

Spring 2003

HAVE WE GOT NEWS FOR YOU!



Mother & Toddlers Group a Success

JDA CAMPAIGNS FOR BETTER DEAF ACCESS



Signing Reverend Makes His Debut



New Website A Hit!



Young non-signers come on board



SEE BACK PAGE FOR 2003 LISTINGS

NEW MINIBUS SOLVES TRANSPORT WORRIES

Transporting elderly JDA members from all over London to our weekly day centre and taking various Deaf and hard of hearing groups on outings and trips is no longer a worry, thanks to the generous **donation of a brand new minibus**. TV and broadcasting star David Jacobs kindly 'cut the ribbon' to the minibus when he visited the centre. Now we can plan more outings for our members without worrying about the cost or logistics of providing transport.



SIGNING SHABBAT

‘The JDA celebrated a double-first in January when it welcomed the world’s first and only female deaf rabbi at its **first-ever members’ Friday night service and supper**.

‘The event was one of a number to be held recently in response to research conducted by the JDA into the needs of its members. Many Deaf people felt that they missed out on synagogue services on Shabbat and High Holy Days because they could not follow the proceedings. In response, the JDA has organised a number of highly successful **sign interpreted services at various synagogues** - but this is the first time that an accessible Friday night service has been held. The service, attended by around 150 congregants - including 35 deaf people - was hosted by Rabbi Lee Wax at the Finchley Reform Synagogue, with supper at the JDA’s Community Centre afterwards.

‘Many of the members were overwhelmed by the evening, saying later that it represented a landmark in their religious lives - never having been able to understand or feel included in a Friday night service before. **Something very special happened on that Friday night** and we want to make sure we don’t lose the momentum of the occasion. We will be planning more events like this in the future and I urge any synagogue, of any affiliation, to **contact us with an offer to host a Shabbat or High Holy Day service in the future**. I promise that it will be an enriching experience for every congregant that attends.’

Sue Cipin, Executive Director

No One Misses Out

‘With its varied programme of speakers and outings, the ‘Sounds Social’ group for hard of hearing people proves that **losing your hearing needn’t mean the end of your social life**. Loop systems are provided for all talks at the JDA and outings are made accessible with the help of professional lip speakers to interpret tour guides. At some venues special portable loop/audio systems are provided, so no one misses out - like on this trip to Brighton last year. ‘Courses on managing hearing loss this year included a highly popular, more intensive course called **“Challenging Deafness”** run by the LINK organisation for deafened people, whilst the **Tinnitus self-help group** and **Tinnitus relaxation courses** continue to run at regular intervals throughout the year.’

Helen Rabin, Manager, Resource & Technology Room



‘The JDA hosts a mother and toddlers group that meets regularly at the JDA or at parents’ homes, so that both **children and parents can form a supportive network** to which they can turn throughout their lives. Advice, information, and an extensive library are also available at the JDA should parents need it.

‘**Parents are invited to attend occasional panel discussions**, held in conjunction with the National Deaf Children’s Society, with visiting speakers and question and answer sessions. It is always a valuable experience **to get together with other parents and discuss common issues** and these evenings are also a useful source of information, providing an opportunity to meet with professionals in the field. Topics covered last year were education, helping parents to build assurance and confidence in respect of education and career prospects for their deaf children, and prejudice against deaf people. More meetings, featuring other important topics, are planned for 2003.’

Mira Goldberg, Department of Information and Deaf Young People



SUPPORTING HEARING PARENTS

‘Generally speaking, deaf parents of deaf children are already aware of the many challenges they will face as their children grow up. But for the hearing parents of deaf children, the choices for their education and social activities may not be so obvious and the prospects can often be quite bewildering.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

‘With a 90%+ pass rate in our Levels 1 and 2 sign language classes, we must be doing something right! Last year, we were delighted to have a **reverend in our Level 1 class** – Avromi Freilich from Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue – who passed his exam with flying colours and marked his debut by delivering a signed talk to

of our excellent Deaf British Sign Language tutors - without the pressure of an exam at the end of the course. A Pass in the Level 1 exam is not required to join the group, which can be attended on a termly basis, so it could be a big help for anyone preparing for a retake.

The JDA's "Signing Social" group meets every second



members during Succot celebrations. He is now advancing his signing skills on the JDA's Level 2 course.

‘Our recently-launched Level 1 Plus group has been a huge success, with Level 1 signers meeting each week to improve their skills with the help of one

Thursday evening and gives Level 1 and 2 British Sign Language students and signers the chance to socialise with Deaf and hearing people, practise their sign language skills and develop their understanding of Deaf issues.’

Kay Kaufman,
Community Liaison Officer

A place of our own

‘Tucked away at the top of the JDA's Community Centre is a secret treasure designed with young people in mind. Last year, thanks to the generosity of good friends, we were able to put the finishing touches to the creation of a new facility – **“The Chat Room”**. This is a contemporary style social lounge with computer training area, incorporating the first internet café in the country for deaf people. The Chat Room was established **to give Jewish deaf youngsters a place of their own** to socialise and relax with like-minded people in an environment designed especially for them.

‘With its comfy sofas and tub seats, wide screen TV with DVD player, hi-fi system, coffee and vending machines and purple pool table, it is a wonderful new venue for younger deaf people to get together with friends, and make new ones.

‘2002 also saw the birth of **“Shalom Attic”** - a new social group for 18-35-year-old Deaf British Sign Language users. The group meets quarterly for a special get together (generally drooling over falafel, bagels and fish balls!) and on the first Monday of every month for ‘Chill Out’ evenings in The Chat Room, where they catch up with all the latest gossip in the Deaf world, play pool or X Box games, chill out with a subtitled DVD, surf the net ... or sign with friends by web cam!’

Mira Goldberg, Department of Information and Deaf Young People



Caught in the Web



Jacqui Press,
Department of
Information and
Deaf Young People

‘Our Internet Café is up and running and being used for computer classes in sign language and as a welcoming and accessible meeting place for young deaf people. I maintain the JDA's vibrant website: **www.jewishdeaf.org.uk** which offers a photo gallery and the latest news on our services, events, courses and facilities - hot off the press!

‘Coming next are **integrated social events for young deaf oral people and their hearing friends**. If you know anyone aged 20-35 years who may be interested in talking to us about a new programme of events, talks, and activities for young adults, please contact me - it would be great to meet them!’





A message from the Chairman

Evelyn Gee - Chairman

‘Looking back over the past year, it’s amazing how much has been achieved at the Jewish Deaf Association. We are reaching more people than ever before and are **constantly expanding our range of services and facilities** to meet the needs of our members and all those who come to us for help, information and advice. Naturally, we could not sustain this level of service without the help of our truly valued donors, staff and volunteers and I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to all of them.’



*Sue Cipin
Executive Director*

A message from the Executive Director

‘At the JDA we never stand still! Not only is there something going on at our community centre in North Finchley, five days a week, but we are also making **huge efforts to reach out into the community**, to educate people about Deaf Awareness and to campaign on behalf of Deaf and hard of hearing people for more access to their religious and cultural heritage. For instance, the JDA continues to campaign for synagogues to hold more sign interpreted services for Shabbat and festivals. Last year, it helped to install loop systems in synagogues and cemetery prayer halls and is constantly working to improve access to communal life for hearing aid wearers and signers alike. **See inside for just a taste of what’s going on at the Jewish Deaf Association.**’

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT THE JEWISH DEAF ASSOCIATION

ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES FOR DEAF PEOPLE

- Day centre - every Wednesday
- Social Club - Sunday evenings
- JDA outings and special events
- Signed synagogue services, cultural activities and celebrations of Jewish festivals
- Information, advice, practical assistance and one-to-one support services
- Computer classes in sign language - Tuesday and Thursday evenings
- ‘The Chat Room’ - contemporary social venue with internet café
- Quarterly magazine
- Social events for young Jewish Deaf people (aged 18-35)

COURSES AND SOCIAL EVENTS FOR HARD OF HEARING PEOPLE

- Personal consultations with independent hearing aid specialist (by appointment only)
- Private one-to-one counselling sessions with qualified counsellor (by appointment only)
- ‘Sounds Social’ - social and cultural group meets Tuesday afternoons, once a month.
- Short courses to help people handle their hearing loss.

PROGRAMMES AND EVENTS FOR HEARING PARENTS OF DEAF CHILDREN
Support, links and information services for parents of children with a hearing loss.
Mother and toddlers group meets regularly.

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES

- Level 1** Evening and daytime classes. 3 terms starting September.
- Level 2** Evening classes. 4 terms starting September.
- Level 1 Plus** Daytime classes. Ongoing. For people wishing to improve their skills but not work towards Level 2 exams.
- Signing Social** Sign language practice and social events. Thursday evenings twice a month.

Deaf Awareness training sessions

Tailor-made to your group, school or cheder class, the sessions educate hearing people so that they understand the challenges encountered by deaf people in their daily lives - and offer advice on communication with deaf people.

JDA RESOURCE & TECHNOLOGY ROOM

Try out and get professional advice on specialised equipment for deaf and hard of hearing people
By appointment only:
Call 020 8446 0214 (voice and textphone)
Family and carers welcome

EVENTS FOR YOUNG DEAF NON-SIGNERS

Coming soon, events for deaf and hard of hearing people and their friends (aged 20-35).
Contact Jacqui Press on:
jacqui@jda.dircon.co.uk

TINNITUS SELF HELP GROUP & TINNITUS MANAGEMENT COURSES

Tinnitus self-help group meets every two months on Tuesday afternoons. Tinnitus relaxation courses - four week courses one morning per week.

STOP PRESS: See up to the minute details of all JDA events and activities at our new website address: www.jewishdeaf.org.uk



How to contact the Jewish Deaf Association

Address: Julius Newman House, Woodside Park Road, North Finchley, London N12 8RP
Telephone: 020 8446 0502 (Voice) **Resource Room:** 020 8446 0214 (Voice & Textphone)
Textphone: 020 8446 4037 **Web:** www.jewishdeaf.org.uk
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