

KIEV KOPPERS UPDATE



At the end of January I was able to bank another £100 from our copper collection, bringing our total to £12,700 since we started

our efforts in January 2000. This is a great achievement for our community and the £13,000 mark is now within sight.

A special thank you to one very kind member who donated £50 directly to Alex to spend particularly for the very needy in the Ukraine.

I am also delighted that from our Yom Kippur appeal we were able to send £1500 to Alex. We all know the importance of this money to the wellbeing of his community.

There is already £20 in the copper collection, let's make it £100 by the end of the month. As always:

KEEP THE KOPPERS KOMING...

Rita Asbury

This is your last chance to book for HARROW DAY LIMMUD

Bookings have passed 420 and will close at 500. There will be NO ADMISSIONS ON THE DAY to anyone who isn't registered. Act fast, to avoid disappointment.

This all day event takes place at Heathfield School Pinner on Sunday 27 March.

There will be around 100 different sessions from which to choose: music, art, theology, political debate, story telling – something for everyone. More than 70 contributors have already offered their services.

To book, pick up a leaflet and booking form in the synagogue or, even easier book on line at www.limmud.org/day/harrow

HWPS Lottery

Our monthly lottery is going great guns
Congratulations to the latest lucky winners of £100

Len Snow
Alan Hunt

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

Harrow & Wembley Progressive Synagogue,
326 Preston Road, Harrow, Middx HA3 0QH
www.hwps.org Registered Charity No. 251172

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Rabbi	Frank Dabba Smith	8904 8581
Chairman	Adrian Cohen	
Administrator	Barbara Liff	8904 8581
Care Group	Joy Katz	
Funeral Administrator	Harold Sanderson	
Rites & Practices	Hana Schlesinger	
Security	Ashley Winston	

MINISTER: _____ **Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith**
(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

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
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Harrow & Wembley Progressive Synagogue

March 2011

A Rabbi's Word



Picture: Miriam Smith

On Sunday, the 30 January our 'machers' met up with the Middlesex New Synagogue 'machers' for lunch. All of the seventy people present introduced themselves and explained their involvement in either HWPS or MNS. Everyone that I have spoken with from both communities has said that the atmosphere was warm-hearted and mutually welcoming. Another view that came across was how personally sustaining communal involvement can be to those participating. Perhaps, Stella Bennister, retired care group coordinator said it best, 'For a long time I looked after others and now I am being looked after so well by my community.'

The ties between our two communities continue to develop. Now that the 'machers' have made

contact, plans can be made to carry on with our religious, social and educational activities after we move. Even before that date in June, Hana Schlesinger and Joel Abrahams are busy organizing the joint communal Seder. Rabbi Kathleen de Magtige-Middleton and I are putting together a new Hagaddah for that occasion as well as preparing a joint Shavuot Tikkun. My adult education sessions on Sunday mornings have attracted MNS members and the jointly-run religion school is thriving. Our photography group is looking forward to meeting at MNS and we plan to start seminars in using software for digital photography post-production. Our librarians are busy cataloguing our rich collection of books prior to a merger with the MNS library. In the coming weeks, more and more people running our activities will be getting together with their counterparts at MNS. There is much excitement and a renewed sense of energy as, soon, the members of both communities will be offered many more choices and opportunities.

Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith

COMMUNAL SEDER

Booking has already started for our Communal Seder which will be held on the evening of Tuesday April 19 at 7pm. Booking forms were sent out with February Hakol.

If you have not yet returned your form please do so quickly as places are strictly limited.

This celebration of Passover is to be held at 39 Bessborough Road and will provide a wonderful opportunity for you to meet some of the members of Middlesex New Synagogue.

The Seder is being organised jointly with MNS and we are looking for volunteers to help with this exciting project. If you have helped in the past or are willing to be a new helper please make yourself known to Hana Schlesinger:

We would also appreciate offers of transport.

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Coming soon to MNS
PURIM PANTOMIME
Saturday March 19 at 5.15 pm
Fun for all the family including refreshments
Details from
Jeremy Banks
or
Linda Holman

RONALD SPIEGEL
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
5 Ledway Drive, Wembley
Middx HA9 9TH
Email: ron1943.spiegel@gmail.com

Dates for your Diary

Sunday March 20	Adult Education
Saturday March 19	Purim Pantomime
Wednesday March 23	Book Group
Friday March 25	Chavurah Supper
Sunday March 27	Harrow Limmud
Tuesday April 19	Communal Seder

GETTING READY FOR THE MOVE

Our move to 39 Bessborough Road, Harrow – to share Middlesex New Synagogue's building – is now less than four months away, and we promised at last year's AGM in April and EGM in September to update members on our progress on various practical issues.

Firstly, an order has been placed with a contractor for the installation of a platform lift to give easy access to our sanctuary on the first floor, and we expect this to be in place by the end of June, when we move in.

Members have expressed concern about the limited space in the MNS car park. Friday evenings do not present a problem as the car park in Vaughan Road – on the opposite side of Bessborough Road only a couple of minutes walk from the shul – is free after 6.30 pm. With regard to Saturday mornings, we have arranged free parking for a number of cars in the Harrovia Business Village complex next to MNS – more details later.

For those who do not drive, transport is naturally a worry, but we hope to have an arrangement in place for those members living in the Kenton/Preston Road area to be driven to Bessborough Road by car or minibus to enable them to attend services and/or social events. Watch this space! There is also good public transport for all you Freedom Pass holders. There are trains and buses to Harrow on the Hill Station (*five minutes walk away*) and buses H 11 and 114 pass in front of the Synagogue.

Whilst our new sanctuary will easily accommodate the numbers attending our normal Shabbat and Festival services, it will not be large enough for

the High Holydays, and we have therefore already booked a large room for these special services at the very imposing Harrow District Masonic Centre in Northwick Circle, Kenton, five minutes by car from Preston Road. There is ample parking space on site. Again, transport from Preston Road will be organised for those needing it.

As for our new sanctuary itself, we have asked a carpenter to construct a new Ark there using the gates and fascia of our existing Ark. We shall also be taking with us our Ner Tamid, the large reading desk, the two blue benches and our lovely chairs, as well as our wall hangings, the Holocaust Memorial, the Ten Commandments, the Gordon Pepper board, and our Etz Chayim. We shall be replicating our existing flooring, and the room will also be decorated to match Preston Road. Finally, Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith, our Administrator Barbara Liff, and our Accounts Manager Alan Lester will have offices on the ground floor of the building. Unfortunately, we cannot take our existing phone numbers with us, and we will of course publicise all the new contact details nearer the time.

Please see elsewhere in this issue the details of our final services at Preston Road. An update on the move will be given at the AGM on Thursday, 28th April.

Alan Solomon

About our Members

Condolences to

Vera Price on the death of her sister-in-law Ursula Wolfisz.
Family and friends of Dolly Williams.
Paul Hart and his family on the death of Rosalind Hart

ADULT EDUCATION jointly with MNS, continues with Rabbi Frank on certain Sundays at Bessborough Road. 10.30 until 12 noon. This coincides with Cheder so some parents might find it worthwhile to stay for these sessions.

If Sundays are not convenient then you will receive a warm welcome at the **MNS Learning Circle** led by Rabbi Middleton.

Wednesday, 2 March at 8.00 pm
Rabbi Middleton will lead the last Wednesday session on the Prophets.

Shabbat, 5 March at 9.15 am
Danish & Daven with a difference. Bring your own favourite extract from the Prophets or sit back and enjoy everyone else's choices.

Wednesday, 9 March at 8.00 pm
It's nearly Purim and time to dust the Megillah. Come and join a study session with Rabbi Middleton when we will discuss the origins of the festival, what the rabbis said about it and we might even have time to read the story as well!

Sunday, 20 March – 10.30 to 12.00
Holocaust Studies with Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith

Monday, 21 March at 7.30 pm
The first of several sessions at MNS on "*Minorities in Israel*". We are privileged to welcome Mohammed Fahili, Director at the Sir Charles Clore Jewish/Arab Community Centre in Akko and Michael Brodsky, Director of Public Affairs at the Israeli Embassy who will give us an overview of Minority Groups in Israel.

Wednesday, 30 March at 7.30 pm
Spirituality and symbolism at the Pesach table. We are delighted to welcome back to MNS Professional Chef and Cookery Writer, Denise Phillips, who will provide a Gourmet Pesach menu and give an explanation of its special significance. The ticket price is £5.00 and will include all food. Please contact the synagogue office to book your place. 020 8864 0133

YOM KIPPUR APPEAL

This year our Yom Kippur appeal brought in just over £6000. Many of our members gave most generously and for this we are very grateful. It means that we are able to donate £1500 to each of our four main charities:

**The Kieran Sorkin Microtta Fund
Brent Multi-Faith Forum
Friends of the Earth, Middle East**

The Progressive Communities in the Ukraine
Thank you to everyone who gave to this important appeal. Your donations will be put to very good use.

Rita Asbury

Farewell Preston Road

Mark the weekend of June 11-12 in your diary.

This will be the weekend when our final Shabbat service will be held in our current home.

The following day, Sunday June 12, there will be a short Deconsecration Service, followed immediately by the Scrolls being taken to our new sanctuary at 39 Bessborough Road.

Plans are being made to hold a Farewell Dinner on the Sunday evening at a cost of £30 per person. We anticipate a high demand for tickets from past and present members, and applications should be made not later than 15th April to our Administrator, Barbara Liff, at the Synagogue by post, e-mail to

barbara.liff@hwps.org, or by phone to **8904 8581**

There will be many other events in the run-up to our departure and Council would welcome suggestions from members on how they would like commemorate our more than 60 years presence at 326 Preston Road

Kulanu Inclusion Seminar

Liberal Judaism's
Kulanu – All of Us!

forum is holding a seminar at NPLS on Sunday 10th April for all disabled people within Liberal Judaism, all who care for a disabled person, and all who are responsible for ensuring access and inclusion in communal activities. The seminar will provide opportunities for disabled people to meet, share experiences and advise on best practice in making all synagogue activities inclusive of disabled people. Please put the date in your diaries and contact Leon Charikar, Social Action Officer, on leoncharikar@yahoo.co.uk if you'd like more information.

How Many Jews?

According to recent estimates, the world population of Jewry is 13.2 million, but figures range from 12 to 18 million Jews, including both practicing Jews affiliated with synagogues and the Jewish community, and approximately 4.5 million unaffiliated and secular Jews.

In 2007, Israel's 5,569,200 Jews represented 75.5% of the country's population and 41% of the world Jewish population

The United States had 6,489,000 Jews, only 2.2% of the USA population, and 45% of the Jews in the world.

Next was France at 490,561 Jews, 0.8% of the country's people, and 4.2% of the world Jewish population.

How many Jews live in the United Kingdom? It may be as high as 350,000 but that number is not certain. We may have a more accurate picture after the next Census to be held at the end of March. Don't forget to tick for Judaism.

Questions and Answers on the Census from the Board of Deputies

Do I have to answer the question on religion?

The question on religion is voluntary. However, for the reasons outlined below, we are encouraging all members of the community to answer the question by ticking the 'Jewish' box.

Why should I tick the 'Jewish' box?

The results of the census help central and local government when they are making decisions about the allocation of resources, both for the community as a whole, and for groups within the community, such as those people of a particular religion.

For example, if there are a lot of young couples living in an area, this might suggest a need for more schools. An older population might need greater welfare provision, and extra residential accommodation may be required in areas where existing houses are overcrowded.

Organisations working in the Jewish community also rely on the results of the census when they are applying for funding.

I'm not religious – should I still tick the 'Jewish' box?

It doesn't matter whether you are religious or not – if you consider yourself to be Jewish, you should tick the 'Jewish' box.

If you really don't feel comfortable doing that, you can still specify 'Jewish' for your ethnic group. There is no 'Jewish' tick box, so you will need to write it on the form, but it will still be counted.

AN INVITATION FROM YITZAK RABIN LODGE OF B'NAI BRITH

Our Lodge meets in members' homes in the Stanmore area, and members of HWPS might be interested in attending some of our meetings. We try to maintain a lively range of activities and our autumn and winter programme, despite problems with the weather, attracted a good attendance.

Recent meetings have included a talk on Jewish architecture, discussions on the situation in Israel, a screening of the film the Lemon Tree and a visit from the writer and broadcaster Michael Freedland.

Our forthcoming programme includes a talk about Jewish genealogy, explaining how we can trace our roots, and an account of life in the East End by Michael Bennett son of the famous photographer, Boris. Many of us will no doubt have wedding photographs of our families taken by Boris. In May there will be a talk by Reverend Malcolm Wiseman entitled "Have Siddur will Travel", about his life as the Minister for Small Communities and as Jewish Chaplain to HM Armed Forces. We have plans for an Interlodge Supper Quiz and we give regular Sunday tea-parties for the elderly housebound in our community. We are a warm and friendly group. If you are interested in any of the events listed above, why not come along to one of our meetings, new members are always made very welcome. We always arrange lifts for anyone who has difficulty in reaching the meetings.

Further information can be obtained from Judy Frankel, telephone 020 8954 0524. She will be very pleased to hear from you.

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