

Community Library hosts HMD 'Lela's Story' presentation



Lela in Athens, 1946

MARC HULL

On 25th January, the Garden Suburb Community Library hosted what has become a regular event to participate in Holocaust Memorial Day activities.

We were fortunate to have Jacqueline Luck, from Generation-

2Generation, to present Lela's Story. The tale of her grandmother's early life in Salonika, Northern Greece before marrying and eventually moving to Athens with her husband Joseph. In January 1938 their daughter Marcelle was born and life for them was good.

The start of the war changed things all over Europe and Greece was no exception.

In the summer of 1944 Joseph was arrested and tortured by the Gestapo. The family were transported to Auschwitz where Marcelle and Joseph would die in the gas chambers. Eventually Lela was taken to work in a munitions factory in Pilsen, Czechoslovakia before being liberated by the Russians on 5th May 1945.

After a long journey and with the help of the UN Relief Organisation, she came to London in 1946. Lela remarried and with her second husband, Jack, had another daughter, also named Marcelle. This Marcelle who is also a Suburb resident, joined us at the end of the talk to help answer questions.

As we did last year, the event was held over Zoom. Not as intimate as holding it at 15 Market

Place, but it meant we could accommodate many more guests. Fifty-one people attended including visitors from Italy, Greece, Spain, USA, Germany and Switzerland. Many stayed on after the questions to chat.

You can read Lela's story, told by Jacqueline Luck (Lela's granddaughter), on page 4 of this issue of Suburb News



Lela, in later years

Raise The Roof Campaign

Comedian Matt Lucas has agreed to be the patron of Archer Academy's Raise the Roof campaign to raise funds to build a performing arts studio at the Archer Academy in East Finchley. This would be very valuable for our wider community as a high-spec, professional standard space for hire. With Covid and mental health problems, creative outlets for children are more important than ever. There are few alternative local venues available and Barnet Council have been very quiet about their idea to sell the Arts Depot to a property developer...

Tony Brand



Combat Stress volunteers turn to catering again to raise funds

RUTH SMITH

The Hampstead Garden Suburb Combat Stress Refreshments Team are back and raring to go! HGS Artists group have kindly

asked us to provide refreshments again at their forthcoming Art Fair, 11am-5pm on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd May at Fellowship House. As you know, due to the pandemic, the Art Fairs in 2020



Combat Stress refreshments at Fellowship House

and 2021 had to be cancelled – so please come and see a wonderful display of paintings, drawings, jewellery, photography, textiles and ceramics, fuelled by delicious home-made lunches, cream teas and cake sold to raise badly needed funds for Combat Stress.

And the Refreshments Team will be in action once more on Sunday 17th July from 11.30-5.30pm to cater at an exciting new event, when they supply the delicious refreshments at HGS Horticultural Society's Suburb In Bloom Charity Open Gardens Day. On that occasion, light lunches, cream teas, cakes, tea/coffee and possibly ice cream will be served from 11.30am to 5.30pm in Fellowship House, with all profits from food sales going to Combat Stress, while the open gardens themselves benefit The North London Hospice.

We were very grateful to the Suburb bakers who kindly donated a fantastic array of cakes at our pop-up event in October last year and we hope very much you might be able to help us once again so we can continue to support Combat Stress in their life-saving

work with our Veterans. After two very difficult years, at last we have something positive to look forward

to. We can't wait to welcome you all to these events and raise badly needed funds for Combat Stress.



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