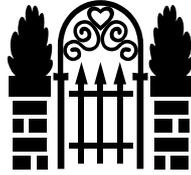


קייק שערי שלוח

GATES OF TRANQUILITY



M I G D A L

מגדל

The Newsletter of

**Blackpool Reform
Jewish Congregation**

Charity number 1148088

A Constituent of the
Movement for Reform Judaism

November 2020/Kislev 5781

Dates for your Diary

Except where otherwise indicated, the dates refer to the first calendar day of the various Festivals. Festivals begin the evening before.

Chanukah	Friday	11 December 2020
Purim	Friday	26 February 2021
Pesach	Sunday	28 March 2021
Shavuot	Monday	17 May 2021
Erev Rosh HaShana	Monday	6 September 2021
Rosh HaShana	Tuesday	7 September 2021
Kol Nidre	Wednesday	15 September 2021
Yom Kippur	Thursday	16 September 2021
Succot	Tuesday	21 September 2021
Simchat Torah	Tuesday	28 September 2021

Holocaust Memorial Day 27 January 2021

While at the time of writing no decisions have been made as to how the 2021 Holocaust Memorial Day will be commemorated, due to Covid 19, there may be an event on Zoom. In any case for the moment you might like to note the day, which is 27 January.

Martin Block, Solicitor, "For Your Legal Needs"

As my commitment to the local community, I will donate 10% of my legal fees for work introduced through readers of Migdal. For any enquiry, please email me on martin.block@roebuckslaw.co.uk or phone on 07715053015.

Contributions to Migdal

The Editor welcomes members and readers submitting information for and contributions to Migdal, whether they are letters or items for including in our Mazel Tov section, other news, articles or jokes. Please do let me have these. My contact information is on page 1.

MIGDAL

November 2020/Kislev 5781



Contents

Page

2	From the Editor
3	The First Jewish President
5	Notes from the President
6	Jewish Connections – Louis Armstrong
7	Jewish Connections – Marcel Marceau
8	Kosher Kookery Korner
9	Insomnia!
10	Kol Nidre Appeal 5781
12	Cliff Top at the Beach – a poem
13	Ask the Rabbi
13	Letter to Dad from Harvard or Yale!
14	Famous on Jews and Israel
16	Ruth Bader Ginsburg
17	Sonny – a poem
17	A Memory of High Holy Days
18	The Message
19	One for the Birds!
20	Innocent Face & To Autumn - poems
20	Mazel Tov!
Back cover	Synagogue Information

The opinions expressed in MIGDAL are those of the contributors and do not necessarily imply endorsement by the Editor, the Executive or Council.

To contact the Editor, Gillian Cantor, you may phone her on 01253 724472, email her on alan.cantor@btinternet.com or write to her at the Synagogue. Readers' contributions or information, in whatever form, are most welcome and will be considered for publication. Anything for the next issue should reach the Editor by 16 January 2021.

Blackpool Reform Jewish Congregation, Charity number 1148088
Company registered in England and Wales, number 08091243
Registered office: The Synagogue, 40 Raikes Parade, Blackpool, FY1 4EX

From the Editor

While neither the autumn wind and rain nor the media news is at all cheering, it has been possible to put aside such concerns during the High Holiday and other Zoom services. Our brilliant lay readers and the Tax family choir, each member singing as beautifully as ever, accompanied by our organist, Brian Hurst, and, alongside visuals of our Synagogue and past congregation members – bringing back fond memories to those of us who have been members longest - all put together technically by Michael Tax, made uniquely inspirational and well thought through services. It has also been pleasing that from the early days of Lockdown there has been a weekly social Zoom, “Jewish at 2ish”.

While they appreciate there is no substitute for physical meetings, particularly in the light of the general age profile of members, MRJ, the Movement for Reform Judaism, to which our Congregation belongs, is advising against the general opening of synagogues and so it is of great benefit that the Zoom services and socials are working out so well. There has been reward to all those involved in preparing and taking these services in the good numbers of members, together with some ex-members, extended family and friends virtually “attending” regular services and especially the High Holy Day services. We thank all those concerned in organising and taking the services and above all in carrying out all the preparatory work and making sure they happened and in particular we thank the Tax family. We appreciate all that has been done.

Against this somewhat sombre background – and our thoughts are always with members who are not so well - there has been some good news. Firstly Avril Mannino’s youngest son, Louis, on 24 August, married his fiancée, Liz; and Avril’s had a new great-grandson, Mattio Nicol Mancini, born 2 October, weighing 8 lb 2 oz. Whilst on births, Leigh-Anne and Tommy Bunting, at the time of writing, are expecting their fourth child, with the birth expected any day. We offer all our best wishes for a straightforward birth. And there has been excellent news too for Gabrielle Howson in her appointment as the Joint District Youth Commissioner for scouting.

We would also mention that some months ago, Brian Hurst received a Covid-19 Hero Award from the Mayor of the Fylde. Since lockdown he had been live streaming funerals across Lancashire, originally free of charge, in a bid to help families who were unable to attend due to government restrictions. At the time of the award he had streamed 172 funerals.

I would like to say a very hearty Mazel Tov to Avril, Louis and Liz, Leigh-Anne and Tommy, Gabrielle and Brian.

At this point let me offer a warm welcome to Anne Fishman, who joined our Congregation this July. So far we have only seen her on Zoom but hopefully, despite her living at quite some distance, we may be able to meet in person in the not too distant future.

Once again my many thanks to all those who contribute in different ways to Migdal. It is all very much appreciated. And finally Chag Semeach for Chanukah and very best wishes for a happy and healthy 2021.

Gillian Cantor

The First Jewish President!

The year is 2028 and the United States has elected a woman, Susan Goldfarb, as the first Jewish president. She calls up her mother a few weeks after election day and says, 'So, Mom, I assume you will be coming to my inauguration?' 'I don't think so. It's a ten hour drive, your father isn't as young as he used to be and my arthritis is acting up again.'

'Don't worry about it Mom, I'll send Air Force One to pick you up and take you home and a limousine will pick you up at your door.' 'I don't know. Everybody will be so fancy-schmantzy, what on earth would I wear?'

'Oh Mom,' replies Susan, 'I'll make sure you have a wonderful gown, custom-made by the best designer in New York.' 'Honey,' Mom complains, 'you know I can't eat those rich foods that you and your friends like to eat.' The President-elect responds, 'Don't worry Mom. The entire affair is going to be handled by the best caterer in New York, kosher all the way. Mom, I really want you to come.'

So Mom reluctantly agrees and on 20 January 2029, Susan Goldfarb is being sworn in as President of the United States. In the front row sits the new President's mother, who leans over to a senator sitting next to her. 'You see that woman over there with her hand on the Torah, becoming President of the United States?'

The Senator whispers back, 'Yes I do.'

Mom says proudly, 'Her brother is a doctor.'

NEED A REST?

*Then come along &
take in the sea air at*

THE SOUTHPORT REST HOME

24hr professional person centered care

Comfortable en-suite rooms or self contained flat

Kosher kitchens, reasonable rates

Situated near Southport Centre
opposite the beautiful Hesketh Park

Enquiries

tel; 01704 531975

email; thesouthportresthome@hotmail.co.uk

Notes from the President

For my report this time I thought I'd talk to you about the High Holy Days (HHD) over Zoom.

So we started having meetings with MRJ in May about the possibility of doing the HHD services online. We spoke to Brian and he agreed to record the music for us to be able to record the singing too. And then for some reason the next few months seemed to disappear into a Black Hole and it was August. Michael had already done some of the work, downloading the appropriate programmes, so that he could play the music and record us all singing. We started off by asking Neville to meet us at Shul so that we could record his parts. We then arranged for Michael and Rachel and the girls to come to my house to do the rest of the singing. We started off by laughing, a lot, every time Michael hit the record button something would happen, one of us coughed or sneezed or the dogs rang the bells on the backdoor asking to go out or started barking at someone walking past the house. It was quite a day but we got the majority of the recording done in one day. Michael then went away to piece the bits together and top and bottom them so there wasn't any talking or giggling before or after the songs.

We also, found the correct parts in the scrolls and recorded images of those. And also dressed up and went into the Shul to record the Shofar blowing. Unbeknown to Rachel and me, Michael had also thought about the places in the service where we would need something a bit extra and created some slide shows to share. Photos old and new combined to remind of us some lovely memories. The day before Erev Rosh HaShanah arrived, I was kindly reminded I hadn't asked/told anyone which services we were all doing ... oops! That sorted we all logged on in our synagogue attire (although we weren't in Shul we'd decided to dress like we were) and the services began.

I can't believe how well we all did; they were fantastic and we had people from all over the country and also visitors from as far as Canada. Simchat Torah has now been and gone and the way everyone took part in all the services was quite amazing to me. If anyone had told me last year that this would have been the way we would do services, I would have laughed at them. That being said we've agreed that we will look into being able to stream the services in the future, once we are back in the Shul, to enable those who aren't able to get to the services to still be able to participate.

Thank you once again, to everyone who made the services so enjoyable.

Sara Tax

Jewish Connections

In past Migdal editions, as well as in this one, we have published obituaries of famous Jews. In this edition, and it is intended to do this in future editions too, we start to publish brief accounts of the Jewish connections of non-Jews and also those who are not well known to be Jewish, starting with Louis Armstrong and Marcel Marceau.

The Jews Who Adopted Louis Armstrong



International jazz legend. Radio and film star...raised by Jews? Yup. Well, sort of. Louis Armstrong, also known as "Ambassador Satch," was unofficially adopted by a family of Jewish immigrants from Lithuania who had a junk haulage business in Louisiana.

Born in New Orleans, Armstrong dropped out of school to earn money for his family in fifth grade, and started working as a delivery boy for the Karnofskys. They soon started feeding him hot meals each night, and even gave him a bed to sleep in. They fed him in other ways too: they lent him five dollars so he could buy his first cornet, and encouraged him to sing. Later in life, Armstrong would write about both the kindness of the Karnofskys and the discrimination they withstood as Jews.

But little Louis's difficulties continued. He got in trouble for being a "dangerous and suspicious character" and was eventually arrested and sent to the "Colored Waif's Home for Boys". This also wound up being a gift, though, since the home gave him great musical instruction. Thirteen-year-old Armstrong became the leader of the home's band and by the time he graduated he was booking gigs.

And for years to come, he would wear a Star of David around his neck to remind him of his benefactors' kindness.

Source: An article by Abby Sher in the Jewish Journal (jta.org)

Marcel Marceau Saved Hundreds of Jewish Children from Nazis

The Frenchman who would become the world's greatest pantomime artist helped smuggle Jewish children to safety in Switzerland during World War II. Marcel Marceau's extraordinary talent for pantomime entertained audiences around the world for over sixty years. It also saved hundreds of Jewish children during the Holocaust.

Born to a Jewish family in Strasbourg, France in 1923, young Marcel Mangel discovered Charlie Chaplin at age five and became an avid fan. He entertained his friends with Chaplin imitations, and dreamed of starring in silent movies. When Marcel was 16, the Nazis marched into France, and the Jews of Strasbourg, near the German border, had to flee for their lives. Marcel changed his last name to Marceau to avoid being identified as Jewish, and joined the French resistance movement.

Masquerading as a boy scout, Marcel evacuated a Jewish orphanage in eastern France. He told the children he was taking them on a vacation in the Alps, and led them to safety in Switzerland. Marcel made the perilous journey three times, saving hundreds of Jewish orphans. He was able to avoid detection by entertaining the children with silent pantomime. Documentary filmmaker Phillippe Mora, whose father fought alongside Marcel in the French resistance, said, "Marceau started miming to keep children quiet as they were escaping. It had nothing to do with show business. He was miming for his life."

Marcel's father perished at Auschwitz. Marcel later said, "The people who came back from the camps were never able to talk about it. My name is Mangel. I am Jewish. Perhaps that, unconsciously, contributed towards my choice of silence." While fighting with the French resistance, Marcel ran into a unit of German soldiers. Thinking fast, he mimicked the advance of a large French force, and the German soldiers retreated.

Much of the above was confirmed by Marceau himself in his acceptance speech when he was awarded the Raoul Wallenberg Medal for humanitarianism in 2001. "I don't like to speak about myself," he said, "because what I did humbly during the war was only a small part of what happened to heroes who died through their deeds in times of danger." He continued.

Source: snopes.com

Kosher Kookery Korner

Brioche doughnuts filled with apple compote: Serves 8-10: Get in the festive Chanukah mood with this creative recipe.

Ingredients for the brioche doughnuts

30g/1¼ oz fresh **yeast**, 25ml/1fl oz water

500g/1lb 1½oz strong flour pinch **salt**

20g/¾oz **caster sugar**

4 **eggs** & 4 **egg yolks**

500g/1lb 1½oz **butter**, cold and diced

6 tsp **caster sugar**

1 tsp **cinnamon**

groundnut oil for deep frying

Ingredients for the apple compote

10g/½oz **butter**

6 **Bramley apples**, peeled and chopped

150g/5¼oz **caster sugar**

1 **cinnamon** stick

1 **lemon**, zest only

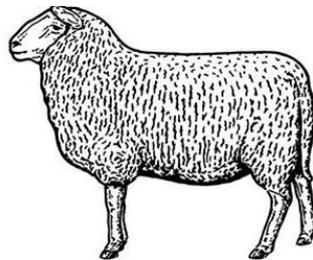
Method

1. Prepare the dough by adding a few drops of the water to the yeast and leave at room temperature to become frothy and creamy.
2. Put the flour, salt and sugar in a bowl, and tip in the yeast and the remainder of the water. Add the eggs and egg yolks and finally, the butter. Draw together with your hands, then knead until the dough is silky smooth.
3. Break off ball sized pieces and roll into balls. Place on a baking sheet, with plenty of room between each ball.
4. Leave to prove in a warm place until the balls have doubled in size.
5. Meantime, prepare the compote. Heat the butter in a heavy-bottomed pan.
6. Add the apples, sugar, cinnamon and lemon zest and heat gently until the fruit is stewed. Remove the cinnamon stick. Transfer the stewed fruit to a squeeze plastic bottle.
7. To cook the doughnuts, heat groundnut oil in a deep fat fryer to 190C/375F. To test if oil is the correct temperature, drop a small cube of bread in the oil, if it sizzles and turns golden the oil is ready to use. (CAUTION: hot oil is very dangerous. Do not leave unattended.) Re-shape the balls then drop them in the hot oil.

8. When they are golden brown, fish the balls out with a slotted spoon and sit on a piece of paper towel.
9. Combine the caster sugar with the cinnamon.
10. When the doughnuts are cool enough to handle, roll them in the cinnamon sugar, then take the apple compote and push gently into each doughnut.

(Source: bbc.co.uk/recipes)

Sachertorte: Jews entered the chocolate business in the seventeenth century, at the same time as the Church condemned it as 'the beverage of Satan' and it was used as an ingredient in Jewish cuisine before most others. There are several examples of chocolate desserts but perhaps the most famous is the cake created in Vienna in 1832 for Prince Metternich, by a Jewish baker called Franz Sacher - Sachertorte is one of the seven dishes often eaten in celebration of Jewish cuisine.



Now, We're Smokin': Sussman Volk is generally credited with producing the first pastrami sandwich in 1887 in New York. Volk, a kosher butcher, claimed he got the recipe from a Romanian friend in exchange for storing the friend's luggage, while the friend returned to Romania. The sandwich was so popular that Volk converted the butcher's shop into a restaurant to sell pastrami sandwiches.

Source: 1070kitchen.co.uk

Insomnia!

As they were leaving the synagogue, the young Chasen confided to the rabbi that he was bothered with insomnia. "I'm sorry to hear that", said the rabbi. "Personally, I have no problem at all, falling asleep."

"Really?" exclaimed the cantor. "Do you count sheep?"

"No", the rabbi replied mildly, "I talk to the Shepherd!"

Kol Nidre Appeal 5781

Here is Leslie Firth's Kol Nidre Appeal letter, well worth a second read.

Each year we enter Yom Kippur, uncertain about the future. This year, the months ahead seem especially foreboding. Who isn't worried - Islamic State, Brexit, not to mention the pandemic sweeping across the world.

Coronavirus pandemic taking 100's of 1000's of lives - right up to your next door neighbour, family and friends. Even we, our little congregation, were put to attend to 5 Jews of our locality, who passed away in the early days of the pandemic. Especially troubling to us was the deadly growth of world-wide anti-Semitism and the very ugly demonisation of the Jewish State. Watching the news over the last few months has been upsetting and at times heart-breaking. Yet even so these issues can seem far away, especially to us as members of a vibrant and respected synagogue. At the same time they feel close to home.

What can we do at our synagogue to help make the world a better place? How can we protect and strengthen Israel and fight anti-Semitism? Now surprisingly in a rare show of restraint, even I don't have a chutzpah to claim that a gift of the Yom Kippur appeal will bring about global peace and harmony! But realistically we can help in a simple, yet significant way. We can ensure that our synagogue, our Jewish core, flourishes, enabling us to help others by our actions and words.

It is not hyperbole to note that others are inspired and energised by the example we set. If we want to help others we must start by helping ourselves.

*THOSE WHO THINK THEY CAN LIVE WITHOUT OTHERS ARE MISTAKEN.
THOSE WHO THINK OTHERS CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT THEM ARE MORE
MISTAKEN.*

AND SO MY FRIENDS:- I have reflected how often I have passed a person on the street who is asking for money without so much as a nod, a word of recognition, or a coin. I have my reasons for walking by. I suspect many of us do. They are well constituted, informed and well meaning. They go like this: If I give to one person, wouldn't I need to give to everyone and I can't do that? How do I make distinctions between people asking for money? Why should I support someone who might use the money I give for drugs, or cigarettes, or alcohol?

If I give money to a street-person am I a co-dependant in their addiction to street life, keeping them from seeking social services programmes that could help them? For those who are hungry or homeless or emotionally or mentally troubled, any of us can be the messiah with a bit of intentional kindness, at least for that moment on that street where our paths cross.

Then there are considerations which have been more personal and painful to me. I have thought about instances when I have been unintentionally impatient, even harsh with people who matter the most to me, thinking that I can improve them.

There are occasions when a deep breath, a pause for reflection and reconsideration, an arm around a child, a smile or just a whisper - "it's okay!" - would be a gesture of immeasurable kindness and a way for us to nourish their soul.

In keeping with the urgings of this Yom Kippur, I confess that I have missed the mark. I could do better. I think we might all do better by healing the soul of the homeless person we meet on the street, the colleague at work, the person we call friend, and above all those we love as our family. Intentional kindness will make us the messiah for the moment, saving one person who is in front of us, from the depth of their distress.

Isn't that our goal? Trying to live a good Jewish life - A life of Torah, a life of meaning and purpose? To figure out how we can navigate the stresses and noise of our life and make sense of it all? How we can put the financial pressures, the visits to hospital, the family tension into context and consider - What is life all about?

Our Mahzor confronts us with these questions: What am I? What is my life? What goodness do I bring into this world? How will we answer these questions this year?? Even though you read this in your own home - to help us consider - LET US PRAY:

*Eternal One, we thank you still for the hope you gave us,
And pray that You may renew in us that hope in time to come
Though the pain of our disappointment is real and deep,
We acknowledge still that You are our G-d;
You renew Life beyond Death,
You give, and take away,
You hold all our souls in the palm of your hand –
And renew in us that hope!*

Or as we would translate- Whatever I want for myself, I want the same for that other person, and, Whatever I do not want for myself, or my friends, I do not want for that other person.

This is the meaning of God's words: YOU SHALL LOVE THE OTHER AS YOURSELF. (Leviticus 19:18) Maimonides

Let us now talk about "The Other Person" or as we draw to the Kol Nidre appeal of my disclosure, may I please now mention 'Our Goals'.

The executive has selected a need for donations to three major charities this year. They are:

(1) The domestic appeal, which is for **Trinity Hospice, Blackpool**, is in urgent need. We wholeheartedly support them because we have memories of loved ones, members of our Shul we have lost whilst in their loving care. May I also say we have volunteers from this congregation who enjoy assisting in this hospice.

(2) & (3) - Internationally, from ISRAEL:- **Magen David Adom** (the Israeli Ambulance Service and very much affected by Covid 19); and **Technion University** in Haifa (which has committed itself to many Covid related projects).

***Editor's note:-** If you wish to make a donation or even a second donation, this can be done by BACS transfer or by cheque payable to Blackpool Reform Jewish Congregation (in full please).*

Cliff Top At the beach *A poem by Barry Bradshaigh*

Over a course of long-ness wide in full,
A reach of Beach spread in a pureness brown,
Where speckles populus did seek in mull,
Amid a sky's blue hov'ring search in crown.
And on a bench of few with phone in hand,
Talking on questions survey like this scene,
My thoughts intent in speaking er this grand,
Made lips relent a voice of flowing theme,
Where sees breath juice did this same air now wind,
To warmth a gentle neath in health abye,
Till conversation phone played end in find,
And with this Lee I stood in says goodbye.
Then gone by note to home in this release,
Dear increase memories astound in peace!

Ask the Rabbi

Is Chanukah Mentioned in the Torah?

Chanukah is not specifically mentioned in the Torah, since the story happened after the Torah was written. Moses finished writing the Torah in the year 2488 after creation (1273 BCE). The Chanukah miracles occurred over a thousand years later, in the years 3621–3622 (140–139 BCE). Nevertheless, G-d is above the limitations of time, and as such, He included in the Torah allusions to Chanukah.
(Source: Chabad.org)



What is a Dreidel?

It is customary to play games at Chanukah. The most common game uses a dreidel and is a popular way of helping children to remember the great miracle. A dreidel is a spinning top with a different Hebrew letter inscribed on each of its four sides. The four letters form an acronym that means: 'A great miracle happened there'. The stakes are usually chocolate coins but sometimes pennies, peanuts or raisins are also used. Each player puts a coin in the pot and takes it in turns to spin the dreidel. The letter on which the dreidel stops determines each player's score. Other games include trying to knock other players' dreidels down and trying to spin as many dreidels as possible at any one time.

Giving gifts

The exchange of gifts or "gelt" is another old and cherished Chanukah custom that dates back to at least the Middle Ages, possibly earlier. Gelt is the Yiddish term for money. Modern day gelt includes cheques and gold foil wrapped chocolate coins wrapped. (Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion>)

Letter to Dad from Harvard or Yale!

Dear Dad, Thing\$ are \$well here at \$chool, but they could be better. \$ome thing\$ are needed mo\$t de\$perately the\$e day\$. I'm \$uppo\$ing you under\$stand what I mean & will \$end \$ome \$oon. Your loving \$on, \$tanley

Dear Son, NOthing is new here. I kNOW that you are doing better NOW than you have been. Write aNOther letter soon. I want to get this off in the NOon mail, so I'll sign off NOW. Love, Dad

The Famous on Jews and Israel

Winston Churchill: Some people like Jews and some others don't like them. But no thinking person can deny the fact that they are beyond doubt, the most formidable race that has appeared in the world.

John Adams: I will insist that the Hebrews have contributed more to civilize men than any other nation. If I were an atheist and believed in the eternal blind fate, I would still believe that fate has ordained Jews to be the most essential instrument to civilize nations. They are the most glorious nation that ever inhabited this earth. The Romans and their empire were nothing but a bubble compared to the Jews.

Wolfgang von Goete: Energy is the foundation of everything. Every Jew, no matter how insignificant, is committed to some decisive and immediate pursuit of goal ... is the most perpetual people on earth.

Eric Hoffer: Jews are peculiar people: things allowed to other nations are prohibited from Jews. Other nations have expelled thousands, up to millions of people, yet no refugee problem. Russia did it. Poland and Czechoslovakia did it. Turkey expelled one million Greeks and Algeria one million French. Indonesia expelled G-d knows how many Chinese - and no one says a word of refugees. But in the case of Israel, displaced Arabs have become eternal refugees. Everyone insists that Israel should readmit each and every Arab. Arnold Toynbee describes the displacement of Arabs as a greater atrocity than the one committed by the Nazis. Other nations when they are victorious on the battlefield dictate the terms of peace. But when Israel is the victorious He must pay for peace. Everyone expects Jews to be the only true Christians in this world.

Leon Tolstoy: What is being Jewish? What kind of unique creatures is this that the rulers of all nations of the world have dishonoured and crushed and expelled and destroyed; persecuted, burned and drowned and that, despite their hatred and fury, continues to live and flourish. What is this Jew who have never succeeded in tempting with all the temptations of the world, whose oppressors and persecutors only suggested that they deny (and dishonour) their religion and leave faithfulness to their ancestors long? The Jew - is the symbol of eternity... He is the one who has cared for the prophetic message and transmitted to all mankind. A town like this can never go away. The Jew is eternal. It's the incarnation of eternity.

David Ben Gurion: In Israel, to be realistic, one must believe in miracles.

John F Kennedy: Israel has not been created to disappear. Israel will endure and flourish. He is the son of hope and the home of the brave. It cannot be destroyed by adversity or demoralised by success. It carries the shield of democracy and honours the sword of freedom.

Mark Twain: If the statistics are correct, Jews make up only one percent of the human race. It suggests a weak breath of stardust lost in the Milky Way fire. Statistically, the Jew should hardly be heard, but he is listened to and has always been heard. He is eminent on the planet like any other people and his commercial importance is notoriously out of proportion with the tininess of his volume. His contribution to the global list of big names in literature, science, arts, music, finance, medicine and abstruse knowledge is always out of proportion with the weakness of his numbers. He has made a wonderful fight for the world, at all ages, and has done it with his hands tied behind his back. He could brag on himself and be forgiven for it. The Egyptians, Babylonians, and Persians rose, filled the planet with noise and splendour then disappeared; the Greeks and Romans followed them, made a lot of noise then gone, other peoples were born and kept their torch for a while, but the fire is extinguished and now they sit in the dark or they are missing. The Jew saw them all, defeated them all and is now what he always was, without exhibiting any decadence, without aggravation, or weakening their parts, without decreasing their energies, without turning off their alert and aggressive mind, All things are mortal except the Jew, all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of your immortality?

Harris Rosenberg Limited in association with

020 8458 5816 | samuel@drcost.co.uk



Commercial Utility Procurement | Independent, Impartial & Transparent
Full Utility Audit | Ongoing Bill Management | Utility Debt Resolution

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

(15 March 1933 – 18 September 2020)

Here is an obituary of Ruth Ginsburg who recently passed away. She was the first Jewish woman – and only the second woman – to serve on the United States Supreme Court and, during that period as well as earlier in her career, she achieved a great deal in the field of woman's equality and discrimination in general, supporting minorities and challenging injustice, for which she is likely to be remembered for many generations. Ruth Bader was also the first woman whose coffin lay in state in Washington DC.



Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, Ruth Bader Ginsburg was small in stature, but her influence was enormous -- both as a champion of women's rights early in her career and as a progressive force on the US.

Ms Ginsburg died aged 87 on the eve of Rosh Hashanah from complications due to metastatic pancreatic cancer.

She was mourned around the world and remembered as a pioneer for women's rights and the first Jewish woman to serve on the US's highest court. Hundreds gathered outside the Supreme Court after news of her death on Friday, with some mourners reciting the Kaddish.

Ms Ginsburg was born in 1933 to a Jewish working class family based in Brooklyn. Her father immigrated to America with his family from Odessa, then part of the Russian empire, and her mother was born in the US to parents from Poland.

In her later years, she grew into an unlikely cultural icon and earned the affectionate nickname "the notorious RBG" in a nod to the American rapper "the notorious BIG." She maintained pride in her Jewish heritage and kept a large silver mezuzah outside her chambers. She reportedly advocated for the court to stop hearing on Yom Kippur.

She travelled to Israel in 2018 to receive a lifetime achievement award from the Genesis Prize Foundation. In one of her last public statements before she died, she warned of the "daunting distance" yet to travel before gender equality can be achieved.

(Source: thejc.com)

Sonny *a poem by Estelle Blackman*

With innocence, his bright eyes sparkle,
Taking in all around,
Quite profound and not yet two.

Standing on the bridge,
He watches the trains pass;
Excited - he knows
That familiar toot
And often a wave to any waiting children.

His Monday morning ritual,
He knows the familiar route,
On his way to grandma's home,
Where blueberries and raisins are in abundance

But

On her doorstep
With patience he waits,
Hands outstretched,
'Nana – Gel'.

His world,
His Normality.

A High Holy Day Memory

Thinking back to my childhood, my enduring memory of the High Holy Days is of the music and singing, and of one event in particular, the change in choirmaster in the mid to late 50s.

Such changes are common, but this one was different. The replacement had an outstanding voice, well able to fill the large overflow hall without accompaniment, with accurate pitch and beautiful phrasing. I recall thinking at the time this is a professional singer, and found out later he was. Sadly he lost his voice just a few years later, due to a serious illness. High Holy Days were then not quite the same.

Alan Cantor

The Message

There once lived a king and he said to his court sages, "I have a ring with one of the finest diamonds in the world and I want to hide a message under the stone, which can be useful in times of despair. I will give this ring to my heirs and I want it to serve them faithfully. Come up with a message to be inscribed under the diamond. It must be short to fit on the ring."

The sages knew how to write treaties but could not express themselves in one short sentence. They tried hard but couldn't come up with anything. The king complained about the failure of his venture to a faithful old servant who had raised him from infancy and was part of the family. And the old man said to him, "I'm not a sage, I'm not educated, but I know of such a message. During my many years spent in the palace I met a lot of people. Once, I served a visiting mystic whom your father invited and he passed me this message. Just don't read it, put it under the stone inside the ring and read it only when there's no way out at all."

The king listened to the old servant. After some time, the enemies attacked the country and the king lost the war. He fled on his horse and enemies pursued him. He was alone, they were many. He drove to the end of the road. There was a big cliff before him. If he fell there, that would be the end. He could not go back, as the enemies were approaching. He already heard the clatter of their horses' hooves. He had no way out. He was in complete despair.

Then he remembered the ring. He opened it and under the stone found an inscription of four words: "This too shall pass."

After reading the message he felt that everything went quiet. Apparently, the pursuers got lost and proceeded in the wrong direction. The horses were no longer heard.

The king was filled with gratitude to the servant and the unknown mystic. The words were powerful. He closed the ring and hit the road. Again, he gathered an army and conquered back his state.

On the day when he returned to the palace, they arranged a lavish welcome for him, a feast for the whole country. The people loved their king. The king was happy and proud.

The old servant came up to him and softly said: "Even this moment will pass. Look at the message again."

"Now I am the winner. People are celebrating my return, I'm not in despair."

"Listen to the old servant," he answered, "it works not only in bad times but also in good." The king opened the ring and read: "This too shall pass."

Again, he felt silence falling over him. Although he was in the midst of a noisy dancing crowd, feelings of pride and entitlement disappeared. He understood the message. He was a wise man.

And then the old servant said: "Do you remember everything that happened to you? Nothing is permanent. No feeling stays. As night changes day, moments of joy and despair replace one another. Accept them as the nature of things, as part of life."

Don't take life too seriously. Always take the middle path. If you can laugh and cry and shout and be silent all in a day, that's a full day. Remember people built everything we see today so there is always the possibility of you doing something which may not be "great" in human sense but it all adds up to the contribution man has made to society.

Always be kind to others and treat others like you would treat yourself. Treat a woman like you would treat your mother, treat your seniors like you treat your teachers. You may think they are outdated in their thinking but you will be surprised by what wisdom you can attain by listening to them. Always respect all people since G-d made all people the same. And finally, just be kind and accommodating of all human beings.

One for the Birds!

A well-known film star taking time off from her Hollywood chores, went shopping for a gift to her nephew. Visiting Los Angeles' Farmer Market, she spied a handsome talkative parrot and immediately took a fancy to it.

"Does he fly?" the celebrity asked the pet shop owner.

"Usually" replied the owner, "but sometimes he takes the train."

Innocent Face *a poem by Gloria Schofield*

An innocent face,
So full of grace,
A face so full of charm.
Who would want to do her harm?
A face so cute and appealing,
So full of feeling;
A face where nice thoughts are seen
To be thought and are keen.
Who am I describing but my daughter,
Who is shrewd sometimes and sometimes full of laughter?
Who would have thought she would grow so beautiful inside and out,
And who is good to have about?
I am so glad she is mine,
And everything about her is fine.

To Autumn *a poem by Gloria Schofield*

The boughs stripped bare of leaves
Blowing from the trees, all russet brown
Falling on the ground.
Oak tree bark turned green with age,
The days grow short when we reach September,
The mist hangs in the air,
Coolness creeps in everywhere,
The water billowing against the edge of the sea
Is a sight for all to see.
Grey squirrels roaming about,
Blue tit and robin redbreast came
To perch on the fence singing of new tomorrows.
This is the park where I walked
Admiring G-d's creation, Stanley Park.

Mazel Tov!

Mazel Tov and many happy returns on their birthdays to:
Winter Bunting, 1 February; Isabelle Howson, 31 December.

Hyman Group LTD.

supports

**Blackpool Reform Jewish
Congregation**

and

Migdal

Synagogue Information

Hon. Life President	Mr Leslie Firth	01253 713619
President	Miss Sara Tax	01253 315700
Vice President	Miss Rachel Tax	07900 493065
Treasurer	Mr Alan Cantor	01253 724472
Custodial Trustees	Mr Martin Block, Mr Alan Cantor and Mrs Elizabeth Tax	
Migdal Editor	Mrs Gillian Cantor	01253 724472

Times of Services

Erev Shabbat: **8 pm** - Shabbat Morning: **11 am**
Festivals and Special Services, as announced

Website Address

The Blackpool Reform Jewish Congregation website address is www.brjc.co.uk . Its Webmaster is Michael Tax. You can send emails to the Executive using this website.

Rabbi Norman Zalud

An appointment to see Rabbi Zalud can be arranged through any member of the Executive or Council.

Important - Have We Your Latest Details?

It is Important we hold your up-to- date information. Have you told us about them? Have your family details changed, have you moved (fairly) recently, changed your telephone number, landline or mobile, or had a new email address? Did you let the Treasurer know of these details, so that he can update our records? If not, please would you let the Treasurer have the information at an early opportunity by emailing him on alan.cantor@btinternet.com or by phoning him on 01253 724472. Many thanks.

Blackpool Reform Jewish Congregation, Charity number 1148088
Company registered in England and Wales, number 08091243
Registered office: The Synagogue, 40 Raikes Parade, Blackpool, FY1 4EX