



Welcome to our first new look newsletter. I do hope you like it.

The last few months have been eventful at Jewish Women's Aid. There are lots of new initiatives. We ran a great 6 week programme for Hackney-based survivors of domestic violence. This group was so successful that we were given a grant to continue and expand it so that it is open to non-Hackney residents. It is now called Nashim (Women) and the women do a range of activities such as confidence building, CV writing skills, managing on a budget etc whilst we arrange childcare. The refuge now has a rosh chodesh group, run by Jane Leaver, which has become very popular. Tu b'Shvat saw all the women making fruit sculptures; believe me, they have to be seen to be believed.

You may also be aware of our new advertising campaign which ran in the Jewish Chronicle and the Jewish Telegraph in November*. The second one featured a 'netilat yadiim' cup which caused a bit of an outcry. Like all our promotional materials, this one was based on a true story with names changed – in this case, about a husband who had attacked his wife with the cup.

This incident illustrates that there is still an acute sensitivity to any attempts to raise awareness of domestic violence in the Jewish community. We need to work very sensitively with all sections of the community at the same time as reaching out to all Jewish women, whatever their background. We are the only organisation to provide this specialist service and we still maintain the only kosher refuge in Europe. It is vital that our work continues and is properly supported.

As this goes to press our income is significantly down from last year which is obviously alarming. If you, your friends, family or even passing acquaintances would like to contribute either by a donation, donating an event (birthday, wedding anniversary, celebration etc) or by organising a fundraiser I would be more than happy to hear from you. To help us reach our fundraising targets we have established a new Campaign Group, chaired by Hilda Worth. I do hope that they and JWA can count on your support.

With best wishes for 2008
Abigail Morris, Chief Executive

*If you didn't see them, check out our new website www.jwa.org.uk and download them.

- **INTRODUCING OUR BOARD**
Meet the team of lay-leaders who make up our Board of Trustees
- **CARING FOR OUR CLIENTS**
Just a few examples of how we look after clients and try to make their lives more enjoyable
- **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
Guest speaker Rosalind Preston OBE reminded us of the vital role that volunteers play

Against Domestic Violence

Helpline 0800 59 12 03



J E W I S H W O M E N ' S A I D

Introducing our Board

Judi Newman Chair

Judi joined JWA six years ago as a volunteer in the then Drop-In Centre. A qualified accountant, she became an active member of the Resources Committee. She then became an active member of the Luncheon Committee prior to being elected JWA Chair in 2005.

Judi has long felt that the organisation should have a greater profile and deserves to attract more financial support. She is very pleased therefore to see the launch of the new campaign and Abigail's appointment as Chief Executive last Summer.

Elaine Grazin Vice Chair of Regions

Elaine Grazin was one of the founder members of JWA in the 1980's, when the Helpline was set up and operated from Leeds. She is currently Chair of the Helpline Sub-Committee.

For many years, Elaine has also been a member of the Board of Management of Leeds Jewish Housing Association and an Executive member of Leeds Jewish Welfare Board, where she chaired Family & Children Services. In her 'day job', she is the Communications Manager for the West Yorkshire Probation Service.

Debra Morris Treasurer and Joint Secretary

The mother of twins aged five, Debra was previously a full-time chartered accountant and now acts as our Treasurer.

As well as volunteering for JWA, she is also a volunteer for St John Ambulance, giving first aid and first aid training. She is an active member of Woodside Park Synagogue and is presently on their board with responsibility for Adult Education. In her spare time she works part-time at the Wolfson Hillel School as their Finance Manager.

Mildred Levison Joint Secretary

After a professional career in social housing and establishing women's refuges, Mildred brought this expertise to JWA when she joined in 1996.

She became a Trustee a year later and was elected

to the Chair in 2000, a position she held for five years. Mildred is also an active member of the Luncheon Committee.

Judy Englander Vice Chair

A Glaswegian by birth, Judy came, via Nottingham, to London eight years ago. Since she joined JWA four years ago, Judy has helped to form the Events Committee where she has recently made a significant impact as chair of the Luncheon Committee. In 2006, she joined the Board of Trustees.

Betty Pruwer

Born in Germany, Betty lived and worked in property management and development there until 1991 when she came to England.

She joined JWA six years ago as a volunteer, focussing on raising awareness in the Orthodox/Charedi communities. A founder member of the Events Committee, Betty joined the Board in 2006 and is an active member of the Luncheon Committee.

Frances Turner

Frances has worked as a counsellor for 19 years, mainly in the health service and has seen a huge variety of clients over the years. She has also worked as a trainer, facilitator and has supervised other counsellors.

Recently appointed a trustee, Frances has always been interested in the work of JWA and now has the time to become more actively involved.

Liz Gould

As a magistrate, Liz has received specialist Domestic Violence Awareness Training so that she can hear cases in the Domestic Violence Courts. This heightened not only her awareness of the true extent of the problem but that it exists within the Jewish community.

Already a member of JWA, Liz decided to increase her involvement and became a Trustee last year. Her special areas of interest are the education programme and strategic planning.





A little pampering

FOAMS salon in Finchley Central was the luxurious setting for a day of pampering for all the residents of the JWA Refuge. In this serene surrounding the women were able to indulge in therapy treatments which included massage, reflexology, manicure and make up and the opportunity to have their hair styled.

We are very grateful to FOAMS for their support and all the professional therapist and beauticians who donated their time.

To add to the atmosphere, the team of JWA Refuge Volunteers organised cakes and refreshments and Wrap a Wish completed the party atmosphere by donating personal gifts for each woman to take home.

“Let JWA know that I said thank you, I could never have done this for my children.”

A summer holiday

Despite the rain, the excitement was palpable on 14 August as fifteen children and their mothers eagerly awaited the arrival of the bus to take them to Willows Farm for a magical day out. The summer outing, organised by Hayley Nicholas-Jago and Nicole Smith was a real treat for the clients of JWA.

The constant rain did not stop any of the children enjoying all the attractions of the farm including rabbits, alpacas, owls and races in the sports day. All the children were given badges in recognition of their having taken part.

The excitable group ate a full picnic in a specially provided party barn and everyone agreed that the day was a fantastic success, giving the children an amazing day to remember.

JWA would like to thank Mrs Evelyn Shaffron and The London Taxi Fund for donating funds for all the transport and the Arbib Lucas Trust for covering the entrance fees and food for the day.

The mitzvah of Chanukah

Last year, the second night of Chanukah was made truly memorable for 10 women and 18 children by a JWA group of volunteers who put on a wonderful party.

The women and children enjoyed painting chanukiot which had been made and donated, Israeli dancing coordinated by Susie Knoller and fun-filled party games, organised by Madeline Wilton and her team. The Mad Hatter, alias JWA's Volunteer Coordinator Hayley Nicholas-Jago, got everyone into the spirit with some Israeli dancing. The children enjoyed a game of pass the parcel and the mitzvah of lighting the Chanukah candles.



Evaluation of the project has shown that there was a marked improvement in the way the women felt about themselves and their lives.

Everyone went home with their own chanukiah and candles thanks to Edgware Lubavitch and each child received a Chanukah present, courtesy of Gift and Northwood & Pinner Synagogue.

One mother from Stamford Hill who had travelled to the party with her 3 children said *“Let JWA know that I said thank you, I could never have done this for my children.”*

The party food was a huge success thanks to our volunteers who organised donations from local supermarkets, Flax’s Bushey, Gift, Daniel’s Bakery and Grodzinskis. Our thanks also go to the JWA group of festival volunteers who organised and coordinated whole party: Madeline Wilton, Hilary Brass, Marilyn Goldenberg, Barbara Cohen, Aviva Greenberg, Jane Leaver, Marlene Roden, Jeanette Marx and Sylvia Landsman.

We will hold our next festival event at Purim, so if you feel that you can donate your skills or time please contact Hayley on **020 8445 8060**, as we are still looking for more volunteers who would like to join this valuable group.

Looking forward

A new project for survivors of Domestic Violence, run by Jewish Women’s Aid took place in conjunction with Team Hackney. Nearly a dozen women and their children were brought together to meet over a six-week period with selected themes for each of the sessions. While trained staff cared for the children in a crèche, their mothers took part in sessions about positive relationships, personal safety, parenting and career development.

The project gave the women involved the opportunity to build new skills for successful independent living, as well as providing a safe environment for the women to socialise and create new friendships. Evaluation of the project has shown that there was a marked improvement in the way the women felt about themselves and their lives.

JWA thanks Team Hackney for funding this project and looks forward to running the sessions again for other clients as all the women present felt that they had gained tremendously from being able to take part.

Annual General Meeting



It's the volunteers who really benefit

We were very pleased to welcome Mrs Rosalind Preston OBE as guest speaker to our Annual General Meeting in October.

In her address, she stressed that while charities need volunteers, it is often the volunteers themselves who reap great benefit from working with a charity. She charted her own progress through the voluntary work she had undertaken, and expressed the shock she had felt on first learning of the existence of domestic violence and abuse in the Jewish community.

In her report to the meeting, JWA Chief Executive Abigail Morris, presented concepts for the new advertising and fundraising campaign that was to launch in the run up to International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women on 25 November. Echoing Mrs Preston's point, Abigail also stressed

the importance of volunteers, emphasising that with the expansion in our activities, JWA still needs to recruit more volunteers to play their vital part in delivering these services. She said that it would be wrong to perceive all our services as being funded. She stressed that only 25% of our income comes from statutory bodies, with the remainder having to come from private donations.

JWA Chair Judi Newman added her support as well as a call for more volunteers and explained that they are needed to support administration, the provision of the Helpline and general assistance to JWA clients.

If you would like to join JWA as a volunteer, why not take a look at the relevant section on our new website www.jwa.org.uk or call 020 8445 8060. We're quite sure you will also find it beneficial.



Beads and Bangles

An enthusiastic group of volunteers of all ages gathered at The Britannia Hotel in Primrose Hill to take part in Mitzvah Day 2007, organised by the Jewish Community Centre for London.

Under the expert eye of Alex Franklin, the volunteers learnt how to make beautiful bracelets and necklaces. They enjoyed making the jewellery so much that they were very willing to make donations to the day so that they could take their exclusive jewellery home!

Lord Jakobovits Memorial Lecture

The 2007 Jakobovits Memorial Lecture was delivered by the renowned American historian and author, Deborah Lipstadt. Through the timely intervention of Lady Jakobovits all the proceeds from the sale of Deborah's books sold on the night went to JWA.

We thank Ms Lipstadt for her generosity and Lady Jakobovits once again for her conspicuous support.

Retail Therapy strikes again

Our annual Retail Therapy Day was held on 15 November, at the home of JWA Trustee Betty Pruwer. It once again proved to be a huge success.

With a delectable selection of items on display, those who came indulged in a frenzy of pre-Chanukah buying and helped to raise over £2,600 for JWA.

Our thanks go not only to Betty for allowing her home to be used but also to AK2 kids, Karen's Bags, Sylvie Bollag, Helena Greenfield, Louise Grunfeld, Gina Orloff, Michelle Orloff, Sami Salt, Deanne Simon and Wrap a Wish for making the day such a resounding success.



JWA Leeds Seminar

Following the success of last year's event, JWA Leeds once again chose to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women by holding a seminar for professionals and JWA members.

On the panel were Natalie Myerson from the Crown Prosecution Service; Marion Brosh, a Family Solicitor and part-time Judge; Rowena Matan, a child psychologist and Gay Waldman, JWA Campaigns Manager.

Each member of the panel spoke for ten minutes on their specialist topic with a focus on the role of education in the prevention of Domestic Violence.

A lively discussion followed and the evening was judged successful and informative by all who attended.

Future events

Lady in Red

A thought-provoking play, shortlisted for the Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award 2005.

Wednesday 27 March 2008

SOLD OUT

At the London Jewish Cultural Centre
Tickets £25 (with refreshments)

Call 020 8445 8060
to reserve your place now

Annual Luncheon 2008

Guest speaker: Joanna Trollope

Thursday 15 May 2008

Reception 11.45am
Luncheon 12.30-2.45pm

At The Sheraton Park Lane Hotel
Tickets £100

Call 020 8445 8060
to reserve your place now

First Business Breakfast

Hosted by Andy Rubin of Pentland plc

Join us for the launch of our
'Be a Mensch' campaign

Wednesday 4 June 2008

8am

Contact Amanda Jones
on 020 8445 8060
to reserve your place now

Hartsbourne Ladies Golf Day

Monday 28 July 2008

Interested in entering a team of four?

Contact Louise Kramer at
Hartsbourne Country Club,
Ladies Section on 020 8421 7272
for an entry form.

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