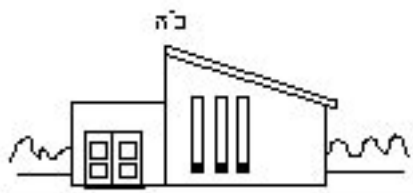


Chanukah 5770



Kislev - Adar 5770
December 2009 - February 2010



Solihull & District Hebrew Congregation
www.solihullshul.org
Tel/Fax:0121 706 8736
office@solihullshul.org

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Dear Friends,

I have just returned from New York, where I attended the annual conference of Chabad Rabbis.



During the conference we marked the first yarzeit of our dear friends and colleagues Rabbi Gabi & Rivky Holzberg who were brutally murdered by terrorists last year.

Many innocent people were massacred during the Mumbai attacks simply because they had the misfortune to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Gaby & Rivky were deliberately targeted because they were Jews who had chosen to dedicate their lives to helping others, no matter who they be.

We, the friends and colleagues of Gaby & Rivky resolved to ensure that their legacy will live on, with a renewed commitment to reach out to every Jew and provide them with whatever help they need both materially and spiritually. Acts of evil and darkness need to be combated by acts of light,

On Saturday 12th December at 6.30 pm we will be lighting the Chanukah Menorah in Mell Square in the presence of the Mayor of Solihull. Join me as we watch the lights of Chanukah that symbolise freedom from oppression shine out and illuminate the darkness of the night.

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Rabbi Yehuda Pink

**Please join us at the first ever
Public Menorah Lighting in Solihull**



**Saturday 12th December 6.30 pm
Next to M&S in Mell Square**

Fresh Home Made Hot Latkes and Doughnuts

The Menorah will be switched on by the Mayor of Solihull

Chanukah Gelt for all children

Joint Solihull & Singers Hill Chanukah Bowling Party



Sunday 13th December

5.00 pm - 7.00 pm

Lakeside Superbowl
Persnore Road, Birmingham, B30 2YB

Food, Fun, Games and Fresh Hot Latkes
Something for all ages

Adults £8
Students & Children £5

Pre booking essential

To book a place email rabbipink@gmail.com or call 0121 706 8736

Rosh Chodesh Breakfast Minyan

Join the Minyanaire's Club - Join us for a short service followed by a delicious breakfast once a month. The Service starts at 9.00am* and usually lasts about 35 minutes.

The dates for the next three breakfasts are :

Sunday 20th December

Sunday 17th January

Sunday 14th February* (8.45am)

Community Matters

Mazel Tov Paula & Mike Leek on the marriage of their daughter Samantha to Jonathan Waxman.

Mazel Tov to Yetta Wine on the engagement of her grandson Joshua Mazin to Esther Coren.

Mazel Tov to Sharon & David Lester on the birth of their granddaughter Sorale.

Mazel Tov to the Nagar family on the occasion of Sarah's Bat Mitzvah.

Helen, Igal, Hannah & Sarah Nagar would like to invite the congregation to join them for kiddush, after the service, on Shabbat 19th December 2009/2nd Tevet 5770 to celebrate Sarah's Bat Mitzvah. It would be really helpful if you could let us know if you can come along, so that we know how many to cater for! Please email rsnagar@hotmail.co.uk or call 0121 354 9470. We look forward to seeing you in shul on the 19th.



Punctuality is the politeness of princes, but the lure of an extra 10 minutes sleep is often stronger!

In order to encourage members to arrive in time for the start of the service we will be serving coffee and cake every Shabbos morning from 9.30 - 9.45 am

Under Syrian Rule

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More than 2000 years ago there was a time when the land of Israel was part of the Syrian Empire, dominated by Syrian rulers of the dynasty of the Seleucids.

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In order to relate the story that led up to Chanukah, we shall start with Antiochus III, the King of Syria, who reigned from 3538 to 3574 (222-186 B.C.E.). He had waged war with King Ptolemy of Egypt over the possession of the Land of Israel. Antiochus III was victorious and the Land of Israel was annexed to his empire. At the beginning of his reign he was favourably disposed toward the Jews and accorded them some privileges. Later on, however, when he was beaten by the Romans and compelled to pay heavy taxes, the burden fell upon the various peoples of his empire who were forced to furnish the heavy gold that was required of him by the Romans. When Antiochus died, his son Seleucus IV took over, and further oppressed the Jews.

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Added to the troubles from the outside were the grave perils that threatened Judaism from within. The influence of the Hellenists (people who accepted idol-worship and the Syrian way of life) was increasing. Yochanan, the High Priest, foresaw the danger to Judaism from the penetration of Syrian-Greek influence into the Holy Land. For, in contrast to the ideal of outward beauty held by the Greeks and Syrians, Judaism emphasizes truth and moral purity, as commanded by G-d in the holy Torah. The Jewish people could never give up their faith in G-d and accept the idol-worship of the Syrians.

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Yochanan was therefore opposed to any attempt on the part of the Jewish Hellenists to introduce Greek and Syrian customs into the land. The Hellenists hated him. One of them told the King's commissioner that in the treasury of the Temple there was a great deal of wealth.

The wealth in the treasury consisted of the contributions of "half a shekel" made by all adult Jews annually. That was given for the purpose of the sacrifices on the altar, as well as for fixing and improving the Temple building. Another part of the treasury consisted of orphans' funds which were deposited for them until they became of age. Seleucus

needed money in order to pay the Romans. He sent his minister Helyodros to take the money from the treasury of the Temple. In vain did Yochanan, the High Priest, beg him not to do it. Helyodros did not listen and entered the gate of the Temple. But suddenly, he became pale with fright. The next moment he fainted and fell to the ground. After Helyodros came to, he did not dare enter again.

The “Madman”

A short time later, Seleucus was killed and his brother Antiochus IV began to reign over Syria (in 3586 - 174 B.C.E.). He was a tyrant of a rash and impetuous nature, contemptuous of religion and of the feelings of others. He was called “Epiphanes,” meaning “the gods’ beloved.” Several of the Syrian rulers received similar titles. But a historian of his time, Polebius, gave him the epithet Epimanes (“madman”), a title more suitable to the character of this harsh and cruel king.

Desiring to unify his kingdom through the medium of a common religion and culture, Antiochus tried to root out the individualism of the Jews by suppressing all the Jewish Laws. He removed the righteous High Priest, Yochanan, from the Temple in Jerusalem, and in his place installed Yochanan’s brother Joshua, who loved to call himself by the Greek name of Jason. For he was a member of the Hellenist party, and he used his high office to spread more and more of the Greek customs among the priesthood.

Joshua or Jason was later replaced by another man, Menelaus, who had promised the king that he would bring in more money than Jason did. When Yochanan, the former High Priest, protested against the spread of the Hellenists’ influence in the Holy Temple, the ruling High Priest hired murderers to assassinate him.

Antiochus was at that time engaged in a successful war against Egypt. But messengers from Rome arrived and commanded him to stop the war, and he had to yield. Meanwhile, in Jerusalem, a rumour spread that a serious accident, had befallen Antiochus. Thinking that he was dead, the people rebelled against Menelaus. The treacherous High Priest fled together with his friends.

The Martyrs

Antiochus returned from Egypt enraged by Roman interference with his ambitions.

When he heard what had taken place in Jerusalem, he ordered his army to fall upon the Jews. Thousands of Jews were killed. Antiochus then enacted a series of harsh decrees against the Jews. Jewish worship was forbidden; the scrolls of the Law were confiscated and burned. Sabbath rest, circumcision and the dietary laws were prohibited under penalty of death. Even one of the respected elders of that generation, Rabbi Eliezer, a man of 90, was ordered by the servants of Antiochus to eat pork so that others would do the same. When he refused they suggested to him that he pick up the meat to his lips to appear to be eating. But Rabbi Eliezer refused to do even that and was put to death.

There were thousands of others who likewise sacrificed their lives. The famous story of Hannah and her seven children happened at that time.

Antiochus's men went from town to town and from village to village to force the inhabitants to worship pagan gods. Only one refuge area remained and that was the hills of Judea with their caves. But even there did the Syrians pursue the faithful Jews, and many a Jew died a martyr's death.

Mattityahu

One day the henchmen of Antiochus arrived in the village of Modin where Mattityahu, the old priest, lived. The Syrian officer built an altar in the marketplace of the village and demanded that Mattityahu offer sacrifices to the Greek gods. Mattityahu replied, "I, my sons and my brothers are determined to remain loyal to the covenant which our G-d made with our ancestors!"

Thereupon, a Hellenistic Jew approached the altar to offer a sacrifice. Mattityahu grabbed his sword and killed him, and his sons and friends fell upon the Syrian officers and men. They killed many of them and chased the rest away. They then destroyed the altar.

Mattityahu knew that Antiochus would be enraged when he heard what had happened. He would certainly send an expedition to punish him and his followers. Mattityahu, therefore, left the village of Modin and fled together with his sons and friends to the hills of Judea. All loyal and courageous Jews joined them. They formed legions and from time to time they left their hiding places to fall upon enemy detachments and outposts, and to destroy the pagan altars that were built by order of Antiochus.

The Maccabees

Before his death, Mattityahu called his sons together and urged them to continue to fight in defence of G d's Torah. He asked them to follow the counsel of their brother Shimon the Wise. In waging warfare, he said, their leader should be Yehuda the Strong. Yehuda was called "Maccabee," a word composed of the initial letters of the four Hebrew words Mi Komocho Bo'eilim Hashem, "Who is like unto Thee, O G-d."

Antiochus sent his General Apolonius to wipe out Yehuda and his followers, the Maccabees. Though greater in number and equipment than their adversaries, the Syrians were defeated by the Maccabees. Antiochus sent out another expedition which also was defeated. He realized that only by sending a powerful army could he hope to defeat Yehuda and his brave fighting men.

An army consisting of more than 40,000 men swept the land under the leadership of two commanders, Nicanor and Gorgiash. When Yehuda and his brothers heard of that, they exclaimed: "Let us fight unto death in defence of our souls and our Temple!" The people assembled in Mitzpah, where Samuel, the prophet of old, had offered prayers to G-d. After a series of battles the war was won.

The Dedication

Now the Maccabees returned to Jerusalem to liberate it. They entered the Temple and cleared it of the idols placed there by the Syrian vandals. Yehuda and his followers built a new altar, which he dedicated on the twenty-fifth of the month of Kislev, in the year 3622.

Since the golden Menorah had been stolen by the Syrians, the Maccabees now made one of cheaper metal. When they wanted to light it, they found only a small cruse of pure olive oil bearing the seal of the High Priest Yochanan. It was sufficient to light only for one day. By a miracle of G-d, it continued to burn for eight days, till new oil was made available. That miracle proved that G-d had again taken His people under His protection. In memory of this, our sages appointed these eight days for annual thanksgiving and for lighting candles.

How to Celebrate Chanukah

Light the Menorah each night of Chanukah.

All members of the family should be present at the kindling of the lights. Family members who are sleeping away from home should light the Menorah at the place they are staying for the night.

If you are unable to light the Menorah, for example you are travelling by plane. Ask a member of your household or a friend to have you in mind when they light the menorah.

Use olive oil or candles, large enough to burn for at least half an hour.

Use a 'Shamash' (extra candle) to kindle the lights.

The lights are kindled from left to right.

Before lighting recite the blessings.

It is best to light the Menorah near a window.

The Menorah may be lit any time after 4.00 pm except for Friday and Saturday (See Chart).

On Friday Night the Menorah is lit before the Shabbos candles. More oil or longer candles should be used on Friday since the Menorah is lit before nightfall.

After Shabbos the Menorah is lit after Havdalah has been recited.

Blessing 1

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱ-לֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם

אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנוּכָה

Boruch Atoh Ado- noy Elo -einu Melech Ho - Olam Asher Ki -Desho nu Be-Mitzvosov Vetzivonu Lehadlik Ner Shel Chanukoh

Blessing 2

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱ-לֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם

שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבְתֵּינוּ בְּיָמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה

Boruch Atoh Ado- noy Elo -einu Melech Ho - Olam Sheosoh Nisim La-avosinu Bayomim Hahem Bizman Hazeh

Blessing 3

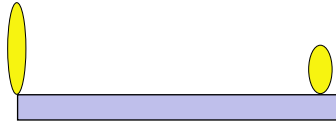
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱ-לֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם

שֶׁחֲחִינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה

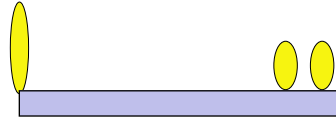
Boruch Atoh Ado- noy Elo -einu Melech Ho - Olam Shecheyonu Vekiymonu Vehigiyonu Lizman Hazeh

www.virtualchanukah.com

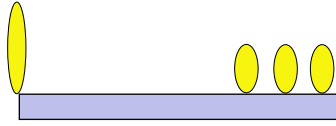
Shamash



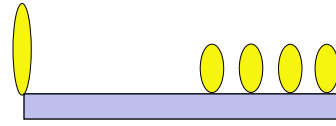
Friday December 11th
Blessings 1, 2 & 3
Before 3.35 pm



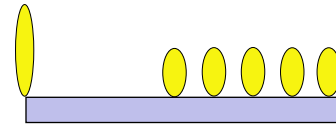
Saturday December 12th
Blessings 1, 2
After 4.50 pm



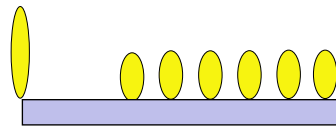
Sunday December 13th
Blessings 1 & 2



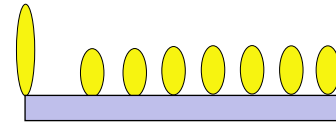
Monday December 14th
Blessings 1 & 2



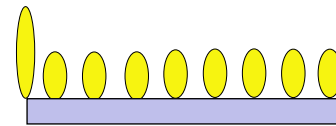
Tuesday December 15th
Blessings 1 & 2



Wednesday December 16th
Blessings 1 & 2



Thursday December 17th
Blessings 1 & 2



Friday December 18th
Blessings 1 & 2
Before 3.35 pm

Do you need Chanukah Candles, Menorahs or dreidles?

The Solihull Judaica Store has lots of Chanukah related items in stock.



Ask the Rabbi

Question: Why do some people have the custom not to cut a boys hair until his third birthday?

Answer: It is an age-old Jewish custom to refrain from cutting a boy's hair until he is three years old. On the boy's third Jewish birthday it is customary for the parents to invite friends and relatives to participate in an "Upsherin" ceremony, where each of the assembled guests is given a scissor and is invited to participate in the haircut by cutting off a hair lock. The Upsherin marks the commencement of the child's formal education. Care is taken to leave the child's peyot intact, thus initiating him in the ways of G-d's commandments.

After the Upsherin, the child is taught to wear a kippah and tzitzit, and is slowly trained to recite blessings and the Shema.

The Torah says that "a person is [compared to] the tree of the field" (Deuteronomy 20:19). Just as it is forbidden to benefit from the produce of a tree for the first three years after it is planted, so too we do not cut a boy's hair until he is three years old. [Click here to read about 'What is orlah?'] From the fourth year and onwards we begin to enjoy the fruit of the tree; and from this point onwards the world begins to benefit from the Torah and mitzvahs of a young child.

The Upsherin is an opportunity to educate the child in obligations he will be required to perform later on in life. The hair cut leaves Peyot (fringes) fulfilling the biblical commandment "you shall not destroy the corners of your beard". Women are not required to fulfill this obligation. For this reason, this custom does not apply to girls.

The word upsherin is derived from the Yiddish and it simply means to 'cut off'.

*For answers to any Judaism related question via live chat or email
visit*

www.askmoses.com

Solihull Shul

Annual Shabbaton

good food & wonderful company

Friday Night
15th January 2010
6.30 pm



Adults £20 Teenagers £7 Children £3

Limited places available.
No seat will be reserved without payment in full.

To book a place send a cheque payable to Solihull Hebrew Congregation to:

Mr R Gold, 13 Portland Road, Birmingham, B16 9HN,
before 23rd December 2009



THE NEW YEAR WELCOME IN SOLIHULL

by Jeffrey & Laraine Epstein.

Last year, my wife and I moved from Bushey in Hertfordshire to live and work in the Midlands. Having only moved in July, last New Year was upon us almost before we had the chance to draw breath, so perhaps we were not best placed to comment on our thoughts then.

A year on, and our initial thoughts have been reinforced only in the positive. The welcome we received and the friendliness shown to us by the Rabbi and Rebbetzen and indeed the whole community in Solihull has been tremendous.

So to Rosh Hashanah 5770, we were blessed with lovely weather and without any roof worries and with the improvements to the grounds, the shul welcomed a large throng for both days. Being a weekend, encouraged by the weather and with the very able leadership of Rabbi Pink together with the Chazanim Shmuli Weinbaum and Daniel Littlestone, the services were most enjoyable.

Tashlich took place as in previous years after Minchah at the Rabbi's house at a nearby pond followed by a Q and A session with the Rabbi answering the numerous questions put to him. The evening service rounded things up and we could look forward to the following weekend for the most holy day of the year.

Kol Nidre was attended in large numbers and the regular appeal to the community made by Stephen Goldstein in which he passionately reminded us that in order to maintain and develop the community going forward, we all needed to dig deep, even in times of recession. The service was both moving and a reminder of the day to

Yom Kippur was blessed with another bout of fine weather so again no problems with support for security duty. Despite the long day, a constant large attendance and well planned services, accompanied by Rabbi Pink's running commentary and insights into the prayers ensured that we all coped with the fast well.

As Neilah approached, the audience grew in number and as we all took in the final blasts of the shofar could look forward to breaking our fast in true Solihull style. I say this with true feeling, because Laraine and I were for the second year running, the beneficiaries of great hospitality from our newfound friends in the community for which we were most grateful.

The volunteer team then began or rather finished the building of the succah with Rabbi Pink's inevitable help, which meant we finished in quick time with a really good result, with the ladies input, a beautiful sukkah was ready for the festival.

Because 1st day Sukkot coincided with Shabbat, we had to wait until Sunday, the 2nd day to enjoy the 4 species and combined with a large audience for a special reunion Kiddush to welcome Ruth Livingstone on a flying visit from Sydney, this was a lovely occasion.

Rabbi and Rebbetzen Pink again hosted the midweek Sukkot party and a really appreciative, supportive multitude gathered throughout the evening to enjoy the spectacular hospitality, with the chocolate fountain taking pride of place.

The weekend came early with Friday's Hoshanah Rabbah festivities and once the willow leaves had stopped flying around, a hearty breakfast in the sukkah was enjoyed by all.

The good news was that the weekend would attract a large following for both Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. The renowned Solihull kiddushim together with copious amounts of varying alcoholic beverages clearly enhancing the singing and dancing skills of all present on both days.

The highlight was the Simchat Torah lunch provided by our Chatanim for 5770. Both our Chatan Torah, Derek Sakol and Chatan Bereshit, Mick Tessler, spoke most eloquently and were clearly very grateful for the honour bestowed on

them by the community. It was very heart warming to hear the particularly strong feelings held for the Solihull Shul and it's Rabbi and Rebbetzen which is exactly how this article began.

Everyone who was fortunate enough to have attended the lunch went away with a great sense of well being and could truly look forward positively to a new and exciting year.

I know that from a personal perspective, the last year has been one of significant upheaval for us, but we could not have made a better decision than to have settled into our home within the bosom of the Solihull community.

I am sure that the future is bright in the Solihull arena, and on behalf of the whole community, we wish the whole of the Midlands community a very happy and prosperous new year.

Going, going, gone!! by Jon Gouldman

Step aside Bonhams, Christie's and Sotheby's. On Sunday the 25th October Solihull Jewish Community Centre was transformed into an Auction House to raise funds for the refurbishment of the Milk Kitchen and replacement of the central heating.

When the Solihull Shul was built in 1977 the original plans were for a larger building, the current milk kitchen was going to be the boiler room. Lack of funds forced the scaling down of the plans and the kitchen was shoe-horned into a tiny space together with a large hot-air heating system.

Over the years the Ladies Guild has served thousands of portions of delicious food from this small space. However new Health and Safety regulations the increased use of the Solihull Jewish Community Centre for a wide variety of activities, which being Jewish, always involve food and the threatened imminent demise of the current heating system has meant that action needs to be taken to revamp the kitchen and replace the heating system.

In true Solihull style it was decided to both raise funds and have some fun while doing it! A Wine and Cheese evening accompanied by a charity auction in our

Communal hall was planned to be the opening salvo of a new campaign to deliver this project for the benefit of the community.

The auction lots included a wide variety of donated pledges, gifts and event tickets. Many were generously donated by members and friends of the community (we thank you all). Many more were obtained as the result of written or verbal requests made to local and national retailers, tourist locations or sporting and cultural venues. Special marks for chutzpa to Esta Benson, Judith Fine, Jon Gouldman, Mark Sullivan and Harvey Williams.

There was a plentiful supply of refreshments laid on for the guests including an amazing choice of cheeses kindly donated by Barry Lent of Chevingtons Cheese plus, crackers and a selection of Wines donated by Kosher Paradise of Temple Fortune.

The items for auction had been previously communicated in the promotion of the event but all were on view for bidders prior to the commencement of the evening's entertainment, these being the subject of much scrutiny by potential bidders.

Also on show were the plans for the refurbished kitchen which we would be able to implement once the target is reached.

The master auctioneer on this occasion was Harvey Williams an experienced charity auctioneer who has served many charitable enterprises, all benefiting from his skill, wit and charm, all applied to secure the capture of every extra pound for the benefit of the fund. Harvey was ably assisted before, during and after the event by Judith Fine, whose planning, administrative and organisational skills ensured that the process ran smoothly.

The bidding opened with the sale of; 4 adorable almost life-size cuddly toys; a one week stay for a family in a Spanish resort, some excellent autographed sporting celebrity prints and went on to include the sale of the many event tickets, pledges of services; and variety of items of varying levels of value. The range of value of items on offer meant that participants of all means could have the chance to take part. The excitement in the hall grew as more people gained the confidence to join in taking their chance to win the bidding for items of interest to them. The hall burst into applause after each successful bid, acknowledging that there was

ultimately a charitable purpose behind it all, aside from the fun and excitement of the hunt for a bargain.

In fact the number of items available to be sold was so great that the time allocated to the event ran out before the items were all sold. Plenty left for another event then!

The stunning conclusion of the evening was the astonishing total of over £3,000 raised, which together with the funds raised last year by Sheila Middleburgh and her team mean that we have made significant progress towards raising the funds needed to achieve our goal of refurbishing the Milk kitchen and replacing the central heating.

Use our webshop to help us raise money

Save yourself money and help the Shul at the same time

When shopping online, leading retailers - such as Marks & Spencer and our webshop. Every time you go to a retailer's web site and buy something, you'll be helping us!



you can access over 100 as Tesco, Thorntons, John Lewis - using our site and subsequently automatically earn money

You don't pay anything extra by using our webshop, indeed you will find many discounts so please try to use it whenever you can. Please spread the word. Thank you!

*Find our webshop at
www.buy.at/solihullshul*



Please enter these dates into your diary to ensure that you will be able to join us at one or all of these occasions. More information about specific events will be publicised closer to the date of each event. All events are at 3 Monastery Drive unless indicated otherwise.

Beer & Pub Games Evening	29th November	7.00 pm
Pre Chanukah Fun Day	6th December	10.30 am
Public Menorah Lighting	12th December	6.30 pm
Chanukah Party	13th December	6.00 pm
Friday Night Dinner	15th January	6.30 pm
Teenscene (Singers Hill)	24th January	5.00 pm
Youth Zone (Leicester)	31st January	3.00 pm
Chanoch Pink's First Haircut	16th February	6.30 pm
Pre Purim Fun Day	21st February	10.30 am
Purim Meal	28th February	5.00 pm
Midlands Youth Shabbaton (Leicester)	13th March	
Pre- Pesach Fun Day	21st March	10.30 am
Communal Seder	29th March	8.00 pm
Teenscene	25th April	5.00 pm
Quiz of the Year	25th April	7.30 pm
Lag B Omer Event	2nd May	
Shavuot Lunch	19th May	12.30 pm
Communal BBQ	13th June	12.30 pm

*Visit the Solihull Judaica Store
for all your Chanukah shopping.*

*We are delighted
to invite you to a
buffet supper
to celebrate the
Upshernish (hair-
cutting ceremony)
of our dear son,*



Chanoch

Tuesday, 2nd Adar 5770

16th February 2010

6:30 - 8:30 pm

*Solihull Jewish Community Centre,
3 Monastery Drive, B91 1DW*

Rabbi Yehuda and Dinie Pink

r.s.v.p. 0121 706 8736

dinapink@gmail.com

**Hi, my name is Chanoch and soon I will be three,
my parents are making a big party especially for me.**

My past two birthdays came and went,
but this year we're planning an exciting event.

Called an Opshernish, my first hair cut
not at a barbershop, any thing but!



All my friends will come and take a snip
and stay afterwards for a bite and a sip.

It will be the very first time that they
will cut my hair, and I would surely appreciate you
joining me there.

My father bought me new Tzitzis and a Yarmulka I'll
always wear,
I will look like a real grown up boy without my long
long hair.

No more pins, ponytails and hair with a curl,
no more will I hear what a cute little girl!

No previous barber experience is needed,
waiting for you on my chair I will be seated.

**It's my big day and I really can't wait,
so please join me there and reserve this special
date!**

Kiddush Sponsors



The following people have sponsored a kiddush over the next few months. Please show your support and appreciation of these sponsors by attending the Synagogue on these occasions.

5th December	The Fine Family
12th December	The Gouldman Family
19th December	Helen & Yigal Nagar
26th December	Dr Henry Warson
2nd December	Shirley & Maurice Littlestone
9th January	The Gold Family
16th January	Sue & Martyn Ellis
20th February	Esther & Monty Marks

Why wait for a phonecall?

Contact Henrietta today on 0121 744 3571 or email henriettagouldman@tiscali.co.uk and book a date to sponsor a kiddush.

Would you like to
of a loved one by
on the Memorial
The plaque will
day of the yahrzeit
recited in Shul to



perpetuate the memory
dedicating a plaque
Board?
be illuminated on the
and a memorial prayer
mark the yahrzeit.

FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO DEDICATE A PLAQUE
CONTACT HAROLD KAY ON 0121 705 3870

Kiddush Sponsorship

We offer six menus that you can choose from at a fixed price. These prices assume a maximum of 30 people. Prices will increase proportionally for more than 30 people.

Menu A £25

Wine & Grape Juice
Cookies
Cake
Crisps
Pretzels

Menu B £40

Wine & Grape Juice
Cookies
Cake
Crisps
Pretzels
Crackers
Dips

Menu C £45

Wine & Grape Juice
Cookies
Cake
Crisps
Pretzels
Fresh Fruit
Soft Drinks

Menu D £50

Wine & Grape Juice
Cookies
Cake
Crisps
Pretzels
Fishballs
Smoked Salmon
Crackers

Menu E £75

Wine & Grape Juice
Cookies
Cake
Crisps
Pretzels
Fresh Fruit
Soft Drinks
Fishballs
Smoked Salmon
Crackers

Menu F £110

Wine & Grape Juice
Cookies
Cake
Crisps
Pretzels
Fresh Fruit
Soft Drinks
Fishballs
Smoked Salmon
Crackers
Dips
Herring
Olives
Pickles

These prices include the purchase of all items and setting up and clearing away the kiddush by the Ladies Guild. Alcohol, other than kiddush wine, (whisky etc.) is not provided by the Ladies Guild.

It is the responsibility of the host to deliver this to Shul before Shabbos if they wish this to be served at the kiddush. On most weeks we provide a hot cholent as a free bonus, however this is not guaranteed.

For a large kiddush there will be an additional charge to cover the cost of a waitress to clear up after the kiddush. To book a kiddush contact Henrietta Gouldman on 0121 744 3571 or henrietagouldman@tiscali.co.uk

Chanukah Again

By: Shlomo Yaffe

There is something special about Chanukah: the core dynamics of this holiday have been repeated time and time again throughout Jewish history.

Chanukah primarily marks the willingness of Jews to put their lives on the line for the sake of preserving their Jewishness -- that is, to remain loyal to the Torah G-d has given us as the blueprint of our mission in life.

The military victory came and went, and was incomplete at any rate -- within a short generation or two the fledgling Maccabee-ruled state had already lost its independence, coming under the hegemony of the Romans.

What Chanukah celebrates most of all is that we did not allow anyone to dictate our relationship to G-d. We are prepared to give up everything for this cause -- even our physical lives.

Indeed, throughout the ages Jews have succeeded in maintaining their beliefs against numerous attempts to forcibly change them, often at great cost to themselves.

But is Chanukah still relevant today? For the first time in our recent history (i.e., the last 2000 years or so), the vast majority of Jews live in countries where they can practice their Judaism freely and without oppression.

Is the lesson of Chanukah no longer necessary? Do we no longer have a need to live its story and reinforce its message?

The truth is, in our present state we need Chanukah more than ever.

Chanukah continues to inspire us to persevere and overcome great obstacles to living our Judaism. The locus of this struggle has merely shifted from external challenges posed by human enemies to the internal challenges evoked by our own human natures.

We need to overcome the indolence and apathy bred of security from harm and effortless access to all the necessities of life. These are good things, but they cause us to forget how fragile, tenuous and therefore precious life is. We then easily overlook how much we truly need the ongoing flow of Divine energy that vitalizes us at every moment, and the ultimate purpose for which G-d bestows us with that constant flow of life.

When we have to struggle for physical or spiritual existence, we constantly need to remind ourselves of the reason we work so hard to preserve it. We need to constantly ask ourselves, "Why am I struggling so much for this life? What is its value and purpose?" But under less challenging circumstances, we ask ourselves

this question of core purpose a lot less often. Ironically, when we are not threatened, and we can express our Judaism freely, we often fail to evoke that intense commitment.

Chanukah challenges us to look within ourselves and find heroism and determination. Not the overt, raw, physical courage needed to overcome oppression and religious coercion as in the past, but more subtle though no less intense expressions of spiritual courage:

We find the willingness to overcome taking life for granted.

We find the moral strength to defy the self-indulgent, complacent nature of our secure existence.

We demand of ourselves that we rebel against static self-satisfaction.

We insist on extracting meaning, purpose and holiness out of every moment of life that G-d blesses us with.

May all of us and our families have our lives illuminated this Chanukah.

Israel Draw

The draw for the grand prize of the 2009 Israel Draw will be held at the Chanukah Party 13th December at 6..30 pm.

Tickets for the 2010 Israel Draw are available for £25.00 from Judith Fine or Dina Pink.

The Israel Draw is the main source of income for the Ladies Guild. There are only 50 tickets sold with two monthly prizes of £10 and a grand prize of £400 cash

Test Your Knowledge

- 1) On which Jewish date does Chanukah begin?
- 2) How long does Chanukah last?
- 3) When do we light the menorah?
- 4) Where do we place the menorah?
- 5) How many blessings do we say before lighting the menorah on the first night?
- 6) How long should the Chanukah lights burn for?
- 7) On Friday what do we light first the Shabbos candles or the Chanukah lights?
- 8) Which nation ruled over Israel at the time of the Chanukah story?
- 9) What was the name of the king of that nation?
- 10) What was the name of the leader of the Jewish rebellion?
- 11) What was the name of his son and successor?
- 12) What was the name of the woman whose seven sons were killed and who sacrificed her own life rather than worship idols?
- 13) How many lights did the menorah in the Temple have?
- 14) What do the letters on the dreidel stand for?

Answers: 1) 25th Kislev 2) 8 days 3) After sunset 4) Near a window 5) 3 6) 30 minutes 7) Chanukah lights 8) Syria 9) Antiochus 10) Mattityahu 11) Judah Maccabee 12) Chanannah 13) 7 14) A Great Miracle Happened There

“IN THIS WORLD NOTHING CAN BE SAID TO BE CERTAIN, EXCEPT DEATH AND TAXES.”

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Over the past decade our activities have increased exponentially. This has resulted in our annual budget increasing four fold. Approximately 40% is covered by membership fees, the balance is covered by fundraising from individuals and charitable trusts. Historically we have received very little funding from legacies. In order to secure the future of our community it is vital that members consider leaving a legacy to the Congregation in their will.

The Gift of a Lifetime

Have you considered including a gift to the Shul in your will? As the largest single source of income to UK charities, legacies make a vital difference to good causes across the country. A legacy allows you to make a significant contribution to the future of the community. Free of inheritance tax, a donation made in your will can also help reduce the tax burden on your estate.

How does it work?

A charitable legacy could be a gift of money or of any other assets that you leave behind. While there are a number of options to consider, there are two main types of charitable legacies; pecuniary and residuary. Pecuniary legacies specify a sum of money or item of value to be donated, whilst a residuary legacy allows you to donate a percentage of the net value of your estate or the remaining sum after you have provided for family and friends.

What do you need to do?

To leave a legacy to charity, you simply need to include details of the donation in your will. This can be done by writing a will, by making an amendment or ‘codicil’ to an existing will or by setting up a Trust.

Contact your solicitor or professional adviser to tell you more about how you can leave a legacy to Solihull Hebrew Congregation today.

Jewish Medical Ethics

The West Midlands Jewish with the Solihull Hebrew Heartlands Hospital have Jewish Medical Ethics. These Royal College of Physicians.



Medical Ethics Forum together Congregation and Birmingham organised a series of lectures on lectures are accredited by The

Two CPD credits have been awarded for attendance at each session.

The next two meetings will be held on
Wednesday 27th January
Wednesday 3rd March

All sessions begin at 8.00 pm

at

Solihull Jewish Community Centre, 3 Monastery Drive, Solihull.
For more information about the lectures or the West Midlands Jewish Medical Ethics Forum please contact Rabbi Pink.



breakfast and learn

תורה

West Midlands Jewish Business Ethics Forum, 3 Monastery Drive, Solihull,
Wednesday 20th January @ 8.15 am

food for the body and soul

Sponsored by Stephen Goldstein - Alexander Stevens, Property Surveyors and Valuers

r.s.v.p. rabbipink@gmail.com

The Stanley Middleburgh Library



The Stanley Middleburgh library contains over 1000 books on a wide range of topics from Israel to Jewish History, from novels to biographies. There are books suitable for all ages, from toddler to adult.

The library also has a collection of over 160 videos on a variety of topics for both young and old.

All members of the community are welcome to come and browse through our collection. Books and videos may be borrowed for a two week period,

We are constantly looking to expand the library. If you have any books or videos of Jewish interest which you would like to donate to the library, or if you would like to sponsor the purchase of books or videos please contact Rabbi Pink on 0121 706 8736 or rabbi@solihullshul.org

**Opening Hours - Sunday Morning 10.00 am -1.00 pm
Thursday Morning 11.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.
Other times by appointment**



שָׁבוֹת

Shabbat Times

Sedra	Date	Shabbat Begins (Friday)	Shabbat Ends (Saturday)
Toldos	21st November	3.50 pm	4.59 pm
Vayeitze	28th November	3.43 pm	4.54 pm
Vayishlach	5th December	3.38 pm	4.50 pm
Vayeshev	12th December	3.35 pm	4.49 pm
Miketz	19th December	3.36 pm	4.50 pm
Vayigash	26th December	3.40 pm	4.54 pm
Vayechi	2nd January	3.46 pm	5.00 pm
Shemos	9th January	3.55 pm	5.09 pm
Voaira	16th January	4.05 pm	5.18 pm
Bo	23rd January	4.17 pm	5.29 pm
Beshalach	30th January	4.30 pm	5.41pm
Yisro	6th February	4.43 pm	5.53 pm
Mishpotim	13th February	4.56 pm	6.05 pm
Terumah	20th February	5.00 pm	6.08 pm
Tetzaveh	27th February	5.22 pm	6.30 pm

Chanukah Recipes

Low Fat Latkes

3 TEASPOONS OIL
2 POUNDS POTATOES (ABOUT 4
OR 5), PEELED
1 MEDIUM FINELY CHOPPED RED
ONION
1/4 CUP FLOUR
1 TEASPOON SALT
1/4 TEASPOON BLACK PEPPER
1 LARGE EGG, LIGHTLY BEATEN
1 LARGE EGG WHITE, LIGHTLY
BEATEN

Set oven racks at middle and lower positions of the oven. Preheat oven to 450° F. Prepare 2 baking sheets by brushing with 1 teaspoon oil on each sheet.

Grate potatoes using hand grater or shredding blade of food processor. Place in a large bowl and add onions, flour, salt and pepper; toss to mix well. Add egg and egg white and remaining 1 teaspoon oil; toss to mix.

Drop onto prepared cookie sheets by the tablespoonful and press lightly to form cakes. Bake for 10 minutes, or until golden brown on the bottom. Flip latkes, switch position of baking sheets, and bake about 5 more minutes, or until golden brown.

Transfer to a platter, arranging browned-side up, and serve with no-fat sour cream or applesauce, or both. May be made ahead and stored overnight in fridge. Reheat at 350° F for 10 minutes.

Tip: Use the grater attachment of a food processor to simultaneously grate both the potatoes and the onion. Set the shredded material in a colander over a bowl to catch the dripping liquid. When the grated potato-onion mixture stops squishing combine with the egg, egg white and remaining teaspoon of oil as above. Carefully pour out the liquid collected from under the grated potatoes and onions, taking care to save the white cake which has formed at the bottom of the bowl (the potato starch). Add this white stuff to the latke mixture and mix well. Complete the above recipe as written.

YIELDS: 24 LATKES

The Thursday Club

Solihull Jewish Community Centre
3 Monastery Drive, Solihull, B91 1DW

Every Thursday 11.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 4TH DECEMBER - 19TH FEBRUARY

November 26th	The Work of Age Concern - Anne Hastings
December 3rd	Educating Ted - A talk by Ted Rudge
December 10th	The anti -racism work of the Police ,Naveen Shama
December 17th	My visit to Buckingham Palace by Harold Kay
December 24th	Showbiz to Shabbos Part 1 DVD Carolyn Cohen
December 31st	Showbiz to Shabbos Part 2
January 7th	Sing Along with Maureen Berger
January 14th	Action against Burglary - Session 1
January 21st	Action against Burglary - Session 2
January 28th	Danny's Free'n 'easy
February 4th	Mother of Pearl Talk George Hook
February 11th	Action against Burglary - Session 3
February 18th	Miss Potter - Film show
February 25th	Ask the Rabbi with Rabbi Pink

- **Delicious and nutritious hot lunch every week.**
- **Meet old friends, make new friends.**
- **Read the papers.**
- **Play Bridge.**

For More Information Contact Ruth Abrahams 0121 705 5287

Do you have free time on a Wednesday morning?

Are you looking to expand your knowledge of Judaism?



*Come along to the Retired Gentlemen's Shiur
Wednesday 11.00 am - 12.00 pm
at 7 Granby Close*

Do you want to improve your Ivrit?

Conversational Ivrit Class
Every Sunday 12.15 - 1.00 pm during Cheder Term Time
at Solihull Jewish Community Centre



**מה נשמע?
הכל בסדר**

**כמה זה עולה?
מה השעה?**

To register contact Rabbi Pink
on 0121 706 8736 or rabbipink@gmail.com

Solihull Jewish Community Centre Hall Hire

The community and events centre is available for hire for private functions, parties and meetings. We are able to offer a hall, two well-appointed side rooms and either a dairy or meat kitchen. We also have state of the art projection and sound systems. Our facilities are bright, modern, fully furnished and equipped. All bookings and requests for information and services should be addressed to Mr Richard Canin. He can be contacted on 0121 705 3629 or rdcanin@yahoo.co.uk

	Half day ¹	Evening ²	Full day ³	Full Day ⁴
Entire Facility (Excluding Sanctuary)	£225	£275	£400	£475
Main hall alone ⁵	£150	£180	£260	£300
Small meeting room ⁵ (suitable for up to 15 people)	£30	£40	£60	£60
Large meeting room (suitable for up to 30 people)	£50	£60	£70	£120
Kitchen (either meat or milk)	£50	£60	£70	£95

1 Half Day - a morning or afternoon function of less than 6 hours duration ending before 6pm

2 Evening – an evening function of up to 6 hours ending before midnight

3 Full Day – a full day function of up to 12 hours ending before 6pm

4 Full Day – a full day function of up to 12 hours ending before midnight

5 Add kitchen tariff if kitchen required.

Children's parties (aged less than 13)

The hall and kitchen maybe hired for £60. Party organisers will be responsible for leaving the facility in clean and good order.

Members of the congregation and registered charities will enjoy a discount of 20%.

Services

Setting up and clearing away charges

Members and registered charity events £50.00

Non-members £85.00

The synagogue has a limited supply of cutlery, china and linen.

Kashrut

All catered functions will require a shomer (supervisor) approved by the Rabbi. All food brought onto the premises must be authorised by the Rabbi and may require the services of a shomer.

Event preparation and clearing up

Reasonable access will be given to event organisers prior to and following the function to allow setting up and clearing away. Mr Richard Canin will arrange access to the site he will also serve as liaison with the caretaker should his services be required.

Does Judaism leave you feeling Bored? Confused? Turned off?

TRY OUT

Solihull **M**onday **I**nformative **LE**cture **S**eries



Discussions on topics of Contemporary Jewish Interest with
Rabbi Yehuda Pink

EVERY MONDAY EVENING 8.30 PM
Light Refreshments served

30th November	History of the Jews in Spain part 1
7th December	History of the Jews in Spain part 2
14th December	History of the Jews in Spain part 3
21st December	Chanukah - Separating the facts from the myths
28th December	How to use the Kosher Food Guide
4th January	The Third Jihad - The rise of radical Islam
11th January	The Jewish Lexicon - part 1
18th January	The Jewish Lexicon - part 2
25th January	Heroes of the Bible - Gideon
1st February	Why do we celebrate Birthdays?
8th February	What is an Opshernish?
15th February	Stump the Rabbi
22nd February	The Kaddish elucidated

Solihull Judaica Store

Solihull Jewish Community Centre
3 Monastery Drive, Solihull, B91 1DW
0121 706 8736 Judaica@solihullshul.org

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to
Esther Coren**