

# HIGHLight

Bromley Reform Synagogue newsletter

## Remembering the six million



*Cheder pupils lit candles during the Yom Hashoah service to remember the six million who perished in the Holocaust*

## The Six Day War - 50 Years on



Our Chairman and our Rabbi comment: see pages 3 and 5

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## Jubilee Lecture 2017

**Sunday 4 June at 4 pm**

*Light refreshments from 3.30 pm*

**Jonathan Arkush**  
**President of the Board of**  
**Deputies of British Jews**



***Under Pressure -***  
***Can Our Community Cope?***

Further information from  
 the synagogue office, 020 8460 5460  
[janet@bromleyshul.org.uk](mailto:janet@bromleyshul.org.uk)

**June 2017 – Sivan-Tammuz 5777**

## Fifty years since the Six Day War – a personal view (from the Chair)

My first trip to Israel was as a teenager in 1965; I was one of a group of the Zionist youth movement, Habonim. What the new state had achieved in less than 20 years was amazing to see: flourishing kibbutzim with productive agriculture, rapidly growing cities with new housing that had provided homes for *olim* (immigrants), many of whom had previously been accommodated in tents, new roads and bridges; it was all happening.

Jerusalem was different: one moved back in time. As the bus climbed the hills in the approach to the city, we passed the old armoured cars that had failed to get supplies through to the besieged Jewish quarter of the city during the War of Independence. The western residential part of Jerusalem was pleasant with tree-lined streets but downtown King George Street and Ben Yehuda evoked the period of the British mandate and even the earlier Ottoman empire. The city was small, rather old fashioned and, despite being the capital, felt provincial. When taken up some steps in an old building, to gain a glimpse of the 'old city', there wasn't much to see except concrete walls and patrolling Jordanian soldiers. We were instructed not to point; that could invite fire from the Jordanians. The old Jewish quarter where Jews had lived for centuries had been in the enemy's hands since the fighting stopped in 1948 and no Jew could enter.

**May 1967** - at the request of President Nasser of Egypt, the Secretary General of the United Nations, U Thant, had withdrawn UN peacekeeping troops from Sinai. Those troops were supposed to ensure that Egypt and Israel would not confront each other again as they had last done in 1956. Now they were gone and Nasser was free to bring his 100,000 troops up to Israel's border with the intention of invading and fulfilling his declared aim of destroying the State of Israel or 'Occupied Palestine' as he preferred to call it. A few days later he ordered a blockade of the Straits of Tiran, thereby preventing all shipping to and from Israel's southern port of Eilat – an act of war. Israel mobilised its army. Diplomatic attempts to avert war came to nothing. It was unthinkable that Israel would be destroyed but the combined mobilised forces of Egypt, Syria and

Jordan surrounding the tiny Jewish state seemed overwhelming. At the very least, it seemed inevitable that there would be massive losses of soldiers and civilians. The days ticked by; it was only a matter of when they would invade.

**5 June** – the news came through on the radio - Israel's air force had carried out a pre-emptive strike on the Egyptian air force that morning, destroying virtually all their planes on their ground. Egypt denied it but we knew it was true; Israel never made false claims of that nature. It was brilliant; one could breathe a sigh of relief. Whatever followed, it was clear that Israel controlled the skies and would survive.

Israel told King Hussein of Jordan that he would not be attacked if he did not join in but sadly he preferred to believe the Egyptian propaganda and they started shelling. Israel responded; the fighting was fierce, some of it hand-to-hand combat with heavy losses but within a few days the Jordanian troops had vacated the hills around the city and the old Jewish quarter including the temple mount leaving them in Israeli hands.

Further north, in the Galilee, where Israeli kibbutzim had been fired on for years by Syrian troops entrenched on the Golan Heights, Israel's tanks had started climbing the steep slopes. Despite the landmines and the constant fire, they pushed back the Syrians up to Qalqilya and beyond, until Israeli troops could look over the plateau to Damascus in the distance.

As we all know, the war lasted just six days and Israel's victory was total. People talked of a miracle. Jews all over the world flocked into synagogues. More than 700 Israeli soldiers had lost their lives and over 4000 injured but these losses would not be in vain. The Arabs would have no choice but to make peace, recognise the State of Israel and negotiate a deal over the land they had lost. It was not to be; the Arabs held a conference in September and swore "No peace, No recognition, No negotiation".

Then the debate started on what should be done about the conquered trans-Jordanian territories known by their Biblical names in Israel as Judah and Samaria but by the rest of the world as 'The West Bank'. The Arabs had

lost these territories in needless war; Israel had a rightful claim to them but did it want to be an occupier ruling over a large Arab population living in this territory? The demographic problem was going to be the issue.

A senior politician, **Yigal Allon**, drew up a sensible division of the land. If the Arabs wouldn't make peace, a unilateral withdrawal to defensible borders that would return most of the Arab population to Arab rule was a practical solution. Tragically, Israel's leaders belittled the problem; they were riding high; the army was invincible; the Arabs were powerless, so no action was taken for six years.

During that time Israelis did some good work. My own taste of this was as a visiting medical student in the summer of 1973 when I joined the Consultant in Paediatrics at Ashkelon Hospital doing outpatient clinics in nearby Gaza. There were many children with congenital and chronic diseases who had been neglected. Some were brought back to Ashkelon to receive treatment and care. Sadly, such actions don't solve the big problems. I remember feeling frustrated at the time at the Israelis' complacency. Then, on Yom Kippur 1973, the arrogant Israeli government and army were caught off guard and unprepared when the Arabs attacked. Israel survived at tremendous cost but the Arabs had regained their pride. Negotiations followed a few years later when President Sadat visited Israel leading to the return of the Sinai to Egypt but Arab terrorism in the form of the PLO and other groups had become firmly established and no deal was done on the West Bank.

Negotiations have taken place several times during the last fifty years and everyone knows what a final deal will look like but the intransigence of extremists on both sides has prevented progress. Israeli society is totally divided on the issue. Good will, cooperation, a spirit of compromise and trust seem as far away as ever but we Jews have to be optimists despite our problems. Let us hope it will not take another fifty years before the peace can be won.

**John Posner**, Chairman

## Remembering Ivor Lask - Avraham ben Tzvi

Ivor Lask, who died on April 24, was born in 1929 to Herzl and Rachel. Ivor's older brother, Austin, was born a year earlier. When Ivor was just six years old, his father Herzl died. At that young age, Ivor and Austin left their childhood home in Liverpool and went to the Norwood Jewish orphanage. Both Austin and Ivor would say that, from the time that they were small boys, they were on their own and relied on one another. Not a day went by for the rest of their lives when they didn't speak. No two brothers were ever closer than Austin and Ivor.

As a teenager, Ivor continued his schooling at Battersea Grammar School. He briefly worked for Thomas Cook after school in Liverpool, as that was where the boats came in. Ivor served for three years in the Royal Navy. Austin had joined the year prior to Ivor and so Ivor said that there was a history of his family serving in the Navy. Ivor joked that it was in the Navy that he found religion. His captain said to him, "Oh, you're Jewish? I suppose that you'll want all of the holidays off then." Ivor responded, "Oh, yes sir." Ivor's job was to work in the stores, where one of his responsibilities was to give out the rum, making him very popular.

After the Navy, Ivor was a clockmaker with Austin, who worked on watches. Back then, it was common for jewellers to also make lenses for eyeglasses. This led first Austin and then Ivor to study optometry. Ivor qualified as an optometrist in 1959 and worked in private practice as well as in local hospitals. He was endlessly fascinated with his work and was always looking for ways to expand what he did. That is why he went into hospitals. He would lecture nurses on the aging eye, he worked at the PRUH regularly in the optical department and worked Wednesday evenings at London Refraction Hospital, where he pioneered the use of hypnosis to cure double vision. He was also an examiner for the Optical Association. When he retired twelve years ago, at the age of 75, Ivor was awarded for his services to the NHS, and particularly in establishing a diabetic screening programme, with an MBE in the New Year Honours List.

Family was most important to Ivor. He met Hilda in 1952 at a Jewish dance on Finchley Road on a Sunday night. He asked for Hilda's phone number, but when she gave it to him, he failed to write it down. No worries. Ivor's

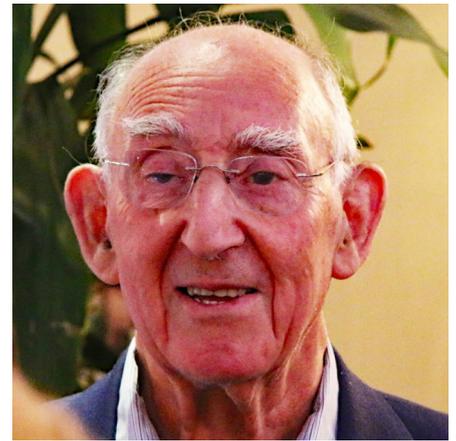
memory was fantastic. They married two years later in 1954 and have a lifetime of treasured memories together. They have two children, Hugh and Laura. As children, Hugh and Laura both remember their father as a very hard working man. They talk about his wit, humility and kindness.

Ivor was a loving and very proud grandfather of Maia, Naomi, Molly, Emma and Alice. Like the rest of the family, Ivor was devastated by the loss of Alice. Ivor remembered his own father teaching him chess, so Ivor in turn taught his granddaughters how to play as well. He also loved taking them to their cottage in France.

Ivor had several different interests and hobbies. He was a writer and had a column in the *Private Eye* magazine. He became friendly with a colleague in Peckham who worked with hearing aids. The two of them decided to get together and write a musical. They also wrote a comedy and jokes. One of Ivor's most repeated lines requires a bit of knowledge of French, "Why do the French only have one egg for breakfast? Because an oeuf is an oeuf."

Ivor was an artist. As Ivor was very busy, Hilda signed up for an art class. One day, Ivor asked her to leave the paint out and some time later, he had finished his own work of art, and now that is hanging in their home

Ivor was also a great public speaker. He was trained to speak by the Association of Jewish ex-Servicemen, Ajax. As part of his training, he was expected to be able to give a speech on any occasion at the drop of a hat and always knowing exactly what to say. Ivor was a member of the Fabian society, promoting socialist values, and he would go to Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park and speak out against fascism. More recently, one day when Ivor was in the hospital, the physiotherapists managed to get him to stand up holding onto a zimmer frame. As he stood, he looked around the ward and, in his best speaking voice, thanked everyone for coming. When one of his granddaughters arrived to see him, he looked up and said "grandchildren: all of the pleasure with none of the responsibility". When it was pointed out that Hugh and Shane and Laura and Michael still had that to look forward to, he instantly replied "would you like one of mine?" As Hugh says, "Right to the end, in his more lucid moments his humour shone through. He often had us,



and himself, crying with laughter at the jokes he was making."

Ivor had the ultimate DIY project—a cottage in France that he and Hilda purchased in 1973 following a holiday. When they first arrived at their cottage, the roof had collapsed, there was no back wall, no water, and perhaps a few other things that needed doing. Ivor, his family, and various friends as well, have helped him to fix the place up and, after forty four years, the family believes that it is nearly finished. As Laura says, quoting rabbinic writings, "It is not up to you to finish the task, but neither can you refrain from doing your part." The cottage in France has been a very special place to the entire family, as well as many friends who have spent time there as well.

Ivor was a pillar of the Jewish community. Perhaps the best way to talk about what being Jewish meant to Ivor is to say it in reverse—what Ivor meant to the Jewish community, which is impossible to overstate. Ivor and Hilda were not only founding members of Bromley Reform Synagogue, but Ivor was part of a small team that worked hard to establish the synagogue and then transform 28 Highland Road into our community's home. Responding to an advert in the JC, Ivor and Hilda went to the home of John and Joan Fry to discuss Reform Judaism and establishing a religion school. Many people showed up, but not only did Ivor and Hilda sign on, they invested themselves immensely. Ivor took on multiple roles. First, he was a member of the steering group charged with establishing the synagogue and served as the first Honorary Secretary. He was also instrumental, along with Sid Grant and David Barnett, in the work of transforming 28 Highland Road into Bromley Reform Synagogue. Not

*continued on page 4*

## Remembering Ivor Lask, cont. from p. 4

stopping there, he was the first editor of the synagogue newsletter and wrote a regular column, “Emet” or truth. With all of Ivor’s work, one could easily say that he was central in both creating a community as well as building a home for that community. Ivor, Hilda and the rest of the founding members really did help to make the synagogue into a community in the truest sense of the word. As just one example, early on, Friday nights were big at the shul, but they did not end with services. Afterwards, people always went to someone’s house for coffee and cake. The founders all became close friends.

Ivor went on to serve as Chairman of the synagogue from 1979-1981, a role that Hilda took up in turn about ten years later. One of the big motivations for Hilda and Ivor in becoming so involved in Bromley Reform Synagogue was all the other families who had children of a similar age. Ivor and Hilda made lifelong friends at the synagogue, and they gave that gift to their children too, who still meet up with the other founding children of Bromley on a regular basis. Following in their parents’ footsteps, both Hugh and Laura served the synagogue in their time, Hugh as Treasurer and Chairman and Laura as Honorary Secretary, and I should mention Shane’s current service on our Board and Michael’s work as the architect of the synagogue’s expansion and renovation as well. It’s right to say that for the synagogue, Ivor and Hilda helped make “*L’dor vador*” “from generation to generation” more than a line, but a reality. Ivor has been a Vice President of our synagogue since 2000. Ivor’s service to the Jewish community is not limited to our synagogue. He also served as Chairman of the South West London Society which raises funds for Nightingale Home.

The recent months have been very difficult with Ivor in hospital. Until the end of December, there had not been any indication that there was anything wrong with him at all. He went very quickly from an active 87-year old belying his years to being a patient who would spend his last few months in hospital. These last months were very hard, but softened by the love and care of family. However, those last months do not define his life. Rather, he will be remembered for many other things, including, though not limited to, his immensely successful

*continued at foot of next column*

## It Takes Two ...

Fifty years ago this month, Israel prevailed in the 1967 Six Day War. Israel, less than twenty years old at that point and having been previously attacked by her neighbours, was again faced with an existential threat. For Israel, the 1967 war was one of self-defence and entirely justifiable against belligerent neighbours.

As a result of the 1967 war, though, Israel came into possession of a massive amount of territory, including the Golan Heights (previously part of Syria), the West Bank, all of Jerusalem, including the Old City and Western Wall (all previously part of Jordan), the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula (all previously part of Egypt). The Golan Heights, towering over much of northern Israel, was annexed. If it hadn’t it likely would have been under either ISIS control or Syria’s Assad. Instead, it’s currently home to a ski resort and some fantastic wineries. You won’t see me arguing that the annexation was wrong. The Sinai Peninsula went back to Egypt as part of a peace treaty in 1979. As part of the treaty, Egypt received the Peninsula, agreed to keep it demilitarised, and normalised relations with Israel, the first Arab country to do so. This was a great outcome. Israel unilaterally withdrew from the Gaza Strip in 2006, but the terrorist group Hamas filled the vacuum. The West Bank and the entirety of Jerusalem is still under Israeli control, with the number of Jewish settlers growing.

One could say Israel won a just war, fair and square and, when that happens, it’s expected that territory will change hands. Certainly there are ancient Jewish claims and interests in the Old City of Jerusalem as well as the West Bank (just read the Bible, many sites in the West Bank are there).

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*Remembering Ivor Lask, cont. from col. 1*  
career, his commitment and dedication to our synagogue, and his deep love for his friends and family and the way in which he went about things—with commitment, dedication, wit, humility, and kindness.

Ivor meant so much to so many people. He lived his life fully, with passion and love for his work, his community and most importantly, his family. May Ivor’s memory be an inspiration and blessing to all.

**Rabbi Jason Holtz**

*Hesped delivered at Ivor’s funeral on 26 April 2017*

But there are other considerations as well. The big one is that several million people live in the West Bank and, if Israel wants to be a democracy, it can’t indefinitely



rule over those millions without giving them equal rights. Of course, if Israel were to annex the West Bank in the same way it did the Golan Heights, granting equal citizenship to everyone living there, it would diminish the Jewish character of the state. Israeli policy has gone back and forth, with some governments, such as the current Israeli government, encouraging Jewish settlers to live in the West Bank, thus making a two-state solution more difficult, while other governments, such as those of Yitzchak Rabin or Ehud Barak, working to make the two-state plan a reality.

It’s not fair to put the blame entirely on any one side. Israel captured the territory in defence, and has made real, genuine attempts at peace, only to be turned down. This is one reason why the Boycott-Divest-Sanction movement against Israel (and only Israel) is so unfair. Yet that does not mean that Israel can say we tried and we won’t try any more. Doing anything that could hurt the prospects of a future two-state solution, such as expanding the settlements, is counterproductive and something that Israel can control entirely. In and of itself, stopping all settlements won’t bring peace. Israel did that in Gaza and has fought several times there since. But expanding the Israeli settlements in the West Bank not only won’t help, but makes an eventual two-state solution less likely. Israel is not the only party with responsibility, but it is a party with responsibility.

At fifty years of Israeli rule over the West Bank, Israel needs to be doing everything possible to reach a negotiated settlement to withdraw from the West Bank, realising that it’s not entirely up to them, to bring about a two-state solution. Without two states, then both the democratic and Jewish nature of Israel are at stake.

It takes two sides to agree to an end to the status quo. The Palestinian Authority needs to step up and agree to peace, but Israel also has work to do.

**Rabbi Jason Holtz**

## Cheder News

Hello, all of you interested in our Cheder News! Here's what's been happening:

1. We celebrated **Israeli Independence Day** with a mini-*ulpan* lead by special Israeli guest teacher, **Sarit Chen**. The children took a pretend 'trip to Israel' and had great fun learning everything from colours and shapes to how to say, "I'm from Manchester and I'm going to Jerusalem"! We then tasted falafel, hummus and pittas, with Israeli flag cupcakes. Have a look at our website if you'd like to see the pictures.
2. This term, your children will be raising money for the **Retired Greyhound Trust**, which looks after the dogs when they can no longer race. It ties in nicely with the mitzvah called "*Tza'ar Ba'alei Chaim*" or not causing suffering to animals. It is a Jewish principle that can be traced back to Talmudic times. Please support your children's efforts to keep this double mitzvah by sending in your spare pennies once a week. Believe me, they do add up!
3. Our once-termly **Children's Service** will take place this term on **Saturday, 17 June**. As usual, Cheder will be cancelled on **Sunday, 18 June** to allow you to come to this event (and to enjoy Father's Day at home). These services are now integrated into our Cheder curriculum, as we want the children to use the Hebrew they've been learning and become comfortable in our synagogue. Please do come along with your children and show them why synagogue is important to you too. Hooray Cheder (our parent group) leader **Michelle Brooks Evans** will be in touch to let you know what to bring to our Bring and Share Kiddush, but if you'd like to contact her first, just email her at hooraycheder@gmail.com.
4. Don't forget, we'll be going on a **Cheder School Trip to the Jewish Museum** in Camden Town on **Sunday, 2 July**. If your child is going, but you have not yet given me a signed permission form, please do so or your child will not be allowed to attend. If parents would like to join us, please speak to me about meeting us there for a day that's been designed just for our Cheder.



*Kittah Bet show the flags they made for Yom Ha'Atzmaut*

5. Our **Youth Club** for children from 12-19 is still happening under the leadership of **Hayley Preston**. May's Youth Club took place at the bowling alley, so if you've got an older child sitting at home, pry their fingers off those iPods and get them to Youth Club, once a month after Cheder. Remember, if they don't use it, they'll lose it! Next date for Youth Club: **Saturday, 17 June**, which will be an oneg after the Children's Service.
6. And, finally, a reminder that **Kittah Chet** will be hosting their annual Chet Service as their final act as Cheder children. The service will take place on **Saturday, 15 July**, so do come along and see what our oldest children can do and what our younger children are aiming to do!

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

Enjoy a happy and healthy June,

**Vicki**, Cheder Head Teacher

### Cheder Security Rota, Shavuot Term, 2017

Sundays	
4 June	Gavin Nathanson
11 June	Benjie Butler
Sat 17 June: <b>Children's Service no Sunday Cheder</b>	
25 June	Michael Abrahams
2 July	Trip to Jewish Museum
9 July	Len Campling
16 July	Kieron Hyams

## Social Centre News

The Social Centre met on 24 April and we had a lot of catching up to do after the holidays. One of our members had been to Helsinki to see the World Skating Championships and it was interesting to hear her account of the trip. We thought it was great that she was able to fulfil one of her life's ambitions at her age (her words).

Andreas came to put us through our exercises and then we had our usual excellent lunch, after which our 'resident' DJ's **Dave** and **Tom** came to give us another selection of their records. (It seems they are resident, as they do come regularly and obviously enjoy their visits, as we do). The music ranged from French accordion music to Kenneth McKellar singing (only people over a certain age will remember him) to Ella Fitzgerald and Jimmy Lunceford's big band, which got us all tapping our feet. They also played Robert Donat reciting Wordsworth's poem "On Westminster Bridge", which was very moving in view of the incident last month.

We met again on 10 May when, after our usual welcoming coffee, we played Rummicub and had our exercises conducted by Andreas. Rabbi Jason and Jodi with Asher came to join us for lunch and it was nice to see how the baby is progressing.

**Carole Brown** then came to give us a talk about the **Women's Land Army**, which started in the First World War and was restarted in the Second World War. Because so many men had to join the army there was a great need for the women to take over the work on the farms. They were employed to do all the work on the farms, including market gardening and forestry. The only work they were not allowed to do was housework.

Posters encouraging girls to sign up showed an idyllic life on the land, which did not always live up to the reality of the hard work the women - many of whom came from an urban environment and suffered from homesickness - had to do.

The talk was very well illustrated and, although some of us thought it might prove to be dull, I am sure we all found it interesting to hear about this extremely important work that women contributed in two world wars.

**Zelda Stone**

**Future programme: 'Take the Mike'** are coming on **14 June** to give one of their clever musical entertainments, while all are welcome to come and shmooze on **Wednesday, 28 June**.

## Social and Personal

**BIRTH** - A hearty mazal tov to **Rebecca** (née Miles) and **Arun Advani** on the arrival of their daughter **Leora Kiran**, born on 19 April, a first grandchild for **Joanna Koenigsberg** and **Tim Miles**.

Further congratulations are due to the new baby's father **Arun**, who recently passed his PhD exam.

**STONE SETTING** - The consecration of the tombstone in loving memory of the late **Norman Goldberg** will take place on **Sunday, 25 June at 2.45 pm** at the Western Cemetery, Bulls Cross Ride, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, EN7 5 AG

### GET WELL SOON

Pauline Jeffree writes: We are thinking of and wishing well those of our members who are unwell at this time.

### Thanks to the congregation

**Hilda Lask**, together with **Hugh** and **Laura**, would like to thank **Rabbi Jason Holtz** and all at Bromley for their kind words of sympathy and comfort on the sad loss of **Ivor**.

### Welcome to New Member -

**Ms Katia Pisetzky** of Green Street Green.

### SE10 and beyond Michelle Brooks Evans reports:

We will next meet on **Monday, 5 June**, when **Leah Levane** will be reporting back on her trip to Israel and Palestine as part of a group attempting to foster understanding and harmony. Leah will be sharing this journey with 200 other Jewish people, so it should be a very interesting evening.

We always bring drinks and nibbles to share with our group. If you would like details just contact me via the synagogue on 020 8460 5460.

### Talmud Study Course

The June dates for the Talmud Study course are **Thursdays, 1 and 22 June, from 10.30-11.45 am**.

*For more information, please contact Rabbi Jason Holtz on 020 8460 5460*

## Bat Mitzvah Girl



*Hannah Woosnam-Savage photographed with her parents after her bat mitzvah on 20 May*

## 70,273 Project - Red Crosses A message from Ann Fried

If you have a completed block for inclusion in this project - please let us have it!

The end date for completion is not far away and we want to include as many finished blocks as possible.

You can either leave them at the synagogue (marked for **Ann Fried**) or give them to me when you see me.

Thanks

**Ann Fried**

020 8778 5938

### Stroke Awareness

**Sunday, 30 July at 4 p.m.**  
**Refreshments from 3.30 p.m.**  
**in the Garden Room**

In the UK someone has a stroke every five minutes.

We will welcome a speaker from the **Stroke Association**, who will talk to us about all aspects of stroke, including how to reduce your risk of stroke and the wonderful work the Stroke Association is doing.

All are welcome to come. In the future you may be pleased you did!

Further information from **Janet Burlem** in the synagogue office (020 8460 5460).

**Stroke**  
association

## Crochet, Sew, Knit & Natter

**Thursday, 22 June,**  
**from 10.00 am at Pauline's**

Please do you have any spare brightly coloured patterned material of animals, cars and birds? The pictures of the covers sent to us from KCH show how the incubator covers are used. The parents choose the pattern they want to cover their baby's incubator and keep the covers. The ICU has sleep time from 3 pm. The lights are dimmed and the incubator tops are covered with the covers we have made. Thank you so much for supporting this project.

Love, **Pauline**



*A nurse shows one of the pretty incubator covers*

The following thank you letter was received from the King's College Hospital unit:

"My name is **Karen Powell** and I'm very privileged to be a nursery nurse and breastfeeding advisor on the neonatal / SCBU at Kings College Hospital, London. I'm on my 28th year of working there.

Pauline and her team of wonderful knitters do the most amazing job of providing us with beautifully knitted clothes for the tiny premature babies. They also knit the most snuggly cot blankets and they sew incubator covers.

The experience of having a sick baby is an extremely stressful one, so to be able to give mums these things made with so much love and care is so special and really helps them to bond with their babies.

I have just given Pauline a new project to make woollen teddies for the bereaved parents.

I and my team would like to thank them from the bottom of our hearts."

## Raymond Goldman z"l

*Reform Judaism mourns Raymond Goldman who has died in Israel. He was 87.*

Raymond was instrumental in the leadership and development of the RSGB – Reform Synagogues of Great Britain - which later became The Movement for Reform Judaism.

Raymond was connected with Alyth since his parents became members in 1935, when he entered the religion school. He taught at the school, chaired the Alyth Jewish Fellowship and was a warden. From 1964-1966 he served as the community's Vice-Chair and as Chair from 1997-2000.

Heavily involved in the development of a Reform youth movement, Raymond was elected to chair the YASGB (the Youth Association of the Synagogues of Great Britain, forerunner of today's RSY-Netzer) in 1950 and it was here he met his future wife Joy. He represented the YASGB and Alyth on the RSGB Council.

Many newly established congregations welcomed Raymond to conduct their services but it was to Finchley Reform Synagogue that he gave much of his time at the community's establishment in 1960. In the late 1960s he was a key member of the YASGB Commission chaired by his dear friend **Neville Sassienie**, which produced *Towards the Seventies*, the report of the commission, a key recommendation of which was the creation of the position of Youth Development Officer.

In 1966, he relinquished a directorship in a family business to accept RSGB's first professional position, that of its General Secretary, and in 1979 became its first Executive Director based initially at West London Synagogue, then for a short time in Swiss Cottage, and finally at the Sternberg Centre in Finchley, taking a key role in these moves and the establishment of the Centre. On taking up his post he stated that his ambition was "to make RSGB articulate to its own membership and to build a movement of committed Jews" and to see it "playing the full and influential role which was its right in Anglo-Jewry".

For three decades he worked tirelessly in a variety of areas and administered the RSGB's transition to being a major component of British Jewish life, providing a constant



presence internally and promoting its message externally. An important ingredient in Raymond's success was the ability to work with the hundreds of different council members and synagogue representatives with whom he had contact. Equally impressive was the patience and tact he displayed throughout the thousands of hours of committee meetings he attended.

Raymond retired in 1995. He and his wife made aliyah, moving to Israel four and half years ago to be close to his family, firstly to Rehovot and more recently to a retirement home in Protea Ba'har near to Jerusalem.

He is survived by his wife Joy, daughters Karen and Deborah and three grandchildren.

May his memory be a blessing.

**Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner**, Senior Rabbi to Reform Judaism said: "Raymond set the bar very high with his drive for excellence, learning and achievements. As well as his outstanding professionalism, his unique deep voice resounded through our conferences and services bringing a depth of knowledge and wisdom to our Movement".

**David Jacobs**, who served as Director for Synagogue Partnership for the Movement for Reform Judaism and was a lifelong family friend and long-standing colleague said: "This marks the passing of a generation and the end of an era. Raymond served the RSGB and the wider Jewish community with great distinction and an absolute dedication. He was the consummate Jewish civil servant with a passion for the development of Reform Judaism".

*Source MRJ website*

## The Chosen

The top 10?

The top 20?

Things we must do before we're 30 or 40?

Places we must visit before we die?

Modern life is full of lists, so perhaps that's why the Education Committee's one, entitled *Your Favourite Biblical Character* was so popular.

Eighteen people enjoyed supper after the Friday night service on April 21. Then each of them talked about their favourite character.

There were interesting choices, chosen for equally interesting reasons – Leah, because she seemed like an also-ran, or, perhaps, less favoured than Rachel.

Joshua was a favourite. His *yahrzeit* was, coincidentally, that Shabbat.

Sarah was another favourite – presented in the first person, which made her story personal and immediate.

Job made an appearance, as an example of the perennial question 'Why do bad things happen to good people?'

Whether these characters were archetypes or historical figures is another discussion and a potentially fascinating one. But what was important was that something about their personalities or stories reached out across the centuries and touched us.

It was an enjoyable and stimulating evening, worth repeating, with another collection of favourites – suggestions are always welcome.

Who or what are next? It's your choice.

Many thanks to everyone who made this evening possible.

*From our Roving Reporter*

### JEWISH FOOD FESTIVAL 2017

Sunday, 25 June, 10.30 am-5 pm  
JW3, 341-351 Finchley Road,  
London NW3 6ET

Doors open at 10 am

A day out for all the family including a fantastic programme of children's activities

All-day food court in the piazza at JW3 with a wide variety of delicious samples and flavours

Book online at  
[jw3.org.uk/gefiltefest](http://jw3.org.uk/gefiltefest)

## JMI Summer Schools and Festival of Music 6 -11 August, London

JMI (Jewish Music Institute) welcomes you to an exciting and original summer programme of language, song, music and dance for people of all backgrounds. During the second week in August, central London will be the location for a world class faculty of linguists, singers, musicians and dance experts from the USA, UK and Europe to come together to teach in the four JMI summer schools.

In the JMI booklet you will find information on the following four courses:

- **Ot Azoy!**: One week fully immersive course in Yiddish Language and culture.
- **The Golden Peacock**: Yiddish Song School for singers of all abilities.
- **Klezfest**: the world famous summer school in Klezmer music for all.
- **Tants, Tants, Tants!** JMI's unique East European, Klezmer and Israeli dance course

During the week, each course will hold events open to the public.

Full information about these events and JMI's summer programme can be found in the JMI booklet. To obtain your copy go to one of the following:

Tel : 020 7898 4307

Web: [www.jmi.org.uk](http://www.jmi.org.uk)

Email: [jewishmusic@jmi.org.uk](mailto:jewishmusic@jmi.org.uk)

### South London Archives Roadshow

**When?** Sunday, 11 June, 3 – 5 pm

**Where?** Mosaic Jewish Primary School, 170 Roehampton Lane, Roehampton, London, SW15 4EU

Join us for World Jewish Relief's South London Archives Roadshow - a free afternoon event for the whole family.

Bring your family records to discuss with our historians or bring your family details to search our database.

Learn about the Kindertransport and the rescue of tens of thousands of adults during the 1930s and 40s.

The event is free but you must reserve your place as space is limited. Looking forward to seeing you there!

**To reserve a free ticket** call 020 8736 1250 or go to **World Jewish Relief**

<http://secondgeneration.org.uk/wp/?p=1554>

## SERVICES

**June 2017 – Sivan/Tammuz 5777**

*Fridays at 7 pm, unless otherwise stated.*

*Saturdays at 10.30 am, unless otherwise stated*

**Friday 2 June**

**Saturday 3 June** *Naso* (8 Sivan)

**Friday 9 June**

**Saturday 10 June** *Beha'alotecha* (15 Sivan)

**Friday 16 June**

**Saturday 17 June** *Shelach Lecha* (22 Sivan)

**Friday 23 June**

**Saturday 24 June** *Korach* (29 Sivan)

**Sunday 25 June**

**Rosh Chodesh Tammuz**

**Friday 30 June**

**Saturday 1 July** *Chukat* (7 Tammuz)

**Council of Christians and Jews  
South East London Branch**

### Guided visit to Oxford on Tuesday 6 June

the old Jewish medieval quarter, and places associated with early translations of the Bible into English

**Tour 1: Medieval Jewish Oxford**

**Tour 2: Bible Translation Tour**

**Our guide in Oxford:**

**Victoria Bentata Azaz, MA** (Oxon), AITG

Oxford Green Badge Guide, Member Oxford Guild of Guides,

**Price per person for guide and college visit: £12 - £15**

**For reservations, please contact Stephen Weil** through the synagogue

Tel.: 020 8460 5460

### South London Jewish Youth Group

The next event will be held on **Sunday, 25 June at 3.30 pm** at **Wimbledon Synagogue, 1 Queensmere Road, SW19** and will consist of a variety of fun activities.

After the amazing success of the last youth club, when we had almost 60 children, we hope you can attend and get to know each other better and meet some more new friends from the other South London communities. Please feel free to tell your family and friends and pop the dates in your diaries. Please ping me a quick e-mail to confirm you're able to come.

Looking forward to seeing you then.

**Stephen King**

E-mail: [stephenking32@sky.com](mailto:stephenking32@sky.com),

Tel: 07984 185407

### Bromley WIZO-Eretz – June programme

The next event will showcase some wonderful jewellery with **Sophie Daniels**. Join us on **Sunday, 25 June** at the home of **Marilyn Burchell** (contact Marilyn via the synagogue tel: 020 8460 5460) from 2.00 pm, including tea/coffee and refreshments – donation £5.

If you have not yet sent your **Jewish Women's Week** donation to **Jean Garelick** it is still not too late to do so.

Look out for our next interesting speaker (date to be announced) -

A talk by **Trudi Sealy** on her family's history and their sojourns around the world.

# Dates for Your Diary

June

Th	1	<b>Talmud Study Gp</b> , 10.30 am at the Shul
F	2	
S	3	<b>Naso</b>
S	4	<b>Jubilee Lecture</b> by Jonathan Arkush, 4 pm at the Shul - refreshments from 3.30 pm
M	5	<b>SE 10 and Beyond</b> - Talk by Leah Levane
T	6	<b>CCJ - Guided Tour of Jewish Oxford</b>
W	7	
Th	8	<b>Talmud Study Gp</b> , 10.30 am at the Shul
F	9	
S	10	<b>Beha'alotecha</b>
S	11	<b>Rabbi Jason Holtz on Maimonides</b> - 10-11 am at the Shul <b>WJR Archives Road Show</b> - 3pm at Roehampton
M	12	
T	13	
W	14	<b>Social Centre</b> , 10.30-2.30 at the Shul - <i>Take the Mike</i> entertain
Th	15	<b>Talmud Study Gp</b> , 10.30 am at the Shul
F	16	
S	17	<b>Shelach Lecha - Children's Service</b> followed by Youth Club
S	18	<b>No Cheder today!</b>
M	19	
T	20	
W	21	
Th	22	<b>Talmud Study Gp</b> , 10.30 am at the Shul <b>Knit &amp; Natter</b> , from 10 am at Pauline's
F	23	
S	24	<b>Korach</b>
S	25	<b>Rosh Chodesh Tammuz</b> <b>SLYG</b> - 3.30 pm at Wimbledon Shul <b>WIZO-Eretz</b> - 2 pm at Marilyn Burchell's
M	26	
T	27	
W	28	<b>Social Centre</b> , 10.30-2.30 at the Shul
Th	29	
F	30	

## Shirei Chagigah

Reform Judaism's Biennial Music Conference

**6-9 July 2017**

Join us if you... lead music or prayer in a synagogue, cheder or camp.

Join us for... the community, the singing or just for an inspirational few days of beautiful music.

**Contact:** sarita.robinson@reformjudaism.org.uk

July

S	1	<b>Chukat</b>
S	2	<b>Cheder visit to Jewish Museum</b>
M	3	
T	4	
W	5	
Th	6	
F	7	
S	8	<b>Balak - Bar Mitzvah of Seb Farmar</b>
S	9	
M	10	
T	11	
W	12	<b>Social Centre</b> - 10.30 am - 2.30 pm at the Shul
Th	13	
F	14	
S	15	<b>Pinchas - Service led by Kittah Chet</b>
S	16	<b>Cheder Term ends</b>
M	17	
T	18	
W	19	
Th	20	
F	21	
S	22	<b>Mattot-Ma'asei - Bar Mitzvah of Zachariah Fischer</b>
S	23	
M	24	<b>Rosh Chodesh Av</b>
T	25	
W	26	<b>Social Centre</b> - 10.30 am - 2.30 pm at the Shul
Th	27	
F	28	
S	29	<b>Devarim</b>
S	30	<b>Talk</b> by member of the <b>Stroke Association</b> - from 3.30 pm at the shul
M	31	<b>Erev Tisha b'Av</b>

## Reform Youth 70th Anniversary Celebration

**Save the date! Sunday 24 September 2017**

Were you part of YASGB or RSY or RSY-Netzer? Would you like to join us to celebrate 70 years since the start of Reform Youth? To register an interest, please go to:  
<https://tinyurl.com/Reform-Youth-70th-Anniversary>

For more information, email **Sonia Leigh** on sonia.leigh@rjuk.org or call her on 020 8349 5674.

Do you know others that have been involved over the last 70 years? For many of us our friends now were also friends then. Please let them know about this event by forwarding this message to them, as we would be delighted if they could join us too!

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