

JEWISH DEAF HISTORY (LONDON)

DISCOVERING LONDON'S JEWISH DEAF HISTORY

During lockdown, Ann Clements started sorting old photos. From this the idea for the Jewish Deaf History project began. Read how it all came together.

Ann Clements writes:

During the lockdown in 2020, I decided to sort out boxes of hundreds and hundreds of photos that were lying around in my cupboards at home. The photos belonged to my late parents, Rene and Myer Kosky, my late husband Harvey, as well as his family, Polly, Frank, Ivan, Jane and Emil Stryker. That was a huge project!

At the same time, Barry David was sorting out his uncle Harold Fallman's huge piles of old photos and videos including ones from JDA and RSJDC* from the 1920s onwards. He came up with the idea of setting up a Facebook page and a JDA website to share all these valuable photos and videos.

Barry and I sorted these into categories: JDA, RSJDC, WOJD** and Jewish Deaf Sports. Then I sorted these into year groups, and added them to photo albums, which took a total of three months. A fantastic achievement!

The next stage of the project started - looking into the huge pile of old silent films that had filled a whole wardrobe! Many were taken at the RSJDC and JDA, as well as at family events. I had these converted to digital files and the quality was fantastic! So many memories to cherish.

* Residential School for Jewish Deaf Children ** World Organisation of the Jewish Deaf



▲ **Back Row:** Sam Jacobs, C Jacobs, Myer Holder, Sam Schamroth, Moss Hart
Second Row: Emil Stryker, Harold Fallman, David Myers, Ralph Goldstaub
Third Row: Joe Harris, Sophie Collins, Isaac Willens,

Bloomah Britton, Jane Stryker (Gedlovitch), Polly Clements (Gedlovitch), Mr Kravitz, Israel Yarrow, Ray Goldstein, Mr Bradesky, Lily Vancliff, David Davies, Lily Davies, Sam Tash, Irene Tash, Manny Klein,

Aubrey Cohen, Leah Abrahams, Leslie Cohen, Eva Cohen, Mr Grossman
Seat Row: Ivan Clements, Ivan Hart, Annie Hart (Gedlovitch), Ezra Tansen, Ann Miller, Esther Tansen, Gertie Cohen, Mrs Grossman

Many elderly and some younger Deaf people have passed away. We decided it was time to preserve all of these precious photos and videos while we could.

Our new website will be called 'Jewish Deaf History (London)' and will include all the different categories.

THE NEXT STEPS

We formed a new committee from ex-pupils of RSJDC and those who had connections with the JDA, namely: **Ann Clements, Barry David, Linda Woolfe (née Nabarro), Carolyn Denmark (née Nabarro), Mira Goldberg (née Levy) and Sara Olsen.**

Many RSJDC ex-pupils and JDA members were asked to share their photos with our team. There were also lots of boxes of old photos and documents stored at the JDA. With thanks to Sue Cipin for allowing us access to these photos and documents, we started scanning them into digital files.

Several Deaf members, including Miriam Solomon and Martin Binysh, kindly helped us with identifying and naming all the people in the photos and videos, especially all the current living members who are now in their 70's, 80's, and 90's.

NEW JEWISH DEAF HISTORY WEBSITE COMING SOON!

They all have such brilliant memories to recognise so many people! There are too many names to mention, but a BIG thank you to each one of you!

The most valuable archives are the old silent films as they showed older and different signs in BSL that are slowly being phased out. These will eventually be shown on the new Jewish Deaf History website.

When Harold Fallman heard about our exciting project, he made a generous donation towards the new website. Without him, this project wouldn't have happened. **A massive thank you to Harold for his important donation.**

There will be a page on the site dedicated to Harold and everyone who has contributed.

Sunday 8 May 2022 – Save the Date!

The JDA celebrated its 70th birthday in September 2021. Due to the pandemic, we are planning to hold a belated event in May 2022. This will celebrate the Jewish Deaf History (London) project, with the launch of the new website, together with the JDA's 70th birthday. We will be inviting ex-pupils of the RSJDC school as well as JDA members. Please save the date 8 May 2022!

If you and/or your family have any old photographs, films, documents we could use for the website, please do contact one of the committee members or email jdeafhistory2021@gmail.com. Thank you very much!

► **Left to right: Sally Clark (Littleboy), Faith Turpie (Bennett), Harvey Clements, Pat Granville (Gywer), Sara Olsen, Linda Miller, Paula Boreham (Fathers), Melanie Gadson (Berger) in 1958**

▼ Celebrating Chanukah at JDA in 1955:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Abraham Abrahams | 13. Esther Tanen |
| 2. Albert Kelberman | 14. Leslie Bierber |
| 3. Aubrey Lazarus | 15. Leah Abrahams |
| 4. Abraham Silverman | 16. Percy Morris |
| 5. Mrs Grossman | 17. Aubrey Cohen |
| 6. Ezra Tanen | 18. Sam Jacobs |
| 7. Club cook | 19. Israel Yarrow |
| 8. Mr Margulies | 20. Sophie Collins |
| 9. Mr Grossman | 21. Monty Nash |
| 10. Joe Ross | 22. Joe Harris |
| 11. Isaac Levy | 23. Rita Katz (Willis) |
| 12. Gerald Goldsmith | 24. Lionel Katz |
| | 25. Sam Schamoth |



▲ **The Jewish Deaf History committee:**
Ann Clements, Barry David, Linda Wolf, Sara Olsen,
Mira Goldberg and Carolyn Denmark