



Listen



Chanukah Story

Malcolm Pruskin

It was the night before Chanukah and all through the house not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The Menorah was set in the window aglow, its beams cast out over fresh fallen snow. The children were sleeping, but I'm willing to bet they were dreaming of the presents they were hoping to get. A mini bike or scooter, a sports car or jeep, fine jewelery, new golf clubs, some clothes, nothing cheap.

The goodies and gadgets this holiday brings are awaited each year by Jewish offsprings. I was lying in bed almost asleep when the screeching of brakes brought me to my feet. I peered out the window as sly as one can, and right there I saw him, the Chanukah Man.

Now the Chanukah Man is known to both girls and boys as the one responsible for the gelt and the toys. He travels all over with toys in his sack, but instead of a sled, he drives a Jag. He got out of his Jaguar all beaming with pride with the bargains he got on New York's Lower East Side. There were games, toys and clothes, a pup and a bunny, and of course best of all the Chanukah Money.

He glanced at his car as he turned on his heels and smugly admired his slick wire wheels. He picked up his sack, a converted golf bag, which he threw on his shoulder with a grunt and a drag. He marched in the house and emptied the goods so he could refill his bag with his Irons and Woods.

And again one could see the pride on his face as he checked all the goods and put them in place. Then he picked up a glass as though in a dream, took chocolate and seltzer and made an egg cream. He downed it at once, and then made another; this boy was thirsty and could drink, Kenahorah. After five or six drinks he went back to his car, for he knew that tomorrow he would have to drive far.

With his Chanukah chores now out of the way he could head for Miami for some warm fun and play. As he started his car I called out Shalom, have a good trip and hurry back home.

As he drove off these words came to my ear, "It's no big Megillah, I go every year." And I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight –

**Happy Hanukah to all and to all
a good night!**

Chairman's Report

Priscilla Dorrance

This is the first edition of Listen that Isabella is editing, so it is also the first Chairman's Report that I have written, not knowing what else is going to be included in this edition. I'm looking forward to finding out!

I hope you are all keeping safe and well!

I imagine you are all wondering when we are going to go back to having services in the building. This has been on the agenda at every Council and Ritual Committee meeting since the first lockdown started! I am encouraged by the news that there are now one vaccine has been approved and there are others that shown to be successful in trials. Although it will be a long time before they are rolled out to the population as a whole, I feel there is finally a potential light at the end of the tunnel. Won't it be nice to share kiddush together again and to give each other hugs?

We are now in Tier 2, or 3 or 4, depending on where in our catchment are you live. While places of worship are allowed to open, Reform Judaism's advice is to proceed with caution,

whatever tier you are in. We have to keep in mind the age of our community, the size of our building and the lack of good ventilation. We are looking at leading some services from the synagogue, so people can at least see the ark and the Torah scrolls.

In the meantime, we have had some lovely Chanukah activities on Zoom.

On Saturday, 12th December Stan Cohen led a Shabbat Chanukah Service. Then on Sunday afternoon we had a Chanukah party. It was great to be able to have a mass lighting of everyone's chanukiot! Last, but not least, Sarah and David held their final quiz of the year on Tuesday, 15th December. As always, it was very enjoyable, although my lack of knowledge of game shows showed in the music round! Thank you very much to Sarah and David for keeping us so well entertained during the pandemic

There won't be services on the weekends of 25/26th December and 1st/2nd January to give the service leaders a break. If you would like to attend a service during this time, please look on the Reform Judaism website where you will find a list of all the Reform synagogues that are

streaming services. The ability to join services at other synagogues has been one of the benefits of the pandemic!

Here's to a better 2021!

Warden's Witterings

Malcom Pruskin

Being in Lockdown has given me to opportunity to explore the Siddur in depth and to discover a lot of alternative prayers, psalms and hymns which were previously unknown to us.

With the loss of our choir to enhance our services, I have found a wealth of tunes and melodies on the internet, some of which are familiar and some previously unknown to this community.

Erev Shabbat services on Zoom have become increasingly popular with attendances far, far exceeding those in reality. It is also an opportunity for participation from the congregation and a chance to interact with one another, albeit virtually.

It is highly likely we will be holding services on Zoom for some time to come and we are hoping to have a service every

week whilst in lockdown. However, there will be no services over the weekends of December 25th /26th & January 1st/2nd. Services will recommence with a Shabbat morning service on January 9th.

Services have been planned running up to Pesach, including visits from Student Rabbis Nicola & Eleanor. Other services are being led by our very capable wardens who have done a marvellous job under such difficult circumstances over the many months of lockdown, especially during High Holy Days.

During lockdown we have not been able to enjoy our choir singing as a team because of the peculiarities of Zoom, but they have risen to the challenge in true MKDRS fashion by learning solos to make our Shabbat morning services more enjoyable. Thank you Choir!

In 2021 I am hoping to introduce different ideas for our Erev Shabbat services with greater "audience participation" and new tunes for our Friday night Zmirot.

If there is anyone out there who would like to lead a discussion group as an alternative to an Erev

Shabbat service please contact me.

I would like to say a special thank you to Lou who has thrown her hat into the ring and recently joined the Panel of Wardens. She has risen to the task with gusto especially her very interesting Derushas.

The Winter of My Years

Malcolm Pruskin

I would like to share with you the following piece of Wisdom, because life is too short to dwell on the bad things in life.

Time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my wife. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all.

I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams.

But, here it is... the winter of my life and it catches me by surprise... How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?

I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that winter was so far off, I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But, here it is... my friends are retired and getting bald and grey.... they move slowly and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me.... But, I see the great change.... not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant... but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older people that we used to see and never thought we'd be. What used to be freckles are now liver spots.

Each day now, I find that just taking a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore... it's mandatory! Because if I don't on my own free will... I just fall asleep where I sit in front of the TV. It's called pre-sleep!

And so... now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!!

But, at least I know, that though

the winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last,... when it's over on this earth.. .it's over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done... things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. However, I regret the things I haven't done much more than the things I have done.

So, if you're not in your winter yet...let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!! Life goes by too quickly.

So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not! You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life... so live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember...and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!

Life is very fragile, and in these uncertain times every day is a bonus, so enjoy every moment and be extra careful out there.

Stay safe and well.

Czech Scrolls Shabbat Service at Nottingham Liberal Synagogue

Priscilla Dorrance

For those of you who don't know, during WWII some 1500 Torah scrolls were taken by the Nazis from synagogues all over Bohemia and Moravia. They survived the war and were stored in an old dilapidated shul in Prague until, in 1964, they were purchased and brought over to London's Westminster Synagogue and the Czech Memorial Scrolls Trust was set up. The Trust repaired the scrolls and loans them out to synagogues around the world, and we have scroll number 970, which came from the town of Pacov.

Nottingham Liberal Synagogue (NLS) has been very active in researching the towns from where their Czech scrolls originated: Komenice nad Lipou and Austerlitz (now called Slavkov). Over the past 11 years they have made three visits to the Czech Republic and established good relationships with the local communities. Through their contacts in Komenice they got to hear about efforts in the nearby town of Pacov to buy the old synagogue building and turn it into a memorial and museum. As a result of this, they included a

visit to Pacov as part of the 2018 trip to the Czech Republic. When they found out that we had a scroll from Pacov, they invited us to attend their Czech Scrolls Shabbat service later that year. We, along with other synagogues with connections to the towns of Komenice, Austerlitz and Pacov, have been invited every year since then.

On 21st November, Stan Cohen and I attended this year's NLS's Czech Scrolls Shabbat service via Zoom. This was their 29th annual Czech Scrolls Shabbat and the first time they haven't been able to hold it in person.

The Czech Scrolls Shabbat service was led mostly by NLS's own Rabbi Tanya. The Amidah was led by recently qualified Rabbi David Maxa who joined the service from Prague, where he is a Reform Rabbi to a number of congregations. He has an amazing singing voice and over the years he has built up close connections with the NLS, so it was lovely that he could be part of the service.

The drasha was given by Rabbi Andrew Goldstein. He spoke very eloquently about Rabbi Dr Richard Feder (1875-1970), a very inspiring Czech rabbi. Prior to WWII Rabbi Feder not only was rabbi of Kolín for over 30 years, he

also was professor of German at the local business college. During WWII, along with the other Jews in the town, he was deported to Terezín. Sadly, he lost his whole family during the Holocaust. However, after liberation he returned to Kolín and helped to re-establish the Jewish community there, and later served as chief land rabbi in Brno.

Prior to reciting kaddish, members of the community read out the names of all the children from the villages from where their Czech scrolls came, and during kaddish the names of all the Jews who died were displayed. Despite being on Zoom, it was very moving.

After the service, there was a speaker of particular interest to MKDRS, as it related to Pacov, the village from where our Czech scroll originates. Pavel Tychtl is one of the leading people behind the campaign to turn the old (run down) synagogue in Pacov into a museum and memorial for those who died in the Holocaust. Pavel is going to be giving a further presentation to NLS members on how 'Tikkun Pacov' is progressing, to which we have been invited. If you are interested in attending, please let me know.

The overarching theme of the service was the importance of cherishing the heritage of the Jewish communities which were wiped out by the Holocaust and keeping their memory alive. The Nazis tried to destroy their way of life completely. By keeping their history fresh in our minds, and educating others about what happened we can ensure that they will never be forgotten.



Congratulations




To Seth Rosen on his Bar Mitzvah (shown in the photo with his father, Jason Rosen).



Photos from Last Year's Chanukah Party



Adult Education Programme

Date/Time	Speaker/Event	Topic	Delivery
3 Jan 2021 7:30pm	“Laugh and Learn Quiz”	MKDRS Adult Education Judaism quiz evening.	Zoom event. This event is free and the link is available from Ticket Source https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/online/online/laugh-and-learn-quiz/2021-01-03/19:30/t-gojepr 
7 Feb 2021 3pm	Naomi Eisenstadt	Parents, Poverty and the State	Zoom event. This event is free and the link is available from Ticket Source https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/online/online/a-talk-by-naomi-eisenstadt/2021-02-07/15:00/t-jyrmde 
7 Mar 2021 3pm	Brian Pollock	The UK 1923 General Election – Jewish Involvement	Zoom event. This event is free and the link is available from Ticket Source https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/online/online/jewish-involvement-in-the-uk-1923-general-election/2021-03-07/15:00/t-lgeagk  <i>THE DRAMATIC CHANGE IN POLITICS</i>

Diary

All events are being held on Zoom until future notice. The Zoom login

details will be in the weekly MKDRS e-newsletters.

January 2021

Sun 3rd 7.30pm
ADULT EDUCATION SESSION:
Laugh and Learn Quiz organised
by Sarah and David Bernarde

Sat 9th 10.30am
SHABBAT SERVICE led by Stan
Cohen

Sun 10th 10.00am
CHEDER

Fri 15th 7.30pm
EREV SHABBAT SERVICE led by
Lou Tribus

Thu 21st 1.45pm
WOMEN'S READING GROUP

Fri 22nd 7.30pm
EREV SHABBAT SERVICE led by
Malcolm Pruskin

Sun 24th 10.00am
CHEDER

Sat 30th 10.30am
SHABBAT SERVICE led by
Student Rabbi Nicola Feuchtwang

February

Fri 5th 7.30pm
EREV SHABBAT SERVICE led by
Marise and Stan Cohen. This will
be a study session. Members are
invited to share passages from the
Siddur (or elsewhere) that have
helped them during the pandemic.

Sun 7th 10.00am
CHEDER

Sun 7th 3.00pm
ADULT EDUCATION SESSION:
Parents, Poverty and the State by
Naomi Eisenstadt

Sat 13th 10.30am
SHABBAT SERVICE led by
Student Rabbi Eleanor Davis

Thu 18th 1.45pm
WOMEN'S READING GROUP

Fri 19th 7.30pm
EREV SHABBAT SERVICE led by
Priscilla Dorrance

Sun 21st 10.00am
CHEDER

Thu 25th 7.30pm
EREV PURIM SERVICE AND
MEGILLAH READING led by Stan
Cohen

This is from the "kitchen"

Isabella Wilson

I have recently been given an early Chanukah present – a book – a cookery book by Fania Lewando. Fania arrived in a Polish Jewish family in 1887, one of six children – five girls and one boy. One can imagine the jolly and happy atmosphere in the household of a highly respected fishmonger. In her father's shop she learnt the importance of freshness and quality of produce.

Antisemitism took the family all over the place including England where, upon arrival they adopted, the name Fisher (originally Fischelevicz). Fania, however after marriage to a Mr

Lewando, moved to Vilna where she opened a famous Jewish vegetarian restaurant.

The carrot latkes are her recipe – and here it is

Ingredients

2 carrots

3 eggs

40 g of butter

1 tablespoon of flour

Pinch of salt

After finely grating carrots mix all ingredients in one bowl and fry the mixture on both sides – using preferably clarified butter ...

HAPPY CHANUKAH

Need to talk? We're here to listen.



If you're feeling alone, anxious or in need of someone to talk to, we are here to support you.

If there is something troubling you, we will listen without judgement – there is no issue too big or small.

You can call us in difficult times. Our trained volunteers will be a listening ear for anyone.

Speak from the heart
jewishhelpline.co.uk

Call our confidential helpline:

Freephone: 0800 652 9249

Landline: 020 3096 2875

Sunday – Thursday: 12pm – 12am

Friday: 12pm – 3pm

Closed during Shabbat and Jewish festivals