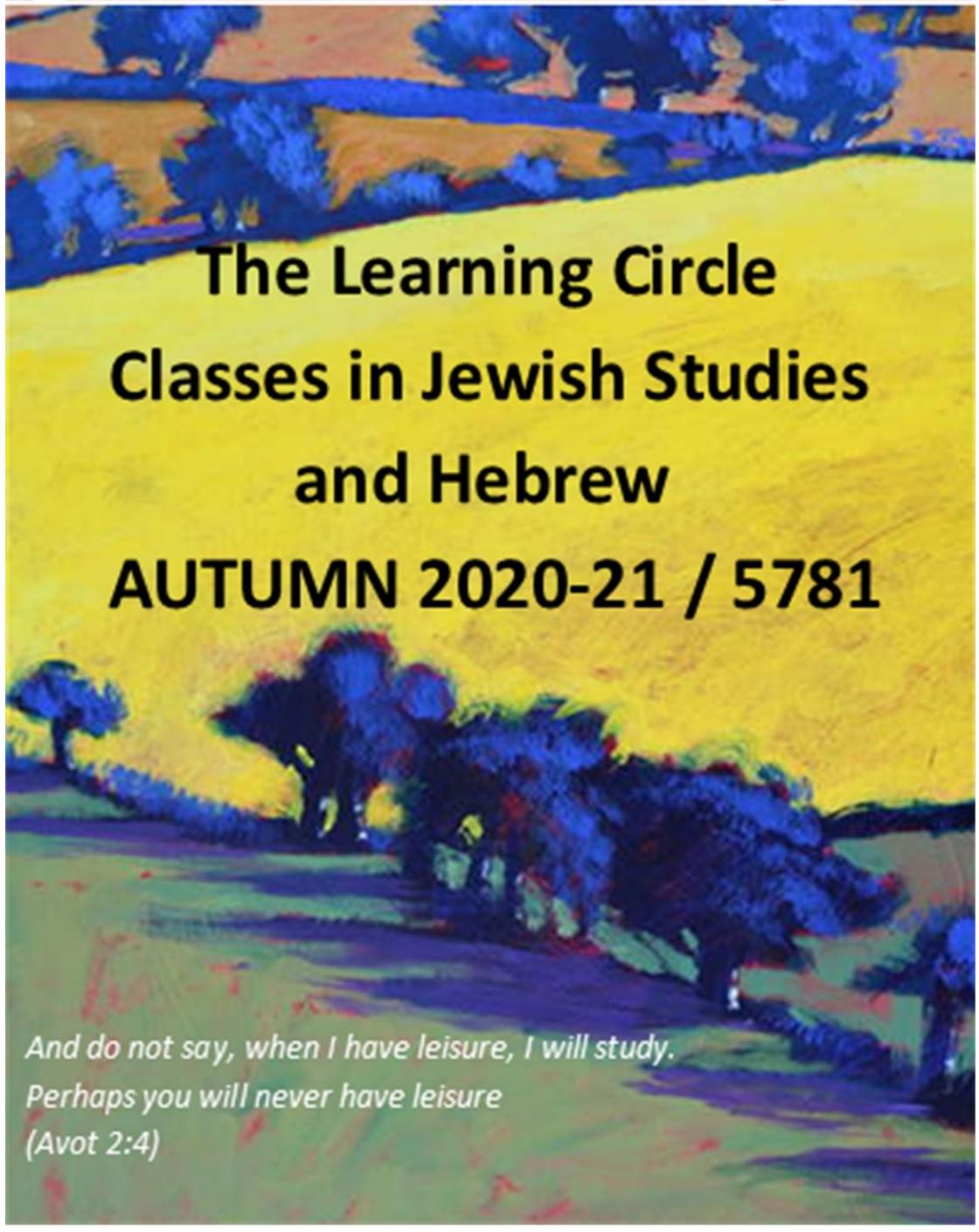




The Learning Circle

Adult education classes at the LJS



The Learning Circle
Classes in Jewish Studies
and Hebrew
AUTUMN 2020-21 / 5781

*And do not say, when I have leisure, I will study.
Perhaps you will never have leisure
(Avot 2:4)*

Welcome to The Liberal Jewish Synagogue's Learning Circle

The Learning Circle is the Liberal Jewish Synagogue's adult education programme. The synagogue offers a range of courses, from Hebrew for beginners to the study of biblical and prayer book texts, aimed at strengthening reading skills and comprehension of the language.

Exploring Judaism is open to Members, Friends and visitors who wish to learn about Judaism, the Jewish people and Jewish observance and is recommended for all those who are converting to Judaism. In addition, there is a range of other cultural and intellectual events, opportunities for interfaith dialogue and discussion.

Since March 2020, all our classes and events have been online, and we anticipate that we will continue our virtual learning from September to December 2020. This means that you can join us from wherever you are in the world!

We hope that there will be something that will attract you to enrol on one of the courses. Please spread the word!

If you would like advice, including which level of Hebrew is suitable, please contact Debi Penhey: education@ljs.org. You are welcome to try out a class and change if necessary.

**Rabbi Alexandra Wright, Rabbi Igor Zinkov and
Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton**

Contents:

| | |
|--|----|
| A GUIDE TO THE YEAR | 3 |
| WELCOME TO THE ISRAEL ABRAHAMS LIBRARY | 4 |
| HIGH HOLY DAY PREPARATION COURSES | 5 |
| YOM KIPPUR AFTERNOON SESSIONS | 6 |
| REGULAR DAYTIME COURSES | 7 |
| EXPLORING JUDAISM | 8 |
| CLASSICAL HEBREW CLASSES ON TUESDAY EVENINGS | 9 |
| SHORT COURSES TUESDAY EVENINGS - RACISM | 12 |
| SHORT COURSES THURSDAY EVENINGS - CPD for teachers | 13 |
| SHABBAT MORNING CLASSES | 14 |
| EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS: LEO BAECK COLLEGE | 17 |
| APPLICATION FORM | 19 |

Cover illustration: From Ragged Stone close up (acrylic on board), Powis, Paul / Private Collection / © Paul Powis / Bridgeman Images

All other images by Paul Powis, courtesy of Bridgeman Images

The Liberal Jewish Synagogue
Judaism for Today and Tomorrow
A constituent of Liberal Judaism

The Liberal Jewish Synagogue is a company limited by guarantee (Company No. 9113305) and a registered charity in England & Wales (Charity No. 1159292)

Registered office: 28 St John's Wood Road, London, NW8 7HA

Tel: 020 7286 5181 Email: ljs@ljs.org

Website: www.ljs.org

A GUIDE TO THE YEAR

Please note that all courses listed below will be online until at least December 2020. Once you register for a course, the zoom link will be emailed to you the day before the start of the course.

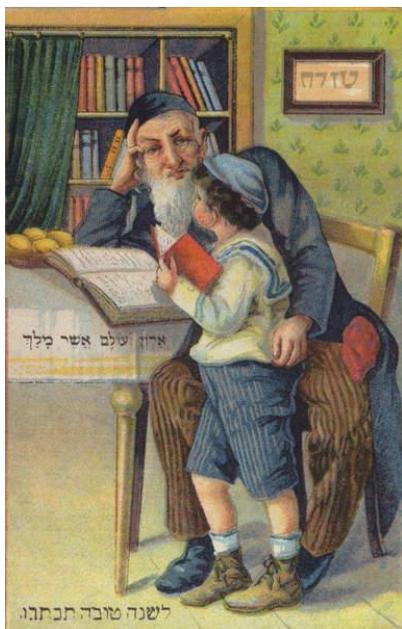
| Weekly timetable | Daytime | Evening |
|------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Monday | | |
| Tuesday | Tuesday Talk, Texts & Discussion | Hebrew Classes Exploring Judaism |
| Wednesday | | |
| Thursday | | Racism Course |
| Shabbat | Beginners Hebrew Inspiring Hebrew Texts GCSE Syllabus in Classical Hebrew Learning with Texts | |
| Special Events | High Holy Day preparation sessions, 8 & 15 September | |



Whiteleaved oak close up 5 (acrylic on board), Powis, Paul

THE ISRAEL ABRAHAMS LIBRARY

Honorary Librarian Sally van Noorden



*Jewish boy reading with his grandfather
(colour litho), European School, (20th century)*

The Library has over 6,000 books with a Jewish connection, covering topics such as fiction, philosophy, bible commentaries, history, ethics, comparative religion, and beautiful art books. The collection of DVDs, including Israeli films, is steadily growing. There are music CDs and some videos. The Library regularly buys new books and LJS members generously donate both books and DVDs.

The Library Committee is responsible for the Library's strategic development and oversees its activities. A small team of book conservationists, who are members of the congregation, have a continuing programme of caring for Library books.

Please note that the library is currently closed, at least until December 2020. We hope to be able to make the books available to our members as soon as possible.

*'Let your bookcases and your shelves be your gardens
and your pleasure grounds.
Pluck the fruit, gather the roses, the spices and the myrrh.'*
Ibn Tibbon, 1120-1190

HIGH HOLY DAY PREPARATION COURSE

Tuesday 8 September 8.10 - 9.30 pm on Zoom

Faith versus good deeds: should our repentance prioritise our bad thoughts or our bad actions?

Talk and discussion led by Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton, Scholar in Residence, and the Revd Nathan Eddy, Deputy Director, Council of Christians and Jews.

Tuesday 15 September 8.10 - 9.30 pm on Zoom

The Scapegoat in Judaism and Christianity

Talk and discussion led by Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton, Scholar in Residence, and the Revd Dr Anders Bergquist, Vicar, St John's Wood Church

Register for these sessions at education@ljs.org. Zoom links will be emailed on the Monday before the session.

Cost: Free for LJS members and friends; £10 per week for non-members.



Teme Valley summer II close up (acrylic on board), Powis, Paul

YOM KIPPUR AFTERNOON SESSIONS

Monday 28 September

2.30 pm

A choice of discussions for the afternoon of Yom Kippur, at 2.30pm on Zoom:

‘What shall we do during this, the deepest part of Yom Kippur?’

with Rabbi Alexandra Wright

For many of us the *Musaf* service between the end of the Morning Service through to the story of Jonah in the Afternoon Service is the hardest part of the Day of Atonement. We become light-headed and aware of our physical needs and vulnerabilities. Without this long and profound service that takes us from the story of Creation to the establishment of the State of Israel, what are we going to do this year?

Please join members and friends of the LJS for an informal discussion via Zoom to talk about the impact that coronavirus has had on our spiritual journeys over the past six months. How have we managed? What have been the sources of pain and difficulty, but also resilience and courage?

or

‘Judaism and Decision Making’

with Rabbi Igor Zinkov

This will be an interactive session where participants will discuss and explore practical aspects of decision making in modern conditions, through the lens of Judaism. The session will focus on the intersection of professional expertise in different areas, and Jewish ethics and values.

Free of charge to all. Zoom links for these sessions will be provided with the links for the main services.

DAYTIME COURSES

TUESDAY TALK, TEXTS & DISCUSSION: 11.15 am – 12.30 pm on Zoom
(formerly known as Tuesday Texts)

Sukkot Term

Tuesday 8 September – Tuesday 8 December 2020

Purim Term

Tuesday 5 January – Tuesday 23 March 2021

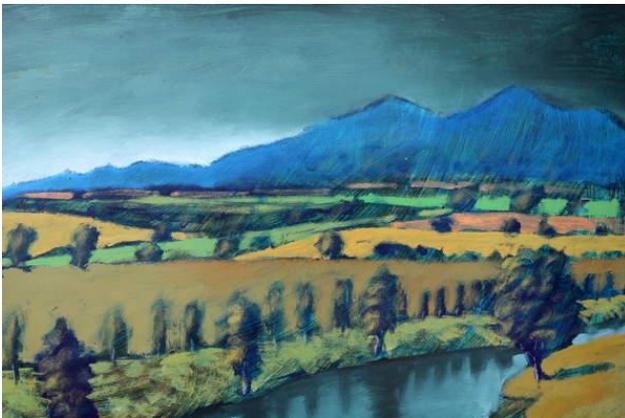
Shavuot Term

Tuesday 27 April – Tuesday 20 July 2021

This friendly group is led by our Rabbis. We study biblical and rabbinic texts, modern poetry and short stories, and enjoy sessions on Jewish art and music. The class is based around discussion on a variety of different topics, the starting point being a text, painting, or piece of music. New students are always welcome.

Register for this class with Abi Rose, Rabbis' PA, at rabbispa@ljs.org
Zoom links will be emailed on the Monday before the class.

Cost: Free for LJS members and friends; £10 per week for non-members.



Malverns (acrylic on paper), Powis, Paul

COURSES ON TUESDAY EVENINGS

EXPLORING JUDAISM

Tuesdays at 8.10 – 9.10 pm on Zoom

Tutor: Rabbi Igor Zinkov

Exploring Judaism is a three-term course, for anyone who wishes to know more about Judaism, Jewish history and the Jewish people. It is also an essential programme of instruction for people choosing Judaism by conversion. Class members are encouraged to read materials which will be put online during the year. In addition to offering knowledge of Judaism, the course encourages practical experiences of Liberal Judaism and space for reflection within the group. Resources can be found on:

<https://tinyurl.com/ljsexploring>

Register for this class with Abi Rose, Rabbis' PA, at rabbispa@ljs.org

The Zoom link will be emailed on the Monday before the class.

Cost: Exploring Judaism classes are free to LJS members and registered proselytes; £10 per week to non-members

See page 9 for full term dates.

SUKKOT TERM

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| 8 September: | Introduction and High Holy Days Overview |
| 15 September: | Exploring Rosh Hashanah |
| 22 September: | Exploring Yom Kippur |
| 29 September: | Exploring Sukkot and Simchat Torah |
| 6 October: | What is Judaism? Jewish Values and Beliefs Overview |
| 13 October: | Jewish History Overview |
| 20 October: | Who is a Jew? |
| 27 October: | Half-term – no class |
| 3 November: | Exploring the Jewish Bookshelf: Tanakh and Torah Scroll |
| 10 November: | Exploring the Jewish Bookshelf: Rabbinic Literature |
| 17 November: | Exploring the Jewish Bookshelf: Liturgy and Prayer Book |
| 24 November: | The Jewish Calendar, Rosh Chodesh and Shabbat |
| 1 December: | Different Forms of Judaism |
| 8 December: | Exploring Chanukkah |

BIBLICAL HEBREW CLASSES ON TUESDAY EVENINGS

Hebrew is essential to understand fully the ideas and teachings of Judaism. The LJS successfully teaches Hebrew reading, comprehension and grammar. Two new beginners' reading courses will commence in September on Tuesday evenings and Shabbat mornings. Additional courses will help you to improve your Hebrew reading, learn to navigate your way around the Siddur and embark on the GCSE Biblical Hebrew syllabus.

אבגדרוזח
טיכךלממנן
סעפהציק
רשת

'Hebrew is the key to our Jewish identity; it conveys more truthfully than any other language the elevated nature of our values and it leads us on a journey, not only for our survival, but for the great changes and transformations that we need to accomplish if we are to contribute the distinct fruits of our heritage to the rest of the world.'

Register for these classes at education@ljs.org. Zoom links will be emailed on the Monday before the class.

Cost: Free for LJS members and friends; £10 per class for non-members.

Sukkot Term

8 September – 8 December 2020

HALF TERM: 27 October 2020

Purim Term

12 January – 23 March 2020

HALF TERM: 16 February 2020

Shavuot Term

27 April – 13 July 2020

HALF TERM: 1 June 2020

Tutors: Susannah Alexander, Dr Sally Gold, Dr Dov Softi and Rabbi Alexandra Wright

Cost: Free for LJS members and friends; £10 per class for non-members.

CLASSICAL HEBREW CLASSES ON TUESDAY EVENINGS

Tuesday evenings 5.45 – 6.45 pm on Zoom

Reading Joshua

Tutor: Dr Dov Softi

This course aims to increase students' understanding of Biblical Hebrew. The class will read key chapters in the Book of Joshua, will discuss the interactions of the text and how it fits into the Biblical Hebrew canon. The class will learn the grammatical structure of sentences as well as extend their Hebrew vocabulary. The course is suitable for those who can read Hebrew and wish to practise reading as well as discuss the meaning of the text.

Tuesday evenings 7.00 – 8.00 pm on Zoom

Classical and Prayer-Book Hebrew for Beginners

Tutor: Susannah Alexander

Have you tried to get your head around Hebrew letters for years and never achieved success? Or is Hebrew new and uncharted territory to you, and you need a friendly, experienced guide to walk you through your first encounters with the letters? 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.

Moving up in Hebrew

Tutor: Dr Dov Softi

This class is for students who completed the Absolute Beginners' Hebrew class which Dov ran during the Shavuot term. The aim of this class is to enable students to begin to understand the Hebrew prayers and songs used in services. Those joining the class will have basic reading skills, and we will spend some time each week increasing reading fluency. We will look at the basics of Hebrew grammar using the textbook *Prayerbook Hebrew the Easy Way* (available for purchase £27.00) and will build up your vocabulary. The class will also read key Torah portions.

CLASSICAL HEBREW CLASSES ON TUESDAY EVENINGS

Tuesday evenings 7.00 – 8.00 pm on Zoom

Gaining Confidence in Hebrew

Tutor: Dr Sally Gold

If you can read a little Hebrew, no matter how long ago or how recently, this highly supportive, informal class will help you to start reading again. Our reading from the Siddur (Prayer Book) and Bible is guided and at your own pace, with questions about the language and texts encouraged. As you gain skills and confidence, you will be on the path towards greater enjoyment and participation in synagogue services, Bible reading and the Jewish life cycle, for which Hebrew is the key.

Reading the Book of Jonah in Hebrew

Tutor: Rabbi Alexandra Wright

The prophet Jonah is called by God to prophesy to the Ninevites – the ‘Nazi storm-troopers of the ancient world’. From the word go, he is a man on the run, away from his homeland, his people and his God. But, of course, it’s not that easy for a man to flee from God, nor from a God who tampers with the natural world – a storm, a fish, a gourd, a worm and a driving east wind. This is a deeply satisfying book to study in Hebrew with its repetition and wordplays. This class is for Hebrew readers (at any pace that is comfortable for you) and will help you with your reading and understanding of a well-known biblical text.

‘This class is, as always, a very special and treasured oasis of fascinating content and excellent company.’ (Participant in Hebrew class)



Teme Valley April (acrylic on board), Powis, Paul

SHORT COURSES ON TUESDAY EVENINGS

Shavuot Term 2020

Tuesdays 8.15 – 9.30 pm on Zoom

RACISM: Identifying it, Learning about it, Combatting it

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| 3 November | Jewish Teaching on Racism <i>with Rabbi Alexandra Wright</i> ‘And God created human beings in the Divine image’: How Jewish texts uphold the principle of the unity of humanity. While the Bible contains some harsh remarks about certain tribes (for example the Amalekites), overwhelmingly it teaches us not to discriminate on any grounds and to see humanity as one people, the children of One God. ‘God stamped every human being with the seal of Adam, yet not one of them is like another’ (<i>Mishnah, Sanhedrin 4:5</i>). God made us all different, unique, yet part of the unity of creation. |
| 10 November | Jewish History of anti-racism activity <i>with Dr Edie Friedman (Executive Director of JCORE)</i> |
| 17 November | Facts and Figures of Racism in Britain, and practical action to combat it <i>with Dr Edie Friedman in conversation with Sir Simon Woolley</i> |
| 24 November | Report of the Board of Deputies Inquiry into Racism in the Jewish Community <i>presented by Stephen Bush, head of the Commission</i> |

Register for these sessions at education@ljs.org. Zoom links will be emailed on the Monday before each class.

Cost: Free for LJS members and friends; £10 per session for non-members.

SHORT COURSES ON THURSDAY EVENINGS

Shavuot Term 2020

Thursdays 7.00 - 8.30 pm on Zoom

Continuing Professional Development for Religion School Teachers with Dr Dov Softi and professional speakers

This course aims to increase teachers' confidence for teaching in a Religion School setting. Teachers will learn about key issues in teaching children, teaching Jewish Studies and Hebrew. Teachers will have a platform to share their practices, discuss their teaching and develop their understanding of teaching in Religion Schools.

The course will be led by Dr Dov Softi. Dov gained his PhD researching teaching about the Holocaust. He is a trained teacher who has taught in Religion Schools across the progressive moment, both Jewish studies and Hebrew. Dov was also a Head Teacher of the LJS Religion School and currently is a Head Teacher at North West Surrey Synagogue.

Each session, a speaker will share their expertise in the subject, which will be followed by discussion and questions.

| Date | Topic |
|--------------|--|
| 17 September | Classroom Management |
| 15 October | The Creative Lesson Plan and Differentiation |
| 12 November | Teaching Jewish Festivals |
| 14 January | Teaching Jewish History and The Holocaust |
| 11 February | Teaching Hebrew |
| 11 March | Teaching About Israel |
| 13 May | Teaching the Jewish Bible |
| 10 June | The Reflective Practitioner |

Register for these sessions at education@ljs.org. Zoom links will be emailed on the Wednesday before each session.

Cost: Free for LJS members and friends; £10 per session for non-members.

SHABBAT MORNING CLASSES

9.00 – 9.55 am on Zoom

Sukkot Term

12 September - 12 December
(no classes 19 Sept, 3 & 10 October)
HALF TERM: 24 & 31 October

Purim Term

16 January - 20 March
HALF TERM: 13 & 20 February

Shavuot Term

24 April - 3 July
HALF TERM: 29 May & 5 June

Cost: Free for LJS members and friends; £10 per session for non-members.

What our students have to say about their classes

'I have learnt so much from Nitza, about Hebrew of course, but also about language generally, history, humanity and life.' (Participant in Nitza Spiro's class)

'I really enjoyed the course and Dov was an excellent teacher!'
(Participant in Dov Softi's Hebrew class)

'I just love my Shabbat mornings at the LJS – the class is full of wonderful information and laughter.' (Participant in Nitza Spiro's class)

SHABBAT MORNING CLASSES

9.00 – 9.55 am on Zoom

Beginners' Hebrew

Tutor: Susannah Alexander

This class uses Jonathan Romain's *Signs and Wonders* to help absolute beginners 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!

Inspiring Hebrew Texts

Tutor: Nitza Spiro

These classes enable students to become familiar with key Biblical texts and prayers which are the bedrock of Jewish identity. Texts will be read in Hebrew but discussed in English. Students will have come across them both in synagogue and through their representation in art, music and literature. We approach the texts from historical, sociological, ethical and ideological perspectives, exploring the status of women in Jewish source material in the process.

GCSE Syllabus in Classical Hebrew

Tutor: Dr Dov Softi

The course aims to develop knowledge and understanding of ancient literature, values and society through the study of original texts. Students will follow the syllabus of the GCSE in Classical Hebrew, will read and understand unseen passages of Biblical Hebrew, translate text from unseen passages into English, and understand the grammatical structures of Biblical Hebrew. This course is suitable for those who can read Hebrew and have some basic Hebrew vocabulary.

Register for the above courses at education@ljs.org

Zoom links will be emailed on the Friday before each class.

Cost: Free for LJS members and friends; £10 per session for non-members.

SHABBAT MORNING CLASSES

9.00 – 9.55 am on Zoom

Learning with Texts

Facilitator: Michael Romain

This term we will continue with looking at the writings of modern Jewish scholars. These subjects will include: Rabbi Israel Mattuck, Claude Montefiore, Rabbi Eliezer Berkovits, Rabbi Albert Friedlander and Professor Ada Rapoport-Albert. Classes will be led by Rabbis Alexandra Wright, Igor Zinkov, Michael Hilton, and Sybil Sheridan, and by lay members of the class. We welcome new students.

If you would like more information please contact Michael Romain at:
romain@netgates.co.uk



Fano (acrylic on board), Powis, Paul

EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

LEO BAECK COLLEGE



LEHRHAUS Autumn 2020 programme

The **Lehrhaus** is the home of Leo Baeck College's programme in adult Jewish lifelong learning. The programme has been operating for many years with great success. For more details email lehrhaus@lbc.ac.uk

We offer high quality Jewish learning that is relevant to 21st century Progressive Judaism delivered by a world-renowned faculty and specialist teachers.

We are delighted to present you with our new programme for Autumn 2020. We look forward to another successful year of learning!

Lehrhaus in the Clouds (On-line Courses):

LIAT ARAHONOVICH: ULPAN – Modern Hebrew

10-week live on-line courses: from Beginner to Intermediate level

RABBI ROBERTA HARRIS-ECKSTEIN: Biblical Hebrew - Beginners

10-week live on-line course

RABBI DR MICHAEL HILTON: Classical Greek for Beginners

10-week live on-line course (Beginners and Level 2)

RABBI PROFESSOR JONATHAN MAGONET: David becomes King

8-week live on-line course

PROFESSOR MELISSA RAPHAEL: What's Jewish About Jewish Art?

4-week live on-line course

PAMELA HARTOG & GUESTS: Teacher Training for Jewish Supplementary Schools

12-week on-line course (Parts 1 and 2)

DR JAKUB KOWALEWSKI: The Heresies of Baruch Spinoza

4-week live on-line course

EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

LEO BAECK COLLEGE

RABBI FRED MORGAN: Judaism in the Universe of Faiths
4-week live on-line course

RABBI ROBYN ASHWORTH-STEEN: Wandering Jews
4-week live on-line course

Lehrhaus on the Road

RABBI MARK SOLOMON: Rabbinic Theology
On-line Course hosted by Sukkat Shalom, Wanstead. Open to all!
Details to follow.

More courses to come! Keep checking our Facebook and website for updates!

LEHRHAUS @ Leo Baeck College
Home of Adult Jewish Learning

Study with us from the comfort of your own home!

Rabbi Hillel says: "... do not say 'When I am free I will study', for perhaps you will not become free" – Pirkei Avot 2:6.

Visit our website to view all our on-line courses, including Modern Hebrew

Leo Baeck College trains rabbis and educators for the 21st century. We also offer exciting LIVE on-line courses for adults, taught by our world renowned faculty.

For more information contact us:

www.lbc.ac.uk lehrhaus@lbc.ac.uk
020 8349 5600

Visit www.lbc.ac.uk, email: lehrhaus@lbc.ac.uk or call 020 8349 5600.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE LEARNING CIRCLE COURSES 2020 - 2021

LJS Members

LJS courses and classes are free for members, friends and registered proselytes, unless otherwise stated.

Non-members are welcome to join our courses and classes for a fee of £10.00 per session; £90.00 per term.

Fees may be paid in advance per term, or per session.

Please see below for payment details; please note that we prefer payment to be made by bank transfer, although we will accept cheques. No other form of payment is currently possible whilst we are not in the building.

Payment for non-LJS Members and those wishing to make a donation:

BANK TRANSFER into the LJS CAF Bank account number 00025950, sort code 40-52-40. Please supply the reference of your last name and reason for payment (eg Hebrew).

CHEQUE payable to LJS, sent to Debi Penhey, Education Coordinator, The Liberal Jewish Synagogue, 28 St John's Wood Road, London NW8 7HA

To register for a course or class, please contact Debi Penhey, Education Co-Ordinator at education@ljs.org.

Please supply your name, telephone number, email address and state whether you are an LJS member, friend or non-member.

All courses in this brochure are currently being held on Zoom, with password encrypted links to ensure your online safety and security.

Zoom links will be emailed to registered participants the day before the class or course session. Please make sure you understand how to use Zoom before logging in to the course.