

Hear! Here!

ISSUE 3 · APRIL 1996



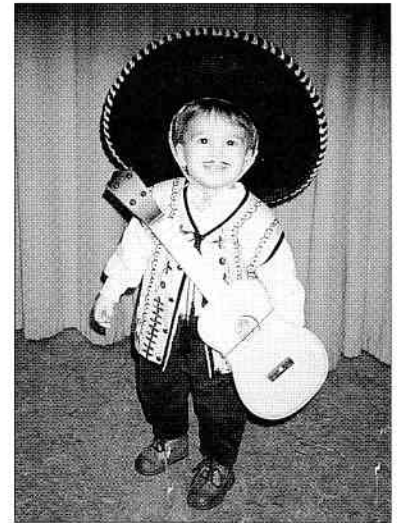
Pat Goldring, Executive Director of the JDA, receives a cheque from HRH Princess Anne at the launch of the Safer Cities Project at Hackney Town Hall.

Jewish Deaf Association honoured by HRH The Princess Royal

On Wednesday 28th February, the JDA received a grant from Crime Concern at the launch of its Safer Cities Project - the only Jewish organisation amongst those being supported by the Project. The money will be used for personal alarms fitted with battery level light indicators especially suitable for deaf people.

JDA
JEWISH DEAF ASSOCIATION

Helping all deaf and hard of hearing people



Purim Party Brings A Smile

The JDA Purim Party was held on Sunday 10th March and brought together a number of new faces with many familiar ones!

Now that's Magic!

The celebrations were added to by a magician who provided entertainment for our young and not-so-young guests!



Welcome - in any language!

The Jewish Deaf Association was delighted to extend a big Purim welcome to a number of deaf visitors from overseas, including those from Russia and Hungary.

Photographs by Myer Solomon.

Chief Rabbi's Wife Visits Project Koleinu

The Project for Deaf Children, named Koleinu ("Our Voice"), has played host to Mrs Elaine Sacks, wife of The Chief Rabbi.

Koleinu was established in 1990 under the joint auspices of the Jewish Deaf Association, Norwood Child Care and the Association for Jewish Youth, and is aimed at youngsters up to the age of twenty one.

Mrs Sacks showed particular interest in the group's scrapbook, which holds photographs and other memorabilia from the group's various outings and activities.

Article reproduced from The Jewish Chronicle.
Photograph by Peter Fisher.

Elaine Sacks hears voice of the deaf



Antony Rabin, co-ordinator of the Koleinu project for the deaf, shows Elaine Sacks, wife of the Chief Rabbi, the group's scrapbook with photos and other reminders of its outings and activities
PHOTO: PETER FISHER

Ruth Rothenberg HENDON

Deaf Jewish youngsters are getting together through new initiatives promoted by Koleinu — "Our Voice."

Koleinu's projects were explained to Elaine Sacks, wife of the Chief Rabbi, on Tuesday by its newly appointed co-ordinator, Antony Rabin.

They include a fortnightly youth club, a three-times-a-year newsletter and regular guest speakers.

Koleinu was established in 1990 under the joint aegis of Norwood Child Care, the Association for Jewish Youth and the Jewish Deaf Association. It is aimed at people up to the age 21.

"The Jewish Deaf Association is well established but its members tend to be older," Mr Rabin said. "A lot of

them were together at the residential school for Jewish deaf children in South-West London. But that closed in 1965."

Mr Rabin, 24, went to a well-known residential school for the deaf in Berkshire, where there were never more than four Jewish pupils.

"Our problem is that we have to tackle two minority issues, being deaf and being Jewish. It is very important that we learn about Shabbat and the festivals, which is not easy, especially away from home."

Koleinu is making a video about Shabbat so that young deaf Jews can not only learn to follow the service, but show their non-Jewish friends how they celebrate Shabbat.

It also operates a mobile resource library and uses the sports and arts facilities of the Norwood family centre in Hendon and the Oxford and St George's Club in Whetstone.

"We need links with each other and with the community," Mr Rabin explained through his sign interpreter, Douglas Silas. "We need the JDA members as role models representing the older generation. We need links with synagogues, services and cheder."

"We need links with other deaf families so that they don't feel isolated. Isolation leads to low esteem and passiveness. We need pride."

The difficulty, Mr Rabin concedes, is that Koleinu members are so widespread. South Londoners have difficulty getting to the venues for club meetings and outings.

But the effort is worthwhile. Jonathan Grunberg, a former youth worker with Koleinu, who now works with Norwood, met his fiancée through Koleinu. For Mr Grunberg, with a happy smile on his face, Koleinu is "the best thing."

Resource Centres Continue To Serve Up The Latest Technology



The JDA's two Resource Centres, in Stoke Newington and Golders Green, continue to offer the latest technology to deaf and hard of hearing people and their carers.

Visitors also have a high regard for the free advice which is offered by the Centres' friendly and knowledgeable staff and volunteers.

JDA Announces New Purpose-Built Centre



The JDA has unveiled its plans for a brand new, purpose-built Centre, which will open in Finchley in the early part of 1997.

The new Centre will have full disabled access and will be fitted with all the latest equipment to serve deaf and hard of hearing people of all ages.

Details of the facilities are now being finalised, through a programme of consultation with JDA members and professional advisers.

This will make the Centre unique in the UK and will provide a modern environment for the Association as it moves towards the new millennium.



Helping all deaf and hard of hearing people

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Registered Charity 209892. Charity Aid Foundation Number 000101491.