



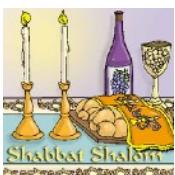
Southport & District  
Reform Synagogue

# L'Chayim



**1st January - 28th February 2019**  
**24th Tevet - 23rd Adar 5779**

Date	Parasha /Event	Service Leader	Reading	About
5th January Saturday	Shabbat	Matt Suher	Va-eira Exodus 6:2-7:7	Mission of Moses and Aaron
12th January Saturday	Shabbat Delilah Hoskin baby blessing	Rabbi Robert Ash	Bo Exodus 10:1-20	Plague of locusts, plague of darkness
19th January Saturday	Shabbat	Susan Fox	B'shallach Exodus 13:17-14:14	Crossing of sea and victory over Egyptians
Sunday 20th January 11.30am	Tu B'Shevat Seder / lunch	Student Rabbi Gabriel Webber		See within
26th January Saturday	Shabbat	Mina Abram-Hebblewaite	Yitro Exodus 18:1-23	Arrival of Jethro
27th January Sunday, 1pm	HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SERVICE Christchurch, Lord Street.			See within
2nd February Saturday	Shabbat	Fortune Chamberlain	Mishpatim Exodus 21:1-19	Legislation concerning slavery, murder, personal injuries etc
9th February Saturday	Shabbat	Matt Suher	T'rumah Exodus 25:1-22	Materials for tabernacle, ark and appurtenances
16th February Saturday	Shabbat	Susan Fox	T'tzavveh Exodus 27:20-28:21	The eternal light, the ephod, the breastplate
23rd February Saturday	Shabbat	Mina Abram-Hebblewaite	Ki Tissa Exodus 31:1-32:6	Craftsmen of the tabernacle. Observance of Shabbat



Refreshments are available from 10.30am., on Saturdays. **Please ensure these are not taken into services.** Services start punctually 11am on Saturdays, 7pm Friday nights.

Please ensure mobile phones are switched to not disturb the service.

Please mention to the wardens prior to the commencement of the service any special prayers or inclusions you wish for in the service.

**Chavurah meals** are always vegetarian.- please bring something suitable for this community meal so that your kindness can be shared by all. **Thank you for your cooperation.**

For those receiving L'Chayim by e-mail, you can print off your own calendar for display at home.



On occasions when we are unable to offer a service, we have been advised we can go to The Home ( 81 Albert Road) to attend the service there. If you wish to attend, you must contact Mr Brian King (Chairman of the Home), tel. 01704 565621, no later than Thursday afternoon prior to the service for security reasons. The home is orthodox, men and married women will need to cover their heads.

Member of the Movement  
for Reform Judaism



Registered Charity 227576

Synagogue Office:

Lisa Sachs

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Princes Street,  
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**01704 535950**

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Southport Reform Shul

The Sternberg Centre  
home to the Movement  
for Reform Judaism



General Enquiries:  
02083495724  
[www.reformjudaism.org.uk](http://www.reformjudaism.org.uk)



**Rabbinic Support**

Although the synagogue does not have a full time Rabbi, we do have Rabbinic support and of course the co-operation of other nearby communities. Rabbi Norman Zalud now offers the synagogue pastoral support for personal issues. Rabbi Robert Ash offers support to our services and for Jewish learning. Rabbi Elf supports our services on request. Student Rabbis will continue to support our synagogue for services and education, thanks to Reform Judaism.

## Editorial



*Selwyn and Gillian Goldthorpe,  
editors of L'Chayim*

We are pleased to be able to issue another L'Chayim at this time of year, thanks to Lisa, in the office, or not in the office as the case may be, as she kindly volunteered to work from outside of her office whilst on leave so we can all enjoy a good read of L'Chayim over the New Year of 2019.

**Our New Year's best wishes to you all.**

Lovely picture of Sam Davies taken from the Southport Visitor. The choir and table tennis clubs continue to flourish at the Synagogue. We report on the Northern Chairs meeting. Our contract with the other Jewish Reform Communities in the Northwest. We have a report from Mitzvah Day. The work of JLC and our conversations with Southport's MP, Damian Moore.



*Many people read the newspaper religiously every day*

The 12th January sees Rabbi Ash at the Synagogue for Delilah Hoskin's baby blessing.

We also have Tu B'Shevat and Holocaust Memorial Day articles about both these events are within this issue.

We have lots of news for you as to what has been happening over the last few weeks in the Community.

We really appreciate our readers views and news. It is what makes us into a community, and this is our magazine for you.



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## **Follow the synagogue on Facebook.**

What better way to stay in contact with your friends?

Become a Facebook friend of the Southport & District Reform Synagogue. Circulate your photographs of our events and get togethers.

Make new friends. Keep in contact.



Facebook :

**Southport Reform Shul**

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Photo courtesy of The Southport Visitor

**Sam Davies** (in action- the photo. to the left) is climbing up in the world of table tennis. He is now playing Sefton League table tennis as a member of our resident table-tennis club, 'Prince Street Table Tennis Club'.

Whilst there has been a bit of a Christmas break for the League, games resume in the New Year.

Should you interested in learning, or want to improve your game, there is a level of play for everyone., right up to County and National standard. Please contact Nick Foss, on 01704 822992, or have a word with Selwyn Goldthorpe from our synagogue.

Table tennis is good exercise, can be played at all ages from 6-90+, and is sociable. League games are played in the evenings.

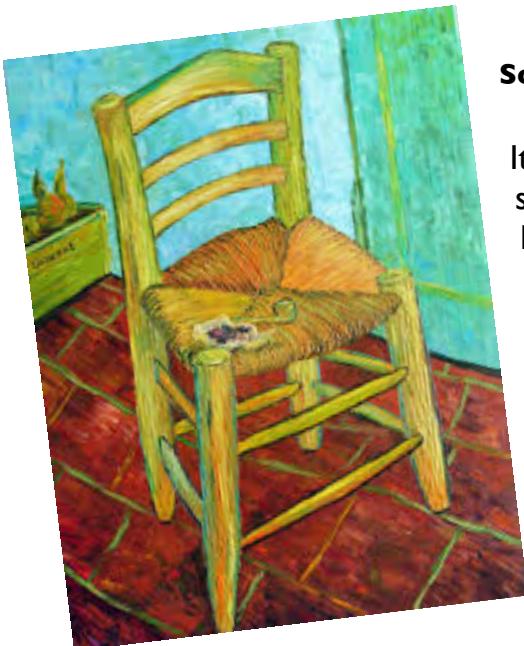


We hosted the Northern Chairs meeting on Sunday, 4th November and had a video link to London.

No Jewish meeting is complete without food and our thanks to Gillian Goldthorpe for her hard work with the 'show stopping catering', and her helpers. We do have a reputation to maintain!

Our synagogue was well represented with some extra members from our Executive.

A full report of the meeting follows :



**The Northern Chairs Meeting  
Southport & District Synagogue 4th November**

It may not come as a surprise that large synagogues and small synagogues have something in common when we consider how to engage Reform Jewish people in local community life.

As Chairman of our Synagogue I am getting increasingly used to the idea that for some 'Jewish' people the Synagogue exists when they need it and otherwise is not supported, either physically or financially.

When I receive a phone call that someone needs the services of our Synagogue (as I did as a Mohel for the Reform Movement) I ask myself how do they expect the services of a Synagogue to be available to them, when this is the first contact they have had with our Synagogue, and it is likely to be the last, especially when the service being given is a Jewish funeral. It is enough to drive you mad!

The Northern Chairs meeting was concerned with how to engage Jewish people with synagogues. Goals that can strengthen communities, and make the Jewish community a better place- other than just food of course!

We all have a shared Jewish background. We all have lots in common. What is it that people want from their Synagogue? It is up to us all to communicate our needs, as our Synagogue exists for our benefit. A religious meeting house? A place for socialisation? A place of learning? An organisation of social, and emotional support? An organisation for item of service? ("I pay my membership and I want .....").

Sarita Robinson, Reform Judaism's Northern Community Partner, attended the meeting and thanked Howard Saffer for his visionary leadership and commitment to our thriving Northern communities and their development, as he retired from being Chair of the Northern Communities. Howard has been succeeded by Ian Sugarman, Honorary Life President of Hull Reform Synagogue.

Our Synagogue Council will be discussing some of the ideas generated around the country by this meeting.

I am pleased to report that Southport has been successful in obtaining further funding from Reform Judaism to develop a plan for Community Caring.

*( Dr Selwyn Goldthorpe, Chairman, Southport & District Reform Synagogue )*

## Brenda Dinsdale reports on her visit to us on 16th November and Shabbat 17th November.

When Gilly Shulman introduced the concept of 'Board Ambassadors', I was delighted to volunteer. Part of my portfolio on RJ Board, is to keep in touch with Northern communities so a visit to Southport fitted the bill.

The weekend started with a Friday service, followed by a chavura supper at the home of the Chairman, Selwyn Goldthorpe. The turn out was so good for this event, that extra chairs had to be found in order to accommodate everyone. The mix of ages was excellent, from young to 'not so young' and the singing was a wonderful way to bring in Shabbat. During the meal I had the opportunity to 'meet and mingle' – a good way to get to know people and introduce myself.

People travel quite a distance to get to the shul so some people who came on Friday evening wouldn't get to shul the next morning. So, in effect, there were two different groups of people to talk with.

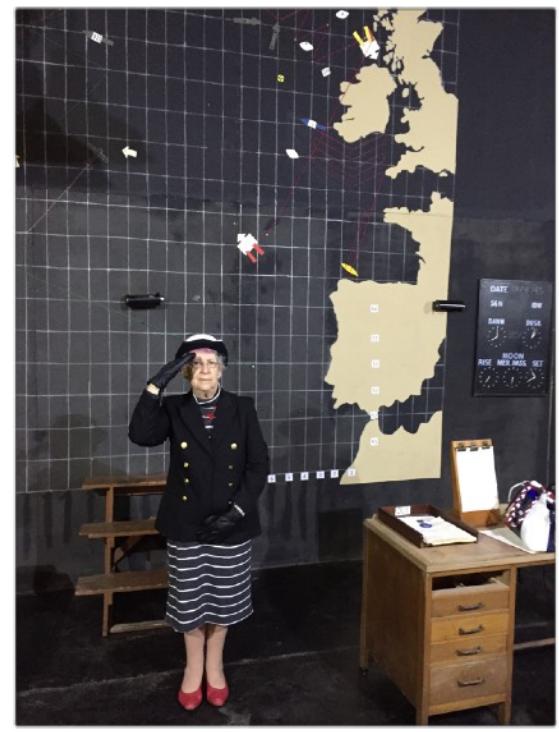
I learned that the community, of around 80 members, though small, is vibrant. There is a lot going on. There is no Rabbi but regular services, sometimes led by students, occasionally a visiting rabbi or talented lay leaders, ensure that the community has excellent religious input. There is a communal seder each year, catered for by community members, visiting speakers and a 'cheder on demand'.

On Shabbat morning, it was my turn to tell the community about the work of RJ Board. How all members had a portfolio and how input from the board was valued by the senior management team. I told them about the various committees our trustees sit on, including the RCRWP, which we have heard more about this evening. I stressed that, although the RCRWP only gave recommendations, I felt that the guidelines were an important tool in the running of a synagogue.

I talked about the quinquennial review at Leo Baeck College, which was designed as a way of ensuring good training for our student rabbis. I described the financial side of the board, and the importance of encouraging donors to contribute. I mentioned the Annual Dinner & I included information about RSY & the importance of encouraging youngsters to participate in Israel Tour. Finally I said how much all communities benefitted from RJ and how they can tap in to all the resources on offer & I added in a brief 'advert' for the benefits of joining the RJ Board....there will be a vacancy next year!

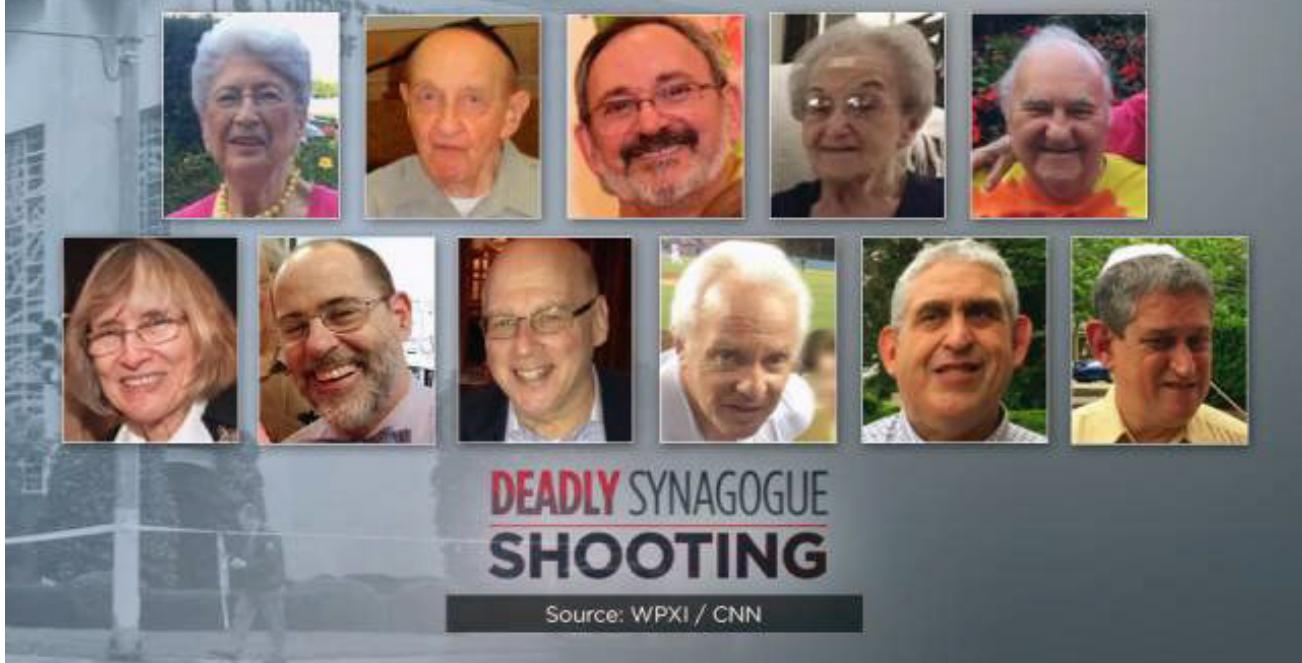
I wanted to deliver a 2 pronged message; that the knowledge & expertise of RJ was there for all to benefit from and that the levy gave good value for money. Questions followed.....ones I was able to answer but I expect there will be further discussion at Southport Board level, with possibly a few calls to be made to Gilly!

Brenda Dinsdale, 19th November 2019



Brenda visiting the Liverpool Western Approaches Museum

## Mon October 29, 2018. Pennsylvania synagogue



Article by Fabian Sborovsky of Menorah Synagogue and Chair of the Assembly of Reform Rabbis and Cantors UK.

The aftermath of the Pittsburgh massacre united the Jewish world in mourning and laid bare the self-evident truth that the values that unite us as Jews are far greater than our partisan and ideological differences.

The entire Jewish community was horrified by the sobering awareness that it could have been any of us. As one, we stand side by side in solidarity as we mourn for those who were brutally murdered for no other reason than for being Jews praying together in shul on Shabbat. We recognise in the image and names and those who were massacred a familiarity not unlike our own family and community.

Having lived in Pittsburgh for several years, and now having the privilege to serve as rabbi in South Manchester, it was especially heart warming to receive an invitation by a colleague to join together with all Jewish communities in South Manchester for a cross communal candlelit vigil planned for the following day in memory of the shooting victims. As rabbi of the only community affiliated with egalitarian progressive Judaism in South Manchester, the symbolism of coming together as one felt especially poignant as a fitting tribute of Jewish unity to honour those martyred in a like-minded congregation in Pittsburgh, a city I used to call home.

As the ceremony progressed, all my South Manchester colleagues present were invited to speak, reading psalms and prayers in a show of unity with the Tree of Life

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Congregation in Pittsburgh. Holding a candle with flames flickering in the wind, I found especially poignant the words of Rabbi Portnoy calling on us to ‘turn bitterness into love and reach out and bring people together. Rabbi Portnoy further urged all present to ‘honour the dignity of difference and learn to live in co-existence’, proclaiming a loud and clear call ‘to be proud of who we are and reach out to our neighbours and turn our communities to a hive of peace’.

Sharon Bannister, president of the Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester and Region addressed the vigil with heart-warming reports of solidarity from the Muslim community in Pittsburgh and in our country. She reminded those gathered the ominous warning experienced all too often in Jewish history that incitement against others often ‘begins with words but doesn’t end there’.

The mayor of Manchester, Andy Burham, spoke movingly as he addressed all Jewish communities in South Manchester with words of hope and support. He condemned the hatred of Jews behind the murderous attacks in Pittsburgh and all hate-motivated atrocities such as the massacre in Orlando perpetrated against the LGBTQ+ community solely for being who they are. All present were inspired with hope, moved by the show of unity and solidarity. The national anthem and Hatikvah concluded the moving event. The effect was stunning.

All rabbis present serving South Manchester congregations were invited to speak. The exception being the local representative of the one Jewish community affiliated with Progressive Judaism in South Manchester. In this show of unity, I was singled out to be excluded. I was never told of the plan nor sent an order of service until I witnessed the event.

Excluding living Progressive Jews to honour murdered ones is not a fitting tribute to the Pittsburgh martyrs but a mockery. It is also a slap in the face to the dignitaries in attendance and the community who came to show unity and honour the dead in good faith and completely unaware of divisions.

It shouldn’t be up to anti-Semites to teach us there’s no difference between different kinds of Jews.

It remains a self-evident truth that the values that unite us as Jews are far greater than our partisan and ideological differences.

In the aftermath of Pittsburgh, there’s no greater tribute than true unity and solidarity.

I look forward to the day we learn to honour our differences and love our fellow as ourselves.

# Mitzvah Day

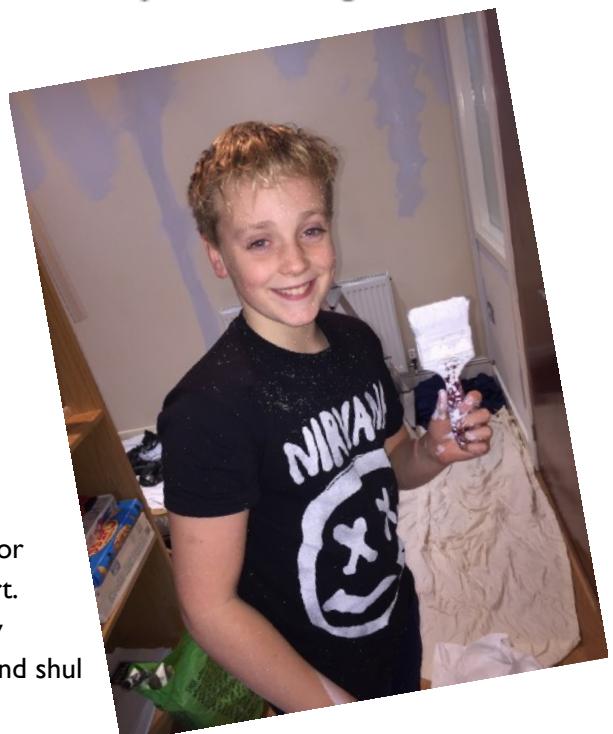
18th November 2018



Thank you for  
your support.  
Cheder duly  
decorated and shul  
tidied



Day of Caring and Service





**The Jewish Leadership Council (JLC) came to our synagogue,** as Marc Levy, who is their North West External Affairs Manager. Marc came to tell us about his work in ensuring political representation of British Jews. He was joined by the MP for Southport Damien Moore.  
(photo. Damian Moore, MP on the left with Marc Levy). The meeting took place on Sunday 9th December.



Our thanks to Council Member Matt Suher for bringing the work of the JLC to the attention of Council and suggesting this meeting.

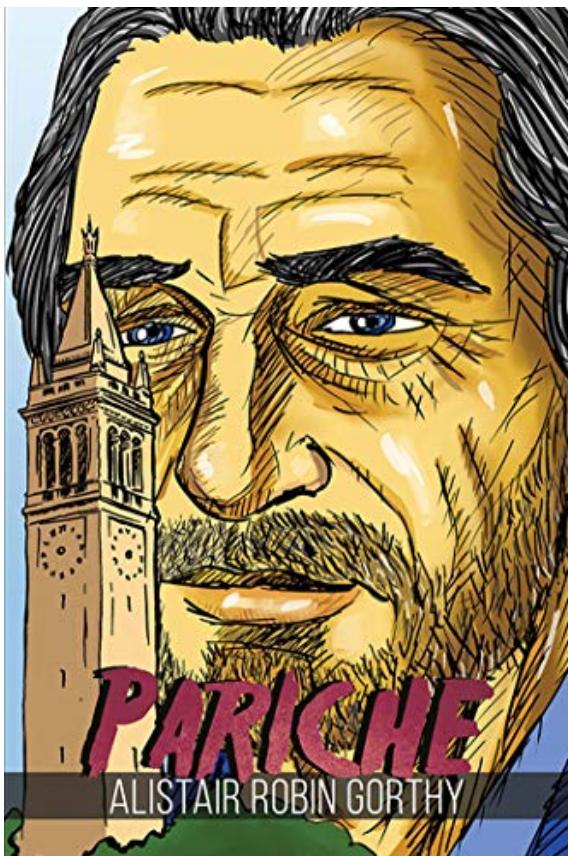
The JLC is funded by the generosity of its donors, and includes the all Jewish organisations in its representations, whether they be political, educational, or welfare, social, and healthcare. Marc spends much of his time maintaining contacts in the political world, representing all Jewish people in the UK, and making the case for a better understanding for the people of Israel.

Damian was able to tell us of the high regard he has for Jewish people, and in spite of his own constituency having in proportion only a small minority of Jewish people, how active he has been in defending aspects of Israeli life, in the British political scene, especially more so following his fact finding visit to that country.

We had the opportunity to ask questions after the meeting, and also to have an informal chat on a personal level with Damian who took lots of his time to stay with us after the meeting discussing his views on the wider political spectrum. He was able to tell us of his family connections to Northern Ireland and how he has formulated his views about Brexit. Although he has been to our Synagogue twice at election hustings, he has expressed a wish to come to a service as a more informal visitor. Something I am sure we can have the pleasure to oblige with.

*Report from Selwyn and Matt*

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## Read a thriller!

Book review by Selwyn Goldthorpe

I have a special interest in this book, not just because I was able to tell the author about some aspects of Judaism mentioned in one of the chapters, but because the author, Alistair Robin Gorthy is the partner of my sister ( to whom the book is dedicated- thank you, Robin).

I have the rare distinction in life of having a signed copy, in my name, from Rob. I know it took him four years of hard work to produce this fictional story. To his surprise this work was almost immediately taken up by one of the big publishers, and seeks an international audience. So what is it all about...

Pariche had urged his friend to go south. How was he to know it would end in murder? This is a crime fiction - thriller.

Soren Karlsson is in the throes of a premature midlife crisis. His girlfriend has just walked out on him and his increasingly dead-end existence as an associate professor at Berkeley. He needs a break, and an extended trip to Mississippi would appear to be the answer. As he sits, contemplating this, aloft Porter's Mount, in his beloved Berkshires, he is unaware of what a certain Jedemiah Pariche has been up to, on his behalf, whilst he's been away. Pariche, a cantankerous individual, with a life-long involvement in civil rights, sees it as his duty to look out for his good friend, especially in regards to the likes of Charlie Wilson, one of the dreaded 'committee people' and a person Pariche dismissively refers to as the "acting" dean. In league with his new-found sidekick, a two-bit hoodlum from the streets called Flaxel Boeteng, Wilson is plotting Soren's downfall. And Soren is now having doubts about the trip too; the state of Mississippi, in the Deep South, appears to be a formidably daunting place and a world away from the cosy liberal life he enjoys out on the west coast. In addition, there is also the safety of his mother, Christina, to consider. As a senior state's Senator for Massachusetts, she is in the process of investigating a Mafiosi hoodlum well known for violence and the harbouring of grudges. And to cap it all, Soren has commitment issues; something that has seen him lose the only real love of his life. Or so he thinks. For Virginia, now a detective with the Pittsburgh Police, is about to walk back into his life....

**( Book may be purchased on line/e book/all good book shops)**

### About the Author

Rob Gorthy lives with his partner, Heather, in the Cotswolds, where he writes, enjoys theatre and going for walks in the countryside, and bird-watching. He has an abiding interest in US politics and philosophy, reading good literature, and listening to music (Amadeus through to Zappa).



## The 90th birthday celebrations continue ..

The 90th birthday party on the evening of the 8th December at Liverpool Reform Synagogue was quite an occasion. Not only did we have some Frank Sinatra tribute singing with our sumptuous three course dinner, we also had a Klezma band made up of members of the community. Dancing was sure to follow, and so it did ( see photo).

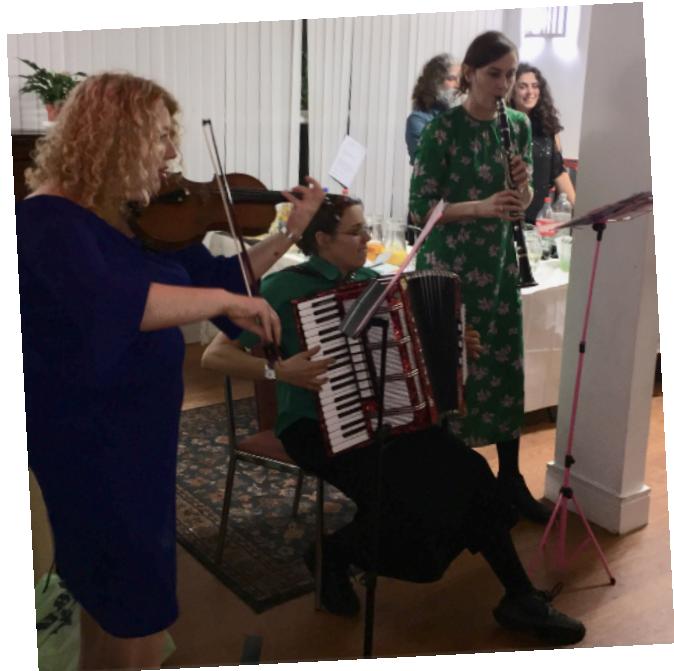
We were treated to a concise history of the synagogue, Rabbi Norman Zalud having played an important part, along with his wife Barbara, in establishing a firm foundation for the synagogue. The synagogue had changed its name three times, and premises three times, in the course of the 90 years.

Rabbi Zalud lit the chanukah candles just as the temple was rededicated, chanukah happens to be the time this synagogue was dedicated.

We wish them many more years of success.

It was nice to see Southport & District Reform Synagogue represented.

*Report from Selwyn Goldthorpe*

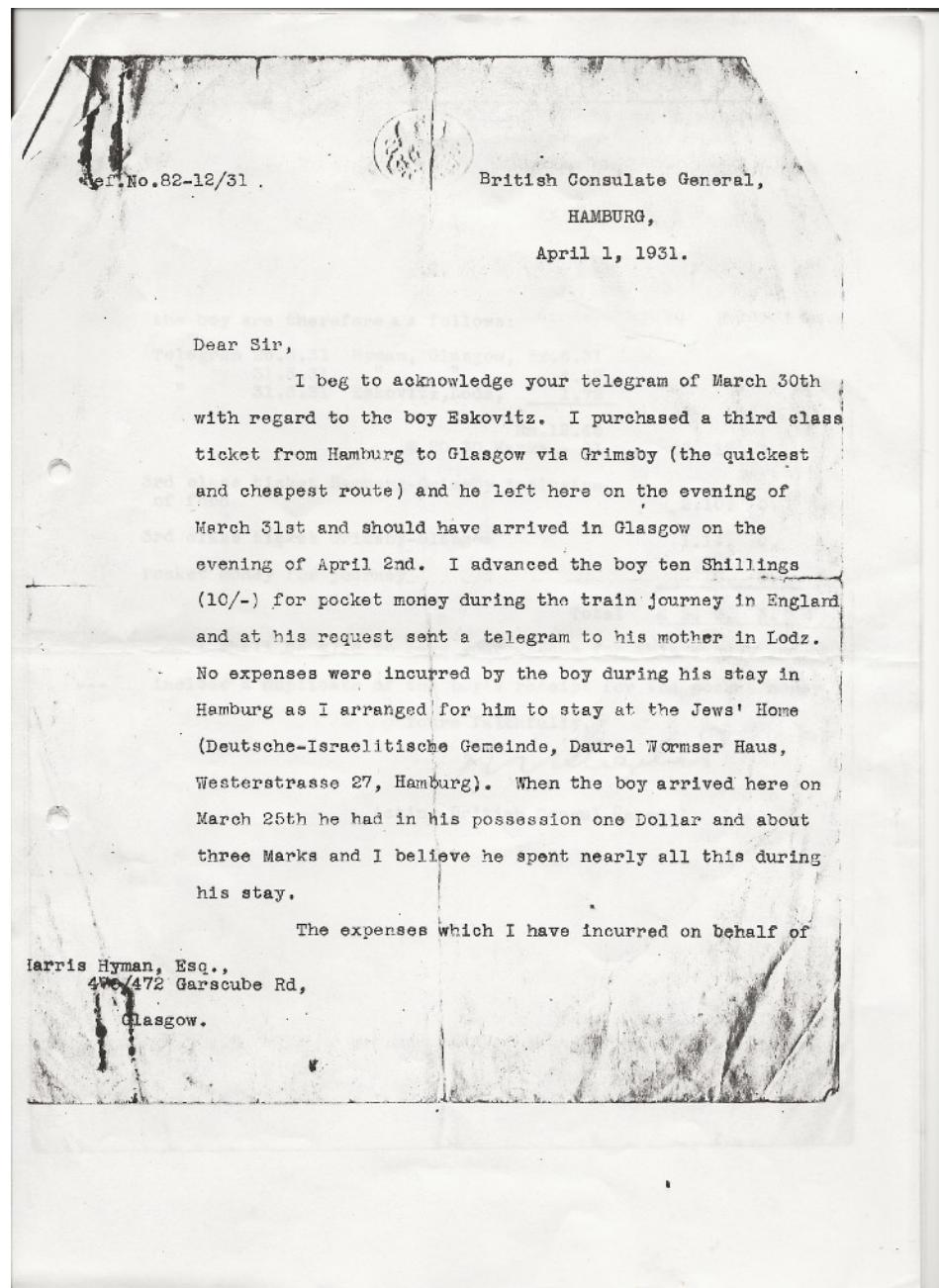


RE:YAHRZEIT FOR MY DEAR LATE FATHER, SAMUEL ELTON (née Eskovitz)

**Aged just 16 years old, he journeyed from Łódź, his birthplace, to Glasgow. It was the last time he would see his parents Aaron and Henne, younger sister Flora and brothers Nathan and Ralph, they perished in the Holocaust.**

My father had told me about this journey but I never expected to be given the

word for word details, after his death....



Above: this document shows my father's travel arrangements from Łódź back to his birthplace of Glasgow

His British Passport shows a young man with the usual mundane information, his age - 16, colour of eyes, grey. Height 4'9". Profession apprentice upholsterer wearing his best clothes probably made by his father who was a master tailor. The year was 1931, the city of Warsaw on this now worn but extraordinary piece of my family history.

My father wanted to be a car mechanic but his father did not think this was a suitable profession for his eldest son.

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ried in Southport at Arnside Road Synagogue.

This is just a glimpse of my father's brave life. He also served in WWI in Italy and Gibraltar.

**“the gift of his life will always inspire me.”**

**Adèle Davis**



These pages have been kindly sponsored by Adèle Davis in memory of her beloved, late Father .

May his memory be a blessing to us all.

I fondly remember his workshop in Pine Grove, Southport, the distinct smell of hessian and the light catching the dust in the attic. Rolls of materials on shelves, my father making me laugh with a mouthful of brass tacks. He made me my own child size armchair and a rocking chair. When we visit Southport this property still exists and brings back such vivid memories of me playing outside.

Samuel loved to ride his motor-bike, I and my mother would often ride pillion.

My father was very intelligent, modest and hardworking, he was also very handsome. He met my mother Sadie through his brother, within a short period they mar-



# yahrzeits (יערצעיט)

during this issue of  
L'Chayim

We remember their contribution  
to our lives...

## YAHRZEITS IN JANUARY

Norman Applebaum, Father of Faith

Choueke

Dorothy Bernstein, Mother of Lawrence

Bernstein

Sarah Canter, Mother of Jeffrey Canter

Eli Franks, Father of Donald Franks

Hyman Hirshman, Father of Jon

Hirshman

Freda Lever, Mother of Carole Suher

Bailey Myerthal, Mother of Audrey

Swade

Nathan Polansky, Father of Cyril

Polansky

Rose Swade, Mother of Martyn Swade

Rose Suher, Mother of Matt Suher

Maurice Suher, Father of Matt Suher

Morris Zandan, Granfather of Matt

Suher

## YAHRZEITS IN FEBRUARY

Froy (Alfred) Cohen, Father of Doreen Canter

Sadie Elton, Mother of Adele Davis

Abraham Freedman, Father of Irving Freedman

Amanda Kerr, Wife of Ian Kerr

Milton Mannheim, Husband of Estelle

Mannheim

Gertrude Shieldhouse, Mother of Shelley Yavetz

The congregation on shabbat have the opportunity to reflect on those that have helped to make us, make our community, and contribute to the world we at present live in.

**MAY THEIR MEMORY BE A BLESSING.  
Please be in shul so we can together  
remember our loved ones.**

Yahrzeit candles are available for purchase from the synagogue. Do try to be in shul for your yahrzeit.

# HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2019

This year explores the theme: **Torn from home**

Torn from home encourages audiences to reflect on how the enforced loss of a safe place to call ‘home’ is part of the trauma faced by anyone experiencing persecution and genocide. ‘Home’ usually means a place of safety, comfort and security. On HMD 2019 we will reflect on what happens when individuals, families and communities are driven out of, or wrenched from their homes, because of persecution or the threat of genocide, alongside the continuing difficulties survivors face as they try to find and build new homes when the genocide is over.

HMD 2019 will include marking the 25th anniversary of the Genocide in Rwanda, which began in April 1994 and the 40th anniversary of the end of the Genocide in Cambodia, which ended in 1979.

**The Postcard Project :By taking part in the project you will learn the life stories of survivors who were forced to flee their homes during the Holocaust and the Genocide in Cambodia, and write a message to them.**

Groups and individuals can receive a reply message from these survivors by completing the form included in the resources below.  
see: <https://www.hmd.org.uk/holocaust-memorial-day-2019-postcard-project/>

**Support your local community to REMEMBER THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN KILLED BY GENOCIDE**

**Sunday 27th January, 1pm @ Christchurch, Lord Street, Southport.**

**Chairman's News**



from Dr Selwyn Goldthorpe

The year ended badly as far as I am concerned as just before Christmas, Irving Freedman phoned me to inform me of the passing of Sheila. Although we had seen how poorly Sheila was in hospital, we were hoping for the best. You really do need a medal if you survive two months of being an in-patient! She will be missed by her family and our wider community; her memory is a blessing.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with Gertrude Lutchner, and her family. Gertrude remains poorly in hospital., though we are hopeful by the New Year she will be sufficiently strong to be recovering in 'The Home'.

Nobody gets younger!

As we got to the end of 2018, I was very busy. We had a Council meeting, a visit to Blackpool Synagogue, Mitzvah Day, Brenda Dinsdale and her husband stayed with us, we hosted a chavurah, and came to the Synagogue, The Northern Chairs meeting, The Jewish Leadership meeting, and then we went on holiday to Chile for a few weeks!

As you can see from his magazine we have a busy agenda for the start of 2019. We are wasting no time with having a Council meeting on 9th January.

I wish you all a healthy, and happy 2019. May all your wishes come true.





**We great sadness we announce the death, just before Christmas, of Sheila Freedman, much loved by all that knew her, family, friends, community, and not least her husband Irving.**

We, the editors of L'Chayim, have reproduced the article from April 2018 about Sheila and Irving who have since their arrival in the Synagogue have made friends and been part of our community.

## "Hello!"

Our new synagogue members, Sheila and Irving Freedman, from Ainsdale, would like to say, "Hello" to all our other synagogue members. They are very pleased to be part of the Southport & District Reform community, having moved to Ainsdale from North London, a few months ago.

Sheila and Irving belonged to the United Hebrew Congregation in North London for many years. Both their son and daughter are living in north Liverpool, and so they thought it natural to move up here rather than spend their lives sat in traffic jams on the motorway.

They have two grandchildren, ages 7 and 8, and they look forward to spending more time with the family. They also are very impressed with their new ground floor flat accommodation. They have access to a tastefully furnished common room area, and their own patio into the well laid out gardens.

Irving is retired from his accountancy practice for some years. Both are happy to be part of the social life of their retirement accommodation, and we hope will enjoy the community life of Southport and District Reform Synagogue. If the strudel had anything to do with it, they have got off to a good start.

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**The funeral for Sheila Freedman will be at Southport Crematorium,  
Thursday, 3rd January 2019, 12-40pm**

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**Have you had enough to eat?  
So much for the festive season ?**



Remember to put your spare in date food cans, packets, and **toiletries** in the charity box near to the front doors of the synagogue for the food bank.

**Nothing goes to waste.**



JANUARY

Lesley Brand  
Richard Choueke  
Louise Davies  
Susan Fox  
Noah Hoskin  
Meira Hoskin  
Delilah Hoskin  
Rodney Jackson  
Ian Kerr  
Regina Luxemburg  
Lillian Stephens  
Lee Stoller



FEBRUARY

*Mazeltov!*

Emilie Barnett  
Sophie Barnett  
Andrea Cook  
Sian Hirshman  
Deborah Hirshman  
Nives Hirshman  
Audrey Swade  
Paul Wyndham



Go on, have a party!



If you wish to use the synagogue function room for a celebration, please contact the office.

**There are reduced rates for synagogue members!**

If you wish to sponsor a page in L'Chayim, this can be done for a minimum of £10. You can pay more if you wish. Please contact the office.

To advertise a business or an event, there is £10 minimum charge, or for a full page £40. L'Chayim is distributed around the Jewish community with an interest in Southport and District Reform Synagogue, this includes country members, and friends of the synagogue. (ed).

**Why waste postage? Place a greeting in L'Chayim to all your friends.**



## **Remember Remembrance Day Shabbat 10th November, in our synagogue....**

During the service, we remembered the 100th anniversary of the ending of World War 1 (1918) and the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht (1938).

World War One was surely one of the deadliest conflicts in the history of humanity, in which over 16 million people died. The total number of both civilian and military casualties is estimated at around 37 million people.

It was unlike any other war before or since and would leave a lasting mark on society in all the countries which were involved. It also affected the daily lives of people living in these countries .Families were torn apart, generations of people were slaughtered and towns and cities across Europe were destroyed.

About 5 million Britons served between 1914 and 1918 and more than 2 million citizens from across the then British Empire (volunteers and conscripts) also served. By the end of WW1, almost one million British military personnel had been killed and another two million were permanently disabled with loss of limbs, requiring ongoing care, treatment and financial support in order to survive in peacetime.

**Issac Rosenberg's poem, "August 1914"** (actually written in the summer of 1916) announced his presence as a great war poet. In forceful and compressed images, with not a word out of place, this brief poem is a cry of pain for the loss brought on a generation by the war. 'Break of Day in the Trenches' is perhaps Rosenberg's is justifiably most well known poem. Issac Rosenberg was (as he said himself),

“determined that this war, with all its powers for devastation, shall not master my poetry.”

He served on the Western Front from 1916 until his death on night patrol after volunteering to this duty in April 1918 at the age of 27 . He sent home to his family poems on scraps of paper that were among the greatest of the war. His best work is remarkable for its ambition, its largeness of vision combined with an attention to physical detail and realism but also a sense of joy in surviving the military onslaught.

continued next page/

# August 1914

BY ISAAC ROSENBERG

What in our lives is burnt  
In the fire of this?

The heart's dear granary?  
The much we shall miss?

Three lives hath one life—  
Iron, honey, gold.

The gold, the honey gone—  
Left is the hard and cold.

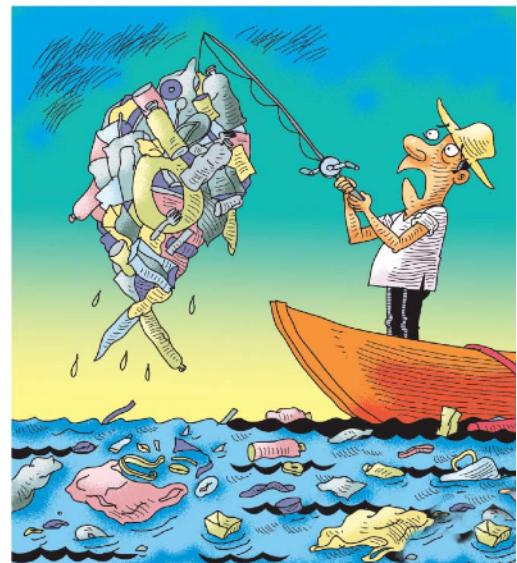
Iron are our lives  
Molten right through our youth.  
A burnt space through ripe fields,  
A fair mouth's broken tooth.

To mark the 80th anniversary of **Kristsallnacht on 09 - 10 November 1938**, the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation released a short film with exclusive testimony from six British survivors of the Holocaust. On the 9th and 10th of November 1938, Jewish communities in Austria, Germany and Sudetenland (formerly in the German speaking part of the then Czechoslovakia) faced widespread state sponsored violence against their businesses, homes and synagogues. This pogrom became known as Kristallnacht (in English 'Crystal Night') after the smashed glass that littered the streets on the morning of November 10th. Over the course of the two days, an estimated **30,000** Jewish men were arrested and incarcerated in concentration camps including Buchenwald and Dachau. Over 100 people (probably an underestimate) were murdered. World War 1 veterans who remained in Germany, some initially released after arrest, received no special treatment, being deported to concentration camps and murdered like other German Jewish citizens. The Nazis shamefully attempted to eradicate all evidence of Jewish soldiers fighting for Germany in WW1. The UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation set out in 2015 to record the testimony of British survivors of the Holocaust. In interviews with broadcaster Natasha Kaplinsky, survivors recall their experiences of Kristallnacht and the aftermath of the violence on their daily lives, their families and their wider communities.

*Service led by Susan Fox, who also has kindly contributed this article*

**Tu B'Shevat** is a transliteration of 'the fifteenth of Shevat', the Hebrew date specified as the new year for trees.

The Torah forbids us to eat the fruit of new trees for three years after they are planted. The fourth year's fruit was to be tithed to the Temple. Tu B'Shevat was counted as the birthday for all trees for tithing purposes: like the beginning of a fiscal year. The holiday of Tu B'Shevat fell out of practice after the destruction of the Second Temple, but was revived by kabbalists during the 1600s. They instituted the practice of the Tu B'Shevat seder, a meal that partly mirrors the Passover seder and involves eating biblical foods native to the Holy Land and drinking four cups of wine.



Traditionally, we eat plenty of fruit on Tu B'Shevat, particularly the kinds associated with Israel. The Torah praises seven 'fruits' in particular: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. The Kabbalists give a prominent place to almonds in the Tu B'Shevat seder, since the almond trees were believed to be the first of all trees in Israel to blossom.

The early Zionists seized upon Tu B'Shevat as an opportunity to celebrate their tree-planting efforts to restore the ecology of ancient Israel and as a symbol of renewed growth and flowering of the Jewish people returning to their ancestral homeland. In modern times, Tu B'Shevat continues to be an opportunity for planting trees — in Israel and elsewhere in the community.

Tu Bishvat is also an opportunity to raise awareness about and to care for the environment through the teaching of Jewish sources celebrating nature.

Rabbi Ellen Bernstein, founder of Shomrei Adamah, a national Jewish environmental organisation, writes in *Splendour of Creation: A Biblical Ecology*, "On Tu B'Shevat we are asked to overcome the fundamental flaw of our consciousness: our belief that we are the masters of Creation and that the earth belongs to us." (*article from www.sources, SG*)

**Sunday 20 January – Tu Bishvat Seder with Student Rabbi Webber.**

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break?

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The Home is looking for volunteers to take chair-bound residents out to the nearby local park and amenities.

If you can spare a little time for this mitzvah, please contact Julie on the above number. You are only young once!



A rabbi was once passing through a field where he saw a very old man planting an oak tree. ‘Why are you planting that tree?’ Said he. ‘You surely do not expect to live long enough to see the acorn grow up into an oak tree?’

‘Ah,’ replied the old man, ‘my ancestors planted trees not for themselves, but for us, in order that we might enjoy their shade and fruit. I am doing likewise for those who will come after me’

*Talmud Ta'anit 23a*

## **A legacy to Southport and District Reform Synagogue today is a special gift to our tomorrow.**

After considering your family and friends, you may also want to leave an amount in your will to charities. Please consider making S&DRS one of your charities. S&DRS future will be all the more secure so that our children may continue to practice the religion of their choice in Southport.



The responsibility to protect what was given to us, build on it and pass it on to the next generation in a better, stronger state is incumbent on us all. The gift of continuity in your will, whether large or small, will help to ensure that our community will continue for generations to come.

*L'dor v'dor—from generation to generation.*

**Remember S&DRS when writing your will.** Even if you have already made a will, you can amend it at any time and make your gift by using a simple document, a codicil. We can provide the correct wording for this. It is always advisable to seek professional advice when drafting something as important as a will. S&DRS can supply you with details of a number of local solicitors who are willing to offer advice.

Please give this some thought - your contribution can make a significant difference.





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

Chairman	Dr Selwyn Goldthorpe
Vice Chair	Gillian Goldthorpe
Honorary Secretary	Fortune Chamberlain
Honorary Treasurer	Tony Kletz
Presiding Warden	Duly Platt

**Other members of the Synagogue's Council :**

Mina Abram-Hebblethwaite	Joan Brooke
Faith Choueke	Richard Choueke
Sue Fox	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



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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 office.