



July-
August
2017

Tammuz-
Av-Ellul
5777



Gabrielle Radnor, manager of Hearing Connect at the JDA, shows off an assistive device, the Roger pen, to LJS member Judith Diamond.

The lonely lives of care home residents with hearing loss

Thousands of elderly Jewish Londoners are condemned to lives of isolation because of the lack of audiology provision in care homes, a special meeting at The LJS was told.

Andrew Goodwin of the Jewish Deaf Association said that when old people were admitted to care homes they were given routine health checks covering their teeth, eyes and feet – but their hearing was not checked. It was shocking that no audiology services were provided in care homes by the NHS, he said.

On his regular visits to homes in north-west London he had found many residents with outdated, broken and unlabelled hearing aids.

Others had hearing aids but no supply of batteries.

As a result, residents were deprived of the pleasure of communication; they were unable to enjoy the radio, TV or music, and retreated into a world of loneliness and isolation. Some were even believed to have dementia because they were uncommunicative.

→ p3

For advice about hearing loss and assistive devices, contact Gabrielle Radnor at the JDA on 020 8446 0214, email her at gabrielle@jdeaf.org.uk or go to www.hearingconnect.org.uk

Shabbat services: July-August

DATE	RABBI/SPEAKER	NOTES
Friday 30 June	Alexandra Wright	
<i>Shabbat 1 July Chukkat</i> ▲	Intergenerational Service	Led by children from Rimon Religion School with Naomi Goldman reading from the <i>Torah</i> to celebrate her ordination as a Rabbi on 2 July
Friday 7 July at 18.45	Alexandra Wright	Co-led by Michael Berlingieri <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
Friday 7 July at 20.00	Pride service	The LJS is delighted to be hosting this year's Pride service, dinner and entertainment
<i>Shabbat 8 July Balak</i>	Alexandra Wright	Michael Berlingieri <i>Bar Mitzvah</i> Last day Rimon Nosh 'n' Drosh: Rabbi Sybil Sheridan
Friday 14 July	René Pfertzel	
<i>Shabbat 15 July Pinchas</i>	René Pfertzel	
Friday 21 July	René Pfertzel	Young Adults' Chavurah Supper
<i>Shabbat 22 July Mattot-Mas'ey</i>	René Pfertzel	Please join us for Rabbi René's final service with us and a very special <i>Kiddush</i>
Friday 28 July	Alexandra Wright	
<i>Shabbat 29 July D'varim/Chazon</i>	Alexandra Wright	Michael Nathan 90th Birthday Leora Sternberg and Zoe Rushbrook: naming and blessing

Bereavements

We extend our sympathy to those who mourn:

Elaine Cohen, the aunt of Jenny Nathan, Peter Abrahams, Justin Rubenstein and Adele and Paul Rubenstein

Anne Lee, mother of Stanley

המקום ינחם אתכם
בתוך שאר האבלים

*May God comfort you
and all who mourn*

Drop-in for asylum seeker families

The next LJS Drop-ins for asylum seeker families will be from 14.00-16.00 on Sunday 9 July and Sunday 13 August.

Volunteers are needed from 12.00 to help set up.

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 who can help us with some of the heavier work.

If you have children of primary school age and are buying new school uniform for them, please could we ask you to buy one extra thing for our Drop-in children so that they can have their own brand new school uniform for the autumn: white shirts, polo shirts, grey skirts or trousers, socks, jumpers (school colours), children's school shoes.

Thank you so much.

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

DATE	RABBI/SPEAKER	NOTES
Monday 31 July at 20.30	The Rabbis	<i>Erev Tisha B'Av</i> service and discussion
Friday 4 August	Rachel Benjamin	
<i>Shabbat</i> 5 August <i>Va'etchanan/Nachamu</i>	Rachel Benjamin	▲ = Parking alert: cricket at Lord's on these days
Friday 11 August	TBC	
<i>Shabbat</i> 12 August <i>Ekev</i> ▲	David Strang	The <i>Torah</i> will be read by Dov Softi
Friday 18 August	Alexandra Wright	
<i>Shabbat</i> 19 August <i>Re'eh</i>	Susannah Alexander	 <p><i>Shabbat</i> 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.</p>
Friday 25 August	Alexandra Wright	
<i>Shabbat</i> 26 August <i>Shoftim</i>	Alexandra Wright	
Friday 1 September	Alexandra Wright	
<i>Shabbat</i> 2 September <i>Ki Tetze</i>	Alexandra Wright	Sasha Sebag-Montefiore <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
<i>Shabbat</i> 2 September at 16.00. <i>Minchah</i> service	Alexandra Wright	Leila Goldstone <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>

LJS supplying a new generation of Rabbis

Mazal Tov to Rabbi Naomi Goldman, member of The LJS, who is being ordained at West London Synagogue on Sunday 2 July. Naomi's MA dissertation was entitled 'There is Nowhere

Empty of God': the influence of neo-Hasidic thought on contemporary progressive Judaism. Please join Naomi and her husband, Justin Simon, with her sons Noah and Jacob, for a

special celebratory *Kiddush* on *Shabbat* 1 July.

Nathan Godleman, who read the *Torah* and gave the sermon on 20 May, is a fourth-year student and was formerly a member of The LJS until moving to Mosaic Liberal Synagogue in Harrow. He is on a student placement at South London Liberal Synagogue.

Two members of The LJS join the Leo Baeck College student body in September – William Carver and Anthony Lazarus. We wish them good luck for their five years of study.

Care home hearing problems

↔ from p1

Sometimes residents were made aware of audiology services outside their care home, but were unable to take advantage of them because, even if they were capable of negotiating the system, they were too frail to travel.

Since his appointment last year, Mr Goodwin has been visiting Jewish care homes, investigating residents' hearing problems and training staff to supply and maintain hearing aids correctly. He said that by the end of this year he would have covered 17 care homes.

Victims of our own success

Booming numbers at both Rimon and the Nursery School are straining our ability to accommodate so many children, says LJS Chairman Sue Head

Education at The LJS is something of which we should all be proud. The adult education classes are varied, engrossing and well attended: thank you to all who contribute to them. In July, Council received reports about other aspects of education at the synagogue: provision for children.

Our Nursery School, under the Headteacher, Caroline Villiers, goes from strength to strength. The number attending is at full capacity and we heard about the exciting curriculum that the children receive. One key feature is how the parents are involved in the school through such enjoyable activities as cooking, gardening and celebration of the festivals (even those who are not Jewish happily join in with these).

Dr Dov Softi reported to us on another success story: Rimon, our religion school. There are 150 children and young people, under the age of 18 who are involved in Rimon. This is an astonishing number. One of the challenges, although a nice challenge to have, is how to accommodate them all in the space available. The same

problem affects the Nursery School. We are victims of our own success!

One of the discussions Council had with Dov was how to develop the skills of the teachers. There are courses organised for teachers in Religion Schools and we looked at ways we can financially support people to attend these.



'Work follows us everywhere, seven days a week' – Sue Head

Council also considered a problem of the modern age: the use of the internet, the opportunities it gives us for instant communication, but the problems it brings with it; for

example, work follows us everywhere, seven days a week. We looked at the impact of this on our own community and particularly on the synagogue staff and all the volunteers whose contributions are very much like work. We have taken a decision we hope may help to give people back a little balance in their lives. The decision is that we, the Council, staff and volunteers will not send each other synagogue emails on *Shabbat*, from Friday evening to Saturday evening (unless, of course, there is an emergency). This gives us all an opportunity, once in the week, just to take a little control over the internet's dominance of our lives, as well as reminding us all of the centrality of *Shabbat* in Judaism.

In the light of recent events in the UK, security inevitably was a topic that Council talked through in some detail. We are fortunate to have a well-trained security team who look after us and who receive constantly updated advice and instructions from CST (the Jewish Community Security Trust). Steve Penn is our Council member in charge of LJS security and he outlined the measures in place in order to protect us all. Our thanks go to Steve and his team.

This month we welcome our new Council members, Alex Weiss, Chris Godbold, David Davidson and Sylvia Churba to their first Council meeting following the AGM. We are looking forward to working with them in the months ahead.

Sue Head

‘I was tempted for a second to turn back and run outside. I am glad I didn’t’

Rabbi Rachel: It is a pleasure and an honour to work as part of our rabbinic team, with Alex and René. As you know, René will be moving on to become the Rabbi of the Kingston community at the end of July. So René and I thought we would share with you some reflections on the past couple of years, and write about our thoughts and wishes for the future, too.

It’s not *Pesach*, but we set ourselves Four Questions, and we hope that our answers will provide some food for thought.

What are some of the things you have achieved over the past two years?

Rabbi René: *Gam zeh ya’avor*, this too shall pass, is a popular Jewish saying that is part of my personal philosophy of life. It means for me that I don’t want to dwell on the past, and that I want to make the most of the days that God has granted me on this earth. Serving The LJS as a rabbi these past couple of years has been a fantastic time in my life. I met so many people from so many different backgrounds, all reflecting the richness and diversity of the Jewish people and the amazing city of London. For me, the LJS is a community of endless possibilities, with its rich history, the quality of its membership, and its location in Central London. I remember climbing up the stairs for my first interview in the staircase leading to the first floor and the Mattuck room, feeling in awe and profoundly humbled by the people in the paintings, staring at me, as if they wanted to tell me, ‘do you really understand where you are putting your feet in?’ I was tempted for a second to turn back and run outside. I am glad I didn’t!

I am particularly proud of the young adults I met at The LJS. Being the father of two millennial daughters helped me to understand their challenge, and gave me the desire to offer these new generations something meaningful. I am

grateful for those people who answered my call to come together and to create a committee. I realised how important it is to empower others. Enabling them to make this group theirs was essential to me. And they did it! I am so proud of them. I am tempted to name all of them, but I know they don’t like it, and I don’t want to embarrass them. They will recognise themselves. Thanks to you all!

Rabbi Rachel: The first year was a time of ‘bedding in’, and getting to know people and how The LJS ‘works’, made easier by the time I spent helping out over the previous few years, having built relationships with Alex and the lay leadership. One of my goals has always been to give support to Alex. She is incredibly industrious and works long, long hours. One of the valuable things I believe we have achieved as a rabbinic team of three is an atmosphere of respect, warmth and friendship between the three of us, which I hope has been felt, has filtered through and had an impact on many different levels in our congregation.

There are a number of activities and events that have been rewarding for me personally: music workshops I have led with Cathy Heller-Jones; *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* mornings with Dov Softi; reconvening the Crystal Clear Committee; working with two class years of our *Kabbalat Torah* students, going with them to Amsterdam, and kvelling at their achievements as they led the impressive KT services; the Tots’ *seder* conducted with Debi Penhey; and my continuing teaching of Exploring Judaism on a Tuesday evening, and working with those who are on their journey to conversion. It is an honour and a privilege to accompany people on that significant journey. As a rabbi, serving on the *Beit Din* [Rabbinical ‘Court’ that people attend at the final stage of conversion] is one of the most moving and meaningful roles that I perform.

What has been a highlight? A really inspiring event?

Rabbi René: I really wanted to create a French *minyán* at the LJS, and the beginnings were very promising. In January 2016, we had more than 90 people coming together for our first trilingual service, mostly due to the wonderful press coverage we had at this occasion. I spent a whole day being interviewed by many media, and I found the experience rather interesting. My daughter was very proud to see her dad interviewed by the BBC. Unfortunately, it didn't work out eventually. My feeling is that progressive Jews, at least the French version of them, prefer to be part of the larger community, and have no interest in coming together as a sub-community. I did the same to tell the truth. I always wanted to be part of the larger British society, and I never created a group of French friends around me. Most of my friends are British, or Londoners, that means, goodness knows where they are from!

Rabbi Rachel: There have been many highlights. It's difficult to pick just one. This year's KT service was rather special. The class of nine young women spoke on the themes of women's rights and the plight of asylum seekers and refugees. They and their families also supported the LJS Drop-In for Asylum Seekers and their Families as their *zedakah* project. I could not have been more proud of those youngsters, and the expression of their social conscience.

The Crystal Clear service was remarkably moving, and it was a privilege and a joy to see people who perhaps had never had the opportunity to do so before, coming up to the *bimah*, reading, signing, touching the *Torah* scroll, participating in the service and, before the *Kaddish*, sharing the names of loved ones.

My third highlight has been volunteering at our brilliantly organised and run monthly Asylum Seeker Drop-In. Hearing some of the stories our guests have to tell is heart-breaking. Seeing the community of LJS members, asylum seekers and visitors that is created each month on a Sunday afternoon, is heartening, and has had a huge impact on me.

What has been a challenge?

Rabbi René: Time. Definitely time. It takes a long time to create a deep relationship with people or



with a community, and being only part-time rabbi was rather frustrating. Of course, working with you Rachel was harmonious, and we managed to share this position very well, but I think there is need for more time than that. The LJS has a large membership, and I really believe that a rabbi should create meaningful relationships with congregants.

My biggest regret is that I never got to know so many of our members. But I really cherish and value all the encounters I had with so many of them. As we say in French, it is an *au revoir, pas un adieu*. I am a passionate Liberal rabbi, and my next community is also a LJ community. So, we will have plenty of time to catch up and to nurture our relationship.

Rabbi Rachel: I agree with René that allocating time has been (and is) a great challenge. Two rabbis on a 50% basis does not one full-time rabbi make – it makes a whole lot more than that! We have benefited (and, I hope, the community too) as the three rabbis each bring different talents, strengths and personality traits, and that has seen a burgeoning of activities, which is terrific on one level, but has made it even more difficult to control the hours we work. All three of us could work full-time and

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- Rabbi René

‘Nobody told me when I was a rabbinic student that I would need to learn how to juggle’

- Rabbi Rachel

we would still not get everything done we would like to do. It's a matter of prioritising and finding the right balance. Nobody told me when I was a rabbinic student that I would need to learn how to juggle – with many balls in the air at the same time! The recent arrangement that René and I have come to, on a week on/week off basis, rather than dovetailing every week, has seemed to work much better.

How do you see the future at The LJS? Do you see changes to the Rabbi's role in the future?

Rabbi René: Working on the Rabbi Rayner [z"l] archives led me to realise how important The LJS is within Liberal and Progressive Judaism. I never had the honour to meet him, but reading his writings, his correspondence, has been a transformative experience. Each time I open a box of papers, I know that I am going to learn something from a great rabbi of his generation. And I wonder to what extent The LJS and Rabbi Rayner have influenced each other. A rabbi is carried by his/her community, as much as a community is inspired by its rabbi. I guess the future of The LJS will depend on how its leaders and its members will work for it. The challenges are many, but not insurmountable: a community that is ageing, the diversity of the London Jewish

community, and the evolving needs of Jews. My work with the younger generations helped me to understand that we will always need a community, because it is the way we live together as Jews, but the outlines of this community have to adapt to the changes. It seems to me that people need more spirituality and less liturgy, education, a place of social gathering. I guess the community of the future is the *Beit ha-Kneset*, the home for socialisation, a place where people would come to meet other people and to engage socially. The LJS has already a strong ground to be this 'place of gathering' for progressive Jews in central London and beyond, a place where they can nurture their Jewish identity and their sense of belonging. I guess the next task is to have a wide communal discussion about the future of the community.

Rabbi Rachel: There are inevitably challenges ahead – anti-Semitism, security issues, indifference, apathy, a 'consumerist' attitude to religion, to name but a few. There is also the constant challenge of diverse needs, and the task of inspiring and involving our members and friends, as well as developing our relationships both within and outside our community.

I am mindful of the history, tradition and ethos of The LJS, Liberal Judaism's oldest and largest community. Just as there have been changes over the years, so there will inevitably be changes in the future; we are all subject to the outside world, its pace and progress, and we cannot afford to be complacent. I believe we need to continually respond to what is going on around us – in best Liberal Jewish tradition – and to show we can be up to date while preserving our heritage. There is so much talent and resource in this community from which we can benefit, if we can enthuse and involve more.

When I look at our young people, I look to the future with hope. I also see a desire to learn, and a spiritual need, as well as the wish for a community 'home', a place of belonging. Our community will be as good as we collectively make it, with rabbis, lay leaders, members and friends working together.

■ Do come along to say farewell – *au revoir* – to René at his final service at The LJS, on 22 July.

No such word as *can't* for Diana



FLASHBACK to 2015 when Diana (then a mere 100) carried the Olympic torch through Hendon

LJS News caught up with Diana Gould at her home in London, just after she celebrated her 105th birthday. A member of The LJS for more than 50 years, Diana was born in Poland, and grew up in Shoreditch, in the East End of London. She worked as a seamstress in Carnaby Street, and lived with her husband, Ted, in Stoke Newington before settling in Hendon in 1960.

Her energy and zest for life are palpable; it isn't surprising that her grand-daughter nominated her in 2012 to be an Olympic torch-carrier, and Diana not only carried the torch through The Burroughs, in Hendon, but she did it on what turned out to be the hottest day of the year.

She refused to walk with a stick – 'How am I going to be able to wave to people if I'm holding the torch and a stick?' – and has fond memories of the street lined with people six deep cheering her on, with her family in a special enclosure. The police were wonderful, she said, making sure she had enough water. Of course, there were a number of celebrities to meet – 'I'm on kissing terms with Boris', she declared.

Diana was always keen on fitness; she joined the League of Health and Beauty, which was the forerunner of The Fitness League, after leaving school. A keen netball player at

school – 'I played Centre – the *meshugenah* running everywhere and passing the ball to the shooters' – and played badminton until she was 86. Until relatively recently, she led fitness classes for elderly people to keep them fit and mobile, including exercises for joints, hand-eye co-ordination, etc, but sadly, she has had to give it up, because her students, in their 80s, couldn't keep up with her, despite her protestations that she was old enough to be their mother!

Diana says 'family is everything', and you definitely get a sense of that being with her in her home, where she is surrounded by photos of her family. One frame – 100 years of fashion – holds a collection of photographs of Diana in different outfits, several of which she had made, from various decades of her life, which had been put together by a family member. Somehow one is not surprised to learn that Diana's mother was a 'forward-thinking woman' who herself lived to be 102. Her father was a cabinet-maker; a wardrobe which saved her family's life during the blitz (Diana remained in London throughout the war) was made by him, and is still in the family. A proud Londoner, Diana remembers the horse-drawn bus, and also the



'I can't imagine not having a big box of chocolates in the fridge...'

cinema she used to go to as a child, which had benches upstairs, and you had to budge up to make space when more people came. Sometimes, if you weren't careful, you could fall off the edge... She also tells a wonderful story about getting on the bus and realising, when the conductor came

to take her fare, that she had no money on her. He lent her £5, and she kept a £5 note aside, which she carried with her until she found him again, and was able to return it.

Diana has several warm memories of The LJS – her son's marriage in the early 1960s took place abroad, but Rabbi John Rayner made a special blessing for the couple at The LJS. Diana says that Rabbi Rayner was 'the nicest, finest man I've ever met', reflecting that he was so easy to talk to, and never seemed to judge you. She used to come regularly, but it's difficult now, as it takes over an hour by bus to get there.

So, what is the secret of eternal youth? If anyone knows, it would be Diana. She says, with a wonderful smile 'Don't think of yourself as old. Keep reading. My secret is that I can't imagine not having a big box of chocolates in the fridge. But I don't keep it by my side. I get up to go and get one. Keep moving.'

Diana's parting shot as we say our farewells: 'There's no such word as *can't*.' It's difficult to define inspiration, but an encounter with Diana leaves you thinking 'Yes, we can'.

Karen Newman

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

Please pick up a copy when you are at the synagogue each week.

MUSIC LOVERS – SAVE THIS DATE

Concert on Sunday 15 October at 19.00.

Works by Arvo Pärt, Steve Reich and Beethoven will be performed by Martin Roscoe (piano) and the string quintet I Musicanti directed by Leon Bosch.

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 – birthday, anniversary, baby blessing, *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*, or another special day – please contact Joanne Beaumont on 020 7432 1283 or email rabbispa@ljs.org



at the **LJS**

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

Tuesday 19.00-20.00

Until 11 July

Classical Hebrew

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

Until 11 July

Exploring Judaism with Rabbi Rachel Benjamin

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.

Both the Tuesday evening classes [above] will end with a celebratory end of term party at 20.00 on Tuesday 11 July. Next term will start with a High Holyday seminar from 19.00-21.00 on Tuesday 12 September.

Tuesday 11.15-12.30

Until 18 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. New members are most welcome. Biscuits provided. Tuesday Texts will re-commence on Tuesday 12 September.

Shabbat 9.45-10.45

Until 8 July

Learning from Texts with Bernie Bulkin

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.

Shabbat 9.45-10.45

Until 8 July

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.

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. 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.

Tuesdays 20.00-21.15

NEW COURSES FOR A NEW YEAR

Two new courses in the *Sukkot* and *Purim* terms will be taught by Dr Jonathan Gorsky, lecturer in Judaism and Jewish-Christian/Jewish-Muslim relations at Heythrop College, University of London.

- 1. Belief and Unbelief:** four talks on the history of the philosophy of belief, the impact of society and secularisation on belief and the assault on tradition: 7-28 November.
- 2. Jewish-Muslim Relations:** four talks on Tuesday evenings in the Purim Term. Dates to be confirmed.

A new adult education brochure will be out towards the end of July and can be downloaded from the LJS website.

Dark Times in mid-summer

This is not a reference to the current political climate, but to the 'Three Weeks' in the Jewish calendar from 17 Tammuz to

Tisha B'Av – a low point in the Jewish calendar, commemorating the destruction of the First and

Second Temples and other tragedies in Jewish history. 9 Av was believed to have brought to an end both Temples, the First destroyed in 586 BCE by the Babylonians, the Second in 70 CE by the Romans.

The Yiddish author, Mendele Mocher S'forim (Abramovich, 1835-1917), opens his novel *Fishke the Lame* with a memorable description of the bookseller riding through the countryside in brilliant sunshine, engaged in a violent struggle between his natural desire to admire and bask in the warmth of the sun and the beauty of nature, and the pious inclination to remember that it is the 'Three Weeks', a time of lamentation and sad remembrance for the traditional Jew:

'Scarcely has the bright sun begun to shed its light, dear summer to invade the world, and men to feel as if born anew, their hearts rejoicing in God's beautiful world, when the sad season starts for the really pious Jew. Numerous are the fast days and days of mourning throughout the summer until the late autumn, harbinger of mud and cold winds... In a word, pious Jews are passing the three weeks, nay the whole summer [for a Jew, a child of the unhappy race par excellence, can never weep enough over his tragic fate], in weeping and fasting, praying and mourning, but I alone am doing business...'

The bookseller's business,

SAVE THE DATE

'Banter and Bagels 2'

Sunday 26th November at 19.00

COMEDY NIGHT is back

SUPPORTING
the LJS
Kitchen
Project



at
The
LJS

Tickets on sale in September

Full line-up of professional comedians to be announced

Please note content of show is not suitable for under-16s.

bring us a glimmer of light

selling prayer books and books of lamentation to the Jews of the villages around the countryside, is doing a roaring trade, and it is all he can do to close his eyes, recite his prayers and ignore the loveliness of the natural world around him:

'A violent struggle was going on in me. Two powers were wrestling and waging war with one another. The good spirit was saying: "For shame! You must not! Remember the three weeks!" But the evil spirit, the tempter, was nudging me, whispering into my ear: "Never mind the old forgotten past and the calamities that have befallen Israel in bygone days! Don't be a silly fool! Enjoy the world!"'

Contemporary Liberal Jews find themselves with a similar dilemma. Do we mourn the loss of the Temples on 9 Av, with a service of commemoration and day of fasting? Or do we set them aside, saying to ourselves – this day, these three weeks, no longer have relevance for our community; we no longer pray or long for the restoration of the Temple, the priesthood or sacrifices?

The LJS, however, still does commemorate the 9 Av, acknowledging the upheaval and sorrow brought about by the destruction of the Temples at the time, but adding to the service other tragedies in the Jewish past that were said to have occurred on or near 9 Av – the expulsion of the Jews from

The *Tisha B'Av* service will take place at 20.30 on Monday 31 July in the Rabbi John Rayner Room at The LJS

Spain in 1492, the pogroms against the Jews in Poland, Ukraine and Russia and the tragic events of the *Shoah* in the last century.

As much as we enjoy our festivals of rejoicing, the Fast of Av – the 'Black Fast' as it is known – reminds us of past and current tragedies in our own communities, and it also

reminds us of the necessity, no matter how difficult in dark times, to hold on to the uplifting message of the prophets, that our task, our mission as Jews, is to hold on to the hope for better times, to bring a glimmer of light into the darkness and affirm that a new generation will have a future and a hope.

Rabbi Alexandra Wright

TINY TOTS at the LJS

Do you have little ones aged between 0 and 4?

Please bring them to The LJS on *Shabbat* mornings
1 and 8 July

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 Tiny Tots mailing list.

A NEW-STYLE TINY TOTS

Tiny Tots will be re-launched on 9 September. We'll be meeting on the second Saturday of every month, with new leaders and new ideas. Watch this space for more details!

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 July:

Florence Foster Jenkins
Stephen Frears' rollicking comedy drama starring Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant. Based on the real story of the triumph of a tone-deaf heiress.

23 August:

That Day We Sang
Victoria Wood writes and directs this musical drama starring Michael Ball and Imelda Staunton as Tubby and Enid, two lonely Mancunians who find love while preparing for a televised choir reunion.

25 October:

Singin' in the Rain
Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor and Debbie Reynolds in one of the best-loved Hollywood musicals ever.

22 November:

Coppelia
The Delibes ballet, the story of a magician-toymaker and his living doll Coppelia.



LIBRARY INFORMATION

The library will hold an information session before the *Shabbat* morning service, at 10.15 on 29 July. Please come and meet library volunteers, who will guide you round the shelves and show you the book

classifications. The library is a lovely room where you can both browse and borrow.



The Bridge Club meets from 14.00 to 17.00 every Monday in the Montefiore Hall 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.



QUEEN'S AWARD FOR JVN

The Jewish Volunteering Network, which is chaired by LJS member David Lazarus, has been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

JVN has been connecting potential and existing volunteers to volunteering opportunities with Jewish and non-Jewish charities for the past ten years.

JVN now has nearly 8,000 volunteers registered on its website and more than 400 charities use its services. It also provides training and networking for volunteers and

volunteer managers, helps with trustee recruitment and placement and has a specific programme supporting individuals with learning needs and mental health challenges.



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.



ARCHIVE TUESDAYS

The Archive Team works in the Assembly Hall on Tuesdays. Activities include sorting historical papers, cataloguing, photo preservation . Please contact the Archivist, Cinde Lee at cinde.lee@gmail.com



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 or 020 7286 5181.



Celebrating Shavu'ot with flower crowns – a reminder of the beautiful legend of the flowers that sprouted the night that the Torah was given on Mount Sinai.

Young LJS

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

James Ballheimer
 Hannah Ballheimer
 Michael Berlingieri
 Maya Boyle
 Jacob Collett
 Emily Cooper
 Tristan Del Mar
 Emma Dixter
 Nicole Fingerhut
 Samuel Frank
 Joseph Frank
 Olivia Goldenberg
 Annabel Grade
 Gabriel Grant
 Jemima Green
 Elishevah Ibru
 Lara Meir
 Ione Salem
 Raphael Sellar
 Jonas Sellar
 Nathaniel Sellar
 Jayden Singer
 Angelina Sokel
 Isabelle Waha
 Rosalie Wolchover

... and in August
 Liah Boyle
 Zach Bueno

Mia Dixter
 Daniel Fisher
 Theo Frankel
 Stephanie Frischmann
 Noah Gulperin
 Jeanne Herz
 Maxime Herz
 Reuben Josefs
 Samuel Kay
 Jan Klein Wassink
 Theodore Korn
 Teddy Levi-French
 Dahlia Levin
 Libby Lewis
 Katya Markson-Matthews
 Benjamin Mencer
 Molly Message
 Daniel Packowitz
 Mason Platt
 Olivia Platt
 Giulia Schwartz
 Hannah Semaya
 Joshua Sharpstone
 Jane Shuster
 Nathan Simon
 Acacia Steen
 Skyler Tuvey
 Ursula Warshaw
 Arthur Watts
 Eli Wolchover
 Leela Yaroshevski

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The Liberal Jewish Synagogue is a company limited by guarantee (Company No 9113305) and a registered charity in England and Wales (Charity No 1159292).
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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

Interim Executive Director

Lysa Schwartz

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 dates: The next LJS News will be for September 2017.

Final copy date: 4 August 2017.

Copy should be sent by email to info@daviescomms.com or to the Editors at The LJS.

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Joan Salter: one of only a few hundred to escape

When some Jews were more expendable than others

The history of discrimination against Jews of Polish origin was detailed at June's Nosh 'n' Drosh meeting by LJS member and Holocaust survivor Joan Salter.

Joan began by outlining the background of anti-Polish prejudice among the Jewish 'establishment' in pre-war Britain – they had resisted the admission of Polish Jews on the grounds that they were 'paupers and parasites'.

She moved on to describe the fate of French Jews, especially those of Polish origin, under the Nazi occupation during the Second World War. Before the war, the Jewish population of France was estimated at 330,000, some 150,000 of whom were 'Polish' Jews.

The Germans focused on deporting Jews of Polish origin to the death camps, and were inclined to leave Jews of French origin. As a result, 40% of the 'Polish' Jews in France died in the Shoah compared with only 10% of French-born Jews. In 1942-43, 11,402 children were

deported to extermination camps in Poland, only 300 of whom are known to have survived.

Although the deportations from France were known to international agencies and reported in the papers at the time, the UK government was reluctant to issue visas for Jewish children, and the Anglo-Jewish establishment failed to press the government to do so.

Joan – herself of Polish origin – said that she was one of only a few hundred Jewish children to escape from France: she crossed the Pyrenees into Spain with her mother and was eventually fostered in the USA. She was reunited with her parents in Britain after the war.

■ Nosh 'n' Drosh consists of a delicious lunch of bagels and fillings with wine and fruit juice, to the accompaniment of a discussion led by an outstanding guest speaker. Future speakers include:

Shabbat 8 July:

Rabbi Sybil Sheridan on Meketa and Ethiopian Jewry.

Shabbat 9 September:

Anthony Steen CBE: Where the victims of human trafficking end up after they come out of government-funded shelters.

Shabbat 11 November:

Lucy Kaye. Showing of an award winning film featuring The LJS's Singing for the Mind.

Shabbat 9 December:

Professor Geraldine van Bueren: 'A Special Relationship: Jews and Human Rights'.

Nosh 'n' Drosh has been one of our most successful innovations. If you would like to sponsor a Nosh 'n' Drosh, please ask Martin Slowe or Rabbi Alexandra Wright for more information.

The LJS is a constituent synagogue of Liberal Judaism



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