

Interfaith Chanukkah lighting



Our *Chanukkah* will be lit at a special service at 16.30 on Wednesday 13 December, followed by a traditional festive tea, with latkes and doughnuts.

We welcome all our members, together with friends and colleagues from the local faith communities. Children and their families are especially welcome. Among our special guests will be Leonie Lewis, from the Jewish Volunteering Network,

Vijita Patel, Principal of Swiss Cottage School, and Dr Gill Yudkin, from British Shalom Salaam Trust (our three *Yom Kippur* appeal charities).

We look forward to seeing you at our *Chanukkah* celebration! RSVP by Friday 8 December to chanukkah@ljs.org, or phone 020 8432 1283. We will also be lighting the *Chanukkah* at 16.00 on 12, 14, 18 and 19 December and at 18.45 on 15 December.

December
2017 –
January
2018

Kislev –
Sh'vat
5778

Mitzvah Day messages on way to Israel

'Get well soon' was the Mitzvah Day message from The LJS to the children from developing countries now recovering from life-saving heart surgery in Israel.

Apart from making get-well cards on Mitzvah Day, we had previously chosen to support Save a Child's Heart (SACH) as one of our *Yom Kippur* charities last year.

SACH offers children with congenital heart conditions who would otherwise die the chance of surgery in a state-of-the-art hospital in Holon.

SACH also brings doctors to Israel from countries without sophisticated medical resources for advanced

training in pediatric cardiology. You can read more about SACH at www.saveachildsheart.com





A unique experience

Come and celebrate *Tu Bi'Sh'vat*

– the New Year for Trees –

with a special Seder, enjoying 15 different types of fruit or nuts, 4 different colours of wine to symbolise the changing seasons, and a liturgy drawn from mystical sources.

19.00 on Tuesday 30 January

Bereavements

We extend our sympathy to those who mourn:

Albert Carson, father of James and brother of Alex, Paul and Frank

Margit Goddard, mother of Peter and Richard

Paul McGlaughlin, father of Alex and Mary

Edwin Mendoza, husband of Katherine, and father of Lisa Moore and Nadine Mendoza

המקום ינחם אתכם
בתוך שאר האבלים

*May God comfort you
and all who mourn*

SAVE THE DATE

A concert in memory of David Jacobi, son of Rabbi Harry Jacobi, brother of Rabbis Margaret and Richard Jacobi, will be held on

**Sunday 25 February at 15.00
at The Liberal Jewish Synagogue**

David Jacobi was 54 when he died from early onset dementia in December 2016. Cultured, knowledgeable and proficient in many fields, he combined a forensic and scientific knowledge that informed his PhD thesis on nuclear contamination, and which formed the basis of his work with British Gas and the Environment Agency, with a sensitive and gifted talent and deep love for music. He played the cello to a high standard in quartets and orchestras, but also loved listening to music and going to concerts.

In memory of his remarkable achievements and a life cut short by a cruel disease, his family are arranging a concert.

Please save the date and come and support the family and the causes close to their hearts.

Join New London, West London, Belsize Square,
West Central Liberal Synagogue and The LJS
for the third in our series of

5 lectures in 5 synagogues

at 18.00

on Sunday 25 February

at West Central Liberal Synagogue, 21 Maple Street, W1

Please save the date

Date for your diary

Our guest preacher on *Shabbat* 13 January will be Rabbi Professor Marc Saperstein.

Rabbi Saperstein will also be speaking at the Nosh 'n' Drosh following the service on the sermons delivered by Rabbi Dr Israel Mattuck, the first LJS minister, about the First World War.

Shabbat and festival services: December/January

Unless otherwise stated, Friday evening services start at 18.45
and Shabbat morning services at 11.00

DATE	RABBI/SPEAKER	NOTES
Friday 1 December	Alexandra Wright	
Shabbat 2 December <i>Vayishlach</i>	Alexandra Wright	Intergenerational Service
Friday 8 December	Rachel Benjamin	Service co-led by Noah Simon <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
Shabbat 9 December <i>Vayeshev</i>	Rachel Benjamin	<i>Bar Mitzvah</i> Noah Simon Nosh 'n' Drosh: Professor Geraldine Van Bueren
Wednesday 13 December 16.30	Festivals for All	<i>Chanukkah</i> Interfaith Celebration See front page for more details
Friday 15 December	Igor Zinkov	Young Adults <i>Chavurah</i> please contact The LJS for location details
Shabbat 16 December <i>Mikketz/Chanukkah</i>	Igor Zinkov	<i>Kiddush</i> to celebrate Rabbi Rachel's special birthday
Friday 22 December	Alexandra Wright	
Shabbat 23 December <i>Vayiggash</i>	Michael Hilton	Shabbat morning services are 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.
Friday 29 December	Alexandra Wright	
Shabbat 30 December <i>Va-y'chi</i>	Alexandra Wright	
Friday 5 January	Rachel Benjamin	
Shabbat 6 January <i>Shemot</i>	Rachel Benjamin	Rimon: <i>Purim</i> term starts
Friday 12 January	Alexandra Wright	
Shabbat 13 January <i>Va-era</i>	Professor Marc Saperstein	Nosh 'n' Drosh with Professor Saperstein
Friday 19 January	Igor Zinkov	
Shabbat 20 January <i>Bo</i>	Igor Zinkov	
Friday 26 January	Alexandra Wright	
Shabbat 27 January <i>B'shallach</i>	Michael Hilton	
Tuesday 30 January 19.00	<i>Tu Bi'Sh'vat</i> Seder	New Year for Trees Seder
Friday 2 February	Alexandra Wright	Co-led by James Rogers
Shabbat 3 February <i>Yitro</i>	Alexandra Wright	<i>Bar Mitzvah</i> James Rogers

A civilising force in human history

The LJS Council begins each meeting with a thought or prayer to help us to focus on the reason we meet: at the heart of what we do is our belief in the importance of Progressive Judaism. In November, this was introduced by Josie Lane who read from Rabbi John Rayner's [א"ל] *A Jewish Understanding of the World*. Part of the passage is this: 'Judaism is a civilising force in human history, and though it is not the only one, the world cannot afford to lose it.' This is our belief, that Progressive (or Liberal) Judaism is vital in standing up for social justice and compassion.

In the light of this introduction, it was particularly significant that we welcomed to our meeting Simon Benscher, the Chair of Liberal Judaism, and Rabbi Charley Baginski, who leads Liberal Judaism in developing its strategy for the future. Rabbi Danny Rich, Liberal Judaism's Chief Executive and Senior Rabbi, had planned to attend, but was not well.

We had a very useful discussion about the direction of Liberal Judaism and the role The LJS can play in developing the communities that belong to the movement. We are working in partnership with LJ and as part of that, one of our Council members, Karen Newman, has joined the LJ Board of national officers. This is a key decision-making



***LJS Chairman
Sue Head reports
on the Council's
discussion on the
future direction of
Liberal Judaism and
ways of working
with the Reform
movement***

group and we are pleased to have representation on it. Simon Benscher also outlined the ways in which Liberal Judaism and the Reform movement are working together. This is not to do with creating one movement instead of the existing two, but seeing where links can be made and where we can speak as one voice. A couple of examples of joint working are training programmes for staff and volunteers, such as on

safeguarding and data protection; and the creation of a joint Israel desk.

The LJS is also supporting LJ's fundraising initiatives: we donated the use of our building for the LJ fundraising reception and concert in November.

Our other speaker at November's Council meeting was Sally Van Noorden, chair of the library committee, who outlined to us some areas which we need to be considering for the library. Following a discussion, it seemed that the immediate priorities are developing links with Education and the Learning Circle, deciding where to display our 'heritage books' [which are not consulted very often] and making an audit of the book space available.

Having mentioned earlier Karen's selection to the LJ Board of national officers, I'd like you to know that she has also won a contested election to the Board of Deputies executive committee. We'd like to congratulate her on this, particularly noting that this strengthens the voice of Progressive Judaism on the Board.

We hope to see many of you at our interfaith *Chanukkah* celebration on 13 December at 16.30. This is an annual event at which we host many guests from other religions. Do come if you can, and join in the festivities!

Sue Head

We see in our world the results of hatred, prejudice and violence, telling us that we have not yet learned the lessons of human history. In remembering, we agree to oppose racism, genocide, xenophobia; to stand up and speak out in the name of justice; and to work for true tolerance in society

As I write, winter is beginning to make its presence felt. Frost lies on the grass in the morning. The heating has gone back on. The nights grow longer, and the days shorter. There is something magical about the change of seasons, and there is a particular beauty to each one. I lived for ten years in Los Angeles, and the changes there were far less pronounced than here, and I missed that variety given to us by nature.

Autumn turning to winter means that *Chanukkah* is not far away. This year it begins on Tuesday 12 December. At *Chanukkah*, we celebrate the victory of those Jews who, 2,200 years ago, fought for the right to practise their religion in freedom. The battle between the Maccabees and the Syrian Greeks resulted in the miraculous victory of the Maccabees, and concluded with the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem. The Hebrew word *chanukkah* means 'dedication'. The festival of *Chanukkah* urges us to rededicate ourselves to our heritage and tradition, and to always fight for truth and justice.

Had the Syrian Greek leader, Antiochus Epiphanes, succeeded in his ambition to forcibly convert all the Jews to the Greek way of life, the Jewish people would not be here today. Many years later, another leader would arise whose ambition it was to eliminate the Jewish people from history. On 27 January, we mark one of the blackest and most devastating periods in Jewish history, the systematic attempt by the Nazis to exterminate the Jewish people. 27 January is the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and, in

2018, we mark the seventeenth National Holocaust Memorial Day in this country.

The Holocaust was unique in its scope and scale, in the premeditation of every detail, the preparation for the machinery of murder, the administration of the most sophisticated



Rabbi Benjamin speaking at the service held in October to mark the 50th anniversary of the partial legalisation of male homosexuality

technology, and in the fact that it took place in the middle of 'civilised' Europe. The heroism of those who defied the Nazis – of both our Jewish heroes and heroines in the Warsaw Ghetto and other areas, and of the *chasidei umot ha-olam* – the 'righteous gentiles' remembered in the avenue at Yad VaShem, the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem – is a source of inspiration amongst the darkest of times for us and for humanity.

Victims of prejudice

In remembering the Holocaust, we remember that, as well as the six million Jews, some twelve million others were murdered – Roma and Sinti people, Black people, people with disabilities,

homosexuals and other groups who opposed the Nazis. In remembering the Holocaust, we are duty bound to remember all victims of prejudice and discrimination. In recent years alone, we can list the people of Armenia, Rwanda, Kosovo, Chechnya, Burma – and those in the path of Isis.

We already have a date in our Jewish calendar on which we remember the victims of the Holocaust, or *Shoah* as it is known in Hebrew. *Yom Ha-Shoah*, Holocaust Day, falls on the Hebrew date of 27 Nisan [which will be Thursday, 12 April in 2018], on which day, in 1943, the Warsaw Ghetto uprising began. Back in 2000, Britain was the first country to institute a nationwide commemoration of the Holocaust, and we can be proud of that. It is so important for us to remember these horrendous events, in order that we reinforce and learn from them these essential lessons:

- the consequences of prejudice (whether based on nationality, religion, gender, social class, for example), intolerance and mindless hatred and the damage they cause,
- to learn that we all share a common humanity, and
- that in the face of such horror and acts of inhumanity, it is our responsibility to remember and work towards a world in which tolerance, compassion and justice predominate.

We see in our world – daily – the results of hatred, prejudice and violence, telling us that we have not yet learned the lessons of human history. In remembering, we agree to oppose racism, genocide, xenophobia (hatred of the stranger); to value life; to resist evil in its early stages; to stand up and speak out in the name of justice; and to work for true tolerance in society.

A fitting metaphor

Three days after National Holocaust Memorial Day 2018, on the evening of Tuesday, 30 January, we will commemorate the festival of *Tu B'Shevat*, the Jewish New Year of the Trees. In our prayer book, among the special readings on the theme of Community, there is a quote from Harry Emerson Fosdick [*Siddur Lev Chadash*, p216] in which he shows how every part of a tree is necessary for its survival and growth. 'We ask

the leaf, "Are you complete in yourself?" And the leaf answers, "No, my life is in the branches." We ask the branch, and the branch answers, "No, my life is in the root." We ask the root, and it answers, "No, my life is in the trunk and the branches, and the leaves. Keep the branches stripped of leaves, and I shall die." So it is with the great tree of being. Nothing is completely and merely individual.'

The image of the tree, with its roots, trunk, branches and leaves, is a fitting metaphor for a synagogue community in which all are interdependent. Individually, the parts would wither, but together they can flourish and nurture each other.

A beautiful heritage

Trees are, of course, a universal symbol of sustenance and shelter. Because they are rooted in the earth and reach toward the sky, trees represent a connection between heaven and earth. They also 'symbolise life, development, immortality, strength, and majesty... Outliving single human generations, they also symbolise regeneration and eternity' [The Encyclopedia of Jewish Symbols, p181]. Regeneration and eternity... when we see the vibrancy of our community – in services, activities, our education programmes, our religion school – and remember the unimaginable number of Jews who died in the Holocaust, we are humbly reminded how fortunate we are to live in relative peace and security, to be proud and practising Jews, and how vital it is for us to remember and to maintain our Jewish identity. We have a beautiful heritage, and all of Hitler's wicked efforts could not eradicate it. The greatest triumph over the evil of the Holocaust, would be for us to grow in strength and stature, spreading our roots, nourishing and sheltering, dropping seeds of compassion, justice and kindness.

In conclusion, I turn to a prayer in our *Siddur*: 'May the heroic example of the Maccabees inspire us always to be loyal to our heritage and valiant for truth. Let the lights we kindle shine forth for the world to see. May the message they proclaim help to dispel the darkness of prejudice and hatred, and spread the light of liberty and love' [*Siddur Lev Chadash*, p399].

Rabbi Rachel Benjamin

Future meetings of Drop-in for asylum seekers

The next Drop-ins for asylum seeker families will be from 14.00-16.00 on Sundays 10 December, 14 January and 11 February. Volunteers are needed from 12.00 to help prepare for our guests.

If you can help by sorting clothing, please get in touch to check the dates.

If you are interested in volunteering once a month or a few times a year, please contact Rabbi Alexandra Wright – a.wright@ljs.org – for more information. We are especially looking for younger members of the community to help us with some of the heavier work.

16.00-20.30 on Sunday 21 January

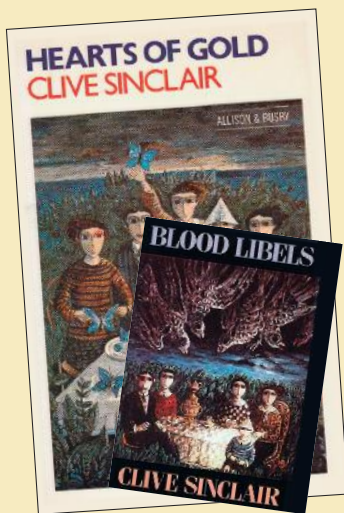
People of the Book

A celebration of LJS authors

featuring
Clive Sinclair,
Lizzie Ostrom
and more

Book fair and
refreshments

Programme
and details
to follow



Israel at 70

Hills • Valleys • Encounters

3-10 June 2018



LJS community trip to Israel
with Rabbi Alexandra Wright
Three days touring in the North
Four nights in Jerusalem
with a day in Hebron

Now booking

Itinerary and details from
SueBolsom@gmail.com

FAITH FOR THE CLIMATE

presents

Interfaith Climate Symposium 2

on Wednesday 7 February
17.00-21.00
at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue



How can we harness the local to change the global? How can we celebrate and encourage local co-operation to tackle climate change?

Come and learn about successful local interfaith climate projects and how to link them to global climate ambitions. Discover tried and tested ways of working across and within faith traditions to tackle an issue that affects us all.

The nominal entrance fee includes supper.
Speakers to be announced soon.

Thanks to all our volunteers

On 4 November The LJS paid tribute to its volunteers with a special *Shabbat* service – led, naturally, by volunteers – followed by a thank-you lunch.

Sue Head, LJS Chairman, thanked the hundreds of members of the congregation who work tirelessly to support the vast range of communal activities that make The LJS the committed, caring community it is. Just a few of them are featured on this page.



Out and About



Archives



Singing for the Mind



Library

Dear Editor...

Remembrance Day clash

Something that I had hoped was of the past has occurred yet again: a *Bat/Bar Mitzvah* on Remembrance *Shabbat*.

The Remembrance Day celebration is one of the most important dates in our calendar. In France and Belgium it is even a public holiday.

No church would dream of having a christening on such a day. Yet we go ahead with something that is not the same,

but of equal religious significance. I don't think that this does us any favours. It is unthinking and, for me, most distasteful.

Unlike most, the name of a cousin of my mother's is read out. He was an early member of our congregation, Willie de Pass. He lies buried in France. I didn't know him, of course, but his remaining family were part of my life as a child.

Michael Green



'Do we need a new concept of peace?'

Sir Lawrence Freedman KCMG CBE PC FBA
18.30 on Wednesday 13 December

The guest speaker for the 8th Philip Rueff Memorial Lecture will be Sir Lawrence Freedman. Sir Lawrence is Emeritus Professor of War Studies at King's College, London. He was a member of the Chilcot committee, and has written extensively on nuclear strategy and the Cold War, as well as commenting regularly on contemporary security issues. His latest book, *The Future of War: A History*, has received rave reviews in *The Times* and *The Guardian*. 'Once upon a time the distinction between war and peace was clear-cut,' Sir Lawrence writes. 'It has been a long time since we enjoyed such clarity.'

As the distinction between war and peace has become increasingly blurred, much attention has been on the definition of modern warfare. 'What is long overdue,' he suggests, 'is reflection on the challenge posed to our definition of peace.'

What would such a new definition of peace look like, and what would it mean for the future, not only for Israel-Palestine [with which Oasis of Peace is concerned] but for the world?

Fleet Street venue

Tickets available at www.wegottickets.com/oasisofpeaceuk



at the **LJS**

**Classes in Judaism and Hebrew
Sukkot/Purim terms 5778/2018**

Tuesdays 11.15-12.30

Until 12 December and 9 January to 27 March

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 Holocaust Theology, as well as a second course by our visiting Rabbi, Dr Michael Hilton on 'Christian and Jewish Texts Compared' on such topics as 'Love your Neighbour' and 'The Observance of Shabbat'.

Tuesdays 19.00-20.00

Until 12 December and 9 January to 27 March

Classical Hebrew at all levels

Beginners' Hebrew with Susannah Alexander

Are you learning to read Hebrew for the first time, or have you tried to get your head around the letters for years, and never quite achieved success? If so, join this fun and supportive class, open to all, where we will use a tried-and-tested method to get you reading faster than you ever thought possible. Beginning with Jonathan Romain's Primer 'Signs and Wonders' and moving on to a taste of grammar, liturgy and Bible, this class will equip you to take your first steps into the wonderful world of Hebrew with skill and confidence.

Next steps in biblical Hebrew with Sally Gold

This class is for those who would like to practise guided reading, at their own pace, of simple Hebrew from the *Siddur* and the Hebrew Bible. We will gradually build reading skills and knowledge of vocabulary and simple grammar at an unhurried and manageable pace. The class allows plenty of time to gain, revise and consolidate using texts from the *Siddur* and some simple exercises which help with progressive understanding and confidence.

Saul: an unsuitable case for a king; David: warrior and lover king with Rabbi Alexandra Wright

The Book of Samuel includes the stories of the first king of Israel, a complex character, not altogether suited for kingship, as well as the rise of King David from simple shepherd boy to conqueror of the Jebusite town that became Jerusalem. These stories are told in consummate narrative form. The Hebrew is not too difficult. The class aims to improve your reading, widen your vocabulary and build knowledge of various grammatical forms.

Exploring Judaism with Rabbi Rachel Benjamin and Student Rabbi Igor Zinkov

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.

5 December	Israel – people and land
12 December	Exploring <i>Chanukkah</i> (and first night <i>Chanukkah</i> lighting)
9 January	<i>Shabbat</i>
16 January	Jewish ethics
23 January	Synagogue and home
30 January	<i>Erev Tu B'Sh'vat</i> – exploring <i>Tu Bi'Sh'vat</i>
6 February	Exploring God and belief
13 February	Half term
20 February	Exploring <i>Purim</i>
27 February	Introduction to life cycle and early life rituals
6 March	Education and coming of age
13 March	Conversion
20 March	Marriage and mixed faith blessings
27 March	<i>Pesach</i> workshops

Jewish-Muslim relations – taught by Dr Jonathan Gorsky

The course will start with an overview of key historical and theological issues, and try to provide a model for understanding Jewish-Muslim relations, drawing on different disciplines.

We will examine the impact of Islam on medieval Judaism, including our understanding of *Torah*, Maimonidean philosophy, classical spiritual and ethical texts and Jewish Sufism. The course will also cover contemporary issues, focusing on the plurality of Islam today. We will look at the influence of Wahabism (an extreme Saudi Arabian Islamic ideology) on the Muslim world and by contrast we will introduce Liberal Islam, which has considerable common ground with modern Judaism.

We will also discuss current positive and hopeful developments in what can be a very fraught relationship between the two communities.

A fifth session at 20.00 on 20 March will be offered introducing the group to Scriptural Reasoning.

Jonathan Gorsky graduated in history from Liverpool and Manchester Universities in 1976 and spent a number of years in advanced Jewish study. He was Education Director of the Yakar Centre until 1992 and Education Officer of the Council of Christians and Jews until 2006. In 2007 Jonathan joined Heythrop College as lecturer in Judaism and Jewish-Christian Relations and he was degree convener for the BA (Abrahamic Religions) until the college's closure in 2017.

Torah study and Jewish thought

In December we will be looking at the weekly *Torah* portion, followed by a short session on the thought of the late Rabbi John Rayner; in the Purim term, we will continue our discussions with some study of Maimonides. The class will be self-led, with special guests leading a few of the sessions during the term. The class is open to all interested individuals. No prior knowledge is necessary. While some of us have been studying together for some time, this is a fresh beginning, and anyone interested is very welcome to join in, some of the time, or for the whole term. So help yourself to a coffee and come along. For more information contact Michael Romain at romain@netgates.co.uk or Harriett Goldenberg at hgoldenberg@btinternet.com

Beginners' Hebrew with Naomi Brightwell

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. No previous knowledge required. Previous students have even gone on to lead *Shabbat* morning services.

Moving up in Hebrew with David Strang

The aim of this class is to help students to understand the Hebrew prayers and songs in our services. New students will need basic reading skills but we will spend some time increasing reading fluency. We will also look at the basics of Hebrew grammar using the textbook *Prayerbook Hebrew the Easy Way* which will be available for purchase. We will build up your vocabulary too, and there will be five words a week to learn. We will also start learning how to write the Hebrew letters, using simplified versions of the block letters in the *siddur*.

Intermediate Hebrew with Nitza Spiro

The aim of these sessions is to explore the Hebrew texts which the learners will come across in synagogue services on *Shabbatot* and festivals.

Some of the texts which will be introduced and studied in preparation for each festival (like the Passover *Haggadah*, the Book of Esther, and the Book of Ruth with some verses from the Book of Proverbs) might even be sung at times. Hopefully this knowledge will also be shared with families at home. The class will be working on fluency in reading but at the same time will also be learning about the historical, ethical, philosophical, and ideological messages of the texts. Through such familiarity every student will gain a deeper understanding and sense of identity with our heritage as well as appreciation and love for the Hebrew language.



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.

The KT class Amsterdam trip



Students from the LJS *Kabbalat Torah* class took the customary weekend trip to Amsterdam together with Rabbi Alexandra Wright and Dr Dov Softi, head of the Rimon religion school.

They visited the Tulip Museum (pictured above), the Van Gogh Museum, the Anne Frank House, the Homomonument, the Museum of the Resistance, the Jewish Cultural Quarter,

and attended a Friday night service at the Liberal Jewish Community. They stayed with host families and experienced the delights of the restaurants and cafés of Amsterdam.

Mark a big event

Have you thought about contributing to the weekly *kiddush* following our *Shabbat* morning service to mark a special birthday or other big event?

If you would like to take part in the service to mark the occasion, please contact Joanne Beaumont on 020 7432 1283 or email her at rabbispa@ljs.org

The *Jewish News* now has a page devoted to opinion pieces and other commentaries by progressive rabbis and congregants.

You can pick up a copy when you are next at the synagogue.

Purim celebrations

**Please save the date for our Purim celebrations:
Wednesday 28 February.**

Leave a legacy

Congregants appreciate the warm welcome they receive at The LJS and the contribution of our many volunteers. In return, please support the synagogue by including The LJS in your will. Your legacy would help to ensure our community continues to thrive. To find out more, contact the Rabbis or the Executive Director.

VIDEO AND TEA: 2018 DATES

24 January: *Sons of the desert* – A Laurel and Hardy comedy

28 February: *Mama Mia!*

28 March: *Ethel and Ernest*

25 April: *Bugsy Malone*

23 May: *The Artist*

27 June: *Genevieve*

25 July: *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*

22 August: *Whisky Galore*

26 September: *Meet Me in St Louis*

24 October: *Brief Encounter*

28 November: *The Snowman* and *Father Christmas*

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 coffee ice-cream. Donation of £2.



YOUNG ADULTS' DINNERS

Are you between the ages of 25 and 35 – or thereabouts? Do you have children or grandchildren of a similar age? Or friends whom you would like to introduce to The LJS? Friday evening dinners for Young Adults are held once a month. For more details contact a.wright@ljs.org



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 020 7286 5181 or a.shafritz@ljs.org



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 12.45 and now costs £5.



BRIDGE CLUB



The Bridge Club meets from 14.00 to 17.00 every Monday 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.



PAINT FOR PLEASURE

Both experienced artists and beginners are welcome to join

this friendly, informal group to paint together. Bring pastels, water colours, acrylic, oils or other materials. The group meets at 11.00 every Monday [except on Jewish festivals and Bank Holidays]. For more details, email Jocelyne Tobin at jocelynetobin@talktalk.net



SINGING FOR THE MIND

This is a popular weekly activity for people with memory problems who come with a family member, friend or carer. We have light refreshments and a chat before and after professionally-led singing activities. Music brings fun, confidence and a time to relax among new found friends. To apply, email sfm@ljs.org or phone 020 7286 5181. For further information pick up a leaflet or visit the LJS website.



ARCHIVE TUESDAYS

The Archive team works in the Assembly Hall on most Tuesdays. Activities include sorting historical papers, cataloguing and photo preservation. If you'd like to help with this important work, please contact Cinde Lee at cinde.lee@gmail.com



LOCAL WALKING GROUP

If you are interested in joining a local walking group for LJS members and friends, please contact Rabbi Alexandra Wright – a.wright@ljs.org

Young LJS

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

Eva Bielawski
Nathan Brightwell
Simon Browning
Leora Browning
Lotte Bull
Dean Cumerlato
Lyla Cumerlato
Leo Gavshon
Arthur Grant
Marianna Kondak
Jasmine Lang
Jonathan Levitt
Aubrey Licht
Tara Moran
Alice Osband
Max Phillips
Grace Rogers
Jacob Simon
Noah Simon
Jacob Sinclair
Benjamin Tombs
Finlay Tyler
Plum Warner
Lauren Warshaw

...and in January:

Thomas Benson
James Blumenthal
Astrid Cohen
Kajsa Cohen
Sarah Covey
Olivia Daals
Alexander De Kare-Silver
Valentine Desmond
Lauren Frischmann
Zara Gale
Mark Gelfer
Florence Hoffman
Georgina Isaacson
Samuel Johnson
Leon Kulikovs
Layla Lewis
Georgina Menasche-Standen
Raphael Milne
Bertie Morrison
Amelia Osband
Tabitha Penn
James Rogers
Sacha Rosenthal
Ellis Simons
Seve Solomons

TINY TOTS at the LJS

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

Tiny Tots will be meeting on

**2 and 9 December,
6,13, 20 and 27 January**

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

Activities for tiny ones with their parents, grandparents and carers. The nursery will still be available every *Shabbat* for children and their parents or carers.

Please email education@ljs.org to be added to the mailing list.

The Liberal Jewish Synagogue

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Rabbi Emeritus
David J Goldberg OBE

Rabbi
Rachel Benjamin

Chairman of Council
Sue Head

Executive Director
Lysa Schwartz

Head of Rimon Religion School
Dov Softi

Nursery Head Teacher
Caroline Villiers

Community Care Co-ordinator
Aviva Shafritz

Director of Music
Cathy Heller-Jones

Organist
Tim Farrell

In case of bereavement:
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How singing brings back lost memories

Many of the audience were visibly moved when Lucy Kaye (below) came to show 'Memory Songs', her award-winning film about the participants in



Singing for the Mind. This non-denominational project for people with early onset dementia began at The LJS six years ago.

Questions to Lucy after her Nosh 'n' Drosh talk focused heavily on singing's ability to release locked-in memories – and moved on to the emotive juxtaposition of Singing for the Mind participants with black and white photos of them in their youth.

Future Nosh 'n' Drosh sessions planned include:

Shabbat 9 December:
Prof Geraldine van Bueren:

'A Special Relationship: Jews and Human Rights'.

Shabbat 13 January:
Rabbi Professor Marc Saperstein

will speak about Rabbi Israel Mattuck's war sermons.

Shabbat 10 March:
Beverley Mautner

Thank you to all those who have sponsored a Nosh 'n' Drosh over the past two years. It has proved to be one of our most successful innovations. If you would consider sponsoring a Nosh 'n' Drosh, please ask Martin Slowe or Rabbi Alexandra Wright for more information.



Photo: Yiannis Katsaris

Martin Roscoe with I Musicanti
playing Beethoven's Emperor

Piano Concerto arranged for
piano and string quintet. It was

the final piece in a programme of musical contrasts which also featured Steve Reich's minimalist composition 'Different Trains' and Arvo Pärt's 'Fratres'.

Funds raised from the concert were donated to the LJS Drop-in for Asylum Seeker Families and to Salusbury World.

The LJS is a constituent
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