

June
2016

Iyar-Sivan
5776



Photo: Sue Bolsom

Don't miss these

Just a few of the unmissable events at The LJS in the weeks ahead:

11th-12th June

Celebrate *Shavu'ot* overnight at The LJS and West London Synagogue:

Full details: page 5

Saturday 18th June

The Poet's Quest for Peace: Contemporary Voices Across the Faiths:

For more details, see page 13.

Friday 1st July

Michael Oren, former Israeli Ambassador to the USA, speaks at our *Erev Shabbat* service:

More details, page 2.

In the shadow of horror

The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe: one of the Berlin destinations visited in May by a group from The LJS – and the catalyst to a train of thought that led Rabbi Alexandra Wright to think about our responsibility to engage others with the facts of history. Her reflections on the visit are on pages 7-9.



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Thank you

The Library Committee was delighted to receive a bequest to the LJS library on behalf of **Dick Langton** who was a highly valued member of the committee

Welcome

to new members **James** and **Annette Sellar** and their children **Jonas, Oralee, Nathaniel** and **Raphael**

Mazal Tov

to LJS Director of Music **Cathy Heller-Jones** and her husband **Richard**, on the birth of a son, **Benjamin**, to their daughter **Rachel** and her husband **James**

Bereavement

We extend our sympathy to those who mourn:

Magda Geiger, mother of Judy Geiger Rowan and mother-in-law of Eric Rowan, grandmother of Mark and Daniel Rowan

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר האבלים
May God comfort you and all who mourn

Don't miss the chance to hear Michael Oren, former Israeli Ambassador to the United States, who will be speaking at our *Erev Shabbat* service on Friday 1st July at 18.45

Born in upstate New York, Michael Scott Bornstein – as he was then – emigrated to Israel in 1979, changing his name to Michael Oren. He has a PhD in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton and taught at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv University. He was appointed Israeli Ambassador to the United States in 2009 and hosted the Israeli Embassy's first *Iftar* dinner (the meal after the Ramadan fast). He is currently a Member of the Knesset for the Kulanu party.

The LJS Annual General Meeting will be held at 19.30 on Wednesday 15th June in the Montefiore Hall

All members and friends of the synagogue are invited to attend. For more details, see The LJS website and noticeboards in the synagogue.

Shabbat and festival services: June

Friday evening services start at 18.45 and Shabbat morning services at 11.00.

DATE	RABBI/SPEAKER	NOTES
Friday 3rd June	René Pfertzel	Young Adult <i>Chavurah</i>
Shabbat 4th June	David J. Goldberg	<i>Aufruf</i> Tom Camber and Jade Goulden Half-term Rimon
Friday 10th June	Rachel Benjamin	
Shabbat 11th June <i>Shabbat Naso</i>	Rachel Benjamin	David Strang special birthday
Saturday 11th June 18.45	René Pfertzel	<i>Erev Shavu'ot</i> service followed by <i>Chavurah</i> Supper and Cheesecake Competition. After supper we will be joining West London Synagogue congregants for our joint all-night <i>Tikkun Leyl Shavu'ot</i> – see page 5 for more details
<p><i>Shabbat</i> morning services are now streamed live via the internet. If you would like to follow a service on your computer or tablet, please phone the LJS office to get your user name and password.</p>		<p><i>Shavu'ot</i> morning service for everyone, with a dramatisation of the Book of Ruth followed by a picnic in the park. Please bring your own sandwiches and, of course, cheesecake</p>
Sunday 12th June	Intergenerational Service	
Friday 17th June	René Pfertzel	Trilingual service followed by <i>Chavurah</i> supper
Shabbat 18th June <i>B'ha'a lot'cha</i>	Alexandra Wright	Baby Blessing Noah Maigné Senat The Poet's Quest for Peace: see page 13
Friday 24th June	Alexandra Wright	
Shabbat 25th June <i>Sh'lach L'cha</i>	Alexandra Wright	New members' service
Friday 1st July	Alexandra Wright	Service co-led by Michael Falk <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
	Michael Oren	Guest speaker, former Israeli Ambassador to the USA (2009-13)
Shabbat 2nd July <i>Korach</i>	Alexandra Wright	<i>Bar Mitzvah</i> Michael Falk
Friday 8th July	Rachel Benjamin	Service co-led by Gabriel Tuvey <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
Shabbat 9th July <i>Chukkat</i>	Rachel Benjamin	<i>Bar Mitzvah</i> Gabriel Tuvey <i>Aufruf</i> Anthony Lazarus and Abigail Magrill Nosh 'n' Drosh with Robin Michaelson <i>Shema Koleinu</i> Service in the John Rayner Room

Building plans and departing members

As I wrote to you all earlier this year, an important part of my role as Chairman is to keep you informed of the discussions, recommendations and decisions being taken by Council.

You already know that we have begun considering how to improve the downstairs area at the back of the synagogue building. This includes the Montefiore Hall, the reception area and rear vestibule, the kitchen and toilets. We are looking forward to receiving some designs and indicative figures at our next Council meeting. When we have a more detailed proposal, we will display this for you all to see and comment upon. This project is being led by Steve Penn, one of our Council members. More news on this soon!

Of course, all of this is expensive, as are the day-to-day running costs of the synagogue. Membership subscriptions are not enough for all we need to do. Council has spent some time discussing the best ways to create a fundraising plan. In this, we are being led by another Council member, Russell Delew. Russell is gathering together a group of synagogue members who are going to take a strategic



approach in shaping the fundraising plan. Investing in fundraising is a big commitment: as part of this, we are appointing a part-time Fundraising Manager on a fixed term contract to develop and implement the strategy.

In our recent Council meetings, one of our debates has focused on our archives. Sharon Lewison, who leads the Archives Group, outlined to us the need to have a vision for the future and also presented some practical problems: for example, the storage and preservation of the archives, as well as how to make them accessible for those undertaking research (including looking at the advantages of digitisation). A small group of Council members has agreed to work with the Archives team, looking at ways forward.

We are soon approaching the synagogue's Annual General Meeting, on Wednesday 15th June, and to which I hope you will be able to come. I'd like to publicly acknowledge the work of two Council members who are standing down this year: Tony Weiss and Sue Bolsom. Both of them make huge contributions to the life of The LJS and have been active contributors to Council discussions.

Among the many things that Sue has organised are social action projects, group trips abroad for synagogue members to places of Jewish interest, fundraising and social events and the project to refurbish the kitchen.

Tony has been a member of Council for many years and also the calm and capable Chair of the Building and Facilities Committee. He has made a real impact on the building, ensuring it is well maintained, trouble-shooting problems which arise and having clear and sensible ideas for the future.

We will miss Sue and Tony as Council members and thank them for all they have done. Knowing them, I suspect they will continue to be active contributors to the life of the community.

Sue Head

Come and celebrate *Shavu'ot* overnight on 11th-12th June

Tikkun leyl Shavu'ot is an old tradition of all-night study, originating in 16th century Safed in northern Israel.

This year, West London Synagogue will host us on the eve of *Shavu'ot*. We will break Ramadan fast with the Muslim community, and celebrate together the Queen's 90th birthday.

The theme this year is 'Revealing the Revelation'. All night long, you will have a lot of opportunities to learn with rabbis and educators:

- 18.45 *Erev Shavu'ot* service at The LJS.
- 19.45 *Chavurah* supper and cheesecake competition.
- 20.45 Leave LJS for West London Synagogue.
- 21.15 **Debate chaired by Rabbi Julia Neuberger: 'This house believes that the two versions of the Ten Commandments are not materially different.'**

Speaking for the motion, the panel will include The Talmud – in its entirety, Solomon Alkabetz, famed for his *Kabbalat Shabbat* hymn *Lcha Dodi*, and the 19th century giant of orthodoxy, Rabbi Samson Raphael

Hirsch. **Against the motion**, the P (Priestly) Source and The D (Deuteronomist) Source, (members of that diehard 19th century organisation The Documentary Hypothesis, and the famous medieval grammarian, poet and biblical commentator, Abraham ibn Ezra.

The debate begins promptly at 21.15 at West London Synagogue and formally ends at 22.15, but will no doubt continue long into the small hours of the morning in our programme of study, discussions and workshops – featuring, as always, 'Rabbis at Midnight'.

- 3.45 Early-bird breakfast.
- 4.45 *Shacharit* on the roof.
- 11.00 (on Sunday 12th June) – *Shavu'ot* morning at The LJS.

A special Intergenerational service led by families from Rimon religion school, with a dramatic presentation on the Book of Ruth and followed by a picnic in the park. All ages welcome at this special service.

Shema Koleinu: Hear our Voice or Koleinu (Our Voice) for short

is the new name for our parallel minyan on occasional *Shabbat* mornings with *Shabbat* morning music, *Shabbat* reading and discussion.

Our next *Koleinu minyanim* in the Rabbi John Rayner Room will take place at 11.00 on *Shabbat* 9th July, led by members of The LJS, and on *Shabbat* 17th September.



Above and right: A few of the many JVS volunteers

Let's celebrate the work of volunteers

To celebrate the work of volunteers in the Jewish community – and to encourage new volunteers to come forward – the Jewish Volunteering Network is running promotional stands at Brent Cross and in Edgware Broadwalk during National Volunteers' Week, from 1st-12th June.



The network is also working with the Barnet Multi-Faith Forum on the first multi-faith and cultural festival in Barnet, taking place on August Bank Holiday. The object is to show the positive attributes faith communities play in the building of a healthier society and to celebrate the achievements of faith communities in the borough.

JVN works closely with the Faiths Forum For London, to deliver training and support and help it to build its capacity to engage, support and manage volunteers, including those with physical or learning disabilities

For the first time, the JVN will be promoting volunteering in synagogues. This, like the publicity stands, will be to thank existing

volunteers as well as to encourage new people to come forward to give their time and expertise.

The refugee crisis in Europe has spurred many into action and there are plenty of people in the Jewish community eager to help those in need. JVN is co-ordinating the volunteering effort on behalf of the Jewish community.

The JVN website helps volunteers find suitable opportunities and its telephone helpline offers a bespoke matching service for specific projects. Whether you feel able to give one hour a week to the synagogue, to a hospice, food bank, a national campaign, or go volunteering abroad, JVN matches volunteers with opportunities that match their interests and skills.

Why not visit the new JVN website at www.jvn.org.uk to see for yourself the opportunities available and register your details to join the 3,500 existing volunteers and 300 service-user charities.

David Lazarus

What some of JVN's volunteers say:

'I am currently dropping food parcels to three families once a week. I am finding the

volunteering very rewarding and humbling!

– Louise B

'JVN is a great resource, it opens up all the opportunities

I hadn't even considered.'

– Irit H

'Through JVN I have really been busy doing some amazing things and meeting

some lovely people.'

– Adele K

'A lot of the charities wouldn't get the help they need without JVN.'

– Peter K

Engaging with the facts of history



The links that bind so many LJS members to the history of the Shoah are made plain by a visit to Berlin. But could we do more to spell out the awful truths of the past to those who are less inclined to remember, asks Rabbi Alexandra Wright

I am wondering whether our own community with its links to Berlin in quite specific ways, should be offering more in the field of Holocaust education.

At the beginning of May, 23 members of our own and other progressive congregations travelled to Berlin; visiting a range of places, some of which you can see in the photographs accompanying this piece. What if we had made it our business to invite others who know little or nothing of the Jewish history of Berlin, or who may have been a bit sceptical about it, to join us? They could have sought out and stood on street corners or in front of apartment blocks from which parents or grandparents had fled; or stumbled on the Stolpersteine – literally the ‘stumbling stones’, small brass plaques with the name, the date of birth, the date of deportation and place and date of murder, embedded into the cobblestones outside the homes and places of work of Jews who lived in Berlin. Or listened to some of our members speaking about their own parents or grandparents, born in Berlin, who had been deported and murdered, or who had left as refugees to become strangers in a foreign land.

Do we not have a responsibility to help ourselves and others to engage with the facts of history? To be reminded that in a city of 140,000 Jews in 1937, reduced to 6,800 by the beginning of June 1943 and then declared Judenrein (free from Jews) on 16th June 1943, when all the offices of the Jewish community and all other Jewish organisations were closed, only 1,900 returned to Berlin after the war.

What would our fellow travellers have made of the elegant and imposing Wannsee villa, built on the shores of the glistening waters of the lake, next to the historic and fashionable yacht club? Could they have imagined the 90 minute discussion that took place on 20th January 1942 when senior Nazi officials and bureaucrats confirmed the plans for the Final Solution – the deportation and murder of Europe’s Jews? How would they have responded to the bleak and precise list drawn up with the numbers of Jews to be annihilated in each European country: Altreich: 131,800; Generalgouvernement: 2,284,000; Belgium: 43,000; Frankreich: 765,000; England: 330,000; Ireland: 4,000... numbering 11 million?

Would they have taken the time to read the clinical, carefully worded minutes of that meeting with its euphemistic references to ‘evacuation’, ‘treatment of this problem’, its minute referring to the ‘unfavourable’ racial appearance of a second-degree





Above: Jeremy Leigh, our guide from 'Jewish Journeys', pauses at the place where the body of the murdered revolutionary Rosa Luxemburg was thrown into the Landwehr Canal

'Mischling' [someone of mixed Aryan and Jewish blood] to be classed with the Jews purely on the basis of his looks?

And would they have stopped en route to central Berlin, to examine carefully the memorials at the edge of the platforms on Gleis Siebzehn, Platform 17 at Gruenewald Station, recording the date, the number of Jews and destination of the Jewish transports to Lodz, Riga and unknown places, until the Final Solution is put into place and the remainder of Berlin's Jews are crammed into cattle trucks by their hundreds and thousands to be

sent to Theresienstadt and Auschwitz?

What would they have made of Liebeskind's grey, zinc-clad Jewish Museum – its structure laid out as a dismantled Star of David, with its painful angles and narrow windows, its three axes of Exile, Holocaust and Continuity: the first leading to an exterior space of 49 concrete pillars, in a design that leaves one with a sense of disorientation and a sickening sense of loss and lack of perspective and balance? What would their experience be of standing in the Holocaust Tower, an empty, cold, dark, chilling space symbolising the bleak emptiness and massive loss of Germany's Jews?

Would they have chosen to walk among the tomb-like sepulchres of Peter Eisenman's Denkmal für die ermordeten Juden Europas – The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of

Europe, a huge granite maze that lies between the Brandenburg Gate and the site of Hitler's chancelleries and above the bunker of Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels?

Or stand in front of Die Spiegelwand – the mirrored wall at Steglitz, the first of many memorials to the Jews, reminding those who visit that a synagogue once stood in the courtyard of a neighbouring house? Would they see themselves disturbingly reflected among the names of the 1,723 Berliners, who lived in the district and worshipped at the synagogue, their dates of birth, addresses and their final destinations in the death camps of Europe? And what would they think?

In the vast ruins of the Neue Synagogue on Oranienburgerstrasse, a building which once held 3,000 people, there is now an exhibition; and among the exhibits we came across a poster for a *Havdalah* service held on Saturday evening 19th February 1938.

The speaker was Fraeulein Rabbiner Jonas – the first woman rabbi to be ordained, the musicians included a soprano and cellist and the organist Paul Lichtenstein – the same Paul Lichtenstein who arrived in London before the outbreak of war and was the organist at The LJS from 1941-75.

A second link with Berlin is with Rabbi Dr Leo Baeck, scholar, theologian and elected president of Germany's Jews, who worked tirelessly to maintain morale and alleviate persecution. Baeck refused offers to leave his

community and, in 1943, aged 70, he was sent to Terezin concentration camp, which he survived, joining his daughter in England after the war. When he died on 2nd November 1956, the new theological college for progressive Rabbis was renamed Leo Baeck College.

We are each of us, whatever our family background, through our associations with this community, inextricably linked with Berlin and the events of the *Shoah* – and it is that connection which must encourage us to search for true wisdom. For it is only in our learning and knowledge, in the obligation to remember and the willingness to be engaged and connected with the rest of humanity, and in all humility and compassion, that we can engage in the struggle for freedom, justice and peace.



Above: Platform 17 at Gruenewald Station – a memorial to the thousands of Berlin Jews who were deported from the station, at first to Lodz and Riga, and subsequently to Theresienstadt and Auschwitz

This is a shortened version of the sermon preached by Rabbi Alex Wright on 14th May, *Shabbat Emor*.

Photos by Sue Bolsom

Right: Outside the Konzerthaus, in front of a monument to Schiller, listening to Beethoven's setting of his 'Ode to Joy'





at the **LJS**

Classes in Judaism and Hebrew Purim term 5776/2016

Tuesday 11.15-12.30

19th April – 19th July

Tuesday Texts

This friendly group is led by our Rabbis, Dr Dov Softi and Susannah Alexander as we study biblical texts and commentaries and enjoy sessions on Jewish art. Our discussions are lively and relevant to contemporary issues. This year's topics will include a study of *Pirkei Avot* (Ethics of the Fathers), a Jewish review of the Gospels and Bach's St John Passion, stories from the Talmud and Midrash. New members are most welcome. Biscuits are provided.

Tuesday 19.00-20.00

19th April – 5th July

Hebrew classes

Half-term 31st May

Beginners with Susannah Alexander

This class is designed for beginners who want to learn to read and decipher the prayer book. No previous knowledge of Hebrew required. Three-term course.

Next steps in biblical Hebrew with Dr Sally Gold

This class is for those who feel they are able to cope with guided reading, at their own pace, of simple prayer book and biblical Hebrew, and who now feel ready to gradually build their reading skills and their knowledge of vocabulary and grammar at an unhurried and manageable pace. The class will allow plenty of time to gain, revise and consolidate through the use of texts and some simple exercises which are geared to progressive understanding and confidence. Students will also be introduced to the use of dictionaries and other tools, with a view to being able to try, if they would like to, some independent preparation of simple texts.

Difficult texts of the *Torah* with Alexandra Wright

Now in its third year, this class is looking at some of the more challenging texts of the *Torah*, building on the grammar and vocabulary we have learnt over the past two years.

If you are not sure which level you should pursue, please speak to Susannah, Sally or Alexandra.

Tuesday 20.00-21.00

5th April – 12th July

Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah course**Tutor:** Rabbi René Pfertzel

For a variety of reasons, some of us did not have a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* in their teens. Rabbi René is offering an Adult *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* class, open to anyone who wishes to explore the meaning of the *Bar Mitzvah* and how to make it relevant at various stages of one's life.

31st May	<i>Talmud Torah</i> – Teach them to Your Children	<i>D'var Torah</i>
14th June	<i>L'Hayyim</i> – To Life!	<i>Torah</i> reading
28th June	<i>Ehad</i> – Hear O Israel	<i>D'var Torah</i>
12th July	End of year party	

D'var Torah sessions:

How to write a sermon? What should be in there? Sharing feedbacks. Sermon delivery.

Torah reading:

After the portion has been chosen, we will read and discuss it in groups.

The actual work on reading and/or chanting fluency will be done privately, either with the Rabbi, or with a tutor.

Tuesday 20.00-21.00

19th April – 12th July

Exploring Judaism**Tutor:** Rabbi Rachel Benjamin

Exploring Judaism is for people who wish they knew more about Judaism or would like to brush up on their Jewish knowledge. It is for family members, who are not Jewish, who would like to understand more about Judaism. It is also an essential programme of instruction for people choosing Judaism, by conversion. Class members are encouraged to read materials which will be made available online during the course of the year. The course is designed to offer knowledge about aspects of Judaism, to encourage practical experiences of Liberal Judaism and space for personal reflection within the group.

31st May	Half Term
7th June	Exploring <i>Shavu'ot</i>
11th June	<i>Tikkun Leyl Shavu'ot</i>
14th June	17 <i>Tammuz</i> , 3 weeks, <i>Tisha B'Av</i>
21st June	Who is a Jew
28th June	Questions?
5th July	<i>Siyum</i> /End of year celebration

**Hebrew and Yiddish lessons from the Spiro Ark**

A variety of daytime and evening Hebrew and Yiddish classes are run at the LJS by the educational organisation Spiro Ark on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Levels range from 'Beginners' and 'Not quite beginners' to 'Intermediate/Advanced'. For full details of lesson times and charges, please visit www.spiroark.org/classes or phone 020 7289 6321.

Learning from Texts with Bernie Bulkin

This year the class is going to tackle a number of philosophical and theological issues, among them:

- How do we find meaning in Jewish observance?
- Is the apparent conflict between science and religious belief resolvable?
- What do we need, as humans, and what does God need?
- Do we require ethical injunctions from religion?
- What do we mean by revelation, and is it essential to Jewish belief today?
- What were the prophets raging about?

We will do this primarily from the writings of Abraham Joshua Heschel and Eliezer Berkovits, plus some short articles by others such as Leo Strauss and Kenneth Seeskin.

We also do some *parashah* study at the beginning of most classes, usually based on commentary of Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg and Nehama Leibowitz. No prior knowledge required, just an inquiring mind and more or less regular attendance.

Half-term: 28th May and 4th June

Beginners' Hebrew with Naomi Brightwell

Don't know your *aleph* from your – oh you know, that other letter at the end of the Hebrew alphabet? Naomi Brightwell's class uses Jonathan Romain's *Signs and Wonders* to help complete beginners decode the squiggles and start tackling what they've always been afraid of. With a little bit of grammar, a sprinkling of vocabulary and plenty of off-topic conversations on Jewish food, the structure of the liturgy and anything else that helps us have fun while learning. Absolutely no previous knowledge required. Previous students have even gone on to confidently lead *Shabbat* morning services.

Improvers with David Strang

This course follows Naomi Brightwell's class. We will consolidate the knowledge that students have from the beginners' class and will aim to ensure that by the end of the year, they are able to read key prayers from *Siddur Lev Chadash* and passages from the *Torah*. We will also start to look at the structure of biblical Hebrew, so that students can begin to understand the meaning of the texts they are reading. All adults welcome; basic Hebrew reading required.

Intermediate Hebrew with Tom Tlalim

This is a group that wishes to increase fluency and participate in the service, not only from the congregation, but from the *bimah* as well. If you know your letters and want to keep up your reading, don't mind having a go at reading Hebrew in the service, then feel free to join this class.

LJS The Poet's Quest for Peace

Contemporary Voices Across the Faiths

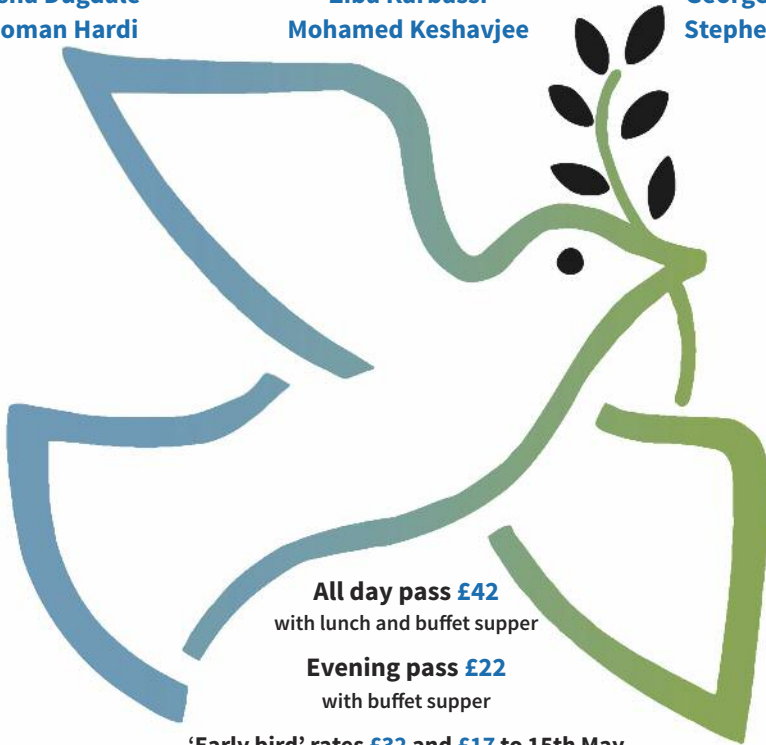
Saturday 18th June 2016

A Day of Poetry, Conversation and Debate

**Rafiq Abdulla
Sasha Dugdale
Choman Hardi**

**Fady Joudah
Ziba Karbassi
Mohamed Keshavjee**

**Maitreyabandhu
George Szirtes
Stephen Watts**



All day pass £42
with lunch and buffet supper

Evening pass £22
with buffet supper

'Early bird' rates £32 and £17 to 15th May

Full programme details and tickets from <https://poetsquest4peace.eventbrite.co.uk>

Due to urgent roof repairs and scaffolding being erected alongside the synagogue, there is very limited parking on the LJS forecourt until August. If you come by car, please do not assume that you will be able to park at the synagogue.

If you are celebrating a special birthday or marking another big event, have you thought about contributing to the weekly kiddush following our Shabbat morning service? If you would like to take part in the service to mark a special occasion, please contact Naomi Richland on 020 7432 1283 or email her at rabbispa@ljs.org

We wish these young members of the LJS a very happy birthday in June:

Ela Behr
Daniel Brightwell
Rachel Brooks
Maximilien Bueno
Tobias Chitayat
Hannah Cohen
Finlo Cowley
Michael Falk
Jessica Geneen
Lia Grant
Hugo Halford-Harrison
Mathilde Hindler
Celia Hou Kernkraut
Beatrice Isaacson
Eva Kondak
Ethan Kulikovs
Estella Levi-French
Joseph Levin
Costanza Levy
Tomaso Levy
Tamara Lindbland Hill
Miriam Majer
Daniel Mautner
Eva Mautner
Hannah Mautner
Benjamin Miller
Antonia Moore
Romilly Morrison
Sienna Noppe
Mia Ohana-Samput
Samuel Ritblat
Yonatan Roodner
Johnny Rosen
Marco Rudolph
Jan Ruiz-Daum
Samuel Salas
Rachel Semaya
Isaac Sharpstone
Victor Sparks
Zara Teacher
Miriam Torday
Gabriel Tuvey
Joshua Waha
Helena Walford

The KT class of 2016



Their big day: Simon Browning, Isabella Sinclair, Rachel Crawley, Kajsa Cohen, Jessica Falk, Noah Gershon, Leora Browning, Sam Ritblat and George Blumenthal, accompanied by Rabbi Alexandra Wright, on the way to their *Kabbalat Torah* service.

Food for the brain: Nosh 'n' Drosch

Speakers at future sessions will include:

■ **Shabbat 9th July:**
Robin Michaelson

■ **Shabbat 17th September:**
Eva Schloss

■ **Shabbat 26th November:**
Vivien Rose

■ **Shabbat 10th December:**
Rabbi David J. Goldberg will interview Lord Howard

Would you like to sponsor a Nosh 'n' Drosch?

For more information, please speak to Martin Slowe or Rabbi Alexandra Wright.

TINY TOTS at the LJS

Do you have little ones aged between 0 and 4?

Please bring them to the LJS on *Shabbat* mornings

11th, 18th and 25th June

2nd and 9th July

for a delightful session of songs, stories, drawing and *kiddush*.



Activities for tiny ones with their parents, grandparents and carers.

The nursery is available every *Shabbat* for children to play or read.

Please email education@ljs.org to be added to the Tiny Tots circulation list.

VIDEO AND TEA

From 13.30-16.30 on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Just come along – no need to book. Soup on arrival then a DVD (film classics, musicals, etc) followed by a delicious tea including home-made ice-cream. Donation of £2.

25th June: *Breakfast at Tiffany's* Audrey Hepburn and George Peppard in the iconic tale of Holly Golightly.

27th July: *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* Judi Dench and the other stars return to India.



RESTAURANT TUESDAY

Restaurant Tuesday meets on the third Tuesday of every month and is a friendly and informal lunch club for the more elderly members of the congregation.

Please let the office know if you are coming for the first time or if you are a regular who cannot come. (020 7286 5181). There is always a vegetarian option and we try to cater for special dietary needs. Lunch starts at 12.30 and costs £4.



SPONSOR A KIDDUSH

Shabbat 11th June – in honour of the Queen's 90th birthday.

Shabbat 25th June – *Kiddush* and lunch to welcome new Members and Friends.

If you would like to sponsor

one of these, please contact Naomi Richland rabbispa@ljs.org or telephone 020 7432 1283.



The Bridge Club meets from 14.00 to 17.00 every Monday in the Assembly Hall upstairs at The LJS. Anyone with any knowledge of the game is most welcome. This is a social afternoon rather than a competitive one. There is a friendly atmosphere and helpful suggestions. The cost (including tea or coffee) is £2. New members are welcome: for more details leave a message for Neil Levitt or William Falk at 020 7286 5181.



DINNER FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Are you aged between 25 and 35 – or thereabouts? Or perhaps you have children or grandchildren of that age?

Friday evening dinners for young adults are held once a month at The LJS. Future dates are 3rd June and 15th July.



ASYLUM SEEKERS DROP-IN

The LJS Drop-in for asylum seeker families will open on Sunday 5th June from 14.00-16.00. Note that the June Drop-in is taking place on the

first Sunday of the month because of *Shavu'ot*.

Following the June Drop-in, Harriett Goldenberg will lead a reflective session until 17.30.

If you are interested in volunteering once a month (or even a few times a year) please contact Rabbi Alexandra Wright (a.wright@ljs.org) for more details.



ART GROUP

Informal art group for beginners and experienced artists. The class meets at 11.00 every Monday, except during Jewish festivals and Bank Holidays. For more details call Paul Podolsky: 020 8346 2270.

The Woolf Institute (Cambridge)

is delighted to announce that applications are now being accepted for the e-learning course, 'Jews, Christians and Muslims in Europe: Modern Challenges'.

The closing date for applications is 2nd August 2016. If you have any queries about the course, contact Dr Emma Harris, Academic Co-ordinator, at eth22@cam.ac.uk

Tribute to 'Flower of our English Jewry'

In my research for a biography of Claude G. Montefiore, who is revered as one of the founders of Liberal Judaism and our first President, I have come across reports in the newspaper *The Jewish Guardian* of September 1925, on the occasion of the opening of the new LJS building on the present site.

Claude's address, as President of The LJS, was printed in full. It was accompanied by a poem in fulsome praise (reproduced on the right).

An editorial note said his address was 'moving and exquisitely phrased' and extended good wishes to Montefiore, and said the inspiration for his life was fitly commemorated in the poem, published over 'the revealing initials I.G.'

It would be good to know who was the poet but I have been unable to find this (the only contemporary notable literary person of these initials was not a supporter of the JRU). The *Jewish Chronicle* also reported the opening of the building and Montefiore's address, but without the poem.

His inspiration was, I assume, from a sonnet by John Milton beginning:

Congregants appreciate the warm welcome they receive at The LJS and the contribution made by our many volunteers. Have you considered supporting the synagogue by including it in your will? Your legacy would help ensure the continuing support of Jews and Judaism in our community.

To

CLAUDE G. MONTEFIORE.

Our Chief of men, perchance our only man,
Noble Exemplar in these fading days.
Serenely hast thou gone thy firm-set ways,
Heedless of obloquy or zealot's ban.

Thou knowest the Mountain-tracks; thou hast climb'd high!
Rich Mountain-flowers from many a rugged side
Thou gatherest, not to prank thyself with pride,
But still to scatter blossoms far and nigh.

Scholar and seer, illumining our creed,
With mind to soul attun'd, with lover's grace,
Well teachest thou, that Time cannot efface
The glories of the Book, by word and deed.

Flower of our English Jewry, we acclaim
Our thanks for all thy labours in His name.

I.G.

13th September, 1925.

*'Cromwell, our chief of men,
who through a cloud
'Not of war only, but
detractions rude,
'Guided by faith and
matchless fortitude...'*

The poem imitates Milton's style. But Montefiore would not have been pleased to be considered to follow Cromwell. I do not know of any other published verse in

praise of leaders of our movement. Perhaps one of our poets might offer to write some?

Bryan Diamond

The LJS is a constituent
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