

Hear, Here!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JEWISH DEAF ASSOCIATION

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New Centre begins to take shape

The new JDA Centre is now developing into a multi-user educational, social and communications centre.

Thanks to the support of our many donors and friends, the Centre has been equipped with computers, furniture and leisure facilities - but more is still needed if the JDA Centre is to continue with its vital work.



The new Computer Room at the Centre offers facilities for members to communicate and learn, using state-of-the-art technology, including CD-ROM, internet and e-mail.

Kay Kaufman (pictured above), our sign language tutor, has been running signing classes since last September.



Our members now have the world literally at their fingertips, as demonstrated by Katie Solomons (above).

The Day Centre provides a wide variety of leisure facilities. Pictured right are a group of members in the throes of a very competitive game of Scrabble, prior to enjoying a hot kosher lunch.



Evelyn Gee Receives Major Award

The Chairman of the JDA, Mrs Evelyn Gee, has been awarded the prestigious Pentland Jewish Care Award for her "special individual

outstanding contribution to the community".

Mrs Gee was presented with her award at a luncheon in December at

London's Grosvenor House Hotel. In addition to the award, Mrs Gee received a cheque for £1,000, which she donated to the JDA.

JDA
JEWISH DEAF ASSOCIATION

Supporting all deaf and hard of hearing people

JDA Welcomes Elaine Sacks

The JDA recently welcomed Elaine Sacks, wife of the Chief Rabbi, to Julius Newman House.

The visit, on 4th November, enabled Mrs Sacks to see the tremendous progress which has been made in equipping and furnishing the new Centre since it was officially opened in May, including the new computer room.

She chatted to members using a signing interpreter, and was presented with a framed certificate to commemorate her visit.

Dr Jonathan Sacks is one of the JDA's Patrons.



Mrs Elaine Sacks at the JDA with Helen Rabin, Judith Morgan and Pat Goldring

Sounds Social is the new cultural group for the hard of hearing, which will be meeting once a month for talks from a spectrum of speakers and guests.

The group was launched by Lady Jakobovits, a Patron of the JDA, who also acted as

Sounds Social

the first guest speaker at the inaugural meeting in October.

Seasoned speaker Michael Grey was the next to address the group, in November,

followed by Clive Lawton in January, speaking about the Anne Frank Trust.

Future dates include:
Thursday 25th March (2-4pm) writer/actress Bettine Le Beau talks about her new book, 'An Invitation to Happiness'.
Tuesday 20th April (2-4pm) Sergeant Danny Phillips talks



At the Official Opening Ceremony for the new JDA Centre last year, Lord Janner is joined by George Gee, Rev Michael Plaskow, Philip Brackman and Pat Goldring (above) at the unveiling of a commemorative plaque in the entrance to the new JDA Centre.

Lord Janner tries out the Minicom with Martin Bogard and Pat Goldring (right) as George and Evelyn Gee look on.

Lord Janner 'cuts the ribbon'



A Moving Day at Beth Shalom

In October, the JDA became the first deaf group to visit the Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial in Nottingham. Our Chairman, Mrs Evelyn Gee, was amongst the group, which was accompanied by a sign language interpreter, and all of whom found the experience both fascinating and moving. And none more so than one of our members, Ann Senchal, who was a Kindertransport survivor, and who lost both



parents and her elder brother to the Nazis. During the visit, a rose in the memorial garden was dedicated 'to the victims of the Holocaust'. A loop induction system has now been installed at Beth Shalom to enable all those with hearing difficulties to better understand the lectures given at the Centre. The JDA's Executive Director, Pat Goldring says: 'It is important for our members to have full access to their cultural heritage and to centres such as Beth Shalom, which is an outstanding source of research and information about the Holocaust.'



Above left: members listen intently to the talk given by the Director of the Beth Shalom Centre, with the aid of a signing interpreter.

Left and above: the planting of a rose, dedicated to those who fell victim to the Holocaust.

MR NORMAN PROZZER FCA, 20.6.39 - 1.2.99

We were all deeply saddened by the recent death of Norman Prozzor, our Vice Chairman, and a driving force in the development of the JDA for many years. Norman made an incalculable contribution to the organisation, and will be sorely missed by all who had the privilege to know him.

Latest News from the JDA

Lip reading and signing classes

The new Centre offers courses in lip reading, and classes in signing, for beginners to advanced levels. These are now in full swing.

Call 0181 446 0502 for details.

Chanukah Party

The JDA Chanukah Party on 13th December was a rip-roaring success, and a great time was had by all who joined us.

Tennis Tournament

Martin Bogard and Heidi stilling raised an amazing £2,000 in a twelve-hour sponsored tennis marathon during the summer. The event was staged by the JDA's fundraising committee, 'Hear, Here', and was combined with a Strawberry Tea at the home of Evelyn and George Gee.

Over forty JDA members, plus their families and friends enjoyed a day of activities, at the end of which, Kay Kaufman, the JDA's sign-language

tutor, presented the Gees with a glass bowl in recognition of all their hard work and dedication to the organisation.

The money raised by Martin and Heidi will be used to provide the JDA with a video telephone system, as well as software for the new computer network.

New Video Phone System

The new system has now been installed with help from the RNID.

Course on Jewish history

The Spiro Institute has just started a course on Jewish history, with signed classes for those with hearing difficulties. Call Janette Hechel at the Spiro Institute on 0171 431 0345 - Typetalk, for details of the course and dates.

Koleinu

The group for deaf young people is now housed at our new Centre, and a full programme of future activities

and outings is being developed. Call Mira Goldberg on 0181 446 0579 (minicom) to find out why the is attracting interest from more and more young people.

Deaf Awareness programmes

The JDA is helping to raise awareness of the difficulties encountered by people with deafness and hearing problems and their carers through a series of visits to the new Centre.

The latest of these was by forty Jewish Girl Guides from the Woodside Park Synagogue Pack. The Guides learned about signing and communications, as part of their Deaf Awareness badge course.

Wills and Bequests

The JDA has produced a new leaflet giving information on how to leave a bequest to the JDA. The leaflet answers all your questions about how to go about making or changing your will, and is free on request.

Koleinu kids keep a close Watch on their local Brigade



Children from Koleinu look on as the Hendon Fire Service demonstrates hose techniques.

Children from the Koleinu group recently paid a visit to Hendon Fire station to experience first hand the work that goes into keeping us safe from fire and how fires are dealt with.

The Koleinu group is now based at the new JDA Centre, and is looking forward to a varied programme of outings and events aimed at bringing together young people with hearing difficulties.

Call 0181 446 0579 for more information.



Supporting all deaf and hard of hearing people

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