

HIGHLIGHT

Bromley Reform Synagogue newsletter



In his sermon on Shabbat Shuvah (23 September) the Rabbi referred to the role of tradition in Reform Judaism and, in line with the Bromley tradition, the members of Religion and Ritual Committee ably led the Shabbat morning service on that day.

WE WANT YOUR OLD ETROGIM!

The Cheder would like to experiment with making etrog jam this year! So when the holiday is over, please don't throw those old etrogim away. Please leave them in the kitchen for Vicki to pick up the following Sunday.



Thank you!

In This Month's Highlight

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Skeet Hill and Sadeh Farm present their family-friendly SUKKOT PARTY

Sunday, 8 October
from 11 am to 4 pm

Tickets: £12 adults, £8 kids, £35 families
includes activities and vegetarian lunch



Learning about bees - arts and crafts - getting muddy - pickling - adventure playground - swimming pool - beer tasting - and lovely farmers' market
www.sadehfarm.co.uk

October 2017 - Sukkot 5778



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www.facebook.com/BromleyReformSynagogue

or Tweet us @BromleyShul) ...



The Balfour Declaration - View from the Chair

On Sunday, 3 September many of us benefitted from a most interesting talk on the Balfour Declaration. A century has passed since a letter was sent by the British Foreign Secretary, Lord Arthur James Balfour, to Lord Walter Rothschild in which it was stated that “*His Majesty’s Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people*”. This was a major milestone in the path to creation of the State of Israel. It was in no small way due to the efforts of a Jewish chemist from Manchester, Chaim Weitzmann, who many years later was to become Israel’s first President. He, Lord Rothschild and others managed to change attitudes amongst the political elite of the day.

However, we shouldn’t forget that the creation of the State of Israel started long before that event and it took a further 31 years of struggle under the British mandate before David Ben Gurion could declare independence. That independence was no gift; it came about as the result of decades of emigration of Jews to Palestine, starting with the First Aliyah in the early 1880s when Palestine was ruled by the declining Ottoman empire. Those early pioneers were committed to working the land but conditions were brutally hard and many died from disease. Zionism was based on ideals such as ‘the dignity of labour’ and an appreciation that the Jewish population of Europe was like ‘an inverted triangle’ in which only a small proportion were employed in work that could be considered a fundamental requirement for a nation state. Above all, the return to Zion was the manifestation of a belief that the Jewish people not only have their own religion but are also a nation with their own historical land and language.

Remarkably, that hard labour and idealism resulted in an organised society which was economically viable so that when the British withdrew, the infrastructure for a democratic state was in place. As soon as the State was declared, the surrounding Arab countries declared war with the intention of wiping it off the map. They failed then and have failed repeatedly since. Millions of immigrants from all over the world have been absorbed so that the original population has grown from 600,000

in 1948 to not far short of 9 million today. Israel is thriving with a vibrant economy and the most advanced agriculture, medicine and technology in the world.



By contrast, Arab nationalism in the form of the Palestine Liberation Organisation only got going in the late 1960’s, led by terrorists like Yasser Arafat. Just imagine how things might have been if the Palestinian Arabs had also had a positive nationalism and had accepted the UN partition plan in 1947, which could have resulted in them building their own state alongside Israel. Instead, Arab rulers asserted their power by engendering hatred of a common enemy. Two generations of poor people have grown up in so-called refugee camps kept there as pawns in the political games of their rulers. Gaza, which could be a tourist haven with beautiful beaches on the Mediterranean, is a terrorist stronghold with poverty and a failed economy run by a group of murdering thugs called Hamas.

Of course, territories gained by Israel during the 6-day war 50 years ago remain a source of conflict and are a threat to the integrity of the Jewish population of Israel. They have also become a major bone of contention with the rest of the world with much of Europe becoming positively ‘anti-Israel’. As the result of the economic power of Arab oil, the United Nations is obsessed with passing absurdly anti-Israel resolutions on a regular basis almost to the exclusion of other business. Arab propaganda has been successful in purveying an image of the Palestinian people as a suffering underdog and Israel as an ‘apartheid’ oppressor. University campuses in the USA and this country are filled with ignorant students supporting the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement.

This perverse state of affairs is the subject of a book by a journalist and author **Jeremy Hvardi**. The book is called ‘*Refuting the Anti-Israel Narrative: a Case for the Historical, Legal and Moral Legitimacy of the Jewish State*’. Jeremy, who lives in

North London, will be coming to talk to us on this subject and its relationship to anti-Semitism in the shul on **Wednesday evening, 8 November**, at 7.30 for 8 pm. Whatever your views, please do put the date in your diaries and come; I’m sure we will all learn much about a subject that affects us all.

John Posner, Chairman

Declaration of a Dream

Most of us know something about the Balfour Declaration, even if our knowledge of the events which led to it is a little hazy.

On Sunday, 3 September, **Rabbi Charles Wallach**’s clear and informative lecture about the social and historical backdrop to the Declaration and the key characters involved, gripped the audience.

Rabbi Wallach explained how the groundwork for the Declaration was laid by Theodore Herzl’s (1860-1904) book *Die Judenstaat*, which presented the case for a Jewish homeland, and the First Zionist Congress in 1897 which gave a public, international platform for Herzl’s goals.

We heard how a sympathetic relationship between **Arthur Balfour** (1848-1930), aristocratic politician, and **Chaim Weitzmann** (1874-1952), future first President of Israel, developed. Balfour was accustomed to upper-class Jewish members of the Establishment, who did not support Zionism; they thought it would undermine their positions in other countries. But his contact with Weitzmann enabled him to understand the arguments in favour of Zionism

One of the most interesting parts of Rabbi Wallach’s lecture was examining the wording of the Declaration:

His Majesty’s Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people.

Weitzmann originally wanted to replace *a national home* with *the national home* – the difference between an indefinite article and a definite article may have affected history.

An enthusiastic discussion followed Rabbi Wallach’s lecture.

Many thanks to all who made this lecture possible.

From our Roving Reporter

Celebrating Sukkot

On Rosh Hashanah morning, I gave a sermon on how changing technology affects our lives and the Jewish community in particular. One example that I gave was how technology affected the way food is produced and consumed, with humanity gradually going from eating what they could find or hunt, to farming, and eventually to where we are today—with access to a huge variety of foods from anywhere in the world, often regardless of the time of the year. Because of this, famines are largely unheard of in many parts of the world.

This month, Jews mark the autumn harvest festival of Sukkot. Gratitude to God for food, and also praying for rain in the year to come, is a central focus of Sukkot. Additionally, we construct temporary shelters used by the ancient Israelites called *sukkot* after they fled from Egyptian slavery. All year round, we pray to God for a *sukkat shalom*, a shelter of peace. And so, on the festival of Sukkot, we are particularly sensitive to our need and everyone's need for food, shelter and peace.

These three needs are all linked. Despite technological advances that are alleviating hunger, a lack of food is still a major concern for many. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that well over 800 million people around the world are malnourished – nearly 11% of the world's population. This number rose over the past year, the first time in almost a decade. Unlike famines during most periods of human history, though, the problem is not primarily a shortage of food. As the UN group says, "There is more than enough food produced in the world to feed everyone, yet 815 million people go hungry." Rather, conflicts and other political problems contribute significantly, though there are still people who lack adequate food and water in relatively peaceful and stable parts of the world. Still, a *sukkat shalom* would go a long way to eliminating hunger for many.

Over Sukkot, as we thank God for having plenty of food for others, we can show our gratitude by helping others. We cannot unilaterally stop wars, or solve other problems that cause hunger, but we can each do a small part to help out. Rabbi Tarfon, who lived nearly two thousand years ago, said, "It is not up to you to do everything, but you must do something." One option worth considering is to support charities that

effectively work to end hunger, both here in the United Kingdom and abroad. This Sukkot, and always, let our gratitude be expressed through our generosity and concern.

L'shalom, to peace,



Rabbi Jason Holtz

Introduction to Judaism

Beginning this Autumn we are 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 mornings from 10:00-10:50 am, with the next ones being on 8 October and 15 October.

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

Bromley Beit Midrash

15 October 11:00-11:50 am.
When Reform Judaism is More Traditional than Orthodox

Two big differences between Reform and Orthodox Judaism are egalitarian prayer and the fact that many Progressive Jewish cemeteries allow the burial of non-Jews alongside their Jewish partners while Orthodox cemeteries do not.

Despite the fact that many people call Orthodox Judaism "traditional", the introduction of segregating genders in prayer is relatively late, as is the insistence that Jewish cemeteries must be for Jews only. During this class, we will look at Biblical and classic rabbinic sources and talk about how these practices developed and evolved over time.

THE FOUR SPECIES

On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the produce of your land, you shall keep the festival of the Eternal for seven days: a complete rest on the first day and a complete rest on the eighth day. On the first day you shall take the fruit of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the Eternal your God seven days.

Leviticus 23:39-40

'The product of goodly trees' is interpreted by the rabbis to refer specifically to an etrog (citron), and the 'branches of palm trees', 'boughs of leafy trees' and 'willows of the brook' have been interpreted as a *lulav* (palm branch), *hadassim* (myrtle) and *aravot* (willows), respectively.

The four species emphasise the agricultural nature of Sukkot. The basic commandment of the four species consists of holding them in your hand and then shaking them. The four species are also used at two points in the morning service: during Hallel and during *hoshanot*.

The four species more specifically consist of a long palm branch that has a holder made of palm leaves. In the holder on your left side you place two willows and on the right side you place three myrtles. The etrog is not attached with the other three species...

The procedure for reciting the *berachah* is as follows:

1. While standing, pick up the *lulav* with its attached willows and myrtle in your right hand. Hold the *lulav* so that its spine is towards you. (The spine is the long green stem that runs the length of the *lulav*. The yellow and flatter side is the back of the *lulav*. The side that rises in ridges has the spine in the centre.)
2. Pick up the etrog in your left hand with its tip (*pitom*) pointing down. If you have an etrog that comes naturally without a *pitom*, look for the top of the fruit (the narrower end, as in a pear) and turn the etrog upside down. Hold the etrog next to the *lulav*.
3. Recite the blessing...
4. Turn the etrog right side up and shake the *lulav*.

Michael Strassfeld

Source: *Pilgrim Festivals Machzor*

Cheder News

Hello, parents and friends of Cheder, here's our Cheder's News

- 1) Our Cheder children learned to bake their own **honey cakes** for Rosh Hashanah! A massive thank you to **Michelle Morgan** who braved the kitchen (and our children in it) and organised a wonderfully fun day.
- 2) We hope to celebrate Sukkot at Cheder with our break time in the sukkah. But even more fun is to be had: this year Sadeh (our local 'Jewish Farm' in Orpington) has organised a **Sukkot Fun Day on Sunday, 8 October!** Vegetarian foods and activities for children of all ages are planned. The day will run until 4 pm, which gives you plenty of time to get there after Cheder for lunch. Please see the ad/posters in the Cheder.
- 3) This term, your children's **Tzedakah** pennies will go to support the charity **Jewish Child's Day**. This charity benefits Jewish children who suffer from physical and emotional disabilities, neglect, abuse and financial hardship. Please send in your spare change to support this very worthy cause
- 4) **Youth Club** is up and running under **Hayley Preston**, who will now be running it once a month after Cheder. If you have a child aged 12 and over who'd like some free pizza and to join in the activities with his/her Cheder friends, please contact her directly: hayley.preston8@gmail.com. A list of Youth Club dates is available, so please do get in touch.

And some dates for your diary:

- 1) **Sunday, 19 November** will be **Mitzvah Day**. We are looking for someone who would like to help run a soup kitchen for the homeless along with a Sikh Temple in Croydon. If we cannot find someone to coordinate, we will have to cancel, so please let me know if you'd like to be involved.
- 2) **Sunday, 3 December** will be our **Chanukah Fair** from 12.30-3 pm after Cheder. Why not shop for your Chanukah presents and raise

some money for the shul at the same time? On the same day, our wonderful Gan leaders hope to put on a **Gan Chanukah Play** at assembly time! Please do come and watch our adorable littlest members of Cheder before you shop.



- 3) Our Shul's **Chanukah Party** will take place on **Sunday, 17 December** from 4-6.30 pm. **Gilbert Giggles** will be there again to entertain us with his quirky sense of humour, along with doughnuts and latkes galore. Again, we need your help with the simple things, schlepping and washing, so if you can help **please** let us know.
- 4) 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**: via the synagogue

L'Shalom,

Vicki, Cheder Head Teacher

Cheder Security Rota, October to December 2017

| Sundays | Names |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 October | No Cheder today |
| 8 October | Ben Craft |
| 15 October | Alicia Dahdi |
| 22 October | Half Term |
| 29 October | Half Term |
| 5 November | Dani Hall |
| 12 November | Gayle Harris |
| 19 November | Julia and Peter Hodges |
| 26 November | Kieron Hyams |
| 3 December | Carl and Maleka Levy |
| 10 December | Aleksandra and Stephen Love |
| 17 December | Chanukah Party 4-6.30 pm |

Summer Hype

A report from Emma and Manya

Dear Bromley Shul friends,

Thank you so much for all of your support, which has enabled us to have the most successful year of camp yet! This was our third year and it was bigger and better than ever. Two thirds of our participants had been with us over the last two years, which was tremendous to see.

We managed to extend camp by two days (and the kids asked for it to be extended by another week too!) and in that time we got to discuss difficult topics with our participants such as LGBTQ+, the environment, homelessness, relationships and body image.

Our theme this year was Aspirations. For this the leaders wrote sessions on role models, path to success, resilience and the future. The children learned a lot from these sessions and got to put it into writing in their Spoken Word Workshop run by some external professionals, as well as having a chance to perform their poems and raps to the group.

Besides all this, the participants got to exhaust themselves in activities such as 3G swing, high ropes and abseiling. Every evening we had creative activities, where we asked the kids to enter into different fantastical worlds using their imagination and take part in games that would further their teams and friendships.

Looking into the future for Summer Hype; we would like to be able to create a youth club, so that our philosophy and progress with the children can carry on throughout the year.

If you have not yet supported us and would like to, the link to our Virgin Giving page is still live and we would greatly appreciate any donation. If you have any questions or would like any further details please do not hesitate to email us or follow us on Facebook, Instagram (@itssummerhype), Twitter (summerhype team) or look at our website <http://summerhypecamp.weebly.com>.

Lots of love,

Emma Mittelman and Manya Eversley

Social Centre News

Miriam Wellbrook writes

A belated Happy New Year to you all from members of the Social Centre and, as you know, with a New Year come new ideas and new plans for the future.

With that in mind the Social Centre are indeed planning for the future and have decided to open their doors to the ‘younger’ generation. So if you have reached 60 years of age or, indeed, have long passed it (in the nicest possible way), we would like to make you aware of the old and new activities which await you.

We meet at 10.30-ish every other Wednesday for coffee/tea/biscuits/cake (you get the picture) and usually there’s a great deal of conversation going on. Some people like to play rummikub or scrabble at this time but the choice is entirely yours. We also have the option of enjoying a few very basic and simple exercises which are expertly led by Andreas in order that we work up an enormous appetite!

Our very varied and delicious two-course lunch is served at about 12.15 pm and followed by tea or coffee. Once we are all comfortably fed and watered the next couple of hours is spent immersed in various activities ranging from listening to a speaker, who always has an interesting topic to share, or perhaps enjoying music supplied by a musician or soloists/groups who have come to entertain us.

However, as mentioned in the opening paragraph, we have new plans and the first of these is the formation of a **Kalooki Club**. Many of us have played in the past but somehow as smartphones, tablets and the like crept in, card games have been neglected. So

any of you who would like to be part of this very exclusive club, please come along to the inaugural meeting on **Wednesday 25 October** and get your minds and hands working.

If you feel that your card skills are decidedly rusty, I will be happy to arrange a couple of informal sessions prior to 25 October so we all start from a reasonable standard. Nothing very high-powered – it is for pleasure – our pleasure! And all the rules, because we all know everybody has their own version of what they are, will be explained and adhered to, so avoiding handbags or walking sticks being raised during play.

So, for a fiver, you get drinks, biscuits, lunch and a game of kalooki. Can’t be bad can it? Where else will you get value like that?

Please let me know at miriam.wellbrook@ntlworld.com if you are coming so we can make sure there is plenty of food for everyone and, as already indicated, I shall be more than happy to set up a couple of games prior to 25 October so, don’t be shy, just contact me.

The Social Centre will hold its customary alternate Wednesday meetings on 11 and 25 October from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm, with the usual exercises, lunch and socialising in addition to the inauguration of the Kalooki Club on 25 October.



Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner and Lucy Prevezer of RSY-Netzer attend Prime Minister’s Rosh Hashanah celebration

Members of the Jewish community from business, the arts, politics, public services and charities attended a reception to celebrate Rosh Hashanah at 10 Downing Street on 13 September. Reform Judaism was represented by **Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner** and **Lucy Prevezer**, RSY-Netzer Movement Worker.

We are pleased to print the Prime Minister’s introductory remarks to those present at the reception. You can read her speech in full on the Reform Judaism website.

“I am delighted to welcome you all to this special celebration for the Jewish New Year.

Here today, we have people from all parts of our Jewish community and all parts of our society – from business to the arts, from politics to our public services.

We also have some of our country’s greatest philanthropists, leading charities and some of our most outstanding volunteers.

People like the Jewish Volunteering Network Volunteer of the Year Marsha Gladstone; and today’s Point of Light, Avi Dubiner, whose Shabbat Walks have inspired 22,000 visits to hospitals and care homes as Jewish people give their time on the Sabbath to help others in need.

So the first thing I want to say to all of you is: thank you.

And as Prime Minister I want to use the opportunity of this reception to show my personal support and appreciation for everything that you contribute to our country.

Speaking of recognising contributions, I am also pleased that we have now managed to ensure that, within clear guidelines, state schools will be able to claim gift aid on voluntary contributions.

This is something that can benefit not only Jewish State Schools – but all State schools.

And I am grateful for the work of the Partnership for Jewish Schools in helping to resolve this issue.”

Social and Personal

KALLOT - A hearty mazal tov to **Tracy Frankel** and **Judi Sheffrin**, who have been chosen as brides of the Torah and Bereshit, respectively, and will be closing the reading of the annual Torah cycle and opening the new one at our Simchat Torah services on 11 and 12 October.

BAT MITZVAH - A hearty mazal tov to **Hayley Preston** and her family on the occasion of Hayley's (adult) bat mitzvah, which she will celebrate on Saturday, 28 October - Shabbat Lech Lecha.

HIGH HOLYDAY GREETINGS

Joy Goldberg and family wish everyone at Bromley Reform Synagogue a healthy and happy New Year.

The following former or current members who are no longer in the area wish to pass on their warm good wishes to those who remember them: **Pam Brandon Bravo** with David, Simon and their families; **Madeleine and Bob Harmes**; **Tina and Neil Higgins** in Send and **Leah Kaneti** in Tel Aviv. They are thinking of us all in BRS.

GET WELL SOON - Pauline Jeffree writes: "We are thinking of all those who are unwell at home or in hospital and those who are recovering from surgery. We wish them all well."

News from BR5 & 6

Gloria Norman writes

Each year "Hospice UK" ask all hospices to nominate a volunteer for their "Volunteer of the Year Award". We are thrilled to let you know that our lovely **Jean Garelick** has been nominated St. Christopher's Volunteer Gardener of the year.

Jean is one of the original members of the volunteering team at Caritas House and has given 10 plus years of unbroken service to the beautiful gardens. She has been a constant and regular member of the team, where you will find her Tuesday mornings come rain or shine.

BR5 & 6 are really proud of her and she deserves this recognition.

RSY Netzer Israel Tour 2017



This summer I was lucky enough to go on the RSY Netzer Tour to Israel. I really enjoyed travelling around Israel and experiencing the diverse culture as well as amazing views and educational experiences.

On top of that I made friends all of whom helped make the Israel tour one of the best experiences I've ever had. I particularly enjoyed learning about the different religions, peoples and cuisine in Israel.

We did so many diverse things like white water rafting down the River Jordan, hiking around the Sea of Galilee, charity work with groups working with Israelis and Palestinians, visiting Jerusalem, and going to the beach in Eilat. My favourite part of the trip was when we stayed at Kibbutz Lotan in the Negev, which I discovered was one of very few Reform kibbutzim in Israel. I am attaching a picture of me (far left) and some friends doing yoga as the sun set. We then slept under the stars that night, it was magical.

Toda raba!

Esther Evans

High Holiday services

A thank you from Judi Sheffrin

Dear Editor,

A heartfelt thanks to all who performed their Rosh Hashanah mitzvot with such care, some of them at very short notice, and our invisible wardens who did a magnificent job of interpreting and improving upon the lists they were given. I cannot speak for Yom Kippur - it hasn't yet happened at the time of writing - but I am sure everyone will be equally good. Thank you, too. It is for others to thank the rabbi, choir, lay readers; fantastic children's services team, welcomers, security folk and shleppers and I am sure they will, so watch this space! Shana Tova,

Judi Sheffrin

Living with Hearing Loss

for people over 50

This informal course will run every Tuesday from 3 October to 19 December, 10.00 am to 12 noon at the Beckenham home of Pauline Jeffree.

Come and join other people with hearing loss.

We will provide lipreading activities and equipment demonstrations, show you how to be more assertive and confident.

With a variety of local speakers on different topics and much more.

If you would like to join our free course or would like more information please contact **Zoe Fudge**

Email: zoe.fudge@deafplus.org

Voice: 020 8315 2550

www.deafplus.org

deafPLUS

LWHL
Living with Hearing Loss

Bromley WIZO-Eretz

Our next event will tell the story of our own WIZO member **Trudi Sealey**. If you love *Who Do You Think You Are?* then this is for you. Trudi was born and has lived overseas for much of her life and will be giving an illustrated talk about this and her family.

Join us on **Thursday 2 November** in the Garden Room of Bromley Reform Synagogue at 2.30 pm. Tea/Coffee and other refreshments – donation **£12.50**

Whether it is Bridge, Kalooki, Scrabble or Mah Jong, put a date in your diaries for our ever popular **Cards/ Games afternoon on Sunday, 26 November** at the Beckenham home of **Barbara Fizzon** from 3.00 to 6.00 pm. To reserve your place call her on 020 8658 6060 or email bafizz@virginmedia.com. Donation **£12.50**, including tea/coffee and cakes.

 **WIZO UK**
Caring for the people of Israel

Our Kallot, Simchat Torah 2017-5778



How great that **Tracy Frankel** is able this year to accept the honour of being *Kallot Torah*

because it is high time that this super-busy lady gave us the opportunity to thank her for her work with the Gan over the years. With her welcoming smile and infectious enthusiasm for everything in which she is involved, Tracy is truly one of those life-enhancing people whom we all need to have around us.

Every Sunday morning, Tracy could be seen arriving at Highland Road bearing bags and boxes, invariably containing something delicious - she is also a great cook! - as well as toys and creative material, followed by a procession of Erin, Nick, Jake and Megan, all similarly laden, even when they were very small. They rapidly transformed our barn-like Garden Room into a place of colour, laughter and learning.

Parents and children alike speak of her love

of people and intense interest in them - "she always remembers things about you" - and the way she makes difficult topics accessible through toys and stories. She's ... "effervescent", "always sunny, whatever the weather," "very energetic". "She works very, very hard," and "she can't be summed up in just one word". All mention being greeted by that smile - always that smile, and there are hugs too - "and we, the adults, were learning as well." A generation of children has 'graduated' into the Cheder proper with a real sense of belonging to this shul and the Jewish people thanks to Tracy and her helpers. "She taught us lots of letters in the Hebrew alphabet, the aleph bet," and "she got lots of toys out," and "she's such a happy person." With the blossoming careers of her Franklets to nurture, Tracy has had to leave the Gan in the capable hands of Heidi and Sue - what an act to follow, but what a great template she's put in place - however we hope to see more of all the Frankels in future and wish every one of them mazal tov over this festive period. Most particularly, to Tracy herself, "Thank you for all that you have done for us at BRS."

Judi Sheffrin is one of those people whom everyone at BRS knows. Why? Because she's involved (or has been involved) in activities as varied as acting in the Purim spiel, Cheder teacher, lay reader and choir member.



She is much more than a *macher* - literally a doer. How many people have made friends at her dinner table? Lots. How many people have been the benefit of Judi's suggestions? They're always aimed to bring people together, to encourage the new member to meet other members. She's an open-hearted host, ensuring that visitors to shul are welcomed and included. She is always open to new ideas, while cherishing our traditions.

Judi is the embodiment of an *eshet chayil* (a woman of valour) sometimes small acts of kindness have huge, far-reaching and life transforming consequences.

For Judi, everybody in our community matters. Thank you, Judi, for being you.

Lessons from the CCJ National Branch conference 2017

I learned much from the speakers at my first, 24-hour, Council of Christians and Jews National Branch conference, in Leicester, in September.

There were three areas in particular where I gained greater insight. All three areas had this in common: speakers providing a balance to my overwhelmingly North West European perspective.

Rabbi Joseph Dweck, Senior Rabbi of the UK's Spanish and Portuguese Sephardi community and Rabbi of Bevis Marks Synagogue in the City, explained that his family of Spanish origin settled in Aleppo in the early 1500s. He grew up in the US. It is the first time I have heard a Sephardi rabbi explain what is distinctive about the Sephardic (= from Spain/Portugal) tradition as distinct from the Ashkenazi tradition (= from Germany/eastern Europe). Rabbi Dweck talked about Sephardic Judaism embracing the diversity of the world as it is ... "world as an expression of the Almighty"... while the Ashkenazim tend

to expect the world to conform to a pre-conceived structure.

Part of the explanation for this difference is that Sephardic Jews lived side by side with non-Jews and spoke the same language as their non-Jewish neighbours (Ladino is Spanish with some specific Jewish words, we were informed), while Ashkenazi Jews grew up living in ghettos apart from their non-Jewish neighbours and the Yiddish they spoke could not be so readily understood by their German or Polish speaking non-Jewish neighbours.

Rabbi Dweck used a phrase I had not considered before, regarding "responsibility (of religious leaders) to relate understanding to direction of Society".

Marcus Braybrooke, former Director of CCJ and co-founder of the Three Faiths Forum, and Canon Steve Williams opened my mind to the intense Christian debate around the Apostolic Creed (do search "Apostolic Creed" in Google if (like

me) you do not know it by heart): is it an historic statement of faith developed by 3rd-4th Century Christians in the particular circumstances of the Middle East or an eternal article of faith for Christians today? Jews with me at the workshop where the Creed turned into the main topic seemed as bewildered as I was by the passionate debate firing off around us about whether the Apostolic Creed is literal or a metaphor.

Bishop Angaelos, General Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Britain, spoke with enormous dignity and gentle anger about the fate of the Coptic Christian community in the Middle East and the impunity of those who attack the community. The Bishop's talk brought home to all of us the ongoing tragedy that is taking place in the Middle East. Nor had I known that what remains of the Coptic Christian community in the Middle East is so concentrated in Egypt.

Whenever the next CCJ Branch Conference takes place and in whatever format, I recommend anyone interested in religion/politics/philosophy/ to attend.

Stephen Weil

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:

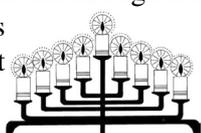
- donate raffle prizes/skills - can you provide entertainment/music
- do you want to run a stall - can you please save jars for our "Jolly Jars" stall? (just leave them labelled in the cloakroom by the entrance).

Contact us through the synagogue on: 020 8460 5460

Chanukah Hospitality
An appeal from Judi Sheffrin

It is our custom at BRS to encourage people to host candle-lighting parties in their own homes during Chanukah. The aim is to cover every night and all our geographical areas, from the "Kentish fringes" to SE10, via, but not exclusively, Orpington, Bickley and Chislehurst; Dulwich, Forest Hill and Sydenham; Beckenham and Penge and, of course, Bromley itself.

This year the first candle is on **Tuesday 12 December** and the last on **Tuesday 19** (the party at shul is on Sunday afternoon, 17). If you would like to volunteer to host a party - you can choose your start and finish times and what, if anything, you would like guests to bring - please contact me through the synagogue as soon as possible after Simchat Torah.



SERVICES

October 2017 – Tishri/Cheshvan 5778

Fridays at 7 pm, unless otherwise stated.

Saturdays at 10.30 am, unless otherwise stated

Wednesday 4 October **Erev Sukkot** - service at 6.30 pm in the Synagogue

Thursday 5 October **SUKKOT** - service at 10.30 am in the Synagogue

Friday 6 October
Saturday 7 October **Chol Hamoed Sukkot** (17 Tishri)

Wednesday 11 October **Erev Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah** - tea at 6 pm followed by service in the Synagogue (all to end by 8 pm)

Thursday 12 October **SHEMINI ATZERET AND SIMCHAT TORAH** - service at 10.30 am in the Synagogue

Friday 13 October
Saturday 14 October **Bereshit** (24 Tishri)

Friday 20 October
Saturday 21 October **Noach** (Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan)

Friday 27 October
Saturday 28 October **Lech Lecha** (8 Cheshvan)
 Bat mitzvah of **Hayley Preston**

We are delighted to welcome

Everyone Matters

"Music for a while shall all your cares beguile"

This is a group of skilled and enthusiastic musicians under the musical direction of **Margaret Archibald**, whose mission is to take the benefits and joy of music to people of all ages who cannot readily access it themselves. They visit playgroups and nurseries, special schools and care homes, reaching out to the young, old and disadvantaged. The group was founded two years ago and is a registered charity.

To support this wonderful endeavour please join us at a

CONCERT on Sunday, 5 November

at the Shul, commencing with refreshments at 3.30 pm

Entrance is free but we do hope you will give generously to support this very worthwhile cause.

For catering purposes it would be useful if you would let us know if you plan to attend.

For further information (and personal recommendation) please contact Pauline: pauline.jeffree@btinternet.com or Barbara: a.bkurtz@talktalk.net

or "Everyone Matters" - www.everyone-matters.co.uk

Patron: **Howard Shelley, O.B.E.**



Dates for Your Diary

October

| | | |
|----|----|---|
| S | 1 | NO Cheder today! Decorating the Sukkah - 10 am -12 noon |
| M | 2 | |
| T | 3 | Living with Hearing Loss - 10 am at Pauline's |
| W | 4 | Erev Sukkot - service at 6.30 pm at the Shul |
| Th | 5 | SUKKOT - service at 10.30 am at the Shul |
| F | 6 | |
| S | 7 | Chol Hamoed Sukkot |
| S | 8 | Introduction to Judaism , 10-10.50 am Sukkot Party - 11 am to 4 pm at Sadeh Farm |
| M | 9 | |
| T | 10 | Living with Hearing Loss - 10 am at Pauline's |
| W | 11 | Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul Erev Shemini Atzeret-Simchat Torah tea at 6 pm followed by service at the Shul |
| Th | 12 | SHEMINI ATZERET-SIMCHAT TORAH service at 10.30 am at the Shul |
| F | 13 | |
| S | 14 | Bereshit |
| S | 15 | Introduction to Judaism , 10-10.50 am |
| M | 16 | |
| T | 17 | Living with Hearing Loss - 10 am at Pauline's |
| W | 18 | |
| Th | 19 | Talmud Study Group , 10.30-11.45 am at the Shul |
| F | 20 | |
| S | 21 | Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan Noach |
| S | 22 | Cheder Half Term |
| M | 23 | |
| T | 24 | Living with Hearing Loss - 10 am at Pauline's |
| W | 25 | Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul - Inauguration of Kalooki Club |
| Th | 26 | |
| F | 27 | |
| S | 28 | Lech Lecha - Bat Mitzvah of Hayley Preston |
| S | 29 | Cheder Half Term - Clocks go back 1 hour |
| M | 30 | |
| T | 31 | Living with Hearing Loss - 10 am at Pauline's |

November

| | | |
|----|----|--|
| W | 1 | |
| Th | 2 | Bromley WIZO-Eretz - talk by Trudi Sealey - 2.30 pm at the Shul |
| F | 3 | |
| S | 4 | Vayera |
| S | 5 | Everyone Matters - tea and concert -3.30 pm at the Shul |
| M | 6 | |
| T | 7 | Living with Hearing Loss - 10 am at Pauline's |
| W | 8 | Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul Talk by Jeremy Havardi on 'Refuting the Anti-Israel Narrative', 7.30 for 8 pm in the Shul |
| Th | 9 | |
| F | 10 | |
| S | 11 | Chayei Sara |
| S | 12 | |
| M | 13 | |
| T | 14 | Living with Hearing Loss - 10 am at Pauline's |
| W | 15 | |
| Th | 16 | |
| F | 17 | |
| S | 18 | Toledot |
| S | 19 | Rosh Chodesh Kislev - Mitzvah Day |
| M | 20 | |
| T | 21 | Living with Hearing Loss - 10 am at Pauline's |
| W | 22 | Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul |
| Th | 23 | |
| F | 24 | |
| S | 25 | Vayetze |
| S | 26 | Bromley WIZO-Eretz - Card/Games Afternoon , 3-6 pm at the home of Barbara Fiszson |
| M | 27 | |
| T | 28 | Living with Hearing Loss - 10 am at Pauline's |
| W | 29 | |
| Th | 30 | |

Shana Tova 5778



שנה טובה

On behalf of everyone at Leo Baeck College
May the blast of the shofar signal a New Year
of Peace and wellbeing for us all.



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