



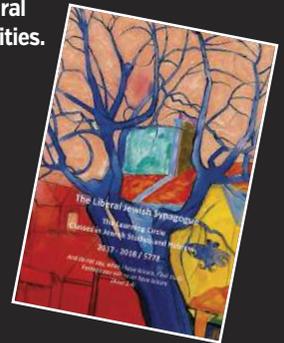
The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Ian Adams, cuts the birthday cake to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the LJS Out and About Club. Report and more pictures on pages 8-9

September 2017

Ellul 5777 – Tishri 5778

## The gateway to lifelong learning

Full details of the LJS education programme are included in the latest Learning Circle brochure. It covers a wide variety of courses in Hebrew, Judaism and related cultural activities.



A selection appears on pages 10-12 – and the full brochure is at <http://tinyurl.com/yaaqlhdu>

## Come and welcome Igor in October

Student Rabbi Igor Zinkov (*right*) will be working as a rabbinic intern at The LJS from October 2017-June 2018.

Igor is a fourth year rabbinic student at Leo Baeck College in London. Originally from Chelyabinsk, Russia, he achieved a degree in engineering and worked in business before beginning his journey to the rabbinate with studies in Moscow and Jerusalem. Igor has extensive experience in youth work in Russia,



Belarus and Ukraine. Last year, he worked as a rabbinic intern at Westminster Synagogue.

He is joining The LJS for his fourth year placement and will be leading *Erev Shabbat* and *Shabbat* morning services, sharing the teaching of Exploring Judaism, and co-ordinating

the Young Adults Group. Igor's first services are on Friday 13 and *Shabbat* 14 October. Please join the congregation in offering him a warm welcome!



# Shabbat and festival services: September-October

DATE	RABBI/SPEAKER	NOTES
Friday 1 September	Alexandra Wright	
<i>Shabbat 2 September Ki Tetze</i>	Alexandra Wright	Sasha Sebag-Montefiore <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
<i>Shabbat 2 September Minchah service</i> <b>16.00</b>	Alexandra Wright	Leila Goldstone <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>
Friday 8 September	Rachel Benjamin	
<i>Shabbat 9 September Ki Tavo</i>	Rachel Benjamin	Rimon starts at 9.40 Nosh 'n' Drosh with Anthony Steen at 13.15
Friday 15 September	Rachel Benjamin	
<i>Shabbat 16 September Nitzavim-Vayelech</i>	Alexandra Wright	
Saturday 16 September <b>19.45</b>	<i>Selichot</i> service	The service will be preceded by a recital by Alan Parmenter on the violin
Sunday 17 September <b>12.00</b>	Alexandra Wright	Pre-High Holy Day Memorial Service at the Liberal Jewish Cemetery, Willesden
Wednesday 20 September <i>Erev Rosh Hashanah</i> <b>18.45</b>	Rachel Benjamin	<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>
Thursday 21 September <i>Rosh Hashanah</i> <b>10.30</b>	Alexandra Wright	
Friday 22 September <i>Erev Shabbat Shuvah</i>	Alexandra Wright	

## Bereavements

We extend our sympathy to those who mourn:

**Dr Leslie Vernon Ross**, husband of Brenda, father of Mark and brother of Edmund.

**Ian Joseph**, father of Charles Joseph

**Myrna Robinson**, mother of Alan Karno and Martyn Secunda

המקום ינחם אתכם  
בתוך שאר האבלים

*May God comfort you  
and all who mourn*

## The stone setting

for Delia Marmor (z'l) will take place at 13.00 on Sunday 24 September at the Liberal Jewish Cemetery, Pound Lane, London NW10. Delia's children, Susan and Paul, would be pleased to see members of The LJS who remember and worked with Delia.

## Thank you

to Joany Weinberg and Edi Fuchs for their donation to the flower fund in loving memory of their parents, Carl and Margot Weinberg.



**Rabbi Aaron Goldstein** (above), our guest preacher on 23 September, is Senior Rabbi at Northwood and Pinner Synagogue. He is active on refugee and asylum issues and is the new Chair of the Rabbinic Conference.

DATE	RABBI/SPEAKER	NOTES
<i>Shabbat</i> 23 September <i>Ha'azinu/Shuvah</i>	Preacher: Aaron Goldstein	Senior Rabbi at Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue
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 any time from <b>14.00-20.00</b>	Please come and help to decorate the <i>Sukkah</i>	
Wednesday 4 October <i>Erev Sukkot</i> <b>18.45</b>	Alexandra Wright	
Thursday 5 October <i>Sukkot</i> <b>11.00</b>	Alexandra Wright	
Friday 6 October <i>Erev Chol Ha-Mo'ed Sukkot</i>	Rachel Benjamin	
<i>Shabbat</i> 7 October <i>Chol Ha-Mo'ed Sukkot</i>	Rachel Benjamin	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	

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

## Security for the High Holy Days

In the light of recent events, we are on a heightened security alert. Our volunteer security team and our security professionals do a fantastic job in difficult circumstances. They are well trained and deserve our trust.

During the High Holy Days you will notice some new measures designed to improve safety.

Please remember:

- Bring your High Holy Day tickets and photo ID. You cannot attend services without them and the name on the ticket must match the ID.

- Expect to have your bag checked. Nothing larger than a handbag will be allowed into the synagogue.
- There must be no parking, standing or chatting on the forecourt at any time. Anyone waiting there will be asked to move immediately.
- Please be patient and follow any instructions you are given.

If you need help or have any questions please contact the office [[hhd@ljs.org](mailto:hhd@ljs.org) or 020 7286 5181]. Thank you for helping keep everyone safe.

# Caring for traditions (and members' data)

*LJS Chairman Sue Head considers the project to catalogue the writings of Rabbi John Rayner – and the need to ensure the security of the information we hold about members*

I am writing this in August, both looking ahead to the September edition of the newsletter and back to our July Council meeting.

In July we welcomed the new Council members – Sylvia Churba, David Davidson, Chris Godbold and Alex Weiss – to their first meeting following the AGM. We have a very nice tradition which was started by Michael Hart, our previous Chairman, of welcoming the new Council with a prayer in front of the open ark in the sanctuary. By starting in this way, we remind ourselves of our underlying beliefs as progressive Jews and of our desire to build towards a better future.

At the July meeting, we were given a briefing on a particularly important element of our responsibilities. This is Data Protection and how we, as a community of members, should ensure compliance under the Data Protection Act. This is undoubtedly a key area for The LJS, guaranteeing that care is taken with people's personal data. The information we received will be disseminated to members of staff and chairs of committees

and formulated into a policy setting out our practice. Clearly, this is a crucial subject for us to get right and we are grateful to Jacob Head for giving us the facts we need.

Council also received a report from Rabbi Pfertzel on the progress of the John Rayner Project. The purpose of this project is to create an online annotated bibliography of the writings, sermons and correspondence of Rabbi John Rayner and to develop an education module based on his teachings on ethics.

Rabbi Pfertzel has been working on this for the past year and reports that he has been amazed at the enormous scope of the material. Given the large number of sermons and lectures, Rabbi Pfertzel is primarily concentrating on just these first of all, leaving decisions to be taken later about Rabbi Rayner's other writings.

Rabbi Pfertzel will continue developing this project for one day each week, combining it with his new job as Rabbi of Kingston Liberal Synagogue. We are all pleased that this gives us a continuing working relationship with Rabbi Pfertzel,



**'Rabbi Pfertzel... has been amazed at the enormous scope of the material'**

rather than his disappearing completely to south of the river!

A word of thanks to Lysa Schwartz, our interim Executive Director, for overseeing the renovation of the kitchen during August and to the caretakers who have had to work with the logistical problems of having builders on site.

Council returns to its regular monthly meetings in September, when our first focus will be on planning for the year ahead.

September also brings the start of the High Holy Days with *Rosh Hashanah*, New Year 5778, on Wednesday evening, 20 September. Please check you have paid your subscription in order to receive your High Holy Day tickets!

On behalf of the Council, I wish you all: have a happy and 'sweet' New Year!

*Sue Head*

# Are we all to be judged for the horrors of the past year?

After a traumatic year, Rabbi Alexandra Wright looks forward to a restoration of decency and hope during the High Holy Days

This is never an easy message to write. In spite of louring skies, London is quiet, schools are out and there is a sense of letting go of the intensity of the past few months of work, of relentless bad news and allowing oneself a few days to read, to walk, to enjoy a new part of the country, to learn the contours of a different landscape.

In many ways, the spiritual landscape of the *Yamim Nora'im* – the High Holy Days – through which we journey during the month of Tishri, is both familiar and different. There are the steep gradients of remorse and repentance, the whale-back hills of judgment and the gentler inclines of forgiveness and remembrance.

It is in the weeks before *Rosh Hashanah*, in the month of Ellul, that we look for signposts that take us into this distinctive topography of the Tishri festivals: remember your past deeds, return to God, judge yourself, forgive those who have wronged you and seek forgiveness from those whom you have wronged.

Affirm the sanctity of life and turn back. Turn back to God whom you have forsaken, who takes you back with love and mercy.

But the journey is not easy. For the signposts of remembrance take us to days in the past year of pain and depression: Manchester, Westminster Bridge, London Bridge, Borough Market – scarred sites of terrorist atrocities, where lost lives are mourned and the wounded all but forgotten. And to a world further afield in Afghanistan, Egypt, France, Iraq, Israel, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan and Syria, and countless other

places, where terrorist outrages and massacres have claimed, and go on to claim on a daily basis, their dead and injured. Will history count the cost of lives lost in this 30-year war of the 21st century?

These are the events that remain in my memory of the past year. These – and the terrible fire of Grenfell Tower – where we have stopped, unaccountably, counting the dead. Are these the

things for which we are judged? And for which we should atone? Are we, in some way, collectively responsible for these shocking events that have happened here, in our own country, in our own city and even beyond? Are we accountable for poverty and oppression, for fire and famine?

We look out into our troubled world searching for some kind of moral bearing, a compass that might direct or provide us with a response to the tragedies and atrocities which beset our universe. We seek leadership and direction, certainty and truth that will reveal the world as we believe it ought to be.



**'As we enter these Days of Awe, let us do so with honesty and humility, holding up a mirror to ourselves, reaching out with empathy to those in distress'**

*Rosh Hashanah* takes us back to beginnings, to the darkness and watery chaos of unformed life. Rabbi Eliezer's statement, 'In the month of Tishri the world was created,' is not simply a mythological gloss to the meaning of the festival, but something more profound. In the midst of our moral uncertainty and confusion, we go back to a starting point, to a simple stage of being able to tell our story from the very beginning. The *Yamim Nora'im* help to put behind us all the tawdriness and superficiality of our lives; they remove from our lips those thousand

words of gossip and slander, of meaningless platitudes and resentments. They eradicate the treachery and waste in our lives and disentangle us from the complexities of our relationships and allow us to become like a newborn, discovering ourselves and the world about us as though it is something new and unseen.

The festivals ask us the simple question: what have we done with our life? There are few days in the Jewish year when we stand quite as alone as we do on *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*, scrutinising the truth of the past year, facing, as the *machzor* says, 'the many blemishes which disfigure us: greed and envy, self-pity and self-indulgence, cruelty and callousness, prejudice and arrogance, hatred and destructiveness.' These are the things that damage and estrange us from each other, that drive away hope and a sense that there is a divine presence deep within us guiding us towards decency and goodness.

One *Shabbat* morning as the summer term was coming to an end, the teacher of the youngest pupils in Rimon, our religion school, entrusted me with the task of showing the children the ark and the *Sifrei Torah* and all their precious appurtenances. When we had put away the scroll and closed the ark, I led them to the place where Anish Kapoor's *Shoah* memorial is positioned, a massive, brooding dark stone

directly opposite the *aron ha-kodesh* in the front foyer of the synagogue. I said nothing, only that I wished to show them something special, and we stood as they examined this silent stone, as though it had been mined from some ancient quarry, thousands of years old. What did they see and feel as they touched its rough edges and stroked its smooth, hollowed out centre?

One saw a mirror, reflecting everything around her; another felt the weight of its sadness that reminded her of the death of her grandmother; yet another saw deep inside its dark cavity, God's dwelling place.

As we enter these Days of Awe, let us do so with honesty and humility, holding up a mirror to ourselves, reaching out with empathy and kindness to those in distress, seeking forgiveness from those we have wronged and finding in the deepest recesses of our heart the strength to pray: 'O God, listen to our prayers and supplications from your heavenly dwelling place, and pardon Your people who have sinned against You for all the transgressions that they have committed against You...' (1 Kings 8:49-50).

May you and all your dear ones be inscribed for a peaceful and healthy *Shanah Tovah*.

Alexandra Wright

## Asylum seekers' Drop-in

The next LJS Drop-ins for asylum seeker families will be from 14.00-16.00 on Sunday 10 September and Sunday 8 October.

Volunteers are needed from 12.00 to help set up.

If you are interested in volunteering once a month or a few times a year, please contact Rabbi Alexandra Wright – [a.wright@ljs.org](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 could we ask you to buy one extra thing for our Drop-in children so that they can have their own brand new school uniform for the autumn: white shirts, polo shirts, grey skirts or trousers, socks, jumpers (school colours), children's school shoes.

## The Liberal Jewish Synagogue invites you to the Annual Memorial Service

**Sunday 17 September  
at 12 noon**

**The Liberal Jewish Cemetery,  
Pound Lane, NW10 2HG**

It is traditional to visit graves of loved ones before *Rosh Hashanah* and this is an opportunity for family and friends to gather together with Rabbi Wright. The service will include *El Male Rachamim* and *Kaddish*. After the service, you will have the opportunity to visit the final resting place of your loved ones.

# Mending broken hearts, and building bridges

**Caroline Weiss** writes about her experience as a volunteer with Save a Child's Heart (SACH) in Israel

Before I arrived at Save a Child's Heart I had only read about the charity online and heard about it from a friend who had volunteered there previously. I didn't know what it would be like to live here for two weeks and spend all my time with these inspiring children. It's been so interesting to learn about different cultures and people's lives in Africa as I didn't know much about them before.

All the mums here are so caring, and always offer us food from their native country (which has always been delicious!) It's eye-opening to see such caring people when

they are going through something so difficult in their lives.

I have learnt so much from these children and it's going to be incredibly difficult saying goodbye. It has also been amazing seeing some children go through surgery and then come back to the house, allowing me to see how successful the surgeries are and how fast the kids recover. Social media and the internet can show you what a charity is like through information and videos, but after living in the Save a Child's Heart house with all the children and some of their guardians I fully

understood what incredible work the charity undertakes and how it impacts on the children's and mothers' lives.

I loved building these relationships and learning about their lives in their own countries. This charity allows these incredible and inspiring children to have a future they deserve.



**Flashback to June's LJS News - Aryan from Iraq**

# HUMANITY'S

15 October 2017  
7pm



Piano Concerto No.5  
*The Emperor*

**Reich**

Different  
Trains

**Beethoven**

**Pärt**

Fratres

**JOURNEY**

**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

# Club marks its half century

The Out and About Club celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in style with a party in the Montefiore Hall on 20 June. Councillor Ian Adams, the Lord Mayor of Westminster, was the guest of honour, and wore his full mayoral regalia despite it being one of the hottest days of the year!

He was a most charming guest, and spent time meeting and chatting with the members, especially Betty O'Reilly who, accompanied by her daughter Ann, was celebrating her 90th birthday. Other guests included Diana da Costa, one of the founders of the club, as well as a number of other early helpers.

In addition to the traditional tea of sandwiches and cake, the guests were served with a slice of the stunning commemorative cake

made by Debi Penhey, the Rimon religion school administrator.

The main event of the evening was the launch of the book *Fifty Years Out and About*, written and edited by the social historian and synagogue member Pam Fox. Pam gave a much-enjoyed illustrated presentation on the book, before giving a signed copy to the Lord Mayor and each of the members and helpers. As a thank you for her work, Pam was presented with two glasses beautifully engraved by Tracey Sheppard.

Jenny Nathan explains: 'Each glass was engraved with an initial and flower for Pam and her husband Michael Hart to toast each other'. Graphic designer Ali Beckett, who was responsible for the book's

layout, was presented with an orchid.

The evening was rounded off with a concert by the LJS members' choir, led by William Falk.

After the event, choir member Judith King commented: 'The Out and About book is beautifully written and designed and I can imagine how special it must be for members to have their life stories published. This is a very important piece of social history.'



Photos: Councillor Adams shares the Out and About spirit with (above) Pam Fox and Michael Hart; with Betty Thompson and Barbara Vallis (top left); and with Betty O'Reilly and her daughter Ann (bottom left).



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



The afternoon will be an opportunity for celebration and reflection, looking at where we have been in the past, where we are now and where we need to be in the future.

We are delighted that Robert Rinder, criminal law barrister and ITV's Judge Rinder, will discuss the legal process involved in this landmark decision and implications of the anniversary.

A special service will be followed by a choice of learning and discussion sessions and, of course, a celebratory tea!

We will invite you to support the Leo Baeck College (LBC) appeal for funds to endow faculty chairs in honour of two respected and much-loved LGBTQ teachers: the Rabbi Lionel Blue (z"l) Chair in The Public Engagement in Progressive Judaism and the Rabbi Sheila Shulman (z"l) Chair in Jewish Feminist Theology. As the only fully validated and accredited Jewish seminary in the UK, LBC is the place where rabbis and educators equipped for the 21st century are trained, where the leaders of Progressive Judaism are nurtured, and where the heart of Progressive Jewish thought is developed.





at the **LJS**

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

**Tuesday 19.00-20.00**

**From 26 September to 12 December**

### **Classical Hebrew**

#### **Beginners with Susannah Alexander**

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

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

This class is for those who 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, 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. 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 grammatical forms.

**Tuesday 20.00-21.00**

**From 12 September to 12 December**

### **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.

12 September **(19.00-21.00)** **High Holy Day Seminar:** Exploring *Rosh Ha-Shanah*,  
The challenge of 'God Language' in the High Holy Day *machzor*  
The music of the High Holy Days

19 September **No session**

26 September Exploring *Yom Kippur*

3 October Exploring *Sukkot*

Tuesday 11.15-12.30

From 12 September to 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'.

Tuesdays 20.00-21.15

7, 14, 21 and 28 November

## 'Belief and Unbelief' – taught by Dr Jonathan Gorsky

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.

Shabbat 9.45-10.45

From 9 September to 9 December

## 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 [hgoldenberg@btinternet.com](mailto:hgoldenberg@btinternet.com)

**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.

13.15-14.15 and 16.30-17.30

Shabbat 30 September

**Yom Kippur Study Sessions****13.15-14.15 IN THE SANCTUARY**

Five experts in five different fields explore their areas of expertise in relation to *Yom Kippur*:

- ◆ **Professor Brad Blitz** – Professor of International Politics in the Centre for Enterprise and Economic Development Research at Middlesex University and Senior Fellow of the Global Migration Centre in the Graduate Institute, Geneva
- ◆ **Professor Geraldine van Bueren QC** – Professor of International Human Rights Law at Queen Mary University of London and Visiting Fellow at Kellogg College, Oxford.
- ◆ **Professor Robert Saxton** – Professor of Composition; Fellow and Tutor, Worcester College, Oxford and composer
- ◆ **Dr Danya Glaser MB, BS, DCH, FRCPsych, Hon FRCPCH** – Visiting Professor at University College London and honorary consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London

**16.30-17.30 IN THE ASSEMBLY HALL**

Come together for a Young Adults' discussion and study session during the Afternoon Service.

# People of the Book: a celebration of LJS authors: 21 January

## SAVE THE DATE... AND A CALL TO AUTHORS

We have a vast range of published authors in our community. If you're one of them, whether your book is on history, horticulture, art, poetry, psychotherapy,

literature, Judaica, or any of numerous other disciplines, and you'd be interested and willing to share your work, please do get in touch with Harriett Goldenberg.

We have some committed writers already, but are looking forward to showcasing as wide a range as possible.

You can reach me at [hgoldeberg@btinternet.com](mailto:hgoldenberg@btinternet.com) or 07766 685628.

## 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

**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)

## 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 £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 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.



## 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



**Michael Nathan** (pictured here with his wife Jenny) marked his 90th birthday with a Kiddush in July.

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.



## ARCHIVE TUESDAYS

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



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.

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

New members are welcome: for more details leave a message for Neil Levitt or William Falk at 020 7286 5181.



## COMMUNITY CARE

Aviva Shafritz, our Community Care Co-ordinator, is ready to help with difficulties experienced, not only by our older members, such as illness and provision of care, but also across the spectrum of life. You can contact her at [a.shafritz@ljs.org](mailto:a.shafritz@ljs.org) or 020 7286 5181.



## COMMUNITY ISRAEL TOUR 3-10 June 2018

We are planning the itinerary for next year's trip with an emphasis on the north of the country, followed by four nights in Jerusalem, from where we will visit the West Bank. We will engage with political, cultural and spiritual issues through visits and talks with Rabbi Alexandra Wright and local experts and guides. Details will be available in the autumn. To join the mailing list, please email [SueBolsom@gmail.com](mailto:SueBolsom@gmail.com)

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

Aman Abib  
Edoardo Armstrong  
Thomas Ballheimer  
Brooke Behr  
Max Daals  
Cedric Ginsberg

Leila Goldstone  
Joshua Gulperin  
Aleksander Kondak  
Rachel Kops  
Charlotte Korn  
Electra Levi-French  
Brooke Shipman  
Claudia Spanier

## TINY TOTS at the LJS

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

Tiny Tots is being re-launched with  
Rabbi Rachel Benjamin and Debi Penhey on  
**Shabbat 9 September**

with 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.

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

Thursday 2 November

at 19.30 for 20.00

at The New London Synagogue, Abbey Road, London NW8

**100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration**

## The Liberal Jewish Synagogue

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Alexandra Wright

**Rabbi Emeritus**  
David J Goldberg OBE

**Rabbi**  
Rachel Benjamin

**Chairman of Council**  
Sue Head

**Head of Rimon Religion School**  
Dov Softi

**Nursery Head Teacher**  
Caroline Villiers

**Interim Executive Director**  
Lysa Schwartz

**Community Care Co-ordinator**  
Aviva Shafritz

**Director of Music**  
Cathy Heller-Jones

**Organist**  
Tim Farrell

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

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[info@daviescomms.com](mailto:info@daviescomms.com) or to the  
Editors at The LJS.

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Sally Van Noorden, the LJS librarian, introduced members of the congregation to the riches of the synagogue's library at a special information session (left). Sally outlined the library's conservation policies, as well as the cataloguing and classification of more than 6,000 books, which cover subjects from art and fiction to bible commentaries, liturgy, philosophy and ethics.

## Big issues plus juice and bagels

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

### **Shabbat 9 September:**

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

### **Shabbat 11 November:**

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

### **Shabbat 9 December:**

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

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

# 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).



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**liberal judaism**

