



B'nai B'rith UK

CORE ACTIVITY AND LODGE ANNUAL
REPORTS
and **EXTRACTS** from the
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS
for the year ending
31 December 2018



**Honorary Officers**

Alan Miller	Cheshire Unity Lodge	National President
Eve Swabe	Yad B'Yad Unity	Monitor
Wendy Fishman	Raoul Wallenberg Lodge	Vice President
Wendy Fireman	Yitzhak Rabin Lodge	National Secretary
Lynne Lucas	Raoul Wallenberg Lodge	National Secretary
Tony Etherton	Yitzhak Rabin Lodge	National Treasurer
Martin Kudlick	Shlomo Argov Unity	International Liaison

National Executive Officers

Valerie Bello	First Lodge of England	EDJCH
Walter Breindel	Finchley and Hendon	Israel
Jo Bieber	First Unity	Minutes Secretary
Malcolm Factor	Abraham Lewin	Ukraine

Non Executive Officers

Jeremy Havadi	Director of London Bureau of International Affairs
Valerie Tessler	Director BB Young Professionals
Lydia Drukarz	Administrator BBUK Heritage Committee & PR Consultant

BBUK Trustees

Eve Swabe	Tony Etherton	Alan Miller	Martin Kudlick
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Honorary Life Presidents

Alan Cohen	Stewart Cohen	Harvey Josephs	Sylvia Lewin	Antoinett Port
Eve Swabe	Martin Kudlick			

Board of Deputies Representative

Deanna Levine

BBUK Office

Eve Swabe office@bnaibrithuk.org



B'nai B'rith UK

(A company limited by guarantee)

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B'nai B'rith UK

**The Annual General Meeting of
B'nai B'rith UK will be held at 10.30am on Sunday 2 June 2019
WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE
33 Seymour Place, W1H 5AU**

AGENDA

10.15 Registration

Coffee and biscuits

10.30 Welcome by the President

Candle lighting ceremony
Mission Statement
Long Service Awards
In Memoriam

1. Formal opening of AGM 2019
2. Apologies for absence
3. Approval of Minutes of the AGM held on 3 June 2018
4. President's Report
5. Financial Report and Adoption of Accounts
6. Discussion of reports previously circulated
 - a. Heritage
 - b. London Bureau of International Affairs
 - c. B'nai B'rith Young Professionals
 - d. Israel Projects
 - e. Ukraine Projects
7. Motions for discussion
8. Cyril Trup Memorial Award - BBYO
9. Max Rothschild Scholarship Fund Award
10. Address by Air Cdre Phil Lester, Chairman of HM Armed Forces Jewish Committee
11. Any Other Business

The AGM will be followed by a Buffet Lunch



MISSION STATEMENT

**Founded in 1843, B'nai B'rith is now a
“Global Voice of the Jewish People”**

The mission of B'nai B'rith is to bring Jews together from all sectors of the community, to work in friendship, to improve communal harmony, to strengthen the Jewish community, to combat racial and religious intolerance and to help the less fortunate.

The core objectives of B'nai B'rith United Kingdom are:

To advocate and defend human rights

To support the State of Israel, world Jewry and to fight anti-semitism

To support our charitable causes, especially in Israel and the Ukraine

To promote Jewish culture and heritage

To foster friendship through social, cultural and recreational programmes

To encourage the participation of young people

To strengthen B'nai B'rith links internationally





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B'nai B'rith UK Presidents Annual Report 2018

As I look back at the activities that have taken place during 2018, I am again staggered at the range of events and the enthusiasm of our members that has made the last year one in which we can all be proud.

The administration of our Office has now been taken over by Eve Swabe and we were able to celebrate the retirement of Joe and Valerie Melnick who retired after ten years of service. Eve is doing a great job in what was a very challenging year not least because we had to learn the complexities of the new GDPR rules. We think we have this now under control and that all our communications are more secure and more appropriate.

The highlights of the year revolved around our international activities. The **175th Anniversary** of the founding of B'nai B'rith was celebrated in New York in October with a large BBI convention, bringing together representatives from seventeen different countries.

I was able to attend with Edna and also Jeremy Havardi the Director of the LBIA. Talking to our fellow members from across the globe made us aware that the problems and challenges that face the Jewish community in the UK are replicated throughout the world.

For our own **AGM** in June 2018 we were addressed by Dan Mariaschin, our renowned CEO of BBI, using the facility of Skype, who brought us his impression of the world situation.

Our relationship (or lack of a relationship) with BB Europe has continued to distract us, as our proposals for a resolution were again rejected by the BBE Executive last September. Negotiations will continue as the overriding aim is to stand as one with our European membership as we all face the threat posed by the increase in antisemitism and the isolation and vilification of Israel. I am hopeful that, with the encouragement of BBI, we shall see BBE adopt a more pragmatic approach so that we can all move forward together. At the time of writing this report (31.01.2019), I believe that progress has been made in our latest negotiations and hope that matters will soon be resolved. I would like to thank both Martin Kudlick and Tony Etherton for their steadfast support and advice.

One of the most moving experiences of the year was to participate in the **AJEX Remembrance Parade** from Horse Guards Parade to the Cenotaph and to have the privilege of leading a party of nineteen BBUK members. Everyone concerned found the parade profoundly meaningful and one which we intend to repeat in 2019.

The year began with our attendance at **HM Armed Forces Jewish Community** leadership weekend at Amport in Hampshire. Our close relationship, we are sponsors of the weekend, is reinforced by the closeness of our common purpose of uniting Jews, whatever their background. We are



currently researching opportunities for us to both work more closely in the future.

During 2018 the **LBIA** has really been a star in our firmament. The range of our activities, the visits, the letters, the number of our committed volunteers, has all increased under Chairman Tony Swabe and the Director, Jeremy Havardi. The Breakfast Meetings with foreign ambassadors, the visits to embassies, NGOs, our protestations to the Labour Party, our representation at international meetings, the defence of our people and the advocacy of Human Rights, plus reaffirming the absolute legitimacy of Israel are all part of our essential activities. We are increasingly gaining recognition as a body that is prepared to speak up for the Jewish community. A huge “thank you” to all those involved.

Our **Jewish Heritage and Culture** programme lead by Chairman Valerie Bello and our professional administrator, Lydia Drukarz opened up new fronts during the year. Our much-acclaimed Heritage brochure is now distributed both as an electronic book and as hard copy. The National Trust has also engaged with us for the first time truly expanding our ability to reach out to the wider community. Much effort has gone into raising our profile and reaching a larger audience through the use of Social media sites.

The **B'nai B'rith Young Professionals** continue, under Valerie Tessler, to produce an interesting and varied programme, which I am happy to say is well supported. Fortunately, some of their members have come forward to assist in the planning of meetings. This is a long-term project that is starting to return on the investment and a trip to Athens involving BB Europe is in the pipeline for later in 2019.

Our charitable projects in **Israel and Ukraine** are the centre of fundraising by all our members. We continue with good relationships in both countries and I thank Walter Breindelfor his tireless enthusiasm supporting the less fortunate of Qyriat Gat, Israel and to Malcolm Factor for taking so much time and trouble to refocus our efforts in Kiev and Odessa. I am delighted that BBUK will be visiting the Ukraine in May and hopefully again in September to gain both a closer connection and gain greater understanding of the problems facing Jews returning to Judaism in the Former Soviet Union.

Malcolm Factor was also instrumental in involving BBUK with our participation in the Yellow Candle Campaign that took place on Holocaust Remembrance Day.

I would also like to thank Maxine Cohen for organising the hugely successful **Inter Lodge Quiz** last July and for her help assisting our Treasurer collecting the capitation fees.

The **Chicago Bridge Lunch**, organised by Ernest Simon, attracted an increased attendance for what was a highly enjoyable event.



2018 saw the creation of a new group, B'nai B'rith Radlett, and so far, this is proving a success. On the negative side, I am only too aware that many Lodges face the twin problems of increasing age and infirmity, which bring so many challenges. I salute all those who work so hard to make their Lodge's welcoming and provide such a high level of programming.

During the last year I have tried to visit as many Lodges as possible and tried to make connections and to foster relationships with many other organisations. These include BBYO, the Board of Deputies, the Pinsker Foundation, The Together Plan to name but a sample. I have been honoured to speak to many people about the work of BBUK and was especially delighted to present, on behalf of the B'nai B'rith World Centre in Jerusalem, a "Jewish Rescuer's Citation" to the children of Sally Noach, a Dutch Jew who saved thousand by his actions in Lyon during Nazi occupation.

I would like to conclude by thanking all my hard-working Executive for their continued help and support. Without their commitment we would not be able to continue striving to make B'nai B'rith, as they say in the States "A Global Voice in the Jewish Community".

Alan Miller
National President, BBUK

CORE ACTIVITY REPORTS

B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL

In 2018, we celebrated our 175th anniversary and expanded our goals and mission.

We demonstrated an unwavering commitment to our major focus areas: Human rights and public policy, support for Israel, combating anti-Semitism, attention to senior citizens and disaster relief.

How we acted and reacted to global events is a direct testament to our enduring history and foundation, which traces its start to the Lower East Side of New York on Oct. 13, 1843.

With resolve and energy, we combat anti-Israel bias at the United Nations, protect seniors from cuts to vital programs, raise and distribute funds to communities in need and teach children the importance of tolerance and diversity.

The year had its triumphs, like the U.S. repeatedly speaking forcefully at the United Nations against the body's singular mistreatment of Israel. But the year also came with immense tragedy in the form of the single most deadly attack on Jews in the U.S., with the murders of 11 worshipers at the Tree of Life



synagogue in Pittsburgh. When part of our community hurts, all of it hurts, and we rallied people around the world to help with the community's ongoing needs in the aftermath of that attack.

Always facing forward, but mindful of the lessons of history, we spent 2018 fighting the frightening rise in global anti-Semitism on public platforms and in private meetings. Combating this deeply disturbing trend is at the forefront of our work.



Charles O. Kaufman
President, BBI



Daniel S. Mariaschin
CEO, BBI

B'NAI B'RITH EUROPEAN DAYS OF JEWISH CULTURE AND HERITAGE

The annual European Days of Jewish Culture and Heritage (EDJCH) were once again very successful, with a wide range of very lively and well attended events, when many of the synagogues and organisations followed this year's theme of 'Storytelling' by holding open days, talks, guided walks and exhibitions.

We decided this year to reduce the number of printed copies of our eye-catching leaflet and, with the expertise of our Administrator, Lydia Drukarz, turned to social media, which produced some rewarding results. We also communicated with potential participants by email, effecting further savings. We achieved wide coverage and a large photospread through our partnership with *The Jewish News*, as well as an article in the *Jewish Chronicle*.



42 participants organised events, a few more than one, and in addition to our loyal favourites such as the Jewish Museum, JW3 and the Ben Uri Art Gallery, as well as Lodge events, we were especially delighted to welcome on board for the first time 8 National Trust properties with Jewish connections: the Winchester Jewish Heritage Trail, York University, and in London the Michael Sobell Centre, which held a Storytelling intergenerational tea. There were 5 Yorkshire Jewish Heritage Trails and we were well represented in Scotland and in Bangor, Wales, where the Jewish Heritage Trail was conducted in both English and Welsh. Sadly, Exeter Synagogue was fire-bombed and had to withdraw. Though difficult to quantify, we estimate we welcomed around 10,000 visitors, many of whom were not Jewish.

Through the partnership between the European Association for the Promotion and Preservation of Jewish Culture and Heritage (AEPJ) and the National Library of Israel, our leaflets are now being included in the latter's European Jewish Ephemera Collection.

In 2019, the EDJCH will be celebrating its 20th anniversary from 8th-22nd September, appropriately, on the theme of 'Heritage'.

Valerie Bello



Leicester Hebrew Congregation, one of the participants in EDJCH 2018



B'NAI B'BRITH LONDON BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (BBLBIA)

Last year witnessed continuing antisemitism from right around the world. Extreme nationalists in Eastern Europe glorified war crimes and sought to deny Poland's complicity in the Holocaust while in the US, an attack at Pittsburgh synagogue left 11 Jews dead. The assault on Israel continued within all the bodies of the UN, as well as the global BDS movement. As well as this, Israel received negative coverage for its handling of the Hamas orchestrated violence on the Gaza border and its actions undertaken in self defence against Iranian forces in Syria.

BBUK's Bureau of International Affairs has continued to advocate for Jewish, Israeli and minority interests in London's diplomatic and political community. In 2018, the Bureau met dozens of ambassadors and senior diplomats from European, African, Asian and Latin American countries. It was represented in the first of three sessions of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva and at the roundtable discussions held at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. In addition, the Bureau met with senior politicians from all of the UK's main parties.

During its meetings, Bureau members raised concerns about endemic anti-Israel bias and provided evidence to show why much of the coverage of the Middle East was deeply misguided and inconsistent with the fact. Many of these misconceptions focused on the reasons for the breakdown in the peace process, the legality of settlements and the role of the Palestinian Authority and Hamas in heightening regional discord. The Bureau also condemned Poland's Holocaust law which proposed to criminalise suggestions that the Polish nation or state were responsible or complicit in Nazi crimes. Following representations from many bodies, including B'nai B'rith, the government backtracked to make it a civil offence. The Bureau has also highlighted the worrying trend across Eastern Europe of glorifying wartime governments that were responsible for killing and deporting Jews.

The Bureau conducted significant research in 2018 on the fate of religious minorities in the Middle East. It surveyed the extreme depths of violence, state backed persecution and discrimination that many faith groups were subjected to, among them, the Baha'i of Iran, the Copts of Egypt, the Shia of Saudi Arabia, the Assyrians and Mandeans of Iraq and the Ahmadis living in many countries. It called for recognition of their suffering and for western countries to speak out in their defence. Bureau Director, Jeremy Havardi, also wrote a number of articles and letters in British papers on antisemitism and the Middle East.

Jeremy Havardi gave talks about the Bureau's work at the London branch of fraternity group AEPi as well as within B'nai B'rith lodges.

Jeremy Havardi Director BBLBIA



B'NAI BRITH UK IN THE UKRAINE

For the year 2018/19 BBUK has continued to maintain its charitable presence in that disturbed country. Partly at war, the general population manage to exist to different degrees. It is especially hard for the young and the old.

Concentrating our efforts in Kiev, our programme is simply to provide the Kiev B'nai B'rith with the funds necessary to provide the elderly in the B'nai B'rith remit with the necessary medicines that are needed on a daily basis. To this end we are morally committed to send £2000 every three months, which we have been doing since we have concentrated on the medical programme that began in October 2018. It is imperative that all BBUK lodges contribute to provide these funds, it being part of our BBUK core projects.

We continue to provide new shoes to about 200 plus children in the Tikvah home in Odessa. Last August we sent £6000. Whilst not a core BBUK project, donations are always welcome; from lodges and from individual members. Now in its 22nd year, funds fully raised in the past came from the concert outings. Support for the concerts has lessened for various reasons: age, ill health and demise being the main one.

Malcolm Factor

Kiev B'nai B'rith continued to meet throughout the year, and participated in the following activities. We held Rosh Hashanah celebrations, and also celebrated Hanukah. We had activities dedicated to the 77th anniversary of the tragedy of BabiYar. We had a 'round table' for 80 years of Crystal Night". We met with artists of the Jewish theatre from Nikolaev, and we will participate in the International Holocaust Memorial Day in January 2019. We look forward to meeting members from BBUK when they visit Ukraine in May 2019.

Svetlana Levitas, Kiev B'nai B'rith

QIRYAT GAT

2018 has seen the project face considerable challenges. The Qiryat Gat Council's continued shortage of funds to support their very poor and underprivileged residents, plus the fact that the rent-free lease on the premises, (used for the distribution of the food parcels) is due to expire in 2019.

Despite the town of Qiryat Gat having seen considerable growth over the last decade, the demand for the food parcels provided by the HamishBaQiryat Gat Food Programme has never been higher as new immigrants, mainly from Africa and the Former Soviet Union, are absorbed and integrated into Israeli life. Coupled with the slump



in the Sterling/Shekel exchange rate and the much increased cost of buying food in Israel means that we can provide less for the same money.

We hope that the immediate crisis with the project's premises can soon be resolved so that the parcels which are assembled and distributed there by the large team of youthful volunteers can continue and so avoid the emergency provision of food vouchers.

BBUK has again, through the fantastic efforts of our members, been able to meet the target of raising £15,000 for the project. We also raised the magnificent total of £2,000 through the Chanukah Gelt Appeal to provide Chanukah gifts for the children who attend the Kadima After School Club. We know from our very close contacts with the team at the Qiryat Gat Foundation that the efforts of BBUK are much appreciated and that our contributions do make a real difference to the lives of those who are not as fortunate as ourselves.

Lodges again supported the highly successful Interlodge Supper Quiz and the Chicago Bridge Lunch. Thanks go to Maxine Cohen and Ernest Simon respectively for giving up so much time in organising these events. These are important not only as enjoyable social occasions, but also an opportunity to raise money for BBUK's core projects in Qiryat Gat and the Ukraine. Both these events will appear in the 2019 calendar and we look forward to members' continued support.

Alan Miller

BBUK President

B'NAI B'RITH UK OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Taking over the running of the Office in January from Valerie and Joe Melnick, who had done the job as Membership and Information Coordinators for ten years, was quite a daunting proposition. However, with their support I eased myself into the position and gave myself the title 'Office Administrator'.

Disseminating information by email to members via the Lodge Presidents is the main task, but there are also incoming general enquiries to deal with. Over the years, because of the use of email, the number of phone calls to the Office has diminished and therefore that aspect of the job is not so pressing.

The new Data Protection Legislation (GDPR) came into force on 25 May 2018 and BBUK along with other organisations had to be



compliant with these new regulations. This involved us in a tremendous amount of work. Thank you to those members who cooperated in this process.

Another challenge has been to update the information the Office holds on our membership. This continues to be 'a work in progress'. I had been warned by Valerie and Joe, that despite repeated requests to Lodge Presidents to inform them of new members, changes of addresses or sadly of the death of a member, this information was not always forthcoming. I'm afraid my experience has been the same.

I look forward to another year as your volunteer Office Administrator.

Eve Swabe office@bnaibrithuk.org

JEWISH COMMITTEE FOR HER MAJESTY'S ARMED FORCES (JCHMF) & THE ARMED FORCES JEWISH COMMUNITY (AFJC)

The two elements that constitute Jewish society in British military service (JCHMF and AFJC) have had a very productive and successful year. We have just completed an internal review of our practices and relationships to codify a new constitution that oversees all aspects of Jewish life within Defence under a single cohering body – the JCHMF. Under the JCHMF we now have 2 sub committees. The first deals with faith and endorsing authority matters (bringing rabbis into uniformed chaplaincy on behalf of the Chief Rabbi) and the second manages and binds the community aspects. Both functions are mutually-supporting and help us to deliver a first-class service to Jewish servicemen and women whatever their denomination or affiliation. This has been exciting work and we now have a formalised community and faith-based approach which is being held-up as the exemplar for the other non-Christian faiths in defence to follow. In parallel we have strengthened our links with AJEX and continue to build bonds with Jewish communities across the country to inculcate a 'cradle to grave' multi-denominational approach to the provision of support to Jewish service personnel – of the future as well as in the present. Sergeant Dan Fox and Mike Bluestone are leading this and with some fantastic results. This will continue to be developed over the coming years and I hope will lead to stronger links with all the Jewish synagogue groupings in the UK.

Looking back, 2018 was an incredible year during which we, with the aid of our friends in the wider British Jewish community, and B'nai B'rith in particular, were able to provide several enriching



events for our diverse (full-time and reserves), multi-denominational, serving Jewish community. Rabbi Reuben Livingstone and Lieutenant Danny Sharpe have been at the spear tip of this exciting programme which has included our annual moral leadership event at Amport House, as well as an incredibly successful historical and leadership visit to Israel – appropriately named as Exercise Britannic Star. During the latter, the 25-strong team visited historic sites from the conflicts of 1967 and 1973. They also held a memorial service at the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery in Jerusalem. One of the highlights of the visit was a Shabbat service in Jerusalem that involved the largest contingent of serving British Jews since the end of the mandate in 1945. Our weekend at Amport House was a resounding success and, once again we are indebted to B'nai B'rith without whom we could not provide this capstone, highly popular and over-subscribed community event. We had a weekend crammed-back with thought-provoking presentations and discussions, a wonderful Shabbat service and our annual mess dinner. Heads were sore on Sunday morning! At the heart of military service is the reality that Jewish servicemen and women will deploy on operations and demanding exercises around the world. 2018 was no exception and our community deployed 10 personnel on operations and exercises to the Middle East, the Baltic States and Afghanistan. Their deployment was made easier through the provision of 'care packages' funded by our friends and coordinated by our community.

Looking forward, we have an exciting year ahead and great plans for next year and beyond. The Chief Rabbi has very graciously invited the serving community to a reception at his residence in the summer. The Chief of Defence Personnel and the 3 senior military chaplains from the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force will also join us. We think this is a 'first' and it will serve to reinforce the Chief Rabbi's role as our Endorsing Authority. We are also developing a 5-year strategy that will resource the needs of our community – spiritually and in welfare terms – and this will also include developing links, along the lines of the Military Covenant, with all strands of British Judaism. We intend to run another leadership event in Israel and are also looking at a combined effort with AJEX to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Bergen Belsen next year. We will of course be running our capstone event at Amport House next January! In chaplaincy terms it is anticipated that 2 more rabbis will join the military chaplaincy this year – one more to the Army and one to either the Royal Air Force or the Royal Navy. Light blue gets my vote! If this all comes off, we will have 5 rabbis administering pastoral support to all sectors of the British military community – not just Jews. For me, this will be a considerable success and a reflection not only of the

high regard our rabbis are held in by the Ministry of Defence but also the high esteem that our serving Jewish community is held in by Defence and our nation.

So, as I finish my first year as the Chair of our broad and diverse community of Jewish sailors, soldiers, airmen and women I look back on a very successful year made possible through considerable external support and I look forward to an exciting year in which we will grow our links and build an improved network of communication with the wider British Jewish Community. With the latter in mind, I look forward to meeting you at the AGM in June and, on behalf of the serving Jewish community I thank you for your considerable and unswerving support.

Phillip Lester, Chairman of Jewish Committee for HM Armed Forces.



Participants in the Jewish Armed Services Committee's Leadership Weekend, January 2018, Ampport House, Hampshire



The Max and Gladys Rothschild Scholarship Fund

In 2018 we were able to distribute three grants from four applications, one of which was for Law and so ineligible.

Thomas Rav was granted £1500. He has been at Bristol University since 2015, and now in his 4th year is studying for a PhD in Material Science – Advanced composites as used in aerospace engineering. Thomas comes from Budapest.

Libby Walker is studying Engineering Mathematics for an M.Eng at the University of Washington via Bristol University. She received £1500. In her application she wrote “Engineering Mathematics is a creative and exciting discipline, spanning traditional boundaries. I have taken the opportunity whilst studying at Bristol to disseminate my love of maths and problem solving through leading outreach programmes”. Libby comes from north west London.

The award to Jacob Goldstein was for £2000 to study for an M.Sc in Geotechnical Engineering, at Imperial College. Jacob is a 28 year old from Tel Aviv and already has a B.Sc.in Civil Engineering from the Technion.

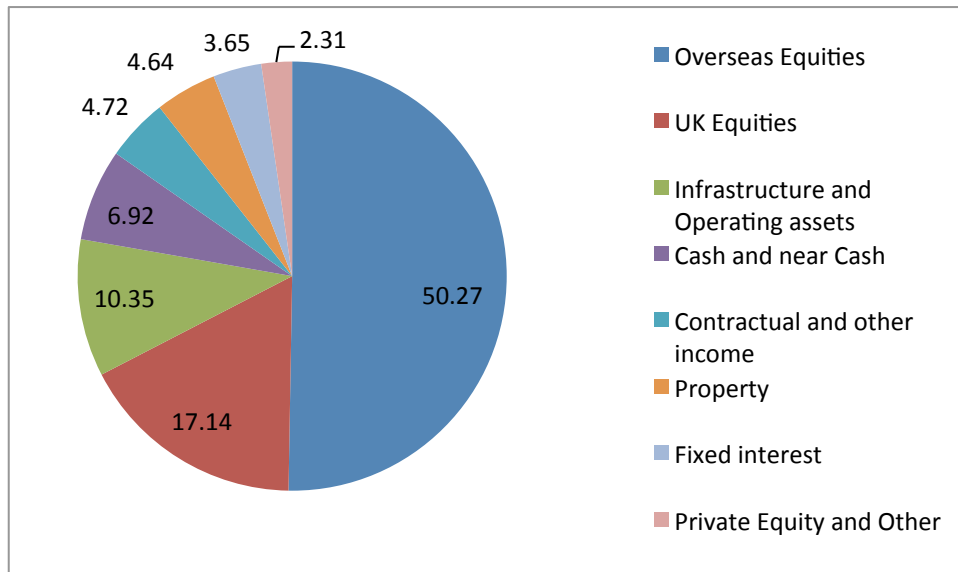
The Maxine Schiff Fund

In January 2018 the Trust provided BBUK central funds with £25,000 from the sale of Investment Fund units. £10000 from income was also transferred in February. The sale was made at a unit price of £14.813. The year-end unit price was £14.32. The investment management remains with CCLA. This fund has a net income yield of 3.5%

The fund performance has stuttered in 2018, to growth of only +1.21 % as world-wide uncertainties have caused stock markets to fall. The five year performance is :-

12 months to 31 December	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
COIF Charities Investment Fund	+1.21%	+13.14%	+15.10%	+5.96%	+9.71%

The Investment Fund, valued at £266,322, is invested as shown.
The Property Fund is valued at £48,893. Both at December 31st 2018.



Gerald Diamond, Joint Trustee

WEBSITE REPORT

The BBUK website is our window to the world. We have lots of visitors from the UK and around the world.

Those visitors look at among other things the lodge programmes and may well be interested enough in what they see to want to inquire about programmes and come along. This can be a valuable source of new members. That is why it is important that every lodge maintains an up-to-date programme on their page.

For security most lodges have had set up for them a lodge email address. This is to stop anyone having their private email address open to spam.

All communications from the lodge to other lodges and their own members should be sent using these generic addresses.

Please do keep looking at the website regularly and send information and programmes for inclusion. You should never have people turning up at your meetings, BB members or not, without prior warning because the venues are not given on the website only the time, date and subject.

By adding your lodge activities to the website you help to generate a lively looking active organisation for every visitor to the website.

Let's not keep a good thing to ourselves – let's proclaim it to the world.

David L Koten - BBUK Web Admin - davidlkoten@btinternet.com



BOARD OF DEPUTIES

The Board of Deputies is the representative body for the whole of the Anglo Jewish Community and all large membership organisations, such as ourselves, are allowed a voice..

B'nai B'rith is represented by our Deputy, Deanna Levine, who attends all the general meetings and puts forward our views on current issues, whilst also providing us with feedback. The Board publishes a weekly Newsletter which is published on the BBUK website and distributed to all Lodges with the intention that it is forwarded to members.

The range of the work carried out by the Board is truly vast. From making representations to the Labour Party about their dealings with anti-Semitism, making contact with the government and MPs on matters affecting the community, making public statements on current affairs to interfaith work, promotion of Holocaust Education, raising a positive profile of the Community and of course voicing opinions on all matters regarding our welfare.

This year has seen a giant leap forward in the working relationship between our B'nai B'rith LBIA and the Board of Deputies. We now co-ordinate timings and share information before visiting foreign Embassies and Ambassadors and have recently joined with the Board on recent visits. We are delighted that the value of our work has been recognised and feel that a joint force, streamlined approach to be beneficial to our Community.

We welcome input from our members. Issues of concern can be directed to Deanna Levine who will raise them with the appropriate Board personnel.

Alan Miller

B'NAI B'RITH UK SOUTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

The Southern Regional Council (SRC) meets twice a year and continues to be a useful forum for Lodge Presidents or their representatives to report on their lodge's activities, exchange ideas, raise questions or voice concerns on a range of B'nai B'rith issues both locally and nationally. At these meetings, our National President is able give up to date reports direct to Lodge Presidents and be questioned by them.

Lodges again supported the highly successful Interlodge Supper Quiz and the Chicago Bridge Lunch. Thanks go to Maxine Cohen and Ernest Simon respectively for giving up so much time in organising these events. These are important not only as enjoyable social occasions, but also an opportunity to raise money for BBUK's core projects in Qiryat Gat and the Ukraine. Both these events will



appear in the 2019 calendar and we look forward to members' continued support.

The Chanukah Gelt Appeal launched a number of years ago to raise money to buy Chanukah presents for the children who use the Kadima after school club in Qiryat Gat was once again well supported by members. We received the following message from the centre, *"Thank you all for making this an annual tradition, your contribution is very much appreciated."*

With your support, the Concert for Shoes Programme continues to raise money to provide shoes for children in an orphanage in Odessa. Our thanks go to Malcolm Factor who has worked tirelessly over many years on this project.

Eve Swabe

Chair, Southern Regional Council

TREASURER'S REPORT

We are funding a demanding number of activities. Although all the honorary officers are unpaid and pay most of their expenses out of their own pockets, we still have the normal office expenses of telephone, postage, audit etc but our main expenses are the key focus areas: LBIA, Heritage and Young Professionals. Fortunately we are able to augment our income from membership fees with drawdowns from the Schiff Fund. Rising share and property prices have enabled the fund to replace most of the withdrawals. Our membership income has also declined as the older Lodges close. An effective cap on membership charges is imposed by competition from synagogues and organisations such as U3A. Also, of course, most of our members are retired and on fixed incomes so even our current fees are not affordable by some of our members. The good news is that we are in a financially sound position for the next year or so and we must do everything possible to continue the B'nai B'rith movement and its important work.

Tony Etherton, Treasurer

Copies of the full accounts are available on request

Accounts prepared and approved by MelinekFine LLP, London N3 1DH



simplified and condensed
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2018

Income	2018	2017
Subscriptions	34,090	32,030
Donations & Legacies	50,841	729
Ring-fenced donations	26,995	43,531
Investment income	16,673	17,293
Interest received	672	108
Other income	0	2,363
	129,271	96,054
Expenditure		
Scholarships	5,000	6,000
Israel & Ukraine (Kiev & Shoes)	34,554	22,189
Advocacy (LBIA)	27,402	27,047
Jewish Identity and Heritage	19,557	18,238
Young Professionals	26,790	29,024
B'nai B'rith Europe	0	0
B'nai B'rith International	0	0
Support and back-office	9,626	7,493
Professional examination of accounts & legal fees	3,035	2,065
	125,964	112,056
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE)	3,307	-16,002
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2018		
Investment - Rothschild Fund	116,707	118,617
Investment - Schiff Fund	314,602	346,483
Current assets - Cash at Bank	151,130	119,486
Current, deposit and 90 day accounts	582,439	584,586
Creditors & provision - due within one year	-10,823	-10,521
NET ASSETS	571,616	574,065



B'NAI B'RITH YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

2018 built on the success of last year's events, with the continuation of our annual events. These included the film screening of Entebbe in June, when over 20 people attended and enjoyed drinks before the film. Also in June we held a Joint NerYisrael Synagogue Young Professionals Friday Night Dinner. This event was over booked as we reached capacity, with 75 participants.

We held a 4th July Summer Barbeque at Travers Smith, when about 30 people attended

The LBIA Breakfast Briefing with Israeli Ambassador Mark Regev at Howard Kennedy was very well attended by YPs, and unfortunately some were unable to attend as the event was oversubscribed.

UKJFF/BBYP Annual Partnership BBYPs were offered a discount to several films showing on several dates at the UK Jewish Film Festival. For the first time BBYP offered its members the chance to buy discounted tickets for the UKJFF's Opening Gala.

In November, we held an Israel Wine Tasting Photo Night featuring David Katz's Photographic Exhibition 'Science is not Blind' - Young Technion/Technion UK event.

And in December, we had a BBYP 'Post Chanukah' Friday night dinner with Raleigh Close. Although this was previously a joint event, this year all the attendees came from our database. About 35 YPs enjoyed a Friday night meal with salt beef, latkes and pancakes and an interesting talk from Christian Zionist Jonathan Farrell.

A further 16 BBYP members joined this year, including 12 who joined at the Klezmer in the Park picnic.

Aside from those who have been helping and publicising events on an ad-hoc basis, two new committee members have joined and have been working on research for future events.

Valerie Tessler, BBYP



BBYP Israel Wine Tasting Photo Night



Klezmer in the Park



Valerie Tessler helping at the Valentine's dinner

REPORTS FROM THE LODGES

ABRAHAM LEWIN UNITY LODGE

The Abraham Lewin Unity Lodge 3280 is now in its 33 year of existence. It is still an active lodge but time, ageing and demise has reduced our numbers dramatically. However, attendance at meetings is, on average, some 50/60% of the membership. We continue to support BBUK projects and attend BBUK events when they occur. As the founders of The Shoe Programme we continue to ensure that finance is available, as necessary for the programme to continue.

We try to ensure that our activities are interesting for the membership as in the past year. We had a very successful celebration to mark 100 years since the Balfour Declaration with an excellent tea and Speaker. Outings on a river cruise was very popular and also various speakers, especially of Jewish interest, throughout the year. Although now small in numbers we are hoping to carry on well into our 34th year.

Avril Joseph President, **Abraham Lewin** Unity Lodge

CHESHIRE UNITY LODGE

The Lodge continues to hold regular, well attended monthly, high quality meetings. We continue to grow in numbers and are delighted to have welcomed a net of nine new members. Our meetings are mainly held in member's homes – which blesses us with a great atmosphere, but has the downside of needing to ask



members to book in to attend meetings as otherwise we would not have room for everybody. This year Council has found a suitable additional meeting venue for when we need larger premises. This has been a great success.

It is pleasing to report that most of our meetings were presented by our own members. These meetings included:

Brian Greene giving us a fantastic presentation on "TV Dinners and the J Factor", our world famous Men's Dinner Party – where the men do the shopping, cooking, serving and washing up for the ladies of the Lodge. A play, "Behind the score – Tchaikovsky and his six symphonies", written by Roger Bower was presented by our own talented thespian team of Roger Bower, Marilyn Berg, Jonathan Berg and Brian Greene

A matza ramble through the Cheshire countryside was ably led by Alex Crawford.

We had an interesting and informative talk about BBI, BBE and BBUK by Alan Miller [BBUKPresident], and a fascinating talk by Andrew Pal, "From the Danube to the Duddon", about his family fleeing from Hungary.

Dessert Islands discs [with a difference] was compered by Roger Bower, and our annual and popular BBQ was hosted by Sonya and Roger Bower followed by games and a quiz.

Other meetings included a tour round Roberts Bakery, where they bake 3.5 million loaves per week plus various treats and biscuits, a talk on "Modern Anti-Semitism" by Frank Vigon, a talk on "Irena Sendler: a Polish Righteous Gentile" by Anthony Lishak. We had a film evening on Itzhak Pearlman, and an illustrated talk by Anthony Taylor [Member of the Select Group of Football Referees] that also raised a huge sum of money for BBUK and other charities.

Plus: a fabulous trip to Uzbekistan organised by Alan and Ruth Silman – see photo below.





The Lodge has raised substantial funds for various charities and BBUK, including the Qiryat Gat Chanukah Appeal. Altogether a good year.

Ernie Hunter Immediate Past President

EDGWARE WOMEN'S LODGE

During the past year, Edgware Women's Lodge financially supported the B'nai B'rith core charities: Qiryat Gat in Israel, Shoes for Orphans in the Ukraine as well as the Langdon Centre for people with learning disabilities, and the Jewish Deaf Association.

We still maintain personal contact with "our" Israeli family who were victims of a terrorist attack; we gave their five children gift tokens for Chanukah.

Our charity fundraiser for 2018 was our annual 'Shabbat Candle Fund', when our sisters and their friends put £1 in an envelope when they light candles for Shabbat. We also contributed to the Chanukah Gifts fund for the children attending the After-School Club in Qiryat Gat.

We hold our fortnightly meetings at a Sheltered Housing Complex at Gordon Court in Edgware; as a "thank you", we again hosted a Succoth Tea with entertainment for the residents, who also enjoyed gifts of apples and honey at Rosh Hashanah

This year, our interesting programme of talks by our guest speakers included topics such as "The Jerusalem Botanical Gardens", an update on "The Jewish Refugees of the Middle East & North Africa" and "The Hebrew University – Jerusalem".

Our fortnightly meetings, which include a delicious sandwich lunch, appeal to our older age Sisters. They form an interested and enthusiastic audience, most of whom are involved in the organisation of our Lodge as a co-operative team.

We are always looking for new members, and are happy to invite visitors to our meetings, who often subsequently join our friendly Lodge.

Naomi Lesser, Diane Issacharoff & Norma Sinclair

Co-Presidents Edgware Women's Lodge.

FINCHLEY AND HENDON LODGE

Although still one of the smaller lodges left in the BBUK family, we have managed to stay afloat and still managed to send donations to Qiryat Gat, the Shoe Programme and Hatzolla from our dwindling funds. In addition we have managed to persuade 2 new members - who have never been shy of putting their hands in their pockets and



helping us – to support various other projects in QG other than the Feeding Programme.

Phillip Klinger, our treasurer since our inception in 1979, is stepping down due to ill health. We wish him well and thank him for all his past services to BBUK. Hopefully we will be able to carry on and be able to send a report next year.

Walter Breindel- *President*

FIRST LODGE OF ENGLAND

During 2018 First Lodge held 8 evening meetings, which were very well attended. We also had an outing, with 30 of our members and friends to the beautiful National Trust palace of Ickworth in June.

A group of our members went to Berlin in May. Whilst there, they met with members of the Raoul Wallenberg Lodge of Berlin.

Our annual August Summer Party was very successful and we had more members & friends at our Supper Quiz in November than in any previous year.

These events helped us to make donations to B'nai B'rith charities – Qiryat Gat, the Ukraine, the European Days of Jewish Culture and Heritage – as well as donating through the B'nai B'rith World Centre for widows and orphans of men killed by terrorist attacks in Israel. These donations totalled £6,750.

Gerald Kirsh – Vice President

FIRST UNITY LODGE

Alan Miller performed our Installation with dignity and charm. Alf's slide show at the end of the AGM was a simply brilliant trip down Memory Lane.



David Burnell talked about poster art of the London Underground and Ian Kamiel told us about British Friends of Boys Town in Jerusalem. Our annual Walter Hoffman outing was to Willesden Cemetery and Pam Fox entertained us with the history of the Jews of Golder's Green. We had a delightful afternoon playing board games in Angela and Irving's garden and continued with our regular monthly bridge evenings. Sadly, this quarter we lost Alfred Goldschmidt and Eva Retkin, who we fondly remember.

Hilary Sinclair, *April- June*



On a beautiful July afternoon, we enjoyed a fabulous tea in the Levins' garden. Tony Zendle gave a fascinating talk on Ports and the Jews, who settled and traded in ports such as Amsterdam, London, Trieste and Hamburg, often escaping from the Inquisition and expulsion.

Jonathan Farrel spoke about the history, strategy and tactics of the BDS movement in advancing their anti-Israel message on University campuses and how 'Stand With Us' UK is educating and empowering student leaders.

Sylvia Lewin and Phil Phillips talked about Advanced Decision, which enables a patient to make their medical wishes clear and Dignity in Dying, which campaigns to change the law regarding assisted dying.

Doreen Natoff, July - September

Tom Nathan described life in Brent Cross and its expansion plans. Alan Usiskin rescued us at short notice and impressed us with his knowledge of Jazz.

We laughed and sighed at members' stories of holiday dramas. Five passionately addicted people told us about their "hobbies" and showed us their results.

At our Unity Lecture, Jeremy Havardi, *Director of LBIA*, described the miseries and sufferings of religious communities across the Middle East. We celebrated Chanukah with candle lighting and doughnuts. Our New Year's Eve party started with hot mulled wine, continuing with supper, a clever puzzle, bubbly and Auld Lang Syne, raising £160 for our Charities in the process.

Marion Summerfield, October – January

LEEDS B'NAI B'RITH

The Leeds Lodge was formed in 1926. As is generally known, it comprises the Main Lodge and the Music Society, which meet in the BHH Synagogue in Street Lane. We provide meetings on a wide variety of interesting topics in addition to supporting charitable and other endeavours. There is a solid core of members and in particular, the Music Society attracts many non-members.

Dr Keith Brownlee father of the celebrated Triathlon champions, the Brownlee brothers, gave a fascinating account of his visit to South America including the 2016 Olympics. Ernie Hunter from Manchester gave an account of his parents' background, both of whom were refugees from Germany. Albert Einstein was a member of his extended family! We were delighted to welcome Jeremy Havardi, director of BBUK's LBIA. Leeds' new Shaliach Amir Ben Hur related the story of his young life and included a photo of himself and his family with Pope Benedict when his father was Israeli envoy to the Vatican.



The most outstanding music programme was on Beethoven, given by Martin Binks, conductor of the Leeds Symphony Orchestra, who also played some of his music on the BB piano. The enduring

appeal of Rodgers and Hammerstein was chosen by Liesel Carter, who came to England as a Child refugee. Lawrence Gorsden presented a programme on Pavarotti that was a tribute to the late Reuben Grant, who formed the Music Society in 1972. The exotic world of Zarzuela -Spanish Operetta- was opened by Aubrey Kreike from Manchester.

2019 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Synagogue and its association with BB.



The Shaliach as a boy is on the extreme right with his family and Pope Benedict. It was taken around 2006

Dr Michael Cohen, Leeds B'nai B'rith

RAOUL WALLENBERG LODGE

Raoul Wallenberg Lodge has had another successful year, having a variety of events, despite a small fall in membership.

We had two theatre outings, one in January to the Gatehouse in Highgate to see Top Hat, and the other to Regents Park Open Air theatre in July to see As you Like It.

In January, members also supported Sandra Berzon who appeared in Nabucco with Brent Opera.

In February we welcomed Eddie Josse who spoke on his life as 'A



Medical Detective at Scotland Yard'. Dr Josse retired 2 years ago after 50 years as a Forensic Medical Examiner. In March Huda Jawad, the founder of SAFE communities Project – Standing Together against Domestic Violence in London spoke to us, and answered many searching questions.

We held our annual Pesach Picnic, this time at Strawberry Hill House. In June, Kathrin Pieren, Curator at the Jewish Museum, gave an illustrated talk about the Jews of the East End, which brought back many memories.

In September, David Josse, brother of Eddie, spoke on "The International Criminal Court – Justice or Politics?", and highlighted some of the cases he had dealt with. Also in September we held our annual Barbeque at the home of Annette and Michael Shain,

In October, Lynne Townley spoke on ' Dealing with the problem of forced marriage in the UK: a Diaspora community problem.

Our annual Raoul Wallenberg Lecture was again held at Chai, when Sir Michael Burton QC spoke entertainingly about his time at the Bench and the Bar.

Again in December we held our annual Chanukah party and our Festive dinner.

Several of the council members have served for many years, and I should like to take this opportunity of thanking them all for their unflinching hard work and support.

Lynne Lucas, President, Raoul Wallenberg

SHLOMO ARGOV UNITY LODGE

We have survived another year! Our numbers have dropped considerably, in part due to loss and illness and now inability to drive at night. Having successfully moved to EHRS on Stonegrove for our monthly evening meeting, this has only helped us by being more central for several members. Retirees have now far more choice of activities with less expensive organisations. Having said that, we have continued to increase daytime activities - occasional visits to an exhibition, or lunches, which have proved socially popular, including Reveley Lodge, Burgh House in Hampstead and Mops and Brooms last summer.

Four years ago our membership was still 83; we now anticipate between 35 and 40 at this month's renewal, with most evening meetings attracting 24 to 30. Consequently our fundraising income will also be less. Our main sources this year have been a raffle, a Chanukah quiz with buffet and a bridge lunch to come in March.



As ever, getting people to serve on Council is difficult. I am in my third year of chairmanship and will not continue indefinitely without more help. Enormous thanks are due to Geoff Wolf who has been our treasurer and evening programme organiser for many years - two big responsibilities. We will have to consider amalgamation!

Doris Waxman, Chairman

THAMES LODGE

2017 was another busy year for Thames Lodge and at the end of the year we were still 34 in total. It was a special year for us as we celebrated 25 years – the silver anniversary of our charter - and of the original 20 members 15 of us remain as active members.

As we all grow older we remain resilient and strong, and the vast majority of Thames Lodge are very active, and our meetings well attended.

Our monthly talks are hosted at members' homes with a wide variety of speakers followed by tea, cakes etc. and my thanks are to those who are able to host these evenings. It is hard work putting together an interesting programme but I am ably assisted by the hard work of a few well connected members.

We succeeded in obtaining Mr Luke Akehurst as a speaker on the rise of anti-semitism in the Labour Party. With such a top rate speaker and very topical subject, we advertised it in the wider South London community and arranged the meeting at one of the local Synagogues. This was a great success and a formula for future meetings.

Jeremy Havardi was one of our speakers, and we also showed two films and had a lovely music evening. Our other speakers were locally "home grown".

Unfortunately we were not able to organise our summer garden party; But we celebrated Chanukah with gusto – all the traditional songs were sung with most of the tunes being recognisable. Nearly everybody was there and the heat from all the chanakiot was intense!

At the time of writing we have already held two successful speaker meetings and look forward to a full programme of activities for the remainder for 2019.

Paul Solomon, President



THE YITZCHAK RABIN LODGE

The Lodge continues with its policy of having specialist interest groups instead of meetings for the whole Lodge, which attract diminishing numbers. Our groups are for bridge, play reading, films and lunch. The films are sourced on YouTube, using a projector on to a large screen in a member's house.

The highlights of our year are the Rabbi Michael Leigh Memorial Lecture in conjunction with Edgware Reform Synagogue, the Chanukah party and the Jean Etherton Musical Soirée in the summer. Our speaker at 2018's lecture was Jonathan Arkush, President of the Board of Deputies. The soirée is our main fund raising event although every meeting contributes a little towards our overall target of £2000-£3000.

We are still functioning without a president but with a very active Council and the system more or less works.

Tony Etherton, *Council member*

YAD B'YAD

As in previous years the Lodge continues to have a full and varied programme.

We started 2018 with David Niemann giving us a talk about 'A Nazi in the Family', which culminated in some of our members being interviewed by Andrew Bomford, a BBC Radio 4 journalist for the programme Broadcasting House. Other topics included 'Boys Town Jerusalem', 'ShaareZedek Hospital: Good News from Israel' and 'Jewish Settlements in Jaffa'.

Music evenings continued to be varied and well supported, as were arts & literature, the book club, Rummikub and bridge. Rambles and short walks were ably led by members.

In February we held our postponed Supper Quiz and from the proceeds made donations to Qiryat Gat and the Ukraine.

Our annual coach outing took us to Northampton where we had a tour of 'Jewish' Northampton. We had a successful four-day break in Canterbury with a full programme for both walkers and non-walkers.

The Lodge participated in BBUK's annual bridge lunch, plus the Inter lodge Quiz where one of our teams won the Cup again.

In June, to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the forming of the Lodge, we held a Dinner and Cabaret for members and guests.



We continue to support the Harrow Foodbank by donating non-perishable goods and volunteer to stand outside a local supermarket to collect items donated by shoppers.

Lodge members were happy to once again support the Chanukah Gelt Appeal.

Some of our members will be participating in the BBUK trip to the Ukraine in May 2019.

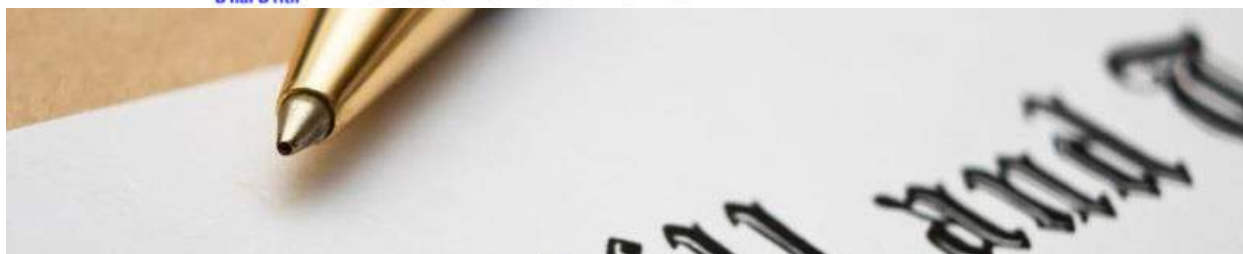
Maureen Daniels, President



Yad B'Yad visit to Northampton



BBUK President Alan Miller presenting a Jewish Rescuers Citation on behalf of the B'nai B'rith World Centre, Jerusalem, for the bravery of Sally Noach in occupied France, to his children Lady Irene Hatter (centre) and Jaques Noach (right). This was presented in May 2018 at the premiere of "Forgotten Soldier", a film about the life of Sally Noach



Leave a lasting legacy

Many of our illustrious BBUK predecessors were both generous and far-sighted in deciding to leave a legacy or bequest to B'nai B'rith. Today, many charities are reminding us to do the same. It is now my turn, as President of BBUK, to ask that you think of our organisation so that it can continue its wonderful work.

A legacy may be in the form of a specific sum of money, shares, property or personal items such as a painting or stamp collection. You can visit your own solicitor for help in leaving a legacy to B'nai B'rith UK or if you have a will, a bequest may be added to it by means of a codicil.

Making a will and leaving a legacy are areas that many of us know are important, but we often bury our heads in the sand and ignore the issue. Now is the time to rectify this and heed the pleas of our Treasurer and provide a legacy to help guarantee the future of B'nai B'rith.

If you would like advice or assistance, please contact the BBUK office on 020 7446 8660 / 075 8808 7324 or email office@bnaibrithuk.org

Alan Miller

President



B'NAI B'RITH UK