



WADS *News*

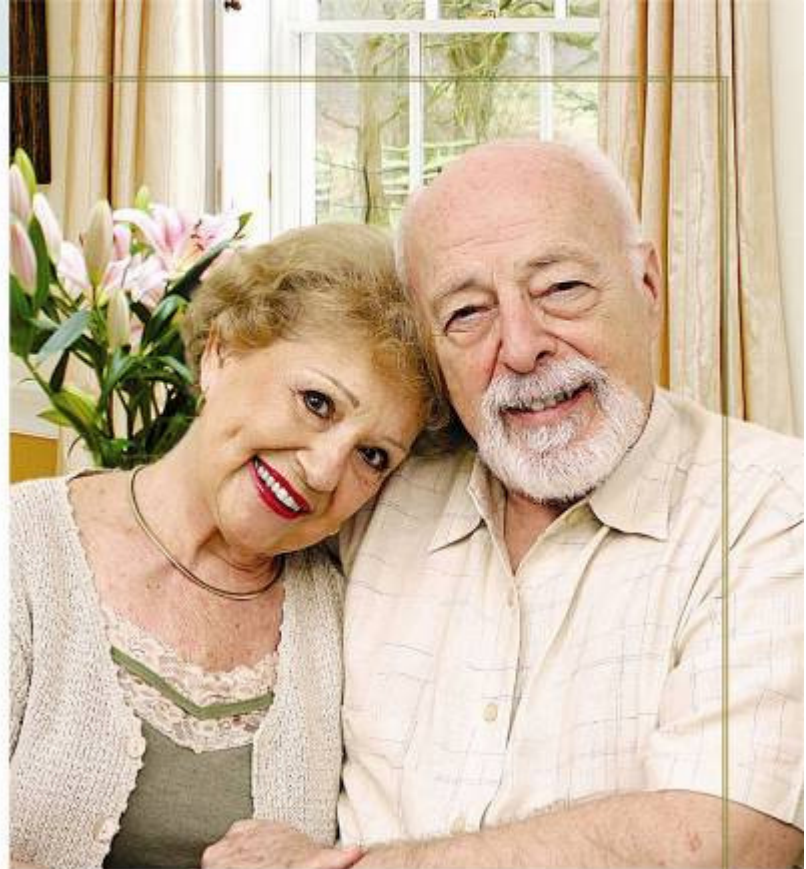
The magazine of Watford & District Synagogue
ISSUE Seventeen Autumn 2011 Rosh Hashanah 5772



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In this issue

- 4 Welcome
- 6 New Year Greetings
- 7 Rabbi Levine
- 8 Chief Rabbi
- 11 Q&A Julie Woolf
- 12 28th Watford Brownies
Loraine Myers
You & US
Moving with the times
- 13 Silver Liner
Di & Ellard Roberts
- 14 Board of Deputies
Vivian Wineman
- 15 Message from the Mayor
Dorothy Thornhill
Message from the Watford MP
Richard Harrington
- 16 Busy times at the Jewish Museum
Rickie Burman
- 17 Watford Tribe
Aaron Rosenberg
- 18 Why belong to the United Synagogue?
Jeremy Jacobs
- 19 Community Security Trust
- 20 Judaism and the profit motive
Jabe
- 21 Fundraising
Julie Woolf
- 23 What's Watford got that Prague hasn't?
Joe Kent
- 24 Recipes by Denise Phillips
- 25 *Mazeltov*
Simchat Torah Honourees



Dear Readers

Well that's another edition of *Wads News* all wrapped up! The summer sure goes quickly when I'm working on the mag.

And what a summer it's been, the coolest August for many years and riots all over the country. Watching the live news feed of burning buildings certainly made you feel like you'd

rather stay home. There were rumours over the internet, and by word of mouth, that Harrow was going to be hit next and then Watford would soon follow. Stories spread as quickly as the fires that Watford was all but closed so don't bother going shopping! But these were mainly rumours. The small amount of trouble, that would have gone unnoticed at any other time, was very swiftly dealt with by the authorities. The most damage Watford businesses felt was from the rumours and lost income that followed at an already difficult trading time.

So let's remember that the media will always report the most extreme (not the mainstream) of stories. And as for the cool August? Well if you read the experiences of our Eshet Chayils and Chatan Torahs on p25 you'll find there's always a warm reception at Wads!

My thanks to all who contributed to this edition and as ever to the advertisers who make it possible to go to print.

Happy reading,

Sam Stuart

The views expressed in *Wads News* are not necessarily those of the Board of Management of Wads, or of the United Synagogue.

Welcome!

We're delighted to welcome the following new members to our community:
Maureen Glynn, Sam Keen, Danielle Hollis, Joe Kent, Doran Moraz, Greta & Michael Robin

Wads cares

First of all apologies for any omissions made below. We wish a hearty Mazeltov to ALL our members who have celebrated a special birthday, anniversary, family simcha, a new baby or a new grandchild. Our thoughts are with the families who have lost a loved one. Wads Care is there to help all our members.

There are many people, unfortunately, within our community, who are ill. Some are being looked after in Nursing Homes, some are waiting to have operations; some may be recovering from treatment. Our thoughts are with them and their families and we wish them all well.

We are very anxious that the WADS Welfare Committee keeps in touch with the news. We can help in many ways. What we really need is for you to let us know of the joys and sorrows that happen within our Synagogue, without this contact we can't know what is happening, so please get in touch with the Welfare Committee: Esther Levy 0208 954 0819.

Births

Mazeltov on the births:
Hilary and Rick Hildebrand - grandson;
Annie and Peter Keen - granddaughter;
Bonnie and Tim Bannon - son;
Alexis and Simon Corzberg - daughter

Engagements

Mazeltov to:
Alex Newman and to Steve and Bonny

Mazeltov

Mazeltov to:
Jeanette Beaumont on her 100th Birthday
Joshua Davis on his Barmitzvah,
Joel Landschaft-Singe on his Barmitzvah

Condolences

Our sincere condolences go to:
Gillian Behrman on the loss of her Father,
Ruth Burke on the loss of her Father.
Pauline Peters on the loss of her Mother;
David Silverman on the loss of his Mother;
David and Belinda Solomon and family on the passing of Helen

Get Well Soon

Sending best wishes for good health and a speedy recovery to:
Michael Brett,
Rachel Brett,
Eileen Goldberg,
Lydia Goldbloom,
Eileen Marcus,
Gary Michaels,
Barbara Stanton,
Viv Stern

David and Carolyn Silverman would like to thank the many members of the community for their support and kindness following the recent sad loss of a much loved mother and mother in law.

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New Year Greetings

Apple. Michael and Marilyn send best wishes to all the community for a happy and healthy New Year.

Abrahams. Happy New Year, Roz and Mick

Citron. Sue & Brian and family wish a healthy, happy New Year to all Members.

Fisher. Alan, Cheryl and Hannah wish Rabbi Levine, Rochel and family, the Watford community, friends and family a happy and healthy New Year.

Fisher. Stanley and Evelyn would like to say thank you to the Watford community and to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Flax. Alan and Irene wish all at Wads a happy New Year.

Freed. Barry and Gill wish the Rabbi, Rochel and their family and all the community a happy, healthy and peaceful Rosh Hashanah and an easy Fast.

Garnett. Judi, Malcolm and Sammy would like to wish Rabbi, Rochel, boys, friends and family a happy, healthy, peaceful New Year and well over the fast.

Goldberg. Eileen and Stuart wish Rabbi Levine, Rochel, their family and everyone in the community a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Gordon. Lindsay and Michael together with Emma, Maya and Philipp, Yaniv, Adam and Dana wish Rabbi Levine, Rochel and family and all the community Shana Tova and k'siva vechasima tova.

Gordon/Graham. Helen, Elliott, James, Danielle and Millie wish Rabbi, friends, family and Watford community a happy and peaceful new year and well over the fast.

Jacob. Ronnie and Philippa wish the Rabbi, his family and all the Wads community a happy and healthy New Year.

Keys. Miriam and family wish all friends in Watford a happy and peaceful New Year and well over the Fast.

Levy. Esther and Brian wish Stephanie and Stuart, Rabbi Levine, Rochel and the boys, and all their friends in the community a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year and an easy fast.

Lewis. Sue and Leigh wish their family, friends and the whole community a healthy and happy New Year and well over the Fast.

Mail. Lesley and David together with all their family send their best wishes for a happy, healthy New Year to everyone in the community.

Marco. Rochelle and Alan wish the Watford community a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year and well over the Fast.

Marks. Betty and Eddie wish their extended family, as well as all their friends in the Watford community, a very happy and healthy New Year.

Mindell. Margaret and David wish all members of Wads a happy and healthy 5772.

Myers. Loraine and Joel wish Rabbi, Rochel and boys together with their children and dear friends at Watford a very happy New Year and may we all be blessed with good health for the coming year.

Newman. Stephen, Bonny, Joel & Alex wish the wish the Rabbi, Rochel and children and the community a happy & healthy New Year and well over the fast.

Roberts. Di, Ellard, Laura and Jeremy along with Ellie wish all members and friends in the community a happy and healthy New Year.

Shayle. Melanie, Richard, Elliot, Carmel and Jemima wish Rabbi & Rochel Levine and all the Wads community a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Solomon. Paulette and Allan wish all our friends in the community a happy, peaceful and healthy New Year.

Shoob. Elaine and Melvyn wish all their family and many good friends in the community a very happy and healthy New Year and well over the fast.

Silverman. Carolyn and David wish all members of the Watford community a happy and healthy New Year.

Stanley. Jacky and Tony Stanley would like to wish Rabbi and Mrs Levine, their family and all the members of Wads a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Stuart. Sam, Mark, Jodie and Nathan wish everyone good health and happiness for the New Year.

Walters. Susie and Clive wish their family and friends in the community a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year and well over the Fast.

Woolf. Julie, Richard, Natasha and Adam wish all family and friends a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Remembering with love those no longer with us.

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Rabbi & Mrs Levine and all the
wonderful Watford community



Rosh Hashanah 5772

Rabbi Ephraim Levine

I am sure that many of you will be reading this after having recently returned from holiday. Indeed Rochel and myself, together with the family, spent two weeks in a remote gite in the French countryside that is Normandy. But there was something different compared to the holidays I used to spend on the Kent coast with my family when I was a small boy. When we went on holiday, we really were on holiday. Besides a small TV, we were cut off from the rest of the world.

Today, it is practically impossible to be away from civilisation, wherever we decide to go. Smartphones, laptops and wi-fi connections mean that we simply cannot resist the temptation to see what's going on back home and to check our emails. Leaving our mobiles switched off at home isn't an option since we have come to rely so heavily on them. And it is this reliance that led me to check what was going on back home not long after I had unpacked my cases.

The images of the London riots not so long ago will stay with us for some time. To see such depraved people acting in the way that they did will continue to shock people who truly understand the difference between right and wrong. Where did the lives that they lead go so wrong that their first, almost animalistic reaction was to cause criminal damage that many good citizens of this country will end up paying for?

Rosh Hashanah is one of those unique times that forces us to look at our own behaviour. Without it, we may never take the time to look at our life in an objective and meaningful way. Waiting until our final day before realising our error will be far too late and time won't afford us the opportunity to make the necessary course corrections that are so important. During the month of Ellul, the regular call of the shofar encourages us to make good use of our time before it's too late.

The government needs to hear the shofar that should be ringing loud in their ears. Stories that one-by-one point to the lack of individual responsibility amongst our youth today should be sending a clear message that they need a sense of genuine direction in life. People who feel they have no future live for the present and make the most of it. If we want to tackle the problem of a futureless society we need to project the message of Rosh Hashanah that calls for an open and honest appraisal of our life. If any one of those who committed the crimes that we all saw so vividly would have taken the Rosh Hashanah moment, then their actions would have been wholly different.

May we be blessed to understand the need to stop and think at this time of year. May we be further blessed to actually do what we need to do and not just think it. And finally, as the nation that is supposed to be the light unto other nations, may we be blessed to pass on this wonderful message so that the lives of those around us will be enriched and meaningful.

Together with Rochel and the boys, I wish you and your families a Kesiva Vechasima Tovah. May you all be written and sealed for a wonderful year.

office of the CHIEF RABBI

CHIEF RABBI'S ROSH HASHANA 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.

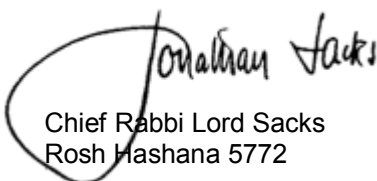
Prayer matters. It's our conversation with God. Imagine having a relationship with your spouse, your child or your parent, in which you never speak to them. It can't be done. A relationship without words is almost a contradiction in terms. So it is with God.

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 Hashana 5772



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Q&A

Julie Woolf

Where did you grow up?

I started in Leyton then moved to Ilford, then Edgware from age 9.

Tell us about your connection with Wads

Richard's family have always been members of WADs and Richard was Barmitvahed there. We got married in St Petersburg Place shul and transferred to Watford after that, mainly attracted by the reputation of the wonderful nursery at the time.

Tell us about yourself and your family.

Married to Richard for 20 years with 2 wonderful children, Natasha – 18, Adam – 15. Natasha is off to Birmingham Uni in September doing Religious Studies. Adam is at Watford Boys going into Year 11 - a very keen Rugby player. I work for Sunrise of Elstree as their Marketing Manager. Richard runs a Sales Agency in the bathroom industry; whilst also directing plays for the Pump House Theatre. He is staging a production of The Weir at the Pump House in Watford from 14-19th November 2011- try and come along to see it.

What does your role at Wads involve?

I'm on the WADS Board and the current chair of WADS Fundraising Committee – that implies a number of members on the committee which would be a major exaggeration!

How can the community support you?

Join the Fundraising Committee, attend and help at events, join the 100 Club.

What interests you?

My family and friends. Don't really have time for hobbies as I work full-time but I like swimming, cinema, theatre and bridge.

What makes you angry?

Apathy; people on long haul flights in economy

who sit the whole way with their seat back (they seem to always be sitting in front of me!)

What would we be surprised to know about you?

That I have given speeches in the House of Commons and House of Lords! Not in chambers but in their banqueting halls, as Chairman of the Adwomen when we had dinners there many years back.

How do you relax?

Not very good at that but love chilling out watching Eastenders, Desperate Housewives, Greys Anatomy or The Good Wife.

If you were Mayor of Watford for a day what would you change?

Dustmen that pick up everything; put in lights at the bottom of Courtlands Drive; cut Watford General waiting time and ensure devoid of killer bugs like MRSA and CDIFF (both of my parents died of infection caught in hospital); Hertfordshire buses free for children like London buses and extend that to all in full time education; regular every 10 minute bus services; local schools for local children That would be enough for one day and not necessarily in that order of priority.

Whom do you most admire?

George Clooney, Rod Stewart and Maggie Thatcher!

What's your favourite film?

When Harry Met Sally

Where would your dream holiday be?

Driving down Pacific Coast Highway in California and ending up in Hawaii, either flying or boat across. Although am writing this whilst on holiday in Thailand!

Do you have a joke you could share?

No, always rubbish at remembering jokes.



28th Watford

"I Promise that I will do my best"

Every Tuesday I hear the Brownies say these words when they renew their Promise that they made when they were enrolled. I must say going by the things that they tell me they do at home and in school they certainly take their Promise very seriously.

We have had a very busy term – but then we always seem to have a lot of different crafts and activities going on. This year the girls spent one of their Brownie evenings washing cars, getting thoroughly wet and having great fun at the same time. I'm not sure though how clean the cars were at the end but we were able to donate about £70.00 to Jewish Childs day.

We also celebrated the Royal Wedding before we broke up for Pesach. To achieve the 'Royal Wedding badge' there were quite a few different modules that the girls had to go through all teaching them different skills. One of them was to dress up a Brownie in white plastic bags so she resembled a Princess, it was quite amazing to see them create flowers, veils and even shoes out of these bags. They have wonderful imaginations and this of course was finished off with a Royal tea party.

The girls took part in the annual Fun day that was organised by the Jewish Guide Council where they get the opportunity to meet lots of other Guides, Brownies and Rainbows from all over London and have the opportunity to try out new crafts.

The Brownies had a fun time making flower decorations for Shavuot which I know is always appreciated by the community.

We are about to go away (as I write) on our annual Brownie pack holiday for five days to a campsite near Letchworth, this is definitely the highlight of our year and for some of the girls it will be their first time away from home. There is great excitement from the moment they arrive and each day brings new crafts and fun activities. Singing around the campfire with toasted marshmallows, a pyjama parade and making their own pizzas for lunch are just a few of the things we do. I start planning this event in November and it takes a great deal of organisation which I do with a great team. For many years the Stanmore Brownie pack have joined up with us to share this great event and gives all the girls the opportunity to make new friends.

We start the Autumn term on September 6th and look forward to enrolling the 3 new girls who will be joining us. If you would like your daughter to join our Brownie pack, please call me.

We have a great need for a Guide company at Watford Shul. Even if you have no experience but want to give something back to your community just give me a call.

We would like to wish Rabbi, Rochel and their family together with the community a Very Happy New Year and well over the Fast.

Lorraine Myers
Brown Owl 28th Watford Brownies
01923 255426

You & US Moving with the times

Some people think the US is old fashioned. Maybe that's why they haven't given us their email address....

The US may be 141 years old, but we're as keen as anyone to give every single member the best in online options.

Here are just a few reasons why:

1) There's some surprisingly good stuff we can share with you. Our weekly You & US email opens the door to an online magazine filled with:

- The latest Community News and Opinions
- US Living & Learning with Ask the Rabbi videos, new publications, Jewish ideas and more
- US Chessed: Get involved with campaigns and initiatives that can change people's lives
- Tribe events and activities
- Plus Women's View, features, recipes, quizzes, jokes and the infamous 'Mishigas of the Week'

2) There are occasionally times that letting you know something quickly can be important. Not much is quicker than an email!

3) A first class stamp costs 46p!

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Silver Liner

Di & Ellard celebrate 25 years together

Di and Ellard Roberts



From beginning to end, this was the holiday of a lifetime – a cruise on the Royal Caribbean's *Independence of the Seas* to celebrate 25 years of marriage. Imagine a 5* hotel the size of a small town, with its own theatre, ice rink, flow-rider, pubs, casino, spa, shops, lounges and of course as many cafés, snacky places and huge restaurants as needed to feed the nearly 4000 guests. The suggestion was made that more people would use the rock-climbing wall if there was a buffet at the top. All food and soft drinks were included in the price, so most of the passengers arrived as guests and left as cargo!

Socially, we'd heard that the ship's so huge we wouldn't see the same people twice, but between Ellard's bridge games (which he won hands down) and Di's watercolouring, which attracted a crowd, we made friends of all ages and types. We also got lost frequently, and walked miles - in between meals.

On the Friday nights, we were provided with 2 challot, a few bottles of Baron Herzog, and a lovely room in which to have a self-led service. We discovered a cupboard-full of siddurim and kippot, and were joined by French, Israeli and American brethren for an Ellard-type Kabbalat Shabbat – swift, simple, with

Lecha Dodi tunes that nobody knew (including him, and he was the one singing) and a warm and lovely atmosphere that only he could have generated.

Going to sleep in a king-sized bed, in a clean, air-conditioned but compact stateroom and waking the next day to look out on another country is quite an experience. From our balcony we had our first view of Gibraltar, Toulon in

Southern France, Livorno and Civitavecchia in Italy, Ajaccio (Corsica), Lisbon (Portugal) and Cadiz and Vigo in Northern Spain. Not wanting to miss the boat, we joined organised trips on luxury coaches to ensure we saw the major sites inland. Having followed the flag-bearing tour guides at breakneck speed for 2 consecutive days, round beautiful Florence and the most amazing Rome, we overslept and missed Corsica!

Sitting on our balcony one night, watching the moonlight on the water, inhaling pure ocean air, we philosophised that we both felt quite small and insignificant, just a couple of tiny specks on the surface of these vast seas. But having met quite a few lonely people, passengers and crew from all round the world, we also felt incredibly lucky to be celebrating a quarter of a century together under the twinkling stars. Then reality hit - Ellard went and blew \$50 on the blackjack table and Di bopped the evening away to a Take That tribute band. Who says romance is dead?

We came home with 5 loads of washing, bad sunburn, a load of photos, 6 paintings and some marvellous memories of a wonderful cruise. Now to start saving for the next one!



The President of The Board of Deputies of British Jews

Vivian Wineman



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 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



Message from the Mayor

Dorothy Thornhill

There's been a lot of commentary over the last few weeks over the rioting that gripped Britain. One thing is for certain, it was a health check for our town, here in Watford. The decision to cancel the football match between Ghana and Nigeria, coupled with the early closure of many town centre shops, shows just how serious we believed the threat to be. But despite an internet campaign designed to create tension here, I'm relieved to say Watford remained, on the whole, trouble free.

The few youths were found to be causing a nuisance in one or two areas. But the police were amazing. They worked tirelessly to protect local residents and local businesses; their bravery and resolve was, without doubt, commendable. What I found heart warming was the response from local residents. We had local shopkeepers in West Watford who supplied the police with tea and biscuits whilst keeping an

eye out for trouble, and a local vigil where local residents from all faiths came along to pray. The collective goodwill of so many people was incredible.

Our good community relations are not down to good luck. We've worked hard over many years to ensure that our diverse communities live and work well together. This includes celebrating our diversity through events such as our annual pilgrimage which starts at Watford Synagogue and works its way through the town. Encouraging different groups to come together and learn more about each others faiths through our annual celebration event. It means being inclusive; encouraging people from all faiths to get involved in community activities – such as the recent inter-faith cricket match championed by the Bishop of St Albans.

All of these things help to ensure that the many communities in our town get on.



And we do. You only have to look at recent events to realise this. We should be proud that even in the face of adversity, we work well together. However, I am never complacent. Without continued work it could be us next time.

Happy Rosh Hashanah!

Message from Watford MP

Richard Harrington



Today's modern day world is relentless, a constant rush from one meeting to another. Messages arrive, e-mails that need a response come flooding in 24/7 and there are always a couple of hundred tv stations to watch on Sky. Do we ever get time to stop, to reflect, to contemplate?

It seems to me that we Jews are encouraged to stop, to reflect and to contemplate perhaps every

week on Shabbat, but most definitely at this time of the year. The 10 day period between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur is exactly the time that has been designated for all of us to have a good look in the mirror and to use these days to stock take and make decisions to enhance our lives both as individuals with our family, friends and colleagues and as individuals with our relationship with the Almighty.

It is somewhat difficult to accept that this will in fact be the second Rosh Hashana that I have had the privilege to represent the constituency of Watford in the House of Commons and perhaps this is a good moment to stop, reflect and contemplate and look back at what has been achieved and what can be achieved in the future

On the International scene as I write this article Libya is hopefully embarking on a better future and the winds of change in the Middle East continue to blow. However, there are still so many issues that have not changed or improved.

Rosh Hashana celebrates the birthday of the world, however I would like to stop, reflect and contemplate on another birthday.

At the end of August saw the 26th birthday of a young man who has not celebrated his birthday with his loved ones for the last 6 years. At this time of family gatherings let us all take time out and think of the Shalit family who once again will have to endure Rosh Hashana without their son Gilad.

He has been held in Gaza with no access to the outside world and his captors have not even allowed a red cross visit. You can be assured that I will continue to raise his plight to our Government who in turn will continue to work for Gilad's release.

Wishing you all a very happy New Year and the time to stop, to reflect and to contemplate and as we say our own personal prayers over the High Holy Days - perhaps the power of communal prayers for the release of Gilad will be heard and answered

Busy times at the Jewish Museum

Rickie Burman, Director of the Jewish Museum, discusses a year of change and the current blockbuster exhibition showcasing how Jewish talent has influenced the UK's entertainment industry



The past 18 months have been an exciting period for the Jewish Museum. We have completed a £10 million redevelopment, which increased our space three-fold, and launched a blockbuster exhibition, *Entertaining the Nation: Stars of Music, Stage and Screen*.

Whilst the Museum has been transformed with four new permanent galleries, displaying a huge variety of objects, films, photography and hands-on exhibits, I hope that we have also succeeded in retaining its charm and identity. The artefacts on show, most notably in our gallery *Judaism: a Living Faith*, are amongst some of the very finest examples of Judaica in the world and are both breathtakingly beautiful and historically significant to understanding Jewish culture. One of the highlights, a 17th-century Italian synagogue Ark, proves to be an imposing centrepiece for our celebration of traditional Jewish ceremonial art, and captures the imagination of all our visitors.

Contrast this, just two floors up in our new exhibition, *Entertaining the Nation*, with a bold and brash iconic gold suit worn by T-Rex's Marc Bolan, and 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.

Such is the extent to which Jewish people have worked in the entertainment industry, above is simply an abridged list of invaluable contributors – visitors to the Jewish Museum will uncover intriguing stories behind the established names when they visit.

The Museum's development project provided an opportunity to reevaluate how the narrative of British Jews is told. Our 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. There is an emphasis throughout on personal stories and our displays have been designed to encourage return visits and engage visitors of varied ages and backgrounds. There are numerous films, interactive displays and pull-out drawers for those who wish to investigate our collections in greater depth.

Naturally, we also address, with sensitivity, the tragedies the Jewish community has encountered over the centuries; The British Jewish narrative cannot be told without the



personal testimony of those who survived the Holocaust, such as British-born Auschwitz survivor Leon Greenman, whose story is documented with his unique experience and artefacts in our Holocaust Gallery. It cannot be told without reference to the successive waves of Jewish migrants into the UK or to the challenges of immigrant life in the poverty-stricken world of London's East End.

The ongoing success of the Museum reflects its important role in exploring Jewish experience and heritage, whilst also engaging with other diverse British communities, through our exhibitions, collections, events and workshops. The breadth of what we display, from rare antique Judaica objects, to a film by David Schneider introducing visitors to the wonderful world of Yiddish Theatre, echoes the expansive and varied Jewish experience in Britain; one that we should be proud of and one that we should most certainly celebrate.

With an up-coming exhibition of photographs by internationally renowned photo-journalist, Judah Passow, displaying images of Jewish life around the UK, followed by *From Superman to Metamaus*, a show on comic superheroes and graphic novels, and preparations for our 80th anniversary in 2012, next year could be our busiest yet.

Add to this our ongoing daily programme of education activities, the hundreds of school and adult group visits we attract, family workshops, performances, talks, and films and you gain a sense of the daily busy, but gripping, business of working at the Jewish Museum.

© The Jewish Museum



© Getty Images

This page has been sponsored by Stanley and Evelyn Fisher on the occasion of their 65th anniversary



Previously



Scott had an unforgettable second game in the bowling, scoring over 140 points (If only someone had of been watching!)

Joel adds a musical edge to the Megilla. Some may have felt the pressure in front of the Chief Rabbi but he rose to the big occasion.



Jack became a hero. After dramatically taking an egg-ing for the audience, he then seals "legend" status by pouring that additional cup of water over himself.

For possibly the first time in Pesach history, Monkeys were introduced to Matza.



Hannah showed her creative side, combining a solid throw with impressive accuracy to claim those 3 precious points in Top Golf.

Watford Girls put themselves on the footballing map, destroying every opponent that came their way before claiming that much desired Girls Football Frenzy 2011 Title.



Coming up soon...

October 16th

Pizza in the Hut – after hours...
(over 11's)

October 17th

Pizza in the Hut (under 11's)

November 13th

Film Night (over 11's)

December 20th

Chanuka on Ice

December 21st

Chanuka Party (under 11's)

Don't miss out on the autumn term with Watford Tribe!

all the best,

Aaron Rosenberg
aaronr412@gmail.com
07766 402 443



Facebook group: Watford Youth

Why belong to the United Synagogue?

Jeremy Jacobs, Chief Executive, 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.



This page has been sponsored by Alan and Irene Flax



**IN AN EMERGENCY
ALWAYS DIAL 999**

Then call CST

London 020 8457 9999

Emergency 24hr pager 07659 101 668

Manchester 0161 792 6666

Emergency 24hr number 0800 980 0668

www.thecst.org.uk

Community Security Trust registered charity number: 1042391

Community Security Trust

CST and Jewish Community: **Proud and Responsible**

CST is the Community Security Trust, a charity that provides security for many hundreds of Jewish community events and locations every year. We have over 60 staff and approximately 3,000 trained volunteers, all working throughout the UK and for every part of our community. In the last two years we have installed security upgrades at hundreds of communal buildings, including shatter-proofing for windows.

CST is also available, 24 hours a day, for those of us who are unfortunate enough to suffer, or witness, antisemitism. Our purpose is to protect the well-being of our community, ensuring that we are all able to lead the Jewish life of our choice.

This challenging work needs the help and co-operation of our community, its leaders and institutions. We need to share responsibility, together, and stand firm against the physical and political threats that we face.

Sharing responsibility means many things, including contacting your local CST and volunteering. It means understanding why we do security and co-operating with our personnel. It means contacting CST if you happen to have information that you think may be of use to us, or to the Police.

Sharing responsibility also means keeping a sense of perspective. Today, our community is largely able to express its Jewishness however it wishes. That can be religious, cultural, political, charitable, sporting or whatever sort of Jewish life you do, or do not, wish to have. Our community is, on the whole, successful and well integrated into the rest of society. We have come a very long way indeed since the newly arrived immigrant generations of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Antisemitism should not define our Jewish lives, but it has been of increasing concern in recent years. It is, perhaps, not so much that people

fear for themselves today, but rather they worry how things will be for our children and grandchildren. This is entirely natural. Police are keenly aware that the fear of crime can be every bit as important as actual crime itself: this also seems to apply with antisemitism and the fear of it.

CST hopes that it helps our community to feel confident that someone is standing up for its rights. We take responsibility for the physical security of the community; and provide a confidential reporting service for those who experience antisemitism, be it physical, verbal, or in whatever form.

Because CST works with the victims of antisemitism, we know the importance of people's physical and emotional well-being. This is not about statistics. It is the human aspect that makes us all the more determined to work against antisemitism; and against the fear it causes.

We want to deter those who wish us harm, and we work with politicians, police and others so that our community's concerns are understood, heard and acted upon.

CST, however, can only be as strong as the community that we serve. We rely upon the community to be strong-minded, to provide our motivated volunteer personnel and to work with them as necessary: whether that is in schools, synagogues, community events and rallies, or wherever.

We do not charge the community for our services and rely upon charitable donations for our running costs.

All of this relies upon partnership between CST and our Jewish community.

We welcome you to join us in that partnership, in whatever way you can.

Personal Safety Tips

It's always better to be 'safe than sorry' - follow some of our personal safety tips to help keep yourself safe

- Stick to well-lit public areas & never take shortcuts at night
- Try to look & act confidently ± look like you know where you are and where you are going
- Ensure that you know where your children are at all times and that they are appropriately supervised and aware of their personal safety
- Spread your valuables around your person e.g. keep your phone in your bag, your house keys in your trouser pocket and your money in your jacket
- Be aware about the valuables that you are carrying and don't show them off. Talking on your mobile phone, carrying a laptop or showing your friend your new gold ring, all show thieves that you are worth robbing
- If someone tries to take something from you, it may be better to let them take it rather than get into a confrontation and risk injury
- Do not listen to mp3 players etc whilst out walking or jogging - you need to be alert to your surroundings
- Always let people know where you are going and what time you are expected to arrive & return
- Stay with family and friends whenever possible and don't walk home alone
- Don't walk and text on your mobile ± you are likely to be distracted
- Don't leave valuables or important documents in your car in plain sight - place them in the boot
- Walk facing the traffic to avoid unseen vehicles
- If you think you are being followed ± cross-over the road. If you are still concerned go to the nearest public place and ask for help (police station, shop, pub or petrol station)
- Keep an eye on official media sources to help you avoid trouble areas
- Do not hesitate to contact 999 if you feel threatened

Judaism and the Profit Motive: How Compatible are They?

By the JABE Team



This year Britain was rocked by a scandal which led to the closure of Britain's largest newspaper, brought a media empire to its knees, resulted in the resignation of the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and reverberated into the highest echelons of government and politics. The News of the World hacking scandal epitomised business at its worst, with the desire for profit overriding all sense of ethics and integrity.

What lessons can we, as Jews, draw from the hacking scandal?

The Rabbis understood that the desire for wealth and financial success is so strong that it can dominate us unless controls are put into place. On the other hand, Judaism recognises that there are positive aspects to the pursuit of wealth and material goods. In fact, when the High Priest came out of the Holy of Holies on Yom Kippur, nearly half of his prayer on behalf of the Jewish people dealt with financial wealth and material well-being. Among other things, he asked for God's "treasury to be opened for us" and he prayed for "a year of abundance; a year of grain, wine and oil; a year of expansiveness and success; a year of affordable prices; a year of commerce and a year of prosperity." (Talmud Bavli Yoma 53b and Yerushalmi Yoma 5:1 as quoted in the Yom Kippur prayers).

Although Judaism does not condemn financial success and material wealth, it does stress the need to cultivate a healthy relationship with money; namely that halacha and values define its use rather

than being defined by it. Rabbi Yechiel Ben Yekutiel, in his *Book of Virtues and Values*, lists 24 positive values, one of which is honestly-obtained wealth. The Babylonian Talmud asks what one should do to become wealthy, and the answer given is to "engage in much business and to deal honestly".

While Judaism encourages us to work hard and to succeed, certain principles must be adhered to, including:

- **Act with honesty and integrity at all times** – This refers not only to one's business transactions, but to all one's dealings with other people
- **Humility** – Above all days of the year, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are a time to reflect that while our financial wealth and material success may be proportional to the amount of effort we put into our working life, ultimately everything we have flows from God
- **Take Responsibility** – On Yom Kippur the Confession (Viduy) impresses upon us the need to take responsibility for our actions
- **Going beyond what the law requires** – From an English legal perspective one is not required to report wrongdoing by a fellow employee, while from a Jewish perspective one may not stand

aside and do nothing

- **Generosity** – As we say every Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in the "Unesaneh Tokef" prayer, one way of removing the "evil decree" for the next year is through the act of giving charity. Charity is incumbent upon all Jews, no matter how rich or poor

The desire for profit at all cost caused many in the media and the government to lose sight of higher principles and ultimately led to a scandal that rocked the nation. We as Jews recognise the pursuit of profit, financial success and material wealth to be valid. This pursuit, however, is only honourable if it is conducted ethically and with a sense of honesty, integrity and social responsibility.

The Jewish Association for Business Ethics (JABE) encourages honesty, integrity and social responsibility through:

- Money & Morals schools programmes (www.moneyandmorals.org)
- Seminars and ethics training sessions for the Professions and Business
- Publications and materials on key moral issues

For further information please contact JABE on 0208 905 4048, e-mail: info@jabe.org, or visit www.jabe.org

Fundraising

Julie woolf

The next large fundraising event is our annual **Supper Quiz on Sunday, 27th November** at the Park Inn Hotel on St Albans Road. This was a fabulous evening last year and sold out very quickly so please email me with your table requests as soon as possible, so that you ensure your place on jandrwoolf@aol.com. Tickets are £17.50 per head to include dinner and drinks, and tables are of 10, although individual bookings are welcome. I do have a possible quiz and quiz master but if anyone is interested in compiling a quiz and/or being the quiz master please let me know.

We are in desperate need of **committee members**; anyone who would like to be involved would be extremely welcome. Meetings are very informal approximately once every couple of months, or monthly just prior to an event. **Raffle prizes** are also something we need, specifically for the quiz and if you are able to obtain any good items please contact me or the synagogue office.

The WADS 100 Club has been running for approximately 6 months so far and the winners to date have been:-

First Prize - £50 Second Prize - £25

| | | |
|------------|--------------|---------------|
| March 2011 | C. Silverman | D. Mindell |
| April | P. Lieberman | R. Woolf |
| May | A. Marco | E. Goldberg |
| June | P. Lieberman | D. Harrington |
| July | M. Simpson | K. Benardout |
| August | F. Ayrton | C. Fisher |

Thank you to everyone who has supported the 100 Club. The current cycle has 6 more months to run and if you would like to be included for the last half of the year the entry rate now is half price at £25 per month. Please email me and I will send you out a form. We will be running the club again next year and I urge you to join in. It's a fun way of possibly winning some money and an excellent way of raising funds for the shul too.

There are ideas afloat for other events including a Race Night, a Fashion Exchange, and a Family Photo Session but these and any other events can only be run if we get some people along to help with the planning. PLEASE JOIN US. Call me on 01923 231705, or email jandrwoolf@aol.com.

Watford & District Synagogue

Annual Quiz Supper

Sunday, 27th November 2011,
7.30pm

The Park Inn Hotel, St Albans
Road, Watford



£17.50 per head to include supper.
Prizes to be won.

Tables of 10.

Book early to ensure your place.

Name:

.....

Number on table:

.....

Contact No.:

.....

Email:

.....

Please make cheques payable to WADS
and send to Julie Woolf,
14 Ridgefield, Watford WD17 4TZ
jandrwoolf@aol.com

A Blessing or a Curse?

Wads News recounts Tony Nairn's recent Shabbat Talk

The parshah, Reeh, covers many subjects but the one I would like to discuss is about the *Blessing and the Curse*. It says in the first verse "Behold, I am placing before you today the Blessing and the Curse". There are a number of ideas about this.

1st Idea

Why is the word "see" in the singular form when Moses was speaking to the entire assembly as evidenced by the plural word "for you". Also why is the word "see" necessary at all?

Each person has his own idea about what is a blessing and a curse. Some would say, for example, that mild illness is a curse, while others would view it as a blessing since it permits us to re-examine our lifestyle and make healthy changes before we suffer worse consequences. Others say the greatest blessing is children, whereas others say it is wealth. When Moses used the word "see", it meant that each individual would be given whatever he personally considered a blessing. However, sometimes the things we consider blessings such as wealth, do not turn out to be good for us. Conversely, things that seem bad can turn out to be a great blessing, such as when someone misses a travel connection and thereby avoids a fatal accident. Thus Moses uses the word "see" not only will you be given blessings, but you will actually be able to see how they are blessings for you.

2nd Idea

A commentator of old offers another interpretation. He renders the blessing and a curse as one unit. Each blessing carries the possibility that through misapplication it can be transformed into a curse. For example wealth may lead to charity and doing other acts of loving kindness or it may lead one to become more materialistic and self-centred. The converse is also true with respect to a curse. The commentator notes that this idea is expressed during the Rosh Chodesh (the New Moon) blessing in which we ask for a "life in which the wishes of our heart will be fulfilled for the good". What is the meaning of the words "for the good"? Does anyone desire something that isn't for the good? Unfortunately, while things may seem good in our eyes, they may not be viewed by Hashem in the same light. Hashem knows what is truly good for us; we therefore entreat Him to grant us the good which only He knows is truly beneficial for us.

3rd Idea

The blessing is when you hear the commandments of the Lord your G-d which I have commanded you this day. The Curse is if you do not hear the commandments of the Lord your G-d and turn away from his path.

The Blessing when you hear it is immediate. But if you do not hear the Blessing the Curse is not immediate. This suggests the punishment for

not listening to G-d will very often take time, but insisting that the blessing is immediate.

I think what the Torah is trying to tell us is that, the greatest reward in doing a commandment is doing the commandment. The moment you help a person in need or give charity, you feel good, you help someone, there is an immediate win on both sides.

Keeping the Shabbat as best as you can, seeing the family gathered around the table, Blessing the children, singing praises to your wife, and songs of love and praise to G-d, stopping busy activities, being thankful for what you have. The preciousness of the Shabbat is the most important and immediate reward.

People who do not give to others but only take for themselves certainly do not necessarily get punished on an immediate level. People who just dwell on the materialistic wealth of this world do not know what they are missing.

However, at the end of their lives, when they understand that they lived their lives without sharing, without giving, without leaving behind, they will understand that there is no one who will really miss them because they did not help anyone.

When they look around and their children are scattered in all directions, partially because there was no Sabbath day to unite the family and cause them to be together and that togetherness would have given them a family forum and a unique way of life that they would have continued into the future. That's the time they will realise what was missing, but they will feel the pain of the most profound punishment of all. This punishment is worse than death itself, it's loneliness.

The Sedra is crying out to us, *chose life*, the reward will be immense and immediate, not because it will give added years to our lives, not because it will make us rich people, but because it will make our lives meaningful and worthwhile because it will help to find that we are participating in eternity and that in the final analysis is the greatest blessing that life can bring.

These, I believe are some of the great lessons and messages of Sedra Reeh.

It's 38 years since Ros and I dropped into Watford Synagogue. In fact we got here by default, because we could not afford to buy a property in either North East London, where I come from, or Edgware, where Ros lived. So we ended up here in Watford, which was a strange place for both of us. I knew that my cousin Susie Walters lived here and I remember Clive taking me to Shul on the first Friday night we moved here.

There were a good few people who are no longer with us welcoming me like Phil Pearl, Sydney Tropp, Sam Manning and others who

are thankfully still here, like David Solomon, Graham Hudes and David Walters. Bobby Hill was the minister then and as much as I tried to maintain a low profile, you just get found out eventually. "You can read, you can sing a little bit, a little bit, ooh!! You can lein, a little bit!"

Most you know my story since then.

BUT I have an important message for the younger people of our community. *You must now get involved.*

There has always been a huge debate about whether it is more difficult now than it was then to commit yourself to Shul Management. The young say that it is more difficult now because in many cases, both partners work. That is true because 35 years ago, usually the husband went to work and the wife stayed home to look after the children. Even if you were lucky to have grandparents alive, they were often too old to look after the children for long periods.

However, you may have younger grandparents now who can do this. In spite of this, we still pioneered a Kindergarten which ran for years under the strong leadership of Miriam Leperer, a strong Cheder, Brownies - still run by Lorraine Myers, Girl Guides and a very strong Young Marrieds group which had regular social events in the Shul. This group was better than any Fund Raising Group over the years

The pinnacle of my time here was when, as Chairman in 1992, with great people working along side me, we built a new Shul.

We had a few setbacks but we faced them head on. The good things far outnumber the bad ones. What a ride it's been!

So you do not have all this anymore. The Shul virtually runs itself. All you need to do is to steer it in the right direction.

We are not getting any younger so we need you now to get involved. Believe me, it will be a blessing not a curse.

One more thought I want to share with you. Today would have been our late daughter Hayley's 35th birthday.

I wish Heaven had a telephone so I could hear her voice again.

I thought of her today but that is nothing new. I thought about her yesterday and days before that too.

I think of her in silence, I often speak her name. All I have are memories and pictures in a frame. Her memory is a keepsake from which I'll never part.

G-d has her in his arms, I have her in my heart.

I am dedicating every word and every note of today's Reading of the Law to her memory.

Thank you for listening.

What's Watford got that Prague hasn't?

Joe Kent

Watford can easily be taken for granted but since I moved here from Richmond last December I've discovered that Watford has a great history and a fascinating wealth of buildings and localities - many of them close to the Synagogue itself.

If you'd like to have an architectural treat and share with me what is here on our doorstep I'm taking a guided tour on:

**Sunday Chol Hamoed Succot
OCTOBER 16 11.30am sharp**

The walk will last 75 minutes meeting in the Shul Succah.

If you'd like to join please reserve your place by emailing joekent@virginmedia.com as the group has to be limited to 15.

You don't have to bring your sketchbook or passport!

I do hope to have the pleasure of your company.



Newsround

Melanie Silver

SHULS JOIN FORCES TO CELEBRATE ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE

Pinner, Northwood, Watford and Ruislip United Synagogues, together with staff and pupils of Immanuel College, collaborated to stage a joint Yom Hazikaron/Yom Ha'atzmaut commemoration on 9 May at Northwood shul.

Northwood's Rabbi Freedman explained the significance of the two events, while the Immanuel College choir performed songs and other pupils delivered readings and recollections. They were joined by Ori Zaidman, a major in the Israeli Air Force (IAF) and deputy commander of a helicopter unit, who spoke movingly about how the IAF provides a family support system and ensures lost colleagues are never forgotten.

The theme of the inspiring Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration was 'Good news from Israel' and the communities welcomed Gili Brenner, UK head of Stand With Us, who highlighted some of Israel's many achievements and spoke of her shock at discovering the extent of Israel's delegitimisation in the UK. Roy Goldman, an Israeli, also talked about growing up in Israel and the impact of serving in the Israel Defense Forces.

Commenting on the successful event, which attracted around 160 people, Stuart Soloway, chairman of the regional group, said "It has been a pleasure bringing people together to create a different format for our annual commemoration. I'd like to thank Philip Skelker and the pupils of Immanuel College for their support and co-operation, together with all our Israeli speakers who enabled us to reflect the unique mixture of remembrance and celebration in the achievements of Israel."

Recipes by Denise Phillips

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Saffron Salmon Soup

This sounds like a rather unusual soup but the flavours merge beautifully; it also makes a perfect starter for a family Yom Tov meal. Salmon and soup are

popular with the whole family so make plenty to anticipate seconds!

Saffron comes in both powder and threads; however it is the threads that bring out the best colour and aroma. Saffron is derived from the flower of the saffron crocus. To produce 12g of dried saffron 1 kg of flowers is needed making saffron the most expensive spice in the world.

Preparation Time: 10 minutes
minutes

Cooking Time: 25

Serves: 6 people

Ingredients

1 tablespoon olive oil
350g salmon fillet – skin removed and cut into cubes
1 onion – peeled and finely chopped

4 cloves garlic – peeled and finely chopped
2 leeks – trimmed and roughly chopped
2 potatoes – peeled and cubed
1 teaspoon saffron - threads
Zest of 1 lemon
2 tablespoons fresh dill
1.5 litres hot vegetable stock

Garnish: Sprigs of dill and 6 strips of smoked salmon

Method

- 1) Heat a deep saucepan with olive oil. Sauté the onions, garlic and leeks together until just soft.
- 2) Add the saffron to the hot stock and then pour into the pot. Stir in the potatoes, bring to the boil and simmer for 15 minutes.
- 3) Add the dill and lemon zest. Puree the soup in a food processor or blitz. Return to the saucepan. Add the cubed salmon and simmer for a final 5 minutes. Season to taste.

To serve the stylish way: Garnish with strips of smoked salmon and sprigs of dill.



Pomegranate Kasha Salad with Honey Dressing

Having recently returned from a trip in Israel I was fascinated to see the early stages of growing pomegranates. Of course, by Rosh Hashanah they will be fully grown, and at their very best.

This salad is made with roasted bulgur wheat (kasha) and a delicious mix of fresh herbs, celery and of course pomegranates. Bulgur wheat can be purchased fine, medium and coarse. For a true kasha experience, it should be made with the coarse variety. It can be served hot, cold or warm so perfect for a Shabbat or Yom Tov.

In addition we all wish for the forthcoming year to be a healthy one and pomegranates are rich in anti-oxidants. Regular consumption of its juice has been associated with good benefits against cancer, and maintaining a healthy heart.

Preparation Time: 20 minutes
minutes

Cooking Time: 15

Serves: 6 people

Ingredients

300g bulgur wheat
150g celery – finely sliced at a slight angle
Seeds of 1 pomegranate
100g walnuts- roughly chopped
20g flat leaf parsley
2 tablespoons fresh mint
450g vegetable stock

Honey Dressing

Juice of 1 pomegranate
1 garlic cloves – peeled crushed
2 teaspoons honey
Salt and freshly ground pepper
6 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil



Method

- 1) Toast the bulgur wheat in a large frying pan for about 5 minutes or until the grains start to turn golden. Add the stock and stir vigorously to incorporate the liquid.
- 2) Cook for about 5 minutes until the liquid has been absorbed and the kasha is soft. Remove from the pan and transfer to a serving dish to cool.
- 3) Combine all the dressing ingredients and pour over the kasha.
- 4) Add the pomegranates, walnuts, parsley, mint and celery.
- 5) Taste and check seasoning.

To Serve the stylish way: Garnish with sprigs of parsley

Apple & Prune Tea Bread

This is a delicious fruit tea loaf that is perfect over Yom Tov ~ when extra friends and family arrive for an informal gathering. It is also ideal when breaking the fast with a cup of tea. Packed with fruit and sweetened with honey, you will want to make this again and again as it becomes a great family favourite.

Granny Smith apples are a favourite of mine as they are crisp, juicy and do not oxidise as fast as other apples.

Preparation Time: 15 minutes Cooking Time: 1 hour 20 minutes
Makes: 1 loaf

Ingredients

4 eating apples eg Granny Smith – peeled, cored and thinly slice
1 tablespoon – vegetable oil- to grease the tin
100g ready to eat pitted prunes – roughly chopped
50g dried apricots – roughly chopped
150g light brown muscavado sugar
100g margarine
125g clear honey
300g Self raising flour
1 teaspoon baking powder

1 teaspoon cinnamon
2 large eggs

Glaze: 1 tablespoon honey - warmed

Method

- 1) Line and grease a 1.2 litre loaf tin.
- 2) Place the margarine, honey and sugar in a saucepan and heat until melted. Transfer to a large mixing bowl.
- 3) Pre- heat the oven to 180 C/ 350 F.
- 4) Add the prunes, apricots, apples, flour, baking powder, cinnamon and eggs to the mixing bowl. Combine well.
- 5) Transfer to the prepared loaf tin.
- 6) Bake for 1 hour – 1 ¼ hours or until firm and a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.
- 7) Leave to cool in the tin. Glaze with a little warmed honey over the top.

To store, cover with cling film or place in an airtight container for up to 3 days.



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Mazeltov!

Wads News has pleasure in introducing our members who will be honoured at Simchat Torah



Toria Maze is married to Adam and has three children; Kaila (6), Jacob (4) and Natan (2). She tells Wads News, "Adam and I have been members of Watford Shul since we moved to Watford about 7 years ago but it was before then that we were introduced to Rabbi Lerer as my grandparents were already members. We thought he, and the members of WADS were so friendly and welcoming; Rabbi Lerer married us at St. John's Wood shul 8 years ago.

We very quickly became regulars at WADS (surely you have heard our kids running around on Shabbat?!) and feel like we have fitted in well. We have also made some wonderful friends through the shul. It's because of this that I decided to join the Board and have always helped out – it feels good to give something back to such a warm community.

I also work part time at Watford Grammar School for Girls teaching RS. I used to go to this school myself! (And yes, it is weird being in the staff room and working alongside the teachers who taught me!)

When I'm not running round looking after 3 young kids, teaching, doing shul stuff, and all the other things that mums/wives do, I make sure I have some 'me' time. I recently ran the 5k Race for Life which I loved and I am also an obsessive reader; Adam knows if I don't have a good book I can get very grumpy! I also love to cook.

It feels very special to be given the honour of Eshet Chayil; I look forward to throwing lots of sweets at Simchat Torah!

Robert Keane is married to Michelle, has lived in the Watford area since 2004 and they have been members of WADS since 2007 when they moved into Nascot Wood. They have three children - Hannah (5), Abigail (3 or "nearly 4" if you ask her) and Samuel (8 months).

Robert tell Wads News, "Michelle and I have always found WADS such a welcoming community, whether it was the personalised welcome from Ellard and the Rabbi on our first visit to the Shul on a Shabbas or the friendly faces delivering food at our door in

the weeks after Abigail and Samuel were born. By the way, we are not having children just because we can't be bothered to cook for ourselves.

In recent times we have done our best to start to repay all the kindness shown to us by the WADS community. Michelle ran the WADS monthly toddler service (including designing a popular songsheet) and I joined the board this year. I am also shadowing Ronnie Jacob (don't worry, he is fully



aware) with a view to taking over from him after his marathon stint as the Shul Financial Representative."

Melanie Silver and her husband, Richard, have been members since their wedding at Mill Hill Shul in August 1992

Mel tells Wads News "For the past 15 years I've had my own business as a freelance writer, producing marketing material for clients including Serco, Rentokil Initial and Experian FootFall. Before that I spent ten years in sales and marketing" With this experience it naturally follows that Mel is the board member responsible for publicity for the Shul.



Mel has three children, Elliot (15) vegetarian since the age of 5, has a keen interest in science and spends far too long on his Xbox, Carmel, (14) a talented artist. Looks uncannily like a female Richard and Jemima, the "baby" of the family, who's almost 9, a "mini me", she loves food – especially chocolate – and animals, hates having her hair brushed and has been a

veggie since finding out where meat comes from.

Mel says, "I'm extremely honoured to have been chosen as an Eshet Chayil – it came completely out of the blue. I'm not entirely sure I'm deserving of the title but will do my best to live up to it. I do what I can to support the shul between a full time job and the family so it's really nice to be recognised."

Gary Michaels grew up in Kingsbury and moved to Radlett in 1986 when he married Danielle. He tells Wads News, "We moved to Watford in 2001 at which time we joined Watford Shul.

Our children Scott (15) and Sammi (12) make up our family and during our early years at the Shul, many people questioned my existence and, when I started to make appearances, I was commonly known as "Scott's dad".

A couple of years before Scott's Barmitzvah I started coming to Shul regularly and experienced, very quickly, the feeling I had missed since my early days at Kingsbury Shul in being part of a warm and welcoming community. Within no time Simon Grant had enlisted my services as part of the security team and I value the feeling of being able to contribute towards the safety of the community when, hopefully, I am not causing grief to others on the door!



I run a card, gift and confectionary shop in Borehamwood, aptly called "Scotts". Free time, sadly, is in short supply as most parents with teenagers can empathise.

It's a great honour being named Chatan Torah especially after a few recent unfortunate health issues where the support from community members was invaluable. Hopefully my experience and this honour will encourage other members who have not been able to find the time to come to Shul on a Shabbat to experience the benefits of a warm community."



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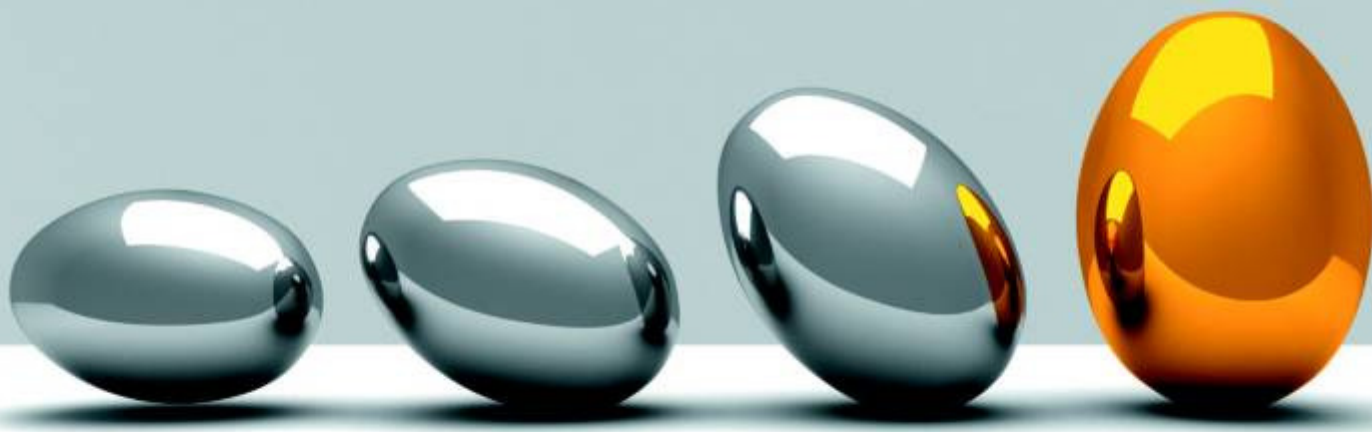
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