



tel. 01704 535 950

L'CHAYIM

The Newspaper of Southport and District Reform Synagogue



Guess who came to PURIM?

Sadly, Shelley Yavertz could not lead the service and read the Megillah due to illness, for Purim on the 16th March.

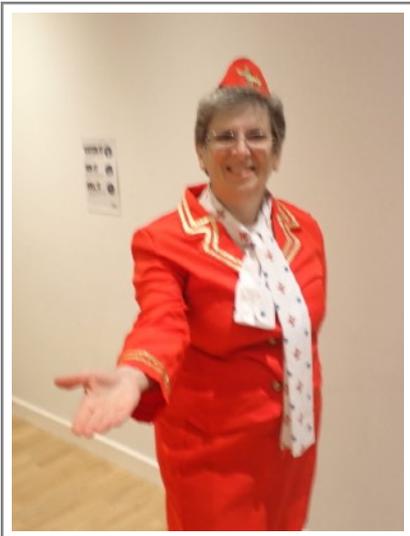
At short notice we improvised with Selwyn reading an English version of the Megillah.

There was lots of booing and cheering as you would expect and we had Purim songs to music to further rouse us on.

As if there was not enough party spirit in the air, as the following day was St Patrick's Day, Selwyn had brought a bottle of Bushmills Whisky to share (in true Purim tradition) along with dressing as a leprechaun for the occasion, a fancy dress that made a page spread in that week's Jewish Chronicle.

There was a great chavurah to follow with plenty of hamentaschen. We did have a collection for The Ukraine Appeal, in the true spirit of Purim, raising £140 for this good cause. Thank you to all for your generosity and for making the effort to contribute to making Purim 5782 so enjoyable.

The next page shows some of the photographs from the night and who is who !



Front page photograph is of Mina Abram Hebblethwaite





Our Community Seder Night

A HAPPY PASSOVER

-thanks to Fortune Chamberlain for leading the seder service

“**Order, order, order**”, not the words of the Speaker of the House of Commons, rather, this community seder. Fortune was able to keep our attention throughout the service, which was very inclusive; this being no mean feat, for three tables of talkative Jewish people!

We were treated to some real understanding of the meaning of Passover thanks to Fortune’s prudent editing of the seder service and her own addition to the liturgy based on her family’s tradition. We raised our glasses (they were larger than I remembered) and drank. I think we got to four cups of wine! We definitely were leaning to the left. We dipped and ate according to the order of the service. This year, the service had a special meaning as we can readily associate the bullying of the Ukrainian people with that imposed by Pharaoh on the Jewish people. Yes, Ukraine is a ‘Pharaoh’ mess!

My thanks to all those that helped in the kitchen with me: **Anne Kletz, Fortune and Neil Chamberlain, Gillian Goldthorpe, Tony Kletz.** The kitchen had been koshered for Pesach - a mere 7.5 hours of work, not to mention cleaning the remainder of the Synagogue. Gillian juggled fantastically with the kneidlach - there was more than enough to ‘go round’.

Fortune and Neil decorated the seder tables and ensured that all indeed was in order. The tables looked lovely, thank you. And, thank you Fortune for the responsibility of the vegetarian option. I can vouch for the fact that this was both a work of art and tasty.



Gillian, making the kneidlach, ‘go round’

Continued next page/

Fortune brings her family's tradition to the service.



Left -Pavlova
Right- veggi option



The food was fantastic. Whether you had the salmon, or the vegetarian option, all praised the catering. There was pavlova (Thanks to the Queen of Pavlova, Gillian) and fruit salad (thanks Anne for all that chopping). Tea/coffee with chocolate.

Like a large family, we were as one, all having a good traditional sing along, though next year perhaps I will practice a bit more with the animal sounds for chad gadya, I kid you not!

I hope you enjoyed your seder as much as we enjoyed ours.



Pesach Sameach



Please contact the Synagogue if you require Zoom® for a service

Shabbat Services start at 11am

Chavurah lunch (none meat) to follow.

Saturday	07-May	Shabbat + Yom Ha'atzmaut Chavurah
Sunday	22-May	Sunday Social Crosby Coastal Walk + Afternoon Tea at Selwyn & Gillian's house
Saturday	04-Jun	Shabbat + Erev Shavuot Chavurah with Cheesecake + Council meeting at 2pm
Sunday	19-Jun	Sunday Social Walk around Mere Sands Wood Nature Reserve, Rufford + Picnic
Saturday	02-Jul	Shabbat + Chavurah
Sunday	10-Jul	Sunday social Trip to Manchester Jewish Museum
Sunday	24-Jul	AGM at 3pm + Afternoon Tea
Saturday	06-Aug	Shabbat + Chavurah
Sunday	21-Aug	Sunday social Details to be confirmed

LET'S GET SOCIAL!

CROSBY COASTAL WALK AND FREE AFTERNOON TEA. SUNDAY 22nd MAY.



**Walk starts at Gillian and Selwyn's Home 3pm
(contact office for directions or Gillian and Selwyn)
or join at Crosby Coast Guard Station 1510 hrs.**

We would appreciate intention to join tea for catering numbers and a donation to the Synagogue

The guided walk is for 2 hours, along the flat, wheel-chair friendly, coastal path. Highlights are 'Another Place', Antony Gormley's statues, lovely beach and sand dunes, wind farm,

Another place, photo by Selwyn

shipping lanes, view of Wales, remains of Crosby Fort, petrified forest (if the tide is out) River Alt estuary.

Dress - ordinary shoes, wind proof clothing. The nearest train station is Hall Road. It is a short walk from the station to the Coast Guard Station.

If you just want to join for afternoon tea, rather than walk, then 5pm would be about the right time.



LET'S GET SOCIAL!

**Mere Sands Wood Nature Reserve
Woodview Holmeswood Road,
Rufford, L40 1TG**

**Meet in car park 2pm,
Sunday 19th June**

Mere Sands Wood is a 105 acres nature reserve between the villages of Holmeswood and Rufford in west Lancashire, England, managed by The Wildlife Trust. It is about five miles from Ormskirk. 95% of paths are suitable for wheelchairs and prams (shortcut through the pine wood is not suitable for wheelchairs). Six hides, the viewing platform and Visitor Centre are fully accessible.

Bring a picnic

**The cost of the car park is now £4.
Sensible shoes and waterproofs in the event of rain.**

Summer is a time of change. Spring and summer bring orchids, yellow-wort and yellow bartsia, to Mere Sands. Young birds are developing. Although we have been to Mere Sands in Autumn, you can expect a change of fauna and flora. There is more colour and activity.



EDITORIAL



Selwyn and Gillian Goldthorpe,
editors of L'Chayim

As editors of L'Chayim we like to keep the pages directly relevant to Southport and District Reform Synagogue. The Synagogue is concerned with what is happening in Ukraine. We share the horror of war and the resultant refugees. Many of our ancestors were refugees. Therefore, we make no apology for including a few pages bringing you up to date with the representations, Selwyn, as Chairman of Council, has made to the politicians on your behalf (with the help of Reform Judaism). You will find [the Ukraine war coverage from a religious point of view starts on page 17, and continues until page 24.](#)

Please note the event calendar page 5,

and pages 6 and 7 for social upcoming events.

Purim and Pesach were fantastic and fun (pages 1-4). We have reports on these festivals.

Lets get social - pages 9-12 is a report on our walk around the Marine Lake in Southport .

Page 13 is about how the Synagogue is [supporting school education](#) about Judaism.

Lisa Sachs, our thanks to her after 10 years of working on behalf of the Synagogue - [page 14](#)

Pages 15-16 gives you some [insight into the locality based on a Torah reading.](#)

Page 25 offers you some further [support for your Judaism](#) from our friends at Manchester Reform Synagogue.

There are a couple of interesting [book reviews on pages 26.](#)

We are concerned to support your emotional well being . [Communities that care - see pages 28, 30.](#)

Lastly, but by no means least, please see [the funny side of life - page 31](#)

Enjoy the read. We look forward to being with you for the walk and afternoon tea at our house on 22nd May.



The Synagogue has a new microphone system

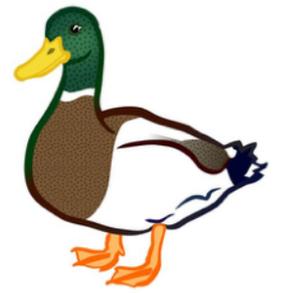
for service leaders. This links into our ceiling speakers and enables those at the back to hear clearly without the service leader having to raise their voices with the potential risk of Covid aerosol. We continue to advocate lateral flow testing prior to services. The wearing of masks is advised whenever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



WhatsApp

**To join the Synagogue group please
contact the Office or Executive**

LET'S GET SOCIAL!



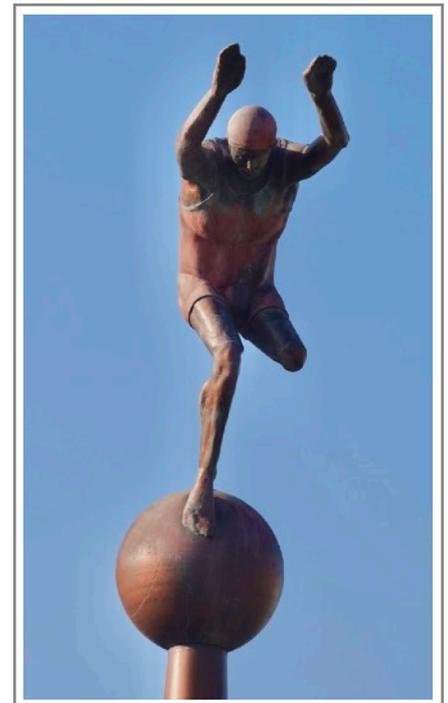
Around the Marine Lake with Southport & District Reform Synagogue 20th March.

We were blessed with good weather, as were most of Merseyside. All seemed to have the same idea of coming to sunny Southport. Perhaps, meeting at the the Southport Pier Carousel was not so good as it was more like a football match. However, by the time we had walked to the alleged smallest pub in Britain, and sampled the brew, the crowd had dissipated and we were left to ourselves and the birds....



Thanks to Tony Kletz for his professionalism in leading the walk (

<https://www.southportvisiter.co.uk/news/history/southport-walks-give-fascinating-incite-13530339>). I had always wondered what that statue was with the man stood on one leg! Now I know. Tony was able to explain that this represented a time when people dived off the pier to amuse the crowds! He explained some of the plans to develop Southport from the past to the present.



Above, Tony, our guide, in full flow, showing us a photograph (right) of man diving off the pier for the tourists.)



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Our walkers

Outside the Lakeside Inn, the Smallest Pub in Britain.

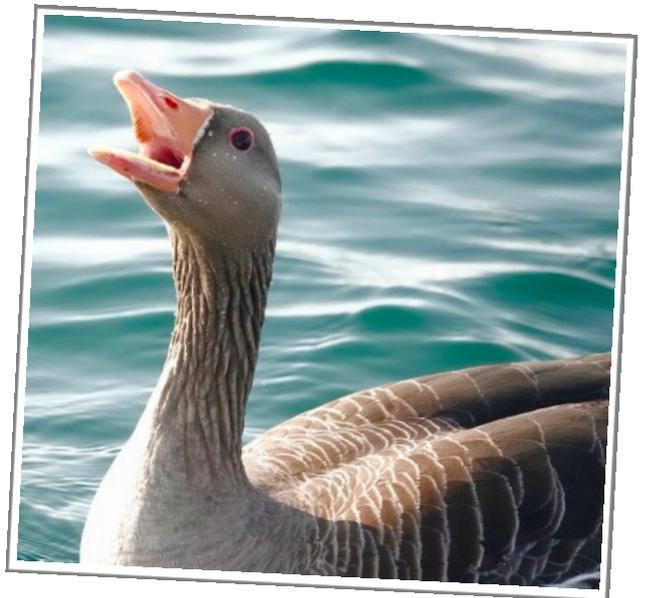


We were introduced to the Southport 'Smallest Pub in Britain' (Thanks to our guide for my taste of the local brew, Pendle Beer (One of the nicest brews I have tasted). I also took my chances (as there was still a certain amount of Covid around) and entered the pub/tardis for little look - it really is bigger inside than you think on the outside. Quite cosy, and traditional. There is a fair bit of terracing and a bar hatchway making this a really safe (Covid) place to enjoy a drink on a sunny day like our Sunday.

The Marine Lake was home to so many birds. We had come prepared with bird food. This caused a bit of a flurry as our feathered friends were in competition with their feeding. There definitely is a pecking order! We continued around the Marine Lake to see a variety of bird life. The weather was



excellent with views over the sands as far as Blackpool. continued next page 10



I have never stopped in Southport long enough to enjoy the Marine Lake walk. Opened in 1913, it continues to serve Southport well.

There were lots of pleasure boats out on the lake. The whole place had quite a buzz with people enjoying the facility, spring flowers on the lake banks, and plenty of sunshine. It felt wonderful to finally put winter away.



Whilst not everyone walked to the Bar Med, we were joined by our non walkers. We had an excellent meal with cuisine from around the Mediterranean. As a group, we were able to catch up with each other's news and enjoy the company. As a social event, I think it was a great way to spend an afternoon and early evening. Thanks to Gillian Goldthorpe for booking the Bar Med and the necessary liaison. Having cycled from Crosby up to Southport for the walk, we know where to draw a line - we, took the train home !



(Report and photographs from Selwyn Goldthorpe)



Many people read the newspaper religiously every day

Community News

St Philip's Church of England Primary School, 18th March

I just wanted to email to say a big thank you for all the work you put into today's visit. The children learned so much and were able to remember it when we got back to class. You and Gillian were both brilliant with the children.

Thanks again,
Heather Parsons

St Philip's Church of England Primary School, Hampton Road,
Southport, Merseyside, PR8 6S



Our thanks to St Philips Primary School for the photos and permission to publish these.



Top left: Gillian showing the Torah writing.
Top right: Children dressed for prayer
Bottom left: Selwyn blowing the shofar
Bottom right: Gillian explains about the scroll.

It was a real pleasure to have a church school visit our Synagogue. The children were all very interested in Judaism asking thoughtful questions. They were all very well behaved , a credit to their school. Gillian lit the 'shabbat' candles and said the blessings, each child received their own fruit of the vine (raisins) . 13



**A big thank you goes to
Lisa Sachs for 10 years of
being so helpful as The
Administrator of Southport
and District Reform
Synagogue.**

MAZEL TOV



Yes, 10 years has whizzed by. We have seen a lot of changes in that time. Nothing is carved in tablets of stone! Lisa's help has been invaluable in adapting to change and dealing with crises. Perhaps worst of all was the Synagogue getting flooded and needing a new floor resulting in her many hours of liaison with insurance and work people. Out with the old dividing doors and in with new air conditioning (of late with UV-C to sterilise the air, destroying the SARS-CoV-2 virus). Lisa has been very helpful in ensuring our parking spaces and shul is hired for rental. The new flooring enabled the Princes Street Table Tennis Club to use our premises. We have had CCTV and new secure front doors. A new alarm system has been installed recently. Not to mention, we now have an effective wifi system and digital phone system. This year Lisa has spent many hours chasing services up on our behalf.

There are so many of our families grateful for her compassion and tact in dealing with life events, funerals, and stone consecrations. Festival organisation does not happen by magic! Lisa is on the front line for emergency calls. Dealing with the everyday running of the Synagogue, from listening to members concerns to organising the challah and wine for shabbat. Book keeping, liaising with Executive and their foibles is enough to tax anyone's patience. Lisa manages all of this without upset.

Lisa always has the best interest of our Synagogue at heart. After 10 years of doubling up as the cleaner, she is stepping back from this role. Her new job description will be as Synagogue Manager. Lisa's **office hours will be 10am-3pm, on Fridays**, though Lisa will still be available for emergency calls at other times.

The Synagogue Executive and Council are very grateful and thankful to have Lisa as our Synagogue Manager. - *Dr Selwyn Goldthorpe, Chairman Council* 14

Have scientists become the priests of our new order?

Shabbat 2nd April
Leviticus: 12, 1- 13

*Article by
Doctor Selwyn Goldthorpe*

I thank Susan Fox for this shabbat's service and her Dvar Torah giving us the fascinating insight as to the role of the temple priests in diagnosis and management of skin disease, described generically as Tzara'at. Almost every skin disease went under the generic classification of 'leprosy' as the classification of illness was limited and Susan suggests that the word Tzara'at has been wrongly translated to "Lepra", when in fact it is not a specific term. (please see my note ***)

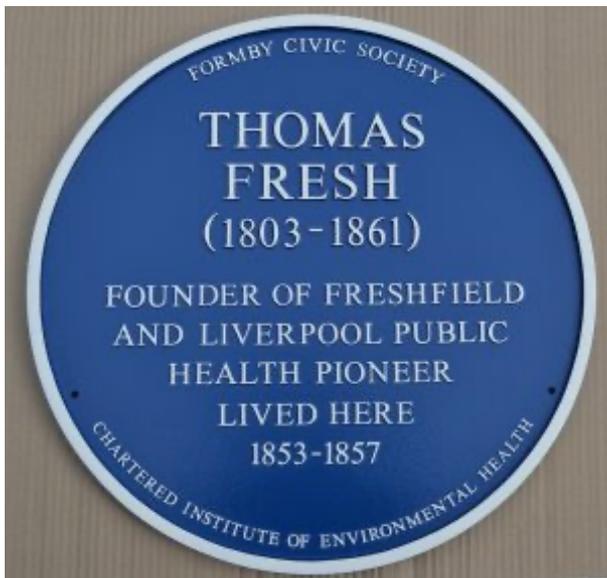
Furthermore, such illnesses were deemed by the priests to be God's way of telling those around the unfortunates afflicted with skin disease that the afflicted were 'impure'.

Susan made the point that Leviticus discusses the concept of 'tumah', usually translated as 'impurity'. The role of the priest was to eliminate ritual impurities from the sacred sanctuary and from society - perhaps the first form of Public Health, I thought?

This prompted me to speak about our area's own contribution to early public health as Liverpool and Merseyside had a fundamental role in establishing Public Health and the Public Health Services.

James Newlands (1813–1871) arrived in Liverpool in 1847 to take up the newly created position of Borough Engineer, he formed, along with Dr William Henry Duncan (Medical Officer of Health) and Thomas Fresh (Inspector of Nuisances ie. sanitary inspector appointed under a 'Sanatory Act' 1846), Britain's first public health team. Liverpool was a dangerously unhealthy town. Privies and cesspits were left for months and sometimes years before being emptied. This resulted in frequent outbreaks of epidemic diseases such as cholera and typhus. From 1848, over the next 23 years, Newlands, Duncan and Fresh brought about Liverpool's ambitious programme of sanitary reform. Britain's first purpose-built sewerage system along with sustainable urban living encompassing municipal baths and wash-houses, road planning, public parks and street lighting. Public Health.

I told the congregation that if they go to Freshfield, near the station, at the junction of Freshfield Road and Grange Lane is the house (95 Freshfield Road) that Thomas Fresh used to live in. It has a blue plaque on the wall in his honour:



It was Fresh that had the Freshfield Railway Station built (on his land). This was not entirely altruistic. Fresh had to solve the problem of what to do with the waste from the 'night soil' and cesspits of Liverpool. His answer was to have it transported by rail to his land making his estate one of the most fertile in the area for the cultivation of potatoes and asparagus. You could say the fields were anything but fresh! Eventually, his land

was named, Freshfield - the name we now know that area as.

What was started by the temple priests, continued in Liverpool. Most forms of ritual impurity could be purified through immersion by use of the mikvah, used by men and women. Liverpool provided bathhouses.

Whilst religion has historically linked illness with sin, we live in more enlightened times, or do we? Medical diagnoses follows public opinion, rather than vice versa. Whether we have Yuppie Flu', Long Covid, ADHD, etc. depends on how we view illness rather than the initial labelling by the medical profession. If you like, medicine merely rubber stamps what society dictates. Which rather begs the question, who or what do you want to believe in? Have scientists become the priests of our new order?

Further reading : <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/media/livacuk/research/heroimages/Sheard,-,Newlands,and,the,Origins,of,the,Mun,Eng,ICE,2014.pdf>

*** Tzaraath, termed lepra in the Septuagint (The Greek Old Testament) , and therefore traditionally translated into English as leprosy; this is probably a translation error, as the Greek term lepra mostly refers to psoriasis, and the Greek term for leprosy was elephas or elephantiasis. Interestingly, elephantiasis is due to a parasitic worm infection and nothing to do with psoriasis! (Selwyn)



A Purim nightmare unfolds in my beloved Odessa **says Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner**

(as published in the Jewish Chronicle).

Jewish history, from ancient to modern times, holds strikingly recurrent patterns of tragedy and defiance. On Purim, which falls this week, we celebrate our deliverance from a planned genocide in the ancient Persian Empire. But more recently in another empire, the Russian one, many of our ancestors also faced unbelievable traumas.

Only five years ago, my husband David and I made a family pilgrimage to Odessa on Ukraine's Black Sea coast. We went over the Purim holiday to see where David's father was born and to visit the miraculously flourishing Jewish communities there.

Seeing horrific images of Ukraine under attack now, and Odessa bracing itself for an onslaught, feels like a terrifying but familiar nightmare.

Sometimes, if you look at the light, you

see just how deep the shadows are. No city was more emblematic of the vibrant Jewish life in Eastern Europe than Odessa. Despite constant persecution under the Russian tsars, it was a centre of Jewish life and culture, boasting prestigious Hebrew and Yiddish presses.

Like Sholem Aleichem's mythical Kyiv or the rural haym of Tevye the Milkman, it was immortalised in Isaac Babel's Odessa Stories. Brimming with trading houses and theatres, rabbis and atheist radicals, Jewish Odessa had a flavour for everyone.

Odessa is named after the Greek hero Odysseus. That didn't stop many other groups — Ukrainians, Russians, Jews, Greeks, Poles, Tatars, Armenians — contributing to its rich tapestry. By the end of the 19th century, Yiddish was the first language of 35 per cent of residents, and many who wound up in Odessa came after their own odysseys from small



Rabbi Laura in Odessa.

shtetlach — Jewish villages — or other cities in the Pale of Settlement where the Jews fared worse.

Even after the devastation of the Holocaust and the suppression of Jewish identity during Soviet rule, Odessa's Jewish community numbered 45,000 before Putin's invasion. It still manages to thrive after so much hardship, operating schools, synagogues, an orphanage and a museum. Watching the destruction and the exodus from the country, I wonder what the future of Odessa's brave and resilient Jewish community will be.

David's grandfather, Alexander, came from a village called Ukelnik. His son Yehudah, David's father, was born in a building in Odessa that still stands as it was, though today it faces the spectre of Russian bombing. Then and now, many Jews fled to safety, including to the land of Israel.

David's family, the Klausners, were prominent Zionists who helped revive the Hebrew language and restore a national identity amid the pogroms and persecution of the time. Today, Israel again prepares to receive large waves of olim, immigrants, from Ukraine and Russia as their situation becomes unliveable.

As Jews, our memory is shaped by yearning and by absences that are keenly felt. When David's father left for Palestine with his family, Jewish life in the Soviet Union was already being shut down. Later, the Nazis and their collaborators murdered one million Jews in Ukraine alone, including David's aunt Malka, his uncle David and his cousin Daniel.

Refugees from this terrible war, all refugees, deserve our empathy and practical support. The people leaving Ukraine now are not Jews being persecuted, but Ukrainians under assault whether they're Jewish or not. A tolerant and pluralistic society, officially denied to Jews for swathes of history and yet enacted in the rich cultures they developed, is what Putin seems to despise.

Taking in refugees has saved Jewish lives in the past. If we are able help directly, make donations or lobby to create places of safety for Ukrainians, then this is a true mitzvah — complete obligation.

**“ Refugees from this terrible war,
all refugees, deserve our
empathy and practical support.”**

Jewish tradition reminds us not to adopt negative attitudes of aggression and hatred such as existed in Sodom, where the majority of its citizens were cruel to newcomers in their midst, irrespective of the reasons why newcomers sought sanctuary in Sodom, where a proclamation was issued " 'Everyone who strengthens the hand of the poor and the needy and the stranger with a loaf of bread shall be burnt by fire". The main crime of the people of Sodom was that they neither welcomed nor sustained needs of people seeking refuge in their lands. **Jewish ethics indicate that we should never turn anyone away from seeking refuge as there are no preconditions for receiving basic human rights other than being human.** There is absolute equality in the eyes of Jewish law between a native person and a person fleeing from persecution seeking refuge in another country.

In spring, we shall be celebrating Pesach, which I think is about cultivating the crucial emotion of empathy, especially when it comes to seeing life through the eyes of an immigrant, an asylum seeker or a refugee. As our ancestors have suffered oppression, not only in Biblical times but throughout our history, we are instructed neither to verbally abuse immigrants with hateful rhetoric or inflict physical harm upon them, because we, as a people have experienced these. "When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not wrong him. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the Land of Egypt. I am A..... your God." (Leviticus 19:33-34). This tenet is repeated 36 times in the Torah.

Jewish refugees have been joined by non-Jews also fleeing drought, famine, slavery, persecution, and invaders in the past. The duty of protecting strangers vulnerable to xenophobic violence was an important principle for Jews during Biblical times and remains so today. Out of the ashes of the Holocaust, the United Nations developed the 1951 Refugee Convention to ensure that all roads to refuge would once again be clear and unambiguous.

In 2021, millions of people have been displaced in Afghanistan; thousands have fled armed attacks and violence in various African countries (CAR, DRC, BF, Nigeria, Tigray province of Ethiopia) and now from Ukraine, 1 million people have already fled from an unjustified invasion by a neighbouring government.

"Bless all who seek refuge on this earth. Meet their needs for safety and for home. Move the hearts of your people to show them welcome. Cause wars to cease and bring justice to the nations that no one will need to flee again".

13th March 2022

bill.esterson.mp@parliament.uk

House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Esterson,

Thank you for your recent support at the Christ Church Holocaust Memorial Day service, Southport. I know with your family background that you understand concerns your Jewish constituents may have.

As Chairman of the Southport and District Reform Synagogue, I write this letter to express my concern about the Government's approach to migrants and refugees as Ukrainian nationals flee for their lives, barred from seeking refuge on our shores without either British relatives or community sponsorship.

We share a family experience of Jewish people seeking refuge in Britain, fleeing persecution in Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and beyond. As a people whose bitter experience in the Holocaust informed the expansion of refugee rights in the 20th century, we cannot overlook the the Government's decision to limit Ukrainian refugee rights so stringently.

Therefore, whilst we welcome the Home Office decisions to relax visa rules, these limits mark a dark departure from international human rights protections. It also illuminates the broader consolidation of a hostile environment to migration through the Nationality and Borders Bill, which criminalises people for the route they take to reach our shores and undermines fair hearings for asylum seekers. This legislation belies not just international law, but basic human dignity.

As my representative in the House of Commons, I would ask that you write to the Home Secretary and Minister for Immigration Compliance and Justice outlining my concerns as a member of the Jewish community. I urge the government not only to reconsider its decision and waive Visa restrictions for Ukrainian refugees, but also to challenge the Nationality and Borders Bill, which will consolidate and expand this approach. I push in particular for the complete removal of clause 11 by the Commons,

voted down in the Lords, which will punish Ukrainian refugees and others forced to take irregular journeys to find safety.

I have the utmost confidence that you will continue to do your best for the Jewish community here and abroad and for those refugee people in need.

Kind regards,

Selwyn

The reply:

Dear Selwyn

Thank you for your email to Bill Esterson MP and for raising this issue. Bill will write to the Home Secretary on your behalf.

We will share any response we receive with you.

Bill of course wants to see every effort made to assist Ukrainians fleeing the war and is assisting individuals in this aim currently.

Bill and Labour voted against the Nationality and Borders Bill.

Thanks again for getting in touch with Bill to raise your concerns

Best wishes

Nina Killen

Chief of Staff

Office of Bill Esterson

MP for Sefton Central and Shadow Minister for Business and Industry

07919617556

UKRAINE REFUGEE APPEAL : IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE, PLEASE GO TO WEBSITE - WWW.WORLDJEWISHRELIEF.ORG

The editors do not publish party political comments in L'Chayim, however, the reply to Selwyn's letter from the Minister is worth reading and perhaps transcends party politics...



Home Office

Lord Richard Harrington
Minister for Refugees

2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
www.gov.uk/home-office

Bill Esterson MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

DECS Reference: MIN/0263412/22
Your Reference: BE6691

12 April 2022

Dear Bill,

Thank you for your email of 16 March on behalf of one of your constituents about the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the Nationality and Borders Bill. I am replying as the Minister for Refugees.

I would like to begin by saying that the whole country is united in horror at Putin's grotesque war and is standing with the Ukrainian people. The images we are seeing on our screens and the reports we are reading are incredibly distressing. Nothing could be more depraved and disgusting than bombing a children's hospital – and yet that is only one of the innumerable evils that have been visited upon Ukraine. In stark contrast, President Zelensky and the people he serves are being truly heroic. And the UK will not walk by on the other side. The UK Government has imposed unprecedented economic and diplomatic sanctions as well as providing military equipment and training. We will continue to take every responsible action we possibly can. Putin must fail in Ukraine.

Turning to the Nationality and Borders Bill, which is now in its final parliamentary stages, I would like to let your constituent know that this is an essential part of our New Plan for Immigration – delivering a fair but firm asylum and migration system. The principle behind the Bill – and the wider plan – is simple. Access to the UK's asylum system should be based on need, not on the ability to pay people smugglers. Illegal migration should be prevented and those with no right to be in the UK should be removed, while those in genuine need should be protected.

Let me assure your constituent that the Government remains committed to welcoming refugees from around the globe through resettlement. While we cannot help everyone, with worldwide displacement now standing at around 80 million people, we are maintaining clear, well defined routes for refugees in need of protection. And when these vulnerable people arrive in the UK, we are working to ensure that they have the tools to properly integrate and contribute to society.

The UK Resettlement Scheme, which was launched in February 2021, prioritises the resettlement of refugees, including children, in regions of conflict and instability. The number of refugees we resettle each year depends on a variety of factors, including local authorities' capacity to support refugees and the number of community groups willing to take part. There were 1,131 refugees resettled in the UK through that scheme in the year²² ending December 2021.

continued next page

The Community Sponsorship Scheme enables local community groups to welcome refugees to the UK and provide housing and support. In the year ending December 2021, there were 144 refugees resettled through that scheme.

The Mandate Resettlement Scheme was launched in 1995. This global scheme resettles refugees with a close family member in the UK who is willing to accommodate them. Since published statistics began in 2008, there have been 435 refugees resettled through that route, as of September 2021.

Refugee family reunion allows a spouse or partner and children under 18 of those granted protection in the UK to join them here, if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled the country. There is discretion to grant leave outside of the immigration rules for extended family members in exceptional circumstances. We have granted over 40,000 refugee family reunion visas since 2015, of which more than half were granted to children. In 2021, there were 6,134 family reunion visas issued, which was an increase of 28% on the previous year. Again, more than half were issued to children.

In August 2021, we announced the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, one of the most generous schemes in our country's history. That scheme will give up to 20,000 people at risk a new life in the UK, including women and girls, members of ethnic or religious minorities and people who are LGBT+.

In addition, under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy, current or former locally employed staff who are assessed to be under serious threat to life are offered priority relocation to the UK. Through that route, we have relocated more than 7,000 locally employed staff and their family members since April 2021, in addition to 1,400 former staff and families who were relocated under the previous ex gratia scheme for Afghan interpreters.

The Ukraine Family Scheme, which was launched on 4 March, allows British nationals and people settled in the UK to bring family members to the UK. That covers immediate family members as well as parents, grandparents, children over 18 and siblings, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, cousins and in-laws. Individuals will be granted leave for three years and will be able to work and access public services and benefits. As of 20 March, 61,100 applications had been started, 31,500 had been submitted and 10,200 visas had been issued.

The Homes for Ukraine Scheme, which was launched on 14 March, will allow individuals, charities, community groups and businesses in the UK to bring Ukrainians to safety, including those with no family ties to the UK. There will be no limit on arrivals and, again, those who come here will have access to public services and benefits.

It is also worth noting that over 103,000 British Nationals (Overseas) (BN(O)) status holders and their family members have now applied for the BN(O) route we created in January 2021. This route reflects the UK's historic and moral commitment to those people of Hong Kong who choose to retain their ties to the UK. It offers a choice which affords long-term safety and stability for these individuals and their families via settlement in the UK.

Finally, I would like to respond to your constituent's concerns regarding our plans for the differential treatment of refugees. Currently, all those who seek our protection are treated in the same way, regardless of whether they undertook dangerous journeys facilitated by criminal smugglers, or have been illegally present in the UK for a long period of time. We will change this by introducing a new form of temporary protection status for people who require refugee protection, but who have not come directly to the UK, or who have not claimed asylum without delay once here. This group will be regularly reassessed for return.

A person granted temporary protection status will have unrestricted access to the labour market and will be provided with recourse to public funds if they are destitute or at risk of destitution. Family reunion will be permitted for this cohort where refusal would be a breach of our obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights. I would like to assure your constituent that no one will be returned if doing so would put them in danger. It is right, however, that people should return home when their grounds for asylum no longer exist and their country of origin is safe.

This policy is compliant with our international obligations under the Refugee Convention, which allows for differentiation where a refugee has not come to the UK “directly” from the country of persecution, did not present themselves to authorities “without delay”, and did not “show good cause for their illegal entry or presence” (Article 31). It is also compliant with the European Convention on Human Rights.

With all my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard".

**Lord Richard Harrington
Minister for Refugees**

As of the 13th April 17.3% of applications for asylum from Ukrainians wishing to come to the UK had been processed. The Government has replied to me:

Some applicants have been waiting nearly three weeks for their visa applications to be progressed or an outcome communicated, and we acknowledge that this is unacceptable. We are speeding up the processing of visas and, having prioritised family visas in the first instance, we are now working to accelerate the award of visas under Homes for Ukraine.

The latest data on visas issued under both the Homes for Ukraine and Ukrainian Family schemes was published today by the Home Office. You can view it here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukraine-family-scheme-application-data>

My understanding is that the application form runs to over 50 pages in English.

(Information provided by the Government , to Selwyn)



Njal Sion Curlett
Manchester Reform Synagogue
Adult Education & Conversion Co-ordinator
e: njal@jacksonsrow.org

w: www.jacksonsrow.org

Conversions

For those communities with questions around conversion and sponsoring rabbis who do not employ or have a pre-existing relationship with a rabbi I have spoken with Rabbi Jackie Tabick, convenor of the beth din, and we are suggesting you consider this route:

1. A localish rabbi (probably on this list) take on the role of 'sponsoring rabbi' and be paid as such – initial interview, termly progress check ins and final interview plus beit din and being available for any big issues in between. The hourly ad hoc teaching rate would be fair to pay and including admin, preparation etc you would be looking at 10-12 hours per candidate of rabbinical time.
2. Weekly teaching done online by joining the official Beit Din online conversion class taught by Rabbi Sheridan. This course accepts new candidates at the beginning of each term (next admission September) email Lynsey Goodmaker LGoodmaker@rjuk.org for details, it costs £60 per term.
3. The home community confirms candidates are attending regularly etc. and liaises with sponsoring rabbi.

Events that Southport & District Reform Synagogue members are invited to...

(Please contact our own shul office or njal @jacksonsrow.org for Zoom® details or personal attendance)

10th April - What makes us Angry with R. Robyn and R. Jonathan 15:00 -16:00

20th April - Jewish takes on Naming - 19:00-20:00

3rd May - Should you/Shouldn't you - Kaddish with R.Robyn - 19:30-21:00

17th May - Mum Thumb Play by Judith Silver - 19:00-21:00

18th May - Judith takes on naming - 19:00-20:00

1st May - Taste of Talmud with R. Silverman- 17:00-18:00

22nd May - Soulful Psalms with R. Silverman - 17:00-18:00

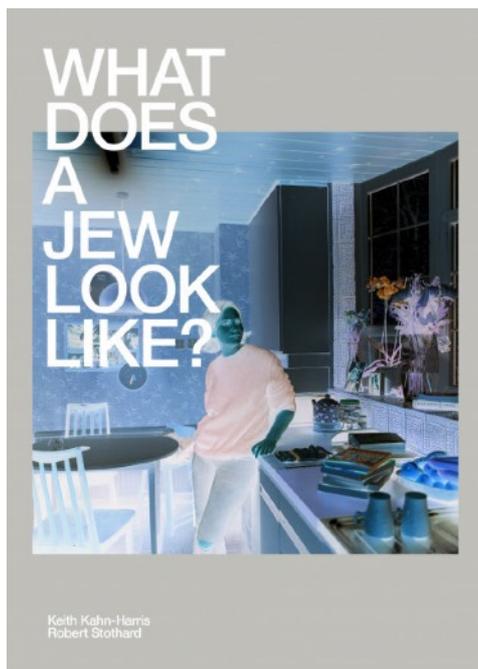
7th June - Should you/Shouldn't you - Assisted Dying with R.Robyn - 19:30-21:00

21st June - Treatment of Stranger: Jewish Teachings with R. Warren Elf - 19:30-20:30

26th June - Soulful Psalms with R. Silverman - 17:00-18:00



Book Reviews



What Does a Jew Look Like?

paper back £12-50 (Amazon uk.)

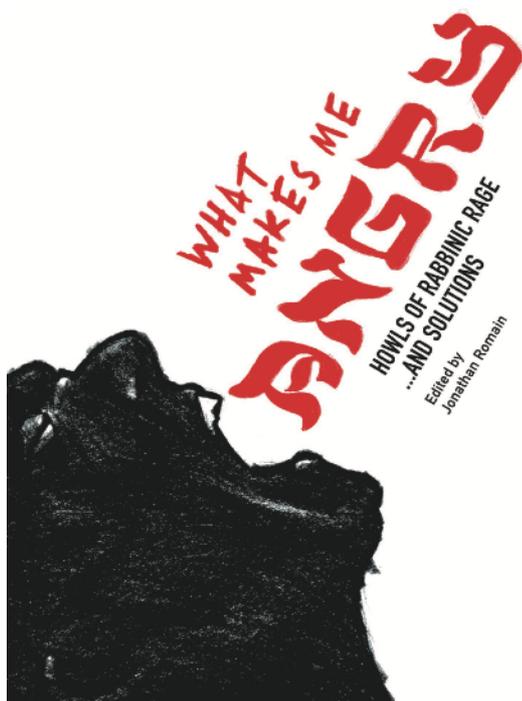
Author, Keith Kahn-Harris

Well, it's complicated...

Too often, the answer seems to be: 'Jews wear black hats, black coats and have beards.' Of course, some do, but the answer to the question 'what does a Jew look like' is much more complicated – and much more interesting.

This book of portraits of British Jews showcases some of the many different ways men and women can be Jewish in Britain today. Alongside the portraits, each subject explains what it means to them to be a Jew.

For those who don't know what a Jew looks like – or for those who think they know – the book is designed to surprise, inform and beguile. For those who are Jewish, the book will perhaps introduce parts of the Jewish community that they may not be familiar with.



Far from being meek and mild, Reform rabbis can get very angry. Twenty-one of them have written short essays about what provokes their ire and they have been collected in a book edited by Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain and published by Reform Judaism

Copies cost £9.99 each and are available from Marcia Singer. Please email her at: msinger@rjuk.org for orders and payment details.



A TASTE OF TALMUD

Study Group

LAW AND LORE

Come and discover what the Talmud has to say about the Jewish holidays.

5th December – Hannukah and Rosh Chodesh

16th Jan 22 – Erev Tu B’shvat

13th March - Pre-Purim

3rd April Rosh Chodesh Nissan / pre -Pesach

1st May Omer/ Rosh Chodesh and Pre-Yom

Haazmaut

29th May Yom Yerusalaim/ Pre- Shavuot

17th July - Tammuz Tisha B’Av



All meetings are planned to be by Zoom at 5 pm.

To register and get the Zoom link for each meeting email office@menorah.org.uk

**SESSIONS LED BY
RAV REUVEN SILVERMAN**



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



**BOOK
NOW**

REFORM JUDAISM

Communities that Care Initiative Annual Conference

Monday 23rd May 2022, 9.30 - 4.30
Finchley Reform Synagogue and Online

Topics include:

 What makes us happy?

 Ageing Better

 Intergenerational Trauma
& the Holocaust

 Covid, Mental Health
& Young People

 Ritual and
Wellbeing

 Get Men Talking

For further info contact:
CareInitiative@rjuk.org
0208 349 5659
or visit our website:
www.reformjudaism.org.uk/conference22

SCAN ME
TO BOOK



<https://www.reformjudaism.org.uk/events/conference22/>



Link for further details.

yahrzeits (יאָרצײַט)

during this issue of L'Chayim

MAY

Antonia Viel, Mother of Duly Platt

Joseph Lutchner, Husband of Gertrude Lutchner

Rita Applebaum, Mother of Faith Choueke

Marcia Stoller, Mother of David Stoller

Malcolm Landau, Husband of Janet Landau

JUNE

Edgar Mercer, Husband of Valerie Mercer

Isaac Solomon, Father of Trudy Turnbull

Alice Hakim, Mother of Fortune Chamberlain

Nancy Cohen, Mother of Sue Greenberg

Rebbetsen Lily Kay, Mother of Helen Kay and Truda Bell



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 Manager.



The funeral of our dear longstanding member

Nina Silveston

took place on Monday 7 March at 12 Noon at JJBS Woodland Cemetery, Bulls Cross Ride, Cheshunt, Waltham Cross.

Our condolences to her family and friends. Nina leaves us blessed with her memory.

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

FEELING ALONE?

Local Support for mental health and well being

0151 228 2300 talkliverpool.nhs.uk

0300 3032708 talkingnatters-sefton

Text HEAL 85258. for

text message support.

Adult mental health support

0800 145 6570

Sefton Council Social Care

9am-5pm 0151 934 4600

‘A trouble shared is a trouble halved’



Shacharit

Whether you are recently bereaved, remembering someone, or would just like to start an ordinary day with our small supportive online community – please do join us. Fridays 8am, contact justin@solomonswise.co.uk for the link

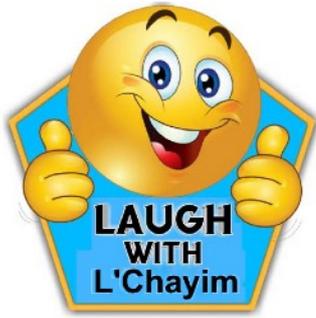
Talking About Living

Meets the third Monday of every month, 2 – 3PM

We began ‘Talking about Dying’ at the height of the pandemic – everyone knew someone who had been impacted. In reality, we talk about LIVING and how changing and uncertain times affect our life choices and priorities. Our friendly group meets the third Monday per month. <https://zoom.us/j/407196863>

Bereavement Group

For people who have been bereaved in the past year. It is a supportive space to share with others who have had similar experiences. We meet every Wednesday from 12.00 – 1.00 on Zoom – for more information please email Sharon, sdaniels@rjuk.org



Q: How did Passover get its name? A: Since the Seder table is usually made larger, people can't reach for the items on the table and invariably ask others: "Could you please Pass Over the matzah,..." !

Why do we have a Haggadah to read on Passover? So we can Seder right words.

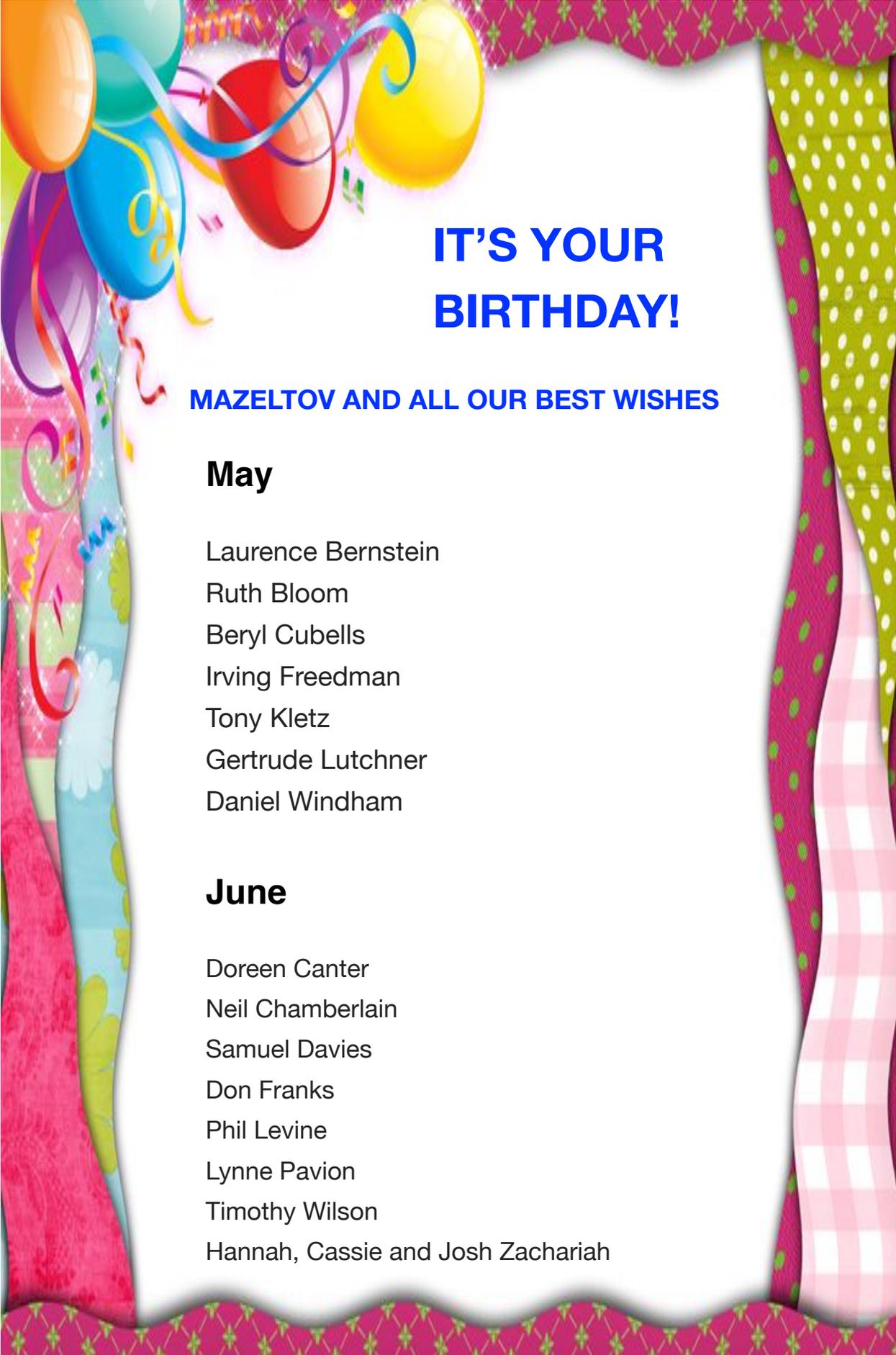
Sorry this next one is in thoroughly bad taste..

A blind man is sitting on a park bench. A Rabbi sits down next to him. The Rabbi is chomping on a piece of matzah. Taking pity on the blind man, he breaks off a piece and gives it to the blind man. Several minutes later, the blind man turns, taps the Rabbi on the shoulder and asks, "Who wrote this?!!"

A Jewish grandmother is giving directions to her grown grandson who is coming to visit with his wife. "You come to the front door of the apartments. I am in apartment 301. There is a big panel at the front door. With your elbow, push button 301. I buzz you in. Come inside and the lift is on the right. Get in, and with your elbow, push 3rd Floor button. When you get out, I'm on the left. With your elbow, push my doorbell.

OK?""Grandma, that sounds easy, but, why am I pushing all these buttons with my elbow?

"What... You're coming empty handed?"



IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!

MAZELTOV AND ALL OUR BEST WISHES

May

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

June

Doreen Canter
Neil Chamberlain
Samuel Davies
Don Franks
Phil Levine
Lynne Pavion
Timothy Wilson
Hannah, Cassie and Josh Zachariah

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



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

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

Chairman

Dr Selwyn Goldthorpe

Vice Chair

Gillian Goldthorpe

Honorary Secretary

Fortune Chamberlain

Honorary Treasurer

Tony Kletz

Wardens

Joan Brooke, Susan Fox,
Gillian Goldthorpe

'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

Synagogue Manager, Lisa Sachs, J.P.

Office hours Friday 10am-3pm

telephone 01704 535 950



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 office.

email: southportsynagogue@gmail.com