

HIGHLight

Bromley Reform Synagogue newsletter



The Cheder celebrated Tu b'Shevat with various activities on Sunday, 5 February. Here Rhona's class proudly display the model trees they made using cardboard cut-outs and different coloured threads

The Synagogue AGM will be held at the Synagogue on **Tuesday, 14 March**, starting at 8 pm

Come and have your say.

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?????? QUIZ NIGHT ??????

Saturday, 18 March

8 pm in the Garden Room

Tickets: £10.00 per person

£5.00 under 18s

Teams of 8

Bring your own nibbles (non-meat please)

We will provide tea, coffee and pastries

For tickets and further details contact Janet Burlem (at the Shul): 020 8460 5460, janet@bromleyshul.org.uk

If you want to come on your own, or in 2's or 3's, just let us know and we can make up a table for you

The Communal Seder

As always, our Communal Seder will be held on the second night of Pesach, which falls this year on **Tuesday, 11 April**. We plan to start at 6 pm and families will be particularly welcome.

Booking forms are available from the synagogue office (020 8460 5460) please return them in good time, as places are limited.

A challenging experience – View from the Chair

I was recently in shul teaching a small group of school children and their teachers about Judaism. It was an interesting experience and quite challenging; there is so much to Judaism that it's difficult to know where to start and I was uncertain whether they had been to a church or mosque or knew anything about any other religion to give them a starting point. This hosting of school visits is normally done by **Marilyn Freeman** and I have been talking to her about what the children know as well as what she teaches them in the shul. Of course, much depends on their age and background and whether their families practise any religion. The school curriculum requires children to learn about more than one religion and some teachers put a great deal of effort into teaching the children about Judaism. Lessons in the classroom are complemented by a visit to a synagogue and I must admit I hadn't appreciated just what a major activity this is for our shul. We have more than 30 visits annually from schools and groups of cubs and scouts and, while the numbers in each group vary, many comprise 30 or 40 children and their accompanying adults including teachers, helpers and parents. So over a thousand people are visiting our shul each year!

Clearly Marilyn does a stalwart job and I understand some other members visit

schools situated some distance from the shul to participate in their teaching about Judaism. Is all this teaching important? What does it achieve apart from the obvious fact that people are informed that there are Jews living in the area and that we have our own place of worship? Well, I have to confess, I've never really thought much about this before. Until now, I have been confident in my Jewish identity, aware that I am part of a very small community in this country and not really bothered whether the rest of the British population knows much about Judaism or the Jewish people. After all, while conversion of individuals to Judaism is always welcome, evangelism plays no part in Judaism.

Having found myself in the situation of spending an hour or so teaching a group of people who had never been inside a synagogue, I realise that my previous lack of thought or caring was not really good enough. For a start, ignorance is dangerous. If someone knows nothing about Judaism and has never met a Jew, they have no information with which to form their own opinions and, if necessary, counter bigotry and prejudice. How are they supposed to know we don't have horns if they have never seen a Jew? By showing people that we are caring, welcoming and living in the same world as them, I am sure we go a long

way to preventing them from believing nonsense when they encounter it.

However, I would hope this teaching achieves more than that. At the simplest level, it is important for visitors to understand that a synagogue is a centre for learning and community social interaction as well as a house of prayer. They can also appreciate that, while our synagogue building is a sort of home, Jews don't actually need a synagogue for prayer; we can pray in any room or in the middle of a field. They learn something about Shabbat, our festivals and other traditions, hear and see our Holocaust memorial and above all see our scrolls. Indeed, Marilyn says that when the ark is opened, there is always a gasp; they see the honour and respect we show our Torah. When young children shake the rimonim to hear the bells adorning the sefer torah they can learn that we are reminding ourselves of the garments of the high priest of old. When they see the scroll close up and understand that its teachings are the most important thing Judaism has to offer this world, those young people will have learned something very important. Judaism has so much to offer the world; it is absolutely right that we invest in opening the eyes of non-Jewish children and their teachers to its treasures.

John Posner, Chairman

The Serious Side of Purim by Rabbi Jason Holtz

Purim is a lot of fun. It's a holiday of celebration and partying. We put on a play, dress up in costumes, and eat lots of food. Anyone could be forgiven for thinking that "seriousness" and Purim just do not go together. The truth is, though, that Purim does have a serious message. The revelry is in celebration that the Jews were not slaughtered by the wicked Haman. The serious message, though, is that people like Haman can and do exist, and we need to be on the lookout. Haman's wickedness was two-fold:

First, he was a bit of an egomaniac. He wanted to rule and have power, but the power was without purpose other than his own self-aggrandisement. There was no agenda for the greater good that he put forward. Rather, it was all about his vain quest for glory, having people, including Mordechai bow to him, or riding on a horse as a royal would through town. Compare Haman's egomania with Moses' humility.

Despite being called by God to be a prophet and confront Pharaoh himself, Moses could only respond by saying he wasn't the man for the job and didn't care for public speaking. Later on, when challenged, Moses frequently just fell on his face and relied on others (typically God) to defend him (see the Torah portion Korach, for example).

As bad as Haman's quest for self-promotion was, the much worse part was that he felt compelled to seek the destruction of the Jewish people. He didn't know Queen Esther was Jewish. So far as he was concerned, Jews were simply an easy-target and could be slaughtered to show everyone what happened if they didn't see him as Number One.

The Book of Esther's serious message is that it is possible for a would-be-power grabber to sacrifice a vulnerable population for narrow political gain. It was only

through Queen Esther and Mordechai that there wasn't a much worse ending. Purim, if anything, is not just a time to celebrate, but a warning to everyone to be on the lookout for people looking to buttress their power or standing by targeting vulnerable minorities, or "*strangers in your midst*" using the Torah's language. Purim, like Passover, and many other Jewish holidays, has the message that all people, strangers, immigrants and minorities, included, are people created in God's image and deserving of the same treatment as any other person. As the Torah says, "*Love the stranger for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.*" Or as Hillel the Elder said, "*What is hateful to you, do not do to anyone else. That is the whole of the Torah.*"

So let's be mindful of Purim's serious message and let's celebrate the victory of Mordechai and Queen Esther as well.

Happy Purim to all!

Rabbi Jason Holtz

Cheder News

Hello Parents and Friends of Cheder,
There's so much to tell you about this month!

1. Preparations are already under way for this year's **Purim Spiel!** We are all looking forward to seeing how Grease and the Megillah can become as one, so if you'd like to take part just show up at **rehearsals after Cheder on 5 March from 12.45-2.45 pm and after Shul on Saturday, 11 March from 12.45-2.45 pm.** If you're attending with your children who have been in Cheder all morning, just pack them a (vegetarian) lunch, which they can eat before the fun begins!
2. Our **Purim Spiel** is taking place on **Purim Day, Sunday, 12 March during Cheder from 11.30 to 12.30.** The more traditional Purim Service will take place on Saturday evening, 11 March. More details elsewhere in this Highlight.
3. This term, the children will be collecting their **Tzedakah** pennies for **Instep Theatre**, which is a theatre group for children with special needs. Please do help your children support this worthy cause with whatever spare change you may find behind the sofa cushions.
4. Our once-termly **Children's Service** will take place this term on **Saturday, 25 March.** As usual, Cheder will be **cancelled on Sunday, 26 March** to allow you to come to this event. These services are now integrated into our Cheder curriculum, as we want the children to know about services and use the Hebrew they've been learning, so please do come along.
5. **Youth Club**, our club for children aged 12+ is still meeting once a month under the superb direction of its new leader, **Hayley Preston.** We're hoping to get the kids involved in the Spiel, plan trips to the cinema and even have 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. The next Youth Club meeting will be an **Oneg Shabbat**, which will take place after the

Children's Service and kiddush on **Saturday 25 March.**

6. Plans are also under way for our next **Communal Seder**, which will take place on **Tuesday, 11 April at 6 pm.** Please contact **Harriet Posner** through the shul office to see how you can help.
7. A date for your diaries: Thanks to a generous donation from a member of our shul (and long time supporter of Cheder) this year we are planning a **trip to the Jewish Museum during Cheder time on Sunday, 2 July!** This trip is suitable for children in Kittah Aleph (Year 1) and upwards, and the museum is creating a bespoke day for us complete with age appropriate workshops and a tour. A coach is booked, and places will be offered first to the students, helpers and teachers. Any additional empty places will then be offered to parents. Please make sure when you get the forms from your children that you **RSVP either Yes or No**, and let me know if you'd like to join us, space permitting. Unfortunately the Museum is unable to host children under the age of 5, and so **Gan will be open on that day.**
8. 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 have been allocated, please contact **Graham Harris** through the shul office

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

Vicki, Cheder Head Teacher

Cheder Security Rota, Purim Term, 2017 - Sundays

5 March	Gavin Nathanson
12 March	Kim Osborne
19 March	Judith French
Saturday 25 March	Children's Service (No Cheder on Sunday, 26 March)
2 April	Amanda Penn

Tu b'Shevat in the Cheder



Bug hunting was one of the activities marking the Tu b'Shevat celebration in the Cheder on Sunday, 5 February



Another activity was mud painting on the playground

Jewish Activism Summer School in Berlin

APPLY NOW!

Who: Young adults 18-35
When: 31 July -20 August 2017
Where: Berlin
What: An immersive experience integrating field trips, volunteer work, and text study; learn about social activism in theory and practice, past and present.

Contact us:

jassinfo@uni-potsdam.de
 www.jassberlin.org
 www.facebook.com/jassberlin

Dr. Jonathan Schorsch, Director
**School of Jewish Theology,
 University of Potsdam**

Hesped for Jackie Alfred, z"l, by Rabbi Sylvia Rothschild

Soon after I came to Bromley Synagogue Jackie came to see me. She asked me what I wanted to do in the synagogue and we chatted. About half way through the conversation she said "O.K., I've sussed you out. I see you have a lot of ideas. I'll help you".

I wasn't aware I was undergoing another interview, but I am so glad I passed it. In the following years, Jackie was a wonderful support and partner in building up many community activities; I owe her so much for the work she put in to help bring so many ideas to fruition.

In the beginning she came, with small Zibby and Nathan in tow, and established herself as a volunteer in different areas of the synagogue. She spoke to people who came to the services and found out what they might need. She helped create a lot of our festival celebrations, particularly for the younger children. Many was the sandwich tea she made for a fun after-school celebration before the main service. The hot dogs and soup in the sukkah, the "great onion grow" which started at Tu b'Shevat and ended with a competition at Sukkot, after which the onions went to a soup kitchen, the Shavuot ice cream parlour... With her "apprentices" Nathan and Zibby, she spent hours in the synagogue preparing, then clearing up – all the tasks that often go unnoticed and unsung. I remember the marathon kitchen cleaning for Pesach so that our Seder would be open to all levels of observance. It wasn't always fun for the children, but they learned some great lessons for life about service, about community, about rolling up your sleeves and making things you value happen for people you care about.

Before many people owned computers, Jackie began to use her children's computer to create a synagogue database. This meant we could reach the membership in different ways. She put together the b'nei mitzvah register so we could write to everyone offering a mitzvah on the anniversary of their special day. She developed the geographical analysis so we could create groups in local areas. Idea after idea was fulfilled because she put in the graft. She became the first synagogue administrator, a friendly voice on the phone, an assiduous builder of relationships, a dispenser of good advice.

She also helped with the pastoral



Jackie in 2006

side of the community. She spoke to the lonely, to the bereaved, to the people who felt marginal. She was the voice over my shoulder reminding me of who might like a call from the rabbi. She nudged me if she felt I was being dilatory. The caring in the community was devolved and delivered in different ways, through friendships, shared interests or geography, and Jackie's contribution to building this was immense. She didn't like 'doing good', she wanted people to feel good and feel connected. She knew what it was like to be pitied or seen as underdog and she wasn't going to do that to anyone else.

When she came in, she always made sure that the sanctuary was unlocked and doors opened, because "God liked to go for a walk". She checked to make sure the siddurim were the right way up, because "upside down books gave God a headache". She had a warm and nurturing connection with God and a deep and comfortable relationship with Judaism. She passed that on to the conversion class, which she taught for a number of years, helping others shape their Jewish identity.

Jackie did not grow up Jewish. Born in Hillingdon, the middle of three sisters, her intellect was fierce and would have taken her far. She certainly started like that: having passed her 11+ she attended Ealing County Grammar School, becoming Head Girl. Accepted to read Medicine at Kings College London, she enjoyed her studies, but illness prevented her continuing to graduation. Once recovered, she became a careers advisor, her job taking her to Coventry.

She met John there at a literary arts group. It was love at first sight. She attended synagogue in Coventry and eventually converted to Judaism.

Her Hebrew retained soft Ashkenazi pronunciation – Succos not Sukkot, Shabbes not Shabbat. They moved to Beckenham to be near her widowed mother and married at Bromley Synagogue. Their marriage was blessed with Zibby and Nathan, but John's illness meant that she felt unable to continue to live with him, and they separated. Jackie and John had a complicated love story. They loved each other dearly, and wanted the best for each other, and were frustrated by each other and needed distance from each other. They were both so proud and so careful of their children, each thoughtful about giving them resilience and appreciation of language and life. John continued to celebrate shabbatot and festivals with the family, and between them they gave their children the best of themselves.

With Jackie's original hopes of a medical career dashed and with John's illness occasionally causing havoc, she planned for the future. First came the children's security and second came John's. Jackie's came third. She stayed married partly so she could continue her legal rights to speak for John and safeguard him when he was unable to do so for himself. That was an amazing act of love, not always appreciated by John nor understood by many others. But she had made a vow; she loved him, she would stand by him as best she could.

She worked to keep the children happy and secure, making sure each used their intellectual gifts fully, teaching them Jewish values. They learned to greet the neighbours politely by name, to think about where they shopped etc. It is a measure of her success that both Zibby and Nathan have grown into fully rounded people with strong caring personalities, who have both achieved the highest academic success, working in areas that express their values, creating communities that espouse caring for others and bringing the marginalised into recognition. Against all the difficulties that life threw at Jackie, she never succumbed to self-pity, but worked for a better future.

Family was important to Jackie. She met her sisters regularly, keeping up with family news. She was close to nephews and nieces. Corinne speaks of her great sense of fun, her mischief and love of

continued on page 5

Hesped for Jackie Alfred, cont. from p. 4

adventures. She loved to meet new people and experience new situations, and revelled in the travel opportunities afforded her by Zibby and Nathan. In Belgium and Luxembourg, Singapore and Burma, there are many who remember Jackie with great fondness and mourn her today. Jackie loved nature, knew the names of plants and could identify the birdsong. She had a natural gift too for talking to children, taking them completely seriously while entering into their worlds. Jono remembers warm cuddles and pea sandwiches, laughter and playing in the park, stamping their feet in order to wake up the worms. She loved going to see her grandchildren, Zac and Adam, and watched every small change with enormous pleasure, keen to get to know them as their personalities began to unfurl. She was looking forward to seeing them grow, to being part of their lives.

Jackie was my friend. She was sharp and could be difficult, asking questions that others may have only thought, expecting from others as she gave from herself. She was funny and mischievous and could sum up a person or a situation quickly and occasionally the wit was a little unkind. But she was someone I trusted and loved, who had such clear and explicit values that she lived out every day. She did the work of building up relationships and community because she believed in human connection and in community. She was an extraordinary everyday hero.

Jackie was my friend and my teacher; her life was filled with challenges to which, mindfully and intelligently, she applied herself and worked out how to progress. In the last years life got harder and her ability to manage lessened. But she was happy to live in her own house and nothing and no one would have persuaded her to move. Her death was sudden and unfair. It leaves us shocked and sad. But I know Jackie would expect our relationships and community to see us through whatever we face in the future. She showed how to do it; we must follow through now and put the lessons to good use.

**Rabbi Sylvia Rothschild,
Cheshunt, 25 January 2017**

The full version of this hesped can be read on the Synagogue website; go to <http://www.bromleyshul.org.uk/?p=3123>

Social Centre News

The Social Centre met on 24 January and once again we had lots to talk about. The main topic of conversation of course was the new baby - Asher Irving.

Some of us played games, others were intrigued by a newspaper article giving details of how to keep young. Some of us thought we might give it a go but the majority said they would not bother.

Bernie also brought in a book called "Tracing your Jewish Ancestor", which was very interesting and was filled with many addresses and telephone numbers to contact.

We did not do our exercises as Andreas was unable to come and unfortunately, **Alan Payne**, who was due to give us one of his entertaining talks, had entered the wrong date in his diary, but will now be coming on 8 March.

Lunch was delicious, as usual, and the dessert was so good that some of had seconds. However nobody quite knew why it was called Canadian apple slice.

We all enjoy our time here and hope that other members of the shul will think about joining us sometimes, as we are a friendly bunch and would welcome anybody interested in attending.

We met again on 8 February and had our usual chat before Andreas came to put us through our paces with his exercises. Everybody enjoys them and one member remarked that she always feels very relaxed after taking part.

We had lunch, which was superb, and then **Stephen Ison** from Jewish Care and **Andrew Leigh**, Executive Director of Nightingale House, came to talk to us.

Stephen talked about the various transport options there were for people who are disabled. Travel Card enables you to order a taxi and the first three miles cost £3.00 per mile, after which the cost rises to £10.00 per mile. It can be used by anybody with physical or mental disabilities. There is Dial-a-Ride, of course, which has a five mile radius and is free. Another option is hospital transport, which is run by Bromley to take people to appointments at local hospitals. The synagogue also has money to fund anybody who attends the Social Centre or any other function at the shul. **Pauline Jeffree** is the person to contact for this. Stephen also gave details of

hotels which can cater for the elderly and disabled.

Andrew told us that Nightingale House is divided into five sections, starting with people who are just residential to the fifth section, which deals with patients who are severely disabled, including suffering from dementia. There is also a facility for respite care. It is considered one of the best care homes in Europe.

It costs £1,000 per week to stay, increasing in steps to £1,500 per week for the fifth category. Respite care costs £1,000 per week. He recommended that it is a good idea to think about the future and to make an appointment to be shown round the home.

Both talks were very interesting and informative and gave us all food for thought.

Zelda Stone

Social Centre Future Programme

Wednesdays from 10.30 to 2.30
<i>March 8:</i> Alan Payne will give his postponed talk
<i>March 22:</i> Exercises, socialising and lunch
<i>April 26:</i> David Coronel and Tom Shiels will give another of their popular musical entertainments

JEWISH BOOK WEEK

25 February – 5 March
at Kings Place, 90 York Way,
London N1

(lunchtime events at
JW3, 341-351 Finchley Road,
London NW3)

Besides the opportunity to browse and purchase from the wide range of books on offer, there are many interesting daily events for which tickets are required (visit www.jewishbookweek.com). *There are no events on the two Fridays and the Saturday ones are restricted to the evenings.*

A full list of events can be viewed on the website (see above) or in the brochure on display in the shul foyer.

Social and Personal

Dedication of Memorial Plaque

A plaque in memory of the late **Derek Wellbrook** will be dedicated in the synagogue foyer after the Shabbat morning service on Saturday, 1 April. The dedication will be followed by a special kiddush, to which all are warmly invited.

GET WELL SOON

Pauline Jeffree writes: We wish well and are thinking of all those known and unknown to us who are unwell at this time. Please let the Caring Community know if there is any way we can help you:

Ring the Synagogue office (020 8460 5460). All messages are passed on to the Caring Community.

BON VOYAGE



We wish God Speed to **Mathew Hall, Kim Adler** and their children, **Zach** and **Sophia**, who have left us to start a new life in Solon, Ohio (from where Kim originally hails).

The Foodie Club



Brian Freeman reports:

We had a great evening with the Foodie Club on 2 February (see photo).

Outing number 5 will be on **Thursday, 4 May** (Star Wars day!) most probably at the Royal Garden Chinese in Shirley.

Contact Brian through the synagogue office if you want to come along.

PURIM IS THE WORD!

This year's Purim spiel, based on the musical **Grease**, will be presented on **Sunday 12 March** from 11 am. The first rehearsal was on 26 February, but it is not too late to join in the fun.

The next rehearsal will be on **Sunday, 5 March** after Cheder, followed by a final rehearsal on **Saturday, 11 March** after the morning service.

Details from **Hayley Preston** through the shul office.



Miles for MS

Trekking the Great Wall

Between 14 and 23 October, **Emma Alexander** will be taking on the challenge of a lifetime, trekking the Great Wall of China in 10 days, all for MS Society UK.

"My mum and uncle suffer from Secondary Progressive MS and my grandmother also had MS, so the charity has played an important part in my life from a young age", says Emma. "I would like to thank all of the neurologists, MS nurses and specialists who have supported us over the years and, in return, I am now raising money towards continued research and treatments and to raise awareness for this very worthwhile cause".

If you would like to show your support for Emma and MS Society UK, please visit Emma's justgiving page: www.justgiving.com/Emma-Alexander4.

Or contact her directly via email: emzoneuk@yahoo.co.uk.

Thank you in advance for your support.



Emma (left) with her mother and sister Joanna

Primo Levi: If This Is A Man, Full Reading

11 am-8 pm, **30 April, Royal Festival Hall, SE1**

£15 - £25

Booking fee: £1.75 (Members £0.00), Concessions 50%

To mark the 70th anniversary of the publication, **A.L. Kennedy** and **Philippe Sands** lead a live reading of Primo Levi's powerful account of survival at Auschwitz, *If This Is A Man*.

A remarkable insight into one of history's darkest chapters, Levi's book offers an unflinching portrait of life, death and survival in a concentration camp.



Nightingale Hammerson Supper Quiz

We very much hope you will support this event for **Nightingale Hammerson** on **Sunday 26 March**

which will take place at:

Nightingale House

105 Nightingale Lane, SW12

The **Supper Quiz** is always a great sociable and fun evening with a delicious supper and plenty of raffle prizes to be won.

You can make up a table of 10 with your family or friends or you can join a table

Application forms available on request (closing date: 20 March).

Many thanks for all your support
Annette Cauneen,
Senior Fundraiser, 020 8772 2307
annettecauneen@nightingale.org.uk

Knit and Natter

Thursday, 9 March,

10.30 am-12 noon at Pauline's home.

Please can you help?

We are in need of material (not too thick) which is pretty and attractive to be made into incubator covers. Often, sick and tiny babies have any number of tubes and wires attached to them which can be very daunting to visiting siblings or parents. Just provide the material and we will do the rest!

Besides asking you for pretty material (easily washable) to make incubator covers, we are asking you to make **knitted chicks**. The pattern is straightforward and if you would like to help, I would be delighted to send a pattern. We have only March in which to knit the chicks. Thank you.

Pauline Jeffree (through the shul office: 020 8460 5460)



Examples of hand-sewn incubator covers for premature babies

Why Freedom from Torture?

Event at Stone House, Lewisham Way, SE4 1XF

Saturday 25 March, 6 - 8.15 pm



Freedom from Torture
Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture

Anyone, no matter their age or status, can find themselves a victim of torture if they live in a cruel or barbarous regime. Thankfully this country has always been a sanctuary for survivors

of torture. Our charity, 'Freedom from Torture' (www.freedomfromtorture.co.uk) does amazing work restoring some sort of normality to the lives of these unfortunate people. We are organising this event to give you an opportunity to learn more about what it means to be an asylum seeker who has survived torture and to learn of the help offered by Freedom from Torture.

The programme will consist of drinks and canapés in the beautifully restored 18th century 'Stone House', followed by a video and verbatim presentation: *An A-Z of Poverty. Discover the language of poverty that torture survivors and asylum seekers know all too well. An exploration of what it means to be poor in an unfamiliar country.*

Robin Ewart-Biggs, clinical services manager for Freedom from Torture, will then discuss how the charity works with survivors, followed by a question and answer session, as this is a subject clouded by rhetoric and prejudice.

We are putting on this informative and interesting evening so as to spread the word in South East London about the essential and uplifting work of Freedom from Torture. So please come yourself, bring a friend and forward this invitation to others you think may be interested.

There is small charge of £10 to cover costs. Places are limited, so please RSVP to matthew_delange@yahoo.co.uk (or phone 07711 599488) to reserve your seats. We will confirm your reservation and you can then pay on the door.

Thank you.

And if you'd like to take part in our **Promises Auction** to raise funds for Freedom from Torture you can donate a promise or bid for one at <https://auctionofpromises.com/2017AuctionforFFT>

SE London Freedom from Torture Committee

Helen Othen, Irene Maisey, Jill Jordan, Linda de Lange, Mark Rake, Matthew de Lange, Michael Maisey, Tony Othen

Council of Christians and Jews

South East London Branch

Tuesday 7 March at 8 pm

Refreshments from 7.45 pm

at Catford Synagogue,

6 Crantock Road, London, SE6 2QT



What is happening to Middle East refugees in South East Europe and South East London?

Our Panel reports from the front line:

Bea and Lucy are London professionals trying to help refugees in camps in Serbia;

Rev Paul Collier, Vicar of Copleston Church and Community Centre in Peckham, host of the Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers

What more can be done?

A Call to Action

For further details, please contact **Stephen Weil** through the synagogue office (020 8460 5460)

Shemesh summer camps: don't miss out!



Recruitment for RSY-Netzer's famous Shemesh summer camp is in full swing! Shemesh is a wonderful experience for young people to spend an extended period of time in a nurturing, friendly, Reform community, so don't miss out!

RSY-Netzer runs 5 residential camps for different age groups: Briyah (years 5 and 6), Shachar (year 7), Emunah (year 8), Reut (year 9), Atid (year 10). Briyah is 10 days long while all the other camps are 2 weeks long.

As the Zionist youth movement for Reform Judaism, RSY-Netzer wants to make sure that as many young members of our communities as possible have the opportunity to join them on Shemesh – so make sure to get your applications in before camp fills up! Emunah (year 8 camp) is more popular than ever this year, so apply soon to secure your place if you're interested in this particular year group. RSY-Netzer camps create a Jewish environment unlike any other, allowing *chanichim* (participants) to explore different ideas, discover their passions, tackle challenging questions and of course, make lots of friends. With a summer that's full of adventure, interesting and engaging learning, fun-filled days and nights spent with friends, what's not to love?! RSY-Netzer can't wait to see you on Shemesh this summer!

With all of our events we offer financial assistance to try to ensure that means is not a barrier to those who'd like to be a part of RSY-Netzer.

If you would like any more information about Shemesh you can find out more at the RSY-Netzer website (rsy-netzer.org.uk).

SERVICES

March 2017 – Adar/Nisan 5777

Fridays at 7 pm, unless otherwise stated.

Saturdays at 10.30 am, unless otherwise stated

Friday 3 March

Saturday 4 March

Terumah (6 Adar)

Friday 10 March

Saturday 11 March

Zachor (Tetzaveh - 13 Adar)

Erev Purim - service and megillah reading at 6.30 pm

Sunday 12 March

PURIM

Purim Spiel - 10 am in the shul

Friday 17 March

Saturday 18 March

Ki Tissa (Parah - 20 Adar)

Friday 24 March

Saturday 25 March

Ha Chodesh (Vayakhel-Pekudei - 27 Adar)

Tuesday 28 March

Rosh Chodesh Nisan

Friday 31 March

Saturday 1 April

Vayikra (5 Nisan)

Dedication of memorial plaque to the late Derek Wellbrook after the service

THE LIONEL BLUE MEMORIAL LECTURE

Speaker Dr John Sentamu

Most Rev and Rt Hon Archbishop of York

Wisdom, Futility, Death and Time:

The Voice of Religion in the 21st Century

Wednesday 15 March at 8pm

Alyth Synagogue, Alyth Gardens NW11

Doors Open: 7.45 pm - Refreshments

Tickets: Prepaid £10.00; on the door £15.00

(go to: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lionel-blue-lecture-tickets-29886180370)

Rabbi Lionel Blue OBE z"l 1930 – 2016

As a much loved broadcaster, prolific writer, congregational rabbi and convener of the Reform Beit Din, Lionel Blue z"l endeared himself to millions. He provided inspiration and wisdom to those who listened to him on the radio, read his books or sat opposite him.

Leo Baeck College is honoured to be hosting the first Lionel Blue Memorial Lecture as part of its 60th anniversary celebrations

Dr John Sentamu, Most Rev and Rt Hon Archbishop of York

Dr John Sentamu practised Law both at the Bar and at the Bench in Uganda before he came to the UK in 1974. He was ordained in 1979, was appointed Bishop for Stepney in 1996, Bishop for Birmingham in 2002 and Archbishop of York in 2005.

He is Primate of England and Metropolitan, a member of the House of Lords and a Privy Counsellor.



Dates for Your Diary

March

W	1	
Th	2	
F	3	
S	4	Terumah
S	5	Purim Spiel Rehearsal after Cheder Jewish Book Week ends
M	6	
T	7	CCJ meeting , 8 pm at Catford Shul
W	8	Social Centre , 10.30-2.30 at the Shul Talk by Alan Payne
Th	9	Talmud Study Gp , 10.30 am at the Shul Knit and Natter - 10.30-12 noon at Pauline's
F	10	
S	11	Zachor (Tetzaveh) Purim Spiel Rehearsal after the morning service Erev Purim - evening service and megillah reading at 6.30 pm
S	12	PURIM - Purim Spiel - 11 am in the Synagogue
M	13	
T	14	Synagogue AGM , 8 pm at the Shul
W	15	Inaugural Lionel Blue Memorial Lecture - 8 pm at Alyth Synagogue
Th	16	SE10 & beyond - Discussion on Israel
F	17	
S	18	Ki Tisa (Parah) Quiz Night at the Synagogue
S	19	
M	20	
T	21	
W	22	Social Centre , 10.30-2.30 at the Shul
Th	23	Talmud Study Gp , 10.30 am at the Shul
F	24	
S	25	Ha Chodesh (Vayakhel-Pekudei) Children's service Freedom from Torture meeting, 6-8.15 pm at Stone House, St. John's SE4
S	26	No Cheder today Nightingale Supper Quiz , 6.45 pm at Nightingale House
M	27	
T	28	Rosh Chodesh Nisan
W	29	
Th	30	
F	31	

April

S	1	Vayikra - Dedication of plaque in memory of the late Derek Wellbrook and special kiddush after the service
S	2	
M	3	
T	4	
W	5	
Th	6	Talmud Study Gp , 10.30 am at the Shul
F	7	
S	8	Hagadol (Tzav)
S	9	
M	10	Erev Pesach - First Seder Night
T	11	PESACH - Service at 10.30 am in the shul Communal Seder at 6 pm in the Garden Room
W	12	
Th	13	
F	14	
S	15	Chol Hamoed Pesach
S	16	
M	17	Seventh Day of Pesach - Service at 10.30 am in the shul
T	18	
W	19	
Th	20	Talmud Study Gp , 10.30 am at the Shul
F	21	
S	22	Shemini
S	23	
M	24	Yom Hashoah
T	25	
W	26	Social Centre , 10.30-2.30 at the Shul David Coronel and Tom Shiels entertain
Th	27	Rosh Chodesh Iyar
F	28	
S	29	Tazria-Metzora
S	30	Primo Levi reading - 11 am-8 pm at the Royal Festival Hall

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