



# שלום shalom

liberal judaism

## Character(s) of ELS

By Arnold Aarons

As I came away from the Service of Dedication of the new Torah mantel in memory of Clark May, alav hashalom, I thought how my life had been enriched by knowing him and other old friends who have passed away during the nearly 40 years of my membership of ELS.

I know that my writing skills are too inadequate to properly describe those individuals so dear to those who knew them, but for the record I would like to try, however sketchily, to convey my impressions of three of them.

It may seem strange to describe a little lady in her eighties as innocent but to those who knew Lisl Sperlinger, that's just what she was. A dear gentle soul, she was totally dedicated to the synagogue and to the Womens Guild in particular; she left a legacy in the form of little handmade collecting boxes in which small-denomination coins were to be accumulated for counting out at a special box-opening day and distributed to various charities, a tradition which continues to this day.

Another stalwart of the Womens Guild but of much sterner stuff was Rita Barnes. A tough little cookie and great bridge player, she often used one of two expressions: when too low value a card had been played, she would remark contemptuously, "sending a boy to do a man's job"!-or when some poor player failed to draw trumps, "those who don't draw trumps sleep under the Embankment"!

If one was looking for someone to describe as a gentleman, one need look no further than Edward Arie. It is difficult, for me at any rate, to define what it is that justifies the description but whatever it was, Edward had it in spades. Perhaps odd to characterise someone born in the dying years of the Austro-Hungarian Empire as the epitome of a polite English gentleman, but so he was.

They may be long gone but they are still dear in my memory.

Rabbi  
**Janet Burden**

President  
**Arnold Aarons**

Chair of Council  
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Shalom Editor  
**Sue Hurst**

The family of the late Clark May want to express sincere thanks and appreciation to Rabbi Janet Burden, and the President and Council of ELS both for the beautiful tribute to his memory and for the moving, delightful Shabbat morning service in which the Torah Scroll, with its mantle dedicated to Clark's memory, was first used on 21 March 2009. Thank you all  
*Vivienne Shreir and family*

# Diary of a Limuddnik

By Carole Orgell-Rosen

**This year Strictly Israeli Dancing was fun. Watching Limmud well-known's compete against each other with professional dancers in the most awful pantomime costumes.**

For the second year running I brave the M40 and take the turn off in the dark of a very cold winter's night, December 27th, and arrive at Warwick University, which of course is not in Warwick but in Coventry.

On arrival CST prevent me taking luggage into the building.

I obviously look fishy bundled up in scarf, hat and gloves, shlep back to car park, back to reception which is not opening at 7.30pm as advertised as staff are still being trained on the new registration system, but being Jewish we of course do not complain and stand in an orderly quiet line – oh yeah!

Meet nice Man from Manchester who advises me not to leave my sat nav in car (I haven't, but politely nod). Why? Well burglars in Manchester are pinching them from cars, connecting them up in their own cars, pressing home on the screen and then burglarising the house whilst its owners are still in the car looking for their (pinched) Sat Nav to help them find their way home.

Finally getting through the new registration process (which was abandoned next day) I trudged through the dark, from car park to room, a very nice student room with the essential Jewish woman requirement of ensuite, sadly no hair dryer.

Then back to main building for one of the post Shabbat sessions, not fancying starting with seduction and recognition in the story of Judah and Tamar or being a Maccabee Wannabee ( a war board game) I slipped off to the Acoustic Café, (with bar) to listen in comfy chair to the talented (and brave) who take the mike to perform, whilst sipping fair-trade coffee with a brandy, for warmth of course!

What a magical experience Limmud is, whether one goes for Shabbat or post Shabbat, the days, and nights are what you wish to do, when you wish to do it, and the choice is so broad there really is something for everyone, or one can chill in the café or bar or shop in Shuk. Young Limmud was very active, as were the kids and they clearly had a great time. Food is good for mass catering and kosher, one can go to Chavurah every day and study/ debate/ argue texts – right up my street, pop into the Beit Midrash and learn with scholars who did not seem used to debating Talmud with a Liberal woman, but coped admirably, learn to knit Kippot (seemed to be mainly chaps at this one) or go to a session of personal interest for example – 'a Synagogue is not a business' – yes council members I went to this one. Going to hear Ron Prosser the Israeli Ambassador speak about the situation in Gaza, hearing families from Gaza and Israel speak of the loss of brother and daughter and how this brought them together to work for peace is all part of Limmud and how broad and open it is.

The sessions run from 8am until the early hours and Israeli dancing and other socials start at 11pm. This year Strictly Israeli Dancing was fun, watching Limmud well-known's compete against each other with professional dancers in the most awful pantomime costumes. The closing night gala (New Years Eve) a mixture of pantomime and various music acts that had performed.

## From the Rabbi's desk: Introduction of a quiet monthly service

A little while ago, Rites and Practices chair Carole Rosen and I hosted a 'Shabbat Services Discussion Tea' with our Vatikim, a Hebrew term which essentially translates as 'the veterans' of our community. We formulated a questionnaire and then based some of our discussion on it. The purpose of this exercise was two-fold: 1) to reflect consciously on the nature and goals of our services and 2) to consider what works and what doesn't work for people in the service format. The results were very interesting indeed, and I would be happy to share these with anyone who might be like to have a look at them. We propose to conduct a similar exercise soon with our religion school families and with other parts of the ELS community to help us formulate our strategy for the future.

One thing became immediately apparent from this first group in the consultation, however: a large number of our regular service attendees place a high value on time for quiet and reflection. This is not to say that they do not enjoy our lively family services, but there is a need for meditative space that we are perhaps currently not fulfilling as much as we might.

Accordingly, we are proposing to introduce a once a month "Quiet Service" which will be held on the last Shabbat of every month starting from July. We would have introduced it earlier, but we already have a Chavurah Supper planned for Shavuot on 29 May and a special final visit from our shlichah (Israel emissary) on 27 June.

We hope that our members will welcome this innovation at ELS. Depending on the results of the wider consultation, we may also introduce Shabbat morning services that are especially aimed at our toddlers and young children, or which are essentially opportunities for extended Jewish study. If you have other suggestions, I would be very pleased to hear from you.

Obviously, if a festival coincides with that last Shabbat, we may occasionally have to move the Quiet Service, but we will make every effort to notify members in advance through the Shalom calendar.

*Shalom u'vrachah, peace and blessings*  
Rabbi Janet

### **Leo Baeck College Ordination**

My class will be ordained on Sunday 5 July at the West London Synagogue. I would love to have all my friends there to share this special occasion with me. If you would like to come, please let me know and I will add you to the invitation list. Perhaps the easiest way to reach me is by email: [janetdarley@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:janetdarley@blueyonder.co.uk)

# Finding long lost cousins

By Jeremy Fraser

The Fraser family (on my father's side) have lived in the UK since the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, we have a family tree showing Abraham Ben Friedeberg and a few of his decedents being Ship's Chandlers in Portsmouth, what a perfect work for enterprising Jews!

So listening as I did last November to The Today Programme it was time for "A Thought for The Day" which is broadcast at 7.50am most mornings. John Humphries introduced "The Reverend Giles Fraser, Vicar of Putney".

Not being over enthusiastic to hear a Christian story I was about to switch channel when he began to talk about the recent visit to Auschwitz of Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Sacks and The Archbishop of Canterbury so I stayed tuned. His theme changed to his beliefs and family history when he explained that before coming to England his grandparents were in Germany and called Friedeberg, because of the intolerable position in Germany they managed to leave just before Kristalnacht in 1938 and escaped to England.

He went on to say that in time they Anglicized the name to Fraser. Giles was bought up with no particular religion and little knowledge if any of his Jewish heritage and over the years found Christianity.

"On no they did not", I thought to myself, this seems a huge coincidence, have I found new cousins I knew nothing about or has he got it wrong? Well to cut a long story short he had got it wrong. I Googled his name to be able to contact him and over the next few weeks found out that he was in fact my second cousin.

My father Cyril had two brothers Harold and Edward, Edward had no children from his marriage but Harold whom I never met had Tony and Michael.

I last met Tony as youngster of about 16 and since then have not been in touch although we knew he had a career in the Royal Air Force. Tony married Gilly and had 3 children Giles being one of them.

We planned to all meet up in February this year and did so at my house over lunch on a Saturday, my mother sister and brother came with their spouses, Tony and Gilly came with Giles his wife and their 3 young children.

It was great introducing them to Mrs, Ms or Mr. Fraser, there were so many of us. Fascinating to look at photos of my father and mother as a young couple with my brother David, Michael and Tony as 7 year olds in school uniform on Brighton pier (the town I was brought up in and where my mum still lives). It was and terrific for my brother David whose friendship with Tony was very important and started pre 1939. To make sure we had a record of this special reunion we took a number of photos in the garden.

Everyone was fascinated by their newly found cousinhood and especially Giles, when I showed him a photo and book written by his great Uncle Sam Friedeberg a well known Rabbi know then as the Reverend Sam Friedeberg, B.A. wearing a dog collar as was the tradition at the time. "You are not the only Reverend in the family!!".

We are all hoping to see each other again possibly at the vicarage and to meet the other cousins who live in Fulham.

*ONEG on May 8th 2009 at 7.00pm*

## **Cariad bach, can you be Welsh and Jewish?**

### **Oy veh, I think you can!**

There will be an Oneg about connections between the Welsh people and the Jewish people. (deep talk about consequent identity crises only by request on the evening.)

The talk will be illustrated by a brief history of Jewish communities in Wales including information about the anti-Jewish riots in Tredegar in 1911, by personal anecdotes (not too many and definitely not from 1911), by readings from Welsh-Jewish poets and novelists and by a reading from the script of a movie filmed in Welsh, English and Yiddish.

All Welcome - the ability to speak Welsh and /or Hebrew/Yiddish is not a pre-requisite for attendance.

**Contact Patricia Franks for further details.**

## From the Chair

Definitely looks like summer is coming. Haven't we all had just the most fantastic weather over the break which hopefully will follow through for a sunny summer. Of course this will be grand for all of us staying in the UK for our annual holiday whether because the pound is so weak against everyone else's currency or being green/avoiding the airlines. As I am happily ensconced in Somerset, even travelling up to London these days is a treat. But I am missing everyone at ELS.

This will probably be my last Chair's bit in Shalom as I will be stepping down at the AGM. I have not seen as much of you as I would have liked but this new life up here/down here (have never really figured that one out – is Somerset up or down from London?) has taken over much of my time.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped me carry out my duties from a distance as well as all of you who have worked so hard to make ELS such a wonderful place to come to for both social and religious events.

I know that the new Chair and Council will continue to look after the best interests of ELS and carry on the fantastic work that so many of you have been involved with over the years. We have a strong community with so many diverse talents as well as a clever and warm Rabbi to help lead us. So we can only go on to bigger and better things in the future. And I will be back whenever I can.

Best,  
*Meryl*

## Food collection for needy people in Ealing

In these difficult times when people are losing homes and jobs, and some are even finding it difficult even to eat decently, it occurred to a few of us that we would like to help in some way, however small.

The idea is to invite members of our congregation to donate tins of food which will be delivered to the Salvation Army in West Ealing. The SA, recognised by the Government and by many other homelessness charities as the most effective workers with the homeless, distributes food to local people in need.

The SA has the reputation of being an honest and reliable charitable organisation and have said they would greatly welcome food donations (tins only, and well-packaged cleaning or personal care items like soap or shampoo).

It's also an appropriate time for ELS to be seen in the general community as an organisation that cares about others and feels involved in what goes on locally.

Please drop off items (as described above) that you are able to give, or bring them when you come to services. At the end of May I will take everything down to the SA in Ealing with good wishes from the congregation of ELS. There will be a clearly-marked box (or boxes, depending on our community's generosity!) at ELS for this purpose. Please ensure everything is well within its use-by date.

If it's easier for anyone to bring their donation to my house, do contact me.

Please give as generously as you can. However little it is, do make that effort - everything is welcome and lots of small donations will amount to a lot of food!

Thank you.

*Alex Broman*  
*a.broman@btinternet.com*

## Ealing Liberal Synagogue

is looking for

### a part-time Communications Manager

Up to 15 hours per week.

Flexible hours and place of work (suitable for home working).

Would suit warm, positive person with good written, verbal & pc skills.

**£8,000 per year.**

Please send applications to Diane Richards at [diane.richards@leadersquest.org](mailto:diane.richards@leadersquest.org)

[www.ealingliberalsynagogue.org.uk](http://www.ealingliberalsynagogue.org.uk)

**Closing date: 28 May 2009**



## V&A: Judaica Collection

### A unique tour

*3rd June 2009, 10.45am - 12.30pm*

Join Liberal Judaism Daytimers for a unique private tour of the Victoria and Albert Museum's Judaica collection, with expert guide Marilyn Green.



13th century spice box

Why not join us afterwards for an optional curry lunch at Bombay Brasserie?

To book please call Elana Sondel on 020 7631 9824 or email [elana@liberaljudaism.org](mailto:elana@liberaljudaism.org) by 25th May. Places limited to 20.

*Free of charge. All welcome.*

# Board of Deputies Report

By Dina Gold

The Board's annual regional plenary was held on 15 March in Oxford.

The President, Henry Grunwald QC, reported that he had just returned from Belfast where he had attended the launch of the Northern Ireland Friends of Israel, organised by local trade unionists. Two hundred people, the majority not Jewish, as well as Rev Dr Ian Paisley "a staunch friend of Israel" had attended the event in Stormont Castle.

The Board is organising a twinning scheme in which synagogues around the country will be encouraged to reach out to local Muslim groups or mosques to establish contacts.

Anti-racism co-ordinator, Ruth Smeeth, spoke about the Board's nationwide "Hope Not Hate" campaign aimed at stopping the British National Party from winning seats in June's European elections. This year the BNP is predicted to get one million votes (compared with 808,000 in 2004) which would enable them to win 3 seats in the European Parliament.

Nick Griffin, leader of the BNP, stood for election in the North West constituency in 2004 but was unsuccessful because he spent too much time

campaigning for other members of his party. Ms Smeeth warned that he had learnt his lesson and would be concentrating this time on making sure he is elected. The North West region has an allocation of 8 MEPs and the BNP only needs 8.5% of the vote to win a seat. If this happens "BNP leader Nick Griffin could be representing the Manchester Jewish community in Europe."

Ms Smeeth warned that if Nick Griffin is elected he will become leader of European Nazis and try to establish a pan-European parliamentary alliance of right-wing groups.

The Board is distributing 1,000 special election kits, under the slogan "Your Voice or Theirs", containing posters, leaflets and balloons, to help get people out to vote for a mainstream party. Three regions are at particular risk of returning a BNP MEP: the North West, London and the South East. Each MEP receives £250,000 from the public purse and if the BNP is successful in the Euro elections they will capitalise on that to stand in the UK general election.

Find out more about the campaign: <http://www.fight-racism.co.uk> where there is information on how to register to vote or get a postal vote.

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## The Board of Deputies - a Year in Review, 2008-2009

The **BOARD of DEPUTIES of BRITISH JEWS** exists to protect and defend the rights and freedoms of British Jewry. It represents the community at the highest level and engages with every issue that impacts on Jewish life in the UK. Here are some of the areas of our activity for the last 12 months:

In **Defence and Group Relations**, the Board

- ran a successful voter registration and anti-BNP campaign that put voter turnout on 1 May in targeted areas at an all-time high
- obtained assurances from Government that changes in GP work time changes would not affect the right to Sabbath observance
- joined the Government's Antisemitism Working Group to implement the recommendations of the All-Party

### Inquiry into Antisemitism

- monitored moves affecting shechita and brit milah
- organised the Fair Play Campaign Group monitors and responds to anti-Israel boycott activity
- represented the interests of employees and students faced with exam clashes and difficulties getting time off work over the Chaggim

In the **International arena** the Board

- organised a special 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 'Diamond Delegation' to visit Israel to meet with those living in Sderot, senior clerics in Jerusalem, Israeli Foreign Ministry officials and the State President and President of the Supreme Court
- took the lead in 'Day for Darfur' rallies in London seeking Government's response to mass killings in Darfur

- met with ambassadors and officials at the Embassies of Lithuania, Slovenia, Poland, Germany, Portugal, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Austria, Romania and Denmark in London
- sent a special delegation of the International Division to meet with EU parliamentarians and other European leaders
- coordinated our community's involvement in the United Nations review of the world conference against racism in order to avoid a repeat of the appalling antisemitism that blighted the conference in 2001

In the area of **Community Issues** the Board

- worked on detailed submissions to the government on behalf of Jewish schools and held regular meetings with the Department for Children, Schools and Families as a result of which we won unequivocal support to 'preserve the ethos' of Jewish schools
- launched the innovative Regional Development Project, winning praise from Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Hazel Blears for its contribution to community cohesion
- launched and is pioneering the "Shared Futures" project for schools linking
- ran the Pikuach Jewish Studies inspection service for schools and published its latest report
- produced various publications including the pioneering 'Guide for Jewish Adults with Disabilities'
- continued to organise, maintain and raise funds for many Jewish cemeteries
- redesigned and expanded the travelling Jewish Way of Life Exhibition

## Birthdays

### May

06	Hermione	OLDHAM
	Liya	MINTZ
09	Clemantine	MAKOWER
	Alex	GOLDHILL
12	Olivia	SEIFERT
14	Charley	BILYARD
24	Louis	MAKOWER
27	Max	FLANAGAN
28	Zoe	ASHFORD
30	Daniel	HUDES

### June

17	Mia	BOGOD
20	Joseph	MILLER
23	Olivia	NAKAR

## Announcements

**LUNCH DATES:** Wednesdays 20th May, 17th June and 15th July. Meeting at The Greystoke as usual.

**GET WELL** soon to Verity Shneerson whom we hope to see out and about again before too long.

**CONDOLENCES** and best wishes for a long life to the Boyan family on the death of her Helen's mother, Lena Alford, who died recently at the age of 102, our oldest member.

**THANKS** to Julian Kay for his recent donation to the Memorial Welfare Fund.

Views expressed and statements made in Shalom do not necessarily reflect the views of the Synagogue Council.

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**Loft Rooms**  
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## Cholla Rota

### MAY

01	Barbara Shotts
08	Rachel Knightley
15	Doreen Aarons
22	Gilda Bogod
29	Bettina Crossick

### JUNE

05	Jose Levene
12	Liz Samuel
19	Linda Fraser
26	Rachel Knightley

**JULY**  
03 Lindsay Levin

## Yahrzeit List

DATE	DECEASED	MOURNER(S)
MAY		
01	Leon Simons	Mrs Betty Simons
	Olga Walters	Mr Harry Walters
	Boris Kruchin	Mr Semyon Kruchin
	Dolores Newman	Mrs Erle Shaw
	Rose Layman	Mrs Barbara Shotts
	Werner Schuhmann	Mrs Eva Sheldon
08	Joseph Nachman Kay	Mrs Lila Kay
	Rita Snelling	Mr David Snelling
	Raie Connick	Mrs Betty Simons
	Marcus Silverberg	Mrs Jose Levene
15	Dan Gold	Mrs Aviva Gold & Ms Dina Gold
	Jocie Tack	Mrs Shirley Wolfson
	Jack Aarons	Mr Arnold Aarons
22	-	-
29	Albert Franks	Dr Joe Franks
JUNE		
05	Pamela Selby	Mrs Fleur Lloyd
	Hilda Sterne	Mr Gerald Sterne
	Louisa Levene	Mr Cyril Levene
	Philip Natal	Mrs Doreen Aarons
12	Reuben Hazel	Mrs Irma Zabielski
	George Eli Berman	Mrs Joan Ansell
	Philip Bronstein	Mrs Jackie Ross
	Betty Pliskin	Mrs Rosalind Barnes
19	-	-
26	Janey Freedman	Ms Susan Davidson
JULY		
03	Joyce Tessler	Mrs Meryl Salter
	Alfred Green	Mr Laurie Anders



# Calendar

Iyar/Sivan 5769 May 2009

<b>Fri</b>	<b>1</b>	Erev Shabbat Family Friendly Service 6.30pm Leader: Barbara & Alan Shotts Shammas: David Levin
<b>Sat</b>	<b>2</b>	Shabbat Acherei Mot/Kedoshim Service 10.45am Leader: Arnold Aarons Shamas: Jeremy Fraser (NO CHEDER)
Sun	<b>3</b>	
Mon	<b>4</b>	Bridge 2pm
Tue	<b>5</b>	Badminton 7pm
Wed	<b>6</b>	
Thu	<b>7</b>	
<b>Fri</b>	<b>8</b>	Oneg: 7pm Being Welsh & Jewish, Erev Shabbat Service 8pm Leader: Student Rabbi Darley Shammas: Jenny Gadsby
<b>Sat</b>	<b>9</b>	Shabbat Emor Service 10.45am Leader: Rabbi Rachel Benjamin Shamas: Carole Rosen
Sun	<b>10</b>	
Mon	<b>11</b>	Bridge 2pm
Tue	<b>12</b>	Badminton 7pm
Wed	<b>13</b>	
Thu	<b>14</b>	
<b>Fri</b>	<b>15</b>	Erev Shabbat Service 8pm Leader: Arnold Aarons Shammas: Cyril Levene
<b>Sat</b>	<b>16</b>	Shabbat Behar-Bechukkotai Service 10.45am Leader: Rabbi Janet Burden Shamas: Harry Klein
Sun	<b>17</b>	
Mon	<b>18</b>	Bridge 2pm
Tue	<b>19</b>	Badminton 7pm
Wed	<b>20</b>	Greystoke Lunch 12.30pm
Thu	<b>21</b>	
<b>Fri</b>	<b>22</b>	Erev Shabbat Service 8pm Leader: Rabbi Janet Burden Shammas: Norman Conroy
<b>Sat</b>	<b>23</b>	Shabbat Bemidbar Service 10.45am Leader: Rabbi Janet Burden Shamas: Liz Ashford
Sun	<b>24</b>	
Mon	<b>25</b>	Bridge 2pm
Tue	<b>26</b>	Badminton 7pm
Wed	<b>27</b>	
Thu	<b>28</b>	
<b>Fri</b>	<b>29</b>	Shavuot Chavurah Supper & Shabbat Service 8pm Leader: Rabbi Janet Burden Shammas: Arnold Aarons
<b>Sat</b>	<b>30</b>	Shabbat Naso Service 10.45am Leader: Rabbi Janet Burden Shamas: Carole Rosen
Sun	<b>31</b>	



# Calendar

Sivan/Tammuz 5769 June 2009

Mon	1	Bridge 2pm
Tue	2	Badminton 7pm
Wed	3	
Thu	4	
<b>Fri</b>	<b>5</b>	Erev Shabbat Family Friendly Service 6.30pm Leader: Rabbi Janet Burden Shammas: David Levin
<b>Sat</b>	<b>6</b>	Shabbat Beha'alotecha Service 10.45am Leader: Michael Gordon Shamas: Cyril Levene
Sun	7	
Mon	8	Bridge 2pm
Tue	9	Badminton 7pm
Wed	10	
Thu	11	
<b>Fri</b>	<b>12</b>	Oneg 7pm, Erev Shabbat Service 8pm Leader: Rabbi Janet Burden Shammas: Carole Rosen
<b>Sat</b>	<b>13</b>	Shabbat Shelach Lecha, Billy Bilyard's Bar Mitzvah Service 10.45am Leader: Rabbi Burden Shamas: Carole Rosen
Sun	14	
Mon	15	Bridge 2pm
Tue	16	Badminton 7pm
Wed	17	Greystoke Lunch 12.30pm
Thu	18	
<b>Fri</b>	<b>19</b>	Erev Shabbat Service 8pm Leader: TBA Shammas: Jenny Gadsby
<b>Sat</b>	<b>20</b>	Shabbat Korach Service 10.45am (including 'Healing Words' from Israel/Palestine) Leader: Rabbi Janet Burden with Sef Townsend Shamas: Jeremy Fraser
Sun	<b>21</b>	<b>Community AGM 11am</b>
Mon	22	Bridge 2pm
Tue	23	Badminton 7pm
Wed	24	
Thu	25	
<b>Fri</b>	<b>26</b>	Erev Shabbat Service 8pm Leader: Rabbi Janet Burden Shammas: Paul Feldman
<b>Sat</b>	<b>27</b>	Shabbat Chukkat, Israel Themed Family Service 10.45am Leader: Shlichah Noa Marom & LJY's Victor Kaufman Shamas: Norman Conroy
Sun	28	
Mon	29	Bridge 2pm
Tue	30	Badminton 7pm