



THE LIBERAL JEWISH SYNAGOGUE

YOM KIPPUR APPEAL 5781/2020

The wife of the Rabbi of Ropschitz said to him, 'Your prayer was lengthy today. Have you succeeded in bringing it about that the rich should be more generous in their gifts to the poor?' The Rabbi replied, 'Half of my prayer I have accomplished. The poor are willing to accept them.'
(Machzor Ruach Chadashah, page 220)

Our Yom Kippur Appeal is in support of three charities. One works with local disadvantaged young people in Camden and local areas, whose opportunities for education and training have been acutely affected by violence and dysfunction at home and by Covid-19 in recent months; the second works with rabbinic students whose future roles as teachers, social activists and spiritual leaders are vital if progressive Judaism is to survive as a dynamic force for good; and the third works with the most impoverished and marginalised families and individuals affected by the pandemic in Israel.

A short video from each charity will be available on the LJS YouTube channel <https://tinyurl.com/LJSyoutube> from 29 September 2020.



St Mary's Centre Youthwork (SMC), the LJS's local charity, was founded in 2006. It aims to reduce violence and save lives among the most disadvantaged young people of Camden and surrounding areas through one-to-one mentoring and counselling, mediation of violent situations, prison visits and amnesties of weapons.

Knife crime and gang warfare are prevalent in Camden, and this year, with the lockdown and the closing of schools, SMC has had to shift its work to video counselling and telephone calls. Most worryingly, many young people, already challenged in education, have become even more disengaged from learning and more isolated from the support structures that may have been offered in school or college.

SMC's '**Education in Covid Project**' is designed to help young people, living under intolerable pressures of home and violence and with low self-esteem, to return to education and training in person. Last year, it helped 16 young people into employment and a further 21 into education and training. Its purpose is to foster aspirations for those who have been left behind on so many different levels. A budget of £14,205 will cover online course fees and youthworker time, which has been increased 50% to provide more support. The project will run for one year from January 2021.

<https://www.smcyouthwork.org/about>

It was wild in the streets when I was a teenager. I was involved in gang fights, drug dealing and robberies and got kicked out of school because of the stuff I was doing on the streets. The teachers didn't want me in school, said I was a risk. I ended up in prison. St Mary's was there when I came out and made me realise I could transform my life. My bloodline is poverty. That trajectory had to change. The team at St Mary's gave me the confidence to turn my life around. Ten years on I am successful and I am a trustee at St Mary's now.

Gothon

I felt at the time I was almost as a marked man, because I felt like everyone just hates me, everyone thinks I can't do anything. I knew I wasn't allowed back in the school. To me, it was a tough time and without the support of Jason saying 'you can get through this, you are just going to have to ride the process' I'd have never been able to keep my head up. Obviously, being kicked out isn't going to last forever, but when you're 15, it's a lot of effort, and people only see what they see. At that time in my life I felt very alone and very isolated.

Simba



In July 2020, **Leo Baeck College** ordained four new Rabbis at The Liberal Jewish Synagogue. The service had been postponed because of the pandemic and only 18 people were permitted to attend. Our progressive communities need Rabbis. In Liberal Judaism congregations, a number of Rabbis have retired or are making plans for their retirement. Without Rabbis, communities, however strong their membership and commitment, often flounder.

Rabbis are spiritual leaders, they are pastoral care givers, they are teachers and social activists. Covid-19 has placed inordinate pressure on congregations who are relying on their Rabbis to keep them together in virtual spaces while they cannot meet in person.

Founded in 1956, Leo Baeck College is the oldest rabbinic seminary in Europe. It has trained nearly 200 Rabbis and over 90 educators, who are now serving in communities throughout the world. The LJS directly benefits from the rigorous academic and vocational training offered at Leo Baeck. The majority of our Rabbis are graduates and this year, second year Student Rabbi Matt Turchin is doing his apprenticeship with us and has taken on the role of Rimon Religion School Lead. In addition, one of our members is about to begin an MA in Jewish Educational Leadership. Rabbinic training is rich and diverse and encompasses many disciplines.

Our donation will go towards core funding for the College, ensuring that present and new intakes of students receive the teaching and support that will enable them to become progressive Jewish leaders in the future. As we have seen in the last few months, Judaism must remain dynamic and highly creative if we are to maintain the loyalty of our congregations. Rabbis and teachers are trained to help our communities to deepen and expand our spiritual and intellectual journeys.

<https://lbc.ac.uk>

My grandfather was a rabbi, my favourite teachers were rabbis, I always wanted to be a rabbi. I studied, I taught, I led services, I became involved in many aspects of the progressive Jewish world in a "lay" capacity - yet I never had the financial security or the self-confidence, or the courage, to make the jump from my career in the NHS.

Now, in "retirement", I can at last immerse myself in Jewish study with wonderful classmates and inspiring teachers while continuing to serve the community in a new capacity. It is a precious opportunity, and I am enormously grateful to those who support Leo Baeck College for making it possible.

Nicola Feuchtwang, Student Rabbi, Leo Baeck College (2nd year)



Rabbis for Human Rights (RHR) is the rabbinic voice for human rights and social justice in Israel and works in three main areas:

- Social justice and economic rights, working with vulnerable and disadvantaged communities to access rights and to advocate for a proper policy for those who have been made unemployed or whose businesses have collapsed because of the pandemic;
- Human Rights Education and Interreligious Activities, working with Israeli young adults in pre-army programmes and with the general public with regard to interreligious activities;
- Protecting the agricultural rights of the Palestinian population, helping them to access their land in the West Bank.

Covid-19 has exacerbated unemployment levels and poverty in Israel; 25% of children in Israel suffer from food insecurity and there are close to 841,000 who live in poverty. Families and individuals, often find the system of accessing their rights and entitlements complicated and almost impossible to manage.

For ten years, RHR operated a social justice walk-in clinic, which dealt with 1,400 cases per year of individuals and families facing poverty and food insecurity. Coronavirus forced the closure of the clinic and RHR established a hotline, recruited volunteers, including lawyers, social workers and students, and together with RHR staff, fielded 500 calls. The hotline operated in Russian, Hebrew and Arabic and is now closed but RHR's Rights Centre will continue to respond to ongoing issues arising from the Covid-19 crisis.

The Centre will address itself to the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalised who are left out of any kind of recovery from the economic consequences of the pandemic – people with heightened medical risks who fear returning to work, single mothers who cannot rely on older family members who helped in the past, hourly-paid workers whose hours have been reduced, and many people who are now in debt.

In order to sustain this project of economic and social justice, RHR is looking to raise £15,940 towards direct activity costs of its social justice department. <https://rhr.org.il/eng>

לְמַדוּ הַיָּטִיב דְרָשׁוּ מִשְׁפָּט אֲשֶׁרוֹ קָמוּץ שִׁפְטוּ יְתוֹם רִיבוּ אֶלְמָנָה :

'Learn to do good, seek justice, set right those who suffer wrongs. Uphold the rights of the orphan; defend the cause of the widow' (Isaiah 1:17)

You will note on the donation form that we also include UJIA in the Yom Kippur Appeal. We do this every year to support their youth and education projects which benefit LJ and LJY-Netzer, and through this, our own young people.

Thank you, as always, for your generosity to the beneficiaries of our Yom Kippur Appeal

THE LIBERAL JEWISH SYNAGOGUE
YOM KIPPUR APPEAL 5781/2020 REPLY CARD

Name:	
Address:	
Town:	Postcode:
Telephone:	Email:
Signature:	Date:

Please accept my donation to the 5781/2020 Yom Kippur Appeal for £_____.

If you wish to split your donation into specific amounts or percentages, please indicate these below:

Yom Kippur Appeal Charities:	Split by £	Percentage split
1. St Mary's Centre for Youthwork	£	%
2. Leo Baeck College	£	%
3. Rabbis for Human Rights Israel	£	%
4. UJIA – (benefiting LJ & LJY-Netzer, UK)	£	%
TOTAL	£	100%

I confirm that my donation is eligible for Gift Aid (*tick as appropriate*) Yes No

If we do not have your completed Gift Aid declaration form, please tick here and we will send you one for completion.

If you would like a receipt for your donation, please tick here

METHODS OF PAYMENT:

- **Online transfer (BACS):** please use these details:
 - CAF Bank Sort Code: 40-52-40
 - Account Number: 00025950
 - Please include the reference YKAPPEAL2020 when making your online transfer.
- **By cheque:** payable to 'The Liberal Jewish Synagogue' and return it to The LJS, 28 St John's Wood Road, London NW8 7HA along with your form.
- **Via Localgiving:** <https://localgiving.org/charity/ljs/> please include YKAPPEAL2020 and any percentage split in your donation message.
- **By credit card:** please phone the office on 020 7286 5181; leave a message and we will phone you back for your details.

If you pay electronically, by credit card, or via Localgiving, please email a copy of your completed form to e.arican@ljs.org or post it to the LJS, 28 St John's Wood Road, London NW8 7HA.

The Liberal Jewish Synagogue is a company limited by guarantee (Company No. 09113305)
 and a registered charity in England and Wales (Charity No. 1159292).
 Registered office: 28 St John's Wood Road, London NW8 7HA