



Seal of Approval



US President's Volunteer Awards 2012

On Tuesday 13th November 2012, The Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks and Lady Elaine Sacks together with US President Stephen Pack hosted the first ever US President Volunteer Awards. Helen Gordon and Simon Grant were nominated by WADS in recognition of their years of dedication and hard work for the

Community. Helen for all her work with the Youth and Simon for his work with Security.

Mazeltof to Helen and Simon.

*Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks with Volunteer Award
Nominees Helen Gordon and Simon Grant of Watford United Synagogue.*



Shana Tova

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Email: secretary@watfordsynagogue.org.uk
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Minister:
 Rabbi Ephraim Levine

Administrator:
 Carolyn Silverman

Chairman:
 Ronnie Jacob

Wardens:
 Ellard Roberts
 Michael Gordon



Dear Readers

There is much to celebrate in this edition of Wads News. The successes of our Social and Fundraising Committee, our Youth events and the formation of a new 50+ interest group.

But these achievements come at a price. Naturally the more popular, frequent or successful they are the more organising and hard work is required. So amongst the pages of this edition you will see a pattern emerge as members request assistance. If you can, please don't be shy in coming forward, even if it only on an ad hoc basis.

My thanks to all our contributors in this edition. I'm often sounded out about possible articles so please don't hesitate to do the same, it's very rare a write up is turned away. I'm looking for something relevant and of interest to our community and preferably something original. Mick Abrahams' article on page 11 about his Yiddishe Motorcycle Association certainly fits the bill! Melanie Silver's hard work to get Wads positive press coverage is recognised on pages 14 and 15.

Our Chairman, Ronnie Jacob is keen to offer the opportunity to female members to have a Bat Mitzvah if this event was missed in earlier years. This offer can also be extended to our male members too in the form of a Bar Mitzvah. Further details can be found on page 7.

May I ask any reader who contacts an advertiser to let them know you saw their advert in these pages? It goes a long way in making their financial contribution worthwhile.

Happy reading,

Sam Stuart .

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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:

Henry Hartman, Simone and Michael Phillips, Mia and Oliver Rolfe,
Ruth and Garry Starr, Jacqueline and Don Sosner

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 via the Shul office.

Condolences

Our sincere condolences go to:

Elaine Shoop
Anthony Slome
Joyce Slome
Mark Stuart

Engagement

Mazeltov to Lindsay and Michael Gordon - son

Plaques for the Memorial Board

£75 each

contact Carolyn Silverman
01923 222755

secretary@watfordsynagogue.org.uk

Births

Mazeltov on the births to:

Marilyn and Mike Apple - granddaughter
Annie and Peter Keen - 3 grandchildren
Wendy and Peter Liebmann - grandson
Daniel Raphael - granddaughter
Gabi and Adam Rolfe on the birth of a daughter
Regine Williams - granddaughter.

Get Well Soon

Sending best wishes for good health and a speedy recovery to:

Maureen Alter
Barry Freed
Natalie Grant
Lindsay Gordon
Millie Graham
Joe Kent
Esther Levy
Marion Levene
Stephen Pearl
Adrian Pearl
Richard Shayle

Mazeltov

Alex Galatis on his Bar Mitzvah

Esther Levy would like to thank all her friends in the community for their good wishes and kindness following her recent op.

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Pesach 5773

Rabbi Ephraim Levine

Once again, Pesach is upon us and we find ourselves trying to understand what it means to be free.

The current Jewish months of Adar and Nissan are referred to as Months of Redemption. In Adar we celebrate the redemption from Haman's evil plan to impose his Final Solution upon the Jewish people, and in Nissan we celebrate the redemption from Egypt.

But what does redemption mean? Depending on one's particular circumstances and conditions, freedom can mean different things. To children in school, freedom is the summer holidays. To the sick, freedom is to be healthy. To the tired, hungry and worried, freedom is to be rested and happy. Many say that to be free is to do whatever you want whenever you want to do it. Yet for many, freedom remains elusive.

The truth is that something or someone always pushes us. We always submit to some form of authority. Often, it is society around us, but other times it may be our own physical animalism that dominates our lives. This manifestation of our identity has enormous influence on our behavior. It is the sum of all our desires for physical pleasures, including our negative characteristics. The nature of this human animal is never to be satisfied.

The more you feed that physical part of your existence, the hungrier it gets. When the animal within is the dominating part of the person, its idea of freedom is to expand itself - more, more, more - more food, more money, more pleasure, more power, more . . . However, under those conditions, it is our soul that becomes squashed and limited.

The tension between the body and soul is a constant and difficult struggle. Freedom and, ultimately, joy depends on who wins. How can we expect to be victorious in such a formidable challenge? With a connection and relationship to Hashem we can overcome the physical oppression and attain freedom.

Purim teaches us never to give up hope. Even when the Hamans of the world seem to be closest to success in their evil plans, G-d transforms reality and the oppressed become the masters.

Pesach tells us to trade in our human and physical masters for the trusted and eternal G-d Almighty. The Torah tells us that G-d took us all out of Egypt 'with a strong hand' to follow in His path, to cleanse ourselves from Egypt, to stand ready at Sinai and represent all of creation in receiving His Torah.

As we celebrate this period and contemplate our own personal trials and tribulations, let us join the Children of Israel in attaining true freedom. There is no free person except one who is occupied in a life of G-dly direction. May we all merit to revel in our long-awaited final redemption with the coming of our righteous Moshiach immediately.

Rochel and the boys join me in wishing you true freedom this Pesach. *Chag kasher vesameach* - a happy and kosher Pesach!

Bat Mitzvah

Calling all Wads Females aged 15- 115 years young

Did you miss your opportunity to have a Bat Mitzvah at the appropriate time?

Do you feel you missed out on this milestone and the opportunity for a Simcha?

Wads would like to offer you opportunity to have one! Two ladies have already said they would like to do this and, depending on final numbers, we will discuss the appropriate format with you.

The Rabbi is raring to go so let's see if we can make this a special time for you.

Please contact Ronnie Jacob at ronnie@llca.co.uk
or 01923 848444 (daytime) to register your interest.

This opportunity is also open to any males who may have missed out on a Bar Mitzvah!

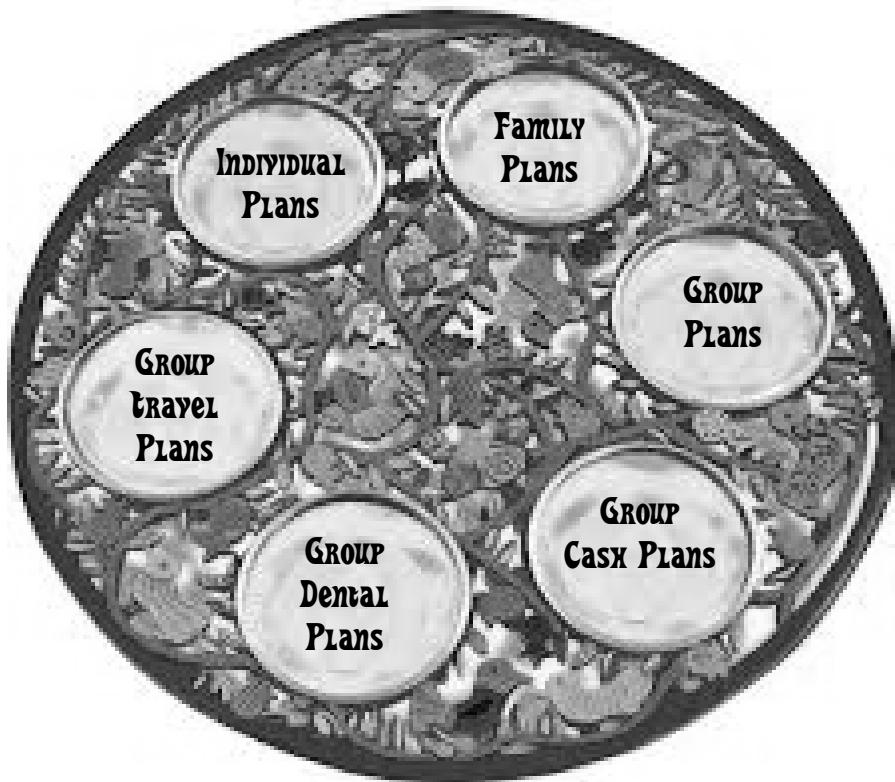


If you are between 16 – 60 years old and can spare an hour and a half 5 times' a year, then we need you to help protect our Community.

Should you be interested in helping out, please contact Simon Grant, WADS Security Officer at grant_simon@btconnect.com or phone 07962 227700.

There will be Kiddush in honour of the Security Team on Shabbat 13th April. We look forward to seeing you all then.

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CHIEF RABBI
 Pesach Message – 5773

The Seder opens with a strange declaration: "This is the bread of affliction our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt. Let all who are hungry come and eat." What kind of generosity is it to invite strangers to eat the bread of affliction?

In my Haggadah I offered a radical interpretation. We find that in the course of the seder two conflicting interpretations are given of matzah. At the beginning, it is called the bread of affliction, the food of slaves. Later, however, we speak of it as the bread of freedom that our ancestors ate as they were leaving Egypt in such a hurry that there was no time for the dough to rise.

How does affliction turn into freedom? When we share our bread with others. I learned this from the harrowing account of the last days of the Second World War by one of the survivors of Auschwitz, Primo Levi. Levi writes in If This is a Man, that the hardest time was the ten days between the evacuation of the camp by the Nazis and the arrival of the Russian army.

The only people left in the camp were prisoners deemed too ill to take part in the "death march" as the Germans left. It was bitterly cold, mid-January. There was no electricity, no heat, and no meals. Levi and a friend were digging desperately in the frozen earth, trying to find vegetables, when they were observed by a fellow prisoner who invited them to share the food he had found.

At that moment, writes Levi, we ceased being prisoners and became free human beings again. As long as the Nazis were in power, it was suicidal to share your food with a fellow prisoner. You would starve. This first act of generosity, of empathy and altruism, was the sign that the survivors had recovered their humanity. When we share our bread with others, it ceases to be the bread of affliction and becomes the bread of freedom.

We are, thankfully, a very long way from that particular Egypt, but the principle remains. There are Jews and non-Jews today who live in poverty, in Britain, in Israel and elsewhere. Let us do what we can to help them. In the last month of his life Moses warned the Israelites – children of the people he had led to freedom – that the biggest challenge they would face would be not poverty but affluence, not affliction but freedom.

When we are affluent we tend to forget about others. Affluent societies throughout history have tended to become self-centred and individualistic. People lose the sense of solidarity they had when they and their friends and neighbours were poor. The Jewish answer to this has always been tzedakah, giving to others, and hachnassat orchim, hospitality to others.

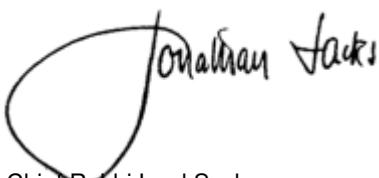
So, before Pesach, the custom was to give ma'ot chittim, money to those who lacked it, so that they could buy the requisites for the Seder meal. I can still remember from my childhood how my late grandmother, who ran the Frumkin's wine shop in London's Commercial Road, would give away free bottles of wine to all needy Jews in the East End so that they and their families would have their four cups for Seder night.

Please this year make sure that you give tzedakah to those in need. The move from affliction to freedom begins in the act of sharing our blessings with those who have less than us.

This is the last year that I will write a Pesach message as Chief Rabbi. The words I most want to say are simple thanks for the privilege of serving this great community these past twenty-two years. In that time Jewish life has been renewed in ways none of us thought possible. There are more Jewish schools, more Jewish learning, more cultural activities and outstanding welfare facilities than have ever existed in British Jewry since the return of Jewish life in 1656.

As I wish my distinguished successor, Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, every blessing, I want to thank you for all you have done to bring about this renaissance. May our children and grandchildren go further still, and may our re-invigorated community bring blessings to all its members and nachat ruach, delight, to Heaven itself.

Wishing you all a chag kasher vesameach.



Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks



28th Watford Brownies

I have a folder which contains numerous thank you letters, homemade cards and bits of paper with lovely colourful drawings on them that I have received over the past 25 years. Those girls are now sending their own daughters to our Brownie pack. What lovely memories they have all created.

Each Tuesday we seem to make more and more of these 'memories' all through following the very good Guiding ethos of 'Think of others before yourself'.

Brownie meetings also contain a great deal of fun but also let the girls try out skills that sometimes they thought they could not achieve. These activities and crafts are varied and cover everything from making a box to put their own handmade truffles in, to first aid on their level.

We try to encourage the girls to have the confidence to use a kettle, light a candle, try a new badge that entails a lot of different challenges and generally show them that so much is possible if they have a go at it.

Dressing up for Purim, making their own Menorahs for Chanukah, celebrating Guiding Thinking day, a Pesach quiz all give them the opportunity to 'taste' significant dates. Prior to Chanukah we all made and painted clay Menorahs which looked absolutely wonderful when we lit them at our Chanukah party.

Girlguiding UK have recently implemented a new and complicated IT system to deal with girls details, our waiting list, moving girls from Brownies to Guides and the annual census etc. Without doubt Gina Collis our Tawny Owl deserves a medal and a huge thank you for sorting it all out for us.

We give a very warm welcome to Laura Roberts who has recently joined our team as Snowy Owl, fondly known as Snowflake! She is already proving to be such a great asset and has come to us with some really great ideas which the Brownies love.

We gained 2 Brownies in January but we shall be losing several girls who are progressing up to Guides. So please pass on my name and phone number to parents of girls aged 7 who might like to join our pack.

Thank you to all the parents who help us out on security and at meetings.

Wishing you all a Happy Pesach

Lorraine Myers
Brown Owl
07989 029031

Wads Charitable Donations for last year included:

Jewish Child's Day
Children with Cancer
Jewish Deaf Association
British Friends of Israel War Disabled
Chai
Peace Hospice
Youth Aliyah
JAMI
Sam Keen Foundation

Kol Nidre donations were made to Sha're Zedek and Magen David Adom



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Poland with the YMCA (Yiddish MotorCycle Association)

Mick Abrahams

Every year I organise a five day motorcycle trip for our local Jewish enthusiasts, we also have a monthly Sunday ride out and anyone is welcome to join us. All you need is a motorbike and to enjoy good company.

One Wednesday in July last year six of us took the early B.A. flight from Heathrow to Warsaw arriving at lunchtime.

We picked up the rented bikes and rode to the hotel which was in a good position in the town centre and opposite the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We went for a walk around Warsaw visiting what was once the most feared address in Warsaw - the old Gestapo Headquarters, now a museum. Early next morning we set off for Krakow, about 190 miles on good roads, the sun was shining, the birds were singing we had petrol in the tank - what could go wrong? Well nothing much, until Trevor's luggage fell off on the motorway and Norman ran out of petrol. So this was turning out to a pretty normal Yiddish Motor Cycling Association holiday! Finally we arrived at the Kossak Hotel in Krakow.

The hotel let us park the bikes on the pavement outside, saving the three Zlotys (about 70p) an hour parking charge. Great position next to Wawel Castle, the river Vistula and five minutes walk from the main square. The next day I had arranged for a guide to take us on a tour related to the Jewish heritage. We started at the Ghetto in

Krakow and then on to Schindlers Factory (now a museum), then to the site of Plaszow Camp where Schindler's workers were housed. The memorial at Plaszow was erected by the Russians, which is interesting as the inscription does not mention Jews, only people. Then on to Auschwitz, very busy with lots of visitors so not very emotional but great to see so many people confronting this horror and hopefully knowing the past will help us improve the future.

We lightened the mood the next day with a visit to the Salt Mines nearby (an International Heritage site), where the miners have carved lots of impressive figures from the grey salt.

After the Salt Mine, we went to an Aircraft Museum with lots of Russian aviation on display.



. . . and after yet another adventure, when the ignition key fell out of my bike on the motorway (lucky I had my Swiss Army knife to use as an impromptu key!) My bike ran out of petrol about fifteen minutes away from the hire shop so Tony gave me a pillion ride, with my luggage distributed amongst all the other chaps.

I couldn't fill it up as I did not have a key for the petrol tank, and the Swiss Army Knife wouldn't open it.

After a short committee meeting we thought the best thing to do was lift the bike on to the pavement, make a note of the street where it was left (a seemingly random collection of X, Z and W letters) and with me shouting directions in Tony's ear from my satnav we made it back to Sebastian at RentaMoto.

He was very laid back about it and said he knew where the bike was (does it always break down there?) and would pick it up later. He then took us to the airport where we were in good time for our flight. I spoke to Sebastian after we were all safely back in England and he managed to fill the bike by pulling off a hose from the dummy tank and pouring petrol in through a funnel and then rode it back to the workshop.

All in all a great trip with good mates.

Anyone like to join us next year? If you are interested just phone Mick on 020 8207 4141.



From Your Chairman

Ronnie Jacob

Here we are some nine months into my first year as Chairman. It has certainly not been an easy time, but overall a time where I have learnt a lot. Philippa and I have been members for over fifteen years now, if not longer. I thought I always knew what made us tick as a congregation, but I think I have only truly put my finger on it in the last few months.

We deal with all sorts of things in what I will call "The Watford Way". Firstly, in the main, we do not do politics. Then I find that as a community, we are incredibly supportive of one another. Through good times and bad, we seem to care for each other and are quite happy to be pretty demonstrative about it. In fact we are a family of families and are proud of what we have got here in Watford. We are the envy of some other communities for the spirit and friendliness that we have. I think that some had begun to think we were losing that feeling, but I personally think that due to the effort you all put in to it, that it is back in abundance. In fact one other Hertfordshire community is coming to see me soon to find out what our recipe is. Lets see if I can bottle it and sell it!

So what has been going on and what is still to come. Please forgive me if I miss anything out. The social side of the synagogue is growing from strength to strength, thanks to Clive Walters and his fantastic committee. The Question Time and Supper Quiz were enormous successes and there will be more to come. A few months ago, I emailed the congregation to try and get more people involved and hey ho, we now have David Mindel, at the ripe old age of 83, adding value on that committee. The Cheder continues to expand and we will soon be adding a new computer to Rochel's teaching aids. The security team continue to be ever vigilant and thanks to Simon Grant's efforts, we will now be strengthening the security measures around the synagogue, thanks to a grant from the CST.

The Befriending scheme arranged by Bernice Katz, is well under way and I will be encouraging the expansion of the welfare side of the shul over the coming months. In terms of adult education, we have had a few talks, but I am pleased to say that the Rabbi, together with Mike Marcus, has put together a programme of talks for the coming year, which you will hopefully have seen by now. In the next few months we will also have a new website thanks to Emma. I would also like to welcome Scott Michaels as our Youth Leader, who is being ably guided by Helen Gordon. Hot off the press, I hear that the plans for the Friendship Club are well under way and details will be announced soon.

Earlier on I referred to the congregation being a family of families. The Rabbi often refers to the strength of the family unit and its pivotal role in our Jewish society. So I have a very big plea, and that is - for your support. We have a number of very dedicated hard working people who put together our social events, fund raising and kiddushim. In fact they are so good, that it is easy to take them for granted. What I am asking you to do, is to understand that they need more help than they would like to let on. So can I please implore you to give up a little bit of your time, before and after the events that they put on, because the more hands that we have on deck, the lighter the workload will become. That way, we can also possibly train our successors to take over from us, as those of us in our 50s, 60s and beyond, are not going to carry on for ever.

I would like to thank the Rabbi, the Executive and the Board for their incredible support over the last few months and wish you all a very happy Pesach.

Wardens

Ellard Roberts and Michael Gordon

Firstly, may we take this opportunity to wish all members and friends a Happy and a Kosher Pesach.

As always, lots going on within the Shul. We've started off 2013 with many celebrations including lots of births and several baby namings. We've also had engagements within the community and special birthdays, all of these being good excuses for a celebratory Kiddush.

It's interesting to note that we've had so many wonderful celebrations that some of our regulars are not being called up as often as days gone by. There is an order to who may be called up and we try and include as many as possible. If you have any questions, then either contact the Wardens or you can look at the back of the Art Scroll Siddur and you will find the official order of call-ups. At Wads, we try and ensure that we follow the correct

procedures but with the best will in the world, we are only human and a reminder to the Wardens, now and then, wouldn't go amiss.

Incidentally, if you have a reason to celebrate, please contact us because it really is a pleasure to share your celebration with fellow members.

Our Services continue as before with Friday nights starting at 7pm and finishing just before 8pm and this includes an 'Ask the Rabbi' session where we discuss an interesting variety of topics. We normally get a Minyan but we would welcome more of our younger Members as the timings were changed 2 years ago to fit in better with Friday night meal times. Shabbat morning we start at 9.45am and always have a Minyan but, again, it would be helpful if Members came to Shul a little bit earlier.

On the first Sunday of the month we have a Shacharit Service starting at 8.15a.m. Again, we have a Minyan most times but it would be helpful if we had a bigger nucleus to guarantee our Minyan. Brian Markeson ensures we follow the Service with a bagel breakfast in the kitchen.

As mentioned in previous Wardens Reports if you would like to do a Haftarah, please speak to us. If you're not sure, then we can help, so please let us know. We have some interesting ideas for special one off events that might excite some of our Members, so if you can think of something new that we can try, it might just be worth coming forward with some suggestions.

If you have any ideas that would make our Services better for you, personally, then do contact us with your ideas.



Spiritual and Pastoral Visitors at Watford General Hospital

We have a great group of voluntary visitors offering regular care to those in our hospital, and as we want to offer regular visiting across all areas of the Trust, we are seeking suitable people to join our committed group of visitors. Working with the chaplains, they offer spiritual care to all who use our hospital. This involves regular visiting of a ward once a week, meeting patients, relatives and staff. Our patients, staff and visitors reflect the cultural and religious breadth of the community in which we live. We hope that you will consider whether you may have the gifts and skills to visit and care for people during their hospital stay.

The work of visiting patients is specialised and demanding, and we work as a Team to offer the level of care needed. This is an opportunity to offer care to people from all sections of society, and leads to personal, spiritual growth. Spiritual care requires commitment, openness and sensitivity, and an ability to maintain confidentiality. Visitors need to be comfortable in their own faith, and flexible in supporting other people's faith.

Applicants will need to provide appropriate references, and there is an interview process and an Enhanced CRB check. The training will involve ongoing assessment as well as progressive involvement in the work. Some opportunities may also be available at St Albans and Hemel Hempstead Hospitals within the Trust.

For enquiries and further information, please contact:

The Revd Doug Loveridge, Spiritual and Pastoral Care Manager,
on 01923 217994, via email Douglas.Loveridge@whht.nhs.uk

or by writing to him at Spiritual and Pastoral Care Office, Administration Block, Watford General Hospital,
Vicarage Road Watford, Herts WD18 0HB.

A black and white photograph of a hand holding a lit candle. The candle is partially melted, with a bright flame at the top. The background is dark, making the light from the candle stand out.

**WADS
HOLOCAUST EVENING**
With Guest Speaker Survivor
Harry Bibring
Sunday 7 April 2013
7.30pm
At WADS, 16 Nascot Street
WD17 4YE
Doors open at 7.15pm

£5 entrance, includes light refreshments
Advance Booking recommended
For more information please contact Toria Maze:
toriamaze@gmail.com
Please allow time for parking

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Newsround

Wads' press releases as written by our PR guru, Melanie Silver

WATFORD'S SELLOUT SUPPER QUIZ

Watford Synagogue sold nearly 200 tickets for its annual supper quiz, raising around £2,500 for the shul's communal activities and a donation to Watford's Peace Hospice. Demand for tickets was so strong that the popular event had to be held in a local hotel, rather than the shul itself!

Guests competed for the winner's title by answering challenging questions on a variety of topics over eight rounds, earning extra points through marathon questions. A well-supported raffle boosted funds raised on the night.



Job well done! Quiz co-organiser Julie Woolf congratulates smooth quizmasters Barry Freed (l) and Clive Walters at the conclusion of Watford's successful supper quiz. (Photo credit: Ronnie Jacob)

LIMMUND CHIEF WATFORD'S GUEST OF HONOUR

Clive Lawton, Limmud co-rounder and internationally acclaimed educator, was the highly entertaining guest of honour at Watford Synagogue's fourth melave malke held on 15 December 2012. Clive addressed dinner guests at the popular annual fundraising event, the first to be held in new chairman Ronnie Jacob's term of office.



WEST HERTS COLLEGE STUDENTS VISIT WATFORD SYNAGOGUE

Watford Synagogue hosted two groups of 70 childcare students from Watford's West Herts College as part of a multi faith visit designed to give them a better understanding of different faiths when working with young children. The students, who are studying for their Level 3 BTEC National Diploma in Children's Care, Learning & Development listened attentively as Watford's Rabbi Ephraim Levine animatedly explained Judaism's central beliefs, the laws of kashrut and various religious customs.



This page has been sponsored anonymously

WATFORD ANNOUNCES FIRST VICE PRESIDENTS

Watford Synagogue has created a new honorary post of Vice President to acknowledge the longstanding commitment certain members have shown to the community over many years.

The first four individuals to be honoured in this way are past chairmen David Walters, David Solomon and Brian Levy, together with former board member and community stalwart Elaine Shoob. They will serve a fixed term of three years.

Newly appointed Watford chairman Ronnie Jacobs comments, "We wanted to show our appreciation for the many years of tireless hard work these individuals have unselfishly devoted to the Watford community. This honorary position is a small gesture of recognition and thanks."

WATFORD BROWNIE LEADER CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

Over 30 members of the 28th Watford Brownies, past and present, gathered at Watford Synagogue on Saturday 9 September 2012 to mark a quarter of a century's leadership by their much-loved Brown Owl Loraine Myers.

Watched by the excited Brownies, Loraine's predecessor, head teacher Liz Maykels, presented her with an engraved silver plate to commemorate the milestone.

Loraine commented, "I can't believe 25 years have passed. In this time goodness knows how many girls have joined our unit, coming not only from Watford but also surrounding areas such as Croxley Green, Luton and Elstree. A lot of them have grown up, been to university, married and are now sending their own children to me to become Brownies! With the help of Gina Collis, I have very much enjoyed planning the meetings, all the crafts and activities and, at the same time, teaching the girls some new skills."



Watford 28th Brownie pack's Loraine Myers (r) who is celebrating 25 years as Brown Owl with Gina Collis (l) and two of their Brownies in Watford shul's succah.



I - r: Richard Harrington MP for Watford, Margaret Hodge MBE MP for Barking and chair of the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee, Sir David Bell KCB, Sir Leigh Lewis and Stuart Nagler JP DL, Vice Chair of Herts Police Authority at Watford Synagogue's successful Question Time event. Photo credit: Ronnie Jacob

ANYONE FOR TEE?

Watford Synagogue's newly formed Golf Society is looking for golfers of all levels to play on Sunday mornings at Aldenham Golf Club and other local venues. Men, women, beginners and more experienced golfers are all welcome to play. For more details, please contact organiser Clive Walters at cawaltersuk@yahoo.co.uk or via the shul office by emailing secretary@watfordsynagogue.org.uk



W A N T E D



WANTED caring, sharing individuals for worthwhile volunteering activities on our Welfare Committee.

Some of the duties include telephone calls to members who are poorly or house bound and finding out if there is any help we can offer. The right applicants will help them to feel in touch with the community and show that Wads cares. This work is not part of the very successful befriending scheme. We need to expand the welfare work we do and this will be the way forward.

Please contact Carolyn Silverman at secretary@watfordsynagogue.org.uk or 01923 222755 or Ronnie Jacob at ronnie@llca.co.uk or 01923 848444 (daytime) to register your interest.

US Futures
Gaby Morris
Chair US Futures, US Chesed Bursary Fund



The US Chesed Bursary Fund's core aim is to ensure no child is left behind due to financial constraints. Now in its third year, the fund awards bursaries to enable children to take part in Tribe's summer camps in the UK, Europe and Israel and on Learn to Lead trips to Poland and Jerusalem. All our Jewish youth should have the chance to connect with our rich cultural heritage and there is no better place than in a 'full-immersion experience'. Making this connection creates and cements bonds that assure the long-term good health of our community.

Looking through the same prism at young adults encouraged us to create US Futures. It is of increasing concern that there is a disconnect occurring in the community among young adults. There are so many demands on their time and distractions that they lose touch with their community after bar and bat mitzvah, school, university or beginning working life. The United Synagogue is responding this with the creation of Young US a project to make their Jewish community, faith and spiritual home profoundly relevant to their lives.

Join us in supporting these interlinked projects.

For further information please contact Ronnie Jacob at ronnie@llca.co.uk or 01923 848444 (daytime)



Wads Zohar

We are happy to announce the formation of
a new club for the over 50s to be held at Watford Synagogue:

The first meeting will be held on

Thursday 18th April, 2013 at 2pm

The Speaker will be artist Philip Worth widower of
Jennifer Worth writer of "Call the Midwife"
followed by refreshments.

We look forward to welcoming all just a small charge to cover expenses.
£2.00 per person.

For any further information please contact

Brian Turner 01923 248192 or Frances Ayrton 01923 223871

Fresh Faces, Fresh Places

Jeremy Jacobs, US Chief Executive

All our work at The US, be it in communities or at the centre, underpins our mission to provide our members with an authentic and inclusive brand of modern Orthodox Judaism through living, learning and caring. All of us work hard to ensure our members are engaged and excited by their Judaism, and there is always plenty going on both within your own community and across the United Synagogue that you can get involved in.

Of course, many people followed with great interest the lead up to the announcement of the next Chief Rabbi. Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis is an exceptional man, and a highly qualified and worthy choice and I look forward to working closely with him when he takes up his post in September.

With the impending retirement of Chief Rabbi, Lord Sacks, the US are organising a very special evening to show our thanks and appreciation for his inspirational leadership. On 21st May 2013, members of the community are invited to attend this event which will feature an "In Conversation with The Chief" and choral tributes by many of our schools, performing together with the Shabbaton Choir.

Locally, we were delighted to welcome new Rabbis and Rabbinical couples and those communities that became full member synagogues. We are already seeing the benefits of these appointments, with many new programmes and initiatives receiving positive feedback from the communities. For

example the initiatives we are doing to promote Young US, aimed at the 21 – 35 year olds, have been exceptionally well received with literally hundreds of young people attending events at a number of communities. There has also been the landmark announcement that women are now able to stand for the highest positions of lay leadership at their respective communities.

That being said, our shuls and communities could not possibly function without the incredible teams of full-time staff, volunteers and lay leaders who all work to provide a great community atmosphere, offering social and educational events for their members. I would like thank them for their tireless work and dedication to their communities.

One of the great strengths of our communities is that we take pride in looking after our members' needs. At this time of year we need to think about those members who see Pesach not as a time of celebration but of dread. Unfortunately these members struggle to afford essential items for Pesach. Our US Chesed Pesach appeal raises money for Pesach food packages, purchased for those in need in our community. A huge thank you to all of those who have already donated and our amazing US Community Cares volunteers who have delivered, in confidence, these highly appreciated packages. This is what it means to be a community and I am so proud to be part of



The US

an organisation where its members look out for each other.

Thanks also to the sterling work of the KLBD, there are a huge number of approved food items for Pesach, and their new Pesach website has made understanding the process of preparing for Pesach that much simpler.

Post Pesach, the Tribe team focus their attention on providing our children and teenagers with a summer they will never forget. Tribe Israel Tour is now in its third year and for the younger ones we have Tribe Summer Camps and Schemes based in the UK and Europe. Our Tribe summer programmes are a great way to keep your kids entertained in a fun, safe, Jewish environment, and give you a bit of a breather for a couple of weeks.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Chag Sameach

If you have any questions, comments or would like to get in touch with me, you can either e-mail me at jjacobs@theus.org.uk or you can Tweet me @jeremy_s_jacobs

Norwood Old Scholars Association

Hosting a luncheon with guest speaker

Maureen Lipman CBE



April 7th, 12a.m.
The Prince Regent Hotel
Manor Road, Woodford Bridge

Essex IG8 8AE

For tickets:
 Please contact
 Rose Mitchell on
 0208 4780567

Norwood Old Scholars Association

Norwood Old scholars Association was formed in 1967 some forty six years ago by the children that came out of the home known as the **West Norwood Jewish Orphanage**.

The home was a replacement for the Jews Hospital built in 1807 in Mile End, East London, which by 1830 was overcrowded due to a cholera epidemic that killed thousands of people in the capital.

In 1876 the Jews Hospital amalgamated with the Jews Orphan Asylum to create the Jews Hospital and Orphan Asylum.

The original Home was built in 1866 and commissioned by the philanthropists Barnet and Isabella Meyers.

It was a purpose built Victorian building set in eight acres of land, originally intended to house 220 children, but in 1911 it was expanded to accommodate 400 children and also at that time. **The Arnold and Jane Gabriel Home** was opened adjacent to the home, to house up to 50 children from the ages 5-8 years old, until they were old enough to go in to the main building,

which in 1928 was re-named the Jewish Orphanage

During the 2nd World war the children were evacuated to other safer areas outside London such as Worthing and Hertford but returned in 1945 when the war ended.

In 1956 the name was again changed to the **Norwood Home for Jewish Children**.

Although children came and went, at any one time there were about 200 boys and 200 girls in resident, the boys on the left side of this grand building and girls on the right, up until 1960 by which time several thousand children had passed through the gates of this home.

In 1961 the grand building was demolished and Norwood Hall was built in its place, as a base with a recreation hall and synagogue, (This recently demolished in 2012) by this time nine houses had been purchased in the local vicinity to house some of the children, foster homes found to foster many others and houses were also purchased in North London.

In 1996 the board of governors at Norwood merged with Ravenswood, a residential settlement in Berkshire set up in 1956 as home to children with learning difficulties, this merger resulted in the organisation known today as "Norwood", not getting confused with us at **Norwood Old Scholars Association** being the children that came out of the original Children's home that was known as the **West Norwood Jewish Orphanage**.

NORWOOD OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION also known as **NOSA** for short, is a charitable organisation and relies on donations and charitable events to provide funds to keep links with the children now adults that came out of the home, and to provide financial assistance to them that may be in need wherever they may be.

The Duke of Sussex became the patron of the original Institute in 1815 and the Royal Patronage has continued with our present Queen to this day.

Hon. Secretary: Tony Seager



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Community Security Trust registered charity number: 1042391

CST: in partnership with you

CST stands for Community Security Trust and these words are at the heart of everything we do.

CST comes from within our Jewish community and depends upon the community for everything that it does: for its volunteers, for its charitable finances and, indeed, for being permitted to operate. So, we need you to play your part.

CST is only able to perform its security role because it is trusted, by our own community and also, crucially, by both the police and Government.

This is a cross-community partnership in every way, but the theory was given a real meaning and purpose when Mohammed and Shasta Khan were found guilty, in 2012, of plotting to attack the Jewish community in Greater Manchester. The

case was all the more profound for coming to public attention shortly after we had all witnessed the terrible scenes at a Jewish school in Toulouse.

The lessons of the Khan case and the Toulouse tragedy were stark. They reminded us that such incidents can occur anywhere and that security must always be looking out from the building, alert to suspicious behaviour.

In Manchester, the Khans were shown to have travelled through Jewish neighbourhoods on at least 11 occasions, including one time when they stopped in a synagogue car park and the husband said, "we must kill them all".

In Toulouse, the terrorist had already previously killed French soldiers and actually set out to kill a policeman on the

morning he ended up at the local Jewish school. Having failed to find a policeman, he knew where the school was and simply decided to go there instead.

Of course, for most of us, most of the time, issues such as antisemitism and terrorism could not be further from our thoughts. We want to keep it that way, which is why the Police, CST and communal leadership work closely together to ensure that the community has the protection that it needs.

To conclude, you should know that CST will continue working in partnership across our community. Nevertheless, we need people to play their part, by joining one of our security teams, by helping to fund our work and to simply cooperate with our local teams. Finally, if you do see something suspicious or antisemitic, please ensure that you report it immediately to CST and Police. We are both there for you.

Dates for the Diary 2013

21st May – event at The Barbican to mark the retirement of Lord Sacks.

2nd June – UJIA/Board of Deps celebration of Israel's 65th anniversary

24th June – presentation of sefer torah to Lord Sacks

8th/9th July – Rabbi's Yomim Noraim conference

1st Sept – Installation of Rabbi Mirvis at St. John's Wood Shul

Next Year

4th August 2014 will be the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of WWI

This date coincides with Tisha B'Av. Ideas are being discussed as to how US communities can mark/remember the event.

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wonderful Watford community**

Social and Fundraising

Clive Walters

Since coming together last year, the committee members have been hard at work delivering a number of successful, and we hope enjoyable, events within the community.

In September last year we held the WADS Barbecue at the Shul in glorious sunshine with great food and face-painting and a bouncy castle for the kids. Special thanks to Toria Maze who led this fun event.

October 2012 saw the staging of Question Time with our own Sir Leigh Lewis chairing an eminent panel comprising Margaret Hodge MBE MP, Richard Harrington MP, Stuart Nagler JP DL and Sir David Bell KCB. This was a highly entertaining event made possible by the particular efforts of Leigh in support of the committee.

In December, we held a very successful Melawah Malkah at the Shul with Limmud co-founder Clive Lawton as guest speaker. A lovely meal was enjoyed by all, organised expertly on behalf of the committee by Frankie Weinberg and Daniel Raphael.

On 3rd February, we held the WADS Quiz Supper at The Park Inn Hotel with a bumper attendance of nearly 200 people. This was a splendid evening with special thanks going to Julie Woolf, Barry Freed, Frankie and Daniel for their fine input.

As can be imagined, these events require much 'behind the scenes' support and the efforts of Mark Stuart with publicity, Daniel Burke with computers and David and Margaret Mindell with set-up were much valued as were those of our young team of markers.

Over Purim, Toria and Adam Maze very kindly hosted an innovative Young Marrieds WADS Purim Party at their home which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

In the coming weeks, dates for your diaries are :-

Tuesday 26th March 2013 - Pesach

Communal 2nd Night Seder at the Shul. Please contact us as soon as possible if you would like to attend. ie Clive Walters – cawaltersuk@yahoo.co.uk or Carolyn Silverman (Shul Secretary)/ Rabbi Levine on 01923 222755

Sunday 7th April 2013

WADS Holocaust Evening

Toria Maze is kindly leading this special event which will feature Mr Harry Bibring a Holocaust survivor as speaker. A large supporting audience for this important occasion is earnestly requested by the committee.

Place – WADS Shul Hall

Time – 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start

Cost - £5 per person

Light refreshments will be served

WADS Golf Society

The intention is to hold a charity Golf Day later this year (details to be sent out in due course) but in the meanwhile, a number of WADS members play regularly on Sunday mornings and would be glad to include other members of any standard who would like to play. Contact Clive Walters – cawaltersuk@yahoo.co.uk

WADS 2013 100 Club

Julie Woolf

April 2013 will see the start of the third year of the WADS 100 Club. As you can see from the list of names below quite a few people have been lucky enough to win more than once. Not quite Lottery millionaires but a much higher chance of winning than the National Lottery. As the saying goes you have to be in it to win it!

Have you considered joining the 100 Club but not done anything about it in the past? Now is the time to act! £50 for the year is the cost of entry and that gives you a chance of winning two prize draws of £50 and £25 each month for 11 months, plus a final month of £100 and £50 prizes. It's a very simple way of having a chance to win something, and a great way to raise money for the shul. As with all fundraising events this year, money raised goes to shul funds with a percentage going to the Watford Peace Hospice.

If you are a previous member please rejoin now. A form is within the magazine. All that is required is a completed slip with your name, address, tel no., and email, together with a cheque for £50 payable to WADS. All entries to be mailed to: Julie Woolf, 14 Ridgefield, Watford WD17 4TZ. Email me with any queries you may have on jandrwoolf@aol.com.

(NB The March 2012 winners are not available at time of going to print)

Please join up today!

Draw Month	1st Prize	2nd Prize
2012	£50	£25
April	David Walters	Mel Silver
May	Mel Silver	Frances Ayerton
June	Michael Gordon	Lauren Rubin
July	Andy & Coll Michaels	Melanie Silver
August	Lauren Rubin	Daniel Raphael
September	Frances Ayerton	Beatrice Moss
October	Richard Woolf	Neil Rubin
November	Claire Fox	Julie Woolf
December	Daniel Raphael	David Walters
2013		
January	Daniel Raphael	James Fox
February	Brian Levy	Malcolm Webber
March	tbc	tbc

R B Kitaj: Obsessions – the Art of Identity



From 23 February until 16 June 2013, an exhibition of R.B. Kitaj's art will be shown at the Jewish Museum **R.B. Kitaj: Obsessions - The Art of Identity**. The exhibition will explore Kitaj's complicated relationship with his Jewish identity, and how it influenced his art, with over twenty pieces including iconic paintings such as 'If Not, Not'; and 'The Wedding'.

Born in 1932, R.B. Kitaj was raised in the Diaspora in a house with almost no Jewish consciousness, at a time when Judaism was being persecuted across the world. His mother was the daughter of Russian Jewish immigrants, and his stepfather had fled Nazi persecution in Vienna to come to the United States, yet Kitaj's upbringing was a largely secular one. Art, not religion, dominated the first half of his life, as he studied his craft first in New York, then in Vienna, and finally at the Ruskin School of Art in Oxford and the Royal College of Art in London. In the 1960s, Kitaj and a group of his friends, including Francis Bacon, David Hockney and Lucian Freud - which he named the 'School of London' - defied the popular trend in abstract art, pioneering instead a new kind of figurative art, staying faithfully true to the human form. It was not until the mid-1970s that Kitaj began to position himself as a Jewish artist, and from then on his Jewish identity became a key aspect of his work.



For much of his life, Kitaj was plagued by the question of his Jewish identity, specifically as a Jew living in the Diaspora. In his 1989 *First Diasporist Manifesto*, Kitaj ponders the nature of the Jews, whether they are "a nation, or a state of mind, or what they are". The Jewish Question became somewhat of an obsession in Kitaj's life and heavily influenced his later art, with recurring themes of the Wandering Jew, the Holocaust and Jewish identity. The Jewish culture was the source of much inspiration for Kitaj, as he looked to the Torah, the Talmud, and a number of other Jewish texts in his pursuit of art.

Some suggest that what Kitaj produced, however, can be seen as Diasporist Art, rather than Jewish art, focusing on the conflicts between personal identity and assimilation. Kitaj himself coined the term 'Diasporist Art', and wrote in his *First Diasporist Manifesto* that it is "contradictory at its heart", since "life in Diaspora is often inconsistent and tense". As a result, much of Kitaj's art has a raw sense of conflict about it, as demonstrated in his masterpiece 'If Not, Not', a fragmented battle between natural paradise and human destruction and despair. Kitaj's art is not a calm reflection of the nature of Judaism, but instead is a sometimes harsh outlet for a deep obsession with Jewish identity. In 2004, three years before his death, Kitaj described the Jewish Question as "my neurosis, my war, my

pleasure-principle". It is this intensity that comes across in his work and makes Kitaj a truly unique and striking master of art.

Here, at the Jewish Museum, we explore identity and heritage, much like Kitaj, whose work became infused with ideas of his complex Jewish identity as a 'Diasporist' Jew, as he developed as one of the key post-war artists working in London. Many of his key works exhibited explore this Jewish heritage and, through them, we are offered a chance to re-engage with the Jewish Museum's fascinating collection as we connect with objects through the lens of this extraordinary artist.

Opening Times
Monday to Thursday: 10am – 5pm
Friday: 10am – 2pm, Sunday: 10am – 5pm

Jewish Museum London, Raymond Burton House, 129-131 Albert Street, London NW1 7NB
www.jewishmuseum.com
Camden Town tube 3 minutes away

If Not, Not, 1975, Oil and black chalk on canvas, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh © R.B. Kitaj Estate.

Recipes by Denise Phillips

www.jewishcookery.com 01923 836 456



Baked Carrot, Swede and Potato Gratin

Over Pesach, one tends to keep meals simple but a tasty side dish like this will give your meal a healthy exciting lift of both colour and texture. It is a puree of root vegetables topped with a crunchy topping of chopped matzos and walnuts.

It is also vegan and can be parev so keep for the rest of the year too!

Preparation Time: 20 minutes Cooking Time: 55 minutes
Serves: 6 people

1500g carrots – peeled and roughly chopped
500g swede – peeled and roughly chopped
300g potatoes – peeled and roughly chopped ~

3 cloves garlic – peeled and roughly chopped
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
Pinch nutmeg
1 tablespoon dried coriander
Salt and freshly ground pepper

Topping

6 large matzos – crumbled
2 tablespoons walnut pieces
2 tablespoons grated cheddar cheese – optional
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 -2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

Garnish: Sprigs of parsley – roughly chopped

- 1) Boil the carrots and swede together until tender. Cook the potatoes separately. This will take 15 – 20 minutes.
- 2) Drain and transfer the carrots and swede to the food processor.

Mediterranean Chicken Tray Bake

A one pot complete meal for Seder night has got to be the ideal main course. Cooked in wine and stock it cannot dry out. If you bake both chicken thighs and breasts everyone will be happy! The secret of this dish is to get all the ingredients golden and crispy without it looking burnt and dry.



For a slight variation ~ add pitted black olives and capers.

Chefs Tip: To peel the shallots with ease, pour boiling water over them and leave for 5 minutes. Drain and then peel.

- 3) Add the garlic, oil, nutmeg, coriander and season well. Whizz to a puree.
- 4) Using a ricer or masher mash the potatoes. Combine the mashed potato with the vegetable mix and stir well.
- 5) Spoon the vegetable puree into a baking dish.
- 6) Pre-heat the oven to 200 C/ 400 F/ Gas mark 6.
- 7) Pour 4 tablespoons of hot water over the matzos to soften slightly.
- 8) Add the walnuts, cheese – if using and plenty of salt and pepper to the softened matzos.
- 9) Cover vegetables evenly with the topping. Drizzle with a tablespoon of extra virgin olive oil.
- 10) Bake for 40 minutes or until the top is crispy and golden.

Garnish: To serve the stylish way: Garnish with sprigs of fresh parsley and serve immediately.



Preparation Time: 15 minutes
Serves: 6 people

Cooking Time: 1 hour

1 kg new potatoes thinly sliced
1 tablespoon olive oil ~
10 -12 chicken thighs/ chicken breasts portions
6 cloves garlic
12 shallots – peeled
1 lemon – sliced into wedges
1 aubergine – cut into large cubes
2 red peppers – deseeded and cut into cubes ~
100ml white wine
200ml chicken stock
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Garnish: Sprigs of fresh basil

- 1) Preheat the oven to 200 C/ 400F / Gas mark 6.
- 2) Tip the potatoes into a large shallow roasting tin and drizzle with some olive oil, salt and freshly ground black pepper.
- 3) Roast for about 20 minutes until they start to go crispy.
- 4) Season the chicken and add to the roasting tin along with the garlic, shallots, lemon, aubergine and peppers.
- 5) Return to the oven for 20 minutes.
- 6) Pour over the wine and stock and roast for a final 20 minutes until the chicken is golden and cooked through.

Serve onto warm plates and garnish with sprigs of fresh basil and a dusting of black pepper.

Rustic Lemon Macaroons

Biscuits of all shapes, flavour and sizes are most welcome at Pesach. The Italians make a biscuit called 'Ricciarelli' which originate from the Tuscan city of Siena during the 14th Century. These are a twist on our traditional Pesach macaroon biscuits. I like to follow the classic method of toasting and grinding my own almonds but for a short cut buy ready ground. Shape into oval, diamond or circle shaped biscuits and leave for 4 hours in a fridge before baking. The rough and cracked surface gives a rustic appearance and is lightly sprinkled with icing sugar to complete the look!

Preparation Time: 10 minutes plus 4 hours

- 15 minutes

Makes: About 24

Cooking Time: 10

250g peeled almonds –toasted and ground

180g icing sugar

½ teaspoon baking powder

Zest of 1 lemon

1 tablespoon potato flour

200g ground almonds

~

2 large egg whites

~

Juice of ½ lemon

Bowl of icing sugar – for dusting

1) In a large mixing bowl, combine the dry ingredients.



- 2) In a separate bowl, whisk the egg whites until they reach stiff peaks and then fold in using a metal spoon. Stir in the lemon juice. The dough will feel slightly sticky and heavy.
- 3) With wet hands, take an olive size piece of dough and shape into diamond shape by pinching the sides and then roll into a shallow bowl of icing sugar.
- 4) Flatten with a fork and transfer to a tray lined with baking parchment paper.
- 5) Cover and refrigerate for 4 hours.
- 6) Preheat the oven to 150 C/ 300 F/ Gas mark 3.
- 7) Bake for 10-15 minutes or until they turn golden brown. Leave to cool on a rack.
- 8) Store in an air tight container for 4- 5 days or freeze.



denise's kitchen
date on a plate

Cookery classes for singles



denise's kitchen
cookery classes

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This is a really successful format for meeting new people –six men & six women learn to cook a three-course meal, and then eat it!

Sun 3 March:	Age: 28-40	French Bistro
Sun 17 March:	Age: 35-50	Tasty Tex Mex
Sun 14 April:	Age: 40 –55	Gourmet Greek
Sun 21 April:	Age: 30 – 45	A Taste of Italy
Sun 28 April:	Age: 26 -30	Lebanese
Sun 5 May:	Age: 50 – 60	Fancy Fusion
Sun 12 May:	Age: 40-50	Shavuot Special
Sun 26 May:	Age: 28–38	Classy Caribbean
Sun 9 June:	Age:35-50	Sensational Summer

LEARN TO COOK - THE STYLISH WAY

Join Denise Phillips for a fun "hands-on" class, presented in my trademark simple but stylish manner. Enhance your love of food and add to your cooking repertoire:

Wed 6 March	New Ideas for Pesach
Thurs 7 March	Thai Banquet
Sun 10 March	New Ideas for Pesach
Wed 10 April	Vegetarian Italian
Thurs 11 April	Pastry Master Class
Wed 8 May	Chocolate Desserts
Thurs 9 May	Stylish Vegan Cooking
Sun 19 May	Friday Night Dinner

Venue : Northwood. Times : Weekdays 10am –1.30pm. Sunday : 6pm-10pm

Cost : £65 including three course meal and all ingredients

More info : www.jewishcookery.com or denise@jewishcookery.com

Or phone Denise on 01923 836 456

Slavery still exists in 2013. This Pesach, one charity is making a difference



When Ngun Chai sold his 13-year-old daughter into prostitution for £100, his wife, La, had one regret – that they didn't get a good price for her. "We should have got double," La Chai said. "He robbed us."

The most horrific aspect of trafficking in Burma (Myanmar) is how unexceptional this story is. In fact, child trafficking is so established that many agents live in the village, and are often friends or relatives of the family from whom they buy the children.

Burma is the second largest country in the Southeast Asia with population of over 60 million. Until recently, the country has been under military control for, with over 40 years of systematic human rights violations, including child labour and human trafficking.



Since 2011 significant political changes have made it possible for charities to address these issues. Tag International Development, a UK charity that shares Israeli expertise in developing countries, is operating in Burma to help the victims of trafficking.

With a team of Israeli experts on the ground, including an expert on gender related issues, the organisation is already working with local partners to support the local population in areas of greatest needs—emergency health and transfer of skills in the agricultural sector.

As we know from the Pesach story, attaining our freedom was only the beginning. After the Exodus, the Israelites began a process of rehabilitation, culminating in renewal at Mount Sinai. For these trafficking victims, gaining their freedom is only the beginning; now they need help to rebuild their lives.

Israel has a lot of expertise in addressing human trafficking, which through innovative approaches has been virtually eradicated, including establishing shelters to provide victims with medical and psychosocial treatment and vocational training, allowing them to rebuild their lives.

Trafficking is nothing less than modern day slavery, the current fate of some 27 million victims, of whom 12 million are in Asia.



Typically, it is poor people searching for new economic opportunities, who are forced into slavery in the sex industry, factories, construction and agriculture.

One such was Kyi Kyi, from Burma. A neighbour told her about the chance to do some domestic work in Mandalay, where she would earn enough to send money home and also be able to travel back once a month. She jumped at the chance. She wasn't taken to Mandalay but to Kyae Gaung, a small village in the heart of China.

She was told she must marry a Chinese man, and if she didn't marry him, she would have to pay back the money he had paid for her – an impossibility. Nevertheless, Kyi Kyi refused to marry him – so he and his relatives beat her. Every few nights they would come, and beat her with sticks. After the beating she would be locked in the room, swollen and inflamed.

After 6 months, she was forced into exploited labour on their farm. She would work from 6am till 7pm daily for no salary.



When she had won their trust, they began to leave her unsupervised. One afternoon, she grabbed a chance to escape to the city, from where she was helped back home to Burma.

This Pesach, the festival of freedom, Tag International Development is launching an appeal to support victims of trafficking to re-build their lives, and to prevent future trafficking through education and economic development. Together with partner organisations, Tag will be rolling out psychosocial rehabilitation and a vocational training programme that will enable victims to rebuild their lives.

If you wish to help, please visit tagdevelopment.org.



Watford's New Youth Director is Here!

Scott Michaels

To all parents and the youth of Watford Shul, something huge has happened. Roughly three months ago, a new Youth Director was appointed, one determined to bring more fun, more enthusiasm and more activities to the Watford youth than ever before.

Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is Scott Michaels, and I am the new Youth Director of Watford Shul. In the summer of 2012, I went on the Tribe Israel Tour and, ever since, I have wanted to become a Youth Director for them, so when the chance came to lead at my own Shul, Watford, it was too much of an opportunity to miss. Since I have taken over we have run two events. The Chanukah Party last year and the Purim Party on..... Purim. Both these events were very successful, but these are only the starting blocks to having even more fun-filled exuberant fantastic events.

I have two aims whilst I hold the role of 'Youth Director' at Watford.

1. Ensure that there is an event for all the different ages of the youth at least once a month and to ensure every person that attends has a great time.
2. Bring the youth of the community closer to the rest of the community and not only have a great time, but perhaps even learn some things about the religion and maybe seek out any future leaders among the kids, but all whilst having loads of fun.

The Schedule:

We have many great events lined up over the coming year including paintball, barbeques, bowling, the Snow Centre and perhaps even a talent competition, where kids will have the chance to win the coveted title of WADS Got Talent champion, plus parties throughout the year for Chanukah and Purim.

Sunday 30th March – Pesach Paintballing – over 12s

Sunday 21st April – Bowling

Sunday 21st July – Barbeque - all welcome

More activities and dates will be emailed out in the coming year.

For more information, or if you have any ideas for future events, please don't hesitate to contact me on: scotty.michaels@hotmail.co.uk

Photo Gallery

Laser Quest



Chanukah



Purim



Purim continued



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