

# Ruach רוח

The Magazine of Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation

2023

Rosh Hashanah

5784



שנה טובה  
HAPPY NEW YEAR



Eshet Chayil –  
Michele Perry

Chatan Torah –  
Jonathan Marriott

Chatan Bereishit –  
Ellard Roberts

Eshet Chayil –  
Marion Reichwald

Mazal Tov!



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# Ruach רוח

## EDITORIAL

As we look forward to Rosh Hashanah it is not unnatural to reflect on the year gone by and how different aspects of our lives, both personally and as a community, have changed.

After some debate this Community expressed its desire to move from our present location, and that different premises more suited to our present needs should be found. A search has been undertaken but, at time of writing, no definite site has yet been found.

As a community we also face a change to our spiritual leadership, as, sadly, after more than fifteen years, Rabbi Adrian and Rebbetzen Pamela Jesner are retiring. During these years they have served with dignity, guiding our communal and personal lives. We wish them well as they enter a new phase in their lives, and hope their future, and that of their family, will be one of health and happiness.

Recently the world has experienced both political and natural turmoil. Let us hope, that for us all, the New Year will bring peace, good health and happiness.

CORINNE REIN – Editor

ROSAMUNDE BLOOM - Assistant Editor

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The Editors of Ruach wish to state that the views expressed in articles are those of the contributors.

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Tel: 01202 557433. E-mail: office1@bhcsul.co.uk

ruacheditorial2@gmail.com. www.info@bournejewish.org

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# FROM THE CHAIR – A MESSAGE FOR ROSH HASHANAH 5784

לְשָׁנָה טוֹבָה תִּכְתְּבוּ

May you be inscribed [in the Book of Life] for a good year.

The essence of Rosh Hashanah, meaning head of the year, allows us to look forward and make daily advancements.

Rosh Hashanah bears other names, Yom ha-Zikaron (Day of Remembrance) and Yom ha-Din (Day of Judgement). What do we remember and on what shall we be judged? In the Rosh Hashanah prayers we learn that G-d remembers each person's deeds and destiny, their works and ways, their thoughts and schemes, their imaginings and achievements. This remembrance is extended to include G-d's judging not only individuals but also the nations of the world; which of them are destined for the sword and which for peace, which to famine and which to feast.

**We have faith our supplications are heard by the Almighty and we pray that good will be the outcome.**

The Shofar is sounded to stir us and to awaken and reach to our very soul.

We can reflect on our own and our community's deeds. Were they for good and would we have chosen a different course?

And now we can see a New Year, what shall I and we as a community do this coming year 5784?

At the recent Bat Mitzvah of Georgiana Yeoman, Rabbi Jesner spoke of the commitment shown by her grandparents, Anne and Mahir Ozdamar, and illustrated his address to Georgiana by comparison to a sports team. Results may not always go their way, the style of play may not always best suit them, but come whatever, they were always committed and took part.

That ethos can be applied right across life, to the difficulties and challenges that we all face.

Not every day will be bright and sunny, and if they were, it could become tiresome and boring; the variation creates new thoughts and actions.

We are very fortunate that the life we enjoy in Bournemouth is good. We have plenty to be grateful for. Though contentment must not become ambivalent to the point of leaving it to others.

During the last 15 years we have been led most ably by Rabbi Jesner. Rabbi and Rebbetzen Jesner have dedicated themselves to serve with honour and commitment. At the end of October we shall be holding a farewell Brunch in their honour, to which the whole Community is invited. The biggest tribute to them would be for all of us to be in Shul for all of the 5784 Chagim from Rosh Hashanah to Simchat Torah!

No doubt you will acclaim and join me in wishing a hearty Mazel Tov to our 5784 Neshei Chayil, Marion Reichwald and Michele Perry and the Chatanim, Jonathan Marriott and Ellard Roberts. Their appointments are tremendously deserved and you can read something about them within this Ruach edition. We are certainly privileged to have them as members of our Community.

Do ensure that you have booked for the Simchat Torah celebratory lunch; it is always oversubscribed.

The Bournemouth Community Hebrew Congregation has demonstrated throughout the last year that it is a caring community. I am sure that you will donate generously if you can to support the worthy charities, as chosen by the Board, for this year's Kol Nidrei Appeal; namely, Hatzalah [Israel], World Jewish Relief [International] and Helen and Douglas House [UK] and BCHC.

All of them shall be the beneficiaries of the appeal that will be made (as established last year) just prior to Yizkor on Yom Kippur.

Last year at this time, I appealed for volunteers to come forward. This year more than ever I appeal to you, yes you. Some of us are financially enabled, some of us are time enabled. Both are equally important.

We are about to embark on a new journey in the life of the Community. It was remarkable how many came forward to help us achieve a phenomenal series of events during the Golden Week. Thank you.

Now we are on the threshold of the relocation of the premises. Much has to be considered, not least how do we handle all our items that are in storage within Wootton Gardens, and what do we actually need to prepare? Maybe you have experience, expertise, time or some support in other ways; please make yourself known.

I am sure you will wish to join me in expressing our since thanks to those who continue to make all that occurs routinely or not so routinely – to the Shul Office staff, the Caretakers, the Security Team, the Guild, all BCHC volunteers and the Board.

And most importantly, our Rabbi Adrian and Rebbetzen Pamela Jesner for all that they have put into this Community.

On behalf of Barbara and myself, I wish Rabbi Jesner and Rebbetzen Pamela, the whole Board, and every single one of you L'Shana Tova U'metuka.

May Hashem bless the members of this the Bournemouth Community Hebrew Congregation with health, happiness and a peaceful year.

*May 5784 be a year of peace in our Community, in Israel and in the world for good.*

*Together everything is possible. Let's do it.*



Simon Lurie  
Chair of BCHC





Office of The  
**CHIEF RABBI**

**The Chief Rabbi's Rosh Hashanah Message 5784**

The term 'Yamim Noraim' (Days of Awe) contains within it the key to transformative living.

Unetaneh Tokef, at the heart of our High Holyday Musaph prayers, commences: "Let us now proclaim the power of this day, for it is awe-inspiring..."

Awe is an emotion that is often elusive and fleeting, but when experienced, it can be unforgettable and life-altering.

Dacher Keltner, Professor of Psychology at the University of California, Berkeley, defines awe as the experience of "vast mysteries." In a widely acclaimed paper, written together with the noted social psychologist, Jonathan Haidt, Keltner identifies five spheres of experience which give rise to the feeling of awe.

- 1. **Threat.** When we encounter someone or something which has the power of life and death, such as a powerful natural disaster.
- 2. **Beauty.** When we see a striking piece of art or place of rare natural splendour.
- 3. **Ability.** When we appreciate in someone or something, an extraordinary talent.
- 4. **Virtue.** When we experience extraordinary acts of goodness which inspire us.
- 5. **Supernatural Causality.** When we feel the manifestation of the Divine in our lives.

Fascinatingly, these spheres of experience combine in the most extraordinary way on our Days of Awe.

Standing before our Creator on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, we meditate upon our mortality and the gift of life. We are struck by the beauty of the sea of white in our Shuls and the rousing melodies of our prayers. We recognise in Hashem the capacity to help shape our lives and His boundless virtue to forgive us, no matter how frequently we err. Above all, our Days of Awe enable us to experience the hand of Hashem on our shoulders, comforting us, guiding us, and pushing us to fulfil our potential.

Significantly, in an extraordinary series of studies, Professor Keltner showed that people who had reported experiencing more awe in their lives, were more charitable and more altruistic. Reflecting on these studies, he wrote, "awe imbues people with a different sense of themselves, one that is smaller, more humble and part of something larger. In the great balancing act of our social lives, between the gratification of self-interest and a concern for others, fleeting experiences of awe redefine the self in terms of the collective, and orient our actions towards the needs of those around us." No wonder, therefore, that our Unetaneh Tokef prayer concludes with a call to engage in prayer, penitence and charity.

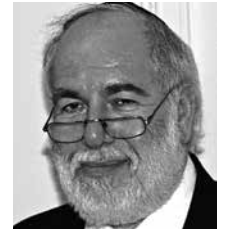
With this in mind, may our forthcoming Yamim Noraim, filled with heartfelt introspection and awe, inspire us to be more compassionate, more giving and more connected to our fellows. Let us strive to live each day with a renewed sense of purpose and a deep appreciation for the awe-inspiring moments that await us.

Valerie and I wish you all a shana tova umetukah, filled with awe and bountiful blessings.

**Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis**



# FROM RABBI JESNER ROSH HASHANAH 5784



In the Machzor, Rosh Hashanah is brought in with the bracha of "L'hadlik ner shel Yom Tov" and this year also "shel Shabbat", together with the bracha of 'Shehecheyanu', "who has allowed us to reach this time of year".

This is how Rosh Hashanah begins. But what is it that keeps us alive and makes us click from year to year? How do we get through the year on that never ending journey of life with all of its vicissitudes?

I recently heard a very nice story that I'd like to share with you. A couple from Har Nof in Jerusalem decide to return to America for the whole of the Chag period. The husband, wife and six children are to stay with her parents for half of the Chag and with his parents for the other half of the Chag period. So they journey and arrive at the house and as Yom Tov approaches, the wife is busy helping her mother to make all of the preparations, cooking, cleaning, baking etc.

She asks her husband if he will take the children out for the day, so she can get things done in the house without interruptions. The husband goes to the local kosher deli and buys sandwiches, snacks and drinks for the six children, and then takes them to Newark airport.

For those of you who are not familiar with Newark airport, there is a form of monorail that goes from one end of the airport to the other. It is quite a long journey as it's a big airport; however it's a fun trip because at each of the different stations you get to see airplanes taking off and landing. The children are enthralled by the whole thing.

At one of the stations where passengers get off and on, a pilot from one of the airlines gets into the carriage and sits next to the husband and six kids and they start to chat. The pilot asks where he's from, and the husband replies that he was born in America but now lives in Jerusalem.

The pilot asks where he's travelling to with the children, and the husband explains that he and the family have come for a visit to America for the Jewish New Year and, as a help to his wife, it was suggested that he take the kids out for a fun day in order to let her and her mother make all of the preparations for the Festival; so he and the children weren't travelling anywhere, but were having a great time together.

The pilot tells him that he's truly, truly impressed. He goes on to detail how just a couple of days before, his son had phoned him to let him know that for the fifth year in a row his father had forgotten his birthday and since it was a special birthday that he had missed, he had told his father not to bother

to call him again.

The pilot was watching the children interact with each other and their father in the carriage and was filled with guilt. He blurted out that he also hadn't spoken to his daughter for two years as he had forgotten her successive birthdays and anniversaries also.

He was lost in thought for a while, and then said to the father that he now realised how sad it was that he was so busy flying all over the world, always travelling to places but going nowhere fast and here was the father flying nowhere, travelling nowhere but going everywhere because he had his wife, children and family around him.

When we say the bracha of "Shehecheyanu", "who has kept us alive and brought us to this day," what we are actually saying is that here we are at the beginning of 5784 with our families and loved ones and community, celebrating an event that took place many years ago, and all these years later we are still able to celebrate it. And, whilst sitting in shul, we may not be flying around the world, but we have the close bonds of our friends, family, and community close by and close in our hearts.

Before we blow the Shofar, we say Psalm 47 "Lam'natzeiach livnei Korach mizmor" (A song by the sons of Korach) seven times. This psalm describes to us the depths that a person can fall to and the inspiration by which they can pick themselves up.

The words "Hariu leilokim" are an acknowledgement of the time when the nations will recognise the sovereignty of G-d. It gives us the ability to dust ourselves down and start afresh for a new year.

As we sit in Shul thinking about 5784, that could very well be a potent message; how we can pick ourselves up to face the challenges of the coming year, and to remind us that with our friends and family, unlike that pilot, we might not be travelling, but we are going places.

*Pamela and I would like to say goodbye to the Congregation. We wish everyone well in the future and thank you all for your support over the last 16 years.*

*We take this opportunity to wish the whole Community Shana Tova, a happy and healthy New Year.*

Rabbi Adrian and Pamela

# ROSH HASHANAH MESSAGE

## PRESIDENT MARIE VAN DER ZYL

SEPTEMBER 2023 / TISHRI 5784



This Rosh Hashanah, I would like to focus on two wonderful events which demonstrate the esteem in which the Jewish community is held in this country. The first of these was the coronation of King Charles III in May. I was privileged to be invited to represent the Jewish community at the coronation. The King has said on a number of occasions that he wishes to be the 'protector of faiths' and he has been as good as his word. Having experienced King Charles' warmth towards our community on several occasions, I know he will be a wonderful monarch both for the Jewish community and the wider nation. I wish him much success.

Leading the service on that day was the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. We were delighted that he accepted our invitation to be interviewed by historian and novelist Simon Sebag Montefiore at Bevis Marks Synagogue this summer. We invited every Board of Deputies-affiliated synagogue to send representatives to this wonderful event.

The Archbishop spoke with great passion of his personal commitment to fighting antisemitism, the duty of care that universities have for their Jewish students and the historic relationship between the Church and the Jewish community. His views were both heartfelt and heartwarming for all who were there.

The Board's key work is in two areas. Firstly, we engage with politicians, civil society, and other faith groups throughout the UK at national, regional and local level, sharing with them the Jewish community's views about a wide range of topics including antisemitism, Israel, religious practice and social issues. Secondly, we work proactively to advance causes of great concern to our community. For example, we run Pikuach (The Jewish Ofsted) to inspect our Jewish schools, helping to ensure they provide an excellent Jewish education.

We also have our Jewish Living Experience Exhibition, which is travelling around the country educating children and adults about the Jewish way of life, and we are developing a new online digital programme to teach non-Jewish children around the UK about Jews, Judaism, Israel and antisemitism.

There are still threats to the safety of our community. We have previously campaigned successfully to have both Hezbollah and Hamas proscribed in their entirety as terrorist organisations. We strongly believe that the Government has a duty to ban the state-sponsored terror group the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). In July we held an event in Parliament which featured impassioned evidence from advocates of proscription.

There is still bias against Israel in the media. One particularly egregious example occurred recently when a BBC News presenter, in an interview with former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, said that "Israeli forces are happy to kill children". We contacted the BBC's Director General to protest in the strongest possible terms. On this occasion the BBC apologised swiftly for the unacceptable language, but we must continue to be vigilant and proactive.

This is but a snapshot of the extensive and varied work the Board of Deputies carries out for the Jewish community. We do all this on an extremely modest budget, largely funded by your communal contribution. We are very grateful for your support; please know that whatever your interests or concerns as members of our community, the Board of Deputies is here to advocate on your behalf.

*I wish everyone a Shana Tovah and a happy year ahead.*

*Marie van der Zyl*

**Marie van der Zyl**  
President, Board of Deputies of British Jews

# OUR NEW BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2023-2024

Congratulations to our new Board Management who took office following elections at the AGM of the Synagogue, which took place on 14th May 2023.

**HON LIFE PRESIDENT  
& TRUSTEE**

Stephen H White

**CHAIR**

Simon Lurie

**HON LIFE PRESIDENT  
& TRUSTEE**

Ivor Weintroub

**JOINT VICE CHAIRS**

Marilyn Dexter  
& Simon Pinner

**TRUSTEE**

Mahir Ozdamar

**WARDENS**

Brian Lassman  
& Adrian Levey

**HON LIFE PRESIDENT**

Geoffrey Feld

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## *Executive Committee*

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Alan Blumenthal

Membership &  
Strategy

Corinne Rein

Chessed & Ruach

Jane Cowland

Education Co-opted  
18-05-23

*Board of Deputies Representative*

Marilyn Keen

Keith Gould

Relocation Co-opted  
18-05-23



Stephen H White



Ivor Weintroub



Mahir Ozdamar



Geoffrey Feld



Simon Lurie



Marilyn Dexter



Simon Pinner



Adrian Levey



Brian Lassman



Alan Blumenthal



Keith Gould



Jane Cowland



Corinne Rein



Marilyn Keen

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## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

WHO HAVE JOINED SINCE THE SINCE 118TH AGM (14 MAY 2023)

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### *Full Members*

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Mr Howard Fishman

Mr Roger Rossano

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### *Non Resident Members*

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Mr and Mrs Howard and Jenny Rodin

Mr and Mrs Jonathan and Janice Marriott





# MAZAL TOV TO OUR CHATAN TORAH



## Jonathan Marriott

It is likely that amongst the four honourees I am the newest member of BCHC. My family, however, probably has the longest relationship with the shul amongst the four.

Although London is where I grew up and where we live during the week, Bournemouth truly is our ancestral home, dating back some 80 years.

In October 1943, in the midst of WWII, Ruby Marriott, a plucky 32 year old moved his wife and two very small children to Bournemouth having purchased the Green Park Hotel with the backing of their clientele at the Sandringham Hotel, Torquay. A more uncertain start is difficult to imagine.

Born in 1970, I was too young to appreciate the truly golden years of the hotel and its stablemates on the East Cliff. My earliest and most profound memories, however, are of the Green Park shul, run to the same high standard, throughout the year, as the rest of the hotel.

My grandfather z'l was a first class ba'al koreh and my father and great uncle (Joe Richman) were expert ba'alei tefilla from whom I learnt so much about nusach and how to daven. Always keen to encourage the youngsters, my grandfather had me making the announcements from about the age of 6 at the end of each service (albeit standing on a chair initially) whenever we were in Bournemouth.

Yomim tovim and especially the Yomim Noraim were highlights I'll never forget and having a Chief Rabbi around the seder table or in the Succah was not at all unusual. Another of my earliest memories was of Chief Rabbi Brodie and Chief Rabbi Jakobovits being the chattanim one year.

The connection to and membership of BHC remained throughout. Weekdays my grandfather would come to Wootton Gardens and bring along any guests who wanted to daven with a minyan. My father celebrated his barmitzvah at BHC on Shabbat Hagadol 1952.

Whether by nature or nurture, that ingrained shul DNA saw me become the youngest ever board member at Raleigh Close, Hendon in the early 90s, VP and then president of the Boca Raton Synagogue, Florida – now a 1,000+ family community in the USA – where we lived between 2004 and 2008 and then five years as chairman of Ner Yisrael, Hendon following our return to London. I am now on a self-imposed long-term sabbatical from shul management.

Bournemouth was where we came to visit our grandparents for every school holiday and yom tov. We also lived in Bournemouth as a young family for one year, attending Kings Park school in 1975/76 together with my siblings .



It is also where Janice, my wife and best friend, met each other at the Normandie (don't worry, five years post Green Park). Hailing from Zimbabwe, Janice came to Bournemouth for a shabbaton with a group of student friends I knew from London and 30+ years later here we still are, proudly schepping nachas from our four children (daughter, son and their spouses) and getting into the habit of welcoming some adorable granddaughters into the family (three so far).

As many of you know we have a special relationship going the other way too. Janice and I are privileged to have had long-living grandparents and their siblings, many living well into their 90s and in a couple of cases beyond 100 – Janice's grandmother passed away in Cape Town last year aged 105 – and l'havdil bein chayim l'chayim our wonderful Auntie Hannah celebrated her 100th birthday in June this year. Though we are here most weeks, I still pinch myself that we often bring our eldest (two year-old) granddaughter with us and watch with joy the interaction spanning five generations. In fact last succot we had five generations in the succah as my parents joined us and Auntie Hannah together with our son Ruby, his wife and their daughter.

Outside of our regular trips to Bournemouth, I ran a graphic design business in London in the 1990s before getting involved in house-building in Florida in the early 2000s and then remaining in the property and project management world since our return to London in 2009. Unexpectedly, after a six-week consultancy last November, I have become full-time Projects Director for a fast-growing, development and operations company in the co-working sphere (alongside my project management and property management clients). In 2001 Janice founded and then returned to running Tuffkid nursery, an integrated special needs and mainstream kindergarten within the Kisharon Langdon special needs family.

We do like to travel – we spent an amazing and highly recommended week in Panama just after Shavuot – and hope to turn our affinity for Cunard's Queens into an annual cruise holiday.

*We would like to thank the Executive and Trustees for this special honour, coming as it does on the 80th anniversary of our family joining the shul and being able to celebrate it, PG, with Auntie Hannah who was there all those years ago. Janice and I send warm wishes to Rabbi Jesner and Pamela, to Ellard, Marion, Michele and all at BCHC, for a happy, healthy and peaceful 5784.*



# MAZAL TOV TO OUR CHATAN BEREISHIT



## Ellard Roberts



I was born on 3rd August 1953 so by the time you read this, I will have turned 70. I was born at what was then a Jewish hospital in Stamford Hill called the Bearsted. Both my parents were Irish. Dad was from Cork and Mum from Dublin.

Dad came from a very poor family and was the first to go through university and Mum was from a fairly affluent family who ran a business dealing with metals.

Dad became a doctor but his patients didn't really understand how he could be Jewish and Irish. Mum acted as his receptionist.

We lived in Cricklewood and went to Cricklewood Synagogue. I went to school at North West London Jewish Day School which was in Willesden and from there on to Hasmorean in Hendon. Like Michael Goldberger last year, we went to the same Shul and then to both of the same schools. I have two sisters. Lynne, in Israel, with eight children and over twenty grandchildren.

My other sister, Sandra, lives in Edgware and has six children and about twelve grandchildren. I say 'about' because it changes quite rapidly. Both my sisters went to North West and then JFS where Lynne was in the same class as Jenny Lamski and Ilana Goldberger. Di and I have two children. Laura who teaches at Etz Chaim in Mill Hill and Jeremy who works in business strategies.

I really was not the studious type and spent all my Grammar school days, doing absolutely nothing. Consequently, most of my school friends went to Uni but I had to discover the world of work at the tender age of 18. I had had a few summer holiday jobs but that really told me what I didn't want to do.

I started off working for three years in the Civil Service Store, a large department store in the Strand. After a few years I was able to buy a flat and move to Stanmore. I then wanted a car and couldn't afford one, so I went to work for Rothmans cigarettes, where I got a car.

After 19 years there in a variety of positions I got the opportunity to take voluntary redundancy. I was lucky to find another job very soon after and I went to work for the National Lottery and again had a variety of different roles. After 15 years I was able to take voluntary redundancy for a second time.

I used to go to Maccabi in Compayne Gardens in West Hampstead and this is where I started playing bridge and played with Barry Berlyn, z"l. This is where I met Di, my wife, who was a Youth Worker there. She was paid but I worked there voluntarily. I have always enjoyed volunteering.

Our wedding took place at the Sheffield Hebrew Congregation and then we started off married life in Borehamwood in 1986, but subsequently moved to Oxhey and joined Watford Shul. I was encouraged to join the Board and spent 19 years as the Warden in a Shul where most decisions were made by the Wardens.

There I was honoured with role of Chatan Torah. I loved Watford and that's where I met Tony and Ros Nairn and we became good friends eventually following them to Bournemouth. We have no plans to follow them back to Watford!

*May I sign off by thanking the powers that be, for asking me to be Chatan Bereishit. With Di, I wish the Community a happy and healthy New Year.*



# MAZAL TOV TO OUR ESHET CHAYIL



## Michele Perry



I am one of four children - my parents were refugees from Berlin who came to England in 1939. My mother arrived in March that year.

My father arrived in August 1939, but after war broke out was considered an enemy alien and was put on the HMT Dunera to Australia, he was allowed to return to England after he joined the British army. My parents married in May 1942 in Willesden.

My only claim to fame was when I went to Harrow School as a child and, being the smallest, was given the honour of presenting the late Queen Elizabeth with a posy – it was probably the only time it was an advantage to be small!!!

I attended Harrow for one year and subsequently went to North West London Jewish Day School – my parents were one of the founders of this school and very good friends with the first headmaster and his wife, Mr and Mrs Wulwick, who they had known long before the school was opened. Following my time at North West, I went to Hasmonian School for Girls.

I met David in 1966 and two years later we were one of the last couples to be married at Dukes Place Shul.

We have been happily married since 1968 and have four children and seven grandchildren.

Having spent many happy holidays here, we followed our dream and moved to Bournemouth in 1993 and immediately joined BHC. I joined the Ladies' Guild, the League of Jewish Women and regularly delivered Meals on Wheels from Hannah Levy House.

I also joined the Security team as well as the committees for BJRC, B'nei Brith and Hillel Houses in Bournemouth and Southampton.

During the Covid pandemic, I joined BJSS and became a buddy to an elderly lady, with whom I am still in touch. I am lucky to be in a position where I am able to

help others and, with this in mind, after Shul functions I take any left over food to the homeless centre in Bournemouth, who are always very grateful for any donations, and are aware that these donations are from BHC.

I enjoy coming to Shul as well as supporting David when there is a Sephardi service and helping out with their Kiddush. It is always a very sociable event where we all come together and welcome everyone from the community.

I would like to wish Rabbi and Rebbetzen Jesner and their family health, happiness, success and peace as they enter a new chapter in their life's journey

*Finally, I was very surprised and grateful to be asked to be Eshet Chayil and would like to thank Rabbi and Rebbetzen Jesner, the Executive and Trustees for this great honour.*

*I would also like to wish the entire community a very healthy, happy and peaceful Shana Tova Umetuka.*



# MAZAL TOV TO OUR ESHET CHAYIL



## Marion Reichwald

How did I find myself in Bournemouth? Well in 1915-16 my grand-parents Israel and Toby Cohen with six of their daughters escaped London of the First World War to find calm in Bournemouth.

My grandfather, who was a wholesale fruiterer, found out about the Bournemouth community when he was trading at the Southampton market and asked a Jewish man where the nearest congregation was on the South Coast hence their move to Bournemouth. My mother and two younger siblings went to school in Bournemouth.

The "girls" had a wonderful life in Bournemouth, the Jewish hotels provided plenty of eligible young men in those days. My mother Stella met (Tobias) Ted Press at a dance at one of the hotels when he was in Bournemouth on holiday and in June 1939 they married at Wootton Gardens followed by a reception at the East Cliff Court Hotel. The Second World War broke out September 1939 and my father signed up for the RAF.

Connie (Constance) my late sister was born in 1940, I was born after war ended. I had an idyllic childhood, ending up being quite spoilt as my father had missed my sister's early years.

Tragedy struck in 1956 when my father was killed in a car accident on the Ringwood Road. I grew up very quickly, no counselling in those days you just got on with it.

However, I can still remember the support and love from the Bournemouth Jewish Community, especially at Cheder. I participated in all the Jewish youth activities in Bournemouth, BBYO being the main one at that time, they were a great group of people.

After leaving school (Bournemouth School for Girls) the draw to London was too strong, and I went to stay with an aunt. After all, at this time London was enjoying its hey day. I trained as a Dental Surgery Assistant and Dental Health Educator at the London Hospital in Whitechapel and then became involved in a new project of a training unit with student dentists.

The social life it offered was great as at that time there were lots of Jewish students at the hospital. However I needed another challenge which soon



fell into my lap.

A dentist at 'the London' told me that a well-known South African Professor with a specialist dental practice in the West End was looking for a Practice Manager who was also a qualified assistant.

I went for an interview and one month later was working in the most amazing surroundings in Cavendish Square where for 38 years I had a wonderful working life.

Not satisfied with working long hours at the practice, I became involved with a woman's organisation, Women in Dentistry, as their Administrator. I organised meetings and sought out venues all over Europe for annual meetings and academic courses, successfully attracting notable speakers.

Marrying Peter brought me back to the Bournemouth area as he had a weekend home in Highcliffe. We moved 23 years ago to the Albany, initially as a weekend home, and full time since Covid.

Communally I was active at Western Marble Arch Synagogue where I was Cultural & Adult Education Chair recognised for attracting eclectic speakers and leading diverse visits to venues of Jewish interest. I then became Treasurer and the first woman on the WMA Executive, a voice of reason that was listened to.

Certainly not looking for another communal role, I now find myself, unexpectedly, Chair of BHG. The challenge is to bring new ideas and encourage more people to play an active part in our activities.

To help me achieve this, if you are not a member of the Guild, now is the time to join and support the BHG Executive - everyone is welcome.

*I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Board for bestowing on me this honour and to wish them and Rabbi Jesner and Rebbetzen Pamela and the whole community a Happy and Healthy New Year.*

*Shana Tova Umetuka.*

# NEW YEAR MUSING

The Torah reading for second day Rosh Hashanah is *Bereshit 21<sup>1-19</sup>* and contains the famous account of the "binding of Isaac" or in Hebrew *Akeidah*. Many Christian Bibles head this section of Genesis as the "sacrifice of Isaac" which is, of course, a distortion of what happened.

Rosh Hashanah is a mixture of sweetness, celebrating a new year, and a degree of apprehension as to what that might bring. White, the traditional colour of purity and death, is very much in evidence during the High Holy Days.

It represents the starkness of a neutral state; that which is to receive the "breath of life", and that is what we hope will be granted us this year. The opportunity to become worthier Jews becomes the main focus during these penitential days, and what better example do we have than our ancestor, the Patriarch Abraham.

There are two seminal events in the life of Abraham. One is the divine command in Haran: *Go forth....to the land I will show you*. From that point G-d became an integral part of the history of the Jewish people.

The other incident occurred at the *Akeidah*. G-d uses similar language to the words spoken at Haran: *Go forth...to the land of Moriah.....on one of the heights which I will point out to you*.

In both cases the exact destination was not revealed; so Abraham did not know the terminal point of his journeys, and that is true for us too.

As we begin our individual journeys into this New Year, not knowing where we will end up and what might befall us en route, let us, like Abraham, cleave to what gives meaning to our lives. Strong faith, like Abraham's, might be enough to sustain us, or love of family and friends, or being endowed with an optimistic personality. These qualities are not mutually exclusive; we may be blessed with owning all of them.

At Moriah G-d spoke his last words to Abraham - no further verbal communication was necessary for the Patriarch had fulfilled his destiny, to become the father of a great nation.

Perhaps we can take inspiration from this episode and strive toward a time when words are superfluous because our behaviour and actions speak for themselves. Linked to this vision of a brighter future is the belief that has sustained Jews for centuries, particularly during times of persecution, of the imminent arrival of *Moshiach*.

Jewish tradition states that the Messiah will come at *Pesach*, heralded by the prophet Elijah, but is it conceivable he will arrive on Rosh Hashanah? It is during the *Mussaf* service when the words of Isaiah ring out:

"On that day a great shofar will be sounded, and those who are lost in the land of Assyria and those who are cast away in the land of Egypt shall come and bow down to G-d on the holy mountain in Jerusalem" (Isaiah 27:13). In previous years the Chassid Rabbi Shalom Arush strongly urged his followers to journey to Uman in Ukraine for the Yomim Tovim. Why?

Uman is the burial place of Rav Nachman of Breslov. It was his great-grandson, the Baal Shem Tov, who had a vision on Rosh Hashanah in which he spoke to the Messiah, asking him when he would redeem the world. Rav Nachman believed Rosh Hashanah was a spiritually auspicious time, so much so that Rav Arush thought the arrival of **Moshiach** was imminent.

There is a logic in believing the Messianic Age will start with the New Year, with the sounding of the *shofar*.

No one knows when Moshiach will come, but it doesn't have to be at *Pesach*.

Peter Beyfus

# GOLDEN WEEK EVENTS

"The Golden Week" at BHC was an eclectic mix of events for almost all tastes. It was launched with the first performance in the UK since Covid of "Dreams of a Nation", Jewish history from the Bible era to the modern state of Israel.

Narrated by Rabbi Andrew Shaw with Chazan Jonny Turgel and accompanied by the Asaf Flumi Band, the exciting live presentation was enthusiastically received by the audience of one hundred and sixty, who included not only BHC members, but members of other local Jewish communities plus those from along the South Coast from Brighton to Exeter as well as members of CCJ (Council of Christians and Jews). The heartfelt response of the audience can be seen by some of the comments below received after the performance.

## PRAISE FOR DREAMS OF A NATION

**Michael Filer** – "Yesterday evening's performance was just wonderful. I became very nostalgic as I remember well attending cheder in Portsmouth aged about 8, when one of my class arrived with a huge box of sweets for all the students to celebrate the "brand new" STATE OF ISRAEL."

**Michele & David Perry** – "Thank you again for the most wonderful evening EVER, it exceeded our expectations!

The entire presentation together with the wonderful voice of Jonny Turgel and his band was just AMAZING!!!

Your entire team deserve a medal for organising this event. Can't wait to see what you all have up your sleeves next.

**Val & Melvin Millin** – "The Concert was utterly magnificent! It all worked effortlessly from the wonderful narration from the Guest Rabbi, the screen which allowed us to enjoy and get involved with the founding and creation of our beloved Israel and last

but definitely not the least Jonny Turgel's SUPERB voice, which allowed him to portray both joy and despair. This Concert was the ultimate celebration, and we are sure we all felt proud to be members of a shul that

accomplished such a unique and memorable evening. NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN! Shekoyach!"

**Juliette and Ronald Jackson** – "Had to write to say Ronald and I had a wonderful evening last night. The beginning of Golden Week began with a fantastic concert with Rabbi Andrew Shaw and Cantor Jonny Turgel. The explanation about the creation of Israel, with video and slides by Andrew and the fantastic singing by Jonny. His renditions of Hebrew and English songs had the audience clapping away and getting standing ovations. This special concert will be left in most people's memories for many years.

**Mayor of Poole Cllr Jo Clements** – "I would like to thank you so much for inviting my Consort John and myself to your wonderful concert last night. It was absolutely sensational, and we thoroughly enjoyed it.

We both learnt a lot about the history of the birth of the nation of Israel and found the event profoundly emotional as well as educational and entertaining.

I very much hope that we might be invited to celebrate with you all again in the near future.

**Liz & Mel Harris** – "We thoroughly enjoyed the evening. It was well organised, Andrew presented very well & Jonny sang beautifully as always."

**Evelyn Boyles** – "I very much enjoyed this atmospheric musical experience."

**Marion Reichwald** – "Unbelievably amazing narration, choreography. Jonny Turgel just gets better each time I hear him."



## GOLDEN WEEK EVENTS

**Diana and Anthony Panes** – “It was, indeed, sensational - and totally unexpected! I hadn't appreciated what the format would be - Deeply moved one minute, happy and clapping the next - the band were fabulous. Jonny T sang beautifully with effortless ease - a terrific skill in itself, as is the ability to bridge several genres in one evening!

The narration was compelling, because of Rabbi Andrew Shaw's passion for his subject. The stars, though, were the historical participants in this great Love story - those used by the Most High to bring about the birth of a nation in one day.

Thank-you for the immense privilege of joining the Hebrew Congregation in Bournemouth on such a night.

The warm welcome and atmosphere was charged with the best of emotions. A not-to-be forgotten experience. “

**Margaret Young** – What a privilege it was to be audience to the most wonderful presentation of the Jewish people's journey through biblical history, to the dream becoming a reality...It really was a glorious evening... one that should be repeated! To see and feel the emotions of our precious Jewish community, as the narrator, musicians and Chazan took us through the pain and joy they have experienced was both humbling and an honour. Thank you so much for your gracious invitation to your non Jewish friends”

**Cllr Lesley Dedman Chair of BCP Council** – “I cannot thank you enough for inviting me to the most uplifting evening of Dreams of a Nation! Not only the warm narration of Rabbi Shaw, and the truly beautiful voice of Cantor Turgel, but the picturing of the history – the whole evening was wonderful.

Despite thinking I knew my Old Testament, and the recent history (being the same age as the State of Israel!!) I came away having learned a lot, and with plenty to think about.

**Josephine and Gerald Jackson** – The ‘Birth of a Nation’ evening was indeed amazing. A most professional and talented group of people who warmed the audience's hearts. It was at times emotional and also joyful.

We very much appreciated being there as it was the only event we were able to attend. It

was also great to see friends from the community who we hadn't seen for some time. Several had made a great effort to attend. Kol hakovod to you all.”

**Barry Goldbart, Chairman, Bournemouth Reform Synagogue** – “I think it would be remiss of me if I did not write to thank you and your Team for the very warm welcome afforded to me at your Dreams of a Nation event last night. I and the other VIP invitees enjoyed the very informative film, depicting the complex history of our people. together with the marvellous music and singing that completed the entertainment and added such pathos to the film.

Of particular interest to me was the archived film of the Six Day War of 1967 as I was working there for an American Company as that war started.

I remember receiving a letter from the British Embassy telling me to make my way to the port of Haifa where the Royal Navy would attempt to rescue me.

Ironically, just days before a Spy Ship off the Israeli coast that refused to identify it's Country of Origin, was sunk by the Israeli Airforce as the ship ignored warnings to surrender, it was later proven to be an American Spy Ship.

Let us hope and pray that Israel continues to prosper and remain a safe haven for its people and for Jews from around the World.



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## MEET N MUNCH AND THE LIVING STONES PROJECT AT "GOLDEN WEEK"



Meet N Munch was incorporated into the Golden Week when, following a delicious lunch, a presentation to launch the Living Stones Project was given by Barbara Lurie and Howard Freeman.

There were three parts to the presentation: the first, a static array of 8 large boards, elicited much interest. Whilst one of the boards was a short description of the project the other 7 featured some well-known and perhaps lesser-well-known members of both Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation and Bournemouth Reform Synagogue. Several of the short stories described the role of the Kindertransport in the rescue of youngsters who went on to become leading lights in their congregations.

Others, such as Lou Simmons' headstone featuring

a drumkit, caused amusement, whilst that of Samuel Becher hinted at a darker history.

The talk described the reasoning behind the project and its funding through a grant from the Lottery Heritage Fund. One of the key features

of the application to the LHF was its recognition that many Jewish Communities had shrunk and some had disappeared altogether, leaving only an overgrown cemetery as a relic.

Through the Lottery Grant the project aims to create a long-lasting, evidence-based history of the Jewish Communities in Bournemouth and the surrounding areas, through the active participation of community members.

One of the most obvious products of the Project so far is its' website, and this was demonstrated during the talk.

Of the 3000+ graves in the three cemeteries the project photographers have taken over 2000 photographs, with plans to complete the task over the next few months.

However, apart from the information on each stone, the Project has little information about the person it references, and this is a problem that may only be solved with your participation: please see the advert in Ruach about how you can help.

Whilst the cemetery data are a large part of the Project we are also collecting information through interviews with congregants, and this "personal touch" is very important. The interviews and their transcripts will be available on the website and also at The Dorset History Centre, so future researchers can hear first-hand who we were and what we did in the Jewish Community and in the Boroughs of Bournemouth and Poole.

The final part of the presentation was a lively question and answer session, ably fielded by Simon Lurie and project members.

### An Artistic Genealogy

**The Katz family has a rich artistic heritage, with Lou Simmons, a drummer and bandleader, and Ilan Ostrove, an actor, among Freda and Joseph Katz's descendants.**

Lou Simmons, born in London in 1907, began his career as a salesman while simultaneously honing his skills as a drummer and orchestra leader. He performed at renowned venues and worked with the BBC, captivating audiences with his music. One notable event was a concert at the Cafe de Paris in 1941 during an air raid, where a German bomb tragically altered the course of Lou's life. Despite losing sight and sustaining injuries, he continued to contribute to Bournemouth's vibrant music scene until his 70s.



Lou's headstone, shared with his wife Hannah, is a tribute to his musicianship. Hannah fought to include Lou's cherished drums in the design. She found herself at the Chief Rabbi's office through determination and persistence, where her efforts were recognised. The community understood the significance of Lou's music, securing his drums' rightful place.

We find Ilan Ostrove, born in 1975, on the other side of the family. His passion for acting bloomed during his school years, and he earned a spot at the prestigious Sylvia Young Theatre School. With notable appearances on TV and the stage, including roles in "Simon and the Witch" (1987) and "Mother Goose Stories" (1990). Tragically, he passed away at 22 due to meningitis, profoundly impacting the theatre world.



In the family line, Cynthia, Lou's eldest daughter, distinguished herself as a Coronation Champion for her remarkable charity work during the investiture of King Charles. Her dedication to making a positive difference inspires all, carrying on the philanthropy established by her family.

## COOKING FOR THE SOUL

From the book: "Jewish Flavours of Italy" published by Green Bean Books

[www.cookingforthesoul.com](http://www.cookingforthesoul.com) – Tel: 07867 802169 – Email: [silvia@cookingforthesoul.com](mailto:silvia@cookingforthesoul.com)

On Wednesday 28th June as part of the Golden Week celebrations, we were treated to a culinary delight when the chef and author Silvia Nacamulli (Jewish Italian cook "superba") attended Bournemouth Synagogue to present her "Cooking for the Soul" cookery demonstration and tasting – and what a delicious treat it was. Silvia showed us two mouthwatering recipes, namely:

### **Pesce alla Livornese - (Livornese fish with tomato and chilli) and Pizza Ebraica (Traditional Roman Jewish nut and candied fruit cakes)**

Both recipes were made on site with Silvia giving us a glorious narrative of the method and cooking tips, together with a part history of her own Italian family and how these recipes tied in with Jewish cookery history in Italy.

All fascinating and by the time she had finished her explanations, it was ready for a delicious tasting. Thank you to everyone who helped with the prep in the kitchen beforehand to put this event on. Silvia hopes to come back either later in the year or early next year, for more cookery sessions.

Serves: 4. Prep time: 10 mins. Cooking time: 30 mins

#### **Ingredients:**

3 tablespoons extra virgin oil  
2 cloves of garlic, thinly sliced  
1 fresh mild chilli, thinly sliced and partially deseeded, or pinch of chilli flakes/powder  
400g tin peeled plum tomatoes  
10 cherry tomatoes, halved  
1 generous tablespoon of fresh flat-leaf parsley, finely chopped plus extra to garnish  
4 fillets of sea bass or bream (or 8 red mullets – whole or filleted)  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

#### **Method:**

■ Heat the oil, garlic and chilli in a large, non-stick frying pan over a low heat. If you are using fresh chilli and like it spicy, then finely chop the seeds and add them, too, otherwise – for a milder sauce – remove all seeds. When the garlic starts sizzling, add the plum tomatoes (crushing them by hand or fork as you add them). Rinse out the tin with a little water and add the liquid to the pan. Season with a good pinch of salt and a pinch of pepper and cook over a low to medium heat, covered for about 20 minutes.  
■ Once the sauce has thickened, add the cherry



tomatoes and parsley and cook over a medium heat, uncovered, for 5 minutes.

■ While the sauce is cooking, rinse the fish under fresh running water and pat dry. Add the fillets to the pan, skin-side down, taking care not to let them overlap. Sprinkle a pinch each of salt and pepper over the fish.

■ Gently take spoonfuls of tomato sauce from the pan and cover the fish with them. Cover, and leave to cook over a low to medium heat for 5 minutes. Do not turn the fish as it may break.

■ Sprinkle more parsley on top to garnish and serve hot.

This event was sponsored by Girls Allowed

## CHOLLA BAKE

On Thursday 29th June as part of the Golden Week celebrations, we were privileged that Stephen White gave us a "Masterclass" Cholla Bake in preparation for our special Shabbat. What a fun time we all had, with bowls of dough being proved all over the Gertrude Preston Hall, in readiness for Stephen sharing with us

his masterful plaiting teaching skills. Laughter was a key ingredient of the evening and the shared photos of the finished creations could see a few "Bake-off stars" in the making! Our thanks to all the wonderful volunteers with the preparation beforehand, as well as those who attended.

*'Master Baker'  
Stephen White*



## JEWES BY THE SEASIDE

For some time I had wanted to hear PAM FOX talk in person about her book *Jews by the Seaside-The Jewish Hotels and Guest Houses of Bournemouth* and at last, thanks to the BCHC's Golden Week, I was able to join many others on Thursday 29th June when Pam presented a very interesting talk in the Shul. At the end of the evening I queued up to finally get my own signed copy of the book.

Pam introduced us to her research including many phone calls undertaken during the 'lockdown' months and COVID restrictions. I was amazed to learn how long it has been since the British Jewish population has been visiting and indeed living in Bournemouth – since the 1860s!! And it is thought that the Merivale Hall was the first Bournemouth hotel to be owned and run by Jewish people from about the 1890s??

Pam's talk traced the history of seaside holidays as well as the establishment of the Jewish community here. From her book I have learnt that Queen Victoria even sent her Prime Minister Disraeli to Bournemouth for R & R and like so many from various of the local Jewish communities who were in the audience at the week's events, I too together with my parents and other relatives spent many holidays here (including the month of August in my early teens in Talbot Heath School with Premier Summer Schools.)

As Pam and others affirmed we tended to stay in one of the 'top 8' hotels. My family were patrons of the Majestic but when my parents took up residence in Bournemouth we became firm Cumberland-ites, and living next door we were able to take advantage of the glorious last years of that popular Jewish hotel.

I was reminded of the strong women Pam mentioned, who were so crucial to the hotels' successes AKA 'the Grandes Dames of Bournemouth'. Fay Schneider and Bluma Feld are the two I knew best.

I was surprised to hear by general agreement that youngsters were not always welcome. However some of my best memories were going on a 'Jewish hotel crawl' with newly found friends. I never remember being turned away as I imagine those staying at the various Jewish hotels were temporarily 'swapping' their venues for afternoon tea, etc.

We also heard that local youngsters were known to have done the same.

The changing of outfits 3 times a day was recalled which I too had experienced (though I was too young to join the furs and diamonds set) and I remember very clearly eating on and off from dawn till midnight, as was the custom!

A real bonus for us during the evening was the gathering of many members of hoteliers' families who Pam had asked to contribute their memories.

My mother's parents had stayed at the Trouville



during the inter-war years, so I was delighted to hear Rhona Taylor explain her family's connection to it. As I had also stayed at the Green Park it was delightful to hear David Marriott and his sister Barbara Glyn recall some amusing past events there. Geoffrey Feld (Cumberland Hotel), Simon Keyne (Hotel Normandie), who with "locals" Larry Kaye and Jane Victor shared some of their memories and also Judy Lyons, nee Kay, of the Villa Judi and Lenny Segal whose parents owned the Florence in Boscombe.

Simon Lurie also added that the BBYO were welcomed into the Manchester Hotel in Queens Road when he was a local youngster. And apart from listening to these fascinating tales it was illuminating for me, a comparative new and irregular resident, to realise just how many members of our communities are actually Bournemouth born and bred.

I shall treasure 'Jews by the Seaside' as a unique record of my personal Bournemouth history which I now realise I share with so many others past and present, especially with those holiday makers and residents of the post war years, the Golden era of the Jewish Hotels of Bournemouth.

Susan Goldstein

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## BHC WEEKEND WITH CHIEF RABBI SIR EPHRAIM MIRVIS

*Shacharit followed by Baigel Breakfast*



The climax of the week was the visit of the Chief Rabbi, Sir Ephraim Mirvis and Lady Valerie Mirvis to Bournemouth. Altogether during the weekend he spoke six times, firstly to a well attended minyan for Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat. His sermon in the synagogue on Shabbat morning was emotive and inspiring when he spoke about the responsibility, "acharayult" we have as Jews, which should be at the heart of all we do.

At the lunch, catered by the Guild, which was attended by a hundred and thirty people, the Chief Rabbi continued the theme of responsibility, how we ensure Jewish education is strong in our communities. We should however have a global approach, "tikun olam", of how we should be conscious that climate change, the refugee crisis and international public health are some of the aspects that affect us all. He spoke again at the Seudah Shelishit after Shabbat Mincha.

Following a Baigel Breakfast on Sunday morning at the Synagogue, the Consecration of Phase 2 of the BHC Cemetery at Throop took place. After a short service in the Ohel, Rabbi Jesner said how the weekend with the Chief Rabbi had added lustre to the past week, giving greater significance to the unveiling of a plaque and the consecration of Phase 2.

The community owes a deep gratitude to the late Sam and Hilda Marks, whose son David was at the ceremony, and their efforts in finding and acquiring the land lead to the consecrating of this independent cemetery in June 1996.

Responding, Chief Rabbi Mirvis said, how from the time of Abraham when he searched for a dignified burial for Sarah, death has been an integral part of life in Judaism. The past Golden Week had shown Bournemouth to be a living, thriving, successful Jewish community, and one which is also able to provide a suitable burial ground. He praised the beautiful cemetery, one which will give extra comfort to mourners knowing that their loved ones are laid to rest here. He expressed his pleasure that so many people as a kehilla, come together to do what is right for this incredible community.

Led by Chief Rabbi Mirvis and Rabbi Jesner the congregants proceeded to the plot of phase 2 and made a circuit of the area whilst Psalm 91 was recited. Assembling together at the end a memorial prayer for the departed of BHC was recited, and Kaddish was said by David Marks. Simon Lurie closed the proceedings, thanking the Chief Rabbi for his participation in the weekend, and inviting him to return to Bournemouth for the opening of the new BHC complex when it is completed.

Continued from previous page

## BHC WEEKEND WITH CHIEF RABBI SIR EPHRAIM MIRVIS



*Consecration of Throop new phase*



*Rabbi Jesner, Chief Rabbi Mirvis, David Marks and Mahir Ozdamar, Trustee of BHC in the Garden of Contemplation*





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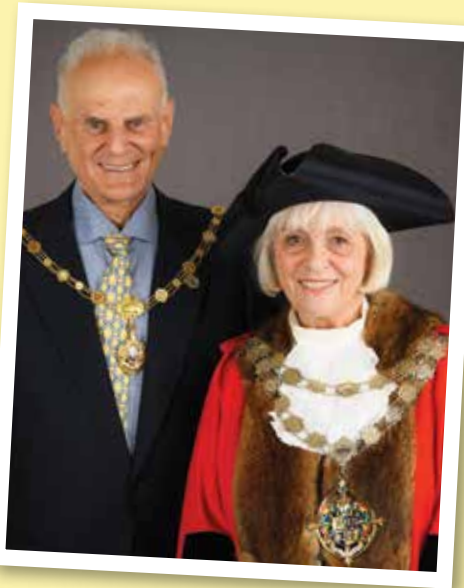
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## MAZAL TOV!

Councillor Anne Filer who was elected in May as the new Mayor of Bournemouth, with her husband, Alderman Michael Filer as her Consort. This is the second occasion Councillor Filer has been honoured with this position.



Raphael Godet, son of Natalie & Olivier Godet, grandson of Katarina and the late Brian Webb z"l, who was Barmitzvah on May 27th in Toulouse, France



Georgiana Yeoman, daughter of Karen & Dan Yeoman, granddaughter of Anne & Mahir Ozdamar who was Batmitzvah at Wootton Gardens on Shabbat 29th July



Hannah Richman who celebrated her 100TH BIRTHDAY on 21st June, looking at her greeting card from King Charles and Queen Camilla



Barbara Brafman celebrated her 90th birthday on 11th April



Jack Valencia celebrated his 90th birthday on 21st July



Claire Levey celebrating her 90th birthday on 23rd April



Cyril Woolfstein celebrated his 90th birthday on 15th May



## IF YOU NEED GUIDANCE, SUPPORT OR INFORMATION WITH A HUMAN FACE

Our Helpline can help you find the answers to the most challenging problems. We can tell you about our services: care homes, community centres, support for people living with dementia and their families or online events and activities. And if we can't help you ourselves, we'll help you find someone who can.

So if you need advice with a human face, call 020 8922 2222, email [helpline@jcare.org](mailto:helpline@jcare.org) or visit [jewishcare.org](http://jewishcare.org)



In association with Bournemouth Jewish Support Services, offering confidential support and advice to the Jewish Community in Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and districts. For more information, please contact 01202 298 817, [info@bjss.org.uk](mailto:info@bjss.org.uk) or visit [www.bjss.org.uk](http://www.bjss.org.uk).



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# COME AND JOIN US

The men's weekly Parsha Shiur', now well into its second year, takes place every Thursday 11.15 am- 12.15pm at 23 Grove Road BH1 3AS.

We explore and discuss the major events and questions in the week's Sedra through the eyes of different commentators whose ideas will hopefully take you by surprise and give you some totally new insights into the Parsha, as we uncover some of the more hidden explanations and, where applicable, their relevance to our own daily lives and even world events

Call EDDIE LAST on **07788 975356** if you require any further information

## Mitzvah Day

### 19<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 – SAVE THE DATE

Once again we are having a food collection in the Gertrude Preston Hall for Bournemouth Food Bank.

Additionally we are collecting hard back books in good condition for Kisharonlangdon

Further details to follow

### WHY WE ARE COLLECTING BOOKS ON MITZVAH DAY

The two charities Kisharon and Langdon have now merged. Both have provided supported living, personalised education and support, given assistance with employment and social activities over many years, which have allowed hundreds of adults and young people with learning disabilities and autism to live independent lives.

Run by Langdon "New Chapters" is a thriving online second-hand book business – with a difference. The busy 3,000 square-foot warehouse provides an opportunity for their Members with learning disabilities and autism to take their first step into the world of work, regardless of how complex their needs may be. Paid Langdon Members and volunteers work

side-by-side to run the business, sorting stock, scanning books and processing orders.

As well as picking up vital practical skills such as IT literacy on one of their 18 computers and dealing with customers, they gain great insight into the world of work including importance of punctuality, responsibility, hard work and interacting with their colleagues.

Livingness at New Chapters is about giving their Members experience, confidence and self-esteem to progress to working outside the Langdon community. Members can also work at New Chapters alongside other jobs, offering them more working hours and more valuable work experience.

## KOL NIDRE APPEAL – 2023/5784

This year we are again undertaking our own Kol Nidre appeal so that we can deliver more of your donations to the charities that matter to you - our Community.

The Board has listened and chosen three very deserving charities: an international charity, one Israeli charity and a national charity.

25% of your Donations shall be applied to BCHC Chesed – Welfare Account to support our own members in need.

This year's UK charity **Helen & Douglas House** is much loved for providing committed palliative care & family support services that together they can cope.

This year's Israeli charity is **UNITED HATZALAH OF ISRAEL**

A network of more than 6,500 volunteer medics helps save thousands of lives by rapid response.

We have chosen the international charity **World Jewish Relief** for their vital work worldwide, especially their ongoing rescue of Jews from across the world, and, helping them to resettle in Israel.

Please give charitably!

**To donate:**

• Visit [www.bhcsul.co.uk/donate](http://www.bhcsul.co.uk/donate) to donate by credit or debit card

• Online by bank transfer to: "Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation"

Sort Code: 40-13-07. Account Number: 82766205



Helen & Douglas House Children's Hospice cared for Simon Tamman's (Bournemouth Sephardi President) Granddaughter, Neve and her family after she was diagnosed with an incurable brain tumor in 2020. Neve was referred to Helen House for palliative care, to help with some of her symptoms and then for more support, once it was apparent that her treatment was not working.

Neve's mum, Emily said, 'From her first visit she really liked it. The hospice is a child's dream come true, with all the toys and one-to-one care.'

Neve continued to come for day visits and longer supportive stays until her death, at home in April 2023.

During the two years she came to the hospice, Neve formed a close bond with the care team. They helped to develop a palliative care plan to help manage her pain and symptoms.

They also provided support for the whole family, including her siblings. During her visits, Neve would enjoy baking and playing games in a familiar and safe environment.

Her mum told us that, 'she knew that the staff at the hospice were 'Neve's people' and that they were there for Neve whenever she needed them.'

Thank you for your generosity.



### UNITED HATZALAH OF ISRAEL

WHEN SECONDS COUNT...  
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When emergencies occur, rapid medical treatment increases chances of survival exponentially.

Using specially equipped motorcycle ambulances, **UNITED HATZALAH'S** network of more than

6,500 volunteer medics helps save thousands of lives each year across ISRAEL by providing medical treatment. Their humanitarian services are free, universal and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**UNITED HATZALAH OF ISRAEL** is the largest independent, non-profit, fully volunteer Emergency Medical Service organisation that provides the fastest and free emergency medical first response throughout Israel.

United Hatzalah's service is available to all people regardless of race, religion, or national origin.

With the help of their unique GPS technology and their iconic ambucycles, the average response time is less than 3 minutes across the country and 90 seconds in metropolitan areas.

**HATZALAH'S** mission is to arrive at the scene to provide the patient with professional and appropriate medical aid until an ambulance arrives, resulting in many more lives saved.



### World Jewish Relief



World Jewish Relief is the British Jewish community's international humanitarian agency

Inspired by our Jewish values, we save, support and empower people in crisis. Founded in 1933 and proud to have rescued over 65,000 Jews fleeing the Nazis, World Jewish Relief today supports vulnerable people from marginalised communities, suffering the consequences of conflict and disaster to survive and thrive. **WJR** work in 19 disaster affected countries and 23 towns in the UK.

This year, we are extremely grateful to the Bournemouth Community Hebrew

Congregation for supporting our Home Repairs programme in Eastern Europe. The level of ongoing, indiscriminate destruction by the Russian forces including on civilian homes and infrastructure means that our home repairs work is more vital today than ever before.

**World Jewish Relief** works with trusted, local partners to repair homes and support where the need is highest, bringing warmth, comfort, safety, and dignity to our older Jewish clients.

To date, we have repaired 2,619 homes across Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia. In the next 12 months, we plan to repair 284 homes in Ukraine."



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## PERSONAL

**BLOOM** – Rosamunde and Neal wish to thank Rabbi Adrian and Rebbetzen Pamela Jesner, organisations and friends for the many cards of good wishes, telephone calls, emails, plants, flowers, gifts and food received following their recent move, all of which were much appreciated.

**BITTON** – Dolly Bitton and her sons Steve, Eddie and Guy would like to thank the Rabbi, Rebbetzen and the entire Community for their messages of sympathy, support and condolences on the passing of our dear Mordechai z"l. We wish all the congregation a Shana Tova umetuka, and only good blessings for the New Year.

**KEEN Jeffrey Keen** – Our much loved husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather. Marilyn, Alexandra, Olivia, David and Sophia would like to thank Rabbi Jesner and Pamela, family and friends for the love, friendship and support shown to them during Jeffrey's long illness and subsequent passing. Bournemouth is known to be a compassionate community but the kindness we received was life affirming and we could not have asked for more. Thank you so much.

**KNELLER** – Audrey would like to record her profound thanks to Rabbi and Rebbetzen Jesner,

Marion Reichwald and everyone on Bournemouth Hebrew Guild, my dear family and friends both here and abroad and members of the Community for their flowers, cards, visits, 'phone calls, enquiries, emails, WhatsApp messages and last but not least the wonderful support given by my sister-in-law Angie and my beloved husband, Alan, during my hospitalisation and recuperation. I am so thankful and wish you all Shana Tova.

**WEBB** – Katarina, Natalie and Michelle, would like to express their deep gratitude to the whole Jewish community for their kindness and generosity during and after Brian's illness. Your words and actions are very much appreciated during this tough time.

**WEINBERG** – Linda Weinberg is sad to announce the passing in Israel on 13th August of her dear mother Jose, a JP in Bournemouth, and wife of the late Monty Weinberg z"l, who was founder of The Wootton Gardens Review which became Ruach.

**WOOLFSTEIN** – Cyril Woolfstein would like to thank his dear family, Rabbi and Rebbetzen Jesner and all his friends for the many cards, gifts and good wishes received on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

## L'CHAIM WHISKY GROUP



*L'Chaim Whisky Group summer barbecue hosted by Lucy and Ran Avissar, who chose whisky of fruit in keeping with the season*

*Yvonne Louise*

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# NEW YEAR GREETINGS

**BAKER** – Beverley and Steve wish everyone in the Community a Happy, Healthy New Year and well over the Fast.

**BARZILAY** – Diana and Richard wish their family, friends and all the Community a Happy and Healthy New Year and well over the Fast.

**BERLYN** – Loraine and family, wish Rabbi and Pamela Jesner, family, friends, and the entire Jewish Community a very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year and well over the Fast.

**BLOOM** – Rosamunde and Neal wish Rabbi Adrian and Rebbetzen Pamela Jesner and all Members of BHC a very Happy and Healthy New Year and an Easy Fast.

**BOURNEMOUTH HEBREW GUILD** wish Rabbi Jesner and Pamela, together with the entire community a Happy, Healthy, Peaceful, and safe New Year.

**BOURNEMOUTH SEPHARDI ASSOCIATION** wish the BHC and the whole of the Jewish Community Shana Tova Umetukah. A year of good health, peace, joy and a meaningful Fast. We look forward to welcoming you at our Sephardi Services and Communal lunches.

**BRADLEY** – Celia and Brian wish a Happy and Healthy New Year and Well over The Fast to Rabbi Jesner, Rebbetzen Pamela, The Executive and Board, family, friends and all members of BHC.

**BRYSH** – Isa sends greetings to Rabbi and Rebbetzen Jesner, to the Chair, Board, and members of the Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation and to all her friends for good Health and Happiness in the coming year. Leshanah Tovah Tikatevu.

**CITRON** – Tova and Lewis wishing a Shana Tova filled with good health, happiness, prosperity. Mazal and Brochot to all our family and lovely friends.

**COHEN** – Freda and Ken wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year and well over the Fast.

**COSKY** – Megan and Lewis send best wishes to all their family and friends for a Happy and Healthy year and well over the Fast.

**COWAN** – Eve and Debbie wish all members of BHC a Happy and Healthy New Year and Well over the Fast.

**DEXTER** – Marilyn and Bernie wish all family and friends a Shanah Tova and Peace for Israel.

**DWORKIN** – Carole wishes to send New Year Greetings to family, friends and the whole Congregation.

**DWORKIN** – Celia and Gerald wish all family and friends a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

**FELD** – Susan and Geoffrey wish all their dear family and friends a Happy, Peaceful and Healthy New Year.

**FRANSES** – Beverley and Jeff wish their family and friends a Happy New Year and well over the Fast.

**GOLDBERG** – Judy and Stanley wish our family and friends Health and Happiness for the coming year.

**GOLDBERGER** – Ilana and Michael together with all their family wish the Community a Happy and Healthy New Year and well over the Fast.

**GOULD** – Bettina and Keith wish the entire Community, family and friends, 'Chag Sameach' and a Happy, Healthy, Peaceful and Sweet New Year and well over the Fast.

**HARTH** – Syd and Hillary wish their family and friends a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year and an easy Fast.

**JACKSON** – Juliette and Ronald wish our dear family and friends a healthy and peaceful New Year.

**JESNER** – Rabbi Adrian and Pamela Jesner wish everyone at the Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation a Happy and Healthy New Year and well over the Fast.

**KAYE** – Mandy and Larry, together with their children and grandchildren, wish all their family, Rabbonim and friends, a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

**KEEN/WHELAN** – Marilyn, Alexandra, Olivia, David and Sophia wish Rabbi Jesner, Rebbetzen Pamela, family, and friends a Happy and Healthy Year and well over the Fast.

**KOSHER AT BHC** – Bournemouth Hebrew Community Shop wish the Rabbi, Rebbetzen and the whole Community a Happy and Healthy New Year. "Fresh Food. Fair Prices Why Pay More."

**LASSMAN** – Brian and Judy wish their family and friends and the entire Community a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

**LEVEY** – Adrian Levey and June Noah wish family, friends, and the entire Community a Happy New Year and well over the Fast.





**LINZ** – Lynne and David wish their Bournemouth family and friends a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**LIPSITH** – Yael and Colum and Eitan wish their family and friends a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

**LIPSITH** – Josie and Harvey wish all their dear family and friends a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

**LURIE** – Barbara and Simon wish the entire Community 'Chag Sameach' and a Happy, Peaceful and Healthy New Year and well over the Fast.

**LURIE** – Jean wishes family and friends a Happy, Peaceful New Year.

**MENTON** – Judith, Jonathan, Jessica and Joshua wish family, friends and all the Community a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**MILESTONE** – Sandra and Alan wish their dear children and family together with all our friends old and new, a happy and healthy New Year.

**MILLER** – Cyndy and Tony wish all our Bournemouth friends and family a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

**MYERS** – Hilary wishes everyone a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year and the joy of spending time with family and friends.

**OZDAMAR** – Mahir and Anne together with Karen, Dan, Harry and Georgie, and Liza, Gavin, Jacob and Elana, wish their friends and the Community a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

**PINNER** – Zara and Simon wish the Rabbi, Rebbetzen, Office team, Trustees, Executive, Board, volunteers, friends, neighbours and the whole Community a happy, healthy, peaceful and safe new year.

**REICHWALD** – Marion and Peter wish all our wonderful friends in Bournemouth a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

**REIN** – Corinne together with her family wish Rabbi Adrian and Rebbetzen Pamela Jesner, the Executive and the Community a Happy and Healthy New Year, and peace to all Israel.

**ROBERTS** – Di and Ellard wish everyone in the Community a Happy, and Healthy New Year.

**ROSE** – Tony and Coreen wish all their Bournemouth family and friends a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**SEGAL** – Lorraine and Len, together with Ann and Lisa wish their children, grandchildren, family and friends a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**STASZEWSKI** – Mandy and Michael wish the whole Community a Healthy and Happy New Year and well over the Fast. May all our prayers be answered for the good.

**STROM** – Elfrida and Leonard wish Rabbi and Rebbetzen Jesner together with all members of the Community and friends a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**TALISMAN** – Arnold and Rosalie wish Rabbi Adrian and Rebbetzen Pamela Jesner, and all their friends a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

**TAYLOR** – Leon and Rhona wish all their family and friends a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

**WALKER** – Gilian together with Bernie Cohen wishes Rabbi Jesner and Rebbetzen Pamela, together with all Honorary Officers of BHC and dear friends in the Congregation a Peaceful and Healthy New Year and well over the Fast.

**WEINTROUB** – Irene and Ivor with all their family wish their relatives, friends and all the Congregation a very Happy New Year and a Peaceful Fast.

**WHITE** – Marilyn and Stephen wish their dear children, grandchildren, family and friends a Healthy, Happy and Peaceful New Year.

**WOLFERS** – Edward and Paula wish family and friends Happy New Year.

**WOOLF** – Helen wishes family and friends a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year ahead.

**WOOLFSTEIN** – Hazel and Cyril wish our dear family and friends a very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year and well over the Fast.

# IN TRIBUTE TO BRIAN WEBB z"l

## The Hespel given by his daughter Natalie



I would like to say a few words about my father, Baruch David ben Avraham, or Brian, as you probably knew him. He was born in London on the 1st May 1942 to Chana Tovah Caplin, or Debbie as she was later known, and John Stanley Webb, or Stan, as he liked to be called. Brian did not meet his father until he was five years old as he was away serving in the Second World War, so for the first five years of his life he was brought up by five women, his mother and four aunts! He remained an only child, although he was close to his cousins until the age of 8 or 9 when he and his parents moved to Bournemouth on the recommendation of their doctor, as Brian suffered with frequent bronchitis and chest infections. They embedded themselves in the Jewish community, where my Grandmother taught Hebrew and was involved in all manner of charities, notably Magen David Adom. They regularly visited Israel throughout Brian's childhood and he became very involved in Bnei Brith.

Brian studied to become a primary school teacher and I am including a paragraph from the appraisal he received from the headmaster of the school where he carried out his Probationary year, Highcliffe County Junior school, in 1968, as I think that it sums him up as a person pretty well:

"Mr Webb is not a flamboyant teacher. He brings to his work a quiet thoughtful keenness, and is painstaking and conscientious in its preparation and execution. His unassuming modesty conceals considerable intellectual ability and determination and he tackles anything, from the teaching of swimming or French, to the working-out of projects involving large-scale and exciting craft-work, with equal determination and success. One of his chief assets as a teacher is the degree of warmth and sympathy which he shows in dealing with slow learners. He has a sensitive and sympathetic nature."

It was also at this time that Brian was asked to show a young lady from what was then Czechoslovakia, around the area whilst she was visiting family in Bournemouth. This was the start of a new chapter in his life as he was so taken by this beautiful and talented young lady that, after only three weeks he proposed, a rash move for Brian who always took his time to reflect and weigh up all sides of a situation before making a carefully calculated decision.

Whilst she initially said "no", the young lady did indeed agree after a few weeks and Brian and Katarina were married on 25th October 1970 in the shul at Wootton Gardens. Debbie and Stan were thrilled to welcome Katarina and her mother Klara into their family.

Brian and Katarina had two daughters, Natalie and Michelle. Katarina and Brian ensured that their daughters had a good education and that they were brought up in a loving, Jewish family. They were regular shul-goers and Brian brought his daughters to Cheder three times a week and also to learn Ivrit (Hebrew) with his mother on a Thursday after school. When I was only four, Brian

told me that I was now old enough to learn the 'Ein Keloheinu' and he patiently taught it to me over several evenings and it is something that I always remember on Shabbat when I sing it.

Brian was very involved in the Cheder, also took over as headmaster of the Cheder of more than 100 children at the time. He also organised events with the Reform shul which was rare at the time. Brian had many hobbies. He was passionate about history and of course, cricket – listening to it for hours on the radio or watching it on television, when he wasn't playing it himself or teaching it at school! He loved literature and read to Michelle and myself as small children, notably Enid Blyton and C. S. Lewis and I have continued this tradition with my own children.

Brian also played guitar and sang and liked to play snooker and later golf. He helped Katarina out with her baking and catering business, making many mince pies in the winter months and after taking courses, decorating birthday and Bar and Bat Mitzvah cakes.

Whilst Brian rarely showed emotion, it was clear that he was deeply in love with Katarina and was prepared to do anything for her even if it was clearly out of his comfort zone. Growing up, we took several trips to Czechoslovakia to visit Katarina's family and friends. These trips were by car, passing through France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany or Austria each time, before making our way behind the Iron curtain to visit a country that was very different to the one he was accustomed to. It was a big adventure and I believe that he would only have done such a thing for his beloved wife.

He retired early from teaching as he became frustrated with the bureaucracy and a very difficult headmaster, he nonetheless continued as a supply teacher. He became a counsellor with the Samaritans and also became deeply involved with the Masons, serving as master of his Lodge for two periods. Brian was highly invested in trying to make the world a better place for as many people as possible, as was seen by his devotion to teaching, counselling, Shul security and charity work. Later in life, with other members of the community, he and Katarina founded and ran the very successful Meet and Munch on a Tuesday at the Shul. This was very important to him.

Unfortunately his illness progressed, but, although Katarina did everything imaginable to help and support him, he moved shortly before Pesach to Zetland Court where specialist care was available.

Brian was an important member of the community, a solid friend and highly invested in whatever activity he chose to do, who will be sorely missed, especially by Katarina, Michelle, myself, my husband, Olivier and our children Dalia and Raphael.

## It is with great sadness that I am writing on the passing of Brian Webb

– האמת דיין

Brian though a quiet man had huge presence in our Kehila. He carried out his voluntary communal work with such great commitment, never complaining and just making it happen.

One could always rely on Brian, along with Katarina, to cheerily deliver in abundance. More recently with his good humour, at "Meet'n'Munch" always putting the needs of others before his own, though balancing that with high responsibility to his family life.

That family life went far beyond the Jewish Community and Brian was equally highly regarded both professionally in his school career, and socially, particularly as a well-respected Freemason at Sojourners Lodge 7894.

Brian was a leading light there too, and I saw for myself the encouragement that he gave to others during his years as Worshipful Master and in other honorary positions.

It was at the Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation

he truly gave his all, whether in his younger days helping on security, or teaching at Cheder, being present at services, helping at shul events, often behind the scenes, one just knew that Brian could be relied upon without question.

Brian too was a good organiser, and I fondly remember how he tried to regroup us middling gentlemen to reform a cricket team, cricket being one of his passions.

Though we did not come up to the former standard of the 5705 Cricket team, we had fun trying, all due to Brian's efforts.

In the recent year or so, Brian was unfortunate to be of lesser good health, though even so he was still regularly attending as a helper at "Meet'n'Munch."

There is so much to admire about Brian, and one hopes that we all too can achieve as much as he did for his family, his friends and the Community.

Brian has left us with a tremendous feeling of how one can live a full and meaningful life, ever being part of the scene though never wishing to take the limelight, his name is highly respected

Simon Lurie  
Chair of BCHC

## THE ONCE FORGOTTEN VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

It was my privilege on Wednesday 2nd August to represent the Bournemouth and Poole Holocaust Memorial Day Committee and the Jewish community at the annual Roma Holocaust Day event which was held at Kingston Maurward.

The event led by Betty Billington-Smith, who is a member of the Bournemouth and Poole HMD and the chair of Kushti Bok (a Gypsy and Traveller led organisation), has been held annually since 2017, and I have taken part in most of them.

This annual service commemorates the "Night of the Gypsies", in 1944 when 2897 Roma/Sinti perished in one day and night in Auschwitz-Birkenau at the hands of the Nazi regime.

The event included music from violinist Matt Tarling, readings and poems, from Kushti Bok members and a short presentation from myself.

I ended my presentation by saying that we must continue to ensure that the Roma/Sinti must no longer be the forgotten victims of the Holocaust. Events such as these and education should hopefully redress the situation.

There were many Civic representatives attending including our own Mayor, Anne Filer, with Mayor's Consort, Michael Filer in attendance.

Lynda Ford-Horne

**A date for your Diary -  
HMD 2024 Sunday 28th  
January at the Lighthouse,  
Poole**

# RABBI DOVID GEFFEN ז"ל

by his sister, Linda White



Thirteen years younger than me, my brother David was born in Boscombe Hospital half way through the popular tv programme "Wagon Train"! He was the miracle child for our parents Joan and Harry Wayne who, after my arrival, had been told they could have no more children.

In 1964 when David was three years old our family was the first from Bournemouth to make Aliyah. Our triumphant departure was preceded by a large Kiddush and various presentations by Rabbi Indech and the whole community (in those days rather larger than it is today) only for us to return in 1966 on Yeridah, a sad and difficult time in our family history.

David went to St Peter's Catholic School in Southbourne which subsequently and paradoxically produced three Orthodox Rabbis!

Who could have predicted that an eminent rabbi with an illustrious record of outreach work would blossom from this mischievous youngster who rather than show his school reports to his parents, wisely buried them in the garden rockery!

On leaving school David went to Leeds University to study computational Science. It was there he met his beloved, Nomi. Immediately after graduating David and Nomi made Aliyah, followed shortly thereafter by their wedding at the King David Hotel. Many people here in Bournemouth still remember David in his white suit dancing with Nomi in a spectacular version of "Singing In The Rain".

Shortly after getting married my baby brother wasted no time in enlisting in the IDF. There the powers

that he struggled with his surname "Wayne" pronouncing it "Vine."

Accordingly David decided to Hebraicise his surname to "Geffen" much to the initial dismay of our

Dad, although in fairness he subsequently embraced it.

Whilst serving he put his computing skills to good effect creating a teaching program to speed up weapon handling. The senior staff were so impressed that it was adopted throughout the army. On his discharge he was awarded a "Tsalush," the Israeli military equivalent of a Distinguished Service Medal.

Almost immediately David was recruited by Israel Aircraft Industries to work on the development of the Lavi, a new highly sophisticated fighter jet.

As time went on his religious beliefs became central to his being. At first he took a year's Sabbatical from work to study in Yeshiva. In the event he never returned. He took Semicha after completing Shas in just two and a half years of intense study. A remarkable achievement in so short a space of time.

Gorgeous children, Channa Rifka, Yonatan and Tehilla followed and he and Nomi were subsequently blessed with three grandchildren.

For the rest of his Rabbinic life he immersed and dedicated himself to fostering love, respect and understanding between all humanity.

David was an exceptional brother and, more importantly, an exceptional human being.

He has left me bereft.

## A Tribute – Rabbi Shaul Rosenblatt

Rabbi Dovid Geffen was a uniquely great human being. I have never met anyone quite like him. And those of you who knew him will understand exactly what I mean.

I came to the UK in 1992; a little boy with a dream of setting up a branch of Aish. It was a slow and painful process; gradually building a small group of committed students (some of whom remain stalwart supporters of Aish UK today) But that all changed when I met Dovid. He asked to meet because he had an idea. A summer Fellowship programme for UK students. I thought it was too soon. We weren't ready. I was nervous. But he was adamant and insistent. And his enthusiasm was infectious. I simply couldn't say no.

His certainty, his trust in God, his commitment, his can-do attitude made him into a bulldozer. A bulldozer for truth. And a bulldozer for the Jewish People. A joyous, sweet, genuine, loving, kind-hearted, darling bulldozer.

That year we had fifty students on our first Fellowships, eighty the year after and a hundred and twenty the year after that. He dragged me kicking and screaming to the success that Aish UK achieved. Aish UK simply would not have happened without him. He brought us such incredible vision; he cared about human beings, each and every one, as much as anyone I've ever known and he was such a wonderfully creative thinker.

If I were to make lists of human qualities and grade people in those qualities, Dovid would have come out undoubtedly on the top in at least three of my lists.

Firstly, love. No one loved like Dovid Geffen. He did not display love, he did not live love, he simply was love. God wanted to personify the quality of love in human form and so He created Dovid Geffen.

To know him was to be loved by him. The moment that you met him, he loved you. And you knew it. And it wasn't just a warm and fuzzy feeling, it was deep, passionate and intense. He swept you off your feet.

Secondly, I never knew someone as brave as Dovid Geffen. He was totally and utterly fearless when it came to doing the right thing. He didn't care what anyone thought, what anyone said, how difficult it was, the personal sacrifices involved. If God wanted it, nothing, but nothing was going to stop Dovid from doing it.

And thirdly, genuineness. No one wore his heart on his sleeve like Dovid Geffen. What you saw was what you got. He was pure and straightforward, not a bad bone in his body. His sole desire was to be of service – to other people, the Jewish Nation, to humanity as a whole, and, ultimately, to his beloved Creator.

Put those three qualities together and here's what you get. A man who would walk up to a stranger in the street, look them in the eye and tell them that he loved them – and they would believe him.

That was Dovid Geffen. And only Dovid Geffen.

His contribution to the Jewish People has been immense. And he has left us in his prime, loving life as much as ever. I can only think that God desired another precious soul in Heaven and so brought him home.

If anyone I have known is sitting with our forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, it is Dovid Geffen. Heaven must have expanded to accommodate his great soul.

## HANNAH LEVY HOUSE TRUST

In 1955 the Solomon Levy will and legacy stated that the Hannah Levy House was designated for the benefit of the elderly and infirm of Bournemouth, with a radius which included Bristol, Bath, Southampton, Portsmouth and Swindon.

Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation were administrators of the fund, but at that time were unable to be involved in the administration or running of the home. The Jewish Board of Guardians took over complete control of the home.

By 1985 it was Jewish Care who were running the home and they decided to close it due to the fact that there were historic losses year on year and a projected loss of £40-60k for the following accounting year. At this time BHC were still not able to be involved in the running of the home and it was in danger of imminent closure.

In order to continue to provide this vital service to the community an independent trust was formed in 1985. Trustees were appointed with the approval of the Charities Commission, and the Trust had the same brief as the original Solomon Levy will. The Hannah Levy Trust was formed to provide the service of a care home for people from all synagogues and organisations throughout the Wessex region.

The property and land belonged to the Cooper Dean Estate and they had granted a lease to the Jewish Board of Guardians. By the time the property was sold last year there were only thirty years left on the lease, which had a detrimental effect on the value of the property.

Despite the best efforts of the Trustees to purchase the freehold or extend the lease, this was refused by the Cooper Dean, as their ultimate aim was to redevelop the property.

At all times the trust took professional advice, although when advised to close six years ago due to the precarious financial situation, the home managed to keep operating for another few years, thanks to legacies received.

The trustees were personally and solely liable for all financial debts so when Covid hit and the situation became critical, with no funds left and a projected £500-£750k required annually, it was the extremely reluctant decision of the trustees and accountants that the home needed to close.

It has taken two years to complete the closure, staff redundancies, sale of equipment and finally the sale of the lease.

The Hannah Levy House Trust is now a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This has been set up to administer the net sale proceeds of the home. In accordance with the Charity Commission guidance, the new trust has a duty to provide charitable grants specifically for the elderly and infirm in the Wessex area, as per the original will. The trustees invite applications from all relevant charitable organisations, with the intention of making grants on a biannual basis (Rosh Hashana and Pesach)

The Trust will work closely with the BJSS, which is where individuals should apply. Organisations with specific projects should contact us directly.

BJSS info@bjss.org.uk. Tel:01202 298817

Hannah Lev:office@hannahlevyhousetrust.co.uk

*On behalf of the Trustees*

Susan Feld  
Councillor Lawrence Williams  
Lise Rossano  
Jo Solomons

Wishing our community a

*Shana Tova*



**CST serves British Jews, keeping our families, friends, and communities safe, so that Jewish life can thrive.**

We are guided, always, by the three words that make up our name: 'Community' and 'Security' and 'Trust'.  
These values drive everything we do. These are the principles by which we will be recognised.

**COMMUNITY** is who we serve  
CST serves every single British Jew, and every one of the schools, shuls, charities and events that together make up our community.

There is also the community of CST itself, meaning our marvellous volunteer security officers, supported by the charity's staff and trustees.

It is our Jewish communities throughout Britain, who provide all of CST's volunteers, all of CST's resources, and that permit CST to do this work on behalf of us all.

**SECURITY** is what we give  
The physical security we provide, with guarding and equipment, is obvious to everyone, but there's also our research; and everything that we do for the political and intellectual defence of our community.

All of the security only has one purpose: to enable each and every British Jew, and our families and communities, to **lead the life of your choice.**

**TRUST** is the bedrock of all this  
CST is a charitable trust, but we need more than just donations. CST needs our community, the police and government to trust us in our work.

**Trust is the basis for the partnerships that enable every aspect of our work.**

We are only ever as good as the last time we protected our community.

We are only ever as good as the help we gave to the last person who phoned us in tears because they, or their child, or elderly relative, had suffered a racist attack.

*We will always do everything we can to earn and deserve your trust.*

**That is CST's pledge in the service of our community.**



Scan the QR code to visit CST's social media accounts | [www.cst.org.uk](http://www.cst.org.uk)

National Emergency Number (24-hour) **0800 032 3263**

London (Head Office) **020 8457 9999**

Manchester (Northern Regional Office) **0161 792 6666**

CST is a registered charity in  
England and Wales (1042391)  
and Scotland (SC043612)



## Bournemouth Jewish Support Services – Focus with Flexibility

BJSS, is a small, local charity operated entirely by reference & DBS-checked, fully trained volunteers. We are highly focused on providing support, guidance and assistance to members of the Jewish community and their immediate family members, across Dorset. We currently have over 60 clients, each of whom may have one-off, ongoing and sometimes complex needs.

Alongside our client work, we are mindful of role across the community, and our responsibility to our volunteers.

### Community Engagement

We have put in place a Community Engagement programme, with nominated representatives from each of the Chabad, Liberal, Sephardi, Orthodox and Reform congregations. Working directly with BJSS, we can provide support to their vital welfare and chesed activities, where required.

### Volunteers

We held a highly successful volunteers' update meeting and refresher training event in July. It was a great opportunity for our volunteers to get together, share experiences and also refresh their skills. Focus areas included lone working, sit-to-stand and walking assistance and dementia awareness.

### External Network

We have continued to expand our external network with organisations, public bodies and charities that are compatible with and complementary to our operation and service model. We have recently progressed our connection with The Paperweight Trust, adding to our list of associate organisations.

We can offer voluntary roles to suit your availability and areas of interest. **We would love you to join us**, so do get in touch by telephone, by email, or via the enquiry form on our website. Do also get in touch if you, a family member, friend or neighbour needs our support.

**Telephone: 01202 298817**

**Email: [info@bjss.org.uk](mailto:info@bjss.org.uk)**

**Website: [www.bjss.org.uk](http://www.bjss.org.uk)**

Janet Gee, Team Leader and Treasurer



## A CALL FOR HELP AND INFORMATION

If you have family members or friends who are buried in Boscombe, Kinson or Throop then please help us to document their family connections and stories of their time in Bournemouth.

We have a team of people willing to help you complete a form online, on paper, or record an interview with you.

**Without your help these stories will be lost**

For more information please contact

Barbara Lurie 07932 123116, [barbara.lurie@bhcsul.co.uk](mailto:barbara.lurie@bhcsul.co.uk) or  
Howard Freeman 07866 736640, [howard.freeman@bhcsul.co.uk](mailto:howard.freeman@bhcsul.co.uk)

**The Living Stones Project Team**

# Mark Glazer

## Chartered Surveyor

If you need Survey or Valuation advice from a long established local Residential Surveyor and RICS Registered Valuer, please contact me for a chat

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# Israeli Dancing

Since 2001, a dedicated group of dancers have been meeting every week to enjoy beautiful Israeli music, exercise and socialise.

There is no age limit, and no fun limit. It's only for an hour so why not come along on Tuesday nights at 8.00 in the Menorah Suite. See the Shul notices for any changes of time or venue.

MARILYN DEXTER

## Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation Synagogue



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Our male voice Choir is in the process of re-forming.

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New members will be very welcome. If you enjoy singing and would like join us please email [erickurt@ymail.com](mailto:erickurt@ymail.com) or the Shul Office



Wessex Jewish Golf Society is Dorset based and welcomes golfers of every standard.

Come and join us for friendly and enjoyable golf on a variety of local courses

Please call  
Simon Pinner on **0780 253 5899** or  
Russell Brenner on **07836 316426**





## BOURNEMOUTH SEPHARDI ASSOCIATION

C/O Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation, Wootton Gardens, Bournemouth BH1 1PW

Email: [bournemouthsephardi@aol.com](mailto:bournemouthsephardi@aol.com)

August 2023

This is an advance notice to members of the Bournemouth Community.

Bournemouth Sephardi Association are pleased to announce that this year, they will be organising communal meals for both days of Rosh Hashanah and a light supper for Motzei Yom Kippur. The Detailed menu is now available to cater for all.

Thanks to your support and generous donations last year, the Bournemouth Sephardi Association are proud to announce that we have managed to invest in our new prayers room, "Sha'are Tzedek Hall" which is now benefiting the whole of the community.

We thank you for all your past donations and continued support.

As we are now refurbishing our kitchen, should you wish to donate/contribute, please use the following bank details:

Barclays Bank Sort Code: 20-79-29

Account No. 50230464.

Account name: **Bournemouth Sephardi Association**, quoting reference: **Charity Donation and your name.**

We would like to wish Rabbi and Rebbetzin Jesner, the Trustees, the Executive and all members of BHC and BSA, Shana Tovah Umetutah, filled with happiness and good health and well over the Fast.

**The Bournemouth Sephardi Association looks forward to your support for our Services, Communal meals and other communal activities, and please G-D to celebrating New Year 2023/5784 together.**

Best wishes,

Bournemouth Sephardi Association

## HOSPITAL VISITING



**PLEASE INFORM THE OFFICE IF YOU, A MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY OR A FRIEND IS IN HOSPITAL AND WOULD LIKE TO BE VISITED.**

**BECAUSE OF DATA PROTECTION LAW, THIS INFORMATION IS NOT GIVEN TO THE SYNAGOGUE OR TO OUR TEAMS OF VISITORS TO THE HOSPITALS.**

**TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE HOSPITALISED IS CONTACTED PLEASE PASS ON DETAILS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.  
PLEASE TELEPHONE: 01202 557433**

## ARE YOU DISPOSING OF ITEMS?

**If items are donated to Bournemouth Leukaemia Fund, Unit 2, The Sovereign Centre, Boscombe, on request it can be ensured that proceeds of the sale of your items will be given to Macmillan Cancer Care Hospice at Christchurch Hospital**

# Diary

## September 2023

Shabbat 2nd	Ki Tavo Sephardi Minyan TBC Kiddush to celebrate the 40th Wedding Anniversary of Michael and Roslyn Rose
Tuesday 5th	Meet N Munch
Shabbat 9th	Nitzavim Vayelech Kiddush to celebrate 80th Birthday of Adrian Levey First Night Selichot
Sunday 10th	1st Day Selichot Baigel Breakfast Stone Settings Throop The late Verity Olswang o"h – 2.00pm The late Anthony Specterman z"l – 3.00PM
Friday 15th	Erev Rosh Hashanah
Shabbat 16th	First Day Rosh Hashanah Sephardi Minyan Pre-booked Communal Lunch
Sunday 17th	Second Day Rosh Hashanah Sephardi Minyan Pre-booked Communal Lunch
Monday 18th	Fast of Gedaliah
Tuesday 19th	Meet N Munch
Shabbat 23rd	Ha'azinu Shabbat Shuva
Sunday 24th	Kol Nidrei Sephardi Minyan
Monday 25th	Yom Kippur Yizkor Sephardi Minyan Post Fast Pre-booked Meal
Friday 29th	Erev Sukkoth – Communal Meal in Succah
Shabbat 30th	First Day Sukkoth Sephardi Minyan Kiddush in Succah

## October 2023

Sunday 1st	Second Day Sukkoth Kiddush in Succah Oneg Chag in afternoon before Ma'ariv
Friday 6th	Hoshanna Rabba

Shabbat 7th	Shemini Atzeret Yizkor – Sephardi Minyan TBC Kiddush in Succah Oneg Chag in afternoon before Ma'ariv Kiddush given by the honorees after Ma'ariv and Hakafot
Sunday 8th	Simchat Torah – Honorees Celebratory Lunch
Shabbat 14th	Shabbat Bereishit Mevarachim Hachodesh
Sunday 15th	First Day Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan
Monday 16th	Second Day Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan
Tuesday 17th	Meet n Munch
Shabbat 21st	Noach Kiddush to celebrate the 60th Wedding Anniversary of Eta and Gerald Wainer
Shabbat 28th	Lech'lecha Sephardi Minyan TBC
Sunday 29th	Farewell Brunch in honour of Rabbi Adrian and Rebbetzen Jesner
Tuesday 31st	Meet n Munch

## November 2023

Shabbat 4th	Vayera Sephardi Minyan TBC
Sunday 5th	Stone Settings The late Andrea Katz o"h – Boscombe – 12 Noon The late Lucille Lemel o"h – Throop 2pm
Shabbat 11th	Chaya Sara Mevarachim Hachodesh
Sunday 12th	Baigel breakfast
Tuesday 14th	Rosh Chodesh Kislev Meet n Munch
Shabbat 18th	Toledot AJEX Shabbat
Sunday 19th	Mitzvah Day Stone Setting Throop The late Sylvia Sherwood o"h – 2pm
Shabbat 25th	Vayetzei Jewish Women's Aid Shabbat
Tuesday 28th	Meet n Munch

## December 2023

Shabbat 2nd	Vayishlach
Thursday 7th	Chanukah First Candle
Friday 8th	Chanukah Second Candle
Shabbat 9th	Shabbat Chanukah Mevarachim Hachodesh
Wednesday 13th	Rosh Chodesh Tevet
Thursday 14th	Eighth Candle of Chanukah

# Shanah Tovah!

from

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Judy and Brian Lassman are looking forward to welcoming you back to our superb seventh Pesach Holiday next Year.



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For more information or to reserve your place contact our Events Department between 9am - 5pm on:

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**pesach@queenshotelbournemouth.com**

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