

August 2019

# UNITY News



## President's News

### Dear Brothers and Sisters

As I write to you, I am almost halfway through my period of glory! As a member of the Presidential Quartet, I only get three months in the limelight – July, August and September. However, I can assure you that the commitment is for the whole year and that we work together to see that the Lodge is happy and healthy for the entire time. In fact, I took on a commitment that will last well into next year – and maybe even the one after. That is, I offered to oversee a Fundraising programme to ensure that the lodge always has its coffers full, to be able to help our brethren wherever they might be, who are not as fortunate as we are.

A small group of lodge members, Judith, Hilary, Ron, Doreen, Ronnie and I have beavered away to come up with a strategy which will raise up to £2000 over the next couple of years. In devising our plan, the criteria we set were that nobody should be unduly pressurised or taxed – nobody had to feel guilty if they couldn't be at a certain place at a certain time or were not able to sell tickets to a big event.



So, here are some of the ways we hope to put into action:

1. We would give all members the opportunity of making a charitable donation of between £3 and £10 on top of their membership fee. Ron Shelley said he would make this more appealing on the membership fees form and show which specific Lodge project this would go to. In this way we could hope to make at least £200 a year.
2. Judith Usiskin, who loves the theatre, offered to take modest blocks of tickets to popular events from time to time. She has already sold all her 20 tickets for the London Klezmer Quartet at the Radlett Centre on 26 September. (If you still wanted to go, she may be able to get more tickets.) And she is well into selling the tickets for the play with a Jewish theme with Tracy Ann Oberman at the Park Theatre on Thursday 17 October. Call Judith if you want to join the party on \_\_\_\_\_ and help her raise another £200 for the Lodge
3. Hilary Sinclair reminded us of a previous very enjoyable event of a dish-tasting event with recipe book. We liked the idea. Doreen would help Hilary co-ordinate the event and the recipes. The fundraising aspect is that people would pay for the food-tasting event (rather than print a recipe book to sell). Each dish would have the ingredients next to it, so people can check for allergies. Then those that attend the event will have the recipes e-mailed to them or printed off and given if they are not on email. People who have not attended can pay to have the recipes e-mailed to them. Charge would be say £10 for the event which 30 people attend. We hope Henny will programme that for an event in early Spring.
4. Other ideas include a gin-tasting event where the marketing board for artisan gins will come and offer us a tasting; a play reading; visits to Chelsea or Hampton Court flower shows and Henny has suggested a book swop – bring one and buy one, and she also has a surprise for us at the New Year's Eve party – and its not just jam (though her delicious jams also add to the charity funds).

If you have an idea that might raise a few pounds in a fun way, do get in touch and tell me and join our little group to make it happen.

I look forward to seeing you at many events.

Best wishes

**Geraldine Auerbach MBE, Quartet President.**

News and Comment from First Unity Lodge

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

We wish **Jack White** a full and speedy recovery after his recent heart operation.

We wish **Geoff Heath** a full recovery after his recent fall.

We send best wishes to all those who have not been well recently.

***We can only publish happy news, get well wishes and special events if we know about them. So please do contact Henny Levin or the Welfare Committee, if you would like us to publish information.***

## **Eli Wiesel Award To Peter and Marianne Summerfield**

Peter and Marianne Summerfield have received the prestigious *Eli Wiesel Award* from the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, USA for their contribution to International Holocaust Education.

Peter and Marianne have for over ten years spoken to students in schools, colleges and other organisations about their lives and those of their families in Nazi Germany and their fortunate escape to Britain just before the Second World War began.

In the UK, these talks have been mainly arranged through the Holocaust Educational Trust. Peter and Marianne have also talked to our Lodge, as indeed has Peter's twin brother - George.

Each year Peter and Marianne are invited to Berlin where they speak (in German) to German students at the Jewish Museum and also during their visits to Florida, USA where they speak to students at local schools. It is for this continuing dedication, ensuring that the younger generation is made aware of the horrors of Nazi Germany, that they have been given this prestigious award.





### SUMMER PARTY RECIPE

#### Ingredients

Sunshine with not a cloud in the sky  
 Shade under garden umbrellas  
 Good company with friends  
 A large patio in a beautiful garden  
 A lovely tea with cakes,  
 drinks and ice-cream to follow

#### Method

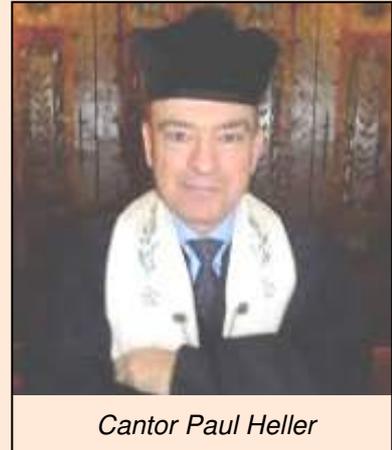
Mix all ingredients together, sit down, relax  
 and enjoy





22nd July 2019

**Joint Presidents  
B'nai B'rith First Unity Lodge**



*Cantor Paul Heller*

Dear Joint Presidents,

On behalf of BBUK and our Heritage Committee, I should like to thank you and your Lodge for your generous donation towards Heritage Days, which we very much appreciate.

I can hardly believe that we are celebrating our 20th anniversary this year but over the years we have become an established feature in the communal calendar

This year, we are welcoming some more new participants, not only in London but further afield too and nowadays, in particular, it is very encouraging that we are given the opportunity to further knowledge and understanding about Judaism and to create communal goodwill right across the board within our own community and beyond.

With our renewed and warmest thanks for your support,

Very best wishes,

**Valerie Bello**

**Chairman, BBUK Heritage Committee**

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***Editor's Notes***

*Our contribution to this year's event takes place on **Sunday 8 September** at the home of the*

*We are delighted to welcome **Cantor Paul Heller, Minister at** be talking about **'The History of Synagogue Music'**.*

*who will*

## Of Mice And Men

*A thought provoking essay by Tony Wilder*

**W**e have always had two worlds: one of mice and one of men.

I could start this diatribe at any point but I choose to do so at that cataclysmic period just prior to the First World War. It was the time when, unknown to them, the crown and ermine-wearing mice of Europe were approaching their demise. Already they had handed much of their powers to the grey-suited, bowler-hatted minions who had incongruously woven a network of ententes and treaties, which were always liable to lead to war. This, of course, happened when a royal mouse was murdered, and mayhem ensued. The mice emitted braying cries from Albion such as 'teaching Johnny Foreigner a lesson' and 'let's kick the kybosh up the Kaiser' and 'anyway it will be all over by Christmas'

But it wasn't; and sending the cavalry into battle with lances and men with bayonets had little effect. Then the balloon really went up and the little battles became static trench-warfare and the horror intensified.

The mice reacted by sending more men to the slaughter and then more. When it was all over, the wily mice and their generals were rewarded with statues erected to their bravery and off they went to Versailles to enact their treaty. Possibly the most inept treaty in history, which led to famine, disease and to the inevitable second round of World War.

So, the mice went home and an insatiable feline monster settled itself in Germany. In no time at all it started to show its claws and snarled and spat in all directions. The mice preferred to look the other way and contented themselves with their parties, dances and gin and tonics whilst putting their heads up their proverbials, fortunate in ridding themselves of a Nazi-friendly royal mouse. They thought the signed agreement with the out-of-control wild cat would lead to peace in their time. When the cat stretched its paws to the surrounding areas, they realised too late that the men would need to be sent once again. War! The mice had six years during which they received constant details of how the cat was readying itself for aggression yet were caught completely unprepared and unaware of the strength of the cat. Fortunate in having a ditch to cross they were only saved by the efforts of a super mouse with a liking for large cigars and Armenian brandy. With the help of the American cousins and Eastern hordes plus an unbreakable British spirit, the local mice prevailed.

Now the mice had to maintain the peace that the men had won. They had the bright idea of resurrecting the old League of Nations, moving the chairs around a bit and renaming it the 'United Nations'. More jobs for the mice. What could go wrong? Lovely idea but did it work? No. Still more wars and men to feed them. Still misery all over the world.

Fast-forward to the present. We have the situation whereby the British mice wish to partially dissociate themselves from their Continental partners. How are they doing it? By attacking each other and biting each other's tails. Particularly, they seem to relish trying to decapitate their leader who seems to have an enormous capacity of patience. Where will this end? Who can say?

So, all in all, the system of rule by the mice has been a complete disaster. Is there a better way? The experiences of ruling by cats and also dogs have been infinitely worse. Until someone comes up with some other system, we will continue to complain, argue and put up with it.

**Tony Wilder**