



L'CHAYIM

The Newspaper of Southport and District Reform Synagogue

Chanukah lights up the Synagogue

4th December shabbat.

**In the beginning..... there was darkness....
And God said, 'Let there be light'. 'And there was light (Genesis 1, 2-4).
'And God saw the light, that it was good.'**



Chanukah photographs from Neil Chamberlain

We have all been busy lighting our Chanukah candles. It was a pleasure to be able to do so in shul after sitting down to a splendid chavurah meal, complete with doughnuts, and chocolate gelt with the coffee.

Thanks to Matt Suher for providing tape recordings of famous Jewish comedians' performances during the meal. I also showed a short film from our holiday experiences of 'Japan in Winter', ending in their version of a light festival. Light festivals are common to a





Oturu Light Festival, Japan

number of world cultures, whether it be Dwali (Hinduism), or Advent (Christianity). In Tibet, when I was there, the Buddhist people were using yak butter fat (lamps) in bowls with a wick, to light

their shrines and temples. Islam has within the Koran a well known passage, “Verse of Light” or āyat al-Nūr and its association with lamps.

Humanity has been associated with light throughout our existence. We talk about enlightenment. We even have bright ideas. So, what about Chanukah?

(Exodus 27:20):commands us to do the following:

‘Bring clear oil of beaten olives for lighting an eternal light.’

This was to be the responsibility of the Priests (Leviticus 24:1–4) and there was, by commandment, to be a special branched lamp stand. The Menorah was not placed inside the curtains with the biblical Ark. It was placed outside of the curtains. The light radiated outward toward the people and became synonymous with the radiation towards the people of the word of God written on the stone tablets. The light had to be rekindled once a day and needed constant vigilance and care by the Priests.

Hence, we now have our Ner Tamid.

This commandment, concerning keeping the message that was God given to the Jewish people, is central to the history of Chanukah. God said, ‘Let there be light’. ‘And there was light’ [Genesis 1, 2-4]). The connection of light to life itself, the importance of the gift of our Law to humanity, and those brave people willing to stand up for our religious freedom are all part of the important message of Chanukah. This is as relevant today as it was at the time of the first Chanukah.

Not all people in this world have the freedom to practise their religion. For example Bosnia, or the Rohingya conflicts are well known. Such religious conflicts throughout the period 1950-1996, constituted about a third of all the world conflicts. More



Yak butter fat lights in a Tibet temple,

respect, tolerance and understanding is needed if we are to avoid these conflicts. Interfaith week, in November, saw us actually celebrating the differences between our faiths and learning from each other while acknowledging the unity that underlies creation. The Reform Movement supports these efforts with so many of its rabbis, leaders and members involved in this vital work for the future of humanity.

I had the pleasure of lighting the Chanukah candles, in a multi-faith setting, this year for the Merseyside Police Force. Thanks to Anne Kletz for her recent video explaining about Chanukah to the Southport & Ormskirk Hospitals' Chaplaincy Service. All work that increases understanding between religions is to be welcomed.

Sometimes, we all need a little enlightenment.



Our shul's Ner Tamid

(Article and other photographs, Selwyn Goldthorpe).

EDITORIAL



Selwyn and Gillian Goldthorpe,
editors of L'Chayim

We hope you enjoy this festive version of your synagogue's L'Chayim. What makes this festive is the robin on **page 4**, a photograph taken on the social get together at Mere Sands Woods Nature Reserve. We certainly think that Chanukah was both social and festive (pages 1-3).

Catch up with what is happening in the community with community news (**pages 6-9**)

Don't forget to come to our social and services - **see pages 3 & 7**. The Covid situation and the synagogue's risk assessment is constantly under review. You will be notified of any changes to what is detailed in this edition of L'Chayim.

Please put your name down for the Merseyside Jewish Representative Council News Letter (**see page 10**). Enjoy the book reviews and the opportunity to have a Zoom® meeting with the author (**page 17**). Don't forget to buy Bonne Maman® products (**page 19**). Lastly, we have some seasonal cheer - Jewish jokes (**page 22**)

Our best wishes to you for a happy 2022

LET'S GET
SOCIAL!

Mere Sands Wood Nature Reserve

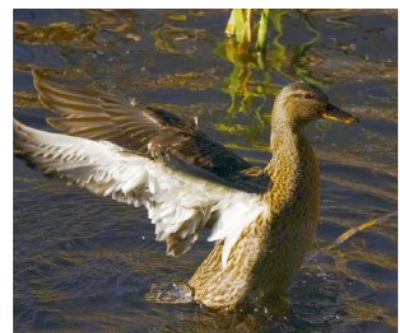
uy



Great afternoon out!

We had good weather. Car parking was easy. The walking was also easy on the foot. We were able to see plenty of bird life even if the hides were all occupied.

The swans were pleased to see us. The ducks were all in a flap at the sight of us.





We had the largest helpings of cake ever at the nearby Boathouse cafe. Wonderful!

It was nice to sit over a cup of tea and cake and catch up with each other news. I definitely will be back in the spring when there will be birds nesting.

Thanks to Neil Chamberlain, Selwyn Goldthorpe and Tony Kletz for supplying the photos.

LET'S GET SOCIAL!

Sunday 16 January , meet 1.30pm. We will have a Tu Bishvat social – a walk in the Botanic Gardens Southport, followed by a coffee at the café (The Settle Inn).



Botanic Gardens,

Bankfield Lane, Churchtown, Southport,
Merseyside, PR9 7NB

All are welcome to attend, whether members of Southport & District Reform Synagogue, or not.

Let's get social !

(see page 7 for more)

Community News



Many people read the newspaper religiously every day



Rabbi Peter Luijendijk, our student Rabbi for High Holy Days a couple of years ago, has been in contact with us. Peter, on Sunday afternoon, 4 July 2021, received his semicha (rabbinical ordination) from Leo Baeck College during a special gathering in the shul of LJG Amsterdam.

Rabbi Peter is hoping to secure a position in Rotterdam as a community rabbi. He would love to come over to Southport at some time in the future, having fond memories of his visit. He sends his regards to the community.



Mazel Tov

This year for Mitzvah Day, RSYUK asked young people attending Cheder to collect items to be given to foodbanks. Sophie Barnett, Noah, Delilah and Meira Hoskin collected over 40 items between them for Mitzvah Day. Congratulations to our young people for putting Southport on the poster!

RSYUK

NATIONAL MITZVAH DAY FOOD DRIVE!

How many items can our reform synagogue's youth collect and donate to foodbanks in 7 weeks across the UK?

LET'S FIND OUT!

7 weeks of collections in your local community

National weekly progress count

Huge social media food drive campaign

Join other reform communities taking part across the UK

Celebration and Havdallah @6pm 20/11/2021

KICK OFF YOUR NEW YEAR WITH 7 WEEKS OF MITZVOT!

Contact your community to find out if you are part of this HUGE collection. If you'd like to join in contact nraanan@rjuk.org



Sophie, Noah, Delilah and Meira, recorded their weekly collection for 7 weeks! There was then an online Havdallah service at the end of Shabbat, just prior to Mitzvah Day, when a video was shown of all the activities in the participating communities.

Our shul members Fortune and Neil Chamberlain, and Susan Fox, attended **Reform Judaism's Northern Chagigah** held on 5-7 November 2021 in Yorkshire. Fortune reported that the Chagigah weekend had been a big success. Lots of different sessions to attend, great atmosphere, great food, much singing and togetherness. It was a pleasure to see familiar friendly faces and also a chance to make new friends, especially appreciated after the pandemic lockdown. The weekend was both relaxing and stimulating - most enjoyable, said Fortune.

Reform Judaism reported that the excitement was palpable as participants travelled from as far as Blackpool, Manchester and Glasgow excited to be together for the first time in such a long time.

More than a hundred delegates took part in the sold-out event at which the theme was everything ecological. The weekend coincided with **Eco Shabbat** and delegates enjoyed Torah study on the planet, a fungi foray and a closing session with Rabbi Mark Goldsmith fresh from COP26 who was joined online by Reform leaders from Texas, Israel and Melbourne teaching how climate change affects us in a global way.

Chagigah proved once again how co-operation and working together can build a strong partnership wherever a community exists and whatever the size of its membership. Simon Marcus from Sinai said, *"It is not only being together after so long apart that is brilliant but it is the unexpected outcomes of those conversations – Blackpool Reform are coming to Sinai in a few weeks to collect our service streaming equipment which would never have happened otherwise."*

The weekend was a triumph for Sarita Robinson, MRJ's Director of Community Partnership for the North, and her team. *"The Reform Movement is all about supporting and enabling communities and through events like this we really see the power of us coming together and the impact we can have on a collective scale on environmental issues."*

Rabbi Robyn Ashworth-Steen commented, *"To spend time singing together with the luxury of catching up with friends from across the north and feeling the energy across the communities, was just wonderful. Living our Reform Jewish values together, in community, is really a beautiful thing."*

FOR YOUR DIARY:

8 January will be the next Shabbat service, to be taken by Susan Fox.

16 January, Sunday - Southport Botanical garden social (see p.5)

5 February – Shabbat service and chavurah.

20 February, Sunday – Tenpin Bowling and meal at Bella Italia (Ocean Plaza, Southport).

Northern Chagigaha report from Susan Fox



This took place at Hawkhill (HM Cabinet Emergency Planning College) between Thirsk and York (shown above). It is an elegant stately home built in the 1700s, sympathetically refurbished.

Kabbalah Shabbat was led by Rabbi Robyn Ashworth-Steen, Cantor Zoe Jacobs, and Dean Staker, a LJ musician (who along with David Hoffmann is a member of Shira Britannica network of UK Jewish composers). David and Dean put on several musical sessions both for light entertainment sing alongs and for more serious purposes, learning liturgical music for Shabbat and other services, all of which proved popular.

Following the Shabbat service, there was a 'fungi foray' stroll around the grounds, in search of mycological specimens. There was an interesting discussion about the art of mushroom identification.

I went to "Presenting Family History in the Digital Age" by members of Glasgow Reform discussing the project "Gathering the Voices Scotland", based on interviews, photographs and document of Holocaust Survivors who escaped Nazi persecution be it via Kinder transport or fleeing to Russia, Uzbekistan and then Glasgow. About 50 families took sanctuary in Scotland. Their journey account was most interesting.

On Sunday morning, I went to a Meditation and Chanting Contemplative session with Rabbi Lisa Barrett. Later that day was a talk on the 'Together Plan Charity' in Belarus. The 'Together Plan' works with Jewish communities in the countries of the former USSR for a sustainable future. Currently the charity is involved in developing a Jewish Cultural Heritage Trail in Belarus, involving Jewish and non-Jewish volunteers, all citizens of Belarus.

The final session I attended was a discussion led by Rabbi Mark Goldsmith and rabbis from Australia, Israel and the USA connected to us on Zoom as to how climate change is affecting Reform Jewish Communities. Rabbi Goldsmith and his colleagues had just returned from COP26 in Glasgow. The discussion focused on how we, as Reform Jews, can address the urgent need for action in limiting the effects of climate change - the poor and underprivileged being most affected. We agreed that urgent action is needed to protect so many aspects of our environment.

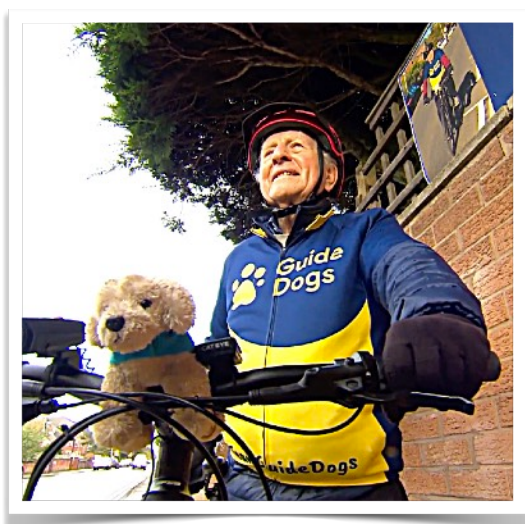


Harry Kessler has raised £6590, to date, for Guide Dogs

He said: "I have always been very sympathetic of people who have suffered from sight loss and have been a puppy sponsor for the charity for many years.

Their 90th anniversary is almost the same as my age - I turned 91 in August - so I am going to cycle 90 miles every nine days for 90 days. This means that each batch of 90 miles over nine days is an average of 10 miles a day!"

We joined Harry on his cycle ride, going off at top speed to follow him, on his e-bike for 17 miles. It was a pleasure to see a bit more of the Southport scenery. We also loved his little dog on the handle bars. (editors).



This year's Kol Nidre appeal also supported the Guide Dogs for the second consecutive year (see page 15)

To add to his donations, check out his page on Just Giving at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Harry-Kessler



The Synagogue has a new microphone system for service leaders. This links into our ceiling speakers and enables those at the back to hear clearly without the service leader having to raise their voices with the potential risk of Covid aerosol. We continue to advocate lateral flow testing prior to services. The wearing of masks is advised whenever possible, as is social distancing . **Keep Safe**

Merseyside Jewish Representative Council The Community NewsLetter



It's free! - The Merseyside Jewish Community NewsLetter. With events galore, news and much more. Why wouldn't you want it? All you need do is phone Karen on 0151 733 2292 and say *"Karen, I want my free weekly newsletter sending to my email address"*. That's all! No questionnaire. No money. No nothing.

MJRC has lots going for it.

- * Over 100 delegates to the Council are elected from synagogues, welfare bodies, educational establishments, youth & community organisations, fund raising bodies, local members of the Board of Deputies, Local Councillors and subscribing Individuals.
- * We facilitate co-operation and collaboration across the Merseyside Jewish Community.
- * Next year we are arranging a Succah Crawl. This year we arranged the Mitzvah Day.
- * We promote Jewish educational, cultural and religious activity.
- * We arrange the annual Yom HaShoah, Yom Ha'atz'ma'ut and Yom Hazikaron events.
- * We represent the Jewish Community across the greater Merseyside region,
- * And we liaise with CST, local politicians, local authorities and the police on antisemitism, communal security and major issues such as Covid 19.

We are shaping the future and quality of Jewish Life on Merseyside. Be a part of it!

Each week the **Newsletter** is sent to 400 people across the greater Merseyside Region. If you wish to receive a copy of the **NewsLetter** emailed out every Friday morning, please contact MJRC by phoning Karen as above or emailing: Repcouncil@mjcshifrin.co.uk and request being put on our distribution list.



With great reluctance the Board of the Movement for **Reform Judaism has accepted the resignation of its Chair, Robert Wiltshire, with immediate effect.**

Robert has worked tirelessly for the Movement since taking office last December. Sadly, the pressure of his work, with the increased challenges caused by Covid and Brexit, has forced him to take this difficult decision.

He says: "I deeply regret stepping down from the Board at this time. My business commitments have changed, denying me the time that I need to Chair the Movement. However, MRJ, with a dynamic Board and superb professional team, is in excellent hands and I am grateful for their support and understanding. I will continue to offer my support in whatever way I can as I truly believe in the mission to maintain a vibrant Reform Movement for future generations."

The Board would like to put on record our thanks to Robert for his outstanding contribution, particularly in keeping everyone in the Reform family together throughout the Covid pandemic. The work of the Movement Board continues, now led by the current Joint Vice-Chairs, Michael Harris and Paul Langsford, until a new Chair is appointed.

Manchester Reform Congregation, who have been based at Jacksons Row in the heart of the city for the past seventy years, are to sell their building to a leading development company and seek new premises within the city centre. Initially, the Synagogue was part of the original development for a hotel and residential complex, but for a variety of reasons and unforeseen circumstances, the membership preferred to use the finance from the £15 million sale to relocate and secure the future for decades to come rather than wait to be part of a 5-star hotel and residential tower.

Following a £6 million redevelopment The Manchester Jewish Museum includes a new gallery, café, shop and learning studio & kitchen as well as complete restoration of their stunning Spanish and Portuguese synagogue.

They are open seven days a week and tickets for general admission are on sale now for timed entries and can be booked up to 4 weeks in advance. The museum can be busy on weekdays when we often have schools visiting. If you would like a more peaceful visit we would recommend visiting at weekends or after 2.30pm.

The museum will be closed over the holiday period from 20 December 2021 to 4 January 2022.



If shul members are interested we can arrange a 'shul social' to see the new developments. (Contact the office, or speak to a member of Council)

Showing of a live performance at **Vue Cinema, Ocean Plaza,
Southport** (and selected other cinemas nationwide),
7pm on Thursday 27th January:

Leopoldstadt.



Regarded as 'Britain's greatest living playwright' (Times), Tom Stoppard's critically acclaimed new play Leopoldstadt is a passionate drama of love, family and endurance.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Leopoldstadt was the old, crowded Jewish quarter of Vienna, Austria. But Hermann Merz, a factory owner and baptised Jew now married to Catholic Gretl, has moved up in the world.

We follow his family's story across half a century, passing through the convulsions of war, revolution, impoverishment, annexation by Nazi Germany and the Holocaust. A company of 40 actors represent each generation of the family in this epic, but intimate play.

Filmed live on stage in London's West End, 'Tom Stoppard's masterpiece is magnificent' (Independent), and now brought live to Southport and should not be missed.

Tickets £20.

A production from Sonia Friedman Productions. Watch the trailer at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kPOIOIo2zBY>

Reviews:

I saw it on stage, and was blown away by it. It is magnificent. And I'm now going to see it at our local village cinema. I am very lucky. Highly recommended to everyone.

Thrilled this is being shown in cinemas - I've got my ticket and can't wait to see it

A true masterpiece! No surprise that it won the Olivier for Best Play!

Highly recommend seeing this production - captivating from beginning to end.



UK Jewish Film Festival

25th Anniversary

A report from Mina A Abram-Hebblethwaite



Whether you prefer a heartwarming story, matters of ethical concern, what is deeply challenging, or light-hearted fantasy, The Jewish Film Festival had it all. For a single ticket many films of varying lengths and genres could be watched on line during the festival days. Alternatively, in-person screening was available at the HOME cinema in Manchester. We chose the latter and what an opportunity to see portrayed through this media so many aspects and spheres of Jewish life today.

Firstly, 'Shalom Taiwan': we smiled, laughed, were surprised, and understood the Rabbi's deep concern about the synagogue centre for poor and lonely people so lacking in funds it would close. A journey to Taiwan to seek tzedakah from wealthy Jewish communities to fund its continuation revealed a very personal dilemma - which should come first, family or community needs? In a heart-warming ending the Rabbi chooses family. Then begins to build a new centre with the ten dollar bill given to him in Taiwan with the words "use this to start again". A very satisfying, enjoyable film.

Secondly, 'Sin in La Habana': When, in order to leave Habana, a woman persuades her boyfriend to fake a love-liaison with a tourist, marry and divorce her, so they can live together in their country of choice, deception holds sway. Relationships inevitably change and in different ways all parties are adversely affected by the deceit. In the end, when the deceptor discovers the woman he sought to deceive is pregnant, to the surprise of all, he declares: I cannot leave my baby! Oh how true Scott's words prove to be: "Oh what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive".

Thirdly, and most challenging of all: 'Thou Shalt Not Hate'. Profound acting, superb directing. The son of a Shoah survivor rushes to give aid to someone in a car accident. On opening the man's shirt to give urgent, knowledgeable medical attention, he is appalled to be faced with a chest-size swastika. Horrified he backs away and the injured man subsequently dies. The film follows how the man, a surgeon, then seeks to contact and help the dead man's family. Complex relationships result, articulating how from one generation to the next the Shoah still tragically hurts and harms those who live on. The final scene ends with the young boy giving a nazi salute over his father's Christian grave. We were not the only ones to leave the cinema utterly stunned and almost speechless.

Finally, 'The Starry Sky Above a Roman Ghetto': a light-hearted teen-age romp of discovery. Non-Jewish girl falls in love with Jewish boy. Grandmother re-lives her escape from the Nazi troops and meets the nun who saved her life. Tears turn to joy as the grandmother confirms her adherence to Christianity but hands over her grand-daughter who wishes to become Jewish to marry the boy. Light-hearted, happy-ever-after, yet ringing with some truth of life-experience. A very good choice to end the cinema series this year.



AJEX was originally formed in 1946 in Southport and has since raised thousands of pounds which has been used for social welfare, anti-racism to name but two.

Unfortunately, these days we have a real lack of Jewish support – at the last Holocaust Memorial Service only 15% of the 200 attendees were Jewish. There is a real risk of the HMD being moved to Bootle and if that happens we've only ourselves to blame. The same goes for Remembrance Sunday

Join AJEX or make a donation. New members are needed if AJEX in Southport is to survive. Please contact Michael Braham, MikeBraham@brighouses.co.uk to join or donate.

Sgt. Air Gunner Aubrey Weldon, No. 951320 of 150 Squadron, a 25-year-old Jewish lawyer, son of son of Bernard L. W. and Alice Weldon, 56 Lord Street, Southport, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal for an act of “conspicuous bravery and outstanding resource.” He participated in 19 operational flights, on 16 of which he has acted as a gunner and 3 as first wireless operator. They took off in their Wellington, registration X981, on the evening of 22nd October 1941 from Snaith airfield at 18.20hrs to bomb Mannheim, Germany. Aubrey was flying as first wireless operator on this occasion.



While over Germany the aircraft received a near-direct hit by flak, badly wounding the rear gunner, Sgt Joseph Frank Whittaker RAFVR (1202337), in the back, and starting a fire.

The rear turret and the back of the fuselage became filled with smoke from smouldering or burning fabric. Sergeant

Wellington Bomber WW2, showing the vulnerability of the rear gunner position and thin air frame

continued next page

Weldon assisted the rear gunner, who had been injured, from the turret and commenced to beat out the fire with his hands, finally putting it out with an extinguisher which was passed to him. He then endeavoured to get the damaged turret to function but, as it had become jammed, his efforts were unavailing. He therefore returned to his wireless duties and reported the situation to his captain. The whole of this work was carried out whilst the aircraft was flying at 16,000 feet in a temperature of -3 degrees C. and without a supply of oxygen. (London Gazette, 18/11/1941).

The crew were able to remain in control of the aircraft and landed at 23.20hrs at Snaith. The pilots were Pilot - P/O Roy Matheas Ahalt RCAF (J/4889), Second Pilot - P/O Cecil Ronald Jacobs RAFVR (103488), who later in his service was awarded the DFC.

Sadly, Aubrey Weldon was killed in action whilst in an Avro Lancaster bomber on 2-3 December 1943. He is buried at Rheinberg War Cemetery, grave 9A1. (Information from Addendum 105, AJEX card and Jewish Chronicle 5 December 1941, and <https://losses.internationalbcc.co.uk/loss/124786>)

“NEVER SHALL HIS MEMORY FADE.

OUR FONDEST LOVE SHALL EVER LINGER WHERE HE IS LAID”

(grave epitaph)

ref: <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jewish-raf-special-operators-in-radio-counter-measures-with-101-squadron>.



Rheinberg War Cemetery

Thanks to Matt Suher for bringing a recent article in the JC about Aubrey Weldon to my attention enabling some further research on my part (Selwyn Goldthorpe, editor L'Chayim)



The AJR welcomes membership of all generations of Holocaust refugees and survivors.

They also have a new category of membership, Friends of AJR, for anyone interested in receiving our publications, to stay in touch and to hear more about their activities.

See: <https://ajr.org.uk/news-events/>

The Wolfe Frank Memorial

Monday 17 January 2022 at 6pm. Click [here](#) to register for this free online event.

Join Dr Toby Simpson, director of The Wiener Holocaust Library in conversation with Paul Hooley about the Wolfe Frank Memorial.

The publication of two books by Paul Hooley, Nuremberg's Voice of Doom and The Undercover Nazi Hunter led to the awarding of a Blue Plaque in honour of (Hugh) WOLFE FRANK – the subject of the books – now widely accepted as having been 'a wrongfully forgotten hero of the twentieth century' and one of its bravest and most charismatic characters.

The son of a Jewish industrialist, Frank was Chief Interpreter at the Nuremberg Trials where, following his pronouncements of the death sentences imposed upon Nazi war criminals, the world's media dubbed him 'The Voice of Doom'. Frank fled Germany for England in 1937 having been branded an 'enemy of the state – to be shot on sight'. Initially interned as an 'enemy alien', he later joined the British Army, where he rose to the rank of Captain. Unable to speak English when he arrived, by the time of the trials he was considered to be the finest interpreter in the world.

We have a couple of schools that have booked visits to our synagogue in the New Year. Our synagogue member Harry Kessler continues to speak about his escape from Nazi occupied Europe as part of the Holocaust Educational Trust.

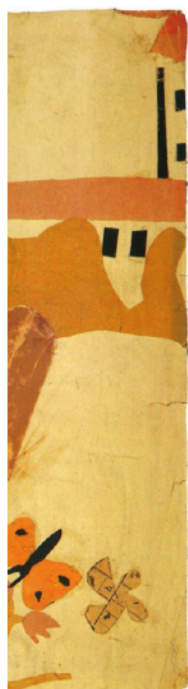
The Synagogue donated £500 to the Holocaust Educational Trust in October.

This year's Kol Nidre Appeal is now closed. We collected £720 for our good causes. Thank you to all those that contributed.

BOOK



REVIEW



... I never saw
another butterfly ...



*Children's Drawings and Poems
from Terezin Concentration Camp,
1942-1944*

*Edited by Hana Volavková
Expanded Second Edition by the
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*

*Foreword by Chaim Potok
Afterword by Vaclav Havel*

SCHOCKEN BOOKS • NEW YORK



THE BUTTERFLY



The last, the very last,
So richly, brightly, dazzlingly yellow.
Perhaps if the sun's tears would sing
against a white stone. . . .

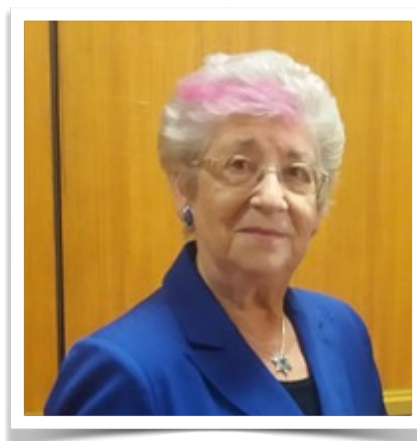
Such, such a yellow
Is carried lightly 'way up high.
It went away I'm sure because it wished to
kiss the world good-bye.

For seven weeks I've lived in here,
Pinned up inside this ghetto.
But I have found what I love here.
The dandelions call to me
And the white chestnut branches in the court.
Only I never saw another butterfly.

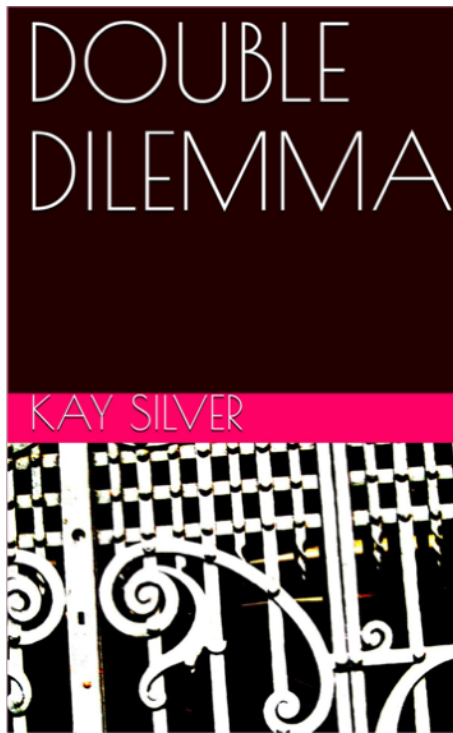
That butterfly was the last one.
Butterflies don't live in here,
in the ghetto.

4. 6. 1942 Pavel Friedmann

**Meet the Author
on Zoom®
6th January
(Details from
our shul Office)**



You remember Brenda Dinsdale, from Newcastle Reform Synagogue, as she has visited our synagogue from time to time. Now, she is a published author with a pen name.....



Double Dilemma is the first novel by Kay Silver; A Concentration Camp Survivor with a secret, a life built on lies, a rabbi who's not Jewish, a dream job in jeopardy....

“Not only a great read but a fantastic learning experience. To see things from the inside out was illuminating and emotional. The way the story weaved its way through so many lives, and times was so well written. I highly recommend this book. Especially for youngsters learning about the holocaust. It puts real flesh on the bones.”

“I finished the book in tears and was so sorry that it had ended. I hope there will be a sequel”.

It tells the story of a young woman who survives the holocaust and much more...

This story is compelling from beginning to end. With the Holocaust as a backdrop, one cannot help but draw connections that make us face the savagery of the modern world. Silver creates wonderfully flawed but relatable characters. She puts them in intense situations that test their humanity. I am a better person now than I was when I started reading this book.

The story of a family discovering each other set against the horror of the Holocaust.

ISBN : B08KYKN447

Kindle edition is £4-49

Paper back Amazon £9-99.

First published November 2021

379 pages

To purchase go to : https://www.amazon.com/author/silver.kay_1892

“Absolutely brilliant! I couldn't put it down and was hooked “from the first chapter. I would definitely recommend!”

The incident took place in a supermarket in New Jersey.

The tweet is by Michael Perino @ProfessorPerino

“At the supermarket today, I found a small, elderly woman standing in front of a high shelf holding @BonneMamanUS preserves. She was having trouble finding the flavour she wanted because the jars were set back on the shelf.

She couldn’t read the labels. She could barely reach them. I offered to help.

After I handed her the raspberry preserves, she thanked me, paused, and then asked, “Do you know why I buy this brand?”

I laughed and replied, “Because it tastes good?”

“Yes, it tastes good.” She paused again. “I am a Holocaust survivor.”

This was not the conversation I expected on a Sunday grocery run. “During the war, the family that owns the company hid my family in Paris. So now I always buy it. And whenever I go to the store, my grandkids remind me, ‘Bubbe, don’t forget to buy the jelly.’”

I told her that that was the best reason I ever heard to buy any company’s product. And then we both smiled behind our masks and went our separate ways.”



Someone else on Twitter looked into the story and indeed, the town that Andros Company, the makers of Bonne Maman, comes from, hid and saved Jewish families in WW2. It was called Biars sur Cere, which then had about 800 villagers.

From an article, “You have to understand what it was like then. There were posters on the walls, from the Nazis and from the collaborators, and they said that if you are found to help a Jew, a freemason, a communist, a socialist, or a pervert, you will be shot on sight.” Despite the great danger in which helping them put the villagers in, still they kept the children safe.”

A good reason to buy Bonne Maman products. And a poignant reminder that when we look out for each other it can change lives, and that there are good and selfless people in the world.



IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!

MAZELTOV AND ALL OUR BEST WISHES

January

Lesley Brand
Louise Davies
Susan Fox
Noah Hoskin
Meira Hoskin
Delilah Hoskin
Ian Kerr
Regina Luxemburg
Lilian Stephens

February

Emilie Barnett
Sophie Barnett
Andrea Cook
Deborah Hirshman
Nives Hirshman
Paul Windham



My mother is a typical Jewish mother. Once she was on jury duty. They sent her home. She insisted SHE was guilty.

Any time a person goes into a delicatessen and orders pastrami on white bread, somewhere a Jew dies.



The CARTOON KRONICLES

It was mealtime during a flight on El Al. "Would you like dinner?" the flight attendant asked Moshe, seated in front. "What are my choices?" Moshe asked. "Yes or no," she replied.

An elderly Jewish man is knocked down by a car and is brought to the local hospital. A pretty nurse tucks him into bed and says, "Mr. Gevarter, are you comfortable?" Gevarter replies, "I make a living...."

A rabbi was opening his mail one morning. Taking a single sheet of paper from an envelope he found written on it only one

word: "shmuck." At the next Friday night service, the Rabbi announced, "I have known many people who have written letters and forgot to sign their names, but this week I received a letter from someone who signed his name...and forgot to write a letter."

Three Jewish women get together for lunch. As they are being seated in the restaurant, one takes a deep breath and gives a long, slow "oy." The second takes a deep breath as well and lets out a long, slow "oy." The third takes a deep breath and says impatiently, "Girls, I thought we agreed that we weren't going to talk about our children."

Two men in a Jewish restaurant, both order a glass of lemon tea, one calls after the waiter saying make sure its a clean glass. Waiter comes back with the drinks saying "who ordered the clean glass?"

Thanks to Henry Hipps for supplying the humour.



Yahrzeit candles are available for purchase from the Synagogue. Memorial plaques are still available for the **Tree of Life** in the Synagogue.

Please discuss your needs with the Synagogue's Administrator.

January

Rose Suher, Mother of Matthew Suher

Morris Zandan, Grandfather of Matthew Suher

Maurice Suher, Father of Matthew Suher

Freda Lever, Mother of Carole Suher

Eli Franks, Father of Donald Franks

Sarah Canter, Mother of Jeffrey Canter

Rodney Jackson, Brother of Regina Luxemburg, Uncle of Lesley Brand

Norman Applebaum, Father of Faith Choueke

Froy Cohen, Father of Doreen Canter

Gertrude Shieldhouse, Mother of Shelley Yavetz

Abraham Freedman, Father of Irving Freedman

February

Milton Mannheim, Husband of Estelle Mannheim

Amanda Kerr, Wife of Ian Kerr

Barnett Shieldhouse, Father of Shelley Yavetz

WE STAND ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

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

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

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

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE A BLESSING



The Southport Rest Home

Choice of long or short stays,
permanent residency

Situated at 81 Albert Road, Southport PR9 9LN



- **24 hour support**
- **Senior citizens**
- **Jewish ethos**
- **Flats and rooms**

‘The Home’ from home

24 hour care on site

Lift, wheel chair access

Superb Kosher food on site

Rooms at reasonable rates

Large conservatory overlooking park

Synagogue on site.



“Good”

Enquiries telephone :01704 531975
office@sjah.freeseve.co.uk

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

FEELING ALONE? LACKING YOUR SYNAGOGUE?



www.zoom.us/j/407196863

www.reformjudaism.org.uk/

RJ:TV is Reform Judaism's interactive broadcasting platform for these challenging times. Each day they will provide a range of interactive programming that you are invited to join – from daily prayer services and adult learning sessions to fun for all ages and casual catch-ups. We can still come together virtually to share in learning and meaningful interaction.

Click here : <https://www.reformjudaism.org.uk/>

Local Support for mental health and well being

0151 228 2300 talkliverpool.nhs.uk

0300 3032708 [talking natters-sefton](https://talkingnatters-sefton.org.uk)

Text HEAL 85258. for

text message support.

Adult mental health support

0800 145 6570

**‘A trouble shared is
a trouble halved’**

**Emergency Dental
Treatment 0161476 9651
for Sefton Residents**

**03001234 010 for West
Lancs**

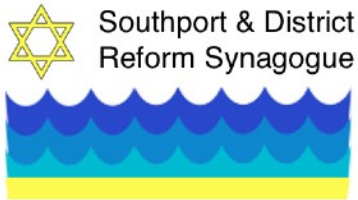
Sefton Council Social Care

9am-5pm 0151 934 4600

**Emergency Christmas
automated phone service
0345 140 0845**

NHS Direct for Advice phone 111

Our Synagogue has a new digital phone system which will, in the event of an urgent call, divert you to whoever is available to help.



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

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

Other members of the Synagogue's Council :

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

Trustees : Phil Levine and Marcel Zachariah

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

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



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

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