



**REP**

**PRESENTS**

**Voice of the Jewish Representative Council  
of Greater Manchester and Region**

**Jewish Community Centre  
Bury Old Road, Manchester M7 4QY  
Phone/Fax: 0161 720 8721  
email: office@jewishmanchester.org  
www.jewishmanchester.org**

**AUTUMN 2011**

**ISSUE 23**

**ROSH HASHANA 5772**

# CALLING THE UNDER 50'S . . . OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOUNGER BLOOD



**A Rosh Hashanah  
Message from  
Council President  
Lucille Cohen**

## **JNET - IT'S A BOOST FOR BUSINESS**

**by Michael Samuels\***

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 we included him in its front line progress.

So Jnet Manchester 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. With these we 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 LinkedIn 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 of the new session - on October 12th 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 or call me on 07874 160 044

\*Michael Samuels is Co-Vice-President of the Representative Council

If I could have a photo of myself as a Jewish (female) Lord Kitchener, pointing that finger and with eyes that seem to follow you around relentlessly, that is what I'd be on the front page of this issue.

If you have just an hour or so a week, or even per month, you can make a real difference. That hour would enable you to delve into one of our projects or working parties and involve yourself at the cutting edge of being an ambassador for your people.

Here's an open invitation to anyone in that age group who would like to make a meaningful contribution to the community by defending and promoting the interests of our Jewish community. Come and join in.

Whether it be it in the field of education, interfaith action, police liaison, Holocaust commemoration, business networking, political lobbying at local, national or international level, fundraising, editorial, media monitoring, public speaking, website design and maintenance - to name just some of our areas of regular activity - you can roll up your sleeves and get stuck in. We have issued invitations to organisations to send an additional delegate from 18-40, or even 50 at a pinch. A few have responded, but many organisations say that members with young families cannot spare a Sunday morning for our monthly council meetings.

That's why we are opening up the possibility of getting right into the action. If you need to be mentored, we can try to fix you up with one of the section leaders to "sit by Nelly" as they used to say. Women are especially welcome too.

Just contact the office, tell them what you are interested in or would like to know more about and you will hear from us. This year the focus has been on defending our ancient Jewish practices, including Shechita and Brit Milah and our ancient Jewish land, Israel.

What worries me is that we have a struggle to re-engage our youth with Jewish concerns. They are faced with such a myriad of responsibilities and stresses today which I don't seem to recall that we faced when young. Just launching into a job, profession, business or first home seems fraught with a greater degree of tension and pressure than ever before. Youth gravitates to London or makes aliyah, but Jewish people here must function and preserve our place both as proud British citizens and proud members of the Jewish community.

**STEP UP AND MEET THE CHALLENGE!**

## **LOOK AT WHAT'S ON . . . . .**

### **SUNDAY OCTOBER 2nd**

Jewish Representative Council monthly meeting,  
Nicky Alliance Centre - 10.30am

### **TUESDAY OCTOBER 25th**

JNetManchester. Grand 1st anniversary dinner, with Lord Sugar  
(to be confirmed)

### **SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6th**

Jewish Representative Council monthly meeting,  
Nicky Alliance Centre - 10.30am

### **SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20th**

National Ajex parade, Cenotaph, London

### **THURSDAY NOVEMBER 24th**

Hindu-Jewish Association annual seminar.  
Manchester Reform Congregation, Jacksons Row. 7pm

### **SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27th**

The Big Tent for Israel in Manchester and the North - Israel  
advocacy conference (follow-up to London's May conference)  
11am-4pm. Venue to be advised

### **SUNDAY DECEMBER 4th**

Community Challenge Quiz - Hilton Suite, Prestwich Hebrew  
Congregation. To book table of 10, contact Jewish Representative  
Council office as soon as possible - 0161 720 8721

### **THURSDAY APRIL 19th**

Yom Hashoah Commemoration

# THE COMMUNITY REMEMBERS

## Yom Hashoah

Tania Nelson - Chair, Creative Committee

The new King David High School Hall was filled to capacity for this year's Yom Hashoah commemoration. The theme was 'Choices'. We focused primarily on the Jewish leaders of the Ghetto Committee or Judenrat, specifically Czerniewski, Rumkowski and Gens of the Warsaw, Lodz and Vilna Ghettos, and particularly the different choices they made in life-threatening circumstances.

This year the narratives were presented movingly by

## THEY'VE EARNED OUR GRATITUDE

### Community Awards 2011

These Jewish Community Awards were presented at the Jewish Representative Council by Paul Harris, Editor of the Jewish Telegraph...

#### FRIENDS OF THE COMMUNITY:

**Tom Griffiths**, Chairman/hon secretary of the Greater Manchester Jewish Mental Health Alliance and a volunteer at the Fed's Heathlands drop-in centre.

**Rev Alan Morris**, Ecumenical Officer for the Shrewsbury Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church and Chairman of the Enabling Committee of Greater Manchester Churches Together.

**Bill Williams**, local historian, a long-standing friend of the Jewish community.

#### ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR:

**Jewish Soup Kitchen**, collected by joint chairman Mrs Marga Brodie.

#### VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR:

**Mrs Margot Reuben**, chairman of the Sam Herwald JNF Wednesday Club for 15 years.

#### YOUNG VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR:

**Michaela Labaton**, a volunteer for many organisations despite long-standing health challenges.

The awards were organised by the Representative Council in association with the Jewish Telegraph.



*Pictured at the Awards Presentation  
Reproduced by courtesy of The Jewish Telegraph  
Group of Newspapers*

## FROM A MAN OF HONOUR

To: Lucille Cohen, President Jewish Representative Council

Dear Lucille,

I am writing to you and, through you, to the Jewish Representative Council in Greater Manchester, to thank you most sincerely for the pleasure you gave me by bestowing on me the honour of the title of Friend of the Community.

For many years now it has been my personal joy as a member of the clergy of the Catholic Church, in the spirit of the document of the Second Vatican Council, *Nostra Aetate*, to try to heal some of the wounds that have so savagely marred relations between Christianity and Judaism, that great fountain of wisdom through which G-d, in his mercy, has brought light into our world.

Please G-d, in the years ahead, I will be able to continue to prosper relations between our two faith communities and to help those within my own faith community to understand and appreciate more fully the divine gift that the Holy Land of Israel is to our world.

With warmest best wishes to the Jewish People of Manchester,  
Baruch Hashem

**The Reverend Alan R Morris, MA, Med**

members of the Jewish Theatre Group, to whom we are very grateful. This was accompanied by a well-constructed PowerPoint presentation, ably produced by Sarah Moise (2nd generation) which reinforced the tone and theme of the evening.

Six memorial candles were lit by Six Holocaust survivors, and once again Schindler's List was skilfully played by Leon Kupfer from Chetham's School of Music, accompanied on piano by Sandra Friedman.

Rabbi Chaim Kanterovitz, (3rd Generation) and Rev Michael Isdale (2nd Generation) conducted the spiritual part of the commemoration, reinforcing the meaning of Yom Hashoah.

I would like to thank the Representative Council for its most valuable contribution to Yom Hashoah 2011, particularly with regard to funding it. It is unfortunate and disappointing that we have to struggle each year to raise the necessary funds for one of the most important events in our communal calendar.

It is hoped that with Hashem's help we will all be present in April 2012 to pay our respects to the survivors and the millions who perished and were unable to bear witness.

## EDUCATION REPORT

*Keeping Schools in the Know  
about our Religion . . .*

There are 152 SACREs in England and the Channel Islands and our responsibility is to have representatives in each of the ten regions of Greater Manchester & Region. Our job is to ensure that our religion is represented in the right way in the state school curriculum.

*Our representatives are:*

**Bury:** Barbara D Goldstone -Vice-Chairman, Rob Kanter Sub-Committee - Barbara D Goldstone

**Bolton:** Hilary Lewis

**Oldham:** Marcus Keller

**Rochdale:** David Arnold

**Wigan:** David Arnold

**Stockport:** Carole Weinberg

**Trafford:** Lucille Cohen

**Manchester:** Lucille Cohen

**Salford:** Alex Klein, Jeremy Michelson

**Tameside:** Lisa Stock

SACREs meet three times a year - sometimes in the Town Hall, at other times in synagogues or mosques. These meetings are so important as we all recognise that religious education is essential for young people. One of the problems this year that have concerned SACREs is that the International Baccalaureate which many secondary schools are using instead of GCSE does not include Religious Education. Also of concern is that Humanists wish to introduce their secular curriculum. Sandra Teacher, from the Board of Deputies, came to Manchester to advise us on these matters.

Thank you to all members of the Jewish Representative Council Education Committee, especially to Jeremy Michelson, Vice-Chairman, for writing the excellent minutes.

**Barbara D. Goldstone, Chairman**

# CST and the Jewish Community

## Proud and Responsible .....

CST is the Community Security Trust, a charity that provides security for many hundreds of Jewish community events and locations every year. We have over 60 staff and approximately 3,000 trained volunteers, all working throughout the UK and for every part of our community. In the last two years we have installed security upgrades at hundreds of communal buildings, including shatter-proofing for windows.

CST is also available, 24 hours a day, for those of us who are unfortunate enough to suffer, or witness, antisemitism. Our purpose is to protect the well-being of our community, ensuring that we are all able to lead the Jewish life of our choice.

This challenging work needs the help and co-operation of our community, its leaders and institutions. We need to share responsibility, together, and stand firm against the physical and political threats that we face.

Sharing responsibility means many things, including contacting your local CST and volunteering. It means understanding why we do security and co-operating with our personnel. It means contacting CST if you happen to have information that you think may be of use to us, or to the Police.

Sharing responsibility also means keeping a sense of perspective. Today, our community is largely able to express its Jewishness however it wishes. That can be religious, cultural, political, charitable, sporting or whatever sort of Jewish life you do, or do not, wish to have. Our community is, on the whole, successful and well integrated into the rest of society.

We have come a very long way indeed since the newly arrived immigrant generations of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Antisemitism should not define our Jewish lives, but it has been of increasing concern in recent years. It is, perhaps, not so much that people fear for themselves today, but rather they worry how things will be for our children and grandchildren. This is entirely natural. Police are keenly aware that the fear of crime can be every bit as important as actual crime itself: this also seems to apply with antisemitism and the fear of it.

CST hopes that it helps our community to feel confident that someone is standing up for its rights. We take responsibility for the physical security of the community; and provide a confidential reporting service for those who experience antisemitism, be it physical, verbal, or in whatever form.

Because CST works with the victims of antisemitism, we know the importance of people's physical and emotional well-being. This is not about statistics. It is the human aspect that makes us all the more determined to work against antisemitism; and against the fear it causes.

We want to deter those who wish us harm, and we work with politicians, police and others so 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 to be strong-minded, to provide our motivated volunteer personnel and to work with them as necessary: whether that is in schools, synagogues, community events and rallies, or wherever.

We do not charge the community for our services and rely upon charitable donations for our running costs.

**All of this relies upon partnership between CST and our Jewish community.**

**We welcome you to join us in that partnership, in whatever way you can.**



**IN AN EMERGENCY  
ALWAYS DIAL 999**

**Then call CST**

**London 020 8457 9999**

Emergency 24hr pager 07659 101 668

**Manchester 0161 792 6666**

Emergency 24hr number 0800 980 0668

**[www.thecst.org.uk](http://www.thecst.org.uk)**

Community Security Trust registered charity number: 1042391

## **IT'S LOOKING UP NOW ON CAMPUS . . . . . by Harry Lesser**

**THE YEAR 2010\11** is the first session in which the student exchange with the Hebrew University is operating. All students with Hebrew as a major part of their course now go there for a year or a semester, and students from the Hebrew University are coming to Manchester. Other arrangements for academic co-operation with Israeli universities are under discussion.

Close links have been formed between the Centre for Jewish Studies, the Council of Christians and Jews and Radio Manchester's Jewish Programme. The International CCJ conference for 2012 will be in Manchester, this being the 70th anniversary of the CCJ in England, and Manchester being one of the first branches to be formed.

A major research project on Genocide, including the Holocaust, funded by the EU, based in Manchester and Paris, and to last four years, is now under way. In general, for information on academic matters of Jewish interest on campus **[www.manchesterjewishstudies.org](http://www.manchesterjewishstudies.org)** is recommended.

The news from the students is also very encouraging. There are no reports of anti-semitism on campus; and the discussion of the Israel-Palestinian situation has become much less aggressive.

This is thanks to the setting-up of the Israel-Palestine Forum, run by Jews, Muslims, and politically interested students. Apart from such events as hosting the Bereaved Families Forum, it has become the main forum for Israel debate, enabling it to take place in a context of serious discussion and balanced argument, with the result that the extremist groups are becoming marginalised.

The other main event is the setting-up of an Inter-faith Forum (called Faithworks) in the Students' Union, with which Ruth Arkush of the Jewish Society has been heavily involved. It has already been very successful both in promoting collaboration and understanding between different faiths, and in making the Union take students of faith seriously. In short, though one must continue to be vigilant, at the moment things on campus are going well.

# A FESTIVAL THAT CROSSED THE DIVIDE

ORTHODOX and Reform, young and old, from South or North of the Albert Square divide, flocked to Smart – South Manchester's first Jewish Arts Festival. Lucille Cohen, Jewish Representative Council President, who attended the opening gala night of the Festival and the M.A.D production, 'Reduce, Render and Sweat', commented: "A plethora of talent was evident. It was very gratifying to witness that the actors could come together from all shades of the community, and that this was mirrored equally by the audience. What a fun evening, and congratulations to Menorah on its initiative."

Fifteen-hundred visits were made to the Festival; to the shows, plays, lectures, parties and workshops. For many, the highlight was 'Joshua Nelson and the Kosher Gospel Choir.' Said Melissa Dorfman, one of the three organisers of Smart: "The energy, happiness and feel-good factor left me buzzing and on a high that continued until the next day!" and that was thanks to Ellie Ruhan, Director of the Leeds Jewish Performing Arts Festival, who facilitated the Choir's Manchester stopover.

Young and "mature" danced in the aisles; the elderly abandoned any walking-sticks to jiggle along as the singers rocked the sold-out house with their powerful nigunim. Nelson, a black American Jew, with his singers, mastered the rhythm, the crowd and his excellent Hebrew.

**With news of the aliyah next year of Menorah's Rabbi Brian Fox, members were only half-joking when they pleaded: "Please, can Joshua be our next Rabbi?" Shabbat services would never be the same again!**

Regular visitors were bewildered at the daily transformation of just one building: from theatre to lecture theatre, when a packed auditorium was transfixed by the 'Master of Mahler', Norman Lebrecht, to a nightclub for Jazz and Comedy, a cinema for the Israeli 'The Band's Visit' introduced by film buff Alan Sennett, to a mock-up Antiques Show venue, led by Tony Thomas, to a kitchen space for Clarissa Hyman's food demonstration as well as workshops on painting, writing, calligraphy, puppetry, sculpture and photography.

A permanent feature in the foyer was Howard Barlow's photographic exhibition. It was clear from his presentation, that he had captured every significant political, sporting and popular music moment in his professional lifetime, but his photos of 'ordinary' people, of weddings, Barmitzvahs and street scenes were equally moving.

Paul Goggins, MP for Wythenshawe, came to the last blast on Sunday – the Smarty Party, when visitors enjoyed English cream teas on the sun-drenched patio while children and grown-ups 'played' in every corner of the building and grounds, enjoying dozens of varied activities ... and fun. Mr Goggins, who recalled his presence at Rabbi Fox's induction, congratulated Menorah for hosting South Manchester's first Jewish Arts Festival. He said: "I was particularly impressed at the way the Festival provided opportunities to hear and learn from true experts in music, literature and photography while at the same time organising events for children to play and listening to stories.

**"Whatever faith we follow, we all need to reach inside ourselves to reflect on and develop the values and beliefs that make us who we are. There was a real sense of community at the Festival and I congratulate all those who worked so hard to make it happen."**

Surveying the scene on that last, sunny Sunday, caretaker Robert Timms pronounced with pride: "We can do ANYTHING in this building."

Echoing "the wealth of talent" at Menorah, Judith Gordon, nicknamed the 'Fourth Musketeer' by the three Organisers, Melissa Dorfman, Kerry Barlow and Vicki Garson, said she was so proud to belong to such a vibrant community.

"You have raised Menorah's profile to the rafters," said Gita Conn, newly-elected Chair of Cheshire Reform Congregation (Menorah) and Executive member of the Jewish Representative Copuncil, when she presented bouquets to four women, champagne to David Rabin, Social Committee Chair, and paid tribute to Sue Bayliss and Norman Hesford, Menorah's hard-working administrator executive administrative staff and the caretakers, Robert Timms, Neil Bailey and Tim Miller for master-minding the transformations.

Said David Rabin: "It's been frenetic, enjoyable and an honour to work on the Festival. I've loved it ...ready for the next one!" Outgoing Chair Gary Copitch, who opened the Festival, concurred with Gita, who 'closed' it. They are both dedicated to cross-communal unity. In a joint statement they said: "It's been wonderful to see so many of our Orthodox friends step across the portals of Menorah. We all respect one another's expression of their Judaism, but how wonderful it is to come together as Klal Ysrael as, in the words of one of Joshua Nelson's rousing choruses, 'Shevet achim ve'nashim b'yachad' - brothers and sisters together, in unity."

***And it seems to be happening!***

## A Sporting Tribute to Henry

On a very hot July afternoon, and after 14 years of pain and tears, the executive of **South Manchester Sports Centre**, along with over 400 guests, opened the inter-faith **Henry Guterman Sports Centre**, supported by the Guterman family.

We all admired the work Henry did for all communities and, we as a club, hope to carry on where he left off. The centre was officially opened by two ex-England international footballers - **Cyrill Regis**, West Brom, and **Peter Barnes**, Manchester City. Twenty of our benefactors then kicked a football into a goal covered by a large poster, just like cutting the ribbon.

The crowd were then entertained when a **Manchester City** legend team played a **South Manchester** team on our new 3G football pitch. There was also football coaching laid on for all the children, with a team of coaches, as well as many other games for the younger children to take part in. Overall a truly wonderful day, and the executive of South Manchester truly like to thank all the people who have helped us make this happen.

The children of **North Cheshire School** get free use of all the centre during school time, and we hope in September that many other schools in the area will also use it. This has always been a community project, and when I say community, I mean for everybody to use!

**Johnny Davis (Chairman)**

# SO WHAT'S THE ANSWER TO RACE HATE?

*That antisemitism can take several forms, we know – but how best to recognise and tackle it? Not so easy. The delegates at one monthly meeting of the Representative Council formed themselves into "workshops" to discuss the problem. Here are their summarised discussions, and conclusions...*

## ANTISEMITISM WORKSHOPS . . . . .

### What they thought . . .

#### Workshop A

**1.** Causes – jealousy of our family values; jealousy of our community's success; perceived as being different; attitudes to Israel specifically pre 1967 and post 1967 which has had a consequence for anti-Semitism; teachings in Christianity around the world; false concept of why Jews always got the best jobs.

**2.** Nature of antisemitism – verbal with a psychological effect; stereotypical comments; we often hear negative comments but do nothing about them.

We had to keep our heads down in our professional lives in a non-Jewish environment; taking on more responsibility and striving to achieve so that nothing can be thrown back at us as we feel that we represent the Jewish community.

**3.** We should not let negative comments go unchallenged, but mainly in order to combat antisemitism we needed wider society, ie social contact via the Hindu-Jewish Association, the Muslim-Jewish Forum, Council of Christians and Jews; education, both formal and informal needed to be improved; we needed to be politically activated; we needed to try to alter the perception of Israel; we needed to do more real research into antisemitism so that we can challenge it.

#### Workshop B

**1.** Causes – when times were difficult it was always easier to blame the Jews. There was a dislike of the unlike. Do not give cause for antisemitism by bad behaviour.

**2.** University campus – mainly political against Israel and one could substitute anti-Zionism for antisemitism

**3.** We agree with the CST that every incident should be reported but appreciate that some people are reluctant to report incidents. Whether restorative justice worked or not was not known but if it had an effect with some people it was better than not doing it. It was necessary to have lines of communication with the Muslim-Jewish Forum for example. The problems were with the more extreme elements.

#### Workshop C

**a)** Right-Wing groups; antisemitism from people who do not know; anti-Zionism. The blame for anti-Zionism was placed on Israel for their lack of promotion of their activities. There was mistrust of some of the activities of Muslims. The media was also firmly pointed at for being antisemitic and anti-Israel.

**b)** One of the group had experienced antisemitism at Manchester University. Certain newspapers – The Independent and The Guardian – were pointed out and that none of the political parties were particularly friendly, in particular the Lib-Dems. The situation in Gaza caused problems and things had got worse since Durban 1 and Durban 2 and we should be aware that Durban 3 would take place in the not too distant future.

**c)** TV dramatisations were another problem. There was a handful of people within the community who were very active and there needed to be more people who would go on line and attend trade union meetings and attend Palestine Solidarity campaign events. Flamboyant expressions of Jewish wealth should be avoided

#### Workshop D

**d)** Historically there has always been stereotyping of the Jews and other groups such as the blacks, Catholics, homosexuals because they are distinctive groups and are easier to target. Also in the 1930s because of the depression there was an increase in unemployment and a scapegoat needed to be found. Ignorance was another cause, lack of education, also the Catholic Church; rise of the British Union of Fascists in the 1930s. Socially, the upper classes and the Foreign Office – antisemitism was evident in the establishment, the working class and the trade unions.

**e)** Most in the group had not experienced antisemitism directly. The question was asked : "Are we over sensitive?"

**f)** The question was asked as to whether there was any benefit to joining forces with other ethnic groups and it was felt that there was no benefit but that we should stand up and not let incidents go unreported- and stand up to racism of all kinds, for example by educating our children. Identify a lot of people who use hatred of Israel as an excuse for antisemitism. We all have to stand together and educate from as early an age as possible, as well as interfaith, also educate our own people from an early age, not to be apathetic.

#### Workshop E

**g)** Ignorance particularly in the non-Jewish community and now in different ethnic groups. Lack of understanding of the Jewish way of life and also jealousy . Television programmes and the press giving biased views and the TV never put on another programme to show the Israeli or Jewish point of view.

**h)** Concern was expressed about the education of children in the mosques and the violent and abusive language by the imams in preaching to their communities. Concern was expressed about the apathy of the Jewish

community to attend lectures and to learn first of all about our own religion and to learn about Israel from a historical view.

**i)** How we deal with the issue – strong dialogue was needed between other ethnic groups and there was a definite link between how Israel is depicted in the press and antisemitic attitudes. Education was critical on how to get to the wider Jewish community and come out of a ghetto mentality. We need to stand up and be counted with a knowledge of who we are and what we are, and proud to be Jews and proud of the State of Israel.

#### Workshop F

*The suggestions as to causes were:*

**1.** The most basic cause was ignorance, together with jealousy.

**2.** This had been intensified in the past by the Church's teaching, though in recent years this had changed.

**3.** It was also currently intensified by reports of events in Israel.

**4.** A minority view was that we encouraged it ourselves by ostentatious behaviour.

*Cases of antisemitism mentioned were:*

**1.** That encountered by King David pupils going to school, and seen by them as normal.

**2.** That encountered by members of Hale shul, especially the Rabbi.

**3.** Liquid squirted from cars.

Points made were that some of this was clearly premeditated; that not only uneducated people were guilty; and that the police were prepared to prosecute drivers of cars from which passengers threw objects or acted insultingly.

*Suggestions for dealing with antisemitism were:*

**1.** That antisemitic remarks should always be challenged (unless it was really unsafe)

**2.** That we should be rigorous in reporting antisemitic incidents

**3.** That, while being cautious, we should be prepared to regard genuine antisemitism on campus as a communal issue, and not only a university one

**4.** That mixing with members of other faiths should be strongly encouraged, especially among young people and in Jewish schools

**5.** That there should be as much education as possible, including trips to Auschwitz and such places, but also less expensive education in Jewish religion and history.

**6.** That the new CST booklet should be studied and acted on; and might be helpful also to the Muslim and Black communities, as an example of how they might deal with prejudice.

#### Workshop G

**j)** Antisemitism is rooted in the church and to a lesser extent in the Muslim world.

**k)** Most people in the group had not experienced antisemitism.

**l)** Education – it was extremely important first of all to educate the wider public about other faiths also. Jewish children ought to be prepared to deal with antisemitism. We had to be more united amongst ourselves. There were worries about certain sections of the community causing antisemitism and that we had to try and be more communally united.

#### Conclusions:

A motion was passed to reflect the delegates' major concerns emerging from the workshop to combat antisemitism as follows:

**"This Council believes:**

**m) That education within the community should be directed at children and adults to promote a greater awareness and understanding of Judaism and the attitude of wider society to Jews and Judaism in order to combat it in wider society.**

**n) We should also call upon more interfaith activity to take place in an effort to combat antisemitism"**

The motion was proposed by the President, Lucille Cohen and seconded by Dr Noemie Lopian. It was passed with by a vote of all "for" bar one abstention and none "against".

## WHY I JOINED THE COUNCIL by Noemie Lopian\*

IT IS a privilege to be part of the Jewish Representative Council. Being the product of a Holocaust survivor and a hidden child, I am only too aware of Nazi persecution and its destruction . My late father, Dr Israel Bornstein, was a communal leader as well as president of the Jewish and non -Jewish Holocaust victims. Despite his experiences, he believed in the good of mankind and maintained his faith in G-d and humanity .

It is important for us Jewish people to have a voice, to make contact with our non-Jewish counterparts. We can liaise, make friends and work together to make our communities and cities better places! And who better to represent us than we ourselves? Part of the Nazi success and, to this day, anti- Semitism- Zionism is due to us being misrepresented! We need to protect ourselves, and this we can only do if we are pro-active. I can hear the cynics say, "How naive, what does she think the JRC will achieve?" I reply, quoting Simon Wiesenthal (after Edmund Burke): " For evil to flourish, it only requires good men to do nothing"

*\*Noemie is a Joint Hon. Secretary of the Council*

# WORKING TOGETHER FOR PEACE & HARMONY

## Faith Without Boundaries

by Jonny Wineberg, Co-Chairman, Muslim Jewish Forum

The Muslim Jewish Forum of Greater Manchester is one of the most active inter-faith groups in the country. We run, on average, an event or activity every month and partner with other groups for many more.

The Forum was developed in 2004 through a recognition of the need to have better understanding between the two communities living in the same area, negating the negativity perceived by international situations. Councillor Afzal Khan and Henry Guterman z/l, a former President of the Jewish Representative Council, were the instigators and became the first co-chairs. We now have an Executive made up of six Jewish and six Muslim Forum members who meet regularly to plan our activities.

The Forum exists to develop close cultural and social ties between the Muslim and Jewish communities of Greater Manchester and educate members of both communities in relation to our shared values and common Abrahamic tradition, heritage, history and culture. We also look to promote better understanding within the wider community of our common interests and values.

We currently have Women's, Youth, Accountants & Lawyers sections. Our latest initiative will be the development of a Business group with a launch at Manchester Conference Centre on the evening of Sunday 20th November, the beginning of Inter-faith Week. More details can be seen on our website at [www.muslimjewish.org.uk](http://www.muslimjewish.org.uk)

The range of issues we have addressed at events has been quite extensive. It includes Wills, Business Ethics, Banking and Interest, Medical Ethics as well as many more through our Monthly Faith Dialogues in partnership with FN4M and other inter-faith bodies. One of our most successful events was last year's *Righteous Muslims who saved Jews in the 2nd World War* event, which saw Manchester Jewish Museum packed to hear about this remarkable episode in history.

Forthcoming events in October include Sunday 9th at 2pm, a visit to the British Muslim Heritage Centre, and Sunday 30th at 2,30pm, a visit to the Manchester Jewish Museum. Then, from 8-12 March 2012, we will have our latest trip abroad - *A Journey of Faith* - which will be a multi-faith trip from Manchester to the Holy Land. More details on this are

also on our website or you can email us at [muslimjewish@gmail.com](mailto:muslimjewish@gmail.com)

FAITH Network for Manchester (FN4M) is the forum for members of all faith communities across Manchester to meet and communicate together.

We seek to enable the voice of faith communities to be heard, and ensure the ethical dimension is always considered, at all stages of local decision making and strategic planning. We also deliver educational work, raising awareness of different faiths, particularly among young people, and challenge prejudice and promote active, engaged and informed citizenship.

## HOW HUMANITY BEGAN WITH ADAM

On August 10 the Azeemi Foundation celebrated Adam Day in Manchester, London, New York and Montreal. Adam Day was started nine years ago, in recognition of common humanity emanating from Adam, who is generally accepted as the first human being. Adam Day aims to promote unity between all races and major religions. It also provides a platform to share different viewpoints, and encourages people of different faiths to listen to each other's views and respect everyone. The theme this year was "fasting", and representatives from Judaism (Jonny Wineberg and his daughter) as well as Christian, Islam, Hindu and Baha'i faiths each gave an account of the influence of fasting within their faiths and the message it gives to their followers.

More than 200 people were present, and we all came away from the evening feeling that, in the shadow of the terrible riots of the past days, the atmosphere of friendship and hope for a return to community cohesion was so enriching. The spirit of the evening is well summarised in the words of the Mishnah (a collection of ancient Jewish teachings) which states: "*It was for the sake of peace among us that Creation began with a single human being, so that none may say to another, my ancestor was greater than your ancestor*".

In the Torah you will find: "*The stranger who lives with you shall be to you like a native among you, and you should love the stranger as yourself. For you were strangers in the land of Egypt; I am the Eternal your God*".

**Louis Rapaport**

## Friendship Around the Table

IT IS said that "a family who eats together stays together." So on June 30 the Hindu/Jewish Association members met up at the Pagoda restaurant in Whitefield in order to socialise and get to know one another over a kosher and vegetarian Chinese meal. The 17 people present comprised nine Jews and eight Hindus, talking round the table until nearly closing time!

We in our community greatly value the support of our Indian friends which they show so readily for us both here and for the State of Israel.

On November 24, during Inter-Faith Week, the group will be holding its annual seminar, in the Alexander Levy Hall at Jackson's Row. The evening will commence at 7pm with refreshments, and I do hope I can rely on your support for this event.

**Louis Rapaport, Co-Chairman**

## CCJ'S BIG DATE . . .

. . . and it's right here! by David Arnold

The Manchester branch of the Council of Christians and Jews has achieved a tremendous coup! Each year the International Council of Christians and Jews (ICCJ) holds an annual four-day conference; this year's took place in Cracow, Poland, and the Manchester delegation comprised co-chairs Revd Canon Steve Williams and David Arnold, and our brilliant website designer Francesca Fraser; we were actually formally introduced as the three Manchester spies!

At this year's conference the International Council confirmed its choice of Manchester as venue for next year's conference; the only previous occasions when the Annual International Conference has been held in the UK were 1946, when it was in Oxford, and 1991 in Southampton.

Branch member Daniel Langton, Professor of History of Christian Jewish Relations at the University of Manchester, is chairing an international committee now busy planning the conference programme. Reserve Sunday 1st July -Wednesday 4th July 2012 in your diary now.

You can follow the activities of CCJ locally, nationally and internationally by accessing the following websites:

Manchester Branch: at [www.ccjmanchester.org](http://www.ccjmanchester.org)

In the UK, Council of Christians and Jews ICCJ at [www.ccj.org.uk](http://www.ccj.org.uk)

International Council of Christians & Jews at [www.iccj.org](http://www.iccj.org)