

As editor of the Newsletter it is a delight that I am able to include a message to welcome three new members to the community. We are fortunate that we have a beautiful and ancient building in which to worship and congregate. However the people are its life blood. This must be why, we bless not only the people who come to pray but those who give food and wine for Kiddush, entertain guests, give charity to the poor and are involved with all the needs of the community. In other words, all of us who contribute in whichever way to safeguard and enrich our historic congregation. L' Shana Tova Jo Freeman Hon Editor (joeyfied@hotmail.com)

A message from the Chairman

I can't believe that another year has gone by since I wrote my last article. I mentioned last year how I felt that the community is more like a large family. I recently had this feeling on the third Friday in August when we held our evening service, followed by a Kiddush, at Boley Hill for which I would like to thank Hilary and Marie Halpern. This was the first time we had held one of these 3rd Friday events for a couple of years and there were at least 20 adults present, including a minyan, plus several children. We hope to hold this type of event at least three times a year.

In the past year we have had 2 Bar Mitzvahs, Shaun Berson in December 2008 and Theo Halpern in January 2009. We wish them both Mazel Tov. In January 2009 we hosted the Holocaust Memorial Day event with the participation of several schools including Balfour Junior school, taught by our own Karen Connolly. Speakers included our Police Community Liaison Officer, Terry Sims and Imam Shaffiq Din. A member of Medway Youth Parliament joined David Herling and I in the memorial prayers and Canon Philip Hesketh of Rochester Cathedral wrote a prayer especially for the occasion. Wristbands proclaiming the theme "Stand Up To Hatred" were worn by all including the Mayor and Mayoress of Medway. Unfortunately we were unable to organise a communal Seder this year. We realise that a number of people were disappointed by this so we intend to do everything possible to ensure that we have a communal Seder next year. Any offers of help are always welcome.

Our community continues its involvement with Jewish Kent. In July, a number of our members attended a talk by Malcolm Weisman in Margate shul. Afterwards, instead of davening all afternoon, they found their way to the beach – well wouldn't you! A very pleasant time was had by all. On Wednesday 9 September we are hosting a talk by Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali to the Kent branch of the Council of Christians and Jews. Bishop Michael, a good friend to this community over many years, recently left the office of Bishop of Rochester and visits us just a few days before his final service in the cathedral. Sadly for Jewish Kent, Colin Rutter of Kent Liberal Jewish Community passed away in July. Anyone who knew Colin would agree that he was one of the nicest people you could hope to meet. Many of you will remember Jonah and the Whale, the Jewish Kent drama workshop he organised at the shul in March 2006. Our condolences go to his family. We have included a moving eulogy by Roger Bishop in this newsletter.

At our AGM in May, the community decided that it was long overdue to honour two people who had done far more than their fair share for the community over many years. Hilary Halpern has served as Chairman and is current Honorary Architect and Chairman of Trustees. Had it not been for his hard work in making appeals and obtaining grants, I don't know how we would have been able to maintain our beautiful shul building. Gabriel Lancaster has held all of the executive offices of the community and is he still, at the tender age of 87, our main ambassador to the outside world. Not only does he represent us on the Board of Deputies but he is also chairman of Medway Inter Faith Action Forum. Furthermore, he also almost single-handedly welcomes large numbers of Kent school students to the synagogue. Hilary and Gabriel were appointed Joint Life Presidents and we are proud to have such dedicated individuals in our community. There will be a Kiddush in their honour on the second day of Rosh Hashanah.

I look forward to seeing you over the High Holydays and I wish you and your family a happy, healthy and peaceful year. **Jon Weiner**

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Welcome to new members:

Brian Abraham, Asaf Bar , Asaph Glass.

Mazeltov to: Gabriel Lancaster on the marriage of his Granddaughter Kalela

Sue & Mark Lee on the marriage of their son Ben to Hannah & on celebrating their Ruby Wedding

Rosie Freeman on gaining a BA hons in European Theatre Arts

Get Well Wishes to :

Manny Penner

A special mention for Marie Halpern who made such a speedy recovery from her accident sustained whilst holidaying in New Zealand and has resumed full duties for the 'Guild'

We have been asked by the Community Security Trust to publish the following article in our Newsletter

Speak up September 2009 / Tishrei 5770

CST urges the Jewish community to remain vigilant and ensure that security continues to be a priority. CST asks the community to report all antisemitic incidents, and any suspicious activity, to both the Police and to CST without delay.

London & Southern region emergencies, call the Police on 999 and CST on 07659 101 668. For non-emergencies call 020 8457 9999

Community Security Trust registered charity number 1042391

Jewish communal life across the UK continues to be as vibrant and varied as ever, and thankfully, most of us are seldom the direct victims of antisemitism. Sadly, antisemitic incidents continue to occur.

January to June 2009

Antisemitic Incidents Report

In the first six months of 2009 CST recorded 609 antisemitic incidents. This is more than the 544 incidents reported to CST throughout the whole of 2008: and more than we have ever recorded in a single year since our records began in 1984. The beginning of 2009 coincided with the fighting between Israel and Hamas, with CST recording a total of 286 antisemitic incidents in January alone.

Antisemitism is not the fault of Jews or Israel, it is the fault of antisemites. British Jews should be able to air their views on Israel. These are racist attacks, in which nobody asks the victim for their political opinions. Britain is a democracy and Jews, like any other citizen, are entitled to express their opinions without being physically attacked or racially abused for it.

Report incidents

Antisemitic incidents can take several forms, from the more serious physical assaults to desecrations, graffiti or verbal abuse. If you suffer or witness such an incident, we urge you to report it to the police and to CST without delay. This is the best way to ensure that the incident is properly investigated, and reduces the chance of the perpetrators repeating their crime and someone else falling victim.

It is important that we do not allow antisemitism to define our community and there is no reason for it to inhibit our Jewish way of life. We are all free to express our Jewishness however we see fit. Antisemitism, racist abuse or hate crimes of any kind have no place in our society.

It is likely that, in common with other forms of hate crime, some people in our community who suffer antisemitic incidents do not report them to either CST or to the Police. By reporting antisemitic incidents, you can help to ensure that these

crimes have no place in our community.

CST is the only national organisation to record and analyse antisemitic incidents in the UK.

Taking responsibility

CST is a registered charity. We receive no statutory funding or any official grants and we rely entirely on donations to support and develop our work; and trained volunteers to help do the work. CST prides itself in providing all of its services to the Jewish community entirely free of charge, but protecting the community is very costly.

CST's work continues to take place at hundreds of communal buildings throughout the UK: including schools, synagogues and community centres.

CST has taken responsibility with its Protective Windows Project initiative, which ensures the fitting of shatterproof film on the windows of every Jewish communal building in Britain. Recent terrorist attacks at both Jewish and non-Jewish sites demonstrate that flying glass is the single greatest cause of death and injury. In January 2009, arsonists failed to set fire to the inside of a synagogue in London due to the shatterproof film on the windows, saving it from serious damage.

In addition to the Protective Windows Project, we work in partnership with local communities and organisations on The Security Enhancement Project.

This ensures that security measures such as CCTV, access gates, lighting and alarms help to deter possible threats against our community.

Thank you

CST would like to thank our network of over three thousand trained volunteers across the UK who give their precious time to protect our community in all circumstances. CST's work would simply not be possible without the support of our volunteers' families and the partnership of our community. We wish you all Shana Tova.

Can you help?

Ever increasing demands are being placed on CST to protect our community and we urge you to take responsibility and play your part in this vital work.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or would simply like to make a donation please call 020 8457 9999 or visit www.thecst.org.uk

From Irina Shrub

Subject Creation

On the sixth day, G-d turned to the angel Gabriel....

"On this day, I shall create a magic land. It shall be called Israel
It will stand as holy. Its magnificence will be known all over the world
I will choose to send to this land special people of goodness,
intelligence and conviction, so the land shall prosper. I shall call these inhabitants Jews."
"Pardon me, Lord," asked Gabriel, "but aren't you being too generous to these Jews?"

"Not really. Wait and see the neighbors I'm giving them."

Reproduced below with permission an article which appeared in a recent issue of the Jewish Chronicle by Alexander Bodin Saphir who has long been associated with our community.

Where is the next generation of leadership coming from?

In February of this year I spent 10 days on the shores of Yam Kinneret as a participant of the Nahum Goldman Fellowship. The Fellowship is world renowned for nurturing the next generation of Jewish global communal leadership by bringing together Diaspora community leaders between the ages of 25 and 40 to learn, live and share their diverse experiences. Of the 42 participants from 24 different countries South Africa, Australia, Argentina and the USA all sent four representatives with France and Germany each sending three. Conversely Britain sent only one representative, myself, and technically with only a Danish passport to my name I'm not even British!

The Fellowship itself was fascinating, educational and inspiring with this year marking its 21st anniversary. Since the opening session at Carmel College in 1987, over 700 men and women have participated in the Fellowships all over the world. Last year's was held in Montevideo and next year's is being planned for mainland Europe. Participants are exposed to lectures and discussion groups led by some of the most prominent Jewish thinkers in their field. This year was no exception with some extremely interesting lectures and discussions, including those led by Nobel Prize laureate Professor Robert Aumann, Professor Saul Berman (who, in 1965, was imprisoned for marching with Martin Luther King in Selma, Alabama), Professor Ruth Gavison (the Haim Cohn Chair of Human Rights at Hebrew University) and Professor Yehezkel Dror (founding president of the Jewish People Policy Planning Institute and a recipient of the Israel Prize).

Morning lectures were followed by smaller interactive workshops on Jewish texts, Jewish identity and community building with the evenings spent in peer-led discussion groups. Although the participants held a wide spectrum of religious and political beliefs, antithetical positions were argued (often passionately) with tolerance and respect. At no point were ideas or political agendas forced upon the Fellows. Rather, it became apparent that the Fellowship's task is not to dictate how future leaders might shape their communities, but instead to foster an environment of independent critical thinking that will allow each participant to return to his or her community with the tools necessary to build/maintain a viable, innovative and sustainable community.

So is the lack of adequate British representation at such an important meeting point for future Diaspora leaders merely an aberration or is it an illustration of British Jewry's reticence to engage meaningfully with the rest of the world? If it is the latter, then is British Jewry in danger of becoming irrelevant on the European and world stage? And can British Jewry afford to be quite so isolationist?

By the end of the ten days it was concluded (among other things) that greater cross border cooperation was needed to strengthen and enhance community building, particularly in Europe. France and Germany, due to their larger contingent at the Fellowship, took the lead with Holland seen as a potential meeting place for a pan-European community-building workshop in the near future.

So where does that leave Britain and our future leadership? In a day and age when decisions made far from our shores impact our lives directly it is fundamentally important for the continued growth and development of our community that we foster a new generation of intelligent, open-minded and cosmopolitan leaders who are willing and able to embrace cooperation on a global scale. If we do not engage more actively with European and World Jewry we run the risk of finding ourselves standing on the sidelines looking on, as the important decisions are made without us. The Nahum Goldman Fellowship is the perfect place to initiate just such an engagement and I look forward to a larger British representation next year. Maybe then I can go back to being what it says in my passport – Danish!

For more information on the Nahum Goldman Fellowship and this year's Fellowship see:
<http://ngfp.org/>

Mailing address: Nahum Goldman Fellowship Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture 50 Broadway, 34th Floor New York, NY 10004

CHIEF RABBI'S ROSH HASHANAH MESSAGE

At times like the current recession we need more than ever to reflect on the questions Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur pose to us. What do we live for? What are our values and how do we translate them into life? What will we give our children and those who will live on after us? For what do we wish to be remembered? What chapter will we write in the Book of Life?

It is easy to be lured by the siren song of a consumer society and come to believe that what matters is how much we earn and what we can afford. All around us are promises of happiness if we buy this, acquire that. Yet the overwhelming consensus of psychological research is that, beyond the basic minimum we need, there is little correlation between wealth and happiness, between what we own and the way we feel. Even those who have won great sums in a lottery are, on average, no happier a year later than they were before they won. The excitement and delight of material things is very short-lived.

All the more so does this apply within the family. I once sat with one of Britain's most successful businessmen while he told me how unfair it was that his marriage had failed. He had, he said, given his wife everything; yet it was clear that what he had given her was possessions. What he hadn't given her was time. He was so obsessed with work that he failed to understand how neglected she felt.

I lose count of the number of parents who have told me a similar story about their children. 'I gave them so much,' they say. 'How could they be so ungrateful?' But you cannot buy a child's affection. That needs something else altogether: care, attention, recognition, time spent talking together, doing things together, and yes, studying together.

Judaism is an extraordinary set of disciplines for living a meaningful life – and it is meaning, not fame or success, that lies at the heart of happiness. It invites us through the blessings we say every morning to give thanks for simply being alive in a universe full of beauty and wonder. It forces us, one day in seven, to rest and enjoy what we have rather than worry about the things we do not yet have. On Shabbat we renew the love within the family. We celebrate being part of a community – the place where our joys are doubled and our grief halved by being shared with others.

On the festivals we relive our people's history, the most remarkable history of any nation on earth. Through kashrut we sanctify the act of eating. Through mikveh and the laws of family purity we etch our most intimate relationship with the charisma of holiness. Spending time studying the texts of our tradition, we endow with religious significance the life of the mind. In prayer we converse with G-d, aligning ourselves with the moral energy of the universe, becoming part of the four-thousand-year-old symphony of the Jewish soul.

We can lose material possessions, but spiritual possessions – the good we do, the love we inspire – we never lose, and that is why they are the greatest investments we can make. May we, in this coming year, spend more time on the things that matter, the things Judaism teaches us to value, and may G-d write all of us in the Book of Life.

Bebirkat ketivah vechatimah tovah
Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks
Rosh Hashanah 5770

A WEDDING IN ISRAEL by Gabriel Lancaster



Some months ago my granddaughter, Kalela, who lives in Tel Aviv, rang me to say she was due to attend a conference in Paris and would like to take the opportunity to visit me for a couple of days. She added that she would have a friend with her, if that was alright. When they arrived, the 'friend' turned out to be a pleasant young man, an Israeli and it was easy to see which way the wind was blowing!

Sure enough, about six months later I received another 'phone call, telling me that I was expected at the wedding and would I sing the seventh sheva beracha under the Chupah. Great family excitement, as the arrangements were made for various family parties to converge on Tel Aviv from all over the world. While all the arrangements were in hand I was informed that I was to have a visit from a young lady, Rosie, from Sidney, Australia, the granddaughter of a cousin, whom I had met in Sidney a year earlier, a delightful person! While she was staying with me (at the same time as my daughter and her husband, from San Francisco) we had an email from my cousin to say that he had arranged for her to fly to Israel with us, to represent the Antipodean family at the wedding.

Kalela and her father, meanwhile, were making arrangements for the ceremony. They found a garden kibbutz, Shevil Bagan, Ein Ha Choresh, a few miles north of Tel Aviv, which would make a fine venue for the Chupa, and booked some self-catering cabins on the coast nearby for close family. I had arranged to stay with an old friend, Cyril Solk (an ex member of our Synagogue) at his home in Hertzlia, during my visit but we decided to spend our first night in Tel Aviv at an interesting hotel, called The Cinema, on Dizengoff Circus. (Actually, an old cinema, with displays of early cinematograph equipment on each floor. Highly recommended!).

The next day we drove out to Ein Hachosh and settled in to one of the cabins, just off the beach, having been introduced to the very welcoming landlady, who went out of her way to make sure we were comfortable.

Now, a word about the ceremony. This is Israel, where a civic marriage has to be an Orthodox marriage, or it cannot be registered. Kalela comes from an Orthodox background but is very independently minded and did not want the Orthodox ceremony, which she feels is demeaning to women. So she, her bridegroom and their Masorti rabbi did some research into ancient ceremonies and reworded their Ketubah, in line with an old ceremony of partnership, which satisfied all three but, of course, meant that it could not be an Orthodox ceremony. Kalela wrote out the beautiful Ketubah herself, as she is a calligraphic artist. To emphasise that 'this is Israel', shortly after my son and I arrived at the kibbutz the officiating rabbi arrived, wearing a pair of very brief blue shorts: my son asked him, diffidently, if that was his dress under the chupah. He replied that "this is Israel and we're pretty free and easy"! (He did change into a shirt and trousers for the ceremony!).

The ceremony was to take place at dusk, on a balmy Israeli evening. The Chupah was set up at one end of a large lawn and was draped with a lovely white material, spangled with gold stars, which the bride's sister had recently designed and had made during a visit to India. The Chupah was surrounded by candles in glass tumblers, set on the lawn. The Ketubah was read before witnesses, the rabbi explaining its history, then the ceremony started, needless to say, about an hour later than scheduled, the hundred or so guests having been regaled with drinks and snacks whilst waiting.

Imagine the scene! A beautiful, clear, warm evening, filled with scents of semi-tropic flowers, then the bride and groom approached the Chupah across the lawn, walking down a pathway of light from candles, with the maid of honour and the best man strewing their path with rose petals: just magic!

After an address by the two officiants, explaining to the guests the reason for the wording of the Ketubah and praising the bride and groom, the couple were asked to each put a ring into a small bag (made from my late wife Pearl's, wedding dress material) then hold it up together and make a declaration of partnership, witnessed by the company, before each taking a ring from the bag to give to the other. A very moving moment! Then wine was poured and the sheva berachot commenced, each being recited by a relative or friend of the couple, called by name to the Chupah. I was very proud of being asked to sing the long seventh blessing, in my opinion one of the most beautiful in our liturgy. As usual, the ceremony ended with the glass breaking and loud "Mazzaltovs" from everyone.

Gradually the guests drifted to the tables which had been set up under the trees in another part of the garden, and the wedding dinner started. The caterers had set up an enormous barbeque, from which issued large quantities of interesting meats, accompanied by a selection of fine salads, in the Israeli style. During the meal various toasts and speeches were made, in a very relaxed style, in Hebrew and English, including my son Leslie, the best man, Irene (the bride's mother) and myself. For me a highlight occurred when Leslie read out an email he had received from Jon Weiner, our Chairman, to say that I had been elected a joint Life President of our synagogue.

After the meal, dancing commenced, in the vigorous Israeli style, at one stage Kalela insisting that I joined her on the dance floor, so that I could say that I danced at her wedding!

By the time the evening ended, it was agreed by all that we had savoured a delightful event; even the bridegroom, Sagi, admitting that he had enjoyed it, although he was a bit under the weather with a cold. It is to be hoped that our happy couple will have a long, fruitful, healthy and interesting life together.

“.... May there be heard in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, voices of joy and gladness, voices of bridegroom and bride ... and of young people feasting and singing.”

- Marriage “Sheva B’rachot.”

Colin Rutter 1938-2009

Colin Rutter, a dear friend to many of us at Chatham Memorial Synagogue and member of the Jewish Kent committee, died peacefully at home on Saturday 4th July. His wife Barbara and his family were present. A dozen or so KLJC members attended his funeral service on 15th July, conducted by Beverley. They were outnumbered many times by Colin’s family and friends who packed the crematorium chapel to overflowing. During the service, Roger Bishop delivered this eulogy:



“Colin would be amazed at the number of people here today, a testament to the very wide circle of friends he and Barbara have, and the affection and respect we all have for both Colin and Barbara.

“Colin suggested that he didn’t want anything said about him today, (typical of his ever present modesty); well, sorry Colin, but today is also about us, especially your family, so, although I’m sure it would be possible to write a fascinating book about you, a few words ought to be said. I’ve only known Colin for about the last ten years of his life but in that short time I have come to realise what a remarkably unusual and special man he is in so many ways to so many people.

“What an amazingly full life Colin has had! Tony has put together a wonderful collection of photographs at Wilgate Green. I urge you to take time and look at them, they are fascinating, and whilst at Wilgate admire the extension which Colin built and some of his paintings hanging in the living room.

“A very successful career in the Royal Air Force which included various overseas postings, theatre work in London, artwork, practical projects from car restoration to house building too numerous to mention and, more recently, his formal conversion to Judaism which involved so much study and absolute sincerity. And in everything he has done, he has been a perfectionist, it just had to be done properly, especially so as so much of what he has done has been for others. Colin has always had time for others, he has made the effort, often sacrifice, in order to help and support others, show an interest in their lives, remember what was important for them; such a good friend to so many people.

“Throughout it all, even during his illness, Colin’s contagious enthusiasm for life has been inspirational, so much energy, so much optimism.

“In the Kent Liberal Jewish Community Colin has been a key member, participating fully in the Community’s life, a significant presence at Services, a major contributor to numerous events such as the Maidstone Mela and JewishKent and his production of ‘Jonah’ at Chatham; (at Wilgate check out the puppets he made).

“Colin has been blessed with a wide circle of interesting friends, no doubt drawn to him by his always ebullient presence. And of course, his life has been enriched beyond that of most, by a beautiful, intelligent and loving wife, successful in her own career and of whom he has been justifiably proud, his three children whose lives have brought him so much pleasure and stimulation together with their partners and, of course his four grandchildren. To Daisy, Ruby, Sam and Alfie I say, cherish the memories you have of your grandfather; I’m sure they will serve you well if you are guided by them. “We mourn Colin’s passing, but let us also be grateful that we have had the opportunity to have him enrich our lives. “I have tended to use the present tense because

although Colin is physically gone from us, his spirit remains; the impact he has had on us all, remains; the things he has done for us and said to us, remain; his unassuming style and flair, remain; above all, his wonderful personality remains. "Colin lives on in our love for him and our fond memories of him.

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The Synagogue was the venue for the annual meeting of the Council of Christians & Jews – Kent Branch on Wednesday 9 September The speaker was the Bishop Of Rochester Michael Nazir Ali his topic was 'Can the Spiritual and the Moral be Accommodated in Public Life?'

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From Vivian Wineman, President, Board of Deputies, September 2009 Rosh Hashannah Message

NB It is Interesting to Note that Vivian Wineman is the son of the owner of Luxrams, in Strood, where Chaim Wayne our President for many years was the manager He went out of his way at the last meeting to remind Gay that he has strong childhood memories of Chaim.

As we turn the page on 5769 it gives me great pleasure as the newly elected President of the Board of Deputies to send this message to all the members of Chatham Memorial Synagogue..

According to Rabbinic tradition Rosh Hashanah is not merely the day of Judgement but also the day on which the world was created. However literally one takes this, the approach of the Yamim Noraim – the Days of Awe – should be a time for introspection and a self-assessment on both a personal and communal level. As individuals we look back over the year that has passed and consider our hopes and aspirations for the coming year. Similarly, as a community we can at this stage pause to reflect on the issues that have confronted us over the last year and which will continue in the year that lies ahead.

This last year has seen a number of serious challenges to the community both at home and abroad ranging from the demonisation of Israel at Durban II to the ripples caused by Operation Cast Lead, increased anti-semitism, the success of the BNP in the recent elections and just lately the challenge to Faith Schools and Faith Institutions posed by the judgement by the Court of Appeal in the case involving the JFS.

In all of these situations the Board has been vigilant not merely in defence of the communities' rights and privileges but also in promoting all the activities which make our communities so vibrant and so exciting.

As a truly cross-communal organisation and the representative body of community, the Board operates through consensus building, seeking common ground and forging partnerships across the communal and wider society spectrum. Space is too short to give a full account of all the activities of the Board but some of the main ones must be mentioned.

The recent ruling in the JFS case has of course sent shockwaves through the community. The Board does not involve itself in the original rights and wrongs of the dispute but is anxious to ensure that the community retains the right of self definition and the control of entry to its institutions. We are at the forefront therefore in co-ordinating a central communal response. Equally, we will endeavour to provide guidance to schools on how to adapt to the law should the decision of the Court of Appeal remain in force.

On the other hand, the Board has also pioneered a community cohesion project of Shared Futures School Linking which has just completed its successful first year and was created precisely to foster tolerance and understanding between Jewish and non-Jewish schools. The Board's Jewish Way of Life Exhibition continues to impact widely on British society educating and enlightening tens of thousands of UK citizens about Jewish culture, customs and religion.

On the negative side, the emergence of the BNP and its expected success in gaining two seats in the recent European elections presents a challenge not just to Jews but also to British democracy. You will hopefully have seen the Board's highly visible anti-BNP grassroots campaign which formed an extremely vital part of the wider challenge to the BNP's ideology of hatred. Success of this can be seen in the high turnout in those areas touched by that campaign. For the year ahead, work will continue unabated in monitoring far-right fascist groups in the UK and in Europe.

Abroad we have had the challenges created by Operation Cast Lead. This resulted in a sixth fold upsurge in anti-semitic incidents at the beginning of the year. The Board initiated regular contact with the Government to guarantee that key authorities were aware of the alarming impact that the conflict was having on our community. Together with other

communal organisations, the Board organised a rally in London's Trafalgar Square attended by over 10,000 people calling for peace and an end to Hamas terror.

In parallel with this, there were the preparations for the review of the UN Human Rights Conference which took place in Geneva earlier this year. The original Conference held in Durban in 2001 resulted in a demonisation of Israel and a shocking display of anti-semitism. For 18 months the Board, together with other organisations worked hard behind the scenes lobbying British and other western Governments. We did not turn the world upside down. No one could expect us to but the success of our efforts if unrecognised was never less spectacular. Almost all references to Israel were removed from the Conference Declaration and the British and other western Governments walked out of President Ahmadinejad's speech to the General Assembly. On any realistic assessment this was a tremendous success.

As we face the year ahead we can be proud of the achievements of the last year but must not be complacent in meeting future challenges. To continue our vital work we need the community to uphold its commitment through payment of the communal levy – the Board's lifeblood. It is an honour to be able to represent the community to fight for its liberties and privileges and at the same time to stimulate its vibrant activities.

I would like to wish all of you a ketivah ve'chaitmah tovah and may you be inscribed and sealed for a good year.

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SWINE FLU

If the epidemic takes off again, we might have to stop people kissing and shaking hands after the service . Jon Et les Français ont interdit baiser (and the French have banned kissing) –with acknowledgment to Google Translator & Jon Weiner!

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According to Jon & Gay There are 32 versions of Adon Olam. Here are just 14 If you want the full list consult Jon or Gay who will be delighted to furnish you with the whole list!!.....

1. Moscow Jewish Choir; great version --
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5VcngQReNw&feature=related>
2. London Jewish Choir; outstanding version (medley of different tunes) -- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7n05IKwfmrc&feature=related>
3. Old TV version from Israel; very good --
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hN22uCDW9RQ>
4. Children's chorus with words --
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLefr1CWEkI&feature=related>
5. Reggae Version -- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEDQSW29zOA>
6. Cantorial Quintet a cappella -- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUQj5n10oYE>
7. Six Cantors during a service -- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZyXhUMp2I>
8. South American version performed in Israel --
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78nGYFopaAI>
9. Another Latino version with Cantorial solo --
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFMpLE8gM5Y&feature=related>
10. This is an old French Sephardic Version --
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xq_akrcOJ0k
11. Three tenors version --
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-NEbNW9h_s&feature=related
12. Semi-jazz version; semi-Klezmer --
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ct3age-FODY&feature=related>
13. High school girl group --
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMi3b-ICTjw&feature=related>
14. Jerusalem Oratorio Chorale -- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFsUXCpJh2c>

As the country is remembering the 70th Anniversary of children being evacuated this article is particularly pertinent

Hilary Halpern Recollections of being a child during World War 2 As told to the Medway Archives

I recall my school being evacuated to Sittingbourne and my parents coming to visit me on a Jewish Holiday when I was playing rugby! They were shocked and took me back home.

I recall being evacuated to Wales and staying in Tylers Town with my Aunt Molvern and Uncle Arthur who was a doctor in the Rhonda Valley. They had 2 sons who were 2 and 6 years younger than me. They lived in this huge, huge house and when they finished lunch a procession would take place from the dining room, my Aunt leading the women, then the men, and lastly my Uncle. The house was in fact falling to pieces, but I recall my Aunt spending a small fortune on a fireplace in the lounge. I also recall them taking in two of my second cousins from Germany and bringing them up, paying for their education. I decided not to stay in Wales and I hitched a series of lifts from Wales across England to my parents' home in Chatham. I was about 12 years old. The journey took 21/2 days, and I slept out, wherever I was, and I was pretty hungry. Later I was taken back to Wales and stayed a few months. By then my Uncle was away in the Army in India.

I recall, during the Battle of Britain, my mother going to London to buy costume jewellery for their shop, and getting lost in the East End, which was being blown up at the time. I remember going to look for her walking down streets which were changing in shape as the bombs dropped. Of course, I recall my sister getting married in Brixton, which was the second day of doodlebugs and every few minutes everyone got on the floor as the noise of a doodlebug stopped until there was an explosion and then everyone got up again. When the Minister (Rabbi Swift — later becoming a Dayan) arrived he was covered in dust, his house having just been blown up. I also recall being in my uncle's shop in New Cross where, a 100 yards further on was a big Woolworths which received a direct hit from a rocket and many people were killed. You heard the sound of the rocket after it had landed and exploded!

My father was a Chief Inspector in the Special Constabulary and was very proud of it. My mother was a pretty typical Jewish mother who always imagined that I was starving. My sister, Maxine 4 1/2 years older than me, was always my protector and would go to war at the slightest provocation if she felt I was in trouble. When she was 18, she went to work in the Dockyard.

I guess we were pretty typical of a family at war.....

From Adina Halpern New Zealand - To make you smile!

A Florida senior citizen, 76, drove his brand new Corvette convertible out of the dealership. Taking off down the road, he floored it to 80 mph enjoying the wind blowing through what little hair he had left. 'Amazing,' he thought as he flew down I-95, pushing the pedal even more.

Looking in his rear view mirror, he saw the highway patrol behind him, blue lights flashing and siren blaring. He floored it to 100 mph, then 110, then 120. Suddenly he thought, 'What am I doing? I'm too old for this,' and pulled over to await the Trooper's arrival.

Pulling in behind him, the Trooper walked up to the Corvette, looked at his watch and said, 'Sir, my shift ends in 30 minutes. Today is Friday. If you can give me a reason for speeding that I've never heard before, I'll let you go.' The old gentleman paused. Then said, 'Years ago, my wife ran off with a Florida State Trooper. I thought you were bringing her back.'

'Have a good day, Sir, ' replied the Trooper.

AND FINALLY FOR OUR YOUNGEST MEMBERS.....



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