

September 2017

# UNITY News



## Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Here I am, unexpectedly writing this President's letter. After so many highly enjoyable and successful events this summer, I came into office after Ruth Bruckner's sad passing. She was a delightful and talented lady and we will all miss her deeply.

Another solemn event marked my early days – the memorial evening which Nurit Heath organised to remember Mirjam Finkelstein. It was a very well-attended evening which celebrated a much-loved and long-standing member with music and memories.

After such a sad beginning, Tony Clayden gave us a lift with his presentation of 'Music in Paris', a relaxing evening of light music with Parisian connections. We were joined by the tenants of Frances and Dick James Court who are always an appreciative audience.

Fortunately, the weather was very kind to us at the summer party, hosted by Michael and Henny Levin in their gorgeous garden, where we enjoyed relaxing together with a delicious tea and schmooze.

This year's Walter Hoffman Outing was to the Victoria and Albert Museum, led by Rachel Kolsky. An animated and enthusiastic guide, she focused on displays of Jewish interest, especially the stunning Gilbert collection and Montefiore Endowment. She also showed us ceramics by de Waal and Rie, beautiful sacred synagogue silver and fashion items including a Waldy gasmask bag.

Charles Bieber chose more lovely music, this time inspired by various anniversaries of composers and performers. Doreen Natoff welcomed us to her beautiful garden (weren't we lucky with the weather again!!!) for an afternoon of different games and more yummy tea.

Stalwarts always enjoy Michael Levin's bridge evenings, which he continues to organise monthly.

As part of BBUK's European Days of Jewish Culture and Heritage on the theme of 'Diaspora', Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg kept us enthralled as he spoke about his recent book, 'My Dear Ones'. You could have heard a pin drop as he told the story of his family and how they miraculously survived the Shoah.

On 15 October, we will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of First Unity. A committee has already put in a lot of work behind the scenes in preparation for this. We are looking forward to sharing a very special celebration with members and friends, past and present.



Many thanks to our terrific Programme Committee for such a varied and successful programme, as witnessed by the numbers of people filling every seat and also to all those involved in organising and hosting the events. Shortly we will have a break as the High Holy Days take precedence and I wish all our members, their families and friends a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Shana Tova to you all

**Hilary Sinclair**

News and Programme from First Unity Lodge

Dear All,

Thank you all very much for all the lovely letters and cards you sent me after Ruth died, you said very touching things about Ruth. I now realise how popular she was. Thank you for keeping an eye on me and feeding me.

Best Wishes  
**Robert Bruckner**

## ***FAMILY NEWS.....***

Mazeltov to **Adele Gibson** on the marriage of her granddaughter Rachel to Avi Gordon.

Mazeltov to **Louise & Alfred Goldschmidt** on the Barmitzah of their grandson and also for their granddaughter's engagement in New York.

Condolences to **Ron Shelley** whose companion **Nadia** was diagnosed with cancer in May and passed away recently.

Max Ehrenwert for the moment is in Spring Grove Care Home,  
He would welcome visitors.

## **THE MERGER OF TWO REFORM CONGREGATIONS**

On 15 July 2017 history was made for two Reform synagogues – Edgware and District Reform (the largest in Europe) who merged with Hendon Reform to become EHRM, Edgware and Hendon Reform Synagogue, at an inaugural civic service held in the EDRS Synagogue in Stonegrove.

Those invited included the Deputy Lieutenants for Barnet and Harrow with their wives and the Mayors of the London Boroughs of Barnet and Harrow.

Also in attendance were MPs Matthew Offord (Hendon) and Bob Blackman (Harrow East) and Andrew Dismore, (London Assembly Member for Barnet and Camden) who have all given talks to our Lodge.

Jonathan Arkush, President of the Board of Deputies, was present together with local councillors and representatives from other synagogues and churches.

The synagogue was full, almost as many people as on first day Rosh Hashanah. We were welcomed by a past president of EDRS. The Shacharit service was led by Edgware's Rabbis Danny Smith and Neil Kraft. The Torah Service was led by the senior rabbi of Hendon Reform, Steven Katz, using the Torah scroll which originally came from Sobeslav in the Czech Republic where his father was the Rabbi before the Second World War.

An interesting address was given by the president of Hendon Reform. Rabbi Danny Smith delivered the sermon which was both serious and amusing. The concluding service was conducted by Rabbi Smith assisted by Rabbi Emily Jurman, Edgware's junior rabbi, who sang beautifully.

A celebratory Kiddush took place in Edgware Synagogue's community hall. While breaking the challot, Rabbi Smith explained the tradition of why we make a brachah over two challot on Erev Shabbat and Shabbat morning. Guests feasted and chatted in a very convivial atmosphere. A number of First Unity Lodge members attended this very moving event.

**Susan Jacobs**

## In Memory Of Ruth Bruckner

Ruth was born in Port Harcourt, Nigeria on February 2, 1945. Ruth's father left Germany in 1933 and worked for the United Africa Co. He spent the war in Sierra Leone and Nigeria. Her mother left Germany in 1938 and joined her father; they were married in Holland. Ruth's brother Frank was born in 1948.

Ruth went to Henrietta Barnett Junior School and then to Camden School for Girls. She did her foundation year in Art at Hornsey Art School just before all the trouble started in the 1960s. She then went to Manchester Art School and started a course in industrial design. She lasted a term, it was the wrong course for her, so she came home. Ruth thought she would like to teach and obtained a place at St Gabriel's College, Camberwell. She qualified as a primary school teacher in 1969 and taught at Brookland Primary School in Hampstead Garden Suburb.

We first met in a coffee bar after an evening at Alyth J.M. I asked her out and we continued to go out on and off. We started going out seriously when Ruth came home from Manchester. We were engaged in 1967 and were married in 1969 at Belsize Square Synagogue. We bought a house in Mill Hill and our son Oliver was born in 1971.



Three years later we moved to a larger house on the other side of the road. We took a lot of our things down in a wheelbarrow and a few people leaned out of their windows, saying "can't afford a removal van then." We lived in Uphill Grove for 46 years.

Ruth gave up teaching after Oliver was born and started a pottery studio in our garage. Later she started a craft group called Uphill Arts and Crafts where she sold her work. In her mid 30s Ruth studied calligraphy at Roehampton College, it was a two-year course.

In the middle of the course Ruth developed cancer. Her surgeon said that he admired her. Ruth was a very good calligrapher and after a lot of hard work was made a Fellow of the Society of Scribes and Illuminators. She taught calligraphy at Hendon College and Hebrew calligraphy at the Spiro Institute. She wrote illuminated Ketubot for people and wrote the Ketubah for the Liberal Movement which they still use.

Ruth died on 20 June after a 3-month battle with a very aggressive form of neuro endocrine cancer.

**Robert Bruckner**

### A NOTE FROM ALBANIA

When I was in Tirana (the capital of Albania) recently, I told the guide that I was Jewish. He told me that there were more Jews in Albania after the war than before. I was unsure if that was the truth as I travel extensively and am often told things about Jews that are untrue to give a positive vibe.

Anyway, when he took me to the National Museum he asked me if I would go upstairs. It was very hot and no

stairs but I did. One section about the Second World War told the story of many locals who helped Jews. Albania is a hilly country so there are many good places to hide. Indeed, there were three times as many Jews in Albania after as before the war.

I also read that there are many Albanians noted in Yad Vashem as Righteous Gentiles.

**Irene Fine**

### IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE LONDON BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, B'NAI B'RITH UK

On 5 September, Jeremy Havardi, Director of the London Bureau, wrote to the Home Secretary calling on her to prevent an extremist Palestinian cleric from entering the UK.

Sheikh Ekrima Sabri, the former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, had been due to enter the UK in September for a trip organised by a pro-Palestinian group Europol.

Sheikh Sabri has a history of making incendiary comments about Jews. He described the Holocaust as a 'fairy tale exploited by Israel to capture international solidarity' and also

accused Jews of trying to destroy the Temple Mount.

He has expressed support for the Protocols of the Elders of Zion and spoken of his wish to see Britain destroyed. With a history of inciting hatred, it is clear that Sheikh Sabri's presence here would not have been conducive to the public good, hence the letter to the Home Secretary.

Reports now suggest that the Sheikh will not be coming to the UK. The London Bureau will continue to stand against anti-Semitism, hatred and intolerance and urge the authorities to take action whenever necessary.

**Jeremy Havardi.**  
**Director**



**Join the party fun & celebrations for an afternoon of memories & entertainment PLUS A DELICIOUS 50<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY TEA**

SEND YOUR OWN MEMORIES (it's not compulsory) or WHAT DOES FIRST UNITY MEAN TO YOU to either Jo (email [jo@biebernet.co.uk](mailto:jo@biebernet.co.uk)) or to Sylvia (email [sylvia@lewinsdlondon.org.uk](mailto:sylvia@lewinsdlondon.org.uk)) to book. PLACES ARE LIMITED (it's only a fiver per person - and every pound will go to charity. Pay by post or at the door).

**DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS 1ST OCTOBER 2017. WE'RE EXPECTING QUITE A CROWD OF OLD AND NEW MEMBERS FOR A FUN AFTERNOON, SO PLACES ARE LIMITED.**

- \* If you are still in touch with people who were associated with First Unity in the past, please give us their contact details as we would like to include them

### MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS!

B'nai B'rith Circle - Sir Basil Henriques Young Adult Lodge  
**FIRST UNITY LODGE**

OLD OR NEW MEMBERS - HELP CELEBRATE OUR HISTORY  
50 YEARS AND STILL COUNTING



**DON'T MISS IT**  
**3.30pm on 15 October 2017:**

**BE PART OF IT!**

B'nai B'rith First Unity Lodge

## Walter Hoffman Outing, August 2017 A Tour Of The V&A With A Jewish Twist

**R**achel Kolsky (renowned blue badge guide) at her most effervescent and in her natural element took us (19 slightly damp but excited participants) on a splendid exploration of some of her favourite exhibits.

We started with a brief history of the V&A itself, from the Great Exhibition of 1851, the Museum of Manufacture and Design, the Brompton Boiler House, the South Kensington Museum to the present exhibition.

Our first stop was the Ceramics Department and the beautiful pottery of Lucy Rie, a refugee from Vienna, and Hans Coper from Germany who together became the foremost artists in this field. Greta Marks who was sponsored by Heal's and Dan Arbeid were represented, and pride of place in the dome has an installation of numerous works by Edmund De Waal, now also known as the author of "The Hare with Amber Eyes".

We considered Henry Cole's concept of True Value: Do form and function complement each other?

Then there was a painting of the opening of the Great Exhibition which generated huge excitement in this country and was built in the record time of nine months. Opposite the painting was a model of Joseph Paxton's Crystal Palace which housed the exhibition. Its practical facilities gave rise to an expression we still use - "spend a penny"! Working people had time off to visit and visitors came from far and wide and Thomas Cook's travel company became a great success as a result.



Cornelia Parker's "Breathless" consists of a whole orchestra of flattened silver-plated brass instruments suspended in space. (Pictured above).

Passing through the Clore and Wolfson galleries, we reached the magnificent 19<sup>th</sup> century mirrored glass dining room doors from the original interiors of Northumberland House which had a subtle link with Rachel's own home.

More modern exhibits were wireless sets using the first push button switches from GEC (General Electric Company) created by Gustav Byng and Hugo Hirst and later managed by Lord Arnold Weinstock. A silver-and-ivory tea set by Harold Stapler was also on display. He designed the tiles used for some of London's Underground stations.

Next came the fabulous Gilbert Collection, a dazzling display of jewelled snuff boxes, large silver objects, items made with micro mosaics and much more. Abraham Bernstein from Dalston had married Rosalinde Gilbert, a famous fashion designer and adopted her



name. They began the collection upon retirement in California where it would have remained if a suitable place for its display could have been found. In the event, it came first to Somerset House (sponsored by Lord Rothschild) and eventually to the V&A.

Amongst the sacred objects on display we focused on the Judaica section, especially modern designs by Gerald Benney who also worked for Viner's and the Montefiore Rimmonim (pictured above), on loan from Lauderdale Road Synagogue.

Finally, in the fashion department, we admired an elegant outfit donated by Vivienne Wolfson-Cohen, a relation of Rachel's and a gasmask case by the firm of Waldy Bags.

Each station of our tour demanded to be explored more fully, and so we will have to return many times, having been inspired by Rachel's enthusiasm and encyclopaedic knowledge.

**Shoshanah Hoffman**

## MY TRAVELS IN THE MASAI MARA

I started in Nairobi with an overnight stop before continuing my adventure and boarding a light aircraft for an onward flight to the Masai Mara. We flew over a large shanty town and through the fluffy clouds crossing one of the largest lakes in Africa, Lake Victoria. Our final destination was Governors Camp, where I would spend six days on a photographic master class with a professional wildlife photographer.

### **'BIG CAT DIARIES' - 'Marsh Pride. Lions**

The Big Cat Diaries was featured on a television programme presented by wildlife photographer, Jonathan Scott, some years ago where he spoke about the marsh pride lions. At about 4.00pm, on my first game drive, we drove into the reserve but not a lot happened until we came across some young elephants. I noticed that there were two young lionesses sleeping in the marsh. They popped up their heads, looked around, got up and moved into a lower ground position where they continued sleeping in their new spot.

Then the fun began. The young bull elephant decided that he wanted to cross the lionesses' path, he decided to tease them as he wanted to walk by where they had just settled down. The elephant was not having any of this, so he promptly crept nearer to them, stood there for a few minutes and blew a great big sneeze. The surprised lions promptly got up and let the elephant pass. The light was fading, it was time to return to Governors.

With an early start at 6.00am the following day, the temperature was just 5C and rather cold. During the day this would rise to 30C. On leaving the camp the sun was just beginning to rise on the distant horizon. At this moment, I noticed that there was a single tree with a hole in the bark. In order to catch the sunrise, I waited for the sun to peak through the hole, 'bingo', my patients was rewarded.

We made our way to the Mara River to follow the wildebeest and other grazing animals, as this was the time of the great migration when they cross the Mara River to find fresh grasses.

On reaching the river, I noticed an enormous green Nile crocodile lying on the other side of the river bank, just warming itself up. Near it was a lioness looking for somewhere to cross the river safely. She saw the crocodile and decided to find a safer place and disappeared into the forest. After a short while she reappeared at the river bank where she saw a pod of hippos in the river. She looked but did not cross and returned to the forest again. About one hour later she must have found a safer crossing, as she appeared again literally in front of our car, so close that you could have stroked her. She looked back at us and then sat down. A few minutes later she got up and started to call her pride and disappeared into the reserve.

Whilst sitting in the car having a picnic breakfast there was a sudden commotion in a tree near where we had parked by the river. A group of blue ibis was making distress calls. I asked the driver what was going on? His reply was "Oh Nothing". But it was, a leopard had just put a kill on a branch of the tree.

Moving further down the river side we discovered two leopards in another tree. This is very rare as leopards are solitary animals. During our lunch break I decided to sit on the terrace of the camp which looked out towards the river. On the other side of the river I could see what appeared to be the most enormous grey stones. Suddenly, the stones moved and there was a swish of small tails. Oh, I thought to myself, these are not stones but a pod of hippos.



The following day Warren, the tutor, suggested that we make another early start, up at 5.00am and out by 6.00am. We were informed that there was a young cheetah in the reserve. She was sitting in the long grass and had just killed a young antelope. We watched for about an hour and then we made our way to the main crossing on the Mara River.

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### **To the Main Crossing.**

We followed the animals. There were literally hundreds of wildebeest, zebras, antelopes and topes hanging around the river bank. These vast herds go back for miles kicking up sand and dust making the atmosphere something very special.

We waited for the animals to start crossing the river but none of them moved. They were waiting for the lead animal to jump into the river first.



Once one animal had jumped in the others would just follow. I spent a whole day waiting for them to move but nothing happened.



On the second day, all hell let loose. A crocodile must have had some food as it was sleeping on a rock. We had moved to another part of the river. This area had a very different vista. The animals entered the river and crossed to the other side where they went up a very sandy bank, it looked like a stampede. Then some of the wildebeest

decided to swim back to the original side. They then did a turn around and went back across the river again looking like they were sitting on top of one another. Someone suggested to me that these images looked like paintings.

To witness this great experience, even though I spent two days and got sun burnt, was worth it!! My time in the Masai Mara was drawing to a close and it had been a most exciting experience.

**Sheila Wilder**

## Jews In The Russian Army

Until 1827 Jews were not allowed to serve in the Russian army. Instead they were taxed for their right not to serve their country, just another reason to attack the Jews. Now the Jews could be called unpatriotic and cowardly and any political equality that might ensue would be denied. Not that Jews were upset at their not becoming soldiers, the conditions in the army were appalling with severe beatings, starvation and disease rife. Basic equipment was often denied, sometimes the soldiers even went barefoot. This continued right up to the First World War and was a constructive effect to the uprising against the regime.

In 1827 military duty for the Jews was introduced for recruits aged between 12 and 25. Ten Jewish males for every 1000 in the population per year, compared with seven non-Jews every two years. Czar Nicholas I issued the decree known as 'the Cantonist Decree', canton meaning military camp. The term of service was 25 years during which time every effort was made in order to convert the boys from Judaism.

The prevailing policy in other European armies was to integrate the Jewish soldiers into modern society. Nicholas was only interested in education through army instructors. Due to the horrendous conditions under which they served many of the conscripts did not survive and even if they did few continued to identify as Jews. Some Jewish parents were so desperate that they would cut off the right index fingers with a knife, as without that finger you could not fire a gun and so would be exempt from service. Others tried bribery.

After Nicholas died each community was responsible for finding the requisite number of recruits and they tended to select the least useful victims such as heretics, outcasts and orphan children. Now the ages involved were between 12 and 25 as compared with 18 and 23 for the general population. Again, to draw them away from Judaism at their most vulnerable age.



In 1843 the conscription system was extended to Poland and 1500-2000 Polish Jews were conscripted. Now Jews over 18 were conscripted directly to the army and the navy with younger ones sent to the cantonist battalions i.e. schools, until, on reaching the age of 18 they too entered the army itself.

By the 1840's and early 1850's the quota was doubled for Russians and quadrupled for the Jews and especially during the Crimean War of 1854-5 the Jewish leaders had long exhausted their pool of non-useful males in order to fill the quotas and resorted to 'Chappers', Jews who caught their brethren of any age and status and handed them over to the conscription centres.



After 25 years of service non-Jews were given the right to a plot of land. This was only extended to Jews in 1856 but the quality of the land given to them was often poor. Jews were often singled out for special and pejorative treatment. Unfit Jewish recruits had to be replaced with healthy ones. Families of Jews who evaded military service were fined 300 roubles and anyone who assisted in capturing someone attempting evasion was rewarded with a bounty of 50 roubles. Between 1874 and 1892 a total of 173,343 Jews were drafted. Largely the motivation was to remove large numbers of Jews from Jewish society and to disassociate them from Judaism, preferably to convert.

In spite of the many privations visited on the Jewish soldiers, they performed well when involved in combat. Many were killed in the Crimean War with 500 being killed in the defence of Sebastopol and many more in the Russian-Turkish and Russian-Japanese wars. Worse followed and by 1905 the position of the Jews in the army became precarious and speeches in the Duma called the Jews traitors and cowards and accused them of dissipating socialist ideas and propaganda and even called for the expulsion of Jews from the military completely. However, the war ministry was more pragmatic, although it approved of the anti-Jewish regulations that had been formulated in the 1880's and 1890's.

By 1912 there were 300,000 Jews in the forces. The anti-Semitic accusations as to their commitment was partially nullified by a series of reports praising the Jews as being excellent telegraphers, gun layers and scouts

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but this did nothing to combat the vitriol that otherwise abounded.

After the revolution, the provisional government cancelled the anti-Jewish regulations allowing the Jews to enter officer schools. Perhaps the high percentage of Jews in the Red army elite was a result of this.

Jews demonstrated a high discipline in the main and exhibited a low crime rate, theft of food by undernourished conscripts was particularly common also munitions were often stolen by the general soldiery.

Jewish soldiers never rebelled against officers even during the 1905 Revolution. Most Jews tended to keep together when possible. This helps to explain the remarkably low level of baptisms, only 2% in any year between 1827 and 1874. The authorities did allow rooms for prayer groups and to collect money for scrolls etc. and those billeted near to the Pale were allowed to make contact with nearby communities but by 1890 Jews were being attacked for being unpatriotic, draft dodgers and poor soldiers and found themselves segregated.

So, to the Second World war and some facts about Jewish participation in the armed forces. About 1.5 million Jews fought in the Allied armies. In many cases the percentage of Jews fighting was greater than the percentage of Jews in the population.

Some 500,000 Jews fought in the Red Army, about 120,000 were killed in combat and 80,000 murdered whilst prisoners of war. Over 160,000 earned citations for bravery with 150 awarded Hero of the Soviet Union, the highest honour awarded as a soldier of the Red Army. So to other facts aside from the main talk. Approximately 550,000 Jewish soldiers served in the U.S. forces during WWII with 10,000 killed in combat, 36,000 received citations and many were involved in liberating the death camps. 100,000 Jews fought in the Polish army making 10% of the total and 30,000 were killed. Many joined the Polish divisions fighting with the Allies after the defeat of Poland.

Some 30,000 Jews served in the British army including a contingent in the Jewish units based in Palestine. Following Germany's invasion into Russia large numbers of Jews, especially students and intelligentsia, served in the Russian National Guard whose task it was to slow the German advance into Russia. Poorly trained and lacking equipment, casualties were high and they could not avert the ultimate disaster of 'Barbarossa'.

Jews were well represented in various Russian units as military translators, physicians, military correspondents and political officers, all proof of the high educational standards that they had achieved. They served in a variety of units including tank forces, the air force and the submarine fleet. Interestingly the largest representation of Jews in the Red Army was in the 16<sup>th</sup> Lithuanian and the 201<sup>st</sup> Latvian Infantry divisions with 33% and 17% respectively. However, initiatives to establish Jewish units was not in accord with Soviet policy. Jews also served in Cossack units even at high ranks. In 1943 and 1944 many Jewish partisans who had survived the earlier onslaught of Hitler's forces joined the Red Army.

There were a relatively high proportion of Jewish women in the Soviet army. Working as doctors, nurses, and translators. Many served as medics in battle zones, a not insignificant number participated directly in combat as pilots, navigators in the air force or in artillery units.

After the war some Red Army veterans made their way to Israel when the Soviet authorities permitted this with 50 chapters across the country. The Israeli authorities gave them little help. Only recently have they recognized the part Jews played in the Allied forces and particularly in the Soviet army. In 2012 Israel erected its first monument to Soviet Jewish soldiers who fought in WWII. There is now a museum dedicated to Jewish Allied fighters.

However, many saw out their days in poverty, a sad end to their lives.

**Tony Wilder**



Graves of Jewish soldiers killed in the battle for Monte Cassino 1944, lie at rest in the Polish war cemetery at Monte Cassino, Italy.

## RABBI WITTENBERG AND MITZPAH

On the first Sunday of the European Days of Jewish Culture week, we were honoured to have as our speaker at the Mill Hill Blind and Disabled flats, Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg of the New North London Synagogue. The room was packed with over forty members together with residents living in the flats and visitors. Rabbi Wittenberg, who was accompanied by his dog Mitzpah, spoke about his book "My Dear Ones: One family and the final solution" and explained how he had come to write this book.

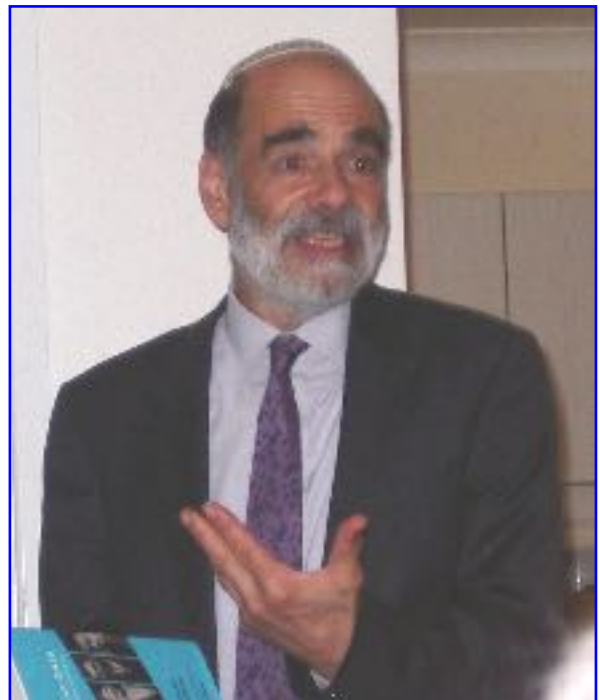
He explained that it is not just a book about the past but also about NOW, as so much of its narrative can relate to the reality of today with so many millions of people across the world looking to find a safe haven to live.

Rabbi Wittenberg described his family and the research that he had undertaken to find out what had happened to his father's grandmother, aunts, uncles and cousins.

This had involved travelling to some of the towns and villages where his family had lived and where there are now no Jews living. After his grandmother Ella had died in Israel, he and his cousin cleared her flat and he founds bundles of documents and letters from family across Europe and USA from 1938-1948 which he brought back to England.

They were mostly from her mother Regina and her own siblings and their families. These letters opened a world to him that he had not realised earlier and the late historian David Cesarani had helped and encouraged him to research and write the book, which is dedicated to him.

Dr Cesarani had said that by reading a book like this, it could prove that it is possible to make people disappear without trace which is what the Nazis had hoped. I feel that rather than tell about the members of his family that we heard about, for instance his great-grandmother Regina, his great aunt Sophie



or his great uncle Ernst, one should read the book and also learn about them and others, especially non-Jews who had helped various family members and other Jews too.

Rabbi Wittenberg wanted to show how humanity, affection and relationships were so important and how even during such terrible times, so many showed hope and a strong faith. By writing and researching what had happened to his family, he has honoured them and kept their memories alive.

Mizpah, who had presumably heard this talk many times, listened intently throughout as did everyone present. Rabbi Wittenberg told us that his next book, which will be out in October, has been inspired by Mizpah and is entitled "Things My Dog Has Taught Me About Being A Better Human".

Rabbi Wittenberg kindly answered many questions fully and Sylvia Lewin gave a vote of thanks to him for his moving, interesting and emotional talk.

**Ruth Gordon**