



גן קהילה

The Kehillah Garden
in memory of
Annemarie Seelig

June 2019



KLS Kehillah Garden

- Derelict Portakabin and scruffy car park
- Garden suggested, not met with a universal vision!
- Garden suggestion pursued when legacy from Anne Marie Seelig was being debated
- Paving flat area and gravel on sloping bank completed last summer with whole area fenced off.



What I saw

- Opened gate to a secret garden!
- Expanse of light and peaceful atmosphere
- Mostly South West facing with sun all day
- No plants with only one tree and single planting option for flower bed – in shade



First steps

- Get everyone on board!
- Moved memorial bench into garden
- Bought plants instead of HHD flowers
- Rosh Hashanah apple tree and bulb planting
- Designed mood board/planting plan
- Displayed in foyer and put to council





KLS garden plans

Aim: simplicity, flexibility, calm, reflective community space

- Suntrap = Mediterranean, drought tolerant, easy plants in raised beds & containers - need good drainage
- One shadier flower bed does already exist

Colour theme: restful, elegant

- silver/grey-blue/lime green foliage
- white/blue/mauve flowers
- some magenta in summer as focal points
- some yellow in spring from bulbs
- complements surrounding materials
grey/blue slate/gravel/natural wood

Peak use: term-time therefore mainly spring, early summer, autumn interest

Permanent sculptural plants with some successional seasonal interest

Spring

- Containers = pieris forest flame, assorted bulbs (incl hyacinth 'Anne Marie' purchased already)
- Shady bed = bleeding heart, alchemilla, clematis montana (from Sandra W) on fence.

Summer

- Containers = alliums, hakonechloa grass, convolvulus cneorum
- Shady bed = alchemilla, shuttlecock ferns, geranium rozanne, hako grass

Autumn

- Containers = stipa grasses, gaura lindheimeri 'whirling butterflies', sedum
- Shady bed = Anemone Hon Joubert, ceratogostigma

All year round

- Apple tree (donated)
- Containers = fig (donated), cordyline (donated), dwarf chusan palm, phormium, pieris, rosemary, lavender, thyme, salvias. (other herbs/veg from seed if interest?)

Fundraising?

- Legacy – initial paving/gravel
- Donations – some furniture, plants
- Events – ongoing
- Pledge – form
- Recycling/freebies – several options
- Gifts to celebrate, thank, remember loved ones

Wish List – Please Give Generously!

Help us create a Mediterranean Eden at KLS....

Please pledge an amount (and named item if desired) in the box below. Don't forget to sign your name!!

Contributions towards a larger item are welcome and can be combined to reach our target amounts.

All donations can be personalised with your message when the item is bought.

Costs are estimates excluding labour and compost!

We hope to buy wholesale where possible.

£10 will buy a lavender Hidcote in 1 litre pot

£15 will buy a feature plant in 2 litre pot
pieris/fatsia/bleeding heart for shady area

£25 will buy a collection of 60 large alliums

£50 will buy a large pot (needs less watering)

£75 will buy personalised garden name sign
in Hebrew & English, suggestions welcome

£100 will buy a large feature plant and pot
eg climbers - star jasmine, grape vine

£150 will buy Beth Chatto Drought-Resistant
Plant collection 36 plants (18m² raised beds)

£200 will buy a Mediterranean herb garden
for Star of David raised bed

£250 will buy a selection of unusual Biblical
plants eg pomegranate, myrtle, palm





Recycle, reuse

- Members and friends – publicise wishlist and chat to people!
- Freecycle – and local area groups – we got water butt, gloves, bird feeders, solar lights
- Gumtree – search ‘Freebies’ within X miles - we got table, chairs, parasol set



Wildlife

- Part of suburban wildlife corridor
- Retain existing trees for habitat and shade
- Bird house and feeders in tree, bath below
- Plant beneath even if roots and poor soil by adding raised bed
- Bees love foxgloves, polemonium, geranium and japanese anemones in shady bed





Planting

- Raised beds – improved drainage (also grit)
- Built one with sleepers
- Slope - original plan too expensive this year
- Recycled wood/pallets – look on Pinterest
- Checkout local library – later found project building planters at cost eg £15



What to plant

- Pollinator friendly plants – single open/tubular flowers, extended season
- Lots of annuals/biennials while perennials mature but NOT standard bedding plants – mostly sterile
- We have eg cosmos, verbena bonariensis, and lavender in sun, foxgloves in shade
- Easy annuals from seed – low budget option







Don't be too tidy!

- Leave some messy areas for minibeasts – wood/leaves/insect havens
- We plan to make bug hotels with Beiteinu
- Create a compost area – NO cooked food and balance wet kitchen/garden waste with dry shredded recycled paper/cardboard
- If open wooden bins not suitable, many plastic compost bins available via freecycle

Reduce water: Beth Chatto

- **Pioneer of dry gravel gardening**
- **'Right plant, right place'**
- **Car park garden has never been watered after initial planting in 1991/2**
- **It survived almost two months with no water last summer**



The Hampton Court Drought Resistant Plant Collection

Allium/

Agapanthus

Ballota

Euphorbia

Gaura

Helianthemum

Hylotelephium (Sedum)

Nepeta

Santolina

Stachys

Stipa

Thymus

Verbena

Easy recommendation

- <https://www.bethchatto.co.uk/the-beth-chatto-collections/the-drought-resistant-plant-collection.htm>
- £60 for 12 plants to cover 6m sq
- £180 for 36 plants – 18m sq
- £300 for 60 plants – 30m sq

Provide shade

- We have two pop-up gazebos – all weather
- Ensure garden users have optional shade!
- Highly recommended for keeping food tables cool



Natural low-maintenance

- Still new! Need to feed – organic liquid seaweed
- Pests? Aphids are food for ladybirds, hoverflies, lacewings
- Encourage the good guys!
- **Herbs:** all helpful insects like aromatic herbs, **borage, sages, lavender & mint (pot)**



Awkward spaces

- Thin strips of poor soil in sun?
 - eg edge car park
 - Scatter wildflower seeds eg poppies, nigella
 - Evolved to grow in poor soil – out compete!
- Shady corners?
 - Ferns (for dry shade)
 - Hydrangeas (if enough water)





Irrigation

- Ideally plant in ground to minimise need after initial planting period using leaky/soaker hose
- Water butt and watering can
- Drip system on timer eg Hozelock kit 20 pots plus controller £50

Looking ahead

- Thames Water piloting new combined planter/water butt for rollout in spring
- Can attach to downpipes all round building



How our multi-purpose planter works



Topsoil
Gravel
Filter
Reservoir

Irrigation pipe
Filter

Reservoir

What we learnt

- Leave planting areas – don't pave everywhere!
- Garden team to coordinate right planting and watering rota – ensure sustainable
- Cosmos need a lot of deadheading!
- Easy access for maintenance – not via building
- Involve community in project from outset
- Transform even small area for WOW factor





Unexpected joy

- KLS garden has become our 'goto' outdoor space, especially spilling out after services!
- Huge new social area for kiddush, large socials, small study groups and individuals
- Plans with local charity for gardening/ESOL
- Proven wellbeing benefits
- Surpassed expectations using neglected space

















Start small.....

- Scatter a few seeds
- Encourage wildlife
- Get involved and your garden will grow!
- Enjoy Greening your Shul!

