

July/August 2019  
Sivan/Tammuz/Av 5779

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERAL JEWISH SYNAGOGUE

# LJS NEWS



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*Judith Silver, Song Leader for Singing for the Mind, with the 8th anniversary cake*

## Singing for the Mind

A real party atmosphere greeted everyone as they entered the Montefiore Hall on 9 May when we celebrated the 8th anniversary of Singing for the Mind and thanked Judith Silver, who has been our main Song Leader since the project started, and who was sadly leaving us. An expanded circle of singers including friends and family were present, as well as Rabbi Alexandra Wright and also Peter Todd, who had helped set up the partnership with the Alzheimer's Society when the project started 8 years ago.

Two wonderful cakes were baked specially for the occasion by Debi Penhey, and a gift was given to Judith Silver to thank her for helping to make the project such a success.

*Jenny Nathan*

For more information on Singing for the Mind, please turn to page 4.



# Key diary dates including High Holy Days and Festivals

DATE	INFORMATION
Sunday 7 July	Ordination of Igor Zinkov and three other students at West London Synagogue
Saturday 10 August	Erev Tisha B'Av led by Rabbi Rachel Benjamin at 8.30pm
Saturday 21 September	Selichot service at 8.00pm
Sunday 22 September	Memorial Service at 11.00am at the Liberal Jewish Cemetery, Pound Lane, NW10
Sunday 29 September	Erev Rosh Hashanah
Monday 30 September	Rosh Hashanah
Tuesday 8 October	Kol Nidre
Wednesday 9 October	Yom Kippur
Sunday 13 October	Erev Sukkot
Monday 14 October	Sukkot
Sunday 20 October	Erev Simchat Torah
Monday 21 October	Simchat Torah

See page 11 for details of the High Holy Day preparation courses.

## Bereavements

We extend our sympathy to those who mourn:

### Walter Wolfgang

LJS Member for 60 years, and close friend of Carol Turner.

We also extend our sympathy to:

Peter Loble and his family on the death of Peter's mother, **Eve Loble**;

Jessica Sokel and her family on the death of Jessica's father, **Jack Learmond-Criqui**;

Josie and Alice Mayers and their family on the death of **Guy Mayers**.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר האבלים  
*May God comfort you and all who mourn*

A tribute to Walter Wolfgang will appear in a future issue of *LJS News*.

## Drop-In for Asylum-Seeker Families

The next Drop-In dates are Sunday 14 July and Sunday 11 August from 2.00pm-5.00pm. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 1.00pm to help set up.

Dates thereafter (Sundays) are: 8 September, 13 October, 10 November and 8 December. Volunteers are also needed from 5.00pm on Thursday 11 July and Thursday 8 August and on the Thursdays immediately prior to the Drop-In dates to sort clothes.

### VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

The Drop-In has now been running for five years and is as much needed as ever. If you are interested in volunteering once a month or a few times a year, please contact [asylumproject@ljs.org](mailto: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.

## Shabbat services: July and August 2019

Friday evening services are at 6.45pm. *Shabbat* morning services are at 11.00am unless otherwise stated. Please see below for times of festival services.

DATE	RABBI/SPEAKER AND NOTES	
<b>Friday 5 July ♦</b>	Alexandra Wright	Service co-led by Hannah and Kurt Mautner <i>Bat and Bar Mitzvah</i>
<b>Shabbat 6 July Chukkat</b>	Alexandra Wright	<i>Bat Mitzvah</i> Hannah and Kurt Mautner Join Cantor Gershon Silins, Daniela Touati and Igor Zinkov for a special blessing before their rabbinic ordination on 7 July
<b>Sunday 7 July 3.00pm</b>	Ordination Service at West London Synagogue	Please let Igor Zinkov know if you would like to attend his ordination at West London Synagogue
<b>Friday 12 July</b>	Alexandra Wright	
<b>Shabbat 13 July Balak</b>	Rachel Benjamin	Raymon Benedyk will celebrate his later-in-life <i>Bar Mitzvah</i> by reading the <i>Haftarah</i> and speaking at a Nosh 'n' Drosh on what it was like to be a Bevan Boy during World War II
<b>Friday 19 July</b>	Alexandra Wright	
<b>Shabbat 20 July Pinchas</b>	Special guest speaker	
<b>Friday 26 July</b>	Rachel Benjamin	
<b>Shabbat 27 July Mattot</b>	Elana Dellal	<i>Aufruf</i> Siena Carver and Yonatan Golan
<b>Friday 2 August</b>	Dov Softi	
<b>Shabbat 3 August Mas'ei</b>	Michael Alpert	
<b>Friday 9 August</b>	Rachel Benjamin	
<b>Shabbat 10 August D'varim</b>	Rachel Benjamin	
<b>Saturday night 10 August, 8.30pm</b>	Rachel Benjamin	<i>Erev Tisha B'Av</i> in the John Rayner Prayer Room
<b>Friday 16 August</b>	Alexandra Wright	
<b>Shabbat 17 August Va'etchanan</b>	Alexandra Wright	<i>Aufruf</i> Francesca McCoy and Daniel Morgenthau
<b>Friday 23 August</b>	Alexandra Wright	
<b>Shabbat 24 August Ekev</b>	Alexandra Wright	
<b>Friday 30 August</b>	Alexandra Wright	
<b>Shabbat 31 August Re'eh</b>	Alexandra Wright	

♦ **Parking alert: cricket at Lord's on this date**

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.

# Singing for the Mind Sessions at the LJS



Peter Todd (see page 1) joins in the singing and dancing

Singing sessions for people with dementia or memory loss have been running at the LJS for eight years. Brought to the LJS by Rita Adler, and initially set up as Singing for the Brain in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Society, it is now run independently as Singing for the Mind. We are enormously grateful to the Ernest Hecht Foundation which has given invaluable support and funding from the beginning, as well as to other donors; to Mary Rossiter who was the original organiser and who ran Singing for the Mind for nearly seven years; and to our wonderful (but sadly departing) Song Leader, Judith Silver, who has been with us from the start

and who is enabling us to continue by training our future Song Leaders.

We follow a structured singing programme which includes breathing, movement, and even dancing at times, as well as singing well-known and also new songs. This programme revives verbal abilities and helps connections between people, and that is certainly seen in our participants. But best of all it gives such pleasure to everyone.

The Song Leaders, volunteers and participants come from the LJS, other synagogues, and the wider non-Jewish community. All participants attend with a companion who find that they, too, gain support and friendship. There is an opportunity to chat and have tea and biscuits both before and after the singing. Everyone involved in Singing for the Mind says it is the highlight of their week.

There is a limit on participant numbers, and often a waiting list, so if you know someone who would benefit, do put their name down early. For more information and to view Lucy Kaye's prize-winning film *Memory Songs*, please go to: <http://ljs.org/community/#sfm>

**Judith Diamond**

## Film Club at the LJS 7.00pm-9.30pm Wednesday 14 August

Our new bi-monthly film club is presented by Cristina Galisi, a graduate in Modern Languages and Cinema Studies. It features recent Israeli films related to either current Jewish themes or Festivals. Our next screening, a musical comedy about life, love and friendship, is *Bananot La-Eroviszion – Cupcakes* (in Hebrew with English subtitles). A group of friends from Tel Aviv accidentally enter a Eurovision-style Song Contest when their tune is picked to represent Israel. Thrust into a world of glamour and high expectations, the friends struggle to navigate around the sharp elbows of the pop music business, getting into lots of hilarious situations along the way.



Drinks and popcorn will be served at 7.00pm before the film starts promptly at 7.30pm. There will be a discussion after the film. There is no charge for admission, but contributions to costs are much appreciated.

For further information please contact Cristina Galisi: [cristina@galisi.com](mailto:cristina@galisi.com), or to register for the Film Club, please contact Felicia Beder: [rabbispa@ljs.org](mailto:rabbispa@ljs.org) or call 020 7432 1283.

# Rabbi Harry Jacobi MBE z"l

## 19 October 1925 – 24 April 2019

*We pay tribute to a much loved and highly respected Liberal Rabbi who was a member of the LJS and who regarded it as one of his spiritual homes.*

A conscientious, modest, humorous and music-loving man, Harry Jacobi cared deeply for all humanity, and his own life experience inspired him to serve others and fight injustice.

Born Heinz Martin Hirschberg in Germany in 1925, Harry's early life was tumultuous and his family was to be annihilated during the *Shoah*. Shortly after having celebrated his *Bar Mitzvah* in Berlin's Friedenstempel just days before *Kristallnacht*, he left for Holland, never to see his mother again. After time in an internment camp then an orphanage, he was among those rescued in 1940 by the remarkable Truus Wijsmuller-Meijer (later honoured as a Righteous Gentile), and only moments before Dutch capitulation to their Nazi invaders, he boarded a ship bound for Liverpool.

After working the remaining war years in Manchester, then subsequently as a driver for the Jewish Brigade in northern Europe, Harry began to prepare to make *Aliyah*. However, a visit in 1949 to the World Union Conference in London where he heard Rabbi Leo Baeck's presidential address calling for the rebuilding and advancement of progressive Judaism in Europe touched Harry deeply and changed the course of his life. He prepared to study for the British rabbinate, was ordained 'reverend' in 1961, and received his rabbinic ordination in 1971.

Harry decided to build up and strengthen the post-war diaspora community, continuing this throughout his life, serving the communities of Southgate, Wembley, Zurich, and, after retirement, South Bucks and Eastbourne Progressive congregations. He also taught and preached in countless other communities. For ten years he was the Chair of the (then) Liberal Judaism Rabbinic Board and led high-profile campaigns to highlight the plight of refugees.



During the 1960s he edited *Pointer*, the ULPS (now LJ) journal of Jewish thought, and for several years he ran the Liberal Judaism Evening Institute at the Montagu Centre, which served as an entry point for many into Judaism. During the 1970s and until he moved to Switzerland in 1982, he organised and led the ULPS Israel tour. In 2006 he was awarded the MBE in recognition of his contribution to Jewish community life and to interfaith relations.

A devoted family man, Harry in turn received much love and support right to the end of his long life. He and his late wife Rose were devoted to each other, and Harry enjoyed close and rich relationships with his children, Richard, Margaret and David, as well as with their families. He delighted in his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who brought him untold joy at the end of his life, especially after having to bear the tragic loss of his younger son, David, in 2016.

Harry will be remembered for his sincerity, his loyalty, and his service to the causes of progressive Judaism in Europe. He was a man whose life exemplified the prophetic ideals of justice, compassion and truth, and who served his God with an unshakeable courage and integrity.

# Council Report

*‘Strive to occupy yourself with the needs of the community’ (Rashi)*



Council runs on an annual cycle beginning with the AGM. Our June meeting, held shortly before the AGM, is therefore the last of the year and when, according to the rules of the company, Trustees who have served their full term of office need to stand down. This year Anthony Sefton has completed his period as a Trustee: we thank him for all he has done on Council. When I next report to you, the AGM will have taken place and we will have a new Council beginning its tenure.

The June meeting was also the opportunity for Council to review and agree the Trustees' Report and accounts ahead of the AGM. We were therefore joined by a representative of our auditors who took us through the management report they had prepared following the audit. No significant deficiencies had been found in the accounting and control systems, but there are recommendations which we will be addressing. Council is very grateful to Peter Loble, our Honorary Treasurer, and to the office staff involved in the audit: Lysa Schwartz, Ergun Arican, and Alison Mugunthan.

At our Council meeting, we carried out a review of our Annual Plan. We have had success with many of the areas which we had prioritised. These included expanding our learning programmes, recruiting new rabbis and ensuring we are compliant with the data protection law. We have also responded to the unexpected, as with the failure of our boilers and central heating. (A note on this: we are awaiting planning permission from Westminster and hope to receive this in July or August.)

In July, the new Council will be undertaking some forward planning based on our review and on the developing needs of the community.

Council was updated on the redevelopment of the toilets. This summer we are renovating those on both the ground floor and on the first floor. These are on schedule to be completed during the Nursery School's summer holiday and therefore to be ready by the beginning of September. Phase two of the work (the basement toilets and those in the bride's room), will take place next year.

We were also informed of two forthcoming events: one is the LJ Day of Celebration on Sunday 23 June hosted by the LJS and entitled, 'If I am only for myself'; its focus is the role of communities in supporting their members. I will report on this in the next newsletter.

The second event is very exciting: an evening of jazz entitled, 'All That Jazz', on Sunday 3 November. You will see information on page 12, and find enclosed in this newsletter a flyer advertising what promises to be a wonderful evening. The bandleader is Peter Werth, a member of the LJS. Do come!

Council does not meet in August, but takes a summer break, as does the newsletter. We are looking forward to some exciting plans for our LJS community after the holidays.

***Sue Head, Chairman of Council***



## Igor Zinkov, whose rabbinic ordination takes place on 7 July, reflects on *Tisha B'Av*

*Tisha B'Av* commemorates the long list of persecutions in Jewish history traditionally associated with this day of mourning. However, the original meaning of the day originates in grieving for the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem. It leads many Jews to ask themselves what this day means to those who do not want the Temple to be rebuilt and who don't see themselves re-establishing animal sacrifices.

Every generation of liberal Jews is faced with the challenge of finding meaning in *Tisha B'Av*. Some of us relate to it, but because the day falls in summer when many synagogues are quieter, it's easy just to neglect or ignore it. The challenge of dealing with the destruction of Temples is often therefore left to our youth at Jewish summer camps where Jewish educators and rabbis try to redefine their theology about destruction, sacrifices, the role of synagogue and worship.

Marjorie Ingall wrote an article 'How summer camps should – and shouldn't – observe *Tisha B'Av*' in which she asked former campers, current camp staff, and Jewish educators to talk about some of the traumatizing and pedagogically dubious ways they observed *Tisha B'Av*, and to share some better approaches. Some of the negative examples included having young people build a model Temple, only to have the counsellors burn it, or acting out appalling episodes in Jewish history such as the Crusades, the Inquisition, pogroms, and even the Holocaust.

Perhaps it is not surprising that the participants and staff find it difficult to find a positive message in a day of disasters. One Jewish educator recalls a camp when over 45 campers indicated that they would not be participating in camp activities because of their observance of *Tisha B'Av*. Realizing what was going on, the senior staff created a rule forbidding campers from reading *Harry Potter* that day, drastically affecting the numbers who decided they would participate after all! This amusing anecdote



reminds us that it is not enough to perform Jewish rites and customs without a deeper understanding of the ethical and moral values underpinning them.

Learning is important for progressive Judaism. There are positive examples of *Tisha B'Av* activities at summer camps which might help the wider community to learn about and redefine this day. For example, one camp's educators decided to invite campers to clean up cemeteries after having learned about the people and community that used to thrive in the area around the camp. Another positive approach is to focus on the rabbinic idea that the Temple was destroyed because of *sinat chinam* (unwarranted hatred) and on Rav Kook's complementary idea that the Temple would only be rebuilt through *ahavat chinam* (unwarranted love). Campers spent a day creating moments of *ahavat chinam* for each other followed by a meaningful discussion.

Everyone will decide for themselves how or indeed whether to mark *Tisha B'Av* on Sunday August 11. This year I have decided to build the 'Temple' of words and letters, the 'Temple' of ideas, thoughts and inspirations, and the 'Temple' of positive self-reflection and self-development. This is why the initial letters of each paragraph of this article build the word 'Temple'.

# Remembering Rabbi Dr David J. Goldberg OBE z”l

In these edited extracts from tributes written by some of the people who knew David well we get a flavour of the way he touched and enriched their lives. Their full tributes honour David's immense contribution both to Liberal Judaism in general and to the LJS in particular. David's participation in family life cycle events – often through the generations – is highlighted. Happy gatherings at David and Carole's home are recalled, as is David's kindness, compassion and support through times of difficulty. Testimony is given to the fortitude with which he bore his own terrible illness. David's erudition, intellectual prowess and razor sharp mind are remembered, together with his fearless determination to speak up for justice. Ann Kirk's words resonate with us all when she writes that she and her husband, Bob, always found David's sermons stimulating and challenging, and that there was regularly something to think and talk about after the service.



David's wit was legendary, and we begin these tributes with an indication of his humour from Penny Hastings, Ian Lazarus and Lisa Gershon:

Penny's son, Jonathan, and David and Carole's son, Rupert, had play dates. Penny recalls, 'On one occasion when David came to collect Rupert he remarked wryly that if I was wondering why I was having such bad luck (I was recently divorced), it might be because my *mezuzah* was upside down!'

Ian recalls that at his mother's funeral David said, 'Rosemary, with no malice aforethought, was the nosiest person I ever met.' Even at a funeral, no-one could help but laugh because it was so true! Ian believes David could get away with being irreverent because he had the ability to connect to everyone.

Lisa Gershon recounts David's humour at a similarly solemn occasion: 'On a cold morning in October 2003 a few of us were gathered around the family plot in the LJS cemetery to mark the joint stone-setting of my grandparents, Doreen and Louis Gluckstein. David was officiating, and there was a twinkle in his eye as it dawned on a few of us that owing to a rare but (literally) grave error, 'Louis' had become 'Louise'. David's fabulous sense of humour was just what was needed to save the situation.'

## Here we read the words of others who remember David with gratitude and appreciation:

'David and I worked very happily together on various editorial projects, the main one being a quarterly journal, *Pointer*, published by ULPS (later LJ) for which David was the editor and I the technical editor. I treasured our meetings, discussing content and layout, and researching suitable contributors and artists. David always knew exactly the right people to approach, and did this with his trademark persuasive powers and courtesy. When Bob and I became joint editors of the LJS newsletter, David took a close interest, sometimes suggesting lead subjects, and taking great pleasure in spotting any (fortunately very rare!) typographical errors.'

**Ann Kirk**

'We were delighted that when we invited David to become President of the Out and About Club he accepted with alacrity and became a staunch supporter of the club. His annual talks were eagerly awaited and always engendered a lively discussion whether he was talking about antisemitism or his beloved cricket, and he and Carole never missed an annual dinner. His only complaint was that in the many years that Carole had drawn the raffle tickets, he had never won a prize.'

**Jenny Nathan**



‘David will be primarily remembered as a bold rabbi who believed that the pen is more powerful than the sword. From the pulpit and in his writings David demonstrated profound intellectual honesty. He was prepared to express ideas, such as condemnation of the Israeli invasion into Lebanon, without concern that his views were not acceptable to the more conservative elements within the Jewish community. David led his diverse congregation with the skill of a great conductor, harnessing the talents of its members to the advantage of the community, commissioning artists and architects to create the *Shoah* memorial, and bankers and business people in fundraising for its rebuilding of the LJS. David’s talent for motivating others to serve the community enabled him to raise the profile of the LJS as a powerful voice in the intellectual and moral leadership of the Jewish community, vindicating his view that the pen is indeed mightier than the sword.’

**Martin Slowe**

‘I had a blind introduction to David. As a newly-arrived postgraduate student in London, singing with the Professional Choir from the concealed choir loft of the old synagogue building, I found provocation, inspiration and enlightenment from this unseen orator as he preached from the pulpit below. David and John Rayner, both invisible, were my introduction to the LJS, and the rest is history. Some years were to elapse before David and others appointed me as Music Director. In this role it was my great fortune to be supported and nurtured by David, a great lover of music, who, with his surgical attention to detail and his unmistakable, occasionally in-tune singing voice, proved to be a colleague with impeccable timing and a highly refined sense of aesthetic beauty and balance. As a ‘slip of a girl’ (his words) cutting my teeth, his unflinching honesty and well-intentioned criticism were always tempered with appropriate praise, compassion and humour. It is no secret that David loved being in the company of artists. Perhaps this is why he spent so much time *kibbutzing* with the choir, tucked away in the upstairs kitchen, where he could be found bantering and joking with the musicians before the start of a service.’

**Cathy Heller Jones**

‘After reviewing David’s superbly written but controversial *This is Not the Way: Jews, Judaism and Israel* for LJS News in 2012, I took him on a tour of St Paul’s Cathedral, where I was working in the archive. In his book, David had confessed to ‘intellectual hypocrisy’ for leading the LJS congregation in a prayer that extolled God’s guiding hand in Jewish history and had questioned the certitudes of the *Amidah*. If you cannot conceive of God as the Creator, he argued, God’s intervention in human history is no more tenable. In the St Paul’s library he was shown the cathedral’s greatest treasure, William Tyndale’s 1526 translation of *The New Testament*. We then descended to the cathedral floor where *The Lord’s Prayer* is recited on the hour. Without hesitation he joined in, reassuring me in a moving affirmation of a common faith tradition, “It is a good Jewish prayer.”’

**Gordon Higgett**

‘David was an important person in my life. I met him in the summer of 1987 when I was one of very few Russian refuseniks arriving in London. He helped both myself and my family to walk the way from being just people of Jewish origin to becoming Jewish people, and I am very grateful.’

**Tim Sandler**

‘It is to David that I owe several of those rare ‘lump in the throat’ moments in life when the emotion that surges through you feels quite overwhelming. The most memorable was his introduction and words at the memorial service for Yehudi Menuhin. I felt huge pride as LJS Chair seeing David in his distinctive gown walking down the central nave of Westminster Abbey along with Church dignitaries, representatives of other faiths and the Dalai Lama. And then came, “I will now recite the Jewish Memorial Prayer – the *Kaddish*. Will those who wish to please join me.” His familiar voice, joined by more people than one might have expected, spread around this vast historic place. As ever, David’s words were meticulously chosen, carefully enunciated and reassuring.’

**Trevor Moross**



# at the **LJS** 5779/2019

## *Classes in Judaism and Hebrew*

### **TUESDAY MORNINGS:**

**11.15am-12.30pm**

Classes run until 23 July

#### **Tuesday Texts**

This friendly group is led by our rabbis, including our Scholar in Residence, Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton. We study biblical texts and commentaries and enjoy sessions on Jewish art and music.

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### **TUESDAY EVENINGS: 7.00-8.00pm**

*Shavuot* term classes run until 9 July

#### **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.

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##### **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.

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### **David: Warrior and Lover King**

**Tutor: Rabbi Alexandra Wright**

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.

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### **TUESDAY EVENINGS: 8.00-9.00pm**

Classes run until 9 July

#### **Exploring Judaism**

**Tutor: 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.

#### ***Shavuot* Term 2019**

**Tuesday 2 July** Ask the Rabbi

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

## **SHABBAT MORNING CLASSES:**

**9.45-10.45am**

**Saturday morning 6 July**

*Shabbat study: The David Story*

This is the final class studying the Book of Samuel and the first two chapters of Kings.

## **BEGINNERS' HEBREW**

**Tutor: Naomi Brightwell**

This class uses Jonathan Romain's *Signs and Wonders* to help absolute beginners to decode Hebrew.

## **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*.

## **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.

## **Summer Learning at the LJS**

### **SHABBAT MORNING CLASSES:**

**10.00-10.40am on 17, 24 and 31 August**

Come and study *Parashat Ha-Shavu'a* (the weekly portion) with Rabbi Alexandra Wright.

### **INTENSIVE HEBREW COURSE**

**10.00am-4.00pm on Monday 5, Tuesday 6, Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 August**

This 4-day crash course in liturgical Hebrew takes place at the LJS and is run by student rabbi Lev Taylor. It is open only to those who can already read the Hebrew alphabet. By the end of this programme you will:

- be able to navigate your way through the language of the *Siddur* (prayer book)
- learn Hebrew grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation
- have a better understanding of our prayers, both in terms of language and ideas.

As this is an intensive course, you are obliged to sign up for all four days. To register online please go to: <https://babels2019.as.me/schedule.php>

Student concession rate: £100.00; Standard rate: £150.00; Supporter rate: £200.00

Please note that funds raised from this course are used to run free classes in English as a Foreign Language for refugees.

## **Launching the New Year's Learning Circle Programme**

Details of the adult education programme for the next academic year will be available in the September issue of *LJS News*. We begin with a special lecture the evening of Tuesday 10 September, with High Holy Day preparation courses on the two subsequent Tuesday evenings.

### **LECTURE ON UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Tuesday 10 September at the LJS**

**6.30pm refreshments; 7.00pm lecture**

**Speaker: Professor Francesca Klug OBE**

80 years after the start of World War II and 70 years on from the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, where are we heading now? Academic and human rights activist Francesca Klug explores the origins of this landmark document, its roots in Jewish experience and the influence of Jewish values on its vision for a better world.

This event is a joint initiative of the LJS and René Cassin, the Jewish voice for human rights.

Get your free tickets via Eventbrite at: [https://universal\\_human\\_rights.eventbrite.co.uk](https://universal_human_rights.eventbrite.co.uk)

### **HIGH HOLY DAY PREPARATION COURSES**

**8.00-9.00pm on Tuesday 17 September at the LJS:** Preparing for *Rosh Hashanah*

**8.00-9.00pm on Tuesday 24 September at the LJS:** Preparing for *Yom Kippur*

# Caroline Hagar

## Our heartfelt thanks to a beloved and inspiring teacher



During the *Shabbat* service on 26 May, Caroline Hagar, much loved teacher of our kindergarten class, *Kitah Gan*, was honoured in celebration of her 36 years as a Jewish educator. Rabbi Elana Dellal

explained that in *gematria* – a system in which different letters are given numerical values – the number 18 is the numerical value for the word *chai*, meaning ‘life’. The number 18 therefore holds great significance in Judaism, as does 36, which is ‘double-*chai*’. So we were celebrating Caroline’s ‘double-*chai* teach-iversary’!

Rabbi Elana paid this tribute to Caroline: ‘For 36 years you have blessed young people by fostering environments of curiosity, compassion, excitement, and a deep love of Jewish tradition and texts.’ She went on to comment on the many people present who had once sat in Caroline’s classroom or were now parents of children who had studied with her, or who were studying with her now.

It was particularly poignant when Daniel Lewis, a former student of Caroline’s, and now the father of three children who were all in Caroline’s class, recounted how around 35 years previously he’d

been an inattentive and naughty little boy trying to sneak out of class. But he hadn’t reckoned with having a boundlessly energetic and enthusiastic teacher who wasn’t put off by his bad behaviour. Caroline dealt with the situation by calling him up to the front of the class to sing a duet as she played along on her guitar. And although that little boy wasn’t much of a singer, Caroline just kept smiling as she always does. Daniel told everyone that today was his opportunity finally to apologise for his previous bad behaviour, but more importantly, it was his opportunity to acknowledge the impact Caroline had had in shaping his Jewish identity, for helping him build those critical foundations of Hebrew knowledge and Jewish values – and for allowing him to find independence on Saturday mornings away from his parents. (Daniel admitted he still can’t sing, though!)

Before presenting Caroline with a special gift, Daniel spoke for everyone when he said that Caroline must have taught hundreds if not thousands of children – including his own – over the years, and that Caroline is quintessentially Caroline because she never gives up and always keeps smiling. She is clearly happiest when surrounded by a group of children – even if they are sometimes rowdy... Caroline teaches from the heart, truly cares about her students, perseveres and inspires.

We thank you, Caroline.

## SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday 3 November  
7.00pm at the LJS

‘All that Jazz’ – an evening of live jazz with Peter Werth, his Jazz Crew and award-winning vocalist Sara Dowling

Music – socializing – buffet of Lebanese mezze

Tickets £35.00 in aid of our building renewal

For tickets: [allthatjazzatljs.eventbrite.co.uk](http://allthatjazzatljs.eventbrite.co.uk)

THE LIBERAL JEWISH SYNAGOGUE  
PRESENTS  
**ALL THAT...**  
**JAZZ**

An evening of live jazz with PETER WERTH, his Jazz Crew  
and award-winning vocalist SARA DOWLING  
**Sunday 3rd November @ 7pm**  
in aid of our building renewal

**TICKETS £35**  
Buffet of Lebanese meze included  
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# Trekking in Israel in aid of Jewish Child's Day

*Following the very successful and well-attended Nosh 'n' Drosh session given by Gaby Lazarus earlier this year, we hear about last year's trek as well as the forthcoming one.*



Simon and Gaby (holding the banner) and fellow trekkers, with the children and their volunteer carers

LJS members Gaby Lazarus and Simon Cooney formed part of a group of 16 people who undertook a three-day trek covering 60 kilometres in northern Israel in November last year in aid of a Jewish Child's Day (JCD) project. Although there was a fair amount of preparation and the walking itself was strenuous, it was a most rewarding activity, not least because of the bonding within the group of walkers, and in particular because the walkers had the opportunity to spend time with the children who were the beneficiaries of the fundraising. Meeting with these children was the highlight of the trip, and at her wonderful Nosh 'n' Drosh account of the trek, Gaby made it clear to us just how heart-warming it was to see what a difference could be made in the lives of these children who lived with some highly challenging physical and mental disabilities.

The next JCD trek will be around the scenic hills of Jerusalem and will take place 3-7 November this year. These dates include two travel days and three days of walking. Participants will walk along the historical Burma Road, pass springs including the Limor Spring, and visit the National Park Sataf, ending the trip in Jerusalem.

Gaby would be delighted if other LJS members wanted to participate in this next walk, the preparation for which – both walking and getting to know one's fellow walkers – will begin in September. A reasonable degree of fitness is required as walkers are expected to cover about 20 kms a day. Prospective walkers should also note that apart from a £350.00 non-refundable deposit, there is a minimum sponsorship of £1,750 which covers all costs (flights, accommodation, guides, meals and a celebratory last night in Jerusalem). This means that if participants wish to self-fund to cover all costs (which in turn means all the sponsorship money raised goes direct to the charity), a personal contribution of £2,100 is required.

Although this is a substantial outlay, listening to Gaby and watching the inspiring 8-minute film (on the JCD website), there was no doubt that this was a truly special and worthwhile experience. For more details please look at the JCD website <https://jcd.uk.com/> or contact Gaby on: [gaby.lazarus@jcd.uk.com](mailto:gaby.lazarus@jcd.uk.com)

## Congratulations to Ann and Bob Kirk

In the Queen's Birthday Honours list, LJS members Ann and Bob Kirk were both awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) for their services to Holocaust Education. We offer them our sincere congratulations on this well-deserved honour.

# 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.

## BRIDGE CLUB



## NOSH 'N' DROSH

**Shabbat lunchtimes 1.15-2.15pm**

### 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 World War II, and as Organising Secretary of the LJS.

### 14 September

Raficq Abdulla and Mohammed Keshavee will speak about Sharia Law.

### Future Nosh 'n' Drosh dates:

**9 November and 14 December**

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

## 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.

We are looking for new volunteer helpers, and would appreciate hearing from you. Please contact the office on 020 7286 5181.

### Forthcoming screenings:

**24 July:** *Esio Trot*

**28 August:** *42nd Street*

**25 September:** *Blithe Spirit*

## SINGING FOR THE MIND

Singing for the Mind is open to anyone with memory problems or in the early stages of dementia. Please read page 4 for more information. For details and advice on joining the group, please email [sfm@ljs.org](mailto:sfm@ljs.org) or phone the LJS on 020 7286 5181.

## LOCAL WALKING GROUP

Our next walk is on Wednesday 17 July, meeting at the LJS at 11.15am. All members and friends are welcome. 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](mailto:awithj@gmail.com) / 07765 214867 or contact Michael Romain on [romain@netgates.co.uk](mailto:romain@netgates.co.uk) / 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 with illness and provision of care, but also across the spectrum of life. You can contact Aviva on email: [a.shafritz@ljs.org](mailto:a.shafritz@ljs.org) or by telephone on 020 7286 5181.

## RESTAURANT TUESDAY – *mitzvah* opportunity!

This popular informal lunch club for the more elderly members of the LJS has been re-styled and is all set up and ready to go. But we urgently need volunteers to help serve meals and support some of our frailer diners. The work is not onerous, involves no actual cooking, and is very rewarding. Helpers are needed 11.30am-2.30pm on the third Tuesday of each month – but it doesn't have to be every month. Please email [communitycare@ljs.org](mailto:communitycare@ljs.org) to help us get Restaurant Tuesday back up and running.



# Young LJS

*We wish these young members of the LJS a very happy birthday in July...*

Michael Berlingieri  
Maya Boyle  
Jacob Collett  
Emily Cooper  
Tristan Del Mar  
Emma Dixter  
Joseph Frank  
Samuel Frank  
Olivia Goldenberg  
Annabel Grade  
Jemima Green

Adam Mondschein  
Freya Moscovitch  
Ione Salem  
Jonas Sellar  
Nathaniel Sellar  
Raphael Sellar  
Aya Sharabi  
Jayden Singer  
Angelina Sokel  
Rosalie Wolchover

*...and in August:*

Willow Behr  
Liah Boyle  
Zachary Bueno  
Mia Dixter  
Daniel Fisher  
Theo Frankel  
Stephanie Frischmann  
Noah Gulperin  
Max Josefs  
Jan Klein Wassink  
Theodore Korn  
Efron Levi-French  
Dahlia Levin

Libby Lewis  
Ben Mencer  
Gideon Putnam  
Thalia Sharabi  
Joshua Sharpstone  
Nathan Simon  
Acacia Steen  
Zachariah Turner  
Skyler Tuvey  
Ursula Warshaw  
Stefan Watts  
Eli Wolchover  
Leela Yaroshevski

## Tiny Tots at the LJS

*These sessions for little ones between the ages of 0 and 4 with their parents, grandparents or carers are held at 11.00am on Shabbat mornings during Rimon term times. The next session is 6 July. Tiny Tots then resumes on Shabbat 14 September.*

The Nursery is always available for children to play or read on every *Shabbat* with a parent or other carer present. Email [education@ljs.org](mailto:education@ljs.org) if you would like to be added to the Tiny Tots email circulation list.

## Shavuot celebrations



An Israeli dancing session after the *Shavuot* lunch



Rimon students with the flower crowns they made for *Shavuot*

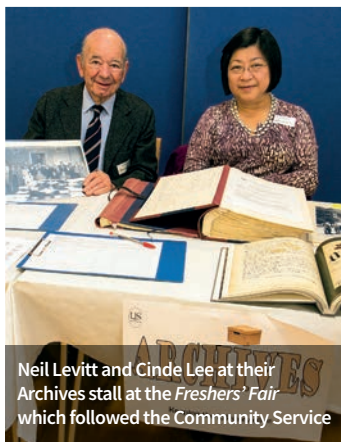


Our Rabbis with special guests at the Community Service on 18 May



Jeanne Solomons with her prize-winning cheesecake at the *Shavuot* cheesecake competition

Karen Newman, in the style of the prophet Amos, was judged to have given the most cogent and convincing arguments relating to the question as to whether Jews are 'the chosen people' – part of the *Shavuot* programme of events held jointly with West London Synagogue.



Neil Levitt and Cinde Lee at their Archives stall at the *Freshers' Fair* which followed the Community Service



## The Liberal Jewish Synagogue

### Patrons

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Alexandra Wright

### Rabbis

Elana Dellal  
Igor Zinkov

### 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

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### In case of bereavement:

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

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