



**B'NAI B'RITH  
YAD B'YAD LODGE  
NEWSLETTER  
JUNE 2019**

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**Important: Before attending any event**, please contact the appropriate person from the list at the bottom of this page, month by month. For security reasons, this is critical for **main meetings**. Also please contact the same person if you find later that you cannot attend.

**June Summary**

BBUK AGM Sunday 2  
Arts & Literature Tuesday 4  
Bridge Thursday 13  
Ramble Sunday 16  
Yad B'Yad AGM Wednesday 19  
Music Tuesday 25  
Short Walk Thursday 27  
Rummikub Thursday 27  
Oxford Outing Sunday 30

**Main Meetings**

**Wednesday 19 June at 8:00 pm**  
 **Yad B'Yad AGM**  
Followed by slide show :  
**Travels with my Camera**   
Presented by Les Spitz

**Monday 15 July at 8:15 pm**  
**Life, Art & Heinz Spaghetti**  
Paul Mendelson

**Tuesday 13 August at 8:15 pm**  
**Friends Against Scams**  
Mark Mullally

**Arts & Literature at 8:00 pm**

**Tuesday 4 June**  
**Table-Top Car Rally**

**Book Club at 8:00 pm**

**Wednesday 31 July**  
**Cut Out Girl**  
By Bart Van Es

**Bridge – Thursday at 8:00 pm**  
**13 June** **11 July**  
**8 August** **12 September**

**Music at 8:15 pm**

**Tuesday 25 June**  
**Jewish-American Entertainers**  
 **No. 6 - Neil Sedaka**  
Presented by David Cohen

**Tuesday 24 September**   
**Richard's Comic Songs**  
Presented by Richard Stanton

**Outings**

**Sunday 30 June**  
**Oxford & Cogges Farm**  
£30 includes coach, tour,   
entrance & cream tea

**Rambles – Midweek**

**Thursday 4 July**  
**Wednesday 7 August**

**Rambles – Sunday**

**16 June** **28 July**  
**18 August** **15 September**

**Rummikub - Thursday at 8:00 pm**

**27 June** **25 July**  
**29 August** **26 September**

**Short Walks**

**Thursday 27 June**  
**Wednesday 10 July**

**Dates for your Diary**

**Sunday 2 June at 10:30 am**  
**BBUK AGM**

£15 including lunch

**Wednesday 19 June at 8:00 pm**  
**Yad B'Yad AGM**

**Sunday 7 July at 7:00 pm**   
**Interlodge Supper Quiz** £19.50

**Wednesday 24 July at 8:30 pm**  
**The Rise of the Israeli Right**  
Professor Colin Schindler  
Joint Meeting  
£5

**Sunday 4 August**  
**Treasure Trail**

**Sunday 15 September**  
Film : **Why the Jews ?**  
£18

**Wednesday 18 September**  
**BBUK Chicago Bridge Lunch**   
£19.50



# The Flipside

Yad B'Yad

June

www.bnaibrithuk.org  
Editor: Vivienne Gould

2019

## UKRAINE EDITION

A  FROM YOUR EDITOR:

*Our special seven intrepid travellers have returned safely from their Ukraine Mission and share with you their experiences in this edition.*



*From the President & her council  
to those members  
who are not in the best of health at present*



**INTRODUCING Les Spitz FOR OUR SPEAKER AFTER THE AGM : WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

when he will be giving another of his popular presentations.

Les is a keen amateur photographer. This interest was stimulated when he became a founder member of the Pinner Camera Club in 1986. The club is still going strong and his enthusiasm hasn't reduced!

He has been fortunate to have travelled fairly extensively and will be showing short Audio-Visual sequences of some of the places visited. These will include: Hong Kong, Bali, Chicago, Yellowstone, Cape Town and possibly Barcelona.



Closer to home he would like to include some short sequences on Chihuli at Kew, Chagall's stained glass windows and perhaps some street art in the East End.





**SHORT WALK : MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

## *WANDERING FROM WESTMINSTER*

On Bank Holiday Monday, 12 of us set off on a short walk from Westminster Station to St. James's Park Station, covering some of the most iconic sites in London, including many statues and monuments.



After passing the statue of Clive of India and the very moving Bali memorial, we crossed into St. James's Park and into the gardens of Duck Island cottage, with a very different aspect of the park. In Horse Guards Parade, we were very lucky to see the changing of the Horse Guards. This was overlooked by the equestrian statues of two Field Marshals, who disliked each other.

When we ascended off the Mall, we saw many statues including The Grand Old Duke of York, many statues in Waterloo Place and the Crimean statues off Pall Mall.

Further along Carlton House Terrace, we passed the wartime headquarters of the Free French and the statue of De Gaulle. Bearing back down the steps to The Mall, past statues of George VI and the Queen Mother, everyone was fascinated by the bronze reliefs showing the King and Queen in the Blitz and the Queen Mother at the races.

We continued, passing Marlborough House and St. James's Palace, with memorials to the queens Alexandra and Mary, We diverted into St. James's Park for lunch; then passed Buckingham Palace and the Victoria Monument and headed for St. Anne's Gate.



We took in the reliefs,  
*The Winds* on 55 The Broadway  
and Epstein's once controversial statues  
*Night and Day*.



Finally after passing the former Caxton Hall, we saw impressively designed monuments to the Suffragettes and to Henry Purcell, in Christchurch Gardens.

*David Pollen*



**B'NAI B'RITH MISSION TO UKRAINE 10 – 19 MAY 2019**

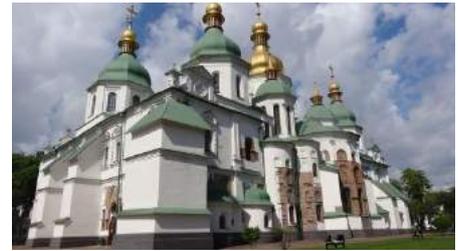
## *A DAY BY DAY ACCOUNT*

On the afternoon before our departure very early the next day, seven members of our lodge joined fourteen others for a 'get to know you' and briefing session in a hotel near Terminal 5.

We knew in advance that the trip was going to be 'full on' with hardly any free time. This was certainly the case, not that we minded, as we were taken to so many different places and met some interesting people.

Alan Silman and his wife Ruth from Cheshire Unity Lodge put in so much work beforehand organising our trip, liaising with local guides and the project managers in the places we visited. This was not an easy task and despite a few minor hiccups, all went according to plan.

So what did we do? Starting in Kiev, immediately after checking into our hotel, we had a walking tour, seeing the Shalom Aleichem monument and museum, the memorial plaque at Golda Meir's birthplace, the Brodsky Central Synagogue and different areas where Jews once lived and worked.



Great Gate of Kiev Holocaust Memorial Shalom Aleichem Statue St Sophia Cathedral

**Day 3**, visited a World Jewish Relief project meeting elderly people in their day centre and home, followed by a tour of more Jewish Heritage sites, including Babi Yar, where Kaddish was said.



WJR Day Centre



Babi Yar Memorial

Then a visit to a folk architecture open air museum. The same evening we visited Kiev Lodge. Alan Miller, BBUK President, made a presentation to Prof. Felix Levitas Kiev Lodge President and his wife, with their daughter Svetlana translating. We had also brought some gifts to be distributed amongst their members. BBUK supports their Lodge Medical Aid Programme for aged and needy members, as well as righteous gentiles, some of whom we met.



**Day 4**, en route from Kiev to Vinnitsa, our next overnight stay, visited more sites of Jewish interest. We were then taken to a WJR 'warm homes' project, divided up into three groups to visit people in their apartments and gave gifts.



Old Jewish Cemetery outside Kiev



Maria, husband and translator

**Day 5**, from Vinnitsa via Bratslav for our two night's stop in Kamyanets-Podilsky. In Bratslav went to the Jewish Heritage and Holocaust Museum, the Jewish Cemetery and memorial to victims of the 1917-1921 Pogrom and the Holocaust. After were taken to a monument in memory of 250 orphans taken to the nearby river and drowned, Kaddish was said.



Bratslav, monument to 250 murdered orphans



Sharhorod, Synagogue and old street



Onto Sharhorod, visiting the oldest synagogue in Ukraine, where a once thriving Jewish community is reduced to 19 people. The interior of this building is now dilapidated. We were taken on a tour of the old streets to form the impression of what a shtetl looked like.

**Day 6**, bus ride to Chernivtsi visiting University, then onto Jewish Community Centre where we met their leader and local people and left gifts for them. (\*\*See end of article)



Chernivitsi University



Presentation of book - Mary Green is third from left

**Day 7**, walking tour of Kamyanets-Podilsky visiting old fortress and sights of historical Jewish interest. We had a long bus ride back to Vinnitsa for the five hour train journey to Odessa.



Kamyanets-Podilsky fortress



Memorial to the fallen

**Day 8**, whole day devoted to visiting the Tikva Project that BBUK supports via the Concert for Shoes Programme. We were taken to the Kindergarten & Infants Home; Girls & Elementary School; Boys School; Psychology Centre; Synagogue and the separate Girls and Boys Homes. Being Friday evening some of our group went to the Odessa Synagogue for the Shabbat service.

**Day 9**, walking tour of Odessa visiting synagogues, plus other places of Jewish and local interest, followed by bus tour to see more notable places, another Holocaust Memorial, where again Kaddish was said. In the evening we saw *Carmen* at the magnificent Opera House.



**On the last day**, we visited old catacombs where partisans hid in the Second World War, then a bus tour seeing Odessa's historical sites and memorials, and finally its seaside resort where we had a farewell open air lunch.

As for the food, the meals were variable, not haute cuisine, but there was certainly plenty of it both at lunch time and dinner. The weather was a mixture of sunshine, cloud and rain, not unlike home. In Odessa it was very hot and sunny.

We were made most welcome by all those we met in the many places. Visiting the projects BBUK supports in both Kiev and Odessa, gave us an insight into how people live and how our contributions towards these medical aid and shoe programmes are much needed; seeing makes our donations much more meaningful and worthwhile.

When questioned about the new Jewish President, our excellent guides, both Jewish and non-Jewish, were non-committal "wait and see" was their response. However, in Odessa, people are more worried about stability because of their large Russian ethnic population.

The whole Ukraine experience has left us with some amazing memories: sad, uplifting and thought provoking, but plenty to tell you about.

\*\* One person in our group was born in Chernivtsi. Her father was in the army and as a five year old, she, her mother and baby sister were deported on a gruelling journey to a camp in Transnistria. Sadly, the baby died on the journey. They endured unmentionable hardship that we can only guess at. This lady told her life story to the Association of Jewish Refugees, who published a book. The book was presented by her to the leader of the Jewish Community in Chernivtsi.

*Eve Swabe*

**MAIN MEETING : MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

## ***MEMORIES BEFORE AND DURING THE HOLOCAUST***

Who will tell future generations about the tragedy that befell European Jews between 1939 and 1945 ?

This was the question posed by our speakers Fred Weil and Lesley Urbach at the lodge meeting

Fred Weil told the story of his family. The Jewish community of Brno in Czechoslovakia could trace its presence back to 1560. After the German invasion in 1939 restrictions were immediately imposed on the Jews by the Nazi authorities. Fred's mother managed to leave for England in June 1939 to enter domestic service. She married and brought up a family. His grandmother was interned in Theresienstadt in January 1942 which was run as a holding camp. After months of privation, surgery and ill health she died in November 1943 and was cremated two days later. Remarkably she was able to write letters on the back of photographs which were sent via South America to her daughter in London. These are now preserved in the US Holocaust Museum.

25,000 Jews died in Theresienstadt and 150,000 were deported to be murdered in Auschwitz.

As the holocaust survivors pass away and are no longer able to talk about their experiences, Fred Weil and Lesley Urbach Have started the Generation to Generation project to enable their descendants to tell the stories of their experiences They believe the future generations should be given much more consideration by organisations involved in Holocaust Education.



Eve Swabe, in her vote of thanks, recounted some of the stories encountered on the recent BBUK visit to the Ukraine and reemphasised the importance of remembrance. She presented Fred and Lesley with donations for their chosen cause.

*Greg Wand*





**WEEKEND RAMBLE : SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

## **A WONDERFUL WALK FROM WATFORD**

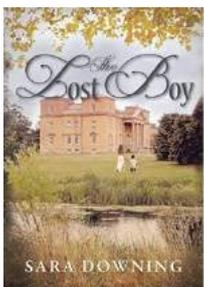
It was on a warm sunny morning that 9 YBY members met at Watford Junction for a 9-mile ramble led by Yvette & Roger Kutchinsky.



We followed the route of the Abbey Line Trail, which roughly follows the shuttle train service that terminates at St Albans Abbey. Most of the route is on footpaths along the Ver and Colne rivers, often wading through tall bunches of stinging nettles. Short sections took us through fields where cows were contentedly grazing. Our leaders had planned a picnic on groundsheets by the Frogmore lakes, but the photo shows where we ate instead at a delightful spot with elegantly carved wooden seats, discovered 3 days previously by Viv Gould. A nearby pub provided the necessary facilities for a comfort break.

The weather forecast proved to be accurate when we had to hurriedly extract anoraks and umbrellas from our rucksacks, although it was all over in a few minutes. On reaching the end of the route at St Albans Abbey, we decided to return to Watford Junction by using our Freedom Passes on a bus, instead of paying for the much faster train service. Our thanks go to Yvette & Roger for organising a truly delightful ramble. The only minor mishap was that I continued a now long-standing tradition, by leaving my walking pole at the picnic site.

**David Gould**



**WEDNESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY – BOOK CLUB**

## **THE LOST BOY by Sara Downing**

An unusual book that uses elements of the supernatural, to weave a story around the mystery of a lost boy and two lost souls. The author moves between the past and present as secrets and facts are gradually revealed and unravelled. As the story draws to its inevitable conclusion some of us were able to foresee the hand of fate at work again.

Although not a popular choice this month, at times even feeling it was more like a children's book, it was at least an easy and quick read. However most found the slushy endearing language sickening!

**Vivienne Gould**

*The story is set in Croome Court (NT) in the Malverns, once home to the Earls of Coventry.*

*The 6<sup>th</sup> Earl was an 18<sup>th</sup> century trendsetter, and today Croome follows his lead using artists and craftspeople to tell the story of its eclectic past in inventive ways !*

