

L'CHAYIM

The Newspaper of Southport and District Reform Synagogue

Message from The Chairman:



We have a beautiful synagogue which is now closed until further notice due to the corona virus pandemic. I was personally phoned by Senior Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner and nicely told to fall in line with the other Reform Synagogues in the U.K. and shut our doors. We had kept our options open to the very end to have a service with social distancing being practiced (our Synagogue is big enough to allow for this with the typical numbers of congregants involved in a shabbat service). We have the distinction of being the last Reform Synagogue in the U.K. to close its doors. Of course, I was monitoring the medical situation closely, and still am. It is very difficult to know when the pandemic restrictions will be lifted. We will be following guidance by Reform Judaism.

The Synagogue is not about the building. It is about our community. We individually apply

‘We have the distinction of being the last Reform Synagogue in the U.K. to close its doors’

Reform Judaism values to ourselves, and the community consists of ourselves as individuals. We share prayer, culture, and friendship... with the odd meal thrown in here and there! I hope that you will share your news and keep in contact with Synagogue members using electronic communication, including the telephone, and if needs be, the time tested paper post. Looking after each other is a fundamental part of our Synagogue. Whilst we are in lock-down, knowing that your difficulties are shared with others, helps you as much as the person contacted.

The Synagogue has provided links to on-line services, the siddur, and Jewish subjects of interest to you. I hope you will take advantage of these links. Lisa, in the Office, is predominantly working from home. Life for most of us continues, however, it is with the greatest of sadness that Stephen Pavion has lost his life to Covid-19. As a community, we mourn his loss, respecting the requested privacy of Lynne, and the family as they try to come to terms with their new reality.

Keep Safe.

Dr Selwyn Goldthorpe.

EDITORIAL



Selwyn and Gillian Goldthorpe,
editors of L'Chayim

It is difficult to produce a news letter when the Synagogue is closed- so we have found out! These are unprecedented times. Who would have thought that all places of worship would be closed? We are doing our best to keep you informed about what is happening in the community.

Although a memorial service will be planned to celebrate the life of Stephen Pavion we felt we should not let his death go unmarked within L'Chayim. We are all in a state of disbelief and shock that he could have been taken away from us so prematurely.

There is a lot of depressing news. Life does go on. We have tried to offset some of the sadness and difficulties we are experiencing by a few pages of humour. It is one mechanism of coping with catastrophe. For anyone needing help with bereavement, we have included the RJ on-line service (page 7). **Anyone wishing to have a private chat, please feel free to phone us.** Thanks also to Anne Kletz for keeping in touch with our housebound members. Mina kindly supplied us with an article about what it means to be alone (pages 6-7).

RJ does have a full time-table of religious TV, services, study, and personal counselling on-line.(page 5.)

We are pleased to remember the joy of Purim at the Synagogue (page 8). Shelley has written about the Kindertransport (page 13). This brought back memories of us visiting the very sculpture she mentions when we visited Berlin. There is also the famous Holocaust memorial in Berlin.

We regret not being able to have a community seder this Pesach. All preparations were made (even some of the shopping had been done in Manchester) and then ...the lockdown! We hope you will read what happened to our seder (page 25). We can only describe this as, 'different'!

As we say below, now would be a good time to contribute to the next edition of L'Chayim. For a lot of us we have more time available as we are 'shielding' or self isolating. I (Selwyn) decided to write a page for L'Chayim about the Corona virus- I mean everyone else is writing about the virus! I am following the various developments within the medical press, and am very proud of our daughter who is on the front line of helping those hospitalised in New Zealand (page 26).



We hope you like the new layout of L'Chayim



Have your say the editors welcome letters and articles, though not of a political nature, and reserve the right to edit. Please send to the Office or gillygold@yahoo.com

Memories of Stephen Pavion

Who passed away, peacefully, this month.

By Martin Pavion and family

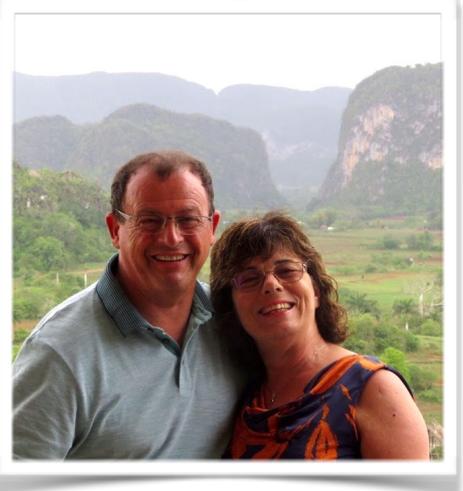


Foremost, Stephen was a family man with an enthusiasm for his four grandchildren that belied his age. We still marvel at how he had the energy to take his four grandchildren swimming - giving the rest of us a much-needed break. It's been heart-warming going through old photos and noting that Stephen was always beaming whenever he was around his grandchildren. We still smile thinking of him braving trampolines, wrapping up warm for our family's traditional new year's walk along the pier, and snuggling up with the kids on the sofa with their favourite Disney movies.

Stephen enjoyed years of great health. He and Lynne frequently travelled; visiting Martin in Thailand, enjoying cruises, family reunions round Europe and always having new adventures to look forward to. Martin is still embarrassed about losing to him at badminton only a few years back.

Despite his fear of heights, Stephen completed a sponsored abseil for charity, and - against all odds - was lovingly coerced into riding a zipline in South Africa. It was only years into our adulthood that Stephen revealed how petrified he was accompanying us on fairground rides but he hid his terror so well as to ensure we were never scared ourselves.

A comic - albeit a terrible one, somebody who'd act the fool and tell the worst puns simply to lighten the mood. Stephen was somebody who could talk to anybody - and usually did. We admired his confidence and how he could put



anybody at ease with his calm and sincere manner. We remember him goofily starting a conversation with a line of strangers during Lisa's graduation teaching us that everybody loves being spoken with, even if they're scared to make the first move.



His other children were our dogs, Bonnie and Tilly. After much patience and weekly meetings, Stephen was as well-trained as they were. Buying a caravan, Lynne and he toured the country participating in dog displays. Nothing made for a more enjoyable summer's day than taking the dogs for walks along the hills, forests, canals and sand dunes.

Stephen was very proud of being part of the Shul and the Jewish community. Many of you will remember him for his

beautiful singing voice, a trait that unfortunately nobody in his family inherited! Outside of Shul you might be lucky to catch Stephen singing in a local Gilbert & Sullivan production or simply singing with joy around the house. He was an active warden, helping to lead parts of the services and welcomed Rabbis with sincerity. He was a loyal member of both The Lodge and Lions.

As a father, there was nobody kinder. A man who almost single-handedly decorated Lisa and Martin's homes. We'll miss our family chef and chauffeur and his generous BBQ's might never be surpassed. We'll remember him constantly ferrying Lisa around to her many sporting activities and chaperoning Martin at possibly Southport's dullest society. He got to experience both children getting married and was gracious and loving in inviting his in-laws into our family. He was the kind of father whom we felt proud to be introducing to our friends, even throughout our most rebellious years.

Stephen has left behind a family that remembers him fondly with a smile, a family that is close, a family that has a bright future ahead – and for this he deserve our thanks.

Stephen, Dad, Grandpa ... We love you and we owe you so much. Thank you.





STEPHEN PAVION

Whilst we all mourn the loss of Stephen, each in our own way, it is a sign of the corona virus time that no one except Rabbi Ash was able to be at his funeral, and no one could gather for shiva prayers. How much harder is this for Lynne, and her children, Martin and Lisa. Our deepest sympathy is with Stephen's family. Stephen will be missed by so many people.



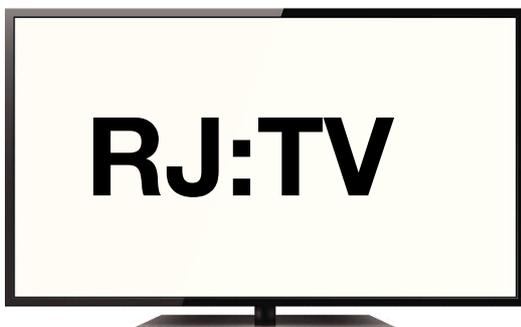
HUSBAND FATHER GRANDFATHER

L'Chayim 2017:

Stephen Pavion, did much to rekindle our memories with some of the melodies they have been singing for 50 years. Some things never change. Thank you for the lovely singing.



FEELING ALONE? LACKING YOUR SYNAGOGUE?



www.zoom.us/j/407196863

www.reformjudaism.org.uk/

RJ:TV is Reform Judaism's interactive broadcasting platform for these challenging times. Each day they will provide a range of interactive programming that you are invited to join – from daily prayer services and adult learning sessions to fun for all ages and casual catch-ups. We can still come together virtually to share in learning and meaningful interaction. Click here : <https://www.reformjudaism.org.uk/rjtv-online-community-from-reform-judaism/>



ON BEING ALONE TOGETHER

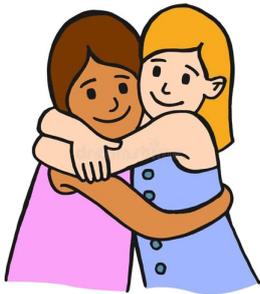
From Mina Abram-Hebblethwaite

Strange, isn't it, that none of us remember that first dark, singular journey alone. Away from warm, womb comfort through the birth canal to a vaguely perceived world of unknown brightness, tumultuous noise, wondrous space - and hopefully, loving arms.

Life offers, sometimes compels, many such journeys. Developmentally we stumble through our first steps learning to stand. We may be taken to kindergarten and left there alone, 'though not alone. A child in the playground with no one to play with may feel like the loneliest person in the world. Echoes of such aloneness may later mingle with the excitement of being the first student in halls at university.

Yet it is rare indeed for any of us to be really alone, absolutely without human contact. Through most of our new experiences in life, welcome or challenging, someone is there beside us: parents, family, friends, community. We are essentially social beings who need each other, whoever the

'We are essentially social beings who need each other'



other might be. From our first beginnings in the womb we have the capacity to relate. We respond to music, indeed to all sound, and to the emotions of those around us, including of course mother whose body at that time forms our world. Sometimes our journey through life leads us to and through dark places, and it is probably then when we most need to know that we are not alone. Even 'though we may feel that we are.

Recently, I had to undergo surgery, knowing what a coward I am in the face of pain - on the low threshold I am below the lowest! No one could undergo the surgery for me and it had to be done. I would be alone, and yet I was not. "If you pray for anything for me, please pray that I might have courage." So it was: Mi Shebeirach and silent prayers of the heart joined with prayers from Anglicans, Catholics and Baptists, a candle was lit for me in an Orthodox church, in the Sikh temple, and Quakers held me "in the light". No one was with me yet I was not alone. The prayers and the Presence upheld me and as someone later commented: "How could God not have heard?" My recovery was remarkable, as noted by the District Nurses. My body had never before healed so quickly and things continue to go well. Often in the darkest places, light and love may come from many sources, sometimes unexpectedly to delight us, like the beautiful bouquets from shul, and others.

When the Psalmist speaks of our walking through the valley of the shadow (Psalm 23 v.4): **"even when I walk in the valley of darkness"**, Rashi comments this may refer to a land of



darkness, a desert, or be an expression of any kind of darkness. We are perhaps now living in and through a place and time of darkness. Many are afraid: for themselves, their loved ones, and others. Afraid of the future, financial fears, fears of being isolated, alone. Maybe even fear of death. Some of us will die, and perhaps like a baby in the womb will travel a dark, singular journey, possibly to a new kind of world of wondrous light and space, lovingly integrated with the Eternal One into the Gathering of Life. Others will live, finding new kinds of ties that bind us

together, giving and receiving with delight the bouquets of new, renewed and refreshed relationships - perhaps with ourselves, with the Eternal One who “restores our soul”, and with each other.



Keep safe and be well.

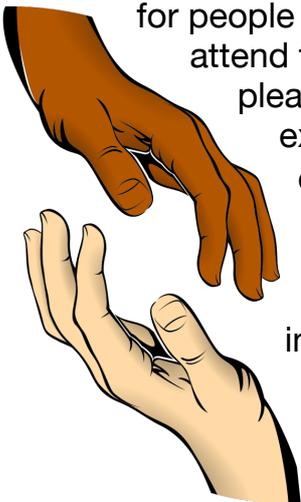
Shalom.

Mina A Abram-Hebblethwaite



Reform Judaism’s Bereavement Support

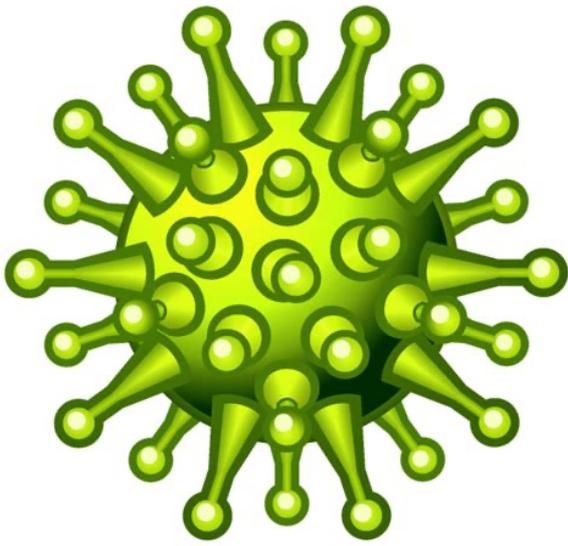
– many of you have highlighted the challenges around grieving and bereavement support whilst ‘social distancing’. Reform Judaism will be starting a Bereavement Support Group online, for people who have been bereaved in the last few weeks, and have been unable to attend the funeral or cremation, or to have a shiva as they would have wished – please pass this on to people in your community who have had this experience. This will be a supportive space to share thoughts and experiences with others who have had similar experiences. **The group will be facilitated by experienced bereavement counsellors.** This will run from 6th May for an initial period of 4 weeks, every Wednesday from 12.00 – 1.00 on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/97769196348> or you can phone in 01314601196, meeting ID: 977 6919 6348. Please speak with Sharon at RJ (sdaniels@rjuk.org) if



you wish to join as that is useful to our organisation of sessions.

Talking about Dying: a gentle, loving space to talk about any concerns surrounding death. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2.00 – 3.00 -access RJ:TV

See: <https://www.reformjudaism.org.uk/rjtv-online-community-from-reform-judaism/>



CORONA VIRUS

THE SIMPLE FACTS

By Doctor Selwyn Goldthorpe

I have already been answering questions from non-medical people, talking with my daughter (a respiratory physician), and medical colleagues, as well as reading the medical press. Here are a few things that may be worth knowing:

Corona (meaning crown) viruses are one cause of the common cold. This present virus is thought to have originated in bats and spread to humans in the animal markets of China in December 2019.

Like the common cold, we are unsure whether you can catch Covid-19 (the illness caused by the corona virus SARS-CoV-2) more than once. On having an infection the body produces antibodies to the virus. We don't know what levels are needed to be immune (Doctors are seeing whether they can give the antibodies to ill patients and induce 'passive immunity' to those seriously ill). Tests for the virus look for viral RNA.

The SARS-CoV-2 is excreted in well people and those about to become poorly but having no symptoms at present. Detecting a temperature and symptoms are late signs.

Infection occurs via eyes, nose, mouth, and respiratory airways. It stays active on skin for some hours. That is why hand washing is so important. The virus is coughed out AT LEAST 2 metres in the open, and can spread many meters in enclosed spaces.

Wearing masks of SUITABLE MATERIAL (0.3 micron mesh or less) **is advised for close contact with infection and enclosed spaces.** Mask wearing is important if you are infected as this prevents some of the cough droplets spreading. **Fiddling with masks may increase your chances of getting an infection by hand-face transmission.**

The virus stays alive on metal, plastic, and other non-absorbent surfaces for 48 hours at room temperature. It stays alive on paper and cardboard for 24 hours. Ultraviolet light kills the virus, as does hot washing. Disinfectants and bleach kills the virus (Please don't do a 'Trump' and think the body can survive ingestion of these!).

90% of people have a mild, flu like illness. The mortality is 1-2% (ie. 10 times worse than seasonal influenza). It takes 2-3 weeks to become seriously ill. The virus gets into the lungs and your own immunity system starts to destroy you body, so that even with assisted ventilation, your insides may cease to function.

Best practice for the public is isolation, social distancing, frequent correct hand washing, and disinfection of possible contaminated surfaces.

Passover message from Chairman of Reform Judaism



**Geoffrey Marx - Chair
Reform Judaism**

I am writing to you firstly to wish you Chag Sameach. I hope that you and your family were able to come together in some way to remember and celebrate the journey of our ancestors long, long ago. In these strange and challenging times, eating matzah reminds me every day that we have endured many, many difficulties throughout our history, and survived. Having already had experience of family and friends succumbing to Covid-19 virus, it is awful knowing that not all of us will see this through. I am thinking of all those in our communities who have succumbed, and their families.

The uncertainty of life is vividly highlighted and we at Reform Judaism are working with your community and all communities, to provide continuity of support and togetherness to all who we are able to reach. Many of our institutions have gone on-line to provide a wealth of programming and services and I hope you have been able to participate. We are determined that the celebration of life even in death will not be diminished by the restrictions under which we find ourselves. We are also all working together at the local level, to provide welfare and support to all members of our communities and beyond.

At the same time, we are aware of the financial cost of this pandemic. All charitable and community institutions are struggling to maintain services with much-diminished revenue. We know that communities will struggle as members and their families suffer, becoming unable to support them as members may have done in the past. This will have a direct effect on Reform Judaism and the Leo Baeck College and we recognise this.

The Leo Baeck College is supported by Reform Judaism and Liberal Judaism. It therefore makes sense for these three public institutions to come together to look at how we are going to operate effectively and with cost efficiency. The Board of Reform Judaism has determined the need to engage in conversations around new financial modelling and delivery of key services to its members. We are reaching out to the Boards of the Leo Baeck College and Liberal Judaism to engage with us in seeking new solutions for our respective communities as we prepare for the new landscape that will inevitably arise as we progress through this crisis.

As your Chair, I felt it important you are aware that, even as we direct all our attention to serving you at this time, we are not standing still. We do not expect life to return to the same as it was before the pandemic. We need to lay plans for the security and future of Reform and indeed progressive Jewry in the UK.

Thank you for all you are doing for your communities and for the presence and support you provide to your members.

Please stay safe and well, stay at home and follow the government guidelines. 9

PURIM

9th MARCH

Fancy
that !



Thanks to
Shelley
(lower right)
for reading
the Megillah
and
organising us
for Purim



continued next page



HAPPY *Purim*

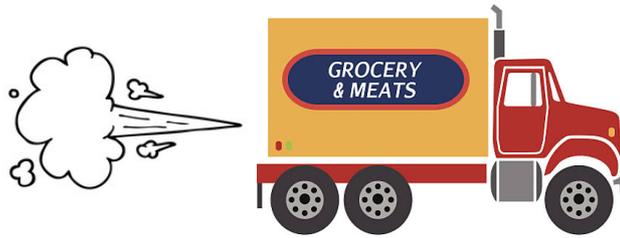
the play



A big thank you to all who came, and took part in our traditional Purim service. We had booing and loud noise with the mention of Haman, we had fancy dress, we had a play with wonderful, budding actors. We cornered the hamentaschen market with novel flavours. There was even some alcohol. The food was excellent, thank you all for your help. We donated some food for those in need, some funds for the Synagogue, and we all went away with a present!

So much enthusiasm !

**'thank you to all who came...
that took part...
and for all your help.'**



KOSHER FOOD DELIVERIES TO SOUTHPORT

CSDA - Corona Squad Delivery Angels is a non-profit charitable organisation which has been set up to pick and deliver groceries and Kosher food. There is a central (for Southport, and Liverpool) address to collect from and a delivery charge of £25 per group order (the more you group together the cheaper the delivery).

The delivery will be alternate Wednesday's, initially, though plans are in hand to make this weekly.

The shops in the scheme are:

Kosher Savers - [Text/WhatsApp 07940 131 615](https://www.whatsapp.com/text/07940131615)

Email: coronasquadmanchester@gmail.com

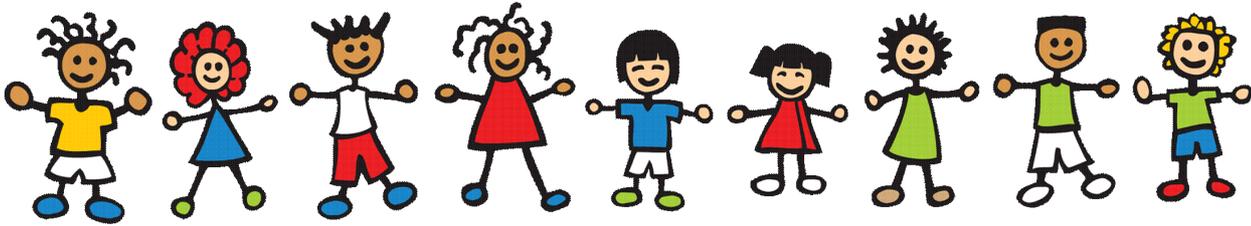
Kosher Deli Meats & Chicken

tel [0161 697 4775](tel:01616974775)

As the scheme grows other shops will be incorporated.

This system will continue when the current pandemic passes.

We hope those that needed matzah over Pesach received their free delivery and thanks to Anne Kletz for helping with the deliveries.



THE KINDERTRANSPORT

by Shelley Yavertz

Following the German annexation and subsequent occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1938 and 1939, a large number of Czech Jews were immediately sent to concentration camps where they were brutally murdered.

In November 1938 international public opinion was shocked by the news of **Kristallnacht**, the anti-Jewish pogrom that led to the burning of Synagogues and the first mass arrests of Jewish men. Amongst those who were shocked by the violence of Kristallnacht was an English banker of Jewish ancestry, named Nicholas Winton, who lost no time in persuading the British Government to take in Jewish refugee children, many of whom had already lost their fathers in the first mass arrests of Jewish men.

Nicholas Winton worked tirelessly to devise an emergency rescue mission that became known as “**The Kindertransport**”, and took place during the nine months prior to the outbreak of the Second World War. It allowed the children to leave the horrors of the Nazi regime and find temporary refuge with British families and hostels. By the time war was declared in September 1939, this brave undertaking had saved 10,000 Jewish children from Nazi Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

‘ 10,000 Jewish children saved ’



One of these children was Frank Meisler, who was born into a Jewish family in Danzig and evacuated by Kindertransport in August 1939. His parents were arrested three days after his departure, deported to Auschwitz and later perished. He came over to England, was raised by his Grandmother in London and went on to graduate in Architecture at Manchester University. Frank created a series of sculptures depicting his experience as a child refugee. In 2006 his “Kindertransport – The Arrival” sculpture was erected in Hope Square, Liverpool St Station, London.

continued next page

Three more sculpture groups have since been installed:-

- Berlin - “Trains to Life, Trains to Death” ([see photographs below](#))
- *Gdansk - “Kindertransport – The Departure”
- Hook of Holland - “Channel Crossing to Life”

*NB: Most of the transports were via the Baltic seaport of Danzig, today called Gdansk.

The book, by Mark Jonathon Harris and Deborah Oppenheimer was first published in 2001 and has recently been re-published. Harris is an award-winning documentary maker, a journalist and author of children’s novels. Oppenheimer, whose Mother came to England on the Kindertransport, is President of a production company at Warner Bros. The book opens with a preface by Lord Richard Attenborough (whose family took in two Jewish German girls named Helga and Irene) as well as an introduction by David Cesarani (whose father-in-law was saved thanks to Kindertransport). The book compiles testimonies by the Kinder of their childhood memories, transport to England and the lives they went on to live.

At least two names, Segal and Allard, were the family names of my HaBonim Youth Movement friends in the 1960s. I had been unaware of the Kindertransport connection, my friends had never spoken of it.

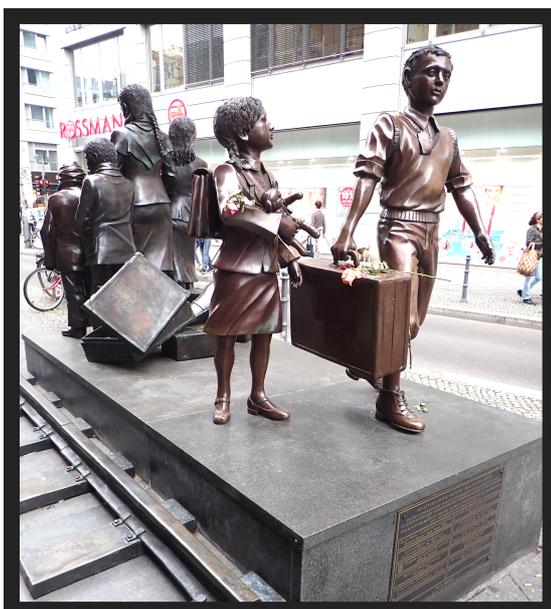
A poignant quotation precedes the books contents:-

“A child is an orphan when he has no parents.

A nation is an orphan when it has no children”.

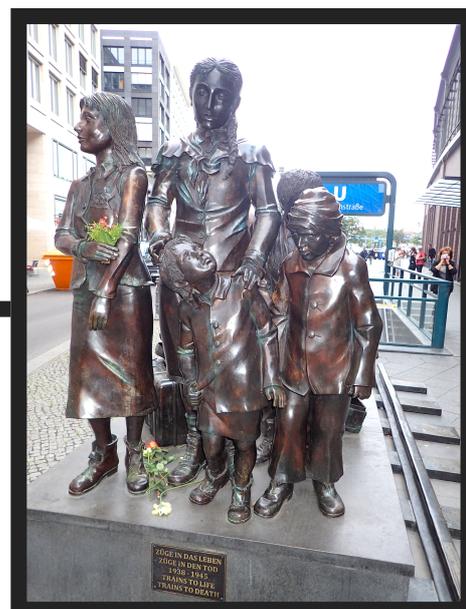
Rabbi Joseph Cahaneman of Panevezys 1886 – 1969

You can find the reissued paperback edition of “Into the Arms of Strangers” at the discount book store (next to Beales) on Lord St, Southport.



To Life
(left)

To
death
(right)





UK Jewish Film Festival

You may recall the Jewish Film Festival which extended its reaches last year to FACT in Liverpool. With the current restrictions on cinemas, they have now made many of their films available online, and for FREE. If you don't fancy sitting down for a full-length feature film, there are also around 50 'Shorts', covering many themes and lasting as little as three minutes, which are well-worth occasionally just dipping into. Particularly recommended is '100 Faces', a 15 minute film featuring 100 British Jewish people, one born every year from 1918 to 2017. This is free to view – but only for a few more days!

(dated 17 April from Tony Kletz)

Use the link to view on line

<https://ukjewishfilm.org/film/100-faces/>

You may also want to take the opportunity to have a look at the other films which UK Jewish Film is showing On Demand

<https://ukjewishfilm.org/ondemand/>

Many of the short films are free to watch, but **you can also buy/rent lots of amazing feature films with Jewish content which you can watch during lockdown.**

And, if you sign up for the UK Jewish Film newsletter in the next two weeks whilst 100 Faces is live, you get to watch the film of your choice for free. Just email info@ukjewishfilm.org with your name and the title of the film you'd like to see.



Anti-Semitic abuse at record high, says charity



from the BBC News 6th Feb 2020

The number of anti-Semitic hate incidents recorded in the UK has reached a record high, Jewish charity the Community Security Trust says.

It recorded 1,805 anti-Semitic incidents last year, an **increase of 7% on 2018's findings.**

The charity, which also offers support to those affected, said there was a spike in online abuse.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said the figures were "appalling" and promised to do more "to tackle anti-Semitism."

She pledged to push for "greater collaboration, both across government, policing, the courts and community groups, to remove this shameful stain on our society".

Last year was the fourth year in a row in which a record number of hate inspired episodes were recorded.

Last month saw the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz death camp.

Of the 1,805 incidents reported to the trust last year, 697 occurred online, an increase of 82% on 2018.

There was also a significant increase in the number of violent anti-Semitic assaults, which rose by 25%.

Almost two thirds of attacks occurred in Greater London (947) and Greater Manchester (223), which are home to the two largest Jewish communities in the UK. The London Borough of Barnet, which has the largest Jewish population of any UK borough, reported the highest number of incidents, amounting to 18% of the national total.

The trust's chief executive, David Delew, said it was "no surprise" that recorded incidents had reached another high and argued that it was clear "social media and mainstream politics are places where anti-Semitism and racism need to be driven out, if things are to improve in the future".

The trust said that the highest number of reported incidents occurred in February and December and coincided with periods where alleged anti-Semitism within the Labour Party was the subject of sustained discussion and activity.

'It is shameful the Jewish community has been subjected to another year of racist abuse.'

February 2019 saw the defection of several Labour MPs to the newly formed Independent Group, some of whom cited anger over the party's response to allegations of anti-Semitism as their reasons for leaving. Similarly, December saw an intense focus on the issue of anti-Semitism during the general election campaign.

In total, the trust recorded 224 incidents which were related to the Labour Party. This represented an increase from the 148 incidents of this kind in 2018.

Responding to the report, Louise Haigh, vice-chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism, said that the data made for "depressing reading".

"It is shameful the Jewish community has been subjected to another year of racist abuse. We are beyond a stage of saying that more has to be done. We require immediate action." She said she would work with colleagues and the trust to identify what more could be done.

The national policing lead for hate crime, Deputy Chief Constable Mark Hamilton, said there were still "far too many people who act illegally, fuelled by global events, divisions in our society or historical bigotries".

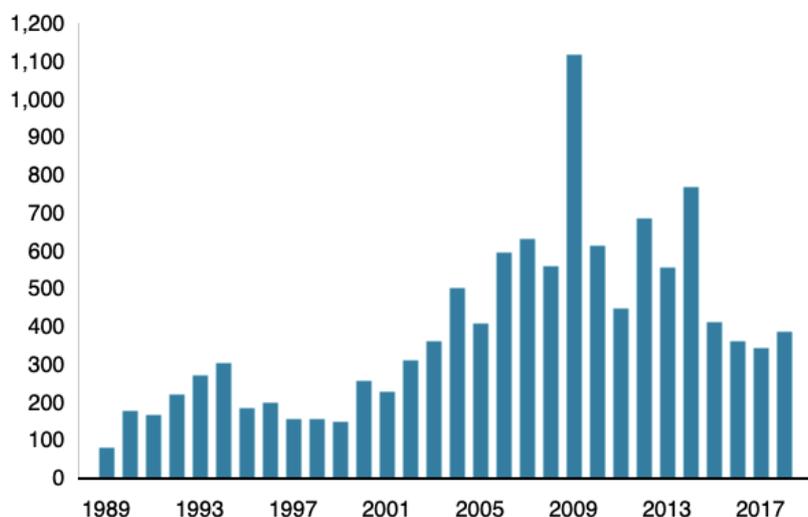
There have been references at the commemorations for the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz about the resurgence of anti-Semitism.



Stop Hate Line: 0800 138 1625



Major violent anti-Semitic incidents worldwide



The definition of a violent incident also includes arson, threats and vandalism. In Europe, the EU's agency for fundamental human rights has conducted a recent survey of 16,395 people who identified as Jewish across 12 EU member states. It found that 89% of respondents said that anti-Semitism had increased over the last five years in the countries in which they lived.

Source: Kantor Center



Individual countries

The **most recent figures from the UK's Community Security Trust** found there had been 892 anti-Semitic incidents in the UK in the first six months of 2019. This was the highest total for the first six months of any year, although that was partly because of better reporting of online incidents.

Home Office data suggested that Jews were the second most commonly targeted group for religious hate crime (after Muslims) with 1,326 offences in 2018-19, up from 672 the previous year. Classifying hate crime by perceived religious target is a relatively new thing and only became compulsory in 2017-18.

In France, the National Human Rights Advisory Committee **reported 541 anti-Semitic incidents in 2018**, which was a considerable increase from 311 the previous year, but well down from peaks in 2014, 2009 and the early 2000s.

German police recorded 307 anti-Semitic crimes in 2018, which was up from 233 the previous year.

In the US, the Anti Defamation League (ADL) tracks anti-Semitic incidents. It found **there had been 1,879 in 2018**, which was slightly down on 2017, but still at a historically high level.

‘ In the UK the highest total for the first six months of any year.’



Jewish Chronicle and Jewish News to close and staff laid off

A report from the Guardian Newspaper 8th April 2020

The Jewish Chronicle and Jewish News are to close and their staff made redundant, according to sources at the outlets, after their parent company ran out of money as the coronavirus pandemic devastates the media industry. While some news outlets have furloughed journalists in the hope of riding out the crisis, sources at the Jewish Chronicle say staff were informed **the parent company had run out of cash and could not continue trading.**

Following the publication of this story, the Jewish Chronicle confirmed the news, which is likely to leave creditors out of pocket: “Despite the heroic efforts of the editorial and production team at the newspaper, it has become clear that the Jewish Chronicle will not be able to survive the impact of the current coronavirus epidemic in its current form.”

A collapse in print sales and advertising revenue is hitting news outlets hard, with many local and independent newspapers facing severe financial strains.



The Volunteer

a book review by Selwyn Goldthorpe

Witold Pilecki volunteered to be imprisoned in Auschwitz. You must have been out of your mind to do something like that! The author, Jack Fairweather spent five years researching, with his assistants, the background material as to why a married man, with children, a gentleman farmer, come Polish cavalry officer, would do such a thing.

Jack Fairweather is a hardened war correspondent. He has seen a lot of atrocities, yet when he heard that the Polish communist records contained this man's extraordinary heroic accounts, the papers were released a few years ago, he felt compelled to not only publicise Witold's reports and memoirs, but also to try to understand the psychology of this hero.

I have, like others been to visit Auschwitz. I have read various accounts of the mass murders that took place there, however as you read this book, their context is set in a historical, developmental perspective. Witold speaks frankly of his Polish underground activity, caring little about the fate of the Jews (at that time about 10% of the Polish population). As the activity of Auschwitz-Birkenau becomes more of a death factory he changes to caring that a crime is being committed against humanity.

'You cannot read this book without having your mind changed about The Holocaust. The book is factual. It is harrowing. It is essential reading.'

'Winner of the 2019 Costa biography award.'

This award winning book shows with clarity how the Poles, the Catholic Church, the Allies, allowed those people within the death factories to be murdered. Witold provided the evidence to them at the time. If his reports, smuggled out of the camp, and his advice, had been followed, millions of lives would have been saved. Hindsight is a marvellous thing, perhaps? You can judge from the factual evidence presented by Witold/Fairweather as to how you view these political icons of the time.

You cannot read this book without having your mind changed about The Holocaust. The book is factual. It is harrowing. It is essential reading. Here are recorded the observed depths of human depravity. It is beyond imagination. In Witold we are shown the higher qualities of being human, also what he observed of these in others.

The Volunteer is published by WH Allan, part of Penguin books. 2019.
ISBN 9780753545195

POPULATION STATISTICS

- There are 263,346 Jews in England and Wales according to the last census although due to the voluntary nature of the question on faith and under-reporting, the Institute for Jewish Policy Research estimates that the actual figure is 284,000.
- After years of decline, the Jewish community increased marginally from 259,927 in the 2001 census.
- In 1951, the Jewish community of the UK was estimated to be 420,000.
- Those areas of the country with large concentrations of strictly Orthodox Jews (Stamford Hill, north west London, north Manchester and Gateshead) all saw significant increases, whilst areas associated with mainstream Jewry, such as Redbridge and Brent saw declining Jewish populations.
- Jews represent 0.5 per cent of the UK population. They are the fifth largest religious community in the UK after Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs.
- There are Jews living in every one of the 348 local authority areas in England and Wales, including 4 in Merthyr Tydfil and 4 in the Isles of Scilly.
- There are 54,084 Jews living in the London Borough of Barnet accounting for one in five (20.5%) of all Jews in England and Wales.
- Three out of every five UK Jews live in Greater London.
- Over 6,000 people speak Hebrew as their first language and almost 4,000 say that their main language is Yiddish.
- The median (most common) age for Jews living in England and Wales is in the band from 50-54; in contrast it is 75-79 in Bournemouth and 0-4 in Hackney.

SYNAGOGUE MEMBERSHIP

- Approximately half of all UK Jews do not belong to a synagogue
- 82,963 Jewish households – three-quarters of all the all-Jewish householders in the UK – are members of one of 409 synagogues.
- The long-term decline in synagogue membership recorded over the last 20 years is flattening out. Overall, synagogue membership declined by less than 1% between 2005 and 2010.
- The largest synagogue group, by denomination, is Central Orthodox (including the United Synagogue) with around 50% of the total membership. This compares with 66% for this strand in 1990.
- By contrast, the number of Strictly Orthodox synagogue members has more than doubled over this 20-year period, from 5% to 11% of the total membership.
- The overall proportion of 'non-Orthodox' strands relative to 'Orthodox' strands has increased from 25.9% in 1990 to 30.8% in 2010.

JEWISH ATTITUDES TO RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

- 57% of Jews attend a Friday night meal most weeks; half (49%) frequently light candles at home on Friday night; just under one in five (18%) refrains from turning on lights on Shabbat (the Sabbath).
- More Jews observe kashrut (Jewish dietary laws) inside their home (52%) than outside their home (36%).
- In almost all aspects of Jewish religious behaviour, younger Jews are more observant than older ones.
- A quarter (26%) of Jews describe themselves as being 'Traditional'; a similar proportion (24%) as 'Secular/Cultural'; and a minority (16%) as 'Orthodox' or 'Haredi'. 18% describe themselves as 'Reform/Progressive'.
- Compared with type of upbringing, the Traditional group has seen a net loss of a third (34%), whereas the Secular/Cultural group has seen a net gain of 63%. 20

INTERMARRIAGE

- One in four (26%) Jews in a partnership has a non-Jewish partner.
- Of those in marriages which are currently intact, 23% are intermarried; of those who cohabit but are not married, 61% have a non-Jewish partner.
- 62% of those who describe their current Jewish position as Secular/Cultural are intermarried.
- 76% of 'in-married' Jews attend a Friday night meal most weeks, compared with 18% of the intermarried.

EDUCATION

- There are more than 26,000 Jewish pupils attending Jewish schools today.
- Approximately 60% of all Jewish children attended a Jewish school in 2008, up from 25% thirty years ago.
- Approximately half of these come from the strictly orthodox community where demand for Jewish schooling is 100 per cent.
- In London, where the majority of Jewish children live, children from the mainstream community make up about 50 per cent of the total in Year 1 and Year 7 of Jewish schools.
- Over three-quarters (77%) of respondents to NCJS survey believe Jewish schools strengthen pupils' Jewish identity; 61% believe that Jewish schools increase pupils' chances of Jewish in-marriage.
- With the exception of Orthodox and Haredi parents, Jewish schools are most popular among middle-income families, but as household income rises above £110,000 per annum, Jewish schools are increasingly less likely to be chosen.

CHARITABLE GIVING

- 93% of Jews report donating money to a charity (Jewish or otherwise) in the past year (2013 figure).
- A higher proportion (45%) of Jews prioritises non-Jewish charities than Jewish charities (37%).



Marie van der Zyl, President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said:

“The Coronavirus epidemic has struck every part of our community, but our concern is that it will have a disproportionate impact on smaller communities whose populations are older and whose infrastructure is already more limited. Whilst our own organisation’s budget is stretched, we are doing what we can to monitor the situation, support communities and consider what is going to be needed to ensure Jewish vitality in every part of our country.”

The Board of Deputies has announced the appointment of Sara Radivan (from Liverpool) to support regional communities in the context of the Coronavirus crisis. She will be based in Manchester.

yahrzeits (יאָרצײַט)

during this issue of L'Chayim



Yahrzeit candles
are available for
purchase from the
Synagogue.

Memorial plaques
are still available
for the **Tree of Life**
in the Synagogue.

Please discuss
your needs with
the Synagogue's

May

Joseph Lutchner, Husband of Gertrude and Father
of Louise and David

Rita Applebaum, Mother of Faith Choueke

Malcolm Landau, Husband of Janet Landau,
Father of Rachael, Mark and Rebecca

June

Edgar Mercer, Husband of Valerie Mercer

Isaac Solomon, Father of Trudy Turnbull

Alice Hakim, Mother of Fortune Chamberlain

Nancy Cohen, Mother of Sue Greenberg and John
Cohen

Rebbetsen Lily Kay, Mother of Helen and Truda

Mavis Horwich, friend of Richard and Faith
Choueke

Wallace Davis, Father of Neil and Heather

WE STAND ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

Without the foresight of those that have gone
before us we would not have a Synagogue. We
owe it to these wonderful people to keep the
Synagogue alive for the next generation.

Please consider making a **LEGACY** in your will to
the Synagogue (a registered Charity).

S&DRS can supply you with details of a number
of local solicitors who are willing to offer advice.

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE A BLESSING





IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!

MAZELTOV AND ALL OUR BEST WISHES

May

Lawrence Bernstein
Ruth Bloom
Beryl Cubells
Irving Freedman
Tony Kletz
Gertrude Lutchner
Daniel Windham

June

Doreen Canter
Neil Chamberlain
Adele Davis
Samuel Davies
Phil Levine
Lynne Pavion
Timothy Wilson
Hannah and Cassie Zachariah
Josh Zachariah



The Synagogue, as a Hall, is available for hire if you wish to have a function room AND there are reduced rates for Synagogue Members!

To make a booking, please contact the Office.

TU B'SHEVAT TAKES ROOT

by Susan Fox

It had been decided at the Synagogue's Council meeting in autumn 2019 that the Synagogue would plant two trees, namely a crab apple and a rowan, for Tu B'Shevat, as our donation to the new garden / planting area at **Queenscourt Hospice**, Southport. Unfortunately, because of excessive rain and the time required to prepare the ground for planting, the tree planting was delayed until late March.

Tu B'Shevat itself occurs on the 15th day of the month of Shevat in the Rabbinic period. It was designated as one of the four 'New Years' that served different purposes in the Hebrew calendar. In the Jewish world, it is marked by having a seder and blessing, then eating special fruits and having tree planting ceremonies, to give us the opportunity to consider our ecological responsibilities.

The following verses in Genesis 1: 11-12 "God said: Let the earth sprout forth vegetation: Seed-bearing plants, fruit trees of every kind on the earth...God saw that it was good" and Deuteronomy 20: 19 "When you besiege a city for a long time in order to capture it, you shall not destroy its trees, wielding an axe against them. You may eat of them, but not cut them down, for the tree of the field is human life" may be used. The Rabbinic prohibition on the wasteful use of human resources and needless destruction is based on this verse.



Thanks to Susan for organising the trees and planting on behalf of the Synagogue .

We received a thank you from the Hospice.
(see below)



Many thanks again for your donation.

Kind Regards,
Debbie Lawson

Corporate Services Director (SIRO and Responsible Individual) Queenscourt Hospice Town Lane Southport, PR8 6RE

Any one wishing to donate further to the Hospice phone 01704 544645

PASSOVER

by Selwyn Goldthorpe

the 10 Plagues



**at least they did
not have Covid-19 !**

Seder night this year was certainly different. Why was this night different from all other nights? Well, it was the first time we have attempted to have a family seder, with family from London, Manchester (two homes), and Liverpool using a video link.

I dug up the horse radish, we got the seder plate out, had a paper cut-out shank bone (as we have gone vegetarian). I found the largest of the family's kiddush cups, and Gillian prepared the meal, complete with boiled egg, salt water, and traditional vegetarian chicken soup. With the help of Zoom® software we were ready to take part in our internet conferenced family seder. Isn't 'shielding' different ?!

**'We attempted
to have a family
seder'.**

I say 'attempted to have a family seder'. We used the PJ Haggadah specially chosen as child friendly. The lesson was to be learnt. Never attempt to have an on-line video conference with young children. They were more interested in the soft-ware, whether making faces at each other, or generally deciding that they would like to be T.V. actors! Can five children make more noise than six grandparents and four parents? Yes! We did get through the first part of the Passover service (I think) and then onto the boiled egg. Hard luck indeed. With that, the parents decided enough was enough. The grand-parents, like The Hebrews, had suffered enough, and the plug was pulled on the kids. We had a lovely conversation over the meal keeping the conferencing amongst the grand parents. The wonders of technology.

**' Seder means order,
- not disorder! '**

In fairness, my son recognised the problem of having budding thespians as children and decided that he would do the whole thing again (That's why we have the second night!) . Success ! That night was different from the previous night. All was order. Seder means order- not disorder. Please God, next year's seder without technology.

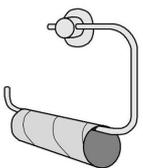


Dr Alison Goldthorpe from Covid-19 wards, New Zealand.

Because of the severe Covid-19 problem, a load of horseradish for the seders is now stranded at Madrid airport . So unfortunately, the chrain in Spain stays mainly on the plane.

OPENING THE DOOR FOR ELIJAH

Are you crazy?! Don't you dare come in here – unless you have first washed your hands and bring some toilet paper.



Now is the time to believe in miracles!

We could not passover Passover without adding a little humour to an otherwise rather difficult time ...



Darth Vader from Star Wars

Mah Nishtanah 2020

Why is this night different from all other nights?
Why may we eat on all other nights either leavened bread or matzah but on this night we've fallen back on Ryvita?
On all other nights we may choose any kind of vegetable for our meal but this time all there was in Aldi was leeks!
On all other nights it is not usual to disinfect food even once, but on this night we do it between mouthfuls.
On all other nights we may eat either sitting or leaning - but if you lean into my 2 metre exclusion zone I may have to quarantine myself.
And don't even begin to ask me about the hand washing!

THE SEARCH FOR THE AFIKOMAN

Seriously? We've been locked in this house together for three solid weeks – there are no secrets anymore!

ONE OF THE QUESTIONS TO ANSWER

How is this night different from all other nights?

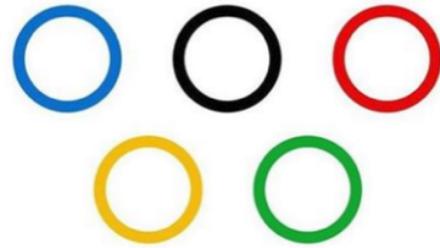
Well, we've been stuck at home for the last three weeks, so this night is pretty much the same as all other nights – but with matzah. Even the curve for infectivity has flattened.

THE SECOND QUESTION

On all other nights, we eat all kinds of vegetables. Why on this night, only bitter herbs?
Look, no one's going to the shops anymore, and that's all we have left.

The corona virus lockdown

Sitting on the couch and my husband sweetly whispered ..”the best part about all of this is that I get to spend more time with you”. As I looked over over at him lovingly I realised that he was talking to the dog, not me.



OLYMPIC GAMES TOKYO 2020

(SAFETY DISTANCE)

It was a quiet Monday morning in September 2020, when John awoke with a need to go to the bathroom. To John this wasn't just any ordinary day! This was the day he would open the last package of toilet paper his parents bought in the year 2020.

Our cleaning lady just called and told us she will be working from home and will send us instructions on what to do.



MY WIFE SAID THAT IF I DON'T GET OFF MY COMPUTER AND HELP WITH THE DISHES, SHE'LL SLAM MY HEAD ON THE KEYBOARD, BUT I THINK SHE'S JOKINGSG67SGHI3DHGJRE7490DNDWHK3-2J4H37SHDUDKJISD877HR8SKO20A3Y3H3J3UHU338JESU83J8R

I've eaten 14 meals and taken 6 naps and it's still today? Are you kidding me?



and from Fortune Chamberlain:

THE JOYS OF 'YIDDISH'

1. **JEWBILATION** – pride in finding out that one's favourite celebrity is Jewish.
2. **TORAHFIED** – inability to remember one's lines when called to read from the Torah at one's bar or bat mitzvah.
3. **SANTA-SHMANTA** – the explanation Jewish children get for why they celebrate Hanukah while the rest of their neighbours celebrate Christmas.
4. **MAZTILATION** – smashing a piece of matzah to bits while trying to butter it.
5. **BUBBEGUM** – sweets one's mother gives to her grandchildren that she never gave to her own children.
6. **CHUTZPAPA** – a father who wakes up his wife at 04:00am so that she can change the baby's nappy.
7. **DEJA NU** – having the feeling you've seen the same exasperated look on your mother's face but not knowing exactly when.
8. **DIOSORIYENTA** – when Aunt Sadie gets lost in a department store and strikes up a conversation with everyone she passes.
9. **GOYFER** – a gentile messenger.
10. **HEBORT** – to forget all the Hebrew one ever learned immediately after one's bar or bat mitzvah.
11. **JEWDO** – a traditional form of self defense based on talking one's way out of a tight spot.
12. **MAMATZAH BALLS** – matzah balls that are as good as mother used to make.
13. **MEINSTEIN** – (slang) - "My son, the genius".
14. **MISHPOCHAMARKS** – the assorted lipstick and make-up stains found on one's face and collar after kissing all one's aunts and cousins at a reception.
15. **MINYASTICS** – going to incredible lengths to find a tenth person to complete a minyan.
16. **DIS-KVELLIFIED** – to drop out of law school, med school or business - simply choosing to major in art history is sufficient grounds for dis-kevellification.
17. **KINDERSCHLEP** – to transport other kids in your car besides yours.
18. **SCHMUKLUCK** – finding out one's wife became pregnant after one had a vasectomy.
19. **SHOFARSOGUT** – the relief felt when after many attempts the shofar is finally blown at the end of Yom Kippur.
20. **TRAYFFIC ACCIDENT** – an appetizer one finds out has pork in it after one has eaten it.
21. **ROSH HASHANA-NA-NA** – a rock and roll band from Brooklyn.
22. **IMPASTA** – a Jew who starts eating leavened foods before the end of Passover.

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The Home is a registered charity Number 1123524 and a Registered Company Number 06368309



The following kind people have been elected to serve on the Council of Southport & District Reform Synagogue

Chairman	Dr Selwyn Goldthorpe
Vice Chair	Gillian Goldthorpe
Honorary Secretary	Fortune Chamberlain
Honorary Treasurer	Tony Kletz
Wardens	Joan Brooke, Susan Fox, Gillian Goldthorpe

Other members of the Synagogue's Council :

Marcel Zachariah	Joan Brooke
Faith Choueke	Richard Choueke
Neil Chamberlain	Harry Kessler
Anne Kletz	Matt Suher

'Let us come together in God's name and prepare to do God's will'

from Prayer for Committee Meetings, p 366 Siddur, Forms of Prayer 2008



Southport Reform & District Synagogue is a **registered charity, number 227576**.
The Synagogue is run predominantly by volunteers for the Reform Jewish Community and others.
Please be advised that our complaints procedure is available from the Synagogue office.

As a synagogue member should you not wish to receive the membership copy of L'Chayim and wish to unsubscribe, please e-mail the Synagogue office or send a message via the web site to the Synagogue