

# Seymour Group Lunch...Jewish Humour

Seldom can the Samson Family Concourse have been host to so many stars of yesteryear and today as when The Seymour Group met in December when Brian Nathan was the guest speaker at their Lunch. We were reminded of the likes of Jackie Mason, Alf Vogel, Mike and Bernie Winters, Woody Allen, Joan Rivers, Groucho Marx, Danny Kaye, Matt Lucas, Stephen Fry, and more than enough to fill the page. He introduced his subject, 'Jewish Humour' by stating that 'surprise' was often the initial factor that makes us laugh. Quite funny when first heard, on reflection, however, many jokes are really rather corny. In defining what makes a joke 'Jewish' he reminded us that we are often inclined to make fun of our own shortcomings, making light even of our difficulties, using laughter as an escape valve. In that respect Jewish humour ranks alongside that of other ethnic minorities.

We were told that one can find humour even in the Talmud, when the Sages would use it to 'tease out religious law'.

The Seymour Group, which meets usually on the third Thursday of the month, was originally started for recently retired members of WLS. Many of us who regularly attend are not quite so 'recently' retired. There is always a friendly atmosphere and a special welcome to newcomers.



Forgive me, but I cannot resist ending this brief report with the story relating how Moses, when he arrived at the Red Sea with the Israelites, closely followed by Pharaoh's army who were chasing them, shouted to Morrie, his spin doctor, "Hang on, where are the boats?" To which Morrie responded, "Boats, what boats, nobody said anything about boats!"

Moses explained that he needed boats to cross the water, enough boats, he said, for all the people. When Morrie shrugged his shoulders, the exasperated Moses said, "Just exactly what do you want me to do? Perhaps you would like me to part the waters so that we can walk to the other shore?"

And Morrie replied with a gleam in his eye, "Yes, yes. Do just that, and I will get you no less than ten pages in the Old Testament".

And to think that in the entire talk, Moses (or Morrie, for that matter) didn't get a single mention.

*Jack Lynes*

## Kippot - taking the plunge

When I became Warden, colleagues discussed with me the issues of wearing a Kippah and a Tallit.



completely at home wearing my new treasure. Since then, I've been approached by several women and by girls approaching Bat Mitzvah wanting to wear a Kippah and curious as to where they could buy one. In response, a selection of these pretty Kippot are available and I am delighted to see yet more women 'taking the plunge'. Next: Tallitot!

These beautiful kippot are now available at £22 (small) and £27 (large). Please feel free to email me at [dee.winbourne@btopenworld.com](mailto:dee.winbourne@btopenworld.com) for more information.

*Dee Winbourne  
Middle Warden*

These were not something I'd previously worn, but when Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers gave me a gift of one of her beautiful, delicate, handmade Kippot, I felt

