

SUSSEX JEWISH NEWS



WHAT'S INSIDE....

BRIGHTON JEWRY AT 250 | A JEW IN GERMANY | SUFFRAGE & ANTI-MILITARISM | YACHAD | WHAT'S ON | AND MORE

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Sussex Jewish News

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GUIDELINES

Helping Hands Message in a Bottle Scheme



01273 747722

What is it? It's a simple idea designed to encourage people to keep their basic personal and medical details on a standard form and in a common location - the fridge!

What does it do? It saves the Emergency Services valuable time if they need to enter a property in an emergency situation. Not only does it help to identify who you are, it also identifies if you have special medication or allergies. It is not only a potential lifesaver, but also it provides peace of mind to you, your friends and family by knowing that prompt medical treatment is provided and that the next of kin and emergency contacts are notified.

Who's it for? Anyone. Although focused on the more vulnerable people in a community, anyone can have an accident in the home, so this scheme can benefit anyone.



What does it cost? The scheme is free to the public and is funded by Brighton Lions Club.

Where can I get one? We have a supply at Helping Hands or you may find the bottles displayed in your local GP's surgery or pharmacy.

Who knows about it? All Emergency Services are aware of the Message in a Bottle scheme. By displaying the green stickers in your home, the emergency services will locate the bottle in the fridge and use the forms inside to ensure you are treated quickly, which can save time and save lives.

What's in the bottle? A form you fill in with your name, medicines, allergies and relatives' contact details. And also two green stickers.

What do I have to do? Fill in the form, put it in the bottle. Put the bottle in your fridge. Put one green sticker on your fridge door and the other green sticker on the INSIDE of your house door.

Ralli Hall Lunch and Social Club

by Jacquie Tichauer

First of all I would like to wish you all a Happy Pesach and hope you will all enjoy lots of matzo.

On Sunday, 8th February we held a fund-raising card afternoon at Ralli Hall with a delicious afternoon tea. This was a great success and I would like to thank our volunteers for their hard work and especially Laura Sharpe, who made sure the afternoon ran smoothly.

Here is a listing of our future events.

In April we are going to sunny Eastbourne for the fifth time (I cannot believe this is our fifth time). Wow! How time flies and all our members can't wait. We are all getting very excited and are hoping the sun will keep its hat on.

On the 10th May we are having a Race Night with a Bagel Supper, which is a new venture for us. Tickets will be £17.50, so if you would like to go to the Races and help us raise funds for the Lunch and Social Club, please phone Laura for tickets on 01273 722173.

Remember we are open on a Tuesday and Thursday all day. We offer a great day for all from exercise classes, quizzes, discussion groups, crosswords, card games, entertainment and a lovely three course meal.

We are glad to say that our own website is up and running, with details of our lunch menu and upcoming events. It can be found at <http://www.lunchandsocialclub.co.uk>, so please have a look. If you are interested in any of the above, please contact Jacquie on 01273 739999.

lunchandsocialclub.co.uk, so please have a look. If you are interested in any of the above, please contact Jacquie on 01273 739999.

Voluntary Support Agencies

- Ralli Hall Lunch & Social Club (Day Centre)
01273 739999 ralliday@tiscali.co.uk
- Norwood/Tikvah, Rachel Mazzier House 01273 564021
- Hyman Fine House 01273 688226
- Helping Hands 01273 747722
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- Welfare at Brighton & Hove Progressive Synagogue/
L'chaim project 01273 737223
- Welfare Officer at Brighton & Hove Reform
(Sue Rosenfield) 01273 735343
- Jewish Community Centre at Ralli Hall.
Various communal activities. 01273 202254
or rallihall@tiscali.co.uk

7 Community life

The Sussex Jewish Historical Society - Brighton Jewry 250

by Michael Crook

As many of you will know, next year, 2016, will mark 250 years since the first known record of a Jewish resident in Brighton. Israel Samuel Cohen was married at the Great Synagogue in London, and gave his address as 22, East Street, Brighton.

The Sussex Branch of the Jewish Historical Society is preparing a programme of events to commemorate this first record of a Jewish resident in the town and we wanted to let you know in good time what is planned, and how you can get involved.

We have decided to hold a competition for a logo to use on all publicity and publications about the commemoration, and this will be open to all members of the community and to students at the Arts Faculty at the University of Brighton. We will also be running a Junior competition, for children up to age 12. Details are available from Arthur Oppenheimer at tulgy99@gmail.com. Entries are required by 31st May 2015, and these will be judged by a panel comprising Rochelle Oberman from the Jewish Arts Society, Godfrey Gould, Arthur Oppenheimer and Michael Crook.

We have applied to erect a Blue Plaque at 22 East Street, and are planning for this to take place on 19th or 26th June 2016, followed by an Open Day at Middle Street Synagogue, with civic dignitaries and special guests in attendance.

We have also approached the Council with a view to holding an exhibition of 250 years of Brighton Jewry at Brighton or Hove Museums, in conjunction with the new local records office at the Keep.

Finally, we are working on an anthology to bring together a record of the activities and accomplishments of Brighton Jewry over 250 years. This would be about 120 pages, and is intended as a permanent record of the community. So far we have met with an enthusiastic response, and send our thanks to all contributors. Whilst we were hoping for contributions by the end of March, we are able to accept material up to the end of May. We shall be inviting individuals and organisations to support the publication by becoming Subscribers for a donation of £25. In return for this they will receive a copy of the anthology and their names will be recorded in it (likely sale price £10).

Watch this space, we will be updating the community on progress later in the year.

DESIGN A LOGO competition

For entries, contact Michael Crook on 01273 776539 or email amcrook@ntlworld.com

Hastings and District Jewish Society

by Stella Harris

Thank you so much for the fantastic cover of the March issue of SJN. It inspired me to make Hamentaschen for the HJS and brought back wonderful memories of making "Hamen's Ears" with my 15 year old grandson and his friend.

Not many people were able to come to the last service but the seven of us really enjoyed the "Across the Nations" choir. They are so happy and we all joined in and had a joyful evening. We heard the story of Esther from Brian Linke and munched our pastry "hats" or "ears". I really recommend this choir of about 12 enthusiastic singers.

Lilly Crabtree is now out of hospital and we wish her better.

We were sorry to hear about the death of Julia Sheridan. Unfortunately we don't know to whom to write to offer condolences. If anyone does know please email me at stellalaharris@gmail.com

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Feminism, Suffrage and Anti-militarism: Two Remarkable Women: Dr Aletta Jacobs and Rosika Schwimmer

by Dr. Sonya Baksi

I cannot remember when I first knew of the 1915 Hague Peace Congress – the women’s attempt to halt the First World War. Recently, whilst attending a course about the British suffragette movement at Sussex University, our class examined how in the Great War nationalism had abruptly divided the suffrage committees. Who were the women who had organised this? How did they know each other and make contact across frontiers, even across enemy lines?

I searched Professor Norman Davies’s substantial tome, *Europe: a history*. Not a word about the Hague Congress. The only women who are mentioned in the BBC’s magnificently illustrated book *The Great War and the Shaping of the Twentieth Century* are Nurse Edith Cavell, shot in Belgium by the Germans for helping prisoners to escape, and Rosa Luxembourg, the anti-war German activist who was brutally murdered.

If you are a woman, do you have to be martyred to be remembered? Then my tutor recommended Anne Wiltsher’s book, *Most Dangerous Women: Feminist Peace Campaigners of the Great War*, published in 1985. This exciting account triggered new reading.

Wiltsher’s book introduced me to Dr Aletta Jacobs, the first Dutch woman doctor, who was at the centre of the organisation of the Hague Congress and to Rosika Schwimmer, the Hungarian journalist and life-long political activist, who at the end of her life had been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. It was she who had moved the Hague resolution calling for a women’s delegation to meet Heads of State to urge a mediation conference. Both women were non-practising Jews but steeped in Jewish culture.

The links between the various Hague women can be traced back to the 1870s, when women were challenging the sexual double standard, which encouraged males to be sexually experienced before marriage whilst women were kept in modest ignorance. Moreover, in the 1860s it was argued that locking up prostitutes with infected discharge for 9 months, would stop the spread of venereal infection. The consorting men were exempt from any

examination or restraint. The British Medical Association objected to this absurd Act but it took 20 years of campaigning, led by Josephine Butler, to have the Act repealed. This work did not just pertain to Britain, but Abolitionists were also active on the continent where similar “locking up” was practised. Meantime, in Britain, Charles Bradlaugh and Annie Besant had challenged the suppression of information on contraception by publishing the leaflet about withdrawal by men and the use of seaweed sponges by women (methods of dubious effect). They faced legal indictment.

Into this pot-pourri of rage against sexual double standards, inequalities and ignorance that churned the London scene, came the 26 year old doctor from Holland, Aletta Jacobs. Born in



1854 to a country doctor, the young Aletta had been aware of her father’s activities and had watched her elder brother’s medical training. Aletta was sent to a ladies’ establishment where she learned the conventional smattering of foreign phrases and how to lower her eyes before gentlemen. After a couple of weeks, she left, refusing to return and insisting to her father that she too wished to train as a doctor. He took advice from two close friends, Dr. Ali Cohen and Professor Rosenstein (both observant Jews), who gave encouragement. After strong campaigning, Aletta enrolled, studied and qualified as the first Dutch woman doctor.

Visiting London in 1880, at a meeting of the Malthusian Society, she met Bradlaugh and Besant and became convinced of the woman’s right to choose when to have children. Jacobs visited Elizabeth Garrett Anderson’s Hospital and praised it as the best she saw in London. Garrett Anderson introduced Jacobs to her sister, Millicent Garrett Fawcett. (Women who believed in gender equality, linked their family name with that of their husband. Jacobs married but kept her maiden name.) Millicent introduced Jacobs to suffrage meetings where some 50 well off women took tea together and argued the great issue of the day. Back in Holland, Jacobs pioneered the contraceptive pessary, campaigned for reform of prostitution controls and in 1883 she challenged the Mayor of Amsterdam to place her name on the electoral roll.

On her 1899 London visit, Jacobs met the two Hamburg Abolitionists, Lida Gustava Heymann and Dr Anita Augspurg. In their London discussions with Jacobs, they advocated the need for an International Women’s Suffrage Alliance (IWSA). In 1902 Augspurg became President of the German Union Women’s Suffrage, with her life-partner Heymann as Vice-president. Two years later they organised the first international congress in Berlin. Jacobs was by then widowed, her only child had died shortly after birth. Having retired from medicine at age 50 years, she dedicated herself to IWSA work. At the Berlin Congress, she met the 24 year old Rosika Schwimmer. Schwimmer’s friend and co-founder of the Hungarian suffrage movement, Vilma Glücklich, also Jewish, was the first woman to have been admitted to a Hungarian University. Writing about the suffrage movement to Schwimmer in 1906, Jacobs notes: “We have recruited some good young workers. It is remarkable that they are always Jewish girls. With us and everywhere else, courage and spirit are found in these girls”.

IWSA congresses were held biannually and hosted in Copenhagen, Amsterdam and London, with the 1913 Congress organised by Schwimmer in Budapest. In 1911-12 Jacobs together with the

12 Culture

Jewish Historical Society of England, Sussex Branch

The speaker at our next meeting on Tuesday, 28 April will be Dr Shirli Gilbert. The title of her talk is 'Music and the Holocaust'. Dr Gilbert is the Ian Karten Senior Lecturer at the Parkes Institute, University of Southampton and a specialist in modern Jewish history with a focus on the Holocaust period. Her book, 'Music in the Holocaust' (Oxford University Press, 2005) examines the role of music in the Nazi ghettos and camps and the insight it offers into victims' responses. It was also the basis for a large-scale educational website 'Music and the Holocaust'.

Everybody is invited to these meetings, which are held at Ralli Hall, commencing at 7.45 pm prompt. Entrance is free to members and students, the charge of £4 to visitors includes the always welcome refreshments and informal discussion.

For further information please contact Godfrey Gould 01273 419412 or email g.gould915@btinternet.com or Michael Crook 01273 776539 or email amcrook@ntlworld.com

Speakers We Enjoyed at JACS

by Shirley Jaffe and Elaine Guppy

At JACS this last month we had two very interesting speakers. David Fisher, who is one of the people running the 'Our Brighton Hippodrome' campaign, came and gave us a fascinating afternoon with excellent slides showing how it developed from an ice-rink to a circus to a theatre (and sadly, to a bingo hall). We saw pictures of the sweeping circus-designed auditorium, all the delightful decorations and plasterwork, the stained glass and carved doors and also pictures of posters, performers and even part of a film that showed the lovely auditorium as I remember seeing it from the stage. (I was in the panto "Sleeping Beauty" in 1954 – did anyone remember seeing it? Or know someone else who was in it? Members of the chorus were mainly local girls).

David reminded us all to sign the petition to save the Hippodrome and told us how negotiations were going and that there was more hope now that the film company who had been planning to develop it as multi-screen cinema with shops had pulled out. If you want to help, or just to contribute something to the fighting fund, do look at the website or contact my husband, Tony Jaffe, Chairman of the Trustees, on 01273 775461. Various entertainments and events are being planned to help raise money and interest, so do get onto the mailing list and inform friends or relatives who are not online. If you know influential people in the entertainment world who could possibly help, please let us know.

Ann Coxhead, is a dancer, osteopath and hypnotherapist who gave us a beautifully focussed talk demonstrating her work. She told us that it is likely that the discomfort that comes with age is from osteoarthritis, and she showed us various exercises that help to lubricate the joints and keep the muscles strong, thus avoiding pain and weakness. They

were all small movements, some of which could be done sitting down, others lying on a bed, or just standing, waiting for the lift, or holding on to the kitchen counter. She had all the members up and trying things. As hip trouble also affects the groin and perhaps the knee, she showed us leg exercises to build up strength round the pelvis, which helps to reduce pain. Other exercises were to help foot and arch problems. She spoke about the size and depth of our lungs – I for one, was surprised how high in the body and how far down they went – and we did some deep breathing through an open mouth, trying to push the breath deep down to open up the bottom of our lungs. She showed us a model of the spine and spoke about the natural curves in it. To help us exercise, she gave us all large stretchy bands. Ann explained about how our posture affected our health, and how sitting properly (and not for too long at a time) could help to prevent pain around the spine. She also talked about the psychology of health and happiness, and how we must be open to everything. If we become closed, it affects our posture, and we can become unhealthy easily. We ended up with trying to laugh, because laughter changes chemical reactions in our bodies, and we tend to laugh less in our old age.

We unexpectedly had a very entertaining afternoon with jazz guitarist Raffael Bizzoca, who not only played some wonderful standards for us but also told us most movingly of his journey from Italy and how he gradually established a life in England.

We are going to have talks in the next few weeks about Youth Aliyah, and about stained glass; also a tribute to Stanley Holloway, and a fun quiz – why don't you come and enjoy Wednesday afternoon at JACS? It only costs £2.00, which includes tea and biscuits. There is no lower age limit. You might make new friends, or meet old ones there. And if you have something you enjoy talking about, or you know of an interesting speaker, do contact me.

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Culture

A Line in the Sand

James Barr

Simon & Schuster, 2012

464 pages, paperback

£8.99

Review by Ivor Richards

I have just finished reading "A Line in the Sand" by James Barr. The subtitle is "Britain, France and the struggle that shaped the Middle East".

I thought I was well informed about the history of the past 100 years in the Middle East, from The Sykes Picot agreement in 1915 to today, but after reading this book, I have a completely new perspective on the subject. This is a meticulously researched book, from British, French, Arab and Zionist sources, and the skulduggery has to be read to be believed. Alliances were as stable as quicksand and just as durable.

The story covers the period to the end of the British Mandate, the results of which are with us today. There are no heroes, only people with their own agendas and Powers with their specific objectives. Promises made in the heat of the moment were replaced by others deemed more expedient in changed circumstances - all against a background of the titanic struggle on the Western Front.

In brief, it was the struggle between Britain and France for mastery of the Middle East that led to the two countries carving up the Ottoman Empire between them.

The Balfour Declaration was not a gratuitous gesture but a coldblooded rational decision, based on securing perceived American backing (from their vocal Jewish Community) and heading off a similar proclamation being considered by the Kaiser's Government with similar motives.

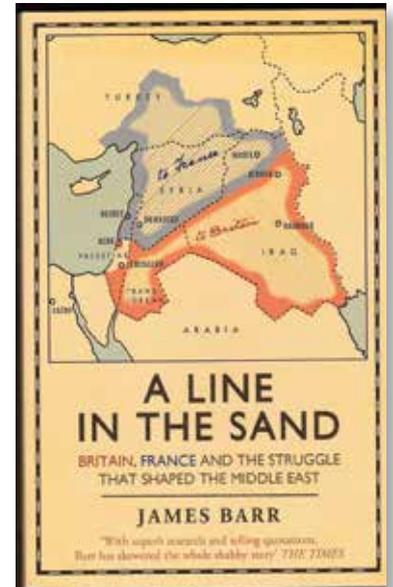
Britain's approach to Palestine was simple. It was seen as a necessary bulwark to control the Suez Canal. Similarly, France's sponsorship of a Christian dominated Lebanon was designed to strengthen their position. Both policies were believed to secure the gratitude of their respective minorities, but overlooked entirely the effect on the Muslim populations.

The policy oscillations that followed only made the Colonial powers deeply unpopular with everyone. Before 1940 and a war with Germany looking more and more likely, Britain's

relations with Metropolitan France were deemed crucial and mandatory responsibilities put on the back burner. Once France collapsed, Britain took the opportunity of seeking to oust her ally's influence in the region by encouraging Arab independence for Syria/Lebanon, hoping to divert aspirations for Palestine, deemed absolutely essential to be controlled by Britain for the then foreseeable future.

The gradual realisation of what was happening to Europe's Jews, led to the Yishuv's growing militancy, led by the Irgun and the Stern Gang. Britain, caught between this rising force and Arab anger at perceived double-dealing, was in an impossible position and departed the scene in May 1948. What a mess!

Anyone who wishes to try to understand why the Middle East is such a political minefield must read this book.



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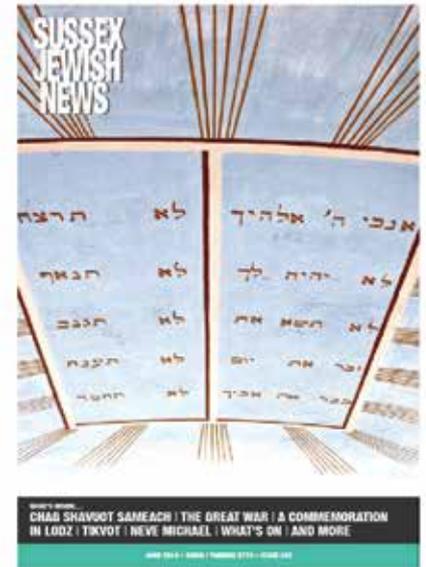
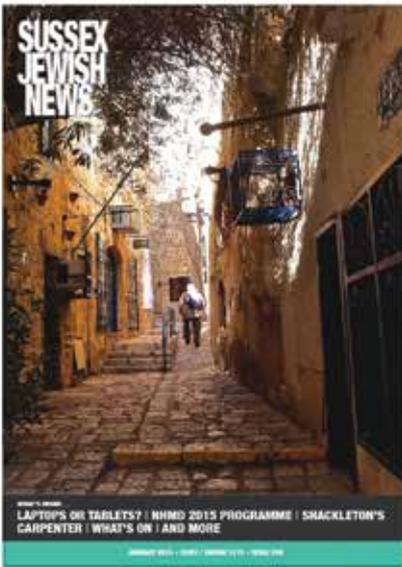


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JEWISH WOMEN'S AID



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