

Passover Seder a huge success

Jeremy Jacobson and Pat Lipert

This year's Pesach observance and celebration at Trelissick Garden in Feock was as well received and enjoyed as in previous years with a good turnout and plenty of festive commentary during the service and after when a sumptuous meal was served.

Our chairman, Harvey Kurzfield, presided over the service with his usual flair and expertise along with the help of vice-chairman, Adam Feldman. The moving story of our Exodus from Egypt was retold and the traditional Seder plates, candles and glasses of wine raised only served to remind all of us of who we are, from where we came, and anticipation of where we will be going in future generations. Much to the delight of Isaac Feldman, he was able to find the Afikomen for the last time that he will be eligible as he is to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah early in the New Year. The Mah Nishtana feature of the service came off with joie de vive thanks to the younger members of our congregation.

Guests came from as far afield as the U.S. Rachel Brown's parents, Alan and Elaine Raches who are making it a tradition to join us from New York, were on hand again to celebrate with their daughter and grandchildren. The food was a varied array of Askenazi and Sephardi fare-something for everyone's tastes and customs, everything from fish balls from

Roselidden Farm courtesy of Peter and Jos Hadfield (also our High Holiday caterers), to exotic salads and quiches from Nicola Willis, owner and chef of Pea Souk, and Mai Jacobson's special teriyaki salmon. Anne Hearle filled in all the culinary and organisational pieces with her usual aplomb, an undertaking she has overseen for the past several years.

The site for this most popular festival, Trelissick Gardens, is perfect for the Pesach season as it is a National Trust property and provides not only lovely service but also a setting of beautiful gardens.

Many thanks to all those dedicated KK members who helped with the preparations and service. The Pesach venue and seder are subsidised by Kehillat Kernow as the price of the tickets doesn't nearly cover the costs which are increasing dramatically each year. Considering the large amount of voluntary and charitable contributions made by many of our members to help, we need larger turnouts if the ticket prices are to remain as modest as they are compared to other Jewish communities.



Let the seder begin - Chairman Harvey Kurzfield leads the traditional service from the Haggadah, something he has done for 16 years in our community.

LOTS MORE INSIDE, INCLUDING...

- HIGH HOLY DAYS**2
- CIVIL CEREMONY**3
- OPIE'S 'OLD JEW'**4
- SAMUEL HARRIS POEM**5
- BOOK SURVEY**6-7

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designextreme.com
 Website design and Sudoku puzzles



A family affair - Rachel and Murray Brown enjoying the seder, especially when her parents, Alan and Elaine Raches who fly to England for this event from America every year, are there.

Chairman's remarks

Harvey Kurzfield



Recent events in Cornwall relating to Jewish activities and involvement have highlighted the good work carried out by different members of our community. Many of these events have revived memories of those Jewish people who lived, worked and passed away in this far-flung corner of the British Isles. They have sustained the interest of newspaper reporters who have taken the trouble to record these events not only about the long-distant past but also about more recent activities, including the formation of Kehillat Kernow itself only 17 years ago and all other momentous occasions in which we have taken part.

People in Cornwall are keen to read about the ways in which 'strangers' have not only settled in the region but also have managed to make significant contributions to Cornish society. Our contributions have included the creation of a thriving modern (Reform) Jewish community, the restoration of a Torah scroll once used over a hundred years ago by members of the former Falmouth Synagogue and the subsequent parade which took place in Truro, the continuing safeguarding of historic Jewish burial sites and other activities relating to education and inter-faith community work.

The progress made over the years has been due to the hard work of everyone in the community and I have been very proud to be part of that spirit from the beginning. I also have been gratified at the work and dedication shown by all the committee members who have contributed to the consolidation and success of our community. I sincerely hope that our younger members will in time appreciate the values and support their parents have given to our group. Many younger members have already moved on to university or employment. I hope the values they gleaned from their association with Kehillat Kernow will stand them in good stead over the coming years and that they will return, or at least, visit us on a regular basis. We are all, young and old (er) partners in a wonderful piece of Cornish Jewish history and I firmly hope that our close-knit community continues to flourish for many years to come. Incidentally, our attendance figures at our fortnightly Shabbat services for almost all of last year have been good with services containing ten-twenty members (plus a few seasonal visitors), so we can take pride in that achievement as well. Shalom!



Have a good read.
Borrow a book from the Arnold
and Leatrice Levine Library!

Days of Awe update

Pat Lipert

This year's High Holy Days to welcome the new year of 5777 and attend the Yom Kippur services will be held once again at Roselidden Farm in Helston. Special dinners and luncheons provided by the Kehillat Kernow community will follow the services which will be led by our stalwart leaders, Chairman Harvey Kurzfield and Vice-Chairman Adam Feldman. On Sunday, 2nd of October, the Erev Rosh Hashanah services will begin at 6:30 pm. A dinner will follow the service to welcome in the new year of 5777.

On Monday, 3rd of October, the first day of the new year, Rosh Hashanah services will begin at 10:30am. A luncheon will follow provided by Kehillat Kernow.

On Tuesday evening, the 11th of October, the Erev Yom Kippur service will begin at 7:00 pm. The Kol Nidrei service will be led by Harvey Kurzfield.

On Wednesday, the 12th of October, Yom

Kippur services will begin at 10:30am. The Yizchor service is expected to begin at approximately 5pm and the breaking of the fast should commence approximately 6:30 pm. A light supper will be provided for all those who have attended.

Peter and Jos Hadfield, owners of Roselidden Farm, will provide the meals. Ample parking is available at the site and directions to Roselidden Farm just outside Helston can be found either on the Internet or contacting Leslie Lipert at 0736-762375.

Please try to be prompt when arriving for services and if bringing younger members of the community, provide materials to keep them occupied, especially during the longer services.

Also, the outdoor areas provide many places for play and there are tables and green areas for people to walk around and relax between the various services. It seems the perfect environment for quiet reflection and regaining one's perspective.



Shabbos blessings - Nothing could give our Sh'liach Tzibbur, Adam Feldman, more pleasure than to see his children being blessed after a service under the Tallis. From left to right are: Adam, David Hearle, Hannah, Jemima and Isaac Feldman, Murray Brown, and in the background are Harvey Kurzfield, Mama Melanie Feldman, Gloria Jacobson and Mai Jacobson.

Jeremy Jacobson has sent in the following words of wisdom...

"Israel's legendary statesman and one of its founding fathers, Abba Eban, once remarked, 'If Algeria introduced a resolution (in the UN), declaring that the earth was flat and that Israel had flattened it, it would pass by a vote of 164 to 13 with 26 abstentions'."

Civil ceremony for Penzance Jewish Cemetery



Protocol and ceremony - A formal atmosphere prevailed during the more formal proceedings offered by a variety of officials who participated. From left to right, among others, are: Leslie Lipert, Lord Lieutenant and Patron of Friends, Edward Bolitho, Pat Lipert, Rev. Elkan Levy, Dr Anthony Joseph and John Pender, chairman of Friends of Penzance Cemetery. (Photo credit: Martin Lee)

Jeremy Jacobson

BBC Cornwall's five-day weather forecast given out on Sunday, 15 May promised rain for Wednesday, the 18th. By Tuesday evening, the chance of a downpour had reduced to 40%. Fortunately, the 40% chose to fall in the morning and by the afternoon, a few white clouds whisked through a bright, blue sky for the ceremony. It was not only the clouds that were blown about; a few kippot went flying off heads from time to time, but this served mainly to increase the life and humanity of the occasion. The Penzance Jewish Cemetery is a small place, snuggling between two terraces of typical Cornish cottages but the ceremony to celebrate its restoration on the 18th May brought together a wide mix of people. Some were there for religious interest, some interested in the history of Penzance and/or the Jewish people, some with ancestors buried there, official representatives of the community, some who had become involved in the restoration via local government and even a neighbour who just liked living next door to this historic landmark. One thing united everyone present and that was the belief that this "hidden Jewel" was important and its restoration worthy of celebration. Now the cemetery can be seen as a reminder of the past, an honouring of those buried there and a symbol of modern Cornwall, with its strong local identity, which is not monolithic or monochrome, but complex and made up of a number of individual and shared traditions.

Jon Pender, Chair of the Friends of Penzance

Jewish Cemetery, who welcomed the fifty or so guests, led the ceremony. Leslie Lipert, treasurer of Friends, read a prayer in Hebrew and English. Colonel Edward Bolitho, OBE, Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall and Patron of the Friends, spoke of how he had been born and brought up in Penzance and drew attention to the importance of the cemetery as a living reminder of an important period in the town's history. Mike Lovegrove, Mayor of Penzance, gave some historical background relating to the cemetery.

Some guests had travelled from Bristol or from London including Colin Spanjar, Community Services Manager of the Board of British Jews, but none had travelled further than Rev Elkan Levy who flew over from Israel to attend. Rev. Levy first visited the cemetery in 1964 as a child and he spoke movingly of the lives of the Jewish community during the 18th and 19th centuries, of how families had arrived and begun new lives here and had taken part in the wider life of the region. He drew links between the community of the past and the revived Jewish community, Kehillat Kernow. Keith Pearce, custodian of the cemetery for 19 years, paid tribute to the local community who have looked after the cemetery, and most notably of Godfrey Simmons, a descendant of the prominent local rabbi and Keith's predecessor as custodian. He presented a Kiddush cup to Mr Simmons' son, Bernard, and daughter, Joanna, to take to his father, now 97.

Fittingly, the last words, spoken on behalf of his and other families' descendants by Dr. Anthony Joseph evoked the memories of all those families who had lived in Penzance so long ago.

After, everyone moved to the High Street Methodist Church for tea, cakes and bright conversation, so completing a ceremony which was somehow Cornish, Jewish and British all at once.

“ Now the cemetery can be seen as a reminder of the past...and a symbol of modern Cornwall... ”



Tea and sympathy - Members of Friends of Penzance Cemetery, donors, visiting and local civic officials enjoy the tea and cakes and catch up on each other's news and concerns in the reception that followed at High Street Methodist Church.

Opie painting revives interest in Cornish Jewry

Pat Lipert

The acquisition of John Opie's 'A Portrait of an Old Jew,' (1779), by the Penlee House Gallery and Museum this spring has revived connections between Cornish Jewish history and the recently restored Penzance Jewish Cemetery. The subject of this 18th century major work by the Cornish artist is believed to be that of Penzance Rabbi Abraham Hart who died in 1784 and is thought to be buried in the Jewish Cemetery.

It is one of the earliest known portraits of a person from the Penzance Jewish Community which existed in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Opie, who lived here from 1761 to 1807, was born at Trevellas, near St. Agnes on the north coast of Cornwall and was mentored by Dr. John Wolcott of Truro who later introduced him to the artistic community in London. The important addition to Penlee House was acquired for £18,000 after grants were received from The Art Fund, ACE/V&A Purchase Grant Fund, The Friends of Penlee House, as well as private donations from members of Kehillat Kernow, the Friends of Penzance Jewish Cemetery and the greater Cornish community.

Director of Penlee House, Louise Connell said,

“It is one of the earliest known portraits of a person from the Penzance Jewish community...”

“We are fairly certain that the sitter is Rabbi Abraham Hart, (also known as Solomon Lazarus)... who would have been the most senior person in the Penzance Jewish community at the time the picture was painted.”

The connections between Opie, the painting, Rabbi Abraham Hart and the Penzance Jewish Cemetery have been documented in Keith Pearce's Book, 'The Jews of Cornwall' (Halsgrove, 2014). The Rogers family of Helston, who sat for several portraits by Opie, leased land to the Jews for their cemetery in Penzance in the 18th century. During that time period, Opie created several character paintings of Penzance working people. That plot of land with its 50 Jewish gravesites is preserved to this day.

Opie liked 'The Portrait of the old Jew' so much that he took it with him with three other paintings in 1781 to London to show King George III and Queen Charlotte. As a result, he received several valuable commissions which launched his career and earned him the title of "The Cornish Wonder."



Two old Jews - Leslie Lipert, treasurer of Kehillat Kernow and Friends of Penzance Jewish Cemetery, stands proudly in front of the picture, "The Old Jew," believed to be Rabbi Abraham Hart who was the religious leader of the Penzance community in the late 18th century.

believed to have been buried, though all the graves are not marked. Jews first came to Penzance from the Rhineland area of Germany and from Holland in the early 18th century and the earliest graves date from that period. The walls surrounding the cemetery have helped retain its original character, including its Bet Tohorah, making it an area of outstanding historical significance particularly after its recent restoration in 2015. Parts of the cemetery have Grade II listed status.

“Opie was born in Trevellas near St. Agnes on the north coast of Cornwall...”

The portrait itself, now hanging in the Penlee Gallery, is reminiscent of Rembrandt's works, an artist whom Opie admired. Rev. Elkan Levy who

recently visited the gallery has noted that the subject of the portrait is also wearing tefillin, something that R. Hart would have worn during daily prayers.

The Penlee Museum and Gallery also has other portraits of Jewish residents from our historic past. Plans also are afoot to have a special exhibition on Penzance Jewry in the new year connecting the present community with its past and displaying Jewish symbolic artefacts as well as religious documents.

[Information is courtesy of releases from Penlee Gallery and Museum and The Cornishman.]



And then there were three - Leslie, Rabbi Abraham Hart in portrait and Rev. Elkan Levy of Israel pay tribute to the fine painting at the Penlee House Museum and Gallery linking the past Jewish community with the present.

■ A dedication to Keith Pearce

Samuel Harris (1754-1824) Watchmaker in Falmouth

Samuel Harris stands on Rosemullion Head,
At the very edge, where grass meets stone,
And gazed over the Helford Passage, to where
land is squeezed to nothing.

The sun is sure, the sea a comfort of colour and
light.

Behind him, fat cows pull at unruly grass
without hurry.

Is this winter wild, summer mild place a
different promised land,

A refraining of ancient destiny?

He has travelled thousands of miles to reach
here.

He has stumbled across the deserts of
uncertainty,

Swum against the waters of exile,

Tripped and tripped in the cities of the most
unholy Inquisition,

Fumbled his way through the forests of thou-
shalt-not

And fled from the pales of unwelcome.

Here in this place, the people are rooted in
granite; they wear down winds.

When they bend, it is in the torrents of the new
preaching.

But no vats fill with bile,
And the old stories are told again with
reverence.

It is his wife, Judith, who has sent him on this
Christian day of rest

Forth into the breeze. She says

He has hunched too long over the gears and
springs of time.

God expects less and more.

He has travelled five miles to reach here.
He has strolled down the High Street of industry,

Walked across the beaches of openness,
Panted and paused and panted up the cliff hills

of vision,

Felt his way through the thickets of discovery
To surface on this headland of sonorous name.

Rosemullion, Samuel mutters, squinting to see
more,

Listening to himself.

Jeremy Jacobson, May 2016



Prayers for the High Holidays and every day - Nothing can be more appropriate at this reflective time of year than to think of our spiritual homeland and the holy site of The Kotel in Jerusalem.

MAGEN DAVID JEWELLERY ON SALE

A new addition to our Cornish-Jewish items is now available.

Necklaces designed by Leslie Lipert in the Magen David and Cornish bezant motif made in silver or bronze are the perfect Bat Mitzvah, Chanukkah or personal present.

The silver Magen David necklace with a dark blue background complete with Cornish bezants is on sale for £35.00.

The bronze Magen David necklace with a black background and Cornish bezants is on sale for £27.50.

The first lot sold out immediately and more have been ordered.

Contact Leslie Lipert if you want to purchase this special item.

Mezzuzot and Kiddush cups are also available.

Editorial

Pity the poor left wing of the Labour party for it is being victimised and persecuted by various Jewish conspiracies and a right-wing press accusing it of rampant, incestuous anti-Semitism. Another example of Western, Imperialist and Zionist agitators who want nothing more than to pick on indignant comrades for racist and anti-Semitic views and undermine the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn.

Of course there are no examples recently to support such accusations unless you recall a few sorry tales and a few names which pop up in very recent Labour Party history: Think Jackie Walker, vice-chair of the Momentum group loyal to Jeremy Corbyn, think Ken Livingston, think David Feldman, and yes, think Jeremy Corbyn.

The first asserts that Jews played a major role in the slave trade, which they did not, and her temporary suspension from the Labour Party were a result of a Pro-Zionist conspiracy; the second, claimed Hitler 'was a Zionist before he went mad.' The third has problems with definitions of antisemitism, and the fourth has in the past seen Hamas and Hezbollah as 'friends' and now finds this kaffuffle about antisemitism in the party merely an attempt to browbeat him. Labour's National Executive Committee suppressed Labour Peer Baroness Royall's full report into allegations of anti-Semitism at Oxford University. Credibility is being sorely undermined here.

Now we have Shami Chakrabarti who is supposed to be heading an unbiased inquiry into anti-Semitism in the Labour party which is due to come out at the end of June. She joined the Labour Party on the day of her appointment. Not clever. She is not sure which definition of anti-Semitism she will use and thinks perhaps a broader inquiry into 'Islamophobia and other forms of racism' might be in order. As chair, her powers are limited, as witnesses cannot be compelled to appear; she cannot impose sanctions. She has been quoted as saying, "I do not have the power to make anybody do anything." These are the times when it is highly suspect to declare one's self a Zionist but it's sort of okay to be a Jew, at least in Western democracies. However, in these interesting times, Jewish feelings towards Israel are also suspect wherever we live. Just because Israel is our spiritual homeland, that most of us have family and friends living there, that our historical roots are tied to Israel, one finds it fairly obtuse of others not to understand that a majority of Jewish people feel sensitive and concerned about Israel, and, that in no way mitigates their patriotism and contribution to the country outside Israel in which they live.

Is it any wonder then that many of us are sceptical about the outcomes of the Chakrabarti report and the hope that so much of the anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist (one in the same thing), rhetoric will disappear?

Book Survey: People of the book

Pat Lipert

It's no surprise that when I asked members of Kehillat Kernow what their favourite Jewish book was that I would receive many responses. For years all of us have been discussing the latest books we've read and how much we enjoyed them. Your submissions covered a variety of interests- much to be expected from such an eclectic group of wonderful people that you are who represent a myriad of cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds. Thank you for telling us about a particular favourite.

The Book of Jewish Food - Claudia Roden
"When I started surgical training I worked for an old fashioned non-PC type who regularly asked all sorts of inappropriate questions in corridors. His heart was in the right place and in an uncharacteristic moment of good sense, he asked his wife to find a good Christmas present for his strange, petite registrar who had recently converted to Judaism. Voila! Claudia's Roden's book is separated into Ashkenazi and Sephardi traditions and is interspersed with background info about countries from which she collected the recipes. It is the 'go to' text for the background of Jewish culinary history as well as a place to find recipes and the bagels are amazing!" *Melanie Feldman*

For 2000 Years - Mihail Sebastian
"Written in Romanian in 1934, it has recently been published in English for the first time. It is an extraordinary book, giving chilling insight into pre-war Europe through the life of a young Jewish student." *Susan Ehrenzweig*

Remembrance of Things Past - Marcel Proust
"It so happens that I am not especially drawn toward fiction which has an overtly Jewish content. I am not sure that Proust's maximum opus is in any way particularly 'Jewish,' as such. My choice of Proust is for two reasons - he happens to have been Jewish, although secular, and, as a homosexual, he is an outsider. I simply regard his monumental work as the greatest meditation on the nature of Time and the vagaries of our transient existence that has ever been written. (Joyce runs him a pretty good second!)." *Keith Pearce*

Good as Gold - Joseph Heller

For Jews like me in England, some say that it can be difficult to assimilate enough to reach high office in public life. Heller's book is my favourite Jewish fiction book because I feel like I can relate to the main character as he aspires to be Secretary of State in the U.S.A." *Murray Brown*

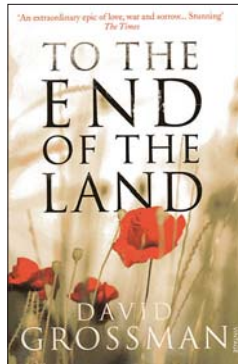
Return to Auschwitz - Kitty Hart

I'm not sure you could describe this as a

'favourite' Jewish book but certainly is the most influential. It was published in 1981 but in 1978- in my memory before we all knew so much about the holocaust. She went back to Auschwitz with her son and this was screened as a documentary. It's now on youtube- I watched it recently. I've read a good deal about the holocaust since then, but this is the book I frequently lend to people to read, particularly if they are going to visit Auschwitz as we did a few years back." *Gay Jewell*

To the End of the Land - David Grossman

This is an incredibly gripping story of an Israeli mother's struggle to come to terms with the prospect of losing her son as he returns from frontline service in the



army. It has been described as 'one of the great anti-war novels of our time'."

Imagination - Victoria Ancona Vincent

harrowing account of Victoria's eight month incarceration in Auschwitz followed by four months on the move on the death marches. I met Victoria in 1995 at Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre in Nottinghamshire and learned that my own grandmother, Berta Smetana, may have been with

her in Auschwitz. This started my own journey of discovery about what happened to my family during the Holocaust." *Susan Soyinko*

If This Is A Man - Primo Levi

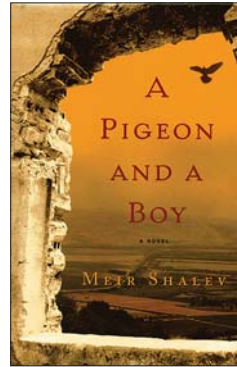
"Anne and I both agree that Isaac Bashevis Singer has a range of novels and short stories that have become in many ways the vestige of European Jewry destroyed in the holocaust. Suffice to say if one needs a potted survey of what it has meant to be a Jew with the whole tradition, one needs to look no further and just begin with any of his novels. To our age and relatively liberal times, nothing is especially comfortable. Primo Levi has written probably the best of all holocaust books. It has a detachment which greatly adds to the objectivity. The lack of emotion somehow elaborates emotion and enables us to walk in his shoes. If anyone has not read it, they must." *David Hearle*

All-of-a-kind family - Sydney Taylor
"This entire series which I read as a child and then reread with my daughter (Think 'Little House' books on the lower east side of NYC)." *Yesterday - Miriam Shomer Zunker*

"A book about my grandfather's family in czarist Russia."

Call it Sleep - Henry Roth

"Another book I read as a young adult. I cannot intellectually remember much about it but it left a strong, lasting impression and I probably need to reread it." *Shelly Meister*



A Pigeon and a Boy - Meir Shalev

"It's a wonderful love story with an unusual twist. It has been described as a book written 'in a voice that is at once playful, wise and altogether beguiling...a story as universal as war and as intimate as a winged declaration of love'." *Leslie Lipert*

He She and it - Marge Piercy

"It is a science fiction dystopian novel by my all time favourite author. It combines Judaism, golems and feminism." *Rachel Brown*

Brown

History of Jews in England - Cecil Roth
"Published first in the 1940's, I came across Cecil Roth when we took a trip with my family to Cornwall in 1964. I was 21 and my father had just acquired a book of essays by Cecil Roth. I was always interested in history and read 'The history' from cover to cover. It has influenced my interests and research ever since, including my master's thesis, Anglo Jewry and the Great War.' I refer back to it often; it's very comprehensive. It only goes up to 1858 with Lionel Rothchild, the first Jewish MP. His essays and other writings go beyond this period." *Elkan Levy*

The Last of the Just - Andre Schwartz-Bart

"My Dad recommended it and it is as vivid today as the first time I read it. It began a journey for me that culminated in my conversion." *Jacque Harris*

Herzog - Saul Bellow

"It combines age old Jewish angst with the general angst of the West in the twentieth century and it does so with humour and wit. Saul Bellow has been accused of being misogynist. Perhaps he is, but he manages to use a very Jewish voice to talk to a wide audience. The book enlivens the mundane with the abstruse and the

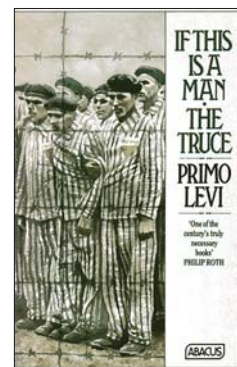
abstruse with the mundane." *Jeremy Jacobson*

The Diary of Anne Frank - Anne Frank

"Anne Frank's diary is truly inspirational. It really made me realise that life is too short not to follow your dreams." *Rosie Brown*

Pentateuch & Haftorahs - Dr J H Hertz

"Without realising it, I have instinctively been a monotheist from an very early age and this caused me, in my teens, to have to stop attending church services despite feeling a need for religion. I searched other faiths and found



hints of what I was seeing but not the complete answer. Alongside this, I read the Bible all through my life, admittedly mainly the 'Old testament' and found great help and support in Psalms, Ecclesiastes and Proverbs. As a college student, I acquired 'A Handbook for the Bible,' but that did not answer my questions. In middle life I went to a service at Birmingham Progressive Synagogue and found all the elements I cherished. After a while I approached Rabbi Zucker and asked him what I could read. He took me to the shul library and chose a book for me, highly recommended. Then, as an afterthought, he said, 'Oh and you might as well take this as well.' I read the highly recommended book first. Then I turned to the other book, the afterthought, and from the first page, I could not put it down; it was what I had been seeking all my life. It brought the long-sought answers to questions I pondered, it showed meanings to much that had puzzled me, it illuminated an area I had sensed but not found, and it opened and continues to open doors to a world created with love and purpose and a way of making sense of life and living in harmony with all of creation and its Creator. That book was the Hertz Chumash." *Vera Collins*

Inside, Outside - Herman Wouk
"I loved this book; it reminded me of people I knew. Set in New York, it is both funny and heart-warming, serious and sad and describes life as it once was." *Gloria Jacobson*

My Promised Land - Ari Shavit
Ari Shavit is an Israeli journalist and his book is a searingly honest and truthful account of the triumph and tragedy of Israel that should be read by everyone with an interest in the country and its people. It is simultaneously moving, inspiring and heartbreaking as it asks and attempts to answer the difficult questions: Why did Israel come to be? How did it come to be? And can it survive? As the great-grandson of a pioneering British Zionist, Herbert Bentwich who settled in Palestine in 1897, Shavit's account is illuminated by personal anecdotes. But his ability to subject his theme to uncompromising objectivity and honest analysis is for me, what makes this a great book." *Anthony Fagin*

The Talmud - H Polano

"The book that has made the most impact was the one I was given as a prize at cheder in 1964 (I was eight), a small black book that I still have, well worn. I loved the marbled endpapers. It says: The Talmud selections from the content of that ancient book, its commentaries, teachings, poetry and legends also brief sketches of the men who made and commented upon it. Translated from the

original by H. Polano. I read it from cover to cover so many times, going back to the stories I loved the most. It was here that R. Akiva became my hero. I had magic and wisdom in one book-fantastic." *Liz Berg*

A Book of Jewish Thoughts - Rabbi J.H. Hertz
"When I was a young teen (Oye vay, that was a thousand years ago), an aunt bought me a book for my birthday: A Book of Jewish Thoughts. So many short readable selections and I have so very often read these selections and it has always remained special to me. Special because it contains the Jewish thoughts of so many wise people." *Gerry Myers*

The Jews in Our Time - Norman Bentwich

"One book I like to read and reread is one I found in my Granddad's chests. It is a good history." *Chris Simmonds*

Sapiens - Noah Harari

"It is a masterful overview of the development of humanity, encompassing biological, archaeological, historic, social and economic milestones. I like the breadth of his thinking and his irreverent view of our imagined social constructs, like the non-existence in reality of big business and corporations." *Louise Garcia*

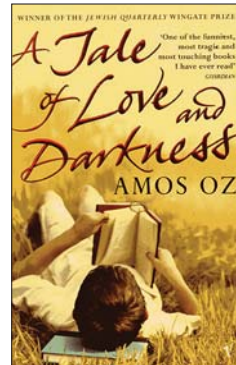
Biographical Encyclopedia of Sciences and Technology - Isaac Asimov

"Given to me on my Bar Mitzvah, the title page of my falling-apart volume, is inscribed: To Adam, on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah from Mr and Mrs D. Hasleton.

Mr. David Hasleton, a schoolmaster, sat in the seat directly behind my father and me at the Central Synagogue, Birmingham, throughout my childhood. The book rapidly became a close companion, consulted many tens of times (probably hundreds), each year for the past 38 years both for work and pleasure.

Asimov, a genius and a teacher, undeniably Jewish, thoughtful and proud of his origins, fluent in Yiddish, came to question many aspects of religion and he described himself as an 'unobservant Jew.' In his final autobiography, he states: If I were not an atheist, I would believe in a God who would choose to save people on the basis of the totality of their lives and not the pattern of their words. The book is a masterpiece. If you know nothing about science at the start, you'd leave it not just with knowledge but also with

a true and deep understanding. Today my lectures and thoughts are peppered through and through with anecdotes and little stories lifted from this volume. My copy is falling part but one day may go to be rebound. Replace it with a spanking new copy...NO! It must be the copy given to me by Mr and Mrs Hasleton 'on the occasion of my Bar Mitzvah'." *Adam Feldman*



A Tale of Love and Darkness - Amos Oz

"One of my favourites, this autobiography poignantly records Oz's life with all its complexities, influences of the past upon his present and vividly describes what life was like growing up in Israel. His recounting of the night in which the UN vote declared the State of Israel has to be one of the most moving testimonies to that triumphant time when so very much was at stake." *Patricia Lipert*

A Treasury of Jewish Folklore - Nathan Ausubel, ed.

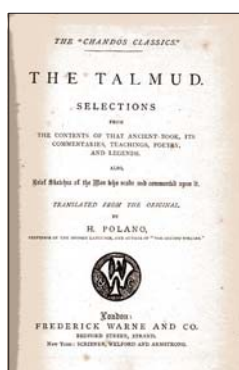
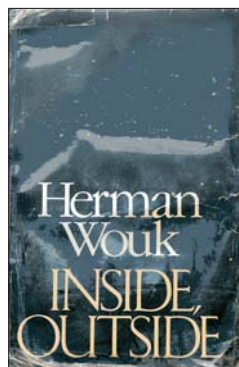
"This was a prize I received in my last year of cheder in 1958 and I have dipped into it ever since. Recently Jacqueline had it rebound for me as the cover was falling off. It is still the same lovely book but now should last for another 50 years or more! I still reread it for its huge selection of stories and jokes but I also use it every year because it has the tune that I use for Kol Nidre." *Harvey Kurzfeld*

When Hitler Stole the Pink Rabbit - Judith Kerr

"When I was a little girl, this was my favourite book by Judith Kerr (of the Mog the Cat fame and also The Tiger Who Came For Tea). It's about a little Jewish girl, Anna, living in Germany with her family at the outbreak of the Second World War. Her father is a writer and her family has to flee as he is wanted by the Nazis. It is a fantastic book as it dramatically portrays sadness and suffering as they come to terms with refugee status but also has warmth and humour, and although written from the perspective of a 9-year old child, it is a great read for adults and children alike. I read it and reread it as a child and couldn't wait to read it to Sam and Sophia. It has now become a firm favourite with them too and my original, battered copy still survives to this day."

The Joys of Yiddish - Leo Rosten

Having been brought up by a wonderful paternal grandmother (Nana Belle) from the age of 12, a lot of Yiddish words were frequently uttered around the house and I found myself in later years, understanding far more than I realised. The book explains the origins of words, gives a few examples, and in good old humorous Jewish fashion, rounds off with a joke or two containing the word or phrase. It is very very funny, expressive and for me, nostalgic." *Karen Myers*



Notices and diary

Mazel Tov:

- Murray Brown for finishing up the school year so distinctively.
- Friends of Penzance Jewish Cemetery for organising such successful religious and civic ceremonies to mark the restoration of the precious listed site.
- Penlee House museum and Gallery for acquiring the John Opie painting, "The Old Jew."
- Carolyn Shapiro and The Brown Family on their new homes in Falmouth.

Get Well Soon:

- Vera Collins

Diary:

Aug 13 th	Erev Tishah B'-Av, 9 Av, Sat. No service
Aug 14 th	Tishah B'Av, 10 Av, Sun. No service
Aug 20 th	Va-etchannan (Harvey), 16 Av, Shabbat Nachamu, 10:30am, TBS
Sep 3 rd	R'eih (Pat), 30 Av, Blessing for Elul, Machar Chodesh or Shabbat Rosh Chodesh, 10:30am, TBS
Sep 17 th	Ki Teitzei (Adam), 14 Elul, 10:30am, TBS
Oct 1 st	Nitzavim (Liz), 28 Elul, 10:30am, TBS
Oct 2 nd	Erev Rosh Hashanah, 29 Elul, 6:30pm, Roselidden Farm, Helston. Supper to follow.
Oct 3 rd	Rosh Hashanah, 1st Day, 5777, 9 Tishri, 10:30am, Roselidden Farm, Helston. Lunch to follow.
Oct 11 th	Erev Yom Kippur, Kol Nidrei, 10

Oct 15thOct 29thNov 12thNov 26thDec 10thDec 24thDec 25thJan 7thJan 21st

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Tishri, 10:30am, Roselidden Farm, Helston. Breaking of the fast follows with a supper, approx. 6:30pm.

Ha-azinu, 13 Tishri, Isaac Feldman's Bar Mitzvah, Treilissick Gardens, 10:30am.

B'reishit (Harvey), 27 Tishri, Blessing for Cheshvan, the Rachel And David Graham B'nei mitzvah, 10:30am, TBS.

Lech L'cha (Pat), 11 Cheshvan, 10:30am, TBS

Chayyei Sarah (Adam), 25 Cheshvan, Blessing for Kislev, 10:30 am, TBS

Va-yeitzei (Liz), 10 Kislev, 10:30am, TBS

Va-yeishev (Harvey), 24 Kislev, Erev Chanukkah, Blessing for Tevet, 10:30am, TBS

Chanukkah, First Day, 25 Kislev, Sun., No service

Va-yiggash (Pat), 9 Tevet, 10:30am, TBS

Sh'mot (Adam), 23 Tevet, Blessing for Sh'vat, 10:30am, TBS

Leslie's joke

High Holy Days

It was Rosh Hashanah morning and the Rabbi noticed little Adam staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the synagogue. It was covered with names and small national flags were mounted on either side of it. The boy had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the Rabbi walked up, stood beside the boy and said quietly, "Good morning, Adam."

"Good morning, Rabbi," replied the youngster, still focused on the plaque. Finally, Adam asked, "Rabbi, what is this?" "Well, it's a memorial to all the men and women who died in the service." Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Adam's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur?"



You can now order copies of 'The Penzance Jewish Cemetery, a Concise History and Guide'. Available from Penlee house, Leslie Lipert or local bookshops for £4.99. ISBN: 978-0-85704-222-4.

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Magical chocolate cake

Melanie Feldman

This is a fix everything magical chocolate cake with thanks to The Body Coach and serves eight. It is from the new nutrition and fitness star, Joe Wicks, but I have adapted to fit into Pesach, is gluten free and fine for 'normal' family life. It is already dairy free so can be used

after a meat meal and helps out for the allergens and lactose intolerant (more common than you might think). It does involve eggs and nuts-just about the only other common allergens. So it is a really useful standby recipe for moments when difficult dietary requirements present themselves. And it is really yummy. Feldman-ettes all love it.

120g pitted dates

125g chestnut puree or smooth nut-butter (cashew, almond, peanut all okay)

10g cocoa powder

100g ground almonds

100g melted dark chocolate (nice too with dark chocolate/orange)

4 eggs

Juice and finely grated zest of one orange
 60g plain flour or matzah meal or powered egg white or protein powder

Heat oven to 180 centigrade or 160 fan oven. Pour 150ml boiling water over the dates and soak for 5 minutes. Tip everything, including dates soaking water, into food processor and pulverise it. Line a 9 inch circular cake tin with non stick paper. Bake for 20-25 minutes. It will puff up and then collapse a little. Dust with more cocoa powder or grated chocolate.



Feed me chocolate-Guaranteed to tickle the tastes buds of young and old alike, this chocolate cake is not only healthy for those with allergies, but it tastes delicious.

SUDOKU

How to play: Complete the grid so the numbers 1 to 9 appear only once in each row, each column and 3x3 box. Don't worry; no maths is involved. Only logic is required to solve the puzzle. Have fun!

IT'S MODERATELY HARD

		9		8			1	
	4		6	7				
1				9	3			
						2	8	
4	9					5	7	
8	5							
		7	3					5
			8	4		3		
3			1		2			

For the solution and more free puzzles, have a look at the Sudoku website: sudokusolver.com.