

Special Features

Holocaust Memorial Service and RSJDC Reunion Buffet Dinner on Sunday 1 May 2011

JDA member Colleen Daniels has a dream - to organise another reunion for pupils who went to the Residential School for Jewish Deaf Children.

Next year, together with her husband Alan and a small group of close friends who have formed an organising committee, and supported by the JDA, Colleen will be making that dream come true!

On Sunday 1 May 2011 at 3pm at Hendon Reform Synagogue, Colleen and her committee are arranging a school reunion, when old friends can get together again, look at old school photos and catch up with each other's news over a buffet supper.



Colleen and Alan Daniels

Before this, there will be a Memorial Service, led by Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner, to remember and share the stories of Jewish Deaf children whose families and lives were particularly affected by the Holocaust.

During this special 60th Anniversary year, the JDA is delighted to support this event. Everyone is welcome, and priority booking will be given to ex-pupils. To book tickets, please contact Alan Daniels via the JDA.



Pupils and staff at the Residential School for Jewish Deaf Children



Classroom



Friday night Kiddush 1960



Music lesson

How a concert changed the lives of the Jewish Deaf Community

The story of setting up the JDA in 1951



**Founder
and
former
President
of the JDA,
the late
Julius
Newman**

Towards the end of the 1940's, Julius Newman felt that his daughter H el ene should be able to go somewhere where she could mix socially with other deaf Jewish people. He was concerned that young deaf Jewish people leaving school at the time had nowhere to go to share their Jewish culture.

Prior to the Second World War, there had been some attempts to organise clubs for Jewish deaf people, but they were not successful. A large number of Jewish deaf people, both young and old, were also attending deaf centres in church halls.

Julius Newman decided something needed to be done. In April 1948, he held a meeting at the Palestinian Club in West London, with the help of a Jewish lady, Miss Clarica Davidson. He discussed his concerns with deaf people and learnt that they wanted to have a centre and a place of their own, where they could meet socially.

The Jewish Deaf Association was established as a Registered Charity in 1948.

In 1949, a committee was formed known as the Jewish Deaf Association Concert Committee. The committee organised an 'All Star Concert' at the Palace Theatre in 1950 and raised  3,200.

At the concert, Julius Newman asked anyone who knew of premises that might be suitable for a club to please contact him.

Within a few days, Julius Newman was approached and told that 90 / 92 Cazenove Road in Stamford Hill, although having suffered some war damage, could be bought if quick action was taken.

The building in Cazenove Road was repaired and decorated at a cost of  1,400, thanks to the funds raised by the Concert Committee.

Thus, we were lucky enough to become the owners of the freehold premises. The first opening of the JDA club and hostel took place in 1951. Many Jewish deaf people lived in and around the East End of London and it was easily for them to travel to the JDA to meet other deaf people.

The JDA remained at its Cazenove Road premises until 1998, when it moved to its new, purpose built Community Centre in North Finchley. The rest is history!

**The original
JDA premises
at 90-92
Cazenove
Road,
Stamford Hill**



**Inaugural Meeting of the JDA members in 1951
at the newly opened premises of the JDA**