look forward to hearing Steven's Chazanut when he will be accompanied again by the excellent Central Synagogue Choir that he has assembled. The Choir is now most ably conducted by Anthony Caplan. During the year and at the time of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur some new compositions will be introduced, while many will be beautifully sung traditional melodies that bring back memories of years gone by and inspire a spirit of unity.

Vice Chairman Nicola Burns continues to work tirelessly for the Shul. With her warm personality and smile she is in touch with those in our community who in moments of sadness need extra care and support. Nicola continues to edit the Central Magazine. Nigel Gee also continues to work for the benefit and welfare of the Synagogue, both inside the Shul during Services as well as with our Security Officer to ensure all aspects of safety. Stanley Salter continues to keep the Synagogue's finances in good order, and the clarity of the Synagogue accounts has been widely praised.

Sara Cohen continues as our elegant and highly efficient Chairwoman of the Ladies' Guild. The Ladies continue to plan for a number of important events and special occasions each year. Delicious and varied kiddushim are perhaps what the Guild is best known for and this year they have significantly added to the welcome experienced by important dignitaries such as the Israel Ambassador. We thank the Ladies' Guild for their hard work and all their efforts.

Central warmly welcomed guests from around the world throughout the year and especially during the Summer months. In 2012 Central was the host United Synagogue for Jews from around the world who were visiting London for the Olympic Games. Daily Kosher refreshments, television relays of the

top sporting events and a special celebratory dinner were all events organised at the Synagogue. Being in the 'medical district' of London, we are also a Synagogue that on numerous occasions is a safe haven for patients and their relatives that are referred to hospitals or clinics in the area. We therefore thank our many volunteers who are on 'Greeting Duty' throughout the year.

We thank the Board of Management and Synagogue Elders for their work and efforts for the Synagogue. Leonard Fertleman, Jacqueline Charles, Richard Midda, Melvin Lawson and Clarice Shamash all left the Board of Management this year. We thank all five of them for their sterling efforts over a number of years and we acknowledge that they continue to help the Synagogue in many ways. We welcome six new members to the Board of Management; Juliet Moss, Adrienne Phillips, Kenny Arfin, Ze'ev Galibov, Michael Fishberg and Maurice Shamash; they are all most warmly welcomed and we hope they will play important roles at Central in the future.

A number of special events took place at the Synagogue in the past year and among these were the Simchat Torah celebrations in October 2011 when Anthony Harris and Raymond Laren were the Chattanim; there was also a very fine concert in October when Steven Leas and Melinda Hughes were the principal soloists together with other highly talented musicians; January 2012 saw the first of five Jewish Society Friday Night dinners at the Synagogue. Rabbi Marcus' Pre-Purim talk took place in March and this was followed ten days later by the Purim Party held in association with Marble Arch Synagogue. The theme this year at Rabbi Rosenfeld's request was 'Elvis is in the room' and this proved to be an opportunity for high spirits (including Black Label and Scotch). The Lag B'Omer BBQ was held in May; The Shavuot Dinner followed later in the month. We thank all the participants in these events.

Several speakers visited the Synagogue through the year and many parties of school children from different religious backgrounds continue to visit to learn about Jewish Religion and traditions.

In October we welcomed the Chief Rabbi, Lord Sacks, who visited us at Succoth and shared his great intellect with the community in his sermon; in April 2012 the new President of the United Synagogue, Stephen Pack and his wife Cheryl, stayed with us over Shabbat and he spoke to the community most sincerely after the Kiddush; in June we were honoured by a visit from the new Israel Ambassador Daniel Taub who was accompanied by his wife Zehava and three of their children. He also addressed the community in the Wix Hall after the Kiddush.

Our thanks go to David Baker, our Security Officer, for continuing to carry out his role over the past year. David is ably assisted by Maurice Shamash together with our exceptional guards Jason and Steve. We also thank the Community Security Trust who help to secure the building throughout the year.

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

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 5773 and well over the Fast'.

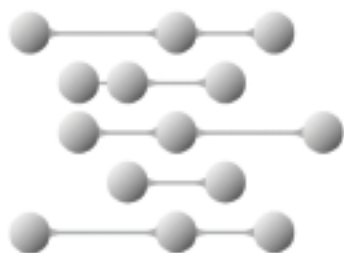
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## Rosh Hashanah Message



Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are times for stock-taking, individually and collectively. As we pray for God's blessings for the future, we reflect on the past: where we have come from, how far we have travelled, and what remains to be done.

As I think back personally to the day 21 years ago when I became Chief Rabbi, my overwhelming feeling is one of thanks and indebtedness to a community that has renewed itself beyond expectation.

Most spectacular has been the growth in education. There have been more new Jewish day schools opened in the past two decades than in any comparable period in the 356-year history of Anglo-Jewry. The percentage of Jewish children at Jewish day schools has moved from some 25 per cent to almost 70 per cent. This is an immense achievement on the part of many people: builders, funders, governors, teachers, parents and children. Together they have given us a future to be proud of.

Nor has the growth in education been confined to schools. There has been an explosion of adult, family and informal education. Never before has there been so much learning taking place in our community. We are better Jewishly educated than we were, and our children and grandchildren will be yet more so.

Then there has been the creativity and exuberance of Jewish life in general. I think of the new London Jewish Cultural Centre, the London Jewish Community Centre currently being built, and events like Jewish Book Week that attract ever larger crowds. Most of our synagogues are no longer simply houses of prayer. They have become community centres with active and dynamic programmes of all kinds.

Jewish welfare organisations like Jewish Care, JBD, Norwood, Nightingale House, Langdon and others throughout the country have achieved unparalleled standards of excellence. Chessed activities thread through almost all of our organisations and schools, and Mitzvah Day has inspired other faith

communities, becoming this year a national project backed by the government.

The Jewish voice has become a significant part of the national conversation on moral and social issues, listened to respectfully by people of all faiths or none. Even the demography of Anglo-Jewry has changed. Having declined year-on-year for 60 years, in 2005 the tide began to turn, largely thanks to the growth of the Haredi community. We are now growing, albeit slowly.

And yes, there are negatives: the growth of antisemitism and the various campaigns against Israel. But Britain remains, for the most part, a tolerant society. Jews and Judaism are admired, and in the fight against prejudice we have good and often courageous friends. Were our Victorian predecessors 150 years ago to see us now, they would be frankly astonished at the richness and exuberance of Jewish life.

*Lo alecha ha-melakhah ligmor:* It is not for us to complete the task, but neither have we desisted from it, and together we have achieved great things. Our children and grandchildren will have new challenges to face, but they will do so with more knowledge and confidence than any Anglo-Jewish generation in the past.

So let us give collective thanks to God *shehecheyanu ve-kiyemanu ve-higiyanu lazman hazeh*, who has brought us safely to this day. May the shofar of Rosh Hashanah summon us to yet greater achievements. May we remain true to our faith and a blessing to others regardless of their faith. May God write us and our families in the Book of Life.

*Bebirkat ketivah vechatimah tovah*

**Chief Rabbi, Lord Sacks**

Rosh Hashanah 5773







# RABBI Marcus

Rabbi Marcus has had an extremely busy year, both professionally and personally.

We are aware at Central what a tireless advocator Rabbi Marcus is both for the State of Israel and for Jews everywhere. He is of course famous for his trips to Auschwitz and to Belarus and through these has bought to a whole new generation an understanding of our present through our history.

The pictures alongside are from the National Yom HaShoah UK Commemoration which took place at the Dell in Hyde Park on 22nd April.

Rabbi Marcus read prayers amongst others including the Israel Ambassador and the Chief Rabbi, and our choir who together with Chazan Leas, sang movingly in tribute to those who had died in the Holocaust.



**Rabbi Marcus at Hyde Park**



**Central Synagogue choir**

**Rabbi Marcus with the Chief Rabbi and other guests**







At Central another Holocaust survivor, Ben Helfgott, came to speak to our community on a different topic – the Olympics. Ben, a much decorated medal winner, captained the British weight lifting team in the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne and 1960 in Rome. Ben is a fantastic ambassador not only for sport but for triumph over adversity.

We had many interesting speakers at the Shul this year, joining us first for Shabbat services. We were delighted to welcome Stephen and Cheryl Pack. Stephen is the newly elected President of the United Synagogue. After a lavish kiddush Stephen addressed the congregation, speaking about the role of the next Chief Rabbi and the evolving role of women in the United Synagogue. This was followed by a delicious lunch and music from Chazan Steven Leas.

We also welcomed Joel Mowbray (an American journalist) who spoke to us about the disproportionate amount of attention that Israel receives in the press. Joel was very informative and was very happy to answer questions from the congregation.



We were delighted when in June HE Daniel Taub, his wife Zehava and three of their children attended our services. The Israel Ambassador was charming and he also welcomed questions from the congregation. He is continuing the crucial work of his predecessor Ron Prosor, who was a very familiar face at Central.



**Rabbi Marcus and his family at Eliana and Shachars' wedding**

Part of being a Rabbi means that he also has the wonderful task of officiating at the happiest moments – marriages. We have many weddings at Central, not only from our own community but visitors who want very much to be married in our beautiful Shul.

This year the Rabbi has travelled abroad to preside over marriages, including those of Dana and David Lewis, son of our warden Stuart and his wife Cheryl, in France. Rabbi Marcus has also had the joy of his daughter Eliana's marriage to Shachar, in Israel. Spending time there with his family in such wonderful circumstances – the entire community at Central wishes him a huge mazel tov!

## **Celebrating the re-launch of Jewish Music Central, Central Synagogue in collaboration with the Jewish Music Institute hosted 'Central's Soiree' last November.**

Melinda Hughes starred, treating the audience to a selection from her newly released CD of songs by Spoliansky; I sang a medley of musical theatre favourites, opera and operetta; our guest violinist, Daniel Rowland, impressed us with his selection of violin solos and his flamboyant style. We also had the opportunity to hear from two surprise guest performers: my son, Jonathan, sang Consider Yourself, from Oliver and Taube Brahms sang two pieces, one from Annie Get Your Gun as well as a Barbra Streisand favourite.

Our Purim festivities were held at Western Marble Arch Shul this year and, as usual, we paved the way with the entertainment. Thanks go mainly to Nigel Gee who composed several songs to Elvis tunes which I performed with him and Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld. Please see our Purim pages for more details of this memorable night on pages 20 and 21.

Our ever-popular Choral Shabbat took place in April, where we were treated to the beautiful sounds of the choir, followed by a lunch with Stephen Pack, the President of the United Synagogue. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our choir for the lovely music and hard work they put in during the year. Additionally, I would like to thank Anthony Caplan for jumping in with both feet and taking over the reigns from our previous conductor Michael Etherton. We look forward to a lovely Choral Yamim Nora'im.



**Taube Brahms singing at Central**



**Soloist Daniel Rowland**



Upcoming events for this year include a Sushi and Carlebach Kabbalat Shabbat service, followed by a Young Professionals' Shabbat dinner. We look forward once again to a tennis tournament with Western Marble Arch, as well.

In collaboration with the Polish embassy, we will be hosting a Polish quartet in November, which will play a medley of musical, classical, and klezmer music. The aim is to attract a diverse audience of people of different faiths and nationalities.



**Melinda Hughes**

On a private note, I recorded a new CD together with chazanim Azi Schwartz and Colin Schachat; Raymond Goldstein composed, arranged, played, and conducted the 10-piece Israeli ensemble at the world-famous Mishkenot She'ananim in Jerusalem. The CD is a mix of opera, musical theatre, Yiddish, and chazanut. We 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.

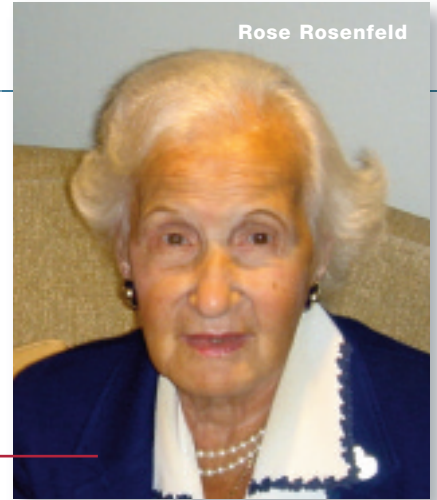
**Elvis has not left the building!**





# ROSE ROSENFELD

Rose Rosenfeld



*It was with great sadness that we learnt the news that Rose Rosenfeld had passed away at the end of the year. She was 100 years old.*

*She was an extraordinary woman. She was interesting, amusing and great fun. We shall all miss her.*

*She had a large and loving family and my thanks go to Lauren who allowed us to reproduce the following:*

I just wanted to share a few words with you, about my great grandma Rose, or 'Rose of Westminster' as she was more commonly known!

My great grandma was the youngest of eight children, and spoilt throughout her life. This made her stubborn about getting her own way! She always told Jordan and me stories of her childhood and used to relate to us how, from the age of 14, she would go to the houses that her father, Solomon Bardiger, owned and collect all the rent for him. She was told that if any tenant was having a hard time, it was rent free.

If you knew Rose, you would agree that she was a feisty, straight talking, no nonsense woman. Last week after a particularly stressful day at work I went to visit her at Harley House. I sat in the armchair at the end of her bed, and said 'oyoyoy' to which she looked over at me and said 'how do you think I feel?!'

She had a very sharp mind and played the stock market well into her nineties. She also played cards every week and, unlike most people, she was spurred on by a loss, rather than deterred. This should be a lesson to all of us.

People from all walks of life respected her and everyone called her Grandma. She made friends wherever she went, with a humorous comment and a butter mint!

On her 100th birthday, at 3 o'clock, the counter staff at Baker Street Post Office stopped serving customers in order to present my great grandma with a box of chocolates, a bunch of flowers and to sing happy birthday to her. When customers asked what was going on, they were simply told 'it's Rose's birthday'.

The relentless dedication and round the clock care I saw my grandparents give to my great grandma in her last few weeks makes me prouder than I can put into words. I can only hope my children would be as devoted as they were.

## **What I will remember about Grandma –**

She came from the school of tough love; it was tough to get love from her, but if she loved you, then you knew about it.

She believed children should be seen and not heard, but bragged about her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren to anyone that would listen.

You would be lucky to get more than a 30 second phone conversation from her, but in person you would struggle to get a word in edgewise.

She was full of wisdom and didn't hesitate in sharing it with anybody, her Rabbi, the Chief Rabbi, Kilroy Silk and even Prince Charles.

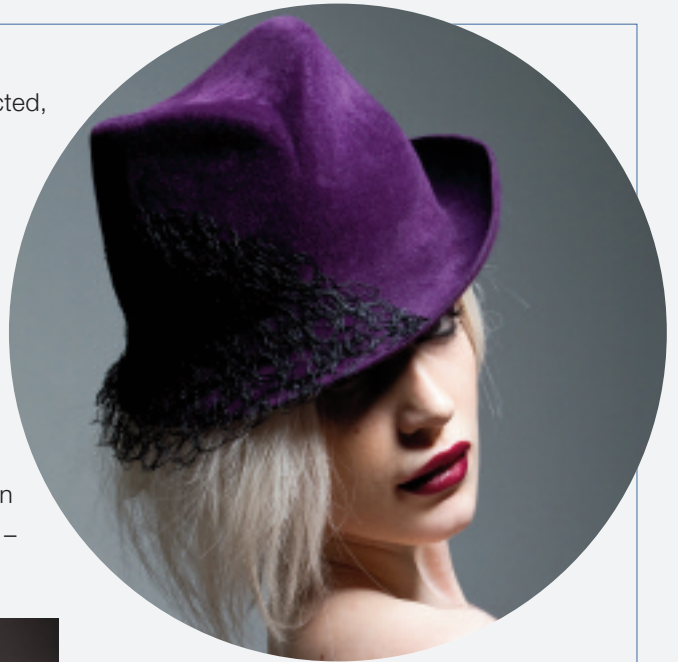
She might have lived for a hundred years, but she wasn't a hundred years old; she was truly a hundred years young.

No one who met you will ever forget you, Grandma.

## HATS OFF TO THE LADIES' GUILD! **by Lois Peltz**

Wednesday 21st March – not quite the first day of spring we expected, being cold, grey and wet, but despite this, we all set off to Roz Laren's home to see the new millinery collection of Rosie Olivia Spring Hats.

After a brief introduction by Rosie who told us of her experiences as a new name in hat design, her London training at St. Martin's and her extraordinary invention of a new fabric – a stiffened lace that sculpts into the most beautiful shapes – these were fabulous creations – some looked as though they belonged to a bygone Hollywood age, whilst others were sharply chic – we entered into an orgy of trying on, of grabbing mirrors and photographing ourselves – it was an exhausting time!



This was all washed down with cups of delicious tea, in fact a beautiful afternoon tea was served and we were all charmed by yet another successful Ladies' Guild event.

Revived enough to make our way home through the London traffic we will now all wait for Rosh Hashanah to see the new purchases!



## SHEER JOY AT THE WOMEN'S SHIUR **by Lois Peltz**

The ladies' shiurim have been taking place on alternate Tuesdays every month. We are a small group taught by the irrepressible Liat Mayerfeld, a wonderful teacher, who has invited us into a world where every word or action has a meaning that stems directly from biblical times.

Liat has taken us on a journey through the different minhagim (customs) of the varied communities that are part of Jewish life – the preparation for festivals and explaining how knowledge can change our perceptions of Judaism and its place in the world.

Liat has made such a huge difference to all of us and has increased our understanding of Torah with her marvellous instruction.

Please come and join us in these fascinating discussions – we provide refreshments – for the body as well as for the soul!

# LADIES' GUILD OUTING

## Planning to straddle the meridian line? Pay up!

On a rather moody September day we intrepid few, met on the embankment at Westminster Pier, overlooked by the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben, and embarked on a river trip along the Thames to Greenwich.



**Michael Marks with Margaret Grant, Peter Lewin and Benita Marks**

The spectacular view from the river banks could not be spoiled, and the experience of travelling from this vantage point was spectacular. The London Eye towered over all (its capsules moving slowly) as we passed County Hall on one side and the South Bank complex on the other. This complex which includes the Hayward Gallery, the Royal Festival Hall and the National Theatre is quite extraordinary. St Paul's Cathedral, so calm and enduring, left us awestruck whilst the boat sailed on past the disquietening Tower of London.

Disembarking at Greenwich Pier we were faced with many options, from the bustling markets, the Old Royal Naval College (another masterpiece from Sir Christopher Wren), the National Maritime Museum and the Old Royal Observatory – we had choices to make and different directions to go in.

Greenwich is a world heritage centre, home of Greenwich Mean Time and the Meridian Line. As you leave the pier you feel a sense of excitement that something very special is around the corner – and it is – the Cutty Sark, the famous 19th century tea clipper.

We split into small groups and set off on our separate adventures. There was so much to see and do, there were exhibitions everywhere, some of us chose to walk by the river or in the park. It really was an outing for 'all'.

At the end of the day, a cup of tea and a leisurely trip back provided a well earned rest and a chance for us all to catch up on what we had seen.

We had a lovely day made particularly special by having the late Peter Lewin with us.



**On deck with Jacquie Charles and Terry Samek**

The hour long journey took us past many of London's most famous sights. This was accompanied by a strange commentary courtesy of two youths who had managed to find the microphone and were using it to deride both the Olympic games and the Royal Family! Terry Samek and Nicky Burns were 'not amused' and suggested keel hauling!

The spectacular view from the river banks could not be spoiled, and the experience of travelling from this



**The wonderful Royal Observatory**





# COMMUNITY ROUND-UP

## Coral Jowell

Coral Jowell is one of the most well known and well loved members of Central. Born in the East End of London, she left school at 15 and went to work for the League of Jewish Women. This was followed by working at the London Jewish Hospital where she became the Almoners' Assistant.

After a whirlwind courtship, Coral met and married Rhodesian Bernard Jowell and the couple soon left for Rhodesia. After several years, they moved with their eldest daughter to Israel where they remained for six years and had two more daughters. The globetrotting Jowells finally returned to settle in England.

After many years spent bringing up her children, Coral returned to work as the Administrator at Egerton Road Synagogue, Stamford Hill. Fortunately for us, she was approached by Central and was the Administrator of our Shul for 15 years.

Coral has three daughters and four grandchildren. The Globetrotting is by no means over ... one of her daughters lives in Australia, and Coral happily travels to see her whenever she can.

An amazing lady, Coral is a mine of information. She has a wealth of knowledge on a variety of subjects, she is a City of London guide and has spent much time at the Geffrye Museum, in particular teaching people about English history. A hard working member of our Ladies' Guild (where she has been past Treasurer) for many years, she is now the Secretary, and continues to support the Shul in every way she can, and each of us as a good friend. She loves codewords and crosswords – though I've never heard one!

A handsome young lawyer called Ray  
Was called to the Bar yesterday  
After one double gin  
He left for Gray's Inn  
But his briefs fell apart on the way!

**by Ann Onymous**

**Gary Burns – a Games Maker  
at Lord's Olympic venue**

There was a young man from Sri Lanka  
Who sailed round the world in a tanker  
He got all forlorn  
As he sounded the Horn  
So he pulled out the plug and he sank her

**by Ann Onymous**



**Juliet Moss and  
Stanley Salter –  
Olympic Ambassadors  
at Trafalgar Square**



# COME RAIN OR SHINE! by Raquel Amit

Despite the atrocious May weather we held our largest ever barbecue after the AGM on 9th May. The rain miraculously eased off for the duration of the party which allowed full use of the courtyard and classrooms.



**Peter Koritschoner, Harry Sunshine and Jack Shaw enjoying the feast**

With 70 people all eager to be fed and watered, Roger and Yoav had their work cut out for them at the grill and with plenty of food on offer; there was no lull in the cooking! With beef, lamb and chicken



**Miss Danielle Leas**

shishliks, burgers, sausages, chicken wings, salads, corn and potatoes on offer, few people could manage the brownies and watermelon for dessert, especially having been treated to a slice of Ruth's (big) birthday cake.

With another successful BBQ under our belts, we already look forward to next year, when we may well have to recruit some more helpers! This year, thanks go to the usual barbecue suspects: Sara, Roger, Raquel and Yoav.



**Russell Kett with Susan and Ian Grant**



**Guy Ornel Del with Eddie and top chef Yoav Amit**



**Laurie Phillips with Fay Sandler, Kenny Arfin, Gabriel & Hayley Netser, Susan Arfin and Mandy Baker**



**Gary Burns joins Phillip Collett and Guy Ornel Del**



# THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

*Hello everyone!*

Following last year's precedent we continued along our football theme this year with a match against Kinloss for our 13-18 year olds at Barnet Powerleague in February.

We lost the first mini game and won the second (clearly all we needed were some introductions and a warm up)! Unfortunately we lost out to penalties in the decider. Thanks to all of you who came along.

Our weekly children's services continue, strongly backed by our regulars - the Gishen and Lister families, and Rafaella and Danielle Leas who now come along to join Jonathan. As always, we are delighted to see Sarah Green and Maximillian Leof who bring such enthusiasm to our services.

Our Shabbat morning always begins with a discussion of the week's parasha, an activity based on it, and a few rounds of the game Apples to Apples (Jewish Edition) - do come and join us for a round if you're intrigued. We like it as much as the kids! Of course, we always make Kiddush and have plenty of snacks throughout.

This Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur we will have extra help in the children's shul to help with our many visitors. Two members from the Tribe team will be here to organise fun activities, Yomtov services and games for all ages.

Yoad and I now have our own addition to the children's services and we look forward to introducing Maya to her new friends!

*Raguel*





# OLYMPICS by Nicky Burns

**Ask yourself what do Ben Helfgott, Mark Spitz and and Harold Abrahams have in common? Of course, they are all Jewish – but add Sebastian Coe into the mix and you have a different answer. They are all Olympic athletes. There may not be many Jewish footballers or rugby players, but there is a plethora of Jewish Olympians.**

The first Olympic Games was held in 776 BCE – it was a competition between neighbouring states within the ancient Greek Empire. Legend tells us that the Games originated between Hercules and Zeus, and that after completing his 12 labours, Hercules built the Olympic stadium to honour Zeus. The games proved popular and were held every four years (an Olympiad) until 393 AD when the Roman Emperor Theodosius had them cancelled along with all Greek practices as the influence of Rome grew.



**Harold Abrahams**



**Ben Helfgott**

In 1796, the revolutionary party in France held the Olympiade de Republique, an attempt to rekindle the magnificence of the original Games. Presumably there were not enough participants left after the reign of terror for these particular games to continue for more than two years!

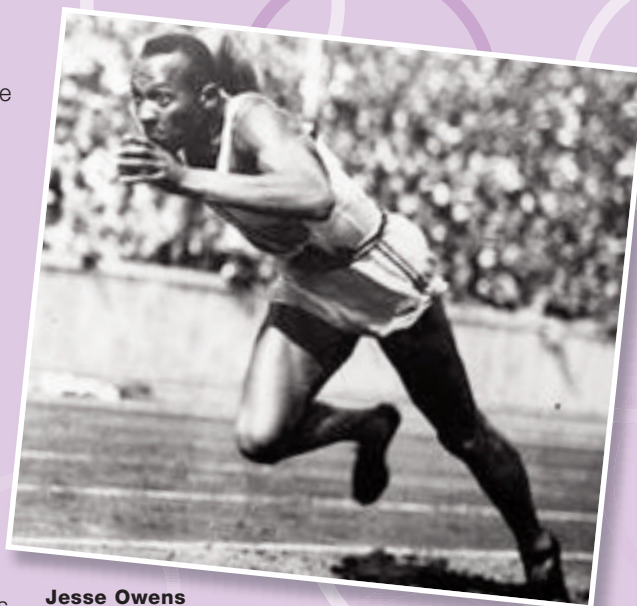
Over the next 90 years there were several attempts to re-introduce the Olympic Games, notably in England and in Greece. Finally in 1896 with the formation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the first modern Olympic Games was held most suitably, in the panathenaic stadium in Athens with 14 countries and 241 athletes participating.

The Games have provided a massive world stage for both athletics and politics. In 1936, the infamous Berlin Olympics were the first to be televised, comparing the stunning dignity of Jesse Owens with the ugly third reich. A generation of athletes were hampered by the Second World War when the Helsinki Olympics were cancelled a week before they were to begin in 1939. Later, in 1948, the sensational Fanny Blankers Koen of The Netherlands won four gold

medals at the London Olympics – the most successful athlete of the time, Blankers Koen was named female athlete of the century in 1999 by the IAAF.



**Fanny Blankers Koen**



**Jesse Owens**

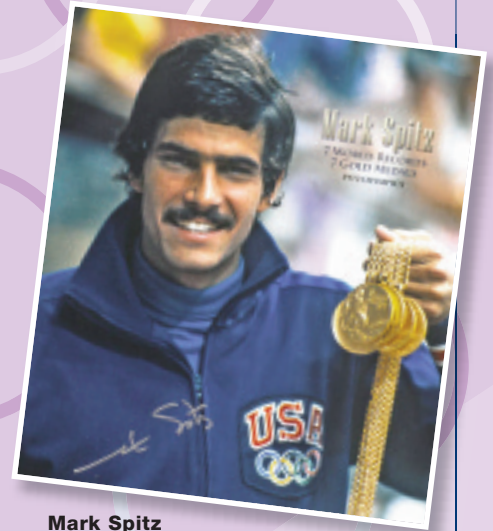
The Mexico City Olympics gave us the extraordinary pairing of American black athletes Tommy Smith and John Carlos. Famous for their gloved salute signifying black power, these heroic men were largely



**Peter Norman of Australia with Tommy Smith and John Carlos**

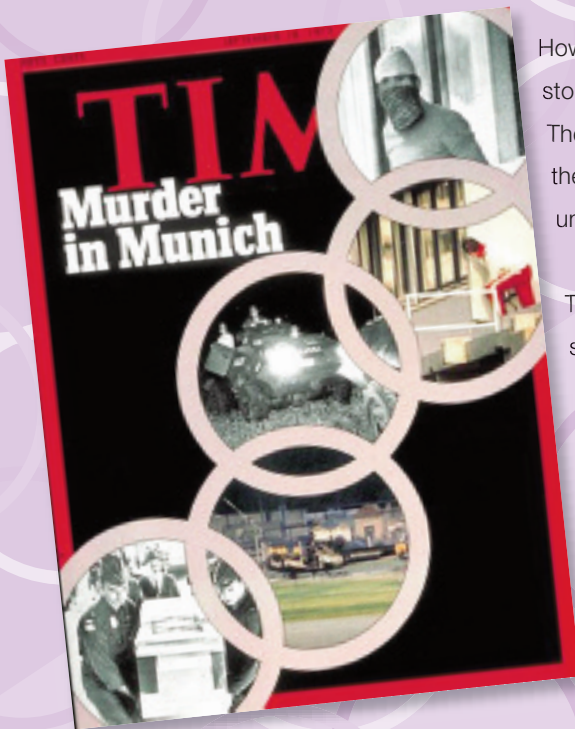
ostracized by the U.S. sporting establishment in the years following the games. Time Magazine showed the five-ring Olympic logo with the words, "Angrier, Nastier, Uglier", instead of "Faster, Higher, Stronger". They were subject to abuse and their families received death threats. In later years, these men were showered with honours as America and the rest of the world sought to leave its disgraceful racist past behind it.

The 1972 Olympic Games brought us Mark Spitz and his seven Olympic gold medals – unfortunately, this great achievement was overshadowed by murder in Munich, when eleven members of the Israeli Olympic team were taken hostage and eventually killed by the Palestinian group Black September.



**Mark Spitz**

The Prime Minister of Israel, Golda Meir, asked for worldwide condemnation. King Hussein of Jordan called it a savage unspeakable act against civilization. German Prime Minister Willy Brandt insisted the Olympic flag and participating countries' flags should fly at half mast. The families of some victims have asked the IOC to establish a permanent memorial to the athletes. The IOC has declined, saying that to introduce a specific reference to the victims could "alienate other members of the Olympic community".



However, there is a memorial outside the Olympic stadium in Munich – a stone tablet at the bridge linking the stadium to the former Olympic village. There is also a memorial tablet to the slain Israelis outside the front door of their former lodging at 31 Connollystraße. In 1999 a memorial plaque was unveiled in one of the light towers outside the Sydney Olympic stadium.

The International Olympic Committee has refused a call for a minute's silence at the London Olympic Games 2012.

There will always be those eager to destroy or too cowardly to uphold what is right – but as we can see it's in the spirit of togetherness that the Games continue to thrive. In 1980 the Games were held in Moscow where Steve Ovett and Sebastian Coe won gold medals for Great Britain, and in Los Angeles in 1984 we won gold again watched by 900 million people on television!

**Every four years the world's best athletes come to compete for the title 'the greatest'.  
All nations under one flag – a legacy of which to be proud.**



This year it was Central's turn to host a tasty Purim breakfast. Rabbi Marcus shared the services with Rabbi Rosenfeld of Marble Arch who as usual treated us to a magnificent recitation of the Megillah.

A wonderful Purim celebration dinner was held at Marble Arch Shul where Linda Sharpe organised a lovely meal of delicious salads, quiches and a selection of fish which went down very well with very nice wine!

Jonathan Leas led the children who included Benji Miller with Alex and Julie, Rafaella and Danielle all delighted to join in with the singing. These talented young people were very nearly upstaged by Chazan Elvis Leas and Cap'n Rabbi Rosenfeld who sang a variety of show tunes and traditional hebrew songs which everyone joined in with.



**Jonathan and Benji accompanied by Malcolm at WMA**

We were especially fortunate that this year, along with other regulars Nicky Burns, Linda Sharpe and Eric Charles, we had Taube Brahms and Marilyn Keston who took us to new heights with their lovely voices. The Marble Arch community joined in with all the fun and at one point it seemed as though a queue was forming for access to the stage!

We had our fantastic pianist Malcolm Miller who is always so kind and generous with his time and has become such a familiar face at Central, but ... the night belonged to Nigel Gee who not only wrote many of the hysterical lyrics for the well known showstopping tunes but also performed most of them in his fabulous baritone and with his genuine sense of ease and fun.



**Elvis Leas in his cape, sunglasses and blue suede shoes**



**Sam and Lois Peltz enjoying the festivities with Clarice Shamash**



## IS IT PURIM AGAIN? or 'Nights of the Strudel Table'

(TO THE TUNE OF  
"Are You Lonesome Tonight?")

*It is Purim again?  
Rosenfeld's come by plane  
Back from sun on the Tel Aviv shore.  
Tonight he's on a roll  
With his Megillah scroll  
And tomorrow  
He'll read it some more.*

*Marble Arch is the venue  
For dinner this year.  
The Black Label is poured  
So there's nothing to fear.  
Hope you don't live too far  
Please don't get in your car  
'You'll be 'nicked'  
'Cos it's Purim again'.*

*Are we eating tonight?  
Does my belt look too tight?  
Hope they've got enough nosh for us all.  
Chazan Leas is here too  
Singing Elvis words new.  
Have some "ear"  
Hamantaschen Strudall.*

*Now the duet's have started  
Sung by 'Lionel and Leas'  
Then its 'Steven and Son'  
They make singing a breeze.  
Presley's back in the room  
We'll be going home soon  
With a smile  
'Cos its Purim again.*



Yoav with open  
mouthed patients!



Ria Collett with  
Darth Vader Ornadel!



Marilyn Keston



A little too much Purim spirit!



# SECRET MISSION "SHKEDY"

Getaway cars, secret codes and numbers, the London office and the UK Jewish community sure know how to welcome VIPs visiting from Israel, and we're not even talking about the Olympics.

Earlier this year, EL AL welcomed their President and CEO to the London Jewish Community in style. You may think it strange that we had a contingency plan for rescuing Mr Shkedy on his visit to London, but he was one of the first official visitors to test the newly changed laws of Universal Jurisdiction, that have kept him from visiting here in London until this year.

As a special Shabbat guest at the Central Synagogue, Mr Shkedy along with some of the crew and staff of the aircraft that brought him in, made the blessing to the President of the State of Israel, and addressed the community. Mr Shkedy said that he has long awaited the opportunity to visit London again, and he stands proud to be representing his country and his airline, EL AL at such an important event and occasion. He went on to speak about his experiences as the son of Holocaust survivors, how he rose to the ranks of Commander in Chief of the Israeli Air-force and how he feels now that he is president and CEO of what he terms "the Civil Wings of the State of Israel AND the Jewish Nation."

Mr Shkedy presented to Rabbi Marcus and Mr and (the now Mrs) Julian Segal special GlobaLY Matmid membership cards. This special programme means that every time someone flies EL AL and earns Matmid points, EL AL will donate an extra 5% of the points to three amazing Israeli charities.

Shabbat was followed by a busy schedule representing EL AL at events around North London and now the getaway cars and emergency personnel stand ready and waiting just as eager for Mr Shkedy's next visit.

**EL AL Wishes You  
A Happy New Year**

**May It Be As  
Sweet As Honey**

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# UNITED SYNAGOGUE SILVER PROJECT: 2011

A chance conversation in February 2011 introduced me to the United Synagogue Silver Project and heralded my involvement.

The brief was to photograph, catalogue and value all items of silver at 49 locations, primarily comprising the constituent communities of the United Synagogue.

Seven weeks later I was introduced to silver expert Gerald Barnett at Raleigh Close, Hendon. Gerald keeps a close eye on silver auctions both in this country and abroad, and has an encyclopaedic knowledge and appreciation of shul silver from the UK and globally. As an expert silver dealer, he was chosen to value the silver.

My interest in silver is purely amateur, but as an experienced project manager my role was to liaise with Shul administrators and chairmen and ensure that all silver was identified and correctly recorded for insurance purposes. I subsequently collated and reported our findings electronically.

Apart from silver inside the ark, there are spice boxes, etrog boxes, jugs and bowls for the Cohanim, menorahs, salvers, goblets and more. One kiddush cup dates from 1796 and was made by illustrious British silversmiths Peter and Ann Bateman. There are hallmarked presentation trowels to commemorate the laying of foundation stones, many dating from the second half of the 19th century.

As part of our routine, we undertook basic repair work on the spot. This involved reattaching bells to rimmonim, tightening nuts on the back of breast plates, replacing festival boxes and their silver festival labels and untangling the knots in yad chains. Shul representatives were alerted to more complicated repairs for subsequent attention.

We found variations in the condition of silver from Shul to Shul. At their best, items are cleaned twice a year and are well maintained. Ideally, every Shul should have a silver champion: someone responsible for maintaining it in good order. During our examination of the silver at one Synagogue, we came across a pair of rimmonim which did not match: they looked similar but had different hallmarks. Despite a vigorous search, we could not find a matching pair. Hence, imagine our surprise when we opened the ark at another location some six weeks later and found the identical mismatch, together with a breast plate which belonged to one of the pairs. With the assistance of representatives of both Synagogues, the rimmonim have now been successfully reunited.

The Project has taken some eight months to complete. Artefacts were numbered for photographic and description purposes. They were then measured, weighed and any inscriptions noted with the family name. Silver has been donated to the United Synagogue over many years, most notably sefer torah sets of bells, breast plate and pointer. Some recipient Synagogues no longer exist, and it was pleasing to find their silver still in use years after their closure.

It has been a privilege to inspect United Synagogue silver at close quarters. The majority is high quality, hallmarked English silver dating from the twentieth century by such silversmiths as Farbey, Salkind, Shaw, Taite, Viner and more recently Mila Griebel. What they have created will, with ongoing care and attention, pass to future generations as a reminder of outstanding workmanship and tzedakah.

## **Paul Sarfaty**

Silver Project Consultant to the United Synagogue





# Mary Oliver's Gefilte Fish

By Josephine Murray

My mother's family came from Belarus and they liked and made gefilte fish that was peppery. My father's family was originally from Poland and they liked the fish sweet. When my parents got engaged my mother found that she couldn't eat the sweet gefilte fish so her future mother in law made separate peppery fish every week for her. When my mother married my father she decided that she was not going to make two lots of fish each week so she decided to combine the two recipes and make it sweet and peppery and it was delicious and everyone loved her gefilte fish.

## INGREDIENTS

stock  
3kgs minced fish  
7 eggs, beaten  
16 heaped dessert spoons sugar  
7 dessert spoons ground almonds  
2½ teaspoons salt  
7 level dessert spoons matzo meal  
1½ level teaspoons pepper  
750g minced onions

Make stock by boiling fish heads and bones in at least 2 litres of water, together with 2 carrots and 2 onions. Bring to the boil and then simmer for 1 hour. Salmon head or Haddock head is good.

This makes about 42 large fish balls. However, if you want to make smaller quantities, here is what you need for each 450g of fish:

stock  
1 egg, beaten  
2 heaped dessert spoons sugar  
1 dessert spoon ground almonds  
¼ teaspoon salt



## METHOD

When ready, strain stock. Bring stock to boil in a large pan. In a bowl mix together fish, beaten egg and dry ingredients. When mixed, shaped into satsuma sized balls.

Put a layer of sliced carrots at the bottom of the saucepan, lay balls on top and put slices of carrot on top of fish and scatter other slices around. Make sure fish balls are covered with stock. If not, add more water. Simmer for about three quarters of an hour. Leave until quite cold before removing from saucepan. If freezing the fish balls, freeze balls and liquor separately.



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Producers of the Central Magazine

# LADIES' GUILD REPORT by Sara Cohen

Central's ladies have continued to play a pivotal role in Shul life, not only with our Shabbat and Yom Tov kiddushim, many of which were generously sponsored, but also with a variety of communal events, most of which involve food!

The Succot dinner has become one of the highlights in the Shul calendar, and the rain held off just long enough for everyone to enjoy a three course dinner in our magical, butterfly themed succah created by Grazyna Solland. Early booking for this year's dinner is recommended to avoid disappointment.

Our annual quiz supper was an enormous success on all levels and, despite the appalling weather due to a heavy snow fall the previous evening, our intrepid quiz masters and most of the participants managed to make it to Hallam Street. Congratulations to Elizabeth and Daniel Peltz's table on their resounding victory. The 2013 quiz supper is confirmed for 27th January, so start preparing!

In the spring we were treated to a wonderful hat show and tea hosted by Roz Laren, with beautiful millinery by Rosie Olivia. We have also participated in several United Synagogue Women's events. Our team came a creditable 6th (out of 20) at their annual quiz. The U.S.W.'s annual dinner was very successful and enjoyed by those who joined Central's table.

Due to rising costs, a coach outing was put on hold and instead the Ladies' Guild took a river trip! A lovely day out in Greenwich proved to be very popular. Due to the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games, our annual outing this year will take place in the autumn.

The success of the Ladies' Guild is definitely due to the sum of its many parts, so I must thank Roz Laren our

Vice Chairman and Adrienne Phillips our Treasurer. Raquel Amit has retired as Secretary having found something more important to produce than very concise minutes! We wish her, Yoav and baby Maya Mazel Tov. I must also thank our Shabbat kitchen regulars, Nicky Burns, Margaret Grant, Coral Jowell, Terry Samek and Clarice Shamash for their help in preparing the kiddushim week after week.

Finally our thanks go to Mary and her wonderful team, and most especially to Douglas, Louise, Jayson and Sylvia for whom nothing ever seems to be too much trouble.



**The Hopes, the Burns', Sarah Gluckstein and the Bakers – smiling bravely!**



**A crowded Wix Hall full of eager competitors!**





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## will it be a sweet new year for all jewish families?

**In most of our communities there are families who have a child with a life threatening illness.** From Cancer to Muscular Dystrophy, these families face high levels of stress and anxiety and it is our responsibility to be there for them. At Camp Simcha, our vision is that no Jewish child, wherever they are in the UK, should have to suffer serious illness without our support. We believe that the best way to improve quality of life for the sick child is to change the life of the whole family including siblings, often the forgotten sufferers.

### JESS'S STORY

In February 2010, 7 year old Jess was diagnosed with a brain tumour. She has endured surgery and years of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Her parents, Jane and Mark, watched their daughter change from a bundle of energy into a shadow of her former self.

Jane and Mark contacted Camp Simcha and our Big Brother and Sister volunteers quickly became part of Jess's life and that of her sister Mia. They visited Jessie regularly and took her to parties and outings, providing respite for Jane and Mark, whilst their dedicated Family Liaison Officer provided them with 24/7 practical and emotional support.

The whole family came on special Camp Simcha Retreat where they met many other families who really could

understand and the children had the time of their lives. One evening straight after chemotherapy, Jess and Mia went with Camp Simcha to the X Factor concert at Wembley where she met all the stars. When we spoke to her a few weeks later, Jess didn't even remember the treatment she had that day - all she could think of was meeting her heroes.



### CAMP SIMCHA HELPS ALL MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY FEEL BETTER, STRONGER AND MORE ABLE TO COPE

All Camp Simcha's services are provided free of charge to families from all sectors of the Jewish community. We receive no government funding and rely on the generous support of the community. If you know of a child or family that could benefit from Camp Simcha's help, please do not hesitate to contact us on 020 8202 9297 or for further information visit our website at [www.campsimcha.org.uk](http://www.campsimcha.org.uk)

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# ROSH HASHANAH MESSAGE 5772-5773



Established 1760

Dear Friends,

I am delighted that, at the beginning of the New Year and the start of the new triennium, we have a new team of Honorary Officers all of whom are enthusiastic about their portfolios and have hit the ground running. I look forward to working with them during the next three years to face the challenges and opportunities confronting us.

One can also only be enormously heartened by the unprecedented interest that the community has shown in the Board during the election period. In addition to having a host of new synagogues and organisations represented on the Board, we had more Deputies standing for Divisional elections than ever before and we are privileged to have elected Deputies of an extremely high calibre to the Divisional Committees. All this is good for the Board and good for the community that it represents.

The Board's mission is to promote the welfare and vitality of the community of which we have good reason to be proud. Our increasing dynamism over the last few decades has confounded the prophets of gloom. With record numbers of pupils at Jewish schools, with institutions such as Limmud, the Jewish Film Festival, Book Week and the Jewish Music Institute to name but a few, the community is an example to others in the Diaspora of how to integrate into one's host community while retaining one's own identity and vitality.

At the same time we face increasing challenges and the Board's mission is also to lead the defence of the community on these. Living as we do in a pluralistic and tolerant democracy, our rights to carry out our religious practices should never be in doubt. In fact, however, in the last few years threats have emerged both in this country and in Europe against some of our practices; principally Shechita and Brit Milah. It would not be fair to attribute these to antisemitism, but nevertheless their effect could seriously jeopardise our way of life. The latest attack at the time of writing, of course, comes from Germany on Brit Milah. The Board is at the heart of a cross-continental initiative approaching German ambassadors and lobbying parliamentarians whilst trying to ensure that, here in the UK, the community speaks with one

voice which is both cogent and rational. I am pleased to say our representations have been well received and we have been able to punch beyond our weight. At some future date we may need a grass roots campaign and here the Board will look to the community to play its part, whether in lobbying MPs or in engaging in the media debate generally.

Above all we have to face the continual attacks on Israel which are now coming from the media, the unions, academia and the churches – the latest being the decision of the Church of England Synod to endorse EAPPI, a grossly unbalanced programme taking people to the West Bank without showing them the Israeli side of the conflict. We must not fall into the trap, however, of branding all critics of Israel as anti-Semites. On the contrary, I see from conversations with senior churchmen that many of them regard themselves as firm friends albeit critical ones of both Jewry and of Israel.

Often they are unaware of the unfortunate antisemitic overtones of the debate instigated. Our task is therefore to confront the antisemites, expose them and ensure that Israel's case is made effectively to the moderates. Again this is something which must be done in a calm and rational manner, and it falls to all of us to engage with our Christian neighbours to form relationships through which we can express our views. With the support of the community the Board will be ideally equipped to do this in the year ahead. How successful we will be one cannot say at this point but it will not be for want of trying.

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy New Year.

Warm wishes,



Vivian Wineman

**President of the Board of  
Deputies of British Jews**



**On Sunday 12th February fifty-three women came together for the inaugural US Women's Conference. Organised in conjunction with LEAD (Jewish Leadership Excellence and Development), JVN (Jewish Volunteering Network) and LSJS (London School of Jewish Studies), the conference took place at the Central Synagogue and created warmth, friendship and buzz in direct contrast to the cold winds outside.**

The conference theme was women and lay-leadership within the Jewish Community, especially within the United Synagogue, and we were fortunate in having high-powered, well-known and successful women leading the activities throughout the day.

After getting to know each other over coffee and a welcome from Dalia Cramer (co-chair US Women), Dr Tamra Wright gave a short D'var Torah before we split up for our first set of workshops and discussions. Choices were numerous:

Lindsay Simmonds on 'Is Halacha Patriarchal?', giving various examples of halacha and coming to the conclusion that it depends on one's perspective: that although it may appear patriarchal it is fluid, continually moving and evolving.



**Sara Cohen and Nicky Burns join US Women at Central conference**

Jenny Nemko on 'Making Your Voice Heard', demonstrating how to get your message across by exercising the power of delivery in order to impress and make emotional bonds.

Helena Sharpstone on 'Insight Before Hindsight – Tips and Tricks for High Performance Leadership', speaking about key skills and strategies; knowing your team members and how to get the best out of everybody; managing relationships and being innovative.

Doreen Samuels on the 'Changing Face of Education for Women – One small step for Womankind' (read Doreen's article in our December 2011 issue).

A quick changeover and there were two more sessions to choose from:

Diana Wolfin talking on 'Work-Life-Balance – How to do your own juggling act' – how important it is to prioritise, to put aside the unnecessary, to spend time with one's family and, most importantly to look after yourself and your health since without good health nothing is possible.

Leonie Lewis talking on 'New Directions in Volunteering' (read Leonie's article in our November 2011 issue) and Nicky Goldman highlighted 'Exciting Leadership Innovations at LEAD'.

Over lunch there was networking and time for important topical issue – the dynamic Laura Marks, who heads the JLC Commission on Women in Jewish Leadership, talked about the need for women to correct the gender imbalance at Trustee and management level and through the Board of Deputies, asking all present and the wider public to respond to the online survey (see our next feature in this issue).

After lunch, Rosalind Preston OBE, who has led two research-based women's reviews, interviewed Carolyn Bogush, Chair of Limmud, about what influenced her to take on this role and about her challenges and ours for the future.

The conference closed with a vote of thanks given by Irene Leeman (co-chair US Women) when, on behalf of the planning team, she expressed appreciation of the support given by the speakers, the US and the participants, asking us all to stay in touch with each other and the US via email, Women's View and/or by attending future events.



The day's audience was a mixed one, including many women whose work life is at the highest level of leadership, and everyone was enthusiastic about the expanding leadership roles of women in Jewish communal life, to use and properly match their skills.

Throughout the day discussion was lively and focussed. Comments received included 'I found it very interesting – certainly food for thought' and 'All the speakers were excellent – a really high standard. It was also good to meet new people', and there were many offers of help to lead sessions for future similar events. In addition, a number of women expressed a desire to stand for election to the US Women Executive Committee in the autumn when the triennial elections will take place.

Following the Conference action is continuing and US Women, as the voice of women in the United Synagogue, will continue to promote the further expansion of leadership and management roles for women in our communities.

For more information and to get involved contact [uswomen@theus.org.uk](mailto:uswomen@theus.org.uk)

When I was told that nationally legacy income (gifts left to charities through people's wills) is the single biggest source of unrestricted funds for charities today, I was surprised. I have spent my adult life immersing myself in the charity world, doing what I can to make even a small difference where it counts the most. So armed with this information and aware that a new initiative was being created to promote legacy giving in the community I knew I wanted to be a part of it.

As Chairman of Jewish Legacy I realised from the outset that we were treading on new and difficult territory. Traditionally, legacy giving has been a somewhat taboo subject because of its obvious connotations. But with many charities receiving up to a third of their voluntary income from this source, relying on it to deliver day-to-day activities, as well as plan ahead for future projects, I felt strongly that it was time to break down the perceptual barriers to this kind of charitable giving and start seeing that it is in fact not just a vital source of income for our charities but also a celebration of everything someone has stood for and believed in during their lifetime.

So, some three years in the planning, Jewish Legacy was formed to coordinate the efforts of those charities that recognised the opportunity and need for improving giving in this area. The brainchild of three key professional charitable figures, the initiative was borne out of the recognition that while the community is an extremely generous one – almost 80 per cent give during their lifetime – only one in four leave a gift in their will to charity. Increasing the number of legacies left by the community by even 5 per cent could mean, over a 10 year time frame, that an additional £100m could be raised to support the causes we care about and rely on. An extraordinary difference made possible through a simple act.

Now we have 39 charities on board, drawn from across the spectrum, all of whom are committed to making legacy giving as normal as making a donation during one's lifetime.

We know that changing people's habits and behaviours is not an easy task and it is not something that one charity working alone can achieve. But by pooling our resources and working together, we believe we have a unique opportunity to increase the number of legacies left to charity, vital in ever more challenging times, if our charities are to continue to be able to meet the needs of those they serve.

As most people know, charity income is under increasing pressure. With significant cuts in government spending,

people's savings and portfolios worth less, rising costs of living and economic uncertainty, many charities are struggling to survive. However, an increase in the number of people who choose to leave legacies to charity could make a very substantial difference to the sustainability of the organisations we care about.

Interestingly, some people believe that legacies are only made by wealthy people. This is not the case at all. Every gift left in a will, no matter its size, is beneficial. And while family and friends must of course remain the priority, there is room to recognise everyone who is important to us; both the individuals and the organisations.

The Government share this view and are actively encouraging more of us to leave a legacy. All charitable legacies are exempt from inheritance tax (with no upper limit), which makes it a very tax efficient way to give. In addition, from April this year if you leave 10 per cent or more of your taxable estate at a flat rate of 40%. However, if you leave a Legacy to charity, that Legacy is deducted from your Estate before it is taxed, thereby lowering the amount of IHT that will be payable to charity, the inheritance tax rate will be reduced from 40 per cent to 36 per cent, a significant decrease. It is clear the Government wants to encourage people to remember their favourite charities in their wills and make leaving 10 per cent the new norm in our country – an ambitious objective.

Without charitable legacies many of the causes that we care about will simply not survive. We all have the power to ensure that this never becomes a reality and that our generosity can live on through a gift of this kind. Moreover we all have a responsibility to make sure that the wonderful work carried out by the vast array of fantastic Jewish charities out there continues, for our children, our children's children and beyond.

So please – when making a will or changing an existing one – think about leaving a legacy to charity.

*Nigel Ross is a Chairman of Jewish Legacy – a non-profit, cross-communal initiative, whose aim is to encourage members of the Jewish community to leave a gift in their Will to a charity of their choice.*

**For more information [www.jewishlegacy.org.uk](http://www.jewishlegacy.org.uk) or call 07768 551 639.**



## Don't lead a Singleton against their 4♥ contract.

In If you are making a Blind Lead (partner has not bid) against a suit contract, most of the time it is good to lead a singleton because if partner can get in before declarer has had a chance to draw trumps then partner can give you a ruff for an extra defensive trick.

However there are two distinct occasions when the lead of a singleton is completely wrong.

1. If you have a very good hand (12 /13 points) and the opponents end up in Game, and you can calculate that partner has nothing, then it is pointless leading a singleton, as partner is never going to get in to give you a ruff. If you had

♠ K Q 10      **against 4♥**  
♥ 9 8 7      **lead the ♠ K as leading**  
♦ 8      **the ♦ 8 has little prospects**  
♣ A Q J 6 4

2. If you have four or more trumps (as a defender, this is relatively speaking, a lot of trumps) then
  - a) you are probably going to make trump tricks any way
  - b) you might be able to make declarer lose control of the trump suit by playing your long suit in the hope that declarer may need to start using his trumps up before he wants to do so, and before he has found out the bad news, that the trumps will be breaking badly, so with

♠ 7 6 2      **against 4♥**  
♥ K 8 7 5      **lead the ♣ K**  
♦ 8  
♣ K Q 10 7 6

This is sometimes known as "LONG In TRUMP, LEAD LENGTH" which means that if you have "a lot" of trumps lead from your Long suit.





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## A busy year for the US

The past year has been a busy one as the US have been working hard to engage members with our values of Jewish Living, Learning and Caring. We have launched a number of new inspiring initiatives and when added to all the activities developed at our local Shuls, we have an impressive list of high-class programmes, delivered by top quality leaders, which are so valued by our members.

Across the US we have employed more Tribe Youth Directors to ensure our communities can offer their children an array of exciting events and educational projects throughout the year. Tribe have launched a number of new programmes including: the pre Bar & Bat Mitzvah 'Challenge', which teaches about the fundamentals of Judaism, 'Aleph Champ', a new Hebrew reading programme now offered to all US Chedarim and at Schools; 'Shabbat Interactive', a revolutionary course where children learn about Shabbat through the use of the latest technology.

These new programmes form part of the 'Tribe curriculum' to enrich our children's lives with education and social knowledge to use when they reach various lifecycle moments.

I was delighted with the initial response to the new Tribe Children's Siddur (Shevet Asher) which makes prayer easy to understand and an enlightening experience for children. The reaction from both children and parents has shown that it was an essential product and the dedicated team who produced the Siddur deserve the highest praise for their outstanding work.

This past summer saw hundreds of US kids and teens take part in Tribe summer programmes, including schemes at US communities, residential summer camps in the UK and Europe and Tribe Israel Tour which provided our teenagers with an amazing three and a half weeks. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and we are seeing an increased demand for Israel Tour places.

For the US, young professionals and students are a vital generation who will ultimately shape our Jewish future. Whilst we have fantastic Tribe Campus ambassadors, once University is over and the students move back home, it is crucial that we increase what we have to offer them. In areas such as Hampstead where there are a large number of young professionals and unaffiliated young Jews, we have appointed programme educators to run events and services to excite, inspire and engage them.

So far we have had held popular Friday night dinners at Hampstead and Stanmore and inspirational guest speakers such as Sarri Singer, a survivor of a bus bomb in Israel who spoke to a large audience at Hackney and East London Synagogue. For the newly married, our Newlyweds Learning Programme run by US Living and Learning also continues to be a great success.

As for our established members, with the help of our central administrative resource, they have been able to explore their Jewish backgrounds through our community heritage tours across Europe, often led by their community rabbis, exciting Jewish learning programmes and much more.

Just as important are the elderly. With years of dedication to their communities, it is essential that we can provide assistance for them in times of need. Isolated and vulnerable members are cared for by local US Community Care Teams whose many activities include weekly bridge games and coffee meetings, day trips, befriending schemes and assistance with daily tasks. These are just a very few of the types of help on offer and I would like to thank them for their invaluable contribution to our members.

We hope that in the very near future, all of our members will be eager to engage with their local shul community, and we are working hard to ensure that there really is something for everyone. If all work together there is every reason to believe that we will indeed inspire our members, enrich their lives, and pass our heritage on to future generations.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and peaceful new year.  
Shana Tova,



**Jeremy Jacobs,**  
Chief Executive  
United Synagogue

If you want to ask me anything, or would like to know more about the United Synagogue and our services, please do send me an e-mail to [cx@theus.org.uk](mailto:cx@theus.org.uk) as your feedback is valuable to us.



## A siddur doesn't have to be just black and white

### The brand new Tribe siddur for children and their families

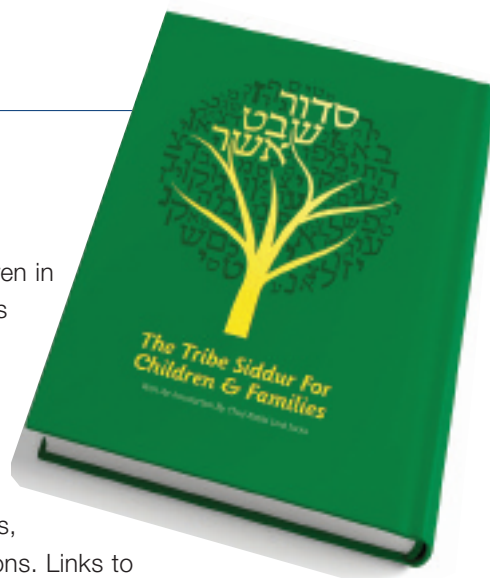
For fifteen years, *Siddur Shevet Asher* has been the standard siddur for children in our schools, shuls and chedarim. Now, following extensive research, Tribe has published a completely new edition, building on original material from Jewish Continuity and its successor, UJIA.

### Easy to use

Aimed mainly at children age 8-12, each service and section of prayer in the new 280 page *siddur* is now colour coded. Symbols throughout guide readers, both children and their families, to information, instructions and brief translations. Links to 'JOG', the Jewish Online Guides on the United Synagogue website and a QR code take you straight to the instructional video clips – another innovation.

### Bigger, better

The *siddur*, with an introduction by Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks, has also expanded to include all the additional prayers for *yamim tovim* for which teachers and children's service leaders asked, avoiding the need for an additional *machzor*. Also included are additional *tehillim*, psalms, said at time of difficulty in Israel and for the healing of a sick person etc. With a special offer price for US members, the new *Siddur Shevet Asher* is certain to become the new 'must have' *siddur* for all children and families, as a stepping stone to the, now familiar, 'Sacks' Singer's Prayer Book.



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# NEW YEAR'S *Greetings*

Wishing all our family, friends and fellow members a happy and healthy New Year. Mandy and David Baker.

Pauline and Frank Barnett with all their family wish the Rabbi, Chazan and all the congregation a very happy and peaceful New Year and well over the Fast.

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.

Ze'ev Galibov wishes Shanah Tovah and well over the Fast to all at the Central Synagogue.

Shanah Tovah to you all from Margaret Grant.

To all my friends at the Central. A happy New Year and well over Fast from Coral Jowell.

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

Caroline, Craig, Yonah and Meir Levison wish Rabbi Marcus, Steven Leas, the Honorary Officers and everyone at the Central a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Zea Lewis and all her family wish their fellow congregants a new year of good health, happiness and peace and well over the Fast.

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

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. May our Central Synagogue, b'ezrat Hashem, continue to thrive and flourish.

Kenny Taylor who is now in the Butterworth Centre, St John's Wood, together with Elaine, would like to wish everyone Shanah Tovah.

## 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	Tim Cowen	Roger Gibbons	Stephen Kay	Peter Ohrenstein	Bob Rubin
Yoini Apter	Jonah Cowen	Shlomo Godsi	Peter Koritschoner	Richard Olswang	Stanley Salter
Kevin Arenson	Bryan Coyne	Stanley Goldstein	David Kosky	Guy Ornadel	Stephen Schaffer
Adam Arnold	Jeremy Curtis	Andy Graham	Raymond Laren	Rob Phillips	Maurice Shamash
Howard Ash	Stephen Davis	Ian Grant	David Laurie	Martyn Pizer	Billy Sharron
Colin Baker	Ashley Davidson	Malcolm Green	Melvin Lawson	Jonathan Plant	Leslie Shull
Jonathan Barnett	Russell Dunstan	Billy Grossman	Steven Leas	Sydney Pochin	Aubrey Silverstone
Simon Barnett	Leon Dwek	Ilan Gutkin	Edward Lee	Gennadis Raivich	Michael Sinclair
Michael Bayer	Sammy Dwek	Norman Gutkin	Marshall Lester	Paul Rayden	Neil Sinclair
Rael Berelowitz	Melvyn Epstein	Steve Haffner	Nick Levene	Darren Richards	Abner Solland
David Berkley	Nick Esses	Paul Harrison	Craig Levison	Michael Richards	Stuart Stanton
Gary Burns	Leonard Fertleman	Robin Hilton	Julian Lewis	Westley Richards	Jonathan Stein
Eric Charles	Laurence Finger	Peter Hoffman	Michael Lewis	Joel Rockman	Simon Stone
Marcos Chazan	Aron Freedman	Michael Howard	Steven Livingston	Gregory Roediger	Ian Stowe
Avron Cohen	Clive Freedman	Frank Hunter	Paul Martin	David Rodney	David Teacher
Giles Cohen	Adam Gamzu	Alan Jacobson	Allan Messing	Sam Rogoff	Jeremy Trent
Roger Cohen	Nigel Gee	David Judah	Michael Milston	Issy Rondel	Jack Wachsstock
Simon Cohen	Ben-Shalom Gentely	Chuni Kahan	John Newman	Paul Rosen	Greg Woolf
Phillip Collett	Jonathan Gibbons	Melvin Kay	Mark H Newman	Richard Rosenberg	Norman Yellon

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

- Annabel and Jimmy Ayad
- Chantal and David Barnett
- Joanna and Richard Barnett
- Pauline and Frank Barnett
- Michael Bayer
- Edwina and Tracy Benjamin
- Sharon and Michael Berg
- Ria Collett
- Phillip Collett
- Sheila and Howard Harris
- Alan Hyman
- Natalie and Amir Gehl
- Victoria Lawson
- Gillian Lee
- Lara and Ross Lever
- Rita Lewin
- Amy Lewis
- Deborah and Anthony Morris
- Hayley and Gabriel Netser
- Anthony Parnes
- Lauren and Alexander Reuben
- Fay Sandler
- Jacqueline and Julian Segal
- Diane and Charles Simons
- Edwina Sterling
- Gaby and Glen Unterhalter
- Lawrence Wiseman

### Births. [Mazeltov to:](#)

- Raquel and Yoav Amit on the birth of a daughter
- Lucy Burr on the birth of a daughter
- Guy and Alexandra Halamish on the birth of a daughter
- Natasha and Jeremy San on the birth of twins
- Hayley and Gabriel Netser on the birth of a daughter
- Susan and Kenny Arfin on the birth of a granddaughter
- Stephanie and Michael Jenkins on the birth of a grandson
- Cheryl and Ian Gordon on the birth of a granddaughter
- Rabbi Marcus on the birth of a granddaughter and a grandson
- Paul Marks on the birth of a granddaughter
- Daphne and Harold Schogger on the birth of a granddaughter
- Laura and Barry Townsley on the birth of a granddaughter
- Ruth Wolfson on the birth of a great granddaughter

### Bar Mitzvahs

- Emmanuel Cohen
- Jamie Davies
- Jonathan Green
- Alexander Livingstone

### Bat Mitzvahs

- Daniella Chen

### Engagements. [Mazeltov to:](#)

- Ria Collett on her engagement to Netanel Abras

- Elaine and Jeremy Curtis on the engagement of their daughter Georgine to Mathew Harris
- Elaine and Michael Fishberg on the engagement of their son James to Malena Rubin
- Susan and Ian Grant on the engagement of their daughter Samantha to Ben Hamberger

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

- Juliette and Jamie Avi-Dan
- Annabel and Jimmy Ayad
- Edwina and Tracy Benjamin
- Lucinda and David Cohen
- Natalie and Amir Gehl
- Chloe and Joshua Lawson
- Lara and Ross Lever
- Lauren and Alexander Reuben
- Jacqueline and Julian Segal
- Eleanor and Simon Wolfson
- Cheryl and Peter Abbey on the marriage of his daughter Juliette to Jamie Avi-Dan
- Louis and Isaac Behar on the marriage of their daughter Annabel to Jimmy Ayad
- Edna and Zorach Gehl on the marriage of their son Amir to Natalie Michaeli
- Rabbi Barry Marcus on the marriage of his daughter Eliana to Shachar Kfir
- Richard Lawson on the marriage of his son Joshua to Chloe Wolfe-Cowen
- Cheryl and Stuart Lewis on the marriage of their son David to Dana Zeloof
- Zea Lewis on the marriage of her grandson David to Dana Zeloof
- Ian Reuben on the marriage of his son Alexander to Lauren Posner

- Carol and Victor Segal on the marriage of their son Julian to Jacqueline Goldhill
- Daphne and Harold Schogger on the marriage of his daughter Naomi to Nir Peled
- Adrienne and John Troostwyk on the marriage of their son
- Susan and David Wolfson on marriage of their son Simon to Eleanor Shawcross

- Mimmi Midda
- Sidney Morris
- Cyril Monty
- Sidney Simmonds
- Rose Rosenfeld
- Alfred Young
- Bernerd Zwirn

- Angela Fineman on the loss of her Father
- Sheila Harris on the loss of her Father
- Kate Hyman on the loss of her Mother
- Ruth Isaacs on the loss of her Mother
- Victoria Lawson on the loss of her Mother
- Beverly Michaels on the loss of her Mother
- Anthony Parnes on the loss of his Mother
- Ben Rudolf on the loss of his Brother

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

- Lettie Colover
- Leonard Eppel
- Jack Grant
- Peter Lewin

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

- Michael Becker on the loss of his Mother
- Patricia Davidson on the loss of her Mother
- Rochelle Davis on the loss of her Mother

**Mazeltov to:**

- Alan Diamond on receiving an OBE
- George Iacobescu on receiving a Knights Bachelor



## The chances are that one woman in this photo isn't smiling on the inside

Women experiencing domestic abuse put on a brave face. But inside the pain can be unbearable.

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# Central Magazine

