



July/August 2018
Tammuz/Av/Ellul 5778

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERAL JEWISH SYNAGOGUE

LJS News



‘Expanding my horizons and my understanding of modern Israel’

Jenny Stephany reflects on her memorable LJS tour. See page 5.



Havdalah, Jerusalem Old City, with Rabbi David Wilfond

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Welcome to Rabbi Elana Dellal

Welcome to Rabbi Elana Dellal who will begin working at the LJS at the beginning of July 2018. We are delighted to welcome Rabbi Elana, her husband George and her three sons, Jonah, Oliver and Raphael.

I am greatly looking forward to joining the LJS community this July as part-time Rabbi and meeting you over the coming months. In the meantime here is a little bit about my background and experiences.

I am originally from America and attended the University of Minnesota, where I focused on Judaic Studies. After graduating I began rabbinic school, having wanted to be a rabbi since my teenage years.

While in rabbinic school at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati I took a year's leave to work for Liberal Judaism in London. During that year I had the opportunity to visit the LJS. I feel very fortunate to be returning to London and joining this involved and progressive community.

After my ordination from Hebrew Union College in 2011, I worked for three years as a part-time congregational Rabbi at Temple Shalom in Cincinnati. As well as supporting the Senior Rabbi in worship, education and pastoral care, I was in charge of the young family programming and worship.



For the past three years I have focused my rabbinate on pastoral care. I completed a year-long chaplaincy residency at Cincinnati Children's Hospital focusing on crisis support and paediatric psychiatric spiritual support.

After completing the residency, I worked as the Rabbi of a Jewish hospice in Cincinnati. I am excited to bring to the LJS my love for Jewish text, culture, music, history, social justice and most of all my love for community. My husband George and our three sons Jonah (6), Oliver (4) and Raphael (8 months) are thrilled to be joining the LJS.

Kiddush Celebrations

If you are celebrating a special birthday or another commemoration, have you thought about contributing to the weekly Kiddush following our Shabbat morning service?

If you would like to take part in the service to mark a special occasion – birthday, anniversary, baby blessing, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, or another special day – please contact Joanne Beaumont on 0207 432 1283 or rabbispa@ljs.org

Bereavements

We extend our sympathy to those who mourn:

Norman Goodman,
father of Simon and Joanna

המקום ינחם אתכם
בתוך שאר האבלים

May God comfort you and all who mourn

Shabbat and festival services: July-August 2018

Friday evening services are held at 6.45 pm

Shabbat morning services are held at 11.00 am unless otherwise stated

DATE	RABBI/SPEAKER	NOTES
Monday 2 July 7.00 pm	Leo Baeck College Ordination	At the LJS
Friday 6 July	Alexandra Wright	Co-led by Sam Frank <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
Shabbat 7 July Pinchas	Alexandra Wright	<i>Bar Mitzvah</i> Sam Frank Rimon last day of term
Friday 13 July	Rachel Benjamin	Kulanu (Young Adults') Chavurah Supper at the home of Rabbi Alexandra
Shabbat 14 July ♦ Mattot-Mas'ei	Rachel Benjamin	Please join us for Rabbi Benjamin's 'Farewell Service' <i>Nosh 'n' Drosh</i> with Carol Gould
Friday 20 July	Alexandra Wright	
Shabbat 21 July D'varim/Chazon	Michael Hilton	Join us for a second use of the new draft <i>Siddur Shirah Chadashah</i>
Saturday 21 July	Elana Dellal	<i>Tisha B'Av</i> Service
Friday 27 July	Alexandra Wright	
Shabbat 28 July Va'etchanan/Nachamu	Christine Stevenson	You are invited to join Christine for her 75th birthday (adult) <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> service
Friday 3 August	David Strang	
Shabbat 4 August Ekev	Michael Hilton	
Friday 10 August ♦	Rachel Benjamin	
Shabbat 11 August ♦ Re'eh/Rosh Chodesh Ellul	Rachel Benjamin	
Friday 17 August	Alexandra Wright	
Shabbat 18 August Shof'tim	Alexandra Wright	Ann Kirk special birthday service and <i>Kiddush</i>
Friday 24 August	Alexandra Wright	
Shabbat 25 August Ki Tetze	David Wilfond	Naming and Blessing of Ethan Abolins-Loguiiko, son of Sergejs and Yelena and brother of Eva
Friday 31 August ♦	Alexandra Wright	
Shabbat 1 September Ki Tavo	Alexandra Wright	Albie Gavshon <i>Bar Mitzvah</i> <i>Nosh 'n' Drosh</i> George Dublon
Saturday 1 September ♦ 8.00 pm		<i>Selichot</i> Service
Sunday 2 September 11.00 am	Alexandra Wright	Annual Memorial Service at The Liberal Jewish Cemetery, Pound Lane, NW10

♦ **Parking alert: cricket at Lord's on these dates**

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.

The Council prepares for the year ahead



June's Council meeting was the last before the AGM and the time to thank those Trustees who are standing down from Council: Barbara Fidler, Josie Lane and Bryan Diamond. They all give a great deal to the LJS and their contributions to our debates will be very much missed.

As part of our meeting, Steve Laughton, Chair of the Young Adults Committee, outlined to us the programmes that are being developed to appeal to the twenty-five-year-old plus age group. This committee is also being rebranded and has a new logo. Their name is to be, 'Kulanu: Young Adult Events at LJS'; the word 'kulanu' is Hebrew for 'all of us' and shows their inclusive aspirations.

We also considered a paper, presented by David Strang, Chair of the Avodah (Services) Committee, proposing that we hold a 'Civic Service', probably in May of next year. The aim is to demonstrate to the wider community the work of the LJS and the positive role we play in the life of society. It was suggested that the event could highlight some of the projects developed at the synagogue, for example, the Asylum Seekers Drop In, Restaurant

Tuesday and the Out and About Club. This would be done through a Shabbat service. Council enthusiastically approved the idea and a small group will now work on the plans.

A key discussion at the June Council meeting was the maintenance of the building. You may remember that, sometime ago, we began discussions on renovating the downstairs lobby areas. We had hoped to begin these works later this year; however, we have now received a report about the synagogue boilers: four of our eight boilers have not been working for some time and the situation is now unsustainable. Our Executive Director, Lysa, has met with an independent heating design consultant and we are exploring various options for the best way forward. This is likely to be costly, so Council, sadly, has had to put on hold, at least for the rest of the year, plans for the downstairs areas of the building. We will give you more information on this in due course.

More cheerfully, Council was pleased to hear about the recent LJS trip to Israel. This was arranged and planned by Sue Bolsom, who is to be congratulated on its success. It included places from the far north of the country, down through the Galilee, around the Kinneret and on to Jerusalem and Hebron. Rabbi Wright reported that Sue's organisation and preparation were 'meticulous' and the places seen, 'wonderful' and 'contrasting'. Already there are calls for another trip to Israel to be organised!

By the time you read this report, our new part-time rabbi, Elana Dellal, will have arrived from the USA and will have met with some of us and begun planning her work at the LJS, which she starts very soon. This is good news indeed and a positive note on which to end my report!

Council would like to thank those standing down as Trustees this year: Bryan Diamond, Barbara Fidler and Josie Lane.

Israel at 70 – Reflections on the LJS trip

Just back from the trip and drawing breath from a well-organised tour and opportunity for new encounters. My last trip to Israel was over 20 years ago, so while hoping to recognise some continuity I was also expecting much change.

As a tourist I was keen to see Jerusalem again. I was delighted by the improvements to the Mamila district in particular including the new Teddy Park and residential area, as well as to return to Kehilat Ha-El the reform synagogue on Erev Shabbat and to see where the World Union Building is situated ... so close to the Jaffa Gate.



LJS group at the Banias waterfall

As a keen amateur student of archaeology I was thrilled by the late evening Western Wall tunnels tour and the chance to get a better sense of the scale of the Herodian Walls and surrounding community life. The trip north brought new delights including Capernaum, intriguing mosaics at Hamat Tiberius, the ruins at Beit Shean as well as a return visit to the Banias springs and waterfall.

Beyond the physical artefacts there were memorable encounters which played an important part in enhancing understanding about the modern challenges in Israeli society. Among these a visit to the Leo Baeck Education Centre and student presentation on the extensive voluntary work under way in Haifa.

Both Palestinian and Israeli views were aired and then brought into sharp focus at the tomb of the Patriarchs – (a Herodian building with two entrances) – and the on-going split between the

Israeli and Palestinian parts of the city – all part of the unique dual narrative tour of Hebron. A tour of the separation wall encircling Jerusalem – including the ‘island’ at the tomb of Rachel – (where access is restricted to Israelis only) – was a bleak reminder of the on-going and seemingly intractable conflict.

The sessions with Diana Lipton, who teaches at the Rothberg International School at the Hebrew University, and Anat Hoffman (Israel Religious Action Centre) outlined the essential work underway to increase understanding and tolerance between communities. Sunday morning saw a particularly challenging session with Rabbi Nava Hefetz from Rabbis for Human Rights, explaining the work of the group (the only rabbinic voice in Israel that is explicitly dedicated to human rights), and recent activity in Israeli Government and the courts.

Beyond the organised trip a visit to the Israel Museum was my ‘treat’ during Shabbat. The silver amulets from 7th century BCE which contain part of the priestly benediction and the re-constructed Kadavumbagam synagogue (16th century) – from Cochin India – were particularly memorable. The remainder of the time was spent ambling around the huge archaeological wing.

It is much too early to sum up my impressions from the visit which expanded my horizons and understanding of modern Israel. Thanks to all behind the organisation.

Article by Jenny Stephany, photos by Sue Bolsom



Alex and Malcolm Brown at the Israelite Gate at the Tel Dan Site

AGM Report



A bustling Montefiore Hall was treated to a packed AGM agenda on Wednesday 20 June.

Rabbinic reports from Rabbi Alexandra Wright and Rabbi Rachel Benjamin, together with reports from Chairman Sue Head and Honorary Treasurer Peter Loble took members of the audience through the wide spectrum of LJS work; from its successes and its challenges to important changes now taking place within the LJS community.

Their reports demonstrated the hive of activity taking place in many areas: from services and festivals, religious education courses and cultural events to community care programmes, finance progress and appeals. The dedication of LJS staff, officers and teams of volunteers was emphasised throughout.

Following official openers; the welcome by President Martin Slowe, the opening prayer by Rabbi Rachel Benjamin, approval of 2017 AGM minutes, the trustees' report and financial statements for the year ending 31 December by Honorary Treasurer Peter Loble, Rabbi Alexandra Wright and Rabbi Rachel Benjamin presented their reports. These were swiftly followed by Synagogue Chairman Sue Head, who candidly noted that "some challenges are easier to resolve than others."

Underlining her comment, highlights in the life of the LJS emerged. Positives include the new LJS website, which has now gone live and is currently having a 'soft launch'; and the newly-styled and innovative Annual Review (front page, shown right and available with this newsletter).

The kitchen refurb, said Peter Loble, is a "new impressive function for The LJS and will contribute a much-needed revenue in the form of venue hire." It is already being used for two Bar Mitzvahs -

"We could not do this without the new kitchen," Peter added.

Other good news is that nursery fees have increased by over 25 per cent and revenue appeal has nearly doubled. Peter also reported that Council will go out to tender and select auditors for 2018, with Honorary Officers awarding the tender and fixing the remuneration.

In her report, Rabbi Alexandra told the meeting that the next airing for the new Siddur will be 21 July and that Rabbi Igor Zinkov will return at Sukkot for the fifth year of his rabbinic placement at The LJS. New part-time Rabbi Elana Dellal will make her debut at The LJS in early July (see page 2 of the newsletter).

The new Annual Review 2017 lists LJS retiring council and new members (inside front page) which were reported at the meeting. Our four LJS Deputies to the Board of Deputies, as reported at the AGM are Karen Newman, Karen Maxwell, Shelley Salter and Ben Wright.

Judy Miller



The Liberal Jewish Synagogue
Annual Review 2017



"The LJS is full of such lovely, warm people and the beauty of being a volunteer is not only the benefits we try to bring but the sheer pleasure, friendship and wellbeing we also get from volunteering."



The AGM concluded with an in-depth look by Dr Jonathan Boyd, Executive Director of the Institute for Jewish Policy Research on the changing demographics of the UK Jewish community from 1881 to the present, together with synagogue membership figures and patterns of Jewish affiliation in the UK, past and present. Summing up he told the audience:

- Synagogue membership has been falling over several decades.
- The primary reason is demographic: with fewer Jewish households overall.
- Declining levels of affiliation and engagement are also a factor.
- Religiously, the communal centre of gravity is shifting 'rightwards'.
- Mainstream centrist Orthodoxy remains dominant but is declining.
- Progressive streams are fairly stable: gaining from their 'right' but losing to their 'left'.
- Geographically, the centre of gravity is becoming more concentrated in fewer areas.
- North West London and surrounding areas remain overwhelmingly dominant.

Shabbat 14 July at 11am

A service to say 'thank you' and Au Revoir to Rabbi Rachel Benjamin who will be back in August to lead services and who will be with us for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and once a month until December 2018

Please join us for a special service of music, gratitude and a Kiddush afterwards.

Our next Drop-in for asylum seeker families

The LJS Drop-ins for asylum seeker families will be on 8th July, 12th August and 2nd September from 2.00-4.00 pm

Volunteers required from 1.00 pm please to help set up and for clothing sorts, please be in touch to find out the dates of these

VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

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 details.

We are especially looking for younger members of the community who can help us with some of the heavier work. Thank you.

**Saturday 21 July at 8.30pm
in the John Rayner Room**

Erev Tisha B'Av

A service to mark the tragedies suffered by our own people, the House of Israel, from the earliest until recent times – the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem on the 9th Av; the destruction of whole communities during the Crusades, the expulsion of the Jews from England, Spain and France, pogroms in Russia, Poland and Ukraine and the death of six million, including one and a half million children between the years of 1933 and 1945.

*These things do I remember:
through all the years ignorance like a monster
has devoured our martyrs
as in one long day of blood.
Rulers have risen through the endless years,
oppressive, savage in their witless power,
filled with a futile thought
to make an end of that which God has cherished.*

Todah, Shalom and L'Hitra'ot – Rabbi Rachel Benjamin



Rabbi Willy Wolff with Rabbi Alexandra Wright and Rabbi Rachel Benjamin

Exactly a year ago, Rabbi René Pfertzel and I wrote a newsletter article, reflecting on our two happy years working together as the 'joint second' LJS Rabbi. As this message will be my last for the LJS Newsletter, I asked myself, 'what would I like to say to the community?'

First of all, I would like to make it clear that I am leaving The LJS for personal and family reasons. I am not going to another community, and I am not unhappy here. On the contrary, these past three and a half years have been the most fulfilling and enjoyable of my rabbinic career, which began 20 years ago. It is my privilege and pleasure to work closely with my colleague and friend, Rabbi Alex, and I have received here the most extraordinary welcome, warmth, support, encouragement and kindness from many of you, LJS members, friends and staff.

So what I would like to say to you is 'THANK YOU'. Few Rabbis can pass up a learning opportunity... so I wanted to say some words about the value of 'gratitude' in our Jewish tradition.

We teach children, as soon as they can talk, that they should say, 'Thank you.' The first prayer that Jews are traditionally exhorted to say, upon waking up in the morning, is Modeh (or the feminine Modah) ani l'fanecha, 'thank you, God,' for allowing us to wake up to a new day. The first

time in the Torah that a person turned to God and said those words, 'thank You', is at the birth of a fourth son to Jacob and Leah (Genesis 29:35). 'And she (Leah) conceived again, and bore a son and said: "This time I will thank the Eternal One", ha-pa'am odeh et Adonai. Therefore she named him Yehudah, Judah.' So the name, Judah, is closely associated with the act of giving thanks – and the Hebrew word for Jew, Yehudi, means a member of the tribe of Judah. In this way, the very roots and name of the Jewish people act as a constant and living reminder to give thanks, show appreciation, to develop an 'Attitude of Gratitude'. Gratitude is a core principle of Judaism, as it is, of course, a universal principle. About gratitude, the great Roman author, orator and politician Cicero commented that it is, 'not only the greatest of the virtues, but the mother of all the others.' (Marcus Tullius Cicero 106-43 BCE, 'Pro Plancio', 54 BCE)

The Hebrew term for gratitude is hakarat ha-tov, which means, literally, 'recognising the good'. Gratitude affirms, and helps us to have a positive attitude. In our liturgy, there are numerous prayers of thanksgiving. The penultimate blessing of the Amidah, the central prayer in our services, begins modim anachnu Lakh, 'we thank You'. A blessing is a way of saying 'thank you', so every time we say Barukh Atah Adonai we are expressing our gratitude to God.

Studies have shown that those who express gratitude tend to be healthier in mind, body and spirit, have more of a sense of purpose, are free to be themselves. They tend to value what is important – family and friends, living things and the earth's resources. They understand the meaning of the saying, 'Who is rich? One who is content with his [or her] lot' (Pirkei Avot 4:1).

Expressing gratitude can build bridges, strengthen connection between people, and warm the heart. Ingratitude, on the other hand, can isolate and estrange people, and leave others feeling unvalued and unappreciated.

A Jewish legend underscores the challenge of properly expressing gratitude. Two angels were each given a basket and sent to earth to gather up the prayers that were offered there. One was to collect only petitions. The other was to gather up prayers of gratitude. When they returned, the angel bearing the requests was carrying a basket filled to overflowing. The other angel was depressed for his basket was all but empty.

So, there are lots of reasons for developing our 'gratitude attitude'. In addition, we know what it feels like to be valued and appreciated, and that gives us all the more reason to value and appreciate. In the words of George Herbert, 'Thou hast given so much to me. Give me one more thing – a grateful heart'.



To me, gratitude is one of the highest and most important of life's values, and Judaism's values. So, I am immensely grateful to The LJS. Todah – thank you. I have learned a great deal, and it has been my privilege to serve this congregation. I do hope you will give me the opportunity to thank you in person, on July 14th, and to share some thoughts with you about the last few years. It is not exactly my last service, as I will still be leading a service a month, till the end of 2018, and I will be with you for the High Holy Days, but it will be my final service as one of The LJS's permanent Rabbis.

I think the future looks bright, with the continued support of Student Rabbi Igor Zinkov, and the appointment of Rabbi Elana Dellal. This is not Shalom, 'goodbye' from me altogether, it is rather L'hitra'ot, 'I'll be seeing you'.





at the LJS

Classes in Judaism and Hebrew Purim/Shavuot terms 5778/2018

SHORT COURSES ON TUESDAY EVENINGS

8.00-9.15 pm

Shavuot Term 2018

*Cost: Short courses are free for LJS members;
£10 for non-members, payable in advance.*

HEBREW STUDIES:

CLASSICAL HEBREW AT ALL LEVELS

Evening Term Dates:

Tuesday 24 April – Tuesday 10 July 2018

Time: 7:00-8:00pm

Half-term: 29 May 2018

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 through the use of 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 help you improve your reading, widen your vocabulary and build knowledge of various grammatical forms.

DAYTIME COURSES

Tuesday Texts

Tuesday 24 April – Tuesday 24 July 2018

TUESDAY TEXTS: 11:15 am - 12:30 pm

Led by our Rabbis, Dr Dov Softi and Susannah Alexander, we study biblical texts and commentaries and enjoy sessions on Jewish Art, philosophy, theology and other subjects. Discussions are lively and relevant to contemporary issues.

*Watch out for two taster sessions to be given by
Norbert Meyn and musicians from the LJS Choir:*

LOVE OF SONG - FROM MENDELSSOHN TO BRAHMS

Tracing Jewish Connections and Intercultural Mobility in the Art of Lieder

A study course with Norbert Meyn (Royal College of Music and Ensemble Émigré)

After two successful concerts with Ensemble Émigré at the LJS in 2016 and 2017, Norbert Meyn returns to the LJS to join Cathy Heller Jones and fellow musicians for a short study course. Together they will explore the role of Jewish cultural figures in the evolution of the art of classical song (with piano accompaniment). They will also discuss how Jewish and other émigré musicians from Nazi-Europe helped to make it more popular in Britain. Includes live performances!

1. Mendelssohn - June 26, 11.15-12.30

This lecture looks at the cultural vision of Moses Mendelssohn and the music of his famous grandson Felix, whose music gained great prominence in Germany as well as Britain, where Victoria and Albert were its ardent devotees. This session will also feature music by Mendelssohn's sister Fanny and the English composer William Sterndale Bennett.

2. Brahms - July 3, 11.15-12.30

In this second session we will explore the influence of Johannes Brahms and his circle, which included the violinist Joseph Joachim and the composer and pianist Robert Kahn, who eventually emigrated to Britain in 1939. The programme will also feature music by Clara Schumann and emigre composer Hans Gál.

Cost: Free for LJS members and registered proselytes; £10 per week for non members.

These two 'taster' sessions will be followed by a four week course in November on Tuesday evenings as part of our Adult Study programme.

SHABBAT MORNING CLASSES

Shabbat 21 April – Shabbat 7 July 2018

9:45 - 10:45am

The new term will start on

Saturday 15 September

TORAH STUDY AND JEWISH THOUGHT

During the term we will major on adult interpretations of stories in Torah. We will also look at certain aspects of how we pray. We will continue with the model of inviting Rabbi Alex, our scholar in residence Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton, our student rabbi Igor and other visiting speakers, together with contributions from within the class. We look forward to seeing our regulars and new students on the first day of term when our leader will be the Chair of the LJS Council, Sue Head, who will speak about certain aspects of the proposed new prayer book. Dr Hilton will also lead two sessions, on the morning blessings and on the blessings before the Shema. We look forward to welcoming new students. If you would like further information please contact Michael Romain at romain@netgates.co.uk or Harriett Goldenberg hgoldenberg@btinternet.com

BEGINNERS' HEBREW with Naomi Brightwell

Don't know your aleph from your – oh you know, that other letter at the end of the Hebrew alphabet? The class will start afresh this September using 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 whilst learning. Absolutely no previous knowledge required. Previous students have even gone on to confidently lead Shabbat morning services.

MOVING UP IN HEBREW with David Strang

The aim of this class is to allow students to start to understand the Hebrew prayers and songs used in our services. Those joining the class will need basic reading skills but we will spend some time each week increasing reading fluency. At the same time, we will 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 as well 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 we use 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 working on the understanding of 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.



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.

Full details of all LJS adult education courses can be found in the Learning Circle brochure: download your copy from www.ljs.org/resources/

**Saturday evening 1 September, 2018
at 7.45 pm in the Sanctuary**

Selichot Service

The spiritual and musical service of preparation for the *Yamim Nora'im* (Days of Awe) will begin with a recital of songs sung by **Simon Wallfisch**, accompanied on the piano by **Simon Haynes**.

Programme:

Schubert – Im Frühling

Fanny Hensel – Zwei Goethe Lieder

Max Kowalski – Zwei Lieder

Ravel – Deux Mélodies Hébraïques

Weiner – Ergetz Vait

Greeters needed

Please join our friendly team of LJS Greeters and help us to ensure that every *Shabbat* we are able to offer the famous LJS welcome.

You'd only participate one or two mornings each quarter welcoming members and visitors.

Please call Jemma or Laura on 020 7432 1296 or email membership@ljs.org if you can help.

Israel Trip photos

Taken by Sue Bolsom and Sally Gold



Rabbi Alexandra Wright inspects the tombs of Ruth and Jesse, father of King David in Hebron



The plaza in front of the Western Wall before our walk through the underground tunnel next to the Wall



Inside the Muslim side of the Cave of Machpelah with Mohammed our Palestinian Arab guide



Guide Alex Stein explains the history of the Al Jazzar Mosque at Akko



A counter demonstration in Jerusalem



Dinner on the terrace at the YMCA in Jerusalem before our night time walk around the ramparts of the Old City with Rabbi David Wilfond

Community Events

BRIDGE GROUP, MONDAYS AT 2.00 pm

The Bridge Club meets at 2.00 pm every Monday (except Jewish and Bank Holidays) and finishes at 5.00 pm. There is a break for tea and biscuits. The standard of bridge is average but one should know the basis of the game.

This is as much a social afternoon rather than a competitive one. The cost is £2.00 per person. We welcome new members for more details please contact the LJS (0207 286 5181) and send a message to Neil Levitt or William Falk.



VIDEO AND TEA

From 13.30-16.30 on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Just come along – no need to book. Enjoy 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 July: Seven Brides for Seven Brothers

22 August: Whisky Galore

26 September: Meet Me in St Louis

24 October: Brief Encounter

28 November: The Snowman and Father Christmas

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 regular and cannot come (020 7286 5181)

ARCHIVES TUESDAY

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

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.

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

SINGING FOR THE MIND

This is a popular weekly activity for people with memory problems who come with a family member, friend or carer. Music brings fun, confidence and a time to relax among newfound friends. To apply, email sfm@ljs.org or phone 020 7286 5181. For further information pick up a leaflet or visit the LJS website.

LOCAL WALKING GROUP

The LJS local walking group is planning its next outing for Thursday 5th July, leaving from the LJS at 11.30. Walks adopt a friendly pace and last no more than an hour and a half. Future walks are scheduled for 26 July. All members and friends are welcome. To find out more, please contact Jody Graham (awithj@gmail.com) or Michael Romain (romain@netgates.co.uk)



Young LJS

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

in July:

Michael Berlingieri
Maya Boyle
Jacob Collett
Emily Cooper
Tristan Del Mar
Emma Dexter
Joseph Frank
Sam Frank
Olivia Goldenberg
Annabel Grade
Jemima Green
Elishevah Ibru
Lara Meir
Freya Moscovitch
Ione Salem
Jonas Sellar
Nathaniel Sellar
Raphael Sellar
Jayden Singer
Angelina Sokel
Isabelle Waha
Rosalie Wolchover

and August:

Willow Behr
Liah Boyle
Zachary Bueno
Mia Dexter
Daniel Fisher
Theo Frankel
Stephanie
Frischmann
Noah Gulperin
Jeanne Herz
Maxime Herz
Max Josefs
Jan Klein Wassink
Theodore Korn
Efron Levi-French
Dahlia Levin
Libby Lewis
Benjamin Mencer
Daniel Packowitz
Mason Platt
Olivia Platt
Gideon Putnam

Hannah Semaya
Joshua Sharpstone
Nathan Simon
Acacia Steen
Zachariah Turner
Skyler Tuvey
Ursula Warshaw
Arthur Watts
Stefan Watts
Eli Wolchover
Leela Yaroshevski

The Liberal Jewish Synagogue

Patrons

Malcolm Brown
Bernie Bulkin and Vivien Rose
Richard and Joy Desmond
Peter and Leanda Englander
Willie and Jo Kessler
Hugh and Angela Marsden
Anthony Roe (*zichrono livrachah*)
The Eranda Rothschild Foundation
Martin Slowe
Michael and Janine Sternberg
The Liberal Jewish Synagogue is a company limited by guarantee (Company No 9113305) and a registered charity in England and Wales (Charity No 1159292).

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Linked to Typetalk
E-mail ljs@ljs.org
Website www.ljs.org

Senior Rabbi

Alexandra Wright

Rabbi Emeritus

David J Goldberg OBE

Rabbis

Rachel Benjamin
Elana Dellal

President

Martin Slowe

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

Guest Editor: Judy Miller
Artwork: Tingle Design

Tiny Tots at the LJS

*Do you have little ones between the ages of
0 and 4 years old?*

*Please bring them to the LJS on Shabbat mornings for a
delightful session of songs, stories, drawing and Kiddush*

NEXT SESSION: 7 July

Tiny Tots meets in term time. We shall be meeting again from September 15th

The Nursery is always available for children to play or
read in every Shabbat with a parent or carer present

Songs, stories, activities and Kiddush for tiny ones with
their parents, grandparents and carers

If you would like to be added to the e-mail
circulation list, please e-mail education@ljs.org
and ask to be included on the Tiny Tots e-mail



High Holy Days 5779/2018 Please note the dates

Selichot	Saturday	1 September 2018	7.45 pm
Erev Rosh Hashanah	Sunday	9 September 2018	6.45 pm
Rosh Hashanah	Monday	10 September 2018	10.30 am
Shabbat Shuvah	Saturday	15 September 2018	11.00 am
Kol Nidre	Tuesday	18 September 2018	6.54 pm fast commences 7.15 pm service
Yom Kippur	Wednesday	19 September 2018	10.30 am 7.53 pm fast ends
Erev Sukkot	Sunday	23 September 2018	6.45 pm
Sukkot	Monday	24 September 2018	11.00 am
Erev Simchat Torah	Sunday	30 September 2018	6.45 pm
Simchat Torah	Monday	1 October 2018	11.00 am

**High Holy Day tickets will be posted to Members and Friends at the end of July.
If you do not receive yours by 10 August, please ring the office on 020 7286 5181
or email membership@ljs.org**

Come and support the asylum seekers

LJS Drop-in for asylum seeker families will be open from 14.00-16.00 on Sunday 8 July. Volunteers are always needed to help set up from midday.

While some people will be on holiday during July/August, we hope to see as many of you as possible.

If you are able to help Clothes Sort on Thursday 5 July from 18.00, please do come and help. We are especially looking for younger members of the community who can help us with some of the heavier work.

Whilst thanking you all for your support in so many ways, special thanks goes to our wonderful volunteers who spend a great deal of their time carrying, sorting, arranging and then clearing-up. We could not manage without them each month.



Busy volunteers during a recent afternoon at the Drop-in

The LJS is a constituent synagogue of Liberal Judaism

liberal judaism