



EDGWARE MASORTI SYNAGOGUE ק"ק אור חדש

STREAM LANE, EDGWARE, MIDDLESEX, HA8 7YA TELEPHONE: 020 8905 4096

RABBI: Mijael Even-David LIFE PRESIDENTS: Neil Kaufman, Harold Segal and Allan Wien

2017/2018 COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR EMS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



9th July 2018

A company limited by guarantee, company number 06019045, Registered Office: Stream Lane, Edgware, Middlesex, HA8 7YA
Email: admin@edwaremasorti.org Website: www.edwaremasorti.org Registered Charity Number: 1117623

A list of the company directors is available at the Synagogue's registered office.



EXECUTIVE REPORT

In previous executive reports we have generally looked backwards and reported on the past year. As we are now approaching, what we believe to be a very exciting year ahead, we decided to focus only on the future.

Firstly, a sad start; as you all know this year sees our Rabbi and Raya returning to Israel which will mean finding a new Rabbi and educator to join our synagogue as soon as a suitable candidate can be found. We have had some suitable applicants and we will inform the community as and when they will be visiting to allow the community to have their say.

This year we are happy to announce the Yomim Noraim services are back with our normal community service takers as they have all 'booked in' their regular spots. In addition, we have secured the services of a highly respected Rabbi to work with the community and give the main drasha's. We are all looking forward to these meaningful and important services.

Having had one co. chair, three executives and three council members reach their 3-year stint; it is extremely pleasing to see at least four members joining the council team, together with our new Co. Chair, we are sure, this will give a new impetus to the management.

Changes are also being finalized on extending our Succah so that more people can be accommodated for the annual outdoor lunch only started a few years ago but proving to be very popular.

Also, this year, at long last, we will have the new flooring laid down in the Kiddush area giving our synagogue a bright new feel on entering.

We all look forward to a great 5779 and wish all the community, an early, shana tova.

TONY ALLAN

RABBI'S REPORT

Dear EMS members:

I am writing my report for you for the last time as rabbi of EMS. As you know, I have been chosen as the new rabbi of the Masorti Shul in Beer Sheva and the EMS leadership has been kind enough to let us go before the official end of our contract, so we can start our new life there in good time, especially re the frameworks for our children. We are very grateful indeed.

As I write this, EMS is in the process of finding new rabbinical leadership. We wish the Shul success and may it be a match made in heaven. Whoever is chosen, will be lucky to join a warm Shul with a lot of potential, but the new rabbi will also have to meet many challenges, including motivating more members to be active in the leadership or other volunteer positions, as well as participating in the activities of the community. Don't hesitate to make your voice heard to your new rabbi and share your ideas, concerns and priorities. Don't expect your rabbi to guess by magic!

This year we continued discussing some of the "big questions" of the Shul, like who do we want to be? Who do we want to serve? What are willing to change to grow and what it is so essential we are not willing to compromise? Our successful listening campaign helped with

this reflection, but we must continue this work. We cannot be a successful community if we don't know what success means for us!

We had a couple of baby blessings during this year and it's always wonderful to be part of the joy of the parents that have been blessed with new life. There have been weddings too during this time and I am thankful to the couples, new members of EMS, for letting me be part of such an important day in their lives.

Sadly, I also had to perform some funerals and Shiva services this year, may the memory of the departed be always a blessing and I wish the families a long life.

Our B'nei Mitzvah group has continued to be successful with a few ceremonies in 2017 and a few more in 2018. Our new group may be small in number, but it is a joy to see their cohesion and enthusiasm during their classes with Raya

I continued to be very active in the Masorti Beit Din, led by Rabbi Chaim Weiner, having taught several more students for conversion, both in English and in Spanish. Some of those in London who have already finished their process and passed their Bet Din are joining the Shul as members.

I also regularly attend the Masorti Rabbis' meetings, sometimes including cantors. We continue to look for opportunities to organise joint activities with other Masorti Shuls. Selichot services have become a tradition, with a service that every year becomes more beautiful, as well as with an active participation from members of the Shul. Other events this last year were Purim and Tisha B'Av, that we will repeat this coming year as well.

Regarding Adult Education, we had a few one-time lessons, including guest speakers. We still have a couple of series, including a weekly Mishnah lesson. Torah study must be at the centre of our activity as a community and I invite those that have ideas or subjects they would like to study to approach the new rabbi and talk about it.

As every year, I want to thank Linda Lassman, our wonderful administrator, for her support and help. It is a pleasure to work with her and receive her help whenever is needed. Raya and I will miss her very much!

My gratitude as well to all the volunteers in our Community, no matter how little or big your help has been, it is thanks to you that our community continues to function and thrive. We still need you, please continue walking this path with us. We need new volunteers as well, if you have some time to donate speak to us, we promise we will find a good use for you.

Last but not least, thank you to the Executive and Council of our community. To run a Shul is not an easy task and I appreciate you giving up on leisure and family time to help doing it. There are many challenges and tests in the way, but together you can deal with them and continue working for the good of the community.

Chazak Veematz, be strong and courageous as Moses said to Joshua, and God will be on your side. For my part, I am already.

If you happen to find yourselves in the Beer Sheva area, we would love to host you, don't hesitate!

Yours always,
Rabbi Mijael

BOARD OF DEPUTIES REPORT

The Board made headlines over their meeting with Jeremy Corbyn, joint with the Jewish Leadership Council. This was obviously very important and it is good that the British Press have highlighted the community's huge concerns re anti-Semitism, in particular, in the Labour party.

Jonathan Arkush was the President of the Board at the time but in May there were elections for a new President. I had great admiration for the work done by Jonathan who travelled the country attending meetings and visiting shuls. I was concerned how anyone would be able to follow him but at the first meeting of the triennium Marie Van der Zyl , his successor, gave a good impression.

The fact the executive positions were hotly contested was positive. I was impressed by the number of people, not just deputies, who attended the same hustings as me. It showed me that the Jewish community is concerned about how the Board represents us.

It is a shame, however, that the community is not aware of the many good things the Board has achieved. A lot of the work of the Board is undertaken by 3 divisions, each headed by a Vice President.

I am particularly interested as many of you know in Education and have attended a couple of the meetings of the Community and Education Division a where there has been a huge amount achieved in the last 3 years. The Jewish Way of Life Exhibition has toured the country. The representative from St Alban's Masorti secured the exhibition for the Abbey. The exhibition was so successful with visits from many schools and other groups and individuals that there are plans for a return visit. They now have an accredited programme for people who are willing to take sessions on Judaism and continue to offer bespoke tours. There has also been published an excellent new GCSE text book by Clive Lawton, sponsored by the Board. They also continue to do excellent inter faith work.

Other achievements have including Iceland changing their mind on Brit Millah and ensuring there should not be delays when a coroner is involved after someone has died.

Most of the meetings are held in London but once a year it is held outside London. This year's meeting was in Gibraltar but unfortunately, I was unable to attend. Division meetings are held in London but it is possible to attend via Skype so out of Londoners can attend.

/..... continued over

The meetings of the Board of Deputies are live streamed so anyone can watch them. However, if anyone is interested in being an observer and attending one of the Sunday meetings, please let me know. In addition, more information can be found on their web site: <https://www.bod.org.uk/> where you can sign up to receive their regular Community Briefing.

SALLY STRAUSS

EMS BOOK CLUB

“There is no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written, or badly written.” So stated Oscar Wilde.

In 16 years we have come across many examples of each. As always, we read books of both Jewish and non-Jewish interest, fiction and non-fiction, from all corners of the globe and all walks of life. As always, too, we meet in each other’s’ homes and collect £1 from each member present towards our chosen charity Jewish Care’s KC Shasha Centre for News and Talking Books for the Visually Impaired (now known as Jewish Care Connect). Despite a slight falling-off of numbers due to health problems and/or hospital appointments, we have a solid core of ten to twelve loyal members who maintain the standards of discussion we have set ourselves over the years. This would appear to be the optimum size for our meetings. If you are interested in joining us, please contact me on 8931 4973.

MELNA CHARIN

EVENTS AND FUND RAISING

This year we have had one main fund-raising event, which was our Quiz Supper. Originally scheduled to take place in December, due to heavy snow, we had no choice but to postpone it at the last minute. It was rescheduled for March and although the weather did its best to try and “spoil the party”, we did not let the snow beat us this time and the evening was a great success both socially and financially.

We have had several smaller events and continue to support educational events that the Rabbi puts on, as well as ones that Raya does for the children and youth.

Events seem to be intrinsically linked with catering and all these events have been supported by Michael Alexander and Jean Allan.

We continue to look for ideas for fundraising and social, so if anyone has any contacts for well known (celebrity) guest speakers or any other ideas please let me know.

SARAH NATHAN

HOUSE REPORT

Our renovations are progressing slowly and again we hope to have many new fixtures and fittings gradually coming through to make our synagogue special.

We hope to enlarge our Sukkah this year and are looking to volunteers to help decorate it. This will mean that we can host more people at our lunch, in the sukkah, on 29th September. More information in the Daf, after the summer

/..... continued over

We have also cleared out our 'library' so that the youth can use the room and it can continue to be hired out during the week. Unfortunately books these days are little used but the local charity was pleased to accept.

TONY ALLAN

JEWISH JOINT BURIAL SOCIETY (JJBS)

I am the EMS representative and Appointed Governor on the JJBS Board.

The purpose of this report is to provide a short update on the annual position.

1 The accounts of JJBS are exceptionally healthy, due to good advice externally and Governor management;

2 The Cheshunt Cemetery, upkeep is well maintained and continues to be developed, regarding seating, ease of use and plans to improve car parking.

3 The Woodland area continues to thrive and plans are afoot to create a new office.

4 All members are reassured that Cheshunt Cemetery is well covered financially.

/..... continued over

5 The work of JJBS is not only as a charity to support the Cemetery and communities with burial. Mitzi, as Sexton, is caring and efficient and the JJBS also donates to charitable causes,

6 Lastly, I do not wish to overly trespass on financial matters but I do ask that all members owing overage payments either arrange for full payment now or that they confirm, in writing, that if any payments are outstanding their estate will meet the obligation.

STEPHEN FIDLER

KIDDUSHIM

For the past year, we have again had a core catering team (Sarah Nathan, Michael Alexander and Jean Allen) and between the 3 of us we have tried to have varied and interesting kiddushim, often with a theme. By doing this we have created a very welcoming, sociable and friendly environment every Shabbat, so much so that often members never appear to be in a hurry to leave.

As well as B'nei Mitzvah, we have celebrated birthdays, wedding anniversaries, baby blessings, as well as kiddushim for no particular reason other than a member thought it would be a nice idea to sponsor a Kiddush.

Following on from the success of the past 2 years, we will be putting on a Kiddush for the community on 2nd day Rosh Hashana. This has proved to be extremely popular with about 200 people enjoying the opportunity of being able to catch up with members they had not seen for some time. We plan to repeat this each year.

/..... continued over

We did not celebrate 2nd night Seder this year, due to it falling on Shabbat, but we did cater for the Tu B'Shevat seder and of course special kiddushim for Succot, Shavuot and other festivals and occasions, never wanting to miss an opportunity to use food and drink as an excellent reason for the community to meet up.

Our core catering team is well supported by a weekly Kiddush rota and we often get members putting their heads round the door of the kitchen to see if we need help and this is always appreciated.

SARAH NATHAN

KIDDUSH ROTA

The newer style, more varied and exciting Kiddushim are still being well received, with the result that we are attracting more sponsored kiddushim. There is now a little more preparation to be done than previously. Kiddush duty and rota has had to evolve to be able to meet this new demand. Every week at least one of the catering team (Jean Allen or Sarah Nathan) are in the kitchen to advise what needs doing and to help if required. I have a team of 12 other ladies, who I rota to cover every Shabbat and Yom Tov. I then work my way down the list of members and rota 2 other people from the community to help, apart from those who have explicitly told me that they are unable to take their turn. The rota takes about 18 months to work its way around the whole list. To summarise: Congregants are asked to do Kiddush duty about once every 18 months. In true Masorti style, we don't mind if it's a husband or wife who turn up.

Whilst it's true to say that on many weeks the rota'd congregant doesn't turn up, every now and then we are pleasantly surprised to find a new face in the kitchen. Because of this and after much discussion over the years we have decided to keep the system unchanged. I have, for various reasons, lost a couple of my trusted team and will be trying to recruit some 'replacements' in the not too distant future. If you are interested in helping, please contact me or the office. It would entail helping to set up and clear away Kiddush about 4 times per year.

GAYNOR BLACK

OR HADASH REPORT

Or Hadash is the EMS Community magazine, which is delivered free to our members twice yearly - just ahead of Pesach and Rosh Hashanah. But it is much more than that. It promotes EMS as a warm, friendly, and caring congregation, reaching out to the Community at large. The racks in the hall always have spare copies of the current issue, for visitors to the shul to pick up and dip into at will, and it deserves to be on coffee tables in our congregants' homes, so that their guests can read about the shul, and its values.

As I mentioned in my report last year, producing Or Hadash, is not easy. I have continued to receive help from Tony Allan and Linda and am grateful to them and to all the congregants who have submitted articles for inclusion in the magazine.

As I also mentioned, I now have a quite demanding job, and I have come to the sad conclusion that I can no longer continue as Editor.

/..... continued over

Changes in my personal circumstances have also led me to make some momentous decisions, the main one being that as soon as possible, I intend to move away from the London area, to be closer to my daughter and her family in Wallasey. It is a decision I had resisted for a long time, but now realise that it is something I must do. I will remain a member of EMS, and even hope to attend services there when I'm in town, but obviously, I cannot continue as a Council member, and gave notice at the last Council meeting that I would not seek re-election.

SOLLY MATALON

SECURITY

As head of security my role is as follows;

- 1) to chair the security management team
- 2) to assist team members with their assignments where possible
- 3) to try to make sure all Shobbases and events are covered by security
- 4) to recruit as many of our members to help with security. If you are 68 or under please join us.

If that is not possible be our eyes and ears and tell us of anything unusual near our building

PAUL RACHEL

SENIOR WARDENS REPORT

EMS faces numerous challenges in relation to both leyning and davening. Our small band of volunteers is ever decreasing for various personal and discreet reasons and I would hope that anyone reading this short report would approach me with a view to agreeing to Leyn, Daven or both. Anyone who would be willing to step up and assist need only Daven or Leyn in part and arrangements can be made for lessons. We are very grateful to the members of Raya's Haphtarah class for their valuable input into our services. Taking part in the Service is a great mitzvah, a personal accomplishment and an example to us all.

We endeavour to hold a Rosh Chodesh services each month, but are sometimes pushed for a minyan. Please do assist me by coming to these services; they ensure that we provide a full and complete year of all religious observance. Some of our services are noticeably short of people and this, is, I must say, unfortunate and sad. So, as Warden, I am asking all our members, friends and colleagues, please attend as many of our services that you can, even if this isn't very often – without you our services won't happen!

Regarding my role as Senior Warden I am grateful for the positive feedback from the Chaggim. We hold twice yearly Service Committee meetings and all members are welcome to attend – the date of the next one will be advertised in the Daf.

I try to ensure that we accommodate anyone who would like an aliyah for a yahrzeit, even if it requires splitting the sidra on shabbat. Please let the Shul office know if you would like an aliyah or come and speak to the Warden on a shabbat morning.

I am thoroughly enjoying my role as warden, and hope I can continue to serve and assist services and the EMS membership.

Lastly, I would like to thank our Rabbi, Shammass Simon Trober and everyone who has been on the Bimah over the last year. Lastly my friends and colleagues on the Executive who work tirelessly for our shul, behind the scenes.

STEPHEN FIDLER

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our income grew by some £19k. Main contributory factors:

- As you may remember, we had a new nursery start in October 2016 – Noah's Ark. 2017 was its first full year although the income levels are still somewhat lower than they used to be.
- Subscriptions were down some £4k due to loss of members – in the last 2 years net member reduction has been 6% pa. However over 3 years it has been 10% but the level of attrition has slowed.
- Donations were up partly due to a legacy received
- Fund raising was a net £3k as a result of the successful Judge Rinder event.

7+ years of no increase of fees must come to an end. Later this year we will be revising them for 2019 and this will be presented at an EGM.

On the expenditure side the only material changes were:

- £19k employment costs – package reviews and cost of car lease
- £4k Masorti Judaism – this was the final part of a staged increase to full subscription levels

Result was a small deficit.

Page 4	2015	2016	2017	3 years
Members at Start	457	436	419	457
Joined	9	9	4	22
Joined because 21	5	1	1	7
Resigned	(31)	(25)	(10)	(66)
Died	(4)	(2)	(2)	(8)
Members at end	436	419	411	411
Net movement	(21)	(17)	(8)	(46)
Net movement%	-4.6%	-3.9%	-1.9%	-10.1%
Children at end	99	87	84	
Friends at end	16	14	12	

This is my last report as treasurer as I stand down at this meeting. I am disappointed I have no one immediately to hand over to but am sure a member of the community will recognise they can help.

DANIEL DAVIS

WELFARE

We are hoping to add more volunteers to our group of people who are happy to contact members who may need support during difficult or challenging times in their lives, such as bereavement, illness or loneliness. Please let Linda know if you think that you can help. The team this year, has been supported by the Rabbi and Raya who have visited members at home and in hospital.

Please do not hesitate to contact the synagogue office if you or anyone you know in the community requires any support and would appreciate a call. We only find out about those in need in this way, but please be assured that all calls are treated in the strictest confidence.

SARAH NATHAN

YOUTH & EDUCATION REPORT

Edgware Masorti Synagogue's educational activities can be divided into categories based on age:

- **6 and unders:**

Under the careful guidance of two parent volunteers from our membership, activities took place twice a month throughout the year, one usually being on a Shabbat and one usually being a weekday, for example: a challah bake on a Friday afternoon.

- **7-11s:**

We have struggled to get participation in this age group, mostly because the families who have kids in this age group are receiving their Jewish Education elsewhere, for example: Jewish primary schools. It is likely to see them only once they reach Bar Mitzvah age.

- **Bnei Mitzvah Course:**

We currently have four students who have just completed their first out of two years, attending every Sunday morning and infrequently on shabbatot as well. It is crucial to find someone who can continue the syllabus as has been laid out meticulously over the past 4 years. The boys have bonded with each other and there is great potential to get them more involved in EMS.

- **BM tutoring:**

Most, but not all of our bar mitzvah students, have opted to prepare for their individual portions with Raya. This offers an opportunity to create a strong bond between our synagogue's educator and the families, even if those particular children are not part of our weekly lessons.

- **Post BM:**

We started out the year on a "high" with the successful ending of our BM group from 2015-2017. After meeting every 6 weeks for leadership and Jewish learning their choice sessions, plus family sponsored dinners, we decided to stop due to school pressures making their commitment impossible. Later on, in the year, we held a graduation ceremony. Teens' and their parents' guidance would be helpful in deciding next steps (hadracha training, for example).

- **Teenage Madrichim:**

We have a small group of teenagers willing to come for pay to deliver educational content, and most of them have already given us their availability for the high holy days of 2018. However, our main struggle is getting a big group of children to attend in order to make it worth the older kids' commitment.

- **Multigenerational Mega Events:**

Around every Jewish Festival or minor holy day, we have been running activities open to all ages with attractions for both members and guests alike.

- **Adult Education:**

Hebrew language lessons, and after that haftarah leyning courses, have been offered once a week by our educator Raya. Both classes started with a decent number of participants and found themselves reduced to a minimum due to students' overcommitted schedules.

RAYA EVEN DAVID