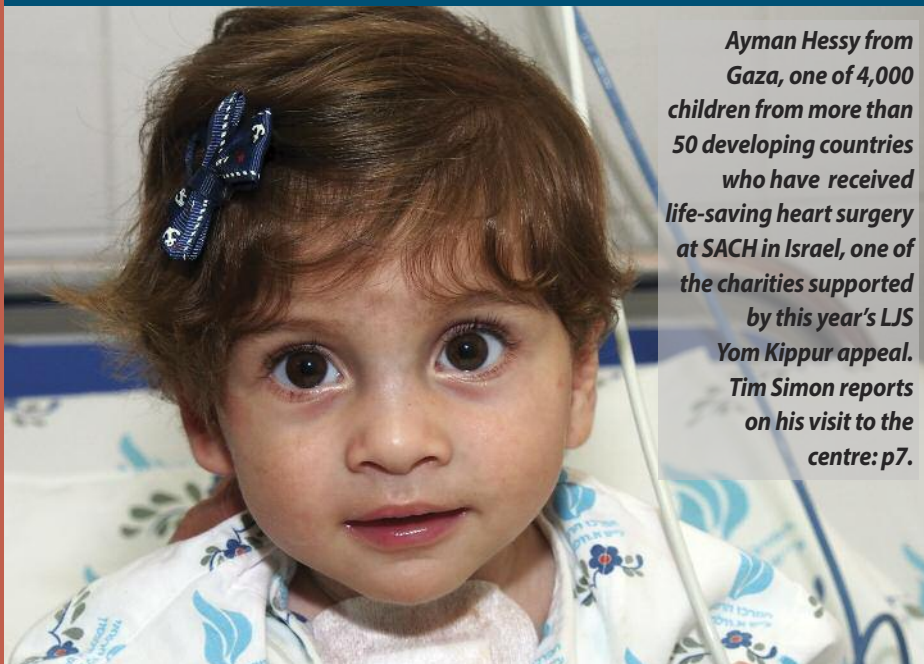


THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERAL JEWISH SYNAGOGUE



*Ayman Hessi from Gaza, one of 4,000 children from more than 50 developing countries who have received life-saving heart surgery at SACH in Israel, one of the charities supported by this year's LJS Yom Kippur appeal. Tim Simon reports on his visit to the centre: p7.*

December 2016 - January 2017

Kislev-Sh'vat 5777

## Don't forget:

*Chanukkah begins on 24th December: see page 8 for a guide to lighting your candles at home.*



**Nosh 'n' Drosh:** Rabbi David Goldberg will be interviewing Michael Howard after the *Shabbat* service on 10th December.



## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

**Shabbat and festival services** p3

**The wonders of Direct Debit** p4

**Chanukkah: a light in the darkness** p5

**Forgetting the Holocaust** p6

**The Learning Circle** p10-12

**KT visit to Amsterdam** p13



LJS members and guests gather by the Anish Kapoor Holocaust memorial in the foyer to mark the anniversary of *Kristallnacht*, which devastated German Jewish communities in November 1938.

## Bereavements

We extend our sympathy to those who mourn:

**Janet Osband**, sister of Richard, Peter and Alan Osband

**Maureen Page**, for more than 20 years membership secretary at The LJS

המקום ינחם אתכם  
בתוך שאר האבלים

*May God comfort you  
and all who mourn*

To arrange a *kiddush* to mark a special occasion, please email Naomi Richland at [rabbispa@ljs.org](mailto:rabbispa@ljs.org) or call her on 020 7432 1283.

# THE ANNUAL LJS PRE-CHANUKKAH INTERFAITH TEA

**rené  
cassin**  
*the jewish voice for human rights*

will take place at 16.30 on Wednesday 14th December and together with the Human Rights organisation René Cassin will highlight the theme 'Stand up for someone's Human Rights – today!'

After a special ceremony to highlight what we can do to stand up for human rights, a traditional festive tea, including latkes and doughnuts, will be served.

All welcome. Please bring friends, neighbours and encourage local schools, churches, mosques and temples to attend this wonderful celebration of faiths.

# Shabbat and festival services: December/January

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

DATE	RABBI/SPEAKER	NOTES
Friday 2nd December	Alexandra Wright	Co-led by Seth Williams <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
Shabbat 3rd December <i>Tol'dot</i>	Alexandra Wright	Seth Williams <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
Friday 9th December	René Pfertzel	Young adults dinner
Shabbat 10th December <i>Va-yetze</i>	Rachel Benjamin Alexandra Wright	Intergenerational Service in the Sanctuary Koleinu Service in the John Rayner Room Nosh 'n' Drosh – Lord Howard interviewed by Rabbi David J. Goldberg following <i>kiddush</i>
Wednesday 14th December 16.30	Pre- <i>Chanukkah</i> interfaith celebration: Just four days after Human Rights Day on 10th December, our annual interfaith celebration will encourage us to stand up for someone's rights – today	
Friday 16th December	René Pfertzel	
Shabbat 17th December <i>Va-yishlach</i>	René Pfertzel	We will be welcoming members of the Reading Liberal Jewish Community to our service this <i>Shabbat</i> – please come and welcome them
Friday 23rd December	Alexandra Wright	
Shabbat 24th December <i>Va-yeshew/Erev Chanukkah</i>	Alexandra Wright	The first candle for <i>Chanukkah</i> is lit on Saturday night after <i>Shabbat</i>
Friday 30th December	René Pfertzel	Seventh night of <i>Chanukkah</i>
Shabbat 31st December <i>Mikketz/Chanukkah</i>	René Pfertzel	Seventh day of <i>Chanukkah</i>
Friday 6th January	Alexandra Wright	
Shabbat 7th January <i>Va-yiggash</i>	Alexandra Wright	
Friday 13th January	Rachel Benjamin	Service co-led by Jacob Sinclair <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
Shabbat 14th January <i>Va-y'chi</i>	Rachel Benjamin	<i>Bar Mitzvah</i> Jacob Sinclair
Friday 20th January	Alexandra Wright	
Shabbat 21st January <i>Shemot</i>	Alexandra Wright	Rebecca Forster – naming and blessing Nosh 'n' Drosh with Jeremy Lewison
Friday 27th January	Alexandra Wright	Service co-led by Amelia Osband <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>
Shabbat 28th January <i>Va-era</i>	Alexandra Wright	<i>Bat Mitzvah</i> Amelia Osband
Friday 3rd February	René Pfertzel	

**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.**

# Better for the synagogue – and you

**W**e are pleased that, after many years of discussion, The LJS is at last making direct debits available for payment of subscriptions for 2017 onwards. This is an exciting development which should be of benefit to congregants and to the synagogue.

The current system of standing orders is particularly unsatisfactory, because so many result in the wrong amount being paid! For example, if the subscription is raised a little, people often do not get round to updating their standing order, which results either in a shortfall for the synagogue, or work to try to achieve the correct amount, by updating the standing order or paying the shortfall in some other way.

With direct debits you will get sent a form well in advance, so that you can agree to the amount to be taken, and once it is set up, we can carry on using it in future years. We will of course inform you of any increases in subscription in good time each year. The direct debits can be collected annually or monthly, depending on your wishes.

We do hope that most people will choose this method of payment, largely because our office staff and honorary



**Paying your subscription by direct debit will help The LJS cover its running costs and avoid the waste of time and money sorting out incorrect payments, says Honorary Treasurer Barbara Fidler**

treasurers have to spend so much time, and hence money, on chasing unpaid subscriptions.

Please make sure that you have completed a Gift Aid form, if you are a UK taxpayer, and so eligible for Gift Aid. This increases the value of your subscription considerably. Gift Aid tax forms are available from the office.

We are grateful to the many members who are so generous to The LJS with their time and by paying subscriptions fully, and in some cases, with additional payments. It is really important for people to pay their one-off payments very early in the

year, or to set up direct debits at the beginning of the year.

Invoices, including direct debit forms, will be sent out in December so that action can be taken by members to pay promptly in January.

The LJS provides excellent buildings and facilities from which we all benefit – but these are very costly to provide. The income we get from subscriptions goes nowhere near providing these, so we run each year at a considerable deficit. So please consider giving to this charity if you can spare more than you have been paying.

Subscriptions and donations are our main source of income, so please try to help increase our income; otherwise some cutting of what we provide would have to occur before long. We really don't want that to happen.

Rimon (Religion School) can only charge for books and equipment but not for teaching costs, which amount to about £500 per child per year. The building is used by very many people but the costs of maintaining it are huge.

Please give all the help you can to ensure your synagogue has a healthy future.

*Barbara Fidler*

# Fighting back with the light of hope

**T**here is a famous dispute recorded in the Talmud (*Shabbat* 21b) between Bet Shammai and Bet Hillel. We know that there are eight candles to be lit during the festival, but how do you do this? Hillel said that on the first night we light one candle, on the second night two candles, and so in, till the eighth day when we light eight candles. Shammai held the opposite position: one should light eight candles the first night, seven the second, and so on, until the eighth day, when one candle would be lit.

In the democratic spirit of the Talmud, the sages voted, and Hillel's position was adopted. The *halakha* became to light one candle the first night, two the second, and so on.

Elsewhere, we learn why *halakha* so often followed Bet Hillel's opinions. 'They are pleasant and patient, they would study and teach both their opinion and that of Bet Shammai, and moreover, they would teach the view of Bet Shammai before their own... This teaches you that the one who humbles himself, the Holy One, Blessed Be He, raises up... He who flees from greatness, greatness follows' (*Eruvin* 13b). What a great lesson in democracy, humility, and respect for opponents. We would like to see this attitude



**It is time for us to wake up and stop patronising the hopeless and 'left behind', argues Rabbi René Pfertzel**

driving our parliamentary and public debates more often.

By adding a new light every evening, Hillel wanted to teach us that in times of darkness, it is our duty to hold firm and high an enlightened spirit and the hope that eventually light will prevail. It is quite common in rabbinic thought to create a move towards light, towards the heights, or towards hope and freedom. It shaped the Jewish mind, and made us a (cautiously) optimistic people.

It is hard to say what the future holds for us. Like a lot of us, I guess, I woke up worried about the American election results. A man who during his campaign expressed misogynistic, homophobic, racist opinions appealed to a majority of people. I am worried to see that a silent majority, as was the case

during the Brexit campaign, feels that they are not heard, that they are left behind, despised, to the point that they throw themselves into the arms of populist politicians. The same happened in Britain, in Russia; it is happening in the USA, and also in France. These politicians are not ashamed of lying, of trampling human rights underfoot, of mocking progressive values and minorities. I do not blame them, or their voters. I blame the politicians who, year after year, have allowed a ruthless neo-liberal system sold as 'natural' to take root and create an unfair society, leaving behind so many, destroying any hope in the future for our youth, and deepening the gap between the richest and the poorest.

I think it is time for us to wake up, to fight back, to stop patronising the 'left behind' who dare to vote for populists. This is the message of *Chanukkah*: every day, light a new little candle, add a bit more light to the world, lest darkness wins. When world leaders flex their muscles, let us shine a little light, day after day, to help people come back to their senses.

*Hag Urim Sameach*

*René Pfertzel*

Dear Editor...

# Should we forget the Holocaust?

Two recent events prompt me to write this letter. First, an article in *The Times* (31st October) with the title 'World has enough Holocaust memorials, says Jewish author' suggests that the planned Holocaust Memorial in Victoria Tower Gardens and its associated underground education centre should not be built. In his view this is a vanity project since there is already a memorial in Hyde Park, the new monument would interfere with the natural beauty of a precious green space, and the education centre would be too expensive to build.

Second, in May this year I was asked to talk at the Holocaust Memorial Day at The LJS. The subject I chose was the fate of Hungarian Jewry. Although well documented, it has some unusual features which distinguish it from the Final Solution in other European countries. I thought that it might be of some interest to the membership of The LJS. Only about 40 people turned up; most were themselves contributors

to the commemoration.

There appears to be a new trend: we should draw a line under what happened. David Rieff, in his book, 'In Praise of Forgetting' (Yale University Press, 2016) argues that historical memory is not a moral imperative, but a moral option. In his view, historical memory neither remedies injustice, nor confers reconciliation.

So, has the time come to forget the Holocaust and to change the mantra of 'forgive, but never forget' to 'forgive and forget'? Or shall we remember Primo Levi: 'The Holocaust is a page from the book of humanity from which we should never remove the bookmark of memory'?

Something to ponder before the next Holocaust Memorial Day.

**Peter Lantos**

Professor Emeritus, King's College London  
Prisoner 8431 in Bergen-Belsen, 1944-45

## Quicker than any computer

A cornerstone of the The LJS administration has departed with the death of Maureen Page (formerly Franklin, before her marriage to Charlie). Very few younger members will have heard of her, and most older ones have probably forgotten her. However, she was a very loyal and dedicated person, whose efforts on behalf of the synagogue were never realised until her departure.

However Maureen, who worked in the LJS office from about 1970 until her retirement in the late 90s, was a mine of information about the LJS membership before the days of computers. She knew just about everything about everyone, who was related to whom, etc, details of which she could recall far quicker than any computer today.

Our sincere condolences to her family.

**Raymon Benedyk**

LJS Secretary/Administrator 1973-92

## A postscript to '60 Years of Jewish scholarship'

Rabbi Wright wrote in the November LJS News about Rabbi van der Zyl in the *Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums* in Berlin.

That was also where Claude Montefiore studied for six months from 1882, a happy time; there he met Solomon Schechter and studied rabbinics under him. This meeting was very important to him, since Montefiore brought Schechter back to London as his personal tutor in rabbinics and thus began his career as a Jewish scholar.

**Bryan Diamond**

# Mending children's broken hearts

Whilst in Israel in November I took the opportunity to visit Save a Child's Heart (SACH) at the Wolfson Medical Center in Holon. SACH is of course the Israeli charity we have chosen for our *Yom Kippur* appeal.

I took with me my daughter, who lives in Jerusalem, and we were shown around by the President, Professor Arie Schachner; those of you who were present on the morning of *Yom Kippur* will recall that he gave the appeal for SACH.

Children in need of cardiac surgery are brought to Israel from more than 51 developing countries in Africa, South America, Europe, Asia, and throughout the Middle East including the Palestinian Authority, Jordan, Iraq and Morocco. They usually come with a carer such as a parent.

Where possible several children from a country are brought over together so that they and their carers have a common language and can be catered for together in terms of their food.

So far more than 4,000 children have undergone cardiac surgery under the auspices of SACH.

When the children arrive, they are housed with their carers in a purpose built home, the site for which was provided by Holon local authority.



**Left: Tamaru from Ethiopia and Mara from Romania.**

**Below: Aryan from Iraq.**



From there they are taken to the paediatric wing of the Medical Center where they are operated on and stay until they can return to the home to convalesce before returning to their native country.

We were shown around the home and met some of the children and their carers.

If that were all, *dayenu*, it would

have been enough! but they do more, much more.

They also run an outreach training program whereby medical personnel receive in-depth post-graduate training in all facets of paediatric cardiac care, including cardiology, surgery, anaesthesia, intensive care,

# Lighting the *Chanukkah* at home: a very brief guide

The first candle should be lit on Saturday night 24th December, and then every night until Saturday 31st December.

*Chanukkah* candles and *Chanukkiyot* can be bought at our newly stocked Judaica shop in the foyer.

- 1 On each night of *Chanukkah*, place the *Chanukkiyah* where it can be seen clearly and on the first night place one candle in the holder for the Servant Candle and the candle for the first night in the holder on the far right.
- 2 Gather friends and family together.
- 3 Pop latkes in the oven for 15 minutes to heat up.
- 4 Turn to one of the readings in the *siddur* between pages 393 and 398 **or** follow this simple service.
- 5 Light the servant candle.
- 6 Recite this prayer followed by these blessings:

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.

① ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו  
במצותיו, וצונו להדליק נר של חנוכה.

*Baruch attah Adonai, Eloheynu melech ha-olam, asher  
kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivvanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukkah.*

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the Universe,  
You sanctify us by Your commandments, and enjoin us to kindle  
the *Chanukkah* lights.

② ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, שעשה נסים לאבותינו  
ואמותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה.

*Baruch attah Adonai, Eloheynu melech ha-olam, she-asah  
nissim la'avoteynu ba-yamim ha-hem u'vaz'man ha-zeh.*

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the Universe,  
You performed wonders for our ancestors in days of old,  
at this season.

③ First night only:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, שהחנינו וקיימנו  
והגייענו לימן הזה.

*Baruch attah Adonai, Eloheynu melech ha-olam,  
shehecheyanu, v'kiyy'manu, v'higgiyanu laz'man ha-zeh.*

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the Universe: You have kept us alive, sustained us and enabled us to reach this season.



*'Eat latkes and  
doughnuts to  
recall the vial  
of oil that  
miraculously  
burned for  
eight days...  
Watch the  
candles burn  
down...'*

Photo © Anyka - Fotolia

- 7 Light the first candle.
- 8 On subsequent nights insert a new servant candle and an additional candle for each night starting at the right hand side, but always light from left to right.
- 9 While lighting, sing or read the following:  
*Ha-nerot halalu anachnu madlikin al ha-nissim v'al ha-t'shuot,  
v'al ha-nifla-ot she-asita la'avoteynu v'chol shemonat y'mei*

*Chanukkah ha-nerot halalu kodesh; v'eyn lanu r'shut l'hishtamesh  
ba-hem, ella lirotam bilvad, k'dei l'hodot l'shim'cha al nissecha  
v'al niflotecha v'al y'shuotecha.*

We kindle these lights in remembrance of the wonderful deliverance You performed for our ancestors. During all the eight days of *Chanukkah* these lights are sacred; we enjoined not to use them but only to gaze upon them, so that their glow may move us to give thanks for Your wonderful acts of deliverance.

*Ma'oz tzur yeshuati, l'cha na'eh l'shabbeach,  
Tikkon beyt t'fillati, v'sham todah n'zabbeach,  
Let tashbit mat'be'ach v'tzar ha-m'nabbeach,  
Az egmor b'shir mizmor, chanukkat ha-miz'be'ach.*

Rock of Ages, let our song  
Praise Your wondrous saving power,  
You amid the raging foes,  
Were our safe and sheltering tower.  
Furious, they assailed us,  
But your arm availed us,  
And Your word  
Broke their sword  
When our own strength failed us.

- 10 Eat latkes and doughnuts to recall the vial of oil that miraculously burned for eight days in the Temple.
  - 11 Play the *dreidl* game and bet all your chocolate money away.
  - 12 Watch the candles burn down.
  - 13 Give *tz'dakah* at this time of year when so many are lonely.
- Chanukkah Same'ach – Have a very happy and joyous Chanukkah!*

## Mending broken hearts (with a little help from The LJS)

⇒ **continued from p7**

perfusion, and nursing.

The training programmes vary from three months to five years and are carried out both in Israel and in their native countries.

When I visited, there were six doctors under training.

By way of example, the population of

Ethiopia is more than 90 million and there are two (yes just two) cardiac surgeons in the entire country.

And if that were still not enough SACH is embarking on its biggest project yet, to build an International Paediatric Cardiac Center at the Wolfson Medical Center which will serve as a children's hospital.

They also plan to provide online help and

guidance during operations to surgeons in their own countries.

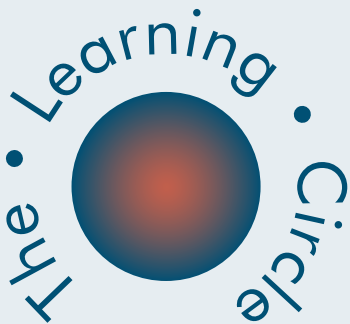
For more information, you can refer to their website [www.saveachildsheart.com](http://www.saveachildsheart.com) although it was, I understand, last updated in 2014.

Please let us at The LJS respond with more than our usual generosity this year.

**Tim Simon**

Chair of the Appeal Committee





# at the **LJS**

**Classes in Judaism and Hebrew**  
**Purim term 5777/2017**

**Tuesday 11.15-12.30**

**10th January – 28th March**

## **Tuesday Texts**

**Half term: 14th February**

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 are provided.

**Tuesday 19.00-20.00**

**10th January – 28th March**

## **Classical Hebrew**

**Half term: 14th February**

### **Beginners with Susannah Alexander**

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

### **Next steps in biblical Hebrew with Sally Gold**

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

### **Difficult texts of the *Torah* with Alexandra Wright**

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

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

Tuesday 20.00-21.00

10th January – 28th March

**Exploring Judaism with Rabbi Rachel Benjamin****Half term: 14th February**

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

Tuesdays 20.00-21.00

10th January – 28th March

**MINI-COURSES****❶ Judaism and Sexuality****10th January – 7th February**

Run in conjunction with the Jewish Gay and Lesbian Group and taught by Rabbi René Pfertzel and others.

**❷ Learning about the Holocaust (five sessions)****21st February – 21st March**

This short course will examine the historical background to the Holocaust and developments in the course of the Second World War that impacted on European and Non-European Jews. This will include learning about anti-Semitism, the stages of the war and the persecution of Jews leading up to the genocide. Examples of resistance and rescue will be considered, along with the aftermath of the Holocaust and its legacy for the Jewish people. Particular emphasis will be put on the works of David Cesarani and Martin Gilbert, in addition to other historians and theologians. There will also be a talk by a Holocaust survivor. Participants will be encouraged to discuss the subjects learnt and to share their knowledge. The course will be led by Susannah Alexander, who herself studied Jewish history with Martin Gilbert, David Cesarani and David Silberklang.

**❸ Reading poetry in the *siddur* (five sessions)****25th April – 23rd May**

The *siddur* is a complex literary composition, mixing biblical and rabbinic elements. In this series, we will read, translate, and comment on some of the most familiar *piyyutim*, liturgical poems in the *siddur*, such as *Adon Olam*, *Yigdal*, and others. Even if your Hebrew is a bit rusty, this series is for you. We will read both Hebrew and English and make our own Midrash on these texts.

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

Hebrew and Yiddish classes are run at The LJS by the educational organisation Spiro Ark. Levels range from 'Beginners' and 'Not quite beginners' to 'Intermediate/Advanced'. Next term there will be lessons every Wednesday from 11th January to 29th March. For full details of times and charges, please visit [www.spiroark.org/classes](http://www.spiroark.org/classes) or phone 020 7289 6321.

**Learning from Texts with Bernie Bulkin****Half term: 11th and 18th February**

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.

**Half term: 11th and 18th February****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. 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, don't mind having a go at reading Hebrew in the service, then feel free to join this class.

**The LJS's third Communal Baby Blessing will take place during the *Shabbat* morning service on 25th February 2017.**

**If you have a baby, toddler, child or teenager (even!) who was not named or blessed in synagogue and you would like to participate in a very special service with other families, please contact Naomi Richland: you can email her at [rabbispa@ljs.org](mailto:rabbispa@ljs.org)**

# Connecting to Amsterdam's past

In October the *Kabbalat Torah 2* group visited Amsterdam accompanied by Dr Dov Softi and Rabbi Rachel Benjamin. This is a trip that the group were looking forward to and were prepared for months in advance.

Their first stop after leaving London was the Amsterdam Museum where Rebecca Lawson introduced the history of the museum and what the group were about to discover inside. The group were tasked with finding iconic artefacts which could tell visitors about an interesting aspect of Amsterdam. One group chose a picture of two men getting married, which encapsulated the spirit of tolerance in Amsterdam society, where everybody is accepted for who they are. Amsterdam was the first city to announce gay marriage. Helen Roth commented that she 'felt happy because it's a very difficult topic for countries to accept and Amsterdam were leading the way forward'.

The KT group then travelled to the Amsterdam Liberal Jewish Synagogue and joined the congregation for their *Erev Shabbat* service. Lily Lazarus told us that 'it was interesting to see the contrast in the layout of the synagogue and it was lovely to be welcomed into their very inclusive community. They were a very



dynamic community and it was very interesting to see how they worked together to regroup and move forward after World War II! After the service the group were collected by families who were members of the synagogue, who welcomed them into their homes.

The following day the group visited the Homomonument, the Anne Frank House, the Hollandse Schouwburg (the theatre where Jews were rounded up during the Nazi occupation in Amsterdam and sent to concentration camps) and the Museum of Resistance.

Olivia Goldenberg, on the Homomonument, said she 'found the monument inspiring because she found Amsterdam was ahead of its time and forward thinking' and Eva, on the Anne Frank House, said 'I felt that it brought the book to life and shows how

real the events were.'

Our visit to the Museum of Resistance was made extra special because the week before we had met Eva Schloss (an LJS member, whose mother married Otto Frank after the war) and heard her story, which is a focus, among three other stories, of the children's exhibition there.

On the last day of the trip, KT2 visited the Portuguese Synagogue and the Jewish Historical Museum. Sarah said, 'the Portuguese Synagogue's layout was very impressive. The atmosphere in the synagogue evoked a unique and spiritual feeling that connected us to the past'.

One of the highlights of the visit was that we all bonded as a group and got to know each other much better, preparing us for our *Kabbalat Torah* service in April.

**Becca Lawson**

## 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.

There is no meeting in December but dates for the start of 2017 are:

**25th January**  
**22nd February**  
**22nd March**



## 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. Aviva has access to social services, hospital social workers and many caring organisations, both local and Jewish. You can contact her at [a.shafritz@ljs.org](mailto:a.shafritz@ljs.org) or 020 7286 5181.

**Sunday 5th February**  
**from 10.00-16.30**

## HEBREW-A-THON

- Learn Hebrew from scratch
- Improve your reading
- Learn a bit of grammar
- Add to your vocabulary
- Study a text in depth
- Speak *Ivrit* (modern Hebrew)

**£25 including lunch**

## 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 costs £4.



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.



## 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.

## YOUNG ADULTS

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

# 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  
 Samuel Cohen  
 Lyla Cumerlato  
 Dean Cumerlato  
 Samuel Grade  
 Henry Grant  
 Marianna Kondak  
 Jasmine Lang  
 Jonathan Levitt  
 Aubrey Licht  
 Alice Osband  
 Max Phillips  
 Grace Rogers  
 Hannah Sanderson  
 Jacob Simon  
 Noah Simon  
 Jacob Sinclair  
 Finlay Tyler  
 Plum Warner  
 Lauren Warsaw

**January birthdays:**

Thomas Benson  
 James Blumenthal  
 Samuel Cherniavsky  
 Glassman  
 Astrid Cohen  
 Kajsa Cohen

like to introduce to The LJS? Friday evening dinners for Young Adults are held once a month at The LJS. Contact Rabbi René Pfertzel at [r.pfertzel@ljs.org](mailto:r.pfertzel@ljs.org) for more details.

## ARTICLES BY PROGRESSIVES

The *Jewish News* has a page of commentaries and other opinion pieces by progressive rabbis and congregants. Please pick up a copy when you are next at the synagogue.

Sarah Covey  
Olivia Daals  
Oscar Davidson-Kelly  
Alexander De Kare-Silver  
Valentine Desmond  
Lauren Frischmann  
Mark Gelfer  
Florence Hoffman  
Georgina Isaacson  
Samuel Johnson  
Leon Kulikovs  
Micah Lazarus  
Alex Levy

Georgia Levy  
Layla Lewis  
Cyrus Marks  
Georgina Menasche-  
Standen  
Raphael Milne  
Bertie Morrison  
Amelia Osband  
Tabitha Penn  
James Rogers  
Sasha Rosenthal  
Ellis Simons  
Seve Solomons

# TINY TOTS at the LJS

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

Please bring them to the LJS on *Shabbat* mornings

**3rd and 10th December**

**7th, 14th, 21st, 28th January**

**4th February**

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

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

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

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

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## The Liberal Jewish Synagogue

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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

**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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**COMING FULL CIRCLE:** Volunteers help rewind a *Torah* scroll to the beginning, ready for the first reading from Genesis on *Simchat Torah*.

Photo: Alan Parmenter.

## Nosh 'n' Drosh: art, politics, culture

Don't miss Nosh 'n' Drosh – a chance to enjoy lunch after the *Shabbat* service (starting at around 13.00) in the company of an outstanding speaker.

Future meetings will include:

- **Shabbat 10th December:**  
Rabbi David Goldberg will interview **Lord Howard**, the former Conservative leader.

- **Shabbat 21st January:**  
**Jeremy Lewison**
- **Shabbat 11th February:**  
**Rabbi Harry Jacobi**  
Rembrandt and the Jews
- **Shabbat 11th March:**  
**Bryan Diamond**  
The life and activities of Claude Montefiore
- **Shabbat 13th May:**  
**Pam Fox**  
The Jews of Golders Green
- **Shabbat 10th June:**  
**Joan Salter**  
Vichy's Children

Thank you to all those who have sponsored a Nosh 'n' Drosh over the past two years. Nosh 'n' Drosh has proved to be one of our most successful innovations

If you would you like to sponsor a meeting, please ask Martin Slowe or Rabbi Alexandra Wright for details.

