

THE LIBERAL JEWISH SYNAGOGUE

## 'Death is nature's way of telling you to slow down'

*American life insurance advert, 1960.*

**By the time you read this LJS News, we should be enjoying high temperatures and high summer, but already the longest day will have passed. How quickly the year goes by!**

As I'm discovering, warning signs of growing old are that High Court judges, prime ministers and senior surgeons look dangerously inexperienced, that education has gone to the dogs, that cricket and tennis were more graceful in the past – and that the years are definitely shorter than they used to be, probably due to metrication and all the other new-fangled nonsense from the EU.

And soon it will be autumn, with our thoughts turning to the serious business of the High Holydays. But let us stay in Pimms and deckchair mood while we can, as I try to keep your attention with a few random reflections about cemeteries, Romantic poets and death, all prompted by recently spending a few days in Rome.

One of my oldest friends lives there, an Italian woman whom I have known since Oxford student days. Fortunately, our spouses like each other equally well, and our various children have done holiday exchanges. Isetta is an art historian, and a particular pleasure of staying with her and her doctor husband is that she will take us

to places that are off the well-worn tourist trail; the Pope's private chapel, for instance, the magnificent Villa Adriana, or this time, the Protestant Cemetery beneath the Aurelian Wall, where Keats was buried and Shelley's ashes interred.

It is a beautifully serene, well-shaded, contemplative place, in which non-Catholics, mainly English and German, have been laid to rest since 1738. It was Shelley himself, a few months before his own death, who wrote presciently in *Adonais* 'The cemetery is an open space among the ruins, covered in winter with violets and daisies. It might make one in love with death,

to think that one should be buried in so sweet a place.' There is something about a well-tended, time-weathered cemetery that prompts poignant but not necessarily gloomy thoughts about fame, mortality and life's transience, which is why Gray's *Elegy in a Country Churchyard* is one of the best-known, most quoted poems in the English language.

It is deeply moving to view the tomb of Keats, with its epitaph that he asked for – 'Here lies one whose name was writ in water'. The tombstone was erected by his faithful friend Joseph Severn, who died almost sixty years later and is buried in the same plot.

Keats died of consumption in Rome in 1821, and looking round the cemetery I was struck by how many young people met a similar fate while undertaking that 19<sup>th</sup>. century equivalent of a gap year, the Grand Tour. Rome in those days was a filthy, disease-ridden place – but so was London. In 1858, Parliament was forced to abandon its sittings because of the foul stench rising from the Thames, and Thomas Hardy, my favourite Victorian author, who left Dorset for London in 1862 and had lodgings for a time off Quex Rd. in Kilburn, described a foggy February day when it was 'almost pitch dark in the middle of the day, and

everything visible appeared of the colour of brown paper or pea-soup.'

Not far from Keats' tomb is Shelley's mausoleum. Standing in front of it, I remembered his lyric '*Lament*', with its arresting opening line 'O world! O, life! O, time!' that in three short exclamations probably says more about the painful mystery of the human condition than countless generations of rabbis, philosophers and theologians have managed in all their innumerable tomes.

I also remembered spending part of my honeymoon with

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*Torah ornaments from the Jewish Museum in Casablanca*

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Copy should be sent to  
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**Bob Kirk** is a very familiar face around the LJS as he and Ann have been involved in most aspects of community life for many years. At the AGM in June Bob was elected President of the LJS.

Here Bob explains how he came to join the LJS ... and how one thing led to another!

**Q. What was your first experience of the LJS ?**

A. It all started with Ann. Her sponsors, Millie and Sophie Levy – members of the LJS since Hill Street days – had brought her to St John's Wood Road on her first *Shabbat* in England. She was an active member of the Alumni Society (16 – 30 year-olds) and taught in the religion school. We met at a club for young Jewish refugees, and I was introduced to the LJS at an *Erev Shabbat* service run by the Alumni. It was a real eye-opener to find laymen thoroughly involved, including delivering the sermon. I was hooked – on Ann and on the LJS.

**Q. When did you become an active member ?**

A. By way of background: like Ann, I came to England on a Kindertransport in 1939, just before my 14th birthday. I met Ann a few months after demobilisation, and formally joined the synagogue shortly before our marriage in May 1950. I spent the next ten years catching up on missed education, finally qualifying as a Chartered Company Secretary in 1960. My first 'official' LJS activity was as Treasurer of the Synagogue Society; my ongoing involvement started when our elder son joined the Religion School and I was asked to help run the school. I became the administrator – a post I held for 12 years.

**Q. What other posts have you served in over the years ?**

A. When ULPS joined RSGB in sponsorship of Leo Baeck College, its Evening Institute, of which I was Registrar, became part of LBC – and I went with it. I became Secretary of the College in 1968, and in due course Chairman. I am an Hon Fellow of the College and, like all past Chairmen, a Hon Life Vice-President. At the LJS I have chaired the Education Committee and the Services Committee (twice). I served on the Design and Use Committee during the rebuilding, and chaired the *Shoah* Memorial committee. Ann and I are founder members of the members' choir – we sang in it for nearly 30 years; I am Treasurer for Restaurant Tuesday (which Ann leads) and the Library, where we are both on the executive committee. When Lou Steinman retired in 1993 we decided that his duties should be a congregational responsibility, and Martin Slowe, George Rigal and I became the first *Shammashim*. I now lead the team (with much support from Gene Price), and also organise member participation in services. I served on Council from 1968 to 1997 (with a four-year break), became a Trustee in 1982, and for six years was Joint Treasurer with Bob Beral.

**Q. What have you enjoyed most during your voluntary Service ?**

A. The most emotional occasion must be the dedication of Anish Kapoor's *Shoah* Memorial, eight years after our first meeting! Masterminding the LJS 75th Anniversary celebrations; jointly with Ann editing *LJS News*. Jointly with Anne producing *LJS News* for 6 years until 1997 was a wonderful experience making us feel at the heart of the Synagogue (*budding editors, note!*). Spiritually, Rabbi Dr Mattuck's rededication of the Sanctuary in 1951 after the war damage had been repaired and, exactly 40 years later, the dedication by Rabbi John Rayner of the new Sanctuary. Overall, having the opportunity to work with so many rabbis, lay leaders and members.

**Q. What are your hopes for your future Presidency ?**

A. The President has a unique opportunity to help raise the profile of the LJS in the wider community, as well as encouraging members' participation in synagogue activities. I have a listening ear – I shall be happy to put it at the disposal of any member wishing to bend it – for a grumble, a suggestion or, best of all, an offer of action. We have a Centenary coming up – there will be much to do.

I am amazed – and honoured - to be invited to become President. I'll do my best but shall, as always, be relying on Ann's support; any achievement of mine is hers as well.

**Liberal Judaism – Annual Memorial Services  
At the LJS Cemetery, Pound Lane, Willesden**

*Sunday 9th September at 3:30 pm*

An opportunity to remember loved ones with other members of the congregation and to visit the graves of those who have died in recent or more distant years. All are welcome to join us for this brief service of 25 minutes conducted by the LJS Rabbis.

# Shabbat and Tisha B'Av Services in July and August

| DATE  | RABBI                            | NOTES   |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
| Friday 6 July                                     | Mark Solomon                     | Chavurah supper with guest speaker <b>Theolyn Cortens</b> who will speak on "Angels" see below                              |
| Saturday 7 July<br><i>Shabbat Pinchas</i>         | Mark Solomon                     | Bar Mitzvah: Paul Harrison  |
| Friday 13 July                                    | Alexandra Wright                 |   |
| Saturday 14 July<br><i>Shabbat Mattot-Mass'ey</i> | David Goldberg                   | Bat Mitzvah: Grace Lieberman  |
| Friday 20 July                                    | Mark Solomon                     |   |
| Saturday 21 July<br><i>Shabbat D'varim</i>        | Alexandra Wright                 |   |
| Monday 23 July<br><i>Erev Tisha B'Av</i>          | The Rabbis                       | Service at 8:30 pm  |
| Friday 27 July                                    | Alexandra Wright                 |   |
| Saturday 28 July<br><i>Shabbat Va-etchanan</i>    | Mark Solomon                     |   |
| Friday 3 August                                   | Lay Reader                       | No Chavurah supper  |
| Saturday 4 August<br><i>Shabbat Ekev</i>          | David Goldberg                   | Celebration to mark <b>Michael Nathan's</b> 45 years as Chairman of the United Charities Fund and his 80th birthday         |
| Friday 10 August                                  | Mark Solomon                     |   |
| Saturday 11 August<br><i>Shabbat R'eh</i>         | Mark Solomon                     |   |
| Friday 17 August                                  | Mark Solomon                     |   |
| Saturday 18 August<br><i>Shabbat Shof'tim</i>     | Alexandra Wright                 | Bar Mitzvah: Andrew Helbig  |
| Friday 24 August                                  | 'tent' service with Anna Gerrard |   |
| Saturday 25 August<br><i>Shabbat Ki Tetze</i>     | Mark Solomon                     | Bar Mitzvah: Henry Irwin  |
| Friday 31 August                                  | Mark Solomon                     |   |
| Saturday 1 September<br><i>Shabbat Ki Tavo</i>    | Alexandra Wright                 |   |
| Friday 7 September                                | Alexandra Wright                 | Chavurah supper with guest speaker <b>Deborah Jaffe</b> author of <i>Ingenious Women</i> and <i>Victoria: a Celebration</i> |

Friday evening services start at 6:45 pm and Shabbat morning services start at 11 am.

## What can the word 'angel' mean for a modern Jew?

Friday 6th July at 6:45 pm

Please join us for an informal service and *Chavurah* supper followed by a talk by **Theolyn Cortens**

Theolyn's interest in angels began after an unusual experience over thirty years ago. Her experience led her to research spiritual experience with the Alister Hardy Religious Experience Research Unit. Alongside writing a dissertation on *Angels in Jewish Mysticism* for her MA, Theolyn has taken time out to write several books about angels for the 'mind, body, spirit' market. As Theolyn uncovered the Jewish mythology surrounding angels she became interested in Judaism - you could say it was the angels who brought her to the LJS!

*Dear Editors,*

Leslie Hore-Belisha was a Jewish Cabinet Minister in the 1930s. He was actually Minister of Transport and he instigated the "Belisha Beacon" at pedestrian crossings that we now call "zebra crossings". However I have been told by a very knowledgeable architect friend (no longer alive) that his family name was actually Horeb-Elisha! I wonder if anyone in the LJS congregation can throw any light on this?

*Yours,* Edna S Weiss.

## TISHA B'AV AT THE LJS

Monday 23rd July 8:30 pm

*I called on your name, O Eternal One,*

*From the depths of the pit.*

*You heard my plea: "Do not close your ears*

*To my cry for relief."*

*You came near when I called you,*

*And you said, "Do not fear."*

*(Lamentation 3:55-57)*

The 9th Av has become a focus for the many tragedies which have beset the Jewish people: from the destruction of the First Temple by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BCE, to the destruction of the Second Temple by the Romans in 70 CE; from the Expulsion from Spain in 1492 to the Destruction of European Jewry during the Second World War. The Book of Lamentations which is read or chanted on *Tisha B'Av* is a lament for Zion – deserted, bereft of her inhabitants who have gone into exile.

On 23rd July we will be reading verses from Lamentations as well as sharing other readings reminding us of other significant and defining tragic moments in Jewish history and helping us to reflect on our place in the world and how we speak to God.

## Death is nature's way of telling you to slow down *Continued from page 1*

Carole in the *Hotel Byron e Shelley* in Lerici on the bay of Spezia, where Shelley drowned in 1822. That honeymoon almost ended in ignominious divorce, because it was in the days of the £50 currency limit for foreign travel and I soon ran out of funds, to Carole's incredulous disbelief (and abiding conviction that I am hopeless with money) but fortunately Isetta came to our financial rescue.

Not even the most ardent member of the LJS Cemetery Committee would claim that our burial grounds in Willesden have yet achieved the peaceful serenity and dignified maturity of the Protestant Cemetery in Rome. The fire station next door, the seedy surroundings, and the Hindu Community Centre down the road, hardly resonate in the imagination like the antiquities of imperial Rome. But perhaps in two hundred years' time, when the grounds lie almost obscured by whatever architectural monstrosities Brent Council has erected around them in the meantime, and the names of those buried there

have mostly been forgotten, the curious visitor might wonder, for example, why two well-known public figures from the Wilson-Heath era, Lord Goodman, who was a synagogue member, and Lord Lever, who wasn't, have graves close by each other. And the reason is because Lady Lever came to see me after her husband's death and requested that he be buried as near to his long-time friend as possible, because, she said, 'They always loved talking to each other and now can continue their conversation for ever.'

That, paradoxically, is the consolation offered by a cemetery. Although its purpose is to commemorate death, in fact it speaks of the continuity that links generations of the past with generations of the present and future. A cemetery causes us to recognise our place in the scheme of things and hopefully to recognise the truth of Dr. Johnson's remark that 'It matters not how a man dies, but how he lives.'

David J. Goldberg.

## Were you there ???

A large photo of the Alumni Society Chanukkah Dinner in 1952 has been given to the Archive by Willie Kessler; most of the ca. seventy diners have been identified. The Menorah is shown alight, and there are party crackers on the tables. The magazine "The Digest" shows that an Alumni Chanukkah service was a regular event in the 1950s and it was usually followed by a dinner and dance in the Montefiore Hall, cost 7/6d. The Society thrived from 1920 to the mid 1970s.

If you have memories of this or other youth events in the past I should be glad to have them for the archive.

*Bryan Diamond* - Archivist

## The LJS and Jewish Built Heritage

The LJS Library has purchased a copy of "The Jewish Heritage in England" by Dr Sharman Kadish (2006). This celebrates, with colour pictures, the architectural heritage of 350 years of the Jewish community. It is based on the authoritative *Survey of the Jewish Built Heritage* and covers more than 300 sites on a regional basis. It includes entries for the LJS and its cemetery. I contacted the author and asked for correction of her description of our Ark.

Dr Kadish visited our Archive and asked for copies of plans, an article in the *Architectural Review* in 1925 and photos of the former building on the present site, and I am obtaining these, for deposit at the National Monuments Record at Swindon, the public archive of English Heritage.

*Bryan Diamond* -Archivist

## BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir - the Hindu Temple at Neasden

Sunday 8th July at 2:45pm for 3pm tour  
All Welcome

The LJS Social Action Committee has organised a visit to the largest Hindu Temple outside India, in North London. Built in five years and elaborate and intricate in its carving, the Temple opened in 1995. Through our guide and their exhibition we will gain a greater understanding of the Hindu Faith. The visit to the Temple is free and will last about 40 minutes; optional entrance to the exhibition costs £2 (£1.50 for concessions) and will take some 20 minutes or so more.

The Temple address is 105-119 Brentfield Road, Neasden, London NW10 8LD. There is a car park, cafeteria and cloakroom. Please refer to their excellent website <http://www.mandir.org> for the location and how to get there. Please note also their dress code and other directives on photography and bags. We will meet in the foyer by the reception desk.

Please email Sue Bolsom if you would like to join the group. If you do not have access to the internet and would like directions or more information, or if you cannot get there independently and would like a lift, AND please IF YOU ARE ABLE TO OFFER A LIFT please also contact Sue Bolsom. Her email address is SueBolsom@tiscali.co.uk or phone 020 7267 5444.

## SELICHOT SERVICE Saturday 8th September at 11pm

A solemn preparation for the Days of Awe, this beautiful late night service will take place in the Sanctuary led by the Rabbis, with singing led by Rabbi Mark Solomon and a member of the LJS Choir accompanied by organist Tim Farrell. The service lasts about an hour.

If you would like a lift to or from this service please contact the LJS Office on 020 7286 5181.

## Registration for Religion School

If you have children aged 3½ or over and would like them to attend our Religion School, please contact Abi Bloom, the Education Secretary, at the LJS for registration forms. For information about our school, please speak to Abi on 020 7432 1284, or to Jan Roseman, Director of Education. We usually contact families whose children do not attend classes to invite them to join - but sometimes parents forget to tell us about new babies and they do not appear on our data base! If you haven't heard from us, let us know about extra children!!!

### Correspondence Course.

Last year we welcomed Avril Halle as the new co-ordinator of the Correspondence course. Unfortunately Avril had to step down and Jan Roseman has now taken on the task.

If your child is not able to attend our LJS Religion School on Shabbat mornings - because he/she is at boarding school or at a school where Saturday attendance is compulsory; lives too far away to make the trip to the LJS on a regular basis; has a vitally important Saturday commitment; or might be temporarily housebound or out of the country, please contact Jan Roseman to find out more about the correspondence course. (Please note - this is NOT an alternative to Religion School attendance - it is a facility we offer only to those students who GENUINELY can't come on Shabbat) The course covers Jewish knowledge and history, but not Hebrew at present. There is a charge for the course.

## News from the Israel Abrahams Library

If you have looked at the trolley that stands outside the Library on a Shabbat morning, you will have noticed that we have some new books. It is always an interesting meeting when the Library Committee chooses books. The last meeting was held soon after Jewish Book Week, so that we had many new titles to choose from. To whet your appetite here are a few of the new book titles:

*Buried by the Times: The Holocaust and America's Most Important Newspaper* - Laurel Leff

*Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine* - Ilan Pappé

*Tea with Einstein and Other Memories* - William Frankel

*Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity: Essays* - Stefan Reif

*Maus: a Survivor's Tale* - Art Spiegelman

*When I Grow Up* - Bernice Rubens

There are many more new books - do come and look. The Library is open on Shabbat mornings and is manned by volunteers. You may borrow a book for one month and we also have videos, DVDs and CDs. There is now a printed copy of the Library Catalogue on the computer table. This should help members of the congregation who find using a computer somewhat of a problem!

## The LJS Israel Group

invites you to a Shabbat morning breakfast with our special visitor from Israel

**Prof. Abraham Melamed**, Head of the Dept. Jewish History and Thought, Wolfson Chair in Jewish Thought and Heritage, University of Haifa who will speak on

*The Challenges Facing Progressive Judaism in Israel Today.*

10 am Saturday 14 July 2007 in the Montefiore Hall

## Be at 'Yiddishland' in London this summer

Why not spend some of your summer holiday singing, playing, dancing, reading, writing and speaking Yiddish at the JMI summer schools for klezmer and Yiddish right in the heart of London?

**The courses are:**

### JMI KlezFest London

Sunday 12th - Friday 17th August (daily 9:15 am - 11 pm)

### Jewish Song Summer School

Sunday 12th - Friday 17th August (daily 9:15 am - 11 pm)

### Ot Azoy! Yiddish Crash Course

Sunday 19th - Friday 24th August (daily 9:30 am - 6:30pm)

For more information Tel 020 8909 2445 Fax 020 8909

1030 e-mail [jewishmusic@jmi.org.uk](mailto:jewishmusic@jmi.org.uk)

For more details and to register online go to [www.jmi.org.uk](http://www.jmi.org.uk)

## CALLING ALL LJS STUDENTS

**If you are returning to university or going to be a fresher at university or college this coming September, please don't forget to let the LJS office and the Rabbis know where you will be studying.**

*Do you know that....*

- As a student, you are entitled to a free High Holyday ticket to any progressive synagogue in the country?
- Some universities have a specially appointed student representative from the progressive movements who will look after the needs of students from Liberal synagogues?
- There is a student fieldworker employed by Liberal Judaism who will keep in touch with you?
- There will be an opportunity to meet with other LJS students when you return to London in December/January?

Your Rabbis at the LJS are always delighted to be invited to come and speak at a Jewish Society event at your university, wherever you are in the country?

Why not give the Rabbis a ring at the Synagogue once you are settled in and invite them to come and give a talk or take part in a service one Friday evening? 0207 286 5181 or e-mail [ljs@ljs.org](mailto:ljs@ljs.org) for the attention of the Rabbis.

# COMMUNITY CARE at the LJS



## INTRODUCING ALEX WEISS

*"If you want to get something done, ask a busy person."* LJS News talked to **Alex Weiss**, Chair of the Bereavement Support Group (amongst other activities).

### **What is your background, Jewishly?**

I grew up in Stanmore and belonged to the United Synagogue. My husband Tony was a member of Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue, and we joined the LJS 11 years ago when we got married.

### **Your family deserve medals for all you do at the LJS!**

#### **What led to your active involvement?**

About 5 years ago I took part in the Adult *B'nei Mitzvah* course led by Michael Simon. One Shabbat, Michael told us about a Volunteers' Event taking place the following evening, which we attended. And now....Tony is the LJS Security Officer and a Council Member, our daughter Caroline is in the Religion School, and I serve on several committees.

#### **You're on the Members' Committee, the Education Committee and the 4 Cs (Community Care Co-ordination Committee) as well as chairing the Bereavement Support Group and being a member of KIT. Is there a link between the various roles?**

Very much so. It's enormously helpful to have an overview of what the various 'caring' groups are doing. It helps my work with the Bereavement Support Group for me to be aware of as many members of the congregation as possible, so being on the Education Committee and the Members' Committee is of benefit in this regard.

#### **Could you tell us more about the Bereavement Support Group? When was it started?**

It was set up by Rabbi Kathleen Middleton and our Community Care Co-ordinator, Liz Crossick, about three years ago. The group now comprises eight members, and we meet every eight weeks. Those of us involved from the outset attended a training course run by a professional bereavement counsellor, Bobby Riesel. We receive ongoing training from Liz, as well as input from Rabbi Wright and Rabbi Middleton. And we're hoping to bring Bobby back to run another course in the autumn. So although we're not formally qualified as counsellors, everyone in the group has been trained, and there is a professionalism about our approach. For example (to use the jargon) our relationships with bereaved congregants are 'boundaried' and confidentiality is an important principle.

#### **How does it operate?**

We have a clearly defined process, based on the traditional Jewish concept of the 'bereavement year'. When someone is bereaved, the Rabbi who has conducted the funeral will be in touch with the bereaved congregant again during the first month to offer support.

About eight weeks after the bereavement, Liz Crossick will contact the Rabbi involved to ascertain if the congregant might

appreciate the support of the Bereavement Support Group. If they would, Liz and the Rabbi will identify a group member to contact them. This will be a person that the congregant doesn't know, as it's often easier to speak freely about your needs and feelings to someone who is not a relative or a friend. The Rabbi will then write to the congregant repeating their offer of help, telling them about the Bereavement Support Group and giving the name of the bereavement visitor who will be contacting them to see if they can be of assistance. The bereavement visitor phones the individual, with the aim of tuning in to their needs. This may lead to one or more visits. Alternatively, the bereaved person may say, "Thank you so much for calling, but I really don't need any help. I have a very supportive family." Even in the latter case we will ask permission to phone again in a few months. Experience has shown that a person's situation can change, and sometimes people who cope well and/or have lots of family support initially, really do welcome contact further down the line. When we visit, our job is to listen. We note any key times when the bereaved person is likely to appreciate our support, such as the birthday of their loved one and times such as Pesach or Yom Kippur when their loss will be keenly felt. Finally, we endeavour to support the bereaved person when there is a stone-setting or interment of ashes. When it's the first anniversary of the death, we make a point of remembering, which is usually much appreciated.

#### **Does the bereavement visitor stay involved after the 'bereavement year' is ended?**

Our hope is that by that time we will have helped the individual (re)integrate into other aspects of Synagogue life. For example, someone who felt little need for contact with the LJS whilst their partner was living, might appreciate Restaurant Tuesday or Video + Tea once they are on their own. If appropriate, we may suggest a link-up with the Keep In Touch Group. However, every individual is different, and moves through their grief in their own way. Indeed, some people may only start to need help after a year.

#### **Traditionally, LJS members have a reputation for being "Brave and British". How have they responded to the existence of the Bereavement Support Group?**

We've had very positive feedback, both in the form of letters and verbal thanks. But we're extremely concerned to respect people's privacy, and not to intrude where we're not required.

**THE FRIENDS OF PROGRESSIVE  
JUDAISM IN ISRAEL AND EUROPE  
invite you to a talk by Rabbi Dr. Andrew Goldstein**

## **"Our Time Has Come"**

**Tuesday 3rd July at the LJS**

The talk will take place after the Friends' Annual General Meeting which starts at 7:30 pm. Following that brief meeting there will be a break for a glass of wine and light refreshments and then the talk

# LJS People



We wish the following members of the Religion School a very happy birthday in July and August

## July

**Hannah Ballheimer** 2 July 1999  
**James Ballheimer** 2 July 1999  
**Chiara Chung-Halpern** 25 July 1999  
**Ines Chung-Halpern** 21 July 2001

**Jacob Collett** 18 July 2001  
**Nicole Fingerhut** 12 July 1999  
**Noah Florin-Sefton** 8 July 1994  
**Olivia Goldenberg** 7 July 2002  
**Alexander Grable** 25 July 1992  
**Andrew Helbig** 14 July 1994  
**Henry Irwin** 27 July 1994  
**Joseph Kleeman** 1 July 1998  
**Zoe Mendelsohn** 18 July 1998  
**Emil Torday** 9 July 1998  
**Daniel Toye** 26 July 2001

**Jordan Welch** 10 July 1995

**August**

**Rachel Berlingieri** 31 August 1998  
**Emma Finn** 8 August 1998  
**Linnea Hawkings** 5 August 1994  
**Natassia Hawkings** 5 August 1994  
**Victoria Lazarus** 25 August 1993  
**Rebecca Snider** 29 August 1995  
**Jasmin Weston** 9 August 1994

## Congratulations to:-

**Delphine and Mark Lyttleton**, on the birth of their daughter Margo Sarah and grandmother **Andrea**

**Sylvia Bettermann and Jeffrey Nathanson** on the birth of their daughter Stella Elizabeth

**Jozelda and Adam Sparks** on the birth of their son Victor and to grandma **Rita Adler**

**Walter Homolka** on his appointment as Adjunct Full Professor at the Department of Philosophy of Potsdam University. His Inaugural Lecture was entitled "Judaism and the 'Historical Jesus' Debate - from Abraham Geiger to Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich".

... the LJS Quiz team for their victory in the recent Liberal Judaism quiz: the winning team was **Sue Bolsom, Peter Fidler, Jeanne Myers, Janet Ramsey, Joan and Martin Salter, Richard Schmidt** and **Rabbi Mark Solomon** and was organised by **Judith Diamond**. This means that the LJS will be hosting the competition next May and any volunteers to be on next year's team; to set questions, mark answers or help serve tea etc will be most welcome. Please contact Judith Diamond via the LJS Office.

## Donations

We are grateful for the following donations to the Synagogue:-  
**Sally Warburg and Jill Dresden** on behalf of the Elliott Art Group

**Marzy and Joe Bauer**, to thank everyone at the LJS for their kindness, especially Rabbi Wright

**Lady Delfont**, on behalf of the Delfont Foundation for the music in May concert

**Gill Charkin**, in memory of her parents-in-law

**Willie and Jo Kessler** in honour of their 55th wedding anniversary

**George and Margaret Rigal** on the occasion of the wedding anniversary of Willie and Jo Kessler

**Joan and Martin Salter**, for the kiddush in honour of Willie and Jo Kessler

**Peter Lighte**

**R.B. Goldstein**

**Miranda Lewis**

and for the following donations to the Flower Fund

**Edi Fuchs and Joany Weinberg**, in memory of their parents Margot & Carl Weinberg

**Valerie Gaynor**, in memory of her mother, Elsie Slowe and for the following donations to the Israel Abrahams Library

**Anita Schwartz**

**Walter Kellerman** who has donated a copy of his book to the Library.

## Bereavements

We extend our sympathy to those who mourn:-

**Ann Rosen**, sister of Phil Rosen

**Leslie Kaye**, brother of Binnie Campbell

## News from Restaurant Tuesday

Louise Golding donated the May lunch in celebration of the B'nei Mitzvah of her twin grandchildren, Jessica and Rory. Louise brought her daughter, Paula - mother of the twins - with her. Paula was brought up at the LJS and it was a real delight to welcome her amongst us on such a happy occasion. Thank you Louise for enabling us to provide a really special lunch. Our next lunch is on Tuesday 17th July. As usual if you are on our regular list and cannot come please let Alice in the Office know on 020 7286 5181. We are always very happy to welcome 'first-timers', you can be sure of a friendly welcome, but, again, please let Alice know if you are coming. **Please note there will be no lunch in August - too many cooks on holiday!**

## LONDON SOCIETY OF JEWES AND CHRISTIANS

in association with The London Diocesan Council For Christian-Jewish Understanding invites all members, friends and guests to

## POETRY IN POETS' CORNER

a relaxing evening of drinks, food and poetry on

**Wednesday 11th July at 6:30-8:30 pm**

At Westminster Abbey

Our poets for the evening will be:

Ruth Padel (Chair of the UK Poetry Society, 2004-6)

Elaine Feinstein

Hugh Hellicar

Alain Rainer

# MUSIC IN MAY

On Sunday evening 20th May a large audience at the LJS were privileged to hear **David Wakeham**, the well-known baritone and synagogue member giving a recital of Lieder and Operatic Arias accompanied by pianist Mark Packwood. Rabbi Alexandra Wright introduced the recital with a reminder of Mahler's Jewish origins and the well balanced programme began with Gustav Mahler's "Songs of a Wayfarer" followed after the interval by Ralph Vaughan Williams' "Songs of Travel". During the interval, excellent refreshments were served by Justin Rubenstein and the recital ended with two wonderful Verdi excerpts from *Don Carlos* and *Nabucco*. David Wakeham's warm dramatic voice reached to all parts of the Sanctuary and, following rapturous applause, the audience was lulled with an encore of Brahms' cradle song, sung gently and beautifully. For those people lucky enough to have obtained tickets, they will be able to hear David again singing as Nabucco at Holland Park Opera over the summer.



*Jocelyne Tobin*

## What happened at Council?

*Here is a summary of the issues discussed at the May meeting of the LJS Council*

A few issues discussed at the May meeting were;

**Young People** Rabbi Wright reported that Liberal Judaism (formerly ULPS) is directing resources to out reach to university students. She stressed that The LJS needs to put more effort to attracting and keeping the post-Kabbalat Torah generation.

**Fair Trade** Council ratified the Social Action Committee's proposal that all tea and coffee bought by the LJS should be Fair Trade. Council recommended that the SAC hold an event to bring the importance of buying fair trade goods and also highlighting the issues and arguments around the use of fair trade goods to the membership.

**The John D Rayner Memorial** Ongoing discussions have focussed on upgrading facilities for education in honour of Rabbi Rayner's memory. An architect has been commissioned prepare an initial visualisation of ideas discussed so that the congregation can be consulted and comment. The intention is to launch an appeal as possible.

**Honorary Officers** Ellen Schmidt (Chairman) and Tony Yablon (Treasurer) informed Council they intend to step down from their roles by the end of the year. As charity trustees Council members carry legal responsibility for the running of the LJS, and, while very rewarding, the demands involved, particularly on the Officers, can be very great.

Members are reminded that a copy of the minutes of Council meetings is available in the library.

### Another Triumph for Elliott Art Group

The Elliott Art Group presented the 11th annual exhibition of their work in the Montefiore Hall on 2nd May. The Preview, as usual, was attended by over 200 people, including Rabbi Alexandra Wright and the evening was a great success.

## A Brief Word from the Honorary Officers

Some of you will read and understand the full audited accounts which, as usual, are available from the Synagogue office upon request. Others, no doubt the majority, will prefer to obtain their information from the Quick Guide to the Accounts to be found in the Annual Report enclosed with the June Newsletter.

While it is good news that, after many years of deficits (some substantial) we recorded a surplus in 2006, it must be borne in mind that the surplus is very small (less than 1% of annual expenditure) and may prove difficult to sustain.

The increase in subscription income and donations achieved last year is already showing signs of faltering this year. Some of the savings in expenditure achieved last year affected quality to an extent. Council regretted in particular having to make cuts in relation to the Newsletter and the Choir. Arguably efforts should be made to reverse at least some of those savings whenever possible. However, we also have to bear in mind the substantial expenditure required, now and into the foreseeable future, on the maintenance and renewal of the Synagogue building and its plant and machinery. All these factors have been considered by us and by Council over a period of time and the inevitable conclusion is that further control of expenditure cannot be avoided.

A great deal has been achieved so far and, with the total support of Council which we deeply value, we are determined to continue our efforts to secure a healthy basis for the financial future of the Synagogue.

We are taking this opportunity to remind members that copies of Council minutes are available in the Library for those who wish to keep abreast of our deliberations. We are also now suggesting to members that they might wish to put forward items which they would like Council to consider adding to its agenda.

*Ellen Schmidt, Tony Yablon and Barbara Fidler*

The LJS is a constituent synagogue of Liberal Judaism  liberal judaism