

Communal Days of Awe

Pat Lipert

This year's High Holy Days couldn't have been more inclusive and moving thanks to the talented services of student rabbi David-Yehuda Stern who zoomed into three Jewish communities: Kehillat Kernow, South Hampshire and the Isle of White for Rosh HaShannah and Yom Kippur. Members of all three communities participated in the services.

Erev Rosh Hashannah on Friday, 18 September, began using the new RJ machzor on line with



Master of ceremonies-Student Rabbi David Yehuda Stern begins the Yom Kippur services on the Day of Atonement, one of the four services which he led during the Days of Awe.

Yom T'ruah, the blowing of the shofar and Yom Hazikaron, opening prayers and the lighting of the Yom Tov and Shabbat candles. Traditional prayers and psalms followed and the alternative Crown of Glory reading which created a pertinent vision of God's Presence as an aging woman who waits 'patiently for us to return.' Rather than a formal D'var Torah, DY Stern told a poignant story related to metaphorical alarm calls related to the message behind the Shofar blasts. The service closed with Adon Olam, followed by a joyful

Kiddush, HaMotzi and apples and honey. We then rezoomed into our KK space and celebrated with members of our community.

Saturday's first day service for Rosh HaShannah was equally splendid, not only because of DY Stern's astute handling of the liturgy and good singing voice, but also because of the festive and moving content of the prayers, traditional psalms and songs. Members of the three communities shared taking parts of the service including the following KK members honoured with

mitzvot: Pat Lipert, Rachel Chatfield, Paul Kleiman and Adam Feldman.

DY Stern's D'var Torah on the Akeida, the binding of Isaac, focussed on the meaning for all of us of "Heineni," mentioned three times in the Bereshit parashah and brought home the reality of the extreme times in which we find ourselves. While we are presented with things we cannot understand, as Abraham must have felt in this tenth trial imposed on him by God, things which prevent us from being present in person, we still can be there despite the challenge; it still is possible to say to God and our community, 'Heineni!' Heart-felt Kiddush and HaMotzi followed and members of the three communities zoomed into their respective rooms for New Year's celebrations: L'Shannah Tovah 5781!

The Kol Nidre service on Sunday, 27 September

at 6:30pm, certainly warmed many hearts. After thoughtful introductions by DY Stern, our own, dear Life President, Harvey Kurzfeld began the service singing 'Kol Nidre,' which has to be one of the most dramatic, moving moments of the Days of Awe. Jane Badely performed a poignant musical version of Kol Nidre. Student Rabbi Stern then led us through the most important parts of the first four Yom Kippur services which made both the seriousness of this most High Holy day both meaningful and relevant.

In addition to Harvey, four other members of Kehillat Kernow were honoured with mitzvot: David Moses, reading for his mother, Estelle Moses, delivered prayers with delicate finesse; Mai Jacobson read the Torah passage, Kedoshim flawlessly in Hebrew; Jeremy Jacobson shared with the two other communities, the story of Jonah with great feeling and Leslie Lipert honoured all those in our community during Yizchor, those who had died both in the past year and in all the years since KK's inception. DY Stern's dvar Torah message recalled the story of Jonah to reiterate the themes of the repentance, salvation and teshuvah and the inherent responsibility both personally and communally required to take this journey on Yom Kippur. Making reference to the Zohar's interpretation of Jonah, the human condition and the soul's fear of confrontation when facing life's challenges, both spiritual and physical, can either result in paralysis and inaction or an active acceptance of one's need to engage in life and accept one's spiritual responsibility.



Let the New Year begin-Members from three communities Zoom in for Erev Rosh HaShannah to begin observing the High Holy Days.

The day closed with the joyful Neilah service and the final sounding of Tekiah Gedolah on the Shofar. All three communities were grateful for having got to know people from other communities and felt privileged to have experienced such a warm and meaningful set of services so skilfully and sensitively led by DY Stern.

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Chairman's remarks

Jeremy Jacobson

We live in an age of superlatives. Everything is unique; everything is incredible; every phenomenon increases exponentially. The answer to a question is not,

"Yes," any more. That simply will not do. It has to be "Absolutely!" to be believed. Also, it is imperative that you are aware that everything that happens is unprecedented.

To some extent this is true.

Nothing does happen exactly as it has happened before. On the other hand, everything that happens does have a precedent. This is what makes history move along, one particular thing after another particularity. Take the conflict between Jacob and Esau, two brothers pitched against each other by the partial love of their parents (bad). Later, the two are reconciled (good). Then Jacob, in turn, has his own favourite sons (bad). The ten eldest turn against the second youngest and sell him into slavery (badder). This leads eventually to Jacobs and the rest of his sons joining their ex-slave brother in Egypt (good). After their descendants have been there for some time, they are forced into slavery (very bad). Eventually, they are led to freedom and the Promised Land (good). Hundreds of years later; however, despite the lessons of the Torah, supposedly in the mouth and mind of Israel and its kings, the children of David, our greatest king, fight against one another (very bad again). History has become a succession of lessons learnt but not learnt well enough, "So...? Your point being?"

Since the Coronavirus hit the world, we have been told many times that we live in unprecedented times. Yet right up to the late 17th century, the Bubonic Plague periodically swept through Europe and the Middle East laying waste town and village. Between 1347 and 1351, it killed between a third and a half of the population of Europe. The truth is that the current pandemic isprecedented, just as the Second World War was, just as the Holocaust was. While it is true that no war had been as total as the 1939-45 conflict and no slaughter of people has matched that of the Shoah, the First World War also was a gruesome affair and the previous two thousand years have been punctuated by persecution, pogroms and massacres of Jews, some as cruel if not as systematic or large scale as the Holocaust. What is the connection between the Holocaust and the Pandemic, two very different kinds of event? The connection for us in particular and for the wider population in general, is that somehow we have, in the past, managed to come through things. This is not to belittle the pain of today. The tragedy of so many deaths, the pain of mourners, the economic suffering of many employers and employees, the



Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks

Pat Lipert

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks was a gentle man, a loving man and a giant among men as a scholar and communicator. Who of us has not been touched by his insight and erudition when we have read and discussed his Torah commentaries or read one or several of his many published books or listened to his wise words in the media? His ability to reach out to people of different faiths, to people of different stations in life and many beyond the religious spectrum made him one of the most influential and most loved of religious leaders; he was not only one of us, he was everybody's who believed that dignity, respect, and the moral high ground was something worthy of everyone's aspiration. He made us feel accountable for our actions and responsible for our humanity. His death leaves an irreplaceable void in all our lives but he gave us the means by which to live honourable lives from generation to generation through his teachings and his writings.

May his memory and his words always be for a blessing.



Mazel tov-Alexandra Stuart-Brinkley lights two candles, one for her after she was officially admitted into the Jewish faith the previous week and one for the Community of Kehillat Kernow, during the Friday night service on the 23rd of October led by Sh'liah Tzibbur John Adelson.

disruptions of the lives of the young, missing out on the experience they should share with their peers, the fears of the vulnerable and old, the terrible strain on our health and care workers. These are mighty things enough. We will, though, come through it. As Jews we know this. Meanwhile, we will keep the light of our faith and our traditions alive through our rituals and practices, shorn though they may be of the pleasures of real life contact, through our traditions and culture and most of all, through our kindnesses and our individual and communal efforts to mend the world. As we finish another Torah cycle and launch another, remember, in unprecedented precedent, *Chazak, Chazak, V'nitchazek. Absolutely!*

Chanukkah is coming

It's time to take out the Hanukkiah, count the candles, make those latkes and bring down the dreidls. Chanukkah begins on Thursday, 10th December (the eve of Chanukkah), when we light the first candle and begin to celebrate the 8-day festival commemorating the re-dedication of the Temple all those years ago. You can share the holiday festivities on Friday, the 11th when Sh'liah Tzibbur Paul Kleiman leads us in a Shabbat-Chanukkah evening with a rousing rendition of 'Ma'oz Tsur' on Zoom at 6pm. Hag Sameach!

Zoom in on the 9th and 17th of Chanukkah at 6pm for additional communal candle lighting.



A Jewish history lesson-Master educator, leading influencer and authority on all things Jewish, dear friend of Kehillat Kernow, Elkan Levy, delivers a comprehensive lecture on early Jewish history emphasizing the Southwest of England. The zoomed lecture, held on Sunday, the 18th of October, was sponsored by the Exeter Synagogue and can be seen on YouTube at youtu.be/GYUyBzDe_ZA

Jewishly speaking...

The great violinist Fritz Kreisler (1875-1962), was born in Vienna and died in New York. Research suggests he was of full Jewish descent despite the fact that he was baptised at 12 and raised as a Catholic, most likely to aid in assimilation and advancement. Kreisler never acknowledged his Jewish origins and it has been supposed that he avoided any discussion of it to placate his virulently anti-Semitic wife, Harriet. Kreisler's accompanist, France Rupp, once asked Kreisler's brother, the cellist, Hugo Kreisler, about the matter, to which Hugo replied, "Well, I'm Jewish but I don't know about Fritz." The Jewish pianist Leopold Godowsky also ventured to ask Harriet Kreisler if her husband was of Jewish descent and she replied angrily, "Fritz doesn't have a drop of Jewish blood in his veins," to which Godowsky replied, "He must be very anaemic!"

Submitted 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

Talking story

Pat Lipert

In Hawaii when the elders used to gather together on their lanais (outdoor sitting areas), the Aunties used to “talk story.” They would tell tales of old times when life was simple and legend, magic, and human wisdom would all flow out like the gentle trade winds. So too, we have our story tellers, part of a long Jewish tradition, and these stories also remind us of simpler times, troubled times and simchah times when sage words would help us keep our perspective and warm our hearts and souls. It was just this kind of setting that made our zoom-in story telling on an early Sunday evening in July such a good experience. Five of our raconteurs: Harvey Kurzfield, Liz Berg, Isaac Feldman, Murray Brown and Pat Lipert each

told a story with individual human flair and a good deal of mirth and wisdom thrown in.

Harvey began the evening with an animated Tashlich story called ‘The Water Spirits,’ in which one not very virtuous Rabbi exceeded his sin count to the extent that the receiver of those sins, a lake where water spirits resided, tried to take their re-

venge. If it were not for the wisdom of the Baal Shem Tov who featured in this saga, all would have been lost. A happy ending, of course, and a few lessons learned along the way made it the perfect Jewish morality tale.

Liz, another consummate story teller, combined fact and fiction to tell of the generosity of the Plymouth Jewish community feeding Jewish passengers who temporarily landed at Plymouth Harbour on their way to America. As a gesture of thanks, one passenger told the story of a foolish man who would go to extraordinary lengths in order to have a son who would one day say Kaddish for him. Liz’s Yiddishkeit came shining through as she revealed how this too ended happily after lessons were learned.

Isaac turned to a more contemporary sci-fi story with a wonderful comment on the ills of society and how one world, Alien or not, needed to learn many lessons. Told with finesse and suspense, it made the ending even more ironic and gave us much pause for thought.

Murray chose to use his own life experiences of being Jewish in an often kind, eclectic and sometimes

hostile world where human communication, understanding and tolerance require hard work. In the process, Murray, like other thoughtful and caring Jewish men, comes of age, learns a great deal in how to respond to challenges and reaffirms his own right to be his own, unique Jewish mensch. **Pat** told two very short stories, each related to food, for what could be more Jewish, than to tell stories of Blintzes and Bagels? The moral of both

stories is that we don’t always know what we want when we get it, and maybe what we want isn’t what we truly wanted after all. Jewish poverty, Jewish humility and Jewish longing were all reflected in these short tales. A dearth of blintzes may not be what it’s cracked up to

be, but a Bagel ‘mit’ cream cheese and lox is just the ticket.

And so the story-telling ended; the real winners were those lucky enough to have heard these five tales of wisdom from our devoted members who cared enough to tell them. If we are lucky enough to have another story-telling session, don’t miss out!



Jewish perspective on ‘Peace and Conflict’

Pat Lipert

KK chairman, Jeremy Jacobson, inaugurated the first of a series of programmes generated by the Cornwall Faith Forum on Tuesday 15th September, highlighting the Jewish perspective regarding the difficult issue of Peace and Conflict. The zoomed programme was attended by members of the Cornwall Faith Forum representing various faiths within the Duchy. Jacobson’s talk began with the universal word for peace, Shalom, and explained how that word has many meanings, but means literally in Hebrew “completeness,” something that has to be made. He used David Grossman’s celebrated novel, ‘To the End of the Land’ as beginning and end points to explore the complexities of conflict throughout Jewish history and

the possibilities of peace and renewal inherent in that history.

By using the poignant, personal vehicle of story telling through the novel, Grossman covers the period in Israel between 2003 and 2006 when both Grossman’s sons were serving in the IDF at different times and when his younger son, Uri, was tragically killed in the Second Lebanon War. Like the main character in the novel, Ora, a mother whose son is fighting on the front during a major offensive, both Ora and Grossman hope, through her walk from the Galilee to Jerusalem and his journey by writing the novel of those times, that both can somehow prevent the deaths of their children as a result of terrible conflict.

It is through these journeys, one fiction, the other personal, that the issues of love, war, memory and fear of personal and national annihilation are addressed.

Jacobson then traced the issues of conflict and reconciliation through Torah and other books in the Tanakh. He began with the sons of Adam and Eve, the murder of Abel by Cain, the conflict of brothers, moving on to Esau and Jacob, Joseph and his brothers, Isaac and Ishmael, emphasizing despite conflict, Torah’s message is that all brothers and sisters should love one another. Conflict and reconciliation are themes throughout Torah.

Jacobson admitted some passages in religious text are difficult to understand when “utter

destruction” of the enemy is commanded, but also indicated with so many of these Biblical and Post-Biblical passages, is that they are often sweeping statements (not everyone was to be annihilated), and do not advocate total destruction. Even with rules of war, there are humane, ethical codes to be observed: the saving of trees, protecting wells, providing an escape route when a city/fortress is besieged, exemptions for soldiers under certain circumstances. Forgiveness and charity offer paths for reconciliation from conflict.

The emphasis on peace is highlighted in many of the Psalms, in Prophets and in the Post-Biblical writings [Hillel for example implored us “to become like disciples of Aaron...loving peace”], and in our weekly and daily liturgy. This advocacy for peace extends, Jacobson pointed out, even to words in the State of Israel’s Independence Declaration (“extending the hand of peace”), and to the military code based on the Jewish tradition for justice and reconciliation as well as prayer.

These points were movingly illustrated in the Grossman book to which Jacobson returned at the end of his lecture when despite the conflicts facing the main character, Ora, it is her Jewish reaction to war and her ability to extend love and compassion to a sick Muslim child that shows people have the capacity for growth, change and reconciliation and peace is a reasonable possibility.



Making a point-Jeremy Jacobson’s compelling thoughts on the possibility of peace despite conflict was a fine start to the Faith Forum’s lecture series.

August KK Council meeting

Pat Lipert

Members of the KK Council zoomed in on the 6th of August to make plans for the community for this year and into the future. The annual AGM Zoom meeting on the 15th of November will be reported in the Spring edition of the newsletter.

Three members of the Council have stepped down: Bonnie Rockley (who was accorded the honour of Life Vice-President for her twenty-one years of service), Anthony Fagin and Anne Hearle. All three valued members will continue to participate in KK events. Roger Chatfield has been formally opted onto the Council. Chairman Jeremy Jacobson proposed that each serving Council member have a particular function along with their general KK duties. Carolyn Shapiro will be in charge of Education; Roger Chatfield will be in charge of Security. Other Council members already have specific positions.

As scheduled for the High Holy Days with student rabbi David Yehuda Stern via Zoom was firmed up; plans to work with the Reform Movement's marketing campaign were confirmed; the Treasurer's report approved (a copy of which

you received in the post with your AGM package), and remuneration given to Roselidden Farms and the Three Bridges School in appreciation for use of their facilities.

Many plans were discussed for social zooming while our Community is in lock down in accordance with government and the Reform Movement guidelines. Some of these events have already occurred and more are planned well into the new year to keep KK thriving as a versatile and dynamic community. Future events via Zoom include variations on "My favourite... [art, food, travel, Yiddish expressions, poem, ...], lectures, concerts, self-help, quizzes, hobbies, Judaica lessons, vocations. Check your weekly bulletin to keep up to date. Progress with the restoration of the Ponsharden Cemeteries (now in the Phase Two funding stage with the National Lottery Heritage Fund), continues and a book was given to the KK Library, *Stepping Back in Time*, by Kathryn Esta Berman, which has a significant chapter on the Falmouth Jewish Cemetery. Kathryn and Elliott Berman from Israel visited the cemetery three years ago when they traced their direct descendants back to Zender Falmouth and the original Falmouth Jewish Community.

Jewish journeys

Pat Lipert

Kehillat Kernow's continued support for the annual B'Nai B'rith UK European Days of Jewish Culture and Heritage which ran from September through December this year was celebrated through a series of Sunday Zoom programmes related to its topic, Jewish Journeys. The programmed events were expanded to allow for virtual participation by more people during the Covid-19 lock-down. Kehillat Kernow began its series in August with a Cornish version of Desert Island Discs where participating members each played and discussed two musical favourites and how these impacted on their Jewish perspective. That was followed in October by a play on the long-running Just a Minute series broadcast on Radio 4 where members spoke on a Jewish-related topic extemporaneously. In November, KK members spoke about their favourite book which revealed aspects of their Jewish values and life. In December, the Journey of Jewish Names and Identity will focus on their historical, familial and spiritual significance.

Lessons in Judaism

Carolyn Shapiro

Before lock-down was even a notion, I spent two interesting days at St. Mary's primary school in Falmouth as part of their outreach program in Judaism. Jeremy receives so many of these invitations so I was happy to help.

St. Mary's is a school attended by the children of several of my work colleagues who have reiterated the reputation of the school as one of the best primary schools in Falmouth. The only Roman Catholic school in the area, St. Mary's also is known for its high standards in art and music.

Mrs. Shailes from the school invited me to present a slide show to the general assembly on February 7th with explanations about the Jewish holidays and attendant symbols. The students ranged from Reception to Year 6; the entire school was in attendance in rapt attention. After my presentation, I delightfully answered many questions from children of all ages. I was impressed with the orderly fashion in which the children's energetic curiosity was managed by the staff. Afterwards, Mrs. Shailes

asked me if I might be able to return for a day during the last week in February, during which the students were studying Judaism. The day of the week I was available was Ash Wednesday, one of the holiest days in the Catholic calendar. I was invited to attend the morning Mass, in addition to visiting each of the year-groups after lunch.

I admit that I have always been fascinated by Ash Wednesday, not knowing very much about it except that on a certain day of the year, I used to see people walking around New York with black smudges on their foreheads. I wondered what this strange ritual was, despite feeling somehow a bit unsettled by the physicality of it. The Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Mary's was led by a priest who was Father of the school, along with two very serious altar boys; the Mass was attended by all the students and staff as well as in the guest section in the back where I was seated with local parishioners, parents and grandparents of the students. I was rather an anomaly and received some inquisitive glances because I was the only person not to walk up the aisle to receive the sacraments.

When it came time for the Homily, the Father delivered his lesson in response to the traditional text for the day, a passage from the Book of Matthew. The passage is the source of the terms and ideas which the students had been studying leading up to the holiday of Easter. It was about the Pharisees at the synagogue, notable for their 'hypocrisy.' The Pharisees, as Jews understand them, were strict adherents and interpreters of the law of the Torah and were foundational to modern

Judaism and modern Christianity, as I found out. The Pharisees are mentioned 98 times in the New Testament, providing the necessary counterpart to Jesus, who is represented as praying from the heart, not from the coldness of the written law. Hence the label of 'hypocritical' gets applied to the Pharisees in the Christian context. Hearing all this as a Jew felt strange, but it helped me to understand one reason why some people view Jews as negative and why negative stereotypes of Jewish lawyers always seem to be just beneath the surface, waiting to exploit.

I hesitate to characterise this experience as subtle anti-Semitism because it seems I am not a grateful guest to my generous Christian hosts at St. Mary's. I was touched by the kindness and generosity of the children and staff and by the school's serious preparation in terms of Jewish and Hebrew terminology, Jewish values and Jewish holidays. The questions from students in the afternoon after the Mass were thoughtful and inspiring. But I learned that even the best intentions may have behind them certain assumptions which have been inscribed not only in more recent history but foundationally. I can see parallels to cultural and political currents today which are forcing all of us to look again, or even for the first time, at founding texts which put unintended prejudicial values into circulation, values which we need to question as foundations for future generations.

Highly qualified Dr. Shapiro is a senior lecturer in Critical Theory at Falmouth University, School of Communication and Design and School of Art.



'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.

Welcome to Cornish Island Discs

Pat Lipert

Music from a myriad of time periods and genres zoomed joyfully across the sound waves in the first ever Cornish Island Discs on Sunday, the 30th of August: a perfect way to celebrate the end of summer bank holiday. If you didn't Zoom in to listen, you missed something very special. Eight members of Kehillat Kernow each selected two of their favourite pieces of music, discussed why they were so special and poignant and then treated us to a 2-3 minute sampling of each piece. The winner, as Chairman Jeremy Jacobson explained, was to be whisked off to the sunny island of Looe. Everyone was a winner!

Rachel Chatfield began with: "The Boxer" by Simon & Garfunkel and "Hava Nagila" done by Harry Belafonte and Danny Kaye. "The Boxer" had special meaning for Rachel as both Jewish musicians grew up in Queens near a neighbourhood where she spent her childhood. Seeing them perform in New York at Radio City Music Hall and later in front of the Coliseum in Rome, represented both her American and English roots. 'Hava Nagila,' a must at every Jewish wedding, featured jubilantly at her own recent wedding to Roger when the couple saw all four of their children dancing together to this Jewish classic.

Pat Lipert chose signature pieces from the classical operatic coloratura soprano, Lucia Popp ("Queen of the Night" aria from Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* [The Magic Flute], and French

chanteuse, Edith Piaf ("Non, je ne regrette rien"), because they represented a metaphor for the human condition both musically and in their personal lives, and they related to the heart, mind and spiritual values emphasised in Torah.

Stephanie Berry returned to her African roots with the nostalgic "Lakutshon Illanga" (Xhosa), "When the Sun Sets," originally recorded by Miriam Makeba but in this version sung by Umoja. Stephanie's second selection connected her to Israeli roots, with David Broza's "YiHye Tov" ('Things Will Get Better'),

written in 1977 during the Arab Israeli peace talks.

Melanie Feldman's two choices took a contemporary approach which had fond family connections and as well as a musically sartorial experience. The first was Little Mix singing "Little Me" which revealed how parents feel about their children, and the second was Tim Minchin's "Storm." ('The Animated Movie'), depicting a clever, poetic, unsocial dinner party whose guests were clearly at opposite ends of the intellectual and political spectrum. Harvey Kurzfeld used 'The Big Fake Kleizimer Book,' to give a rousing and moving performance of 'My Yiddishe Mama,' which pierced all of our hearts. Who cannot hear that song without all the emotions of one's childhood and growing up years and not be touched?



Adam Feldman chose pieces, one, from his childhood experiences with his sister, Leah, attending concerts of the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the finale to Rossini's "William Tell Overture," and Freddie Mercury's 'Don't Stop Me Now' [Queen], a family favourite belted out by all five Feldman's in the car on family holidays. Queen was one of the first albums Adam bought as a teenager and the band, as it turns out, have links to Cornwall and Truro.

Leslie Lipert's choices were nostalgic and personal as he chose one of his favourite arias, "O Mio Bambino Caro" from *Il Trittico*,

Gianni Schicchi, (sung amazingly by an 11-year old), and "Come Back With the Same Look in Your Eyes," Andrew Lloyd Webber's Song and Dance which reminded him of his courtship days with Pat.

As a finale, Jeremy Jacobson selected Handel's 'Judas Maccabeus' (the composer's gift to the Jews) which Jeremy plays every Chanukah, who Jeremy says, "brings the light out from the shadows while exploring those shadows." Jeremy's second choice by Bustan Abraham, "Canaan" from Ashra reminded him of time spent in Israel in a programme designed to bring Jews and Arabs together. The music too, reflects the need for ordinary people to get together whatever their backgrounds, to achieve peace as the music itself is a fusion of many different styles, ethnic groups and cultures.

Ponsharden Cemetery update

Anthony Fagin

Notwithstanding the Lockdown, we the Falmouth Town Council and partners namely Kehillat Kernow, BOD Heritage Limited and the Friends of the Ponsharden Cemeteries, continued our hard work right up to 31 May 2020, the deadline for submitting our Round 2 funding bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). The total cost for the project is now £567,548. The application to NLHF was for a grant of £333,100. The remaining match funding has already been secured or pledged in cash and non-cash contributions from other sources. Specialist contributions to the detailed funding bid were obtained from a team of professional consultants comprising conservation architects, landscape architects, engineers and quantity surveyors working under a Project Manager reporting to Falmouth Town Council and the Friends of Ponsharden Cemeteries.

In late September NLHF assessed our bid and awarded us the grant for which we had applied being 58.7% of the total eligible project cost towards the restoration of Falmouth's Ponsharden Cemeteries and a programme of community engagement

The Jewish Cemetery (1780) and the Dissenters' Burying Ground (1808) have

Scheduled Monument status and appear on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register. They have long been overlooked, neglected and vandalized but are a rich historical resource providing evidence of past populations, personal lives and livelihoods. These hidden histories of difference will encourage people to explore themes of diversity and inclusion in the context of movement and migration of past and present communities and of Cornish maritime history. The project objectives are:

- Repair, restore and conserve the physical built heritage of the two cemeteries
 - Create a secure, safe, natural green space for the community and visitors from the wider Cornish diaspora to access and enjoy
 - Develop interpretation so that people learn about and engage with this heritage
 - Use the historic themes of dissent and difference to tackle issues of anti-social behaviour with young people and bring about change
 - Create opportunities to develop skills
 - Create new opportunities for volunteering
- The Round 2 submission described in detail how we propose to achieve these objectives within the anticipated budget. It comprised architectural plans, engineering calculations and estimated costings. A priority is to make

the site safe and secure by restoring the two entrances on the northern bypass road and supporting the overhanging earth bank also on that road. These essential engineering works are likely to prove expensive. Perimeter hedges will be repaired and trees planted. There will be a network of pathways, viewpoints and interpretation boards. Most importantly, there is a plan to repair, re-erect and conserve grave monuments as appropriate.

Practical Completion of Capital works is scheduled to be 98% complete by end Feb 2022 and then there will be a year's activity/ community engagement with the site fully accessible - the final year is mainly made up of Falmouth Town Council in kind support. This is a very big undertaking that will take years. It will be approached in accordance with an established priority plan and implemented as funds become progressively available. The present state of play is that we are about to appoint a firm of specialist conservation architects to oversee the delivery phase of the project. Wintertime is ideal to begin work on the trees, so that will be a priority. We hope that since this is an outdoor project, COVID-19 won't delay progress. Under the terms of our grant, we will work in close liaison with NLHF.

Two new books for the Jewish soul

Pat Lipert

This summer, Liz Berg and Paul Kleiman, saw the publication of books related to their Jewish backgrounds and experiences.

The first, surely a labour of love (all puns intended), saw the publication of Paul's mother's diary, 'A Month in the New Old Country, Israel Diary 1950' by Shirley Kleiman, written while she carried Paul in her womb. What a special 70th birthday present for Paul!

Dedicated to the memory of his parents, Shirley and Alfred Kleiman, married the same year the state of Israel was established; the four-week visit in 1950 to Israel was recorded by his mother. Shirley Kleiman's diary is extraordinary in its detail and insight into the newly formed state. As Paul says in his introduction to his mother's diaries, "Reading this diary seventy years after it was written, and knowing what has happened in and round Israel in the intervening period, one cannot help but be struck by the optimism, dynamism, idealism and the sheer chutzpah of those early years."

Paul's father, 'a keen Zionist,... he chaired a charity raising funds for what became Israel,' after having served in the British Army during World War Two, had hopes of making aliyah to the newly formed state. He and Shirley took the trip 'under the auspices of the Jewish National Fund,' in order to see as much of Israel as possible in the Spring (Pesach time) of 1950. Shirley was 21 years old and pregnant with Paul. They never made aliyah but Shirley's diary attests to the lasting impressions made during that dramatic time in Israel's early development as a country.

Having come from a religious family, Shirley's father, Solomon, was a Hebrew scholar and teacher and her mother, Millie, had strong, ideological and familial connections with what

was then Palestine since the 1920's and 1930's. Shirley, who trained as a secretary, went on to work for RKO, MGM and Gainsborough Pictures as 'a continuity girl' before marrying Paul. Throughout her life, she was a perceptive observer of life around her and through her diaries and archives, was able to give detailed accounts of events. The Israel Diary highlights this.

The rustic accommodations, food choices (made especially more limiting due to Pesach), the encounters with a variety of relatives and friends (Jewish networking has always been a life-saver), the severe, often hazardous living and working conditions, basic transport, camp life and communal settlements, the determination to build, to develop and to create a sound infrastructure and a good life are all described in fascinating detail.

Each place visited is tied to history and tradition and each person encountered is full of hope and grit, to underscore the miracle that is Israel. Shirley's diary should be part of everyone's essential reading.

The second book, 'Jewish Folk Tales in Britain and Ireland' by our own gifted, professional storyteller, Liz Berg, is about, of course stories, told as she puts it, "Ledor vador," from generation to generation. This is a gem of a book, delighting the senses, touching the heart and soul and spreading Yiddishkeit on every page. Beautifully researched and edifying, it reflects Liz's extensive Jewish knowledge from Torah to the Baal Shem Tov, from Wales to the far corners of the world. Once you pick it up, you will not be able to put it down. Each story reflects various parts of Jewish story telling in Jewish areas of settlement throughout the ages

and throughout the British Isles. Some are classical versions; many have their basis in Jewish religious and secular history and all have their own local, regional flavour.

Liz's collection begins in London, then travels south, east, north as far as Scotland, west as far as Ireland and her own home country, Wales (four generations no less!), and ends in Cornwall, where she and Julian eventually settled. So many Jewish communities, some dwindling, some gone, some flourishing, covering Jewish immigration from Biblical times, Roman times, from the times of the Silk Road in the East, from all Askenazi and Sephardi communities, all providing a rich fabric of custom and practice, culture and on-going stories. These stories are a mixture of Torah, Yiddish and Ladino traditions overlaid by the British and Irish experience.

What is unique and fascinating is how Liz puts each of these areas where Jews settled into context giving a brief history of particular communities which reflect the way these stories are told. One learns a great deal about custom and practice but also about the humour, pathos, irony and hardship of immigrants

through the joys of the Jewish tradition of story telling. Who knew lobos was a purely English Yiddish word or that Jewish musicians and violin makers have been around since the time of King Henry VIII or that Jews have been present in Cornwall since 135CE? And with each tidbit of information, well, 'Let me tell you a story!'

Beautifully illustrated by Liz's daughter-in-law, Karen Berg, the rhythm and reoccurring themes in these precious folk tales are complemented by her drawings. [*"A Month in the New Old Country: Israel Diary 1950," Shirley Kleiman, Amazon, 2020, ISBN: 9781981095148; "Jewish Folk Tales in Britain and Ireland," Liz Berg, The History Press, 2020, ISBN: 978 0 7509 9143 8*]



Posh cauliflower cheese

Melanie Feldman



Vegetarian delight-This enhanced cauliflower never tasted so good and it will be hard to resist asking for seconds.

This is an invention to get away from the watery slop memories of school dinners and enjoy some wonderful Cornish produce. By baking cauliflower instead of boiling it, the dish is less watery and packs in more flavour. Serves 4.

2 medium cauliflowers

2 leeks

100g walnut pieces

200g Stilton

750ml milk

2-3 heaped tbsp cornflower

1 heaped tsp of salt

1 tbsp butter

75g cheddar (grated)

1 packet of ready salted crisps

Chop the cauliflower into chunks and roast at

200C for around 15 minutes, until the tips brown.

Mix a small amount of milk into the cornflower, work into a paste, then blend in the rest of the milk. Bring to a simmer on medium heat stirring continuously until it thickens. You need it to be the consistency of custard.

Add the salt and the blue cheese.

Chop the leeks and fry them together with the walnut pieces in butter until soft.

Using a casserole dish, first layer in the roast cauliflower. Top with leeks and walnuts. Blue cheese sauce on top. Finish with the grated cheddar and smashed crisps. Bake for around 20 minutes until browned and bubbling.



Days of Awe celebrated with gusto

Through the convenience of zooming, members of Kehillat Kernow and those who visited from other communities were able to celebrate Rosh HaShannah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simcha Torah this year despite the lock down. Observing the festivals even remotely, did not diminish their impact, importance and sheer joy of being together. Below are members of our community who were given aliyot in some of these events as well as but a sampling of the many who attended student rabbi YA Stern's services. Hag Sameach! Dor veh Dor!



Pat Lipert



Rachel Chatfield



Leslie Lipert



Adam Feldman



Harvey Kurzfield



Mai Jacobson



David Moses



Jeremy Jacobson



Paul Kleiman



Happy New Year 5781!



Day of Atonement

Notices and diary

Mazel Tov:

- Adam Feldman on receiving the 2020 Teaching Excellence Award for Higher Education and his appointment to the Senate of the University of Exeter.
- Maud George, Ed Abrahamson, Vera Collins, Sarah Richler-Kleiman and Melanie Feldman on their special birthdays.

Get Well Soon:

- Vera Collins
- Bonnie and Wilf Rockley
- Scarlet and Jeni-Zaidi Cohen
- Benjamin Geller
- Eileen Essam
- Jenny Gorfin

Zoom Diary:

Due to Covid-19, our services and events will all be available online by using the Zoom facility.

4 th Dec	18:00 Kiddush & Fri. Night service led by Cynthia Hollinsworth, Shabbat Va-Yishlack, 18 Kislev
10 th Dec	Erev Chanukkah (light 1st candles)
11 th Dec	First Day of Chanukkah. 18:00 Kiddush & Fri. Night Service led by Paul Kleiman, Shabbat Chanukkah, 25 Kislev
18 th Dec	18:00 Kiddush & Fri. Night Service led by Louise Garcia, Shabbat Mikkeitz, 4 Tevet
25 th Dec	No service as it is the secular Christmas holiday
1 st Jan	No service as it is the secular New Year
8 th Jan	18:00 Kiddush & Fri. Night Service led by Adam Feldman, Shabbat Sh'mot, 25 Tevet
15 th Jan	18:00 Kddush & Fri. Night Service led by Liz Berg, Shabbat Va-eira, 2 Sh'vat
22 nd Jan	18:00 Kiddush & Fri. Night Service led by John Adelson, Shabbat Bo, 9 Sh'vat
28 th Jan	Tu Bishvat. No service (subject to change)
29 th Jan	No service this Fri. night as there is a Sat. morning service.
30 th Jan	10:30 B'Shallach, Sat. Morning Service led by Harvey Kurzfield, Shabbat Shirah, 17 Sh'vat
5 th Feb	18:00 Kiddush & Fri Night Service led by Pat Lipert, Shabbat Yitro,

12 th Feb	23 Sh'vat 18:00 Kiddush & Fri. Night Service led by Jeremy Jacobson, Shabbat Sh'kalim, Shabbat Rosh Chodesh, Shabbat Mishpatim, 30 Sh'vat
19 th Feb	8:00 Kiddush & Fri. Night Service led by Sharim Atilano, Shabbat Zachor, Shabbat T'rumah, 7 Adar
26 th Feb	18:00 Purim, Kiddush & Fri. Night Service led by Liz Berg, 14 Adar
27 th Feb	10:30 T'tzaveh Sat. Morning Service led by Adam Feldman, 15 Adar
5 th Mar	18:00 Kiddush & Fri. Night Service led by Harvey Kurzfield, Shabbat Parah, Shabbat Ki Tissa, 21 Adar
12 th Mar	18:00 Kiddush & Fri. Night Service led by Jo Richler & Paul Kleiman, Shabbat Ha-Chodesh, Shabbat Vayakhel-Pekudei, 28 Adar
19 th Mar	18:00 Kiddush & Fri. Night Service led by Cynthia Holinworth, Shabbat Va-yikra, 6 Nisan
26 th Mar	18:00 Kiddush & Fri. Night Service led by Pat Lipert, Shabbat Hagadol, 13 Nisan
27 th Mar	Erev Pesach, 1st Seder, 14 Nisan (Shabbat T'zav), No service
28 th Mar	Pesach, 1st Day, 15 Nisan. No service
2 nd Apr	18:00 Kiddush & Fri. Night Service led by Jeremy Jacobson (Erev, 7th night of Pesach), 20 Nisan
9 th Apr	18:00 Kiddush & Fri. Night Service led by Sharim Atilano, Shabbat Sh'mini,
16 th Apr	18:00 Kiddush & Fri. Night Service led by Liz Berg, Shabbat Atzm'ut, Shabbat Tazri-M'tzora, 4 Iyar
24 th Apr	10:30 Shabbat Acharei Mot-K'doshim Morning Service led by Adam Feldman, 12 Iyar
30 th Apr	Lag Ba'omer. No service

Contacts:

Registered Charity No 10990562.

Leslie's joke

Soviet Patriot? Nah!

In 1985 a Soviet school inspector asks a boy, "Who are your parents?"

"The Motherland."

"What do you want to be when you grow up?"

"I want to work for the glory of the party."

The school inspector asks a girl, "And your parents?"

"The Motherland."

"And when you grow up?"

"I want to bear children for the State."

The inspector spies little David Levy.

"And your parents?"

"The Motherland."

"And what do you want to be when you grow up?"

"An orphan."



Mezzuzot and Kiddush Cups

Kehillat Kernow Kiddush Cups - £60,
Siddurim - £16 and Mezzuzot - £25/£50
(without or with scroll)

kehillatkernow.com/shop

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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

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

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

Just a minute Cornish style

On Sunday, the 25th of October, members of Kehillat Kernow staged their version of the famous television show, Just a Minute, to prove just how long we can talk about any subject at any time off the cuff. The results showed how funny we can be. The subjects proved to be a source of mirth, fantasy, milarky and wit: The Mediterranean Sea, Sheep, Tin Mining, Jewish Actors, Cat-Napping, Pavlova, a Decent Cup of Tea, Blowing the Shofar and the History of the Jews

in Cornwall. The fanciful contestants were: Jeremy Jacobson, Pat and Leslie Lipert, Cynthia Hollinsworth, Melanie and Adam Feldman, Harvey and Jacqueline Kurzfield.

FRIDAY NIGHTS & SATURDAY MORNING

Don't forget to Zoom into your Kehillat Kernow Shabbat services at 6pm and 10.30am!