



LEGACY MATTERS

SPRING 2020



A warm welcome
from Director of Legacies
Carolyn Addleman



We have had a busy few months here in the
JNF UK Legacy Department and our team has grown (again!)

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Lauren Devan who joined the team in August as my Personal Assistant and Team Administrator. Michelle Spill joined the legal team in September and, as a qualified solicitor of many years' standing, is a valuable asset to the department.

I also offer a warm welcome to Naavah Benjamin who is supporting Director of Community Relations David Goodman with client visits and community engagement.

This issue begins with Andrew Bowman discussing organ donation and the recent changes in the law. Naavah then takes us to Latvia to discover the lost synagogues

in model form, Lauren recommends a recipe from the Israeli-English chef, restaurateur and food writer Yotam Ottolenghi, and David Goodman meets a true 21st century pioneer living in the sands of the Negev.

We also look back at our client events since the last issue of *Legacy Matters* and give you notice of upcoming events that we have planned for you.

In October, we will set out once again for a carefully crafted Legacy Mission to Israel, where we will tour the length and breadth of the country and visit the JNF UK-supported projects (do get in touch for more information and to book as places are limited).



We hope you enjoy reading this issue and as always, if I or any member of the KKL team can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to be in touch on 020 8732 6126 or via email at carolyn@kkl.org.uk



ORGAN DONATION: THE NEW LAW



By Andrew Bowman

Currently, anyone wishing to donate their organs will have to have 'opted in' by placing their name on a register. From April this year, the situation will be reversed and it will be up to individuals to 'opt out' of the register. All adults in England will be considered

an organ donor when they die unless they had previously recorded a decision not to donate or are in one of the 'excluded groups', the most relevant of these being those lacking the mental capacity to make such a choice.

The change stems from a shortage of organ donors. According to the NHS, over 400 people in the UK died in 2018 waiting for an organ transplant. The organs subject to the new law are hearts, lungs, livers, kidneys, pancreases and small bowels. There will also be an option to donate tissue, such as skin, bones, tendons, eyes, heart valves and arteries, as well as corneas.

It is important to note that each person will still be able to choose whether they want to be an organ donor or not. If someone doesn't want to donate their organs and tissue after death, there are quick and efficient ways to record their decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register. This will be respected in the event of their death. The quickest and easiest way to do this is online at www.organdonation.nhs.uk/register-your-decision, but anyone without internet access can contact NHS Blood and Transplant on 0300 123 23 23.

Note the important distinction when someone requests that their details be withdrawn from the register. In that case, the organ donation decision they had previously recorded – whether to donate or not to donate – will be removed from the NHS Organ Donor Register, along with their personal details. In an 'opt out' system, if there is no recorded decision for a person they will be deemed to have agreed to donate their organs after death unless they are in an 'excluded group' as mentioned above.

All these changes apply only on a person's death. Lifetime organ donation will still be a voluntary act.

The NHS website is very informative on all these issues and has a particularly helpful section addressing the needs of all the major religious faiths in this country, including Judaism. To find out more, visit www.organdonation.nhs.uk/helping-you-to-decide/your-faith-and-beliefs/judaism.

To quote from part of that section on the NHS website:

"In principle Judaism sanctions and encourages organ donation in order to save lives (pikuach nefesh).

"Whether or not the wishes of the dead person are known, it is widely recognised that families are entitled to decide for themselves; and that they will often wish to consult with their own experts in Jewish law and tradition before making a final decision.

"Judaism holds that organs may not be removed from a donor until death has definitely occurred. For some Jews the 'brain stem death' criteria are acceptable. Other Jews will only agree to removal of organs from a 'non-heart beating' donor.

"After donation it is important to recognise that kavod hamet (showing respect for the dignity of the dead) still applies. In Judaism avoidance of any further unnecessary interference with the body and immediate internment are again the prime concern."

You can download a 'Judaism and organ donation leaflet' from this page too. You may also wish to consult your rabbi regarding the halachic issues around this sensitive matter.



LATVIA'S LOST SYNAGOGUES RISE FROM THE ASHES IN MODEL FORM



By Naavah Benjamin

My deep connection with Latvia goes back to my father's posting there as Israel's Ambassador and my time studying at the Art Academy of Latvia in Riga in 2002. On my subsequent travels, I learned about efforts to recreate the Baltic country's rich Jewish past through replicas of synagogues which were destroyed by the Nazis.

Latvia was once home to over 200 synagogues whose styles ranged from the traditional wooden shtetl shuls to vibrant neo-Romanesque structures.

Since its independence, Latvia has made tentative steps to understand and confront the legacy of its Jewish population, which was almost completely wiped out during the Holocaust.

Art students, local Jewish people and historians all got together to painstakingly recreate some of Latvia's grandest synagogues using paper, plastic and wood. The exhibits, which took years of work using archive sources, pictures and much digging, are housed at the Riga Ghetto and Latvian Holocaust Museum and capture the heyday of a vibrant community.

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With only three synagogues now operating in Latvia, the project has allowed many of the buildings to be seen for the first time. While people usually think of Lithuania as the centre of Jewish life in eastern Europe, many prominent Jews came from Latvia, including Israel's first Chief Rabbi, Abraham Isaac Kook.

When I walked around the ruins of the Great (Choral) Synagogue in Riga, which was burned to the ground with Jewish people inside it in 1941, I felt the sense of history weighing on the remaining stones. I knew there was added meaning when as I was saying a prayer, the heavy rain that was pounding the site abated at that precise moment.

Back at the exhibition, as natural light filters through the main windows, the replica of that synagogue takes on a new life and connects us with what was lost.



KKL EVENTS 2019-20

June – Summer Day Trip to The National Holocaust Centre and Museum, Notts

The day was deeply moving and thought-provoking for everyone involved. Otherwise known as Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre, the centre is the only national Holocaust museum in the UK. Remarkably, it was founded by a non-Jewish family who were determined to raise awareness and understanding of the genocide.

Clients and friends of KKL heard first-hand from Simon Winston, a Holocaust Survivor, and were joined by numerous schoolchildren for part of the day.



September – Rosh Hashanah Tea

Over 100 clients and friends enjoyed an engaging talk by His Excellency Mark Regev, Ambassador of Israel to the UK, on the positive outlook for Israel in the Jewish New Year. He celebrated the success of Israel, a prosperous democracy that offers the Jewish people sovereignty and independence in their own homeland. Looking ahead, he spoke about the impact the drive of Israel's young people is having, and the growing acceptance of the Jewish state amongst its neighbouring ones. He said: "We are seeing changes of historical importance that give me optimism."



The Ambassador also praised the contribution of JNF UK, highlighting the role the charity has played in Israel's

success. "Everyone talks about the importance of the environment and trees. JNF UK was doing that when it wasn't even fashionable. Today it is also building the quality of life."

As guest Sylvia commented, "what a speech – it makes you want to go to Israel!"

David Goodman thanked the Ambassador for speaking out for Israel and presented him with a unique gift – a certificate showing that a bench would be named after him in the town of Yerucham.



JNF UK Treasurer Gary Mond with H.E. Mark Regev

October – JNF UK Legacy Mission to Israel

JNF UK's legacy mission to Israel once again illustrated how British support is helping to fulfil Ben Gurion's vision of transforming the Negev.

In Yerucham participants watched an impressive concert by students of the newly renovated Music Conservatory and visited the new Early Childhood Centre there.

They also had the chance to see the commemorative bench dedicated to His Excellency Mark Regev. Having seen a photo of the plaque, the Ambassador said: "JNF UK do so much good to preserve and strengthen the bond between our people and our homeland, and it was truly moving to be honoured in this way."



The new interactive Education Hub at the Amit High School in Kiryat Malachi was another one of the highlights in the Negev that showcased the investment in skills that JNF UK is making in the region.

Any visit to southern Israel wouldn't be complete without commemorating Israel's pioneering first Prime Minister, David Ben Gurion. Not only did participants visit his house, but they also prompted a detour to see his grave overlooking the stunning vista of the Zin Canyon.

The ten-day programme also took participants across the breadth of the country, including visits to Masada, Ein Gedi, Yad Vashem and Mount Herzl, the site of Israel's national cemetery.

December – Chanukah Party

Close to 70 clients and friends were treated to a swinging extravaganza at KKL's Chanukah party in Edgware.

Entertainment was provided by Pete Sinclair, who captivated the audience with his tribute to the Rat Pack, particularly Frank Sinatra. There were also standout vocal impressions of other timeless classics from Elvis Presley, Dean Martin and Neil Diamond. David Goodman followed with a brief talk about Israel's vision for 2050.

The party was accompanied by a mouth-watering spread that included doughnuts, latkes, pastries, sandwiches and Thai fishcakes. Following the Chanukah lighting, the party was drawn to a close by everyone singing *Hatikvah*.



February – Jewish Museum Exhibition – Charlotte Salomon: Life? or Theatre?



After a delicious lunch, KKL clients had a curator-led tour of an exhibition of Charlotte Salomon's extraordinary story through art at the Jewish Museum in Camden.

Salomon chose to live for all the people she saw killed in World War II.

Tragically, the German-Jewish artist was deported to Auschwitz in 1943 at the age of 26 and met an immediate death.



FORTHCOMING KKL EVENTS

May

Thursday 21st

Upstairs at the Gatehouse – *Jewish Hollywood*

From Shtetl to Stardom, 'Jewish Hollywood' is a revue crammed full of songs that explores the reality as well as the glitz!

It tells stories of ambition and sacrifice. What was the price paid for assimilation? How did the Jews of Hollywood confront antisemitism? How did the Holocaust change their depiction of Jews onscreen?

How badly hit were they by the notorious blacklisting of the 1950s?

A limited number of tickets are available to see this performance with KKL on Thursday 14 May. The performance starts at 7.30pm and tickets are £15 each. For more information, please contact Sherri Hoppen via the details below.

June

Thursday 25th

Summer Day Trip to Leeds Castle, Kent

Join us on our visit to "the loveliest castle in the world", with over 500 acres of gardens and parkland

September

Tuesday 8th at 3pm

Rosh Hashanah Tea

Please join us for an enjoyable afternoon to celebrate the Jewish New Year with our guest speaker



October

Tuesday 13th-Thursday 22nd

JNF UK Legacy Mission

Get ready for our annual whistle-stop tour of Israel as we visit some life-changing projects supported by JNF UK and explore some of Israel's hidden gems

December

Tuesday 15th at 2pm

Chanukah Party

Come light the lights, munch on doughnuts, and enjoy some entertainment



For further information about any of our events, please contact Sherri Hoppen on **020 8732 6129** or at **sherri.hoppen@kkl.org.uk**

Dates may be subject to change.

FRESH FLAVOURS

ROUTED IN TRADITION



Recommended by
Lauren Devan

PUY LENTILS WITH EGGPLANT, TOMATOES, AND YOGURT BY YOTAM OTTOLENGHI

For ease, roast the eggplant in a hot oven. Line the stove top with foil, then use long tongs to help turn the eggplant so that all sides get burnt. This method can be a bit messy, but the upside is that it takes just 15-20 minutes, rather than 1 hour, and the resulting smoky taste is more intense. This can be made up to 3 days in advance, up to the point of the yogurt being added. Keep in the fridge until needed.

INGREDIENTS

- 4 eggplants, pricked a few times with a knife (2 lb 6 oz/1.1kg)
- 10 oz/300g cherry tomatoes
- ¾ cup/160g Puy lentils (or 4 2/3 cups/350g ready-cooked lentils, if you want to save time)
- 2 tbsp olive oil, plus extra to serve
- 1½ tbsp lemon juice
- 1 small garlic clove, crushed
- 3 tbsp oregano leaves
- Salt and black pepper
- 6 tbsp/100g Greek-style yogurt

STEPS

1. Preheat the oven to 475°F or as high as your oven will go.
2. Place the eggplants on a baking sheet and roast for 1 hour, turning them over halfway through, until the flesh is completely soft and slightly smoky. Remove from the oven and, once cool enough handle, scoop the flesh out into a colander. Set aside, in the sink or over a bowl, for 30 minutes, for any liquid to drain away. The skin can be discarded.
3. Place the cherry tomatoes on the same baking sheet and roast for 12 minutes, until slightly blackened, split, and soft. Remove from the oven and set aside.
4. Meanwhile, if starting with uncooked lentils, fill a medium saucepan with plenty of water and place over high heat. Once boiling, add the lentils, decrease the heat to medium, and cook for 20 minutes, until soft but still retaining a bite. Drain, then set aside to dry out slightly. If starting with ready-cooked lentils, just tip them into a large bowl and add the eggplant flesh, tomatoes, oil, lemon juice, garlic, 2 tbsp of oregano, ¾ tsp salt, and a good grind of pepper. Mix well, then spoon into a large shallow bowl. Top with the yogurt, swirling it through slightly so there are obvious streaks. Sprinkle the remaining 1 tbsp of oregano over the top, drizzle with a little oil, and serve.



PROJECT UPDATE: KMEHIN

WHAT LIES BENEATH THE SURFACE?



By David Goodman

In the deep south of Israel on the border with Egypt is a small moshav (cooperative agricultural community) called Kmehin. It started in 1988 and today, with a population of 182, is one of the smallest communities in the country. Its main industry is producing

cherry tomatoes, flowers, spices and peppers. It sounds lovely and it is. However, lurking below the surface it tells a different story, a story of the pioneers of the 21st century.

Born in Jerusalem in 1982, Yonatan Kishinovsky grew up in a family of ardent Zionists. So it was no major surprise when following his army service and studies at Tel-Hai College in the Upper Galilee and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, he decided to embark on a journey that was going to impact on the lives of many hundreds – and soon to be thousands – of young Israelis.

During his army service, Yonatan realised that there were two types of youngsters who draft into the army: those who are prepared and those who are not, and the difference is vast. I'm not talking about what the youngsters can give to the army but the opposite – what the army can give back to the youngsters. For many years the army has been seen as a springboard to a variety of careers such as physical education, medicine and engineering. However, you need to go in ready to grasp what the army can give you, show confidence and leadership, all of which will open up new opportunities.

In the periphery of Israel there are many youngsters who grow up lacking in confidence and missing out on a high standard of education. Their self-esteem is low. Yonatan, together with a friend, Avi Cohen, established in 2011 a programme called **Derech Eretz**. Their mission was to encourage participants to take responsibility for their lives – helping to make the military service more meaningful while laying the groundwork for a life of personal fulfilment, success and giving to the community. Operating from several campuses within the Negev, Derech Eretz also hopes to engage and inspire



participants to take up the next great pioneering mission of settling and developing the Negev. No surprises then that JNF UK is fully behind this wonderful organisation. Only recently, a centre in Kmehin has been established with significant funding from JNF UK. The programme has now expanded to guide and assist these young people after the army as well.

The pictures on this page are a taster of the programme's activities. Yonatan and Avi have included into the programme some of what they experienced in the army. Challenge yourself to the limit and you will start to realise your potential. These youngsters have just spent a week with their homes on their backs, walking from Kmehin in the west of the country to the Dead Sea in the east, an area full of wadis and mountains. During this period, they discovered talents and skills they didn't know they had and formed friendships that will last a long time. They learnt that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

It's a privilege to be part of such a wonderful programme and for those of you who are inspired and want to see it first-hand, please join us on our Legacy Mission this October, where we will visit the campus in Kmehin.



SAVE THE DATE

ISRAEL

2020

JNF UK Legacy Mission

13 - 22 October

- ◆ Walk in the footsteps of history
- ◆ Celebrate Israel's amazing achievements
- ◆ Enjoy the trip of a lifetime



£1,500 per person excluding flights
No single supplement



TOUR THE LENGTH &
BREADTH OF ISRAEL IN
LUXURY & COMFORT



ACCOMPANIED BY AN
EXPERIENCED GUIDE



EXPERIENCE FIRST-HAND
THE JNF UK PROJECTS
IN THE NEGEV

To register your interest, please contact the JNF UK legacy department

Tel: 020 8732 6129
Email: legacymission@jnf.co.uk