

# HIGHLight

Bromley Reform Synagogue newsletter

September 2017 – T'Rosh Hashanah 5778



The older children of the Gan received their graduation certificates at the end of term on 16 July before passing on to Kittah Aleph of the Cheder



The Three Faiths Baby and Toddler Group held its first meeting in the Garden Room on Thursday, 6 July

## JOIN THE WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING



Every cake shared helps Macmillan make a huge difference to people facing cancer.

No one should face **CANCER** alone



Friday September 29th  
from 10.00 to 12 noon  
at  
Bromley Reform Synagogue,  
28 Highland Rd,  
Bromley, BR1 4AD

Your participation means that we can;

- Fund more nurses
- Provide more information about cancer
- Help with the provision of financial support
- Man more Macmillan support lines
- Be with people when they need us most

Entrance £5 for unlimited coffee, tea, soft drinks and cakes

All proceeds go to **MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT**

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### Selichot Service

**Saturday, 16 September  
7.30 pm in the Synagogue**

Get in the mood for the High Holydays and be reminded of the traditional tunes.

## Autumn is Approaching - View from the Chair

I hope you've had a good summer. Autumn is approaching and the kids will be returning to school. Our Cheder and pre-Cheder (Gan) will also be restarting on Sunday, 10 September. Our shul started as a Cheder over 50 years ago and the Cheder remains one of the great strengths of our community. The Shema instructs us to teach our children when at home and outside the home and over the years our dedicated Cheder teachers have provided the basis of a Jewish education for generations of children, many of whom have become teachers themselves. **Vicki** and her team continue that tradition of excellence limited only by the time available.

It's never too early for the kids to start and our Gan has been an outstanding success since it began some 3 years ago. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to **Tracy Frankel** and **Sue Bowyer**. Sadly Tracy has decided to retire from the Gan but no doubt she will be contributing to the shul in other ways. I'm delighted to say **Heidi Small** is taking over and will be working with Sue from the start of the new term.

There are other teachers who rarely get a mention and deserve our thanks. I'm thinking particularly of those who teach our B'nei Mitzvah. All through the year leading up to the big day, members of the shul teach our B'nei Mitzvah in their homes. While our Rabbi teaches and guides the youngsters with preparation of their *drasha* (exposition of the teachings of the portion) and their voluntary work, members of the shul give of their time to teach them to read and translate their *parasha* (portion). I think it is fair to say that, without exception, our B'nei Mitzvah achieve a high standard and so much of that is due to the dedication of their teachers.

Not all our B'nei Mitzvah are youngsters. We recently celebrated the Bar Mitzvah of one of our adult members (and teachers), **Benjie Butler**, and that of **Hayley Preston** is coming up soon. To study for Bar/Bat Mitzvah in the midst of working adult life with family commitments is no small undertaking but over the years we have had a succession of members do just that. Most have been women, who had no opportunity to have a Bat Mitzvah when young. Our much missed

**Rae Michaelis** inspired a whole group of mature women to study for Bat Mitzvah with regular meetings of a discussion



group. It would be wonderful if such a group could be re-formed with a group of adults who would like to consider undertaking study for Bar/Bat Mitzvah. If you might be interested, without definite commitment, please do contact our Chair of Education, **Barbara Kurtz**. Please don't let lack of confidence in reading Hebrew deter you; there's nothing that a bit of study and plenty of practice can't put right and there is no time limit.

Well, the High Holydays are almost upon us. Before Rosh Hashanah, there will be our **Selichot** service, which this year is on Saturday, 16 September starting at 7.30 pm. For some reason, this is not generally well attended, which is a real shame as it is one of the most beautiful and meaningful services in the year. It lasts only about an hour; please do consider coming along to get in the mood for the holiest days of the year.

As usual our Erev (evening) Rosh Hashanah service will be in the shul and the following morning service will be at the Crofton Halls in Orpington. There will be services for the children aged 6 – 11 on both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur mornings. On the morning before Kol Nidre (Friday, 29 September), we will be holding our **Macmillan Coffee Morning** in the shul. Macmillan does absolutely fantastic work supporting patients with cancer and their families nationwide, so if you can make it, please do come along and if you can't, please make a contribution to the fund raising anyway.

Kol Nidre and all the Yom Kippur services will be at the Crofton Halls. As has become our custom, the Rabbi will lead a study session during part of the *Musaf* (Additional) service on Yom Kippur afternoon. The *Yizkor* service, which is dedicated to the memory of our loved ones who are no longer physically with us, will begin at about 5.00 pm, followed by the final *Neilah* service, which finishes when the fast goes out

a little before 7.30 pm. There is a very special feeling of community at that concluding service, especially if the hall is full. I look forward to seeing you over the Yom Tovim if not before and may I take this opportunity, on behalf of Janet and myself, to wish you all *Shana Tova U'metuka* – a good and sweet New Year.

**John Posner**, Chairman

### Chanukah Fair Sunday, 3 December 12.30 to 3 pm

This will be a fundraiser with a goal of £1,000 to go towards Shul security and Cheder supplies. This is your chance to buy candles, cards, gifts and all you need for the festival without venturing to North London!

**We need new people, new ideas** - so this is your chance to be involved in a fun day and to celebrate with our fantastic community. Without you all and your help this will not be possible, so please come and join us. If you would like to join a group of volunteers and help organise this much enjoyed event this year, please get in touch. In the meantime we ask you to:

- donate raffle prizes/skills - can you provide entertainment/music - do you want to run a stall - can you please save jars for our "Jolly Jars" stall? (just leave them labelled in the cloakroom by the entrance).

Contact us via the Synagogue on:  
**020 8460 5460**

### Support Nightingale resident in Parallel London event

On **Thursday 3 September**, at the **Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park**, starting at 11 am: **Ann Rowe**, an 87-year-old resident of **Nightingale House**, is taking part in a 5 km event (supported by a **Nightingale** physiotherapist), with **Parallel London** to raise funds for **Nightingale Hammerson**.

If you would like to support Ann's 5km Challenge, please contact **Annette** on **020 8772 2333**.

## Beginnings and Endings

Like good literature, plays or films, the best parts of a sports match are the beginning and the ending. There's nothing like the first moments of a long-anticipated meeting between two rivals. Particularly if those first moments are also the first moments of a season. Excitement has been building over a long period of time. The athletes have been training, the coaches and managers have been working on strategy, and the fans have (not) been patiently keeping themselves occupied until the season begins with all of the hopes that this will be "the year". For some, the build-up was almost unbearable. There's a great American tradition called "tailgating" where people have a pre-game party out of the boot of their cars or trucks prior to the match. The fans are so eager for the game, that they show up hours ahead of time just to hang out in the car park!

Literature, plays and films also work hard to get the audience's attention right from the start. The problem is presented nearly right away. In William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* it is not long before Caesar is assassinated. The rest of the play is just to deal with the consequences. So too with Kafka's *Metamorphosis*. The actual metamorphosis of the protagonist into an insect happens so early that it actually is *before* the start of the work. But it's not fair to say that only the beginning is the best part, because endings also are very powerful. There's nothing like the final moments of a tie game in a championship match, when an entire year or more's worth of effort and competition will be decided in the span of mere seconds. Or when we finally see the hero and the villain face off, or all the clues to the mystery fall into place and the case is solved. There is something hugely satisfying about seeing something through to its finish.

The High Holy Days show parallels with literature and sports. The beginning, which is *Selichot* services on Saturday evening, 16 September, precedes Rosh Hashanah. It's a short, beautiful service that sets the stage for the season, introducing the themes of the new year. The conclusion is *Yizkor* at *Neilah* on Yom Kippur Day. With great emotion, *Yizkor* remembers and honours our loved

ones. *Neilah*, the closing service, immediately follows. At this point, it sometimes feels like the end of a marathon. Exhausted, but with a sense of accomplishment, we begin to reach the end. Reaching the end, however, worry settles in. What will the next year hold? Will the year be good or bad? Will *I* be better than last year? In the early afternoon, Yom Kippur seems as though it will last for an eternity. As the sun begins to set, though, there is a sense of urgency. Will our prayers be heard, by God or at least by ourselves? For these reasons, I find *Selichot*, *Yizkor* and *Neilah* to be amongst the most powerful moments over the entire span of the High Holy Day period.

If you are not normally in the habit of coming to one of these services, I invite you to give it a try this year. See if it has the same power for you as it does for me. If so, I think you'll find yourself amongst those committed folks who wouldn't miss these particular services for anything.

*L'shalom*, to peace,

Rabbi Jason Holtz



## A Tribute to Norman "Nochumor"

We remember "Nochumor" today  
Each of us with a heavy heart  
A special man in every way  
As we come to terms with time apart  
So wise, so gentle, so loving and so kind  
In all aspects of his life  
Mourned by all he left behind  
Close friends, relatives, grandchildren,  
daughters, son and wife.

How much we miss his smile  
His words of wisdom, singing and  
laughter  
The pain we feel will last some while  
But fond memories for ever after  
We miss you so very much Dad  
So proud of all you have done  
Giving to others made you so glad  
No wonder admired by everyone  
You were an angel throughout your  
lifetime  
And even in your passing  
Giving us strength to cope as if your sign  
That your love will be everlasting

Thank you again for all you gave  
For the great example that you have set  
Showing us how to behave  
Respected by everyone you met.

We are so grateful for the 82 years  
And yet so hard to accept no more  
But we must try to hold back the tears  
And celebrate the life of "Nochumor"

In loving Memory, Mark

*Words spoken by Mark Goldberg at the consecration of his late father Norman Goldberg's tombstone on 25 June of this year.*

### Bromley Beit Midrash

17 September 11:00-11:50 am.

With Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur right around the corner we will be tackling the big themes of the season. What is the meaning of repentance? Is saying sorry enough? Should we always forgive or are there exceptions?

Learn what some Jewish thinkers have to say about this subject and share your own thoughts as well.

15 October 11:00-11:50 am; date to be confirmed

### Talmud Study Group

Thursdays,

7 September and 19 October

10:30-11:45 am at the shul

### Introduction to Judaism

Interested in Judaism and want an in-depth introduction? Beginning in Autumn 2017 we will be offering an **Introduction to Judaism** series that will continue through Spring 2018. While some may take the course as a refresher, they are ideal for beginners, whether they are Jewish or not.

All of our courses are open to everyone, and they are free of charge for members and those in our conversion programme. Everyone else is welcome to attend the first session free of charge and then asked to contribute £95 for the entire series.

**All sessions take place on Sunday morning from 10:00-10:50 am.**

The schedule of courses for Autumn 2017 is 10 September, 17 September, 24 September, 8 October and 15 October.

*For more information, please contact the synagogue office on 020 8460 5460.*

## Cheder News

It's September, and that means it's time for me to welcome you all back to Sunday School! I hope you've had a wonderful summer and are ready to hit the ground running. If you're not sure what's happening on the first day of Cheder, this is what you need to know:

- 1) **Classes will start on Sunday, 10 September at 10 am in the Sanctuary.** This is where the children will meet their new teachers and helpers and go to their new classrooms from there. Please make sure they are in the building at 9.45 am so that we can start on time.
- 2) Immediately after this, parents are invited to a **Coffee Morning in the downstairs foyer.** This is especially important for parents of Kitah Aleph, who will be able to sign their children's registration forms and hopefully say hi to as many other parents as possible. I'll also be there to answer any questions you may have about Cheder and how it runs. Our coffee and cake is better than M&S, so please do come!
- 3) **Helpers will begin at 9.30 am on 10 September with a Helper Training Session.** Helpers, you'll be signing your contracts, learning where resources are kept and how to use the photocopy machine, so don't be late on your first day of work!
- 4) **Cheder runs from 10 am to 12.15 pm,** with a shul-wide assembly for children and parents from 12.15-12.30 pm. Please come and join the assembly before you pick up the kids. You'll have a chance to learn some of the music we sing and hear about all of the events at the shul.
- 5) By now you should have received an email with a **Cheder Calendar** attached. All of our Cheder dates are on that calendar, but please keep checking for updates as all dates are subject to change! If you have not received your calendar, please let me know via email.
- 6) We'd like to use your children's **Hebrew names** in their Hebrew classes, so do make sure your children know their names, or write them down on paper ready for their first days at school.
- 7) Please, **NO phones or iPods in Cheder**- they are very disruptive! If they **MUST** bring them, please

tell your children that they are to be switched OFF when they arrive, and on again when Cheder is over.

- 8) Please remember that it is the Shul's policy that **all food brought into the synagogue must be vegetarian.** This includes any jelly sweets (Haribos) that may contain gelatine. Neither pork nor beef gelatine is allowed in Cheder, so please do not send these foods in with your children.
- 9) **Break time is usually outside,** so please send your child with a jumper in case it's chilly.
- 10) Thanks to the tzedakah pennies that your children brought in, we were able to donate **£200** to the **Retired Greyhound Trust**, a charity chosen by them. Well done!

And now some other holiday events for children:

- 1) There will be a **Rosh Hashanah service for the under 12s** on Rosh Hashanah, **Thursday, 21 September.** This will take place during the adult service, in a separate room at the Crofton Halls, Orpington from 10.30 am -12.30 pm. A short prayer and story will be followed by crafts and games, all on the theme of the Jewish New Year.
- 2) A **Yom Kippur service for under 12s** will take place on **Saturday, 30 September** from 10.30 am-12.30 pm, also during the adult services at the same venue. This will be run by the teachers, so there will be **NO** Cheder the following morning, Sunday, 1 October.
- 3) Want to be involved in **Mitzvah Day (Sunday, 19 November)** this year? The plan is to work in an interfaith soup kitchen for a few hours in a local *gudwhartha*. If you'd like to take part, email me!
- 4) **SAVE THE DATES:** the **Chanukah Fair** will take place on **Sunday, 3 December**, while our **Chanukah Party** will be on **Sunday, 17 December.** More info regarding times TBC.

That's all for now! Enjoy the rest of your summer, and I look forward to seeing you all on Sunday, 10 September.

*L'Shalom,*

**Vicki,** Cheder Head Teacher

## Social Centre News

It was unfortunate that some of our members were unable to come to the Social Centre on 25 July as we had a pleasant time. Lunch, as usual, was splendid and was finished off with strawberry gateau. This had been made by Barbara as a surprise for Lucy's birthday.

After lunch we had a talk on the T.V. series "*Dad's Army*" by historian **Mark Brown.** He compared the series with the real Home Guard and said it was accurate in every detail. At the beginning of the war Neville Chamberlain, the Prime Minister, made an announcement after the 9 o'clock news asking for volunteers aged between 17 and 65 years to join the Local Defence Volunteers (LVD) and overnight over 40,000 men joined up. The name was changed to the Home Guard and was eventually called Dad's Army because most of the men were aged 60 and older.

At first they were issued with arm bands and, although there were no weapons available, the men used whatever they could find - broom handles being a favourite - although how that would have stopped a German invasion nobody knows. As the war progressed the Home Guard were gradually issued with weapons and most units were based along the coastal towns. The Home Guard was disbanded in 1945 at the end of the war and it was generally agreed that these men made a tremendous contribution to the war effort.

The **Summer Party** was very enjoyable, although the weather was not like summer, more like the monsoons in India. This did not deter people coming (we are a hardy lot).

The meal was comparable to one in any first class restaurant and after lunch we listened to **Adrian Garrett**, who was engaged to play the violin for us by Eve in memory of her mother Ruth. He played for over an hour, both classical and jazz, and it was a pleasure to hear such a talented musician. I am sure Ruth would have enjoyed it as much as we did.

We had an enjoyable afternoon - good food, good music, good company - what more could one ask for?

**Zelda Stone**

The Social Centre will next meet on **Wednesday, 13 September**, but it will **not** meet on Wednesday, 27 September. Instead, all are invited to join the **Macmillan Coffee Morning**, which will run from 10 am on **Friday, 29 September.**

## High Holyday arrangements, 2017-5778

The High Holyday arrangements are similar to those in previous years, but please remember that the service on Erev Rosh Hashanah (Wednesday, 20 September) will be held in the synagogue.

### Selichot service:

Saturday, 16 September  
7.30 pm in the synagogue

### Erev Rosh Hashanah:

Wednesday, 20 September  
(service at 7.30 pm in the Synagogue)

### Rosh Hashanah:

Thursday, 21 September  
(Service at 10.30 am at Orpington)

### Shabbat Shuvah:

(Services at the Synagogue)

Friday, 22 September

Saturday, 23 September

### Erecting the Sukkah

Sunday, 24 September

### Kol Nidre:

Friday, 29 September  
(7.30 pm at Orpington)

### Yom Kippur:

Saturday, 30 September  
(Service at 10.30 am at Orpington)

### Bring greenery to decorate the

### Sukkah:

Sunday, 1 October

### Sukkot:

(Services at the Synagogue)

Wednesday, 4 October

Thursday, 5 October

### Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah:

(Services at the Synagogue).

Wednesday, 11 October

Thursday, 12 October

**The venue** for the Rosh Hashanah **morning** and Yom Kippur services is the Crofton Halls, York Rise, off Crofton Road (A232), Orpington, adjacent to Orpington station. Evening services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur begin at 7.30 pm.

The Erev Rosh Hashanah service at the Shul on Thursday, 21 September starts at 7.30 pm. Evening services at the shul on Sukkot and Simchat Torah start at 6.30 pm. All morning services start at 10.30 am.

### Entry and Exit - Crofton Halls:

Adult admission is by individual ticket only. Members are respectfully reminded that tickets will be issued only to fully paid up members. If you require extra tickets, please contact the Synagogue office (020 8460 5460). Children's Services will be held on the mornings of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in

the small hall, for children aged five to eleven. The children's service begins after the commencement of the main service, so please keep your children with you in the main hall until the children's service is announced. Children will be returned to their parents during the latter part of the morning service.

### Parking at Orpington:

Orpington station car park: (immediately below the halls) available after 9.30 am. At the halls: limited space available and also reserved for other users of the halls. We try to reserve places for the disabled in this car park near the main hall, but please arrive early; places cannot be held beyond the commencement of services. D. Baxter and Co. car park: (corner of Crofton Road and York Rise); for evening services only. Baxter & Co. kindly allow us this favour on the understanding that their car park is not available during business hours and their staff do use their car park after hours. Please park with consideration and do not block egress. All cars are parked at the owner's risk.

### Yom Kippur Meditation:

Please feel free to use the lounge off the main hall for private meditation and rest.

### Health and Fasting:

If you are taking medication or if you are unable to fast on Yom Kippur, please feel free to attend to your needs.

### Security and Welcomers:

As usual, volunteers are required for this important function. Please contact Graham Harris on 020 8656 7611. To allow the security volunteers to concentrate on their duties, volunteers are also needed at the doors before the services to welcome visitors. Please contact **Dan Posner** on 07866 761 181

### Movers and shleppers:

Your New Year Mitzvah! We need volunteers to help to set up and dismantle our furnishings and equipment before and after the services at the Crofton Halls. If you are able to help please contact **Graham Harris** on 020 8656 7611.

### Mitzvot:

If you have received a mitzvah invitation and have not yet replied, please do so immediately, so that the wardens know whom to look out for on the day. Thank you.

**Dan Posner,**  
Senior Warden

## Visit to Cheshunt

We are making our annual journey to the Western Cemetery at Cheshunt to visit the graves of family and friends on **Wednesday 13 September**.

We plan to leave the Shul at 9.30 am.

Our Rabbi, **Jason Holtz**, will lead a service at the grounds.

A short stop for lunch at the nearby pub will follow before we leave at around 2 pm for the return journey to our Synagogue, arriving at about 4 pm

Please let Pauline - Caring Community - know by **Friday, 8 September** via the Synagogue office if you wish to visit the grounds.

**Pauline Jeffree**

## Sukkot 2017

### Ann Fried writes:

A team will be erecting the wooden structure for the Sukkah on **Sunday, 24 September**. Please contact **John Posner** if you are able to help on that morning. You can email John on [john.posner@talk21.com](mailto:john.posner@talk21.com)

The **decorating** of the Sukkah will take place on the following Sunday, i.e. 1 October.

We all know that Sukkot is not just for children! But, as there is no Cheder on that Sunday, it being the day after Yom Kippur, it is more important than usual for members of all ages and their families to come along between 10 am and 12 noon. Please bring greenery, unripe fruit and veg and, most importantly, your hands, to make the Sukkah beautiful.

We need lots of greenery. The more we have the more beautiful the Sukkah will be. So please do your best to come – even if you can't stay very long – and bring your contributions.

No prickly bushes please – evergreen branches are best and the more the better. Any questions about Sunday, 1 October please call me (**Ann Fried**) via the synagogue (020 8460 5460)

Fruit and veg that survive Sukkot are donated to a food bank.

## Social and Personal

**DEATH** - We are very sad to report the death of our member **Gerda James** on 14 July last and we extend sincere condolences to her children Ronald and Marion and their families.

**BEREAVEMENT** - Sincere condolences to **Dani Hall** and her family on the sad loss of her grandmother, **Simmie Isaacs**. May her grandmother's memory be for a blessing.

**BAR MITZVAH** - A belated, but hearty, mazal tov to **Benjie Butler**, who celebrated his (adult) bar mitzvah on Saturday, 12 August - Shabbat Ekev.

**GET WELL SOON** - Pauline Jeffree writes: "A number of our members are unwell at this time. We wish them all well. Other members of our community are either awaiting hospital admission or are recuperating from a spell in hospital. We are thinking of them all."

**MUSICAL SUCCESS** - A hearty mazal tov to **Emma Rose-Ludlow** (granddaughter of Jean Rose), who has gained a place at the Brit School (for Performing Arts and Technology) in addition to passing 8th grade saxophone with distinction. We wish Emma every success in her further career.

### *Leshanah Tovah*

**Ronnie and Gloria Goldberg** send greetings to everyone for a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

**Dianne Mathews** wishes you all a healthy and happy Shanah Tovah.

**Philip Michaelis** wishes everyone in the community a good, healthy and peaceful New Year. .

**Judi Sheffrin** wishes relatives, friends, Bromley members and contributors to all our BRS media a happy, healthy and well informed 5778.

Shana Tovah to all members and friends of Bromley Reform Synagogue from the Caring Community

A Happy New Year to all our readers from the **Editor** of *Highlight*.



*Rabbi Jason Holtz celebrating Kiddush with Benjie Butler after Benjie's bar mitzvah on Saturday, 12 August.*

### **SE10 and beyond**

**Michelle Brooks Evans reports:**

The picnic in the park arranged for July was hastily relocated to my house due to our British weather. However this did not dampen our spirits or affect the quantity of delicious food provided. There were the usual faces but we were also lucky to be joined by new friends too. Where there are Jews there is also an abundance of food and lively chatter, so thank you everyone for making it such a special day.

On **Thursday, 14 September** we will be gathering at the de Langes' house in Blackheath from 7.30 pm, with the discussion topic "What do we want from a Jewish community these days?"

We plan to get together again on **Wednesday, 8 November** from 7pm with an exciting speaker, **Jeremy Havardi**, to follow up on our discussion about Israel. He's a historian and journalist with degrees in Philosophy, History and Law. As well as being a published author he has written for the Guardian and The Times of Israel. He is currently the Director of B'nai B'rith's London Bureau of International Affairs. So please don't miss it. It is sure to be a fascinating evening. We welcome everyone, so if you are free please come and join us. If you need the address or any more details just contact me via the synagogue (020 8460 5460).

### **Thanks to the congregation – from Benjie Butler**

I want to thank everyone who helped me reach bar mitzvah.

Thank you to Matthew, who patiently tutored me and mentored me for the past year through many cups of Earl Grey tea and has opened my eyes to many insightful and meaningful aspects of our community.

Thank you to Rabbi Jason, who also opened my eyes to many insightful and meaningful aspects of our community and made it such a special day.

Thank you to my parents for their love and support.

Thank you to Kerry, Noah and Samuel for letting me go off to bar mitzvah study during the evenings over the past year and for their love and support.

Thank you to my family and friends who travelled to attend.

Thank you Janet, Barbara and Sue for all your organising and putting together a lovely Kiddush.

Thank you Judi for taking photos.

Thank you John for the very kind words; they meant a lot to me and thank you and everyone for the great book that was presented.

Thank you everyone in our community who made it a special day.

After my long journey of self-discovery connecting to my Judaism, I have found a place that feels so complete and really feels like home.

I want to thank everyone in our wonderful community who has welcomed me and given me a place which I can truly call home.

It is a wonderful community and family to be part of and I look forward to spending the rest of my life adding to and being part of it.

### **Three Faiths Baby and Toddler Group**

The next meeting of the Three Faiths Baby and Toddler Group will be on **Tuesday, 26 September** from 10 am to 12 noon

at the **Al-Emaan Centre**, Croydon Road, Keston

Parents, grandparents and carers are all welcome.

Contact **Jodi Holtz** via the synagogue office for further details.

## Rosh Hashanah message from Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner, Senior Rabbi to Reform Judaism

Another year has come and gone; on a national level, this past year has not been our best. Conflict, deprivation and division continue to play huge roles, not just many miles away, but also right on our doorstep. It might be hard to see initially what there might be to celebrate about the past year, but we simply cannot succumb to cynicism. If there is one thing for sure we can celebrate about the year just gone, it is our resilience.

Some of the most memorable and uplifting events of the year have come against negative backdrops as our community, our nation and our world have proven time after time that we have tremendous reserves of resilience. It is at times where we need strength that community takes on a new level of importance. As we say as we reach the end of reading each book of Torah: we are strong and we strengthen one another - *chazak v'nitchazek*.

Each of us is lucky to be part of a community which strengthens us, supports us and gives us meaning. Across the country, Reform Judaism is connecting people to our spirituality and to each other. We too have shown great resilience and reason for positivity and celebration as we face the year ahead. The recent Jewish Policy Research report, which caused much concern across the UK Jewish community with its findings that Jews are increasingly leaving synagogue communities behind, also showed the stability and strength of Reform Judaism. We are bucking the trend and remaining steady against the tides of decline of the non-Haredi community.

Together, we form a national community worthy of celebration.

We should celebrate the many amazing indicators that our community has a very bright future ahead. I am privileged to have the opportunity to travel around Britain, seeing for myself the vibrancy of Reform Judaism in every corner of the country. Everywhere I go, there are synagogue communities doing amazing work: spreading learning, caring for one another and inspiring the next generation in the chain of tradition. It's a great joy to work in partnerships with synagogues to enable our national movement to thrive. In every place, I see the same willingness to evolve and strive to do even better.

Our overall success as a movement is a product of that desire to never stand still, that belief that there is always more that we can do to bring our Judaism to life. In the year ahead, our movement is ready to do even more.



What can you expect from us in the year ahead? We're bringing on board new staff to help deliver in some key areas of importance during the year ahead. Already we have our ground-breaking young person's mental health and wellbeing officer, an invaluable support in an area which has become ever more important with the sharp increase of mental ill-health among our young people. We are also adding a new Young Adult Worker and Student Chaplain to help boost provision for students and young adults seeking their own meaningful path to connect with Judaism, in our existing congregations and meeting them where they are. Ensuring there is a route for our 18-35 year olds to find their place in our communities is vital to maintaining our stability as a movement long into the future.

Strengthening our nationwide community and every individual community within it remains our top priority. We have launched the process of forming a Covenant which will link together our communities, clergy and professional staff, articulating and defining what it means for all of us to be part of one national movement. The process of shaping a document for consultation will take place throughout the year, leading to our biennial Chagigah in 2018. The principles of covenantal relationship and duty to one another are core principles we hold as Jews - it is only right we make them a core part of our Reform Judaism. Our initiatives to strengthen communities will continue, including a new initiative to be launched focusing on maintaining financial resilience in our communities.

As a new year is upon us, we consider our deeds from the past year and carry out some *cheshbon nefesh* - a personal accounting. There will always be more we can and will do, but we should look back and be proud of the resilient and vibrant community we have built together. I pray that 5778 will only be a sweet, calm and creative year. *Shana Tova U'Metukah*.

## The Shul shop

Please pop into the shul foyer on **Sunday morning, 17 September** to see a selection of possible gifts for friends and family

I am clearing out some of the shul shop contents to make room for more stock. There will be a mix of books for adults and children, little pieces of jewellery, handmade textile pieces and even a glass kiddush cup!

Please do come and see what is on offer and get a bargain.

Also keep an eye on the shop for the new cards (Shanah Tovah cards are there already!) and other small items are on offer. More seasonal goods will come as we head towards Chanukah. It's an honesty shop where you leave the money for the items you have purchased. There is a receipt book to say what you have purchased.

Shane Lask

## Bromley WIZO Eretz Rosh Hashanah News 2017

This year the Committee has enjoyed several interesting and exciting events.

**Natalie Kleinman**, our local published author, who calls herself 'The Accidental Writer', gave us an insightful talk entitled "*From Inspiration through Perspiration to Publication*". Following that, **Susan Goldstein** gave us a thrilling illustrated talk on the Venice Ghetto which had recently had its 500th Anniversary. This was followed by a delicious tea.

It was Jewish Women's Week in May and I thank all of you for your generous donations which totalled just over £3,000.

A major event was showcasing some wonderful jewellery designed by **Sophie Daniels**, who is a friend of many of our younger community. Again, many people came to buy and enjoy the refreshments that were served, and we hope to have another sale in due course.

Look out for our notices regarding a talk by **Trudy Sealy** about her most unusual childhood on **Thursday, 2 November**, and on **Sunday, 26 November Barbara Fizzon** will host another **Bridge, Cards and Games afternoon**.

Meanwhile we thank everyone for their continued and hugely valued support for our work in Israel and we wish all the community a Happy and Peaceful New Year and, especially, for peace in Israel.

**Marilyn Burchell**, Chairman

## LEHRHAUS: Autumn, 2017

Leo Baeck is delighted to bring you its courses for Autumn 2017 which include two live ON-LINE courses:

**Modern Hebrew Ulpanim:** All levels, weekday & evening options, different Ulpan teachers - 10 weeks, LBC

**Biblical Hebrew: Advanced Level:** with Roberta Harris Eckstein - 10 weeks, LBC

**The "Philosophy" of the Kabbalah:** with Rabbi Mark L. Solomon - 8 weeks, LBC

**The Rise of King David – a literary reading of 1 Samuel:** with Rabbi Professor Jonathan Magonet - 8 weeks, LBC

**Jews and Photography:** with Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith - 4 weeks, LBC

**Judaism and the Sex Question:** with Rabbi Dr René Pfertzel - 4 weeks Live ON-LINE

**Zohar: Mystical Midrash? Early Novel?:** with Rabbi Larry Tabick - 4 weeks Live ON-LINE

As an incentive, all returning Lehrhaus students will enjoy a 10% discount on any course and a 20% discount if signing up for more than one course at the time of registration. Go to: [www.lbc.ac.uk/lehrhaus](http://www.lbc.ac.uk/lehrhaus) for all information.

All our courses are taught by our outstanding faculty, which we hope will entice you to join us. You can sign up for the course/s of your choice by completing and emailing the attached registration form, and by making a payment. This can be done on-line through our website [www.lbc.ac.uk](http://www.lbc.ac.uk), or by sending us a cheque made payable to Leo Baeck College, or by phone using a credit/debit card.

If you have any questions, please contact Jarek: [Lehrhaus@lbc.ac.uk](mailto:Lehrhaus@lbc.ac.uk), 020 8349 5600.

We very much look forward to having you study with us.

**Dr Jo-Ann Myers**, Director of Jewish Education

**LEHRHAUS @ Leo Baeck College**  
Home of Adult Jewish Learning

### Knit & Natter

The next meeting of the Knit and Natter group will be on:

**Thursday, 28 September**  
10 am - 12 noon at Pauline's home.

Further details from **Pauline** via the synagogue, 020 8460 5460.



## SERVICES

**September 2017 – Elul 5777- Tishri 5778**

*Fridays at 7 pm, unless otherwise stated.*

*Saturdays at 10.30 am, unless otherwise stated*

**Friday 1 September**

**Saturday 2 September** **Ki Tetze** (11 Elul)

**Friday 8 September**

**Saturday 9 September** **Ki Tavo** (18 Elul)

**Friday 15 September**

**Saturday 16 September** **Nitzavim-Vayelech** (25 Elul)

**Saturday 16 September** **Selichot service**, 7.30 pm in the Synagogue

**Wednesday 20 September** **Erev Rosh Hashanah**

Service at 7.30 pm at the Synagogue

**Thursday 21 September**

**ROSH HASHANAH**

Service at 10.30 am at Orpington

**Friday 22 September**

**Saturday 23 September** **Shuvah (Ha-azinu)** (3 Tishri)

**Friday 29 September**

**Kol Nidre**

Service at 7.30 pm at Orpington

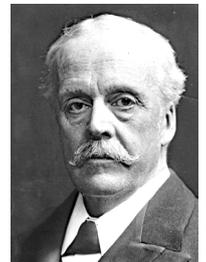
**Saturday 30 September**

**YOM KIPPUR** (10 Tishri)

Services from 10.30 am at Orpington

### BRS Education Committee The Balfour Declaration

*"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country"*



This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, sent by Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour to Lord Rothschild, Chair of the Zionist Federation.

**Rabbi Charles Wallach**,

former Rabbi of Brighton and Hove Reform Synagogue, and past member of the national executive of the Zionist Federation, has made a study of the declaration, how it came about, the significance of its wording and reactions to it.

Please join us in the synagogue on

**Sunday, 3 September**

to learn more about this singularly important document which in many ways was the very precursor to the establishment of the State of Israel.

**Refreshments 3.30 pm, Talk 4 pm.**

Further details from Rabbi Holtz or Barbara Kurtz

# Dates for Your Diary

## September

F	1	
S	2	<b>Ki Tetze</b>
S	3	Talk on <b>Balfour Declaration</b> , 3.30 for 4 pm at the Shul
M	4	
T	5	
W	6	
Th	7	<b>Talmud Study Group</b> , 10.30-11.45 am at the Shul
F	8	
S	9	<b>Ki Tavo</b>
S	10	<b>New Cheder term begins</b> at 9.45 am in the Sanctuary for 10 am. Parent's coffee morning. <b>Introduction to Judaism</b> course, 10-10.50 am in the Shul
M	11	
T	12	
W	13	<b>Visit to Western Cemetery, Cheshunt</b> , depart at 9.30 am from the Shul <b>Social Centre</b> , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm
Th	14	<b>SE10 and Beyond</b> meeting at 7.30 pm at home of the de Langes in Blackheath
F	15	
S	16	<b>Nitzavim-Vayelech Selichot service</b> , 7.30 pm in the Shul
S	17	<b>Introduction to Judaism</b> , 10-10.50 am <b>Bet Midrash - The Meaning of Repentance</b> , 11-11.50 am in the Shul
M	18	
T	19	
W	20	<b>Erev Rosh Hashanah</b> - service at 7.30 pm in the Shul
Th	21	<b>ROSH HASHANAH</b> - service at 10.30 am at Orpington
F	22	
S	23	<b>Shuvah</b> (Ha'azinu)
S	24	<b>Introduction to Judaism</b> , 10-10.50 am <b>Erecting the Sukkah</b> from 10 am
M	25	
T	26	<b>3 Faiths Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> , 10-12 am at Al-Emaan Centre, Keston
W	27	<b>NO Social Centre meeting today!</b>
Th	28	<b>Knit &amp; Natter</b> - 10-12 am at Pauline's
F	29	<b>Macmillan Coffee Morning</b> - 10-12 am <b>Kol Nidre</b> - service at 7.30 pm at Orpington
S	30	<b>YOM KIPPUR</b> - services from 10.30 am at Orpington

## October

S	1	<b>NO Cheder today! Decorating the Sukkah</b> - 10-12 am
M	2	
T	3	
W	4	<b>Erev Sukkot</b> - service at 6.30 pm at the Shul
Th	5	<b>SUKKOT</b> - service at 10.30 am at the Shul
F	6	
S	7	<b>Chol Hamoed Sukkot</b>
S	8	<b>Introduction to Judaism</b> , 10-10.50 am
M	9	
T	10	
W	11	<b>Erev Shemini Atzeret-Simchat Torah</b> service at 6.30 pm at the Shul
Th	12	<b>SHEMINI ATZERET-SIMCHAT TORAH</b> service at 10.30 am at the Shul
F	13	
S	14	<b>Bereshit</b>
S	15	<b>Introduction to Judaism</b> , 10-10.50 am
M	16	
T	17	
W	18	
Th	19	<b>Talmud Study Group</b> , 10.30-11.45 am at the Shul
F	20	
S	21	<b>Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan Noach</b>
S	22	
M	23	
T	24	
W	25	<b>Social Centre</b> , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul
Th	26	
F	27	
S	28	<b>Lech Lecha</b>
S	29	Clocks go back 1 hour
M	30	
T	31	

### Royal Albert Hall, Balfour 100 Ltd presents

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**Tuesday 7 November 2017**

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