

HIGHLight

Bromley Reform Synagogue newsletter



Kittah Zayin kindling memorial lights for the Six Million at the Yom Hashoah service on Sunday, 8 May

King Saul, the First King of Israel: The Nature of his Insanity a talk by our resident psychiatrist **Dr George Stein**

We've learned about Job, now he presents his insights into King Saul's troubled relationships



Sunday, 19 June
Refreshments: 4.30 pm ; Talk: 5 pm
Further information from **Barbara Kurtz**,
a.bkurtz@talktalk.net or 020 8650 1284

Shavuot 2016

Saturday, 11 June:

Service at 7:30 pm, followed by a *tikkun leyel* study session:
"Does Torah come from Sinai or Babylonia? A Progressive Jewish Response"

Please bring cheesecake or blintzes to share!

Sunday, 12 June:

Festival Service at 10:30 am led by our Cheder students.

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*Chag sameach
Shavuot to all
our readers!*



BROMLEY REFORM SYNAGOGUE

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(in the event of a bereavement)

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Opinions expressed in "Highlight" are not necessarily the official policy of the Synagogue

Tell the Community

This cut-out slip is a regular feature in Highlight to enable you to inform the community of any appropriate event - birth, marriage, engagement, illness, bereavement, birthday celebration, examination success etc. Please complete and return to the Editor c/o the Synagogue office.

We would like you to know that

.....

.....

Name Tel. No.

Anti-Semitism and the 'Hard Left' - View from the Chair

Until a few weeks ago, I had never thought it appropriate that the Chairman's article in Highlight should be about politics but it has become apparent that there isn't really anything more important that affects our lives as British Jews. Hardly a day goes by when 'anti-Semitism' is not one of the major topics for discussion in the media. Initially, the focus was on whether anti-Zionism constituted anti-Semitism or whether it was simply criticism of Israel. It soon became clear that on the 'hard left' of the Labour party there are a large number of anti-Semites and, of course, the media concentrated on whether **Jeremy Corbyn** was doing enough to deal with the problem. This should come as no surprise to any of us, as it has been the situation for many decades; it's just that until recently they were a fringe group on the edge of the party. Not so with the trade union movement, where anti-Israel motions and equating Zionism with racism have been commonplace for years.

It is ironic that the hard left, who consider themselves the real socialists, should despise the one country in the Middle East which has long-established trade unions, workers' rights, protection for workers' health and safety, freedom of the press and an independent judiciary. Ah, but that is not anti-Semitism; it's not about Jews; just Israel and Zionism! Really? It just so happens that Israel is a Jewish state, the one and only Jewish state and it is that state that they obsessively condemn. They are not exercised about the lack of freedom in Russia, where three young women served prison sentences for very briefly singing a pop song with a little gentle satire about their government, where there is no press freedom, where critics of the regime spend years in jail on trumped-up charges or are murdered in the street outside the Kremlin or, for that matter, while going about their business in London. They do not condemn the cruel dictatorships of China, North Korea or any of the African states. No, it is only Israel that is the pariah state. The truth is that this prejudice is simply anti-Semitism in another guise. The hair-splitting arguments about anti-Zionism versus anti-Semitism are irrelevant. This has nothing to do with legitimate criticism of Israel's policies towards



the Arab population of Yehuda and Shomron – the West Bank. Many of us are critical of those policies, just as many Israelis are, but that doesn't mean that we are anti-Israel any more than critics of the current UK government are anti-British; on the contrary, criticism shows you care. No, there is a vast difference between legitimate criticism expressed by citizens of a democracy and the irrational prejudice and hatred shown by these anti-Semites.

Make no mistake, these individuals support terrorist groups like Hezbollah and Hamas, who murder and torture their own dissidents, deliberately put their people in harm's way when Israel retaliates for the thousands of missile attacks they launch at Israeli civilians, treat women as slaves, vilify not only Israel but all Jews and are totally committed to our annihilation. If there were ever any doubt about the prejudice of these so called 'socialists', their ability to invoke Adolf Hitler as a 'one-time' Zionist and to compare Israel's policies with those of the Nazis just about condemns them forever. **Ken Livingstone** doesn't see any anti-Semites in the Labour party because he is one. Even the vehemently anti-Israel head of Unite, Britain's biggest trade union, **Len McCluskey**, criticised Livingstone and backed his suspension, though of course he claims anti-Semitism is being used for political ends to challenge Jeremy Corbyn's leadership.

The Labour party has a very mixed history when it comes to Jews in general and Israel in particular. **Ernest Bevin**, a trade unionist and foreign secretary in the Attlee government after the war was a vehement anti-Semite. He was responsible for turning back Jewish

refugees, survivors of the Holocaust who wanted to enter Palestine, to the displaced person camps of Europe. On the other hand, it should be recognised that many Labour leaders, such as **Harold Wilson**, **Tony Blair** and **Gordon Brown**, have fostered good relations and have been extremely supportive of Israel. Of course this is not a problem exclusive to the Labour party; there has always been and always will be anti-Semitism across the political spectrum. It has just taken on a different form in recent years, changing from the more familiar accusations aimed at Jews to different but equally prejudiced accusations aimed at Israel, which they believe has no right to exist.

So what happens next? Well, predicting the future is a mug's game but let us at least consider what is most likely to happen and here I am an optimist. What really matters is that this country has a long tradition of moderation and I believe that is what will prevail. Take the recent election of **Malia Bouattia** as president of the National Union of Students. She has previously expressed support for Palestinian terrorism, refuses to condemn Islamic State and is an active supporter of the Boycott, Diversity and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel. She has also made reference to "mainstream Zionist-led media outlets". In response to her election, Lincoln University Student Union has become the first British student organisation to dissociate itself from the NUS. Newcastle student union has followed and several other university unions are currently considering their position. While anti-Semitism has reared its ugly head again, there is a broad consensus that it is unacceptable and even the MP **Naz Shah**, who undoubtedly made anti-Semitic remarks a couple of years ago, has apologised in the House of Commons and, judging from her response to a visit to Rabbi Janner Klausner, seems prepared to learn from her ignorant mistakes.

Meanwhile **Sadiq Khan**, the newly elected Muslim mayor of London, attended the Shoah service in North London within 48 hours of taking up his post and shows every sign of being

continued on page 4

View from the Chair, cont. from page 3

broad minded and committed to good relations between all the religious and ethnic communities that make up this fantastic metropolis. He has openly committed himself to zero tolerance to anti-Semitism – sounds good to me.

In Bromley we enjoy excellent relations with the local Christian clerics and recent meetings of the CCJ have been well attended and full of interest. The vicar of St George's Anglican Church of Beckenham attended our shul Seder. The local 3 Faiths Forum has also been reconstituted and held its first meeting in the shul very recently.

Dealing with adversity and prejudice is part of being Jewish. In different periods of our history and even within the 70 years since the end of the Second World War, it has taken different forms. Of course we have to remain vigilant and the possibility of individual acts of violent extremism by terrorists against Jews, as has occurred in Belgium, France and elsewhere, is always there. Nevertheless, we are fortunate that in the UK distaste for extremism among the population at large generally wins through.

Meanwhile, the intensity of referendum campaigning has stepped up and, thanks to Barbara Kurtz's organisational skills we enjoyed an excellent debate in our shul. **Martin Wolf**, supported by **Stephen Weil**, put a whole series of powerful reasons for remaining in the EU while the case for 'Leave' was vigorously argued by UKIP councillor **David Levitt**, supported by **Michael Sharr**. Unlike the endless superficial and often abusive language of our politicians, the debate on both sides was civil, sincere and based on reason. Interestingly, based on a show of hands at the beginning and again at the end, the number of 'undecided' decreased dramatically as the result of the debate and there was a clear majority in favour of 'Remain'. According to a poll, conducted by the *Jewish Chronicle* we are in line with the rest of the Jews in this country who have shown a gap of 17 points (49-32) in favour of 'Remain', considerably larger than the national average. It seems that Brexit is considered more risky than Remain and we Jews are risk averse.

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The Power of Prayer



In a remarkable short story, "A Tale of Three Wishes" by Isaac Bashevis Singer, three children hear a tale that whoever

makes a wish late at night on the last day of Sukkot, their wish will come true. One child, Shlomo, decided that he wanted to be as wise and rich as King Solomon. Another, Moshe, decided that he would be as learned in religion as the famous Rabbi Maimonides. Finally, the last child, Esther, decided that she would wish to be as beautiful as Queen Esther from the Bible. They stayed up all night to make their wishes and finally the moment came, but it came too quickly. Distracted, Esther said, "I'm hungry. I wish I had a blintz." Miraculously, she had a blintz. Shlomo, upset that Esther wasted a wish, said to her "I wish you were a blintz!" And she turned into a blintz. Moshe had only one option and used his wish to restore Esther. Upset that they had wasted their wishes, they began to cry. An old man found them like this, they told him what had happened, and Esther suggested to him that heaven was playing tricks on them.

Finally, let us celebrate. The State of Israel has just had its 68th birthday. Since its birth in 1948, it has grown from a *yishuv* (Jewish population of Palestine) of 600,000 and a total population of 800,000 to a state of over 8.5 million of whom about 75% are Jewish. Jews from more than 100 countries have settled there, most notably from Eastern Europe, North Africa, Arabia and Russia. There have been 36,000 new immigrants in the last year. It is a thriving democracy with the most advanced agriculture, hardware and software engineering, biotech and medical practice in the world, not to mention its literature and music. Oi, shame about the politicians but you can't have everything!

John Posner, Chairman

(written at 40,000 feet above the United States)

The old man responded, "Heaven does not play tricks. You were the ones who tried to play tricks on heaven. No one can become wise without experience, no one can become a scholar without studying. As for you, little girl, you are pretty already, but beauty of the body must be paired with beauty of the soul. No young child can possess the love and the devotion of a queen who was ready to sacrifice her life for her people. Because you three wished too much, you received nothing... Go home and try to deserve by effort what you wanted to get too easily." The story ends with all three of them in adulthood becoming exactly what they wanted and more, with Moshe, now a rabbi, teaching, "For those who are willing to make an effort, great miracles and wonderful treasures are in store. For them the gates of heaven are always open."

This story is so wonderful because it captures a great theme in Jewish prayer and faith. Prayer cannot make the world something that it is not. It cannot conjure up something out of nothing. It cannot miraculously change the laws of nature, or undo something already done. What prayer can do is to remind us to ask God to bring out the best in ourselves, in others, and in the world.

This belief is illustrated by the ancient sages in the Talmud who tell the story of Rabbi Ishmael ben Elisha. Ishmael said, "I once entered in the innermost part of the Sanctuary to offer incense and I saw the Eternal God of Hosts seated upon a high and exalted throne. God said to me, 'Ishmael, my son, bless Me!' I replied, 'May it be Your will that Your mercy may suppress Your anger and Your mercy prevail over Your other attributes, so that You may deal with Your children according to the attribute of mercy, and may You, on their behalf, stop short of the limit of strict justice!' And God nodded to me..."

May Rabbi Ishmael's prayer for God be a model of prayer for all of us. May we pray that God help us to be the best versions of ourselves.

Rabbi Jason Holtz

Cheder News

Hello, all of you interested in our Cheder News! The sun is finally shining and, hopefully, so are the faces of your children as they walk out of Cheder every Sunday morning. Here's what's been happening:

- 1) I hope you'll agree that our **Yom Hashoah - Holocaust Memorial Day Service** was truly beautiful. The children sang a prayer called "Av Harachamim" and by the end, the entire community had joined in. A special "Yashar Ko-ach" to **Esther Evans**, whose gorgeous violin playing made the prayer even more moving. Thank you to everyone who attended.
- 2) We celebrated **Yom Ha'Atzmaut** - Israeli Independence Day - by dedicating the day to Israeli Culture. We ate Middle Eastern foods like falafel and hummus, tried bisli and other Israeli culinary delights. Well done to all of the little children who stepped out of their comfort zone to try tahini sauce- so brave!
- 3) **Family Services** are continuing, with one planned every other month. These days the family services may be combined with a Jewish Cookery class or other activity, so they really are worth a try. Keep your eyes open for the next one.
- 4) Our **Youth Club** for children from 13-19 has had a fantastic attendance, with pizza and table tennis being the main attractions! We've also had members of RSY give informal talks at the club,



Yom Hashoah Young Author and Artists Competition Winner: Jade, Kittah Zayin

along with **Emma Mittelman's** talk on *Being Jewish at University*. If you've got an older child sitting at home, pry their fingers off those mobiles and get them to Youth Club, once a month after Cheder. Next date for Youth Club? **Sunday, 12 June**, after the Festival Service.

- 5) And speaking of services, our next **Cheder-led service** will be combined with the shul's **Shavuot** service - which happens to fall on **12 June** - a Sunday this year! This means that Cheder **won't** be cancelled, but the service will take place during the Cheder day with the whole shul invited to attend (that means, parents too!) This special service will be followed by cheesecake and a build-your-own Shavuot Sundae Kiddush for kids, so parents, please stay and celebrate Shavuot with us! Offers of help (and donations of cheesecake) will be gratefully accepted. Please contact our lovely Hooray Cheder leaders, **Dani and Michelle**, hooraycheder@gmail.com.
- 6) And, finally, a reminder that Kittah Chet will be hosting its annual **Chet Service** as their final act as Cheder children! The service will take place on **16 July**, so do come along and see what our oldest children can do.

That's all for now... With wishes for a happy and healthy June,

Vicki, Cheder Head Teacher



Some of the goodies on sale to raise funds for Summer Hype (see the top of the next column)



Organisers Galya and Benji with some of the cakes they made to sell to fellow Cheder pupils and their parents in aid of Summer Hype, the summer camp for disadvantaged inner-city youngsters founded and run by Emma Mittelman (far right) and friends. More information at <https://www.facebook.com/SummerHypeTeam> and Emma will welcome donations via <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SummerHype>

Catford Maccabi Summer Project

The Catford Maccabi Summer Project will run **from Monday, 25 to Thursday, 28 July** for children aged 5-12.

We run programmes and games, culminating in a bouncy castle on the last day and there's a kosher cooked lunch every day.

It takes place in the clubhouse and grounds at **Catford Synagogue**, Crantock Road, SE6.

Children can come for the full four days or just single days if they prefer. The day starts at 9.30 am for those who want to join us for breakfast and from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm for the rest of the activities, including lunch.

Apart from a bit of money for tuck, the children don't need to bring anything else with them.

The cost is £10 per day, £30 for the full four days, with sibling discounts of £8/£25. It's easiest if people can pay cash and it's fine to pay at the door.

Contact Joe Kat, catfordandbromleymaccabi@hotmail.co.uk or 07735 226250.

Social Centre News

The Social Centre met as usual on Wednesday, 27 April. After exercises and lunch **Tom and David** paid us a return visit and entertained us with their selection of records. The music ranged from Joe Venuti, the jazz violinist playing with the Paul Whiteman orchestra, to Mario Lanza, Yehudi Menuhin and, of course, some jazz, which I suspect is their favourite music. Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong were strong favourites but the one that got us all tapping our feet (jitterbugging was of course out of the question) was Glenn Miller's "In the Mood". The whole afternoon was very enjoyable and we look forward to them coming again soon.

At the meeting on Wednesday, 11 May some of us started the morning by playing Rummikub. We also continued the discussion of the previous Sunday, when there had been a debate in the synagogue about whether to stay in or opt out of the EU. As usual there were many who were still undecided.

Andreas came to lead his exercises and, after lunch, which had a Greek theme and was delicious, **Astrid Stimpson** came on a return visit to talk and show us various samples of her needlework, ranging from tapestry to patchwork, cross stitching and weaving. The examples she showed us were beautiful and I am sure some of us would have liked to possess some. Unfortunately they were not for sale.

She said she got interested in needlework at the age of eight when she was shown how to use her mother's sewing machine. After she retired she got interested again and enrolled at a college to learn how to do tapestry. She then gradually became interested in various forms of needlework. I am sure we all enjoyed seeing Astrid's beautiful work and we hope that she can come back again some time.

Zelda Stone

Date for your Social Centre Diary

Wednesday, 22 June

A new type of musical entertainment called 'Take the Mike' by a group who sing parodies to music from the shows. They'll be making a preliminary visit on Wednesday, 8 June to get to know us and to ask if we have any special requests.

Time for change? - The BRS EU Referendum debate

By the time this article is printed, we'll be even closer to the European Union Referendum – to stay or not to stay in the EU?

An enthusiastic and vocal audience gave a warm welcome to the panel.

In favour of remaining within the EU were **Martin Wolf** CBE, Associate Editor of the Financial Times (and BRS member), who supports remaining in the EU and his seconder, **Stephen Weil** (also a BRS member), whose work includes international corporate finance.

In favour of leaving the EU were Bromley UKIP Councillor **David Levitt**, representative for Cray Valley Ward and retired chartered accountant, and his seconder, **Michael Sharr**, consultant neurosurgeon (and BRS member).

The motion was "*This house believes that it is more beneficial for the UK to remain in the EU than to leave.*"

The panel's arguments for remaining or leaving were clearly explained, ranging from the sobering reminder that once the UK leaves, returning to the EU is not an option, to the hefty costs of EU membership. The comments from the floor were as varied as BRS'

membership: the EU's policy towards ecological issues, small businesses' concerns about EU bureaucracy, immigration policies and communication between EU members.

At the beginning of the evening, our moderator and synagogue Chairman, **Dr. John Posner**, asked for a show of hands from members of the audience who were undecided about the direction of their vote; a small but noticeable number of people responded.

At the end of the evening, another show of hands resulted in a majority of the audience voting in favour of the motion; the undecided had gleaned enough information to decide whether to vote for or against the motion.

It was an enjoyable evening, which proved that it is possible for a sizeable group of people – between 40 and 50 people attended – to have a civilised discussion about politics without tempers lost and with goodwill and humour intact.

Many thanks to the panel and Education Committee for making this evening possible.

From our Roving Reporter

**Join us for the
Oneg Shabbat on Friday, 22 July
when Professor Bernie Cohen will
speak on**

"The Origin of the Alphabet"

How a bunch of illiterate, goddess-worshipping Canaanite miners in the Sinai Desert 4000 years ago invented a system that liberated the power of the written word from the hands of a priestly elite and the questions this raises about Moses's tablets.

The service will begin at 7.45 pm to enable you to have your evening meal with your family and the talk will follow after Kiddush at 8.30 p.m.

**Further details from Barbara Kurtz on
a.bkurtz@talktalk.net**

Social and Personal

Electoral Success - A hearty mazal tov to **Rebecca Advani** (formerly Koenigsberg-Miles) on her election as Green Party parish/town councillor for Wolverton and Greenleys Town Council (part of Milton Keynes).

Get well soon - to **Bob Harmes**, who is in hospital.

Pauline Jeffree writes:

"We are thinking of all those in our community who are unwell at this time and hasten to wish them well."

Dedication of memorial plaque - A plaque in memory of the late **Desirée Barnett** will be dedicated on the memorial wall of the synagogue after the Shabbat morning service on **4 June**.

Consecration of tombstone - The stone setting for the late **Marie Halpern** will take place at the Jewish Cemetery Chatham (Kitchener Road entrance) on **Sunday, 5 June** at 11.30 am

Not just fishballs

A message from **Ronnie and Judi** To mark our respective "big" birthdays, we shall be leading the service on **Saturday 4 June**, when we shall be joined by guest preacher **Rabbi Helen Freeman** (née Horn) Principal Rabbi of West London Synagogue <http://www.wls.org.uk/our-community/#rabbi-helen-freeman>. Rabbi Jason Holtz will then conduct the ceremony of dedication for the plaque in memory of our dear friend **Desirée Barnett**. All are welcome to join us afterwards for a hot and cold catered Kiddush and entertainment.

Ronnie Goldberg and Judi Sheffrin

BRS SOCIAL GROUP

Dates for your diary

Sunday, 18 September - Afternoon tea and fashion show in the Garden Room (outside if the weather is good). Further details will follow, but meanwhile please contact Lesley Freeman on 07790 260582 or email her at b_freeman1@sky.com if you need any information.

Foodies Club - will meet once a quarter for dinner at restaurants suggested by you, the group members. Please contact Brian at b_freeman1@sky.com or call/text him on 07970 068749 if you would like to come along. Suggestions of good local restaurants would be much appreciated.

CONVERSATION CAFÉ

Jewish Care's Holocaust Survivors Centre in partnership with Nightingale Hammerson has monthly meetings of two types in alternate months. They are either closed sessions for survivors born in Nazi-occupied Europe or open to everyone.

If you wish to attend and have transport difficulties, help can be arranged, possibly by using a special transport fund or volunteer drivers.

Details from: **Stephen Ison**
07881 863 237 or
Ann Sugarman 020 8202 9844.
nightingale hammerson

SE10 and Beyond

Michelle Brooks Evans reports

Our most recent SE10 and Beyond get together was hosted in Lee. There we all brought baby photos and we had to guess who they were! There were photos from different countries and times and a very enjoyable evening was had by all. There was the usual table of delicious foods and some delicious baked goodies too.

The next time we meet will be a summer extravaganza! We are planning a **picnic in Greenwich Park on Saturday, 16 July** from 2 pm. So come and enjoy the afternoon with us in beautiful surroundings. You can pop in or make a day of it and bring the family. It will be a bring and share picnic and a picnic rug will be handy too.

We will be in the area located directly to the right of the entrance of the park from the Greenwich gates by the Maritime Museum. There is a café there and toilets, so it should be easy to spot us. If you have problems on the day just call me on 07956 234309. For a map of Greenwich Park go to: <https://www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/greenwich-park/map-of-greenwich-park>

This is a picnic for everyone, all ages and individual or families.

If you would like any more details then email me on michellebrooksevans@gmail.com or give me a call (07956 234309).

Michelle

Farewell! Adieu!

Auf Wiedersehen! Goodbye!

Sister Jo Harvey,

a good friend of the synagogue from St Edmunds RC Church in Beckenham, is moving north.

Sister Jo has been a frequent visitor at our Shabbat services and fellow student at many Adult Education classes and talks.

Come and join us after the Shabbat service on **Saturday, 18 June** to wish Jo well in the future and to hear of her life as a member of the religious congregation "Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus"

We will enjoy a **Bring-and-Share lunch** with Jo and her friends.

Please contact **Barbara Kurtz** about what to bring. Thank you!
a.bkurtz@talktalk.net or
020 8650 1284

Dear folks,

A message from Angela Rolle

I am now an author!

My new ebook (*How the world fell out of my bottom...and other tales*) is available to buy! Download price: £2.08. Please click on the link:
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B01FSQ0T88>

I plan to give a donation to Crohn's & Colitis UK to research into the disease when I've sold enough copies.

Love and thanks,

Angela

Important Notice

Bromley WIZO Eretz

Please note that, because of the number of competing events on that date, the **WIZO Bridge and Card Tea** planned to be held in the Garden Room of the synagogue on **Sunday, 5 June** will now be held in a private home. (Contact **Barbara Fizzson** on 020 8658 6060 or bafizz@virginmedia.com for further information.)

A **winter bridge afternoon** is planned for **Sunday, 6 November**, when it is hoped more people will be able to attend.

The Half Used Life - An Evening Of Words And Music
Sunday, 3 July, 6.00 pm at
West London Synagogue,
33 Seymour Place, London W1



To commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme, West London Synagogue in conjunction with the Jewish East End Celebration Society (JEECS), invites you to a celebration of **Isaac Rosenberg**, the East End Jewish boy who became a great poet and painter and died in the trenches of the Great War.

Narrated by the award winning actress **Maureen Lipman**, with readings by the English actor **Freddie Fox** and music by the composer and musician **Duncan Honeybourne** and song by WLS's own **Maya Levy**, this will be a unique evening of drama, poetry, story and song, which will both move and enlighten you about this great artist.

Please join us after the performance for a canapé reception.

Tickets - £20 (concessions £15), to book, please call **Kathryn** on 020 7535 0259.

Run for Nightingale Hammerson
Maccabi GB
Community Fun Run

Date: Sunday, 19 June

Location: Allianz Park Hendon

The Maccabi GB Community Fun Run will be taking place again at Allianz Park. It's the largest Jewish sporting fundraiser in the UK.

Run, walk, hop, skip or dance your way around one of the three distances for Nightingale Hammerson: 10km - 5km - 1km.

Register online at
www.communityfunrun.org
Sponsorship - £100.



Chagigah 2016 - Some Chagigah Highlights

Adult Social Care initiative - Combatting Isolation and Loneliness

Keynote Speaker: Merav Dover - Combatting isolation and loneliness is one of today's greatest challenges to society. What will happen if we choose to do nothing? Merav Dover, Chief Officer of Southwark and Lambeth Integrated Care, will help us to put our community's experience into a societal context.

A Bedouin Leader Against All Odds:

Amal Elsana Alh'jooj - As a fifth girl in a traditional Bedouin family, Amal has never taken 'no' for an answer and has become a pioneer in advancing community development and women's rights in her community. A Noble Prize nominee, Amal is an inspiring activist with a remarkable story.

Scriptural Reasoning - From text to action, what do our Scriptures teach us about poverty?

Reverend Anna Alls, Sajid Mohammed and student Rabbi Robyn Ashworth-Steen. A text-based scriptural reasoning session bringing in voices and perspectives from three faiths. Hear the texts spoken/chaned and taught, bringing them to life and highlighting their relevance to the UK.

Leo Baeck College 60th Anniversary - To celebrate this 60th anniversary LBC faculty will be teaching a track of Jewish learning for its own sake – a series of standalone sessions to help us engage more deeply, expand our thinking and fall in love (again) with the sources of our Jewish selves.

Empowering Jewish Practice - Amidah from a Range of Angles with Rabbi Benji Stanley. Putting Jewish practice at the heart of Reform Judaism, using the example of the Amidah, we will empower you to develop your own Jewish practices that you can bring to your life and your community in the year ahead.

Meaningful engagement with Israel - with Rabbi Charley Baginsky (chair), UJIA, Dr Keith Kahn-Harris (LBC) and Kalela Lancaster (NIF) The Alliance for Progressive Judaism is in the midst of establishing an Israel Desk aiming to deepen Israel engagement. Can the Progressive movement be at the forefront of a paradigm shift in Diaspora/Israel relationship?

For more information about Chagigah please email chagigah@reformjudaism.org.uk or go to <http://www.reformjudaism.org.uk/chagigah/> to see the promotional video.

Chagigah will be held at Eastwood Hall Hotel near Nottingham over the weekend of 24 to 26 June.



"Magnificent Movie Music"

Jewish Composers and the Golden Age of Film
an illustrated talk by
Dr Rachel Franklin, concert pianist and music historian.

Sunday, 7 August

Rachel's talk will trace the immigration patterns of Jewish musicians from Central and Eastern Europe to Hollywood and look at why so many Jewish composers became such an integral part of cinematic history.

**Afternoon Tea from 3 pm.
Talk starts at 4 pm.**

Tickets £10 and further details from the **shul office**
020 8460 5460 or
Barbara Kurtz
a.bkurtz@talktalk.net

Council of Christians and Jews
South East London Branch

Tuesday, 28 June at 8.00 pm
Refreshments from 7.45 pm
at Catford Synagogue,
6 Crantock Road, SE6

The Nuremberg Trials

In 1945, after the defeat of Nazi Germany, the German hierarchy were brought to justice in Nuremberg by the victors of the war in a series of trials. The development of international law which underpinned these prosecutions continues to this day.

Our Speaker is **Ruth Moshinsky**
For further details, please contact
Stephen Weil on 020 8693 2051
E: Stephen.weil@talk21.com

Knit and Natter

Wednesday, 15 June

from 10.00 am
at Pauline's home.



All are welcome

Pauline Jeffree, 020 8650 4860
pauline.jeffree@btinternet.com

SERVICES

June 2016 – Iyar/Sivan 5776

**All Fridays at 7.00 pm, unless otherwise stated.
Saturdays at 10.30 am, unless otherwise stated**

Friday 3 June

Saturday 4 June

Bamidbar (29 Iyar)

Guest preacher **Rabbi Helen Freeman**,
Principal Rabbi of West London
Synagogue. Festive kiddush after the service

Tuesday 7 June

Rosh Chodesh Sivan

Friday 10 June

Saturday 11 June

Naso (5 Sivan)

Saturday 11 June

Erev Shavuot - Service at 7:30 pm,
followed by a *tikkun leyl* study session:
"Does Torah come from Sinai or Babylonia? A Progressive Jewish Response"
Please bring cheesecake or blintzes to share!!

Sunday 12 June

SHAVUOT

Festival service at 10.30 am led by the Cheder children followed by Shavuot Sundae Kiddush

Friday 17 June

Saturday 18 June

Beha'alotecha (12 Sivan)

Bring-and-Share lunch after the service

Friday 24 June

Saturday 25 June

Shelach Lecha (19 Sivan)

Friday 1 July

Saturday 2 July

Korach (26 Sivan)

Limmud Cambridge 2016

Cambridge Limmud is on **Sunday 19 June**.

Applications are now open - **Book Now!**

Our presenters promise to keep you thrilled and will provide unique insights into their chosen topics. They include:

Howard Jacobson, one of the funniest speakers on Anglo-Jewry.

Rita Rudner, the comedian, is coming from her sell-out season at Las Vegas.

Sir Lawrence Freedman, our foremost expert on political and military strategy.

Amy-Jill Levine is a brilliant Jewish expert on early Christianity.

Shirli Gilbert, an expert on music during the Holocaust and a brilliant presenter.

Sir Richard Evans, the world's leading historical expert on the Holocaust.

Sir Roy Calne, a pioneer transplant surgeon.

Our **Young Limmud** programme promises to be our best ever, with a day full of diverting activities for kids of all ages. Plus a fully qualified and staffed crèche for very small ones.

We will be hosted by **Anglia Ruskin University (East Road, Cambridge)**, starting at 10 am. The programme will continue until 6 pm.

For enquiries, please email cambridge@limmud.org

Dates for Your Diary

June

W	1	
Th	2	Talmud Study Group , 10.30-11.45 am
F	3	
S	4	Bamidbar - Service led by Ronnie Goldberg and Judi Sheffrin , with sermon given by Rabbi Helen Freeman of West London Synagogue. Dedication of memorial plaque to the late Desirée Barnett after the service. Festive birthday kiddush after the service
S	5	Stonesetting for the late Marie Halpern , 11.30 am at the Jewish Cemetery, Kitchener Road Chatham
M	6	
T	7	Rosh Chodesh Sivan
W	8	Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm
Th	9	
F	10	
S	11	Naso Erev Shavuot - Service at 7.30 pm - cheesecake and Tikkun Leyl
S	12	SHAVUOT - Festival service at 10.30 am Youth Club after the Festival kiddush
M	13	
T	14	
W	15	Knit and Natter - from 10 am at Pauline's
Th	16	Talmud Study Group , 10.30-11.45 am
F	17	
S	18	Beha'alotecha - Bring-and-Share lunch after the service to say good bye to Sister Jo Harvey and friends
S	19	Talk on King Saul by Dr George Stein , 4.30 for 5 pm at the Shul
M	20	
T	21	
W	22	Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm
Th	23	
F	24	Chagigah Weekend begins at Eastwood Hotel, Nottingham
S	25	Shelach Lecha
S	26	
M	27	
T	28	CCJ talk on the Nuremberg Trials , 7.45 for 8 pm at Catford Synagogue
W	29	
Th	30	Talmud Study Group , 10.30-11.45 am

July

F	1	
S	2	Korach
S	3	The Half Used Life - An Evening of Words and Music - 6.00 pm at West London Synagogue
M	4	
T	5	
W	6	
Th	7	Rosh Chodesh Tammuz
F	8	
S	9	Chukkat - Bar Mitzvah of Zach Hall
S	10	Cheder term ends
M	11	
T	12	
W	13	Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm
Th	14	
F	15	
S	16	Balak - Shabbat morning service conducted by Kittah Chet SE10 and Beyond - Picnic in Greenwich Park from 2 pm
S	17	
M	18	
T	19	
W	20	
Th	21	
F	22	Shabbat evening service at 7.45 pm followed by Oneg: Prof. Bernie Cohen on the Origin of the Alphabet
S	23	Pinchas - Bat Mitzvah of Shoshana Dahdi
S	24	
M	25	Maccabi Summer Project begins at Catford shul
T	26	
W	27	Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm
Th	28	
F	29	
S	30	Matot
S	31	

Talmud Study Course

The Talmud Study course meets on **Thursday mornings from 10.30-11.45 am**. This month the classes will be held on 2, 16 and 30 June.

For more information, please contact **Rabbi Jason Holtz** on 020 8460 5460 or **Barbara Kurtz**: a.bkurtz@talktalk.net

Contact details for subcommittees and other groups

BR5 and 6 and Friends: Jean Garelick, 01689 850668 genie.jeannie@btopenworld.com		J.J.B.S.: Janet Posner, 020 8650 7521 janet.posner@talk21.com	
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Caring Community: Pauline Jeffree, 020 8650 4860 pauline.jeffree@btinternet.com		Membership Inquiries: Janet Burlem, 020 8460 5460 janet@bromleyshul.org.uk	
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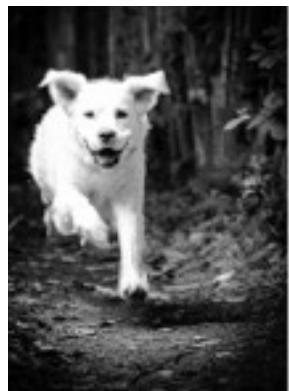
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