

HIGHLight

Bromley Reform Synagogue newsletter



Members of the Religion and Ritual Committee led the Shabbat morning service on Shabbat Shuvah (Saturday, 8 October)

In Memoriam



We remember our President,
David Barnett,
who died on 14 October
May his memory be for a blessing

BRS Education Committee is delighted to welcome

Rabbi Stephen Leon

Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation B'nai Zion, El Paso, Texas, and Rabbi to the Crypto Jews of the American South-West, who will speak to us on

'The Return of the Crypto-Jews - The Biggest Secret in the Jewish World Today'



Sunday, 20 November, at 10 am

In 1492 King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella ordered the Jews of Spain to leave. Tens of thousands remained as Christian converts, many practising Judaism in secret – the so-called crypto (or hidden) Jews. An estimated 200,000 left, many for the New World, heading for border areas where they would be far from those who would look too closely at how they lived their lives. That's where **Rabbi Stephen Leon** comes into this story. In 1986, Rabbi Leon, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., moved to the city of El Paso. Within days, he experienced three successive incidents that led him to study the fate of crypto-Jews, also known as *anusim*, the Hebrew word for "forced ones".

This subject, the return to their roots of the *B'nei Anousim*, has become a passion for Rabbi Leon, and he has spoken about it throughout the world. We are indeed fortunate that he is able to come to Bromley.

Why has it become a subject so close to his heart?

What were those incidents which aroused his interest?

Do join us to learn more on this fascinating subject.

Further details from **Rabbi Holtz** or **Barbara Kurtz**, a.bkurtz@talktalk.net

In This Month's Highlight

Personal view from the Chair	3
Chanukah Fair	3
Thanksgiving and Hakarat HaTov	4
Social Centre News	4
UK Jewish Film Festival	4
Cheder News	5
Kindertransport	5
Abraham - Religious Rebel...?	6
Mitzvah Day	6
The Trouble with Easter	6
SE10 and Beyond	6
Social and Personal	7
Remembering David Silver	7
Remembering Norman	7
LBC 60 years	7
UK's first ever Jewish Farm	8
Death of Sir Sigmund Sternberg	8
High Holyday thanks	9
Services	9
Limmud Conference 2016	9
Chanukah Candle Lightings	9
"Sad News" Announcements	9
Dates for Your Diary	10
Knit and Natter	10
Synagogue contacts	11
Advertisements	12

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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.

David Barnett, z'l – a personal view from the Chair

In the 52 years since the founding of BRS, we have only had two presidents. The first was our founder **Mervin Elliott** and the second was **David Barnett**. With the passing of David this October, I offer a few words of personal reflection.

David was a dear friend to so many of us but he was more than that. He was a man who was decent and honest and cared for others. Some 34 years ago, when Janet and I first joined BRS and got to know David and Desirée, we were so impressed by the amount of time they spent visiting sick people and helping others. Having come to Bromley from Streatham Liberal Synagogue, David was not a traditionalist and had no time for rituals such as bowing to the Sefer Torah as it was paraded though, admittedly, he did take some pride in performing *hagba'ah* (elevating the scroll) without flexing his wrists! Far more important were the principles by which he lived his life. Suffice it to say they were the essence of Judaism, which teaches us to be honest and upright in our dealings and to care for the sick, the stranger and the disadvantaged.

For half a century, David showed dedicated commitment to the Reform movement and to our shul. There was nothing he would not do, whether it was leading a Friday night service, chairing the Shul Council, helping to maintain the building or coming out when the alarm had gone off in the middle of the night. He was one of that dedicated group of DIYers who converted the building from a block of four flats back into a place of worship. He was responsible for putting up the wood veneer panels to cover the rough walls. He apparently did this with such enthusiasm it was said that if you stood near a wall for too long, you were in danger of David nailing the next panel over you. Most people would look back with satisfaction at what they had done and would think that it was for others to continue carrying the torch but David was a man who looked forward. Forty years later, it was my pleasure to work with him on the building of our classroom and office block and renovation of the sanctuary and garden room. I chaired the committee and David served as secretary. His minutes of the meetings were detailed, clear and

accurate and were filed meticulously. Most importantly, he ensured that decisions were actioned. He it was who met the project manager to ensure the work was being done in accordance with our wishes and **Michael Mittelman's** architectural drawings. He it was who would obtain brochures for us to scrutinise and would place orders with suppliers. He it was who would keep all of us committee members informed. The result was that the project ran to time and to budget.

David was a family man and enjoyed life; he was always telling jokes and he and Des enjoyed the company of many friends, with some of whom they played bridge. He was also courageous; having once been strong and fit and a keen cyclist it was terrible to see him struck down in an instant by a vascular event from which there would be no recovery but his attitude was always positive. There were hospital admissions with serious infections but he kept going and it was only the sudden loss of Desirée last year that broke his spirit. With the support of his children, Alison and Richard, and their families, as well as excellent dedicated carers and visits from friends, he continued longer than most of us would have thought possible. On Rosh Hashanah, he was there in

his usual place in the Crofton Halls but he had a nasty fall from his wheelchair after leaving and we knew he was nearing the end. On the day before he died, he was as lucid and realistic as always and we talked for a few minutes about life and death. The Rabbi then arrived and, after talking to David, he called Richard and me back into the room to recite a prayer. We stood at the bedside and David lay there, all of us listening to the words of the prayer. With a sad heart, I said goodbye to David, knowing I would not see him again. He had suffered enough and it was time for him to go.

The manner of David Barnett's living and dying sets an example to us all. Moreover, to those of us who were not family but knew him as a fellow congregant, friend and latterly as President of our shul, he leaves a wonderful legacy of an active and vibrant Reform Jewish community in Bromley. His memory is indeed a blessing.

John Posner, Chairman
john.posner@talk21.com



Chanukah Fair

Sunday, 4 December 12.30 to 3 pm

There is a lot going on at the Chanukah Fair this year:

- Brick Lane bagels, pizza, donuts, a cake stall and refreshments
- Stalls selling cards, plants, new books, makeup and Judaica goods.
- Second hand books and toys.
- Arts and crafts.
- A fantastic raffle and more ...

Can you please come to the Fair?

Can you help in any way?

Can you donate your time, books, toys, cakes, biscuits, a raffle prize?

Contact: Michelle – michellebrooksevs@gmail.com or 07956 234309
Dani – dani_hall@hotmail.com



Thanksgiving and Hakarat HaTov

For those of us who are American, November means one thing. Thanksgiving. While it is entirely an American holiday, it was inspired by the Jewish festival of Sukkot—the autumn harvest festival. For those who like a little Hebrew word play, the word “hodu” can be translated either as “thanksgiving” or “turkey,” without which, there could not be a Thanksgiving meal! Speaking of turkey, some people believe that it comes from the Hebrew word “tuki” which in modern Hebrew is translated as “parrot,” but that understanding is pretty recent.

Personally, I love Thanksgiving. It's a chance to be with those whom we care about and to have a good time and a good meal. More importantly, though, it encourages us to pause and to focus on all of the things that we have to be thankful for and that is something that goes to the core of Jewish living. In Hebrew, the phrase for gratitude is *hakarat hatov*, “recognition of the good.” *Hakarat hatov* is not just a mindset though. It is an enacted emotion. Judaism doesn't just ask us to feel grateful; it asks us to express gratitude.

Sometimes gratitude is nothing more than acknowledgement, but sometimes the best sort of gratitude is reciprocation. Rabbi Joseph Telushkin recounts a story of a man who had run into financial difficulties. A friend of his father offered

him a loan to get through the tough time. It took a long time before he could pay the loan back, but one day he approached the lender with the money and the lender refused to be repaid. The man objected and said, “I'm not a charity case. I always intended to pay you back.” The lender responded by saying that the same thing had happened to him years ago. He was given a loan and when he tried to pay it back, the lender refused. He was upset, also thinking that he was being treated as a charity case. That original lender explained, though, “It was indeed a loan, and you do have to pay it back, but not to me. I want you to pay back the loan in the following manner. One day in the future, when you come across a person or a family who needs the money, pass it along ... as a loan. And when they come to pay it back, explain the terms of the loan to them, as I just explained them to you. The money I gave you was indeed a loan to me, and now it's your turn and obligation to pay it back in the very same manner I paid back my loan. I chose to pay it to you, someday you will pass the money on to someone else.”¹ This month, whether you celebrate Thanksgiving or not, may we both recount the many blessings that we have and also commit to blessing others in return.

Rabbi Jason Holtz

¹ Telushkin, J. (2006). *A Code of Jewish Ethics* (Vol. I). New York: Bell Tower.

Social Centre News

The Social Centre will meet on **Wednesdays, 9 and 23 November** for the customary socialising, exercises, discussion and lunch. **David and Tom** will give one of their popular musical talks after lunch on the 9th. Do come along and enjoy.

Dianne Mathews

Ruth Young writes: “Shanah Tovah to all friends at the Social Centre and good wishes and thanks to all the helpers who look after us all. Shalom, Ruth.”

Social Centre members will be very sad to learn of the death of their good friend Ruth shortly before *Highlight* went to press and will wish to send condolences to her family and friends.

The Macmillan Coffee Morning Pauline Jeffree writes:

Thank you to all who contributed in so many ways to make our Coffee Morning for Macmillan the most successful to date.

We have sent to Macmillan £868.50p.

We all appreciate how important specialist nursing care is and Macmillan nurses are trained to provide the best cancer care possible.



The ladies who served coffee, tea and cakes at the Macmillan Coffee Morning

How is the money we donate used? Your donation could:

- help a Macmillan chemotherapy nurse to give vital treatment to a patient with cancer;
- ensure a Macmillan Nurse can help more people living with cancer to get the equipment and support they need to stay living in their own home;
- ensure a Macmillan Nurse can spend time talking with family and/or friends to help them to understand what is happening to someone they love.

Thank you all so very much.

Pauline Jeffree
Caring Community

Rabbi Wolff –

A Gentleman Before God Sunday November 13, 6.00 pm

Odeon Wimbledon, 39 The Broadway, London SW19, 0333 006 7777

Original title: *Rabbi Wolff - Ein Gentleman vor dem Herrn*, Director: Britta Wauer

RABBI WILLIAM WOLFF is nearly 90 and perhaps the most unconventional rabbi in the world. As the State Rabbi of North-East Germany, he looks after the Jewish communities in Schwerin and Rostock, but still lives in a bungalow near Henley-on-Thames.

Having started his career as a rabbi at 70, William Wolff is not your average man. Born into an Orthodox family in Berlin, Wolff moved to England with his parents at the age of 12. He was a successful political correspondent before deciding on pursuing his dream of becoming a rabbi, a decision that brought him back to his homeland. This heart-warming documentary introduces us to the fascinating and delightful Wolff as he travels back and forth between his home in Henley-on-Thames and north-eastern Germany where he serves as a State Rabbi

This is just one of the more than 80 films being shown at this year's UK International Jewish Film Festival, which runs from 5-20 November at cinemas all over the U.K.

(go to <http://ukjewishfilm.org/>)

Cheder News



Well, the Cheder year is rolling on, and we seem to have survived the super-busy Jewish holidays. That means it's time for the super-busy post-holiday events. Here are

just a few you may like to know about:

- 1) A reminder that this term, your children's **Tzedakah** pennies will go to support the charity **The Chartwell Cancer Trust Tiger Ward**, which supports children undergoing cancer treatment at the PRU and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Woolwich. Please send in your spare change to support this very worthy cause.
- 2) Our Parents' Association called **Hooray Cheder** (a pun on the Hebrew words "Hora'ay Cheder", or "Cheder Parents") had its first coffee morning of the year on **Sunday, 16 October**. Our Hooray Cheder Leaders, **Dani Hall** (mum of Katie and William) and **Michelle Brooks Evans** (mum of Lili, Esther, Lloyd and Ezra) made sure that we had coffee and cake to scoff while working out how we could create a positive Jewish environment for our children. Please look out for their emails- they will be full of events for our kids and really simple ways that you can help with fundraising- vital for our Cheder's "extras" to keep it fun!
- 3) Our synagogue will be participating in **National Mitzvah Day** on **Sunday, 27 November, 10 am-12.30 pm**. On this day, the entire BRS community will be invited to join us to support **Demelza House**- which provides the best care and support for seriously ill babies, children, young people and their families, across East Sussex, Kent and South East London. We'll be hosting a "book swap" for them- bring 3 used books in good condition, leave with another one, and the leftovers will be sold by the charity themselves. In addition, our Religion and Ritual committee will be hosting their own **Mitzvah Day** in the sanctuary from 10 to 11 am, where members will be invited to learn how to perform the Sabbath mitzvot, from lighting candles to the prayers themselves. Please keep your eyes peeled for more details.
- 4) Our next exciting event will be our **Chanukah Fair on Sunday, 4 December**, directly after Cheder from 12.30-3 pm. **There will be no Gan on that day**. Lunches will be on sale, as well as doughnuts, Judaica, second hand Jewish books, toys, pottery - anything else you might think could make a good Chanukah gift for the ones you love. Best of all? The money you spend will help support the Cheder and other Shul events, so before you leave with your kids that Sunday, please pop downstairs and have a look!
- 5) Our **Chanukah Party** this year will be on the last day of Cheder, **18 December**. Cheder will be **cancelled** that morning, so you'll all be able to come from **3.30 to 6 pm** instead. **Gilbert Giggles** will be on hand to entertain the younger ones, with latkes, sufganiyot (doughnuts) and dreidels everywhere. **Youth Club** will have its own party room with Mocktails and hors d'oeuvres. We'll end the evening with communal candle lighting.
- 6) And speaking of **Youth Club**, our club for children aged 12+ is still meeting once a month under the superb direction of its new leader, **Hayley Preston**. Last week the pizza could not distract the group from a very competitive board game as no one would walk away from the board! We're hoping to plan trips to the cinema and even a sleepover in 2017, but remember: if the kids don't use Youth Club, they'll lose Youth Club. Do encourage your older children to attend regularly. Next date: **Sunday, 27 November (after Mitzvah Day)**
- 7) Last but not least, please check the **Security Rota** on this page to see if we are expecting you to show up for security. If you realise you cannot attend on the day you've been allocated, please contact **Graham Harris: grahamh4@aol.com**

That's all for now! Until next month,
L'Shalom,
Vicki, Cheder Head Teacher
vickiashmore@icloud.com



The cast of Kindertransport came to the Shabbat morning service on Saturday, 15 October as guests of Julie Binysh (far right)

Cheder Security Rota – November and December 2016

Sundays:	
6 November	Ru Elson-Gant
13 November	Tracy Frankel
20 November	Jason Friedler
27 November	Dani Hall
4 December	Rhona Green
11 December	Julia Hodges
18 December – Chanukah party!	Kieron Hyams

bromley little theatre

KINDERTRANSPORT

by **Dianne Samuels**

the cast includes our very own **Julie Binysh**

Fri 11 to Sat 19 November
(not Sun 13) 7.45 pm

Book online at
www.bromleylittletheatre.org
or ring 0333 666 3366

BRS Education Committee
Sunday Morning Adult Education Classes

**Sunday, 6 November,
10 am at the Synagogue**

**Rabbi Holtz will speak on
"Abraham – Religious Rebel or
Biblical Knight of Faith?"**



Abraham is the man who is remembered as the first patriarch of the Jewish people, yet there are many different portrayals of who he was. Some label him a rebel, who not only smashed his own father's idols, but even challenged God's sense of judgment.

On the other hand, some, like **Søren Kierkegaard**, think of Abraham as a "biblical knight of faith" who was fiercely loyal and obedient to God, even to the point of being willing to sacrifice his son, Isaac.

Because Abraham is remembered as the first Jew, this question is inherent in the character of the Jewish people: are we faithful and trusting in God or a people that charts its own path? Come along to learn and discuss.

Further details from Rabbi Holtz or
Barbara Kurtz, a.bkurtz@talktalk.net

Join us for another
Oneg Shabbat
on **Friday, 4 November**
Prof. Bernie Cohen,

back by popular demand after his fascinating talk on "The Origins of the Alphabet" will speak on

**"The Trouble with
Easter"**



It all began with Pesach and the problems caused by trying to fix the date of Easter into the Roman calendar. Christians still haven't resolved the problem of whether to fix the date of Easter. Professor Cohen's talk covers 4000 years of popes, bishops, monks, kings, queens, theologians, astronomers, mathematicians, computer programmers, settlers and terrorists from Babylon, Jerusalem, Rome, Byzantium, Ephesus, Smyrna, Athens, Canterbury, Whitby, Iona, Holy Isle, The Hague, Drogheda and Belfast and places in between - and some astronomy and mathematics. Intrigued? Then do join us!

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** at a.bkurtz@talktalk.net

SE10 and Beyond Future programme

- we are arranging a trip to see *Kindertransport* at Bromley Little Theatre this month.

- in January we are planning a book reading and discussion of 'The Splits - A Chronicle of Conflicts in a Young Man's Life' by **Boris Rumney**. This book is written by one of our members and he will be discussing the book and what's behind it.

Contact **Michelle Brooks Evans:**
michellebrooksevens@gmail.com or
07956 234309.

**Mitzvah
Day**

27th November 2016

from 10 am at the Synagogue

Planned activities:

For the adults, from 10 to 11am in the sanctuary, there will be a **mitzvah workshop** to teach people who are interested in learning some of the mitzvot for participating in a service, such as scroll dressing, *hagbah* etc.

For the Cheder children, there will be a **book swap** in partnership with **PJ Library***. The book swap will take place in the sanctuary during an extended break from 11 to 11.20 am. **Gan** parents can bring their children between 11.20 am and 12 noon.

The way it works is that the children bring in two or three books that they don't read any more with a note saying what they liked about the book (make sure they fill out the notes at home before they come). They then swap one of the books for one that they find interesting and leave the rest for the **Demelza Children's Hospice**.

For further details please contact **Benjie Butler** at benjiebutler@yahoo.co.uk

* **PJ Library** (PJ for pyjamas!) gifts away high-quality Jewish books to families with children aged between six months and eight years old every month. The award-winning books celebrate Jewish culture, values and traditions through a wide range of stories and beautiful illustrations. PJ Library books are posted directly to children so they can build their own Jewish bedtime libraries.



Social and Personal

BIRTH - A hearty mazal tov to **Talya and Dov Hellman** on the birth of a baby girl, **Ya'el Lydia**, in Chicago, U.S.A. on 5 October, and congratulations to the proud grandparents **Janet and John Posner** and **Chaim and Shoshi Hellman** in the U.S.A.

DEATHS - We are very sad to announce the death of our founder member and President, **David Barnett**, and extend our deepest condolences to his children Richard and Alison and their families. Please see the tribute to David by our Chairman on page 3. The Editor would be pleased to publish readers' memories of David in the December issue of *Highlight*.

We are also very sad to report the death on 18 October of **Sir Sigmund Sternberg**, Life President of Reform Judaism, at the age of 95. Please turn to page 8 for a tribute by **Gilly Shulman**, Head of Community Partnership & HR of the Movement for Reform Judaism.

We also learned shortly before going to press of the death at the age of 95 of **Ruth Young**, a regular attender at the Social Centre and a generous donor to the Synagogue. We send our sincere condolences to her family and friends.

BAT MITZVAH - A hearty mazal tov to **Galya Friedler** and her family on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah, which she will celebrate on 19 November, Shabbat Vayera.

GOLDEN WEDDING - A hearty mazal tov to **Alan and Barbara Kurtz**, who will celebrate 50 years of marriage on 13 November. There will be a celebratory kiddush after the Shabbat morning service on 12 November. We wish Alan and Barbara many more happy and healthy years together.

GET WELL SOON - Pauline Jeffree writes: We are thinking of and wish a speedy recovery to those known to us who are unwell at this time and to any attending hospital, awaiting investigations or their results or waiting hospital admission. May you all feel the strength and loving support of your community around you.

Welcome to New Members:

Mr and Mrs Jerome and Cheryl Bresin of Beckenham;

Mrs Aleksandra Love and her family of Beckenham;

Mrs Ruth Dwight and her family of Catford.

Baby Blessing



*Five-week old baby **Samuel Jonah Butler** was blessed in the Synagogue during the Shabbat morning service on 15 October. Here his mother **Kerry** is holding him, in the company of his father **Benjie** and big brother **Noah**.*

Remembering David Silver

Born 31.12.1935 - died 02.04.2016

Some of our older members may remember **David Silver**, who died earlier this year in Manchester. His friend, **Ivor Lask** writes:

David Silver spent a lot of his time in supporting Nightingale and to that end he was a member of the South West London Society of which he was made a Vice President in honour of all the years he had devoted to the cause. He certainly was responsible for persuading many of our congregation to play an active part in his mission. He was very much into practical support and regularly took residents shopping.

He had two sons, Julian and Phillip, with his first wife Ruth. When she tragically died he married Hynda and moved to Manchester. This move did not stop his support for Nightingale. He and Hynda still came down to London for our annual Dinner and Ball and he was to be found running the Barbecue at our Summer Fete.

Writing as the then Chair of the SWLS I know how much he readily contributed to our successful fund raising. We knew him as a warm, generous friend and he will be sorely missed.

Ivor Lask

Remembering Norman

*A letter from his carer, **Mike Watts***

Dear Janet [Burlem],

I am writing to you, but my email is really for everyone at the Synagogue who knows me and knew Norman Goldberg.

I acted as Norman's carer for a little over a year, bringing him to Shul on many occasions. I would like to say that I feel that I have been extremely privileged to visit the Synagogue in this capacity and that I have felt very much at home there.

I have experienced so many touching moments and very much looked forward to each Shabbat. I have enjoyed wrestling with my own 'philosophical atheism', and admired Jason's delight of Maimonides (whom I looked up on Wikipedia, a very interesting guy).

I have also come to appreciate something that you all have as regular attenders of Synagogue, not just the 'social catch-up', but the weekly chance that all religions offer - the dual opportunities of both 'realising a path' and 'examining one's actions', two things that we 'non-believers' very much lack in our lives...

I especially held the prayer songs in very high regard. It is true that the music helped me to find my own place of comfort, beside Norman and many's the time I found myself humming 'Oseh Shalom' or 'V'Shamru', as I drove him home. Sadly, many of the songs are impossible to find online, especially in the way you do them - so very beautifully.

I would like to thank everyone at the Synagogue for their friendliness, and if I bump into you in Bromley, I expect you to have the latest gossip and events ready to tell me.

Love and Shalom

Mike Watts, 098mjjw@gmail.com

Leo Baeck College

60th Anniversary
**Service of
celebration**



**Sunday, 6
November**

**Liberal Jewish
Synagogue**

St John's Wood, NW8

3 pm start, followed by Tea
and Refreshments

Sadeh the UK's first ever Jewish farm

This month Sadeh Farm in Kent is set to open its gates. This may not seem like news in itself, but Sadeh (field in Hebrew) is a unique kind of farm: a Jewish farm. Founded by Talia Chain and Co, who have already begun work in the grounds of Skeet Hill House, Sadeh aims to reconnect people with their faiths and each other by working together on the land to grow vegetables. While the group are almost set up, they still need financial help to acquire polytunnels, sheds, tools, marketing and legal help and more. Visit their **Chuffed crowd-funding page** to donate.

Why do we need a Jewish community farm?

1. Reconnecting to our heritage

"Jewish tradition comes alive when you engage with the physical world" Nigel Savage

According to a US study, a third of the Jews who had been disconnected to Jewish life and re-engaged with Jewish life were inspired to reconnect to their Judaism through Jewish outdoor farm and food educational programmes. However, there are no Jewish outdoor farm and food educational programmes in the UK. Sadeh will be the first! Here Jewish people of all ages and backgrounds can connect with our rich tradition of Jewish farming and be inspired by a religion based in agriculture.

The farm will be at **Skeet Hill House** near Orpington, an amazing Jewish retreat centre which has its own heritage of practising Judaism in the context of working and being on the land.

2. Interfaith and inter-communal work

"It makes sense to act together as faith communities on issues like climate change. This is about working side-by-side. This is about standing together, being united" Lord Sacks, Emeritus Chief Rabbi

Through growing food together and environmental education, diverse communities and faiths can come together in a united goal to preserve our environment. The farm will offer a space for faiths and communities to discuss their differences and similarities and how we can heal these tensions through food growing. We can learn from each other and discover how food unites us.



3. Commitment to protecting our environment

"And put Adam in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it" Genesis 2:15
Though the environment is one of the most pressing matters of our day, there are very few European Jewish programmes focused on it, and only one in the UK (JVS)! In our ancient texts, we are charged many times to take care of our planet. As climate change reshapes our environment, Sadeh will provide education on how our actions affect the planet and how we can be part of the solution.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

wrote that the prophets of ancient Israel "remind us of the moral state of a people: Few are guilty, but all are responsible." (The Prophets, p. 16).

Here's what we're doing

"It's a very basic human urge, it seems, to plant a seed, watch it grow, provision ourselves first-hand." Barbara Kingsolver

As well as growing delicious, organic veg and fruit, we will be offering local volunteering, training and much more! We will be offering programmes to the many groups of young people who come and stay at Skeet Hill House and to those who want to come down for the day and get their hands dirty.

Sadeh farm is being spearheaded by a member of the **Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation** network and has been awarded a matching grant. Schusterman is a global organisation that seeks to ignite the passion and unleash the power in young people to create positive change for themselves, the Jewish community and the broader world.

(Extracts from Sadeh's crowd-funding page)

Death of Sir Sigmund Sternberg

Gilly Shulman, Head of Community Partnership & HR of MRJ, writes:

Reform Judaism mourns Sir Sigmund Sternberg KC*SG who died on Tuesday, 18 October. He was 95.

Sir Sigmund's contribution to Reform Judaism in the United Kingdom was immense and cannot be overstated.

Sir Sigmund held the position of President of Reform Judaism from 1997 until March 2011, when he was elected as Life President.

A businessman and philanthropist who dedicated a great part of his life to serving the Jewish community and the cause of dialogue and interfaith relations across the globe, Sir Sigmund also had a long and significant involvement with the work of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

Sir Sigmund served with distinction as sole Patron of the International Council of Christians and Jews, co-founder of the Three Faiths Forum, vice-president of the World Congress of Faiths and co-ordinator of the religious component of the World Economic Forum. He was also an active participant in the work of Rotary International. He was knighted in 1976, appointed a Papal Knight in 1985, and awarded the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion in 1998 for his interfaith work worldwide. His work for understanding and reconciliation between faith communities took him to every continent and has brought him recognition from nineteen countries as well as the Vatican.

We are grateful for Sir Sigmund's enormous generosity and inspirational leadership; his legacy lives on in the Sternberg Centre which bears his name.

May his memory be for a blessing.

HIGH HOLYDAYS 2016

A thank you from Zena Goodman

I would like to say a big thank you to all the many people involved in arranging and setting everything in motion in order that the congregation can attend the services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

First, thank you to all the organisers, then thank you to all the shleppers who carry all that is needed to the Orpington halls and then set it up. Next, thank you to each person who led part of the service so capably. Thank you to our fine young rabbi **Jason Holtz**. In addition to his other accomplishments he can blow the ram's horn longer than most. It could become a Rabbinic competition.

Thank you to our capable Senior Warden.

Thank you to all those standing outside on security duty.

Most of all thank you to our terrific choir, who so willingly give their time and effort year after year to enhance the service. Long may you do so and stay well.

Zena Goodman

Limmud Conference 2016 Sun 25 to Thurs 29 December (Shabbat Limmud 23 to 24 Dec)

We'll be back in the hotels around Pendigo Lake by the NEC Birmingham for another educational, engaging and exciting Limmud, where you can expect:



- a world-class and diverse programme with outstanding educators, artists and performers from across the UK community and around the globe
- to celebrate Chanukah every night of Conference in a unique and memorable festive atmosphere
- expanded capacity for Families and the Young and Teen Limmud programme

For the first time this year we are able to offer an instalment payment scheme to spread the cost of Limmud Conference over a few months—book early to take advantage of this.

Book online now at www.limmud.org/conference/sign-up

SERVICES

November 2016 – Cheshvan 5777

Fridays at 7.00 pm, unless otherwise stated.

Saturdays at 10.30 am, unless otherwise stated

Wednesday 2 November Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan

Friday 4 November Shabbat evening service at 7.45 pm
then Oneg with talk by **Prof. Bernard Cohen** on *The Problem with Easter*

Saturday 5 November Noah (4 Cheshvan)

Friday 11 November

Saturday 12 November Lech-Lecha (11 Cheshvan)
Festive Kiddush after the service in celebration of **Alan and Barbara Kurtz's** Golden Wedding

Friday 18 November

Saturday 19 November Vayera (12 Cheshvan)
Bat Mitzvah of Galya Friedler

Friday 25 November

Saturday 26 November Chayah Sarah (19 Cheshvan)

CHANUKAH CANDLE LIGHTINGS

An Appeal from Judi Sheffrin

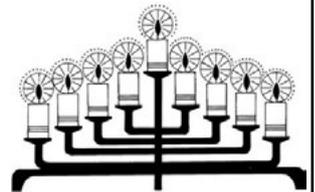
Dear All,

Before I get on to Chanukah, may I thank everybody who sent me such delightful messages over the High Holydays. Thank you.

We are now looking forward to Chanukah, which falls at the end of December (from 24 December onwards). We always invite people to host candle lightings in their homes and try to cover as much of our large geographical area as we can. I am particularly looking for hosts in Bromley, Beckenham, Orpington, Sydenham/Forest Hill, Kentish Fringe and Greenwich/Blackheath, but if you live elsewhere and would like to host a party, don't be shy: it will be great to have some new areas represented.

You can fix it for any time you like (bear in mind almost every night will be during school and public holidays this year, so there is more scope than usual), and specify whatever you like in terms of guests bringing some or no food or something particular; bringing their own Chanukiyot or not and so on. All we ask is that you let me know **before 15 November** so that the details can go in the December *Highlight* and e-lights. Thank you in advance,

JUDI Sheffrin, 07968 324981, judishef@aol.com



"Sad News" Announcements

When we need to circulate urgent news, most often that of a death or the arrangements for a funeral/shiva, we do so mainly via email. However, we are aware that many members either do not have email at all or cannot always access their account. We are therefore considering reinstating the telephone ladder for such news, **but only for those who wish to opt-in to such a system**. If you would like to be included on the ladder (i.e. somebody will call you and you might then have to pass the news on to one or more others) **please contact the synagogue office (020 8460 5460) by Sunday, 13 November**.

Dates for Your Diary

November

T	1	
W	2	Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan
Th	3	
F	4	Shabbat evening service at 7.45 pm followed by Oneg with talk by Bernie Cohen on <i>The Trouble with Easter</i>
S	5	Noach
S	6	Study Session on Abraham with Rabbi Holtz, 10 to 11 am in the sanctuary WIZO-Eretz - Bridge/Card/Games afternoon at Barbara Fizzon's Leo Baeck College - 60th Anniversary service of celebration, 3 pm at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, London NW8
M	7	
T	8	
W	9	Social Centre , 10.30-2.30 at the Shul - musical entertainment by David and Tom
Th	10	
F	11	
S	12	Lech Lecha
S	13	Film about Rabbi William Wolff (<i>A Gentleman Before God</i>), 6 pm at Odeon Wimbledon - part of UK International Jewish Film Festival
M	14	
T	15	
W	16	WIZO-Eretz - outing to Museum of Brands and Packaging in Notting Hill
Th	17	
F	18	
S	19	Vayera - Bat Mitzvah of Galya Friedler
S	20	Talk by Rabbi Stephen Leon on the <i>Crypto Jews of the American South West</i> , 10 am at the Shul
M	21	
T	22	
W	23	Social Centre , 10.30-2.30 at the Shul
Th	24	
F	25	
S	26	Chayei Sarah
S	27	Mitzvah Day - activities from 10 am
M	28	
T	29	
W	30	Knit & Natter , 10 am to 12 Noon at Pauline's

December

Th	1	Rosh Chodesh Kislev
F	2	
S	3	Toledot
S	4	Chanukah Fair - 12.30 to 3 pm at the Shul
M	5	
T	6	
W	7	
Th	8	
F	9	
S	10	Vayetze
S	11	
M	12	
T	13	
W	14	Social Centre , 10.30-2.30 at the Shul
Th	15	
F	16	
S	17	Vayishlach
S	18	Chanukah Party with Gilbert Giggles - from 3.30 pm at the Shul
M	19	
T	20	
W	21	
Th	22	
F	23	Shabbat Limmud at Birmingham
S	24	Vayeshev - First Candle of Chanukah
S	25	Limmud Conference begins in Birmingham
M	26	
T	27	
W	28	Social Centre , 10.30-2.30 at the Shul
Th	29	Limmud Conference ends
F	30	Rosh Chodesh Tevet
S	31	Mikketz - Last Candle of Chanukah

Knit and Natter

Thursday, 30 November, 10.30 am-12 noon at Pauline's

The demand for the items we are making is ever increasing, so please do come and help.

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



Contact details for subcommittees and other groups

<p>BR5 and 6 and Friends: Jean Garelick, 01689 850668 genie.jeannie@btopenworld.com</p> 	<p>J.J.B.S.: Janet Posner, 020 8650 7521 janet.posner@talk21.com</p> 
<p>Board of Deputies Rep.: Joe Millis, 020 8299 3458 roejoebentoby@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Kiddush Rota: Harriet Posner, 07810 361731 posner.harriet@googlemail.com</p> 
<p>Caring Community: Pauline Jeffree, 020 8650 4860 pauline.jeffree@btinternet.com</p> 	<p>Membership Inquiries: Janet Burlem, 020 8460 5460 janet@bromleyshul.org.uk</p> 
<p>Cheder Head Teacher: Vicki Ashmore, 020 8290 4220 vickiashmore@icloud.com</p> 	<p>Newsletter Editor: Bob Symonds, 020 8402 2197 bobsymonds@mac.com</p> 
<p>Cheder B'nei Mitzvah Kiddushim Elka Carr, 020 8699 2138 elkacarr@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Religion and Ritual: Daniel Posner, 07866 761 181 posner.dan@googlemail.com</p> 
<p>Choir: Dianne Mathews, 01689 826096 diannem3@googlemail.com</p> 	<p>SACRE Samantha Barnett, 020 8467 8868 idb001@ntlworld.com</p> 
<p>Communications: Judi Sheffrin, 07968 324981 judishef@aol.com</p> 	<p>School Visits Coordinator: Marilyn Freeman, 020 8650 7178 marilynfreeman221@btinternet.com</p> 
<p>Education (including Josef Hausmann Library) Barbara Kurtz, 020 8650 1284 a.bkurtz@talktalk.net</p> 	<p>SE10 and Beyond Michelle Brooks-Evans, 020 8293 4999 michellebrooksevans@gmail.com</p> 
<p>Gan Yeladim: Sue Bowyer, 020 8464 6738 suebowyer@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Security Graham Harris, 020 8656 7611 grahamh4@aol.com</p> 
<p>Tracy Frankel, 01732 843224 6frankels@gmail.com</p>	<p>Social Centre: Dianne Mathews, 01689 826096 diannem3@googlemail.com</p> 
<p>Hooray Cheder: Dani Hall, 07740 282 562 dani_hall@hotmail.com</p> 	<p>Subscriptions: Janet Posner, 020 8650 7521 janet.posner@talk21.com</p> 
<p>Michelle Brooks-Evans, 020 8293 4999 michellebrooksevans@gmail.com</p>	<p>Website: Kieron Hyams, 07980 647108 mail@kieronhyams.co.uk</p> 
<p>Housing, Health and Safety: Graham Harris, 020 8656 7611 grahamh4@aol.com</p> 	<p>Youth Club: Hayley Preston, 020 8290 0472 hayley.preston8@googlemail.com</p> 
<p>Israel Information: via e-light judishef@aol.com</p> 	



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