

## Reviewing the past and preparing for the future

**Pat Lipert**

In some ways, our KK new year begins with our annual AGM meeting which not only highlights what went on during the year, but also offers a glimpse of what is in store for 2018. Chairman Jeremy Jacobson opened this year's AGM meeting, held on 19 November 2017, marking his one year leadership of the KK community since Life President, Harvey Kurzfield, stood down as founding chairman. Poignantly, he began by noting that Jewish government from the smallest shul to the largest organisations, "is the product of three thousands years of shared experience," and what we do is in some ways is "part of an age-

old, evolving tradition." Reviewing the past year's activities, he highlighted our regular and festival services and

“ Jewish government is the product of 3,000 years of shared experience ”

thanked our Sh'liach Tziburim for their leadership. He went on to discuss the cemetery consecration of the Wildflower Cemetery at



**Making plans**-Some members of KK can be seen at the annual AGM meeting working out events for the coming year. From left to right are: Adam Feldman, Bonnie and Wilf Rockley, Babs Colman, Gloria and Jeremy Jacobson, Pat Lipert and the back of Rachel Brown's head (sorry Rachel).

Penmount in Truro along with the open day at the Falmouth Ponsharden Cemeteries. New initiatives, the Film-Food-Fact and Fiction Club, Letters from the Chair (to stimulate discussion on a variety of Jewish topics) and the Further Education Grant Scheme were also covered along with the KK participation in the Interfaith Forum and Holocaust Memorial Day activities. Jacobson stressed the opportunities available through our associate membership in the MRJ and the need to take increased security in a more volatile world. He also thanked various members of KK for their service along with the particular honours given to Harvey Kurzfield, Bonnie Rockley, Anne Hearle and Anthony Fagin for their contributions to the community over the years.

In the business portion of the AGM, members reviewed finances (healthy), additions to the Arnold and Leatrice Levine Library, re-election of council members, a possible Limmud session to be organised with other Southwest Reform synagogues, Rosh Chodesh events, and a visit to the Royal Cornwall Museum in Truro to review their Jewish texts as well as a Library-themed evening as part of the Film-Food-Fact and Fiction Club.

Held at The Lipert house in Rosudgeon, the

meeting was followed by a light buffet. The next AGM meeting will be the 18th of November 2018.



This was the year that was-KK Chairman, Jeremy Jacobson, addresses members of the community.

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## Chairman's remarks

Jeremy Jacobs

Are we Jews obsessed with the past? Every year we read the same old stories. We bore the socks off our children as we repeat these stories, to oblige them to read them and to squeeze questions from them about their meaning. Our year is full of festivals, commemorations, remembrances of things that happened long ago, or not so long ago. Some people even accuse us of making an industry out of our history. Well, yes, we are obsessed with the past, and a good thing too. It

is an obsession that keeps us alive, thinking in the present, working for a better future. Indeed, our most central story, The Exodus, is not just something we remember. It is an experience that we must constantly live in our struggle to free ourselves from the mental shackles which can so easily take a grip of our minds and hearts. In January we commemorated the Holocaust, again coming together with Redruth Baptist Church to offer a joint service followed by refreshments replete with shared conversations and finally, the screening of a film about the Kindertransport. Members of the community also attended events in Truro Cathedral where the Devon and Cornwall Police Diversity Team guided visitors around their genocide exhibition. It is a sore reflection on humanity that remembering the Holocaust has not prevented other genocides: Bangladesh, East Timor, Cambodia, Guatemala, Bosnia, Rwanda, Darfur, besides the relentless killing of myriads of civilians in many conflicts, those most recently in Syria. However, it is very possible that the world would have boiled over with suffering and death were it not for our remembering. We must not forget.

For our Library Club night we met to share our readings of books from our library. I read The Story of God by Robert Winston. At first sight the idea of God having a history is strange. After all, God exists beyond time in a way we cannot really understand. The book is more a history of our ideas about God, how human evolution has been bound up in these ideas. It has helped me understand better where Judaism fits into the human religious picture. Of course it is our God who has commanded us to remember our history, to write it, together with the central tenets of our faith, our hearts.

I recently read an article in The Falmouth Packet about the rise in anti-Semitic incidents in the UK. One reader commented he had no sympathy because of what Israelis do to Palestinians. He complained no one takes any notice when innocent Palestinian children are killed while, when an Israeli is killed, it is reported as a major disaster. My first reaction was to want to bash him about the head with a heavy book. Instead, I thought about the contents of my heaviest book. So I wrote a response based on this: history.

## Cornwall remembers the six million

Pat Lipert

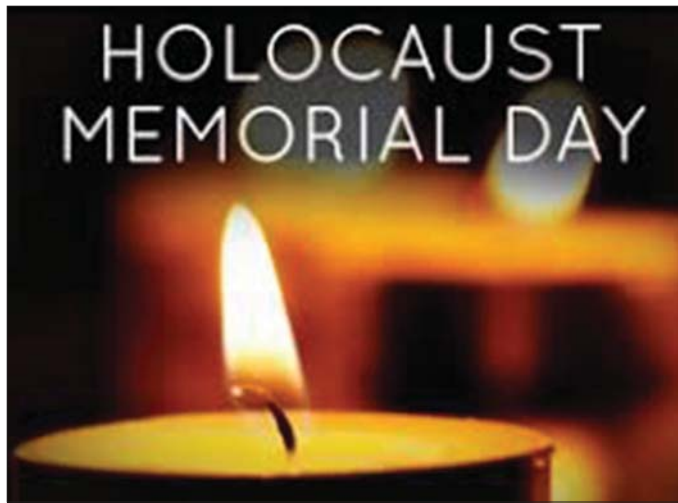
Services and activities in Cornwall commemorated the 73rd anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps during the weekend of January 26-28th to mark Britain's annual Holocaust Memorial Day.

Two days of services on the 26th and 27th of January were held at Truro Cathedral in conjunction with the Devon and Cornwall Police and the Cornwall Council. A series of activities under the theme of The Power of Words, included an exhibit highlighting the various

an inter-faith service held by members of Kehillat Kernow along with Elder Andrew Chapple and members of the Redruth Baptist Church took place. A documentary, 'Into the Arms of Strangers' narrated by Judi Dench, was shown after the service which told of the children who were rescued on the Kindertransport and brought to England from Nazi-occupied lands. Both Andrew Chapple and Jeremy Jacobson organised the event. A specially created Yom Ha'Shoah Memorial Service for the Six Million by the Cornwall Jewish community was led by Pat Lipert, and was the second annual memorial service held

at the Redruth Baptist Church. Many members of Kehillat Kernow attended and participated in the event along with various members of the greater Cornish community.

The programme on Sunday included a welcoming address by Elder Andrew Chapple along with his comments on Jane Haining, the only Scottish woman to be murdered at Auschwitz for her support and care of Jewish and Christian children in Budapest during the



We remember-One of the six candles lit on Holocaust Memorial Day to represent the six million Jewish lives murdered in the Nazi Holocaust.

genocides committed against the Jewish people, Cambodians, Rwandans, Bosnians and the people of Darfur. The personal experiences of survivors, a Tree of Hope, the impact of these heinous times on peoples' lives and loss were illustrated.

At 1pm on Friday and Saturday, candle-lighting ceremonies took place to specifically remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust. KK member Liz Berg participated in the services on Friday as did KK Chairman, Jeremy Jacobson on Saturday. PC Colin Gameson Diversity Officer, and Clare Hall-Davies, Equality and Diversity Advisor of the Cornwall Council, helped to organise these events.

On Sunday, the 28th of January from 4-7:30pm,

holocaust. Members of the Baptist community said prayers, read confessions of contrition, recited psalms and delivered Jewish blessings and part of the Shema (in Hebrew). The Jewish service included an address by Pat Lipert of KK remembering the specific deeds of Rabbi Dr. Leo Baeck, and other religious leaders during the Holocaust. The service itself included many readings of those bearing witness as well as prayers of remembrance, poems, and Jewish liturgy delivered by Pat Lipert, Jeremy Jacobson, Andrew Chapple, Rachel Brown, Harvey Kurzfield and Adam Feldman. The services closed with Kaddish.

A supper provided by the Christian and Jewish communities followed the service.

## First Seder night for erev Pesach

The annual communal seder for erev Pesach will take place at 6:30pm at Trellisick Gardens in Truro on Friday, 30th of April, in the Barn Restaurant. All of you should have received your announcement last month and should have made your reservations for this most popular simcha.

If you wish to bring your own candles (not only a Yom Tov but also Shabbat), wine for the dinner following the service from the

Haggadah, or bring an individual menu, by all means do. Kiddush wine, Matzah, the Seder plates, and dinner will be provided by members of Kehillat Kernow. Both Ashkenazi and Sephardi fare will be offered. Easy parking is available just outside the restaurant.

The event is being organised by Anne Hearle who can be contacted by phone on xxxxx-xxxxxx if there are any questions.

# Cambridge comes to Cornwall

**Pat Lipert**

To mark the end of the year Shabbat, two leading members from the Beth Shalom Reform Synagogue in Cambridge, Mike Frankl and Fiona Karet Frankl, led the Shabbat Va-y'chi services on the 30th of December at Three Bridges School for members of Kehillat Kernow. Well attended by regular KK members and visitors as far away as America and Germany, the Saturday service was a mixture of song, prayer, celebration. Much discussion at the Kiddush followed. Mike and Fiona taught us new tunes, new songs, embellished on many of the prayers during the regular service and gave the Hyksos and Jewish historical background to this week's parsha which highlighted Joseph's years in Egypt. The last parsha of Bereshit, Va-y'chi, also narrates the deaths of Jacob and Joseph and marks the beginning of the years of slavery which follow in the next Torah book of Moses, Shemot.

The special service was organised by Chairman Jeremy Jacobson, who welcomed the couple and Vice-Chairman Adam Feldman, who organised the Torah service.

Considering how active both the Frankl's are, they are deeply committed to Reform Judaism and are leading members of their community in Cambridge.

The Beth Shalom Reform Synagogue was founded in 1981, has a membership of 200 families (400 members), and in April 2015, opened their new premises for worship and community services.

Mike Frankl has a long-standing professional connection with British Jewry and in particular the MRJ to which Kehillat Kernow is affiliated. He was Deputy chief Executive of MRJ from 1995-2011, was chairman of Trustees of the Beth Shalom Reform Synagogue in Cambridge,



**Furry congregant**-One of our visitors brought a very studious and respectful doggy to the service and Pat Lipert is obviously very chuffed to have such a warm and beautiful attendee at her feet.



**Hag Baha and Haftarah time**-Members of KK and our visiting service leaders get ready for the final part of the Torah service. From left to right are: Adam, Jemima and Melanie Feldman, Murray Brown, Isaac Feldman and Fiona Karet Frankl.



**Circles of worshippers**-Many KK members and visitors who attended the special Shabbat service can be seen enjoying Mike and Fiona Frankl expert leadership.

Trustee and Treasurer of the Jewish Museum, the 999 Club and Lady Florence Trust, the Red Balloon Learner Centre, Cambridge, and Leo Baeck College.  
Fiona Karet Frankl is Professor of Nephrology

at the Cambridge Institute for Medical Research and Director of Organisational Affairs, School of Clinical Medicine, as well as an active service leader at the Beth Shalom Reform Synagogue.

## Celebrating our library

On the 10th of March at Malpas Village Hall at 6:30 pm, members of Kehillat Kernow met to discuss books they especially picked from our own Arnold and Leatrice Levine Library. Each person chose a book from our large selection, and discussed their favourite passages. All this literary banter was well washed down with some excellent wine, soft drinks, coffee or tea, along with the culinary delights prepared by members

who attended for the supper. The idea to do "a library night" was generated at the AGM in November and had a two-fold purpose: one, to generate more interest in using our well-stocked library and two, to talk about our favourite Jewish books in our new venture, The Film-Food-Book-Supper Club. Details and pictures of this event to follow in the next issue of this newsletter.

# Glittering film and book night

Pat Lipert

A golden evening was celebrated at 'The Lady in Gold' book, film and food night at the Malpas Village Hall on the 18th of November. All that glittered was truly gold from the excellent film, to the book discussion which included many memories of Austrian Jewish families related to some of our members as well as an amazing array of delicacies on our golden themed buffet.

The main subject of the night was restitution and loss which was highlighted with the ten-year legal struggle by the Bloch-Bauer heirs to retrieve the famous Gustav Klimt's Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer (until recently on permanent exhibit in the Bevedere Palace in Vienna), stolen by the Nazis and retained by the Austrian government.

The book itself traced the influence and lives of the wealthy Jewish families whose patronage in the arts and contributions to Austrian commerce, culture, and history supported and underpinned the whole of the country under



Worth its weight in gold-A montage of some of the sunny offerings at the buffet created by KK members to complement Klimt's golden images in his famous painting. (Photo by Mai Jacobson)



Pre-cinema drinks-A few members who attended our book and film night enjoy a lovely glass of wine before watching the film, *Woman in Gold*. From left to right are: Carolyn Shapiro, Mai Jacobson, Leslie Lipert, Jeremy and Gloria Jacobson.

the Hapsburgs. The Secessionist art movement led by Klimt and supported by these families is at the core of the book along with Klimt and other sympathetic artists' relationships with the Bloch-Bauer families. The film concentrated on the post-war period, sixty years after the painting was stolen and became a landmark case which allowed many Jewish families to regain some of their stolen treasures. The lives of Austrian Jews, destroyed and ruined, were an irretrievable and incalculable loss.

In discussions after the film, following our "golden feast" meticulously prepared by our KK chefs, the ramifications of Nazi occupation on an already sympathetic anti-Semitic Austria and destruction of many of these Jews was highlighted. Some of our members had first-hand knowledge of this terrible time as it directly affected so many members of their families.

But, like the people we are, the accent was on life, regeneration, hope and optimism. How could we not be hopeful when we looked around to see members of our younger generation in all their enthusiasm, talent, potential and glory. L'chaim!

## Jewishly speaking...

**Helen Suzman, the courageous and indomitable anti-apartheid campaigner, was famous for her razor-sharp wit. She spent a tempestuous and difficult time in the South African Parliament as an English-speaking Jewish woman amongst Calvinist Afrikaner men. Her depiction of Hendrik Verwoerd, John Vorster and P.W. Botha has become legendary: "as nasty a trio as you could imagine in your worst nightmares." She once advised Vorster in Parliament to visit the townships "heavily disguised as a human being." When one Nationalist bated her by saying "My people crossed the Veldt and converted savages to Christianity—what have your people done?" she replied, "My people have written the Bible!"**

**She died on the 1st of January 2009 age 91. Contributed by Keith Pearce.**

**Do you have a favourite quote on the subject of Jews? Send in your selection for the next newsletter to: [editor@kehillatkernow.com](mailto:editor@kehillatkernow.com)**

## David and Hannah visit

On Saturday, the 28th of April, David and Hannah Jacobs will return to Kehillat Kernow to take services for Shabbat Emor at 10:30am at Three Bridges School.

A special Kiddush and discussion will follow. Be sure to make a note in your diary as this will be, as are all the services the Jacobs lead, bound to be a very special Shabbat. Liz Berg will facilitate the service along with the Jacobs.

## Library visit

Members of Kehillat Kernow visited the Courtney Library of the Royal Cornwall Museum on Sunday 25, March, to examine their collection of Hebrew texts as well as making a tour of the museum. Librarian Angela Broome and Jeremy Jacobson, chairman, arranged the special viewing so members of KK could examine in more detail their Hebraic Judaica. A tea, sponsored by KK in the RCM café, followed.

# Israel: What's not to like?

**Nicola Willis**

My much awaited maiden trip to Israel commenced last November with the boyfriend in tow. We only had eight days so we decided on visiting Jerusalem and Tel Aviv with a quick dip in the Dead Sea. One of my main reasons for visiting the holy land was the food (it didn't disappoint) as well as being in a country where Jews are in the majority not the minority for once. I had never experienced this. Jerusalem was enchanting with the full force of its history pouncing on me at every turn; we were amazed at the sheer amount of information everywhere. Obviously, the Western Wall was a sight to behold and the Old city beguiling both day and night but my favourite spot in Jerusalem was the Ben Yehuda market. I love produce markets in this part of the world especially when you can munch your way around them. We particularly enjoyed scoffing at the Yemeni stall. They served a fried pastry / flatbread stuffed with every salad and sauce imaginable and that Jewish favourite - boiled eggs! I had warned the boyfriend about how many he would have to consume; I think he reached the limit along with doughnuts and mini 'krantz' pastries.

No visit to Jerusalem is complete without a trip to Yad Vashem, the cold, austere buildings preparing you for the solemn truth inside. The lonely planet guide recommended three hours for the whole memorial. After three hours we had only visited the main exhibition but I

wanted to absorb every piece of information, so we decided to return the next day to complete the memorial. I found how Hitler's Nazi party slowly trickled anti-Semitism into every part of daily life-horrifying that there were even anti-Semitic children's games and books. For me, the most powerful pieces of the outside exhibits were the cattle car and the testimony of one of the passengers. Perched on the edge of a severed iron track facing the hills of Jerusalem, it symbolizes the journey the deportees took towards annihilation and oblivion whilst conveying eternal hope and renewal of life.

An unexpected discovery in Jerusalem appeared when walking back to our hotel one evening in the form of the GAT brothers - two ultra orthodox brothers with their guitars and amps busking in the street. They played a Dire Straits track then a slow haunting version of a Hebrew song I recognized but couldn't name. They were absolute masters of their instruments - check them out on You Tube. Friday we whizzed off to Tel Aviv in the sherut before Shabbos arrived. We chose a hotel next to the beach so were able to enjoy that amazingly accessible promenade to its full extent with that alluring view of Old Jaffa port. We hired bikes, splashed around in the beautiful waters of the Mediterranean, snored on the beach and scoffed yet more delicious food in the swanky beach side restaurants. My highlights of Tel Aviv were Rothschild Boulevard full of perfectly preserved Bauhaus

architecture, Old Jaffa port with its amazing flea market and antique shops, the khatchapuri cheese bread eaten in the Georgian restaurant and last but not least the persistent critter who pinched my foot three times whilst in the sea, I think they must have heard me shriek in Jordan!!

We were totally bowled over by Tel Aviv and can't wait to go back.



**Bauhaus architecture-The perfectly preserved and assembled collection of Bauhaus buildings was one of the highlights of Nicola's visit.**

# Abraham: A source of inspiration

**Pat Lipert and Jeremy Jacobson**

In Chairman Jeremy Jacobson's second letter to the community, he revealed one of his favourite sources of inspiration from the Tanakh. It concerns our first Patriarch, Abraham, whose groundbreaking journeys into The Promised Land not only established monotheism as a viable alternative to the more animalistic and polytheistic practices of the time, but also laid the foundations of our people's history and Judaic practices.

The purpose of Jeremy's letter also is a request to all members of our community to send on their favourite passages from the Tanakh to him and to the editor of the KK newsletter. Your input will be published in the next issue of Kol Kehillat Kernow.

We are, after all, people of the book and so what you think is enlightening for all of us.

The following are excerpts from Jeremy's letter which each of you has received:

"Of all the patriarchs and matriarchs, my favourite is Abraham. I imagined him infinitely kind and understanding, good humoured and forgiving of my many misdemeanours. Of course he is my grandfather, a few generations removed, so why shouldn't I talk to him?

My favourite story is Abraham welcoming the three strangers while he is sitting at the door of his tent in the heat of the day He is camped in the plains of Mamre. As soon as he sees the strangers, he gets up, rushes to greet them,



**Never-ending study-Jeremy is having a difficult time trying to decide which are his favourite passages from the Tanakh. Each time he rereads a passage, he discovers a new revelation.**

bows down to the ground and offers them hospitality. The episode seems so simple but is full of richness and depth. Imagine the strangers walking across the dry, hot land and seeing Abraham's encampment, that of a man who, while not poor, has no fixed home. Imagine

Abraham spotting the strangers, his face lighting up at the opportunity to show kindness. His hospitality is lavish considering the place in which he lives, but he makes it sound as though it were nothing, offering bread and water, but

serving the most tender of kids in his flock, fresh cakes and yoghurt. His modesty of words is reflected by the apparent simplicity of his guests. They arrive as men but they are, in fact, angels. Before they leave, they tell Sarah she will have a son and then their visit morphs into Abraham challenging God over His plans to destroy Sodom and Gomorra.

The friendship between Jonathan and David is another of Jeremy's favourite stories. Jonathan must wrestle between the honour and respect he must show his father, King Saul, and his love for David.

"When Saul and Jonathan are both killed by the Philistines, David mourns both of them with poetic sadness: 'I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; greatly beloved were you to me; your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of a woman...How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!'"

Each of us has favourite lines or stories from our rich Tanakh heritage. Please let us know what yours are and email them to Jeremy with a copy to Pat Lipert for the next issue.

# Editorial

We are now in the process of completing one of our most joyous festivals: Pesach. It is a time of thanksgiving and also reflection. We celebrate our escape from slavery, the immense responsibility of learning to live with the God-given freedom that has been bestowed upon us. What we do with that freedom is our personal choice, to be uplifted spiritually and morally or to squander it with meaningless acts of self-interest. According to rabbinic midrash, when the children of Israel were escaping the Egyptian army and the soldiers were drowning in the Sea of Reeds, the angels of God began to celebrate and sing songs of jubilation. God, appalled at such a display, was supposed to have said, "My creatures are dieing and you're singing songs!" The moral, of course, is known to all of us; we do not, as people of the book, rejoice in the suffering of our enemies. Compassion is one of the highest virtues of Judaism and it encompasses not only human creatures, but all living things, plants, animals and the very planet on which we live.

As we enter the closing days of Pesach, the quality of mercy, rachamim, is something for all of us to consider. Compassion is not only reserved for each other, the people we love and the causes we advocate; that is relatively easy, but also compassion for those whose values, views and lifestyles are very different from our own.

So many challenges face us with this dearly bought freedom: Do we actively engage ourselves to clean the environment, to purify our seas? Do we use less plastic? Do we welcome the refugee? Do we allow within our own community divergent views, or do we instead, vilify opposing opinions, rabbinic or secular? Do we give enough time to our own community or do we assume that others can do it for us?

This is not to say that we should let our compassion run amok either. Torah also teaches that if you show too much compassion and give so much of yourself away that you have nothing left eradicating your own quality of life, then that too, is equally abhorrent.

hold dear in the first month of the Jewish calendar year, compassion and freedom, need to be balanced with enough self-interest that it doesn't jeopardise one's survival. Getting the balance right so that the greater good can be achieved, is probably intrinsically connected to another virtue which we also cherish: wisdom.

Let us wish in the coming months that we all move a little closer to acquiring more wisdom so that we can make the best, most compassionate use of our freedom.

## Calling all Library Books!

Please return the library books you borrowed to Pat Lipert from the Arnold and Leatrice Levine Library.

# UK Army welcomes the Cornish communities

Pat Lipert

On Tuesday, 16 January, Colonel Andrew Dawes, Commander of the Southwest Army under the aegis of the Ministry of Defence, welcomed community, business and charity members in Cornwall, at a reception at Truro College in order to "continue to connect and engage with the community." Kehillat Kernow Chairman Jeremy Jacobson, Mai Jacobson, Leslie and Pat Lipert represented the Jewish community. "It is heartening to see how the Armed Forces are an integral and totally committed part of our democratic society. This initiative to engage with so many communities and to work with them strengthens the cohesion between the diverse elements which make up the United Kingdom." Jacobson said.

The purpose of the evening was to reinforce the importance of the Army's presence and commitment to local communities in Cornwall and to present a programme to inform business, charity, governmental and religious organisations of the various functions and activities the Army provides at the domestic level.

As a major unit of the Ministry of Defence, the Southwest Army division not only serves in combat for the national defence and supports a variety of international projects related to security, and reconstruction, but also provides many services at the local level. Flood control, education and an active cadet corps are just a few of the 'hands on' service these members of the armed forced do.

The relationship between local businesses, educational institutions, government and charity organisations and the UK Army provides a vital and progressive link to a multitude of projects. This relationship has been going on for more than 100 years.

Only 30% of Army military activities involve



Local support for Ponsharden Cemeteries-Anthony Fagin receives a cheque from Lisa Kirkpatrick, Community Champion at the Falmouth Asda Superstore, to support restoration work at the Dissenters' and Jewish cemeteries in Falmouth.

active combat; 70% of what the Army does at the domestic and local levels concentrates on needs and challenges within particular urban, suburban and rural areas. This is particularly important in an unstable and interconnected world and requires assessment and reassessment of new roles and challenges as well as the need for innovation and adaptability.

At the reception before, during a film explaining what opportunities the Army provides for so many UK citizens, and after at the buffet supper, a multitude of Army officers, cadets and enlisted men and women representing a wide spectrum of ethnic and religious groups, were on hand to engage and talk with everyone present in order to inform, establish connections, and build on those vital relationships.



A stake in history-Leslie Lipert, who with Anthony Fagin is a member of the Friends of Ponsharden Cemeteries, receives a cheque from Asda Community Champion, Lisa Kirkpatrick. The charity working on restoration of the Falmouth site, became one of the store's sponsored charities recently.

# Penzance's blessing: Godfrey Simmons (z'l)



Moving tribute-This plaque arranged by Keith Pearce and the Simmons family has been placed inside the Penzance Jewish Cemetery in honour of all the years Simmons spent as care taker of this historic Georgian site.



Long-standing friends-Local historian Keith Pearce is sharing a meal with his friend of many years, Godfrey Simmons, prior to his 98th birthday.

## Anthony Joseph and Keith Pearce

With a family dynasty dating back to the 18th and 19th centuries, when the Simmons family were major contributors to Cornish Jewish life, Godfrey Simons, who has died aged 98, spent many years researching the history of Cornish Jews and his own family history. He was the great-grandson of Rabbi Barnet (Issachar ben Asher) Simmons (1784-1860) of Penzance, also the county's mohel, and grandson of Simon Barnet Simmons who was born in Penzance in 1834.

Godfrey Simmons himself was born in Birmingham to Bernard and Hannah (nee Selig) Simmons, the youngest of three children, after Ruth and John. He attended Birmingham's King Edward's School, followed by a career in manufacturing where he progressed to senior sales positions, including sales director at manufacturing companies

in the Midlands. His work at times involved regular overseas trips, several times to Sweden, at least once to the USA and Tehran. He married Winifred Nathan (also descended from Cornish Jews) in 1953 and they had two children, Bernard, born in 1954, and Joanna, born in 1956.

It was on semi-retirement in 1979, that he and Winifred moved to Cornwall and he set up on his own as a manufacturer's agent, representing companies who had no previous presence in Cornwall and Devon. He had a lifetime interest in history, particularly genealogy and family history, in which he was very widely read and was a long-standing member of the Jewish Historical Society of England.

For many years Simmons researched his own family history and that of Cornish Jews from the 18th century onwards. In Penzance he acted as the custodian of the historic Jewish

Cemetery until 1996, before finally retiring and returning to Worcestershire. He co-authored several chapters of a book about the history of Cornish Jews (*The Lost Jews of Cornwall*, in 2000), and was gratified that his friend and colleague, Keith Pearce, inspired by Godfrey's research, produced a larger book, *The Jews of Cornwall, a History Tradition and Settlement to 1913* which was dedicated to him and to Winifred. He was delighted that the Penzance Jewish Cemetery, which Keith had taken on as custodian in 1997, was fully restored in 2015. He was an honorary member of the Friends of the Cemetery.

He is survived by his children and grandchildren, Ben, Rachel and Emily. Winifred pre-deceased him in 2003. Godfrey Simmons, born July 16, 1919. Died August 29, 2017. [Reprinted with permission from the *Jewish Chronicle*]

# Book Review: Albert Reuss in Mousehole, The Artist as Refugee

## Harvey Kurzfield

This is a well-documented book by Susan Soyinka who traces the life and work of a relatively unknown Jewish artist, Albert Reuss, who was born in Vienna in 1889. Reuss, from a very young age, became distant from his own family. Had he been living in recent times, it seems likely he might have been diagnosed as being on the autistic spectrum. He was unable to relate either to his own family or to its religion and he and his young wife, Rosa, converted to Christianity.

The book charts Albert's early interest in drawing, an interest that eventually culminates in a career as an artist with very little formal training. His early life as an artist is inevitably seriously disturbed by both World Wars and it is the years of the terrible persecution of Jews prior to 1939 that forces Albert and his wife to flee to England.

The author describes Albert and Rosa's life in England with considerable focus on their eventual settlement in Cornwall where they continued to live thanks largely to the kindness of others. Susan Soyinka has managed to gather an enormous amount of correspondence between Albert and his friends, family and acquaintances and these letters have enabled her to present an image of an often tormented and at times depressed painter whose body of work often reflected this turmoil.

The book also is illustrated with coloured plates depicting a number of Albert's works ranging from pre-war examples full of colourful portraits to the later post war paintings which show a much more restrained and less optimistic view of the human condition. Throughout his life Reuss was supported by his wife and a number of long-suffering friends all of whom tried to ensure that he was able to

work at his art without interruption. Inevitably, because of his condition, Albert was never able to be completely content and the book recounts the vast number of difficulties he encountered while trying to arrange exhibitions and sales of his work.

Much credit for his later works must go to those people who gave him practical assistance in England but especially in Mousehole in Cornwall where Albert and his wife were given free housing and made to feel very welcome by the locals.

This is a hefty tome and the author has given a full account of the strains under which the artist worked and the difficulties he encountered throughout his life, some of which were as a result of his own mental health problems.

At £25-plus, this is an expensive paperback but it is a worthy edition for all those who love and admire the art and artists of Cornwall.

# Notices and diary

## Salad, Eastern style

**Melanie Feldman**

This is one of the tastiest salads I have ever had and since I cooked it for my brother and his wife, it has become a staple in their home in California. The original is with beef. I use chicken or lightly seared fresh tuna. It is posh enough for guests and quick enough to knock up for lunch. Serves two. **A r o u n d 4 0 0 g** tuna/beef/chicken



- Teaspoon of coconut oil or olive oil
- 3 tbsp fish sauce
- Juice of 3 limes
- Finely diced & sliced lemon grass stalk
- 1-2 chillies (adapt to strength of chillies & taste), or plenty of dried chilli
- 3 tsp sesame oil
- 1 large avocado
- 35g salted peanuts
- Salad leaves
- ½ cucumber cut into batons
- 6 spring onions, finely sliced
- 12 cherry tomatoes, halved
- Mint and coriander leaves, chopped, to sprinkle over

Start by plating up the salad-salad leaves, tomatoes, cucumber, spring onions and tomatoes scattered over. Slice the meat/tuna and sir fry in the coconut/olive oil. Clearly, if you are using chicken, that needs to be cooked through; tuna or beef to taste, rare or blasted. Whilst that is sizzling in the pan, put the sesame oil, lime juice, fish sauce, lemon grass into a mini blender, or whisk together by hand. When the protein is cooked to taste, throw the dressing in the pan, swirl it round, and then add all the hot cooked ingredients to the plated salad. Scrape out all the lovely dressing too. Scatter over the peanuts and mint/coriander.



East meets West-This tempting chicken version of a Thai recipe is sure to be a winner at your family dinner.

## Leslie's joke

Goldie Cohen, an elderly Jewish lady, goes to her travel agent: "I vont to go to India!" "Mrs Cohen, why India? It's filthy and very hot." "I vont to go to India!"

"But it's a long journey; how will you manage? What will you eat? The food is too spicy for you. You'll get sick. What will you do? Can you imagine a hospital with no Jewish doctors?"

"I vont to go to India!"

She goes. She arrives in India and undeterred by crowds, makes her way to an ashram. She joins a very long queue of those waiting for an audience with the guru. An aide tells her it will take at least three days waiting. "Dat's OK."

Finally she reaches the hallowed portals. There she is firmly told that she can only say three words to the guru.

'Fine!'

She is ushered into the inner sanctum, where the wise guru is seated. Just before she reaches the holy of holies she is reminded: "Just three words."

Unlike other devotees she does not prostrate herself at his feet. She stands directly in front of him, fixes her gaze on his and says, "Sheldon, come home."



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## 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**

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

For the solution and more free puzzles, have a look at the Sudoku website: [sudokusolver.com](http://sudokusolver.com).