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## News from the Leo Baeck Lodge in London

At our weekly Wednesday Evening Meetings, we have enjoyed a wide variety of lectures and socials to suit all tastes.

Starting in September 2008, to celebrate the Jewish Culture and Heritage day, Mr Alan Bilgora presented an evening devoted to the Great Jewish Singers of the past with recordings taken from his unique original collection of old records. This was followed by Dr Anita Davies's talk on Homeopathy and the story of Raphael Lemkin's struggle to introduce the new concept of the crime of Genocide at the United Nations. This was given by Brother John Cooper.

We only met twice in October because of the Yomtovim. Firstly, for a pleasant social get together and secondly, for our annual Memorial lecture for the late Rabbi Leo Baeck. The subject was on "Ethiopia and the Bible" by Geoffrey Ben Nathan M.A.

The four topics for November were as follows. Brother Michael Hepner, son of our late Lodge brother spoke on the Czech Torah Scrolls and on a recent exhibition at the Westminster Synagogue. This was followed by Mrs Talya Lador-Fresher, Deputy Head of Mission at the Israeli Embassy, who updated us on Israeli matters. Our brother Lawrence Lowenthal sharpened our wits with a quiz test on Quotations. We received a follow-up Report by Director Mohammed Faheli and Clara King Lassman on the Jewish Arab Community and its work in Acre, which we support.

In December we saw slides and heard a talk by Mr Peter Brandham of Kew Gardens on the flowers of the Mediterranean. Mr Frank Weinburg, Chairman of British Friends described the important work carried out by this charitable organization for Israel's War Disabled soldiers which our Lodge supports.

President Graham Weinberg of B.B. Europe spoke to us on the current activities of the Lodges throughout Europe and answered many questions from our members.

The year ended with a splendid Chanukah Tea followed by a concert given by three generations of the Appel family starting with performers from four years upwards.

It has been gratifying to receive appreciative letters from students who have been awarded grants towards their studies by our scholarship fund.

Unfortunately, we have lost a number of dear brothers and sisters over the period I have described. To name only three; Sister Anne Erle, one time President of the Women's Lodge, Sister Ellen Dorffmann, dedicated

chairwoman of our Catering Committee for many years and, finally, Brother Stuart Willner, a past President, who passed away while on a visit to L&rsquov to see, as Chairman of our Eastern European Committee, what was being achieved by our charitable efforts.

Report by Kitty Freund