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Our next "Breakfast Club" will be on Sunday 10 April after Shacharit with guest speaker **Rabbi Dweck**. This event can be sponsored for £80. Details of this sponsorship and others such as Magen Munchies, Y@MA, and a community Kiddush are on our website at <u>www.magenavot.com</u> or by emailing <u>info@magenavot.com</u> to reserve a future event.





Yahrzeits

Sunday 27 March

Thursday 31 March

Cherry Cornell

Jacklyn Ferber

Mother

Father

24 Adar II

28 Adar II

We wish these members and their families Chayim Aruchim

Ukraine Update from the Board of Deputies by Julian Pollard



The British Jewish community is mobilising support for humanitarian aid and refugee support efforts in Ukraine and in the UK. To learn more, please visit: bod.org.uk/ukraine

The British Jewish community is mobilising and coordinating urgent humanitarian relief operations and practical support for refugees on the ground in Ukraine, in neighbouring countries and here in the UK.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews together with the Jewish Leadership Council jointly convened a Ukraine Task Force bringing together leading Jewish communal organisations, denominations, and leaders to co-ordinate our efforts, avoid duplication of effort and provide strategic and efficient aid and support for Ukrainian refugees. Efforts are focused on arranging critical accommodation and support services to Ukrainian refugees and providing financial assistance to relief efforts at home and abroad that will provide the most direct assistance to those most in need.

On Sunday 20th March the UK Ambassador to Ukraine, Melinda Simmons, (herself Jewish) addressed the Board from Warsaw. She had fled at very short notice from Kyiv to Lviv and then under shelling had left for Poland but was monitoring border crossings daily. Some of her staff remained trapped in Kyiv. She was working with the Foreign Office on visa applications and co-ordinating action with other international organisations and countries.

The Embassy had been watching the military build-up on the border of Russia for a year with increasing concern. The Ukrainian population were individualists and determined. Many had lived in the same town or village for years but had been citizens of seven different countries as Ukraine had been occupied so often. Putin had badly miscalculated the determination of the Ukrainians to remain independent because they wished to adopt democratic values as much as joining NATO. This was what Putin feared most. They were fighting for values which the UK and Jews supported.

The future actions would revolve around:-

- A. Justice -bringing the war criminals to justice . Apart from bombing and shelling atrocities there were reports of the rape of elderly women in Kharkiv and records were being compiled for future trials and
- B. Reconstruction and Reconciliation. This would be increasing difficult as former close ties of family and business between Russia and Ukraine were now severed

We were also addressed by Maurice Helfgott the Chair of World Jewish Relief (WJR) the main umbrella organisation co-ordinating many charities in the UK supporting Ukraine and its refugees. WJR has 29 partners in Ukraine and has assisted 15000 refugees so far.

World Jewish Relief has been operating in Ukraine for decades and is currently supporting 29 partner organisations and delivering services to 8,000 Jewish elderly, those out of work and those living in poverty. WJR partners across the country describe fear, panic, and disbelief, and are doing everything they can to protect their communities in the face of active conflict. They are responding to the most urgent humanitarian needs as they arise, prioritising food, cash, medical, material, and psychological support for the worst affected, whether fleeing their homes or unable to escape violence. In addition to on-the-ground support in Ukraine including helping those fleeing war, they are assisting those who have crossed into Moldova, Poland, and Transnistria.

They are also supporting those beyond the Jewish community where they can in Ukraine Government Controlled Areas close to the contact line. Their Ukraine Crisis Appeal is the most immediate and effective way individuals can directly support their efforts.

They are shaping the UK response to admitting refugees – 1000 families have offered accommodation so far via WJR. So, what can we do to help:-

- Give money. 50% of funds raised have already been spent and giving goods in kind may not reach the needy and may even hamper other efforts
 Spread the message. The WJR was uniquely placed to respond effectively to this crisis. Apart from acting for UK charities it was working with ORT, the Jewish Agency, UJIA, NIF, the Red Cross, Comic Relief and was ensuring a communal response.
- iii. Jewish Care's Pesach Appeal will be for Ukraine.

Those wishing to donate to WJR's Ukraine appeal can do so here:-https://www.worldjewishrelief.org/ways-to-donate/appeals/1267-ukraine-crisis-appeal



US CHESED APPEAL – PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY!

Please support the US Chesed matched-funding appeal this Sunday and Monday at <u>www.charityextra.com/magenavot</u>.

We are raising £500,000 for the amazing work of US Chesed, which provides thousands of people with desperately needed food, essential supplies and support – not only at Pesach but all year round. US Chesed reaches across the US family and beyond, making life bearable for those who need it most. US Chesed also organises hospital and prison chaplaincy, gives bursaries for Tribe camps, and much more. We also expect to play our part in helping Ukrainian refugees through the existing US Asylum Seeker Centres.

So please donate at <u>www.charityextra.com/magenavot</u> and spread the word on social media #HelpUSToHelpThem. Any amount, big or small, will bring us closer to our goal of supporting everyone in our community that needs help. (Please note: the total will only show up when the campaign goes live on Sunday at 10am.) Thank you in advance for your generosity!