

October  
2017

Tishri-  
Cheshvan  
5778



## Community activities will be boosted by updated kitchen

The redesigned and newly equipped kitchen at The LJS has formally opened and is now in full use, providing improved facilities for the many synagogue activities that rely on serving food and drinks – and a more desirable venue for outside users.

Previously the limited facilities and congested layout were unappealing to visiting caterers, and many groups decided to serve cold food. After the £100,000 upgrade, the kitchen has a 27% greater floor area and all the latest equipment for storing, preparing, heating and serving food (and washing up in as little as 60 seconds afterwards).

Half the cost of the upgrade has been raised by the congregation.

'The hard work of the fundraising committee has been rewarded by the enthusiasm, support and overwhelming generosity of our community,' said Gaby Lazarus, chair of the LJS fundraising committee.

'This has culminated in a staggering £50,000 raised towards the cost of building a truly professional kitchen. The hub of our community will now enable us to support even more fully our celebrations and festivals, as well as concerts, cultural and regular outreach events for the wider local community.'

■ **Banter and Bagels 2, the final fundraiser to help equip the kitchen, takes place on 26 November – see full details on page 9.**



# Visit from Senior Rabbi of LJ

Our guest preacher on *Shabbat* 21 October will be Rabbi Danny Rich.

Danny has been the Senior Rabbi and Chief Executive of Liberal Judaism since the middle of 2005 and was rabbi to Kingston Liberal Synagogue for nearly two decades. Rabbi Rich is President of the Council of Christians and Jews, co-chair of the National Refugees Welcome Board and a member of the Council of Imams and Rabbis. He is also a Justice of the Peace, and a hospital and prison chaplain.

His publications include *Liberal Judaism and mixed marriage* [2004]; *Zionism: the case for fair-mindedness on all sides* [2010]; *Muslim perceptions of 'The Other'* [2011]; *Israel Mattuck: the inspirational voice of Liberal Judaism* [2014]; and *Responding to the call: a life of Liberal Jewish commitment* [ed] [2015].

He has given both oral and written evidence to the Falconer Commission on



**Rabbi Danny Rich (left), Senior Rabbi and Chief Executive of Liberal Judaism and a campaigner for Syrian refugees**

Assisted Dying and the parliamentary Public Bill Committee on the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill.

He also campaigns for the

admission of Syrian refugees into the UK, for the Living Wage and Caring for Carers.

Most importantly, Danny is the father of four children.

## Bereavements

We extend our sympathy to those who mourn:

**Ruth Wainwright**, wife of Sam and mother of Sally, David, Colin and Mark

**Hanna Wine**, sister of Gail

המקום ינחם אתכם  
בתוך שאר האבלים

*May God comfort you  
and all who mourn*

## Keep calm and learn Hebrew

Following the successful KCALH Day in February, we are delighted to present a second opportunity to learn from scratch or brush up your Hebrew with expert teachers:

**10.00-16.30 on Sunday 19 November**

- ◆ 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)
- ◆ Sing the songs of our people

**All ability levels welcome. Plenty of coffee/tea breaks and lunch.**

**Cost: £25 for the day including lunch (please ask about concessionary rates).**

# Shabbat and festival services: October

DATE	RABBI/SPEAKER	NOTES
Friday 29 September <i>Kol Nidre</i> <b>19.15</b>	David J. Goldberg	<b>Please see your ticket and the High Holy Day information booklet for details of services in the Sanctuary and services and activities for children and families</b>
<i>Shabbat</i> 30 September <i>Yom Kippur</i> <b>10.30</b>	Rachel Benjamin [am] Alexandra Wright [pm]	
Tuesday 3 October <b>14.00-20.00</b>		Please come at any time from 14.00-20.00 and help to decorate the <i>Sukkah</i>
Wednesday 4 October <i>Erev Sukkot</i> <b>18.45</b>	Alexandra Wright	<b>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.</b>
Thursday 5 October <i>Sukkot</i> <b>11.00</b>	Rachel Benjamin	
Friday 6 October <b>18.45</b> <i>Erev Chol Ha-Mo'ed Sukkot</i>	Rachel Benjamin	
<i>Shabbat</i> 7 October <i>Chol Ha-Mo'ed Sukkot</i> <b>11.00</b>	Alexandra Wright	Launch of new Intergenerational Service
Wednesday 11 October <i>Erev Simchat Torah</i> <b>18.45</b>	Rachel Benjamin	<i>Kallat Torah</i> : Naomi Brightwell <i>Kallat Bereshit</i> : Susannah Alexander
Thursday 12 October <i>Simchat Torah</i> <b>11.00</b>	Alexandra Wright	
Friday 13 October <b>18.45</b>	Igor Zinkov	Please join us to welcome our student rabbi Young Adults Chavurah Supper
<i>Shabbat</i> 14 October <i>Bereshit</i> <b>11.00</b>	Igor Zinkov	Please join us to welcome Igor Zinkov for his first <i>Shabbat</i> morning service
Friday 20 October <b>18.45</b>	Alexandra Wright	
<i>Shabbat</i> 21 October <i>Noach</i> <b>11.00</b>	Danny Rich	Rabbi Danny Rich is Chief Executive and Senior Rabbi of Liberal Judaism
Friday 27 October <b>19.00</b>	Mark Solomon	The Jewish Lesbian and Gay Group will be holding their service in the Sanctuary this evening. Please note slightly later start time
<i>Shabbat</i> 28 October <i>Lech L'cha</i> <b>11.00</b>	Bernie Bulkin	A special service to say thank you to Bernie for eight years of leading 'Teaching from Texts' on <i>Shabbat</i> mornings at The LJS
Friday 3 November <b>18.45</b>	Rachel Benjamin	
<i>Shabbat</i> 4 November <i>Vayera</i> <b>11.00</b>	Rachel Benjamin	Volunteers' <i>Shabbat</i> and lunch – a special service to celebrate and thank the many volunteers who support the work of The LJS

# Implementing next year's Vision

## *LJS Chairman Sue Head reports on moves to ensure the future of The LJS (and to suppress the Montefiore Hall's intrusive echo)*

In our first meeting after the summer break, members of Council focused on two important topics: planning for 2018 and issues relating to the synagogue building.

You may recall that last February the LJS Council participated in an 'awayday' in which we began the process of planning for the future of the synagogue. During the day together, we discussed the LJS Vision of being 'an inclusive and egalitarian community which... strives to build a just and compassionate world'. We considered how we could fulfil such an aspiration. Since then, a small group of Council members has been working on some planning and in September's Council meeting we looked specifically at what we would like to achieve next year, in 2018.

Of course, this work has involved more than just the Council. Over the summer months, Lysa Schwartz, our interim Executive Director, has also been meeting with the rabbis, other staff, key volunteers and chairs of committees.

Following a great deal of discussion, we agreed to focus on four main themes:

**Religion:** providing opportunities to worship and to celebrate our faith;



**'We looked specifically at what we would like to achieve next year, in 2018.'**

**- Sue Head**

**Learning:** our educational programmes which encourage and support life-long learning;

**Community:** activities, resources and services which support and enhance not only our membership, but also the wider community;

**Sustainability:** the governance, finance and processes to ensure The LJS endures for the future, while also enabling us to realise our Vision.

In our September Council meeting, we discussed what it is we should be working towards under each of these headings in 2018 and what should be part of a longer plan.

This is very much the beginning of the process and the next step is for the staff and key volunteers to do some more detailed work and budgeting. We will receive updates over the next couple of months and the plan for 2018 will be in place by the end of the year, when we will be able to give you further details.

Council's other main topic of discussion in September was the synagogue building. The Building and Facilities Committee had met at the beginning of the month and three recommendations came to Council for consideration. Those of you who have stood in the Montefiore Hall and heard the sound reverberation, will be pleased to learn that one of the proposals relates to eradicating this noise. Council agreed to the recommendation of the architects that the solution is in using acoustic tiles on the ceiling. These will not cover the whole ceiling, but will be placed in a particular arrangement and is a cost-effective solution to the problem.

The second decision was to set up a small working party to look at the renovation of the downstairs area as a whole and which will also include improvement of the toilets. Finally, we agreed to provide our security guard with a small hut in which he can shelter in the winter. You will see this in place in the next few weeks.

*Sue Head*

*Judaism is a religion of great expectation and hope, says Rabbi Alexandra Wright. And the festival of Sukkot, the great celebration of God's blessings of the earth, renews our hope and faith*



## Myrtle, mortality and messianism

There are four species of plants that are bound together and waved during the festival of *Sukkot*: the *lulav* – a date palm, willows of the brook, myrtle branches and the *etrog* – a citrus fruit of wonderfully sweet fragrance. The myrtle too, an evergreen with small eye-shaped leaves, has a gently-scented fragrance. Sometimes its leaves were woven into wedding rings or sprigs were given to bridegrooms as they entered the bridal chamber – the mystics thought myrtle was the scent of Eden. Sephardi tradition, on the other hand, added myrtle leaves to the water as they performed the ritual of *taharah* – cleansing of the dead before burial.

While the *Torah* specifies the *lulav* and willow branches to be taken as part of the ritual of *Sukkot*, the other two species can only be guessed at: 'boughs of thick-leaved trees' and 'the fruit of the *hadar* tree'. Later interpreters filled the gaps and provided a meaningful symbolism for a people who had lost their connection to the land. The *lulav* resembles the backbone of a human being, the myrtle the eye, willow the mouth and the *etrog* the heart. Binding them all together brought meaning to the Psalm verse: All my bones shall say, 'Eternal One, who is like You...' [Psalm 35:10].

The Four Species were compared, as well, to the Jewish people: just as the *lulav* has taste but no fragrance, so there are people who possess learning but no good deeds; and just as the willow has neither taste nor fragrance, so there are individuals who have neither learning nor

good deeds. The myrtle has fragrance but no taste, symbolising those who have good deeds but possess no learning; while the *etrog* has both taste and fragrance, symbolising people who possess both learning and good deeds. 'What then does the Holy One do to them? To destroy them is impossible. But, says the Holy One, let them all be tied together in one band and they will atone for one another' [Leviticus Rabbah 30:12].

•The myrtle has a gently-scented fragrance. Sometimes its leaves were woven into wedding rings or sprigs were given to bridegrooms as they entered the bridal chamber... the mystics thought myrtle was the scent of Eden•

Myrtle grows profusely from rocks and dry, thin soil in mountains and hills and on the banks of rivers or coastal areas of the Mediterranean. Deutero-Isaiah uses the image of myrtle as a symbol of water and nourishment, not only in the literal sense, but as a metaphor for God's wisdom, goodness and peace for the 'poor and needy' who seek water where there is none:

*'I the Eternal One will respond to them.*

*I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them...*

*Acacias and myrtles and oleasters...*

*I will set cypresses in the desert...*



‘The etrog has both taste and fragrance, symbolising people who possess both learning and good deeds’



Photo: fotolirika - Fotolia

*That all may see and know,  
Consider and comprehend  
That the Eternal One's hand has done this,  
That the Holy One of Israel has wrought it'*

– Isaiah 41:17,19-20

The prophet Zechariah, with his strong orientation towards the future, describes an enigmatic dream that he has of a man riding on a bay horse, 'standing among the myrtles in the

Deep.' Behind the man are horses of different colours, all having roamed the earth and 'found all the earth dwelling in tranquillity.' Some see this verse referring to a time of stagnation, before the restoration of Judah and Jerusalem, the calm before the storm of apocalyptic turmoil that will usher in a glorious, redemptive future. Others see this period of peace as the cessation of oppression and warfare, when Israel is left in peace by imperial forces and her neighbours.



# LJS Israel tour

**3-10 June 2018**

Visiting Haifa, Akko, going right up north to Banias and the Golan Heights, including the archaeological site of Beit Shean, the ancient synagogue of Beit Alpha, four nights and *Shabbat* in Jerusalem, and a day in Hebron.

Accompanied by Rabbi Alexandra Wright.

**Now booking**

Please contact  
**[SueBolsom@gmail.com](mailto:SueBolsom@gmail.com)**

## Leave a legacy

Congregants appreciate the warm welcome they receive at The LJS and the contribution made by our many volunteers. There is an opportunity to support the synagogue by including The LJS in your will. Your legacy would help ensure the continuation and support of Jews and Judaism within our community. To find out more, contact the Rabbis or the Executive Director.

*Hadassah* (the Hebrew word for myrtle) is the Hebrew name of Queen Esther who saves the Jewish people from the genocidal decree issued by her husband Achashverosh at the instigation of Haman. Esther, too, in some ways is a symbolic figure, a rescuer, bringing her people back from the brink of murder and mortality. Like the image of the horseman, standing 'between the myrtles' in the Deep, she, too, is a symbol of a messianic future – political and spiritual, wanting to see the end of all warfare and conflict, of all political posturing that threatens destruction.

Each one of the four species, used during the festival of *Sukkot*, is a symbol of water. On *Sukkot*, judgment was passed in respect of rain – would the rains come or not? Prayers for rain were inaugurated at this season, rituals that would encourage rain to fall were observed, water was poured out to encourage God to open the heavens at last following a dry and hot summer. The ceremony of *Simchat Beit Sho'evah* – the celebration of water-drawing – was considered the most joyous moment of the year, in

fulfilment of the verse *U'sh'avtem mayim b'sasson* – 'You shall draw water with joy' (Isaiah 12:3).

These four plants require water to survive and water, of course, is also a symbol of *Torah* and of life. Without food and water, we can survive a limited period of time, but without our hope for life, for a future of tranquillity and peace, of justice and righteousness, our spirit is quenched, hope perishes. Judaism is a religion of great expectation and hope and the festival of *Sukkot*, the great celebration of God's blessings of the earth, renews our hope and faith in the goodness of human beings who care enough for the world and its inhabitants to work for the renewal of God's creation and so bring the words of Isaiah to pass:

*'Instead of the briar, a cypress shall rise;*

*Instead of the nettle, a myrtle shall rise.*

*These shall stand as a testimony to the Eternal One,*

*As an everlasting sign that shall not perish'*

– Isaiah 55:13

*Alexandra Wright*

## LOCALGIVING – GROW YOUR TENNER

### Support The LJS and help us unlock free money

**SAVE THE DATE:** Tuesday 17 October until 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 members like you support Grow Your Tenner, The LJS can raise £21,000**

Donations can be made at [www.localgiving.org/ljs](http://www.localgiving.org/ljs)  
from 10.00 on Tuesday 17 October to Thursday 16 November

More details will follow shortly by email. More information can be found at  
<https://localgiving.org/what-we-do/campaigns/grow-your-tenner>  
or please call Lynne Misner, Fundraising Manager at 020 7432 1295 or email [lynne@ljs.org](mailto:lynne@ljs.org)



Localgiving

**Turn your tenner into twenty!**

Donate £10 to a local charity and we'll double it!

Launches at 10am on 17.10.2017  
[www.growyourtenner.org](http://www.growyourtenner.org)

#GrowYourTanner

# HUMANITY'S



15 October 2017  
7pm

Piano Concerto No.5  
*The Emperor*

Reich

Different  
Trains

Beethoven

Pärt

JOURNEY

Fratres

**Concert by I Musicanti**  
Martin Roscoe, piano  
Leon Bosch, artistic director

A fund-raising concert in aid of  
Salisbury World and The LJS  
Drop-in for Asylum Seeker Families

Tickets start at £18, Concessions at £10  
The Liberal Jewish Synagogue

Book your tickets at  
[www.humanitys-journey.com](http://www.humanitys-journey.com)  
[info@humanitys-journey.com](mailto:info@humanitys-journey.com)  
T 079 4821 4379



Join us for an afternoon of celebration and reflection  
marking the 50th anniversary of the partial legalisation  
of male homosexuality in England and Wales.

Service of Celebration  
Sunday 29 October at 15.00

at The Liberal Jewish Synagogue

Guest Speaker: Robert Rinder

RSVP for catering purposes to [admin@rjuk.org](mailto:admin@rjuk.org)  
Donation: £5 on the door





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)

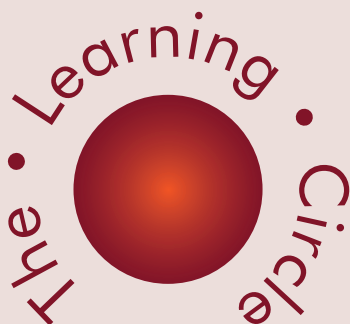
Content of the show is not suitable for under-16s

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](mailto:suebolsom@gmail.com)



at the **LJS**

**Classes in Judaism and Hebrew**  
**Sukkot term 5778/2017**

**Tuesday 11.15-12.30**

**Until 12 December**

### **Tuesday Texts**

**Half-term: 24 October**

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**

**Half-term: 24 October**

#### **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.

3 October	Exploring <i>Sukkot</i>
10 October	Exploring <i>Sukkot</i> and <i>Simchat Torah</i>
17 October	What is Judaism? Jewish values and beliefs overview
24 October	Half-term
31 October	The Jewish calendar and <i>Rosh Chodesh</i>
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.

**Torah study and Jewish thought****Half-term: 21 and 28 October**

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](mailto:romain@netgates.co.uk) or Harriett Goldenberg at [hgolnbergt@btinternet.com](mailto:hgoldenbergt@btinternet.com)

**Learning from Texts with Bernie Bulkin****Half-term: 21 and 28 October**

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.

**Beginners' Hebrew with Naomi Brightwell****Half-term: 21 and 28 October**

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.

# 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration

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

## 5 lectures in 5 synagogues

Speaker: Yaacov Yadgar, Stanley Lewis Chair of Israel Studies  
at Oxford University, formerly at Bar Ilan University

**19.30 on Thursday 2 November**

**at the New London Synagogue, Abbey Road, London NW8**



### 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](http://www.spiroark.org/classes) or phone 020 7289 6321.

**PURIM TERM: Tuesdays 20.00-21.15**

**20/27 February and 6/13 March**

### 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. We will look at the influence of Wahabism (an extreme Saudi Arabian Islamic ideology) on the Muslim world and by contrast we will introduce Liberal Islam, which has considerable common ground with modern Judaism. We will also discuss current positive and hopeful developments in what can be a very fraught relationship between the two communities.

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



## 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.

### 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.



## 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.

## 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](mailto:sfm@ljs.org) or phone 020 7286 5181. For further information pick up a leaflet or visit the LJS website.



## 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 at The LJS. For more details contact [a.wright@ljs.org](mailto:a.wright@ljs.org)



## COMMUNITY CARE

Aviva Shafritz, our Community Care Co-ordinator, is ready to help with difficulties experienced, not only by our older members, such as illness and provision of care, but also

across the spectrum of life. You can contact her at 020 7286 5181 or [a.shafritz@ljs.org](mailto:a.shafritz@ljs.org)



## BRIDGE CLUB



The Bridge Club meets from 14.00 to 17.00 every Monday at The LJS. Anyone with any

knowledge of the game is most welcome. This is a social afternoon rather than a competitive one. There is a friendly atmosphere and helpful suggestions. The cost [including tea or coffee] is £2. New members are welcome: for more details leave a message for Neil Levitt or William Falk at 020 7286 5181.



## 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](mailto:cinde.lee@gmail.com)

## PAINT FOR PLEASURE

Both experienced artists and beginners are welcome to join this friendly, informal group to paint together and work through until after lunchtime. Bring pastels, water colours, acrylic, oil or other materials. The group meets at 11.00 every Monday [except on Jewish festivals and Bank Holidays]. For more details, email Jocelyne Tobin at [jocelynetobin@talktalk.net](mailto:jocelynetobin@talktalk.net) or call her on 07717 473918.



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

Raphael Abib  
Eva Abolina-Loguiko  
Freddie Albert  
Edward Boizard  
Gideon De Winter  
Harry Delew  
Katie Delew  
Katherine Falk  
Ruth Forster  
Rupert Halford-Harrison  
Nysa Harrowell Daniels  
Lola Hunter Pollak  
Benjamin Hyman

Michael Josefs  
Lukas Klein Wassink  
Freya Lefebvre Sell  
Toby Levitt  
James Milne  
Jacob Pleass  
Rachel Posner  
Helen Roth  
Zoe Rushbrook  
Geronimo Salem  
Anna Scheer  
Anna Shell  
Michael Sokel  
Eve Spearman-Walters  
Olivia Teacher

## TINY TOTS at the LJS

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

**Tiny Tots has been re-launched and  
will be meeting on**

**Shabbat 7 and 14 October,  
4, 11, 18 and 25 November**

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](mailto:education@ljs.org)  
to be added to the Tiny Tots mailing list.

## Volunteer security training

Learn the essentials of security by taking a six-hour course with  
the experts at the Community Security Trust. You can find out  
more at <http://tinyurl.com/y8espxbp>

## The Liberal Jewish Synagogue

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Alexandra Wright

**Rabbi Emeritus**  
David J Goldberg OBE

**Rabbis**  
Rachel Benjamin  
Dr Michael Hilton

**Student Rabbi**  
Igor Zinkov

**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  
(Cala's)

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

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# Singing for Mind film wins new award

In 2016 Lucy Kaye made 'Memory Songs', a film about the participants attending Singing for the Mind at The LJS. This non-denominational project for people with early onset dementia began six years ago with Judith Silver as the singing leader.

We were very excited that Lucy's film won the Pears Short Film award at the 2016 Jewish Film Festival; and delighted when she was then awarded the Grand Jury Hearts, Mind and Soul Award, celebrating films that reflect the Jewish experience, at the 2017 Rhode Island International Film Festival.

We would like to congratulate her on this



prestigious award and are delighted that she will be showing it at Nosh 'n' Drosh at The LJS on Saturday 11 November.

If you would like to attend, please contact Michelle Rosenberg ([office@ljs.org](mailto:office@ljs.org)) so that we know how many people to cater for.

Jenny Nathan

## More Nosh 'n' Drosh dates

### Shabbat 9 December:

**Professor Geraldine van Bueren:**

'A Special Relationship: Jews and Human Rights'.

### Shabbat 13 January:

**Rabbi Professor Marc Saperstein**

will speak about the war sermons of Rabbi Israel Mattuck

## Please support our asylum seeker families

The next LJS Drop-ins for asylum seeker families will be from 14.00-16.00 on Sunday 8 October, 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](mailto: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 will you to buy one

extra item 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.



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