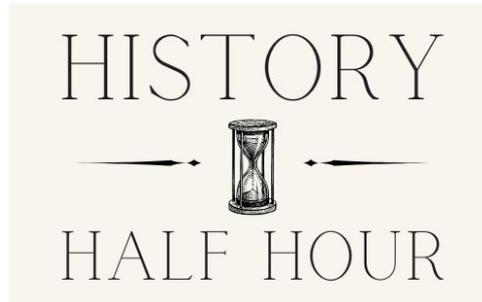


HHH for TOOLKIT 2026 article

Early every Thursday morning men and women, people young and old, Rabbis and Bishops gather by Zoom to learn for a half an hour the intriguing history, culture and philosophy of the Jewish world. A great start to the day.

Thus, we entitled the session, History Half Hour which to those in the know is HHH, with a nod to Hancock's half hour. Each talk is accompanied by information sheets to be looked at in the half hour and viewed later. Everyone is welcome and all opinions are acceptable. Emails, debate and discussion are encouraged, whether online or whilst out shopping !!



It all started as a great idea asked by my nephew Eli to learn one to one, before work, once a week. So, in the beginning it was just the two of us and then a friend asked to join and then others. Today people join around Britain and in Israel and even whilst on holiday in the Caribbean. The talks, short, sharp and informative are recorded and travel the world. I now get questions from as far as Toronto

The essential theme is to learn and be inspired, without restraint, in a chronological manner the history of the Jewish people over the past two and a half thousand years. I look at events, but also personalities, art, music, architecture wherever there is a relevance. Sometimes a topic is covered in a half an hour and other times we consider an area of interest over a few weeks

Many preconceived ideas are discussed and dismissed. The re-entry of the Jews to England was not agreed to by Oliver Cromwell.

We have been learning for about two years and over the past six months we have looked at the history of the late C18 into the C19. From Enlightenment to Emancipation the Jewish world wanted to change and in many respects was 'forced' to change. Great personalities bestrode the European world. Moses Mendelssohn's philosophy changed Jews thinking, whilst his own family history was a tragedy. His world was also looked at through the prism of art with Moritz Oppenheim and took at least three 'Half Hours'. Napoleon broke down the ghetto walls and the Rothschilds financially conquered much of the world

At 7.15 am, later in Israel at 9.15am, we viewed our world in relation to Christianity and Islam and then in the wake of Emancipation the growth of racial antisemitism. Whilst I break away to consider festivals. Purim is a particular favourite with many not knowing that there was more than one version of the story of Esther. It is the other Greek version that artists love. Then we soon return to history. A particular interesting area was the gradual break of Traditional Judaism with rise of reforming ideas, (what R. Jonathan Sacks would call 'adjectival Judaism') to Reform and Orthodoxy. We shy away from no subjects and learnt about apostasy and self-hating Jews, famous personalities of Heinrich Heine and Karl Marx. Whilst involved in the area of German Jewry we have learnt of the antisemitism of Wagner (can one separate the man from the music?) and the realisation that as fast as Jews changed to become more acceptable, they were still 'alien'. A flyer for the Wagner talk:

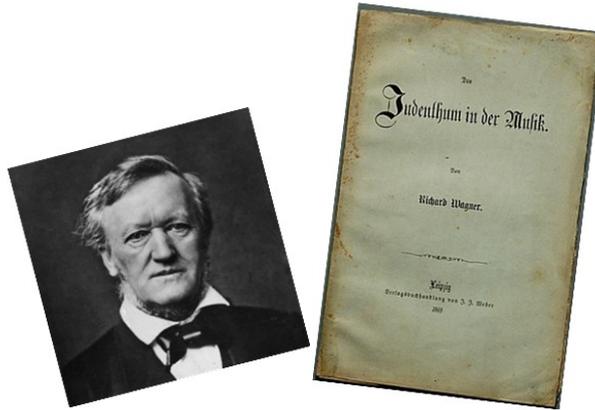
CHARLES LANDAU

“Learn, discover and relive”

History Half Hour

Richard Wagner

Monster, Misguided or Misunderstood Genius



Thursday 12th February

7.15-7.45am GMT

ZOOM Ask me for link if not on already signed up. Free

So now we are learning about Theodor Herzl and Zionism. His ideas, his rejection, his failures and those that opposed his Zionism, in those days, for what they believed to be good reasons. From the *Protesrabbiner* to Ahad Ha'Am. These areas will bring us onto Kishinev, Dreyfuss, Menachem Beilis, Eastern Europe and all topics that come together to make the fabric of Jewish history. We will carry on learning weekly and then, probably, after some three or four years, start again looking at history from a different angle

Many of the half hours are accompanied by my lectures, through the USA, on Lockdown University, possibly the largest educational system in the world. My one-hour PowerPoint presentations are never at 7.15am but a more user-friendly time of 5.00pm GMT!

For all those wanting to be inspired and to keep learning contact me as below

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