



October 2018
Tishri - Cheshvan 5779

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERAL JEWISH SYNAGOGUE

LJS
News



Our Yom Kippur Appeal: supporting others at this special time of year

'Just as the Eternal One upholds the cause of the orphan and the widow and befriends the stranger, providing food and clothing – so you too must befriend the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.' (Deuteronomy 10:18-19)

This year, the Yom Kippur Appeal Committee considered 23 applications from a wide range of charities who are doing amazing work. It was very difficult to choose our beneficiaries, but we selected three particularly worthwhile causes. page 8/9

Main image: Ben Gurion University - Bedouin Bursary Fund (Israeli Charity)

LOVE OF LIEDER:

Tracing the Jewish Journey through
19th and 20th century German Song
with tutors Norbert Meyn and
Cathy Heller-Jones p12

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Diana Gould: 3 May 1912 – 25 June 2018

A full and inspiring life - and 'on kissing terms' with Boris!

'I'm always ready to learn; you're never too old to learn; if I learn a new word, that's really special... I want to know what "fracking" is'. This was Diana Gould, then 105, on Radio 4's Woman's Hour last October¹. This was typical of Diana, whose advice included, 'Don't think of yourself as old. Keep reading. My secret is that I can't imagine not having a big box of chocolates in the fridge. But I don't keep it by my side. I get up to go and get one.'



had enough water. Of course, there were a number of celebrities to meet, *'I'm on kissing terms with Boris'*; she declared, when I met her in June 2017.

Diana joined the LJS in 1962. *'It was beautiful. It was quiet. You could understand every word and follow the Hebrew. It was wonderful.'* She opened the new kitchen at the LJS in a special ceremony in October 2017.

Diana's beloved husband Ted died in 1978, leaving Diana a widow for 40 years. When she moved in 2002,

Diana was born in 1912 in Poland. She came to England in 1913 as a baby with her mother and siblings; her father and older brothers were already here. They all lived together in Columbia Road, Bethnal Green. She worked as a seamstress in Carnaby Street, and lived with her husband, Ted, in Stoke Newington before settling in Hendon in 1960.

For Diana, family was everything, and it was her grand-daughter who nominated her in 2012 to be an Olympic torch-carrier. Diana, then 100 years old, not only carried the torch through The Burroughs, in Hendon, but she did it on what turned out to be the hottest day of the year. She refused to walk with a stick - *'How am I going to be able to wave to people if I'm holding the torch and a stick?'* The police were wonderful, she said, making sure she

she ran a fitness class for fellow residents in her block of flats, but sadly she had to stop this when she was 102, because her students, in their 80s, couldn't keep up with her, despite her protestations that she was old enough to be their mother...

Diana lived life to the full and was an inspiration to many people; the last thing I remember her saying to me as I left her home was *'There's no such thing as can't'*. Diana is survived by her two sons, Brian and Stuart, and their families, including four grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Karen Newman

¹ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p05kqxxd>
Diana Gould on Radio 4, 23 October 2017

SAVE THE DATE

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

We will be celebrating Tu Bi'Sh'vat, New Year for Trees and thinking and learning about our care for the environment. We will devote some time to seeing how many texts in Judaism provide us with concern for the sustainability of our resources and how they relate to today's climate change and our environment. A day of thought, talk, music and eating; with a parallel programme for children.

For more information or to volunteer for the cooking bee for our vegan communal lunch, contact Harriett at hgoldenbergt@btinternet.com



Shabbat and Festival services: October 2018

Friday evening services are at 6.45pm.

Shabbat morning services are at 11.00 am unless otherwise stated

DATE	RABBI/SPEAKER	NOTES
Friday 5 October	Alexandra Wright	Service co-led by Ursula Warshaw <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>
Shabbat 6 October Bereishit	Alexandra Wright	Ursula Warshaw <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>
Friday 12 October	Igor Zinkov	
Shabbat 13 October Noach	Igor Zinkov	Shoshana Davidson – Naming and Thanksgiving
Shabbat 13 October 4.30pm	Alexandra Wright	Bianca Schapira <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> <i>Minchah</i> Service
Friday 19 October	Alexandra Wright Igor Zinkov & Stephen Laughton	Service in the Sanctuary. A relaxed, alternative service in the John Rayner Room followed by dinner at Harry Morgan's for the Kulanu group
Shabbat 20 October Lech L'cha	Elana Dellal	Nosh 'n' Drosh at 1.15 pm with Judy Miller
Friday 26 October	Rachel Benjamin	
Shabbat 27 October	Rachel Benjamin	
Friday 2 November	Alexandra Wright	
Shabbat 3 November Chayyey Sarah	Alexandra Wright	<i>Bar Mitzvah</i> Theo Korn
Friday 9 November	Alexandra Wright	Service co-led by James Blumenthal <i>Bar Mitzvah</i> <i>Kristallnacht</i>
Shabbat 10 November Toldot	Alexandra Wright	<i>Bar Mitzvah</i> James Blumenthal <i>Kristallnacht</i> and Remembrance <i>Shabbat</i>

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.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY Friday 30 November – World Aids Day Service.

Joint Friday evening service with The LJS and the Jewish LGBT+ Group.

More details in November newsletter

WELCOME TO 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. On Mitzvah Day 2018, our Drop-in for Asylum Seeker Families is a project which individuals and communities have chosen to support. But there are many other Mitzvah Day projects that the LJS, as a community, can also get involved in. To plan our involvement, please come to an LJS meeting **at 6.30 pm on Monday 15 October**. In advance, please view the Mitzvah Day website for ideas and projects. <https://mitzvahday.org.uk/vision-mission/>

An Eco-friendly Synagogue



The LJS is trying to be eco-friendly and environmentally responsible. As Jews, we believe we have an obligation to care for the earth and are answerable for its well-being.

We have begun by reviewing how energy-efficient our synagogue is and have started by replacing all the light bulbs throughout the building with energy efficient LED. In the previous couple of newsletters, I have talked about the need to upgrade our heating system. This is an expensive project with energy efficient considerations and the plans for this are being put together.

On a daily basis, there are things we can do to be more careful about the world's resources. One step is to limit our use of plastic. We now have glass *kiddush* cups and have bought hard-wearing mugs which are designed not to break in our high temperature dishwasher: much better than single-use plastic cups.

As well as this, throughout the building, there are clearly marked bins for the recycling of paper, plastic, glass and aluminium. Please help us to be an eco-friendly synagogue by using them!

Eliminating unnecessary waste is important in being careful about the world's resources and we are having a battle! In the last eighteen months we have had to increase re-ordering everyday items such as mugs, spoons and knives. This is because so many have disappeared and, on occasions, they have been spotted in the waste bins. If you use such things when you are at the LJS, please put them on one of the many blue trays around the building when you have finished with them or give them to a caretaker. Thank you!

On another note, the August and early September break from the Nursery School and from the *Rimon* Religion School gave us an opportunity to do some renovation and maintenance around the synagogue. We hope you like the improvements.

The remaining rooms on the first floor have now been re-carpeted and a few have been repainted. There are no longer any wool-based carpets to attract or harbour moths.

As I mentioned in September, the Senior Rabbi's office has been redecorated, this is the first time in over 20 years. In addition to being Rabbi Wright's office, the room is used in many ways during the week: for rabbinic coaching and support, Hebrew classes, study sessions, as well as a quiet space for reflection and counselling.

On the ground floor, the John Rayner Room has new tables: Council would like to thank Rita Adler for donating these. They are very attractive and will make the room more flexible for the different types of services and meetings which are held in it. You will also see that the table which had previously been in the John Rayner Room is now in the library, making the library a nice space in which to read.

Many thanks to our Executive Director, Lysa Schwartz and her team of caretakers and office staff for their work in making sure all the renovations and redecorations went smoothly.

Sue Head



Wendy Mote, John O'Brien, Margaret James and James Sarsfield enjoying lunch at the Chatsworth Hotel before going for a walk along the promenade.

Out and About in Worthing: so nice to be beside the sea!

On a Sunday morning in August, you might have expected St. John's Wood to be a fairly tranquil place, but on 12 August it was quite the opposite. Five minibuses filled the forecourt of the LJS while queues of people lined the road opposite waiting to go into Lord's for the Test Match against India.

The buses were collecting members of the Out and About Club, all of whom are disabled, to go on their annual outing to Worthing. A total of 52 people had a great day out at the seaside.

Meanwhile, the week before, we had a moving talk by Joan Salter who told her life story about being a 'hidden child' during the war and escaping from one country to the next, including going across the Pyrenees as a young child. She and her parents were the only members of her family to escape the Holocaust. In recent years Joan has been working for the Holocaust Education Trust, for which she was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Jenny Nathan

Bereavements

We extend our sympathy to those who mourn:

Diana Gould, mother of Stuart and Brian

John Lewis, father of Julian and Nicola

Betty Radin, mother of Nicholas

Florence Rosenfeld

Maurice Sellar, husband of Pamela and father of Daniel

Joseph Singer, husband of Maeve and father of Anna, David, Victoria and Cressida

Sybil Steinman, mother of Phil and Ruthie

Regina Van den Bergh, mother of Malcolm, Richard and Frances



Barbara Frankie

Tennenbaum,

mother of Gabrielle.

Barbara ran The LJS Drama Group for many years and is remembered with great affection and admiration.

המקום ינחם אתכם
בתוך שאר האבלים

May God comfort you and all who mourn

Our next Drop-in for Asylum-Seeker Families

The LJS Drop-ins for asylum seeker families will be on 14 October and 9 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.

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.

‘Communal anger and tribal politics

‘And now I want you to do the most unexpected thing’

Rabbi Alexandra Wright

At the beginning of September, Lord Sacks, the former Chief Rabbi, described Jeremy Corbyn's remarks about 'silent Zionists in the audience' of a 2013 meeting with the Palestinian Ambassador, Manuel Hassassian, as 'the most offensive statement made by a senior British politician since Enoch Powell's 1968 'Rivers of Blood' speech' (Interview in the New Statesman, 28 August, 2018). 'It was divisive, hateful and like Powell's speech it undermines the existence of an entire group of British citizens by depicting them as essentially alien,' he added.

Rabbi Alexandra Wright responded to that analogy with the following piece which was published in the online version of the Jewish Chronicle. Her article appears below, together with a response from LJS member Mary Sebag-Montefiore.

Corbyn's words were indefensible, ill-advised and, no doubt, designed to give maximum offence to those Jews who sat in the audience of the meeting, addressed by Hassassian. The suggestion that they 'don't want to study history' and 'having lived in this country for a long time don't understand English irony either' is testimony to what Jonathan

Freedland has called 'old school anti-Semitism' – the prejudice of the leader of the opposition who believes Jews are different and alien.

There is no doubting that there are those within the Labour Party, as well as those who are eager to jump on the Party's bandwagon from outside it, who continue to voice despicable and blatantly racist remarks against Jews. It is hard to believe that scarcely seventy years after the Second World War, in living memory of those who lost family members in the death camps or arrived here as refugees, we have come to this.

We have known what it means to be branded as victims of anti-Semitism; six million of our very own people were murdered in the Shoah because they were Jews and the object of Nazi hatred. We are, understandably, deeply sensitive and fragile when it comes to issues of anti-Semitism.

But Lord Sacks' comparison of Corbyn's remarks to Enoch Powell's 'Rivers of Blood' speech, a speech that was delivered by a Shadow Defence Secretary to the nation, is irresponsible and dangerous. Powell's speech was devastating, a stain on British

‘Hard talk merits a tough response’ Mary Sebag-Montefiore

Alexandra Wright asked me to write a critique of her article about Lord Sacks' words. I cannot agree with all of her very reasoned and reasonable argument. Dr Sacks compares Jeremy Corbyn's remarks with those of Enoch Powell in his 'Rivers of Blood' speech. This she finds 'irresponsible and dangerous,' since his speech has had a 'malign and devastating effect' on race and immigration.

The causes of fears about immigration are complex and changeable, and beyond my scope. I'm concerned with the impact of Jeremy Corbyn's words about Jews, and Lord Sacks is absolutely right. Although Jeremy Corbyn says he is not a racist and is all for peace, his efforts

seem to fan the flames of anti-Semitism. The malign and devastating effect he's created is the *causa causans* of indignant reaction. There's been no apology for saying British Jews lack a sense of irony and need history lessons, just weasel words. Implications of 'otherness' not of our making cannot be acceptable and ducking out of standing up to this slur is not acceptable either.

Most of upstanding Britain was appalled by the cruelty of the Rivers of Blood speech, and it finished Enoch Powell politically. Thank goodness we live in, love and are loyal to this generous and tolerant country, in which most people and all newspapers are equally horrified at the extraordinary way anti-Semitism is in the news.

could stir unending conflict'



In his 2009 book, *Future Tense*, Lord Sacks addressed the issue of anti-Semitism in the wake of the rise of intimidation against students on university campuses. Yet, while facing the reality of anti-Semitism and its effect on Jewish life and security, instead of resorting to the appropriation of violently worded analogies, he wrote, 'And now I want you to do the most unexpected thing. I want you to lead the fight against Islamophobia.'

I appeal to our Jewish community, young and old, grassroots and leadership, religious and secular: please take a step back and reflect on whether communal anger and tribal politics will help us to resolve the issue or stir its febrile nature into an unending whirlpool of conflict and hatred.

history, and has had a malign and lasting effect on the way race and migration are addressed or ignored. The former Chief Rabbi has appropriated the speech in a way that is deeply inappropriate and that serves one purpose only: to separate us as Jews from the rest of society. We are, in the words of Dr Edie Friedman, 'othering ourselves.'

This is not to undermine the ignorance, malice and racism that exist in the Far Left of the Labour Party. And social media and the press have done nothing to lower the emotional temperature of the 'debate' which has been abrasive and aggressive on both sides.

Anti-Semitism and racism of any kind should never be tolerated, but it is vital and urgent to listen to that earlier voice of Lord Sacks, who has been at the forefront of Jews and Muslims fighting anti-Semitism and Islamophobia together, that 'Jews are not the only people who face prejudice and hate. So do the other groups and we must stand with them if we are to expect them to stand with us. We share a covenant of fate and human solidarity' (Sacks, *Future Tense*, p. 109).

Alexandra Wright

'Nothing wrong in defending ourselves'

Alex begs us to remember Lord Sack's earlier words: we must lead the fight against Islamophobia. Of course. We have to stand up for others in the face of prejudice and hate. But I think of the even earlier words, equally wise, of Hillel.

'If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, who am I? If not now, when?'

Nothing wrong in defending ourselves. Nothing wrong in speaking up. A soft answer turneth away wrath, certainly, but hard talk merits a fair but tough reply.

Mary Sebag-Montefiore



Reaching out to communities

Ben Gurion University (BGU) – Bedouin

Bursary Fund (Israeli charity). BGU was founded in 1969 as the University of the Negev, and renamed Ben Gurion University in 1973, after the death of Israel's first prime minister. BGU is based in Beersheva and in other parts of southern Israel, with 20,000 students including 450 Bedouin among its 1,200 Arab students. Many Bedouin students come from poor peripheral communities and receive little financial support from their families.

The expenses associated with higher education are a measurable barrier to university education. BGU provides scholarships to all students in need, and they would also like to provide Bedouin students with specific financial aid packages to address the other expenses they incur, such as books, travel and subsidies for social and cultural events to enable them to study successfully.

The LJS is being asked to provide £1,200 per student, for ten (or more) financially assessed students. Many Bedouin students train to become doctors, nurses, and pharmacists, and in this way become part of the mainstream society in Israel. <http://in.bgu.ac.il>



The Jewish Council for Racial Equality (JCore).

JCore was founded in 1976 by Dr Edie Friedman who felt that there should be a Jewish voice on issues of social justice and particularly racial equality.

In April 2018, JCore launched its newest project, Young Neighbours, aware that both anti-Semitic and Islamophobic hate crimes have increased significantly.

At a critical time for Jews and Muslims, Young Neighbours addresses the shared feeling of a sense of isolation and dislocation when singled out for hate.

By bringing together young people aged 18-25, this project builds understanding and creates dialogue around purposeful activity. JCore is asking the LJS to fund this exciting new project, in partnership with the Al-Khwei Foundation, an Islamic educational organisation. www.jcore.org.uk



near and far

The Avenues (non-Jewish charity) provides preventative front-line services that help to build resilience into fragile communities.



The Avenues provides stimulating, fun, and healthy activities with the following benefits:

- Ensuring safety by taking young people off the streets, reducing the risk of gang involvement, sexual exploitation and vulnerability to crime.
- Offering a daily nutritious meal.
- Providing contact with trained youth workers when school is closed, building trust with the young people and providing childcare support for working parents.
- Maintaining the structure in day-to-day life that school provides in term time, helping to diminish the learning loss that can happen over the holiday period.
- Organising outings which will expand children's and young people's experience and broaden their horizons.



The Avenues Youth Project works with disadvantaged children and young people in families living on local estates in Queen's Park, an area of high levels of social and economic inequality, suffering among the worst levels of child poverty in the country.

Many of the children who attend The Avenues receive free school meals, many have special educational needs or behavioural difficulties and some have child protection orders.

A number of other local youth clubs have closed down, but the Avenues has retained its modern building with a kitchen where children learn to cook, a dance studio and music suites, a quiet space for homework and recording studios.

The Avenues provides holiday and after-school programmes, but due to funding cuts in 2017, it was forced to cancel some of its programmes. The LJS is being asked to raise funds for half-term and holiday programmes in 2019.

www.avenues.org.uk

We also include the UJIA in our Yom Kippur Appeal, as we do every year, for their youth and education projects benefiting LJ and LJY-Netzer, and through this, our own young people.

A full version of the Yom Kippur Appeal for 2018 can be viewed on www.ljs.org

Thank you, as always, for your generosity in supporting others at this very special time of the year.



at the LJS

Classes in Judaism and Hebrew

Sukkot Term 5779/2018

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. Our discussions are lively and relevant to contemporary issues. Previous classes have examined the influence of Jewish texts on Leonard Cohen and Bob Dylan, Adventures in Jewish History, Maimonides and Jewish Rationalism, 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 on the subject of 'Progressive Judaism in the Talmud', Rabbi Alexandra Wright will look at Aviva Gottlieb-Zornberg's commentaries on Genesis, taken from her book *The Beginnings of Desire* and 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 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 Prayer-Book Hebrew

Tutor: Dr Sally Gold

There is no need to be afraid! Greater understanding and confidence in Hebrew can be yours! Whether you are familiar with the prayer-book (the *Siddur*), or have only just begun to read, this class will help you both to understand better what you are reading, and to read with more confidence. At the same time, you will be learning the Hebrew of the *Tanakh* (the Bible). You will be on the sure path towards greater enjoyment and participation in synagogue services. In the class we practise guided reading of simple Hebrew from the *Siddur* and the Hebrew Bible. We 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 knowledge through the use of texts, simple exercises, questions, answers and discussion, all of which help with progressive understanding and confidence. All you need to bring to the class is your enthusiasm and commitment. Greater understanding and confidence in Hebrew are guaranteed. 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. We will 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 September 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. 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 course of the year. 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. Resources can be found on:

www.ljsexploringjudaism.wordpress.com

Tuesday 2 October Exploring Sukkot and Simchat Torah

Tuesday 9 October What is Judaism? Jewish Values and Beliefs Overview

Tuesday 16 October The Jewish Calendar and Rosh Chodesh

Tuesday 23 October Jewish History Overview

Tuesday 30 October Half Term

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

SHABBAT MORNING CLASSES
Shabbat 15 Sept – Shabbat 8 Dec 2018
9.45-10.45am
Half-term: 20 and 27 October 2018

Adult Torah texts and studying our prayers

In the autumn term we will 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 have the benefit of the teaching of Rabbi Alex, our scholar in residence, Rabbi Michael, our student rabbi, Igor and our own members who have had a formal Jewish education. We will also continue to have contributions from regular members of our class who will offer their own input. The term started on 15 September with a class led by the Chair of the LJS, Sue Head, on aspects of the proposed new prayer book. All are welcome. If you have any queries please do contact Michael Romain at romain@netgates.co.uk or Harriett Goldenberg at 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.

Shabbat morning 9.45-10.45am

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 textbook '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 read already 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

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 study course will explore 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, going 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.

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

Hebrew and Yiddish lessons with Spiro Ark

In all Spiro Ark's classes, in addition to acquiring a new language through enjoyable and effective methods, you also receive special personal attention. This is represented by much encouragement as well as giving you a window to Jewish history, links to biblical Hebrew, Jewish ritual and customs, Israeli history and current affairs! All classes continue term after term moving from one level to another, climbing higher and higher. In our current advanced classes we have a number of students who started with no Jewish or Israeli knowledge at all. **For full details please visit www.spiroark.org/classes or contact us on 0207 794 4655 or education@spiroark.org**



On being a Teacher and a Friend

At the beginning of September I attended the *Rimon* teacher training, facilitated by Education Director Dov Softi and Education Administrator Debi Penhey. It was wonderful to have the chance to meet the teachers and assistant teachers of *Rimon*.

The morning began with a text study as we broke into groups to discuss how the practice and theology of *Rosh Hashanah* has changed throughout Jewish history. We then discussed classroom management and how to foster a good experience for the assistant teachers; this was followed by a chance to plan for the year with our co-teachers and finally we came together to discuss the handbook and policies of *Rimon*.



The LJS is very lucky to have such committed, passionate, compassionate and skilled role models as the teachers of *Rimon*. Some assistant teachers completed *Kabbalat Torah* last year and will be contributing to the *Rimon* community, offering their gifts for the first time as teachers. Some of our teachers are fourth-generation LJS congregants and others have been teachers at The LJS for decades.

All of the teachers are eager to start the new year. In *Pirke Avot* 1:6 we are instructed to 'make for yourself a teacher and acquire for yourself a friend.' By attending *Rimon*, our young people work with wonderful teachers and make friends in the LJS community.

Elana Dellal

Become A Dementia Friend

COME TO OUR TRAINING SESSION

Saturday 27 October at 9.30 – 10.30am in the Mattuck Room (before Shabbat morning service) led by Bryan McMorrine of Right At Home Care Agency

Help make The LJS a welcoming community for those who are living with memory loss and for those who support them. The training only takes an hour. It's really easy to do. Whether you are a Greeter, on the Coffee Rota, a *Shammash*, have family or friends living with dementia, or just have an interest, this short training session, developed by The Alzheimer's Society and presented by a qualified Dementia Friends Champion, is very helpful.

If you wish to attend, please email: communitycare@ljs.org or call our administrator, Naomi Kramer, on 020 7286 5181 to reserve a place. If you have questions, contact Aviva Shafritz: a.shafritz@ljs.org or call 020 7286 5181



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.

Welcome to these new Members and Friends and their families:

Alan Druckman and Mikela Eskenazi,
Georginah Pfende, Sacha Bielawski,
Joel Davidson, Anna Bastrakova, Asi Sharabi,
Daniel Sher, Lindsay and Peter Newman

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 much more 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.

BRIDGE CLUB



VIDEO AND TEA

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

24 October: *Brief Encounter*

28 November: *The Snowman and Father Christmas*

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

Shabbat 20 October 2018

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

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

Tu Bi'Shvat Shabbaton – a celebration of the New Year for Trees and an opportunity for the whole community to come together to examine environmental concerns.

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.

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).

LOCAL WALKING GROUP Oct-Dec 2018

Our next walk is Thursday 4 October, 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 will walk in Regents Park for an hour or so. We hope to end up at a cafe for coffee or lunch. Future dates for your diary are Wednesday 7 November and Thursday 13 December.

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.

SINGING FOR THE MIND

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

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 7286 5181.

Young LJS

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

Raphael Abib	Katherine Falk	Alma Munthe Sforza
Eva Abolins-Loguiiko	Ruth Forster	Jacob Pleass
Ethan Abolins-Loguiiko	Charles Grainger	Rachel Posner
Freddie Albert	Rupert Halford-Harrison	Helen Roth
Edward Boizard	Lola Hunter Pollak	Zoe Rushbrook
Shoshana Davidson	Benjamin Hyman	Geronimo Salem
Eliza Davidson	Michael Josefs	Andrea Schapira
Gideon De Winter	Lukas Klein Wassink	Michael Sokel
Katie Delew	Freya Lefebvre Sell	Eve Spearman-Walters
Harry Delew	Toby Levitt	Joshua Wald
Raphael Dellal		

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: 6, 13 October;
3, 10, 17 & 24 November**

Tiny Tots meets in term time.

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



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 on 0207 432 1283 or rabbispa@ljs.org

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*)
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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Senior Rabbi

Alexandra Wright

Rabbi Emeritus

David J Goldberg OBE

Rabbi

Elana Dellal

Scholar in Residence

Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton

President

Martin Slowe

Chairman of Council

Sue Head

Executive Director

Lysa Schwartz

Head of Rimón Religion School

Dov Softi

Nursery Head Teacher

Caroline Villiers

Community Care Co-ordinator

Aviva Shafritz

Director of Music

Cathy Heller-Jones

Organist

Tim Farrell

LJS News Team

Editor: Judy Miller
Artwork: Tingle Design

In case of bereavement:

In office hours, ring 020 7432 1298
At other times, ring 020 8958 2112 (Cala's)

Ann celebrates her special birthday at The LJS

Ann Kirk's 90th birthday was celebrated with a special service and *kiddush* on 18 August. Addressing Ann at the *Shabbat* service, Rabbi Alexandra Wright said: 'You care deeply for every aspect of this community: its worship, its classes and community care, its fabric and every congregant and visitor with whom you come in touch. You bring clarity and integrity, memory and vision. For all those things and so much more, we are full of gratitude.' Ann sends a huge 'thank you' to the many members of the congregation who wished her well on her special day.



Ann and Bob Kirk



10,000 steps for 10,000 children

2 December marks the 80th anniversary since the first children on the *Kindertransport* arrived in London in 1938. World Jewish Relief is planning a service at Frank Meisler's commemorative sculpture at Liverpool Street Station. Would you be interested in walking 10,000 steps, one for each of the 10,000 children who came to the UK on the *Kindertransport* from the LJS to Liverpool Street on **Sunday afternoon 2 December**. The ceremony will include the lighting of the first candle for *Chanukkah*.

If there are enough people who would prefer to travel by coach, then we will also look into hiring transport to take us there. Please let Rabbi Alexandra Wright, a.wright@ljs.org know if you would be interested either in the walk or in being on the coach.

NEWS FROM THE BoD

LJS Deputies did well in the Board Divisional elections; Ben Wright and Shelley Salter were elected to the International Division, Karen Maxwell was elected to the Communities and Education Division, and Karen Newman continues as a member of the Finance & Organizational Division. Please be in touch with us about issues you'd like us to raise at the Board; you can contact us at BoD@LJS.org, and one of us will get back to you. If there is an issue you'd like the Board to discuss, please let us know. Board plenary meetings take place approximately monthly (10 per year) on Sundays; they can be live-streamed from the Board website, where community news can also be found. www.bod.org.uk/news/community-briefing/.

The Board of Deputies President's Dinner is to be held on 5 November; as some of you will have seen, the guest speaker will be Mayor of London Sadiq Khan. If you would like to support this event, please contact us.



The LJS is a constituent synagogue of Liberal Judaism

