

REP PRESENTS

THE VOICE OF THE JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

SIR GRAHAM BRADY ATTENDS OUR AGM



The JRC was honoured to have a very busy Sir Graham Brady, Chair of the influential Conservative 1922 Committee, address us, at our AGM, on 12 May. Sir Graham, was excellent.

He answered all questions honestly & in detail & explained to us, the fascinating origins of The 1922 Committee, (actually formed, in 1923!) Salford born, Sir Graham, said he was "deeply troubled by the rise of antisemitism in this country" & he had, "hoped he would never have seen it again." A great supporter of the Jewish community in Sale, (which is in his constituency), Sir Graham said the Rabbi of Sale once said to him at a Civic Service that, "he attended synagogue more than most

members & that his membership form, was in the post!" The AGM began with our prayer, recited by Rabbi Daniel Walker, reminiscent of the time, when his beloved late father, Rabbi Tony Walker ZL, a past Hon. Officer of The JRC, used to do this task.

Officers elected at The AGM, were :-

- President - Russell Conn,
- Chair of the Executive - Jackie Buchsbaum,
- Treasurer - Raymond Solomon,
- Education Officer - Jeremy Michelson,
- Public Relations - Jay Charara,
- Publicity - R. Graham Gordon,
- Antisemitism & Human Rights - Michael Rubinstein,
- Youth & Community - Susan Isaacs.

Outgoing President, Sharon Bannister was sincerely thanked for her many years of service & a presentation of thanks, was made to Jonny Wineberg, past Chair.

COMMUNAL DIARY

UJIA Annual Dinner

Oct 3 @ 7:00 pm

CST Event

Oct 27 @ 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

JWA - 'Ask Me' Community Ambassador Training Event

Oct 28 @ 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Manchester Maccabi Dancing Strictly

Nov 6 @ 7:00 am

Young Jewish Leadership Academy Launch Event

Nov 7 @ 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

JAMH Zumbathon

Nov 10 @ 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Hillock Synagogue 50th Anniversary Celebratory Dinner

Nov 10 @ 7:00 pm

The Fed Ladies' Lunch

Nov 12 @ 12:00 pm

CST Fundraising Event

Nov 14 all-day

The Jewish Representative Council Annual

Community Challenge Quiz

Nov 17 @ 7:00 pm

CST Fundraising Event

Nov 18 all-day

Loose Wo(Men) Fundraising Event for MJCC in Aid of The Nicky Alliance Centre

Nov 19 @ 7:30 pm

The Fed's Caring Sunday Telethon

Nov 24 all-day

The Fed Business Breakfast

Nov 27 @ 8:00 am

Chai Lights Committee Motown Disco

Nov 30 @ 7:00 pm

The Jewish Representative Council Monthly Council Meeting

Dec 1 @ 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

UJIA Family Cinema Screening – Frozen 2

Dec 1 @ 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Community Awards Ceremony

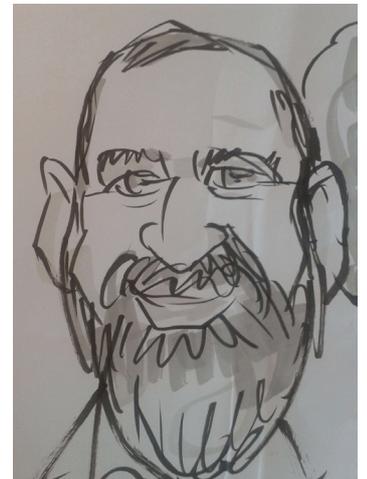
Dec 3 @ 7:00 pm

AISH Fundraising Dinner

Dec 4 @ 7:00 pm

Maccabi White Collar Boxing Event

Dec 5 @ 8:00 pm



WHO IS THIS GUY!?

SEE PAGE 2

For details of all forthcoming events, consult the community diary at: www.jewishmanchester.org
To receive our weekly email digest, of communal events, email us at: office@jewishmanchester.org



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE JRC!



EDITORIAL, FROM THE LITTLE GUY, WITH THE BEARD

Just 1 month after my wife, Sue & I moved to Manchester, some years ago, we attended our first Rep. Council Meeting. We were impressed by its efficiency & the broad range of its valuable activities. The Speaker was high profile, Tony Lloyd, The Interim Mayor of Greater Manchester.

Little did I know then, that through the efforts, of the late, great, Rabbi Tony Walker ZL, who became our very dear friend, I would get very involved with this amazing organisation & take over, at his request, most of the roles he held. I am honoured & proud to be one of the delegates of Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation & as this is "my constituency," it will always be a priority for me, to ensure it is well represented, on the Council.

I am honoured & delighted to have been elected Publicity Officer, at The AGM on 12 May & I hope you enjoy, the first "RepPresents," of the new Working Group.

I would like to sincerely thank, all members of the Working Group & in particular, the Editorial Team, who have joined me, Filis Rosenberg, Ed Moss & David Marks.

We welcome relevant contributions & if you have anything you want to share or an article for the next issue, please email me them, to :-

graham@jewishmanchester.org.uk

I & all my colleagues, wish you a very happy & healthy new year !!!

R. Graham Gordon, - Publicity Officer



RUSSELL CONN - PRESIDENT

I am delighted to offer this as my first article as the new President of the JRC. At the outset I must thank the outgoing President Sharon Bannister for all her amazing work that she did and the things she achieved during her 5 years in office. As well as the help she has offered me to ease the transition, she is truly a remarkable servant of the Manchester Community and we are very proud to have her as our former President. As we approach this most momentous time of the year it is useful to reflect on the past year and look forward with confidence to the year ahead. 5779 saw the start of our centenary year which was launched with much fanfare at our dinner in March with our guest speaker the Chief Rabbi.

We are particularly indebted to him for kindly honouring us with his presence and everyone who was there could not fail to be impressed by his very warm words of encouragement to us the Council and the Manchester Jewish community as a whole. As the new President I have been very busy representing the Council and often the community at very varied communal events as well as meeting Council leaders, local MP's and other communal leaders. The Manchester Jewish Community is blessed with so many wonderful organisations all doing an incredible job each in their own sphere. The Council's job is to help facilitate these different groups and ensure they all have the resources they need to continue to be successful and to grow. During my various discussions certain key topics keep reoccurring one is Mental Health and I make no apology for raising such a sensitive subject the other is the health and welfare of the youth in the community. The Council is dedicated to working with all relevant bodies both within and without the community to ensure that these extremely important areas get the full support they deserve. I said in my brief interview with Simon Yaffe of the JT that the Council cannot be all things to all people. We have some amazing people who give of their

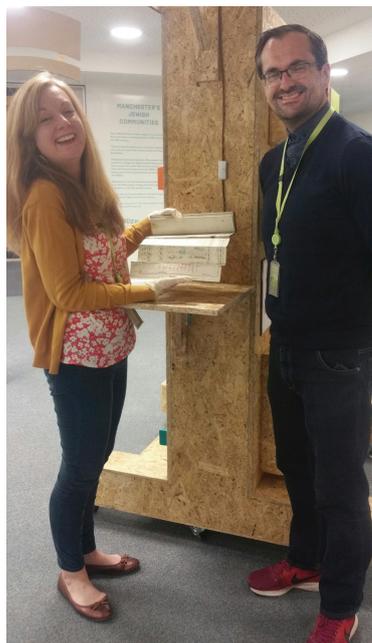
time, and volunteer in so many ways that the community probably doesn't even realise. But I firmly believe and Jacky Buchsbaum and I concur that we need to concentrate on those areas where we can make a difference, where we can be a catalyst like the Sukkot project and above all be the conduit between the Jewish Community and the wider society. I am particularly keen to promote how good our website is, as a useful tool and resource for our community, but especially for the non Jewish world who are not always sure who to talk to, who to contact, when they have a question that they need an answer to. We cannot have all the answers but we can certainly steer them in the right direction. The community should be very impressed with the way the Tommy Robinson affair was dealt with earlier in the summer when at very short notice two HO's combined to provide a very reasoned rebuttal to why TR was not welcome and why sensible and sensitive Jews should never vote for someone as Right Wing as him, this was picked up world wide. This is only one example of the vital role that the JRC can and does play as the umbrella organisation of such a vibrant and diverse community. Let's enter this new year with hope, with vigour and a desire to make the JRC the very best this organisation can be.



Russell with Sir Richard Leese etc

A CREATIVE MOVE FOR MANCHESTER JEWISH MUSEUM

Our reporter, Filis Rosenberg, is the Manchester Jewish Museum's delegate to the Jewish Representative Council. Recently she met up with Dr Laura Seddon, the Museum's Creative Producer, to learn about their plans for the future.



As most readers will already know, the Jewish Museum is now based at Manchester's Central Library whilst their original building on Cheetham Hill Road is being extended and renovated.

From their current new base their plans for the immediate and long-term future are ambitious and know no bounds.

Laura talked to me about some of their projects, such as their visits to schools and libraries in various boroughs, including Rochdale, Oldham, Bolton, Wigan, and Tameside. Laura, and Gareth Redston, the Museum's Head of Programmes, have visited Children's Libraries in various locations with their 'Synagogue in a Box'. This Summer programme offers families something very unusual as they are asked to 'create a synagogue' with a suitcase of craft materials presented to them. Many may not have had any contact with members of the Jewish community previously, and this project has raised a lot of interest and enthusiasm. They are also given the opportunity to examine 'mystery' objects from the Museum.

I myself am enjoying very much being part of one of Laura's projects, the Textile Group, which is comprised of Muslim and Jewish women who are providing embroidered squares based on the biblical 'Tree of Life'. Any ladies interested in being part of this group would be made very welcome whether they are experienced or just beginners.

It has proved to be an opportunity to learn about each other, as well as the embroidery itself. We usually meet for a maximum of two hours every few weeks. The squares will be used to create a Torah Mantle for a replica Torah to be taken to schools.

Laura emphasized that music will play a big part in future when the Museum teams up with renowned performers to prepare a 'song-cycle' celebrating Cheetham Hill's amazing diversity and inspired by oral recordings of immigrants arriving in the area during the 1930s.

Operatic Baritone Peter Brathwaite, a performer with the English National Opera, and who is originally from Cheetham Hill, will join with Na'ama Zisser and Joe Steele in this endeavour. Na'ama is the first Israeli woman to have her work performed at The Royal Opera House. Joe Steele is a composer, saxophonist and music leader, based in London, and is involved in Music Action International and the English National Opera Bayliss programme.

It is envisaged that the results of this collaboration will come to fruition to coincide with Holocaust Memorial Day 2020. Many readers will remember the very special, emotional evening held at the Museum on the 27th January 2016 when Peter Brathwaite performed the so called 'Degenerate' music banned by the Nazis.

Last, but not least, food! Or more specifically Taiglach!

The Cheetham Hill Festival takes place from 19th to 22nd September and the Museum will have a pop-up stand on Sunday 22nd (check out the Cheetham Festival programme for venue and other events). The Museum will be offering Taiglach – with a twist. My memories of Taiglach take me back to my home in Cork where they were frequently served at a Kiddush or at a Wedding or Barmitzvhah reception. Dry Taiglach will be served, but I also remember them being served with honey or syrup. Yummy!



If you want to find out what this is, go into The Manchester Jewish Museum, at The Central Library.

THE AMAZING PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY - JACKY BURCHSBAUM

I have made the point on many occasions that the Manchester Jewish Community is amazing. The reason for this, is the giving nature of the members of the community. Recently I was at a meeting with council leaders and representatives discussing how we could work better together, and one of the points that was made by the civic representatives was the unprecedented level of volunteering and support within the Jewish community. One part of the role of Chair of the Representative Council is to attend events within the community to show our support. Amongst the events attended recently was the launch of the Nicky Art Exhibition which was opened by the Lord Lieutenant, and the Langdon College Awards which had several mayors in attendance. It always amazes me how many members of our community are involved in volunteering and administering communal organisations. We see the same familiar names in the press that we can sometimes forget just how many others there are. As one interacts with more and more organisations, one begins to get a level of volunteering and philanthropy in our community.

This year being our centenary we are once again running our communal awards in conjunction with the JVN and the Jewish Telegraph, the nominating process is open, and I would ask the whole community to look around them and see who are the superstars, who are helping the community, be it with the youth, the elderly, the sick, the under privileged, be they a volunteer or an employee who goes way beyond the call of duty. Then please show your appreciation and make sure they are nominated for the appropriate category. The awards are an opportunity to show our appreciation and thank the amazing people within our community who make it so special.



Russell Conn, JRC President & Jacky Burchsbaum, Chair present Rishi Shori of Bury Council, with our History on 5/6/19, in the presence of former Mayor, Jane Black.

THE SYNAGOGUE WITHIN A HOSPITAL

Earlier this year, our reporter, Filis Rosenberg, travelled to Holland at the invitation of her cousin, Leila Degen, and her husband Marc, for a short stay. Their home is in Amstelveen, just outside Amsterdam.

Apart from seeing my relatives again, I was impressed by Marc's involvement in their local Orthodox Synagogue, which unusually is part of a hospital complex. The story of how Marc and others became involved with the Synagogue goes back many years.

The Synagogue space is situated within the Central Israeli Ziekenhuis Hospital. When it is not being used for religious services, the space is offered to those within the Hospital who may require a meeting place. The Ark and all the needs of the Synagogue are locked when not in use and only authorised people are given access.

In 1978 the only Jewish hospital in Amsterdam merged with this hospital in Amstelveen (originally for Jewish patients only) and at that time the special arrangement for the Synagogue was created. They have services on Friday night, and on Saturday mornings, when they attract a congregation of 80 to 100 people. On the Festivals, this number can reach 150 to 250, and a Kiddush is provided.



In 2010, Marc was honoured for his 25 year-long involvement with the Synagogue by Her Majesty, Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands.

So, if any of our readers are ever in Amsterdam, or specifically Amstelveen, they can be sure of a warm welcome.

JAY CHARARA - PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER



Jay with Dame Louise

“Israel is home from home” said Jay Charara from the Manchester Rep Council at the Councillors' Seminar in Liverpool organised jointly with Merseyside Rep Council, BOD and JLC in July. “When you walk down Dizzengoff Street on a hot day and you hear music, from your childhood, blaring down from a shop, you realise that Israel is home from home. For most people, Israel is where friends and family can be found, miles away from any distorted clips on national TV,” said Jay Charara whilst speaking as part of an Israel Panel at the Seminar.

SCOUTING WITH DAVID & MICHAEL MARKS



David & Michael are father and son with more than genes that bind them together. Their passion for Scouting has seen them volunteer at community level and across the world. They are also both active members of committees in the Manchester Jewish Representative Council.

Since becoming involved with the 401st Manchester Scout Troop in the 1980's, David has given generations of young Jewish Scouts the chance to experience Scouting. Under his guidance, the Troop became one of the biggest Jewish units in the UK and this was due to the unique mix of both traditional and modern Scouting that was on offer. This was intertwined with a love for his religion, making sure that all levels were comfortable in joining in with the activities on offer, organising Scout led services at Synagogue, and ensuring that the group chaplain was an integral member of the team.

To fully integrate the Jewish Scouts into local and regional camps and activities, David worked closely with other local leaders to educate them on the Sabbath observance needs and dietary requirements so as to allow his Scouts full access to the activities on offer. He became the Group Scout Leader in 2000 and now sits as the Assistant Group Scout Leader and a District Advisor.

National Jewish Scouting is also an important part of David's work and this is seen by his commitment to help organise and run National Jewish Scout Camps for all Jewish members from across the UK under the Jewish Scout Advisory Council. This led to him becoming the Northern Liaison for the Council and Camp Chief.

Michael began Scouting at the 401st Manchester as a Cub when he was 8 years old and continued through Scouts & Ventures. After university he returned to the group as an Assistant Scout Leader and then the main Scout Leader position for 5 years. Since getting married and creating a family, he got more involved in World Scouting with the International Forum of Jewish Scouts (IFJS) and became their European Coordinator. He is also in his second round of being elected as Deputy Chair of the European Scout Interreligious Forum; a forum of 7 world faith groupings that hold consultative status with the World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM).

At the World Scout Jamboree 2007 in the UK, David played a fundamental role in organising and leading the Jewish Tent within the Faith and Beliefs Zone (FAB). Michael was also part of the team. A World Scout Jamboree takes place every 4 years similar to the Olympics where countries have to bid to host it. It is the largest gathering of youth from across the world (approx. 45,000 youth and 10,000 staff), and all attendees live under canvas for 2 weeks experiencing fun and educational activities. David & Michael are proud to have had young members of the 401st be selected as participants to this fantastic event since 1995; Naomi Cooper being the latest. The FAB Zone was created to educate youth to help disavow pre-conceived prejudices some may have held before attending with the aim that, when they return to their communities, they can be the ambassadors for improving interfaith relations.



On offer in the Jewish area is an interactive exhibition about Judaism with an array of Judaica for the scouts to learn about, and there are also hands-on scoutcraft style activities. The team also organise the Kosher food, prayer services and Shabbat needs for all Jewish attendees.

This became the template for successive Jamborees and has been adapted by organisers at the Irish International Jamboree in 2008 and the World Jamborees in Sweden 2011, Japan 2015 & USA 2019. Michael took on the role of head organiser of the Jewish Area in Japan and the USA.

Both David & Michael have been honoured with the Nachshon Award – the highest award given to Scout leaders for work at world level for Jewish Scouting. They look forward to many more years of voluntary service and urge the Manchester community to get their young people involved in their local Jewish Scout and Guide units, part of the world's largest youth movement.



LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU, AT :-
THE COMMUNITY CHALLENGE QUIZ 2019
 Charity Quiz Evening Open to All Organisations
SUBSTANTIAL CASH PRIZE FOR THE WINNING TEAM
 Light 7.30 PM Sunday 17 November
 Refreshments at a North Manchester Venue
 Raffle

A table costs £120 for for a maximum of 10 participants.
061 720 8721 or email office@jewishmanchester.org to book your table



BUSY TIMES IN EDUCATION - JEREMY MICHELSON

It has been a busy time for those involved in the Education Working Group (EWG) of the Rep Council. As one of the aims of the EWG is:

“To create opportunities to extend the range of Jewish education in its widest sense (including social and cultural) to as much of the Jewish community as possible. This would be done by bringing groups together to pool resources and offer programmes.”

One way of doing this is to put on The Sherman Lecture, which we run in partnership with the Zionist Central Council and the Centre for Jewish Studies at Manchester University. This was held at Stenecourt Shul. The large audience was enraptured by an illustrated talk from Professor Judith Schlanger who spoke about “How Jewish Books Survive”. For a nation without a homeland books became an essential tool for Jewish self-expression and survival. In the age before printing, the survival of Jewish books meant the survival of Judaism. For Jews in the Middle Ages books were like Cathedrals, hence the often-beautiful illustrations in them. In the Middle East Jews were a part of Muslim society in which writing books was important. A good example of this was a codex of the entire Tanach written by Samuel Ben Jacob in 1008 -09 for Mevorach Ha Cohen which was a model of beauty. Jewish books were in danger of being lost due to natural decay, being eaten by rats, mice and insects. In a document of 1240 worms were cursed! There was also periodic destruction such as the burning of cartloads of the Talmud in Paris in 1242. As there was a shortage of parchment many books survived as binding for other books.

When Jews were expelled from towns and countries many Jewish books became available for use as binding for other books. In 1015 the Shul in Fustat (modern Cairo) was rebuilt and a genitza for storing book fragments was added, about 20.000 fragments have been found in it. It is estimated that maybe about a million Jewish books were written in the Middle Ages. Jewish books are a mirror of Jewish history. A book written in 1013 describes the situation for the Jewish Community of Fustat. A Latin book from Bury St Edmunds has Hebrew in the binding. As Jews were expelled from there in 1191 it must be one of the oldest Pieces of Hebrew in England.



TEACHING ABOUT JUDAISM TO NON-JEWISH CHILDREN

The programme of creating a volunteer force to go into primary schools to help non-Jewish children learn about Judaism is in full swing. This is necessary as Judaism is a part of the RE curriculum and many primary teachers feel that they don't know enough about it to teach it with any confidence. We had a training morning led by Jeremy Michelson, Ann Angel and Eric Cohen (from Liverpool) on June 23rd. There was a talk on the RE curriculum and what may be expected of Jewish visitors. This was followed by practical sessions on teaching Shabbat, leading a tour around a shul and what type of questions might be answered. The prospective volunteers left full of enthusiasm and there will be a follow up session on October 27th. After that they will be mentored as they begin to go into schools. There is still a chance to sign up for the second session. If you would like to consider becoming a volunteer teacher please contact Jeremy Michelson at the JRC office jeremy@jewishmanchester.org

HOLOCAUST TEACHING IN GREATER MANCHESTER

There is much teaching about the Holocaust by Jewish volunteers going on, but it was felt that teachers were operating independently of each other, without any idea of what other Jewish teachers were doing. Therefore, a meeting was called of any interested people in order that teachers could share information and consider working together, when appropriate. The teachers were very enthusiastic about working together and have begun setting up a Holocaust Teachers' Group to take this further. Anyone whom is interested in joining this group please contact Jeremy Michelson at: jeremy@jewishmanchester.org

WRITING YOUR NAME IN HEBREW!

The Jewish community was well represented at Collabor8, the annual multi - faith and multi - ethnic event at Bury College on July 24th. Children and adults visited stalls that were set out in the sports hall of Bury College to find out about what voluntary organisations Bury has to offer, including faith groups. The JRC had a stall with many artefacts illustrating Jewish life. We also had some banners and material kindly lent by the Manchester Jewish scouts. The most popular item was an Aleph Bet stencil for writing your name in Hebrew. This caused great interest and attracted children and adults alike. Children also enjoyed spinning the dreidel and winning sweets! All in all our community was represented very positively and was well received by the public.

Photo caption: Jeremy & other JRC Officers, with Professor Judith Schlanger, who delivered the Sherman Lecture.

SOME NEWS, SINCE OUR PESACH EDITION

YOM HA' AZMAUT

9 May

JRC Past President, Sharon Bannister & Bury Mayor, Jane Black, at the flag raising ceremony, at Bury Town Hall.



EL AL

15 May

The Israeli Ambassador, re-opens the EL AL service, from Manchester Airport to Tel Aviv, attended by many communal leaders, including JRC reps.



AJEX ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE, AT HEATHLANDS.

23 June

This moving event, took place in the grounds of Heathlands, with High Sheriff, Mark Adlestone, as the Reviewing Officer. Several local Mayors were in attendance & The Rep. Council was represented, by Officers, Jeremy Michelson & R. Graham Gordon.



"COLLABOR8"

24 July

We participated again, at this multi faith event, at Bury College.

THE CHIEF RABBI'S LECTURE

16 June

Chief Rabbi Mirvis, gave a lecture at Heaton Park Shul, on "The State of British Jewry." The lecture was fascinating. The Chief Rabbi's premise, was that the "good is getting better & the bad is getting worse !!!" R. Graham Gordon, welcomed The Chief Rabbi to Manchester, on behalf of The Rep. Council.



BURY COUNCIL LEADER VISITS, HEATHLANDS

9 July

Russell Conn, President, with Mark Cunningham, CEO of The FED, David Jones, Leader of Bury Council & Mark Levy, of The J.L.C.



JNETICS WITH GABY BAIGEL



Three years ago, after graduating from university with a degree in Biomedical Sciences, I made the move to London on the hunt for a job in which I could combine my interest in science and love of community work. A quick Google search brought me to home page of a charity I'd never heard of before – Jnetics. With 2 employees, they were a small charity with a low profile, but a huge ambition – 'to make a real difference to the prevention, diagnosis and management of Jewish genetic disorders' in the UK.

I was surprised I had never heard of them before, considering their unparalleled and literally life-saving aims. Intrigued, I reached out via email. A few days later I found myself in their small North Finchley office meeting Katrina, their Executive Director. All I can say is that it clicked instantly. It seemed that I had got in touch at the perfect time too – they were on the cusp of launching their brand new and unprecedented initiative – The GENEius Programme – and they needed all the man-power they could get.

Wind forward 3 years, and Jnetics is almost unrecognisable. The team has tripled and their services have exploded. GENEius is flourishing and for the first time ever they've got a member of staff (that's me!) dedicated to bringing the Jnetics mark up-north too.

So, enough of the story for now – what exactly is Jnetics and their GENEius programme all about?

Jnetics is the only charity in the UK focusing on Jewish genetic disorders (JGDs). They have three core activities; raising awareness, providing information, and offering carrier screening- which is where The GENEius Programme comes in.

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MANCHESTER JEWISH COMMUNITY AWARDS 3RD DECEMBER 2019

As always, the evening will showcase the incredible work of our communal organisations and recognise the inspirational achievements of our volunteers. Do you know someone who has given their time tirelessly to help others? Someone whose hard work and dedication has made a huge difference to the community? Please nominate a volunteer who you would like to see honoured at this year's event.

The nomination categories are as follows:

- Volunteer of the Year
- Communal Employee of the Year
- Lifetime Award
- Friend of the Community
- Young Volunteer of the Year (under 18 yrs & 18-25 yrs)
- Building Bridges Awards (an individual and an organisation)
- Special Recognition Award

To nominate follow this link: www.jewishmanchester.org Details can also be found on JVN's website at www.jvn.org.uk

The closing date for nominations is 11th October 2019. Winners will be chosen by the judging panel on 27th October 2019 and announced and presented with their award on the night.

We will also carry on the tradition of having a community fair at the start of the evening, where guests will be able to talk to the different organisations, to find out about volunteering opportunities in Manchester and how they can get involved.



**MANCHESTER
JEWISH COMMUNITY
AWARDS**

TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER 2019
North Manchester venue
NOMINATE SOMEONE WHO HAS INSPIRED YOU!
The categories are:

- Volunteer of the Year
- Communal Employee of the Year
- Lifetime Award
- Friend of the Community
- Young Volunteer of the Year (Under 18 yrs & 18-25 yrs)
- Volunteer Team of the Year
- Building Bridges Awards (an individual & an organisation)
- Special Recognition Award

TO NOMINATE AND FOR MORE INFORMATION:
WWW.JEWISHMANCHESTER.ORG
MJCA@JEWISHMANCHESTER.ORG
CALL: 0161 720 8721
Closing date for nominations
Friday 11 October 2019

JEWISH Synagogue
Jewish Representative Council
jvn jewish volunteer network

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'GENEius' is a comprehensive education and screening programme focusing on young Jewish adults in three broad groups- Y12 students, university students and couples planning to marry through a synagogue. Screening, which covers nine of the most severe and recessive JGDs, is available for students either at their school or university, and for engaged couples and anyone else in the community planning to start or extend their family, at the Jnetics clinic. The clinic is run in partnership with the NHS although funded by Jnetics. It has bi-monthly sessions and is based at Barnet Hospital, but importantly it offers a virtual service for those living outside of London too in which screening can be arranged by post and phone. The launch of this 'Virtual clinic' at the beginning of 2018 really marked a new era for Jnetics – for the first time their screening was accessible across the whole of the UK, irrespective of postcode. But why is screening really so essential?

Many people are unaware that every Ashkenazi Jew has a one in five chance of being a carrier for at least one of the nine extremely severe recessive JGDs*. All nine disorders are inherited in a recessive way, which means that a carrier does not have symptoms, but is at risk of having a child that suffers from the disorder they carry. This is only if their partner is a carrier of the same disorder too.

For a so called 'carrier couple' there is a significant 1 in 4 risk every time that they get pregnant that the baby will be affected. Unfortunately, for the disorders covered by Jnetics screening, it means the child will suffer from extremely debilitating symptoms, and likely die in childhood. Fortunately, though, there are a number of options for carrier couples to avoid having an affected child, but in order to access these they must be aware of their carrier status first. This is why screening is so crucial.

So back to the story we started with. Jnetics and their GENEius programme are certainly starting to change attitudes and behaviour when it comes to JGD screening in the UK. But what will their new northern chapter have in store? So far we have delivered GENEius at King David High School twice and both the uptake and enthusiasm have been amazing. But raising awareness amongst young adults and couples has been more of a challenge. There has been some use of the Virtual Clinic, but definitely not enough. Like it is around the world, and like it has started to become in London, JGD carrier screening should be a routine and obvious part of life for any young Jewish person up- north. We have the means to make sure no child is born in our community with a severe and recessive JGD, we just have to use it. In the words of Jnetics volunteers and carrier couple Bianca and Gary Sakol, 'If you can prevent your baby from suffering, why wouldn't you? Why wouldn't you get tested?'

For more information about Jnetics carrier screening, and to book an appointment at the clinic, go to www.jnetics.org/screening. For any other enquiries please email aviva@jnetics.org

*Tay- Sachs Disease, Cystic Fibrosis, Familial Dysautonomia, Canavan Disease, Glycogen Storage Disorder (type 1a), Bloom syndrome, Fanconi Anaemia (type C), Niemann-Pick Disease (type A) and Mucopolysaccharidosis type IV.