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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERAL JEWISH SYNAGOGUE

LJS
NEWS



The Deep Calls To Deep study course

The *Deep Calls To Deep* course got off to a strong start last month. This series of study sessions is based on the eight chapters of *Deep Calls To Deep* – a quotation from Psalm 42, and the name of a collection of eight pairs of essays, one by a Jewish and one by a Christian contributor, with a commentary and reflection on both by the editor, Rabbi Dr Tony Bayfield.

The book is the result of a four-year process of profound Jewish-Christian dialogue, and covers topics that include an exploration of modern Western democracy and culture, and the vexed question of how we cope with our past. Evident in each of the speaker's presentations at the first session on 'The Legacy of our Scriptures' was the personal investment they brought to the process of dialogue. Also clear were the moving transformations and changes that occurred in the encounters.

See page 10 for information on further study sessions.

Pictured above: L-R: Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton, Rabbi Alexandra Wright, Rabbi Dr Tony Bayfield, Professor David Ford at the first 'Deep Calls To Deep' study session.

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Tribute to Peter Abrahams 16 February 1947 – 8 February 2019

Long-standing LJS member, former Council member and co-founder of the Security Committee

The first person many people would see on arriving at the LJS was Peter Abrahams, either on active security duty outside or sitting behind the reception desk, wearing his trademark bow tie. Peter gave enormously to the LJS community in countless practical ways, as a former Council member and in setting up, with Tony Weiss, the Security Committee.

Peter's son, Guy, characterises his father as someone who was always there to lend a hand. Peter had a remarkable aptitude for mathematics and science, and deployed his IT skills not only in his work at IBM, which took him to Israel where he met his late wife, Eva, but also in serving environmental and social justice causes.

Peter was particularly active in the field of local transport issues and digital accessibility for those with disabilities – for example, bringing IT into



residential care for the elderly. Peter's sister, Jenny Nathan, refers to her brother as the person who fixed everything – be it a faulty piece of equipment to a social problem which Peter would identify and then find solutions for. A quiet and perhaps even quirky man, with a keen artistic eye and passion for creating abstract artworks, Peter was a man of great integrity, modesty, loyalty and goodness. He took much pleasure in his family, and loved to share his knowledge with his grandchildren, Poppy and Nathan. In the last two

years of his life, even whilst in failing health, he found great happiness with his partner, Ann Beaton.

Peter will be sorely missed by his family, friends and all the many people at the LJS who knew and respected this fine man.

Peter (pictured) looking festive at the Out and About Club annual dinner. Photo chosen and kindly supplied by Peter's sister, Jenny Nathan.

Bereavements We extend our sympathy to those who mourn:

Anne Curtis, mother of Susan Curtis, and member of the LJS for 41 years

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר האבלים

May God comfort you and all who mourn

A Memorial Service for the Loss of a Child or the Loss of the Prospect of a Child

3.00pm Sunday 28 April at the LJS

If you would like to mark the loss of a child or the loss of the prospect of a child, a recent loss or one that has stayed with you for many years, please do join us for this communal memorial service under the joint auspices of the LJS and West London Synagogue. Friends and family will be most welcome. There will be music with the violinist Alan Parmenter, and the service will be followed by a home-made tea.

For more details, or if you would like a confidential conversation, please contact Rabbi Alexandra Wright (a.wright@ljs.org/07976 930112).

Shabbat and Festival services: late March/April/early May 2019

Friday evening services are at 6.45pm.

Shabbat morning services are at 11.00am unless otherwise stated.

DATE	RABBI/SPEAKER AND NOTES	
Friday 29 March	Igor Zinkov	Co-led by Jeremy Mencer <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
Shabbat 30 March Shemini	Igor Zinkov	Jeremy Mencer <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
Friday 5 April	Alexandra Wright	
Shabbat 6 April Tazria	Elana Dellal	Nosh 'n' Drosh with Gaby Lazarus, Simon Cooney and Samantha Glazer who present their Jewish Child's Day 60k trek in Israel
Friday 12 April	Rachel Benjamin	
Shabbat 13 April M'tzora/Ha-Gadol	Rachel Benjamin	
Friday 19 April Erev Pesach		Please note there is no <i>Erev Pesach</i> service this evening. If you can offer hospitality at your <i>Seder</i> table or if you require hospitality for this evening, please contact Felicia Beder: rabbispa@ljs.org
Shabbat 20 April First Day Pesach	Alexandra Wright	Children's service and activities with Caroline Hagard
Saturday 20 April 6.30pm	Alexandra Wright & Igor Zinkov	Communal <i>Seder</i> . For details please see page 5 and the loose insert which contains an application form.
Thursday 25 April, 6.45pm Erev Seventh Day Pesach	Igor Zinkov	A creative <i>Seder</i> , 'Stories of our Freedom', intertwining texts from our tradition with our personal stories
Friday 26 April, 11.00am Seventh Day Pesach	Igor Zinkov	<i>Seventh Day Pesach</i>
Friday 26 April 6.45pm	Service led by the <i>Kabbalat Torah</i> class	
Shabbat 27 April Acharey-Mot 10.30am – please note the early start of this service	Service led by the <i>Kabbalat Torah</i> class	Please join us for this special service led by members of the <i>Kabbalat Torah</i> class - the culmination of their years at <i>Rimon</i>
Friday 3 May	Alexandra Wright	
Shabbat 4 May Kedoshim/Shabbat Ha-Shoah	Rabbi Professor Marc Saperstein	Rabbi Saperstein will preach on Rabbi Dr Mattuck's sermons on Zionism and the State of Israel

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.

Drop-In for Asylum-Seeker Families

The next two dates will be Sunday 14 April and Sunday 12 May from 2.00-4.00pm. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 1.00pm to help set up. Volunteers are also needed from 5.00pm on Thursday 11 April and Thursday 9 May to sort clothes.

Council Report

Transparent governance and financial accountability



The LJS has a set of value statements which are fundamental to our community. At each meeting, the Council reminds itself of one of these. This month it was this: 'The LJS is committed to transparent and responsible governance of the congregation and financial accountability by its trustees.' The purpose was to set the tone for Council having a discussion on financial sustainability and governance. Central to this was our consideration of our financial position at the end of 2018 and our budget for 2019.

You will receive the Trustees' Report and Financial Statement for 2018 in due course, but the underlying position, as you are probably aware, is that we must generate more income. Council is looking at various ways to do this. The President's Patrons scheme is an example of a successful initiative and we are most grateful to our patrons. This year of 2019 is going to be

particularly costly for us because of the need to replace the boilers and renovate the toilets.

Sustainability is also to do with membership numbers. Compared with many synagogues, our numbers are stable. However, to safeguard our future, we need to increase our membership and receive from everyone their subscription.

Council has also been considering the governance of the LJS and how to include a wider range of people in its committees and in the Council meetings themselves. As part of this, a small group of Council members met with some of the parents of children in *Rimon*, our Religion School, and talked with them about our work as Trustees. We are also setting up two new and important committees: Social Action and Heritage. You will hear more about these soon, but of the two, the Heritage Committee probably needs some explanation; it will concern itself with anything belonging to the culture and traditions of the LJS: our archives, library, paintings and scrolls are some examples. If you are interested in joining either of these committees, or the Council itself, please let us know by contacting us through the LJS office.

One of our speakers at the recent Council meeting was Stuart Macdonald who is the Treasurer on the Board of Deputies of British Jews and is also a member of the LJS. He talked of the growing influence of Progressive Judaism on the Board and of the strong contribution being made by Progressive Jews on its committees. Each of us supports the important work of the Deputies through making a donation alongside our LJS membership subscriptions. If you have not done so yet, I encourage you to donate. We are no longer an isolated voice on the Board and need to ensure that this continues to be the case.

Sue Head, Chairman of Council

Council and all members of the LJS congratulate Rabbi Dr David Goldberg on his 80th birthday.

Communal Seder

6.30pm on Saturday 20 April at the LJS

Led by Rabbi Alexandra Wright and Igor Zinkov

Prices for Members:

- Adults: £36.00
- Children up to 12 years: £16.00
- Family of two adults and two or more children: £92.00

Prices for Non-members:

- Adults: £60.00
- Children up to 12 years: £28.00
- Family of two adults and two or more children: £150.00

The caterer Helena Miller is back by popular request, offering her exceptionally flavoursome *Seder* buffet. Please book by Monday 15 April as places are strictly limited. Pre-booking is essential as there will be no tickets available on the night.

Financial assistance towards the cost may be available.

A booking form is available as a loose insert within the newsletter. Alternatively please contact the Rabbis' PA, Felicia Beder, on 020 7432 1283 or email: rabbispa@ljs.org

Community Service

Shabbat 18 May 2019

The LJS is a community of members and volunteers, friends and helpers whose support and service to each other and those who are not members of the synagogue is second to none. At our Community Service on *Shabbat 18 May* at the LJS, we would like to acknowledge and thank all those who volunteer their time and we will be showcasing our activities – particularly those that reach out to local neighbours in Westminster and beyond – in the presence of our local MP, Karen Buck, local councillors, the Mayor and other dignitaries.

If you are already a volunteer, please put the date in your diary. If you would like to know more about our activities and ways in which you can get involved in synagogue activities, please do get in touch with Rabbi Alexandra Wright or Rabbi Elana Dellal on 020 7286 5181 or email: a.wright@ljs.org/e.dellal@ljs.org

Forthcoming Events

Liberal Judaism's Day of Music

Saturday 22 June

Liberal Judaism is holding a Day of Music which will take place at Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue (NPLS), with the theme of 'Music reflecting the text'. You are welcome to attend whether you are a singer, music leader, instrumentalist or just interested in learning some new tunes.

Through a range of song sessions and workshops, we will look to the future and ask what direction our synagogue music might take as Liberal Judaism introduces its new *Siddur*. The day will end with a musical event in the evening.

Liberal Judaism's Day of Celebration

Sunday 23 June

The LJS is hosting Liberal Judaism's Day of Celebration. The theme is 'If I am only for myself...', and the day will focus on the role of communities in supporting their members and how, in turn, we can empower members to support others inside and outside the synagogue walls. Dame Margaret Hodge, a Labour MP and former Minister for Children, and Jean Gaffin OBE, an eminent figure in British healthcare, will present the keynote session. Come and celebrate the current best practice, the Jewish textual basis for community relationships, and the deeper questions around community responsibility versus state responsibility.

Looking ahead: for your diary

Shabbat 11 May

Our guest speaker will be Robin Moss, Director of Strategy at UJIA (United Jewish Israel Appeal)

Saturday 8 June

Erev Shavuot and *Tikkun Leyl Shavuot* this year at West London Synagogue

Sunday 9 June

Shavuot Morning Service with *Rimon* leading a *L'Dor va'Dor* service with Rabbi Elana Dellal

Notes from the Rabbis' Desks

Welcoming LJS members into our homes

We are looking at ways to foster good community relationships outside the synagogue.



Are you interested in building relationships within our community? We are beginning a new initiative at the LJS. It is something that has been done before but not for some time – building community by encouraging members to open their homes to host *Shabbat* dinners and Passover *Sedarim*.

There are such sacred and meaningful interactions that happen within the walls of our synagogue. The building is a buzz with education, worship, volunteering and relationship-building. However, our Jewish identities and our relationships are deepened if we also foster them outside the walls of the synagogue.

Perhaps you are in the process of conversion and have never had the experience of attending a *Shabbat* dinner? Perhaps you are a new member who would welcome the opportunity to meet other members in their home? Perhaps you're a family with children who are new to the area and now far from grandparents, and would love to build a relationship between your children and members of an older generation? Perhaps this is the first time you have not been able to be home for Passover and you want to experience Passover in the home of a member of our community?

Please do contact Rabbi Elana if you would like to be hosted for *Shabbat* or for Passover. In order for this initiative to happen we also need members who are interested in fulfilling the *mitzvah*

of *hachnasat or'chim* (welcoming guests) by volunteering to be hosts. Perhaps your youngest child has just left for university and your house feels a bit empty on Friday evenings? Perhaps you have a weekly *Shabbat* dinner and would enjoy the opportunity of meeting new people? Perhaps you have built close relationships within the LJS community and would like to help build that for others? Or perhaps it would be meaningful to have someone in the conversion process experience their first *Shabbat* dinner or Passover *Seder* with your family? If so, you would be a perfect host.

Longstanding LJS members Alex and Tony Weiss have much experience with being *Shabbat* and Passover hosts. They shared these words around welcoming LJS members into their home: 'We have been fortunate to host new congregants and friends of the LJS, some of whom have recently moved to London. It has been lovely for us to welcome people for *Erev Shabbat* dinner, or festival meals, and hear about their families and lives, and how they are settling into our community. We have most certainly gained from this experience and look forward to repeating it.'

If you are interested in hosting or being hosted please do get in touch with Rabbi Elana at: e.dellal@ljs.org

Elana Dellal



The ceremony of *Kabbalat Torah*

Continuing the series on the Jewish life cycle, we focus on the uniquely Liberal Jewish ceremony of *Kabbalat Torah*.



The earliest reforms in Judaism took place, not in synagogues, but in schools. While *Bar Mitzvah* took place at the age of thirteen and demonstrated a boy's ability to read Hebrew from the scroll and to discourse on religious practice, the ceremony of Confirmation (as it was then called) placed greater emphasis on religious principles. It extended Jewish education beyond the early teenage years to sixteen and sometimes seventeen and, importantly, also included girls. The earliest Confirmation ceremony is believed to have taken place in Dessau in 1803. The earliest evidence for the inclusion of girls dates back to Berlin in 1814. By 1831 the service had moved into the synagogue in Berlin and the leading 19th century American Reform Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise introduced Confirmation to the United States in 1846. Thereafter it was practised widely and generally held on the festival of *Shavuot*, which celebrates the Israelites' acceptance of the commandments – hence the Hebrew name *Kabbalat Torah*: 'acceptance of the *Torah*'. *Shavuot* gave the Confirmation ceremony a particular poignancy because of its emphasis on religious faith and principles.

Kabbalat Torah (KT) has played a significant role for generations here at the LJS. It is a highlight of the liturgical year, taking place in April, just after *Pesach*, and bringing together

a group of teenagers about to complete the first part of their formal Jewish education. In the late 1980s the term Confirmation became *Kabbalat Torah*, part of a development of greater use of Hebrew in the synagogue. In 1981, when *Bar* and *Bat Mitzvah* was introduced at the LJS, there was concern that KT would be eclipsed by the popularity of a ceremony for the individual. However, the advantage of continuing one's Jewish studies beyond the age of thirteen and the emphasis on the social group and its participation in the entire service are seen as positive developments leading to roles of leadership in the youth movement and becoming a teaching assistant in *Rimon*.

The five-term post-*Bar/Bat Mitzvah* course includes discussions on a range of subjects from abortion to Zionism, taking in theological issues such as free will and forgiveness, and topical issues such as substance abuse, assisted dying, LGBT+ issues and anxiety. The aim of the course is to help students discover Jewish religious and moral principles so that they can learn to formulate their opinions and thoughts on these and many other issues.

The highlight of the KT course is a weekend trip to Amsterdam where the teenagers are hosted by members of the Dutch Liberal Jewish Congregation. Art galleries are included in the programme along with visits to the Anne Frank House, the Museum of the Resistance, the Portuguese Synagogue and the Jewish Historical Museum.

It is no secret that friendships lie at the heart of a successful KT year. That has most certainly been true of this year's group. But our young people also reveal themselves to be spiritual, thoughtful, articulate and caring individuals, undertaking a journey to discover more about their Jewish heritage and identity.

Alexandra Wright

The *Kabbalat Torah*

On Erev Shabbat Friday 26 April and Shabbat 27 April eight young people celebrating their Everyone is warmly invited to come to these special occasions.

Here the class introduce themselves...

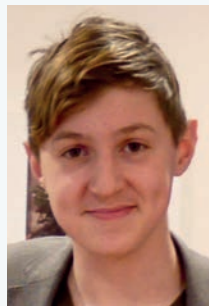
Michael Berlingieri



My name is Michael. I am 14 years old and in Year 10. In addition to my core GCSE subjects I am studying Drama, History and Triple Science. I enjoy music and play a variety of instruments including guitar, bass guitar, keyboards and ukulele. I have been at

the LJS since I was 4 years old when I was in *Gan*, and I am looking forward to being able to be a teaching assistant.

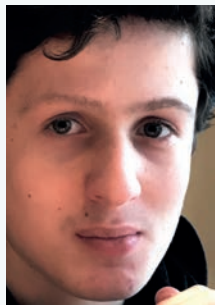
Josh Cang



My name is Josh and I have been coming to the LJS from a young age – before I can even remember. One of my favourite memories is when our Hebrew teacher tried to persuade a boy in the group to act God in a play that we were about to put on, and he completely

refused, which was quite a laugh. Even though I live in the country, and it takes the best part of an hour to get to the LJS, it has definitely been worth it. I have learnt and continue to learn so much about my Jewish heritage. Also we've had great opportunities such as the Amsterdam trip, where we stayed with Dutch families and visited various historical Jewish sites such as the Anne Frank house. I would definitely recommend coming to the LJS for *Bar Mitzvah* and *KT* as it really teaches so much more about Judaism than any school might.

Adam Cang



My name is Adam and I am 15 years old. I have a twin called Josh who annoyingly is taller than me. I am taking my GCSEs at St Columba's College in St Albans. I love Latin, French, History and English. I also love tennis (big Federer fan!), and am a

fervent supporter of Manchester City FC. Some of my first school memories were at the LJS where I used to go to the nursery. I think Josh and I must have tired out Rabbi Alex as we were always overjoyed to see her. We moved to Hertfordshire when my family and I decided that country life was for us. I am looking forward to the service, particularly the commentary as my Hebrew leaves a bit to be desired!

Jason Covey



My name is Jason. I am 15 and I go to the American School in London. I have been in *Rimon* since I was 4, and have enjoyed learning about my Jewish heritage at the LJS. I am a competitive chess player for the England national junior team, and also

enjoy cross-country running and playing tennis. I like Maths and Science at my school, and at home I like playing cards with my parents and sister. I am honoured to be taking part in the *KT* service this year and am looking forward to it.

class of 2019

Kabbalat Torah will be leading the services at the LJS.

Brooke Curtis-Shipman



My name is Brooke. I am 14 years old and am in Year 9 at South Hampstead High School. I have been a member of the LJS since I was around 3. My favourite subjects are Drama and Music and I really enjoy singing and acting. I

have made many amazing friends since joining the community and I can't wait to go on teaching with them!

Niamh Eisenberg



My name is Niamh. I am 14 years old and have been attending *Rimon* since Year 7. I go to Channing School, and my hobbies include gymnastics, piano and running. I have really enjoyed coming to *Rimon*

each Saturday for the past three years and I have become close friends with my class. The highlight was definitely the trip to Amsterdam which I will never forget. I enjoyed preparing and having my *Bat Mitzvah* at the LJS and I can't wait to become an assistant teacher at *Rimon*.

Leila Goldstone



My name is Leila and I am 15 years old. My passion is music: I sing, play the guitar and piano and I have recently taken up the cello. At school I am in a band and a member of both of my school choirs. In my spare time I like to

compose music, go for long walks in nature (as is evident by my photograph) and go to the theatre, especially to watch musicals! I have very much enjoyed working towards *KT* with my friends and this experience has taught me so much.

Tabby Penn



My name is Tabby and I am 14 years old. I have been a member of the LJS since I was 5 years old but my mum has been connected to the LJS since she was 16. I go to school at Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls in

Elstree. I enjoy singing and playing the piano. I had my *Bat Mitzvah* last year in March which I enjoyed immensely. I am regularly involved with the Asylum Seeker Drop-In at the LJS where I work with children and babies. After my *KT* I plan to come back as a teaching assistant. I love travelling and especially loved visiting Amsterdam in October with my *KT* class.



at the **LJS** 5779/2018-9

Classes in Judaism and Hebrew

Deep Calls To Deep: Transforming Conversations between Jews and Christians

Tuesday evenings 8.00-9.30pm

This is an important new course which commenced on Tuesday 5 March (see page 1) and which continues in April and May – please refer to the dates in the right-hand column. Each study session is complete in itself so you can attend any or all of the four remaining sessions.

There is no need to register. Please note the course is free to Members and Friends of the LJS, and £10.00 per session for guests. Concessions are available.

Deep Calls To Deep is the title of a volume of essays, the fruit of several years of inter-religious learning between a group of Christians and Jews. In an era of dangerous populism and nationalism, this course will examine the ways in which Jewish-Christian dialogue has progressed, and how we engage with each other in the 21st century and with the cultural and political realities of the world we inhabit together.

This course is for anyone who is concerned about the nature and need for dialogue. It will look honestly at what unites our faiths, but also at what divides us.

Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton, the LJS's Scholar in Residence curated the course, and the speakers are all contributors to the book.

30 April Rabbi Elli Tikvah Sarah and Revd Dr Stephen Roberts: *The Third Dialogue Partner: How Do We Experience Modern Western Culture?*

7 May Revd Alan Race and Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers: *Religious Absolutism*

14 May Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton and Bishop David Gillett: *How Do We Cope With Our Past?*

21 May Revd Patrick Morrow, Rabbi Vivian Silverman, Rabbi Natan Levy and Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton: *Christian Particularity – Incarnation and Trinity and Jewish Responses*

Please note that some of these titles may be subject to change.

TUESDAY MORNINGS:

11.15am-12.30pm

8 January – 2 April; 30 April – 23 July

Tuesday Texts

This friendly group is led by our rabbis, including our Scholar in Residence, Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton, and 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, the Love of Song, Talmud, the Psalms and an Introduction to *Kabbalah*. New students are always welcome.

TUESDAY EVENINGS: 7.00-8.00pm

Purim term continues to 2 April; *Shavuot* term runs 30 April – 9 July (no class during half-term 28 May)

CLASSICAL HEBREW AT ALL LEVELS

Absolute Beginners Hebrew

Tutor: Dr Dov Softi

A new course for people who don't know their *Alef* from their *Bet*, and who would like to learn Hebrew from scratch. No prior knowledge is needed. You will be learning in a fun and interactive way with a native Israeli. The course will focus on reading skills and offer a basic understanding of how Hebrew is used, both in liturgy and in spoken Hebrew. Using Jonathan Romain's *Signs and Wonders* (available for purchase, £10.00) this class will take you step by step into the wonderful world of Hebrew with skill and confidence.

Classical and Prayer Book Hebrew for Beginners

Tutor: Susannah Alexander

Have you tried to get your head around Hebrew 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 you reading faster than you thought possible. Beginning with Jonathan Romain's *Signs and Wonders*, we move on to a taste of grammar, liturgy and the Bible.

Next Steps in Prayer-Book Hebrew

Tutor: Dr Sally Gold

This course is to improve your understanding and confidence in Hebrew. We will be learning the Hebrew of the *Tanakh* (Bible) on the path towards greater enjoyment and participation in synagogue services. We practise reading simple Hebrew from the *Siddur* and the Hebrew Bible, building reading skills, knowledge of vocabulary and simple grammar at an unhurried pace.

David: Warrior and Lover King

Tutor: Rabbi Alexandra Wright

New students are welcome as we continue with the story of David, who is either defending Israel from the raiding Philistines or on the run from the murderous intentions of Saul, now his father-in-law. Neither his military prowess nor his close

friendship with Jonathan, Saul's son, mitigate the king's jealousy of David. We read in Hebrew, texts provided, translating and analysing the Hebrew carefully.

TUESDAY EVENINGS: 8.00-9.00pm

2 April; then 30 April – 9 July (no class during half-term 28 May)

Exploring Judaism

Tutor: Student Rabbi Igor Zinkov

Exploring Judaism is for people, including non-Jewish family members, who wish to know more about Judaism or who would like to brush up on their Jewish knowledge. 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. In addition to offering knowledge of Judaism, the course encourages practical experiences of Liberal Judaism and space for personal reflection within the group. Resources can be found on: www.ljsexploringjudaism.wordpress.com

Purim Term 2019

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 11.00am)

Shavuot Term 2019

Tuesday 30 April Life after Death, Messiah and Messianic Age

Tuesday 7 May Home Rituals and Prayers, including *Kashrut*, *Mezuzah*, *Tallit* and *Tefillin*

Tuesday 14 May Different Forms of Judaism

Tuesday 21 May Jewish Music

Tuesday 28 May (No class during half-term)

Tuesday 4 June Exploring *Shavuot*

Tuesday 11 June 7 *Tammuz*, 3 Weeks, *Tisha B'Av*

Tuesday 18 June Who is a Jew?

Tuesday 25 June Humankind in Jewish Thought

Tuesday 2 July Ask the Rabbi

Tuesday 9 July *Siyum*/Celebration End of the Year

SHABBAT MORNING CLASSES:

9.45-10.45am

Saturday mornings 27 April – 6 July

(no classes 25 May, or 1 and 8 June)

Shabbat study: The David Story

Led by members of the class, guest speakers and our rabbis, this term the class will be studying the Book of Samuel and the first two chapters of Kings. It deals with the birth and call of Samuel and the lives of the first kings, Saul and David. It would be helpful, but not essential, to have a copy of *The David Story* (available online for about £10.00) – a translation and commentary of the text written by Robert Alter. We will be asking such questions as why the tribes wanted a king; how they were chosen and how they behaved; and whether David was the perfect role model.

We welcome new class members to the class, and the beginning of this term is an ideal time to join as we are starting a new subject. No knowledge of Hebrew is required for the course. Please contact Michael Romain (romain@netgates.co.uk) for further information.

BEGINNERS' HEBREW

Tutor: Naomi Brightwell

This class uses Jonathan Romain's *Signs and Wonders* to help absolute beginners to decode Hebrew. Classes include a little bit of grammar and vocabulary, the structure of the liturgy,

plenty of off-topic conversations on Jewish food, and anything else that helps us have fun while learning. No previous knowledge is required. Former students have even gone on to lead *Shabbat* morning services.

KEYS TO UNDERSTANDING CLASSICAL HEBREW

Tutor: David Strang

This class is designed 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, £27.00) 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 with reasonable fluency and to know how to write in block Hebrew script. There is a core of students who have been following the course for two years now, but please be assured that 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 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.



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 receive encouragement and personal attention. The classes give you a window into Jewish history, links to biblical Hebrew, Jewish ritual and customs, Israeli history and current affairs. All classes continue term after term so you can progress from one level to another. In our current advanced classes we have a number of students who started with no knowledge of Judaism or Israel at all.

For full details of lesson times and charges, please visit www.spiroark.org/classes or contact us on 020 7794 4655 or at: education@spiroark.org

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.

Kiddush Celebrations

If you would like to take part in the service or contribute to the *Kiddush* to mark a special occasion – such as a birthday, anniversary, baby blessing or *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* – please contact Felicia Beder on 020 7432 1283 or at: rabbispa@ljs.org

LICORICIA OF WINCHESTER

– inspiration from the past

Not everyone will have heard of Licoricia of Winchester, but LJS members and Winchester residents, Maggie and William Carver, are trustees of a most interesting charitable project to erect a life-sized bronze statue of this fascinating Jewish woman with her son, Asser. The statue is to be positioned in Winchester city centre, near where she lived around 800 years ago.



William tells us:

“ Winchester was one of the most significant cities in the Middle Ages, and on investigation we found that the city was important for more than just its Cathedral and College.

Licoricia was a member of the nationally significant thirteenth-century medieval Jewish community in Winchester, and the most famous of its successful businesswomen. She was a highly educated wife and mother, and raised funds for royalty, nobility, church and commoners. Indeed her money helped build the Edward the Confessor chapel in Westminster Abbey used for coronations.

The statue will show Licoricia wearing the clothes worn by a wealthy woman of her time, chosen after careful research. She will be holding a document called a chirograph. Chirographs were records of debts prepared in duplicate or triplicate, and each copy was separated by a jagged edge unique to each document. Licoricia's son is holding a dreidel.

It is not known exactly when Licoricia, whose unusual name is associated with the term 'sweetmeat', was born. However, she first appears in Winchester in 1234 as a young widow with three sons. By that time she had enough money and business acumen to be operating a money-lending business in her own right. She is usually referred to as 'Licoricia of Winchester' because Winchester was her main place of business.

The plinth will have the words from Leviticus 19:18 ('Love thy neighbour as thyself') inscribed in both English and Hebrew. The English will be from the King James Version of the Bible as large parts of this Bible were in fact translated in Winchester.

Following a competition involving sculptors both local and national, the commission was won by leading sculptor Ian Rank-Broadley FRSS. The statue will educate people about Winchester's important medieval Jewish community, its achievements and its persecution. It will also promote religious tolerance and the acceptance of diversity in the community, and will serve as an inspiration to women. It will represent a lasting enhancement to the city of Winchester.

We are delighted that historian and LJS member Simon Sebag-Montefiore has agreed to be a patron of our charity. All LJS members are warmly invited to attend an unveiling party for the maquette (*pictured*) which will take place in London at the Art Workers' Guild, 6 Queen Square, WC1N 3AT between 12.30pm and 2pm (unveiling at 1pm) on Thursday 11 April. There will be drinks and refreshments, and Ian Rank-Broadley will be joining us. Do please let us know via mail@licoricia.org if you are planning to attend. Further information can be obtained from our website, www.licoricia.org. We hope you'll be inspired, as Maggie and I are, by Licoricia's story. ”

If you would like to share news about your work, project, or special interest, LJS News would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact us at: newsletter@ljs.org

Community Events

BRIDGE CLUB

The Bridge Club meets at 2.00pm every Monday (except Jewish and Bank Holidays) and finishes at 5.00pm with a break for refreshments. The standard of Bridge playing is average, but players should know the basics 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 (020 7286 5181) who will pass on the message to Neil Levitt or William Falk.



LOCAL WALKING GROUP

Our next walks will be on Thursday 11 April and Wednesday 15 May, meeting at the LJS at 11.15am. All members and friends are welcome. For first-timers there is a Walking for Health two-page form to fill out before walking. We walk in Regent's Park for an hour or so and aim to end up at a café for coffee or lunch. To find out more, please contact Jody Graham on awithj@gmail.com or on her mobile 07765 214867 or contact Michael Romain on romain@netgates.co.uk or on his mobile: 07818 000849.

VIDEO AND TEA

The LJS warmly invites you to this monthly event on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 1.30-4.30pm. Just come along – there's no need to book. Cost is £2.00 for the film and refreshments. Enjoy soup on arrival then a DVD (film classics, musicals, etc) followed by a delicious tea including home-made coffee ice-cream.

Forthcoming screenings:

24 April: *There's No Business Like Show Business*

22 May: *The Glenn Miller Story*

NOSH 'N' DROSH

Shabbat lunchtimes 1.15-2.15pm

Shabbat 6 April

Gaby Lazarus, Simon Cooney and Samantha Glazer present a talk on their trek in Israel in aid of Jewish Child's Day

Shabbat 11 May

Louise and Michael Carmi on 'Can touch heal? A Journey with Havening Techniques reducing stress responses and building resilience'

Shabbat 13 July

Following a celebration of his first *Bar Mitzvah*, Raymon Benedyk will talk about his life and times, including being a Bevan Boy, conscripted to work in the coal mines during the Second World War, and as Organising Secretary of the LJS.

If you would like to sponsor a Nosh 'n' Drosh please speak with Sue Bolsom or Alexandra Wright.

COMMUNITY CARE

Aviva Shafritz, our Community Care Co-ordinator, is ready to help with difficulties experienced not only by our older members, such as with 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 stages of dementia. We meet once a week, serving 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 and advice on joining the group, please email sfm@ljs.org or phone the LJS on 020 7286 5181.

RESTAURANT TUESDAY – CAN YOU HELP?

This is an informal lunch club for the more elderly members of the congregation. We have been meeting at 12.30pm on the third Tuesday of every month. Please note that Restaurant Tuesday is having a break for a few months but with plans to re-convene, possibly in a different format. We are actively looking for more volunteers to help with cooking and serving. If you are able to assist with this, please call us on 020 7286 5181.

Young LJS

We wish these young members of the LJS a very happy birthday in April

Nena Atwell

Kobe Behr

Axel Cohen

Wilfred Ginsberg

Emily Gruber

Ethan Haller

Naomi Hanna-Kemper

Sam Hanna-Kemper

Jude Message

Zoe Roeder Wald

Ava Rosenthal

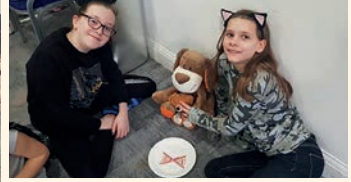
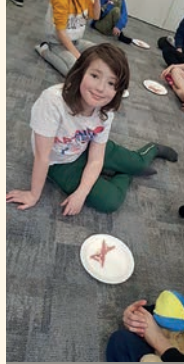
Jessica Spanier

Genevieve Sparks

Baxter Spurr

Emilia Stonehill

Thomas Stonehill



An enjoyable time was had by all the children at the recent LJS-Netzer sleepover which took place at the LJS.

Tiny Tots at the LJS

If you are a parent, grandparent or carer, please bring your little ones between the ages of 0 and 4 years old to the LJS on Shabbat mornings for a delightful session of songs, stories, activities, drawing and Kiddush.

Tiny Tots meets on Shabbat mornings at 11am during Rimon term times.

NEXT SESSIONS: Shabbatot 27 April; 4, 11, 18 May; Sunday 9 June and Shabbatot 15, 22, 29 June; 6 July



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

Email education@ljs.org if you would like to be added to the Tiny Tots email circulation list.

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Fortnight of fun at Machaneh Kadimah

Children aged between 8 and 15 are warmly invited to join LJS-Netzer's biggest event of the year – *Machaneh Kadimah* – which takes place 12-25 August in Wiltshire.

The children will have a great Liberal Jewish experience – two weeks of magical, fun, creative and engaging activities.

For more information contact Ben Combe (b.combe@liberaljudaism.org).

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 e.dellal@ljs.org for more details.

Breaking the Silence

On Friday 7 March, our young adults group, *Kulanu*, organised a conversation with guest speaker, Merphie Bubis (pictured), from Breaking the Silence – an organisation of Israeli military veterans who served from the start of the Second Intifada in September 2000. As part of her Israeli military service Merphie served in an Operations Room of the Civil Administration in the West Bank near Hebron and had – in her words – ‘a bird’s-eye view’ of the situation. Merphie shared her story and read other soldiers’ testimonies.



She spoke about the reality in which young soldiers like herself face the Palestinian and Israeli civilian population on a daily basis; she spoke about the inequality between Palestinian and Israeli rights; and she spoke about the feeling of despair when she realised that there is nothing Israeli soldiers can do when they see violence from Israeli settlers. She explained how when a Palestinian minor throws a stone, the Israeli army can keep the child in detention for hours, even days. However, when an Israeli does the same, Israeli soldiers don’t have any order about what to do and, therefore, must ignore it. Merphie finished her presentation with an expression of hope – that one day there will be equality and justice in Israeli society for all people, and there will not be a need for Breaking the Silence.

Igor Zinkov

Security volunteers needed!

The LJS security group looks after the congregation on *Shabbat* and festivals, working closely with professional support. Full training is provided by CST and we are considered to be one of the best volunteer synagogue security groups in the country. We are not looking for heroes – what we need is people who enjoy working as a team, using common sense and proven techniques. If you can donate a *Shabbat* morning every few months, we’d be most grateful. Keeping the synagogue safe is important for all of us and we’d welcome your involvement. **For more information please contact the LJS office on 020 7286 5181 or email: ljs@ljs.org**

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The Liberal Jewish Synagogue

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