

Special Features

History of *JDA Together Magazine*

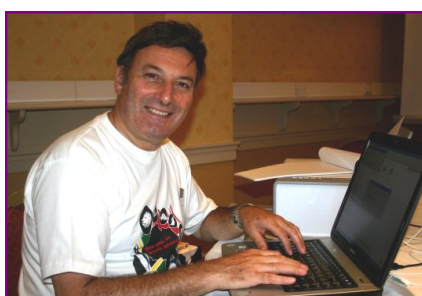
Kay Kaufman retires after 20 years as Editor

Wow! It has been 20 years since I became the Editor of the JDA Magazine. It's the right time to tell you the story of the life of our beloved JDA Magazine. I will try my best to churn out my memories here!

Previously it was called the JDA Newsletter. It was formed in the 1980s by the JDA Central Committee and was produced by members and volunteers.

The newsletter was originally typed out on a typewriter and then copies made on a Gestetner duplicating machine.

David Jackson produced the covers.



David Jackson, our previous Cover Designer, working hard on his laptop!

A few years later, we moved with the times by using an Atari computer via David. He was the Desktop Publisher as he was a skilled computer programmer and knew the ins and outs of the computer business, having worked for ICL/Fujitsu for over 20 years, before leaving to manage his company Deaf IT Solutions.

The Central Committee decided that they needed an editor for the newsletter. I was elected as the Editor of the JDA Newsletter at the JDA AGM in 1992 at Cazenove Road, working on a voluntary basis.

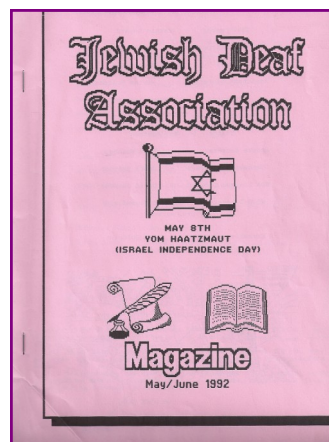
David Jackson, Martin Bogard and Richard Weinbaum, who were all skilled in computer work, assisted me with the art layout and the cover of the JDA newsletter.

Myer and Miriam Solomon very kindly helped with the distribution, sending out the newsletters to our members.



Martin Bogard, our previous Desktop Publisher and Printer

The editing, art layout and design of the cover was at the time simply typing up and collating articles and photocopying pictures or photos ... which sometimes didn't come out too well!



My first issue of the JDA Magazine in May 1992 with David Jackson's cover design

The printing was done by photocopying the pages in black and white (colour photocopying was exceedingly expensive back then). Only the cover was on coloured paper. The contents and cover were stapled together. Back then, there were very limited resources on the computer to deal with the design of the newsletter and printing costs were too expensive.

The JDA Newsletter was then altered to become the JDA Magazine, as it had now grown to contain more than a newsletter. It included our activities programme, details of forthcoming events and a Personal Column for people to share their news with the community. I also collated information that I thought would interest the members and encouraged members to write or contribute articles.

When computers became easier to use, both David and Martin helped greatly to improve the look of the newsletter by using the new software, Microsoft Publisher. At the time I was not very skilled in computer work, so Martin (also our JDA computer tutor) trained me on how to use Microsoft Publisher and Word. I attended City Lit courses and gradually became computer literate!

After a few years, David resigned as our Desktop Publisher, as he had other work commitments and was then moving to live in Bristol. I was indeed grateful for his work in the early years. Martin took over his position as Desktop Publisher and Cover Designer, while I did the editorial work. Martin worked at Océ photocopying company and was given permission to use their photocopying machines to print out the magazines.

Special Features

Martin worked very hard to print out over 200 copies in his spare time outside his work hours. Looking back, I remember Martin did a great deal of work with the newsletter, so much of my heartfelt gratitude went to Martin.

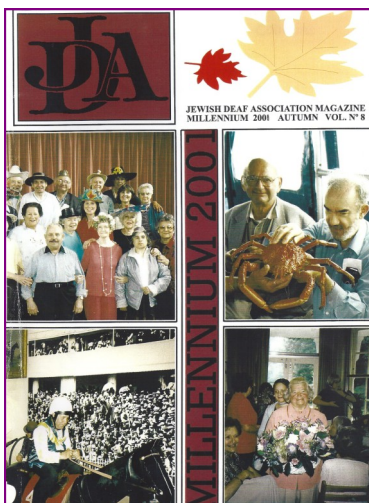
When Sue Cipin took over as Executive Director of the JDA in 1999, it was decided that I would be paid for the magazine editorial work as part of my staff duties at JDA. It was felt that the magazine was an important source of information for the Jewish Deaf community, so my magazine work should be incorporated as part of my already paid work as Activities and Information Officer. The editorial team's roles were changed. I was the Editor and I also became the Desktop Publisher as Martin now had a lot more work commitments.

So Martin became the Publisher Advisor and Printer of the magazine. Thanks to Martin's excellent guidance, I grew more confident and capable of doing the art layout of the magazine, whilst Martin continued to photocopy the magazine at his work. Sue did the proofreading and Myer and Miriam Solomon continued with the distribution. I also went on a course at DeafWorks to learn how to produce good magazines.

Around this time, in the early 2000s, Bernard Polchar, a long standing JDA member, came along and generously offered his creative skills in graphic design on a voluntary basis - as he was formerly a graphic designer.



The late Bernard Polchar, our previous Cover Designer



Bernard created many superb cover designs for the JDA's editorial team to choose from for each issue of the JDA Magazine. He also produced a new JDA Magazine logo (see picture, left).

Bernard Polchar's cover design with new JDA Logo

Bernard then became our Cover Designer and Advisor as part of the editorial team, sharing some of his experiences of his past work with newsletters for deaf and hearing clubs. I have kept his invaluable advice to this day.

We had our editorial meetings three or four times a year to discuss the printing of each issue. However, with Bernard's ill health, he was unable to continue with this work and sadly, we eventually lost a valuable member of the editorial team.

Shortly afterwards, we were very fortunate that the Liberal Jewish Synagogue United Charities Fund came forward to generously sponsor the production costs of the JDA Magazine.

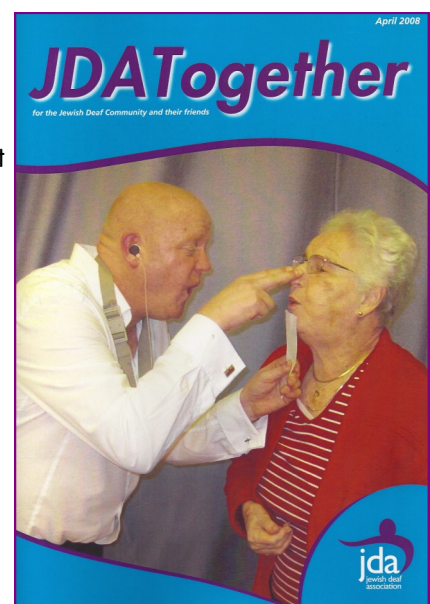
Martin decided it was good time for him to step down as the Printer as his work commitments had grown. He knew that the sponsorship would cover the professional printing costs and for someone at Kellmatt (our very supportive printing company) to do the cover design that we have today. Still, I do miss Martin not being a part of the editorial team, as his input was invaluable.

In 2008 we consulted with members, staff and volunteers for ideas of a new title for the magazine, to create a more professional impression, to give better 'Phwoar!' impact and to reflect the philosophy and aims of the magazine.

Many good ideas were put forward and the name *JDA Together* was chosen, representing the Jewish Deaf community and their friends.

The new JDA logo had been designed by then and we decided to adopt this on the cover and use the JDA colours of turquoise and purple to give it a vibrant, distinctive look in JDA style.

Thus, the new *JDA Together* Magazine was born!



Our first glossy colour cover in April 2008 - starring Elaine Cohen!

Special Features



**Myer and Miriam Solomon,
the JDA Together Magazine distributors**

It had been my dream for many years for the magazine to have a glossy look, on par with the publications of other deaf organisations such as RNID's 'One in Seven' (now called 'Action on Hearing Loss' Magazine) and British Deaf News.

Thanks to the Liberal Jewish Synagogue's very generous support we were able to achieve this and hey ho, we have the wonderful glossy cover and colour on every page to this day. I felt like dancing in wet puddles and singing in the rain ... "What a wonderful feeling, I'm happy again...!"

Myer and Miriam Solomon have steadfastly continued to be responsible for the distribution of the magazine on a voluntary basis and we are all so grateful for their help and support for many years. They also wrote many excellent articles for our magazine and this will never be forgotten, together with Myer's wonderful photographs of nature and buildings which were printed in some issues.

Now, here we are with a glossy and vibrant JDA Together magazine for the Jewish Deaf community and their friends, and enjoyed and praised by deaf and hearing people in several different countries. I have been very proud of being involved with the development and transformation of the magazine over the past 20 years and am thankful to everyone who helped out with their input, skills and contributions.

It is now time for a new Editor to take over to enable me, the flagging old Editor, to move on to new pastures and to inject some fresh and stimulating ideas so that the JDA Together Magazine continues to grow in importance and status for the Jewish Deaf community and their friends.

I wish the new Editor, whoever he or she may be, many rewarding and successful years with the editorial work.

**Kay Kaufman
Retiring Editor**