

HAVE WE GOT NEWS FOR YOU!



AUTUMN/WINTER
2001/2

**50 YEARS ON AND MAKING
EVEN MORE OF A DIFFERENCE**

**JDA OPENS 1st DEAF
INTERNET CAFE**

JDA RAISES DEAF AWARENESS

**MEETING
GROWING
DEMAND**

SEE BACK PAGE FOR AUTUMN/WINTER LISTINGS

A message from the chairman

“When my father created the Jewish Deaf Association (JDA) 50 years ago, he could never have imagined how much of an impact its activities would make on the lives of the hundreds of Deaf and hard of hearing people - and their families - who have passed through its doors since then. Our programmes and facilities have grown in line with the changing needs of people with a hearing loss and we are constantly striving to improve the services we can offer them.

“Here's what our staff and lay leaders are planning for the coming year...”



Evelyn Gee - Chairman

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE IT!



"Deaf people have a culture - and a language - all of their own. And the JDA's welcoming community centre is a place where they can feel totally at home. For the older generation, the JDA is the **only place** to get together with friends, to share social experiences, memories and traditions.

"Our vibrant programme means that there's never an excuse to stay at home! There are trips to places

of interest, speakers to help broaden horizons, subtitled movie nights, holidays, religious festivities, parties and an ongoing programme of activities and entertainment. The fun never ends!"



Jo Meyer -
Centre Administrator

SIGNificant changes ahead



JDA Council member and religious adviser, Douglas Silas, conducting a signed Seder service

"Jewish deaf and hard of hearing people have been excluded from synagogue life for too long. They can't follow the proceedings and if no attempt is made to welcome them and respond to their needs, they just give up and stop attending services.

"We are campaigning hard to encourage synagogues of all affiliations to provide occasional signed and explanatory services, especially on High Holydays. The next stage is to train more sign language interpreters in basic Jewish ritual, so that they can be available to interpret services more regularly."

WORLD WISE WEB

Martin Bogard - Computer course tutor reports

"Even I was surprised at just how popular our computer classes in sign language would be! JDA members have been queuing up to learn how to use computers and gain access to the Internet, which opens up a whole new world for deaf people.

"Our Internet Café will be the first in the deaf community and I'm sure it will be a great meeting place for young deaf people who will make good use of the vibrant website we are currently developing - and link up with deaf and hearing friends on an equal basis."



Parents need help too



"Hearing parents with deaf children need to consume a mountain of information to be sure that they are making the right choices for their child. The JDA offers unbiased support, practical information and guidance from people with expertise, who have learned

important lessons through their own personal experiences. We also put parents in touch with each other, to share ideas and information. Our library stocks a vast range of books and videos on deaf-related matters.

"We're here, and we want to help. Maybe it's a speaker on a topic of particular interest, a training session, or a chance to meet successful deaf youngsters to find out their views ... whatever it is, please let us know what you would like the JDA to do for you!"



Mira Goldberg -
Co-ordinator,
Department of
Information and
Young People

SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES SOARING



"The JDA's sign language classes, which are open to all faiths, have been so successful that we are now offering an additional course in the more advanced, Stage 2 level, as well as a social group for signing practice.

"We are also keen to educate hearing people so that they understand the needs and challenges encountered by deaf people in their daily lives.

"We hold tailor-made Deaf Awareness sessions, which help to make a difference to the lives of deaf and hard of hearing people. Could we do the same for your business, society or community group?"



Kay Kaufman -
Community Liaison
Officer

Before you buy it, try it

Helen Rabin reports



Helen Rabin -
Manager,
Resource and
Technology
Room

"Many of the people who use the JDA's facilities are hard of hearing or suffer from Tinnitus. They have different needs to Deaf people, both socially and in the technology they use to help make life easier.

"In our Resource and Technology Room, we are constantly updating information and displays of equipment so that they can make informed choices.



"Due to increased demand, our mini-courses in Tinnitus relaxation and 'How to Manage Hearing Loss' will now run more regularly.

"Our social and cultural group for hard of hearing people goes from strength to strength with a fascinating programme of speakers and visits and we're still working hard to persuade synagogues to install loop systems so that hearing aid wearers can follow services more easily."

Jewish Deaf Association

care - support - action

"The Jewish Deaf Association is there for everyone who needs us. Where we identify a need, we try to find a solution. It could be anything from launching a self-help group for Tinnitus sufferers, to harnessing the talents of a hearing aid specialist who volunteers his time to give impartial advice.

"There is no doubt that the JDA has made an enormous difference to the lives of deaf and hard of hearing people and we will continue to do so by tailor-making programmes and services to suit their needs.



"None of this would be possible without the support of our donors, staff and volunteers, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their unfailing support.

"If you would like to join us in our valuable work - either as a donor or as one of our volunteers - or if there is anything that you think we can do for **you** - please contact me at the number below."

Sue Cipin -
Executive Director

LISTINGS Autumn/Winter 2001/2

See our **NEW Website** - listing activities, events and news at www.jda.dircon.co.uk**

DEAF PEOPLE

Day centre - Wednesdays

Social club - Sunday evenings

Computer classes - Tuesday and Thursday evenings

NEW Internet Café and drop-in social lounge - Monday, Wednesday and Sunday evenings (subject to community centre opening times)**

HARD OF HEARING PEOPLE

Personal consultations with independent hearing aid specialist *

Private one-to-one counselling sessions with qualified counsellor (by appointment only)

'Sounds Social' - social and cultural group - Tuesday afternoons, once a month

'How to manage your hearing loss' - four-week courses on Thursday afternoons *

TINNITUS SUFFERERS

Tinnitus Self-Help Group - Meets every two months on Tuesday afternoons *

Tinnitus Relaxation Therapy four-week courses on Sunday mornings *

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES

Stage 1 - Three terms commencing October - daytime or evening classes

NEW Stage 2 - Three terms commencing October - evening classes

Signing Social - sign language practice and social events - Thursday evenings twice a month

HEARING PEOPLE

Deaf Awareness training sessions (personalised for your group)

Support, links and information services for parents of children with a hearing loss

PEOPLE WITH HEARING LOSS OR TINNITUS

Resource & Technology Room - by appointment only.

Tel: 020 8446 0214 (voice and textphone). Family and carers welcome

* Please contact JDA for date of next meeting

** From Winter 2001



How to contact the Jewish Deaf Association

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