



# ה ק ו ל

Harrow & Wembley Progressive Synagogue

June 2011

## A Rabbi's Word



Picture: Miriam Smith

For those of you unable to attend the AGM at the end of April, here is an edited version of my report covering the three major aspects of Synagogue life: prayer, study and community

Even during this time of huge change in the life of our community we remain committed to offering a tasteful and inclusive classical Liberal approach to our services. Recently we have introduced discussions concerning specific issues arising from the Torah text or current concerns. Many congregants participate in these discussions and thoughtful contributions are made. This may lengthen the service but in the interests of collective thinking and learning much is achieved. I am continually grateful to Hana Schlesinger and her Rites & Practices Committee for their constant support.

At Pesach I conducted, together with Rabbi Middleton, a very successful HWPS-MNS second-night Seder. This first joint event involved much rabbinic preparation and hard work of from Hana Schlesinger and her MNS counterpart, Joel Abrahams, and the entire Seder team.

Since the autumn we have successfully

merged our Cheder with that of Middlesex New Synagogue. We have an excellent teaching team, the learning atmosphere is very positive and new friendships are developing. I enjoyed devising a new curriculum and policies handbook with Rabbi Kathleen de Magtige-Middleton, and we jointly direct the religion school. We were sorry to lose Rita Asbury who retired in December after many years of service to our Cheder.

Adult Education sessions are also organised jointly and I continue my sessions on new approaches to the Shoah.

Pastoral support with the sick and bereaved in our community demands much of my time but is fulfilling work. I am hugely indebted in this area to the help of Joy Katz, Vivienne Shreir and Stella Bennister. We would welcome more volunteers for this important task.

Planning for our cohabitation with MNS is progressing in the capable hands of Adrian Cohen, Alan Solomon and Steven Sanderson and many others. These three individuals in particular have worked diligently on the nuts and bolts of carrying forward the positive vision for a future that we all support. The sharing of premises with another community represents a new and creative approach to the realities of Jewish demographic decline in northwest London. We can embrace creative opportunities not only for our two synagogues but, where useful, with other non-orthodox synagogue communities.

In the wider community, although I have stepped down as chairman after six years service, my work with The Brent Multi-Faith Forum continues. We have established strong relations with Ealing Road Mosque and together we are instrumental in providing training for police officers. This ground breaking work will continue after our departure from Brent.

Some of our congregants have recently developed links with Friends of the Earth Middle East and have met with the Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian directors who welcomed the donation from our High Holydays Appeal. I am now liaising with them to plan a trip next April to visit sites of historical and environmental significance in all three countries.

On a personal note, I continue to enjoy my PhD research on the wartime altruism of the camera manufacturer Ernst Leitz. Recently I lectured on this subject at Harrow Limmud and I have been asked to present a paper in Washington DC at the end of December. During my sabbatical next year, I hope to finish writing the bulk of my PhD dissertation. Photography remains another passion and I have been invited to stage an exhibition of my photographic work at the Leica Gallery in New York next year.

This year marks the completion of fourteen years as the Rabbi of this community. I thank all of you for your continued support of my efforts.

*Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith*

### A Momentous Weekend in June

Friday 10 June	7.00 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Saturday 11 June	11.00 am	Final Shabbat Service
Sunday 12 June	10.30 am	Deconsecration Service.
	11.00 am	Scrolls on board the Routemaster bus for the journey to Bessborough Road
	11.45 am	Welcome from members of Middlesex New Synagogue Service of Consecration in our new Sanctuary
	6.15 pm	Farewell Dinner at 326 Preston Road

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## LEARNING CIRCLE PROGRAMME FOR JUNE

*Wednesday 1 June 8pm*

Christian Minorities in Israel.

The third in the series on Minorities in Israel organised in conjunction with the Zionist Federation. We welcome again to MNS the main speaker Geoffrey Smith, ex-Chairman of Christian Friends of Israel. He will be in conversation with a Druze speaker. The evening will be chaired by Michael Reik

*Tuesday 7 June, 8pm*

Erev Shavuoth

Following a short service come on board for a 60 minute tour around the universe with Rabbi Middleton when we will view 'Cosmology, Philosophy and Kabbalah: A Guide to the Perplexed. If this makes you dizzy, return to earth and test your taste buds in a cheesecake tasting contest – bring your own cheesecake to enter the competition.

*Sunday 26 June, 10:30am*

Holocaust Studies with Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith

*Wednesday 29 June, 8pm*

What was the impact of Homecoming on the Religious Identity of Ethiopian Jews who were airlifted to Israel in Operation Moses? Join Adam Pike for a personal insight into how Ethiopian Jewish practice, identity and society were influenced by their 'journey' to Sudan, life in Sudanese refugee camps and latterly in Israel. Adam will talk in detail around a series of interviews and discussions held with academics and Ethiopian olim, which formed the basis for his thesis at Manchester University where he studied History.

Following graduation in 2008 Adam served for two years as the elected Chair of the Union of Jewish Students (UJS). He is now training as a Management Consultant.

*All these sessions will be held at 39 Bessborough Road*



*Congratulations to all those involved in the Art Workshop Exhibition.  
It was a wonderful occasion.*

At **THE NATIONAL DISABILITY SEMINAR** held at Northwood and Pinner Synagogue in April, HWPS was represented by Vivienne Shreir and Stella Bennister. Participants from all over the country came together, under the guidance of Leon Charikar- National Board Officer for Social Action – to discuss ways in which we can make our synagogues more welcoming and accessible.

Rabbi Hillel Athias Robles presented a paper on Judaism and Disability giving a broad overview of the treatment of disabled and handicapped people in Biblical times.

Several charities were represented – Jewish Care and JAMI and smaller local organisations. There were many younger people present hoping to find help and advice in solving the particular problems in their synagogues. Their positive attitude was most impressive. The range of problems was great, ranging from mental health, learning difficulties, loss of sight and hearing, mobility and the problems which come with old age.

Northwood and Pinner gave us a warm welcome and a delicious lunch. We had much to think about as we made our way home.

*Stella Bennister*

### PARKING ARRANGEMENTS

Free parking facilities have been arranged for Shabbat mornings at the Harrovia Business Village, the office complex next door to our new home at 39 Bessborough Road, Harrow, with effect from 18 June.

If you wish to make use of this arrangement, please apply to Barbara Liff in the office by post, phone or e-mail ([barbara.liff@hwps.org](mailto:barbara.liff@hwps.org)) for a windscreen sticker which will identify you as an HWPS member eligible to occupy one of the available spaces. Please park **ONLY** in the space to which you will be directed.

This facility does not extend to Friday evenings, when free parking is available after 6.30 pm in the Vaughan Road public car park on the opposite side of Bessborough Road, nor to festival morning services occurring on weekdays.

## About our Members

### Mazel tov

Celia Hipgrave (mother)  
Michelle Latchman (grang-mother)  
Jenny Cole (great-grand-mother)  
on the birth of Benjamin Harvey Hipgrave

Tessa and John Belling on the birth of their first grandchild  
Eleanor Louise daughter of Catherine and Chris Grimley

Adrian and Lindsey Cohen on the marriage of their son Marcus to Liz in New York May  
Co-officiated by Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith.

### Good Luck in new home

Ethel Lyons

### Get Well Soon

Jenny Cole  
Sylvia Honey

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## WHY WAS THIS NIGHT DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER NIGHTS?

It was a first. The first Middlesex New Synagogue and Harrow and Wembley Progressive Synagogue Joint Communal Seder held in the synagogue hall at MNS on Second Night Pesach, was led by Rabbis Kathleen de Magtige Middleton and Frank Dabba Smith from a Haggadah, created out of a thoughtful amalgamation of the Reform and Liberal forms of the ancient story, with many additional songs. The evening was praised by everyone present as an unqualified success. Of course there was the odd hiccup; a serviette caught fire and we provided too much food and wine, but next year we will improve.

The success of the evening was due in no small measure to at least 25 members of the two Synagogues who gave time, effort and skill to work together in order



difficult, whether it be a new venue for the Seder, a different tune for the Passover songs, a higher price for some to pay for the meal, restricted parking on site ..... but those of you who embraced the opportunity to come together on a project, dear to us all, found the chances offered for members of both communities to get to know one another very rewarding.

For myself, I feel that in the weeks leading up to the Seder I had the privilege



to create this special evening. Planners, shoppers, shleppers, cooks (nay - chefs), menu designers, table plan creators, flower arrangers, table layers, Seder plate assemblers, more cooks, clearer-uppers and put-awayers, all worked their socks off with a smile. Our two teams of waitresses, one in the afternoon preparing salads and laying out foods at the speed of light, and the evening team serving food and drink to the 109 guests, before clearing and washing up; each did what they do so well and so professionally.

We recognise that change can be

of getting to know some really wonderful, dedicated members of MNS. Their warmth, enthusiasm and willingness to work together with equally dedicated members of HWPS, bodes well for the future.

The names of all who helped were read out at the Seder, so I won't list them here. You know who you are and how much your work is valued. What a night we shared. May there be many more. Jerusalem is in the heart, so, Next Year in Harrow!

Created with  
Hana Schlesinger



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### WANTED by HWPS and MNS Religion School

Are you an enthusiastic, qualified nursery teacher who would enjoy working with a small class of pre-school children? Our expanding Cheder is seeking a caring teacher who can help children begin their educational journey into Jewish life and Hebrew through songs, games and stories. This class will meet on Sunday mornings, fortnightly during term time, beginning September 2011.

If this position interests you please contact Anita Feldman or Sharron Shackell

## BA'ALEI TEFILLAH PROGRAMME

Hana Schlesinger and I have been participating in this Lay Leadership Course since October. For me it has been a most enlightening experience. Because of my research into key prayers for our projects, some of them have become much more meaningful e.g. the last three blessings of the Amidah, with their concerns with worship, thanksgiving and the Priestly Blessing. We had a wonderful residential weekend of learning. We have covered service choreography, giving of sermons and Divrei Torah, and public speaking generally. I have made great efforts to improve my Hebrew, which some members of the congregation have acknowledged and I would like to thank Rabbi Frank for his great help and encouragement.

Rosemary Wolfson

### It's CHEESECAKE

time again! Please bring your culinary efforts to the Synagogue in time for the Erev Shavuoth service at 7pm on Tuesday 7 June, followed by a Token Tikkun



### HWPS e-TREE

#### Funeral and Shiva eMail Notification Service

HWPS are pleased to announce a new branch to the Council's Telephone Tree.

This is an opt-in email service for all members who wish to be informed of funeral and shiva details.

If you would like to receive these notifications, please email:

hwps-e-tree@hotmail.co.uk

Please include your name and telephone number. We will then send you a test email to confirm your registration.

Alan & Brenda Hunt

**KIEV KOPPERS UPDATE**

I am pleased to report that this month I received four large donations of coppers and was able to bank £100 into Alex's account. This brings our total since January 2000 to £12,800. This last £100 has taken so long to achieve but I am most grateful to those stalwarts who are still collecting. Please try and get into the habit of putting aside those coppers you accumulate each week to keep our collection going. This money is so important for the continuity of our kindergartens in Kiev....so please

**KEEP THE KOPPERS KOMING...**

*Rita Asbury*

**Food for Fun**

Finger Food was our theme for our May meeting at Lindsey and Adrian Cohen's home. The theme was imaginatively interpreted – as " food which requires no cutlery." So naturally we started with soup! drunk from beautiful cups.(Hana). A spread followed consisting of salmon pâté (Margie), two delicious fillings in vol-au-vents (Frankie), wedges of pizza (Anne), and frittata (Rosemary). For your culinary benefit the difference between a frittata and omelette is how the filling is mixed in. In an omelette the egg mix is cooked and folded around the filling, whilst a frittata combines all the ingredients together in a mishmash. The 'sunshine' dessert created specially by Frances for the occasion consisted of miniature upside-down sponge cakes, and the 'sun' really shone, courtesy of an apricot in the middle of each - delicious.



The evening rocked with the week's high interest subjects ranging from joyous - the royal wedding - to more serious al Qaida. Thanks must go to Adrian who hosted the evening and Dexter (the cat) who condescended to join us.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 14 July 2011 with the theme " French cooking." If you would like to join us or would like more information, please give me a ring

*Anne Steiner.*

**HWPS Lottery**

**Our monthly Lottery is going Great Guns!**

Congratulations to the latest lucky winners of £100

**Linda and Jonathan Baum**

For just £5.00 per month you too can be entered into the monthly draw and win £100.00!!

Pay £60 either by cheque or monthly standing order.

To join, ring the Synagogue office or email Michelle Latchman at michellelatchman@btinternet.com

**NEW CONTACT DETAILS**

Removal day from Preston Road to Bessborough Road is **Tuesday 14 June**. Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith, our Administrator Barbara Liff and our Accounts Manager Alan Lester will all be moving to our new home on that day.

Office hours will remain unchanged –

Barbara Liff: Tuesday to Friday - 9.30 am to 1.00 pm

Alan Lester: Tuesday to Thursday - 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

*New address:* 39 Bessborough Road, Harrow, HA1 3BS

*Telephone:* Office 8864 532<sup>3</sup> Rabbi: 8864 5408

*e-mail:* admin@hwps.org

**Unless the matter is urgent, please do not contact the office on 14 or 15 June.** Thank you for your co-operation.

**Harrow & Wembley Progressive Synagogue,  
326 Preston Road, Harrow, Middx HA3 0QH**

www.hwps.org

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**EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS**

Rabbi	Frank Dabba Smith	8864 5323
Chairman	Adrian Cohen	
Administrator	Barbara Liff	8864 5323
Care Group	Joy Katz	
Funeral Administrator	Harold Sanderson	
Rites & Practices	Hana Schlesinger	
Security	Ashley Winston	8864 5323

**MINISTER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith**  
(Direct Office Line) **020 8864 5408**. Please contact Rabbi Smith if you feel he may be able to help you.

**THE SYNAGOGUE OFFICE** \_\_\_\_\_ **IS OPEN Tuesday to Friday 9.30 to 1pm**  
**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR** \_\_\_\_\_ **Barbara Liff**

You may leave a message on our automatic Answering Service which will be dealt with when the office is next open. Remember to leave your telephone number and name for prompt attention or email [barbara.liff@hwps.org](mailto:barbara.liff@hwps.org)

**FUNERAL ADMINISTRATION**

If you have a bereavement to report, please ring our funeral directors

**BULLETIN EDITOR** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mary Vulkan.**

Letters and articles should be sent c/o the Synagogue Office or via email to [hwps\\_hakol@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hwps_hakol@hotmail.co.uk)

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