**A tribute to Ruth Cohen z”l from the Movement for Reform Judaism**

We are sad to announce the passing of Ruth Cohen, Vice President of MRJ, in Israel.

Ruth served as Chair of Alyth (1984-86), then as a member of the RSGB Executive. She was the chair of the RSGB in the first three years of the 1990s, serving only as the second woman to hold this position.  She provided dynamic and creative leadership culminating in the hugely successful programmes which marked the Movements Jubilee celebrations in 1992.

Ruth travelled extensively visiting Reform communities throughout the United Kingdom always being thoroughly briefed by the staff on her upcoming visits, providing energy and enthusiasm to the leaders and rabbis in each of the synagogues she visited.

She also added a personal touch to her work with the Movement’s staff always asking how their work was progressing and were there issues that she, as Chair,  needed to follow up on. And after each annual conference the entire staff were invited to her home to be beautifully entertained to lunch. It was a real treat and something that all the staff remembered long after Ruth stood down as Chair.

She led the Movement from the front making sure that the priorities set by the leadership were all attended to by the staff and was always there to provide support and encouragement to them.

Ruth was also Chair of WUPJ from 2000-2005

We send our sincere condolences to her sons Jonathan and David both of whom live abroad and her family here in England, Len Goodman, Rachel Gerrard, Daniel Rubin and Naomi Hartnell.

Thank you to David Jacobs, who worked closely with Ruth during her time as Chair of RSGB and visited her in Israel only a few weeks ago for sharing his reflections

Our thoughts are with all those who mourn.

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