

September 2018
Ellul 5778 – Tishri 5779

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERAL JEWISH SYNAGOGUE

LJS
NEWS



Dedicated Drop-in for Asylum-Seeker Families volunteers enjoy a glorious June garden party

Our hard-working volunteers are the formidable force behind the Drop-in for Asylum-Seeker Families. In late June, over 60 volunteers gathered to meet, greet and celebrate the four-year anniversary of this special project. They enjoyed the hospitality of Harriett Goldenberg, John Parker and Olivia in their beautiful Belsize Park garden.

Hostess Harriett Goldenberg said: "You could say 'all the stars were aligned', if you believe in that sort of thing, for a perfect afternoon of buzzing conversation, delectable fare provided by many generous volunteers, while basking in glorious sunshine - the early days of this summer's heatwave - for the asylum-seeker families' garden party for volunteers.

"It was a pleasure to be able to welcome over 60 guests into our garden and to feel the sense of comradeship, and friendship that has grown amongst the volunteers over the past four years. The bonds established through our common endeavour are palpable – one of the many achievements to be marked."

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Sam Cozens, one of the three Drop-in co-ordinators, said the garden party was “an excellent opportunity to acknowledge all the hard work that volunteers put into the Drop-in.

“Without the dedication and commitment of all the volunteers, the Drop-in would not exist, let alone support around 200 families seeking asylum. Volunteering at the Drop-in is not, however, without its challenges; it is often physically and emotionally demanding. Many volunteers feel a sense of frustration on behalf of our guests who find themselves stuck in limbo for years on end, lives put on hold as they navigate the often brutal and inhumane asylum process.”

Phillipa Rubins, who recently joined the troika of Drop-in co-ordinators added, “It was such a treat to be able to spend time with our volunteers away from the demands of running the project – just getting to know one another a little better and hearing more about what motivates them to give up their time every month.”



2 Harriett Goldenberg with LJS president Martin Slowe and Jody Graham



Rita Adler, a key Drop-in leader

Rita Adler, founder and third Drop-in co-ordinator said, “The Drop-in attracts a huge range of enthusiastic volunteers of every age group and profession. They come from a variety of religions and give generously of their time to help our guests each month.

“It was such a pleasure to see a wide selection of people at our second garden party. Each brought with them something deliciously edible, whilst our hostess Harriett provided the delightful setting. We all relaxed! It was lovely to see people chatting and not, for a short while, having to worry about how best to help our guests.”

Esta Charkham, one of the formidable Drop-in clothing supervisors adds a final baking note: “Me, Alexander and Scarlett can certainly say that there was a selection of some of the best cakes we have ever seen or tasted!”

Judy Miller

Photos were taken by Rita Adler and Judy Miller



Sam Cozens on the left, one of key Drop-in leaders

Shabbat and festival services: September – October 2018

Friday evening services are at 6.45pm. Shabbat morning services are at 11.00 am unless otherwise stated

Please note the times of festival services this month and in October

DATE	RABBI/SPEAKER	NOTES
Friday 31 August ◊	Alexandra Wright	Co-led by Albie Gavshon <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
Shabbat 1 September ◊ <i>Ki Tavo</i>	Alexandra Wright	Albie Gavshon <i>Bar Mitzvah</i> <i>Nosh 'n' Drosh</i> George Dublon
Saturday 1 September ◊ 7.45pm		<i>Selichot</i> Service preceded by a recital by Simon Wallfisch and Simon Haynes. Please see page 16 for more details.
Sunday 2 September 11.00am	Alexandra Wright	Annual Memorial Service at The Liberal Jewish Cemetery, Pound Lane, NW10
Friday 7 September <i>Erev Shabbat</i>	Alexandra Wright	
Shabbat 8 September <i>Nitzavim</i>	Alexandra Wright	Ethan Adam Abolins-Loguiiko Naming and Blessing
Sunday 9 September <i>Erev Rosh Hashanah</i> at 6.45pm	Elana Dellal	In the Sanctuary
Monday 10 September 10.30am <i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	Alexandra Wright Rachel Benjamin Caroline Hagard Elana Dellal	In the Sanctuary Family Service (7-13 years and parents/carers) Gan (4-7 years and parents/carers) Tiny Tots (0-4 years and parents/carers) <i>Tashlich</i> in Regents Park from 11.30am
Friday 14 September	Alexandra Wright	Erev Shabbat Shuvah
Shabbat 15 September <i>Shabbat Shuvah</i>	Sybil Sheridan	Rimon returns
Tuesday 18 September, 7.15pm	Alexandra Wright	Kol Nidre
Wednesday 19 September 10.30am <i>Yom Kippur</i>	Rachel Benjamin Alexandra Wright Caroline Hagard Elana Dellal	In the Sanctuary Family Service (7-13 years and parents/carers) Gan (4-7 years and parents/carers) Tiny Tots (0-4 years and parents/carers) Please see High Holy Day information booklet sent out with tickets for further details of all services.
Friday 21 September	Alexandra Wright	
Shabbat 22 September <i>Ha'azinu</i>	Alexandra Wright	A service to celebrate the birthdays of all those born in 1928. Join with the congregation to decorate the <i>Sukkah</i> at 1.00pm.
Sunday 23 September <i>Erev Sukkot</i>	Igor Zinkov	Children's activities with Caroline Hagard
Monday 24 September <i>Sukkot</i>	Alexandra Wright	

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

Shabbat morning services are streamed live via the internet. If you would like to follow a service on your computer or tablet, please phone the LJS office to get your user name and password.

Calling all adults and children to help decorate the Sukkah – September 22nd at 1.00pm

Shabbat and festival services: September – October 2018 cont'd.

Friday evening services are at 6.45 pm. Shabbat morning services are at 11.00 am unless otherwise stated

Please note the times of festival services this month and in October

DATE	RABBI/SPEAKER	NOTES
Friday 28 September <i>Erev Chol Ha-Mo'ed Sukkot</i>	Alexandra Wright Igor Zinkov	<i>Koleinu</i> Service
Shabbat 29 September <i>Shabbat Chol Ha-Mo'ed Sukkot</i>	<i>L'Dor va'Dor</i> Service	Service led by children at Rimon Religion School. Special service to welcome Rabbi Elana Dellal and her family
Sunday 30 September <i>Erev Shemini Atzeret – Simchat Torah</i>	Alexandra Wright	<i>Chavurah</i> Supper
Monday 1 October <i>Shemini Atzeret – Simchat Torah</i>	Igor Zinkov	Children's activities led by Caroline Hagar



10,000 steps for 10,000 children

December 2nd 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?

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.

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

Rabbi Elana Dellal will conduct a study session during the *Minchah* (Afternoon) Service on Yom Kippur, Wednesday 19 September, 2018 at 4.45 pm. Contact rabbispa@ljs.org for more details.

We send our warmest good wishes to Rabbi David J. Goldberg following his recent surgery and treatment and wish him *Refu'ah Sh'lemah* – a good and complete recovery.

Welcome to these new Members and Friends and their families:

Elliot Robinson, Linah Richer
Christina and Anthony Segal-Knowles
Juliet and Peter Vogel, Sandra Goodman

Safeguarding is at the Heart of our Community



This Chairman's Report is written during the Council's summer break and looks ahead to the new year and back to our previous Council meeting held in July.

At that meeting, we welcomed the new Council members elected at the AGM. These are Sue Bolsom, Benita Hart, Steve Laughton (who had been co-opted onto Council earlier this year as the Chair of the Young Adults), and David Rigal; Steve Penn and Russell Delew were appointed for their second term. The meeting was also the first for our new rabbi, Rabbi Elana Dellal.

As has become a very nice tradition, we opened the new Council (for 2018-2019) with a prayer in front of the open ark in the sanctuary, reminding ourselves of our underlying beliefs as progressive Jews.

The meeting itself focused on a key area of the synagogue which could easily be forgotten; that is the cemetery. David Davidson, the new Chair of the Cemetery Committee, made the point that the cemetery is an essential and valuable part of the LJS, spiritually, socially, historically and economically and that we must give consideration to how we should improve and maintain it.

He presented an initial investigation which looked at the prayer hall, toilets, landscaping (including graves, paths, planted areas and fences) and staffing. Council discussed this and the cemetery's on-going financial viability (with the number of funerals declining and cremations increasing).

A fuller study and survey needs to take place and Council agreed to begin this process.

At the July meeting, Council also received a report from the LJS Nursery School Committee. The school is a success story and thanks for this must go to the Headteacher, Caroline Villiers, and her team. The report particularly highlighted the area of safeguarding: we were reassured that policies and training are in place to ensure the safety of the children. Recently, safeguarding courses, run by Westminster Council, have been attended by Rabbi Wright, Barbara Fidler, Karen Newman and by myself.

An update on renovation works taking place at the LJS during August: we will be painting and re-carpeting some of the classrooms and redecorating the Senior Rabbi's office. Hopefully, by the time you read this, it will all be finished!

As I reported in the July newsletter, there will also need to be substantial work to our failing heating system. With luck, this may also have begun by the time you receive this newsletter.

One of our Trustees is standing down from Council because of pressure of work: Izzy Davies-Benjamin has been our lead for the eco-synagogues initiative and we are sorry to see her go, but hope she will be able to return in the future.

September brings the High Holy Days with Rosh Hashanah, the New Year 5779, on Sunday evening, 9th September. Please check you have paid your subscription in order to receive your High Holy Day tickets!

On behalf of the Council, I wish you all:
שנה טובה ומתוקה
Have a Happy and 'Sweet' New Year'!

Sue Head

Liberal Judaism Biennial, 29 June – 1 July 2018

Progressive powerhouse of ‘creativity, energy, enthusiasm and passion’

For the first time in its history, the Liberal Judaism Biennial Weekend was sold out, with more than 300 delegates representing 37 communities and eight countries coming together in the St Johns Hotel, Solihull.

A third of the delegates were attending their first Biennial. Members from all around the UK and beyond took part in an inspirational weekend; discussing the next steps in liturgy, theology, policy, outreach work and shared values that will power Liberal Judaism’s work in the future in Britain and beyond.



Second keynote speaker Gillian Merron, LJ member and CEO of the Board of Deputies, with some of the Liberal Judaism Board of Deputies representatives, including Karen Newman (right of centre)

It was my first Biennial, and I was struck by the creativity, energy, enthusiasm and passion that participants brought to Liberal Judaism, and took from it, evidenced by the full agenda and stimulating sessions.

Plenary sessions included provocative presentations from speakers including World Union of Progressive Judaism Executive Director Rabbi Danny Frelander and an excellent session with Board of Deputies’ Chief Executive (and former Liberal Judaism National Officer) Gillian Merron, in conversation with Rabbi Charley Baginsky.

The densely packed programme included ten tracks on a variety of themes, including social justice, theology, music, technology and Israel.



Rabbi Danny Frelander, President of WUPJ, our first keynote speaker

I so enjoyed the first session of the theology track that I stayed with it and attended all of the sessions, which were led by Rabbi Judith Rosen-Berry together with Rabbi René Pfertzel, or Rabbi Lea Mühlstein.

A final session, hosted by Rabbi Dr Judith Rosen-Berry and Rabbi Charley Baginsky, sought to draw the threads together by asking how Liberal Judaism can share its messages with the world and live up to the conference’s title of ‘The Formula for Truly Progressive Judaism’.

Biennial was a great opportunity to see our outstanding religious leaders in action and to appreciate the strength and diversity within Liberal Judaism’s membership.

It’s good to report that LJS stalwart Judith Diamond won one of the Chair’s Awards in recognition of her role as a key volunteer with our Singing for the Mind Programme.

Karen Newman

LJS is represented on LJ’s Board of National Officers by Karen Newman, who was elected Liberal Judaism Vice-Chair at the LJ AGM, which took place towards the close of the Biennial Weekend.



LJY-Netzer fun activities in the sunshine

Carol's Nosh 'N' Drosh Thank-You

Dear fellow congregants,

I am terminally ill with stage four cancer so it was especially meaningful for me to be able to present a Nosh 'n' Drosh talk after the beautiful 14 July Shabbat service and special kiddush tribute to Rabbi Rachel Benjamin.

If my tally is correct I counted four rabbis listening to me - a great honour. Thank you to the sponsors, to Rabbi Wright, Martin Slowe and Karen Newman for their moral support and to all who came to hear my story of thirty-seven years in British broadcasting. I hope I will still be here to see everyone again for the New Year.

Carol Gould

Our next Drop-in for Asylum-Seeker Families

The next LJS Drop-ins for asylum seeker families will be on 2 September and 14 October from 2.00pm-4.00pm. Volunteers are always required from 1.00 pm to help set up and for clothing sorts. Please be in touch to find out the dates of forthcoming sorts.

VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

If you are interested in volunteering once a month or a few times a year, please contact Rabbi Alexandra Wright a.wright@ljs.org for more details.

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



CST works to give British Jewry the ability to lead confident and safe lives, and we have never been better prepared to support Britain's vibrant Jewish community.

As we move into a fresh new year, we reflect on the work we have done over the last twelve months:

Since last Rosh Hashanah, CST has protected over 600 communal buildings and over 1,000 events, from the large AJEX Annual Remembrance Parade and public Chanukah candle lightings to small community events.

CST has managed a Home Office grant of £13.4 million, subsidising commercial security guards for over 400 schools, synagogues and Jewish communal buildings across the UK. We are pleased to have secured another year of funding for our work.

CST's Security Enhancement Project has funded security equipment, such as CCTV systems, fencing and alarms at hundreds of Jewish buildings across the country. This project has committed and spent over £12 million to strengthen our community's buildings against attack.

CST wishes you a Good Yom Tov and a happy, peaceful and safe year ahead.



Were you born in 1928? This is the year when...

George V was King;

Stanley Baldwin was the (Conservative) Prime Minister;

The Oxford English Dictionary was completed after 70 years;

Alexander Fleming accidentally rediscovered Penicillin.

1928 was the birth year of:

Vidal Sassoon

Alan Sillitoe

Harold Evans

Anita Brookner

Bernice Rubens

Bernard Levin

Tom Lehrer

If you were born in 1928, please join us for a special service at 11.00am on Shabbat 22 September to celebrate your 90th birthday at the LJS. Family and Friends warmly welcome. Coffee at 10.30am.



Connectivity and Networks, Intelligence and Vision

A message for the *Yamim Nora'im* 5779

Rabbi Alexandra Wright

In the 1980s when I was training to become a Rabbi, we were taught the key principles that inspired successful engagement in communal life: creating connections and networks, adapting programmes to the needs of a congregation and being able to articulate a vision of truth and integrity that would point the way to how society might look in the future.

I was ordained in 1986. We were at the cusp of the technological and digital age. There was no Google, Snapchat or Twitter, no Instagram or Facebook. We wrote letters, not emails; we sent postcards from our holidays, rather than photos or messages via WhatsApp.

Our learning came from books, not the internet; it was slow and deliberate, grounded in the physical world of libraries or our own book shelves, and when we wanted to buy a book, we took ourselves to bookshops and browsed the shelves, carrying our purchases home with us in a bag, rather than downloading the book on to a Kindle or ordering via Amazon. It was all time and labour intensive.

There was a concept, then, that was known as privacy. There was no one in the basement of some technological company in Silicon Valley, being paid to find out what Facebook users like or dislike, analysing what would keep us hooked to social media through our laptops or mobile phones. What did we do with the time we had before we discovered the addiction of our iPhones? How did we spend those first moments on waking before we learnt how to check the weather forecast on a downloaded app, or those last minutes before going to sleep before verifying how many steps we had walked that day on our health app or catching up with the latest news, data and information?

I am no longer embarrassed to walk into a hospital ward or into a classroom, take out my 'phone and click on the app known as Sefaria, from which I can find any verse in the Hebrew Bible – Hebrew or English, the whole of the Mishnah, Talmud,



Midrash, Halakhah and Liturgy. And if I can't find the exact reference I'm looking for, then I can simply type in some key words and I'll be there in a matter of seconds. The internet knows what I'm looking for; it knows my location, my buying preferences – whether books or clothes, household items or music; it knows more than I know about myself. Such is the capability of algorithms, they can predict the next thing on my list, how long it will take me to get to work and they can even work out something about my personality.

Where is our digital technology leading us? Connectivity and networking, vision and intelligence are no longer about our human interactions and longings, the way we work slowly, deliberately, together with each other to construct a strategy, create ethical governance or respond to difficult choices and the great moral questions of our age.

Our social order is profoundly challenged by a different understanding of the words 'connectivity' and 'networks', social media platforms and intelligence. Do we even understand the extent of their power and potential to strip humanity of its capacity for free will, human judgement and moral choices?

This is the message of Jamie Bartlett's recently published book, *The People Vs Tech* (Ebury Press, Penguin Random House, 2018) in which he predicts that the point at which technology will run away completely in a cycle that self-replicates will occur sooner rather than later. Once we start to rely on machines to help us make moral and political decisions, he says, we'll never stop.

'The extent to which we believe ourselves to be moral agents depends on us repeatedly taking moral decisions – shopping, voting, raising children, joining campaigns and a thousand things besides. Yes, those choices are often riven with bias and error, which is why decision-by-machine will be so appealing. But our critical faculties only improve through the repeated use of reason, evidence and moral inquisition. This is no easy task, and requires that citizens are alert, aware, subject to a wide variety of challenging ideas and think carefully about the influences that bear on them. This is the duty of every citizen fortunate enough to live in a democracy.'

Moral agency lies at the heart of the *Yamim Nora'im*: the key moral, spiritual and emotional processes of free will, judgement, repentance and forgiveness are not delegated to some artificial intelligence, equipped to appraise us of the correctness or incorrectness of past choices or to charge us when we err from making the right decision in the coming year.

By their very antiquity, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur demand time from us: time alone, time with our families and our community at the LJS. They demand an investment in prayer, thought and reflection. And even if the spirit is weak, they remove us from our laptops and computers and, out of simple and common courtesy inside the Sanctuary, they require us to turn off our mobile phones and engage in another form of connectivity.

That connectivity is with the ancient God of our ancestors. Whatever our personal beliefs, these festivals connect us with the myths and history of our people, who gave credence to an Unseen Presence, who judged and punished and forgave.

Their God was a God who was full of love and compassion, a God who called Abraham to make his own singular journey to an unknown land, who summoned the Israelites at Sinai and sent prophets with their messages of return and hope.

Our connectivity is with the piety and devotion of our ancestors – men and women of faith and learning, on whose shoulders we stand as little people, of little learning and little faith, perhaps with even less hope than an Isaiah or an Anne Frank.

On these days of holiness, we recreate our networks with the Jewish people, those who are faithful to our Jewish heritage and those who have, somehow, lost their connection, but for whom a day with other Jews is still important to their own identity. Our platforms are not the digital platforms of Facebook or Instagram, YouTube or Tumblr, but the Machzor, with its dignified and ancient, often mysterious liturgy, with words that may or may not move us, but which bring us together, allow us to act and speak together as one community. Words, music, the beauty of our Sanctuary, the coming together of generations, the memory of loved ones are the ways that connect us together as a people with a shared history and tradition.

The *Yamim Nora'im* take us back to our origins, to the very beginning of all existence, the 'birthday of the world.' To listen to the primitive sound of the Shofar, that awakening call that pierces the heart, we are reminded that we, ourselves, are moral agents, responsible for our own choices in life – choosing the paths of goodness and truth, remaining loyal to our Jewish heritage and active in our Jewish community by giving voice to a vision of a more hopeful future, not simply for ourselves, but for all humanity.

May this new year of 5779 bring you and your dear ones health and strength – and to all of us hope and peace. *L'shanah tovah tikkateivu* – May we be inscribed for a good year.

Alexandra Wright



at the LJS

Classes in Judaism and Hebrew Sukkot Term 5779/2018

The new term begins on 4 September

TUESDAY EVENINGS

8.00-9.15pm

4 and 11 September, 2018

High Holy Day Preparation

Tutors: Jonathan Gorsky and
Rabbi Alexandra Wright

Jonathan Gorsky returns to lead a session on the Rosh Hashanah liturgy on Tuesday 4th September at 8.00 pm. Jonathan will ask: how can we identify with what we are praying and saying? How can we allow the prayers to enter our emotional world, when sometimes they may seem immensely distant from the world we live in? Rabbi Alexandra Wright will pick up a similar theme on Tuesday 11th September at 8.00 pm, facilitating a conversation around the Yom Kippur liturgy. All welcome.

TUESDAY MORNINGS

11.15am-2.30pm

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 in Kabbalah. 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. Readers welcome.

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, who 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 4 September: Registration for 2018-2019
Exploring Rosh Hashanah*

Tuesday 11 September Exploring Yom Kippur

Tuesday 18 September NO SESSION - Kol Nidre

Tuesday 25 September Exploring Sukkot

*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 starts 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 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 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 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. Through such familiarity, every student will gain a deeper understanding and sense of identity with our heritage as well as appreciation and love for the Hebrew language.

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 29th 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. Please visit www.rcm.ac.uk/singingasong for oral history interviews, performance videos and biographies of over 40 emigré 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

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

Adult Education classes at the LJS

‘An inspirational learning experience’

Our adult education classes offer many benefits: a chance to acquire a new language; a window to Jewish history and current affairs; personal guidance for students from the tutors; and continuity in learning, with the opportunity to progress onwards and upwards, term on term. These incentives have received a resounding thumbs-up from the adult education students with little or no Hebrew or Jewish knowledge. Here is what some of them have to say:

‘An absolute must class for anyone who wants to learn to read Hebrew and be able to participate in the service. With Naomi Brightwell’s guidance this absolutely can be achieved in less than an academic year. It is a privilege to be taught by Naomi.’

‘David [Strang] is a very dedicated teacher and has made the learning experience fun. There is a good synergy with other students and teacher. The text book is very helpful.’

‘I really enjoy my weekly learning session, helps me inspire my child to learn too.’

‘Learning Hebrew with David made Shabbat prayers much more meaningful and accessible.’

‘David Strang gives you the keys to unlock the Siddur.’

‘Nitza [Spiro] is a fascinating and knowledgeable teacher. There is a great atmosphere in the class.’



‘Sally [Gold] has been an amazing teacher. Her style and the way she teaches – I have learnt so much and am delighted to be able to follow the prayer book with more understanding.’

‘Susannah [Alexander] is extremely patient! I like the pace of the class ... I would recommend this course for anyone interested in learning Hebrew or who wants to be able to follow services more closely.’

‘This class [on Saul and David] generates confidence in comprehending Hebrew text. You discover you can actually figure out the meaning of way more Hebrew than you expect to.’

Also see pages 10-12 for further details. For full information of lesson times and charges and for further information, please contact education@ljs.org or ring Debi at the LJS on 020 7286 5181



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 of lesson times and charges, please visit www.spiroark.org/classes or contact us on 0207 794 4655 or education@spiroark.org

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 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.

26 Sept: Meet me in St Louis

24 October: Brief Encounter

28 November: The Snowman and Father Christmas

NOSH 'N' DROSH 2018/2019

Shabbat lunchtimes 1.15-2.15pm

Shabbat 1 September 2018

George Dublon: Paul Ehrlich and his magic bullet

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

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. Would you like to sponsor a Nosh 'n' Drosh? Please speak to Martin Slowe or Rabbi Alexandra Wright for more information.

LOCAL WALKING GROUP Sep-Dec 2018

Our next walk is on Wednesday 5 September, 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 to an hour and a half. We hope to end up at a cafe for coffee or lunch.

To find out more, please contact Jody Graham (awithj@gmail.com or Michael Romain (remain@netgates.co.uk). Jody's mobile: 07765214867. 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 7286 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 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 7286 5181**

RESTAURANT TUESDAY

There will be no Restaurant Tuesday in September due to the High Holy Days

Young LJS

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

Aman Abib	Cedric Ginsberg	Electra Levi-French
Edoardo Armstrong	Leila Goldstone	Heath Rosenblatt
Tom Ballheimer	Joshua Gulperin	Brooke Shipman
Brooke Behr	Rachel Kops	Claudia Spanier
Max Daals	Lottie Korn	Zach Wald

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: 15, 22, 29 September;
6, 13 October**

Tiny Tots meets in term time. Please see the High Holy Day Information Booklet for details of Tiny Tots services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Led by Rabbi Elana Dellal on 10 and 19 September, 2018

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 Joanne Beaumont 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 Rimon Religion School

Dov Softi

Nursery Head Teacher

Caroline Villiers

Community Care Co-ordinator

Aviva Shafritz

Director of Music

Cathy Heller-Jones

Organist

Tim Farrell

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 (Calo's)

Selichot

Saturday Evening, 1st September, 2018
at The Liberal Jewish Synagogue
28 St John's Wood Road, London NW8 7HA.
at 7.45pm

Simon Wallfisch Baritone **Simon Haynes** Piano
Perform a selection of songs before the Selichot Service.
Please be seated by 7.45pm

Fanny Hensel-Mendelssohn (1805-1847)
Die Mainacht Op. 9, No. 6 (Ludwig Christoph Heinrich Hölty)
Über allen Gipfeln ist Ruh (Goethe)

Hans Gál (1890-1987)
Abends auf dem Fluß Op. 33, No. 5 (Li Tai Po / Bethge)

Max Kowalski (1882-1956)
Enzianblüte Op. 14, No. 5 (Hermann Hesse)
The Cloths of Heaven (1942) (William Butler Yeats)

Rebecca Clarke (1886-1979)
The Cloths of Heaven (William Butler Yeats)

Samuel Barber (1910-1981)
Sure on this shining night Op. 13, No. 3 (James Agee)

Erich Walter Sternberg (1891-1974)
Hinakh yafa ra'ayati (Y. D. Kamzon)

Lazar Weiner (1897-1982)
Ergetz Vait (H. Leivik)

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)
Deux mélodies Hébraïques
i - Kaddisch ii - L'Enigme Eternelle



"There is no doubting the quality of Simon Wallfisch's artistry... his ceaseless shifts in tone create characterisations of quite exceptional vividness..." - Gramophone

"A multi-talented musician of incredible versatility" - BBC Radio 3.

Simon Wallfisch is one of Britain's most sought-after Baritones, at home on the opera and concert stage.

Become A Dementia Friend

and 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.

COME TO OUR TRAINING SESSION Saturday 27th October at 9.30-10.30am, in the Mattuck Room (before the Shabbat morning service) led by Bryan McMorrine of Right At Home Care Agency

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



The LJS is a constituent synagogue of Liberal Judaism

liberal judaism