

# SUSSEX JEWISH NEWS



WHAT'S INSIDE....

**ALAN KUPFER'S ESCAPE TO PARADISE | YOM HASHOAH |  
YOM HA'ATZMAUT | LAG B'OMER | WHAT'S ON | AND MORE**

APRIL 2013 • NISAN / IYYAR 5773 • ISSUE 229

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## Pause for thought

by **Alegria Adler**

Yom Ha'azmaut! A day of celebration for the establishment of the State of Israel. A day that matters. A day that matters to me because it is my country - even if Israel was the British Mandate of Palestine when I was born there!

Is it still my country given that I live here? What is it that you and I are celebrating?

My relatives who live in Haifa echo the mood around them, "The World hates us! Even many Jews in the Diaspora hate us!" When were these Jews last in Israel, I

wonder? Do they have any idea of how Israel has developed over the last 65 years? Have they seen or heard of Israel's achievements in the fields of medicine, agriculture and the Arts? Do they ever consider

*We have much reason to sing and rejoice!*

how generously Israelis give their beloved children to a superb army which protects them and their – and our – land?

Go! Witness the beauty of the country; see how people bother to plant flowers on derelict wasteland.

Admire the ingenious development of previously useless, apparently barren, areas. Be aware of the huge efforts in the Universities, on the borders and in various communities of people trying to bridge and heal the cultural and political differences between Arab and Jew. Enjoy the creativity and success of the people – our people - who, instead of wallowing only in their misfortunes and injustices, proceed with the business of living and thus preserve both the spiritual and physical Land of Israel for us all.

We have much reason to sing and rejoice!

SJN brings local news, events, articles, reviews, announcements, people, congregations, communities, contacts and more. Delivered at the start of each month, SJN is run entirely by volunteers for reporting, editing and circulating each edition that has become the cornerstone of the Jewish community across the region.

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# Community life

## Your news

### Births

Mazel tov to Samantha and Matt Kaiser on the birth of Esther Rose, a granddaughter for Jenny and Richard Priestman and great-granddaughter for Joyce Rose.

### Special Birthdays

Mazel tov to Clive Bach, Walter Bush, Ruth Green, Lee Matofska-Dyer, Simon Pearl, Mef Sharpe (75) and Ronnie Taylor (80) who are celebrating special birthdays this month.

### Bat Mitzvah

Mazel tov to Claire and Sam Barsam and family on the Batmitzvah of their granddaughter Amira Jade.

### Weddings

Mazel tov to Jodie Graham and Marc Sacks and their families on their marriage at Holland Road shul.

Mazel tov to Pam Rosen on the wedding of her grandson.

### Anniversaries

Mazel tov to Bryan & Juliette Huberman on their special wedding anniversary.

### Get well

We wish a refuah sheleimah to Mona Losner, Simon Cobbs and all who are unwell or in hospital.

### Deaths

We wish Long Life to the families of Harold Day z'l, Ronnie Gee z'l, Sylvia Moseley z'l and Barry Smith z'l.

We wish Long Life to Irvyn Isaacs on the death of his sister, Louise Crown.

**THANK YOU**  
**Alan Bass and family thank the rabbonim, relatives and friends for all their kind thoughts, support and sympathy at the sad time of the passing of their beloved Jill z'l.**

### Errata

The Editorial Board apologises for the following errors in the March issue of SJN:

- The date for Yom Ha'atzmaut in our editorial last month was incorrect
- Alegra and Gerry Adler celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary (not 30th)

## Your Views

The following is an email from Doris Levinson, Founding Editor of Sussex Jewish News to Andrew Comben, CEO of the Brighton Festival regarding the scheduling of Jewish content in this year's Festival to which no reply has been received.

I was fortunate enough to have been invited to the Press Launch of the 2013 Brighton Festival and at the time, the lady in charge of the classical music events, spoke to me saying that she was so proud to have been able to put into place a number of items relating to the Holocaust.

She spoke to me in particular about the concert on Friday 10 May at the Royal Pavilion and I expressed concern that it was such an inappropriate day of the week to put on such a concert because there would be little, if any, Jewish audience, as Friday night is the beginning of our Sabbath. She said that this was the only day available for that concert.

On looking through the programme, I notice that there is another item on that same night at the Sallis Benney Theatre, when Judith Kerr is in conversation with Michael Rosen.

After the sad experience of the 2012 Festival when the Saturday performance of the Batsheva Dance Ensemble was cancelled, leaving only a Friday night available, I would have thought that you would have given much more thought to the sensitivities of a Jewish audience who would have liked to attend the Theresienstadt concert or the interview with Judith Kerr.

I realise that planning the Brighton Festival is a huge undertaking and it has become such a successful item in the British calendar of cultural events. However, I am very sad that so little consideration has been given to your very loyal local Jewish concert and theatregoers.

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## Ralli Hall Lunch and Social Club

by Jacqueline Tichauer

I hope that everyone is having a good Pesach and is ready to enjoy the lovely weather.

The Lunch and Social Club has had a busy few weeks. We have now added a book and play club to our programme. Kitty, one of our valued members, has written a play and we have now discovered some budding actors and actresses who took part in the first reading. This is an exciting new feature so if you are interested please join us.

On 14 February we held a Valentine's Day party with all the tables colourfully decorated, much appreciated by all of our members. Wonderful Richard was our entertainer and all the ladies received a red rose. It was a great day; everyone went home with a smiling face. Our Purim Party was a great success; over 65 people enjoyed the salt beef lunch and afternoon tea with homemade hamantaschen. George, our new entertainer, made sure everyone got up to dance, so everyone had a fun afternoon. We are now planning a once-a-month special event day to add variety to our programme.

In April, 30 members are joining us for a weekend away in sunny Eastbourne at the newly refurbished Cumberland Hotel. We are all very excited and are also busy making plans for some spring days out.

Our menus are varied and delicious; we now have people popping in for lunch, so if you are free and have a big appetite it is really worth coming in. You can always see the lovely menus on our website or just give me a call. In the afternoons we have bridge, kalooki, chess or scrabble, so why not come along and join in? Remember, we also hold bridge classes and computer classes, so please contact us if you are interested.

Unfortunately, in the last few months a few of our members have been in hospital. We wish them a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing them back very soon. One even told the doctors that she had to get better very soon as she missed her Lunch and Social Club!

We look forward to meeting you on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Once you have been you will want to come back again and again. If you would like to volunteer for a few hours a week or month please give me a call; it's great fun.

### IMPORTANT MESSAGE HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY VISITS

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## Community life

### Hyman Fine House

by Beverly Barnett and Natasha Carson

We enjoyed Purim celebrations both inside and outside the Home. We started early by watching children from the Reform Cheder perform their play. Then on the day itself Rabbi Zalman Lewis and his family kindly joined us to read the Megillah. The following day, staff and volunteers enjoyed a Purim party dancing along to the music provided by the entertainer and eating a delicious tea. Celebrations were rounded off when some of our residents went to another Purim party at Ralli Hall, which they enjoyed very much indeed.

On Valentine's Day, Brian came to play music for us and our residents enjoyed a lunchtime dance. Joey, one of our new volunteers, started a cookery group and they made some biscuits, which were then promptly eaten.

We are delighted that we have now got 7 new volunteers from the universities and we will all be working together to

find new activities for our residents. For those who can use the computer, we have installed 'My Life', a new software package which encourages residents to play games and keep their minds and memories active, as well as create life stories which can then be shared and kept as mementos.

Inside Hyman Fine the refurbishment of the lounge area is well underway and will be completed in time for Pesach. We are very grateful for the donations that have made this possible.

As always, if you feel you could spare us some time to help volunteer as a regular or for a one-off event, please contact Natasha Carson or Mark Pady on 01273 266882.

We would also like to thank the Ladies Fundraising Committee, which gives us invaluable support in terms of financial aid and volunteering.

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- Norwood/Tikvah House, 01273 564021
- Hyman Fine House, 01273 688226
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# Community life

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## Hyman Fine House Fundraising Committee

by Shirley Burke

A very successful card afternoon was held at Ralli Hall on Sunday 17 February. There were 82 people playing bridge and kalooki. The afternoon raised £1600 for committee funds. In addition to prizes for the best scores, the players had a delicious tea catered by the committee and a very enjoyable time was had by all.

The event was organized by the 'team' of Shirley, Raymond, Alan, Linda & Sheila, together with our wonderful hard working committee. This event has now been held every year since 2002, raising a total of around £17,000 for the

benefit of the residents. The funds are used by the committee to provide the residents at Hyman Fine House with extras over and above the normal excellent service provided by Jewish Care. In addition to providing all sorts of in-house entertainment and facilities at the home, the residents also enjoy organized outings such as visits to the cinema, the ice show and Theatre Royal.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity, which enables us to provide these extra benefits that the residents so enjoy.

## Ralli Hall

by Roger Abrahams

Irit and I have just returned from a family visit, over Purim, to Ramat Hasharon in Israel. It was mainly cool and dry and we watched a heart-warming and uplifting community street parade, with magnificent floats and large groups of young people from local drama and dance groups. Unfortunately, we missed two Purim parties at Ralli Hall, put on by Rabbi Efune and by the Lunch and Social Club, which were both most successful: this is very much what Ralli Hall is all about. We will try to make sure that we are here next year, so that we do not miss out on all the fun.

Since last month, we have taken on John Davies as our new caretaker. Over the last twenty years or so, he was a school caretaker so he should really know the ropes with regard to looking after a community building. He is due to start at Ralli Hall just after Pesach and I will therefore give him a fuller introduction in the next edition.

The planned further upgrades to the Magrill Lounge and the restaurant area are now well under way, with the lower ground floor redecoration due to commence shortly. The Ralli Hall

Annual General Meeting – the date to be confirmed - after our next Board Meeting will be either at the end of May or the beginning of June. We really are keen to welcome some younger members on to the Management Committee, as the current members are becoming more and more geriatric as the years go by. However, from a brief perusal of the draft annual accounts, I am pleased to mention that we appear to have kept our heads above water for yet another year, despite quite generous expenditure on maintenance and upgrades. Full details will be available from our Hon Treasurer at the AGM.

We would also welcome new members who are prepared to show their commitment to our almost unique non-denominational Jewish Community Centre, whether or not they currently have the need to use our excellent facilities. You may not need us this year but, 'as sure as G-d gave us little green apples', there will come a time when you will be grateful that Ralli Hall is there for you to use.

See you at Ralli Hall.

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## Allen Kupfer's Escape to Paradise

Bernard Swithern relates a life story that should not be forgotten

Allen Kupfer lives in the idyllic retirement community of Sun City in Hilton Head, South Carolina, where the lifestyle facilities offered include championship golf courses, swimming pools, fitness centres and even a 540-seat performing arts theatre. Community organisations provide every kind of opportunity. There are arts and crafts schools, woodworking classes and in fact everything that one could desire in retirement. Allen has had a successful business life, children who have succeeded in their own professions and wonderful grandchildren. As a gentleman in his ninetieth year, he appears to be a contented, lucky man.

He has indeed been lucky. He has been lucky not to have been exterminated by the Nazis, as were his parents and 143 family members, including most of his uncles, aunts and cousins. He was lucky to survive a labour camp. He was lucky to have been able to walk 55 miles in wooden shoes and lucky to find the shelter of a hole in the ground before meeting up with advancing Russians.

Allen had led a reasonable life until, when he was sixteen, the German hordes invaded Poland, desecrated all that lay in their path and destroyed a people and a way of life. From that point on Allen was to need every bit of luck that came his way. Happiness died. Life on the edge began.

Two weeks after the invasion, on the eve of Rosh Hashonah, the Jewish quarter of Warsaw was bombed. The apartment where his family lived was destroyed, together with all their possessions. They were then put up by an aunt and survived from day to day in the ruined city with little food. Before the war, his parents had made and sold garments. Those skills and contacts eventually enabled them

to survive by selling clothes in the flea markets. When the Ghetto was established, they were at first able to obtain permits to travel outside. This



enabled visits to their extended family in the town of Nowy Korczyn where Allen's father was born. Although it was only 42 miles away, the journey in the Polish winter of 1940 took a whole two days.

Six months later, when news came of the intended liquidation of the Ghetto and the rumours of the extermination camps spread, Allen and his parents and sister realised that they were no longer safe and, together with their sewing machine, they joined

**He was lucky not to have been exterminated by the Nazis, as were his parents and 143 family members, to survive a labour camp and have been able to walk 55 miles in wooden shoes.**

their relatives in Nowy Korczyn. They lived there in a rented room for the next eighteen months. In October 1942 when the town was liquidated, the four of them escaped to nearby Opacowiec and lived there in the forlorn hope of being liberated by the Russians.

Meanwhile those who did not get away were marched 18 kilometers to the rail-head, from whence they were transported to Belzec extermination

camp. The family had to keep on the move. It was decided that the next destination would be nearby Koszyce. Allen did not immediately join them, but travelled back to Nowy Korczyn in order to find out what had become of his relatives. In retrospect he has never forgotten the worry in his parents' eyes when he said good-bye to them - not realising that he would never see them again - not knowing that they would be herded into a box-car destined for extermination.

He was alone, separated from his family, and an 'illegal'. He was sent to a labour camp, where he was tasked with collecting and dispatching to Germany the final possessions of the slaughtered local Jews.

After three weeks he was selected for duties in an outpost, where he became the houseboy of a vicious SS officer. He was devastated by the cruelty that he saw there. He witnessed a family being loaded onto a truck, destined for the local cemetery. Shortly afterwards he was handed their clothing to be laundered and sold in the local market for the benefit of that officer. He could only guess about the fate of those who were stripped of their clothes.

In the spring of 1943 he was transferred to a German munitions factory.

Meanwhile, his ten year old sister and her parents had been herded towards a train bound for an extermination camp. Her mother and father told her that she must get away. As a result, she was alone, surviving in the countryside by pretending to be a Polish peasant. Miraculously, she later turned up at the same factory where Allen was working. Allen is unable to keep back his tears as he recalls the joyful moment of their reunion.



In 1944, in the face of the Russian advance, the factory was dismantled and the machinery loaded by the Jewish labour onto trains for transporting back to Germany. At two o'clock on one freezing morning, Allen and four others managed to jump from the train and escape towards the forest. When caught in the beam of a searchlight, they dispersed. Only two of them survived, by walking the fifty-five miles back to Nowy Korczyn in their wooden shoes. There they had a nasty brush with local partisans, but were tipped off by the less antisemitic Socialist faction and escaped to safety. Eventually they were able to obtain false papers and worked on farms as 'non-Jewish Poles'.

Freezing, starving and utterly desperate, Allen begged Jozef, the Polish business partner of one of his cousins, for shelter. At first he was concealed in a hayloft and then after 3 days was hidden in a five by ten foot hole underneath the house.

When he got there he discovered that he was to join a Jewish family of six, who had been hidden there for the past two years. He now understands the dilemma that Jozef must have faced; to admit him and overcrowd the hiding place, to turn him over to the Germans who would then return with unanswered questions or even to kill him. Jozef made the only decision that, even in the midst of barbaric chaos, a decent human being could reach.

Allen describes Jozef as 'the righteous Christian to whom I owe my life'. It was a brave decision because, unbeknown to Allen, the house had been commandeered as a German command post. Allen recalls New Year's Day 1945, when he could hear the officers playing Waltz music. It was twelve days later that the Russians returned. When he finally emerged on his knees from the hole, his war was over.

Allen then returned to Nowy Korczyn for a few weeks, in the hope that any surviving relatives might return. No-one came. He then travelled to Warsaw, which was completely devastated. In place of the largest Jewish community in Europe, there

**Jozef made the decision that only a decent human being could reach, a brave decision because, unbeknown to Allen, the house had been commandeered as a German command post. Allen describes Jozef as 'the righteous Christian to whom I owe my life'.**

was nothing. Even the rubble was flattened. He went on to Lodz, which had been Poland's second city

Allen was able to find his sister and rather than enter a Displaced Persons Camp (DP camp), together they made their way to Berlin, which offered the security and welfare organisations that came with being governed by the four powers. And then, onward to Munich, a city where he had friends and a city where the Americans were in charge.

Three years later, they emigrated to the United States and went to live in Chicago where they had relatives.

He never forgot the man who saved his life. Once established, he sent money to Jozef and arranged for him and his family to visit him in Chicago.

Allen's mother and my father were cousins; our grandmothers were sisters; yet it has only been in recent years that I have had the enriching privilege of spending time with this humorous congenial relative. Time to discover that there is more to Allen than his modest good nature or his good fortune in the face of existential adversity. He admits to always having sadness in his heart, but balances that by accepting that there is no point in harbouring hate, which, he says, "only makes you miserable". His appreciation of life seems to be summed up by the license plate on his car - 'Keyn-ayn-hora'; which means 'no evil eye' or 'all is good'.

Allen is aware of his responsibility to keep his memories alive so that they can be understood by modern generations. For many years he has been committed to lecturing in schools and to being interviewed for the archives.

He is now in his ninetieth year. But he still finds the time to continue to visit and to talk to young people, to share his story and has, despite all, retained his good humour.

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# Yom Hashoah

# 11

## Skokie: a film for Yom Hashoah



Full details of the Sussex Jewish Film Club's next offering on Sunday 7th April were given in the March issue of SJN, issue 228 (page 15). We thought it best to give you advance notice so that you had time to mark it in your diaries. This is just a reminder! On that evening, which is Yom Hashoah, we'll be showing Skokie, an American film made in 1981 and starring Danny Kaye (125 minutes), based on the true story of how a community of Holocaust survivors and their neighbours in Skokie, Illinois, stood up to a group of neo-Nazis planning to hold a rally in their town. Refer to last month's SJN for a full description.

Some might find that this film has some parallels with recent events locally but this is up for debate. As usual it's 7.00 for 7.30 pm at Ralli Hall (83 Denmark Villas) with hot and cold drinks available. All are welcome even if you haven't been to a Club film before. Just make a small donation on the door (free to students).



## Why did it happen?

by Simon Hatchwell

Soon after the end of World War II some of the survivors of the Shoah moved to Paris, the capital of France. I distinctly remember the emaciated face of the man who was employed as a cleaner at the school where I was studying. In his spare time he painted pictures, but there was always an expression of sadness in his paintings.

The history of the Shoah has deeply affected me for years, and it still does. We all ask the question, "Why, why did it happen? Why? Why?" We read in the Torah that God intervened in comparatively minor events, but we ask ourselves why did he do nothing when so many millions of his/our people were slaughtered? In despair, on the 40th anniversary of the Holocaust, I wrote to my teacher Mr. Emmanuel Levinas, z'l telling him that I could no longer believe that God was the Guardian of Israel and that we Jews were His people.

He replied by sending me a lecture that he had given at one of the meetings of eminent philosophers, which he, as well as the Pope of the time, occasionally attended.

I have read that paper many, many times. Levinas is not an easy read. But finally I think I found his answer to my question. He referred to the 28th chapter of the Book of Numbers which tells us some of the sacrifices God ordered Israel to perform, and to the 15th verse of that chapter which says, "and one male of the goats for a sin offering to God". God in His majesty and humility admits that He has sinned and ordered us to offer a sacrifice to Him in atonement.

The nature of the sin is not the point of importance here, (I shall tell you in the next issue what God's sin was). The important idea is that the Torah accepts the idea that God himself had sinned.

He might well have sinned again by allowing the Shoah to happen.

### TORAH NURSERY

*invites you to an inspiring afternoon tea with*

**TOVA MORDECHAI, author of 'PLAYING WITH FIRE'**  
Sunday 21st April 2013 at Ralli Hall  
from 3.00pm to 5.00pm

*Coffee, teas and cakes will be served.*

*Admission is £7.00 in advance, £8.50 at the door*

*Men and Women are welcome*

Tova, who now lives with her family in Tzfat, was born Tonica Marlow, to an English evangelist father and Egyptian Jewish mother. At the age of sixteen she was accepted into a noted Christian theological college and within four years she had become an ordained minister.

Signed copies of the book will be for sale following the talk.

And yet with all of her successful activity she could not explain the deep pain she felt inside. She began to doubt some of the church's teachings and because she did not receive adequate answers she started exploring her mother's Jewish faith.

Her life story is truly remarkable. COME AND LISTEN to Tova as she retells her quest for the truth about her Jewish heritage.

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## Chief Rabbi Hertz Centenary

by Rabbi Vivian Silverman

One hundred years ago this month, in April 1913, Joseph Hermann Hertz was installed as the fourth Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregation of the British Empire.

His predecessors in office had hailed from Germany, but he was born in Hungary in September 1872. When he was a youngster of twelve, his parents emigrated to the United States where he received his education, both religious and secular. In 1894, Hertz became the first rabbinical graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, at that time a fully traditional rabbinic establishment.

After serving the Syracuse congregation, he was invited to become rabbi to the recently-built Witwatersrand Hebrew Congregation in Johannesburg. The year was 1898 and for the next thirteen years he lived in South Africa.

So outspoken was he in support of Britain during the Anglo-Boer war (Oct 1899-May 1902) that he was expelled from the Transvaal, returning there only when peace was declared.

During the years that followed, Hertz was an active Vice-President of the South African Zionist Federation and Professor of Philosophy at the Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg.

In 1911, he was invited to return to America to become Rabbi of the Hungarian congregation, Orah Hayyim in New York City. That same year, Chief Rabbi Hermann Adler died and

Hertz declared himself interested in the vacant office. When Lord Milner (former Governor-General of the Cape) heard that Rabbi Hertz was one of the candidates, he informed Lord Rothschild (President of the United Synagogue) that Hertz was the ideal man for the Chief Rabbinate because he had been so pro-British at the time of the Boer war.

And so it was that in late 1912, Joseph Hermann Hertz (having already been interviewed in London) was declared Chief Rabbi Elect. The other candidates were Dayan Moses Hyamson of the London Beit Din, who took the position at the Orah Hayyim shul when Hertz left, and Rabbi Bernard Drachman, one of Hertz's teachers at the Jewish Theological Seminary. The Hertz Chief Rabbinate began the year before World War One and ended a few months after the end of World War Two.

He was an orator and writer of distinction and a fearless advocate for traditional Judaism. His publications were much sought after.

A Book of Jewish Thoughts was originally written for the Jewish members of HM Forces in World War One, subsequently reissued in World War Two for all allied Jewish troops and contains uplifting words of comfort and encouragement from Jewish and non-Jewish literature across the ages, in reference to Judaism and the Jewish people. It was republished in the 1960s.

The Hertz Chumash, for which he was the overall editor, was published during the dark days of the 1930s, to show

the beauty and timeless application of Jewish ethics and morality as found in the Torah. It also aimed at countering Nazi propaganda against the Jewish people.

The Hertz Siddur was first issued in 1941 with a second edition in 1946. Annotated by the Chief Rabbi and like the Chumash, it is filled with outstanding essays which have never dated.

Sermons, addresses and studies comprises three volumes and covers his life in America, South Africa and Britain.

Before and during the Second World War, together with his son-in-law, Rabbi Solomon Schonfeld (of Hasmonean Schools fame), the Chief Rabbi tried to save as many Jewish lives as possible by imploring and importuning the British authorities to issue visas and permits of entry, through the Chief Rabbi's Religious Emergency Council. Hundreds of Jewish scholars, teachers and others from Nazi Europe were able to escape to this country. In fact, Rabbi Schonfeld continued to save Jewish lives after the war ended when he scoured DP camps and convents looking especially for Jewish children.

Sadly, Rose Hertz had died in 1930 aged only fifty, though their children gave him strength and joy. The tragedy of European Jewry (the Nazi death camps were known about from 1941/2), preyed constantly on his mind and taxed his strength. He took ill and passed away in mid-January 1946, aged seventy-three.

Y'hi Zihro Baruch / May his memory be a blessing to us all.

*You and your family are invited to a*

### LAG B'OMER FUN AFTERNOON AND B-B-Q

**Sunday 28th April 1.45 pm**

At Hove Croquet Club on Kingsway between Westbourne Villas and Princes Crescent.  
B-B-Q, Bouncy Castles, Kit Flying, Circus Activities, and loads more fun....

Tickets:

ADULT: £11 on the day or £9 in advance,  
CHILD: £8 on the day or £6.50 in advance  
FAMILY TICKET (2 Adults and 2 Children): £35 on the day or £30 in advance

CHILDREN UNDER THREE YEARS: Free

The above prices include the B-B-Q and a drink  
For further details or to book please call Rabbi Efone on 321919 or 07885 538681

**THE WHOLE COMMUNITY IS INVITED TO THIS UNITY EVENT**

## APRIL DIARY

<b>7 Sunday</b>	Yom Hashoah Service at West Hove
<b>9 Tuesday</b>	Talmud Shiur, 11.00 am
<b>15 Monday</b>	Yom Ha'atzmaut 65
<b>16 Tuesday</b>	Ladies Discussion, 10.30 am, followed by Shiur
<b>28 Sunday</b>	Lag b'Omer

**REMEMBER OUR NEW EMAIL ADDRESS**  
[sjneditor@sussexjewishnews.com](mailto:sjneditor@sussexjewishnews.com)

## Moving moments

by Rabbi Andrea Zanardo

A few months ago, as soon as I arrived in Brighton, I was offered the honour of teaching at Lishmah. I chose to teach about Zionism because I am a Zionist and an Israeli citizen and because Zionism has, in certain circles, a bad reputation, which I think we Jews should work to change.

Lishmah is now finished and I must say I highly enjoyed the experience of reading, commenting and debating the writings of different Zionist thinkers together with other fellow Jews.

In a few days we will be celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israeli independence day, which has rightly become part of the Jewish calendar all over the world (at least where Jews are free to live and celebrate). This is only but one of the several examples of the many changes that Zionism had brought to the Jewish world.

But this is not the only way Zionism has changed the Jewish calendar. Before Yom Ha'atzmaut there is Yom Ha Shoah: another date established by the Israeli Parliament in 1959, and thus observed throughout the Diaspora.

There is of course logic in such a progression: as a movement, Zionism challenged the political naivete of traditional Jewry. For this reason, for a long time, Zionism had not always been extremely popular among the Rabbis. Even in recent times there had been attempts to memorialize the Shoah on a different date (e.g. Tisha be Av), as if the Israeli and Zionist calendar was somehow mistaken.

These attempts have not been successful, and I doubt they will ever be. Zionism has already proven to be a matter about which the Jewish people are wiser than some of the Rabbis. Despite their

hesitation, Jews of some generations ago, took their destiny in their hands and literally changed history, establishing after millennia of exile and homelessness, a place that they could call home.

And this fact in itself is hugely beneficial, so that very few of us Jews call themselves anti-Zionist nowadays. The vast majority of Jews, Rabbis included, will thus celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut in a few days.

To me, Zionism is an historical opportunity: the chance to build a society according to the Jewish ethics, to contribute to the improvement of the world as a Jew, together with other Jews, who share with me inspiration from the treasures of Jewish spirituality and Jewish thought. This is something that thrills me and I celebrate.

On YouTube there is a video clip that I highly recommend. It is the maiden speech of Ruth Calderon, a recently elected Israeli MP. And it is also a Talmudic class on a passage in Ketubot 62b, which narrates a story about reciprocal responsibility and the urgent need for Jewish education. Prior to the speech MK Ruth Calderon, following the style of her teacher (Rabbi David Hartman z'l) handed copies of the text to the other Knesset members. You can even see how she welcomes observations from other MKs of different factions.

A woman, a secular woman, reclaiming Talmud for her, and for the Jewish people: all of this in the opening session of the Israeli Parliament. A very moving moment, enough to say Shehecheyanu! the blessing to celebrate special occasion.

The same blessing to be said on Yom Ha' atzmaut.

Ruth Calderon's historical speech can also be read at <http://www.thejewishweek.com/editorial-opinion/opinion/heritage-all-israel>. A video clip can be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/RuthCalderon> or on our Facebook page.

## Purim with a difference

The celebrations commenced with mask making for the children and learning how to make sushi for the adults. The service this year was the first ever multilingual Megillah reading, where members of the congregation read portions in 11 different languages including Japanese, Chinese and, of course and to no one's surprise, Italian too! The traditional Fancy Dress Parade was followed by a Chavurah Brunch, where over 80 members and guests socialised and celebrated together.



**COFFEE MORNING**  
**Wednesday 10th April 2013**  
**11.00am**  
**1 Park Avenue, Hove**

Donation: £3.00

by kind permission of Rosa and Stuart Panto

### Bulletin Board – April 2013

- 1 Monday** 7th day Pesach service, 10.30 am
- 6 Saturday** Rabbi's Shiur, 9.00 am  
Shabbat Doroteinu – Our Generations, 10.45 am
- 7 Sunday** Yom Hashoah
- 10 Wednesday** Rosh Chodesh Group, 7.30 pm
- 13 Saturday** Shabbaton - 10 yrs+, 10.30 am
- 14 Sunday** Cheder new term, 10.00 am
- 15 Monday** Yom Ha'atzmaut (Celebrations at Hove Town Hall), 7.00 pm
- 19 Friday** Kuddle Up Shabbat, 10.00 am
- 20 Saturday** Rabbi's Shiur - Siddur Surgery, 9.00 am
- 26 Friday** Kuddle Up Shabbat, 10.00 am
- 27 Saturday** Rabbi's Shiur - Pirke Avot, 9.00 am
- 28 Sunday** Lag B'omer – Treasure Hunt, 10.30 am  
more details to follow



## Day By Day

by Rabbi Elizabeth Tikvah Sarah

Every year the Jewish people journeys from Shabbat to Shabbat, from Festival to Festival, in an endless cycle, year after year, l'dor va-dor, from generation to generation. Nevertheless, the journey from Pesach to Shavuot is unique. Connected by the seven weeks of counting, day by day, from the second day of Pesach until Shavuot on the 50th day, this particular journey is marked by a daily rite that recalls the presentation of the omer, the sheaf of grain that was waived by the priest each day during this period in Temple times (see Emor, Leviticus 23:9-20).

What are we doing when we count the omer? Are we simply practising a ritual prescribed by the rabbis? The journey from Pesach to Shavuot mirrors the Exodus journey of our ancestors from Egypt to Sinai. The Haggadah, the 'telling' of the Exodus tale at the Seder, reminds us that in every generation 'each one of us should consider ourselves as if we had, personally, gone out of Egypt.' So, do we think about being on a journey from slavery, through liberation, towards commitment and responsibility, as we count the omer? Of course, our ancestors probably thought only about taking flight as they went out of Egypt and had no notion of what awaited them as the third month began, following the departure. That is because what lay ahead of them, really was unknown. So, how can we really identify with their experience? After all, we know their story inside out.

We cannot be them. But what we could do is make our own journey, day by day, from Pesach to Shavuot. We could think about the ways in which we live in bondage – chained to the endless routines of our daily schedules, in thrall to the god of consumerism, dependent on the familiar structures that govern our lives. If we do this, then we might begin to acknowledge that although we are not oppressed

by a tyrant and persecuted by cruel taskmasters, in a significant sense, like our ancestors, we, too, are slaves. We could also think about what freedom means to us: Do we long for it? Do we fear it? And we might also consider what we would do with our freedom, if we had it.

Our ancestors' journey out of Egypt took them to the foot of Mount Sinai. As Shavuot approaches, we are challenged to reflect about our own relationship to the Eternal. According to the Torah, when Moses read from the Book of the Covenant, the people responded, na'aseh v'nishma – 'we will do and we will listen.' (Mishpatim, Exodus 24:7). Some of us are very scrupulous about the doing side of this equation, but are we as good at listening? Do we listen out for the voice of the Eternal in the context of our own lives? The unique Omer period invites us to go on a journey. May the ritual of the daily counting, encourage us to make our ancestors' journey, our own.

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## Lag B'Omer: What Have the Romans Ever Done For Us?

by Rabbi Hershel Rader

What have the Romans ever done for us? So many of us are familiar with this scene from Monty Python's Life of Brian in which Roman contributions such as roads, public baths and aqueducts are dismissed as insignificant. What we may not know is that the Talmud relates a very similar story which actually took place.

Rabbi Yehuda, Rabbi Yose, and Rabbi Shimon [bar Yohai] were sitting. And Yehuda ben Gerim was sitting near them. Rabbi Yehuda began and said, "How great are the deeds of this [Roman] nation! They made markets; they made bathhouses; they made bridges." Rabbi Yose was silent. Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai answered and said, "What they made, they made for themselves. They made markets so they could set prostitutes there, bathhouses to anoint themselves, bridges to collect a toll." Yehuda ben Gerim went and repeated their words which were heard by authorities. [The authorities] said, "Yehuda who elevated will be elevated, Yose who was silent will be exiled to Sepphoris, and Shimon who disparaged will be killed." (Babylonian Talmud Tractate Shabbat 33:b)

Rabbi Shimon hid from the Romans for 13 years. He is remembered as one of the great Rabbis of the Mishnaic period both a Halachic authority and author of the great Kabbalistic work the Zohar. He requested



The grave of Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai, z'l

that the day of his passing be celebrated as a holiday. He passed away on the 18th of Iyar, the 33rd day of the Omer, known as Lag B'Omer and this day is celebrated throughout the Jewish world. In Meron, the burial place of Rabbi Shimon and his son Elazar, thousands of Jews gather to pray at his tomb, light torches, sing and dance.

But how could Rabbi Shimon discount the Romans' achievements? Why did his colleague Rabbi Yehuda take such a different view?

Rabbi Shimon was a mystic. He viewed the world not merely in terms of its material or physical aspect but rather from a deeper spiritual perspective. Rabbi Yehuda was content to appreciate the Romans' deeds as advancements in construction and administration. Rabbi Shimon had to examine their intent which, if undesirable, would undermine their material accomplishments. This difference of approach is reflected in various Halachic disagreements between the two sages. For example, Rabbi Shimon is of the opinion that, in certain circumstances, a person's intent performing an act forbidden on Shabbat can render him guiltless.

As a mystic Rabbi Shimon did not view this world as the sum of a person's existence rather a small part of a soul's journey. He regarded the soul as infinitely more important than the body which he saw as a vehicle through which the soul can impact the world. Death was not something which scared him and he felt that when G-d took his soul to a better place he would be ready and no one should be sad for him.

Rabbi Shimon is mentioned in every chapter of the Talmud. His decisions and actions have impacted every subsequent generation of our people and he left us the joyous day of Lag B'Omer.

## Brighton & Hove Hebrew Congregation

### SUMMER BARBEQUE

12.00pm, Sunday 7th July

At New Church Road Shul

*A great occasion for the whole family. An opportunity to go out for a Kosher meat lunch and for the children to enjoy the facilities of the BHHC.*

*A choice of burgers, sausages and chicken together with salads and drinks, followed by a great dessert.*

Adults £13.00 Children £6.00

Vegetarian option available if ordered in advance.

Please book your place by Monday 1st July by contacting the Shul Office on 01273 888 855 or office@bhhc-shul.org

**COMMUNITY EVENTS – IMPORTANT REMINDER:****Contact the Communal Diary before planning your events!****[info@sussexjewishrepresentativecouncil.org](mailto:info@sussexjewishrepresentativecouncil.org)**

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**SHABBAT SHALOM – BRIGHTON TIMES**

In	Light Candles	Out	Havdalah
Fri 5	7.21 pm	Sat 6	8.32 pm
Fri 12	7.33 pm	Sat 13	8.45 pm
Fri 19	7.44 pm	Sat 20	8.58 pm
Fri 26	7.55 pm	Sat 27	9.11 pm

**NOTABLE DATES**

Tues 2	Pesach, 8th day
Sun 7	Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Day)
Mon 15	Yom Hazikaron (Israel Remembrance Day)
Tue 16	Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day)
Sun 28	Lag b'Omer

**REGULAR ACTIVITIES****Sundays**

- ☛ **Carmel Tennis Club** 10.00 am - 12.00 noon. Weekly. All levels welcome. Tel: Leon on 07717 222744

**Mondays**

- ☛ **Lunch & Learn** with Rabbi Efune 11.30 am-12.30 pm at the Brighton Hillel Centre, 66/67 Middle Street, Brighton Tel: 01273 321919
- ☛ **Afternoon Club** with tea 1.30 pm. Ralli Hall Tel: Reba 01444 410435
- ☛ **Rubber and Duplicate Bridge** 1.30 pm - 4.30 pm £2.00 Ralli Hall. Tel: Reba 01444 410435
- ☛ **Contemporary Basic Talmud** with Rabbi Efune - Men only 8.15 pm at Chabad House 01273 321919
- ☛ **Tanya (Kabbalah)** Learning Group with Penina Efune - Ladies only 8.15 pm at Chabad House 01273 321919

**Tuesdays**

- ☛ **Ralli Hall Lunch and Social Club** 10.30 am - 4.30 pm Tel: Jacqueline 01273 739999 Weekly at Ralli Hall
- ☛ **Art in the studio with Martin** 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm Ralli Hall
- ☛ **Painting with Rochelle (JAS)** 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm Ralli Hall Tel: 01273 503708
- ☛ **Israeli Dancing** 7.45 pm - 9.45 pm Ralli Hall. Tel: Jacky 01273 688538

**Wednesdays**

- ☛ **JACS** at the AJEX Centre, Eaton Road, Hove at 2.00 pm. £2 members / £2.50 non-members (see programme in Events listings but note no programme during Pesach)
- ☛ **Art in the studio with Martin** 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm Ralli Hall

**Thursdays**

- ☛ **Mummy, Me and Music (0-2 years) at the Torah Nursery**, 29 New Church Road, Hove. All mums welcome, 9.30 am to 11.30 am. Each session will include a half an hour music time.
- ☛ **Ralli Hall Lunch and Social Club** 10.30 am-4.30 pm Weekly Tel: Jacqueline 01273 739999 (RH)
- ☛ **Bridge** at Ralli Hall 11.00 am
- ☛ **Weekly Torah portion** with Rabbi Efune 8.15 pm at Chabad House Tel: 01273 321919

**Fridays**

- ☛ **Kuddle Up Shabbat**, parent & child playgroup with Sara Zanardo and her guitar at AJEX Centre, 10.00 am – 12 noon
- ☛ **Eastbourne Progressive Jewish Congregation** service on the 4th Friday of each month, WVRs, 24 Hyde Road, Eastbourne, 6.00 pm

**EVENTS FOR APRIL****Wednesday 3**

- ☛ **JACS QUIZ** with prizes, prizes, prizes. AJEX Centre, Eaton Road, Hove at 2.00 pm. £2 members and £2.50 non-members

**Sunday 7**

- ☛ **AJEX Service for Yom Hashoah** 4.00 pm – 5.00 pm at Brighton & Hove Hebrew Congregation, 31 New Church Road, Hove
- ☛ **Sussex Jewish Film Club** presents 'Skokie' at Ralli Hall, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm

**Monday 8**

- ☛ **AJR (Association of Jewish Refugees)** Ralli Hall, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
- ☛ **Sussex Jewish News – Submission deadline for May issue** Send your submissions to [sjneditor@sussexjewishnews.com](mailto:sjneditor@sussexjewishnews.com)

**Wednesday 10**

- ☛ **Youth Aliyah Coffee Morning** at 1 Park Avenue, Hove at 11.00 am. Donation £3.00
- ☛ **JACS** with guest speaker. AJEX Centre, Eaton Road, Hove at 2.00 pm. £2 members and £2.50 non-members

**Sunday 14**

- ☛ **Helping Hands Tea** 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm. AJEX Centre, Eaton Road, Hove

**Monday 15**

- ☛ **Yom Hazikaron, followed by Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations for Israel's 65th birthday** Hove Town Hall. Doors open 6.15 pm. Tickets £20 adults/£10 children (11-17 yrs) Contact 07789 491279 or email: [info@sussexjewishrepresentativecouncil.org](mailto:info@sussexjewishrepresentativecouncil.org)

**Sunday 21**

- ☛ **Tea at Ralli Hall** with guest speaker Tova Mordechai, author of 'Playing with Fire'. Ralli Hall 3.00 pm – 5.00 pm. Tickets £7 in advance/£8.50 on the door. Contact Penina Efune on 01273 321919

**Wednesday 24**

- ☛ **JACS** with guest speaker Helen Poole on Shoreham: a patchwork of history. AJEX Centre, Eaton Road, Hove at 2.00 pm. £2 members and £2.50 non-members

**Sunday 28**

- ☛ **Lag b'Omer Fun and BBQ** with at Hove Croquet Club, Kingsway, Hove from 1.45 pm. Contact Rabbi Efune on 01273 321919 or 07885 538681

**Tuesday 30**

- ☛ **Jewish Historical Society** of Great Britain (Sussex Branch) with guest speaker Dr Helen Spurling (University of Southampton) on Jewish Apocalyptic Literature as a response to historical events. Ralli Hall, 7.45 pm – 9.15 pm. Members free and £4 donation for non-members

## HAVE YOU GOT YOUR TICKETS? April 15th 2013 -Yom Ha'atzmaut

A party for the whole of the Sussex Jewish  
Community to celebrate Israel's 65th birthday.

Tickets £20 adults/£10 children (11-17 yrs)

Contact 07789 491279 or email  
[info@sussexjewishrepresentativecouncil.org](mailto:info@sussexjewishrepresentativecouncil.org)