

**CENTRE  
FOR  
JEWISH  
LIFE  
BENEFIT  
DINNER**

Tuesday  
5th March 2013



# CENTRE FOR JEWISH LIFE BENEFIT DINNER

The Centre for Jewish Life (CJL) is inspired and guided by the world view and values of Chabad passed on to us all by Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson of blessed memory.

CENTRE FOR  
JEWISH LIFE

where jews connect

# WHERE JEWS CONNECT

PERFORMANCE  
SEPTEMBER 2008  
- FEBRUARY 2013

“THE  
CONNECTION  
BETWEEN THE  
PAST AND THE  
FUTURE IS WITH  
US AT CJL”

The Centre for Jewish Life, located in the West End, is the only Jewish community space in Central London, that is not a synagogue. Located just yards away from Bond Street station, served by the Jubilee and Central lines, the Centre could not be better placed to attract young Jews who live or work across the city. With a cafeteria, lounge, meeting room and library, it is the perfect place for business people to meet, socialise and connect.

Founded in 2008, the Centre is dedicated to providing social, educational and business events for young unaffiliated Jews of all

backgrounds and nationalities, enabling them to connect with each other and their heritage.

The Centre is a hub for young adults, predominantly those in their twenties and thirties. It is a place where they can come together, connect with each other, in a non-judgmental, relaxed environment.

Our success can be evidenced by the weight of numbers. In just under three years, close to five thousand people have come through our doors. The vast majority of them had no previous or existing affiliation to anything Jewish and forty percent were young Jews from abroad living in the UK.

A diverse programme of events facilitated by a dedicated team in a welcoming and warm atmosphere is what sets the Centre apart. Our ability to inspire young people in the beauty and joy of Jewish life, the richness of a Jewish identity, and to empower them to pursue a personal journey and to make a difference in the lives of others is what enables us to connect.

Every Jew, no matter how observant or affiliated is equal. Our greatest priority is to help them reconnect. To make this happen on the scale required to revitalise Jewish life and the Jews of London we must continue to grow. To do this we need you to connect with us.

- **Unique Participants:**  
8,211

- **Average Age:**  
29

- **Nationalities:**  
53

- **Number of Programs & Events:**  
501

- **Total Attendance:**  
50,135

- **Young Jewish People married  
someone they met at the Centre:**  
138

## WHAT THEY SAY CHIEF RABBI LORD SACKS



'It's great to be with you in this wonderful Centre for Jewish Life that they attribute to the incredible work of Rabbis Yosef and Mendy Vogel, to pay tribute to the spiritual energies that have been driving this place and transforming people's lives. And it's great to have a Jewish Centre in the middle of London, isn't it?

So I'm sure we have many friends in the centre of London, but here we have Mishpacha, an extended family that is absolutely great, and I can attribute not only to the Centre for Jewish life but really to the person who inspired me - Elaine and myself - who inspired Yosef and Mendy - actually responsible for them being here at all - and indeed inspired our guest of honour, Conrad Morris, and that is Rabbi Faivish'

## WHAT THEY SAY AMBASSADOR YEHUDA AVNER



'The Centre of Jewish Life is deserving of generous encouragement and support for a job of work that is indispensable and ground-breaking in our Jewish world.

"Imagine, the wax is the body, and the wick is the soul. Bring the flame of Torah to the soul; the body will fulfil the purpose for which it was created. And that is what I try to do," said he, "to ignite the soul of every Jew and Jewess with the fire of Torah so that they can fulfil the purpose for which he or she was created."

"OUR GREATEST PRIORITY IS TO HELP JEWS RECONNECT"

When I rose to bid him farewell, the Rebbe escorted me to the door, and there I asked him, "Has the Rebbe lit my candle?"  
"No," he said. "I have given you the match. Only you can light your own candle."

I find that metaphor stunning. Assuredly, it encapsulates, much of what the Center of Jewish Life seeks to do, day by day, through its multiple and imaginative programs – matches to anyone who wishes to ignite one, while providing a socially amiable atmosphere of Jewish good fellowship to all who enter its portals.'





## WHAT THEY SAY MARRIAGE

### **Gemma & Adam**

'I just wanted to thank you for all that you do in the community. My 'now' fiance and myself met at one of your Friday night CJL events at the Marriott last November and we are now arranging our wedding set for August next year. I had been to so many horrendous 'Jew dos' in the past and was starting to give up hope - never expecting to meet 'the one' at one of these events, fall in love and be engaged within the year! So thank you. Your work in bringing people together and demonstrating the importance of being Jewish is certainly paying off! Best wishes.'

### **Emmanuelle & Jonathan**

'Jonathan and I met at your BBQ in 2009 to celebrate the end of Lag Baome. We were friends for a while and started to date last summer in Paris as we both went back to Paris. Now we are getting married end of November. As we owe thanks to CJL, we thought it would be nice to have you with us at the synagogue and the party. Again thanks a lot for your mitzvah & shana tova to all.'

## WHAT THEY SAY PARTNERSHIPS

### **Baillie Aaron**

*Co-Founder and Executive Director  
RISE Youth*

'Hi Mendy, Yosef, Natalie, and the CJL team.

On behalf of RISE Youth, I wanted to thank you for enabling us to use your conference space last week for our first Advisory Board meeting.

We are a start-up charity offering free one-to-one life coaching to young people transitioning out of custody, with the ultimate goal of tikkun olam and empowering marginalised groups to achieve

better futures. This meeting was critical to us, in aiding our strategic thinking surrounding proof of concept, resource allocation, funding, branding, and other major issues facing many charities. They were all very impressed with the space and the kindness with which we were treated.

Thank you again, best wishes, and hag sameach!'

“138 YOUNG  
JEWISH PEOPLE  
MARRIED  
SOMEONE THEY  
MET AT THE  
CENTRE”

# WHAT THEY SAY SOCIAL EVENTS



“A TOTAL OF 50,135 PEOPLE HAVE ATTENDED 501 EVENTS AT CENTRE FOR JEWISH LIFE”

## **Chanukah**

*Nathaniel Hass*

‘Many thanks for hosting an excellent Chanukah bash yesterday evening thoroughly enjoyed myself! I thought it was a great crowd, and the DJ spun an excellent playlist. Best wishes to you and yours, and Chanukah Sameach.’

## **Russian Friday Night**

*Ada Feygenson*

‘The CJL hosted an amazing Russian themed Shabbat dinner replete with traditional Russian Jewish food and ample amounts of vodka. But more than just an opportunity to nosh and drink, the dinner provided a forum where both Russian speaking and non speaking young Jews could meet and

mingle. We also heard from several people during the dinner, including one who met his fiancé at the CJL. The dinner fits with the mission of the CJL – helping Jews from all backgrounds and nationalities connect with each other and their heritage.’

## **Friday Night Dinner - Swiss Cottage**

*Ruth Wainman*

‘I did not know what to expect or who was going to be there but you made everyone feel very comfortable with your very warm and welcoming way. That Friday night put a spring in my step and made me come away feeling less lonely and more positive – thank you again.’

## **Sushi Making**

*Sarah Abda*

‘Thank you, I thought the event was a lot of fun and well planned and I have already tried making some sushi.’

*Simone*

‘Please pass on to all those involved my thanks for arranging an extremely interesting evening. The Sushi teacher was outstanding because, not only did she demonstrate her expertise, but was patient and willing with each and every student to overcome their initial fear in handling a luxurious and sumptuous food dish. Learning with her became a doddle. Events such as this are a ‘michaya’ when professional, competent and organised people do

their job with courtesy, humour and efficiency. I am now ready for my second course.’

## **Seder @ CJL**

*Joel Rockman*

‘I was amazed at how international the gathering was and on my table alone there were 2 Brazilians, 3 Eastern Europeans, a Canadian, an Israeli and even a couple of Londoners! The translation of the “Ma Nishtana” into several different languages emphasised how truly global the evening was and helped to “make this night different from all other nights.” I am sure that many of the guests would not have attended a Seder if it wasn’t for the CJL so “Kol Hakavod” and thank you once again.’

## **Friday Night Dinner - Marriott**

*Eran Schafferman*

‘Whether it is at a Shabbat dinner, a BBQ bash or the opening of an art exhibition, the CJL gives you a sense of belonging and opens you your local Jewish community through exciting and diverse events. As an Israeli living and studying in London, I found the CJL a place that strengthened me through its solidarity and care toward the state of Israel and its people. I have also found the CJL to be a great centre to meet young Jewish brothers and sisters from all over the world.’

## **Friday Night Dinner @ CJL**

*Matthew Armstrong*

‘Hello Natalie, Hello Baz, Thanks Baz for inviting me to the event and thank you Natalie and team for hosting the event. Credit where its due, you managed to create a very great atmosphere for socialising and networking, everyone got on extremely well for a less acquainted crowd and I feel many people left having made new friends. I know its never easy to pull off such an event where you have both a high turn out and the eagerness of so many of the participants to interact to such a degree, so hats off to you and the team for cultivating such an atmosphere. I look forward to sharing another Shabbat with you in future. Regards from Dubai.’



# WHAT THEY SAY PAST SPEAKERS

“LOOKING AT  
THE LEADERSHIP  
OF UK JEWRY,  
WE ARE  
PROUD OF OUR  
CONTRIBUTION”

## **Lord Justice Rix:**

I have a deep commitment to both Judaism and Jewishness, and the Jewish experience, and I'm a Jew in a world which has not been kind to Jews and has made it difficult to be a Jew. Speaking for myself in my life, I'm clear, in my mind, that I don't want to be the break in the chain, this wonderful chain that goes back to the beginnings of Judaism. And I'm immensely proud to be part of that chain for all kinds of reasons, for negative reasons and for positive reasons, the negative reasons because people have tried to prevent

my ancestors and me living a Jewish life. I think that Judaism is the most wonderful creation – I would use creation in the Jewish sense of creation of course – about how to live a life, teach a life to be lived to future generations. It is spiritual, it is pragmatic, it is evolutionary, it believes in life, it does not believe in dogma; I think these are wonderful things.

## **Yoël Zaoui**

Yes, I think my dad for sure. He gave me a lot of values, and so when you think about a hero or a role model, that's what I think about. It is the values of Judaism, to be yourself, stand up for what you really think, protect your children and your family, and make sure that you reach some sort of balance. Work is important, but it's not all of it. And I think when you are immersed in something, thinking that I need to move onto the next stage, and I need to do this and that, you have the sense that that's the most important thing that

you can do. I've been there, let me tell you. I've been there, that's why I know exactly how it feels. But at the end of the day, when you look back, you know, you just have to have some distance. That's hard to do and hard to assess when you're really ambitious and you are really working hard.

## **Edward Misrahi, Ronit Capital**

'Over 6300 unique attendees, over 400 programs! People come here because they want to – they feel good at meeting other Jews and having the ability to connect, make friends,

& network for their professions. CJL is doing outstanding Outreach – we now have countless ambassadors who appear in the brochure who have organized business forums and social events, allowing for connections to occur with other countless like-minded Jews, adding value to the lives of so many. And the CJL is doing it by combining the interests of their audience with a continuous but gradual influence of Jewish values and traditions. Friday night dinners, Chanukah parties, Purim parties, small services and particular speaker series.

## **Howard Marks, Oaktree Capital Management (Chairman)**

'Many thanks to you, Yosef, and your brother as well as all those present on Monday. I greatly enjoyed the opportunity to share my views and answer the many good questions. It was a warm and welcoming environment. I wish you continued success with your worthwhile mission, and a happy coming holiday season.'

## **PAST SPEAKERS**

**Ambassador Yehuda Avner Stanley Bergman** CEO Henry Schein **Dayan Ivan Binstock** St John's Wood Synagogue **Mario Blejer** Former Governor, Central Bank of Argentina **Rabbi Dr Naftali Brawer** CEO of Spiritual Capital Foundation **Keith Breslauer** Founder & Director, Patron Capital **Lord Brittan** Barrister & Politician **Bill Browder** Executive Officer & Co-Founder, Hermitage Capital Management **David Cohen** Chairman, F&C REIT Property Management India **Sir Ronald Cohen** Apax **Mick Davis** Xstrata **Yuli Edelstein** Member of Knesset **Sir Martin Gilbert** Best Selling Author & Historian **Jerry Gotel** Professor & Lecturer **Roman Halter** Holocaust Survivor **Harry Handelsman** CEO, Manhattan Loft Corporation **Ben Helfgott** Holocaust Survivor **Gerald Hines** Hines **Rabbi Simon Jacobson** Meaningful Life Centre **Freddie Knoller** Holocaust Survivor

**Rabbi Dr. Abraham Levy O.B.E** Rabbi of Spanish & Portuguese Jews' Congregation **Dennis Levine** Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Burdale Financial **Glen Lewy** National Chair, Anti-Defamation League **Sir Stuart Lipton** Chelsfield Partners **Howard Marks** – Chairman, Oaktree Capital **Paul Martin** Journalist & Former Hamas Prisoner **John Medved**- Serial entrepreneur, venture capitalist **Edward Misrahi** Founder, Eton Park **Hillel C. Neuer** Executive Director, UN Watch **Joe Osnoss**- Managing Co Head of Europe, Middle East & Africa, Silver Lake **Melanie Phillips** Best Selling Author & Journalist **Lord Justice Rix** Court of Appeal of England & Wales **Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks** - **Lady Sacks** Anglo Jewry's First Lady **Rabbi Yitzchak Schochet** Mill Hill Synagogue **Mike Sherwood** Co-Chief executive officer of Goldman Sachs International **Michel Strauss** Independent Art Consultant **Yoel Zaoui** Co-head of Global M&A, Goldman Sachs



# ADVISORY BOARD

# HOW CAN YOU HELP?

“IN THE PAST 3 YEARS THERE HAVE BEEN 8,211 UNIQUE PARTICIPANTS FROM 53 COUNTRIES”

## **Honorary President:**

Dr Sam Peltz,

## **Chairman:**

Rabbi Faivish Vogel,

## **Advisory Board:**

Mr Eduardo Azar, Mr Keith Breslauer, Mr Colin Gershinson, Mr Dennis Levine, Mr Edward Misrahi, Mr Conrad Morris, Mr Martin Moshal, Mr Alan Samson

## **Education & Culture Committee:**

Yuval Cohen, Jonny Gould, Gideon Valkin

## **Entrepreneurship Committee:**

Alex Shevelenko, Benjamin Wigoder, Nitzan Yudan, Alon Kuperman, Mark Abrams, Rowan Jacobson

## **International Student Committee:**

Dan Cegla, Anthony Gosler, David Vilf

## **Finance Committee:**

Vladimir Bermant, Oswaldo Pereira, Tomy Kulcsar, Zoe Payman

## **Legal Committee:**

Michelle Rosswick, Patrick Schumann, Samantha Sigler

## **Property Committee:**

James Laderman, Steven Wayne

## **French Committee:**

Jeremy Bauza, Rudy Sillam

## **German Committee:**

Henry Brodski, Dan Cegla, Simon Geldman, Patrick Schumann, David Vilf

## **Israeli Committee:**

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## **Russian Committee:**

Anna Vainer, Alex Shevelenko, Natalie Levinson, Anna Kostina, Diana Skorogorodski

## **South African Committee:**

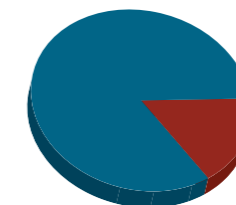
Gideon Valkin, Rowan Jacobson

## **Be a generational Link**

Are you a successful practitioner in the business and legal community, willing to bridge the generation gap with your experience? The value of one-on-one guidance in the business world cannot be underestimated. Join our growing team of mentors.

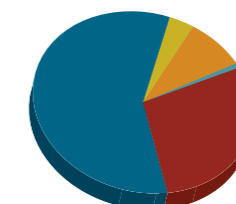
## **When two Jews connect, a third benefits.**

For more Jews to connect with each other, we need you to connect with us. There are a number of levels at which your contribution will make a real difference.



### **Income**

Donations = £667K  
Events income = £133K



### **Expenditure**

Publications & Promotions = £34K  
Operating overheads = £73K  
Governance costs = £15K  
Premises = £150K  
Programmes & Events = £520K

## BECOME A....

## BENEFACTOR:

£10,000

## PATRON:

£5000

## SUPPORTER:

£1,000

## FRIEND:

£500

## **UNITED NATIONS OF CJL**

Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Columbia, Denmark, Dutch, Ecuador, England, France, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar, Greek, Holland, Hungary, Indian, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Persian, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, USA, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe

**MY CONTACT DETAILS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ PostCode: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel (home): \_\_\_\_\_

Tel (mobile): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: (block capitals) \_\_\_\_\_

**FRIEND'S CONTACT DETAILS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ PostCode: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel (home): \_\_\_\_\_

Tel (mobile): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: (block capitals) \_\_\_\_\_

To find out more, or to make a donation  
please call 020 7495 6089 or email [info@thecjl.org](mailto:info@thecjl.org)





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