



The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain

www.jgsgb.org.uk

Conference Newsletter

**19th Annual London One-Day Conference
and Genealogical Fair**

Registered Charity No. 1022738

**19th Annual One-Day London Conference and Genealogical Fair
Sunday 28th October 2012**

**Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue, 9 Lauderdale Road,
Maida Vale London W9 1LT**

Programme Schedule

10.00 am Registration and Refreshments

10.30 - 10.40 Chairman's welcome speech.

10.40 - 11.30 David Jacobs "My Genealogy-a 40 year Journey"

11.30 - 12.20 Rabbi Abraham Levy, OBE "The Jews of Gibraltar"

12.30 - 1.30 Lunch

**1.30 - 2.20 Susan Soyinka "From East End to Lands End:
The Evacuation of Jews Free School, London,
to Mousehole in Cornwall during WWII "**

**2.20 - 3.10 Paul Van der Hulks "Heroes and Villains!: Hoop Lane
Cemetery"**

**3.10 - 3.30 Tea & Raffle : Prize donated by Ancestry, A prize of one
Ancestry Annual Worldwide Membership.**

3.30 - 4.10 Stefan Dickers "Bishopsgate Institute and its Collections"

4.10 - 4.30 President's closing speech

Exhibitors.

AJEX Jewish Military Museum

JEECS - Jewish East End Celebration Society

Second-hand Jewish-interest book sale in aid of JGSGB/Emunah

THE BIOGRAPHIES OF OUR GUEST SPEAKERS



David Jacobs

David Jacobs was born in 1951 and bred on the blue side of Manchester.

David began his Jewish genealogical journey following a conversation with his late mothers closest friend in Friendly's Ice Cream Parlour in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, USA.

He was the founder of the Museum of the Jewish East End in 1983 following his involvement in the Jewish East End Project which was based at the Headquarters of the Association for Jewish Youth in Lindley Street. He created the family history workshop programme at the Sternberg Centre which was the precursor organisation to the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain of which he is currently a Vice President.

David is active in the Jewish Historical Society of England of which he is the current Chairman. He appeared in the BBC TV programme the House Detectives and in the autumn will feature in a S4C documentary on radical assimilation in West Wales where he discusses the marriage of the vicar of a small village to a 'wealthy Jewish lady'.



Stefan Dickers

Stefan Dickers is the Library and Archives Manager at Bishopsgate Institute and looks after its other numerous collections on the history of London, the labour movement co-operation free thought and humanism and protest and campaigning. These include the personal papers of politicians George Howell, Charles Bradlaugh, and George Jacob Holyoake, Bernie Grant, historian Raphael Samuel and the organisational archives of the

London Co-operative Society, the Eton Manor Boys Club, the British Humanist Association, the Rationalist Association, Unite Against Fascism, the Lesbian and Gay News-media Archive and the Stop the War Coalition.

He qualified as an archivist in 2001 and started at Bishopsgate in 2005. Previous to this Stefan worked in the archives of the London School of Economics and Senate House Library. He is also secretary of the Archives and Resources Committee of the Society for the Study of Labour History and the oral history consortium Britain at Work 1945-1995. Stefan is also co-founder of the Network of Radical Libraries and Archives (NORLA), Chair of the Socialist History Society and Co-Director of the Raphael Samuel History Centre.



SUSAN SOYINKA

Susan Soyinka has worked as a teacher, lecturer, and researcher, spending 10 years of her early career in West Africa. On her return to England, she retrained as an educational psychologist, and after discovering her Jewish roots, worked for nine years in the Jewish community in London. Retirement has given her the time and energy to develop a new career as a writer.

Her first book, ***From East End to Land's End***, tells the heart-warming and inspiring story of the World War Two evacuation of Jews' Free School (JFS), London, to Mousehole, a remote and largely Methodist fishing village on the tip of Cornwall. Remarkably, most of the evacuees quickly integrated into village life, and were accepted by the villagers as their own. The extraordinary coming together of these two vastly different communities was a life-changing experience for many involved on both sides.

Susan's second book, ***A Silence That Speaks, A family story through and beyond the Holocaust***, written after 17 years of family research, tells Sonja's story, together with that of other members of Susan's family is due to be published in November.

Susan's mother was a Viennese Jew who came to England in 1938 to flee Nazi persecution. She lost most of her immediate family, but spoke little of her experiences for decades. In 1995, Susan learned for the first time of other members of the extended family who had survived and were now scattered around the world. Thus began a 17 year search for her mother's family, and for the story of what had happened to them during that dreadful era. She also travelled back two hundred years into her family's history, uncovering in the process a possible connection with the Czech composer, Bedrich Smetana.

Just as she was completing her research, she was the astonished recipient of some 3,000 pages of Nazi documents sent by the Austrian State Archives, from which she learnt the fate of several family members. Richly illustrated with archive photographs and rare historical documents, this biography and family history spanning eight generations, is also a Holocaust memoir which offers a unique insight into the inner workings of the Nazi regime in Austria. This is the remarkable story of one family's struggle to deal with the impact and the legacy of the Holocaust.



Paul Van der Hulks

Paul Van der Hulks is Director of Edgwarebury Lane and Hoop Lane Cemeteries and is also responsible for the maintenance of Balls Pond Road cemetery. With a staff of 15, Paul has responsibility for all aspects of running the cemeteries, from budgets and accounts, purchasing, appearance and scheduling. Edgwarebury Lane is now one of the largest Jewish cemeteries in London and Hoop Lane one of the oldest. Paul lives with wife Alison and her 3 children in Borehamwood and is active in his local Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue as well as being a keen amateur genealogist and photographer.



Rabbi Abraham Levy, OBE

Rabbi Levy was born on 16th July 1939 in Gibraltar, to where his family moved in 1704, after its conquest by Great Britain. Rabbi Levy comes from a family of eminent rabbis and lay leaders and his uncle was the late Sir Joshua Hassan, last Chief Minister of Gibraltar. Rabbi Levy was educated at Carmel College, Oxfordshire and obtained his Rabbinic Diploma from Jews' College in 1967 and his Doctorate from London University on the thesis *Court Rabbis in 14th and 15th Century Castile* in 1971.

His ministry includes:

1980 - Communal Rabbi and Spiritual Head of the Spanish & Portuguese Jews' Congregation, the oldest Jewish community in England, established in 1657. In 2002 Rabbi Levy celebrated 40 years' continuous service at the Lauderdale Road Synagogue.

1983 - Founder and Honorary Principal of Naima Jewish Preparatory School (NJPS), the leading Jewish day school for the UK Sephardi community.

2001 – Established the New Central London Mikveh on the NJPS site, with other communal leaders. This is the sole mikveh serving central London.

In 1993 Rabbi Levy was awarded Knight Commander (Encomienda) Order of Civil Merit (Spain) and in 2004, an OBE for services to inter-faith co-operation.

He has written *The Sephardim – A Problem of Survival*; and is a co-author of *Ages of Man* and an illustrated book, *The Sephardim*.

His positions held include; **Joint Ecclesiastical Authority** (with The Chief Rabbi) of the Board of Deputies of British Jews; **Deputy President** The London School of Jewish Studies (formerly Jews' College); **Founder and Director** The Sephardi Centre; **Director** Jewish Museum, **President** Jewish Child's Day, Union of Anglo-Jewish Preachers.

Conference Registration Form

I wish to register for the 19th Annual London One-Day Conference and
Genealogical Fair to be held on
Sunday 28 October 2012 at the

Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue, 9 Lauderdale Road, London W9 1LT

Wheelchair access is available.

Please write in BLOCK CAPITALS

Name.....Tel: Number

Address..... Mobile Number.....

..... E-mail

..... Address.....

..... **Please write clearly– thank you**

.....Registration Fee per person: £30.00

..... Includes Lunch & Refreshments

Individual Names..... Number of Tickets

..... Cheque enclosed for £.....

..... Cheques to be made payable to

..... **JGSGB** or payment by Credit Card.

We accept Visa or Mastercard

Admission only by advance booking

Card No	Expiry Date	3 Digit Security Code
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Please circle Visa or Master card

**Note all catering is Kosher, and
Supervised.**

**Vegetarian food is available but
not Vegan.**

Registration forms and pay-
ment should be sent to:
Newsletter Editor, at
<newsletter@jgsgb.org.uk> OR
JGSGB,
PO Box 689,
Edgware, HA8 4JX