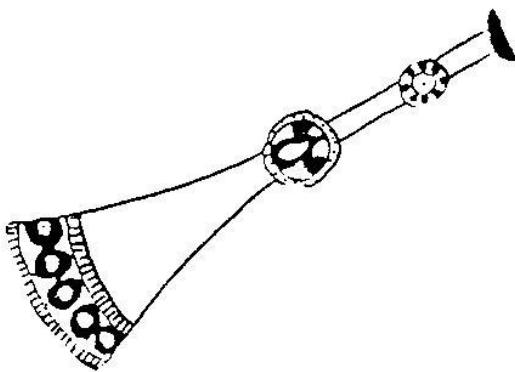
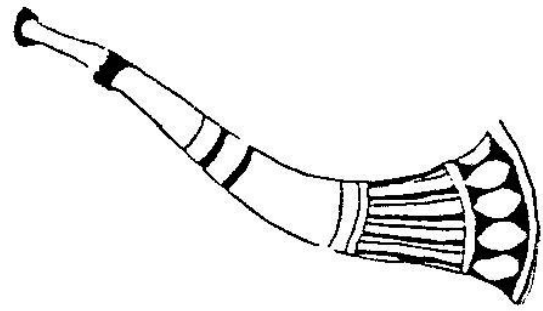


Shofar Shalom

COVID-19 EDITION



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



CHAIR'S REPORT

Tammuz/Av 5780
July 2020

Shalom. I hope you have all been keeping safe and well over the last few months. Hopefully, we are moving forward out of this terrible time. Ignore the picture above, I think if we ran a competition at the Shul for the current wildest hair design, I would win this one!

It's with great sadness that I have report that Brenda Levy passed away in early May. I wish the family and friends of Brenda a 'long life'. Thank you to Ian for taking the Service, at which only close family were able to attend due the government guidelines regarding COVID-19.

Movement for Reform Judaism (MRJ) are still offering RJ;TV on line and the larger Shuls around the country are continuing to offer online services, if any one wishes access these. At the present time, although just under 3 months away, MRJ are advising Shuls to remain closed for this year's High Holy Days Services. Further details on this will follow shortly.

Due to the restrictions, we were not been able to hold our AGM in June, however, we do hope this will take place later in the year. In the meantime, a copy of the audited End of Year Accounts for 2019-20 is included for full members and friends of the Shul. I would like to thank Aimi for all her work as Acting Treasurer and for preparing the accounts which have been fully signed off by an independent Auditor.

Over the past few months, Aimi has been working hard to keep the Shul running and to represent Ne've Shalom both locally and nationally. She had an article printed in the JC, been in attendance at all the online official meetings of MRJ, led online MRJ Services, arranged donations to local food banks. kept members informed and has been there for us all. I would like to publicly thank Aimi for her tremendous outstanding support over the last few months. The Council are continuing working to support members though telephone contact and I'll hopefully see you all soon.

SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL

Chairman:	Andy Harbert (Shul Management)	07736 397858
Vice Chairman:	Aimi Sugarman (Projects)	07507 891608
Acting Secretary:	Helen Jackman (Administration)	07884 432329
Acting Treasurer:	Aimi Sugarman (Legal/Finance)	07507 891608
Acting Senior Warden:	Ian Sugarman (Services)	01482 835864
Council Members:	Henry Goldstone (Security/Plaques)	01482 667258
	Elaine Winetroube (Telephone)	07707 796774
	Mark Huntington (General)	07938 918634
Co-opted Member:	Tim Harris (General)	07900 494225
Life President	Ian Sugarman (Honorary)	01482 835864

UPDATES



Hull Women's Aid

DONATIONS

Thank you for your support towards financially assisting a number of local charities during this pandemic. As a result of your donations, the Shul has been able to donate £1,000 to the Hull Food Banks, and £1,000 to Hull Women's Aid which was gratefully received.

HULL FOODBANK
HELPING LOCAL
PEOPLE IN
CRISIS

As the High Holy Days approach, the Shul Council will be considering which charities will be part of this year's Kol Nidre appeal. Sadly this month, Auschwitz has issued a plea for donations due to loss of funds during Covid-19 and we feel this may be appropriate. However, if you have any other suggestions please do not hesitate to put these forward.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) AND END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS

Sadly, as our AGM was unable to take place in June, a decision has been made to postpone the AGM until we can confidently and safely be together again in the Shul Hall, as a number of our members do not have online meeting facilities.

In order to comply with the Charity Commission rules, the End of Year Accounts and Report is included for members and friends of Ne've Shalom to consider and hopefully approve when the AGM does eventually take place. The report has been independently audited on the 18 May 2020 and the accounts balanced.

Unfortunately, our investment took a massive hit in the last month of the financial year as this coincided with the Covid-19 lockdown and our postponed Passover celebrations.

REFORM JUDAISM SUPPORT – RJ:TV



During lockdown the Movement for Reform Judaism and many other Shuls have an array of weekly online activities which are open to all. Some of our members have thoroughly embraced and been involved in these which has positively impacted their mental health during what could have been a very lonely time.

Types of activities include:- cooking classes, Israeli dancing, study sessions, talking about dying, daily morning services, daily evening services, Shabbat services, discussions with Rabbis, festival services, youth programmes, sing-alongs and support groups for various things.

If you would like to take advantage and/or look at the weekly programmes then please visit The Movement for Reform Judaism website/Facebook page, Hull Reform Synagogue Facebook page or if you do not have internet access then you can be involved by telephone and Sarita Robinson is the best port of call on (01482) 447549.

HIGH HOLY DAYS AND THE AUTUM FESTIVALS 5781

Aimi and the Movement for Reform Judaism (MRJ) recently contacted a number of members about their thoughts and concerns about High Holy Days, if we couldn't be together physically in the Synagogue. A big thank you to those who took the time to reply, as it gave us great insight into your wants and needs for the Autumn festivals.



As you are aware, we have now moved into the next phase of the Covid-19 pandemic. In the light of the recent announcement of re-opening of places of worship by the Prime Minister, the Council will of course be reflecting on the implications for Ne've Shalom, although we do not expect any substantial changes in the immediate future. In line with the current MRJ guidelines, Shul Services will not be taking place for Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur. This guidance will also apply to the whole series of Festivals throughout the autumn. In making any decision regarding future Shul Services, there are three key priorities which the Shul Council must consider:

1. Observance of the latest official guidance on safety by the government, statistics, scientific institutions and the MRJ;
2. Not creating a two-tier community, by respecting the fact that some of our members will be self-shielding for some months yet;
3. Other alternative online imaginative ways for different groups within the community and other larger communities to be engaged.

The Council will be discussing the above very soon and we will contact members and friends about future plans. It is clear that the MRJ is organising central streaming of online services and study sessions for the High Holy Days. They are also in the process of looking into making pre-recorded DVDs for members and friends who do not have internet access.

In the meantime, if you have any suggestions or want any support for the High Holy Days, then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS 2020/121



Over the next few weeks, the Acting Treasurer will be sending new subscription letters. The full membership and friend fee will remain the same as last year.

The subscription rates for single, family and 18-30 memberships and for the optional JJBS burial insurance scheme will be included in the letter to be sent to all members and friends of Ne've Shalom. However, if you are having any financial difficulties during this time and cannot pay your membership fee then please contact Aimi Sugarman or Andy Harbert in strictest confidence.

Subscriptions can be paid in one lump sum or by standing order, but subscriptions need to be **paid in full by 31 March 2021**. For more advice on how to pay, please contact Aimi.

SHUL LEADER WAS LOSING HER FAITH - BUT ONLINE OBSERVANCE HAS RESTORED IT

This was first published in the Jewish Chronicle on 26 May 2020 following an interview with Aimi Sugarman, our Vice-Chair, explaining why she can now enjoy religious activities free of the responsibilities of running a small community

Being vice-chair (and acting treasurer), a lay reader (we don't have a Rabbi) and event organiser at Hull Reform Synagogue had made attending Shul a chore rather than a choice.

Services and classes had become less to me about religious learning and spiritual connections and more about dealing with practicalities and synagogue politics. I would leave Shul feeling deflated, full of sadness and pain. Although I attended Reform Judaism events and weekends, I felt I did not fit into the Reform world. I was losing faith in my faith and the people in it.



But things have changed radically since the lockdown. Reform Judaism resources and online streaming services have opened my eyes — and ears — allowing me to experience inspiring services, new tunes, interesting talks, Torah lessons, religious cooking and supportive groups. There was even a Reform and Orthodox viewpoint on alternative Passover foods and Seder plates! My journey to Shul — now virtual via Zoom — is filled with anticipation and relaxation rather than worry and concern. During the Zoom services and sessions, I feel I am in a safe space and closer to a spiritual presence than ever before. I can pray and sing without negative distractions or comments. I do not have to worry about the prepping of the Kiddush food — if the challah is out, or if there is enough wine and wine glasses — or if a Yahrzeit has been forgotten.

The Rabbis and speakers make me feel at ease and excite me with their teachings; the cantors get my heart racing with their incredible voices. My mouth hurts from smiling because I'm happy to see these strangers I now feel a warm connection to. Everyone is positive, welcoming, upbeat and caring. It makes you forget about the absence of physical interaction and the scary outside world. It's a safe space for joy, as well as for grieving.

Afterwards, I rush downstairs to tell my non-Jewish housemates about the inspirational service/talk/lesson. They have even joined in, fascinated by the idea of RJ:TV and by the live online services streamed from Shuls around the country. It has felt more special to be able to bring my non-Jewish friends into this wonderful virtual world. The experience has inspired me and given me clarity on who I am as a Jew. My faith is what I choose it to be. It is online, in books, in podcasts and in Siddurim.

My faith is in my heart and not in bricks and mortar. My faith is Reform Judaism and I could not be happier. At the age of 32, I finally feel like a Reform Jew. It's all done wonders for my mental health, as well as for my religious experience. And given what I know now, I might not go back to being a full-time Shul-goer when all this over. I would even do some festivals online.

HULL RELIGIOUS LEADER SHARES HER SPEECH

Aimi Sugarman, as Vice-Chair of Ne've Shalom, was asked to make a speech to a peaceful protest in Hull's Queen Victoria Square on 4 June 2020, organised by Marta Sophie Kempinska, so people could come together and show solidarity with the black community. Although Aimi had hoped to be in attendance at the protest, she was unable to make it and shared her speech with the organisers of the protest. They passed it on to the Hull Daily, who published it as part of their coverage of the protest which attracted many hundreds of protesters.



When I found out that protests for Black Lives Matter were taking place in Hull, I wanted to be a part of this, especially as Vice Chair of Hull Reform Synagogue. I am enraged, I am emotional and passionate about standing in solidarity with the Black Community and speaking up about the issues surrounding discriminatory systemic injustice and racism. This is a time for black voices to be heard and direct action to be taken.

However my conscious was torn because I am aware that millions of lives have been put at risk and lost because of this yet because of my voluntary roles, attending the protests could put hundreds of vulnerable people's lives at risk of COVID-19. So, I reached out to people in my local community, the local media and personal political contacts about advice on how we can help without putting anyone at risk by attending the protests. Sadly I received a shocking response from one of my contacts who is an MP saying 'Given this is an issue for the US, I am not really sure why we think it is our business to comment on internal US matters...countries around the world need to be very careful not to interfere with their internal matters.

My response to this politician is this, 'if it were not for other countries interfering with internal matters in the 1940s then me and my community would not be alive today. Maybe if racism, violent discrimination, injustice and oppression to black communities had been treated fairly, supported, educated about and given the same protections years ago under the law then change may have occurred in the US and people like George Floyd would still be alive today. If the people in power who can actually make these changes do nothing then the public must speak up and put pressure on them. I believe if you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.

America should be held higher to account as a democracy and world leader who we trade with! It is a country those who are oppressed should be looking up to for hope.

The movement for Reform Judaism message is the Torah (Old Testament) teaches 'do not stand idly by the spilled blood of your neighbour..love your neighbour as yourself.' Reform Judaism supports Black communities in the US, the UK and globally in asserting their right to live with the same protections and opportunities as every other group. The death of George Floyd at the hands of a police officer is deeply troubling and we recognise the pain of those protesting against systemic injustice. We stand by Black Communities and Black members of our communities and commit to non-violent challenges to all injustice. It is our duty to do this, not just now, but consistently, if we are to do our part to repair our world. Black Lives Matter.

I am sorry the world is only now waking up to your suffering which has been happening for so many generations. As Senator Kamala Harris stated 'You should not be subjected to the indignity of being told to get on your knees and put your hands on your head, simply because you are walking while Black and it is happening every day in America'. Nor should you be shot 8 times as you lay in bed like Breonna Taylor as the police were at the wrong house to begin with.

As shocking as these high profile examples are, they represent the tip of the iceberg of persistent racial inequalities that constitute a crisis for public health. I want to be unapologetic for being another voice in Black Lives Matter and if you are tired of hearing about racism, just imagine how tired some people are of experiencing it.

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.

NE'VE SHALOM REPRESENTED AT THE MOVEMENT'S HAVDALLAH CEREMONY

At the end of April, our Vice-Chair, Aimi Sugarman was asked to assist clergy, singers and the readers from all over the country to lead the Movement's online Havdallah Ceremony.

As well as over 400 people, also in attendance were the Chairman of the Movement, Geoffrey Marx, the Movement's Rabbi, Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner, the President of the Reform Movement in Israel, the Director of Community Partnership (south), Amit Handelsman and the Director of Community Partnership (north), our very own Sarita Robinson.

The Ceremony was a spiritual experience and Aimi read beautifully (with a perfect Yorkshire accent as requested by Sarita). Feedback from those attending the event confirmed that it was truly special and that people found it meaningful, emotional and uplifting at the same time. The screenshot below shows Aimi reciting the Havdallah blessings.



THE THREE WEEKS

The following article by Nachum Mohl was first published in the July 2007 Edition of the Jewish Magazine

The period between the seventeenth of Tammuz and the ninth of Av (Tisha B'av) is a period of sadness and remembrance of tragedies that happened to the Jewish nation. It was during this period that our greatest national tragedy occurred, the destruction of the Holy Temple and the exile from our lands. Five calamities occurred on the Seventeenth day of Tammuz:

1. The original Ten Commandment Tablets were broken,
2. The Daily Sacrifices in the Holy Temple were stopped,
3. The walls of Jerusalem were breached,
4. Torah scrolls were burnt by Apustmus,
5. An idol was placed in the Holy Temple.



The original Ten Commandants were broken in the year 2448, that was 3,332 years ago (this is year 5780)! The Jews who had come out from Egypt had made themselves a Golden Calf and engaged in idol worship. Moses, coming down from Mount Sinai saw the molten image and broke the original Tablets. A history of shame came on to this day throughout history, and the terrible sin of the Golden Calf lingers with us still.

Later in history, in the year 3336, the Babylonian armies began siege of Jerusalem that eventually led to the destruction of the Holy Temple and the loss of our land and freedom.

The Romans, too, laid siege to a rebuilt Jerusalem. This siege caused a terrible famine in the city, and on the Seventeenth of Tammuz, there could be found no lambs to be brought for the daily sacrifices. When this happened, the Jews felt the terrible crush of the oppressor.

It was on this date, that the Romans breeched the walls of the city of Jerusalem and captured it. Destruction and exile rapidly followed the defeat and all was lost.

On this date, Apustmus, an officer of the occupation, publicly burnt the Torah scrolls and placed an idol in the Temple. These actions plunged a knife into the spiritual heart of our people.

The Seventeenth of Tammuz is a fast day, boys over thirteen and girls over twelve who feel healthy and well should participate in the fast that extends from sunrise to nightfall. From the Seventeenth of Tammuz to the Ninth of Av is a period of mourning for Jews. The custom is to refrain from listening to music and weddings are not performed during this time as it is a time of bad omen. Haircutting is also not done during these three weeks.

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ENGLISH YAHRZEIT DATES WHICH CORRESPOND TO THE HEBREW DATES FOR RELATIVES OF MEMBERS OF NEVE SHALOM - THE HULL REFORM SYNAGOGUE

Jim Smith	12 July 2020	Cyril Danns	30 Aug. 2020
Tessa Pliener	18 July 2020	Marrianne Kuschnitzky	30 Aug. 2020
Becky Furman	20 July 2020	Sam Peysner	4 Sep. 2020
Bert Goldstone	24 July 2020	Isaac Brookner	5 Sep. 2020
Solly Bermitz	24 July 2020	David Sugarman	12 Sep. 2020
Ann Greenstone	24 July 2020	Dr Max Adler	14 Sep. 2020
Malcolm Gold	27 July 2020	Geoffrey Levy	16 Sep. 2020
Alan Hillel Gerstein	30 July 2020	Rebecca Waytzman	16 Sep. 2020
Bernard Annis	31 July 2020	Elic Bermitz	22 Sep. 2020
Samuel Rosenthal	2 Aug. 2020	Doreen Lurie-King	22 Sep. 2020
Barbara Bennett	2 Aug. 2020	Louis Shields	26 Sep. 2020
Harry Tessler	21 Aug. 2020	Parents of Max and	Yom
Sheila Chetham	27 Aug. 2020	Annelies Adler	Kippur
Nicholas Rauchwerger	29 Aug. 2020	Helen Goldstone	30 Sep. 2020

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.



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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 Acting Secretary

Helen Jackman on 07884 432329
or at helen@hsts.karoo.co.uk

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