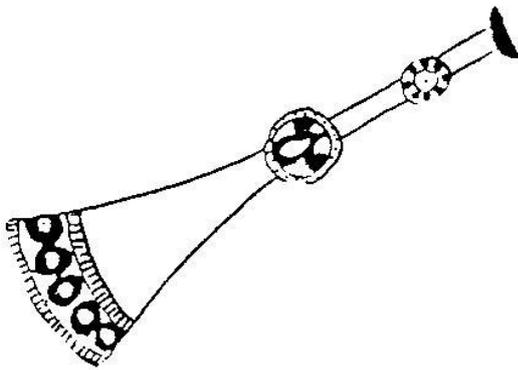
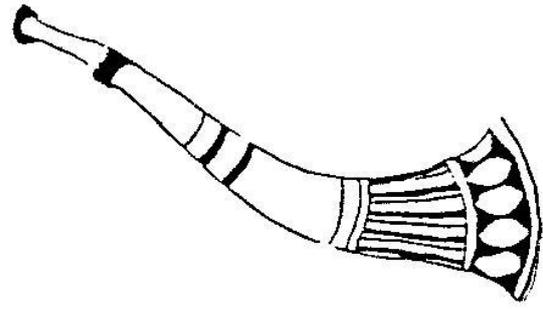


Shofar  
Shalom



*The Official Newsletter of Ne've Shalom, the Hull Reform Synagogue*



## *CHAIR'S REPORT*

Tevet/Shevat 5779  
December 2018/January 2019

Shalom. We had a good 'turn out' from the members of Ne've Shalom at the Communal Remembrance Service at Pryme Street on 11 November 2018. It was also good to see one of our members, Andrew Percy MP, as one of the invited guests. Our Treasurer, Aimi, has been able to draw down some funding from the CST to provide much needed security for Shul Services. In light of this, we now have appointed a security company for Ne've Shalom and a qualified security guard will be present at our Friday Night and Shabbat Morning Services. They will be patrolling the grounds and ensuring no untoward visitors gain access to the Shul. Humberside Police will also continue to be in the area during the Services.

The Headstone Consecration for the late Thelma Kelsey took place at Tranby Lane Cemetery on 25 November 2018. Thank you to Sarita for leading a moving service. 'Long life' to all the family and friends. Also on Sunday 25 November 2018, in the afternoon, we dimmed the lights in the Shul Hall to watch the film "Sixty Six" in which Bernie Reuben's Barmitzvah clashes with the 1966 World Cup. We managed to fill over 25 seats and thanks go to Ian for being our projectionist and Aimi for acting as the usherette. Ian told me that he still has a large supply of travel clocks from his Barmitzvah in 1967, so please see him after Shul if you wish to purchase one! We have plans for another film show towards end of March 2019, so watch this space.

Ian led the Chanukah Service on Saturday 8 December 2018, after which we held a 'race evening' event. We had tremendous 'turn out' again and the winning team went home with the unforgettable prize and the losing team, the donkeys, went home with some carrots. Thank you to Ian for his hard work in preparing this event and providing the racing form and commentary each race. Thanks also go to Audrey and Aimi for the splendid food as well. Don't forget that we continue to hold our Friday Night Services every week at 7.00pm and our Shabbat Morning Services at 10.30am on the first Saturday of the month.

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## *SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL*

Chairman:	Andy Harbert (Shul Management)	07736 397858
Vice Chairman:	Phil O'Driscoll (Projects)	07903 578490
Secretary:	Joanne Kearsley (Administration)	01724 340506
Treasurer:	Aimi Sugarman (Financial)	07507 891608
Senior Warden:	Malcolm Rosenberg (Services)	01482 846712
Council Members:	Henry Goldstone (Security/Plaques)	01482 667258
	Elaine Winetroube (Telephone)	01482 571035
	Audrey Sugarman (Welfare/Catering)	01482 835864
Co-opted Members:	Jim Lightowler (Building Maintenance)	01482 654663
	Chris Lilley (General)	07972 563194
	Shirley Cassidy (Catering)	01652 634479
Life President:	Ian Sugarman	01482 835864

## SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

### HULL JEWISH COMMUNITY CARE (HJCC)



For information, to all the friends of the Friendly Circle, the next events in our calendar will be held at the **Pryme Street Synagogue** on **Wednesday 16 January 2019** at **2.00pm**.

There will be entertainment followed by the usual sumptuous repast. We would love to see all our usual friends plus anyone else who would enjoy a special afternoon, especially the younger members of the community.

For further details or to request a lift to this events, please contact Harold Flasher, Chairman of HJCC, on (01482) 655 537 or 07766 416 605, (or indeed, any member of the committee).

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### TU B'SHEVAT SEDER



Tu B'Shevat, the New Year for Trees, falls on the 15th of Shevat. Jewish tradition marks the 15th of Shevat as the day when the sap in the trees begins to rise, signalling the earth's awakening from its winter slumber, and heralding the beginning of Spring. This mini-holiday is of major importance to our appreciation of Nature and our relationship to it.

To celebrate this festival, there will be a Tu B'Shevat Seder held on **Sunday evening 20 January 2019** starting at **7.00pm** at which we will drink wine, eat fruit and sing songs. Everyone is welcome to attend and join in.

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### HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2019



This year's event will be held on **Sunday 27 January 2019** at **2.00pm** at the **Guildhall, Hull**.

We are privileged to have a Klezmer Group coming from Sheffield, who will sing the story of the Holocaust. They will present a programme of live music led by Yiddish singer Phil Tomlinson and his Klezmerim in commemoration of those who were murdered in the Holocaust, and all those who have suffered from genocide, war and persecution. These will include Jewish songs from the Holocaust, with a particular focus on songs that were composed or performed in the ghettos that preceded the Nazi death camps.

These songs are intermingled with traditional tunes, together with brief readings. Translations will be provided for the songs and readings. Together the programme conveys life, love, loss, despair, nostalgia, resistance and hope.

In addition, we shall have three students from the Irene Sendler School, the Polish school in Hull, to give a short presentation of the theme for this year, which is 'Torn From Home'.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### ANNUAL OPEN FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE



Following the huge success of previous Open Friday Night Services, the next one will take place on **Friday 22 February 2019** starting at **7.00pm**.

What makes this Service different from the normal Friday Night service is the running commentary from those leading the Service explaining the nature of the prayers being recited, their background, origin and the traditional rituals being observed.

After the Service, and following the Brachot over the wine and bread, there will be the Kiddush with a wide range of "Jewish-style" foods. There also will be opportunity to look around the Synagogue, talk to those members present and examine the Ark, Scrolls and other artefacts.

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### PURIM SERVICE AND KIDDUSH

This year's Purim celebrations will be taking place on **Wednesday evening, 20 March 2019**, starting at **7.00pm**. As usual, the Purim Service and reading of the Megillah Esther will be conducted by members of the congregation. Fancy dress is optional, but it is Purim after all, and a prize will be awarded to the best dressed.



Although the Purim tradition is that you must be so intoxicated that you are unable to tell Haman from Mordechai, no spirits or strong alcohol will be provided, only Kiddush wine. Please make every effort to attend what should be a fun evening.

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### FREE FILM SHOW FOR ALL

Following our recent successful film showing of "Sixty Six", there will be a showing of the film "Yentl" in the Shul hall at the Ne've Shalom Synagogue.



Rebbe Mendel (Nehemiah Persoff) is a single father who teaches the Talmud, a sacred text of Judaism, to the boys of his small Polish town. Behind closed doors, he also instructs his daughter, Yentl (Barbra Streisand), despite the fact that girls are forbidden to study religious scripture. When Yentl's father dies, she still has a strong desire to learn about her faith - so she disguises herself as a male, enrolls in a religious school, and unexpectedly finds love along the way. If you wish to view the 'trailer', it can be found at <https://youtu.be/iUUILOhBRCw>

The event is taking place on **Sunday 24 March 2019** at **2.00pm** and is **free to anyone** wishing to attend. **Free soft drinks and popcorn will be provided**. If you wish to attend, please ring (01482) 658312 with your name and the number of people in your 'party'.

This is a communal event for all and one not to be missed as it contains many memorable Barbara Streisand songs and the screenplay is written by Jack Rosenthal.

# *SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL MEETING*

*14 December 2018*

**Present** - Andy Harbert (Chair), Joanne Kearsley (Secretary), Audrey Sugarman, Henry Goldstone, Phil O'Driscoll, Malcolm Rosenberg, Shirley Cassidy and Ian Sugarman (Life President).

## **Business**

The Chair reported that he had now arranged with Chris for a light with a movement-sensor to be installed above the Shul entrance to make it easier for people to see the key pad in the dark. Malcolm showed the Council images of the windows at Dove House Hospice which contained resin-stained glass to imitate stained-glass windows. Although no-one at the Hospice knew the name of the company that originally installed the windows, Malcolm offered to contact a 'stained glass studio' on Spring Bank West in Hull to see whether they could provide further information and advice on costs.

The Chair reported that he had received a letter thanking him and the other Shul members who had attended the Northern Network Meeting in Southport, at which Ian had been unanimously elected as the Northern Chair. There had been a good attendance of Shul members at the recent Communal Remembrance Service. The film 'Sixty-Six', shown in the Shul Hall on 25 November, was attended by 25 members and friends and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. The Chanukah Service and social evening held on Saturday 8 December was very well attended and enjoyed by all. The Chair thanked Aimi, Ian and Audrey for all their efforts in making both events so successful.

The Chair also reported that following the recent tragedy in Pittsburg, USA, the CST were providing Government-sourced funding to Shuls to enable them to access local security services. The CST had allocated the Shul funding until the end of March 2019 and would pay the costs on a monthly basis. Due to there being an immediate application date, the Chair had made an executive decision to accept the funding and had contacted a local security company, Humber Watch Limited, to provide security for all Friday Night and Shabbat Morning Services. All security costs would be paid by CST. The Council thanked the Chair for his swift and decisive action.

Finally, the Chair reported on the Radio Humberside interviews undertaken by Aimi and him and by Ian to explain the Festival of Chanukah.

The Tu B'Shevat Service would be held on Sunday 20 January 2019 at 7.00pm and the next Open Service would be held on Friday 22 February 2019, also at 7.00pm. On Wednesday 20 March 2019, the Purim Service would be held, starting at 7.00pm. The next film show in the Shul Hall would be held on Sunday 24 March 2019 at 2.00pm and the Council agreed that film to be shown would be "Yentl", starring Barbra Streisand.

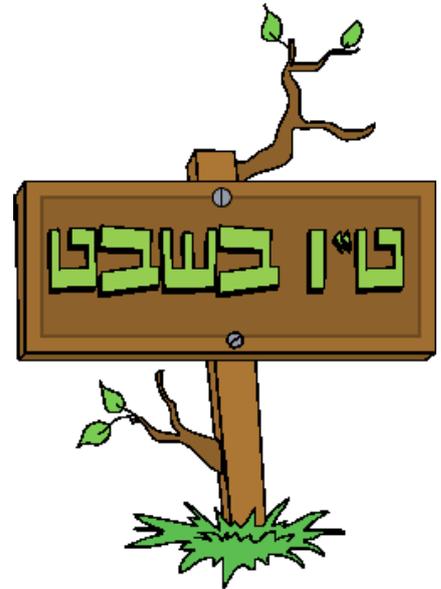
The Chair informed the Council that the 'cut-off date' for applying for a student Rabbi for the High Holy Days 5780 was 28 February 2019. Ian explained the benefits and disadvantages of having a student Rabbi conduct the Services and the Chair then asked the Council for their views on obtaining a student Rabbi. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the Council members would consult with all members and friends of Ne've Shalom to ascertain their viewpoint, which would then be considered at the next Council meeting.

**Date of next Council meeting** – Friday 25 January 2019

## INSIGHTS AND CUSTOMS OF TU B'SHVAT

This article by Ari Raziel first appeared in the February 2004 Edition of the Jewish Magazine.

Tu B'shevat is a holiday that is not a holiday, or perhaps, more correctly, a non-holiday that is a holiday. Unlike all of our holidays, there are no proscribed customs and prohibitions associated with this day, except we do not say tachanun, a prayer in which we beseech G-d for his mercy which is recited immediately after the silent Amidah, the standing prayer. There is also the custom of eating a new fruit and many have developed the custom of eating fruits which the Torah mentions in conjunction with the praise of the Land of Israel.



Tu B'shevat is not mentioned in the Torah. It is mentioned in the Mishnah which tells us that there are four Rosh Hashanahs.

The first day of Nisan is the Rosh Hashanah for the counting of the years of the reigns of the kings of Israel. Meaning that when it says in the second or third year of the reign of king so-and-so, it counts these years from the first day of Nisan. In addition, the first of Nisan, is considered the beginning of the first of the three pilgrimage festivals: Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot.

The second Rosh Hashanah is the first day of Elul. This is the first of the New Year for the tithing of animals. All animals which are born before the first day of Elul are tithed together, whereas animals born from the first of Elul and afterwards are placed in a separate group to be tithed. This means that an animal born in one year may not be taken as a tithe for an animal born in a different year.

The third Rosh Hashanah is the first of Tishri. This is the date that we all know as Rosh Hashanah. Not only is it the Rosh Hashanah for all mankind, but also the counting of Shmitah (the sabbatical year) and the Jubilee year (the fiftieth year).



Tu B'shevat, which unlike the others does not start on the first of the month, but rather the fifteenth, is the Rosh Hashanah of trees. This applies to the different tithes which were obligatory during the time of the Temple, and now as a Rabbinical commandment. The sages have reckoned that the fifteenth of Shevat is the border date in regard to fruits. Fruits which have realized a third of their growth by Tu B'shevat are tithed on the previous year. Fruits which have not reached a third of their growth by Tu B'shevat are tithed on the following year.

The sages explain that by the fifteenth of Shevat the soil is saturated with the rains of the passing winter so that growth is assured for the New Year. Therefore any tree planted before Tu B'shevat is considered as belonging to the previous year.

Since Tu B'shevat is related to trees and the fruits of the tree, the custom in Israel is to plant trees on this day.

Many however see in Tu B'shevat mystical references to deep kabalistic secrets. There are three elements necessary for the production of fruit: soil, water and a tree. The soil has the power to grant trees the ability to grow and give fruit. The tree has the ability to make use of the power of the ground to create specific fruit, an apple tree will give only apples and an orange tree will produce only oranges even though they are in the same soil. But neither the tree can produce fruit, nor can the soil give power to grow unless the ground is saturated with water.

Once the ground has water in it, it is the catalyst for the ground to supply the power to the tree and for the tree to draw up the minerals and moisture through its sap to produce from the earth a sweet and beneficial fruit.

This is comparable to a person, since the Torah compares a person to a tree. Three things are needed for a person to give forth the fruit for which they were created: the Mitzvot. First, the ground is needed for a person to live upon, which produces all of a person's needs. The second is the person themselves, who must take from the ground material to make a mitzvah. But without the third ingredient, the word of G-d, nothing can start. It is difficult for a person to take a rock or a cucumber and perform a mitzvah.

The mystical sages told us, that the word of G-d fell down into the earth when G-d began to create the worlds. This is called by the cabalists as "tohu". Now tohu has a tremendous power. Like the power of the atom in uranium, this power consists of holy sparks, "nitzuzim" which fell down to the lowest level during the six days of creation. Since then, G-d has given us the Torah which is compared to water. Through the Torah we are able to reach down to the material and elevate it up. This is the mitzvah; this is the fruit of a person's creation.

Since it is the land of Israel that we yearn for and love, we combine the two: the fruits and the mitzvahs. We find new fruits that we have not yet eaten this year and we make the blessing "shecheyanu", *"Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, the King of the universe, who has kept us in life and provided us with sustenance, that we have come to this time."*

In this manner we combine the aspect of the tree, which is giving its best, its fruit, to the aspect of man giving his best, the mitzvah of the recognition of G-d's goodness in our world.

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**All contributions are accepted on the understanding that the authors are responsible for the opinions expressed which do not necessarily reflect the views of Ne've Shalom, the Hull Reform Synagogue.**

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### *ONE QUICK JOKE*

A visitor came to Israel and saw the Western Wall. Not being too versed in religious aspects, he inquired of another tourist about the significance of the wall. The other tourist explained, "This is a sacred wall. If you pray to it, G-d will hear you."

The visitor walked close to the wall and started to pray.

"Dear G-d," he said, "bring sunshine and warmth to this beautiful land."

A commanding voice answered, "I will, my son."

The visitor said, "Bring prosperity to this land."

"I will, my son."

"Let Jews and Arabs live together in peace, dear G-d."

The voice answered, "You're talking to a wall."

## *ENGLISH YAHRZEIT DATES WHICH CORRESPOND TO THE HEBREW DATES FOR RELATIVES OF MEMBERS OF NE'VE SHALOM - THE HULL REFORM SYNAGOGUE*

Leah Levy	22 Dec. 2018	Ron Harris	12 Jan. 2019
Shirley Michaelson	23 Dec. 2018	Harold Sugarman	13 Jan. 2019
Kath Levy	24 Dec. 2018	Harry Jacowich	15 Jan. 2019
Pauline Harris	25 Dec. 2018	Max Rose	22 Jan. 2019
Harry Furman	28 Dec. 2018	Rachel Levitt	29 Jan. 2019
David Bermitz	29 Dec. 2018	Leah Peysner	29 Jan. 2019
Dr Joseph Loofe	1 Jan. 2019	Benjamin Brookner	31 Jan. 2019
Herman Bush	7 Jan. 2019	Maudie Harris	2 Feb. 2019
Neville Greenstone	8 Jan. 2019	Esther Rock	3 Feb. 2019
Sally Godfrey	9 Jan. 2019	Sydney Landau	3 Feb. 2019
Arthur Harris	11 Jan. 2019	Minnie Gorfunkie	4 Feb. 2019
Rosie Abrahams	12 Jan. 2019		

Traditionally, Jewish Yahrzeits are remembered on the Hebrew date, which means that there might be some variation in the English date each year.

**If the Hebrew date is observed, it must be remembered that the Yahrzeit starts the evening before.**

Memorial prayers for the deceased will be recited during the Friday Night Service for those Yahrzeits which fall during the coming week. If a Yahrzeit falls on a Friday Night, please remember that the prayers will usually be recited during the Friday Night Service the week before.



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## *FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Refreshment Rota</b>
Friday 21 December	7.00pm	Sarita Robinson	Shirley Cassidy Joanne Kearsley
Friday 28 December	7.00pm	Aimi Sugarman	Ian Sugarman Audrey Sugarman
Friday 4 January	7.00pm	Mark Huntington	Andy Harbert Jackie Lukes
<b>Shabbat</b> 5 January	10.30am	Ian Sugarman Tony Sevilla-Harland	Ann Sevilla-Harland Audrey Sugarman
Friday 11 January	7.00pm	Ian Sugarman	Audrey Sugarman Elaine Winetroube
Friday 18 January	7.00pm	Malcolm Rosenberg	Phil O'Driscoll Shirley Cassidy
<b>Sunday 20 January (Tu B'Shevat Seder)</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	Ian Sugarman	Sarita Robinson Aimi Sugarman
Friday 25 January <b>(Council Meeting)</b>	6.00pm	Andy Harbert	N/A
Friday 25 January	7.00pm	Andy Harbert Phil O'Driscoll	Deborah Wrapson Gill Drummond
Friday 1 February	7.00pm	Sarita Robinson	Andy Harbert Helen Jackman
<b>Shabbat</b> 2 February	10.30am	Ian Sugarman Tony Sevilla-Harland	Ann Sevilla-Harland Audrey Sugarman
Friday 8 February	7.00pm	Aimi Sugarman	Ian Sugarman Audrey Sugarman
Friday 15 February	7.00pm	Mark Huntington	Jackie Lukes Vickie Davide
<b>Friday 22 February (Friday Night Open Service)</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	Ian Sugarman Aimi Sugarman	Audrey Sugarman Helen Jackman Deborah Wrapson Elaine Winetroube
Friday 1 March	7.00pm	Andy Harbert Phil O'Driscoll	Gill Drummond Christine Joseph Jay
<b>Shabbat</b> 2 March	10.30am	Ian Sugarman Tony Sevilla-Harland	Ann Sevilla-Harland Audrey Sugarman
Friday 8 March	7.00pm	Sarita Robinson	Phil O'Driscoll Rebecca Verlander
Friday 15 March	7.00pm	Malcolm Rosenberg	Shirley Cassidy Joanne Kearsley
Friday 22 March	7.00pm	Aimi Sugarman	Audrey Sugarman Sarah James

If you are unable to take your turn on the **service rota**, please arrange for someone else to take your place.

**If you are unable to take your turn on the refreshment rota**, please **arrange for someone else to take your place** and **inform Audrey Sugarman on (01482) 563835** to ensure that sufficient refreshments are available.

## *MEMORIAL BOARD*

The Synagogue Council would again like to inform members that there is still space available on the Memorial Board for members to purchase a plaque in memory of their loved one(s).

For further details, please contact Henry Goldstone on (01482) 667258.

## *KIDDUSH SPONSORING*

During the year, you might want to mark that special occasion in a unique, yet innovative manner. In order to help you solve your dilemma, the Synagogue Council has agreed to allow the sponsoring of Kiddushim.

If you would like further details, or wish to reserve a particular date, please contact Audrey Sugarman on (01482 563835)

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## *POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS*



If any members of the Synagogue are aware of, or are contacted by, potential new members, hoping to join our Synagogue, please advise them to contact our Secretary

**Joanne Kearsley** on 01724 340506  
or at [joannekearsley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:joannekearsley@yahoo.co.uk)

who will provide them with further information and the necessary application forms.