

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERAL JEWISH SYNAGOGUE

## Seeking the poetic path to peace

The LJS is delighted to be hosting **The Poet's Quest for Peace: Contemporary Voices Across the Faiths** on Saturday 18th June, bringing together our core values of interfaith work, social action, culture and education.

How better to spend *Shabbat* than in pursuit of a better grasp of the complexities of our shared quest for peace? Internationally renowned poets – specially chosen for their cultural range and for the relevance, appeal and quality of their poems –

will move, disturb and inspire.

Discussions and interviews featuring writers dedicated to facilitating dialogue and understanding will further enlarge our perspectives and humanity. And we are pleased to be welcoming global peace-campaigners who will contribute to the expansive range of the occasion. We're looking forward to a memorable day full of surprising and powerful communication. Do join us.

■ For more details, see page 6.

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## Come and study all night on Saturday 11th June

*Tikkun ley! 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 | <i>Erev Shavu'ot</i> service at The LJS           | 21.15 | Keynote event led by Rabbi Julia Neuberger, followed by a wide range of study opportunities |
| 19.45 | <i>Chavurah</i> supper and cheesecake competition | 3.45  | Early-bird breakfast  |
| 20.45 | Leave LJS for West London Synagogue               | 4.45  | <i>Shacharit</i> on the roof  |



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## Thank you

for the legacy received from the estate of **George Rigal**, a long-standing and very active member of the synagogue

from **Louise Golding** to all those who sent cards and get-well messages during her recent surgery and recuperation. She is now at home, and steadily improving

## Welcome

to these new members:

**Jarvis Astaire, Ido and Clara Eisenberg, Pamela Golden, Alice Hou and family, Jonathan Kernkraut, Michael Kinberg, Rob Krams, Shaun Livingston and Moya Sarner, Lisa Moore, Ray Noppe, Liv and Ron Packowitz, Lori and Lyle Scott**

**The LJS Annual General Meeting  
will be held at 19.30 on  
Wednesday 15th June  
in the Montefiore Hall at  
The Liberal Jewish Synagogue.**

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

## Are you interested in becoming a member of The LJS Council?

Being on Council is very rewarding and gives you a good insight into how the synagogue works and the issues facing The LJS and Liberal Judaism generally. It can be a great way of making new friends while contributing to a really worthwhile endeavour.

Council meets on the second Thursday of every month, except August. Council members are elected for a three-year term. The maximum continuous period of Council membership is six years.

To stand for election to the Council you must be proposed by a Member and seconded by either a Member or Friend.

Nomination forms are available from The LJS office and have to be returned to the Executive Director by 9am on Thursday 19th May. If there are more nominations than vacancies, there will be an election at the AGM on Wednesday 15th June.

For more information please contact Caroline Bach, Executive Director, on 020 7432 1288 or [c.bach@ljs.org](mailto:c.bach@ljs.org)

# Shabbat and festival services: May

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

DATE	RABBI/SPEAKER	NOTES
Thursday 28th April <i>Erev 7th Day Pesach</i> 18.45	René Pfertzel	All welcome at our second trilingual 7th night <i>Seder</i> in French, Hebrew and English for the eve of the 7th day of <i>Pesach</i>
Friday 29th April 7th Day <i>Pesach</i> 11.00	Alexandra Wright	Please join the congregation for this special service that brings <i>Pesach</i> to an end with the singing of <i>Shirat Ha-Yam</i> and a Memorial Service
Friday 29th April 18.45	<i>Kabbalat Torah</i> Class	The class will lead the whole service and the <i>D'var Torah</i> will be given by Rachel Crawley
Shabbat 30th April 10.30 <i>Acharei-Mot</i>	<i>Kabbalat Torah</i> service	All are welcome to celebrate our annual KT service led by nine young members of The LJS
Wednesday 4th May 19.00 <i>Erev Yom Ha-Shoah</i>	Peter Lantos	'Hungarian Jews: from anti-Semitism to the <i>Shoah</i> '
Friday 6th May	Oded Mazor Leo Baeck Education Centre, Haifa	Co-led by Naomi Hanna-Kemper, <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>
Shabbat 7th May <i>Kedoshim</i>	René Pfertzel	<i>Bat Mitzvah</i> Naomi Hanna-Kemper
Friday 13th May	Alexandra Wright	Young Adult <i>Chavurah</i> <i>Chavurah</i> for classes <i>Zayin</i> and <i>Chet</i>
Shabbat 14th May <i>Emor</i>	Alexandra Wright	Moya Sarner and Shaun Livingstone <i>Aufruf</i> Peter Werth special birthday Nosh 'n' Drosh with Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris <i>Shema Koleinu Minyan</i> in the John Rayner Room
Friday 20th May	Alexandra Wright	Co-led by Dalia Gelfer, <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> Library <i>Chavurah</i> with Elaine Feinstein (see p16)
Shabbat 21st May <i>B'har</i>	Alexandra Wright	<i>Bat Mitzvah</i> Dalia Gelfer
Friday 27th May	Alexandra Wright	
Shabbat 28th May <i>B'Chukkotai</i>	Rachel Benjamin	Freddie Grant Naming and Blessing Willie Kessler Birthday Half-term Rimon
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

Our Shabbat 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.

# Making sense of the world around us



**Rabbi René Pfertzel considers the ancient interest in counting, classifying and making lists as a way of finding order in an untidy world; and ponders the cycle of life as reflected in the constant cycle of the festivals**

**W**e have just passed over Passover, and now it is time for the next step of our journey through the Jewish year.

If Passover marks the birth of Israel as a nation, then the following month, that is the month of Iyar (*Rosh Chodesh Iyar* comes at sundown on Saturday 7th May) is its infancy. A child's early years are crucial for the human being, as they require constant care and attention. This process of care and attention has its finest illustration in the counting of the Omer, this period that links *Pesach* to *Shavu'ot*, from birth to the revelation of what our true identity will be.

'And you shall count from the next day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of wave offering (*Et omer ha-terufah*); seven Sabbaths shall be completed' (Leviticus 23:15).

The counting of the Omer begins on the second day of *Pesach* (16th Nissan), and ends the day before *Shavu'ot*. This period has been seen as a spiritual preparation for, and anticipation of, the giving of *Torah*. In Kabbalah, the seven weeks have been associated with the seven lower *sefirot* (divine emanations), probably because the counting of the Omer is called in Hebrew *sefirat ha-Omer*. The idea of counting, or making lists, was a common feature in antiquity, and can be

identified with the first steps of the encyclopaedic mind. The ancients would make lists, classify items, and create languages around them, in order to make sense of the world in which they were living.

Each day of the week is also associated with one of the seven *sefirot*, generating 49 permutations. According to Kabbalists, each of these permutations represents a soul-trait in one's character. When we go through these 49 days and meditate daily on these *middot* (soul traits), we gain growth and awareness.

It is the same daily exercise that the Musar movement teaches. This movement of Jewish ethics, which originated in 19th century Lithuania, was seen as a response to the risk of assimilation supposedly carried by Reform Judaism in Germany.

**'Every day of the week is associated with one of the seven sefirot'**

Nowadays, Musar is mostly understood as a daily spiritual practice. Its goals are, according to the Musar Institute, 'to release the light of holiness that lives within the soul. The roots of all of our thoughts and actions can be traced to the depths of the

soul, beyond the reach of the light of consciousness, and so the methods Musar provides include meditations, guided contemplations, exercises and chants that are all intended to penetrate down to the darkness of the subconscious, to bring about change right at the root of our nature.'

**'During our lives we endlessly go back and forth from Pesach to Shavu'ot'**

In the near future, I would like to set up a Musar group within our community. Regardless of our age, we are still in our infancy, we need care and support, and this is provided by our rich tradition. During our lives, we endlessly go back and forth from *Pesach* to *Shavu'ot*, from birth to awareness. The very fact that the Jewish calendar is nothing else but a cycle proves that this task is never completed. If you want to join me in this adventure, please contact me, and we will make sure we have the time and the space to do it.

May you all benefit from the ascending light in the month of Iyar, the proximity of the summer. May this counting of the Omer be for you a time for spiritual nourishment and growth.

*René Pfertzel*



## Traditional mix

Purim was celebrated at the LJS with the traditional mix of fancy dress and farce, rejoicing at the downfall of Haman and, not least, a performance of our new Purim play, 'Whatever Happened to Queen Vashti?' (left).



# LJS The Poet's Quest for Peace

## Contemporary Voices Across the Faiths

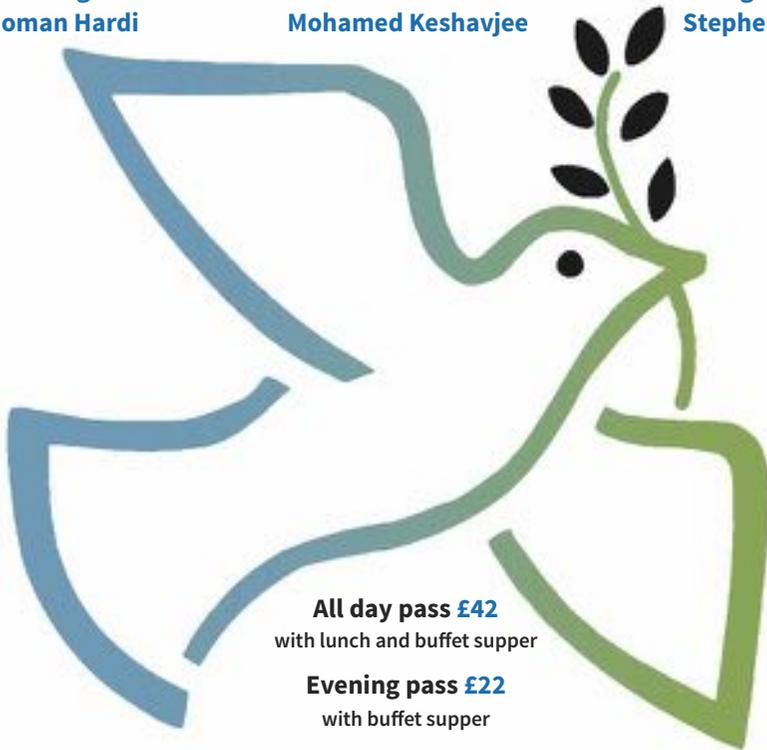
**Saturday 18th June 2016**

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>

## *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* 14th May led by Student Rabbi Haim Casas and others, and *Shabbat* 17th September.

**Erev Yom Ha-Shoah – 19.00 on Wednesday 4th May**

*A service and readings will be followed by a talk by Peter Lantos*

# Hungarian Jews: from anti-Semitism to the Shoah

Peter Lantos was born in 1939 in Hungary. As a five-year old child he was deported with his parents to Bergen-Belsen. His father died of starvation, while Peter and his mother survived. After an adventurous journey through war-torn Europe, they arrived home to find that many members of their family had perished in the Holocaust.

Peter studied medicine in Hungary and as a young doctor he received a Wellcome Research Fellowship, arrived in London in 1968 and decided never to return to his native country. For his 'defection' he was sentenced in absentia to one year and four months in prison and confiscation of all his belongings.

In London he successfully submitted his PhD on brain tumours in 1973, completed his post-graduate training in 1975, and became Senior Lecturer and Consultant at



**Peter Lantos**

the Middlesex Hospital Medical School one year later.

In 1979 he was appointed professor of neuropathology (clinical neuroscience) at the Institute of Psychiatry at the Maudsley and director of neuropathology services for King's Clinical Neurosciences.

His main research interest was in the field of neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. He published more than 500

medical/scientific papers, reviews and book chapters, and was co-editor of the leading textbook in the field. He received the degree of DSc from London University in 1991, and was elected Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in 2001.

After his retirement, in addition to working for medical charities, he started to write non-medical literature – accidentally rather than by planning.

His first book, *Parallel Lines*, based on his childhood experience of Bergen-Belsen, has seen four reprints, was translated into Hungarian and Italian, and sold well over 10,000 copies. His second book, *Closed Horizon*, a novel, was published in 2012. He has completed four plays; the first two had rehearsed readings and there is some interest in staging a full production.

## Do you find it difficult to get to The LJS?

Is parking the car or using public transport a burden?



**Thanks to some very generous donations, including the proceeds of the sale of the ferry bus given to us by Jo and Willie Kessler some years ago, we now have a Transport Fund which enables us to support those members of our community who find travelling difficult.**

We want every Member and Friend of the Synagogue to be able independently to attend services, study sessions, lunches or other activities without having to worry about cost or transport problems.

If you, or a member of your family, are finding the journey difficult, or are incapacitated, whether permanently or temporarily, and would like us to arrange and pay for a taxi to get you to the synagogue and back home again, please let us know.

We can book a taxi on our account to collect you and take you home or we can refund the cost if you order your own transport.

Alternatively, if you just need the convenience of having someone call a taxi for your journey home, Reception will be happy to do that for you.

To make arrangements, please contact me on 020 7286 5181 or at [a.shafritz@ljs.org](mailto:a.shafritz@ljs.org); or Naomi Kramer, Community Care Co-ordinator, at [communitycare@ljs.org](mailto:communitycare@ljs.org) or 020 7432 1281.

**Aviva Shafritz  
Community Care Co-ordinator**

# Study, song and how to mend the world

**A**viv (Spring) term was a very busy one for Rimon's children. We continued to enjoy very good attendance and the children engaged in all their class activities with a good attitude to learning.

This year for *Tzedakah*, charitable donations, Rimon children chose to support The Separated Child Foundation. This was set up in memory of Ester Gluck, and supports refugee children and young people who arrive in the UK seeking asylum, without their parents. The charity helps with food, clothing, information and legal support. Angela Gluck, from the foundation, visited Rimon and ran workshops for our children about the foundation's activities. We are pleased to say that we have raised £230 of our £500 goal, which we aim to achieve by the end of the academic year; we encourage children and parents to keep donating to this worthy cause.

A few events stood out for me this term; Kitah Dalet through Chet had a parents' consultation morning on Saturday 30th January, when parents had the opportunity to meet their children's teachers and assistants to discuss their child's progress. During the morning, our children took part in a programme run by LJY Netzer, the youth movement of Liberal Judaism; the youth leaders focused on the Machane Aviv/ Spring camp, enthusing the children with their activities and encouraging them to attend the camp.

Our Rimon Shiron group (choir) led by Graham Carpenter and assisted by Daniel Mautner is going from strength to strength, with many children of all ages enjoying learning singing songs which enhance their experiences of

Judaism. We will see the group perform regularly in our *Tefillah* assemblies. Class Chet learned about Rimon's charity, the Separated Child Foundation; the class used their creative writing skills to produce a booklet about the plight of these refugee children.

Class Zayin wrote a play about *Tikkun Olam*, 'mending the world', which featured God deliberating with key figures in the Bible about whether the human race deserved the world to continue, as they were failing to care for it.

The play, which encouraged audience participation, was performed in a whole-school assembly and children were asked what they could do to help preserve the world around them.

Class Vav is learning about the prelude to the Second World War in Germany, Jews under Nazism and the Kindertransport. Ann Kirk, a member of The LJS and herself a Kindertransportee, talked to the class about her experiences and answered interesting questions posed by the children.

KT1, taught by Rabbi Rachel Benjamin and Rabbi René Pftertzel, produced welcome signs in various languages for the Asylum Seekers' Drop-in, which the



**Report on the last term's work at Rimon by the head, Dr Dov Softi**

class helps with each month. The class take part in welcoming asylum seekers to the LJS, an activity that they are all enjoying and finding meaningful. Our Tiny Tots activities now take place every *Shabbat* morning, led by Caroline Hagard.

Our last intergenerational service team was *Purim*. We invited children and parents to take part in the readings. Many children came in costume, and we had a short *Purim Spiel* and fancy-dress competition. Rabbi Alex is currently redesigning the Crystal Clear Siddur which we use in our intergenerational services, to make it more child-friendly and we are hoping that it will be ready for the next intergenerational service.

We are asking Rimon children to contribute their own art work to be included in the *siddur*; we are encouraging them to look at key prayers and interpret them in art form. We will select the best ones and include them in the new *siddur*.



# 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.

3rd May	<i>Teshuvah</i> – Returning	<i>D'var Torah</i> preparation
17th May	<i>Torah</i> – The People of the Book	<i>Torah</i> reading
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.

3rd May	End of life
10th May	Funeral and mourning
17th May	Home rituals and prayers
24th May	Reflections
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

### **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.

# Food for the brain: Nosh 'n' Drosch

What is Nosh 'n' Drosch? The 'nosh' is a delicious spread of bagels and fillings, several dozen people sitting round tables and enjoying an informal lunch together. The 'drosch' is the discussion, led by an outstanding guest speaker, with time for discussion and questions. Speakers at future meetings will include:

■ **Shabbat 14th May:**  
**Rabbi Deborah Kahn-Harris**

'Festive Readings:  
A beginner's guide to the  
*Megillot.*'

■ **Shabbat 2nd 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? Please speak to Martin Slowe or Rabbi Alexandra Wright for more information.



**Nosh 'n' Drosch in action: Two highly successful recent meetings featured LJS member Bernie Bulkin (above) speaking about the origin and significance of *Purim* and (below) Gillian Merron, chief executive of the Jewish Board of Deputies.**



## 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](http://www.spiroark.org/classes) or phone 020 7289 6321.

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

Benjamin Allen  
Zachary Benson  
Nora Bielawski  
Nina Bluestone  
Edie Cohen  
Vaughn Conway  
Oliver Delew  
Jamie Delew  
Charles Garbus  
Dalia Gelfer  
Caio Goldman  
Grace Hannam  
Ella Jackson- Drexler  
Sydney Johnson  
Seth Lefebvre Sell  
Ava Meir  
Leo Mendelsohn  
Olivia Moore  
Jonas Morgan  
Samuel Nash  
Daveed Roodner  
Maxwell Roth  
Eva Ruiz-Daum  
Eleanor Sanderson  
Xavier Sparks  
Adrien Tahar  
Joseph Tedeschini- Rigal  
Marcus Walford

## Singer in competition final

LJS congregant Leora Browning, 15, was thrilled to reach the finals of the solo voice category of the Emunah Young Musician of the Year competition. Leora, who attends Francis Holland School, sang Tchaikovsky's 'None but the Lonely Heart' in a showcase concert at Rudolf Steiner House, Marylebone.

Leora is a keen musician and plays the cello and clarinet, but her real passion is singing. The national competition is run by the charity British Emunah in association with the Jewish Chronicle. The main title, Emunah Young Musician of the Year 2016, was won by cellist Ellen Baumring-Gledhill, 14, whose family belong to Elstree Liberal Synagogue.

Emunah is a major provider of



welfare services in Israel where it looks after 12,000 children. The contest raises funds to provide music therapy for children who have suffered from trauma, neglect or abuse.

If you are visiting Israel and would like to see the projects – or get involved with raising money for the charity – call 020 8203 6066 or email [Deborah@emunah.org.uk](mailto:Deborah@emunah.org.uk)

## TINY TOTS at the LJS

*Do you have little ones aged between 0 and 4?*

Please bring them to the LJS on *Shabbat* mornings

**30th April**

**7th, 14th and 21st May**

**11th, 18th and 25th June**

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](mailto: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 May:** *The Titfield Thunderbolt* Ealing Studios' branch-line comedy starring Stanley Holloway, a tribute to communal independence.

**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.



## ASYLUM SEEKERS DROP-IN

The LJS Drop-in for asylum seeker families will open on Sunday 10th April and Sunday 8th May and 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*.



## 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.



## BRIDGE CLUB



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 13th May and 3rd June.



## 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.



## 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](mailto:rabbispa@ljs.org) or telephone 020 7432 1283.



## ART EXHIBITION

Following its successful exhibition at Mall Galleries last year, the Elliott Art Group, will be exhibiting its latest works at The LJS for two weeks from 12th May.

Please join  
Rabbi Alexandra Wright  
and others in making up  
a table for  
Leo Baeck College's  
Kaufmann Annual Dinner

with guest speaker  
Professor  
Mona Siddiqui  
OBE  
on Wednesday 25th May

at Montcalm Hotel,  
Marble Arch

RSVP  
[dinner2016@lbc.ac.uk](mailto:dinner2016@lbc.ac.uk)

**Our service on  
Shabbat 11th June  
will celebrate  
Her Majesty the  
Queen's 90th  
birthday.**

Please join us at 11.00.

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 within our community.

The *Jewish News* now has a page devoted to opinion pieces and commentaries by progressive rabbis and congregants. You can collect your copy when you visit the synagogue.

The LJS is a constituent synagogue of Liberal Judaism

  
**liberal judaism**



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Library Chavurah Supper with Elaine Feinstein

## **Incomers and the mainstream:**

what place should Anglo-Jewish writers look to find in 21st century Britain?

**Friday 20th May**



Prize-winning poet, novelist, playwright, biographer, translator and LJS member Elaine Feinstein will be the speaker at this year's Library Chavurah Supper, after the evening service on Friday 20th May at The LJS.

All welcome. Please bring a non-meat dish to share or leave a monetary contribution in the LJS office during the week.

Enquiries: 020 7286 5181 or email [ljs@ljs.org](mailto:ljs@ljs.org)

## **Dates for your diary**

Thursday 28th April	Trilingual service for the 7th day of <i>Pesach</i>
<i>Shabbat</i> 30th April	<i>Kabbalat Torah</i> service at 10.30
Wednesday 4th May	<i>Erev Yom Ha-Shoah</i>
6th-9th May	LJS trip to Berlin
Saturday 11th June	<i>Tikkun Leyl Shavu'ot</i> – all-night study at West London: see full details on front page
Wednesday 15th June	LJS Annual General Meeting at 19.30 in the Montefiore Hall