

# A new prayer book for a new age?

**Rabbi Alexandra Wright explains the thinking behind the new LJ prayer book being unveiled at the end of this month**

*Siddur Shirah Chadashah* (The Prayer Book of a New Song) is the proposed name of the new Liberal Judaism *siddur*, a first draft of which is now out and will be used at our *Shabbat* morning service on 26 May. Co-edited by Rabbis Lea Mühlstein and Elli Tikvah Sarah, it represents the first stage towards the publication of a new *siddur* for the movement.

Some of us may question the need for another new *siddur*. *Service of the Heart* was published in 1967, *Siddur Lev Chadash*, our current prayer book, in 1995, breaking new ground with gender inclusive language and using more Hebrew than earlier Liberal prayer books.

The proposed new *siddur* includes transliteration alongside all Hebrew prayers. Its double-page layout is designed to enable participation and a fuller comprehension of the service. In addition, some of the familiar prayers address God using the feminine forms of Hebrew verbs.

For example, the morning blessings, which begin with the familiar (masculine) address to God: *Baruch attah Adonai* use the second person feminine singular to address God as Divine Presence, Source of our life: *B'ruchah at Sh'chinah, m'kor chayyeinu, she-asitinu kid'mut Elo'ah* - 'Blessed are You, Divine

■ [continued on page 2](#)

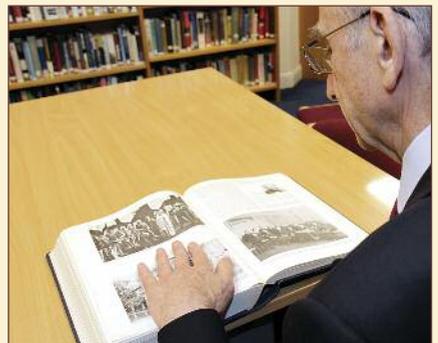
May 2018

Iyar-Sivan  
5778

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**The LJS has a great library. Could you help members make better use of it?** p2



## Bereavements

We extend our sympathy to those who mourn:

**Zelide Cowan**, mother of Alexandra Cowan

**Marie Betty Pick**, mother of Vanessa Van Reyk and David Pick

**Marie-Jo Simon**, mother of Rabbi René Pfertzel

המקום ינחם אתכם

בתוך שאר האבלים

May God comfort you  
and all who mourn

## Leave a legacy

Congregants appreciate the warm welcome they receive at The LJS. In return, please consider including The LJS in your will. To find out more, contact the Rabbis or the Executive Director.

## Israel at 70

Hills • Valleys • Encounters

3-10 June 2018

LJS community trip to Israel  
with Rabbi Alexandra Wright

3 days in the North, 4 nights in Jerusalem,  
engaging with nature, political and  
spiritual issues through visits and talks

**Last few places: details from**  
[SueBolsom@gmail.com](mailto:SueBolsom@gmail.com)

## Library volunteers needed

The library committee would like to recruit more volunteers to help with the following tasks:

- working in a group to dust books
- being in the library on *Shabbat* mornings before the service to deal with borrowed books and help

members to find books

- joining the committee to discuss policy on the use of the library and its book stock
- writing reviews of books.

if you are interested, leave a message for the librarian at the LJS office ([ljs@ljs.org](mailto:ljs@ljs.org)).

## The LJS Annual General Meeting and Council elections

At the AGM on 20 June 2018, the LJS membership will confirm the election of new members to the LJS Council. Two existing members of Council, Russell Delew and Steve Penn, are coming to the end of their first term and may be re-elected for a second term. There will also be places for up to three additional members, one of which Council recommends is filled by Stephen Laughton, the Chair of the Young Adults Group, who is currently co-opted onto Council.

If you are interested in standing for Council please contact Lysa Schwartz ([execdirector@ljs.org](mailto:execdirector@ljs.org) or 020 7286 5181) and she will send you details of nomination procedures and eligibility. Nominations, including a formal seconder, must be received by 9.00 on Monday 7 May 2018.

## Stained glass window commissioned

Huge thanks to everyone who donated to the *Chanukkah* campaign to raise funds for a stained glass window in the John Rayner Room; thanks to your generosity we have raised sufficient funds to go ahead,

and we have commissioned the work from stained glass artist Ruth Kersley. Watch this space for updates as the work develops. To view Ruth's other work, visit her website at <http://ruth-glass.com/work>

## A new prayer book for a new age?

■ continued from page 1

Presence, source of our life who makes us to become the likeness of the Divine.'

Readings and poems appear on the lower third of each page, illuminating themes from each prayer and a commentary can be found to the side of the

texts, explaining changes made, textual points of interest or addressing questions to the worshipper: 'Can I feel the power of God within me? Can I sense it in the world around me? Where do I look for sustenance?'

There will be opportunities

throughout the rest of the year to try out this excerpt of a new *Shabbat* morning liturgy. To experience the first of these, please join the congregation on *Shabbat Naso*, on 26 May at 11.00.

There will be no sermon, but a discussion will follow *kiddush*.

## Shabbat and festival services: May

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

▲ = Parking alert: cricket at Lord's on these dates

DATE	RABBI/SPEAKER	NOTES
Friday 27 April	Kabbalat Torah Class	Celebrate with the KT class who will be leading the service giving a <i>D'var Torah</i>
Shabbat 28 April <i>Kedoshim</i> 10.30	Kabbalat Torah service	Please note the early start time! The service will be led by the nine members of our current KT2 class.
Friday 4 May	Rachel Benjamin	Service co-led by Sam Hanna-Kemper <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
Shabbat 5 May <i>Emor</i>	Rachel Benjamin	<i>Bar Mitzvah</i> : Sam Hanna-Kemper
Friday 11 May ▲	Alexandra Wright	Service co-led by Ella Jackson-Drexler <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>
Shabbat 12 May ▲ <i>B'Har-B'Chukkotay</i>	Alexandra Wright	<i>Bat Mitzvah</i> : Ella Jackson-Drexler
Friday 18 May	Alexandra Wright	
Shabbat 19 May <i>B'Midbar</i>	Alexandra Wright	Ann and Bob Kirk Wedding Anniversary Bob Kirk's birthday
Saturday 19 May <i>Erev Shavu'ot</i> 18.45	Alexandra Wright	Festival Evening Service followed by <i>Chavurah</i> supper, cheesecake competition and <i>Tikkun Leyl Shavu'ot</i> with <i>Shacharit</i> at dawn
Sunday 20 May <i>Shavuot</i> 11.00	Rachel Benjamin	<i>L'Dor va'-Dor Shavuot</i> Festival Service led by the families of Rimon Religion School
Friday 25 May ▲	Igor Zinkov	
Shabbat 26 May ▲ <i>Naso</i>	Igor Zinkov	We will be using the new <i>Shabbat</i> morning liturgy from the draft <i>Siddur Shirah Chadashah</i> . The service will be followed by <i>kiddush</i> and Nosh 'n' Drosh with a discussion led by the rabbis
Friday 1 June	Alexandra Wright	Co-led by Axel Cohen <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
Shabbat 2 June <i>B'Ha'a'lot'chah</i>	Alexandra Wright	<i>Bar Mitzvah</i> : Axel Cohen
Friday 8 June	Rachel Benjamin	
Shabbat 9 June ▲ <i>Sh'lach L'cha</i>	Rachel Benjamin	

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 LJS looking to the future

I am delighted to share with you the results of the rabbinic interviews held in April. The most outstanding candidate was someone known to many of you: student rabbi, Igor Zinkov. We are therefore thrilled that Igor has accepted the post of rabbi, working with Rabbi Wright, which he will take up when he receives his rabbinic ordination in a year's time. In the meantime, Igor will do his final year's student placement with us.

The second piece of news is that Council confirmed the appointment of four LJS members to be our representatives on the Board of Deputies for the next three years. These are Karen Newman, Karen Maxwell, Shelley Salter and Ben Wright. Congratulations to them all. We are particularly pleased to have Ben, one of our 'Young Adults' as a Deputy. Young people, such as Ben, and Igor our new rabbi, are the future of Liberal Judaism and The LJS.

At our recent Council meeting we were reminded of the call to Jews to act as trustees of God's creation. We have a duty to pass on this world to the next generation in a good state and not to destroy it. Rabbi Wright, and Izzy Davies-Benjamin, one of our trustees, gave a report to Council on the concept of 'Eco Synagogue'. This is an initiative involving a group of synagogues; it aims to measure and change our relationship with the environment. 'Eco Synagogue' focuses on several areas: our buildings and land, our community and global



**We have a duty to pass on this world to the next generation in a good state, and not to destroy it, says LJS Chairman Sue Head**

involvement, our lifestyles and what we preach and teach. Council is keen to support this project; a group of interested people will be meeting, under the leadership of Izzy, to plan the next steps.

Jenny Nathan was a welcome guest at the April Council meeting. She talked to us about the extraordinary and impressive number of volunteers we have at the LJS and the range of work they do. We debated the ways in which we can honour the volunteers. One way we do this already is to have an annual Volunteers *Shabbat* and lunch. Jenny discussed with us the importance of recording volunteers' names as a way to acknowledge their contributions to the community. We are going to look at how we can do this, so that people can see how much their volunteering is appreciated.

The recording of volunteers' names involved a discussion around the new law on Data

Protection and I will just mention something of this new law now. It is known as GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) and comes into effect on 25 May 2018 (replacing the current Data Protection Act). What it means for charities, like The LJS, is that there are new requirements for how we hold and process personal data. You will be hearing more about this in due course.

Please remember that the AGM will be held on 20 June. If you would like to stand for Council, nominations must be received by Monday 7 May.

*Sue Head*

There was a spiritual bond forged between God and the people when the *Torah* was given. This act forever bound the people of Israel to God in a unique relationship

Recently, I had the privilege of participating in a *Cheder* session at Reading Liberal Jewish Community; I talked to the young people about the Omer, that seven-week period between *Pesach* and *Shavuot* during which every day is counted. When I asked the children to give me some other examples of counting down days to special moments in their lives, one young girl's hand shot up, and I was told in no uncertain terms that she was counting the days to her next birthday, and that there were 54 days to go!

Biblically, the Omer period is the time between the beginning of the barley harvest, at Passover time, and the end of the barley harvest and the beginning of the wheat harvest, at *Shavuot*. In Leviticus chapter 23 (vv15-16), we are commanded, 'And from the day on which you bring the sheaf [omer] of the offering... you shall count off seven weeks... You must count until the day after the seventh week, fifty days. You shall bring an offering of new grain to the Eternal One' (Lev. 23:15-16). And so, we are commanded to count the days between Passover and *Shavuot* (the Festival of Weeks).

*Shavuot*, which we will be celebrating this year on Saturday evening and Sunday morning, 19-20 May, is one of the *Shalosh Regalim*, the three pilgrimage festivals, and, as such, was originally one of the more important Jewish festivals. Originally, as we have seen, it was a harvest festival, and when the Jews lost their homeland



***Rabbi Rachel Benjamin scrolls back through the centuries in search of the origins of Counting the Omer, and considers the fortunes of the festival of Shavuot***

after the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE, they lost their link with the land, and the significance of the harvest festival receded.

So the rabbis set out to rescue the status of *Shavuot* and invested it with a new meaning and purpose. They decided that, because the *Torah* indicates (in Exodus 19) that the Israelites came to Sinai on the third new moon after their dramatic exodus from Egypt, and *Shavuot* comes seven weeks after the Exodus festival of *Pesach* (in the third month of Sivan), *Shavuot* should celebrate God's revelation at Sinai, the giving of the *Torah* to the

Israelites. With that, they gave to *Shavuot* profound new meaning. For the past seven weeks, since leaving Egypt, the people had had freedom without structure or constitution (and that would ultimately degenerate into chaos). With *Shavuot* and the *Torah* came rules and guidelines for living, to bring order, stability and purpose to the Israelites.

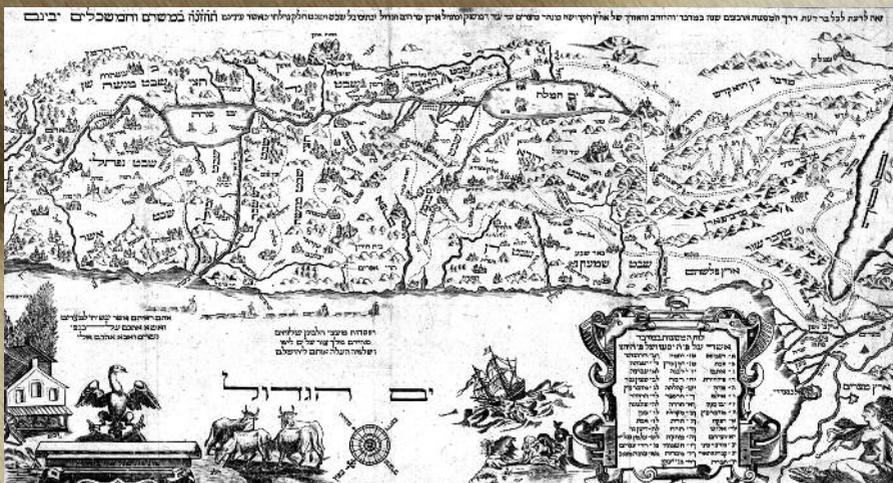
So the holiday of *Shavuot* commemorates the gift of the *Torah* to the Israelites, and celebrates the *brit*, the covenant between God and the Jewish people. Beyond the physical giving of *Torah* to the Jewish people, there was a spiritual bond forged between God and the people when the *Torah* was given. This act forever bound the people of Israel to God in a unique relationship. In Deuteronomy 29:13, God declares that the *brit*, the covenant, was made 'not with you alone, but

■ turn to page 7

# Shavuot at The LJS

## ISRAEL AT 70

in conjunction with students  
from Leo Baeck College



**Saturday night 19 May**

**18.45** – Erev Shavuot service

**19.45** – Chavurah supper: please bring a vegetarian or sweet dish to share.

This will include our annual Cheesecake Competition – all flavours welcome

**21.15** – the Shavuot Challenge!

Cafe Midrash • Israeli film screening • Yoga

Classical guitarist Michael Poll

Sessions with the rabbis (and food) all the way through the night until *Shacharit* at dawn

## ■ from page 5

both with those who are standing here with us this day before the Eternal our God, and with those who are not with us here this day'. In other words, the covenant was not made only with those who were present at Sinai, but also with all Jews for all time, thus imbuing the relationship with durability and a touch of eternity.

Many congregations, especially in the USA, hold their *Kabbalat Torah* services at *Shavuot*-time, to highlight the link between the commitment made by the Israelites in the *Torah* story, and the commitment made by young people at the end of their formal *Cheder* Jewish education. Indeed, *Shavuot* is a good opportunity to remind ourselves that Jewish education – both for ourselves and for our children – is essential for the survival of Judaism. Though *Shavuot*, in modern times, has come a poor third in importance after the other two pilgrimage festivals, of Passover and *Sukkot*, the ever-increasing popularity of the *Tikkun Leyl Shavuot* – all-night study – is perhaps helping restore it to its rightful place alongside the other two.

A contractual relationship, as a love relationship, requires from us loyalty and commitment, such as was shown to Naomi by her daughter-in-law, Ruth. At *Shavuot* we also read the Book of Ruth, because it takes place at the right time of year (Ruth gleanes barley in Boaz's fields) and, also, Ruth's loyalty and commitment is symbolic of the loyalty and commitment it is hoped the Jewish community has to the *Torah* and to the people of Israel.

***With Shavuot and the Torah came rules and guidelines for living, to bring order, stability and purpose to the Israelites***

Oh, and, of course... there's cheesecake! It is customary to eat dairy foods such as blintzes and cheesecake on *Shavuot*. One explanation for

eating dairy is that when the Jews received the *Torah* on *Shavuot* they were not ready with utensils for kosher meat preparation, so they ate dairy, which is relatively easy to prepare instead of meat.

***Shavuot is a good opportunity to remind ourselves that Jewish education – both for ourselves and for our children – is essential for the survival of Judaism***

Another explanation is that the *Torah* is compared to milk and honey. The verse 'honey and milk shall be under your tongue' [Song of Songs 4:11] implies that the words of the *Torah* shall be as sweet to your heart as milk and honey are sweet to your tongue. No doubt our annual cheesecake competition (The Great LJS Cheesecake Bake-Off) will be as hard fought this year as in the past few years! Don't miss it – 19 May!

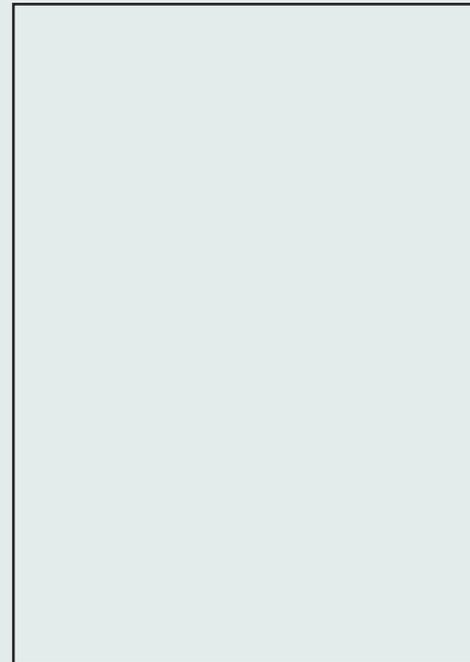
In progressive Jewish practice, the Omer may not always be religiously counted every evening... and perhaps we are missing something as a result. Perhaps, like the young girl 54 days short of her birthday, we might try to rediscover the anticipation and excitement of counting the days between *Pesach* and *Shavuot*, between Redemption and Revelation – and making those days count.

After the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed, Jews could no longer bring the daily offerings or, at this season, the Omer-sheaf. Instead, according to our sages, study of the *Torah*, prayer and deeds of loving-kindness became the daily offerings to God. Every day brings us the possibility of offering to God what we reap and gather in our lives, like the sheaves of barley. *Carpe diem* – let us seize the day.

*Rachel Benjamin*



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at the **LJS**

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

**Tuesdays 11.15-12.30**

**Until 10 July**

### **Tuesday Texts**

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 given by Norbert Meyn and musicians from the LJS choir in June and July:

### **Love of Song – from Mendelssohn to Brahms:**

**tracing Jewish connections and intercultural mobility in the art of Lieder:**

**a study course with Norbert Meyn of the 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 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.

#### **11.15-12.30 on 26 June: Mendelssohn**

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 ardent devotees. This session will also feature music by Mendelssohn's sister Fanny and the English composer William Sterndale Bennett.

#### **11.15-12.30 on 3 July: Brahms**

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.

**These two 'taster' sessions will be followed by a four-week course on Tuesday evenings in November.**

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

**Classical Hebrew at all levels****Half term: 29 May****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.

1 May	End of life, funeral and mourning
8 May	Life after death, Messiah and Messianic Age
15 May	Exploring <i>Shavuot</i>
22 May	Home rituals and prayers, including <i>Kashrut</i> , <i>Mezuzah</i> , <i>Tallit</i> and <i>Tefillin</i>
29 May	Half term
5 June	Different forms of Judaism
12 June	17 <i>Tammuz</i> , 3 Weeks, <i>Tisha B'Av</i>
19 June	Who is a Jew?
26 June	Humankind in Jewish thought
3 July	Ask the Rabbi
10 July	<i>Siyum</i> /end of year celebration

## The Shoah: historical and topical overview

### Taught by Susannah Alexander

This course will explore the history of the Nazi *Shoah* (Holocaust), and the experience of some of those affected. It is suitable for those with no prior knowledge of the *Shoah*, and for those who have studied the subject before.

#### 1 May: *Kristallnacht* and beyond

The events of 9 November 1938 were a watershed both in terms of the perspective of those living under Nazi rule, and in terms of the international response. How was one night so influential, and what happened afterwards?

#### 8 May: Eastern Europe – life in the ghettos

The invasion of Poland and the Baltic states brought millions of Jewish people under Nazi rule. The ghetto system: how was it organised, what was life like for the occupants, and how did they maintain humanity in such conditions?

#### 15 May: Rescue and resistance

Looking at what constitutes resistance, and exploring case studies of active and non-aggressive resistance. It will identify some of the attempts to rescue both Jewish individuals and entire communities, and explore the motivations of those who resisted and those who were rescuers.

### Torah study and Jewish thought

Half term: 26 May and 2 June

This term we will continue to study the teachings of Moses Maimonides, the Rambam. We have a diverse range of leaders including Rabbi Alex and Rabbi Rachel. Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton, our new scholar in residence, will be leading two classes. We are also maintaining our contributions from members of the class and others. We have a nucleus of regulars and also welcome new students. Why not come and sample a class? For further 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)

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



### 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.

## Beginners' Hebrew with Naomi Brightwell

Half term: 26 May and 2 June

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.



An enjoyable evening of song and opera, performed by students from the Royal Academy of Music (above), was held in the Sanctuary on 22 March. Organised by Max Loble, the programme included Schubert and Schumann songs as well as

several Mozart arias and duets. More than 150 members and friends attended the evening and the funds raised have been shared between IJS Community Care and Spread a Smile, a charity which entertains children in hospitals.

## 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].



## 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.



## 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.

**23 May:** *The Artist*

**27 June:** *Genevieve*

**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*

## LOCAL WALKING GROUP

The LJS local walking group is planning its next walk for Thursday 10 May, starting 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 14 June, 5 and 26 July. All LJS members and friends are welcome to join in.

For more information, please contact either Michael Romain ([romain@netgates.co.uk](mailto:romain@netgates.co.uk)) or Jody Graham ([awithj@gmail.com](mailto:awithj@gmail.com))



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.



## DROP-IN FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

The Drop-in for asylum seeker families will be from 14.00-16.00 on Sundays 13th May and 10th June. Volunteers are needed from 13.00 to prepare.

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 full details.



## 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)



## 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](mailto: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 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 LJS

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

Benjamin Allen  
Zachary Benson  
Nora Bielawski  
Nina Bluestone  
Vaughn Conway  
Elliott De Winter  
Oliver Delew  
Lorcan Eisenberg  
Amelia Gale  
Charles Garbus  
Dalia Gelfer  
Caio Goldman  
Sophia Grade

Ella Jackson-Drexler  
Sydney Johnson  
Roxy Lang  
Seth Lefebvre Sell  
Leo Mendelsohn  
Olivia Moore  
Jonas Morgan  
Samuel Nash  
Daveed Roodner  
Eva Ruiz-Daum  
Eleanor Sanderson  
Bianca Schapira  
Xavier Sparks  
Adrien Tahar  
Hector Warner

## TINY TOTS at the LJS

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

Please bring them to The LJS on *Shabbat* mornings  
**May 5, 12 and 20 (Shavuot)**  
**June 9, 16, 23 and 30**

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

Please join our friendly team of LJS Greeters and help us ensure that every *Shabbat* we are able to offer the famous LJS welcome. You'd only spend one or two mornings each quarter welcoming members and visitors. Please call Jemma or Laura on 020 7432 1296 or email [membership@ljs.org](mailto:membership@ljs.org) if you can help.

## 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  
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The Eranda Rothschild Foundation  
Martin Slowe  
Michael and Janine Sternberg

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### Senior Rabbi

Alexandra Wright

### Rabbi Emeritus

David J Goldberg OBE

### Rabbi

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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

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Peter Singer

#### Artwork

Davies Communications  
Tel 020 7586 0850

# Five lectures in five synagogues

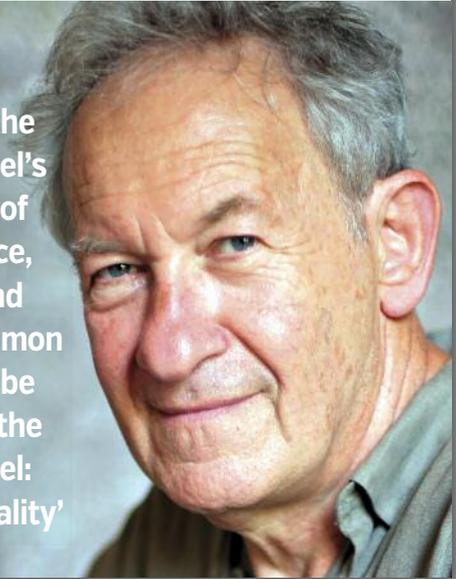
The Liberal Jewish Synagogue, West London Synagogue, West Central Liberal Synagogue, the New London Synagogue and Westminster Synagogue invite you to join them for the third in a series of five lectures

**19.00 on  
Monday 14 May**

at West London Synagogue,  
33 Seymour Place, W1H 5AU

Simon Schama's lecture will be followed by responses from Rabbi Sybil Sheridan and Rabbi Benji Stanley and discussion with the audience

70 years to the day from Israel's declaration of independence, historian and broadcaster Simon Schama will be speaking on the subject 'Israel: Dream and Reality'



## New goodies coming from Nosh 'n' Drosh



### **Shabbat 26 May**

The Rabbis introduce a new **Shabbat Morning** liturgy for Liberal Judaism - a discussion

### **Shabbat 14 July**

Carol Gould: 42 Years in Britain - 37 Years in network television

### **Shabbat 1 September**

George Dublon: Paul Ehrlich and his magic bullet

### **Shabbat 20 October**

Judy Miller: The experiences of a volunteer in the Six Day War of 1967

Nosh 'n' Drosh - lunch, a speaker and a discussion on **Shabbat** afternoons - has proved to be one of our most successful innovations.

Thank you to all those who have

sponsored a Nosh 'n' Drosh over the past two years.

Would you like to sponsor a Nosh 'n' Drosh?

Please speak to Martin Slowe or Rabbi Alexandra Wright for more information.

The next LJS News will be for June 2018. Final copy date: 7 May 2018. Copy should be emailed to [info@daviescomms.com](mailto:info@daviescomms.com)

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