

Handing on family memories

Baron Frankal

As many Menorah members will know, North Cheshire Jewish Primary has a delightful Havdalah evening, when kids hit year three (first year juniors in old money).

Every family (only about 35 of us) has to bring in a family artifact and preferably an old member or two of the family. Each of the children gets up on stage to tell the tale of the book, the photo or the *becher* they've brought in. Noam, our youngest, took the one thing we have from his great-grandfather, Abraham - a silver Chanukiah. Almost everything else was stolen when their flat in Salford was broken into.

We told the story of how the tavern that was the family livelihood was taken off them (a genteel type of pogrom) and so he left Danzig with his father in 1909 for a new life in America - only for some dastardly captain to sail around the Baltics for a couple of weeks and drop them off in Hull, saying it was New York.

Do you have an heirloom object that tells a story that you'd like to share? If so, Shofar readers would love to read about it.

Please write to
shofar@menorah.org.uk or send it on paper to the office.

Once 18, Abraham stowed away aboard a ship that did finally get him to America, only to be held at Ellis Island. When his uncle finally got the letter, two weeks later, he rushed there to get him - one day after he'd been deported back to England, where he eventually got a job as a tailor, leaving the bosom of his ultra-orthodox family and coming to Manchester, working as a machinist for the rest of his life. The rest, as they say, is (our) history.

In the 1980s, the son of that uncle came to London to try and find his family, who unfortunately for him are named Cohen. After several days in a hotel room working his way through the telephone book, he found us and came up to Manchester. This was the first time I met real-life Americans and I tried to stay awake as the older folk shook the family tree a bit more to see what fell out - always an interesting thing to do and one that the Havdalah evening is very well designed to teach the children to value.



Noam and David Frankal with their great-grandfather's chanukiah

Menorah welcome new members



I am thrilled to have become a member of Menorah. Our journey as a family into the community has been such a warm and welcoming one. The last few months culminating in Elijah's Bar Mitzvah have been so eventful for us and we feel very grateful for the support of Rabbi Fox and everyone else who has helped us.

BEREN ALDRIDGE



I am delighted to have become a member of Menorah. Everyone has made me feel very welcome and I look forward to getting involved.

The communal seder was a great experience for me - thoroughly enjoyable!

RUTH GOODDIE



Members of Hav Nagila, chelyabinsk celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut