



November 2018
Cheshvan/Kislev 5779

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERAL JEWISH SYNAGOGUE

LJS NEWS



Sowing sweet seeds of Jewish learning

The Religion School has been a cornerstone of the LJS since it began in 1912. Today, *Rimon*, as the Religion School is now called (it means ‘pomegranate’ in Hebrew), is currently attended by 118 children, supported by 12 teachers and 15 teaching assistants. *Rimon* continues to go from strength to strength, eliciting praise from students and teachers alike for its classes in Hebrew, in Jewish knowledge and its creative activities. Turn to page 7 where you will find out more about the school and learn what some of the students and teachers have to say about it.

Main image: Libby, Eli and Charlie proudly display their Biblical figures for the Sukkah.

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Celebrating our remarkable nonagenarian congregants



Left to right: Neil Levitt, Ann Kirk, Alex Rosen, Edward Mendelsohn and Michael Green

A special service was held between *Yom Kippur* and *Sukkot* to rejoice in the lives of the remarkable women and men whose 90th birthday falls in 2018.

In her sermon Rabbi Alexandra said that the intention was to highlight members born in 1928 and in the decade before then, 'whose impact remains vital and important, because of their presence, their contribution to community care, to services, to archives, to the Members' Choir, to Bridge, to Tuesday Texts and because of everything they have contributed to this congregation in the past ... supporting the continuation of the LJS and all that we stand for.

'For all the changes our nonagenarians have witnessed, we should take comfort in these words from the Book of Job: *Achein ruach-hi ve'enosh, v'nishmat Shadday t'vinein*. 'There is a spirit in human beings and the breath of the Almighty gives them understanding.'

Rabbi Alexandra concluded, 'Let us celebrate the spirit, understanding, wisdom and experience, generosity of heart and the perseverance and determination of each of our members who have reached, or are about to reach, this remarkable and special milestone.'

KULANU Young Adults' Group

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 and other events are held each month at the LJS for Young Adults.

Contact youngadults@ljs.org for more details.

Bereavements

We extend our sympathy to those who mourn:

Paul Podolsky

uncle of Francesca Marcus and Stephen Hendeles

Denis Mostyn Norden

father of Nick and Maggie

Avril Norden

mother of Nick and Maggie

המקום ינחם אתכם
בתוך שאר האבלים

May God comfort you and all who mourn

Shabbat and Festival services: November – December 2018

Friday evening services are at 6.45pm.

Shabbat morning services are at 11.00am unless otherwise stated.

DATE	RABBI/SPEAKER	NOTES
Friday 2 November	Alexandra Wright	
Shabbat 3 November <i>Chayey Sarah</i>	Alexandra Wright	Theo Korn <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
Friday 9 November	Alexandra Wright	Co-led by James Blumenthal <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
Shabbat 10 November <i>Tol'dot</i>	Ben Barkow, Director of the Wiener Library	<i>Bar Mitzvah</i> James Blumenthal 80th Anniversary of <i>Kristallnacht</i> /November Pogrom 1938 Armistice Day: 100 years since 11 November 1918
Friday 16 November	Alexandra Wright	Service co-led by Eva Bielawski <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> <i>Chavurah</i> supper for classes <i>Chet</i> and <i>Zayin</i> ; <i>Koleinu</i> service for <i>Kulanu</i> (Young Adults) at member's home
Shabbat 17 November <i>Vayetzé</i>	Alexandra Wright	Eva Bielawski <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>
Friday 23 November	Rachel Benjamin	Co-led by Hilary Totterman <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>
Shabbat 24 November <i>Vayishlach</i>	Rachel Benjamin with Hilary Totterman	Hilary Totterman <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> (adult)
Friday 30 November 7.00pm	World Aids Day Service	A joint service with the Jewish LGBT+ Group and BKY to mark World Aids Day with Rabbi Mark Solomon, student rabbis Anna Posner and Igor Zinkov, and others, followed by a <i>Chavurah</i> Supper. All welcome.
Shabbat 1 December <i>Vayeshev</i>	Elana Dellal	Jan Klein-Wassink <i>Bar Mitzvah</i> <i>Kindertransport Shabbat</i> : marking the 80th anniversary since the arrival of the first children on the <i>Kindertransport</i>
Wednesday 5 December 4.30pm	CHANUKKAH INTERFAITH SERVICE	Guest speaker: Bishop Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London (see page 5)
Friday 7 December	Alexandra Wright	6th night of <i>Chanukkah</i>
Shabbat 8 December <i>Miketz</i>	Elana Dellal & Igor Zinkov	Inter-generational Service in the Sanctuary <i>Koleinu</i> Service with <i>Torah</i> discussion in the John Rayner Room with Alexandra Wright

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.

MITZVAH DAY Sunday 18 November 2018

Guided by the Jewish values of *tikkun olam*, *gemilut chasadim* and *tzedek*, our vision is of Jews and non-Jews coming together to build more cohesive neighbourhoods and strengthen civil society. The LJS Drop-in for Asylum Seeker Families is a project which individuals and communities have chosen to support as part of *Mitzvah* Day 2018. There are many other *Mitzvah* Day projects that the LJS, as a community, can also get involved in. Please view the *Mitzvah* Day website for ideas and projects.
<https://mitzvahday.org.uk/vision-mission/>

Council Report by Karen Newman (sitting in for Sue Head)



After the High Holy Days, much of October was spent on various stock-taking exercises, some of which take up inordinate amounts of staff and volunteer time, but which aren't in themselves particularly interesting. For instance, even those of you who might have an interest in heating systems cannot be expected to want to read much about what can go wrong with the control panels. Or about the problems which arise when those controls are more than 25 years old!

But before all that, I would like to thank our magnificent Rabbis for leading a moving, contemplative and uplifting set of Services from *Selichot* through *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur* via *Sukkot* to joyous *Simchat Torah* Services at the LJS. Thanks too, are due to the countless volunteers who participated in services or who were on the stewarding or security teams. I'm going to stop the list right there because I'm bound to leave someone out.

But I do want to thank all our staff; the High Holy Day season puts huge pressure on LJS personnel, whether they are managing the music or trying to sort out tickets and, as usual, they all performed above and beyond the call of duty. While on the subject of High Holy Days, I would like to say that it isn't too late to contribute to

our *Yom Kippur* Appeal; details of the four worthy charities we are supporting appear here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc9cvmkh>

At our September Council meeting, we focused on issues to do with membership and I am pleased to say that Russell Delew is leading a group who are looking at these concerns in greater detail.

We discussed core membership issues on the recruitment of new members: where you, as LJS congregants and friends, can play a particularly important role - that is, the involvement of members in LJS activities, whether in the field of education, social action, services, community care or any other LJS events, and their retention; ensuring that our programme is stimulating and varied enough to retain the enthusiasm and loyalty of our members.

Council members discussed these topics in greater depth at an 'Awayday' in October (although, ever thrifty with LJS funds, we held this at home, at the LJS!) together with a discussion about governance. Here, our wish, as ever, is to strive to balance the need for flexibility with accountability and transparency so that Council members have a clear overview of all LJS activities. Council is also working with Liberal Judaism to feed back reactions and responses to the new draft *Siddur*.

Board of Deputies

Finally, I would also like to report that my fellow LJS Deputies Shelley Salter and Ben Wright recently attended a round-table breakfast with *Likud's* Director of Foreign Affairs, Eli Hazan. Mr Hazan, who is not a Member of the *Knesset* (MK) but leads on *Likud's* (rather than the government's) foreign policy, shared his thoughts on the forthcoming Israeli elections, Israel's relationship with the rest of the world, the Israeli economy, and the state of Israeli-Palestinian relations. This was a great opportunity to gain a deeper insight into Israeli politics, and to understand how other Deputies choose to engage with Israel, no doubt a topic of much discussion over the next three years.

Forthcoming Events

First Woman Bishop Of London will be Guest Speaker at THE LJS CHANUKKAH INTERFAITH EVENT
Wednesday 5 December 2018 at 4.30pm at the LJS
Please bring children, grandchildren, friends and neighbours to this celebration of light, unity and shared values.

The Rt Hon & Rt Rev'd Dame Sarah Mullally, 133rd Bishop of London, will be our honoured guest for this year's Interfaith Candle-Lighting Service and we look forward to welcoming everyone to this popular and uplifting event.



Bishop Sarah was a senior civil servant in the Department of Health before ordination; a trained nurse, she became Chief Nursing Officer for England in 1999, the youngest person to be appointed to the post. She has served as Canon

Treasurer at Salisbury Cathedral, before becoming Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter in 2015, primarily serving North and East Devon.

REMEMBRANCE SHABBAT
80th Anniversary of Kristallnacht and 100th Anniversary Armistice Day 1918
10 November 2018

The LJS will be marking these significant anniversaries with a special service and guest speaker: Ben Barkow, Director of the Wiener Library for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide. Born in Berlin, Ben has lived in London from the age of four, studying at Middlesex Polytechnic and University College London. After working as a researcher at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, he joined the Wiener Library. A noted writer, he is also a member of the editorial advisory board of *Jewish Renaissance* magazine.

MEMORIAL CONCERT
80th Anniversary of the Kindertransport
Thursday 22 November at 7.00pm

A special memorial concert at the LJS to mark the 80th Anniversary of *Kristallnacht* and the *Kindertransport* is being organised by the Wiener Library and hosted at the LJS. It will take place in our Sanctuary, a day after the official anniversary of the *Kindertransport* debate in Parliament. The evening begins with a reception at 7.00pm with special guest Dame Esther Rantzen.

The concert features a one-off performance by two acclaimed German musicians who are here specially for this occasion: cellist Friederike Fechner, and composer, conductor and pianist Mathias Husmann. The performance promises to be particularly poignant as Fechner has helped to unite descendants of the Blach family, originally of Stralsund, through her research.



Multiple branches of the Blach family were torn apart by Nazi persecution and many members of the family did not survive the Holocaust. Two of the children survived by coming to Britain on the *Kindertransport*. Another descendant, AJR trustee Gaby Glassman, is co-organising this special evening.

Tickets are £30. Spaces are limited so book now to avoid disappointment. You can book tickets at bit.ly/WLMemorialConcert or call 0207 636 7247.

WORLD AIDS DAY SERVICE
Friday 30 November at 7.00pm

This is a joint Friday evening service with the LJS, the Jewish LGBT+ Group and *Beit K'lal Yisrael* Synagogue. The service will be led by Rabbi Mark Solomon and student rabbis Anna Posner and Igor Zinkov, to be followed by a *Chavurah* Supper in the Montefiore Hall. All are welcome; please bring a vegetarian dish to share.

Donation for LJS Drop-in for Asylum-Seeker Families



Trevor Haynes *right* (LJS member and Commander of the UK branch of The Order) presenting a cheque to LJS President Martin Slowe and Karen Newman, LJS Deputy to the Board of Deputies.

The trustees of the UK branch of the Equestrian, Secular and Chapterial Order of Saint Joachim (often called 'The Order of Saint Joachim') have agreed this year to donate funds to the LJS Drop-in for Asylum-Seeker Families.

LJS President Martin Slowe says: 'This valued donation will go towards much-needed provisions which are dispensed every month to our drop-in families. We are extremely grateful to The Order for their generous contribution towards the upkeep of our LJS project which supports over 200 families seeking asylum.'

The Equestrian, Secular and Chapterial Order of Saint Joachim raises funds for worthy causes around the world, making contributions to small, grassroots charities that are often otherwise overlooked. The Order was founded in Bohemia in 1755 by nobles and military leaders of the Holy Roman Empire who, having seen the consequences of religious wars in Europe,

dedicated themselves to supporting the poor, widows and orphans. Unusually for its time, The Order was an ecumenical confraternity, open to 'all good men of faith, irrespective of denomination'. The most famous British member of the Order was Admiral Lord Nelson who received the Royal Warrant to wear its insignia on his uniform.

Our next Drop-in for Asylum-Seeker Families

The next LJS Drop-in for Asylum-Seeker Families will be on 11 November from 2.00-4.00pm. Volunteers are needed from 1.00pm please, to help set up and for clothes sorts. Please be in touch to find out the dates of these.

Future dates: 9 December 2018 and then in 2019: 13 January, 10 February, 10 March, 14 April, 12 May, 16 June, 14 July, 11 August, 8 September, 13 October, 10 November, 8 December.

VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

If you are interested in volunteering once a month or a few times a year, please contact asylumproject@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.



Preparing food for the guests at the LJS Drop-in

Remarkable *Rimon*:

‘Where children can explore ideas and learn at their own pace’

Rimon is headed by Israeli-born Dr Dov Softi, an LJS teacher for nearly 20 years. It is Dov who is largely credited with coining the captivating name ‘*Rimon*’ for the religion school. As deputy head Susannah Alexander explains:

‘Rimon means pomegranate. It’s a reference to the mitzvot being as numerous as the seeds of a pomegranate. Also, a pomegranate is sweet, just like Jewish learning should be! About four years ago we decided that we no longer wanted to be the ‘Religion School’, because it seemed a bit formal, but we didn’t like ‘cheder’ either as it wasn’t right for the LJS ethos. We looked at different ideas and came up with Rimon.’

Dov says that the school, ‘aims to provide a framework of learning within the community, offers a broad and stimulating foundation in Jewish education, fosters Liberal Jewish identity and works to be a place of value, nurturing, meaning and warmth for a child to grow and learn.’

Here, some of the teachers and students tell us what they have to say about *Rimon*:

‘Our teachers make learning Hebrew fun.’

‘We’ve been making calendars with the Hebrew months and writing in our Hebrew birthdays. We like learning about the Jewish calendar.’

‘I really like it here, I’ve been coming since I was four years old, it’s nice, it’s really fun and the teachers are good.’

‘I especially enjoy doing my one-to-one lessons in preparation for my Bar Mitzvah.’

‘This is one place where children can explore ideas and learn at their own pace without constantly being measured. They have an opportunity to enjoy learning for its own sake.’

‘Kabbalat Torah students really come into their own on the Bimah, they literally seem to increase in stature as they deliver their Divrei Torah.’



Dalia and girls researching Sukkot on their class tablet



Dov teaching class Zayin



Class Heh making Biblical figures from paper and fabrics for the Sukkah

For more details about *Rimon*, please see the religion school brochure:
<https://tinyurl.com/yanc9fbb>

Reflections on Armistice Day 11 November

Even the 'eleventh hour' is never too late to work for peace

Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton

It was the wettest August in living memory and we were camping in Picardy, Northern France. The campsite was by a river and each day the water rose up across the field a little nearer to our tent. We were not flooded out, but we spent the week trying to escape the mud and the rain by visiting every local tourist site we could find.

And that's how we found ourselves at the Glade of the Armistice in the Forest of Compiègne. We had never heard of this place before, although everyone knows what happened there. This was the spot where the Armistice was signed in a railway carriage on 11 November 1918.

As the defeat of Germany drew near, the Allied Commander in Chief, Marshall Ferdinand Foch, wanted to negotiate in a secret location. So he used a siding in the dense woods for his own private railway carriage. The Germans arrived in another train and the negotiations took three days.

An exhibition in the replica railway carriage at the museum tells the story. The truce papers were signed at 5.00am on Monday 11 November, with the cease-fire due to come into force six hours later at 11.00am. The fighting continued right up until the final moments and then the guns fell silent after 52 months of fighting. Around 20 million people had died in the war, half military, half civilian. Afterwards, the railway carriage was returned to its former use as a French restaurant car.

Hitler visited the site after winning the Battle of France in June 1940. He decided to humiliate the French by having the 'Armistice Carriage' brought back to the site and forcing them to sign the 'Second Armistice of Compiègne' in the same spot. But at the end of WW2, with the Germans in retreat, they decided to destroy the carriage as they left, so what we saw is an exact replica.

What surprised us was how quiet the place was at the height of the tourist season. The famous events took place in such a secluded and little-known spot, and we were able to wander around between the showers with hardly another visitor in sight.

The peaceful rural location is a fitting place to remember the moment the guns fell silent. If only it had been, as everyone hoped, the end of mass warfare!

As the centenary comes around, I think of my grandfather, Charles Pinto, who lost two brothers, Frank and Harold, in the Great War (as it was first called). His two sisters, Sophie and Rosie, never married, and as a child, I often visited them in their flat on the top floor of Avenue Mansions in Finchley Road, Hampstead.

My mother told me that so many men had died that it was common for young women in that generation to have nobody to marry. And I think, too, of my own father, Donald Heilbuth, born in 1915, just three years old when the war ended, growing up and spending most of his twenties on military service in the Second World War.

Memory is not just about the past. How do we keep the peace in Europe? There are so many threats in our time, including terrorism, organised crime, bribery and corruption, climate change, energy security, poverty, migration and economic instability.

Europe's humanitarian reputation was severely challenged by the 2015 refugee crisis and has not fully recovered. The refugee crisis has to be tackled on a supra-national level, but are the EU institutions strong enough to do it? And how is peace to be restored to those countries from which the migrants are coming?

In 2012, the European Union was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for contributing over six decades 'to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe.' Six years on, the prospects look very different. Can memories of past wars help us?

There are more than 100,000 war memorials in the UK. They take many forms, including cenotaphs, plaques, gardens and books. In spite of the events commemorated on those memorials receding

ever further into the past, my sense is that there has been a growth in the November observance in recent years. As people grow older, they remember the past more vividly than ever.

In our prayers we pray explicitly to the God of Abraham and Sarah. We mention that God 'remembers the good deeds of our ancestors'. The idea is the hope that God will remember their merits when God thinks of us. May God remember the agreements made with them, the promises made to them.

In fixing the armistice for 11.00am, the negotiators may perhaps have been aware of the proverbial

expression 'at the eleventh hour,' meaning 'at the last possible moment'. The phrase comes from a teaching in the Christian Scriptures that the workers hired at the eleventh hour were paid the same as those who had worked all day.

Our rabbis taught similar ideas. We who come late in history can still win the same reward as our distant ancestors. It may be the eleventh hour, but it is never too late to win merit and reward. The doomsday clock may be ticking, but it is never too late to work for peace. Let us never forget the past, and never cease to work for a peaceful future.

A Holocaust Memorial created by millions of buttons

On a rare rainy day in July, I found myself standing next to my grandmother in a school in the Lake District holding a large bag containing 2,389 buttons. The buttons were collected by members of The LJS as a contribution to the Lake District Holocaust Project.

The Lake School was built on the site of an estate which in 1945 became the temporary home to a group of 300 Jewish children rescued from Poland. All were survivors of concentration camps and they became known as the Windermere boys.



Helped into education and work, they were given a new start by the UK after the worst start in life any group of children could have.

The Windermere boys often return to the Lake District and on one occasion, while talking to schoolchildren, one of the pupils suggested that a memorial could be made from buttons – 1.5 million – to represent every child killed in the Holocaust. Buttons come in all shapes and sizes, just like children. When we visited the school, we were astonished to find wheelie bins full of buttons from all over the world!

My grandmother, LJS member Judith Diamond, accompanied me and said of our visit: 'These buttons included 93,000 from the Women's Institute in the Isle of Man and a special collection from Sandhurst Military Academy, which sent one button from every regiment that had been through the Academy.'

'The school held special counting days which brought in help from many members of the local community. This collection of buttons helped my grandson Solomon to appreciate more personally the impact of the Holocaust on his family, who were given refuge in 1933, and the wars and destruction still happening today.'

*Solomon Diamond, aged 13
(Leicester Progressive Synagogue)*

LOVE OF LIEDER

Short course on Tuesday evenings

8.00-9.30pm

6, 13, 20, 27 November, 2018

Ensemble Emigré presents:

Love of Lieder: Tracing the Jewish Journey through 19th and 20th century German Song

Tutors: Norbert Meyn and Cathy Heller-Jones



Incorporating live performance and led by Norbert Meyn (Royal College of Music), this course explores the role of Jewish figures in the development of the art of *Lieder*. Each session will focus on a small group of composers from a particular period, beginning with Felix and Fanny Mendelssohn; on to Mahler, Zemlinski and Schönberg, Kurt Weill, Hanns Eisler, Robert Kahn and composers like Hans Gál and Karl Rankl, who emigrated to Britain from Germany and Austria and continued the tradition by setting English poetry to their music. We will examine how their creativity and professional careers were affected by the political, social and religious climate of their time.

Norbert will be joined by LJS Director of Music Cathy Heller-Jones and young singers and pianists from the Royal College of Music and the Guildhall School of Music & Drama. *Ensemble Emigré* has developed from the Research and Performance project ‘Singing a Song in a Foreign Land’ at the Royal College of Music. It is dedicated to exploring the work of musicians who emigrated from Nazi Europe in the 1930s, many of them Jewish.

Please visit www.rcm.ac.uk/singingasong for oral history interviews, performance videos and biographies of over 40 *emigre* musicians. Future plans include a CD with songs and chamber music by Robert Kahn and a performance at the *Akademie der Künste* Berlin in March 2019. www.ensemble-emigre.com

This series is part of B’nai B’rith UK’s European Days of Jewish Culture & Heritage



TUESDAY MORNINGS:

11.15am-12.30pm

25 September – 11 December 2018

Tuesday Texts

This friendly group is led by our Rabbis, including our Scholar in Residence, Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton, Dr Dov Softi and Susannah Alexander.

We study biblical texts and commentaries and enjoy sessions on Jewish art and music. Previous classes have examined the influence of Jewish texts on Leonard Cohen and Bob Dylan, Adventures in Jewish History and Love of Song, which included a performance element of songs by Felix and Fanny Mendelssohn, Schubert and Brahms, and an Introduction to *Kabbalah*.

In the *Sukkot* Term, Rabbi Elana Dellal will take the subject of 'Progressive Judaism in the *Talmud*'. Rabbi Alexandra Wright will be bringing translations of the *Erev Shabbat* Psalms for the new *Siddur* for the group to critique. Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton will venture into the Book of Samuel, studying the consummate narrative stories of Saul and David. New students always welcome. Coffee and biscuits served.

TUESDAY EVENINGS:

7.00-8.00pm

4 September – 11 December 2018

CLASSICAL HEBREW AT ALL LEVELS

Classical and Prayer-Book Hebrew for Beginners

Tutor: Susannah Alexander

Are you learning to read Hebrew, 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, where we use a tried-and-tested method to get reading faster than you thought possible. Beginning with Jonathan Romain's Primer *Signs and Wonders* and moving on to a taste of grammar, liturgy and Bible. Take your first steps into the wonderful world of Hebrew with skill and confidence.

Next Steps in Prayer-Book Hebrew

Tutor: Dr Sally Gold

Greater understanding and confidence in Hebrew can be yours! Whether you are familiar with the prayer-book (*Siddur*), or have just begun to read, this class will help you better to understand what you are reading and with more confidence.

At the same time, you will be learning the Hebrew of the *Tanakh* (the Bible) on the path towards greater enjoyment and participation in synagogue services. We practise reading simple Hebrew from the *Siddur* and Hebrew Bible, building your reading skills and knowledge of vocabulary and simple grammar at an unhurried pace. The use of texts, simple exercises, questions, answers and discussion will all help to progress your understanding and enjoyment. Regular attendance will achieve better results!

TUESDAY EVENINGS: 7.00-8.00pm

4 September – 11 December 2018

David: Warrior and Lover King

Tutor: Rabbi Alexandra Wright

New students welcome as we start a new chapter in 1 Samuel, the focus shifting from Saul, now suffering from acute mental anguish, to the young and skilled fighter, David. Read how his soul becomes bound up with the soul of Saul's son, Jonathan; an accidental marriage arrangement with one of Saul's daughters – already betrothed to another – and Saul's murderous intentions towards his successor. We read in Hebrew, texts provided, and translate and analyse the Hebrew carefully.

TUESDAY EVENINGS: 8.00-9.00pm

4 September – 11 December 2018

Exploring Judaism

Tutor: Student Rabbi Igor Zinkov

Exploring Judaism is for people who wish they knew more about Judaism or would like to brush up on their Jewish knowledge.

Exploring Judaism continued...

It is for family members who are not Jewish but would like to understand more about Judaism. It is also an essential programme of instruction for people choosing Judaism, by conversion. Class members are encouraged to read materials which will be made available online during the year. The course offers knowledge about aspects of Judaism, to encourage practical experiences of Liberal Judaism and space for personal reflection within the group. Resources can be found on: www.ljsexploringjudaism.wordpress.com.

Tuesday 6 November *Tanakh and Sefer Torah*

Tuesday 13 November *Rabbinic Literature*

Tuesday 20 November *Liturgy and Prayer Book*

Tuesday 27 November *Israel – People and Land*

Tuesday 4 December *Exploring Chanukkah (and 3rd night of Chanukkah)*

Tuesday 11 December *Shabbat*

PURIM TERM 2019

Tuesday 8 January *Jewish Ethics*

Tuesday 15 January *Synagogue and Home*

Shabbat 19 January *Tu Bi'Sh'vat Shabbaton*

Tuesday 22 January *Exploring Tu Bi'Sh'vat*

Tuesday 29 January *Exploring God and Belief*

Tuesday 5 February *Introduction to Life Cycle and Early Life Rituals*

Tuesday 12 February *Education and Coming of Age*

Tuesday 19 February *Half Term*

Tuesday 26 February *Conversion*

Tuesday 5 March *Marriage and Mixed Faith Blessings*

Tuesday 12 March *End of Life, Funeral and Mourning*

Tuesday 19 March *Exploring Purim*

Wednesday 20 March *Erev Purim – service and Purimspiel in the evening*

Tuesday 26 March *Pesach and the Counting of the Omer*

Tuesday 2 April *Pesach Workshops*

Friday 19/Shabbat 20 April *Erev Pesach and Pesach Morning service*

Thursday 25/Friday 26 April *Erev 7th Day and 7th Day Pesach services (6.45pm and 11.00 am)*

SHABBAT MORNING CLASSES

**Shabbat 15 September –
Shabbat 8 December 2018
9.45-10.45am**

Adult Torah texts and studying our prayers

In the autumn term we major on studying texts from the *Torah* that we either avoid at Religion School or, if we do study them, we look at them in a different way. We will also have four sessions on studying our regular prayers. We will benefit from the teaching of Rabbi Alexandra, scholar in residence Rabbi Michael, our student rabbi Igor, and our own members who have had a formal Jewish education. We will continue to have contributions from regular members of our class. All are welcome.

If you have any queries please contact Michael Romain romain@netgates.co.uk or Harriett Goldenberg hgoldenberg@btinternet.com

BEGINNERS' HEBREW

Tutor: Naomi Brightwell

Naomi's class uses Jonathan Romain's *Signs and Wonders* to help complete beginners to 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.

KEYS TO UNDERSTANDING CLASSICAL

HEBREW Tutor: David Strang

The purpose of this class is to increase students' understanding of classical Hebrew, as used both in the *Torah* and the *Siddur*. We are using the text book *Prayer Book Hebrew the Easy Way* (available for purchase, £27) and will aim to complete it by the end of the academic year. Each lesson involves a mixture of reading, learning vocabulary and grammar and translating from Hebrew to English. Students are expected to be able to already read with

reasonable fluency and to know how to write in block Hebrew script. While there is a core of students who have been following the course for two years now, new students will be made very welcome.

INTERMEDIATE HEBREW

Tutor: Nitza Spiro

The aim of these sessions is to explore the Hebrew texts which the students will come across in synagogue services on *Shabbatot* and Festivals. The class has previously studied the Books of Ruth

and Esther and the *Pesach Haggadah*. 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.

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

SAVE THE DATE

Tu Bi'Sh'vat Shabbaton: Saturday 19 January 2019

'See how lovely and excellent

My works are; I have created them all for you.

Take care not to spoil and destroy My world...'

Kohelet (Ecclesiastes) Rabbah 7:13

Tu Bi'Sh'vat, New Year for Trees, is one of the first markers of spring and renewal. So this is an ideal opportunity to think about our relationship with the environment as individuals and the LJS community.

To that end we're looking forward to spending *Shabbat* together on 19 January. The day will be packed with stimulating sessions, some hands-on, others more study-oriented: followed by prayer, music and shared food and closing with *Havdalah*. If you'd like to help prepare our vegan *Chavurah* lunch in the LJS kitchen, our cooking bee will take place on Thursday 17 January at 7.00pm: contact hgoldenberg@btinternet.com

Underpinning the day is acknowledgement of our role as 'stewards of the world'. Do come to Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton's *shiur* entitled, 'How varied are thy works O Lord,' setting the tone for what follows.

It is traditional to plant a tree to celebrate *Tu Bi'Sh'vat*, so together with Trees for Cities and Westminster Council, we will plant a tree in a public space later in spring. More information will follow about how you can support this initiative and/or be there on the day.

This year our celebration will be more restrained, bearing in mind that abundance is not experienced by many and with our sensibilities not wanting to waste fresh food. It remains a task and a challenge to discover techniques allowing us to balance environmental awareness with the festive spirit.

There are eco-initiatives you may like us to take on board, as we build towards the *Shabbaton* to which all members are welcome as well as guests (for a small charge). Please let us know you are coming, by contacting Debi Penhey (or registering via Eventbrite) so we can organise catering and sessions. A detailed programme will follow. We look forward to seeing you.



For more information contact Debi Penhey: education@ljs.org or telephone 020 7432 1284.

Community Events

BRIDGE GROUP, Mondays at 2.00pm

The Bridge Club meets at 2.00pm every Monday (except Jewish and Bank Holidays) and finishes at 5.00pm. 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 as a competitive one. 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.

BRIDGE CLUB



VIDEO AND TEA

The LJS warmly invites you to this monthly event on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1.30-4.30pm. Just come along – no need to book.

28 November: The Snowman and Father Christmas

LOCAL WALKING GROUP November–December 2018

Our next walks are on Wednesday 7 November and Thursday 13 December, meeting at the LJS at 11.15am. All members and friends are welcome. There is a Walking for Health two-page form to fill out before walking for those who have not walked with us before. We walk in Regents Park for an hour or so and hope to end up at a cafe for coffee or lunch.

To find out more, please contact Jody Graham on awithj@gmail.com or Michael Romain on romain@netgates.co.uk. Jody's mobile: 07765 214867. Michael's mobile: 07818 000849.

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 Aviva on email: a.shafritz@ljs.org or by telephone on 020 8286 5181.

NOSH 'N' DROSH 2018/2019 Shabbat lunchtimes 1.15-2.15pm

Shabbat 15 December 2018

Dr Tessa Murdoch, Deputy Keeper and Head of Metalwork at the V & A will speak on 'Judaica at the Victoria and Albert Museum.'

Shabbat 19 January 2019

A celebration of the New Year for Trees and an opportunity for the whole community to come together to examine environmental concerns.

Shabbat 16 February 2019

Rabbi Harry Jacobi will speak on Moses Mendelssohn.

Shabbat 23 March 2019

Rachel Kolsky, author of 'Jewish London' returns to the LJS with a virtual tour over lunch and wine.

Thank you to all those who have sponsored a Nosh 'n' Drosh over the past two years. This has proved to be one of our most successful innovations. Would you like to sponsor a Nosh 'n' Drosh? Please speak to Martin Slowe or Rabbi Alexandra Wright for more information.

SINGING FOR THE MIND

Singing for the Mind is open to anyone with memory problems or in the early stages of dementia. We meet once a week from 2.00-4.00pm with tea and biscuits as people arrive to allow participants and their companions the chance to chat before we start singing at 2.00pm.

The hour-long singing session is led by a trained Music Leader, supported by volunteers. A Dementia Specialist is available for help and advice. **For further details email sfm@ljs.org or phone the LJS on 020 72865171.**

RESTAURANT TUESDAY

Meets at 12.30pm 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).

Young LJS

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

Kaila Brooks
Samuel Cooper
Lily Crane-Newman
Marina Dagtoglou
Henry Davis
Floriana Davis
Sidney Gruber
Rebecca Lawson
Katherine Leventhal
Matilda Leventhal
Eden Licht

Alessa Lindbland Hill
Axel Munthe Sforza
Natalie Ohana-Cole
Tigist Silbiger
Leora Sternberg
Eric Watts
Nina Williams
Seth Williams
Abraham Wolchover
Yahel Yaroshevski

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 SESSIONS: 3, 10, 17 & 24 November;
1 & 8 December**

Tiny Tots meets in term time and will be back on 12 January 2019.

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.



The Liberal Jewish Synagogue

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Executive Director

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Dov Softi

Nursery Head Teacher

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Aviva Shafritz

Director of Music

Cathy Heller-Jones

Organist

Tim Farrell

LJS News Team

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Artwork: Tingle Design

In case of bereavement:

In office hours, call 020 7432 1298

At other times, call 020 8958 2112

(Cala's)

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 Felicia Beder on 0207 432 1283 or rabbispa@ljs.org.

10,000 steps for 10,000 children

Sunday 2 December from the LJS to Liverpool Street Station: approximately 5 miles

Join us for a walk to commemorate and honour the 10,000 children who were brought to the UK on the *Kindertransport*. The self-guided walk will take place on Sunday 2 December starting at the LJS and ending at Liverpool Street Station with a candle-lighting ceremony, organised by World Jewish Relief.

11.00am

Arrive at the LJS with warm clothes and walking shoes. Breakfast and refreshments at the LJS.

12.00pm

Depart from the LJS, walk through Regents Park and head for the British Museum and other interesting parts of London.

3.30pm

Short ceremony to mark the 80th Anniversary of the first arrival of the *Kindertransport* at Liverpool Street Station and lighting of the candle for the first night of *Chanukkah* by Frank Meisler's *Kindertransport* Memorial sculpture.

Please note there may not be enough seats for walkers to be seated at Liverpool Street, so we will probably have to stand nearby, but it's the walk that is important.



A coach will leave from the LJS at 2.30 pm to arrive at Liverpool Street Station by 3.30 pm. **Please register your name with Felicia Beder (see below) by 9 November if you wish to be on the coach.**

You must also register your details if you wish to walk. Please contact Felicia Beder on rabbispa@ljs.org or 0207 432 1283 by Wednesday 14 November at the latest.

Treasure Chest Of Mesmerising Songs

In a spirit of reflection and meditation, heralding the arrival of the High Holy Days, Simon Wallfisch and Simon Haynes presented a *Songfest* for the LJS audience. It included pieces by familiar names such as Maurice Ravel and Samuel Barber, as well as much that was unfamiliar, with songs by Hans Gál, Fanny Mendelssohn, Rebecca Clarke, Max Kowalski, Lazar Weiner, Erich Sternberg and Carlo Taube.

With detailed programme notes revealing fascinating biographies of the composers, the concert took listeners on a mesmerising journey, starting with Taube's setting of *Ein Jüdisches Kind*, composed during his imprisonment in Terezín and concluding with Ravel's lyrical and haunting setting of the traditional *Kaddish* prayer of mourning.

Opening a treasure chest of songs, we look forward to hearing further riches from both Simons in the future.
Cathy Heller-Jones



The LJS is a constituent synagogue of Liberal Judaism

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