



November
2017

Cheshvan-
Kislev
5778



A bit of a squash...

India Marone (left) and Acacia Steen-Recanati help put the finishing touches to the *Sukkah* decorations.

Inside this issue

Shabbat and festival services	p3
The Chairman reports	p4
Abraham and the art of bargaining	p5
Rewinding to Genesis I	p8-9
The Learning Circle: study for all tastes	p10-12
Don't miss the final kitchen fundraiser	p13



Would you like to be part of an LJS choir for a trip to Paris from 26-28 January?

LJS Music Director Cathy Heller-Jones and Rabbi Rachel Benjamin will be leading a singing ensemble on this weekend tour; all LJS members who like to sing are welcome to join (though anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult).

The singers will be guests of the progressive synagogues *Communauté Juive Libérale* and *Kehillat Gesher*. Our singing ensemble will lead the music at CJL on the Friday evening and join the choir at Kehilat Gesher on Saturday morning. Friday's service will be followed by a communal supper and a short concert by the LJS singers.

There will be a £50 charge, and all participants will need to make and pay for their own travel and accommodation arrangements. There is the possibility of some overnight hospitality in Paris for those wishing to stay with a host family. If booked early, Eurostar round trip tickets





Bumper crop of youth workers

At The LJS we spend a lot of time worrying about how to engage the younger generation in the synagogue and in the wider Jewish community.

As many parents will recognise, certain years are very connected and engaged – they start to create a great bond, probably initially at Kadimah (the two-week summer camp for 8-15 year olds, held at a boarding school somewhere in southern England) which grows through *Bar/Batmitzvah* year and then even more strongly through KT – and subsequent involvement as leaders in Liberal Judaism Youth activities.

The class of 2010 produced a bumper crop, and three LJS families can be very proud that their wonderful progeny, Hannah Stephenson, Ellie Lawson and Simon Lovick, are now workers for LJY. Hannah has been in the role since graduating last summer, and

she was joined by Ellie and Simon, who both graduated this year.

As workers for the official youth movement of Liberal Judaism they are shaping how the youth of Liberal Judaism organises, acts, and is represented in the Jewish community. They organise everything from weekend events to summer camps and Israel tours, which requires them to coach and mentor the youth leaders who are mostly aged 16-22.

Please join us in celebrating the success of our youth, and supporting their efforts within our community and the Jewish community at large. If you would like to find out more, or invite them to an event, you can contact them at:

s.lovick@liberaljudaism.org
e.lawson@liberaljudaism.org
h.stephenson@liberaljudaism.org

Karen Maxwell

Bereavements

We extend our sympathy to those who mourn:

Linda Baylin, wife of Dennis, mother of Samantha and Claire, and sister of Vivienne

Michael Garston OBE, father of Annabel and Jeremy and brother of Lionel Kopelowitz

Henry John Graham, uncle of Anthony Lee

Philip Leuw, husband of Frances, father of Susan and Peter

Wolfgang (Bill) Magnus, husband of Ursula and father-in-law of Bertie Leffman

Karen Slowe, wife of Peter, mother of Alistair and sister of Peter

הַמָּקוֹם יִנְחֵם אֶתְכֶם
 בְּתוֹךְ שָׂר הָאֲבֵלִים

*May God comfort you
 and all who mourn*

⇒ cost £80. The cost of accommodation will vary depending on your preference.

Rehearsals for the tour will take place on Sunday mornings from 10.00-12.30 on 5 November, 3 December, 14 and 21 January. Cathy and Rachel will be teaching music in a variety of styles to accommodate all levels of singing experience.

For further details, please email Cathy at c.heller-jones@ljs.org

Shabbat and festival services: November

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

DATE	RABBI/SPEAKER	NOTES
Friday 3 November	Rachel Benjamin	
Shabbat 4 November <i>Vayera</i>	Rachel Benjamin	Volunteers' <i>Shabbat</i> and lunch – a special service to celebrate and thank the many volunteers who support the in-reach work of The LJS
Thursday 9 November 19.00	Kristallnacht	A commemoration of the November Pogrom that took place on the night of 9 November 1938
Friday 10 November	Alexandra Wright Igor Zinkov	Service co-led by Brooke Curtis Shipman <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> Alternative, musical service in the John Rayner Room followed by a Young Adults <i>Chavurah</i> supper
Shabbat 11 November <i>Chayyei Sarah</i>	Alexandra Wright	Brooke Curtis Shipman <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> Remembrance Shabbat Nosh 'n' Drosh with Lucy Kaye
Friday 17 November	Alexandra Wright	Service co-led by Tom Ballheimer <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
Shabbat 18 November <i>Tol'dot</i>	Alexandra Wright	<i>Bar Mitzvah</i> Tom Ballheimer
Friday 24 November	Alexandra Wright	Service co-led by Adam and Josh Cang <i>B'nei Mitzvah</i>
Shabbat 25 November <i>Vayetze</i>	Alexandra Wright	<i>B'nei Mitzvah</i> Adam and Josh Cang
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	Rachel Benjamin	<i>Bar Mitzvah</i> Noah Simon Nosh 'n' Drosh with Professor Geraldine Van Bueren

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.

**TINY
TOTS at
The LJS**

Do you have little ones aged between 0 and 4?

Bring them to The LJS on *Shabbat*

4, 11, 18 and 25 November and 2 and 9 December
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*.

Celebrations and stained glass

October's Council meeting started in celebratory mood, toasting Frank Daly, one of our caretakers, for his 25-year service to The LJS. Council presented him with a bottle of champagne to thank him for his work with us.

Other good news received by Council, and which I am now pleased to share with you, is that Lysa Schwartz, our interim Executive Director, has become the synagogue's permanent Executive Director. Since she joined us in the spring, Lysa has proved to be efficient, knowledgeable and well-organised and we are very pleased that she has agreed to stay and build on the work she has begun.

At our October Council meeting, we discussed the proposal to create a stained glass window in the Rabbi John Rayner Room that will be visible from the main synagogue foyer. This will introduce warmth, light and colour into the room. We have a small working group who have met with the artist, Ruth Kersley Greisman (who created the windows in the Jewish Free School synagogue); she has been asked to produce some designs for our window, drawing inspiration from this quotation of Rabbi John Rayner:

'The movement from darkness to light can be seen as the whole purpose of God's activity, both in the lives of

Bringing light and colour into the John Rayner Room and the role of The LJS on the Board of Deputies - Chairman Sue Head reports on some of the topics covered at October's Council meeting



individuals, and in the life of humanity.'

You will be hearing more of this marvellous project later when we launch our *Chanukkah* appeal to fund the window.

The Council meeting was also an opportunity to be given an update on the work of our representatives on the Board of Deputies. As the voice of the British Jewish Community, this is a key organisation for all the UK Jewish community and the one which the government often approaches in seeking to understand Jewish community interests. The good news is that there is a strong voice for Progressive Judaism on the Board, through the work of our Deputies. This is strengthened by the Board of Deputies' Treasurer, Stuart MacDonald, a member of The LJS, who chairs the finance and organisation division. Our thanks go to our LJS Deputies, Karen Newman, Shelley Salter and Eric Blaire.

In October, Council also

discussed other key areas such as finance, membership, building and facilities and security. Clearly, managing our finances is a priority and ways to increase income and reduce expenditure were discussed. (If you have some ideas you think we should try, let us know!) We are having some success in working towards balancing the books, but an important part of this is attracting new members and retaining existing ones.

As you know, we are setting up a working party to look at the renovation of the downstairs area. Because these works will take some time to put in place, we have decided to do some short term improvements to the toilets, giving them a facelift to keep us going while we develop and implement the longer term plans. This work is starting now and you will soon be seeing the changes.

Sue Head

As we recall the terrible carnage of two world wars, **Rabbi Michael Hilton** reflects that he was born in the shadow of war, yet lives his life in the hope of peace

Failure to grasp the rhetoric

This year Armistice Day, 11 November, will fall on a Saturday, and synagogues will fall silent at 11am as we remember. I have a vivid memory of Remembrance *Shabbat* in 2000, because it was the *bar mitzvah* of my oldest son, Samuel. The service was held at the Friends Meeting House in Hampstead, and as we walked up the hill the ground underfoot was thick with yellow and brown fallen leaves. The wind blew, the rain fell and the bells tolled. It was a very happy day for us, but our emotions ran all the deeper at the thought of all the memories.

So often in life we find ourselves looking back and looking forward at the same time. For remembrance to be useful, it needs to reshape the future, to help us make sure the lessons of the past are heard and understood. In our increasingly troubled world, it so often feels that this is not happening. The rise of the far right in Germany and across Europe makes us shudder.

At this time of year we read the book of Genesis, and there in chapter 14 we find the first war mentioned in the Bible, the war of the four kings against the five. The first murder in the Bible is carefully documented, as was the taste of that forbidden fruit. But war does not have such a grand entry onto human history. There is no suggestion that the wars recorded in *Torah* were the first ones. The existence of war is somehow taken for granted, as if it were a fact of life. A few chapters later, we have the difficult story of the binding of Isaac on Mount Moriah. When I read that

story in the context of remembrance, it makes me think of all those parents who willingly through history have allowed and still allow their sons and daughters to go off to war, not knowing whether they will return. Many have come back, many have not. The faith and

courage of their parents is every bit as great as that of Abraham, tested by God in our story. God tests every soldier, every soldier's parents, children and loved ones.

But though the *Torah* assumes the existence of war, and places peace, as sadly we still do, far into the future, it does not glorify war. War is not for the faint hearted. In Deuteronomy 20 we find this:

The officers shall address the troops, saying, 'Has anyone built a new house but not dedicated it? He should go back to his house, or he might die in the battle and another dedicate it. Has anyone planted a vineyard but not yet enjoyed its fruit? He should go back to his house, or he might die in the battle and another be first to enjoy its fruit. Has anyone become engaged to a woman but not yet married her? He should go back to his house, or he might die in the battle and another marry her.' The officers shall continue to address the troops, saying, 'Is anyone afraid or disheartened? He should go back to his house, or he might cause the heart of his comrades to fail like his own.' When the officers have finished addressing the troops, then the commanders shall take charge of them.

Would there have been anyone left willing to fight after such a speech? We do not know how ancient societies looked after those who were



Photo: Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith

'The rise of the far right in Germany and across Europe makes us shudder...'

traumatised by war. I suspect it was not something they were able to do well.

In modern times, for so many the experience of returning from the front has not been a good one. I've been reading Max Hastings *All Hell Let Loose: The World at War 1939-45*. It is the story of the war told through the eyes of ordinary people. Some sections, such as the siege of Leningrad, are quite chilling. The numbers of people who died in the fighting, through the bombing, in the *Shoah* and through hardship and starvation were horrendous – somewhere between 50 and 70 million. For very many of them, there was no obituary, no burial place and their very names have been forgotten. For others, there is a grave and a marker, but none left to tell their story.

I was born in the shadow of war. My parents who had served in the forces wanted nothing more than to build a safe home in the suburbs for me and my sister. Nevertheless, the world in which I have lived has never fully escaped from the shadow of war. There is nothing in our world today to compare with that terrible conflict, and yet still we have not learned to live in a world at peace. When terrible events happen, we stop and ask ourselves, what is price of peace? Is the price too high? And yet negotiations are so important, for in the end the only alternative to talking is war.

Tough bargaining

After Abraham and Isaac returned from Mount Moriah, the next thing we hear about Sarah is that she died. The story is told in the section from the *Torah* which will be read on this year's Remembrance *Shabbat*. Negotiations are the thread which runs through the story. Abraham negotiated with Efron the Hittite to buy a cave to bury his wife. The bargaining which took place was not, as one might think at first reading, a piece of cultured politeness. Behind the cool politeness the parties are rather frosty to each other, and Efron is able to get an extortionate price from the stranger to his area. But at least Abraham and the natives could do business with each other. They were able to live side by side and shake hands in peace.

It is a startling realisation that the same kind of negotiations are the only way forward today. 'Tough bargaining' is not necessarily an obstacle

to peace: indeed it should mean that a settlement, if it comes, would be the more enduring. The problem with bargaining arises when people fail to realise what is real and what is feigned, what offers have substance, and when rhetoric is merely rhetoric. This we can learn from our story. Abraham had to learn that Efron didn't really mean it when he said he could have the land for nothing: Abraham was expected to offer some money: Abraham had to understand too, that he was expected to pay the mere 400 shekels – 'What is 400 shekels of silver between me and you?' – even though it was really a huge price.

Fake news

The trouble in the Middle East and the world's other trouble spots today is that so often each side fails to understand the other's rhetoric. It is not the hard bargaining which is the obstacle to peace but the lack of understanding of what lies behind the positions taken up. Sadly, in an era of 'fake news' and everyone having a different version of what has happened, such lack of understanding is all the greater.

Judaism gives us the uncomfortable and real truth, a tradition that only 'when the Messiah comes' will true peace be established on earth. Till that time, we have to negotiate our lives in a world with conflicts, and to use all our skill to try to minimise the effects. Long ago the Greek philosopher Plato wrote that only the dead have seen the end of war. But we can still hope. I was born in the shadow of war, but I live my life in the hope of peace.

Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton

■ *Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton was born in 1951, and some of his earliest memories are associated with The LJS, where his family were members. He is a rabbi of learning and experience who has just retired from Kol Chai Hatch End Jewish Community. He has served for 30 years at communities including the Menorah Synagogue Manchester and North London Progressive Synagogue as well as Kol Chai. He will be working part-time at The LJS over the next few months while we consider the recruitment of a permanent replacement for Rabbi Pfertzel. He will be both teaching and leading some services. We welcome him to The LJS.*

Who will benefit from our HHD appeal?

As usual, three charities will benefit from the LJS *Yom Kippur* appeal – one in Israel; one specifically Jewish charity in the UK; and a non-Jewish charity.

The projects we have chosen to support are, in many ways, vital if we are to live in a world which seeks peaceful co-existence and values the potential and contribution of all members of society.

❶ **British Shalom Salaam Trust** (BSST) is the only British Jewish grant-giving charity whose sole role is to work within Israel's 1967 borders (the 'green line') and in the occupied territories. BSST works closely with grassroots projects, focusing on groups

that challenge oppression, injustice and disadvantage and that are committed to a just resolution of the conflict in Israel/Palestine.

❷ **Jewish Volunteering Network** (JVN) was awarded the 2017 Queen's Award for Voluntary Service for the cutting edge work it does as a pathway into volunteering, both within and beyond the Jewish community. Volunteering is a signal of our social and individual health as a society and JVN provides opportunities for everyone, regardless of age, gender, ability or religion.

❸ **Swiss Cottage School** is a special school in the London Borough of Camden which

provides a learning environment for children and young people (aged from 2-19) with complex and profound cognitive and physical needs.

Although the school is maintained by the local authority, with all statutory costs covered, the learning needs of the students are such that they rely on additional funds raised by Swiss Cottage School Charity to supplement resources or projects that they cannot currently offer.

■ It's not too late to support the appeal: for details, please contact Lynne Misner, LJS Fundraising Manager on 020 7286 5181 or email lynne@ljs.org

LOCALGIVING GROW YOUR TENNER IS NOW LIVE

Support The LJS and help us unlock £4,000

Until Thursday 16 November

(or until the match funding runs out, whichever is sooner)

When you give £10 a month for 12 months by direct debit, Localgiving will match six donations which means your £120 grows to £210 (with Gift Aid)

If just 100 people like you support Grow Your Tenner, The LJS can raise £19,000

Please help us to make the most out of Grow Your Tenner by setting up a minimum of £10 monthly Direct Debit donation through Localgiving today: www.localgiving.org/ljs

Your regular donations of £10 a month will help us:

- ◆ ensure that our iconic building remains the jewel in the crown of Liberal Judaism by covering our day to day running costs and helping us ensure our future sustainability
- ◆ continue to keep the grounds of our cemetery and its prayer hall well looked after
- ◆ provide Jewish learning for all generations at Rimon and The Learning Circle
- ◆ replace worn out and damaged prayer books
- ◆ support the costs of a palantypist and BSL interpreter for our Crystal Clear services
- ◆ guarantee safe transport to and from services and activities for someone in need



at the **LJS**

Classes in Judaism and Hebrew
Sukkot term 5778/2017

Tuesday 11.15-12.30

Until 12 December

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 course by our visiting Rabbi, Dr Michael Hilton on 'Adventures in Jewish History', sessions on 'Maimonides and Jewish Rationalism', 'An Introduction in *Kabbalah*' and 'The Creativity of Ashkenazi Jewry'.

Tuesday 19.00-20.00

Until 12 December

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.

7 November	Jewish history overview
14 November	<i>Tanakh</i> and <i>Sefer Torah</i>
21 November	Rabbinic literature
28 November	Liturgy and prayer book
5 December	Israel – people and land
12 December	Exploring <i>Chanukkah</i> (and first night <i>Chanukkah</i> lighting)

'Belief and Unbelief' – taught by Dr Jonathan Gorsky

A student of Rabbi Nahman of Breslov, a major spiritual leader of early Hasidism, finally summoned up the courage to tell his teacher that he had difficulty believing in God. Rabbi Nahman put his arm around the trembling student and said to him: 'My son, it was for people like you that the world was created.'

The course is intended to provide an open and tolerant space to explore contemporary issues of belief and unbelief. We will look at the impact of history and culture on our understanding of belief and critically engage with various approaches to the secularisation of British society.

Belief is usually embedded in tradition, but Jewish tradition has been under question since Spinoza – the first modern Jew – challenged its basic assumptions. Jewish tradition in the West has been under different forms of critical assault ever since, from the Enlightenment to feminist critique of its core texts. We will try to find our bearings and look at some contemporary Jewish responses.

Finally, we will introduce some current approaches to the relationship of science and religious belief, including the New Atheists and current controversies in the philosophy of science. We will also look at some approaches from the Christian world and see if they are helpful for modern Judaism.

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.



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.

Torah study and Jewish thought

In the autumn term we will be looking at the weekly *Torah* portion, followed by a short session on the thought of the late Rabbi John Rayner. 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.

Jewish-Muslim Relations

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.

LJS COMEDY NIGHT

BANTER & BAGELS 2

Sunday 26 November at 19.00

at The Liberal Jewish Synagogue

Final fundraiser to equip our new kitchen



Headline Act: Hal Cruttenden

Star of Live at the Apollo, the Royal Variety Performance and Have I Got News For You.

Hal is one of the top comedians working in the UK today, as well as being a highly accomplished writer and actor.

Compère: Philip Simon

Jewish Comedian of the Year 2015. Last Minute Comedy Comedian of the Year 2015.

Semi-Finalist in the Amused Moose Laugh Off 2016 and 2017.

Joe Bor

Winner Best Value Show at
Leicester Comedy Festival 2010.

Joe is an observational character comedian,
actor and writer, performing at top comedy
clubs around the country.

Zoe Lyons

As seen on Mock the Week,
Live at the Apollo,
Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow.

*Acts subject to change

Supper from 19.00

Comedy acts on stage from 20.00

Tickets: £30 and £25 for 16–21s (bagel buffet and drinks included)

Content of the show is not suitable for under-16s

Raffle £5 for 5 tickets, £10 for 15 tickets

You can buy tickets with a credit card from

<http://banterandbagels2.eventbrite.co.uk>

or by cheque from Sue Bolsom, suebolsom@gmail.com

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.



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 coffee ice-cream. Donation of £2.

22 November:

Coppelia

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

Video and Tea resumes in 2018 with the first meetings on 24 January, 28 February and 28 March.



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.



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



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



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



LOCAL WALKING GROUP

There has been an expression of interest in a local walking group for members and friends of The LJS.

No need to be super-fit. We will begin in Regents Park.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Rabbi Alexandra Wright – a.wright@ljs.org – or let her know after a service or any other event.

(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.



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

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

Kaila Brooks
Samuel Cooper
Lily Crane-Newman
Marina Dagtoglou
Henry Davis
Floriana Davis
Sophia Goodman
Sidney Gruber
Amy Kay
Helena Kondak
Becky Lawson
Katherine Leventhal

Matilda Leventhal
Eden Licht
Alessa Lindbland Hill
Jack Malawer
Noah Morgan
Daniel Nielsen
Natalie Ohana-Cole
Tigist Silbiger
Leora Sternberg
Eric Watts
Seth Williams
Nina Williams
Abe Wolchover
Yahel Yaroshevski



Card contest winners

Karen Buck, our local MP, visited The LJS in October to present prizes to the winners of the *Rosh Hashanah* Card Competition. The winner was Layla Lewis, and the runners up were Astrid Cohen, Brooke Behr and Ella Jackson-Drexler. Our photo (above) shows Karen Buck with Layla, Brooke and Ella.

The Liberal Jewish Synagogue

Tel 020 7286 5181
Fax 020 7266 3591
Linked to Typetalk
E-mail ljs@ljs.org
Website www.ljs.org

The Liberal Jewish Synagogue is a company limited by guarantee (Company No 91 13305) and a registered charity in England and Wales (Charity No 1159292). Registered office: 28 St John's Wood Road London NW8 7HA

Senior Rabbi
Alexandra Wright

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:
In office hours, ring 020 7432 1298
At other times, ring 020 8958 2112 (Calo's)

LJS News Team

Editor
Peter Singer

Artwork
Davies Communications
Tel 020 7586 0850

Printing
Russell Press Ltd
Russell House, Bulwell Lane,
Basford, Nottingham NG6 0BT
Tel 0115 9784505

Copy dates: The next LJS News will be for December 2017. Final copy date: 7 November 2017. Copy should be sent by email to info@daviescomms.com or to the Editors at The LJS.

© The Liberal Jewish Synagogue 2017

An example of Jewish-Arab coexistence

Dr Nava Sonnenschein *[right]*, Director of the School for Peace at the Arab-Jewish village of *Wahat al-Salaam - Neve Shalom*, halfway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, spoke to LJS members at the October Nosh 'n' Drosh about the lives of the Jewish and Palestinian families who live there.

She explained the role of the community in training groups of professionals such as journalists and politicians to act as agents for change.

Future Nosh 'n' Drosh sessions planned include:

Shabbat 11 November:

Lucy Kaye:

Lucy will show her award-



winning film 'Memory Songs' which focuses on the participants of Singing for the Mind at The LJS, and then answer questions.

Shabbat 9 December:

Professor 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 February:

Dr Anne Summers is a former Wellcome Trust Research Fellow and Curator of Modern Historical Manuscripts at the British Library. She has just completed 'Living with Difference: Christian and Jewish Women in Britain, 1880-1940'.

School uniform appeal a great success

Thanks to everyone who supported the LJS Drop-in for asylum seeker families appeal for school uniforms.

Many of our members made generous donations; and others kindly bought new items for the children or provided very good second-hand uniforms.

This support is vital since our guests are not allowed to work: they have to live on asylum support of less than £36 a week. Many of them would

otherwise not be able to afford to buy school uniforms for their children.

The appeal was a great success and we provided more than 60 children with uniform so that most of them could start the school year with at least one shirt, a pair of trousers or skirt, one jumper and, in many cases, new tights, socks and gym bags. We even managed to meet some very specific and challenging requests.

We will aim to start the drive earlier next year so that we are less rushed, but we now know roughly the sizes and ages of all the school-age children. Your support for this effort is hugely appreciated; it means a lot to our guests.

Drop-in Clothing Team

■ **The next Drop-ins for asylum seeker families will be from 14.00-16.00 on Sunday 12 November and 10 December. Volunteers are needed from 12.00 to help prepare for our guests.**

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.

The LJS is a constituent synagogue of Liberal Judaism

liberal judaism

