



News from the Office

Shalom Rav my friends,

On the 8th February this year I completed one year at the New West End and I can now honestly say that I know more members by name and face than last year; however the overwhelming feeling on entering the synagogue is still as strong as the day I first stepped into the New West End.

We have had many functions since Rosh Hashana, particularly the Home Secretary's John Reid's cosy fireside chat in the Synagogue and the amazing magic evening with Nic Einhorn and Tim Shoesmith who dazzled us with their repertoire. As in the circle of life, a man on a scooter turned up at the Shul one day asking if we wanted some prayer books with bronze covers, naturally I said yes we are interested in giving them a home. Imagine my delight when I discovered that they were dated 1860 and the date they were given to his grandson was the same date (but not the year) that I was born!!

Huge thanks to Jeff Hammerschlag for allowing me to reorganise the offices which are far more comfortable for working now. Also a big thank you to our maintenance crew, Fabricio (previously known as Junior) and his team who are forever polishing, scrubbing and cleaning the synagogue so that its sparkles on Shabbat and Holy days.

Wishing you Pesach Kasher V'Sameach.

Circle of Life

In 1994, while at University reading Computer Science, I discovered that a Jew (a German mathematician) called Leibnitz reasoned that as Jews believe that the Almighty is ONE and out of NOTHING and that the Almighty created the Universe, obviously these numbers 1 and 0 are important. The proof of the Almighty being one is in the everyday Shema prayer when we say " Shema Israel.....The Lord is, **One**". Hence Mr Leibnitz logically concluded that a light switch is either on or off, therefore on is one and off is zero and so the binary code was born.

Note that in Hebrew we do not have a letter equalling zero, Aleph = 1, bet = 2 gimmel = 3, etc but no zero. Why? It is my personal belief that each of us is a zero however as we have a soul we are a little more than zero and we strive to reach the One. Food for thought while chewing on your Matza!

Rachel Cohen