



# REP

# PRESENTS

Voice of the Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester and Region

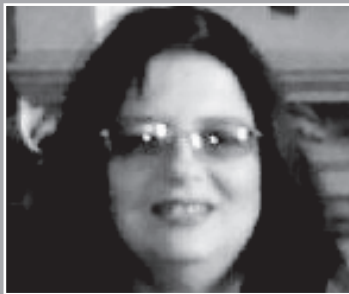
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# COME ALONG WITH US NOW . . . YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!



Lucille Cohen writes from the President's Desk

Dear Members of the Jewish community, **IN MAY it became my privilege to take up the challenge of the office of President of your Jewish Representative Council; indeed it would seem that the whole of the Jewish community is facing increasingly challenging times.**

For me, the task ahead involves building upon the tremendous work undertaken by my predecessor, Barbara Goldstone, and her dedicated team.

When asked what the Representative Council actually does, I always declare that its aim and purpose is the dynamic promotion and defence of the interests of the whole of the Jewish community, across its entire spectrum, in the North-West.

Added to that could be the defence of the reputation of Jewry in general, including the Jews of Israel, with whom we are so closely intertwined. Nobody should rest complacent, because any slur on Israel, its people or legitimacy represents a threat to us all.

At the same time, we never forget our role of interacting with the local and national authorities, as citizens enjoying our freedoms and displaying our proud allegiance to Britain in the vein of the Jewish more *dina d'malchuta dina* ('the law of the land is the law').

Joining me in pursuit of these goals is a new and enthusiastic team of honorary officers, comprising Michael Samuels and Frank Baigel as vice-presidents, Philip Langer as treasurer, and Sharon Bannister and Dr Noemi Lopian as honorary secretaries. Together with Dr Sydney Baigel running our Year Book, Susan Daniels and Karen Finlay in the office and a strong executive, we have rolled our sleeves up!

### Accent on youth

Much of the community seems unaware of the wide range of diplomacy to the wider community undertaken by this Council. We act in such fields as education, local authorities, interfaith, police committees, universities, schools and colleges.

In addition to this brief, I am aiming for a new dimension. This has a strong, internal focus. The council provides the forum that can bring together, in a spirit of inclusiveness and participation, all the communal organisations in order to become active participants in discussion and debate – not just as an end in itself, but with a view to forging constructive developments for the future benefit of the community's cohesiveness and therefore, its effectiveness.

To that end, focus groups, liaison committees and advisory panels are being established. In particular, the **focus** groups will draw upon younger leadership for the future, and upon students and youth. While communal delegates form the framework for this council, I have had the backing of the honorary officers in establishing an advisory panel. This draws on some of the leading members of the community, not only so that they may be directly involved in the work of this council, allowing us to draw on their expertise, experience and advice, but also to demonstrate that we are all co-operating.

Enhancing the concept of our mutual responsibility as a community is another aim. Therefore, we are feeling our way in the establishment of liaison committees to reach out for increased communication with the Charedi sections of our community. As you will know, the demographics of the Jewish community are rapidly changing so that an increasing proportion of the community in north Manchester falls into this category. *cont. on Page 3 . . .*

### JNET - BUSINESS NETWORK OF EVENTS

THE new-look Manchester Jewish Representative Council has an ethos of inclusiveness. To underline this, we were approached by a young Manchester businessman with an idea which we tweaked and included him in its front-line progress.

So JnetManchester was born: a monthly networking event, co-sponsored by the Council, together with the Jewish Telegraph, to hold varied and interesting events every month around Greater Manchester, but mostly at Maccabi: to bring together business people and professionals, entrepreneurs and investors, venture capitalists and fund managers, to meet in a warm and inviting atmosphere, to work together for their common good.

We have both a Facebook and a Linkendin group, and you can join either one of these or contact our office. The door is open for further sponsorship and ideas. We hope you will note the date of the first meeting - on October 12 at Maccabi. On that night we will be joined by some very special speakers and exciting people from the world of business.

Anyone wishing to contact me can email me at [mikes@greatoakcapital.co.uk](mailto:mikes@greatoakcapital.co.uk) or call me on 07874 160 044

**MICHAEL SAMUELS**

Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester & Region  
Manchester Beth Din  
Council of Synagogues  
Manchester Council of Rabbis

THE WHOLE COMMUNITY IS URGED TO ATTEND A PUBLIC MEETING

# KOSHER MEAT UNDER THREAT!

Shimon Cohen of Shechita UK presents

UPDATE: The Current Situation and the Dangers Ahead

Monday 13th September at 8.15pm  
Stenecourt Shul Hall  
Holden Road Salford M7 4LN

**FREE ENTRY**

# WHAT ARE WE ALL ABOUT?

## Louis Rapaport Springs Some Surprises

The first meeting of the Representative Council, then called Council of Manchester and Salford Jews, was in 1919 with members at the inaugural meeting.

Edward Langdon, a member of the Reform Synagogue, was elected to be the first President. Its vision was to provide a framework within which all the organisations in the Greater Manchester Jewish community could grow and flourish; to promote cordial relations between the Jewish community and its non-Jewish neighbours; and to establish a platform from which the voice of the community could be heard.

It also wanted to give assistance and advice whenever it was required - and which is still carried out to this day through our very many welfare and social organisations.

The original founders were all men - it was some few years before women made their appearance in the minute books - mainly concerned with hospital visitation and welfare committees. The late Mabel Lichtenstein was one of the first women to be involved with the Council through her work in those areas.

I became a delegate for my Synagogue when the late Isadore Sandler was President in the 1960's. Among the many distinguished Presidents, I particularly recall Michael Fidler who, as an MP and soon to be President of the Board of Deputies, used to present to us at the monthly meetings a most comprehensive review of affairs, locally, nationally and internationally.

In those early days when I attended, there were many very heated debates, especially about Fascism and the National Front. One of the fiercest and strongest speakers was Martin Bobker, whose voice in North Manchester could almost have been heard in Didsbury!

Yachiel Vogel, from Lubavitch, would never miss an opportunity to bring discussion on any topic back to Religion and Hashem, whose guiding light would see us through all of our problems. No opportunity was missed by him in order to give a message from Above. Yachiel and I crossed swords many times when I spoke as a member of the Reform Synagogue, and we enjoyed a lively rapport between us -he often said to me "I'll convert you one day!" So that's how things were in those days - much debate, many arguments, but not a lot of changes to the way the community functioned.

Now, to the present and the current functions of the Council. Its day-to-day work is very different from those early days when I became a delegate. It is true that racism and the National Front, or now the BNP, figure much in our work, and many of the old issues still reappear. But now, in 2010, we have many more complex problems to face and deal with, both as Jews and citizens of this country.

### Working in partnership

The current buzzword in vogue is partnership. All must work together for each other's benefit and solve all the problems before us. We, at the Rep Council, are involved in many such partnerships.

Firstly, we work in conjunction with the Zionist Central Council on many activities and projects concerning Israel and the necessity to promote its affairs to the community. This, of course, is a major source of our work these days when Israel and the Jews in the Diaspora are under such pressure.

Secondly, we work very closely with the Community Security Trust in the interest of our safety. I am sure I do not need to emphasise how much we owe to the dedicated volunteers who

are so visible at our synagogues, schools and at all the other many events which occur throughout the year here in our area. The CST's structure and management are immense, making it the "jewel in the crown" of our community.

Our association with the CST brings us to our next partnership, which is with the police. We have regular meetings with them, not only in our local areas, but also at the Headquarters in Chester House. Issues such as racism and anti-Israel attacks, both verbal and physical, are regularly raised. They also call us in to ask our opinion on actions they might be contemplating to deal with anti-Semitism. We are also involved in sending people to the Police Training Centre at Sedgley Park, Prestwich, to give talks to personnel on Judaism so they are more aware of our way of life and customs.

Our Council is also represented on all the local Community Advisory Committees, which are in every Police Division and allow the public to meet with the police and question them on issues which may affect their community.

Our next work is liaison with the local authorities in the Greater Manchester Region. In May and June, when the new civic heads come into office, we make appointments with all ten boroughs and we visit the new Mayors and their Deputies to bring greetings from our community.

Among our other partnerships are the Centre for Jewish Studies at the University, the Board of Deputies, the Synagogue Council - which deals with the religious affairs of the Orthodox community - and this also brings us into contact with hospitals to deal with Kosher food issues.

### Active in Interfaith

During the year the Council is involved in four major events: the Sherman Lectures at the University, Yom Hashoah, Yom Ha'atzmaut and the Community Challenge Quiz every November. Finally, the biggest change in the Representative Council's work in the past few years has been in Interfaith activities and this is where our *partnerships* have been so important. For many years the Council has been associated with the Council of Christians and Jews, having been active in its leadership since its formation in 1942.

We have an Hindu/Jewish Group which meets twice a year - for a lecture in October and for an event involving students in May. The Jewish community has strong links with the Hindu and Sikh people and their support for our students on campus has been very strong and significant.

The latest groups are the Muslim/Jewish Forum in Manchester and the Salaam-Shalom Group in Bury, are perhaps the most important of our *partnerships*.

I can't overstress the importance of our links with those Muslims who wish to meet with us and create an association between our two faiths. It's not easy, and there are many hurdles to be jumped. But I urge everyone to understand that there are many in both religions who wish to make contacts and establish common objectives.

I should add that, thanks to the Forum, there are new ventures planned to involve young people and bring them together in order also to establish understanding and friendship. So my final words on this subject are ...please support any or all of these Interfaith activities; you may well be surprised at the goodwill and friendship which exists between the differing faiths and the common aim of understanding and tolerance.

I hope this summary of the Jewish Representative Council and its history will have helped to put into perspective the role and importance of a lay body which is playing a vital part in the day-to-day involvement of our community to our fellow Jews and all our fellow citizens in Greater Manchester.

\* *Louis Rapaport is a past President of the Representative Council*

**COMMUNITY CHALLENGE QUIZ**  
This year's Community Challenge Quiz will be held  
on **NOVEMBER 28th (7.30pm)**  
at **South Manchester Synagogue, Bowdon.**  
Applications forms are available from the  
Representative Council Office

# FACING UP TO CAMPUS HATRED OF ISRAEL

By Harry Lesser

Two matters of great importance: the first is the University's commitment to the Centre for Jewish Studies (described in Daniel Langton's article in this issue) along with the agreement with the Hebrew University for reciprocal visiting arrangements, which has already been taken up in both directions. Both Jewish study and the development of ties with Israeli universities are being strongly supported.

More complex is the University's response to anti-Israel campaigning by students, and even more, by visitors to the University. The problem has been that this campaigning has in two ways gone beyond the legitimate expression of opinion: it has at times involved both the incitement of hatred against Jews, and the attempt to prevent the Israeli point of view from even being put. The first of these has been dealt with by requiring speakers to sign an agreement not to say anything that would be an incitement to hatred. This was done when FOSIS (the Federation of Student Islamic Societies) held its annual meeting on Palestine in Manchester.

Dealing with the attempt to suppress the expression of the Israeli position has proved harder. A talk to the Politics Society by Mrs Talya Lador-Fresher, Deputy Ambassador, was cancelled by the Embassy at very short notice (Mrs Lador-Fresher was already in Manchester) because of the threat of violence. The University very properly repeated the invitation and made arrangements for policing the event. The talk itself was entirely successful, protests within the hall being conducted within the law and the principles of free speech. But

## Lucilles's Message . . . cont from Page 1

We also have a substantial proportion of the general Jewish community living in south Manchester in addition to the north Manchester heartlands. The Council's outlying areas, such as Blackpool and Stoke, also need our co-operation and moral support. With the aim of raising awareness and interest in the Council, the honorary officers aim to inject Council meetings with a new dynamism and interactive spirit, whereby visitors and delegates can participate in Question Time style panel discussions and enjoy lively debate on issues of concern to the community.

In the spirit of inclusiveness and participation, we would like to extend an invitation to those individuals in the community with expertise and enthusiasm, to become involved with the Council. That invitation is extended to all the organisations, affiliated to the Council, too, in that I would like you to send us additional "observer" delegates, especially those aged under 45. We can even let them speak! Are you passionate about your community, about your own organisation, about Jewish issues? Don't just sound off about them. Do something constructive and join us! Harness that energy in advocacy for your people because we face so many challenges.

The Council's public affairs committee was involved in discussions with election candidates prior to the May General Elections, and will continue to maintain channels of communication with MPs. We have advised them and sought their support on a range of issues including faith schools, a change in the law on universal jurisdiction (whereby Israelis can have an arrest warrant slapped on them by anyone when arriving on English soil), *shechita*, anti-Zionism and its capacity to foment anti-Semitism. This September your support is vital in lobbying MEPs on *shechita* as the EU is focussing on it - an issue at the heart of our identity.

Security continues as a major issue. That of the Jewish community, of our children and especially of students on campus, is paramount. The threat of extremism on campus has been worrying. However, a summer meeting with the new vice-chancellor of Manchester University, Dame Professor Nancy Rothwell, and her team, was encouraging in that she unequivocally shared the views of our delegation and emphasised how strategies were being put in place effectively to deal with violence, intimidation and harassment. We work so that students can feel confident and secure at their universities. Ideally, they should also feel free to express their solidarity with Israel, something that has been lacking in recent years.

The problem of funding for our communal institutions and charities has become more acute in the nation's challenging economic climate and, with urgent but stringent fiscal measures taken in the Coalition's budget, this may well be an ongoing issue for years to come. Indeed, we ourselves work on a shoestring budget, so all donations, legacies and advertising are gratefully accepted.

We have so much of which we can be proud, ranging from schools and welfare institutions to *shules* and charities. So, finally, I should like to tell you that I look forward to working with all elements of the community and call for your support and co-operation with the council in order to maximise it as a force for unity, cohesiveness, participation, and inclusiveness so that we can continue to promote and defend the interests of this great Jewish community of ours.

following the talk an attack was made on the car in which the Deputy Ambassador was seated. The attack involved only six or seven people, who were not current students of the University; but it was extremely unpleasant and showed that the policing arrangements had not, in the event, been adequate.

Three groups of people are trying to deal with this situation. First: the Jewish students themselves. As Jews, they do not feel threatened - they feel entirely able to identify themselves as such on campus, but they do not feel entirely free to express Zionist views or support for Israel. This is being tackled in two ways: firstly, contact between the Jewish and Islamic Societies has led to the setting up of a group in which these issues can be discussed calmly and rationally; secondly, an interfaith group, at the moment involving Jews and Muslims, has been set up under the aegis of the Students' Union.

## A DEAFENING SILENCE FROM THE BOARD ABSENTEES

By Gita Conn

MANCHESTER'S Jewish Community is proud of its vibrancy, charitable institutions and its 36 synagogues (not counting the extra shtiebel). But, how many of these synagogues belong to the national body representing us all... the Board of Deputies of British Jews? JUST SEVEN! This means that a huge proportion of Jewish Mancunians has no voice in national and international issues of vital importance to the community. Until elected as a Deputy (for Menorah Synagogue), I regarded the Board as just another "talking shop". And, truth to tell, the regular Plenary meetings for all Deputies do sometimes seem to exist for the benefit of those who wish to propound on matters of historical rather than immediate concern. Nevertheless, it is clear from the reports of the various committees and from the President that the Board does, indeed, have influence in "the corridors of power".

In recent years, the Board's profile has risen and sharpened. It makes representations to Ministers on **your** behalf about the imprisonment of Gilad Shalit, the JFS court case, Shechita protection, the rise of the BNP, the adverse media treatment of Israel, anti-Semitism...the list is almost endless.

Given the unfortunate rifts that do exist between different religious Jewish groupings, the Board is the singular platform to represent *all* factions of Judaism. Representatives of virtually every branch of the UK Jewish community attended the last Board meeting, to bring greetings on the 250th anniversary of its founding. There may not be many "Charedi" Deputies, but the Board takes up issues affecting Charedim as robustly as it does for United Synagogue, mainstream Orthodox, Masorti, Progressive or Reform.

To broaden its platform, the Board has introduced an under-35 policy. Every shul can elect a young person as a Deputy without charge. It has also eliminated the upper age limit for Executive officers. One hopes that this will have the effect of encouraging more women, once they have retired from child-rearing and/or careers, to seek office at the Board. Frankly, the sight of a completely male line-up on the platform even offends the sensibilities of the male Deputies!

So, now for some naming and shaming by omission!

**The seven affiliated shuls for Manchester are: Manchester Reform Synagogue, Menorah Synagogue, Sale & District Hebrew Congregation, Shaare Hayim, South Manchester Synagogue, Whitefield Hebrew Congregation and Yeshurun Hebrew Congregation.**

If you are **NOT** a member of any of these (pathetically) few, please, please appeal to your synagogue to affiliate to the Board ASAP.

Apart from anything else, you missed a great anniversary party at Bevis Marks shul in London, where the Board was founded 250 years ago. Don't leave it to the 300th anniversary...get affiliated now!

# INTER-FAITH PICKS UP THE PACE

*Jonny Wineberg, co-chairman of the Muslim Jewish Forum of Greater Manchester and Steering Group member of the Faith Network for Manchester (FN4M) describes the remarkable increase in work carried out as a result of funding from the Government's 'Faiths in Action' as well as from the Big Lottery's 'Awards for All' programme.*

It has been a remarkable few months for those of us involved in inter-faith work in the area. Last year the Muslim Jewish Forum, supported by FN4M, the Hindu Jewish Association and Christian Muslim Forum successfully applied for £12,000 from the Faiths in Action Fund. The project applied for included:

- Running multi-faith informal education sessions in schools and youth groups.
- Running an inter-faith conference for young people.
- Developing a new multi-faith space within Debdale Reservoir Allotments.
- Running a Faith & the Environment Conference (held, successfully last November).
- Running monthly inter-faith dialogue events.

Since we knew that many schools brought people from different religions in to talk about their faiths, we imagined this would be simple to deliver. We designed the **In Your Faith** project to match schools and youth groups wanting speakers with volunteers who could deliver them. The project built on work carried out previously by the Jewish Representative Council's Education project, which showed the success possible from impactful delivery. The style of sessions was to be informal but intense, with a great deal of information about teachings, beliefs, culture, festivals, food and history packed in as well as similarities between faiths.

While the take-up has been slightly disappointing, we have run sessions in eight schools and youth groups with over 300 young people benefiting from our input. The response from the vast majority has been very positive, with over half of those who indicated a negative attitude to other faiths before the session indicating a positive attitude following it. Over 85 per cent also indicated that sessions had increased their understanding of different faiths.

April saw our latest inter-faith conference for young people, **Co-exist: In Your Faith**. This linked the conference with our education work. It also saw the launch of our **Young People's Awards for Inter-faith Innovation**, funded through a generous donation from a supporter of our work.

Muslim, Jewish, Christian and young people of no faith attended and explored questions about their identity and how it influences their view of the world. They discussed how their faith impacts on their political views, how they wanted their views to be heard, respect between young people and adults and other issues they are passionate about. Again, we had a very positive response with most commenting that they had learned more about other faiths and several wanting to do further work to better inter-faith relations. The satisfaction ratings for the events averaged over 9 out of 10 and all involved indicated a very positive attitude to other faiths after the event.

The event had a particularly positive impact on the young Muslims (mainly from the Somali community) and Jews who attended, giving them a chance to interact positively and break down some of the myths they had had previously. The mutual respect young people had for each other following the events was particularly encouraging.

One of the crowning achievements from our work has been the success of the **Faith in the Community Allotment**. This is now a triple-size allotment, having been donated neighbouring plots. We have been able to provide free produce to some of the most in-need groups of people in Manchester, particularly refugee and homeless people's groups such as Rainbow Haven and the Oasis Centre.

We have between two and fourteen young people on the Faith in Community allotment every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. They come to us via Probation, through groups working with Asylum Seekers or as part of Faith Group work parties. All have been learning alongside our experienced volunteers and members of the local community of all ages and backgrounds.

Last November the Allotment participated in Mitzvah Day with volunteers preparing the allotment for the winter. This year we will be doing so again and look forward to welcoming people to help us prepare for the winter. Anyone can get involved with the project – just email david@fn4m.org and we can arrange a time for you to visit.

Our **Monthly Faith Dialogue Events** have continued to be successful. Since May we have had events within the theme of 'Faith Says...' on Education & Learning, Gender, and Identity. One of the most enjoyable features of these events has been the lack of a long speech and smaller number of participants, meaning that people get a lot more chance to talk and learn from each other. Our next event, on September 20th, will be 'Faith Says...About the Media' with Michael Wakelin, former Head of Religion at the BBC and now Director of the Cambridge Abraham Project.

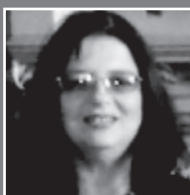
The Awards for All grant received by FN4M also supported parts of this project as well as enabling us to run four training sessions for people from faith organisations. Having had successful sessions on Fundraising and Programming & Action Planning last year, in spring we ran sessions on Marketing and Community Engagement. These were attended by people from a wide spectrum of organisations, who gave us very positive feedback that the training had given them new skills to help develop their organisations and improve their activities.

Both the Muslim Jewish Forum and FN4M are now just over five years old, but have developed into important organisations, contributing to community cohesion across communities. We are already planning into next year with an **After the Fast Party** planned for Sunday 19th September to celebrate both the end of Yom Kippur as well as Eid Ul-Fitr; an event on Sunday 24th October at Manchester Jewish Museum, exploring **Righteous Muslims who saved Jews in the 2nd World War**; further **Faith Youth Manchester Events** as a result of Faith Youth Manchester's Awards for Inter-faith Innovation and more **Monthly Faith Dialogues**.

The Muslim Jewish Forum will also, as it has done for the past few years, be participating in the Representative Council's Community Challenge Quiz and will continue to run activities designed to improve understanding and relationships between the faiths.

For further information on our activities, please email [mail@fn4m.org](mailto:mail@fn4m.org) or [muslimjewish@gmail.com](mailto:muslimjewish@gmail.com) or visit [www.fn4m.org](http://www.fn4m.org) or [www.muslimjewish.org.uk](http://www.muslimjewish.org.uk).

## REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL'S NEW HONORARY OFFICERS



Lucille Cohen  
President



Michael Samuels  
Vice-President



Frank Baigel  
Vice-President



Phil Langer  
Hon Treasurer



Sharon Bannister  
Hon Secretary



Noemie Lopian  
Hon Secretary



Barbara Goldstone  
Ex-officio

# A MERGER THATS EMERGING JUST FINE

by Mark Adlestone, *Chairman*

## THE FEDERATION of Jewish Services (FJS) is now seeing its vision translate into reality.

The Holland Road teams are moving across to the Heathlands Village site, with the transfer of finance and fundraising teams to the refurbished third floor. They are based there with Human Resources, IT and Operations management and back office staff who ensure the smooth running of the whole organisation.

Things are certainly moving quickly, with refurbishment well underway for the transfer of the adult social work, volunteer, children and families teams by the end of August.

All activities that ran from the Philip J Davies Centre at Holland Road are planned for transfer within this period, and staff are keen to make sure that this transition period is as seamless and stress free as possible for all clients and carers. Plans for the first year of merger include replacement of the laundry, the kitchens and the central heating which will greatly improve service and quality of life for all residents.

Consultation during this period has been crucial. Meetings with residents, relatives and all staff teams have been integral to ensuring good communication and management of this time of change.

We are on a steep learning curve. We will be building on good practice, improving our services in all areas of need, genuinely listening and responding to people's comments, complaints and compliments. To this end, a specific post of "Customer Care Co-ordinator" has been created and recruitment is underway. This will ensure that Karen Phillips, Chief Executive Officer, and the Board can fully assess and prioritise capital, staffing and other expenditure.

People ask about the financial impact of the merger and whether we have seen a downturn in donations. We did see a 10% downturn in the last appeal, not dissimilar to that of other organisations. There is an upturn in larger donations from substantial donors who pledge their support for a centralised, cost effective organisation. Events run by aid committees have proved to be successful and we plan a major dinner for next year.

## LIONEL FREEDMAN A Hard Act to Follow

The Representative Council, or Communal Council has always been part of my life as even as a very young child my late uncle, Sam Jaffe, was a delegate and local issues of the day were often debated over Friday night dinner at his home (writes Michael Samuels).

It was with an enormous feeling of pride when I was initially co-opted in 1974 onto the then Defence and Public Relations committee, the chairman of which was Lionel Freedman. That was my first encounter with this wonderful man who I then got to know and respect. We would often meet over time as he was so involved, active and indeed influential in his quiet and dignified way.

Lionel, who died on March 2nd, was born 81 years ago in Lithuania, one of four children. Two sisters live in Israel, his brother having pre-deceased him. His formative years were spent in Northern Ireland and Gateshead, before moving to Manchester where he studied law at Manchester University.

Lionel's grandfather was a student in the same Yeshiva as the Chofetz Chaim, and one look into Lionel's study will reveal, by the large number of sforim, that he was a lifelong student of his Jewish heritage. A religious man, he walked every Shabbat from his home in Bowdon to Hale Shul, where he was a past President. He eventually founded the Bowdon Minyan in the Bowdon Assembly rooms, which folded when the South Manchester Synagogue moved from Wilbraham Road.

Lionel had been President of Wilbraham Road and had, in fact, held every executive post over an eleven-year period. He had also been a member of the Board of Deputies and the first Chairman of its Regional assembly. He was President of the Representative Council of Greater Manchester and Region from 1977 to 1980, and his daughter Elaine tells me that in her home the becher (Kiddush cup) that was presented to her by the Council on her marriage is used every Friday night for Kiddush.

Lionel was a very difficult act to follow as he always set the bar very high. A lawyer by profession, he was senior partner at Alexander Tatham, a highly-respected Manchester law firm that eventually became part of Eversheds.

My own personal experience was being involved in a complex property transaction and I approached Lionel to act. He was so much more professional than any other solicitor I had previously encountered and played the chess game between sellers, tenants, planners and buyers like the Grand Master that he was.

He had been married to Dr Freda for 57 years and was so proud of her achievements as a family practitioner. Their son and daughter, both highly respected lawyers, live in London, and there are seven grandchildren and twin great grandchildren.

Lionel was an important man of a generation which helped to mould both national but more especially Manchester Jewry.

\*Michael Samuels is a vice-president of the Representative Council.

## COMMUNAL AWARDS

The Representative Council, with the Jewish Telegraph as sponsors, is again promoting the following awards of merit as nominated by the Community. Nomination forms will be available from September from the Council office, and the presentation ceremony will be held at the February meeting.

Communal Volunteer of the Year • Communal Organisation of the Year  
Young Volunteer of the Year • Youth Organisation of the Year  
Righteous Gentile of the Year

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## THE HUB CLOSES KIDS' by Judith Hayman NORTH-SOUTH DIVIDE

FOR DECADES South teenagers have travelled North for a social life. But the opening of The Hub, near Hale, earlier this year has changed all that for good. And for the first time, North Manchester teenagers are crossing Albert Square to make new friends.

South Manchester Jewish Youth Trust's centre on the outskirts of Hale has been packing in the Hale and Cheadle kids for their after-school social evenings, and now these members are bringing their North Manchester friends to join in the fun! Co-chairman of the management committee, Rachel Mesri, says: "There's nothing quite like The Hub anywhere in Manchester. It's a place where young people can go to chill out and where youth organisations can have a base. We have modelled ourselves on The Zone in Leeds. She adds: "There are plenty of new ideas in the pipeline, such as a post-Yom Kippur disco, and day camp reunions.

Youth Worker Marc Fink, 23, reports: "We have 100 members aged 11-18 who are happy to come along and play on our pool and table tennis tables, watch films in our cinema and play on our Apple Macs or games consoles". He adds: "We are now catering for the large migration of families from the North of the city."

The Hub is an enormous and an exciting venue. The main lounge is a massive 5,000 square feet and the dance studio is an impressive 1,500 square feet. The cinema and arts and crafts room are also generously proportioned. Marc has aimed to change the programme and the decor a little each week to maintain interest levels. He has introduced some funky classes such as boxing and dance, but has discovered that the kids are happy just to come to 'chill out' and catch up with their friends from different schools. The Film Club for years five and six has become a firm favourite, attracting 30 North Cheshire Jewish Primary School pupils on Wednesday evenings. The cinema is also hired out for parties and the club is being used as a Bat Chayil disco venue in October.

Marc promises a "dynamic" programme of events for September. A recent members' questionnaire has shown that the kids are up for some Thai boxing, girls' exercise classes and an 'Apple Mac for beginners' course.

As well as attracting members, The Hub is also fulfilling its aim of becoming a mecca for other youth organisations. Stage 80 will be holding rehearsals for their next production, *Oliver*, in the studio from September to December. Habonim have made The Hub their Sunday afternoon base. The premises are to play a key part in Mitzvah Day activities in November. FZY and Habonim used the club for their Israel tour presentations and orientation evenings. The UJIA, who sponsor the Centre, will be using The Hub for their UJIA leadership course for young professionals, led by Sally Halon.

A healthy eating and cooking course; a Youth Leadership Training for 16 year olds; and the setting up of The Hub Youth Committee are all in the planning stage at present. The first community quiz night with Key 103's Darren Proctor attracted 1,130 guests and raised over £3,000 for the club.

When I spoke to Marc he was looking forward to welcoming Habonim and Lubavitch and The Hub's own summer camps into the Centre during August. The opening of the club cafe, complemented by a pizza oven - courtesy of Richard Hyman of Titanics - was also eagerly awaited. Marc said: "We like to keep the kids involved with everyday decisions." For example, 12-year-old Natalie King thought up the name 'Hubalicious' for the cafe.

Marc will be stepping down as youth leader in September, but he is proud to have got The Hub up and running. "The community is beginning to take note of us," he says. "They know about us."



Marc Fink  
Dynamic Programme

## REP PRESENTS TEAM

Roy Shinwell (Editor), Barbara D. Goldstone,  
Lucille Cohen, Harry Lesser & Judith Hayman

# HOW TO KEEP US ALL SAFE

by a Leading Member of the CST

Over the past 12 months we have continued to witness, both locally and nationally, a disturbing level of activity amongst extremist individuals and organisations that seek to harm the Jewish community. Here are just a few examples of such events that have occurred in Manchester:

- At the end of June two neo-Nazis were jailed for inciting racial hatred and calling for the destruction of Jews. One of the pair was also found guilty of possessing terrorism related documents. The neo-Nazis were members of various far-right organisations. Last October over 700 members of the far-right English Defence League paraded through the city centre.
- In January Greater Manchester Police made public footage of an Islamist extremist training video that had been seized during an anti-terrorism raid in the city. The video showed two young children being encouraged to hold guns and incited to 'kill the Jews'.
- In February Jewish students attempting to hold a peaceful protest at the University of Manchester were abused and physically assaulted by anti-Israel activists.
- In May three people were found guilty of carrying out a series of anti-semitic attacks on Jewish people in Broughton Park. Two were jailed, and all three were banned from entering the area for five years.

The purpose of CST, the Community Security Trust, is to protect our community from such extremists, and ensure that any member of our community is able to lead the Jewish life that they choose.

CST is part of our community, so it can only succeed if our community takes its share of responsibility. Sharing responsibility means a whole range of things. It means contacting the CST and asking what role you can play with our security teams. It means understanding why we do security and co-operating with our teams whether at shul services or communal functions.

In recent years the threat of terrorism is something that all our society has come to understand and find a way of living with. The fact that these terrorists have also targeted Jews is what underpins all of the CST's work.

We want to deter those who wish to harm our community, and we work with politicians, police and others in ensuring that our community's concerns are understood, heard and acted upon.

**CST, however, can only be as strong as the community that we serve. We rely upon the community for our volunteer personnel and for co-operation with our work: whether that is in schools, synagogues, community events and rallies, or whatever. We want you to join us in that partnership. Thank you.**

## SPORTS CENTRE DREAM IS KICKING OFF

After 14 long years, the dreams of a band of veteran South Manchester Football Club members have come true, and a million-pound sports centre is to open alongside North Cheshire Jewish Primary School in Gatley.

The Henry Guterman Centre, named after the former Manchester Jewish Representative Council leader and interfaith champion, will open at the end of October.

The project's chairman, Johnny Davis, 62, first joined South Manchester Football Club back in 1960. Born in North Manchester and educated at Carmel College, he moved to Didsbury as a teenager and has been an integral part of the Jewish football scene in the city ever since. Although dodgy knees put an end to his playing career, he has served the club as a coach with equal enthusiasm. He has lived with his family in Cheadle for over 30 years. Fellow committee members Neil Collins, Mike Hamlet and Les Ormrod have been equally passionate about their football club, and shared the dream of opening a sports club in the south of the city. But Johnny stresses: "The Centre will not just be a football club. It will also be used for hockey, tennis and basketball. So please bring along your daughters!"

The Centre will be run by a professional body – Stockport Sports Trust. So, as well as being home to South Manchester FC, it will also be available for the wider community in Cheadle, Gatley, Heald Green and beyond.

Perhaps the greatest beneficiaries will be the pupils of North Cheshire Jewish Primary School. It will have use of the facility

during school hours and the public will be able to hire it after 4pm. Johnny adds: "North Cheshire JPS kids will have the finest sports facilities in the whole of the NW of England. So as well as being academically outstanding, the school can now produce its own sporting legends."

The facilities on offer are impressive. There will be three 4G all-weather outdoor football/hockey pitches with floodlights, a further two sand-based all-weather basketball/football/netball pitches. The top of the range netball court will be used for coaching the national squad. A further two junior-sized grass football pitches will cater for the under-11s.

As well as being grateful to his committee, Johnny also recognises the support of local sports giant Umbro, whose head Martin Prothero arranged sponsorship for the Centre. As well as Umbro, key funding was provided by Sports England and the Football Foundation. Manchester United non-executive director Michael Edelson also championed the venture.

Although there will be changing facilities and a club room, the Henry Guterman Centre will not be a social centre like Maccabi in Prestwich. It will be purely for sport - no catering facility or bar, other than drinks and snack machines, so kashrut need not be an issue.

Looking back on the long struggle to establish the Centre, Johnny Davies sighs and says: "It has been a hard dream to keep alive. I think the reason we kept going was that everybody said 'You'll never do it!'"

## JEWISH STUDIES . . . . ON TO THE NEXT DECADE

THE FUTURE of the Centre For Jewish Studies at Manchester University is assured for the next decade, with two new co-directors ready to step into the shoes of those retiring, a consolidation of staffing, and it remains one of the biggest of its kind in Europe. Around a dozen doctoral students are currently engaged with diverse topics in Jewish Studies, from Bible to modern times, as well as more than 120 undergraduates taking various Jewish Studies module.

The Centre wants to continue to strengthen its links with colleagues in Israel, participating in each others' conferences and research projects, visiting Israeli academics, and in the exchange of students. The University's recent signing of a formal agreement on student exchange with the Hebrew University is one concrete example of what it wants to achieve.

The Israeli Studies Lectureship is being funded by the Pears Foundation, continuing or another 18 months, but the University has underwritten the post, so it has become permanent.

Plans are in hand to launch a Friends of the Manchester Centre for Jewish Studies Scheme to mark the retirements of co-directors Bernard Jackson and Philip Alexander after a lifetime of service to Jewish Studies locally, nationally and internationally. Professor Alex Samely and Dr Daniel Langton (who becomes a Professor in September) take over respectively.

Friends will be asked to commit to giving around £100 annually (though more or less will be welcomed) to help fund day-to-day running – administrative support, seminars, workshops and visiting speakers, and, if funds permit, to provide bursaries for graduate students.