



“To unite UK Jewish women of every shade of opinion”

The League of Jewish Women is now in its 73 rd year. The members of the Executive Committee continually plan for the future to secure our role as an integral part of the volunteering sector. We have a very proud past and many welfare services were the inspiration of the League. We continue to meet the principles set out at our inception and more so than ever we endeavour to work within the interfaith and intercultural scene.

In this Annual Review, we will show that the League of Jewish Women is unique in its outlook and the importance we place on our members’ social and cultural needs.

The League of Jewish Women is represented in London and Greater London, the North West Region, Leicester, Bournemouth and Cardiff. It is hoped that during the coming year, we will extend the areas where we are working with the Jewish and wider communities.

Our principles are set out within this review.

Yvonne Brent

President





We endeavour...



To unite in one organisation Jewish women of every shade of opinion who are resident in Great Britain.



To intensify in each Jewish woman her Jewish consciousness and her sense of responsibility to the Jewish community and the community in general.



To stimulate in each Jewish woman her personal sense of civic duty and to encourage her to express it by increased service to the country.



To enable Jewish women through their solidarity as members of LJW to make an effective contribution to the solution of the problems confronting all communities.



To co-operate with other organisations of women and individuals in efforts for human betterment.



To encourage more people to become members of the League of Jewish Women.



“To co-operate with other organisations of women and individuals”



Local

Members can join a local group. Individuals can become Central members. Groups hold regular meetings covering a variety of subjects often with speakers. Interfaith issues are sometimes examined at these meetings.

National

We have links with a variety of national organisations. The League is represented on the Board of Deputies of British Jews, National Council of Women. National Alliance of Women’s Organisations, Association of Jewish Women’s Organisations as well as working with many large service providers in the UK. We show our support for the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen by participating in the annual AJEX Parade at the Cenotaph marching under the banner of the League of Jewish Women.

The League of Jewish Women is a member of the Council of Christians and Jews. The North West Region hosts an annual CCJ Coffee Morning attended by Mayors, local dignitaries, women’s organisations and faith leaders.





Welfare

The underlying principle of the League has always been to carry out welfare work. The organisations we work with include Jewish Care, Norwood, Chai Cancer Care, World Jewish Relief, Victim Support and Citizen’s Advice Bureau. Many of our volunteers work in the wider community in hospitals, hospices, prisons; help children to read in schools and help with numerous other community projects. Our volunteers are greatly respected and appreciated.

We are always looking for new projects for existing members and to attract new members.

This year we have begun to work with Silverline - a confidential, free helpline for older people across the UK.

Elderly

The League was one of the pioneer organisations when it came to helping the elderly and some of those services, such as work in Day Centres and delivering Meals on Wheels are still being carried out today. New services have been introduced to stimulate and encourage individual participation such as Reminiscence project and the growth of the interactive reading projects. Volunteers read a short story to a small groups of

elderly people and encourage them to discuss, what they have heard.

Health

A variety of volunteering work takes place in hospitals and hospices. Visiting patients, taking trolleys around wards, working in hospital shops and supporting staff on reception desks. Hand Care is a project offered widely in hospitals and residential homes in the North West Region. Volunteers offer a therapeutic hand massage and manicure.





MITZVAH DAY



Once again, LJW groups supported Mitzvah Day, which was held in November joining thousands of people around the world in a Jewish led day of social action and good deeds. This year, 12 groups actively supported the day organising teas in various residential homes, collecting toiletries for the homeless and a children’s hospice. One group hosted a Mitzvah day brunch to thank

members of the community for their many years of service. This is an opportunity to join with other faith groups to do something good for the whole community.

CHILDREN

JMUMS is a group of young mums who periodically take their babies and toddlers to Otto Schiff’s residential home in Golders Green, for elderly people with dementia.

The babies and toddlers interact with the residents by singing nursery rhymes and playing with balloons and beach balls. Staff say that residents, who are usually oblivious to what is happening around them, stop, watch or join in with the

children.

Members support the Norwood Twins and Triplets Group and, in Watford, many groups work at The Contact Centre which provides a safe environment for separated parents to keep in touch with their children.

We are proud to announce that Yvonne Josse has agreed to be the next LJW President.



HEADSTART & THE WAY AHEAD

Headstart and The Way Ahead are headwear services provided for those experiencing hair loss, following chemotherapy treatment. Headstart or illness. Headstart was the inspiration for The Way Ahead being the headwear service offered by Christie Hospital in Manchester. Started more than 20 years ago by members in the North West Region, this service has received many awards including the Queen’s Award for voluntary service. The Way Ahead has five teams which regularly visit St. Bartholomew’s, Kingston, and Northwick Park hospitals and, the London Clinic and University College London Hospitals as well as working closely with Chai Cancer Care. Home visits are also offered. During visits, volunteers demonstrate a variety of alternative headwear styles which are provided at low cost.

THE WOHL JVW VOLUNTEERING AWARDS 2014

THE WAY AHEAD was one of 18 entries shortlisted for an Award in September 2014

The winners were announced at a special event held at JW3

Jewish Volunteering Network received 120 nominations and we are proud to announce that The Way Ahead was highly commended in the category of

INNOVATION IN VOLUNTEERING





Social Issues



The Social Issues Committee exists to allow members to discuss and, in some cases, initiate action on important social issues of the day which are relevant not only to Jewish women but to women everywhere. The Autumn seminar was entitled “I am Moderate You are Extreme”. Our speaker was Clive Lawton, one of the founders of Limmud.

International Women’s Day is also marked by a meeting on a matter of international importance relevant to women. This year’s Seminar was entitled “Dying to Vote” and our speakers were Professor June Purvis who sits on the Advisory Board of Women and Social Movements International, Lone Theils who spoke about the emancipation of women in Denmark and Philippa Vose, a relative of the Suffragette, Emily Wilding Davison.

Health Matters

The Health Matters Committee arranges two to three seminars a year on medical and healthy living topics, considered to be of

interest to our members. The purpose is to provide up-to-date professional knowledge in an interesting and informative manner. The Autumn Seminar was entitled “Lost for Words”. Our speaker was Dr. James Warner who is the Senior Lecturer/Honorary Consultant in Psychiatry at Imperial College London. The Spring Seminar was entitled “Make it or Break-it—Osteoporosis A Preventable Epidemic”. Dr. Clare Batten, Consultant of Rheumatology and Metabolic Bone Disease based at Northwick Park Hospital, gave an informative talk.



“ To enable, inform and educate members “

LeagueArtz

LeagueArtz organises visits to current exhibitions, to include a lecture and guided tour, theatres, concerts, talks and places of interest. It allows members to benefit from outings in a group of like minded people.

A programme is circulated six times a year by email which has enabled us, from 1st January 2015, to remove the separate subscription for this service. LeagueArtz is now open to all members.

For members who require a printed programme a fee is required to cover postage costs. This year’s LeagueArtz seminar featured Award winning political

journalist and playwright Julia Pascal. Julia was the first female Director to stage a production at the National theatre.

Literary Events

Literary events continue to be popular. Peter Grose, talked to us about his amazing book—THE GREATEST ESCAPE. It tells the story of how the men, women and children of the French Village of Le Chambon-Sur-Lignon and its surrounding communities saved the lives of over 5,000, mainly Jewish people, from the Nazis and Vichy collaborators.

Workshops

This year, workshops were offered showing how to use Twitter and Facebook safely. There were two

sessions with more planned. Talks are being held with the Jewish Boys and Girls Brigade (EVOLVE) to provide a joint service to members to use their computers confidently and safely. Training will be given to our members in their own homes on their own computers. They will be able to learn the basics of how to switch on a computer, send emails, shop on line, use Facebook, surf the internet save photos etc.



INTERNATIONAL

International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW) represents Jewish women from all walks of life in international forums and is strategically positioned to confront and respond to the concerns of the Jewish community and women in general. The League of Jewish women is the UK affiliate.

In May 2014, members attended the 22nd ICJW Quadrennial Convention in Prague, with the theme “**From ROOTS to Fruits: Jewish Women of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**”. There were lectures, workshops, forums, thematic tours and film

screenings. The main programme was complemented by cultural sessions and performances.

In May, we look forward to welcoming Robyn Lenn, President of ICJW, who will visit our members in the North West Region and attend a Council Forum in London.

ICJW arranges an annual seminar to mark Human Rights Day. This year’s speaker was Ruth Dearnley, the Chief Executive of **STOP THE TRAFFIK**. A global coalition working together to help stop the sale of people, to see the traffickers prosecuted and to protect the victims of human

trafficking. To learn more about ICJW, go to their website www.icjw.org



First Aid Courses

Several First Aid Courses have been organised in various parts



of London run by Magen David Adom and financed by a grant

from ICJW. There are more planned in the coming months to be followed up with re-fresher courses.



COME AND JOIN US



HOW YOU CAN JOIN OR DONATE

Membership from January to December each year. Annual subscription £12 .

Men can join the **League Associate Division (LADS)** £9 .

Full Name:

Tel home:.....Mobile:.....

Address:.....

.....Postcode.....

Email:.....Date of Birth:.....

Donate now to help us continue our vital work

Donations to LJW £.....

Cheques should be made payable to the **League of Jewish Women** and sent to

ORT House, 126 Albert Street, London NW1 7NE or, telephone the office on 020-7242-8300

to pay by Paypal or credit/debit card (50p fee applies)



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