

HOME NEWS



An elite trio. Left to right: Jenny Stephany, from Kingsbury, north-west London; Janos Gonda, from Budapest; and Islin Abrahamsen, from Oslo

Europe's leaders of tomorrow?

By SIMON ROCKER
Education Correspondent

A Dutch prosecutor, a Greek teacher and a Norwegian nurse were among an elite band of European Jews who have just finished two weeks of intensive Jewish study at a public school in the English countryside.

They were staying at Carmel College near Oxford, for the first Nahum Goldmann Institute of Higher Jewish Studies, which ended on Sunday.

Dr Goldmann, who died in 1982, was a distinguished Zionist leader and founder-president of the World Jewish Congress, noted for his interest in the future of diaspora Jewry. The institute named after him was set up to encourage talented younger generation Jews to contribute to European Jewish life.

Thirty-two students from 13 countries, including Britain, were selected for the course, either from individual approach or sent by their communities.

They included both those already involved in their communities — like directors of Jewish community centres — and those on the edges of, or almost wholly isolated from, communal life.

Despite the diversity of backgrounds, an impressive camaraderie was built up between the students, most of whom were between the ages of 25 and 45. Self-declared secular Jews attended morning synagogue services to ensure a minyan for someone who wanted to say Kaddish.

"Until I came here, I'd never been to any service, except funerals or weddings," said Mr Jonathan Davis, a media consultant, aged 30, from

London, who writes for the "Jewish Quarterly" and is involved with the Jewish Film Foundation.

The other British participants were Ms Jennifer Stephany, a management consultant, 31, who represents the St John's Wood Liberal Synagogue on the Board of Deputies; Ms Linda Jeffes, a clinical psychologist, 35, who lives near Baldock, Hertfordshire; and Dr Shuli Reich, a psychologist, 38, from Kent.

The students were subjected to an intensive series of lectures and discussions on Jewish thought and history, led by leading scholars including the Israeli talmudist, Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz; the American historian of Zionism, Professor Arthur Hertzberg; and an Israeli analyst of contemporary Jewish thought, Professor Eliezer Schweid, from the Hebrew University.

One of the course tutors was Rabbi Michael Rosen, principal of the Yakar education centre in north-west London.

"It's been so interesting for me, I haven't missed one lecture," said Mrs Anna Shomlo, from Belgrade, who writes on culture and broadcasting and is also a novelist.

"We are far from the centre of Judaism in Yugoslavia. But a lot of young people are very interested in Judaism. They want to know more. They need knowledge. We have a lot of children from mixed marriages who want to be Jewish," she said.

Mr Uri Kaufmann, a 30-year-old teacher with a doctorate in history, who is involved in the Liberal Jewish community in Zurich, said that young Jews needed to "lose their bad conscience at living in the diaspora and instead concentrate on working

on educational, religious and other issues."

He was impressed that the institute could happily combine people of different religious tendencies. "Usually you only meet in your own stream."

Mrs Ingrid Lomfors, 30, director of the Jewish centre in Gothenberg, Sweden, found that the institute programme helped students to share the sense of belonging to a "European Jewish community."

Representatives from small communities such as Finland were particularly interested in exploring ways of furthering practical co-operation between European communities. They could not afford the luxury of inter-Jewish disputes.

However, many of the students felt that two weeks was too long and would have preferred a shorter programme.

The institute was organised and mainly funded by the New-York based Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, which spends around £1,250,000 a year on Jewish projects round the world. The decision to hold the institute in Europe was because that is where there is the greatest need for leadership training and cultural development programmes, according to the foundation's director, Dr Jerry Hochberg.

"What has been interesting among the marginally affiliated is their great desire to know more about various aspects of Jewish culture," he said.

"Hopefully, as a result of this experiment, they will deepen their interest in what is happening and this will lead to a desire to participate more actively, and perhaps even lead, in Jewish life."

More money allocated to students

Jewish Chronicle Reporter

The Anglo-Jewish Association allocated over £28,000 in grants to students in the academic year 1986-7 — an increase of almost £3,000 over the previous year.

The total number of grants made was 77. About half the recipients were students from Israel who were studying in Britain.

There were also students from Eastern and Western Europe, South Africa, the United States, and South America.

A number of British Jewish students were also assisted by the AJA when they were unable to obtain government grants.

Fifteen of the grants were for studies in Jewish history, Hebrew and rabbinic studies; 14 for science, mathematics and computer studies; and 14 were awarded for medicine and alternative medicine.

Focus on terrorism

Two former members of the Israel Defence Forces will be among the speakers at a seminar on world terrorism to be held in London in October.

They are Mr Arik Arad, a colonel in the army until he retired six years ago and a former general manager of security for El Al at Ben-Gurion airport; and Mr Chaim Stav, who was in the navy and later became chief security officer for the Israeli Ports Authority.

Mr David Dixon, former deputy commander of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad, will also address the seminar, which will be chaired by Professor Paul Wilkinson, of Aberdeen University, who is an expert on terrorism.

The seminar is being organised by Midan International, a professional security consultancy group, and is intended for security professionals, business executives and management responsible for security.

'Urgent' moral call

The expansion of the United Synagogue "as an ever-stronger bulwark of Orthodoxy" is urged by the Chief Rabbi, Sir Immanuel Jakobovits, in his Rosh Hashana message.

This should be done "quantitatively by reaching out to kindred communities throughout the country in some associated confederation, and qualitatively in devising some organisational bonds with the newly-flourishing, smaller units

attracting many of our members' children by their very intensity and intimacy."

Sir Immanuel states that the new leadership of the US and its restructuring "augur well for Anglo-Jewry's traditional heartland."

Other "major, urgent items" for the year ahead, he writes, include "the promotion of Jewish contributions to ethical integrity and moral excellence."

THE REFORM SYNAGOGUES OF GREAT BRITAIN
THE MANOR HOUSE, 80 EAST END ROAD, FINCHLEY, LONDON N3 2SY
01-349-4731

HIGH HOLY-DAY SERVICES

5748-1987

"The New Year approaches and we prepare to see ourselves, not in the mirror of our vanity, nor in the opinion of our neighbours, but in the sight of God, Whose ear hears us, Whose eye sees us, and in Whose book our lives are written."

RSGB Machzor

Services will be conducted at the Constituent Synagogues as follows: Non-members requiring seats for the High Holy-Days are advised to make application immediately as indicated below.

GREATER LONDON

BROMLEY & DISTRICT REFORM SYNAGOGUE, Service at Orpington Civic Hall. Enquiries: Mrs. R. Michaelis, 2D Lynwood Grove, Orpington, Kent BR6 0BG. Tel: 0689 31897.

BUCKHURST HILL REFORM SYNAGOGUE, High Holy-Day Services at Friends Meeting House, Bush Road, Leytonstone. Enquiries: Alan Fisher. Tel: 01-508 3428.

EDGWARE & DISTRICT REFORM SYNAGOGUE, 118 Stonegrove, Edgware, Middlesex. Tel: 01-958 9782.

FINCHLEY REFORM SYNAGOGUE, Fallowcourt Avenue, London N12. Enquiries: Tel: 01-446 3244/3245.

HAMPSTEAD REFORM JEWISH COMMUNITY. Enquiries: 01-794 2493. High-Holy-day Services at The Meeting House, 120 Heath Street, Hampstead, London NW3.

HARLOW JEWISH COMMUNITY, Harberts Road, Hare Street, Harlow, Essex. Enquiries: 0279 24668.

HENDON REFORM SYNAGOGUE, Danescroft Avenue, Hendon, London NW4. Tel: 01-203 4168.

MAIDENHEAD SYNAGOGUE, 9 Boyn Hill Avenue, Maidenhead, Berks. The Services will be held at an alternative venue. Visitors welcome. Enquiries: Rabbi J.A. Romain. Tel: Maidenhead 71058.

MIDDLESEX NEW SYNAGOGUE. Office: 39 Bessborough Road, Harrow, Middlesex. Tel: 01-864 0133. New Year Eve and New Year Day Services at the Synagogue. Atonement Eve and Atonement Day — Services at the Sports Halls, Harrow Leisure Centre, Christchurch Avenue, Harrow.

MILL HILL REFORM SYNAGOGUE. All High Holy-Day services at the Henry Harris Centre, 336a Stag Lane, Kingsbury, NW9. Enquiries: Mr David Blasebalk 01-906 1551. Services led by Rabbi M. Heilbron.

NORTH WESTERN REFORM SYNAGOGUE. Services in the Marquee, The Manor House, 80 East End Road, London N3 2SY on the first day Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Second day Rosh Hashanah service in the Synagogue, Alyth Gardens, NW11. Children's Services: First day Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur at The Manor House. Strictly no admission without tickets. Enquiries: Synagogue Office. Tel: 01-455 6763.

NORTH WEST SURREY SYNAGOGUE. Enquiries to Rabbi F. Morgan, at the Synagogue on 0932 55400. Services at the Synagogue, Horvath Close, Rosslyn Park, Otlands Village, Weybridge, Surrey.

RADLETT & BUSHEY REFORM SYNAGOGUE. For information about all High Holy-day services, leave a message on Radlett 6110 or telephone during office hours — Monday to Friday 9.30am-12.30pm.

SOUTHGATE & DISTRICT REFORM SYNAGOGUE. Rosh Hashanah 1st day and Yom Kippur Services will be held at Picketts Lock Centre, Picketts Lock Lane, Edmonton, London N9. Rosh Hashanah 2nd day at The Synagogue, 45 High Street, London N14. Enquiries: Secretary 01-882 6828 (9.30am-12.30pm).

SOUTH WEST ESSEX REFORM SYNAGOGUE. Services at Walthamstow Assembly Hall, Forest Road, E17. Enquiries: 01-599 0936.

THE SETTLEMENT SYNAGOGUE, Stepney Jewish Settlement, Beaumont Grove, London E1. Enquiries: 01-790 6262.

WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE, Upper Berkeley Street, W1. Tel: 01-723 4404. Also at Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1. New Year Day, Atonement Eve and Atonement Day.

WIMBLEDON & DISTRICT SYNAGOGUE, 44 Worpole Road, London SW19. Enquiries: Secretary, Tel: 01-946 4836.

NON-METROPOLITAN

BETH SHALOM REFORM SYNAGOGUE, CAMBRIDGE. Rosh Hashanah Services and Yom Kippur Services. Enquiries: L. Coppersmith (Cambridge 64324).

BLACKPOOL REFORM JEWISH COMMUNITY, 40 Raikes Parade, Blackpool FY1 4EX. Tel: 0253 23687.

BOURNEMOUTH REFORM SYNAGOGUE, 53 Christchurch Road, Bournemouth. Tel: 0202 27736.

BRADFORD SYNAGOGUE, Bowland Street, Bradford 1. Tel: 0274 44420.

BRIGHTON & HOVE NEW SYNAGOGUE, Palmeira Avenue, Hove. All High Holy-Day services at the Synagogue. Information from the Secretary. Tel: 0273 735343.

CARDIFF NEW SYNAGOGUE, Moira Terrace, Cardiff. Tel: 0222 755442.

CHESHIRE REFORM CONGREGATION, Menorah Synagogue, Altrincham Road, Manchester M22 4NZ. Please apply to the Secretary. Tel: 061 428 7746.

GLASGOW NEW SYNAGOGUE, 147 Ayr Road, Newton Mearns. Student Rabbi David Hulbert. Hon. Secretary, Mr. P. Kraven. Tel: 041 639 1838.

HULL REFORM SYNAGOGUE. Enquiries: Mr. R. Stone. Tel: 0482 651337.

MANCHESTER REFORM SYNAGOGUE, Jacksons Row, Albert Square, Manchester 2. Services and second day Rosh Hashanah in the Synagogue. Enquiries: Synagogue Office. Tel: 061 834 0415/0514.

NEWCASTLE REFORM SYNAGOGUE, The Croft, off Kenton Road, Gosforth, Newcastle. Enquiries: Rabbi W. Wolff. Tel: 091 284 3847 or Answering Service 091 284 8621.

NORTH MANCHESTER REFORM CONGREGATION (SHA'AREI SHALOM). Enquiries: Mr. M. Tennant (General Secretary) 061 766 5351. Mr. A. Rosenfield (Chairman) 061 766 2940.

SINAI SYNAGOGUE, LEEDS, Roman Avenue, Leeds 8. Tel: 0532-665256.

SOUTHEND & DISTRICT REFORM SYNAGOGUE. Services at 851 London Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex. Enquiries: 0702 75809.

SOUTHPORT NEW SYNAGOGUE, Portland Street, Southport, Merseyside. Tel: 0704 35950.

SERVICES ARE ALSO BEING HELD AT

KOL CHAI — HATCH END JEWISH COMMUNITY. Enquiries: Mr. M. Leb. Tel: 428 5789 and Mr. P. Martin. Tel: 863 9694.

MILTON KEYNES & DISTRICT REFORM SYNAGOGUE. Enquiries: Mr. M. Pruskin, Warden, 32 Breton, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes. Tel: 0908 56552.

SOUTH HAMPSHIRE REFORM JEWISH COMMUNITY. For information: Mr. D. Habel or Ms. H. Goldenberg. Winchester (0962) 60177 or 843333.

SWINDON JEWISH COMMUNITY. Enquiries: Miss I. Kramrisch. Tel: 0793 37769 or Mrs. A. Scott. Tel: 0793 24093.

THANET AND DISTRICT REFORM JEWISH COMMUNITY. Enquiries to Mr. D. Gradus 0843 226983, Mr. H. Breindel 0843 220311 or Mr. D. Mirsky 0843 220240.

18-35 age group — If a formal Synagogue Service does not appeal to you, and you are progressive in outlook, why not come along to the WUPJYS (World Union for Progressive Judaism Youth Section) own Yom Kippur informal service which will include prayers, readings and discussions. For further information please telephone Steve on 01-959 1196 or David on 01-446 1837.

INTENDING VISITORS ARE ASKED TO UNDERSTAND THAT FOR SECURITY REASONS THE MAJORITY OF SYNAGOGUES ARE UNABLE TO ADMIT PERSONS WITHOUT TICKETS. TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT PLEASE MAKE EARLY APPLICATION.