



# L'CHAYIM

The Newspaper of Southport and District Reform Synagogue



## Harry Kessler receives a BEM for services to Holocaust education and awareness in the New Year's Honours.

Harry, who was born in Vienna in 1930, is now a 91-year-old grandfather of six. He escaped the Nazis firstly originally from his native Austria and later from Czechoslovakia.

For some years, Harry has talked about his escape from Nazi occupied Europe and his "Accidental Life".

Harry was awarded the BEM along with others who have contributed to the Holocaust Educational Trust. Their Chief Executive, Karen Pollock CBE, said, "Huge congratulations to all the survivors recognised in this year's honours list. We wish each of them a hearty Mazel Tov for an honour well-deserved" (reported in the Jewish Chronicle 7.1.22). All of Southport's community also extend to Harry our congratulations.

During Covid restrictions, Harry has been using Zoom® to continue the vital work of educating the younger generations about the Holocaust. He says, "I had never spoken to people over Zoom before, so in this way at least, it's had a good effect."

That Zoom® connection has been key to helping to continue vital education in the midst of a pandemic, says HET chief executive Karen Pollock. This has created virtual "Lessons from Auschwitz", the former Nazi death camp, for those unable to visit in person at this time.

As reported in the last issue of L'Chayim, Harry continues to cycle, and has raised enough money for the Guide Dogs for the Blind to be able to name a puppy. To add to his donations, check out his page on Just Giving at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Harry-Kessler](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Harry-Kessler). To date, Harry has exceeded his own expectations and has raised £10,759.13 and an additional £1,194.25 by having donations Gift Aided. **Mazel Tov**

## EDITORIAL



Selwyn and Gillian Goldthorpe,  
editors of L'Chayim

Well done to Harry Kessler for his efforts for services to Holocaust education and awareness. We are very proud of you.

Please see the correction below to the article in the last L'Chayim re. Aubrey Weldon. Thanks to Michael Braham for the correction- we are so pleased to see L'Chayim being read outside of our membership.

**Forthcoming events: SHABBAT SERVICES 11am, 5th March, 2nd APRIL + chavurah. There is a Council meeting after the service on 5th March. Please see pages 3 and 5 and put in your diaries for Purim. Purim should be great fun - note this is mid-week, 6pm Wed. 16th March.**

We have reports of the various 'Let's Get Social' on **pages 6 and 10**. How did we enjoy those Sundays!

Tu B'Shevat **pages 8-9**. Susan tells us of how your Synagogue is supporting the environment, thanks to the wisdom of Council, and of course your membership support.

Holocaust Memorial Day, **pages 11-14**, with additional articles around this subject on **pages 15-18**. The book review on **page 19** is somewhat relevant. Please read these books, you will not be disappointed.

**Page 20** - a school visit to your Synagogue. Don't forget the humour on **page 21**.

Dear Editors,

I always enjoy reading L'Chayim Magazine and your January/February edition was no exception.

What a shame that the article on Aubrey Weldon D.F.M. was marred by stating that Aubrey was killed in action in December 1943. Nothing could be further from the truth!

Aubrey's photograph is in the vestibule of the Southport Hebrew Congregation. There In May 1947 he unveiled the Roll of Honour recording those who had served in the Forces during the Second World War. He was for many years a partner in a Hoghton Street Solicitors practice called Newton & Co and later was associated with Brighouse's before retiring from practice in 1981. He did four years later.

As Mark Twain might have said the news of his death was greatly exaggerated !

Yours sincerely,  
Michael Braham



**P**URIM

**P**ARTY

**P**LAY and

**P**LENTY of food chavurah.

**P**reparation: fancy dress is preferable.

**P**resent to exchange

The present is a very little something for others, wrapped so that contents are hidden.

Be prepared to make a noise

Bring your own alcohol

Hamantaschen provided

There may be some dancing!

While the noise-making during the Megillah reading in almost all synagogues independent of denomination is today accepted, this has not always been the case. The historian James Picciotto describes in his 1875 Sketches of Anglo-Jewish History the custom that “unruly boys and silly men” would “show their reprobation of Haman’s conduct by loudly knocking against the Synagogue benches during the celebration of the service,” stating that “this absurd and irreverent usage has ever been opposed by the congregational authorities.” In fact, the first documented ban on noisemaking during the Megillah reading was decreed by the leaders of the Portuguese-Jewish Community in Amsterdam as early as 1640, who considered the custom to be more appropriate to barbarians than to civilised individuals. However, as the historian Joseph Kaplan notes, the fact that the prohibition had to be repeated three decades later and the fine increased twenty-fold shows that the resistance to banning this popular custom was great.

A similar ban in 1783 even led to the so-called “Purim riots” at London’s Bevis Marks Synagogue, which was started by 14 members who refused to honour the “cold decree” of

Shelley Yavertz will read  
from the Megillah  
(an abridged version)

**Wednesday**  
**16th March @ 6pm**



the Mahamad against noisemaking during the Megillah reading. The city marshal was informed and constables appeared in the synagogue and removed the offenders. We see that this was no joking matter! But we also see how a seemingly innocent custom can lead to a split within a community, turning fun into violence.

The customs associated with Purim should be there to enhance the joy and fun of the festivities. They should be a vehicle for expressing our emotions of relief that, **while many may try to kill us, we are still here.** Maybe for one day a year, we can let go of our attachment to decorum and we can make a real racket.

The wonderful story about Rabbah and Rabbi Zera in the Babylonian Talmud Megillah ( 7b -see below) warns about the commandment to get drunk on Purim.

*( The above was written by then Student Rabbi Lea Mühlstein, Leo Beck College).*

The Megillah scroll concludes with Mordecai's instruction to the entire Jewish people to celebrate these days as "yemei mishteh v'simchah, days of drinking and rejoicing" (Esther 9:22). "Rava said: It is one's duty levasumei, to make oneself fragrant [with wine] on Purim until one cannot tell the difference between 'arur Haman' (cursed be Haman) and 'barukh Mordekhai' (blessed be Mordecai)" (Babylonian Talmud, Megillah 7b).

The tradition to eat hamantaschen on Purim appears to have begun in Europe. The name is derived from two German words: mohn (poppy seed) and taschen (pockets). Mohntaschen, or "poppy seed pockets," were a popular German pastry dating from medieval times. Around the late 1500s, German Jews dubbed them Hamantaschen, or "Haman's pockets."



So there you have it. Noise, rejoicing, booze, and hamantaschen.

No wonder we attend Purim in fancy dress!

*( Article research by Selwyn Goldthorpe)*



## **The Synagogue has a new microphone system**

**for service leaders.** This links into our ceiling speakers and enables those at the back to hear clearly without the service leader having to raise their voices with the potential risk of Covid aerosol. We continue to advocate lateral flow testing prior to services. The wearing of masks is advised whenever possible, as is social distancing . **Keep Safe**



**To join the Synagogue group please contact the Office or Executive**



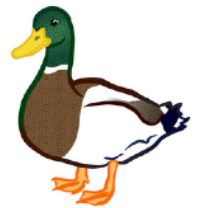
**LET'S GET SOCIAL!**

# **Sunday 20th March @ 3pm Meet at the Southport Pier Carousel**



Come and swan around the Southport Marine Lake with us for a walk, an opportunity for some company with your Jewish (and non-Jewish) friends.

Don't duck out, be there !



**We plan to have a meal out after the walk - you can always join us for the meal, at about 5pm, if you prefer not to walk (this will be weather permitting).**

**Bistro Bar Med - Southport's 5 star Hidden Gem, is the likely venue for a meal, Coronation Walk, Southport, though we would appreciate numbers in advance for booking, via WhatsApp or the shul office, thanks.**



LET'S GET SOCIAL!

Sunday 16 January, a Tu Bishvat social – a walk in the Botanic Gardens, Bankfield Lane, Churchtown, Southport.



We were blessed with good weather. Although rather busy with families out for the day, there was still an opportunity to walk around the lakes and see plenty of bird life. I had forgotten how much bird life from around the world the aviaries contain (sadly in some ways for the birds). This brought back some happy memories of our travels and being privileged to see the birds in their natural surroundings. So with a number of us with cameras, here was an opportunity ...



Photo of macaw : Neil Chamberlain



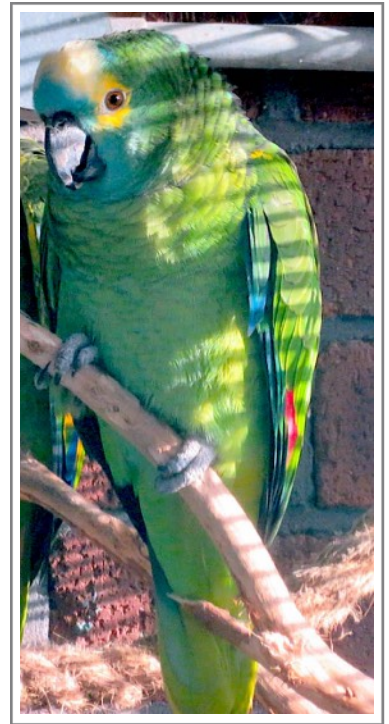
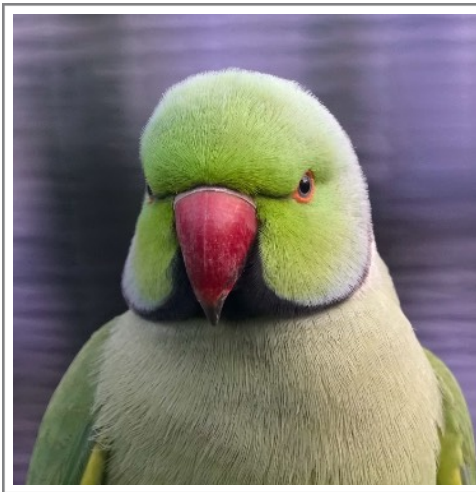
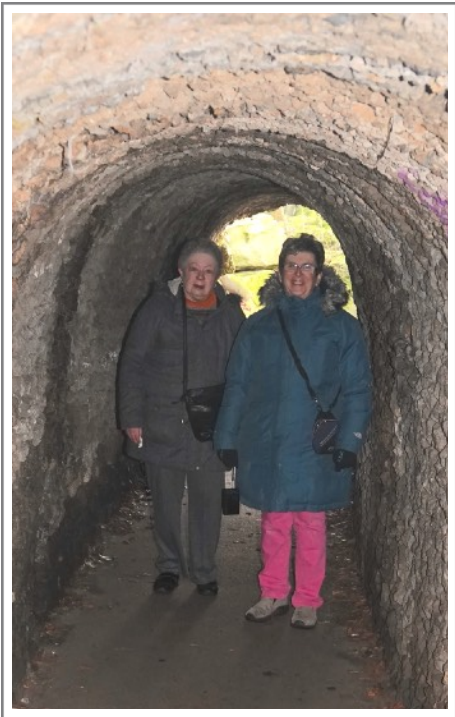


Photo by Neil Chamberlain



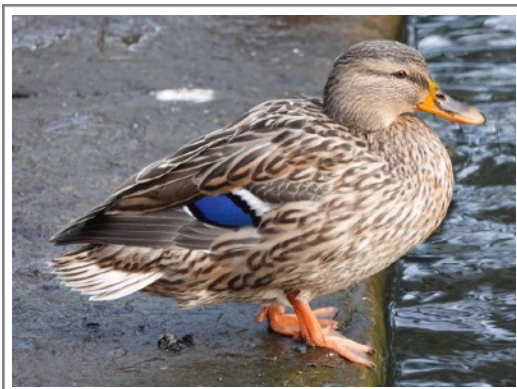
We were able to enjoy a leisurely stroll around the lakes and pathways with their tunnels.

In good company, there was no shortage of conversation. We did eventually gravitate to the cafe ( inside and outside depending on how you viewed the Covid situation) to

continue the chatting.



Photo by Neil Chamberlain



It was a very enjoyable January Sunday. A shul social, I am pleased we did not duck out from!

*(Article and other photos by Selwyn Goldthorpe)*



It was great to see so many families out and about in the Botanic Gardens. Teaching children about wildlife, whether feeding the ducks or appreciating the flowers. Does this ensure that the next generation will take more care of the world than previous generations?

Tu B'Shevat is a time of reflection. We have seen at first hand the deforestation that is taking place in the Amazon region. You can fly over the rain forest and see many square miles of plantations for palm oil, or simple

deforestation for cattle grazing. In Brazil, there is so much meat eating, and so much destruction of the rain forest. Rain forests cover 2% of the world's land, yet contain 50% of our terrestrial animals. Already, we find that some species only exist in our zoos. More than 60% of anticancer drugs originate from natural sources, including rainforest plants, according to research published in the International Journal of Oncology. After coming back from Brazil we decided to become vegetarian. 26% of the land mass of the world is devoted to meat production. Livestock production is responsible for 18% of the world's greenhouse gasses. There is no excuse for eating more meat, especially as red meat is known to be carcinogenic.

( <https://inhabitat.com/infographic-the-true-environmental-cost-of-eating-meat/>).

*(from Selwyn Goldthorpe)*



## Tu B'Shevat 5782, by Susan Fox

Tu B' Shevat was dubbed by Talmudic Rabbis as a rosh hashonah (a new year) for trees, because it began the tithing cycle, in which the Israelites had to tithe their crops either to the poorest people in their local communities or to the Temple in Jerusalem, depending on the year. It was reimaged by Medieval Kabbalists in the 17th Century as a celebration of creation and thanksgiving to God for the Earth's bounty, with a "seder" consisting of fruits, nuts and four cups of grape juice, consumed in a certain order. Jewish Communities plant trees, shrubs and plants (preferably perennial) or provide money to enable others to plant these. The Torah compares human beings to trees because like humans, trees have the power to grow and bear fruit. Talmudic interpreter, Rashi, of the Medieval era said "As humans have children, so trees bear fruit, so when a human is hurt, cries of pain are heard throughout the world, so when a tree is chopped down, its cries are heard throughout the world". I regard Tu B'Shevat as a precursor to Earth Day and it one of my favourite festivals.



For our part as a community, **it was agreed at a council meeting that the synagogue would donate three trees, firstly to Tree Aid, an organisation which works with people in several countries of Africa in the Sahel region, in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali and Niger, to tackle the effects of the Climate Crisis by growing trees and cultivating and protecting land to try to stem increasing desertification of these countries in order to tackle the adverse effects of Climate Change.** Land cultivation and tree planting projects are led by local people who are best placed to ensure that trees thrive so that there is food for the community, their animals and Wildlife species. The projects also offer long term change, improving the natural environment and soil fertility.

The trees that were chosen were namely :-

ACACIA, a tree of ancient lineage, its durable and strong wood and gum was used in the construction of the Miskan (the portable sanctuary containing the Ark, which was eventually placed in the first Temple). Acacia gum is a tremendous economic resource for poor populations of the Sahel, being a great asset for local communities and farming. The trees nourish the soil by fixing nitrogen and restoring fertility and give shade and shelter to people and animals. Acacias also protect local Biodiversity, providing a habitat for Wildlife Species, providing a permanent grass carpet and storing water in the roots for long periods.

BAOBAB, a majestic tree of ancient lineage, an icon of the African continent and the basis of many traditional remedies. It is a positive symbol of life in landscapes where little else can thrive. It is a succulent which in the rainy season it stores water in its vast trunk, enabling it to produce a highly nutritious fruit in the dry season, thus it has become known as 'The Tree of Life'. Baobab trees provide food, shelter and water for people and animals, which is why many communities have made their homes near Baobab trees. Its striking silhouette at Sunset is a familiar site to anyone who has spent time in rural Africa.

MORINGA, known as 'Mother's Milk', combatting malnutrition in poor regions like the Sahel. It produces delicate, feathery leaves and long three-sided pods, hanging down in clusters. It has healing properties and its young leaves, pods and stalks are eaten as vegetables. Moringa flowers are used to make tea, mature seeds can be roasted and eaten as nuts. The seed powder has anti-bacterial properties and is highly effective as a water purifier.

Secondly, **a donation of one tree was made to the Jewish National Fund (JNF – UK)** for the purpose of improving urban environments, making them healthier and more pleasant. They provide much needed shade and shelter, particularly in arid desert towns where the sun can be punishingly hot for citizens of all ages. Trees also help remove carbon dioxide, dust and other gaseous toxins from the air in built up areas. Public gardens, school playgrounds and streets used by pedestrians all need planting with established, mature trees in order to achieve immediate benefits. In addition to considerable research going into which varieties of trees work best in particular areas, concrete pavements have to be dug up, irrigation pipes run to the correct spot, to ensure that the trees can thrive. The reward for this for local people living in Israel's poorest communities in the towns of the Negev, is the promise of decades of physical and psychological health benefits as they will breathe better in a healthier urban environment. Overall, the tree planting enriches the quality of life of local communities as trees produce oxygen; help purify the air; keep the environment cool; give a helping hand to Wildlife Species as well as being good for mental health and well being.



LET'S GET SOCIAL!

# Bowled over

- on Sunday 20th February

To those of us that managed to brave the storms, the ten pin bowling was great fun, a close outcome had us on pins, and ended up with an honourable draw at 99 points each between Neil and Selwyn, of course we were both gutted....



Sometimes you just have to accept that you have been side lined. More than one of our balls ended up in the lane gutter!

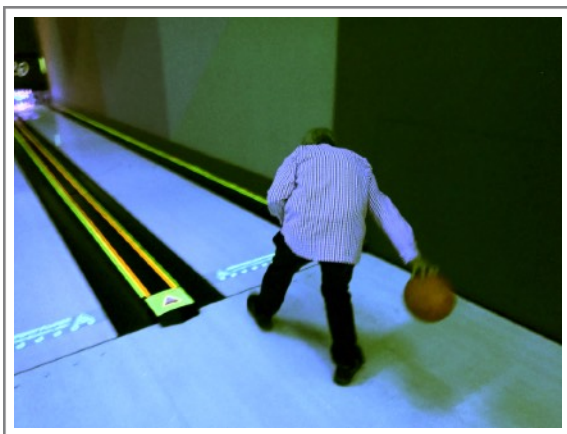


Matt was able to demonstrate his skill as a USA national, ten pin bowling being somewhat of a pas-time at the other side of the pond.



*Left: Neil Chamberlain  
Right: Matt Suher*

Sometimes style takes place over substance, or was it vice versa? After all, did not the British invent the bouncing bomb of dam-busters fame?



*Right, Gillian Goldthorpe, to finish off this 'tail.'*



The outcome of the afternoon ? This turned out to be rather fishy as we all retired to Roberto's (next door) for Italian food.



**Holocaust Memorial Service, Christ Church, Lord Street, Southport. Sunday 30th January 2022**

# **‘One Day’**

*Article from Selwyn Goldthorpe*

Although this year’s service was taking place under strict Covid regulations, there was still plenty of Jewish people present.

The theme for this year’s Holocaust Memorial Service was ‘One Day’.

**Holocaust Memorial Day is One Day that we put aside to come together to remember, to learn about the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and the genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, in the hope that there may be One Day in the future with no genocide.**

For many involved in genocide, it is One Day in their lives that can never be forgotten. The last time life was ‘normal’, the last time they saw their home, the last day they saw their family.

For many in the death camps, it was just to keep going for that day. Each and every day was a huge struggle, with no end in sight and no glimmer of hope that the next day would be any better. For those who suffered for days, weeks, months, years focussing on just One Day is a starting point, a way in for us to learn more about what happened during the Holocaust and the genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

On 9 December 1948 The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, defined genocide as ‘any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- killing members of the group
- causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group
- deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part
- imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group
- forcibly transferring children of the group to another group



Holocaust Memorial Day was created in 2000 when 46 governments signed the Stockholm Declaration. The United Nations marks 27th January as an annual International Day of Commemoration to remember the victims of the Holocaust.



We were honoured to have present at the service the Mayor of Sefton ( photo on the left) , Cllr Clare Louise Carragher, who placed a Magen David on behalf of the people of Sefton. The High Sheriff of Merseyside , Mr Nigel Lancelet recited the Exhortation ( ‘They shall grow not old...’). Pauline Collier, Holocaust Fellow of the Imperial War Museum talked about how special days in our lives are indeed remembered.

Rabbi Perez ( photo below) from Manchester Orthodox community read the El Male Rachamin - the memorial prayer for victims of the Holocaust.



A UNISON representative told us how the trade union people were some of the first to be targeted by Hitler’s Nazis, and what an important role they still have in ensuring lack of prejudice. The Rev. McGanity, of Christ Church, led the

congregation in non denominational prayer. We were pleased to have Iman Soyful Allan ( photo on the right) with us to read a special prayer written by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Chief Rabbi and the Senior Imam Qari Asim, “Help us to stand together with those who are suffering. Love will prevail over hate and good will triumph over evil”. Central Sefton’s MP, Bill Esterson, told us how meaningful this day





MP, Bill Esterson

was to him, as some of his family were also victims of the Holocaust.

Rabbi Perez led us in the Kaddish.

The Memorial Candle was lit by the Chief Executive of Sefton Dwayne Johnson, and we were all able to individually place our wooden Stars of David, or crosses, in memory of those that have died as a result of genocide.

Thanks to Michael Braham DL, from Southport Hebrew Congregation for helping with the organisation and presentation of the service.



Some of our Synagogue members in attendance adding their Star of David in remembrance of those murdered.



**We remember the darkest period of European history. We must never forget the Nazis' systematic murder of 6 million Jewish people, as well as the imprisonment and murder of disabled people, Roma people, LGBTQ+ people, and others.**



**The Civic Mayor of South Ribble, Councillor Jane Lamb, kindly invited a member of our synagogue to recite prayers at a full Council meeting of South Ribble Borough Council, on the eve of Holocaust Memorial Day on 26.02. Susan Fox, who lives in the Borough Council area, volunteered to help. Here is her account ...**



I began with the Shehecheyanu blessing in Hebrew and English. It is said to express gratitude to God for special occasions or for new and unusual experiences. Following that, I read a slightly amended version of the poignant prayer on page 403 of the Siddur for National Holocaust Memorial Day, to include and commemorate other victims of the Nazis as well the Jewish Communities of occupied Europe, namely people with learning difficulties and physical disabilities; Roma and Sinti Gypsy Communities; Gay and Lesbian people; Jehovah's Witnesses and other religious dissenters; political opponents of the Nazis at the time, Socialists and Communists. I also mentioned the sad fact that since WW2, genocides of innocent people have taken place in Cambodia, Darfur in the Sudan, Bosnia and Rwanda, so it is clear that humanity has learned little of the value of human life since the Holocaust.

To conclude the prayers, I read a poem written by Hungarian playwright and poet, Hannah Szenes (pronounced Senesh in English) who was one of 37 Jewish women recruited by the British government in then Mandate Palestine into the Special Operations Executive (SOE) to be parachuted into the former Yugoslavia to assist Yugoslav partisans and ultimately in the rescue of Hungarian Jews about to be deported to Auschwitz. At the last minute, it was decided to cancel the mission as it was deemed too dangerous. Hannah and her companions were arrested trying to escape at the border, where her radio transmitter was discovered. She was brutally tortured during several interrogations, revealing nothing but her name. This brave and courageous woman, eventually executed, wrote the following heartfelt four line poem "A Walk to Caesarea" several years before her recruitment into the SOE. I read it line by line in Hebrew and English "Eli, Eli" - O God, my God, "Ha - chol v ha - yam" - I pray that these things never end; "Rishrush shel ha - mayim" - The sand and the sea; "B'rak ha shamayim" - The crash of the Heavens"; "T' Fillat ha - Adam" - Each human prayer.

**Our thanks to Susan for helping.**



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0013vf3/storyville-final-account>

Available on BBC i Player.

A portrait of the last living generation of everyday people to participate in the Third Reich. Men and women ranging from former SS officers to children who grew up in Hitler's Germany speak for the first time about their memories and perceptions of some of the greatest crimes in human history.



After 1934, SS officers commanded all concentration camps in Germany and in German-occupied territory. Units known as SS Death's-Head Units (SS-Totenkopfverbände) guarded and administered the camps. Although the Security Police (Gestapo and Kripo) had exclusive authority to incarcerate, release, and “officially” order the execution of prisoners, the daily life of prisoners lay in the brutal and merciless hands of the camp commandants and these SS Death's-Head Units, which were not part of the police forces; by 1944, there were approximately 30 main camps and hundreds of subcamps located throughout the Greater German Reich and German-occupied Europe.

The SS units alone were responsible for killing around two million prisoners—Jews, political prisoners, Roma (Gypsies), so-called asocials, recidivist convicts, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses and others—in their concentration camp system. Other institutions and professions collaborated with the SS to operate the camp system, eventually resulting in 6 million killings.

**This viewing is not for the faint hearted. It contains graphic images.** It raises some moral questions of when is a person a perpetrator of a crime?

**When do you take personal responsibility?  
Do you know what is right and wrong?**



**Rabbi Menachem Mendel Taub, who carried the scars and memory of the Holocaust; he was a victim of chemical burning experiments carried out on his skin by the notorious Joseph Mengele at Auschwitz.**

**Shelley Yavetz provides us with a reminder of this remarkable man..**

The Kaliver Rebbe, as Rabbi Menachem Menel Taub as affectionately known as, died in Jerusalem aged 95 on the 28th April 2019 was the last surviving head of a significant Hasidic dynasty to have come of age in pre-Holocaust Europe. After being subjected to barbaric pseudoscientific medical experiments in Auschwitz, he spent the rest of his life affirming his faith in God and recalling the memory of those who were slaughtered in the Shoah. He became the personification of Holocaust remembrance.

Menachem Mendel Taub was born on September 9th 1923 in Margareten in Transylvania, the seventh Tzaddik (wise man) in direct paternal line from Rebbe Isaac Taub, the founder of Kaliver Hasidism and the first Hasidic grouping in Hungary. He was orphaned before his bar mitzvah and studied under Rabbi Mordechai Brisk in Toshnad, the largest Yeshiva in Hungary.

Until 1944 Hungarian Jewry was the last major European Jewish community to have been destroyed by the Nazis; but between May and July in the largest deportation operation of the Holocaust more than 437,000 Hungarian Jews were transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, with the concurrence of the authorities in Budapest. It was all the words because the outcome of the war was already known by all, but massive resources or non the less diverted to the task.

Churchill was moved enough to write about the demise of Hungarian Jewry to Anthony Eden shortly after D-Day- and included a reference and his final volume of war memoirs: "There is no doubt that this (persecution of Jews in Hungary and their expulsion from enemy territory ) is probably the greatest and most horrible crime ever committed in the whole history of the world, and it has been done by scientific machinery by nominally civilised men in the name of a great state and one of the leading races of Europe. "

After a journey in cattle trucks where passengers through the remaining valuables through any crevice available to stop them falling into the hands of the Nazis the 20-year-old Taub arrived in the platform at Auschwitz.

The prone bodies of those who had killed themselves touching the electrified barbed wire fence was shocking enough; but what struck him even more was the mysterious sight of other men reaching through the wire to reach a loose leaf of paper just beyond the perimeter. It turned out that this was the key page of the prayer book for the

forthcoming Pentecostal festival containing the words of the famous liturgical poem Akadmus.

The sight of men risking their lives to obtain a single page of praise to God inspired Taub through his ordeal.

According to some accounts, he was “selected” by Dr Joseph Mengele (also known as the Angel of Death) upon arrival at Auschwitz for chemical “experiments”. In consequence, he was unable to grow a full beard and could not have his own children.

Four of his seven siblings perished, including a brother who was also the victim of genetic experimentation.

Taub was later transferred to another camp in Warsaw to clear away the ruins of the ghetto; there, he was selected with a group of three other men to be thrown alive into a furnace. Facing death, he bargained with his maker: “What will my last Shema Yisrael on this world add to you? Master of the world give me life and save me and I will bring your Shema Yisrael to so many.”

At that moment another group of SS officers turned up, demanding extra slave labour for the German firm, Troppen. Taub suggested making a run for it.

"They will shoot us if we run", said one of his companions.

"And if we don't run, will it be any better for us?"

They somehow ran out of sight and Taub lived to be transferred to other camps including Flinsburg and Bergen-Belsen where he was eventually liberated.

The recitation of an additional Shema at the end of each of the three daily services became for him the unique means of remedying the memory of the Holocaust (in the Jewish liturgy it is usually done twice daily). Taub fulfilled his pledge to God to the end of his days.

Taub had been engaged in 1943 to Hannah Sarah Schapiro, the daughter of the Rabbi of Kechnia and Visheva (also in Transylvania) who had fled to Sweden; she had assumed that he was dead. But in his last will and testament, seen by the Daily Telegraph, he recalled that she had experienced a vision of the profit Elijah who informed her that Taub was still alive. They were reunited in Sweden and emigrated to Cleveland Ohio, adopting two daughters.

Two of the Rabbi's sisters also survived the war, and one is still alive. In 2012 he married his second wife Sheindel Malnik.

Taub became the Rebbe of Kaliv in 1947 and set up the Kliver Yeshiva of Cleveland, and later in Besonhurst Brooklyn, he established a Beis Yaakov school for Orthodox girls. In 1980, he moved to Israel, First to Rishon Le Tzion where he founded the Centre for Kaliver Hasidim; then to Bnei Berak, and finally in 2002, to Jerusalem. In 2018, the Kaliver Reebe blessed President Trump for moving the US Embassy to the Holy City advising him to take no notice of the negative things that people were saying about him.

Kaliv was by no means the largest Hasidic grouping, but such was the Rebbe's Authority that his influence extended far beyond his court .

The memory of those killed in the Holocaust remained at the heart of the Rebbe's mission; as the owner of one of the most comprehensive collections of photographs of pre-Holocaust Jewish communities, he wanted to set up another Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem, as well as Yad Vashem, that would accord greater recognition to the religious as well as the racial dimensions of the Nazi antisemitism . His oeuvre included a 13 volume work on the Torah and Jewish Holy Days as well as the Encyclopedia of the Holocaust.



In 2002 the themes of the Encyclopaedia of the Holocaust came to the attention of a wider English-speaking audience, with the publication of *Shema Yisrael: Testimonies Courage and Self-Sacrifice 1939 to 1945*. This volume dedicated to the memory of another remarkable Hungarian survivor of the Holocaust, Josef Weiss of nearby Fehergyamat ( who lost his entire family) contains 561st hand accounts of the Rabbis and other Jews who had been killed – and featured a lengthy introduction by the Kaliver Rebbe explaining his experiences to a new generation.

In his later years he was a frequent visitor to St Moritz when he came at the same time as other Holocaust survivors to recuperate. There, he cut a dashing figure on summer hikes in his long golden robes and his long white stockings characteristic of certain Hasidic groups.

On the Friday night of the Sabbath, he always danced for joy for his deliverance from the Nazis: later on the day of rest, he would chant old east European melodies seemingly moving in and out of consciousness in a trance like reverie. In 2014 he returned to Budapest for the 70th anniversary of the Holocaust in Hungary. He broke down crying recalling how he had witnessed children being thrown live into furnaces: he believed that tears were the best guarantee of prayers being received in heaven, as at the critical Ne'ilah service late in the day of Yom Kippur where he believed the drops would fall into a divine container and transform divine judgement.

*This article is from an obituary from the Daily Telegraph from 2019 sent to the editors by Shelley Yavetz as a reminder of a remarkable Rabbi whose faith overcame his devastating war experience.*



This year 5782 is a leap year in the Hebrew calendar. It means we have the extra month of Adar Aleph to ensure the harvest festivals fall at the correct times. Today, as we consider the impact of the global pandemic, along with so many other worrying issues, positive thoughts towards preparations for Purim are certainly a welcome relief. As the Talmud says, “When Adar arrives, joy increases!” To hear about the joys and occupational hazards of being a Rabbi you can listen to *Rabbiting On* <https://www.reformjudaism.org.uk/podcasts/rabbiting-on/>

However, Adar Aleph also grants us the gift of time, allowing us to consider, as is the tradition of Purim, how we can help and assist those of us in need as we see ongoing reports about the deteriorating well-being and health of vulnerable people and face the stark reality of rising food and fuel costs.

RSY-Netzer organised a wonderfully successful food bank drive across all of our synagogues for our recent Mitzvah Day. We will continue to support and encourage these initiatives to keep the wolf from the door as Bubbeh used to say. And most importantly none of us should be afraid to ask for help. ‘Kol aravim zeh v’zeh.’ We are all here to help each other.

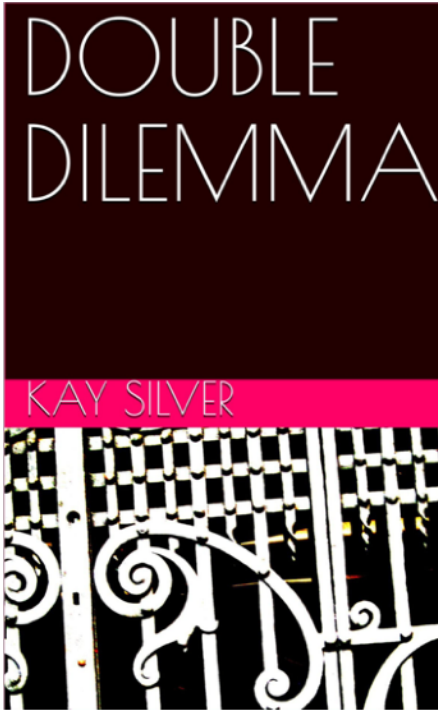
So, let’s enjoy our ‘secret’ month in the knowledge that we will always find ways to support each other and our communities from whatever obstacles may lie ahead.

P.S. financial assistance is available for all our RSY-Netzer events. The early bird discount

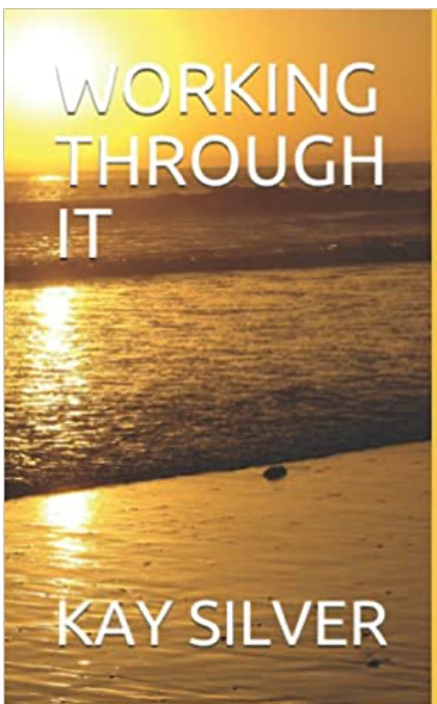
for Shemesh ends on 13th Feb you can find more information here.



## Book Review



...and so there is...



ISBN-13:979-8-52392-673-0

Published 21 June 2021

Price on Amazon Kindle

£3.99

Double Dilemma ( as reviewed in the last edition of L'Chayim) is the first novel by Kay Silver; A Concentration Camp Survivor with a secret, a life built on lies....

This story tugs at the emotions as we are brought into the world of 'life' in a concentration camp, as seen from a young, jewish girl.

The terrible happenings, what she had to do to survive, and the dark secrets that she has kept hidden from everyone, including her son, who is in line to be the Chief Rabbi.

The secret is revealed and life becomes more complicated for the family.... I can understand one person's review stating, "I finished the book in tears and was so sorry that it had ended. I hope there will be a sequel".

This sequel follows the life story of Sam, the person who in the first book is in line to be Chief Rabbi. The revelation that there is a sister of the young jewish survivor from the Holocaust, takes us on another journey of a different nature. We learn of what she had to do to survive in the concentration camp, her journey to Israel, via Cyprus, and how she eventually reveals her dark secret that has prevented her from speaking for 40 years.

Read together, these novels provide some insight as to the founding of Israel, and how its character has been forged in the Holocaust, the effect on those that survived, and their terrible memories.

'Working Through It' is a very jewish book, exploring religious dilemmas best appreciated from a jewish background.

It raises issues about orthodox and Reform Judaism, and conversion to Judaism.

Both books are simply written with fast moving stories so that you will find difficulty in putting the books down. They pull at our jewish emotions. People can be moved to tears.



Many people read the newspaper religiously every day

# Community News

**Pinfold Primary Forest School visit to the Synagogue 12th January**

**“We had a fantastic time!”**

said the school head teacher.



Lovely school to have around. All 30+ children were well behaved, and had some excellent questions to ask us! We had arranged a presentation using our data projector to enable us to make the most of the time available and to show a short video of a Jewish wedding (our son and daughter-in-law's) as the school had a marriage project in mind. First time I've been called a Rabbi!

*(Gillian and Selwyn Goldthorpe)*





Churches and faith groups across Southport are finding different ways to reflect people's concern and demonstrate their support for the beleaguered Ukrainian people. This has added importance as Southport has a large East European population from countries formerly behind the "iron curtain"

There will be a Vigil for Peace this Saturday at St Maries, Seabank Rd 1-3 p.m where people may light a candle for peace and reflect, but also **in the town centre adjacent to the war memorial there will be a stall for every citizen -young and old- to express Southport's solidarity with the Ukrainian and all sufferers under tyranny and to help convey that support to the Ukraine. The stall will be in operation between 11 and 1.00 on Saturday.**

Russia has invaded Ukraine on the pretext that there are neo-Nazi groups influencing the Ukrainian people's desire to be democratic and free from being a Russian puppet state.

The idea that Ukraine is being taken over by neo-Nazis is incongruous when the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Oleksandrovych Zelenskyy **was born to Jewish** parents on 25 January 1978 in Kryvyi Rih, then in the Ukrainian. His father, Oleksandr Zelenskyy, is a professor and head of Department of Cybernetics and Computing Hardware at the Kryvyi Rih Institute of Economics; his mother, Rymma Zelenska, used to work as an engineer. His grandfather, Semyon (Simon) Ivanovych Zelenskyy, served in the Red Army (in the 57th Guards Motor Rifle Division)[during World War II; **Semyon's father and three brothers were killed in the Holocaust.** He attended the memorial service to the 34000 Jews that were killed at Babyn Yad by the Nazis.

( see <https://newlinesmag.com/essays/ukraine-embraces-its-jewish-minority-and-reckons-with-its-traumatic-history/>)

Steven Pifer, a former US ambassador to Ukraine, also took aim at Putin's claims of 'de-Nazification', tweeting: "In his attempt to justify the unjustifiable, Russia's assault on Ukraine, Putin referred to a fictional genocide and set goal of 'denazification of Ukraine", a country that overwhelmingly elected a Jewish president."



**“A Priest, a Rabbit and a Minister walk into a bar. The bartender asks the Rabbit: ‘what will you have?’ The rabbit replied: ‘I dunno, I’m only here because of autocorrect’ ” .**



A man tells a Rabbi: "I have a strong desire to live to eternity. What am I supposed to do?"  
"Get married," replies the Rabbi.  
"It's that simple? Would that allow me to live forever?"  
"No, but the desire will disappear."

Yankele: "Look at that bunch of cows!"  
Moshele: "Not bunch, herd!"  
Yankele: "Herd what?"  
Moshele: "Of cows."  
Yankele: "Heard of cows? Of course I've heard of cows!!"



*From Lisa Sachs.*

It's winter in Russia and the people are hungry. The town council announces that meat will be arriving so everyone gets in line to wait for the meat. After an hour of waiting in the snow and the freezing cold, the town council announces that there will be less meat coming than expected, all Jews go home. So, all the Jews leave the line. Another hour goes by and, again, the town council announces there will be less than expected food arriving, all non-communists go home. All the non-communists leave the line. Another hour, and the town council announces there will be no food arriving, everybody goes home. As one man trudges home through the snow, he turns to his friend and says "you see, the Jews always get to go home first!"

A man is having a problem with his son and goes to see his rabbi. "I sent him to Hebrew School and gave him a very expensive Bar Mitzvah," says the man, "and now he tells me he's decided to be a Christian! Rabbi, where did I go wrong?" "Funny you should come to me," said the Rabbi. "I also brought my boy up in the faith and gave him a fancy Bar Mitzvah. Then one day he, too, tells me he's decided to become a Christian." "So what did you do?" asked the man. "I turned to God for the answer" replied the Rabbi. "And what did he say?" pressed the man. "God said, 'Funny you should come to me...'"



# A TASTE OF TALMUD

## Study Group

### LAW AND LORE

Come and discover what the Talmud has to say about the Jewish holidays.

**5th December – Hannukah and Rosh Chodesh**

**16th Jan 22 – Erev Tu B’shvat**

**13th March - Pre-Purim**

**3rd April Rosh Chodesh Nissan / pre -Pesach**

**1st May Omer/ Rosh Chodesh and Pre-Yom**

**Haazmaut**

**29th May Yom Yerusalaim/ Pre- Shavuot**

**17th July - Tammuz Tisha B’Av**



All meetings are planned to be by Zoom at 5 pm.

To register and get the Zoom link for each meeting email [office@menorah.org.uk](mailto:office@menorah.org.uk)

**SESSIONS LED BY  
RAV REUVEN SILVERMAN**



**Have your say** the editors welcome letters and articles, though not of a political nature, and reserve the right to edit. Please send to the Office or [gillygold@yahoo.com](mailto:gillygold@yahoo.com)





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Yahrzeit candles are available for purchase from the Synagogue. Memorial plaques are still available for the **Tree of Life** in the Synagogue.

Please discuss your needs with the Synagogue's Administrator.

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## March

Maurice Mair - Father of Andrea Cook  
Rebecca Meek - Mother of Valerie Mercer

## April

Lily Hirshman - Mother of Jon Hirshman  
Tony Stoller - Father of David Stoller  
Marie Zachariah - Mother of Marcel Zachariah  
Morris Desser - Father of Julian Desser  
Miriam Desser - Mother of Julian Desser  
David Victor, Father of Louise Davies  
Rose Windham, Mother of Paul Windham  
Stephen Pavion, Husband of Lynne Pavion  
Albert Cohen, Father of Sue Greenberg

## WE STAND ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

Without the foresight of those that have gone before us we would not have a Synagogue. We owe it to these wonderful people to keep the Synagogue alive for the next generation.

Please consider making a **LEGACY** in your will to the Synagogue ( a registered Charity ).  
S&DRS can supply you with details of a number of local solicitors who are willing to offer advice.

## MAY THEIR MEMORY BE A BLESSING





# IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!

**MAZELTOV AND ALL OUR BEST WISHES**

## **March**

Fortune Chamberlain  
Faith Choueke  
Beryl Cubells  
Anne Desser  
Irving Freedman  
Estelle Mannheim  
David Stoller

## **April**

Penny Bernstein  
Gertrude Knight  
Matt Suher  
Trudy Turnbull  
Bobby Windham  
Jonathan Winn  
Hannah Windham

# The Southport Rest Home

Choice of long or short stays,  
permanent residency

Situated at 81 Albert Road, Southport PR9 9LN



- 24 hour support
- Senior citizens
- Jewish ethos
- Flats and rooms

## ‘The Home’ from home

**24 hour care on site**

**Lift, wheel chair access**

**Superb Kosher food on site**

**Rooms at reasonable rates**

**Large conservatory overlooking park**

**Synagogue on site.**



**“Good”**

**Enquiries telephone :01704 531975**  
**office@sjah.freeseve.co.uk**

The Home is a registered charity Number 1123524 and a Registered Company Number 06368309



## FEELING ALONE? LACKING YOUR SYNAGOGUE?



[www.zoom.us/j/407196863](https://www.zoom.us/j/407196863)

[www.reformjudaism.org.uk/](https://www.reformjudaism.org.uk/)

RJ:TV is Reform Judaism's interactive broadcasting platform for these challenging times. Each day they will provide a range of interactive programming that you are invited to join – from daily prayer services and adult learning sessions to fun for all ages and casual catch-ups. We can still come together virtually to share in learning and meaningful interaction.

Click here : <https://www.reformjudaism.org.uk/>

## Local Support for mental health and well being

0151 228 2300 [talkliverpool.nhs.uk](https://talkliverpool.nhs.uk)

0300 3032708 [talking natters-sefton](https://talkingnatters-sefton.org.uk)

Text HEAL 85258. for text message support.

Adult mental health support

0800 145 6570

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**'A trouble shared is a trouble halved'**

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**Emergency Dental Treatment 0161476 9651 for Sefton Residents**

**03001234 010 for West Lancs**

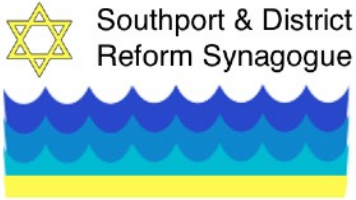
**Sefton Council Social Care**

**9am-5pm 0151 934 4600**

**Emergency Christmas automated phone service 0345 140 0845**

**NHS Direct for Advice phone 111**

**Our Synagogue has a new digital phone system which will, in the event of an urgent call, divert you to whoever is available to help.**



## The following kind people have been elected to serve you on the Council of Southport & District Reform Synagogue

Chairman	Dr Selwyn Goldthorpe
Vice Chair	Gillian Goldthorpe
Honorary Secretary	Fortune Chamberlain
Honorary Treasurer	Tony Kletz
Wardens	Joan Brooke, Susan Fox, Gillian Goldthorpe

### Other members of the Synagogue's Council :

Joan Brooke	Faith Choueke
Neil Chamberlain	Harry Kessler
Anne Kletz	Matt Suher

### Trustees : Phil Levine and Marcel Zachariah

*'Let us come together in God's name and prepare to do God's will'*

from Prayer for Committee Meetings, p 366 Siddur, Forms of Prayer 2008



Southport Reform & District Synagogue is a **registered charity, number 227576**.  
The Synagogue is run predominantly by volunteers, giving hundreds of hours of their time in a year,,  
for the Reform Jewish Community and others.

Please be advised that our complaints procedure is available from the Synagogue office.

As a synagogue member should you not wish to receive the membership copy of L'Chayim and wish to unsubscribe, please e-mail the Synagogue office or send a message via the web site to the Synagogue