

## Naming ceremony for ten

Three of the ten families who came to The LJS for our third Thanksgiving and Naming Service for children and babies.

Right: Floriana Davis with her parents Kyla and Spencer and her older brother Bertie.

Bottom right: Joah Zaccour with his parents Anais and Mal.

Below: Tara Moran with her parents Miray and Enis.



April  
2017

Nisan-Iyar  
5777



## Thanks

for their donations to the library to

**Sue Aron, Judith Diamond, Peter Fidler, Pam Fox, Linda Rene-Martin, Jenny Stephany, Tony Yablon**

## Bereavements

We extend our sympathy to those who mourn:

**Anthony Graham**, husband of Jody, father of Zoe and Frances and brother of Peter

**Ruth Ive**, mother of David and Martin

**Irvine Gerald Sellar**, husband of Elizabeth, father of Paul, James and Caroline, brother of Maurice and Patricia

**Anne Silver**, wife of Allen,

mother of Francesca and sister of Peter Davis

**Peter John Watson**, father of Peter Barrett and Drake Bradwell

**Michael Willis**, father of Rebecca

המקום ינחם אתכם  
בתוך שאר האבליים

*May God comfort you  
and all who mourn*



The current LJS Council pictured during its all-day meeting in March. Sue Head, the Chairman, reports on the discussions: page 4.

## Why not think about joining 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 [two terms].

Any LJS member who wishes to stand for election to the Council must be proposed by a Member and seconded by either a Member or Friend.

Nominations must be submitted on the nomination form available from the LJS office and delivered to the Executive Director by 9am on Friday 21 April. If there are more nominations than vacancies, election will be by ballot at the AGM at 19.30 on 14 June.

For more information, please contact Sue Head, Chairman of Council, or Caroline Bach,

Executive Director on 020 7432 1288 or [c.bach@ljs.org](mailto:c.bach@ljs.org).

## Please help

At our special Crystal Clear service on Friday 5 May we will have a Palantypist and a BSL Interpreter, to interpret the service [see page 13].

Could you help meet the cost of providing this important facility to make our service more accessible and inclusive? if you can help, please email Rabbi Benjamin, [r.benjamin@ljs.org](mailto:r.benjamin@ljs.org)

# Shabbat and festival services: April

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

DATE	RABBI/SPEAKER	NOTES
Friday 31 March	René Pfertzel	
<i>Shabbat</i> 1 April <i>Vayikra</i>	René Pfertzel	
Friday 7 April	Alexandra Wright	Co-led by Charlie-Luca Gruzd <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
<i>Shabbat</i> 8 April <i>Tzav/Ha-gadol</i>	Alexandra Wright	<i>Bar Mitzvah</i> Charlie-Luca Gruzd
Monday 10 April <i>Erev Pesach</i>	Please note that there is no service on <i>Erev Pesach</i> . If you know of anyone who would like to experience a <i>Seder</i> at home or if you are able to host a guest, please let the Rabbis' PA know: <a href="mailto:rabbispa@ljs.org">rabbispa@ljs.org</a>	
Tuesday 11 April 11.00 <i>Pesach</i>	Alexandra Wright	Children's activities with Caroline Hagar
Tuesday 11 April 16.00 –17.00	Tots <i>Seder</i>	A special <i>Seder</i> for Tiny Tots, their brothers and sisters and parents
Tuesday 11 April 18.30	Communal <i>Seder</i>	Please see page 12
Friday 14 April <i>Erev Shabbat</i> <i>Chol Ha-Mo'ed Pesach</i>	Rachel Benjamin	<p><b><i>Shabbat</i> morning services are streamed live via the internet.</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p>
<i>Shabbat</i> 15 April <i>Shabbat</i> <i>Chol Ha-Mo'ed Pesach</i>	Rachel Benjamin	
Sunday 16 April 18.45 <i>Erev 7th Day Pesach</i>	Alexandra Wright	
Monday 17 April 11.00 7th Day <i>Pesach</i>	René Pfertzel	Children's activities with Caroline Hagar
Friday 21 April	Alexandra Wright	
<i>Shabbat</i> 22 April <i>Shabbat Shemini</i>	Alexandra Wright	The service will incorporate readings relating to <i>Yom Ha-Shoah</i>
Friday 28 April	<i>Kabbalat Torah</i> Class	
<i>Shabbat</i> 29 April 10.30 <i>Tazria-M'tzora</i>	<i>Kabbalat Torah</i> service	Please note: the service starts earlier than usual, at 10.30
Friday 5 May	Rachel Benjamin	Crystal Clear service and dinner. All welcome. See more details on page 13

# How to plan for the best future

*Is The LJS heading in the right direction?*

*Chairman Sue Head reports on the Council's discussions about balancing the demands of religion and community, inclusion and education*



Last month I mentioned that the synagogue Council would be spending a *'shabbaton'* together. This was a very successful day, beginning with Council members taking part in the *shabbat* service. We then spent the rest of the day looking at our Strategic Plan and the direction The LJS should be taking.

Rabbi Pftzfel set the context with a study session, reminding us of our Jewish roots and the qualities needed to be a leader. The text we particularly looked at was Exodus 18:13-27, where Moses needs some guidance in order to see that leadership is not about doing everything yourself!

## **Just and compassionate**

Our present Strategic Plan was developed by Council, together with members of the community, two or three years ago and has six areas: Religious observance (and spirituality), Education, Inclusion, Community, Youth and Our Voice. It is underpinned by our vision to be inclusive and egalitarian and a belief that we are 'building a just and compassionate world

in a context of shared spirituality, creativity and intellectual challenge'.

Council discussed whether these areas are still right for The LJS, what we are doing about each and whether there is a better way to plan for our future.

There was consensus that our Vision and Values are still our bedrock, but that we need to give more emphasis to such areas as spirituality, sustainability and security. We are now looking at how to develop our plans and would be pleased to hear your opinions. What areas do you think we should be concentrating on?

Lynne Misner, our new Fundraising and Marketing Manager, has given her first report to Council and presented an outline fundraising strategy for the synagogue. Key aims, as outlined by Lynne, are to create regular and sustainable income streams that will enable The LJS to strategically plan future spending, to create a culture of giving throughout the membership and to identify new donors from beyond the core of regular major donors. We are looking forward to

seeing how these plans progress.

## **Much appreciated**

In our recent Council meeting, we listened to a presentation from Jenny Nathan and Charles Kessler on the Out and About Club, celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year. The club meets twice a month and is funded entirely by donations from members of The LJS. Members' ages range from 60-105 and the club has a waiting list. We very much appreciate the work of Jenny and Charles, and the other volunteers, in running this club.

Our Executive Director, Caroline Bach, will be leaving at the end of April after six years with us: she needs to take care of her elderly parents. We will miss her and wish her well in the future. In the meantime, Council is appointing an Interim Executive Manager for six months while we recruit a permanent replacement.

This month is the spring festival of *Pesach* and I wish you all חג שמח לפסח - have a good Passover!

*Sue Head*

# A Holocaust memorial in Westminster?

Judaism is not a religion that has exerted its power through the conquest of space, but has rather aimed at the 'sanctification of time'.

'Judaism,' wrote Abraham Joshua Heschel, 'teaches us to be attached to holiness in time, to be attached to sacred events, to learn how to consecrate sanctuaries that emerge from the magnificent stream of a year. The Sabbaths are our great cathedrals; and our Holy of Holies is a shrine that neither the Romans nor the Germans were able to burn; a shrine that even apostasy cannot easily obliterate: the Day of Atonement.'

This 'architecture of time' is what characterises Jewish ritual – ceremonies and festivals that depend on a certain hour of the day or season of the year [Heschel, *The Sabbath*, p8].

It is this idea of the sanctification of time, rather than space, that presents a profound challenge to Jews called upon to think about ways in which history and memory might be marked in permanent spatial, sculptural or artistic form.

Members of The LJS will be familiar with our viscerally moving *Shoah* memorial that is built into the front wall of the synagogue in the foyer. It was designed and installed in 1996 after a long search for a memorial that would allow the generations who survived the Holocaust and those who come after to honour those who had died and to remind all of us of the empty void that was left by the destruction of six million Jews, including 1½ million children. This memorial, conceived by Anish Kapoor over 20 years ago, is a profoundly powerful sculpture – both moving and in some ways, wondrous as well, because it is clear that its hollowed out cavity is an expression of emptiness, darkness and loss that the *Shoah* evokes, but at the same time, the massive motionlessness of the Kilkenny limestone lodges somewhere in our consciousness, urging us not to forget.



Synagogues in this country, and indeed throughout the world, have found their own ways to commemorate the *Shoah*, perhaps more as private rather than public memorials to the families lost by their own members. National monuments have always rested in the preserve of the nation which erected them – memorials of victory and triumph, expressions of national identity.

Britain already has a handful of places of learning and memorials to the *Shoah*: Beth Shalom, founded by the Smith brothers in Nottinghamshire, seemed an unlikely place to offer study, meditation, reflection – a place for school children and adults to learn more about the Holocaust – but was one of the

**'For any artist, the task of conveying the enormity and horror of the Shoah is almost impossible' – Rabbi Alexandra Wright**

first places to help a new generation learn about the terrible tragedies to which xenophobia can lead. The Imperial War Museum examines the *Shoah* in the context of the Second World War, while the Hyde Park Holocaust Memorial, a garden of boulders surrounded by white stemmed birch trees, was commissioned and paid for by the Board of Deputies of British

Jews in 1983.

In 2016, the Holocaust Memorial Foundation launched an international design competition to create what it describes as 'an emotionally powerful and sensitively designed memorial.' Ninety-two teams entered the competition and a shortlist of ten was invited to submit concept designs. The designs, a conceptual outline in words with drawings and a brief two minute film outlining what the designers hope to achieve, can be seen online at <https://competitions.malcolmreading.co.uk/holocaustmemorial/>

I have to admit to struggling with the idea of a national *Shoah* memorial in this country, in a little known park which has become a gallery for other sculptures and memorials. Britain is where

some Jews found refuge and sanctuary; it was not the graveyard that Poland, Lithuania, Germany and Austria were to become for the millions who died there. We understand the meaning of marking a grave with a stone, a memorial of some kind. So the concept of a memorial in the shadow of Parliament, near to the workings of government, would have to be a reminder both of the shocking and terrible nature of the past, of human accountability when wrongdoing occurs, of loss and despair, but also of human optimism and hope that new generations might learn the meaning of responsibility and moral accountability.

All the designs attempt to express something of those themes – some better than others. Interestingly, it is those designs that are too clever in using specifically Jewish symbols – the folded *tallit* (prayer shawl), for example – that don't necessarily work. Others experiment with the presence and absence of light, with a sonic experience through the voices of testimony, the duality of loss and absence, despair and hope, the image of train tracks, a sculpture of broken books, the relationship between the natural world of trees, water, the sky and the unchanging and silent casts of stone or steel, immovable against an ever-changing landscape of nature.

Any representation is required to express the un-redemptive nature of the *Shoah*, a world that was – that still is – unstable. Perhaps there is need, too, to provide a place of quiet and contemplation and a sense of our own place in the world, beneath the vast arc of the sky, reminding us that we are simply part of the cycle of nature, of life and death.

For any artist, the task of conveying the enormity and horror of the *Shoah* is almost impossible. But what must be possible is to express the purpose of creating a dedicated learning centre about the Holocaust: to create a place which allows time for reflection and inspires compassion; which encourages present and future generations to respect and embrace difference. However ambivalent we may feel about the construction of a memorial in this country, as we move further away in time from the *Shoah*, as the survivors grow older, it must surely be important to dedicate a place that will help future generations to become familiar with the events that led to the murder of six million Jews and many other peoples: political dissidents, Roma, gay people, disabled people, all those who did not conform to the Nazi idea of an Aryan race. And it is surely vital to help them learn the lesson of 'Never Again.'

*Alexandra Wright*

## A feast of knowledge

Nosh 'n' Drosh sessions in the months ahead include:

- ◆ **Shabbat 13 May: Pam Fox**  
on The Jews of Golders Green
- ◆ **Shabbat 10 June: Joan Salter**  
on Vichy's Children
- ◆ **Shabbat 8 July:**  
**Rabbi Sybil Sheridan** on  
Meketa and Ethiopian  
Jewry

Don't miss the chance to enjoy lunch after the *Shabbat* service (starting at around 13.00) in the company of an authoritative speaker.

## John Rayner's work on *Shavu'ot* agenda

On 30 May we will celebrate the life of Rabbi John Rayner [*z"l*] by studying his work and his thought during an evening of learning.

The evening will start at 18.45 with an *Erev Shavu'ot* service, followed by a communal *chavurah* supper, various study sessions, a cheesecake competition, etc.

Those who are willing to study all night will join our study partners at West London Synagogue from 1am.

## Help at the Drop-in

The LJS Drop-in for asylum seeker families will be open from 14.00-16.00 on Sunday 9 April and Sunday 14 May. Volunteers are needed to help set up from 12.00.

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

We are especially looking for younger members of the community who can help us with some of the heavier work.

Dear Editor...

## Don't forget the German-Jewish troops

At this time of commemoration of all things First World War (What did we do in the War? *LJS News*, March 2017), it is of course extremely important to preserve the personal memories and memorabilia of British Jews who served in the forces and lived through the experience in London and elsewhere.

It should not be forgotten that the forebears of many of Britain's current Jewish community served in the German forces from 1914-18. Their experiences are no less valid and no less interesting. Indeed they prove what an arbitrary exercise war can be, where the loss of life led to the destruction of the flower of youth on both sides at the whim of political leaders, and the majority of the German Jewish participants finding themselves on the other side (or destroyed by their own countrymen) only a few

years after the war to end all wars.

In my family, two paternal Jewish uncles fought for Germany in France, with one left for dead on the battlefield, only to survive and live for many years as a doctor in the USA; and the other to live later in Birmingham. My maternal grandfather also served as a German soldier, escaping to London in 1939.

I think the histories of the German-Jewish combatants and civilians should be recorded for posterity too. It is sometimes hard to imagine that one's relatives were on the other side. The impact of their suffering in the trenches and their lack of choice as to whether or whom they served, was just as great as it was for British servicemen and citizens in the First World War.

**Marjorie Harris**  
London NW11

## Learning Hebrew doesn't make us better people

I understand why many Jews have a strong attachment to Hebrew, or at least to its sounds, since very few congregants understand more than a few words. But to me the debate about Hebrew is like the debate about the Latin Mass. The Pope argued Latin was a barrier not a help to understanding the word of God. That is why the Mass is now in the local language and no longer in Latin.

My sense is that rather than a help, Hebrew is at best a distraction and at worst a way to avoid confronting the ethical fundamentals of our religion. When they study Hebrew, how much will the average congregant learn? The number who will gain fluency will be tiny.

Yes, they will gain a bit of learning and may feel closer to our faith, but at a significant price. If they spent the time and effort reading the prayers, concepts, doctrine and ethics in English and discussing them with others they would understand our religion and its value in their lives far better.

The question is, are we interested in the form of

our religion and feeling good, or its substance? Being a Liberal Jew is hard. There is very little to hold on to since there are no absolutes. Unlike the Orthodox we can't take the Bible as the literal word of God. We would have to ignore the last 500 years of scientific advance.

So we have to think about the Bible and the Talmud and other texts and try to decide what they teach us and as a result what we should do with our lives. The purpose of study and prayer must be to cause us to act in better ways. Otherwise it is just self-indulgent musing.

Translating thought into action is hard work. It forces me to confront life and death, good and evil, to define what is charity and how much is enough and turn it into action. It is a stressful, confusing and frequently uncomfortable process.

Hebrew is a distraction. It may make us feel better and perhaps even more Jewish. It may marginally draw some people closer to our faith, but it won't make us better people.

**Jonathan Schwartz**

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# at the LJS

Classes in Judaism and Hebrew  
*Shavu'ot* term 5777/2017

**Tuesday 19.00-20.00**

**25 April-11 July**

## **Classical Hebrew**

**Half-term: 30 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 is required. Three-term course.

### **Next steps in biblical Hebrew with 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 to pursue, please speak to Susannah, Sally or Alexandra.

**Tuesday 20.00-21.00**

**25 April-11 July**

## **Exploring Judaism with Rabbi Rachel Benjamin**

**Half-term: 30 May**

Exploring Judaism is for people who wish they knew more about Judaism or would like to brush up 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 for people choosing Judaism, by conversion.

Class members are encouraged to read materials which will be made available online. 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.

Tuesday 11.15-12.30

25 April–18 July

**Tuesday Texts**

Half-term: 30 May

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. New members are most welcome. Biscuits provided.

**Shabbat 9.45-10.45**

22 April–8 July

**Learning from Texts with Bernie Bulkin**

Half-term: 27 May and 3 June

This year the class is going to tackle the subject of creation and cosmogony in the Bible and Jewish writings. Our purpose in focusing on this one familiar story is to explore in depth the nature of *Torah* commentary through the centuries. We will look at Talmudic rabbinical comments, Philo, Maimonides, Saadia, and, in most detail, Rashi. Time permitting, we will also look at some more modern writers such as Eliezer Berkovits. 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, a willingness to read material handed out in advance, and more or less regular attendance and participation.

**Shabbat 9.45-10.45**

22 April–8 July

**Beginners' Hebrew with Naomi Brightwell**

Half-term: 27 May and 3 June

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' Hebrew 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 Nitza Spiro**

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, feel free to join this class.

# The Barbed Lyre – Leaves from the Isle of Man

On 2 April 2017, Ensemble Émigré returns to the Liberal Jewish Synagogue with a programme of words and music that brings together the voices of German and Austrian composers who came to Britain seeking refuge from Nazi oppression, and who were 'collared' by Churchill in the internment camps on the Isle of Man from 1940–41.

*The Barbed Lyre: Leaves from the Isle of Man* celebrates the extraordinary resilience and creative spirit of artists in the face of migration, detention and uncertainty. The concert weaves together poetry and music written in the internment camps – including works by Kurt Schwitters,

Hans Gál and Peter Gellhorn – with stories of contemporaries, and music that celebrates the cultural legacy of an Island where sun-seeking holidaymakers after the War found themselves staying in boarding houses that were once occupied by refugees.

The concert is preceded by a conversation with Sue Lukes, a founder of the charity Music in Detention, and a performance by Lucky Moyo, a former member of Zimbabwean music and dance ensemble Black Umfolosi, who will speak about his experience as an immigrant to the United Kingdom.



More information and tickets from [www.jjs-leaves.org](http://www.jjs-leaves.org)



## Pesach 2017/5777 Communal Seder

at 18.30 on  
Tuesday 11 April

Led by the Rabbis

### Members:

- Adults: £35
- Children up to 12 years: £16
- Family [2 adults and 2 or more children]: £90

### Non-Members:

- Adults: £56
- Children up to 12 years: £27
- Family [2 adults and 2 or more children]: £150

Please book in advance: places are limited and tickets will not be available on the night.

Financial assistance towards the cost may be available.

Contact Joanne Beaumont at 020 7432 1283 or [rabbispa@ljs.org](mailto:rabbispa@ljs.org)

## A CRYSTAL CLEAR FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE

at 18.45 on Friday 5 May

The service will last about an hour, followed by a light supper.

There is level access to the building, and we have ramps, accessible toilets and a loop system. We will also have a Palantypist and a BSL Interpreter.

It will be friendly and informal – we want you to feel at home. There will be a chance to handle the scrolls, and you can get up and walk around if you need to.

If you would like to come, or if you have any questions, please contact Joanne Beaumont by 14 April: email her at [rabbispa@ljs.org](mailto:rabbispa@ljs.org) or phone 020 7432 1283.

### Memorial Service for the loss of a child or the loss of the prospect of a child

**Sunday 7 May  
15.00 at The LJS**

If you would like to mark the loss of a child, or the loss of the prospect of a child – a recent loss, or one that has stayed with you for many years – please join us in this communal memorial service, under the joint auspices of The LJS and West London Synagogue, with violinist Alan Parmenter.

Friends and family welcome.

For more details, or if you would like a confidential conversation, you can contact:

Rabbi Alexandra Wright – 07976 930112  
[a.wright@ljs.org](mailto:a.wright@ljs.org)

Rabbi Helen Freeman – 07831 755409  
[helen.freeman@wls.org.uk](mailto:helen.freeman@wls.org.uk)

## Hearing loss

– an evening with the  
Jewish Deaf Association

**Wednesday 24 May  
19.30 - 21.30 at The LJS**

Do you or a member of your family suffer from hearing loss? Come to a presentation by the Jewish Deaf Association.

The evening will include:

- ◆ The best way to deal with hearing loss
- ◆ What technology is now available
- ◆ How to support people with hearing loss
- ◆ What the Jewish Deaf Association (JDA) does and how it may help you.

There will be an update on the JDA Hearing Outreach Project which was supported by the LJS High Holyday Appeal. You will be able to speak to staff from JDA about individual issues.

Refreshments will be provided.

All points of interest will be displayed on a large screen. There will be a palantypist assisting. The synagogue is proud to have a loop system.

Please let us know if you are coming: call 020 7286 5181 or email [communitycare@ljs.org](mailto:communitycare@ljs.org)



## DINNER FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Are you between the ages of 25 and 35? Do you have children or grandchildren in that age group? Friday evening dinners for Young Adults are held once a month at The LJS. For more details, please contact Rabbi René

Pfertzel at [r.pfertzel@ljs.org](mailto:r.pfertzel@ljs.org)



## ARCHIVE TUESDAYS

The Archive Team works in the Assembly Hall on Tuesdays. Activities include sorting historical papers, cataloguing, photo preservation and, if you bring a computer, you can help load documents in our web repository. Please contact the Archivist, Cinde Lee at [cinde.lee@gmail.com](mailto:cinde.lee@gmail.com)



## ART GROUP

Informal art group for both 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.



## 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.

### 26 April: *Esio Trot*

Roald Dahl's love story about elderly neighbours, starring Judi Dench, Dustin Hoffman and several tortoises.

### 24 May: *That Day We Sang*

Victoria Wood wrote and directed this musical drama starring Michael Ball and Imelda Staunton as two lonely Mancunians who find love while preparing for a televised choir reunion.

### 28 June: *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*

Classic American Western with the Wild West outlaws played by Paul Newman and Robert Redford.

### 26 July: *Florence Foster Jenkins*

Stephen Frears' rollicking comedy drama starring Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant. Based on the true story of triumph against sniggering cynicism about a tone-deaf heiress.

### 23 August: *The 39 Steps*

From the 1915 adventure novel by John Buchan: an everyman civilian, Richard Hannay (played by Robert Donat), is caught up in preventing an organisation of spies from stealing British military secrets.



## COMMUNITY CARE

Aviva Shafritz, our Community Care Co-ordinator, is ready to help with difficulties experienced, not only by our older members, such as illness and provision of care, but also across the spectrum of life. You can contact her at [a.shafritz@ljs.org](mailto:a.shafritz@ljs.org) or 020 7286 5181.



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.



## RESTAURANT TUESDAY

Restaurant Tuesday meets on the third Tuesday of every month and is an 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 and cannot come (020 7286 5181). Lunch starts at 12.30 and now costs £5.



## PLANNING A CELEBRATION?

If you are celebrating a birthday or other special event, have you thought about contributing to the weekly *kiddush* following the *Shabbat* morning service? To find out more, email [rabbispa@ljs.org](mailto:rabbispa@ljs.org) or phone 020 7432 1283.

We wish these young members of The LJS a very happy birthday in April:

Rosemarie Atwell

Kobe Behr

Reuben Cohen

Axel Cohen

Audrey Curtis

Gabriel Dubin

Antoine Garbus

Wilfred Ginsberg

Emily Gruber

Naomi Hanna-Kemper

Sam Hanna-Kemper

Jude Message

Marcelo Muller

Ruby Rechler

Sasha Rechler

Ava Rosenthal

Jessica Spanier

Genevieve Sparks

Baxter Spurr

Thomas Stonehill

Emilia Stonehill

Aaron Tedeschini Rigal

## TINY TOTS at the LJS

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

Please bring them to the LJS on *Shabbat* mornings

**22 and 29 April**

**6, 13 and 20 May**

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 with a parent or carer.

Please email [education@ljs.org](mailto:education@ljs.org) to be added to the Tiny Tots circulation list.

Would you be willing to host guests, members of The LJS, for a *Seder*? If you would like to host individuals, whom you may not know, following the service on *Erev Shabbat* or on the first night of *Pesach*, or if you know someone who would like to celebrate a family *Seder* or a *Shabbat* meal with members of the congregation, please let Rabbi Alexandra Wright know – [a.wright@ljs.org](mailto:a.wright@ljs.org)

### The Liberal Jewish Synagogue

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Linked to Typetalk

E-mail [ljs@ljs.org](mailto:ljs@ljs.org)

Website [www.ljs.org](http://www.ljs.org)

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Alexandra Wright

#### Rabbi Emeritus

David J Goldberg OBE

#### Rabbis

Rachel Benjamin

René Pfertzel

#### Chairman of Council

Sue Head

#### Head of Rimon Religion School

Dov Softi

#### Nursery Head Teacher

Caroline Villiers

#### Executive Director

Caroline Bach

#### Community Care Co-ordinator

Aviva Shafritz

#### Director of Music

Cathy Heller-Jones

#### Organist

Tim Farrell

In case of bereavement:

In office hours, ring 020 7432 1298

At other times, ring 020 8958 2112 (Calo's)

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Copy should be sent by email to [info@daviescomms.com](mailto:info@daviescomms.com) or to the Editors at The LJS.

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## Big birthdays

Lily Bryant (above) celebrated her 105th birthday in March. She has been a regular member of the Out and About club for more than 20 years and has many friends there.

The security team took Peter Abrahams (below) out for a meal at a South Hampstead restaurant to celebrate his 70th birthday and to mark his retirement as LJS Security Officer.



The LJS is a constituent synagogue of Liberal Judaism



liberal judaism



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## Tales of two topsy-turvy worlds

As part of the *Purim* celebration at The LJS, members were joined by storytellers Adele Moss and Jumana Moon, one Jewish and one Muslim, to reflect not only the world of a fictitious Persian court, but perhaps also to mirror the topsy-turvy world of our own times.

## Wartime work goes online

LJS Chairman Sue Head and Archivist Cinde Lee admire a facsimile of writing and artwork produced by the children at the LJS religion school in 1915 and 1916.

The unique record of children's work and thoughts during the First World War has been included in the 'We Were There Too' archive, which sets out to preserve the history of Jewish Londoners' role in the war. All the children's work can be viewed online at

[www.jewsfwlondon](http://www.jewsfwlondon)

