

Individuals, Influence and Inspiration



It was a great pleasure to host **Major Rami Sherman**, who had been the Operations Officer for Yoni Netanyahu in the Entebbe rescue. His presentation encompassed the history, the logistics

and the human factors of the mission, as well as the disarray and derring-do of the leadership and commandos. Rami highlighted the woeful failure of world leaders and international organisations to condemn the hijack or bring pressure to bear upon those who might have intervened. The action films don't really present the inaction. Perhaps more than anything, though, that our audience will have taken away from the evening, was the humility of an elite soldier who had participated in an audacious act, a landmark in our national pride, and then returned to work and civilian life. Rami is a cheery physiotherapist who lives and loves his Kibbutz life.

In these days between Yom HaShoah, Yom HaZikaron, Yom HaAtzmaut and Yom Yerushalayim we can reflect on the events of great international moment and equally, we can look at the stories of the individuals.

The making of the nation state, reconfiguration of Europe and the scramble for colonies set a backdrop to the mid-19th century onwards. Realpolitik shaped the various conferences and commissions which drew lines on maps (sometimes just horizontal or vertical without reference to geographical considerations or the distribution of local peoples and tribes). At the same time, peoples were moved and transformative philosophies born, through the words and works of individuals; journalists, poets and scientists – some were remarkable characters and others quite unpretentious.

In May I'm excited that we are offering a course on **Zionist Visionaries**, looking at some great

characters in the context of their times. The syllabus has been devised by Rabbi Ramone Widmonte for the Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning in South Africa. Courtesy of MizrachiUK it has come to London and I shall be sharing the Kinloss course with **Rebbitzen Ilana Epstein**. Over seven weeks we shall be looking at **Moses Hess, Israel Zangwill, AD Gordon, Zeev Jabotinsky, Max Nordau, Theodore Herzl and Rav Kook**. The course comes with resources and a workbook and it will help us tremendously if people sign up in advance.

The link is www.kinloss.org.uk/visionaries

Next weekend, we are delighted to be hosting an exceptional field of top educators for our third **Kinloss Day of Inspiration**. In partnership with Mizrachi, over thirty congregations will have scholars in residence over Shabbat followed by a phenomenal programme at Kinloss on Sunday 29th April running from Shacharit through till 10pm. We are fortunate to have **Rabbi Reuven and Dr Shani Taragin** over Shabbat. Rav Reuven will be giving a shiur on Friday afternoon before Maariv entitled "**On Living a Life Worth Living**". Shani will speak on Shabbat after Shacharit on "**Revisiting Kedusha in Time and Space**" and give a shiur before Mincha on "**Yom HaKippurim and Yom HaAtzmaut: Climax and Commencement.**" Incidentally, the **Weekend of Inspiration** idea has been seized by the Rav Taragin and Mizrachi International, and is being run this weekend in the United States with "70 scholars for 70 years."

With the exception of our Keynote Speakers, we will be running three tracks at most times. Some shiurim will be more source intensive, some focusing more on halacha and others on Tanach and Jewish thought. The hum of learning is infectious and uplifting. It is great to be host and home to a meaningful Torah moment within a growing scholarly movement. Inspired individuals can change lives – and also the course of history!

Looking forward to you joining us.

R' Jeremy Lawrence