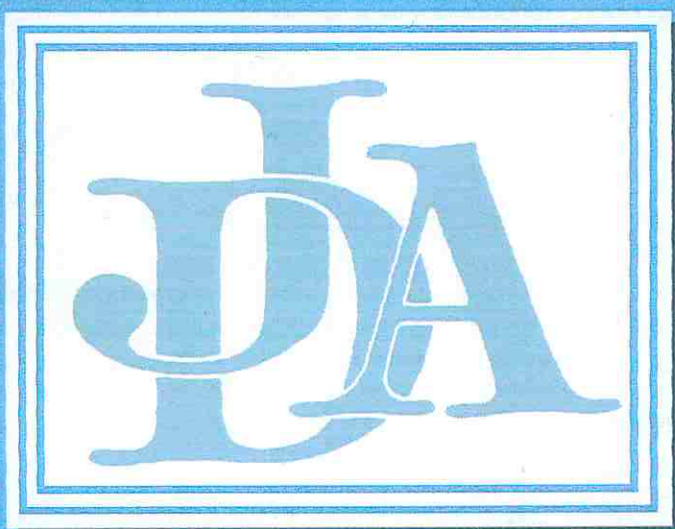




**JEWISH
DEAF
ASSOCIATION
MAGAZINE**



**MILLENNIUM
2004
SPRING
VOL. No. 17**



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Cover page photos *From left to right:*

1. Young children at the parents and children's tea party in February 2004
2. 'The Book Committee' - Eva Fielding-Jackson, Issy Schlisselman, Irene Spielsinger and Mira Goldberg proudly presenting their book *Sign Language in Judaism* at the Book Launch on December 1st 2003
3. Some members of the new young women's group 'Chatterboxes'
4. Israel Itzkowitz blowing out candles on his 80th birthday party cake



Editorial



Hi readers,

In this edition we are able to bring you absorbing accounts from two of our members who have travelled abroad. Please keep telling us about your holiday experiences or any type of stories to enthral readers for future issues. I love reading your stories, so would all the members too!

Many Deaf Clubs are apparently experiencing a decline in numbers attending their social events and we are not immune. But we are trying to fight this trend by 'injecting some fresh air' into our social events and very much want to welcome new faces to the JDA - whether they are members or not.

Thus, we have arranged a couple of new events that we hope will appeal to the "younger" age group of people in their 30's, 40's and 50's, who are so vital to the future of the JDA. Please see Page 15 and Forthcoming Big Events (Page 4) which give details of two very different walks ... a spine tingling Jack the Ripper walk and our delightful summer walk at the impressive Kenwood House and grounds in Hampstead, afterwards spending an evening at the historic Spaniards Inn. Don't forget, so that everyone gets to meet new people, you should try to bring a friend or two!

If anyone would like to contribute ideas and/or assist in organising events for the 30's, 40's and 50's age group, please let me know. We'd love your help!

I wish all our readers a very happy Pesach.

Warm wishes,

Kay

We love to hear from you. Please write to the Editor at the JDA or fax on 020 8445 7451 and email on kay@jda.dircon.co.uk.

The DEADLINE for all contributions for the next issue is June 1st 2004. Please try to send your articles and stories by this date to ensure they are included in the next Magazine.

Views published in the Magazine do not necessarily reflect the policy and views of the JDA. The Editor reserves the right to edit any article submitted.

DON'T SIT AT HOME ALONE ON SUNDAY!!

COME TO JDA BY MINIBUS OR TAXI

Special dates April - July 2004

(see Programme & Forthcoming Big Events for details)

JDA will provide free of charge:

Minibus from Stamford Hill
and North West London.

Also private taxis for Deaf people who
cannot travel alone and are isolated.

Sundays

11th April	JDA Seder & lunch at Stamford Hill You can still book!
9th May	CC AGM & Deaf Jokes Night
6th June	Martin Bogard's Retirement Party
4th July	American Independence Day Talk

JDA WEBSITE ... A NEW LOOK!!

The JDA Website has a NEW HOME PAGE, new photos (are you on there?) and new information.

The NEW HOME PAGE now includes:

- ✓ 'Latest News' - with photos
- ✓ 'Quick Links' - to all JDA services.
- ✓ 'Reminders Button' - to remind you of deadlines for booking tickets or to look out for upcoming events at the JDA.

The changes have been designed to make it easier to find information about what's happening at JDA.

Whilst browsing the website, you will see just how much is going on at the JDA.

Check out the JDA website - a more updated and modern look for all web surfers to enjoy!

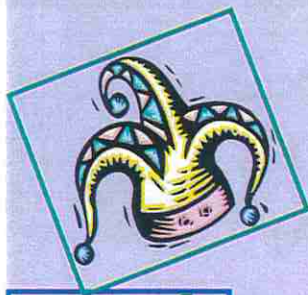
JDA Internet Café in The Chat Room

The JDA Internet Café is now open to all members on Sundays when there is a social event at JDA (see programme for dates).

JDA members and their guests can use the Internet Café free of charge.

Instructions on how to use the computers are displayed on the walls of the Internet Café.

Any questions? Please speak to Jacqui Press or Barry Radcliffe at the JDA.



Welcome to the JDA Central Committee Annual General Meeting

Followed by cheese and wine
And a Special Deaf Jokes Night
compered by Terry Edwards

Cheese and
wine
refreshments
free for all

Competition
for the Best
Joke of the
Evening!

Sunday May 9th 2003

Time: 4 - 9pm
(Doors open 3.30pm)

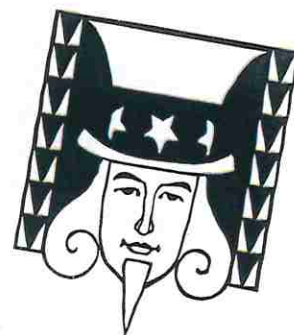
If you need transport, please complete GREEN reply
slip enclosed and send it to Jayne Cunliffe at JDA



It's American Independence Day
on Sunday July 4th!



Celebrate with JDA and
Join us for a talk by ASL
interpreter EJ Cohen **at 6pm**



If you need transport,
please complete PINK
reply slip enclosed and
send it to Jayne at JDA

*Come and learn all about American
Independence Day's formation,
history and
traditions.*

*Taste some American food
Yummy!!*



Come for
a spine
tingling,
spooky
time!

To join,
please pay
£5 each.
Use the
reply slip
enclosed and
send it to
Kay Kaufman
as soon as
possible.

JACK'S LONDON



Join the
Jack the Ripper
Walk on

Sunday June 20th 2004

6.00pm - 8.30pm

Meet at 5.45pm at

Tower Hill tube station

Including
a pub
stop
for drinks to
steady your
nerves!



Comfortable
shoes should
be worn and
appropriate
outer wear.
Don't forget
your brolly
if it's wet
weather!

***Join us on a leisurely pleasant walk
and bring a friend***

Kenwood House, Hampstead, NW3
Learn about the history with our guide
Ilan Dwek

Sunday July 18th 2004

Meet at the
main
entrance to
Kenwood
House
in
Hampstead
Lane
at 4pm

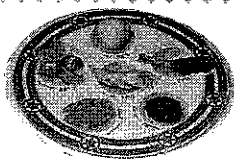
Use reply slip
enclosed and send
it to Kay Kaufman



You can have tea and
delicious cakes at
Kenwood House Tea Room!

*Afterwards a
short walk to
Spaniards Inn
for drinks in
the evening*





April 2004

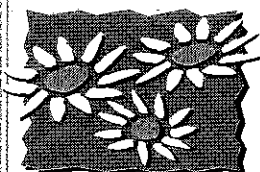
Date	Event	Time
Thursday 1 st	Computer Club <i>Organiser: Martin Bogard</i>	7.30pm
Monday 5 th	JDA CLOSED from 2pm PASSOVER begins: First Seder Night	
Tuesday 6 th	JDA CLOSED - PASSOVER: Second Seder Night	
Wednesday 7 th	JDA CLOSED - PASSOVER: Second Day Yom Tov	
 Sunday 11 th	JDA SEDER Stamford Hill Community Centre Late bookings to Claire Baer at JDA before 4 April 2004 <i>Tickets: £10 members / £12 non members / £5 children</i>	12 noon - 3.30pm
Monday 12 th	JDA CLOSED - PASSOVER: Seventh Day Bank Holiday Monday	
Tuesday 13 th	JDA CLOSED - PASSOVER: Eighth Day	
Wednesday 14 th	Day Centre Bingo <i>Organiser: Miriam Solomon / Admission £2</i>	10.30am - 3.30pm 1.30pm
Sunday 18 th	Spring Grand Bingo <i>Organiser: Anthony Spielsinger</i> <i>Tickets £5 from Moshe Moshy</i>	Doors open 4.30pm Eyes Down 5.30pm
Wednesday 21 st	Day Centre Missing Link <i>Organiser: Jonathan Sterne</i>	10.30am - 3.30pm 1.30pm
Sunday 25 th	**Talk - 'Growing up as a Hearing Child In a Deaf family, Half a Century Ago' <i>Speaker: John Pollendine</i> <i>Organiser: Ilan Dwek</i>	6.00pm
Wednesday 28 th	Day Centre **Talk - 'Keeping Healthy and Looking After Yourself' <i>Speaker: Deborah Cura</i> <i>Organiser: Kay Kaufman</i>	10.30am - 3.30pm 1.45pm
Thursday 29 th	Signing Social **Talk - 'Finding Peace with Yourself and Others' <i>Speaker: Pauline Latchem</i>	7.30pm

** = See forthcoming events



= Minibus transport will be provided (please fill in reply slip)

Doors open on Sundays at 5pm unless indicated



May 2004

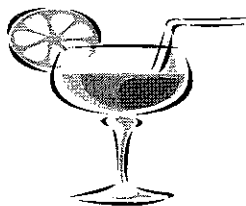
Date	Event	Time
Wednesday 5 th	Day Centre AGM - Day Centre only Organisers: Day Centre Committee	10.30am - 3.30pm 1.00pm
Thursday 6 th	Computer Club Organiser: Martin Bogard	7.30pm
 Sunday 9 th	** CC Annual General Meeting Deaf Jokes Night Organiser: Ilan Dwek	4.00pm sharp 7.00pm
 Tuesday 11 th	Outing to Paris Organisers: Kay Kaufman and Jayne Cunliffe	Stamford Hill 6.00am JDA 6.30am
Wednesday 12 th	Day Centre Bingo Organiser: Miriam Solomon / Admission £2	10.30am - 3.30pm 1.15pm
Thursday 13 th	Signing Social Signing Games Practice	7.30pm
Sunday 16 th	JDA CLOSED	
Wednesday 19 th	Day Centre ** Talk - 'Some Curiosities of London' Speaker: Alex Rosenzweig Organiser: Kay Kaufman	10.30am - 3.30pm 1.45pm
Thursday 20 th	Signing Social ** Talk - 'Sense and Usher UK' Speaker: Nick Southern	7.30pm
Sunday 23 rd	** Grand Whist Drive Tickets from Moshe Moshy Organisers: Ilan Dwek and Moshe Moshy	5.00pm
Monday 24 th	Day Centre Outing (members only - flyer to follow) Organisers: Day Centre Committee	
Tuesday 25 th	SHAVUOT - JDA CLOSED at 2pm	
Wednesday 26 th	SHAVUOT - JDA CLOSED	
Thursday 27 th	SHAVUOT - JDA CLOSED	

** = See forthcoming events




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Doors open on Sundays at 5pm unless indicated



June 2004

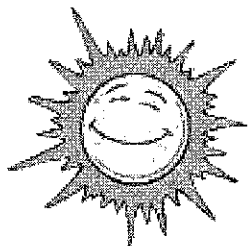
Date	Event	Time
Wednesday 2 nd	Day Centre Bingo Whist <i>Organiser: Miriam Solomon / Admission £2</i>	10.30am - 3.30pm 1.30pm
Thursday 3 rd	Computer Club <i>Organiser: Martin Bogard</i>	7.30pm
 Sunday 6 th	** Oriental Cocktail Party In honour of Martin Bogard New JDA Life Member and Retiring CC Chairman Talk - 'Malaysia Experiences' <i>Speaker: Martin Bogard</i> <i>(see flyer)</i>	5.00pm - 8.00pm
Wednesday 9 th	Day Centre Summer Quiz <i>Organisers: Day Centre Committee</i>	10.30am - 3.30pm 1.15pm
Thursday 10 th	Signing Social ** Talk - 'British Deaf History Society' <i>Speaker: Peter Jackson</i>	7.30pm
Sunday 13 th	JDA CLOSED	
Wednesday 16 th	Day Centre Old JDA Films <i>Organiser: Harold Fallman</i>	10.30am - 3.30pm 1.15pm
Sunday 20 th	** Jack the Ripper Walk <i>Organiser: Kay Kaufman</i>	6.00pm
Wednesday 23 rd	Day Centre Grand Summer Bingo <i>Organisers: Day Centre Committee</i> <i>Tickets £3</i>	10.30am - 3.30pm 1.00pm
Thursday 24 th	Signing Social <i>Signing Games Practice</i>	7.30pm
Sunday 27 th	JDA CLOSED	
Wednesday 30 th	Day Centre ** Talk - 'Collection of Memorabilia' <i>Speaker: Susan Lazarus</i> <i>Organiser: Kay Kaufman</i>	10.30 am - 3.30pm 1.45pm

**** = See forthcoming events**



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Doors open on Sundays at 5pm unless indicated



July 2004

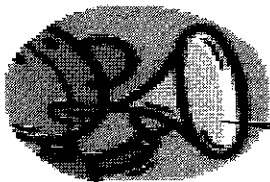
<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>
Thursday 1 st	Computer Club <i>Organiser: Martin Bogard</i>	7.30pm
 Sunday 4 th	**Talk - 'American Independence Day' <i>Speaker: Ej Cohen</i> <i>Organiser: Kay Kaufman</i>	6.00pm
Wednesday 7 th	Day Centre Countdown <i>Organiser: Jonathan Sterne</i>	10.30am - 3.30pm 1.30pm
Sunday 11 th - 15 th	Jewish Interest Tour to Prague <i>Organisers: Kay Kaufman and Jayne Cunliffe</i>	
Wednesday 14 th	Day Centre Social - due to Prague Holiday	10.30am - 3.30pm
Sunday 18 th	** Bring a Friend to Kenwood House and drinks at Spaniards Inn <i>Organiser: Ilan Dwek</i>	3.00pm till late
Wednesday 21 st	Day Centre Bingo Whist <i>Organiser: Miriam Solomon / Admission £2</i>	10.30am - 3.30pm 1.30pm
Wednesday 28 th	Day Centre **Talk - 'Video Interpreting Service' <i>Speaker: Anthony Rabin of RNID</i> <i>Organiser: Kay Kaufman</i>	10.30am - 3.30pm 1.45pm

** = See forthcoming events



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Doors open on Sundays at 5pm unless indicated



Forthcoming Events April - May 2004

Sunday April 25th at 6pm

Talk - 'Growing Up as a Hearing Child in a Deaf Family, Half a Century Ago'

John Pollendine is an interpreter and grew up in a deaf family during World War II.

John will talk about his interesting experiences in a deaf family during difficult times and will show some family photos.

It will be an educational and fascinating evening.

Wednesday April 28th at 1.45pm

Talk - 'Keeping Healthy and Looking After Yourself'

We all want to look after our own precious bodies and lead happy, healthy lives for as long as we can! So come along and pick up some handy tips from speaker Deborah Cura, from Age Concern.

Deborah will bring a Tai Chi trainer to show you some moves especially for the elderly. Tai Chi is a soft, international martial art that has been practised in China for thousands of years. It uses graceful flowing movements combined with controlled breathing to give balance to the mind, body and spirit.

It could be a valuable learning curve for you, so go on ... discard your comfy slippers at home and be with us for this talk!



Thursday April 29th at 7.30pm

**Signing Social Talk -
'Finding Peace within Yourself
and with Others'**

Pauline Latchem, a Deaf speaker from Brent Deaf People's Group, will talk about relaxation, how to find a more positive way of living for yourself, exploring ways to look after ourselves and finding a calmer centre.

All Deaf people (non-members too) and hearing people with signing skills above Level 1 are very welcome to be a part of this thought-provoking evening.

Wednesday May 19th at 1.45pm

Talk - 'Some Curiosities of London'

The speaker, Alex Rosenzweig, will talk about some fairly unknown and unusual activities – mostly amusing – among the rich and poor citizens of London over the past 200 years.

This should be a fascinating insight to some curious and strange ongoing in history in the city.

Thursday May 20th at 7.30pm

**Signing Social Talk -
'Sense and Usher UK'**

Nick Southern, who is Deaf and a BSL signer, works for the organisation Sense and also does volunteering work for Usher UK. He will provide information about the two organisations and what they do for Deaf-Blind and Usher people.

Hearing people with signing skills above Level 1 and all Deaf people (members and non-members) are very welcome to attend all Signing Social talks and meet new faces.

Sunday May 23rd at 5pm

Summer Grand Whist Drive

Ilan Dwek and Moshe Moshy will again be organising this Grand Whist Drive evening. Moshe has tickets to sell @ £5 each. Please let Moshe or Ilan know if you would like tickets for this event.

Come along and have fun – we want many tables set up.

JDA members are welcome to bring friends and family.



Forthcoming Events

June - July 2004



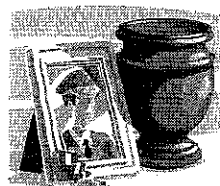
Thursday June 10th at 7.30pm

Signing Social Talk - 'British Deaf History Society'

Peter Jackson, a Deaf speaker, will present a talk about the BDHS and its work over the years. He will bring some BHDS books for demonstration.

This will be a very interesting evening for both Deaf and hearing people.

All members and non-members are very welcome to come along.



Wednesday June 30th
at 1.45pm

Talk - 'Collection of Memorabilia'

Susan Lazarus will bring a collection of memorabilia from the Reminiscence Room at Stepney Jewish Community Centre, which she helped to establish as a Jewish Care volunteer. There will be many items ranging from the First World War to the 1950's and 60's. Susan will walk and talk with you back down memory lane.

This will be a lovely opportunity for everyone to share their memorable experiences of the past and chat about "the good old days".

Wednesday July 28th
at 1.45 pm

Talk - 'Video Interpreting Service'

Anthony Rabin, who works for the RNID, will give a presentation to raise awareness about the new Video BSL Interpreting Service. He will show you how the service works and give details of where video interpreting is currently available.

Join us and learn about this new service - it might benefit you.

COME ALONG TO OUR SIGNING SOCIAL EVENING FOR DEAF AND HEARING PEOPLE

It's fun, informal and informative!

It's for Deaf people and also for people wanting to practise their signing skills. Hearing people should have reached the end of BSL Level 1 or be at Level 2 or 3.

Open to all faiths

Thursday evenings twice a month
7.30pm - 9.30pm
at
Jewish Deaf Association

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>
April 29 th	'Finding peace within Yourself and with Others' Speaker: Pauline Latchem
May 13 th	Signing Games Practice
May 20 th	'Sense and UsherUK' Speaker: Nick Southern
June 10 th	'British Deaf History Society' Speaker: Peter Jackson
June 24 th	Signing Games Practice

Practising signers are asked to make a donation of £2.50 towards refreshments and costs on each evening.

Any queries please contact
Kay Kaufman at the JDA

Textphone: 020 8369 5327
Fax: 020 8445 7451
Email: kay@jda.dircon.co.uk

Or call JDA General Office
Telephone: 020 8446 0502

Martin Bogard announces his retirement as Chairman of the JDA Central Committee

Recently, I announced at our Central Committee meeting that I will not be continuing as the Chairman after the AGM on 9th May 2004. I have been in the Chair for 17 years on the trot and I have done my best for the JDA during that time.

The main reason for my resignation is that I need to support my immediate family. Consequently, I have not been able to come to JDA for our events for some time.

I feel it is now the right time for me to pass on my role to someone with a fresher mind and with more motivation to continue and improve the quality of services of the Central Committee for our members.

The new Chairman of the Central Committee for 2004

I would like to give some useful tips about the role of a Chairperson.

The person for this role should be able to:-

- Have strong commitment
- Plan, prepare and control meetings effectively
- Communicate well and clearly
- Have flexibility in dealing with issues and ideas.

If you are interested in standing for election for this post, I am happy to give my advice and answer any questions you may have. I will also do all I can to ensure that the changeover goes as smoothly as possible.

I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM.

Shalom!

Martin Bogard

A NOTE FROM SUE CIPIN

Martin Bogard's retirement comes as a great blow to us all. He has been an outstanding Chair of the Central Committee, bringing many special qualities to the role including positivity, wisdom and, of course, his crazy sense of humour.

He has taught committee members new skills, handled difficult situations with diplomacy and shown dedication and commitment to his responsibility for the smooth running of the members' activities. He has been a wonderful leader, a shining example and a good friend to the JDA. For many years, he has made a tough job look easy ... he will be a hard act to follow!

As you all know, our dear friend Jack Hart passed away recently, just a few months after the JDA had given him the honour of Life Membership. As a gesture of appreciation for all the years of devoted service that Martin Bogard has given as Chair, the CC has chosen Martin to take over this honour.

**Join us for a Oriental Cocktail Party to
celebrate with Martin on Sunday 6th June
2004 at 5pm (see forthcoming events).**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - JDA CENTRAL COMMITTEE SUNDAY 9th MAY 2004

The AGM of the Central Committee will be held on Sunday 9th May 2004 at 4pm prompt.

The minutes of the 2003 AGM are enclosed with this issue of the magazine. Please do not forget to bring them with you to the meeting.

If you are a JDA member and are unable to come to the meeting but wish to stand for any position in the CC, please write to the Secretary of the CC and state which post you wish to stand for.

If you would like to make any proposals or amendments, please put these in writing and send them to the Secretary of the CC before 1st May 2004.

Myer Solomon
Secretary - Central Committee



*The Diamond
Wedding
Anniversary
of George and Evelyn Gee*

*President and Chairman of the
Jewish Deaf Association*

George and I would like to thank so many of you for your warm and affectionate greetings on the occasion of our diamond wedding anniversary. So many people say "Wow! 60 years, that terrific!" but, to me, it doesn't seem such a long time – it is just our life!

There is no one adjective that can describe our 60 years together and no particular occasion that dominates the pattern of our life! We still love each other and can't imagine life apart!

Sixty years ago I met a handsome young officer of the Royal Engineers. He was 23 years old and I was 22 years old, working in the Ministry of Food. Our courtship was fast and three weeks after our marriage George went overseas. I remember waving a tearful farewell on the station – a real wartime scene.

The two years that followed is another chapter in our lives – even today, George still recalls many amusing incidents in the army. He always says – one forgets the bad times and remembers the amusing events.

My life in wartime Britain was very varied – and, looking back, interesting. My family evacuated to Worthing, where I became a schoolteacher to small children, and I loved it! Then we went to Oxford, where I helped to house the children evacuated from London. On our return to London, I went back to the Ministry of Food where I fought the black market. I took Health and Beauty classes at the Stepney Jewish Girls' Club, which was run by a remarkable lady called Miriam Moses, and dodged the bombs.

I guess fate was kind. George was demobbed and returned in 1946, having served six years in the army. We started our married life in a little flat in Putney, where our son Duncan was born. In the early 1950's we moved to a 'war damaged' house in Clapham Park, where our daughter Trudy was born. I have warm and happy memories of these

two homes. My parents were always around, as was my father in law – a great character. A year before Duncan's Barmitzvah, we moved to Highgate, and we have been in the same house for 47 years. Caroline, our third and last child, was born there.

We decided not to risk moving again! Our three children and their spouses have always brought us joy and happiness and our six grandchildren are our close friends, with whom we have great fun. We love to share their achievements and activities and discuss their future ambitions. One of our favourite hobbies that we enjoyed with the children was sailing the east and west of the Mediterranean. One highlight was sailing to Israel for the 1967 war and dropping anchor in Haifa and Caesarea. Fortunately, the war was victorious and short-lived. It was reported in the Israeli papers that we were the first private yacht to tie up in the old harbour of Caesarea in a thousand years!

We have always been interested in travelling, and have spent many hours planning trips to remote countries – Borneo, Papua New Guinea, the Pacific Islands, Tibet, India, China, Solomon Islands, etc. George went on an exciting trip to the Gobi Desert and Mongolia with his grandson. We like to visit Israel every year. These journeys have brought great colour and pleasure to our lives.

Of course I remember when my father first formed the JDA. He was determined that Jewish Deaf people should have their own centre. I remember when he purchased the premises in Cazenove Road more than 50 years ago, and I recall attending one of our fund raising dinners at Grosvenor House soon after Caroline was born. It seemed quite natural that George and I continue the work that meant so much to my father. George and I share communal duties. George was in the United Synagogue headquarters and served as Treasurer and then President. In the livery, he is the Senior Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Glaziers and we enjoy a full and social programme.

This is a tiny summary of our 60 years together, but the JDA has always been an important part of our life. We are proud and happy to be able to support our members and that the next generation of our family is already showing a keen interest.

Evelyn Gee

Monty Goldring Honoured at Russian Embassy

During my tenure as Director of the JDA, most of you got to know my husband, Monty, quite well. Because of this, I thought that you would be interested to read about the honour recently bestowed on him.

Wednesday 3rd December 2003 was a very unique and exciting day in the life of Monty Goldring. It was the day he was due at the Embassy of the Russian Federation to be awarded a special commemorative medal. The medal was awarded to Royal Navy Personnel who participated in the Russian Convoys during the Second World War.

Monty's Ship was a Frigate HMS Loch Shin escorting convoys, troops and hunting U-Boats. He was a telegrapher and served in the Arctic, Atlantic, Irish and North Seas, ending up in Egypt before coming home. He arrived in Liverpool on VE Day.

The Russian Embassy is a big, imposing house in Kensington. Our daughter, Gaynor, drove us there and parked in a car park nearby.

We were shown into a large room where other recipients were waiting, some adorned with their various campaign medals. All Monty wore was his AJEX button in his lapel.

After a short while we were escorted into a room where the chairs were arranged like a theatre, about five rows of six chairs in each row. There were, I believe, about 24 recipients seated. The accompanying guests either sat on couches placed around the room or stood wherever they could find a place, mostly armed with cameras. There were various professional photographers about.

H.E The Ambassador entered the room, accompanied by a Russian Naval Attaché and a young diplomat. The Ambassador gave a short address expressing gratitude for the help Russia received during The War and how pleased he was to award the medals.



The Attaché then handed him each medal and each recipient's name was read out by the Ambassador, who presented the medals to each person one at a time, together with a spray of red carnations.

The Ambassador had his photograph taken with the medal holders by the professional photographer (with us all pushing and shoving to get the same shot with our own "baby brownies"). Following the formal proceedings, we were invited to have drinks including vodka, as well as fruit, canapés and nibbles. People were milling around talking about their war experiences.

The wording engraved on the medal in Russian translated says:-

"The 50th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War 1941 – 1945".

The Ambassador stayed talking to guests informally. The whole thing lasted two hours.

Our daughter, Gaynor, was very moved and impressed, as it was something new for her to witness her daddy (who now refuses to go in lifts or on the underground) as a young sailor serving in dangerous waters.

Love and best wishes

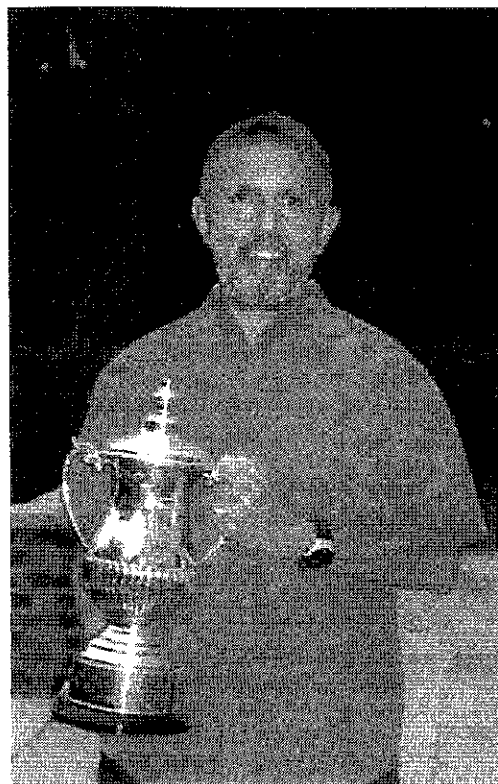
Pat

BARRY DAVID DEFENDS HIS TITLE AS CHAMPION OF ENGLISH CHESS DEAF CLUB FOR THE THIRD TIME

Barry David (London) successfully defended his English Deaf Chess Association title in Sheffield in November 2003. This is his 3rd title, following his successes back in 1983 and 2002.

Barry faced stiff competition from the runner-up Peter Sharpe (Sheffield). Ilan Dwek (London) was placed third. Barry deservedly took the title after controlling his nerves well in his final round win. Many congratulations to Barry!

If you would like more details, please contact Alasdair MacLeod, Secretary of English Deaf Chess Association by email: londondeafchess@aol.com or check out the website: www.englishdeafchess.org.uk.



Holiday on Ice

On Sunday 1st February 2004, we left the JDA bound for Wembley Arena to see Holiday on Ice.

A number of us travelled to the venue by minibus, while others chose to meet us there. Once we had all arrived, we proceeded to our seats, to find that our front row seats had been taken by another group of people. A member of staff did her best to rectify the seating arrangements. Unfortunately, while the problem was being sorted out, the lights began to dim and the show commenced. The members rushed to take their seats to avoid missing the show.

Luckily, it was all sorted out and we settled down, with our front row seats, to enjoy an exciting extravaganza of colour, music and memories.

The show was celebrating 60 years of the Holiday on Ice productions and throughout the afternoon, with very little dialogue, managed to cover the different eras with bright costumes and fantastic ice-skating, which made my past attempts at it seem a little embarrassing!

The talent and skill of these performers was mesmerising, but even during very complex routines they managed the odd wink and smile to our ever-attentive members, which thrilled them no end.

It really was an entertaining afternoon that was enjoyed by all.

By Rita Norman



**Calling all Deaf
people in their
30's, 40's, 50's**

Help us to rebuild the JDA

Less and less people are coming to the JDA social club.

Times have changed. The JDA was established over 50 years ago, to give Jewish Deaf people a place of their own. At that time, many of them lived nearby and it was easy to go to the Deaf Club. Decades later, sadly, several of our dear friends have passed away, some are housebound, some can't travel without transport and others have moved out to different areas ... so the number of people coming regularly to the JDA is reducing.

If more people do not come to the JDA, we are likely to end up following the trend of other Deaf organisations – and the social club will close.

I wonder why people in their 30's, 40's and 50's don't often come to the JDA?

Maybe they are bored with seeing the same faces all the time!

If this is true, it would be very positive for people in their 30's, 40's and 50's to join the CC and bring fresh ideas to attract new people.

Maybe they think the CC is too old fashioned for them? Or they want to be independent?

That's okay - they could create a NEW committee especially for their age group.

Maybe they don't want to mix with the older people?

They don't have to! They can organise a new group with its own name and its own activities.

The JDA is a ready-made club for Deaf people, with great facilities and enormous potential in the future. Hello everyone out there in their 30's, 40's and 50's! Don't dismiss the JDA – come and help us to build new opportunities to see new faces, try new things and meet new people. We need your energy and your ideas and we will welcome you! Try it ... I bet you'll be surprised at how much you can achieve!

These days, when Deaf Clubs all over the country are closing down, we are lucky to have our community centre. We must do everything in our power to keep it alive and flourishing. If you have any time to spare, please help us.

Contact Kay Kaufman on email:

kay@jda.dircon.co.uk or textphone 020 8369 5327

JDA MINIBUS DRIVER URGENTLY REQUIRED

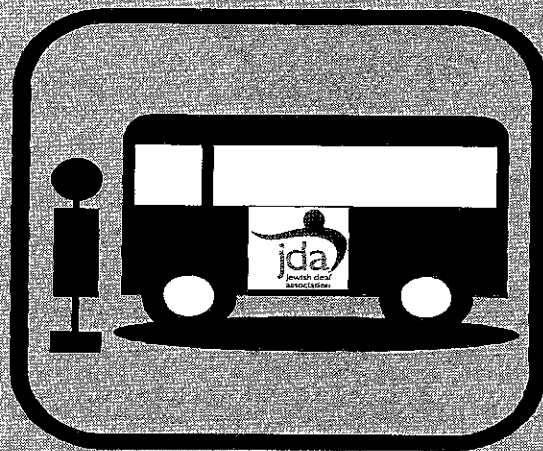


JDA urgently needs a reliable, friendly, caring minibus driver to transport elderly Deaf people to and from the Day Centre on Wednesdays (weekly or fortnightly) and on occasional outings.

Clear communication essential. British Sign Language an advantage.

**Training given.
Salary and full details upon application.**

**For more information see:-
www.jewishdeaf.org.uk
or contact Lisa Katz on:-
020 8446 0502 (voice)
020 8446 4037 (text)
020 8445 7451 (fax)
or email mail@jda.dircon.co.uk**



Travel journal

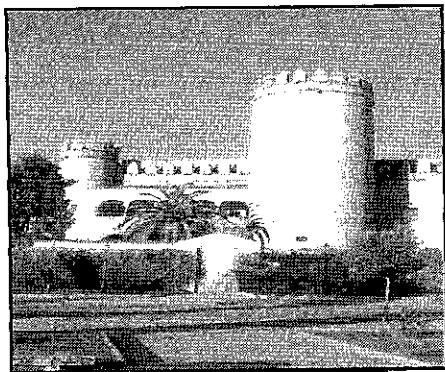
My wonderful discoveries in Spain and Portugal

By David Stellman

Ever since my dear wife, Lily, passed away last April, my son Martin has wanted to treat me to a good break with him and his family in Spain.

So, at Christmas time, I managed to join Martin, his partner, Mari Luz, and my grandson, Ruben, for a wonderful touring holiday in Spain and Portugal.

We travelled north from my son's home in Andalucia to the region of Exdremadura, in the heart of Spain, but bordering on Portugal. We stayed in a delightful "Parador" – a historical building converted to a hotel, of which there are many in Spain. This one was a



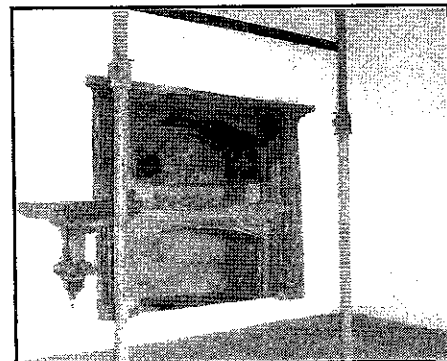
Our 'Castle' hotel

majestic 15th century castle, the former residence of the Duquese de Feria, that was built over the ruins of an ancient Moorish fortress.

Strategically located in the centre of the town of Zafra, the Parador gave us the perfect springboard to visit the great historical sites of

the region – Caceres and Trujillo with their Renaissance palaces, of which many were former homes of the great conquistadors of Central and South America; the national park of Acorena with its cork forests and villages; the Roman amphitheatre at Merida, thought by some to be the most important Roman ruin in the world.

To add spice to this wonderful holiday, we also visited charming hilltop villages in Portugal, with breathtaking panoramas and fascinating history. One of these remarkable villages, Castelo de Vide, is the site of the oldest synagogue in Portugal. Set in a narrow cobbled street, the synagogue dates back to the end of the 15th century when the Jews were



Inside the synagogue

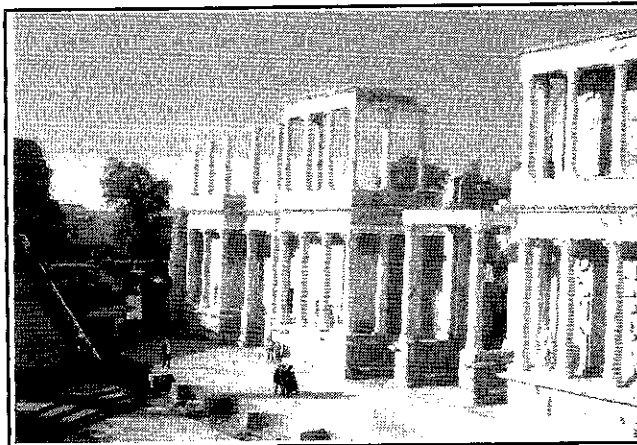
finally expelled from Portugal or forced to convert.

Blessed with glorious weather throughout, I enjoyed every minute of my unusual and exciting trip.



David outside the oldest synagogue in Portugal

I am so grateful to my wonderful son for introducing me to a part of Spain whose delights I would have never otherwise discovered.



The Roman amphitheatre at Merida

DEVELOPING THE DEAF COMMUNITY IN THE GAMBIA

BY ANGELA SPIELSINGER

Angela Spielsinger joined the Voluntary Service Organisation (VSO) in September 2003 to take part in a voluntary work project with the Gambia Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (GADHOH).

Here is Angela's diary of events in the Gambia for January and February 2004.

JANUARY

Na nga def ! (Hello in Wolof – African language)

I celebrated the New Year with my family when they came over to stay and the atmosphere was fantastic with beautiful fireworks! It is unbelievable that the time is going so fast – I have been here for five months so far. Don't think I am bored and counting the dates!

Swedish National Association for the Deaf (SNAD) and GADHOH

January was another busy month for me. A Deaf man, Lennart, who is a member of Swedish National Association for the Deaf (SNAD) came to see the progress of Gambia Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (GADHOH). Lennart met with the staff of GADHOH because he wanted to employ a friend as a teacher to work in the Nursery School. He tried to explain to us that it is not because of the friendship - the teacher is also a Gambian man.

As the Gambian man had teaching qualifications but had NEVER taught Deaf children before, we were curious as to how he could communicate with the children. Lennart was determined that the Gambian man was a suitable teacher and pressurised us! I was a bit suspicious of him, but it wasn't my decision in the end. It seems that SNAD has the authority to control GADHOH. We agreed to accept the new teacher for three months' trial. Guess what ... for three weeks he did nothing in class! I dropped hints to the Director that the new teacher had done nothing and that I wasn't happy with the decision.

Since Christmas, more children have joined the Nursery school - there are 12 altogether now. The children never give me a peaceful time!

Plymouth-Dakar Challenge

I am not sure if you have heard of the Plymouth-Dakar Challenge? Old cars are given away to Senegal and Gambia, and the drivers have to drive all the way from Plymouth to Dakar (Capital of Senegal). They drive through France, Spain, Morocco, Mauritania (through the Sahara Desert) and Senegal and then to Gambia. It takes them around 20 days and covers over 4,000 miles. There are over 100 drivers with old cars, vans, etc. giving the cars to charity in Gambia and Senegal.

Have you seen the advertisement in December Issue of SIGNMatters magazine (last page) asking for toys to be donated to Gambia? One driver managed to fill his car with lots of donations given to BDA from the members. There were lots of children's books, old fax machines, toys, stationery and hearing aids. Also he managed to get 20 brand new minicoms! The Deaf people here have never seen a minicom before and don't know what they are for. I think it is funny, as a long time ago.... in late 80's/early 90's ... minicoms were so popular in UK and then the new technology fax appeared and became even more popular. Now we use email to keep in touch with everyone. GADHOH was the other way around - first they got a computer, then a fax and now minicoms! Guess what ... 20 minicoms in a box without plugs! Don't ask how it happened! We have to use batteries for now.

Now we have a minicom to communicate between GADHOH Head Office and the Female Wing. Two cars were donated - one to GADHOH Head Office and one to the Female Wing. The cars will enable us to pick up children who live far from the Nursery school. It will also encourage us to travel

up-country to meet more Deaf people. We were told that it is estimated that there are around 1,700 Deaf people and 2,900 Hard of Hearing people in the country. We have only approximately 300 Deaf people who are members of GADHOH and around 200 Deaf school children at the moment.

Education for deaf people

At present, almost no sign language is used outside Kombos. Many deaf people who haven't had access to education are often assumed by their families to have learning difficulties, rather than language difficulties, so their problems go unrecognised. Some families have developed their own familiar signs, but on the whole, deaf people have never been educated before. They have to learn sign language and also learn how to write the alphabets, numbers and their names. They are mainly in their 20's. I feel really sorry for them when I see them trying so hard to remember the order of the alphabet and numbers.

FEBRUARY

Tabaski – The Muslim festival

At the beginning of this month, it was Tabaski. This is the most important date in the Muslim calendar. Every Muslim kills a ram to commemorate the time when Abraham was about to sacrifice his son, obeying G-d's command, only to have G-d tell him to substitute a ram for his son at the last moment. Two weeks before Tabaski, the cost of buying a sheep doubles, as every family is expected to pay more for their celebrations. Those who cannot afford a sheep are socially embarrassed, and most of them will do anything to scrape the money together.

I live in a first floor flat with fantastic neighbours. They treat me as a part of their family. One day, my neighbours asked my boyfriend, Oliver (who came to stay with me) and I to join them to celebrate Tabaski on the following day and to eat their ram. I asked her where they would get the sheep.

I was expecting them to buy it from the market or the butcher! Instead, she took me upstairs to the top of the flats and showed us two live sheep greeting us with "Baa Baa". I was so shocked and asked her "Do you mean that you will kill it tomorrow?" She laughed and replied "Yes, it is fun watching them." I couldn't believe her reply and I couldn't stop thinking about the poor sheep all night!

On the following morning, everyone had to go to the Mosque to pray first then came back home to prepare to kill the ram. They asked Oliver and me to watch them. They cut the ram's throat and it was disgusting to see the blood everywhere! The slaughtered animal was divided into three equal portions - for the poor, for friends and for family. I will not say too much as I am sure that you don't want to know any more! It was interesting to watch their culture.

The Deaf Club

We held another event for our Deaf Club programme. Again, lots of people turned up. They couldn't get any transport back home, so instead, they stayed in the building all night! I noticed how successfully the Deaf Club is running now. At the beginning, I helped the staff and gave them each a role to do and I am now trying to stand back - they will need to learn how to deal with it themselves, as I won't be here forever! There is no leader to control the Deaf Club and it is great to see the young people working together as a team. Everyone is treated equally! I would be interested to see if it would work in UK?

Before I came here, Gambia had a Deaf football team, but it flopped as the Deaf people were expecting too much and wanted to have professional football kits. Also, they expected too highly from the team and wanted money for their transport to the pitch. I explained to them that in the UK we have to pay for our training ourselves and wearing kits is not necessary for training, only for matches. They were surprised as they thought the UK has high standards in everything. Now, they are keen to set up a new football team under the Deaf Club programme.

Deaf Programmes

My parents have been recording BBC2 See Hear and Switch programmes for me over the past year. They gave the tapes to me when they were here for Christmas. In Gambia, there is only one channel and no access for deaf people - no subtitles, no sign language and no Deaf programmes.

When I showed the Gambian Deaf people the Switch programmes, they thought it was a true story! I explained that it wasn't! They loved it so much and news spread around the Deaf community. Some Deaf people have video players at home so they asked to borrow the tapes. They said the subtitles are too fast for them to read, so they tried to pick up the BSL. I noticed that many African people (both deaf and hearing people) read and write very slowly!

Employment for Gambian deaf people

Lots of deaf people here are unemployed and they blame the school education system. Here there is only one Deaf school and they leave school after Grade 9. They think it isn't fair, because they have not been given the same chance as hearing children, who leave school when they reach Grade 12. This means that the Deaf people's knowledge is very limited! When some Deaf children go to Deaf school, they take the exams for Grade 6 ready for Grade 7. When some fail, the school kicks them out. They cannot be transferred to another school, because there is no other Deaf school! So they just help out at home.

Employment for Deaf people here is very limited - some people make clothes or work in carpentry, building, hairdressing, and other practical jobs. So, Lamin (the Vice President of GADHOH) has been travelling around the Kombos asking various companies if they will employ Deaf people. It is very different compared to UK, where we have to fill in application forms and go for interviews. Here, a company will look for the right person to work for them.

Lamin has managed to find several companies interested in employing Deaf people to sell newspapers, scratch cards, etc. Lamin will have to find the right Deaf person to work for the company.

Great news - a new office for GADHOH

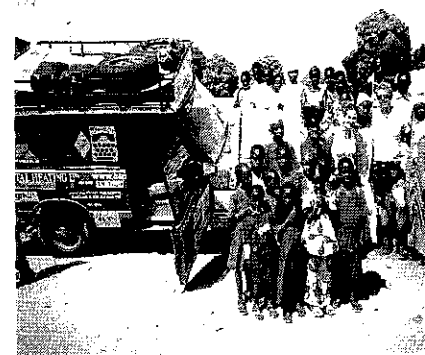
At the moment, GADHOH is renting its office. Now the government in Gambia has approved that GADHOH can obtain land to build a new office to join with the Female Wing. They have two years to build the offices, otherwise the government will take their land away. GADHOH is hoping to set up two branches up-country, as there are approximately 5 or 6 divisions in the Gambia. It could be a great opportunity for their people who cannot travel to the Capital.

And finally ...

I will be in the national newspaper soon as the boss of the newspaper has heard about my voluntary work with the Deaf Association. He was told that GADHOH value me a lot and he will interview me. Aaargh!!! Should be an experience!

My friends will come over here soon. I am looking forward to having them around and I will introduce them to the Deaf community here. They will have the chance to see how I manage to live without electricity almost every night when the power cut off, and also that there is no hot water and no television in my flat! I hope they can cope with it. Maybe they will realise how much they have taken their "luxury life" for granted back home! Tee hee!

Ba beneen (Goodbye)



Angela with the Gambian children

A TALK - RACE RELATIONS

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Cormac Bakewell from the Commission of Racial Equality came to the JDA on Sunday 25th January 2004, to give a talk about Race Relations and to explain the reasons why we should treat everyone equally regardless of race.

Myer Solomon gives his report and his personal opinion.

In his talk on migrants, Cormac Bakewell reported that in over a thousand years, Romans, Germanics, Saxons, Normans, Huguenots, Irish, Jews and Asians have come over to Britain, whether as genuine refugees or economic workers.

When we have our ten-yearly census in general, we don't ask what religion you are, we just leave it to people to fill in if they choose.

There were claims that the police often target blacks and Pakistanis when searching for suspect persons. Cormac explained to us that it would seem that they are mostly victims of crime by their peers. Also, the newspapers are full of stories of drug dealing by "Jamaican yardies". As most of those people who arrived in the country recently are illiterate in English, they are offered menial jobs with low wages. Thus, their income is low, their self-esteem and ambitions are crushed and they often turn to crime.

When the Jews moved into UK after Oliver Cromwell gave permission in the 17th century, there was latent discrimination. There was nothing that you could prove or point a finger at, but it was there and very insidious. In those days, you could often see advertisements for rooms for rent with the words "No Jews, Irish or Blacks". This is not allowed nowadays, but can landlords say no without giving a good reason? That may be the case, as many rooms available for letting remain empty.

It is still not easy to identify acts of racism. Are damage to synagogues and cemeteries due to anti-Semitism or just mindless vandalism?

Naturally, what happens in other countries can colour our attitudes and opinions to people coming into this country from abroad. Even Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis are often against each other. After the 11th September crash, many innocent Muslims claimed that they were looked at sideways and made the object of snide remarks.

If some deaf persons prefer to go to white doctors because they are easier to understand and to lipread than foreign doctors, can that be considered discrimination or racism?

So it goes on. In my opinion, the best way to look at it is to acknowledge that people are always judging one another, that it will continue to be like that and so we should get on with our lives and respect and treat everyone the same as far as possible.

Myer Solomon

VISITORS WELCOME AT JDA

A plea from Sue Cipin

Myer Solomon's report on the subject of Race Relations hits a prickly spot for me. The speaker from the Commission of Racial Equality was arranged to try to improve understanding and tolerance at the JDA. This is because I received complaints about the negative attitude of some JDA members towards non-Jewish guests at the JDA. Also I saw some emails on Deaf-UK email group criticising JDA members for displaying prejudice to visitors at JDA.

Try to imagine for a moment ... how would you feel if you arrived at a Deaf Club and someone there signed to you "you're not welcome here because you are Jewish"?

Deaf-UK emails complain that JDA members have been guilty of greeting visitors in an equivalent manner. They say JDA members are prejudiced against non-Jewish guests. Unfortunately, none of these incidents have been reported directly to the CC or to me, so it has been impossible to deal with them.

Prejudice at the JDA is unacceptable. It is against our policy and it is also bad for the Jewish people. Sadly, if just one person is rude, it makes everyone at the JDA look bad. It creates a negative impression of the JDA and of Jewish people. Therefore, it encourages antisemitism.

The reason the speaker was invited to talk about Race Relations was to give JDA members access to information to broaden their understanding of this important subject and perhaps learn to judge each person individually.

Of course, I can't tell you what to think, or what to feel. However, I can tell you that the JDA does not discriminate against anybody. If the JDA discovers any member or visitor displaying prejudice at JDA events, that person may be banned from future events.

Many of the JDA's services are open to people of all faiths (and, interestingly, the present JDA staff includes people who are Jewish, Christian, Buddhist and Moslem). The current policy for the Deaf social club is that members are welcome to bring non-Jewish guests to all events, unless it is listed in the magazine as a members-only event (generally because of lack of space).

Please do not ask people their religion when they come to the JDA. We welcome newcomers and would like JDA members to treat ALL guests with warmth and friendship.



IDENTITY THEFT

Identity theft happens when someone uses your personal details without you knowing.

A thief can obtain your details by copying your credit card number, or rifling through your rubbish bin to find bank or credit card statements, or even receipts.

However it happens, identity theft can end up with criminals spending **YOUR** money and you suffering emotional distress.

How can you protect yourself against identity theft?

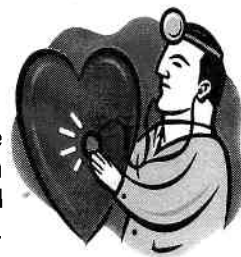
Take a few simple steps and make it difficult for someone to use your details:

- Don't discard transaction slips – remember, they display your card number.
- What you consider rubbish can be useful to fraudsters. For example, how often have you paid for petrol by debit or credit card and thrown the receipt in the bin before getting back into your car?
- Never give your card details to someone who contacts you unexpectedly – not even if they say they are from a reputable company.
- Check that your bank and credit card statements arrive when they are due. Always keep them in a safe place.
- If you move home, arrange for the Post Office to re-direct all your mail.
- Don't respond to emails that arrive out of the blue, requesting personal details or financial information.
- Watch out. Don't be tricked into telling anyone your personal details e.g. your mother's name, your work details or date of birth.
- Never tell anyone your private PIN. A bank will never request this, so it is likely that anyone asking you for your PIN is up to something.
- When you use a cash machine or point of sale terminal, look around you. Be careful of anyone trying to watch you enter your PIN. Don't let yourself get distracted.

(Tips extracted from Barclaycard)

What to do if you think you are having a

Heart Attack



A cardiologist says if everyone who reads this, sends it to ten people; you can bet that we'll save at least one life. Read this. It could save your life!!

Let's say it's 6.15 pm and you're driving home (alone of course), after a hard day. You're really tired, upset and frustrated. Suddenly, you start experiencing severe pain in your chest that starts to radiate out into your arm and up into your jaw.

You are only about five miles from the hospital nearest to your home. Unfortunately, you don't know if you'll be able to make it that far. You have been trained in first aid, but the teacher never told you how to perform the "kiss of life" on yourself.

HOW TO SURVIVE A HEART ATTACK WHEN ALONE

As many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack, without help, if your heart is beating improperly and you begin to feel faint, you are likely to have only about 10 seconds left before losing consciousness.

However, **you can help yourself by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. Take a deep breath before each cough.** The cough must be deep and prolonged, like when producing sputum from deep inside the chest.

Repeat a breath and a cough about every two seconds. Do not stop until help arrives, or until you feel your heart beating normally again.

Deep breaths bring oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps the heart to regain normal rhythm.

In this way, heart attack victims can get to a hospital.

Read this again and try to remember it. Also, tell as many people as possible about this. It could save their lives!!

**BE A FRIEND AND
PLEASE PASS ON THIS INFORMATION
TO AS MANY FRIENDS AS POSSIBLE.**

The young social groups for deaf and hard of hearing men and women go from strength to strength

"Chatterboxes" women's group has been busy!

The women's group has been meeting in The Chat Room every month since December 2003. The young women, aged 22 to 40 years, had so much to say to each other when they met, that they named their group "Chatterboxes"!

The purpose of the girlie get togethers is not only to have an evening of fun, laughter and gossip, but also to exchange ideas and information. Each month, a different person leads the group in a discussion about the topic of their choice. This gives everyone a chance to get involved and focus on a subject that they find interesting, or of value to the group.



Some of the "Chatterboxes" stop talking for long enough to smile for the camera!

"Chatterboxes" is made up of single and married young women. Recently, those who have children led a discussion on 'Motherhood' which addressed their experiences of being deaf/hard of hearing mothers. The session enabled them to share issues and ideas and provided invaluable advice and information to those hoping one day to become mothers themselves! The group said it was unique to be able to speak in a 'safe' environment about their concerns and issues on the subject and everyone came away from this stimulating evening having learnt something.

Another fascinating get together was led by a group member who is a medical student. She gave an informative presentation on the physiology/path physiology of hearing. For those of us who are not doctors ... that means how the hearing works and how it can go wrong! The talk provided an invaluable insight into previously unanswered questions which, of course, gave everyone loads to talk about. The following social event, as usual, ended up chatting through the night!

In May, an audiologist has been invited to give a brief talk to the group about the latest technologies available and the meanings behind audiograms. There will be time to chat with the audiologist afterwards, and the small and intimate setting will allow for individual questions and an opportunity for everyone to raise any queries they may have. It should be another very interesting evening.

The "Chatterboxes" have recently been sharing in the success of a group member who landed a part in the upcoming play 'Children of a Lesser God' which will be playing at the Salisbury Theatre from 25 March 2004 for three weeks (see feature on Breaking into Show Business). Of course, the group will be going to Salisbury to give her lots of moral support ... and the girls are using the opportunity to grab a break, with time for group activities and some well-earned relaxation!

Two Men's Groups Developing

It is wonderful news that we are currently in contact with about 15 men of varying ages and backgrounds. Because of the numbers, two groups have been set up according to age / profession / interests.

Over recent months the men's groups have met up, to get to know one another in relaxed surroundings and identify what they would like to get out of the new range of services on offer.

The men's groups are still in their first phase of being established – relationships are developing, ideas are being brainstormed and discussions are starting to flow. The men have put forward some great suggestions for activities, outings and events and the programme is now being put together with these in mind.

What next?

It is clear that everyone in the men's and women's groups is enjoying the new JDA social groups and wants to be actively involved in organising activities and forming committees.

The next stage is to get all the groups together for a social event – what a unique and unprecedented gathering this will be - a first chance for Jewish deaf and hard of hearing people in their 20's-40's to meet a whole bunch of new people with similar life experiences!

If you are Jewish, deaf or hard of hearing, and your main method of communication is speech ... or if you know someone who is ... don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to join a group set up especially for you! It's relaxing, it's stimulating, it's welcoming and you'll be surprised at how easy it is to become one of the crowd!

To find out more, email or phone Jacqui Press at JDA.

Email: Jacqui@jda.dircon.co.uk
Telephone/Textphone: 020 8369 5329



Parents and Children's Tea Party

Two new parents received a warm welcome to our parents and children's group on Monday 16th February. Yet again, it was an afternoon of fun, laughter and just a little madness when children between the ages of 2 months and 10 years once again dominated the JDA centre!

The children played games together, showed off their artistic talents and learned new crafts with the JDA's party entertainer, Susu.

Knowing the children were happily engrossed in their activities, gave the parents a precious opportunity to swap stories about their children's progress, chat about common issues, get to know one another better and share information about choosing the right schools and obtaining equipment, support etc. for their children. The JDA's experienced staff were on hand to provide guidance and input wherever needed.

Following the success of last year's trip to Finchley Fire Station, the parents also discussed ideas for another Summer Outing. They were keen to help organise the day and it will be great to see them working together for the benefit of their families.

As the parents chatted and the children played comfortably together, there was a growing sense of relaxation and friendship in the group. I do hope that, in time, we will attract more families, because, looking around the room, I could see how enormously beneficial it is for the parents to form relationships with one another. And, of course, mixing with other deaf children also helps the little people to develop positive identities.

If you are a parent of a deaf or hard of hearing child, or if you know of anyone who may be interested in coming along to our get togethers, please contact me.

Jacqui Press

Email: jacqui@jda.dircon.co.uk

Telephone/Textphone: 020 8369 5329

New JDA group helps budding hard of hearing actress to break into showbiz!

The Jewish Deaf Association has helped a member of its "Chatterboxes" group to get her foot on the first rung of the showbiz ladder! Sarah Moshe, who lives in Pinner, joined the JDA's new group for young Jewish deaf and hard of hearing women who do not sign, last Autumn.

Always looking for new challenges, Sarah, who is hard of hearing, came across an opportunity to audition for the part of Lydia in a forthcoming professional production of Children of a Lesser God, which is currently being staged at the Salisbury Playhouse.

Sarah's agent, whom she joined quite recently, specialises in professional acting assignments for people with disabilities - and felt the part would be ideal for her. But with no formal acting experience or training, except drama classes at school, Sarah didn't have the confidence to apply for the part and nearly didn't pursue it, even when she was offered a second audition in December.

Luckily, she turned to Jacqui Press, who coordinates the JDA's "Chatterboxes" young women's group and, with her constant help and encouragement - much of which came from Jacqui's own experience as a deaf woman who communicates through speech - she was persuaded to return for the second audition. Earlier this month, she learned that she had got the part - so it is now full steam ahead ... the play opened on 25 March 2004 and is expected to run for three weeks.

'Jacqui was extremely supportive,' says Sarah 'and truly believed I could take on this role, because she knew I needed the challenge. Working for a deaf organisation (Sign) and being involved in this new group allowed me to be more self aware and accepting of my own deafness. And Jacqui, along with the rest of the Chatterboxes, gave me so much more confidence in myself! So I decided to take this opportunity. I know that without Jacqui's constant support and practical advice I would never have dared to go along for that second audition.'

Sarah, who has a 2:1 degree in Business Studies and Information Management from the University of Sheffield, would like to extend her acting career once the play has finished and will be happy to take any extra film or promotional work, whilst she waits for new parts to come through. She is also interested in teaching opportunities abroad and has already completed a one-month intensive TEFL course, which means she is now qualified to teach English as a Foreign Language.

OBITUARY - JACK HART

1931-2004



Jack with his beloved wife, Ann

A tribute by Martin Bogard

I have known Jack for many years and when I first met him I was a very young man. At that time Jack brought his lovely wife Ann with his two little sons, Mark and Simeon, to the Jewish Deaf Association at Cazenove Road. I have never forgotten how he treated his family with respect and how he nurtured his sons' education and encouraged them to become more knowledgeable. They eventually went to Burwood Park School.

Many years ago, Jack was involved with the Jewish Deaf Youth and was also a member of the JDA Central Committee. He supported the British Jewish Deaf Sports Organisation in the exchange with Israel and other events, in which he worked along with his sons Mark and Simeon - who became the Chairman of the BJDSO.

In spite of being a very busy man, he never let us down. Jack was one of the Central Committee Trustees and he was awarded the honour of JDA Life Membership last September. Sadly, this lasted only for a short period. His name will always be treasured in our JDA memories.

I have always said that I have never come across a man who took such totally different kind of trades for his living. He was an experienced tailor for several years and then became a skilled carpenter! Long before he became ill, he trained as a BSL Stage 2 tutor. Many hearing students have told me how wonderful Jack was and have admired him greatly.

Some years ago, Jack wanted to purchase a computer to help with his work, etc. Naturally I taught him some basic lessons. To my amazement, he picked them up very quickly and learned many new

things by himself, which was remarkable for his age. I was fortunate to become a very good friend of Jack and I also benefited from his knowledge by learning more about photography and building work skills.

Heidi and I were so pleased to have Jack and Ann at our wedding in Germany. That was when they set their feet on German soil for the very first time and they enjoyed themselves very much.

Heidi and I really miss dear Jack. May his soul rest in peace.

We wish Ann, Mark and Simeon a "long life".

JACK HART - A MAN I WILL REMEMBER ALWAYS

by Sue Cipin

When I first arrived at the JDA, I was welcomed with warmth by so many of the members ... but there was one man who made me feel just a little bit nervous - Jack Hart. Everyone said the same thing about Jack - that he was a great man, respected and admired by one and all. I wanted to get to know him, but the opportunity never seemed to arise. I started to wonder if he deliberately kept away from me.

A year later, the JDA organised a short holiday to The New Ambassador Hotel in Bournemouth. It was then that I got my chance! We enjoyed a wonderful few days and Jack and I broke the ice.

I found that behind the strong face I had always wondered about was, indeed, a strong man. But there was much more to Jack than strength - in him I found a warm, interesting, highly intelligent person with many stories to tell and lessons to teach. Once I got to know Jack, I wanted to know more and more! He told me about his life, about the history of Deaf people, the establishment and development of the Jewish Deaf Community, politics, geography, nature, philosophy ... he shared stories about his family, his experiences and he educated me.

I found he was a man who knew how to love and devote himself to his wife and family. He absolutely adored Ann and when she was with him his love for her sparkled like sunshine through his smile.

Jack proved that he judged people carefully before giving them his trust. I needed his tuition ... and he had always known that. But he had needed to know that I was worthy of it *before* giving it to me. I felt proud knowing that Jack considered me worthy of his tutorship and I did my best to live up to this.

Jack was a man of wisdom, integrity and great worth. It was an enormous privilege to know him and to have earned his friendship. He will always live on in my memory, with admiration and love.

CONDOLENCES

Elsie Nabarro

Sadly, Elsie Nabarro, the widow of Arthur Nabarro, passed away on 10th January 2004. Our sincere condolences go to her two daughters Susan and Ann, and their families.

Jack Hart

Our dear friend, Jack Hart, passed away on 3rd February 2004 after a long illness, which he bravely fought against. We send deepest sympathy to his wife Ann, his two sons Mark and Simeon, and their families.

Ann wishes to thank everyone who came to the funeral of her dear Jack and to the shiva at her house.

She also thanks those who sent her sympathy cards, letters and faxes from all over the UK and abroad.

Paul Secunda

Paul Secunda passed away after a long illness on 5th March 2004. Our heartfelt sympathy is expressed to his wife Sylvia, his daughter Suzanne and son Marcel. We wish them all long life.

Sylvia wishes to thank all her JDA friends who came to pay respects at Paul's funeral and all those who sent letters of sympathy.



BIRTH

Philip and Mary Nabarro

Mazeltoiv to Philip and Mary Nabarro on the birth of their new grandson, Oliver, who was born on 26th February 2004, to their daughter Jane and Benis. We wish the family much joy with Oliver.

Debra Britton

Congratulations to Debra on being a great grandmother for the second time! Her granddaughter, Phedra Lara Dodds, gave birth to daughter Erin Lara on 15th February 2004. We wish Debra and her ever-growing family much happiness with Phedra.

Ruth and Percy Morris

Mazeltoiv to Ruth and Percy on becoming Booba and Zaida to a baby boy born on 13th March 2004. We wish them and their family much joy with the newcomer.



ENGAGEMENT

Schwartz

Congratulations to Cassandra, daughter of Jack and Deirdre Schwartz, on her recent engagement to Elie Topp. We wish them every happiness for their future together.

Silver

Mazeltoiv to Melody, daughter of Lorraine and Kenneth Silver, on her recent engagement to Jonathan Moss. We wish the happy couple a wonderful future together.



DIAMOND WEDDING

Our hard working and much loved Chairman and President, Evelyn and George Gee, celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 23rd January 2004. We wish them a hearty Mazeltoiv on their 60 years together and thank them for all they do for the JDA.



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