



The Voice of the Jewish Representative Council

# PRESENTS

# REP

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## The Rep Council's YEAR BOOK for 5768 (2007-8)

This is your Community's own Yellow Pages a comprehensive, indexed wealth of information about all affiliated organisations. Full details at a glance of synagogues and other religious bodies, cultural, charitable, Zionist, youth and student groups, and much more.

It's all here - phone numbers, emails, addresses, contacts, etc.

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Autumn 2007

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# Representative Council Launches New Leadership Project

The Jewish Representative Council is addressing the concern of diminishing leadership in the community with an exciting new initiative. With £20,000 funding from the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund, the Council has launched 'New Leadership', which aims to produce a new generation of leaders for the Jewish Community of Greater Manchester.

The intention is for these leaders to take on roles both within the community and externally, engaging with other faith groups and representing the community to local government.

The project was launched with an event at Manchester Maccabi Community and Sports Club in May, where potential participants found out more about the initiative and put forward their ideas and concerns. They discussed what the key issues were and what training could be provided.

Key among their concerns was the lack of analysis of the needs of the community. Whilst the demography of the community is changing, they wanted to see some research carried out with their age group so that decisions on future strategy for the community could be based on fact not theory.

Barbara Goldstone, President of the Representative Council, said, "The concern about our community's ageing leadership has long been voiced and the recent research undertaken under the aegis of the Community Commission has identified it as a key issue to be addressed."

"Without communal leadership, all our services are under threat, whether they are about education, welfare, Israel, youth or the elderly. We want to ensure that all organisations, including the Representative Council, have a vibrant leadership for the foreseeable future who understand the strategic issues facing their organisations and the community as a whole and have the wherewithal to address them."

The project is targeting potential communal leaders in their late teens, 20s, 30s and 40s and offering training, coaching and opportunities for involvement within the community, in inter-faith work and representing the community to outside bodies.

### Training Events

Training events will cover aspects of communication skills, presentation skills, chairing meetings, motivating others, inter-faith work, managing budgets and fundraising. Those at the launch identified the latter as a key issue and training will be delivered in the Autumn on fundraising from both Trusts and Events.

Additional dimensions to the project include the promotion of women's and young people's roles as leaders in the community. Specific events for women will be run in conjunction with the League of Jewish Women and the project will identify opportunities for them as leaders in the community. Similarly, events for young people, 16 to 25, will be run in conjunction with The Jewish Youth Project.

One further piece of work will be to analyse the structures of the Representative Council and other organisations in the community and

seek to reform them to make them more accessible to new leaders.

An innovative method is being used in the work with the appointment of Peer Community and Peer Youth Workers, each for 6 hours a week, from September. "We need to employ people from within the community who can engage their peers," explained Jonny Wineberg, the Representative Council's Project Officer who is developing the work. "They will have the responsibility of motivating individuals to participate in the project with a view to taking on communal leadership roles. We're not looking for professionals to do this, rather we want those with good communication skills who understand what makes the younger generation of Manchester Jews tick."

### More Support Needed

Whilst £20,000 may seem a lot of money, much more is needed to keep the project running and increase its level of activity. Jonny is clear that this will not be a flash in the pan project and believes that, as people get involved, potential funders will see the benefits and look to support it.

"The Jewish community in Greater Manchester is a key player in inter-faith work as well as working alongside local authorities and agencies such as the police and health services," Jonny explained. "We have representatives on all local SACREs and other local committees. However, many of those who undertake this work have been doing so for many years and new leaders are needed to ensure this valuable work continues and develops."

"This project will enable the Representative Council to improve its work in these areas, bringing in much-needed new blood along with their ideas. This will strengthen the Council's leadership, expand its work and improve its management as well as delivering this for some of our affiliated organisations."

"The training and development proposed will lead to a better informed and capable group who understand the value of diversity in our community and can engage positively and effectively with their peers from other faith backgrounds. The focus on women and young people will strengthen their leadership potential and enable them to better engage with their peers in other faith groups and support women's and young people's leadership throughout Greater Manchester."

### Get Involved

Anyone wanting to get involved in New Leadership can contact Jonny on 07930 534422 or email [jonny@jewishmanchester.org](mailto:jonny@jewishmanchester.org). In addition to potential new leaders, Jonny would like to hear from current lay and professional leaders who would be willing to mentor these New Leaders.



Barbara Goldstone, elected Council President in May

## New Officers and a New Outlook

May's Representative Council elections saw half the Honorary Officers replaced and a new Council President. Barbara Goldstone became only the third woman to hold the post.

Her manifesto had a strong Education bent with an intention to look for funding to employ an Education Officer as well as developing the work of the Speakers' Panel. "We need to educate more non-Jewish groups about Judaism and the Jewish community in order to combat anti-Semitism," she explained.

The commitment has already been backed up with actions as the Speakers Panel is being reinvigorated and applications for funding have

already been submitted.

Also elected to new positions were David Davis as Vice-President and; Philip Langer as Hon. Secretary. Shalom Goldblatt has recently been co-opted also as Hon. Secretary.

The full line-up of Officers is:

President: Barbara Goldstone  
Vice-Presidents: Dr Sydney Baigel  
David Davis  
Treasurer: Linda Jacobs  
Hon. Secretaries: Philip Langer  
Shalom Goldblatt

# Inter-faith Action on Many Fronts

One of the key areas of the Council's work has always been strengthening the community's links with other faiths. Last year saw major developments in this area with the Government's Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund giving a small grant to the Council to expand its work.

With this funding, the Council was able to launch the first, annual Great Manchester Inter-Faith Quiz, with participants from Christian, Muslim and Jewish communities. The Second Annual Quiz is scheduled for Wednesday evening October 17th 2007.

The Council supported the work of the Faith Network for Manchester (FN4M) in particular their 'Are They Gambling with Our Future' event, which launched a campaign to stop the building of a Supercasino. The campaign recently came to fruition with Gordon Brown putting the building of the casino on hold.

When Windows for Peace was looking for support to develop their

work, bringing young Jews and Palestinians together, the Council used the funding to help them.

### Women's Event

The Council was also able to support the Muslim Jewish Forum's first Women's event, the 'Show and Tell' at Urbis. With over 60 women attending, this was a great success.

The Forum recently held a second such event and the Council again identified funding to support the venture.

Aimee Banay led the organisation for both events and said, "It was wonderful to see so many people from both communities coming together. The atmosphere was electric and

*Continued on page 2*

## Addressing Anti-Semitism

In July, the Representative Council welcomed John Mann MP, Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into anti-Semitism, at King David High School. The meeting was initiated by Ivan Lewis MP to discuss the Inquiry's recommendations.

The panel of 14 MPs, none of whom are Jewish, found that a 'disturbing' rise in anti-Semitic attacks had been exacerbated by the situation in the Middle East.

Mr Mann called for action to tackle this increase. He will be pushing for the recommendations of the panel to be heeded by the Government, including a call for the Crown Prosecution Service to investigate why fewer than one in ten reported incidents leads to a prosecution.

He commented how shocked he was at the cost to the King David Schools for having to pay for their own security and, to much support, argued that the government should provide this.

He recalled that when his grandparents came to the UK at the beginning of the last century, they had no money or jobs and, when nobody else would help them, it was Jewish people who supported them. This is where his respect for Jews comes from.

Charles Braunstein, a student at King David High School, spoke about incidents where he and his friends had been attacked and intimidated with projectiles being thrown at them and names being shouted from passing cars.

Yaar Zaron, Campaign Director of the UJS, reporting on the campus situation nationally, stressed the need for the local community to support the Jewish students. Ivan Lewis, the Bury South MP who is also a government minister, stressed the importance of the report and agreed that there was a need for government action.

The Council will continue to monitor progress on this issue and report back to our monthly meetings.

## New Support

The Council is now able to offer advice on fundraising and developing your organisation to affiliated groups through our Project Officer, Jonny Wineberg.

Lubavitch and Hazonim Dror are amongst those who have already benefited. To discuss your needs, contact Jonny on 720 8721 or email [jonny@jewishmanchester.org](mailto:jonny@jewishmanchester.org).

## Contact the Council

Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester and Region

Jewish Community Centre, Bury Old Road, Manchester M7 4QY

Tel/Fax: 0161 720 8721

E-mail: [office@jewishmanchester.org](mailto:office@jewishmanchester.org)

ON THE WEB AT [www.jewishmanchester.org](http://www.jewishmanchester.org)

Providing a quick and easy-to-use guide to your communal organisations

Contact us by phone, fax, post or e-mail To add your event to the Communal Diary!

Check the Communal Diary before arranging your event to reduce clashes with other functions, and we will publicise your event to all our delegates and their organisations.

**New Leadership**

**Forthcoming Training Events**

**Dealing with Jewish Community Issues**  
Monday September 17th, 7.30pm

**Marketing Your Organisation**  
Monday September 24th, 7.30pm

**Fundraising from Trusts**  
Monday October 8th, 7.30pm

**Fundraising from Events**  
Monday October 15th, 7.30pm

For venue and further information email [jonny@jewishmanchester.org](mailto:jonny@jewishmanchester.org)

# Remembering Henry

In this personal tribute, **Louis Rapaport**, immediate past-President of the Representative Council, shares his personal memories of Henry Guterman MBE and urges others to come forward to carry on his important work.

The Manchester Jewish community has suffered a great loss with the death of Henry Guterman. He was unique in our community for the links he established between the differing faiths in Manchester and beyond.

It was indeed a very sad moment for all of us when he passed away last May and particularly for me as I was one of Henry's oldest friends.

Henry Guterman came to this country shortly after Kristallnacht as a young man of 12 years of age. His father was an executive in the soap industry in Germany. Soon he found employment with Cussons and settled in Manchester with his wife and two sons, Louis and Henry.

Henry had an extensive business career in the clothing industry working for several of the biggest names in the country. He once went into the handbag business with a factory in Hyde only to have a fire on the first day of a fireman's strike... perhaps the only Jewish man to be under-insured!

I first came to know him in the early 1950's both at the Country Club in Didsbury and at the Junior Membership at Park Place and at Jacksons Row Synagogue.

Soon he became a member of the JM committee and gave me the first insight into how frustrating it was to chair a meeting with him around the table. As one of his Muslim friends told me, when he used to sit with Henry at the Muslim Jewish Forum and nine of them were in agreement on an issue, it then took an extra hour to talk Henry round!

Before long it was decided to propose Henry to be Chairman of the National Movement, the Youth Association of Synagogues of Great Britain. After much lobbying at the Annual Conference he was duly elected, and to this day, he is the only non-Londoner to occupy that office.

Henry was also a prominent member of the Park Place Players, the drama group at Jacksons Row. Who could forget his regular role as the 'landed English Gentleman' who would offer the drinks to his guests with the words...*will you have a visky or a sherry?*

Many are my memories of our holidays together with our children in our caravans at Abersoch. Especially the time when the late Arnold Angel attempted to teach him how to sail. Henry still holds the British record for sailing a catamaran backwards!

With all these personal memories and knowledge it therefore came as no surprise to me when, at the first meeting of my Honorary Officers three years ago, the first item on the agenda was the question 'what are you going to do about Henry Guterman?'

"You are the President of this community and not Henry" they said...but I knew better. There was no way that I would be able to take away his role and the respect that he had earned from so many organisations in this city. So I learnt to live with it, despite from time to time exercising

my authority usually to little effect!

The record of Henry's involvement in so many organisations was tremendous. Henry worked with all the different Faiths, welfare homes such as Heathlands and the Morris Feinmann, Outreach, the Disabled Living Association, The Jewish Youth Project, Police Committees and the Crown Prosecution Service and was involved with Police Diversity Training.

He was vice-Chair of Manchester Council for Community Relations, had a long association with the ZCC and Media Response work and was Chairman of the Trafford SACRE and a Governor of Burnage High School. He was president of this Council from 1986 to 1989 and a Delegate to the Board of Deputies.

Henry's record of public speaking



at anti-Racism meetings was quite remarkable. He would travel all over the country to speak to Working Men's Clubs, Trade Unions, Students and Church groups and consequently was mentioned unfavourably in the web pages of the BNP. Such were his memories of the 1930's in Germany that his constant theme was that this must never be allowed to happen here in Britain.

His choice to share a platform with Ken Livingstone aroused much criticism from our community but Henry was totally unrepentant maintaining that Livingstone, despite not being a friend of Israel, was against racism and because of that he maintained that he and Livingstone were allies in that cause.

He was a very consistent letter writer on behalf of the Media Response Group defending Israel from attacks in the press and the media. He also regularly corresponded with National Muslim leaders and refused to let them have the last word when he felt they were wrong.

The manner in which he conducted the defence of Israel in the debate with the Rev. Stephen Sizer at Chester Cathedral was a very great credit to him. Previously in his talks around the country on behalf of the Archbishop of Jerusalem, Rev. Sizer had rarely been challenged effectively, but all of us who were present left the Cathedral on

that evening in fine spirits after hearing Henry's inspiring speech.

I am sure that there is still so much left unsaid about Henry and his life but perhaps my final memory was looking around the people who were present at his funeral with Rabbis from all sections of the Community and others representing the Muslim, Hindu and Christian Faiths. There were also many present who were connected with his many different interests in the city.

Among the many messages of condolence, which were sent to his family, were those from the Chief Rabbi, The Israeli Ambassador, the Chief Constable of Manchester, the National Chairman of the Council of Christians and Jews and several Bishops from the Greater Manchester area.

May I conclude by saying how

**COMMUNITY CHALLENGE**  
**The Rep Council's Annual Charity Quiz Evening**  
**7.30pm Sunday 18 November '07**  
**Hilton Suite, Bury New Rd.**  
 Call 720 8721 to book your table for a chance to win £1,000 for your charity and The Leslie Donn Challenge Cup

important it is that we do not let the many avenues of contact with the outside community, which Henry opened, fail because nobody will take on the responsibility of following in his footsteps.

In the words of Rabbi Ellituv at the Shiva, "contacts with other faiths that never existed before in our Community were established by Henry and it is our duty to keep them open".

## STOP THE BOYCOTT

In July, the Jewish Representative Council joined with the Zionist Central Council in a public meeting for a briefing on the boycott calls against Israel. A dynamic panel was spearheaded by Lorna Fitzsimons, Chief Executive Officer of BICOM.

She told the meeting that every member of the Jewish community should be active in challenging what is happening. "This not about getting angry, it is about getting organised," she told the meeting.

"We cannot do something as serious as this, of this magnitude, without full support from the community and that means both financial and in terms of time. It cannot be left to the 'usual suspects' in terms of funding - it has to be a community-wide effort."

Ronnie Frazer, Founder and Director of Academic Friends of Israel, argued the case in terms of freedom of speech. "This is not political, it is about freedom of speech in academia. It is clear that the vast majority oppose an academic boycott because it flies in the face of the deeply held principle that academic freedom - the freedom to talk and engage with each other - is valued by the British people."

Doreen Gerson, Executive Vice-Chairman of Trade Union Friends of Israel, told the meeting of attending a Unison conference where she felt there was little willingness to listen. There was, therefore, clearly a need to act locally to ensure that reasonable voices prevailed.

Joy Wolfe, representing the National Union of Journalists, urged all Jewish journalists to ensure they were members of the Union and to attend meetings. She extended this to all Unions, making it clear that any Jewish person who could be active in their Union should do so and make their voice heard.

Richard Gold, North West Organiser of Engage, explained that, "Contemporary anti-Semitism nearly always appears using the language of anti-Zionism." The importance of challenging those who espouse such bigotry was a theme for all participants.

### Individually Campaign

The key advice to all those within the community was to individually campaign by sending letters to your MEP, MP, local paper and to the principals of local institutions with which you may be involved.

On 16<sup>th</sup> July 2007 Council Officers took part in a solidarity protest along with the ZCC in support of Gilad Shalit, kidnapped 25<sup>th</sup> June 2006, Ehud Goldwasser and Ehud Regev, kidnapped 12<sup>th</sup> July 2006, and other Israel soldiers missing, unfortunately, for longer. 250 people stood quietly outside Marks & Spencer and encouraged shoppers to sign their petitions. These soldiers must never be forgotten.

The Council will continue to work with the ZCC and encourage people to become more active. If you want to get more information, you can join the activists' email list. Send your details, name and email address, to office@jewishmanchester.org.

## Interfaith Action

Continued from page 1

women were saying it was about time and that they had been waiting for something like this for many years."

"There was a particular warmth with women visibly proud and excited, sharing surprisingly similar experiences. So many times women were heard saying, 'I never realised that we were so similar' as they shared their experiences. There was an overriding sense of wanting to reach out and make the connections and the intention is for more opportunities in the future."

### Schools Interfaith

The Council also represented the Jewish community at Parris Wood High School 'Spiritual Awareness Conference' running several sessions for young people in Year 12 and

participating in a panel discussion with representatives of other faiths.

We were excited that Bnei Akiva were able to work with us and present sessions to Year 8 pupils. Joseph Finkelstein, Bnei Akiva Northern Fieldworker, said, "It was good that we could go out and represent the community to young people, give a positive impression of what Judaism is about and allay some of the stereotypes that are presented by the media."

With the continuing work of the Council with the Indian Jewish Association and Council of Christians and Jews as well as Muslim Jewish Forum, the Council is looking forward to more activities with other faiths.

To get involved, email office@jewishmanchester.org.



Above: Participants at the recent Muslim Jewish Women's 'Show & Tell Part II'. Below: Henry Guterman's children, Mark Guterman and Estelle Morris, with some of his grandchildren, Councillor Afzal Khan and participants at the Muslim-Jewish 6-a-side event.



## EVENTS DIARY

- Sunday, September 2: Jewish Representative Council Meeting, Nicky Alliance Centre. 10.30 am. Neil Collins from the South Manchester Sports Club speaking. All members of the community are welcome to attend.
- Sunday, September 9: ENGAGE Anti Boycott and Contemporary Anti-Semitism Public Meeting, Manchester Maccabi. 7.00pm to 10.00pm. Denis Macshane MP (Chair 2005 All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry Into Anti-Semitism) and members of Engage in a Panel Discussion. Admission £5 by ticket only. To reserve your ticket, email engagemanchester@gmail.com.
- Monday, September 10: Zionist Central Council Annual General Meeting, Mamlock House. 7.45 pm for 8.00 pm. Speakers Lorna Fitzsimons of BICOM and Professor Eric Moonman.
- Sunday, October 7: Jewish Representative Council Meeting, Nicky Alliance Centre. 10.30 am. Councillor Bernard Sharpe, first Jewish Mayor of Trafford, speaking. All members of the community are welcome to attend.
- Sunday, October 14: Jewish Historical Society, Manchester Jewish Museum. 8 pm. The View from Nebo - Jewish North Wales by Sara Gremson.
- Sunday, October 28: Manchester Jewish Federation AGM and launch of IIV ( Investing in Volunteers), Manchester Town Hall. 2 pm.
- Sunday, November 4: Jewish Representative Council Meeting, Nicky Alliance Centre. 10.30 am. All members of the community are welcome to attend.
- Sunday, November 18: Community Challenge quiz., Hilton Suite. 7.30 pm. Book your table by calling 720 8721 or email office@jewishmanchester.org
- Thursday, November 22: Medequip 4 Kids Shimmer Ball, Radisson Hotel, Manchester. 7.30 pm. Contact 798 1600 for details.
- Sunday, November 25: Manchester Jewish Community Care Winter Bazaar, Nicky Alliance Day Centre.

FOR DETAILS OF ALL FORTHCOMING EVENTS, CONSULT THE COMMUNAL DIARY. CALL 0161 720 8721 OR EMAIL OFFICE@JEWISHMANCHESTER.ORG

The President and Honorary Officers and Executive of the Representative Council, together with the Editorial team of Rep-Presents, join in wishing the entire community a happy and healthy New Year.