

We are in the midst of lockdown three or as it is referred to as Seger Shalosh in Israel. It seems to have heralded an unprecedented level of positive cases and rising deaths and we think of all those who are currently unwell in the community and amongst our family and friends.

Before returning to England to join the Ambulance Service I volunteered in an army medical base near Tel HaShomer with Sar-El and at the state-of-the-art Magen David Call Centre in Jerusalem.

During my interview I raised the point that the East of England and Israel had a similar population but ambulance call outs were almost double for EEAST which is remarkable given the frequent terror attacks in Israel. It was something that the senior management found very hard to fathom.

One of the main reasons that there is much less pressure on the Israeli Emergency Service is the amazing organisation United Hatzolah. In August 2019 we were privileged to be given a tour of their hi-tech premises near the Jerusalem Central Bus Station and the girls particularly enjoyed getting a ride on the innovative AmbuCycles. I also was just a tad jealous at these amazing vehicles which made the Trusts aging Mercedes fleet look a bit bland.



United Hatzalah of Israel is the brainchild of Eli Beer who himself almost died at the hands of Coronavirus 2019 when on a fundraising mission to America last year. He spent three weeks in an induced coma intubated and was eventually flown home to Israel on the private airplane of the late Sheldon Adelson still very ill. Sheldon and his wife donated a substantial amount to Hatzalah only ten days before he died this month. Happily Eli has now recovered and recently celebrated the birth of his first grandchild. Eli was initially refused permission to launch the organisation but his persistence won the hearts and minds of the powers that be and it is now unconceivable to think of an Israel without Hatzalah.

It is the largest independent, non-profit, fully volunteer Emergency Medical Service organization that provides the fastest and free emergency medical first response throughout Israel. United Hatzalah's service is available to all people regardless of race, religion, or national origin and there are many amazing stories of Jewish and Muslim, religious and secular staff working side by side to deliver life-saving treatment. I often look at hospitals and how people from every walk of life work so efficiently. It must be one of the few places that this truly happens. United Hatzalah has over 6,000 volunteers around the country, available around the clock – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Often Muslim volunteers will work Shabbat and High Holidays with Jewish volunteers covering Ramadan. United Hatzalah was established based on the Jewish

value of the sanctity of life and on the well-known Hatzalah model, working within larger Jewish communities around the world. United Hatzalah volunteers come from all walks of life, religious and secular, Jewish and non-Jewish (including Arabs, Druze, Christians), male and female. Patients are treated regardless of race, religion, origin or ethnicity.

With the help of unique GPS technology and iconic bright orange ambucycles, the average response time is less than 3 minutes across the country and 90 seconds in metropolitan areas. The speed of arrival on scene can be the difference in life and death especially in terror attacks or cardiac arrests. I remember Teresa May boasting that the response time of emergency services in London was nine minutes and the Jerusalem Mayor responding that if the emergency services took that time it would be a calamity. The mission of Hatzalah is to arrive at the scene of medical emergencies as soon as possible and provide the patient with professional and appropriate medical aid until an ambulance arrives, resulting in many more lives saved. First responder volunteers begin treatment in order to stabilize a patient's condition. Receiving initial treatment within 3 minutes of the incident assures a higher chance of survival in critical situations, and speedier recovery for many other injuries and illnesses. Brain death and permanent death transpires 4 to 6 minutes after someone experiences cardiac arrest. A victim's chances of survival are reduced by 7% to 10% with every minute that passes without defibrillation and advanced life support intervention.

United Hatzalah medics are dispersed throughout Israel and serve in the areas where they work, study and live. As soon as United Hatzalah's dispatch receives an emergency call, the LifeCompass System immediately identifies the volunteers closest to the incident. A volunteer could be working in an office building downtown and might receive a call to help a heart attack victim from the very same building. We often raced on blue lights for up to 30 minutes in extreme cases to a P1 with the chance of survival reducing by every minute. Imagine if you had a heart attack out in rural areas of Norfolk how long it may take and consider if there was a farmer or builder medically trained who could be on scene in minutes.

This amazing work has been featured by Nas Dailly the Youtuber / Instagramer who travels the world reporting on special projects. Click [here](#) to watch Nas. If you have some free time, feel free to browse some of the blogs and links below.

Sadly, we could not visit Israel this year but we made the most of travelling around our own beautiful UK.



The beautiful Gower peninsula of South Wales



The longest cable car ride in the UK at Llandudno, North Wales



The beautiful Loch Lomond



Snowy Scotland and Sunny London

Wishing you all a wonderful Shabbat from Stephen, Gie, Kacey and Althea. Stay safe and well and to those feeling ill in the community we wish you Refuah Shlemah.

Stephen Haire
Norwich Liberal Jewish Community
norwichljc.org.uk



Links

[Saving Millions by Creating a Flashmob of Lifesavers | Eli | TEDxGateway – YouTube](#)
[“Whoever saves one life saves the whole world”](#)

[Eli Beer Speaks About His Fight With Coronavirus | Saving Lives in Israel with Rapid Emergency Response \(israelrescue.org\)](#)

[After Performing Successful CPR On His Own Son, EMT Writes Emotional Letter Imploring All Parents to Learn Basic First Aid | Saving Lives in Israel with Rapid Emergency Response \(israelrescue.org\)](#)

[Two EMTs Deliver Two Baby Girls On Tuesday Before 9 A.M. | Saving Lives in Israel with Rapid Emergency Response \(israelrescue.org\)](#)

[Sderot Hero Reunites With Man Who Saved His Life 12 Years Ago | Saving Lives in Israel with Rapid Emergency Response \(israelrescue.org\)](#)

[Oldest Active United Hatzalah Volunteer Celebrates His 80th Birthday Under The Shadow of Corona | Saving Lives in Israel with Rapid Emergency Response \(israelrescue.org\)](#)

[Religious Muslim Woman Ambucycle EMT Saves Children From Trapped Car | Saving Lives in Israel with Rapid Emergency Response \(israelrescue.org\)](#)