

Brighton & Hove Reform Synagogue

# Sha'are Shalom

Brighton & Hove Reform Synagogue, Palmeira Avenue, Hove, East Sussex BN3 3GE  
Tel: 01273 735343 \* Email: [accounts@bh-rs.org](mailto:accounts@bh-rs.org) \* Website: [www.bh-rs.org](http://www.bh-rs.org)  
Office hours: Monday to Thursday 9.30am—3.30pm, Friday 9.00am—2pm, Closed Tuesday afternoons  
Charity No: 1155461

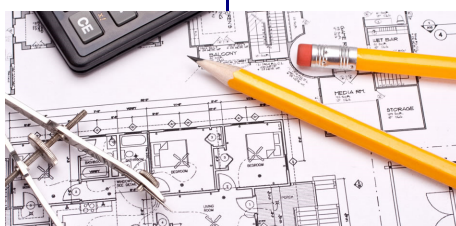


## Michael Harris, Joint Chair

In this article, I'm going to bring you up to date on redevelopment and ask yet again if you can help to identify potential new members. (If I get time, more also!)

So, yet again, I can hear the question - where are we on redevelopment? We appear to be in the slow lane. To answer the question, let's please remember the reasons we are undertaking the redevelopment exercise. It is because our membership numbers have gone down over the years, the existing building has costly implications for maintenance and repair, it no longer meets the purpose, and, in the long run, our income cannot sustain our costs. These reasons have not changed. However, when we started the exercise, we knew that we needed to find a solution within, say, the next 2/3 years. The one thing that has changed is that we can take a little longer if we want. That is because the large legacy we received does postpone the time by when we would feel that we must do something. This does not mean, by the way, that we should simply relax and take more time. We shouldn't. We mustn't. But, I will admit it's more comfortable not having quite the same pressure. Having said that, there are other reasons why it would be good to find a solution to redevelopment. In particular, we do see redevelopment as the opportunity to invigorate new life into our Synagogue. So, the position is that your Council and the Redevelopment Committee are determined to press ahead and find a new solution to redevelopment.

Having explained our overall intent, what are we doing specifically? Allow me to remind you that we ran into severe cost issues with the previous proposals. We are now in dialogue with property developers to see what they might be able to offer. Their ideas are under evaluation. It is too early to speculate if their scheme will be viable. I'd like to hope it may be, but we must be patient for probably another 2/3 months before we can know if there will even be a scheme which will work. If so, then we will need to work up full plans. Another idea which might be an option is a reconfiguration of the existing building. This option was not favoured in the past but a new approach is being considered. We continue to go over and consider all options, including those previously rejected, to ensure that we try to come up with the best answer.



So, in summary, this is an ongoing project and we are determined to find the right plan for our Synagogue with a proposal that will excite and enthuse us all. My continued thanks to Peter and all who serve on the Redevelopment Committee.

And next, on to new members. A Synagogue can only exist if it has members, and a sufficient number of members. It is also helpful if at least a proportion of those members are relatively active. I can safely say this is true for our Shul. But what we have is not good enough. We must increase membership. Our membership had stabilised over recent years with new members joining balancing out the number of leavers. However, the year just gone has shown a decline in numbers joining relative to those who have left. Maybe we can persuade members who left to re-join. Maybe we can persuade non-affiliated Jewish people (i.e. those who don't belong to any Synagogue) to join us. I contend that the Jewish religion as a whole is at risk if Jews don't join Synagogues. Everyone must be aware that, in the space of a few years, in this country, those who belong to the Islamist faith now outnumber "us", and by a notable factor. Moreover, a higher percentage of the latter religion belong to or regularly visit the mosques. If we are to retain our strength, we need more Jewish people to join the Synagogues. And we need to set an example for our children, our grandchildren, our wider families and our friends. Of course, we have differences within, but surely we can find solutions and put differences aside. After all, there won't be anything left to argue about if we are not in the Synagogue together. So, please stay and argue! And, please do see if you can find

someone to introduce as a member.

I said I'd mention something else and thus lighten the mood! This past weekend we enjoyed and celebrated Ivor Richards' second Bar Mitzvah. Ivor and so many of his family were in Shul alongside members and friends from the wider community. It was simply a wonderful occasion. Then, on the Sunday night, we enjoyed a successful Supper Quiz. On both occasions the Catering Team provided excellent food. Three teenagers – David, Leah and Ollie – were on duty. Thank you to Roger, our Quizmaster, the organisers and all who helped on the evening. I can start this week, smiling at what our Synagogue can do.

Finally, please remember to **book now for our second night Seder**. I wish you well and hope maybe to see you then.

**BOOK NOW FOR OUR 2ND NIGHT SEDER ~ THURSDAY, 9TH APRIL AT 6.30PM**



## From Rabbi Andrea

### 'AS A SIGN UPON YOUR HAND, A REMINDER BETWEEN YOUR EYES'

There is a story that circulates among American Rabbis. When the Jewish immigrants arrived in America by boat and saw from afar the Statue of Liberty, they threw their tefillin into the sea, as a symbol of their Jewish past, and then went to build their fortune in the Golden Medina. If you want to believe this story, the largest reservoir of modern Jewish artefacts must be in New York Harbour! Perhaps the story is not true, but certainly, tefillin did not have a big role in the modern, emancipated form of Judaism, Reform Judaism, built by those generations of American Jews.



Tefillin is a symbol of the Holy Covenant between Israel and the Almighty. This is done on weekdays, because on Shabbat there is no need to remind ourselves of such a Covenant but in Reform American

Synagogues, for centuries, there were no weekday services.

Since then things have changed. First in America, then in the rest of the world, Rabbinical students have started laying tefillin during the weekday services, largely because in places like Jerusalem, or at Limmud, there are many opportunities to daven together and to learn from each other. During my first year at Rabbinical College, I was the only one to lay tefillin. During my last year, almost all the students, enrolled after us, were familiar with the practice and many of them have adopted it. Also, our then new prayer book now includes on pages 30-31, meditations and blessings for those Reform Jews who wish to lay tefillin.

Compared to the previous generations, those prior to the immigration in America, there's one important difference, though: women, also, do.

And why shouldn't they? The commandment of tefillin is in the Shema, "Secure [these words] as a sign upon your hand and let them be a reminder before your eyes". The words are actually written on the parchments included in the wooden boxes that constitute the tefillin. This commandment comes immediately after the commandment of the mezuzah and, as such, it makes no distinction between men and women! Tefillin is a proclamation of God's glory and a symbol of self-restraint: the very basic of Jewish morality, which apply equally to adult men and women.

And indeed, the phenomenon of women laying tefillin for the morning prayer is well known to scholars of medieval Judaism. Then, because of sociological reasons, in those centuries the majority of the Jews lived in Muslim Countries. Jewish women gradually disappeared from the public space. They found themselves confined in their houses, where they certainly had more rights and more autonomy than women of other faiths. But unfortunately again, for reasons that have nothing to do with Jewish faith or Jewish law, none of this was evident in the Synagogues.

Notably, the daughters of very wealthy and learned Rabbis, (those rare occurrences when the two things go together!), were known for laying tefillin on a regular basis. The daughter of Rashi was not easy to intimidate, or to send home!

Things have now changed, and we live, thank God, in an egalitarian society. Increasingly, Orthodox Jewish women lay tefillin, (this is the case in two modern Orthodox schools in New York), and women minyanim exist in the Orthodox world, England included.

It is a pretty admirable historical phenomenon. Reform Jews have learnt from the Orthodox to lay tefillin, and Orthodox women have learnt the practice from Reform ladies!

As the Rabbi of this very proudly Re-frum Synagogue, I have started to offer to the Bar and Bat Mitzvah students the opportunity to learn how to lay tefillin. This happens on Sunday mornings, and the student can co-lead the small service that takes place prior to the Cheder. As this mitzvah is done on a 'weekday', plenty of photos can be taken!

To me, the commandments of Judaism are like a full meal. I take them all, from the hors d'oeuvres to the dessert, some of them twice and not forgetting the drinks! So, I begin my day laying tefillin and conclude the evening with the Shema.

But I know that for many Jews the commandments are more of a buffet. Contemporary Jews pick and choose. Some go to Shul on Shabbat, some others eat kosher le Pesach, some others may not go to Shul at all, but they are tremendously generous towards their community and other human beings.



By teaching the Bar and Bat Mitzvah students, I know that these young Jews will have something more to choose from in their own buffet, which I hope will become, for some of them, a

full meal to enjoy on a daily basis.

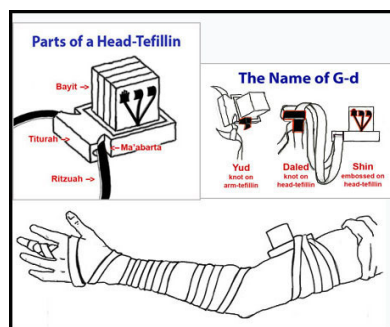
Perhaps that boy, or that girl, in future, will teach his or her children and grandchildren, the beautiful practice of the tefillin, which literally binds us together through the generations.

Perhaps that same young adult will bump into a minyan, in Jerusalem, in New York, or at Limmud, and will be able to lay tefillin like the other non-Reform participants, feeling a bit more at home and a bit more confident with the practice.

And perhaps, look how ambitious I am, even the reader of this column, who thought "tefillin is not for me, because I am Reform / or because I am a woman / or because I do not want to commit myself to anything to

do every day," is now reconsidering and, out of curiosity, wants to learn, or re-learn, how to lay tefillin.

Well, if this is the case, contact your Rabbi, which is me! I will be very happy to teach adults too!



## 'Who We Are'

Following workshops last year around membership engagement and strategy, and with the support of BHRs Council, we have agreed upon a set of values that represent what is important to BHRs members.

*At BHRs we encourage members of all ages and backgrounds to participate in our warm, friendly and welcoming community to:*

*Foster an environment where every individual finds their own personal, meaningful relationship with Jewish culture, heritage, religion and learning.*

*Embrace equality, inclusion and accessibility for everyone, irrespective of gender, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age or marital status.*

*Maintain an ethos and practice of care, respect and support for each other through life's journey of joys and sorrows.*

*Pray at our services, which are both traditional and egalitarian, including congregational singing and participation.*

*Provide a strong and vibrant community that supports children and young people to develop their own personal Jewish identity.*

*Strengthen our social, educational, religious, cultural and charitable activities for families, children and individuals - both for members and the wider community.*

*Work together as a collaborative partnership of our Rabbi, all other staff, lay leaders and members for the good of our Synagogue, the individuals within it and the local community.*

*Sussex Jewish Representative Council  
on behalf of the local Jewish community would like to invite  
you to our commemoration of the 75th anniversary of*

# YOM HASHOAH

Guest Speaker

**MANFRED GOLDBERG** BEM

and the London Jewish Male Choir

**Sunday April 26th at 7pm**

(Doors Open 6.30pm)

**Sallis Benney Theatre**

58-67 Grand Parade, Brighton BN2 0JY

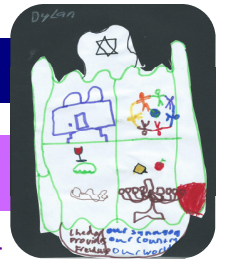
Tickets: £10 to include light refreshments To reserve your ticket please Email:

**info@sussexjewishrepresentativecouncil.org**

(Free for students and under 18s)



**BOOK NOW FOR OUR 2ND NIGHT SEDER ~ THURSDAY, 9TH APRIL AT 6.30PM**



## ***Cheder Report from Sara & the Cheder Team***

We are delighted to welcome six new children to Cheder this term. We hope they will enjoy learning and having fun with us all during our Sunday morning classes.



Also cause for celebration were the two latest B'nei Mitzvah: Ben Krauss and Jacob Dayan. We send our heartfelt Mazel Tov to them and their families!

Jacob's Bar Mitzvah also gave us the opportunity to start a new (but ancient) tradition: on the Sunday before his Bar Mitzvah celebration, he put on tallit and tefillin for the first time during our usual Cheder Tefillah. It was a special celebration for all the children at Cheder, followed by

some special treats at break time. From now on this will be an option that both boys and girls coming up for their Bar/ Bat Mitzvah will be given. *(see picture with Rabbi's article)*

We also celebrated Tu B'shvat this term with dedicated activities as well a fruit Seder. Children from school Y3+ then took part in our youth club activities, run by our youth workers Abi and Nikki, planting beautiful flowers and plants. You can see the results of their work around the Shul!



As well as our Sunday morning classes, children have been involved in monthly Shabbat activities, such as the lovely Havdalah on 4th January and the Shabbaton, Doroteinu and Shabbat Shalom Chaverim services on 1st February.



Purim celebrations are quickly approaching, and they are not taking us unprepared! On 1st March, with the help of our amazing Parents' Committee, we will prepare Mishloach Manot (goodies baskets) to distribute to the older members of the Community. On Monday 9th March, starting at 4.30pm, our younger members are invited to take part in activities organised by our Youth Leaders in the Ajax Hall, while adults are welcome to partake in snacks, drinks and schmoozing in the Rosenblum Room. We will all then get together for the interactive multilingual Megillah reading at 6.30pm in the main Shul. Purim treats for everyone will follow

the service. You will also have the chance to see the pictures based on the Megillah that children have been building during the monthly Shabbat Shalom Chaverim, thanks to the help of Eileen Field. All ages welcome – members and non-members alike.

The series of B'nei Mitzvah keeps on going during the next few months. We look forward to Joshua Berman's Bar Mitzvah which takes place on Shabbat, 21st March: a huge Mazel Tov to him and his family!

On Shabbat, 4th April all children are welcome to our monthly services: Doroteinu and Shabbat Shalom Chaverim for under 10s and their parents/carers, and our Shabbaton for 10+. Again, there is no need to be a cheder student: everyone is welcome.

For Pesach, we are looking forward to our usual participation in the 2nd Night Communal Seder on 9th April. As in the past year a service for young families, featuring a mini-Seder, will take place in the morning, starting at 10.30am during the First Day of Pesach service.

Finally, on Shabbat, 25th April the children of Cheder would like to invite all the community for a special Shabbat service to celebrate Shabbat Yom Ha'atzmaut. Our children will lead the service, sharing their favourite tunes and songs and this will be followed by an Israeli themed Chavurah lunch. Thank you in advance to all teachers, helpers and volunteers who will work "behind the scenes" to make this possible.



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# KUDDLE UP SHABBAT

## Parent and child playgroup ~ for 0-4 years olds



Along with the regular Friday morning playgroup, we had lots of very exciting activities during the last few months at Kuddle Up Shabbat. During the afternoon of Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> December we celebrated the 6th night of Chanukah, lighting our Chanukiot as well as the Shabbat candles: we had free play, games for little ones as well as for older siblings and a lovely Shabbat Chanukah tea full of holiday treats.

Coming back from the Winter break, we welcomed our youngest participant: Isaac – a big *Mazel/ Tov* to his parents Suzanne and James! We also celebrated Tu Bi'shvat planting some various seeds that are now beginning to grow.

Coming up in our calendar is Purim! We will celebrate on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> March afternoon, starting at 4.30 with some lovely crafts and a story corner in the



Rosenblum Room, as well as Purim treats. Parents will also be able to enjoy chats, food and drinks, while older siblings will be welcome to join in the youth activities in the Ajax Hall. For those able to stay a little later, we will join in for the community Megillah reading at 6.30pm.

For Pesach, we will have a young families morning service on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> April at 11am, featuring our traditional mini-Seder for very young people and their parents.

Kuddle Up Shabbat is open to everyone! If you are interested in joining us for a Friday morning or for any of our activities, please be in touch by contacting the Shul office.



## Youth News

The BHRS youth activities team has launched a new monthly youth event that will take place in the Synagogue, and will be based around notable festivals or themes that take place during that month. In February we celebrated Tu Bi'shvat, a festival celebrating nature and environmental consciousness, by planting window boxes with spring flowers to decorate the Synagogue, and bring nature into our building. In March we are planning a very exciting pre-Purim party on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March before the community Megillah reading. Further details will be circulated soon, but expect colour, games, noise and food!!!

In other exciting news, we have been designated a room in the Synagogue specifically to be used as a youth room. The Ruach group (13+) will be planning and decorating the space over the next few weeks!

Abi Itkin,  
Youth Leader



## Pesach 2020 Cheder @ Seder

THIS YEAR OUR CHEDER CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO ATTEND OUR COMMUNAL 2ND NIGHT SEDER FOR FREE, WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY A FULL PAYING ADULT.



COMMUNAL 2<sup>ND</sup> NIGHT SEDER  
AT THE AJAX CENTRE

THURSDAY 9TH APRIL 2020  
AT 6.30PM

SERVICE WILL BE LED BY  
RABBI ANDREA & STEVE FIELD



Cheder children FREE when accompanied by a full paying adult.

Tickets available from the Shul office on a first come basis.

Prices of normal tickets:			
Members	£20	Non Members	£27
Under 13s	£10	Under 13s	£13.50

Please order early to avoid disappointment as our Seder is always very popular



**BOOK NOW FOR OUR 2ND NIGHT SEDER ~ THURSDAY, 9TH APRIL AT 6.30PM**

# Purim

Monday  
9th March



Join us for our  
Megilla Reading

boo, hiss

at 6.30pm



Come in Fancy Dress

פורים

Kuddle Up & Cheder will be meeting earlier  
for fun & activities. Look out for more details.



Our next meeting  
will take place on

**Saturday 28th March  
at 9.15 a.m.**

The book for discussion is

**"People of the Book"  
by Geraldine Brooks**

All are welcome to our friendly  
group for what is always a  
stimulating discussion and  
yummy croissants.



The Rosh Chodesh Women's group has celebrated its 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a Tu Bi'shvat Seder and an inspiring evening of sharing and studying in February.

The group will have an active part in communal celebrations of Purim and Pesach 2nd night Seder and we will work together during our next few meetings to organise our participation. Please, check the weekly What's On for dates, and feel

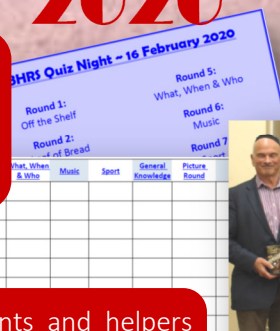
free to be in touch if you would like to take part.

We are also organising a special end of Pesach morning, open to all generations and both ladies and gents. On Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> April starting at 10.30am, we will have a coffee morning with traditional Mimouna treats, (end of Pesach North African celebration), and a bake off, preparing the first challah after Pesach. Stay tuned for all details closer to the date!



## Quiz Night 2020

Quiz written, presented and  
scored using our high tech  
scoreboard (!), by our  
regular Quiz Volunteer Team



**A Super Success  
Yet Again!**



2020 Winning Team

Busy in the kitchen  
preparing supper

Over 80 participants and helpers  
enjoyed a supper prepared by the  
Catering Team





## מזל טוב ל..

... Marilyn Conn, Michael Fields, John Essex and Mark Bogen on their **special** birthdays in **March** and to Alison Bateup, Anne Pincus, Shirley Hecht, Peter Marks, Jonathan Burgh and Robert Ross on their special birthdays in **April**.



### Happy Birthday ....

....to the youngsters of our community, who include: Joshua Berman, Samuel Sharpe, Esther Kaiser and Anneka Mendes da Costa for **March**, and Zara Berman, Yair Zahardo, Madeleine Heyworth, Carmen Dayan and Monty Lancaster for **April**.



....and wishing **Mazel Tov** to Joshua Berman and his family on the occasion of his **Bar Mitzvah** in **March**.

**Condolences:** We wish long life to the families of Yvette Wheeler, Alan Margo, Michael Rudd, Maurie Lubich, Palomba Tarragano, Bernard Lowenthal & Barbara Curtis z"l.

We also send our condolences to Peter Mears' family. Peter passed away in Spain on 13th February 20. He worked for BHRS for ten years as caretaker.



## MARTIN GROSS

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## YOM HASHOAH

Please join us for our Yom Ha Shoah Service  
**MONDAY, 20th April at 6.30pm**

We will be reading from our Special Shoah Scroll  
which tells only 6 stories out of 6 million, each as powerful as the other.  
Please join us for this very moving service.



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## Forthcoming dates and times for your diary

(The diary is subject to change)

### March

Sun 1st	2pm	Stone setting for the late Walter Bush z"l
	3pm-5pm	BHRS & SJRC Pop Up Cafe
Fri 6th	6.30pm	Shabbat Kolot
Sat 7th	9am	Rabbi's Shiur ~ Purim, How & Why
Sun 8th		NO Cheder
Mon 9th	4.30pm	Purim activities for all ages
	6.30pm	Service & Reading of the Megillah and Fancy Dress
Tues 10th		PURIM
Sat 14th	10.30am	Shabbat Service including Baby Blessing for Isaac Anderson followed by special kiddush
Sat 21st	9am	Rabbi's Torah Breakfast
	10.30am	Shabbat Service including Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Berman followed by a special kiddush
Sat 28th	9.15am	Book Club - "People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks
Sun 29th	10am	Membership Engagement Team training day

Fridays	10.30am	Kuddle Up Toddler Group
	6.30pm	Shabbat evening service
Saturdays	10.30am	Shabbat morning service
Sundays	9.50am	Cheder

### April

Fri 3rd	6.30pm	Shabbat Kolot
Sat 4th	9am	Rabbi's Shiur ~ Pesach, How & Why
	10.30am	Shabbat Doroteinu & Shabbaton
Sun 5th	9.50am	Cheder last day of term
	2.30pm	Helping Hands Community Tea
Wed 8th		EREV PESACH
Thurs 9th	10.30am	1st day Pesach Service
	10.30am	Kuddle Up Mini Seder
	6.30pm	2nd Night Communal Seder
Wed 15th	10.30am	7th day Pesach Service
Fri 17th	10.30am	Late morning Mimouna Return to chametz by baking the first challa
Sat 18th	9am	Rabbi's Shiur ~ from Yom HaShoah to Yom Ha'atzmaut
Mon 20th	6.30pm	Erev Yom HaShoah service
Tues 21st		YOM HASHOAH
Sat 25th	10.30am	Shabbat Yom Ha'atzmaut service followed by Chavurah Lunch
Sun 26th	7pm	SJRC Commemoration of 75th anniversary of Yom HaShoah
Wed 29th	4.30pm	Yom Ha'atzmaut BBQ ~ Contact the Shul Office for more details

## Pesach

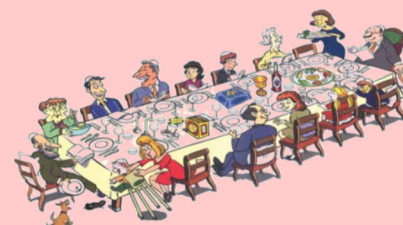
## COMMUNAL 2ND NIGHT SEDER

פסח

THURSDAY, 9TH APRIL 2020

AT 6.30PM

SERVICE WILL BE LED BY  
RABBI ANDREA & STEVE FIELD



See inside for special offer for Cheder students

MEMBERS: £20  
UNDER 13YRS: £10

NON-MEMBERS: £27  
UNDER 13YRS: £13.50

Tickets available from the Shul office on a first come basis  
Please order early to avoid disappointment as our Seder is always very popular