

THE TRIBE WEEKLY

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10 TISHREI

Are you ready for the high jump?



**RABBI
ELI
LEVIN**

South Hampstead
Synagogue and
Director of Tribe

A few months ago, we witnessed the historic coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. There is a legend about the King's grandfather, King George VI who was on the throne from 1936 – 1952.

Berel Gartner arrived in the UK from Germany as a young boy on the Kindertransport and was taken to an orphanage. One day, it was announced that King George would pass through the village and the children would stand on the side of the road to watch the procession go by. As the carriage appeared, Berel leaped over the security barrier and ran towards the King. Guards pulled him back, but seeing the commotion, the King said he wanted to talk to the young boy. Berel said, "Your Majesty, thank you for your kindness in allowing me and thousands of children to come to England, but I miss my parents so much and would be grateful if you could arrange for them to join me." The King replied, "My dear boy, that would be wonderful, but we are in the middle of a war." Yet, sensing Berel's emotion and feeling the weight of his plea, he added, "I will see what I can do." Berel was not sure what would become of this encounter.

Young Berel was surprised that no-one from the orphanage reprimanded

him for his wild act, until a few weeks later he was called into the office. Berel was sure that he would be punished now, but instead, waiting there to greet him, were his parents.

We all have things that we want to achieve and sometimes we need to 'jump over barriers' to get there. The prophet Jonah does not seem to be the best example of this, as he tried to run away from his mission at first. Yet, a very important feature of Jonah, and one of the reasons we read about him on Yom Kippur, is that he achieved it in the end. We should not be put off 'jumping over a barrier', doing everything we reasonably can, even if it does not work the first time. Yom Kippur gives us the chance to try again. What are you hoping to jump over this year?

