

# Hear, Here!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JEWISH DEAF ASSOCIATION

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## JDA Celebrates The First Anniversary of New Centre



*The Chief Rabbi, Professor Jonathan Sacks, addresses members and guests at the celebrations to mark the new JDA Centre's first anniversary. Another photo inside.*

The Chief Rabbi launched the JDA's first anniversary celebrations at the end of June to mark one year since the opening of its new Community Centre in North Finchley.

His visit was followed at the weekend by a party for over 100 JDA members, staff, volunteers and lay leaders.

"There were no special VIPs present," said Executive Director, Pat Goldring, after the event, "because on Sunday, everyone who attended was a VIP. We wanted to thank everyone who was involved for all their hard work and patience whilst we were raising funds, planning, building and equipping the new Centre."

## Welcome to our new Executive Director

**JDA Chairman, Evelyn Gee, writes:**

"After nearly 30 years with the JDA, Pat Goldring, our Executive Director, is retiring. Pat has been responsible for so many important developments at the JDA, including the move to our new premises last year.



"Her great understanding of the difficulties encountered by deaf people has helped her to develop an impressive programme of projects and activities at the Jewish Deaf Association - many of them unique in the deaf world.

"We are delighted to welcome Susan Cipin who will take up the post of Executive Director from this September.

"Susan joins us from Jewish Child's Day, where she has worked

for the last nine years. We hope she will be very happy at the JDA."



*Susan Cipin (above) takes over as Executive Director from Pat Goldring (left).*

**JDA**  
JEWISH DEAF ASSOCIATION

## Robert Runs His Last Marathon...

*...but five 'Golden Bond' places offer other runners a chance to raise funds for the JDA - and bypass the ballot!*

**Robert Graham** has hung up his running shoes after completing eight London Marathons on behalf of the JDA. He has raised more than £47,000 in sponsorship money, which has been used to help equip the new computer training room (see right).



Now that Robert has effectively 'retired' from the marathon circuit, he is looking for runners to take his place, especially since the JDA has recently secured five 'Golden Bond' places in the next London Marathon.

The Bonds guarantee nominated runners a place in the event, avoiding the need to enter the ballot. In return, each runner will be asked to guarantee a minimum donation of £1,500 in sponsorship money for the JDA. Robert will offer support and advice at every stage and will, of course, be there to cheer the JDA team on!

If you are interested in taking part, please write to Robert c/o the JDA at the address on the back page.

## COMPUTER TRAINING IN GREAT DEMAND!



The JDA's new computer skills course for deaf people has been underway since the Spring and is still heavily over-subscribed!

Tutor **Martin Bogard**, who is deaf, conducts the twice-weekly sessions in sign language (pictured above), so that his students can follow and fully understand his instructions.

Sessions are tailor-made to the needs of the students and can focus on anything from basic computer skills to use of the internet and

e-mail, which are becoming invaluable communication tools for deaf and hard of hearing people who have access to a computer.

Heavy demand has meant that there are long waiting lists for the courses and the JDA is urgently trying to increase the number of sessions to keep pace with requests from its members. Funds are also urgently being sought to cover the cost of employing another deaf tutor, as well as updating software and adding to existing equipment.

### 'State of the Art' Additions for the Resource Room

The Resource and Information Room at the JDA has recently obtained a number of pieces of 'state of the art' equipment for its display of technological aids for deaf and hard of hearing people, making it one of the most comprehensive facilities of its kind in the UK.

Open to people of all faiths, the Resource Room offers advice, support and information about technological aids to help people with hearing



impairment lead more independent lives at home and at work.



Members and guests outside the JDA Centre celebrating the first anniversary of its opening.



## ◀ Sounds Social

The Sounds Social Group for Hard of Hearing People has gone from strength to strength since its introduction last year.

Speakers have included Clive Lawton, actress Bettine Le Beau (pictured), and JDA staff member Katy Solomon, who talked about the Sephardi way of life and its unique cuisine.

## Never A Dull Moment!

There's always something going on at the JDA, whether it's a visit, a speaker, an outing for members of our Day Centre, or a fundraising event. Find out more - call us on **0181 446 0502**



## ▲ Day Centre Outing

Day Centre members enjoy their annual outing to the home of JDA Chairman, Evelyn Gee, who each year hosts a Strawberry Tea for her local League of Jewish Women's Committee.

A magician was on hand to entertain the guests after tea.

The new Library in Julius Newman House contains books and videos with a deaf theme. They are available on loan to children, parents, teachers, students and social workers.

The JDA recognises the importance of access to information and is grateful to the friends who sponsored the Library.

Further donations to keep the Library updated would be most welcome.

## JDA Library ▼



## Talk at FZY Camp

Pat Goldring, Executive Director of the JDA, together with two colleagues, Kay Kaufman and Ivan Clements - both profoundly deaf - were invited to the FZY Summer Camp at Carmel College to talk about the work of the JDA.

They ran two separate sessions, with 23 boys and girls aged 14 to 17 in each group. The emphasis was on 'communication' and the young people practised the art of lip reading, with their ears covered with mufflers to block out the sound. They were also taught basic sign language and given a demonstration of the latest technical equipment designed for the hearing impaired.

# Sign language success at the JDA

The JDA was delighted to receive an 'above average' 80% pass rate for the first British Sign Language exam (Stage 1) held at the JDA's new Community Centre.

The result is a triumph for its two deaf sign language tutors - Kay Kaufman and Irene Spielsinger - since this is the first signing course they have taught at the new Centre. Students included volunteers and professionals working with deaf people, as well as those who wanted to learn basic sign language so that they could communicate with deaf friends, clients or work colleagues.

Deaf awareness is an important element of the course, offering an insight into the deaf world and its culture.

The next sign language courses, which last one 'school' year, begin at the end of September, and there are still places available on either Monday afternoons or Wednesday evenings. The cost per term is £45 and people of all faiths are welcome.



Sign language classes at the new JDA Centre

## STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

There will be an Open Coffee Morning on Thursday 2nd September from 11am for anyone interested in enrolling for the Sign Language Course (Stage 1). Please call or fax Kay Kaufman for further details (see below).

**A Communications Group** for people who are in the later stages of the Stage 1 course, or who have already passed the Stage 1 exam, will make its debut this October. Meeting twice a month, this unique group will help signers to maintain and improve their

skills by giving them the opportunity to meet and communicate with deaf people.

Further information from Kay Kaufman, Sign Language Tutor, telephone 0181 446 7975 (voice and minicom), or fax 0181 445 7451.

## \*\*\* Forthcoming Event \*\*\*

Hear!Hear! - the JDA's fundraising committee run by deaf and hearing people, will be holding An Evening of Magic and Hypnotism on Sunday 28th November at the Wingate and Finchley Football Club.

All ages are welcome and although the show will be very visual, there will also be a sign language interpreter on hand to help explain the proceedings.

An induction loop system will be

in operation for hearing aid users. Tickets cost £15 and include entrance donation, coffee and cakes.

Please call us on 0181 446 0502 if you are interested in purchasing tickets, or if you can defray the costs of the event by donating brochure space.

The group is also looking for sponsors to cover the cost of expenses such as refreshments and interpreting.

## JDA on the Web

You can visit the JDA website at: [www.jda.dircon.co.uk](http://www.jda.dircon.co.uk)  
The site is about to be updated, so if there's something you'd like us to include, let us know.



Supporting all deaf and hard of hearing people

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