

HIGHLight

Bromley Reform Synagogue newsletter

November 2017 – Cheshvan-Kislev 5778

We are delighted to welcome the author and journalist

Jeremy Havardi

who will be giving a presentation entitled
'A very liberal form of hatred: how anti-Zionism flirts with anti-Semitism'



The author of *Refuting the Anti-Israel Narrative* examines commonly held views that, among other accusations, Israel acts aggressively and with disregard for civilian lives in pursuit of an illegal and unnecessary occupation of Palestinian territory, and speaks of the anti-Semitism this engenders. He outlines the legal, moral and historical justice behind Jewish statehood and discusses the reasons behind the failed peace process in recent years.

We hope you will join us in the Synagogue to hear his talk and join in the question and answer session afterwards.

Wednesday, 8 November
7.30 pm refreshments, 8 pm talk
Further information from Michelle Brooks-Evans, through the synagogue office

IMPORTANT MEETING

of Cheder and Gan parents
Sunday, 12 November
at 11.30 am

on the agenda:
Chanukah Fair and Cheder security

Come and have your say

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Chanukah Fair
Sunday, 3 December
12.30-3.00 pm
Fun for all ages!



Get ready for Chanukah and raise funds for the Synagogue and Cheder

All welcome: bring your family & friends
Chanukah candles, gift wrap, chanukiot, dreidels, decorations & more!

Real East End bagels - kids' lunches - holiday arts and crafts

Raffle - Plants by the Garelicks - cards by Judi
cake stall and refreshments

New this year! Silent auction: "shhhh!"

Live Klezmer music - Jolly Jars

Afternoon tea - Pop-up Library:

FREE BOOK for the first 30 families!

Go to page 5 for details of the fabulous auction

National Mitzvah Day - Sunday, 19 November

This will be marked by a special visit from the **Greyhound Trust** in acknowledgement of a generous donation of £250 by the Cheder children with their Tzedakah money. In recognition of this mitzvah, **Graeme Marshall** will be bringing one of the dogs in to meet the children and to 'woof' a thank you, while they learn about the mitzvah of *tza'ar ba'alay chayim* (looking after animals) and what the money has meant for these dogs.

We do things for ourselves - View from the Chair

One of the characteristics of our community is that we do things for ourselves. True, some of that is because we don't have much choice. Being a relatively small community, we simply don't have the resources to pay people to do things that we can do for ourselves but the positive side of that is we are a much stronger community because of it. Nowhere is that more apparent than at the High Holyday services in the Crofton Halls. Each year we decamp to Orpington and there our services are held in an atmosphere of dignity and respect, which creates the right mood for meaningful introspection and worship. This is only possible because of the enormous voluntary effort of so many members. It is our members who transport furniture and set it up and take it down. They allocate mitzvot and ensure that the services run smoothly. They do security and greet at the door. They take children's services, lead

parts of the main services, sing in the choir and play the organ. As Chairman of BRS, I thank all our members who contribute so much of their time, effort and commitment.

And then off we go into the new year with members building and decorating the sukkah and celebrating the *chagim*. The Gan (kindergarten) is packed and the Cheder is thriving thanks to our teachers and helpers. At the other end of the age spectrum, the Social Centre and tea parties provide for those often living on their own and then there is the regular visiting and caring that goes on quietly without announcement – such is a caring community.

What more can our members do right now? Well, don't forget the **Kol Nidre appeal**. It's not too late to make your contribution. You can send a cheque into the shul office or pay online. There are also plenty of events of interest coming up in

the next month. Do bring yourself and maybe a cake for tea. At 3.30 for 4.00 pm on Sunday, 5 November there will be a concert



for adults and children to be performed by "Everyone Matters", a wonderful charitable group of professional and amateur young musicians. Then at 7.30 for 8.00 pm on Wednesday, 8 November, author and journalist **Jeremy Havardi** will be talking to us on the subject of "*A very liberal form of hatred: how anti-Zionism flirts with anti-Semitism*". Last but by no means least, the **Chanukah Fair** takes place from 12.30 – 3.00 pm on Sunday, 3 December. Your involvement and participation are essential to our community.

John Posner, Chairman

Eradicating Poverty

Dvar Torah given by Ann Fried at the Board Meeting on Tuesday, 17 October

Today, 17 October, is the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. This day has been celebrated every year on this day throughout the world since 1987 and was officially designated by the UN in 1992.

The original commemorative stone in Paris is engraved with the words:

Wherever men and women are condemned to live in extreme poverty, human rights are violated. To come together to ensure that these rights be respected is our solemn duty.

Judaism teaches involvement and concern with the plight of fellow human beings. Every life is sacred and we are obligated to do what we can to help others. We speak out justifiably against the silence of the world when 6 million Jews and 5 million other people were murdered in the Holocaust. Can we be silent when millions die agonizing deaths because of lack of food?

Elie Wiesel has pointed out that there can be no analogies to the Holocaust, but that it can be used as a reference. In that context, we can consider both the 8 million infants who die each year due to malnutrition

and the 6 million Jews who were slaughtered by the Nazis. True, victims of hunger are not being singled out because of their religion, race or nationality but, like the Holocaust victims, they die while the world goes about its business indifferent to the plight of the starving masses.

When people talk about food poverty the image that comes to mind is of appeals for starving children with bloated stomachs in poor countries far away. We think we've seen it, we think we know what food poverty is. Except we don't. That's one facet of the problem but another is food insecurity and food poverty much closer to home. There is a crisis in the UK as the cost of living rises and wages stagnate and for many food is becoming harder to afford. Some people have to turn to food banks and they are turning in huge numbers. And schools have breakfast clubs and free school meals programmes are bursting at the seams. One in five people in the UK live below the poverty line. In the London Borough of Bromley, in what most of us consider to be the affluent south east, there are eight food bank centres.

And yet the Talmud teaches that if one saves a single human life it is as if one has saved a whole world. What then if one permits a single life to perish? Or 10 million?

Like other peoples Jews have frequently experienced hunger. Because of famines Abraham was forced to go to Egypt, Isaac went to the land of Avimelech, the children of Jacob went to Egypt to buy grain and Naomi and her family fled to Moab. Many laws of the Torah are designed to aid the poor: the corners of the field are to be left uncut for the poor to pick (Lev.19:10) and the gleanings of the wheat harvest. (also Lev.) During the sabbatical year the land is to be left fallow so that the poor may eat of whatever grows freely.

Based on Jewish values and Jewish history, we must identify with the starving masses of the world including the starving in our own midst. The Talmudic sage Hillel stresses that we must not be concerned only with our own welfare. "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am for myself alone, what am I?" (Ethics of the Fathers)

Ann Fried

On Sabbatical

The synagogue is very generous in granting me a month's sabbatical each year, though I'll only be taking advantage of it for the second time beginning this month. Jodi, Asher and I are off to America. We'll be enjoying a chance to relax with family, including going to Jodi's parents' home for Thanksgiving, the great American holiday of eating way too much turkey.

Also on the trip though we will be going to the Union for Reform Judaism's Biennial Conference in Boston. Think of the Biennial a bit like *Limmud*, but specifically Reform. Thousands of Reform Jews from all over the world gather for five days of learning, praying, music, eating, kibitzing and more. The last time I took a month's sabbatical, two years ago, I also went to the Biennial and met our then Chair, **Joanna Koenigsberg**, there. Two years ago, British Jewry was well represented with lay, professional and rabbinic representatives from a variety of Reform and Liberal synagogues, as well as the Movement's offices and Leo Baeck College. This year we are expecting nearly 20 people from the British progressive movements to attend. At that conference, we all had a great time and learned a lot.

This year, I eagerly anticipate hearing from some of the best Jewish scholars, thinkers and leaders. It was also a great chance to hear what other synagogues are up to. This year, we are expecting a contingent of almost twenty. Two years ago, the keynote address was delivered by the US Vice President, **Joe Biden**. Two years before that it was **Barack Obama**. I'm not sure who is scheduled this year, but the Biennial always attracts high profile speakers. Regardless, the Biennial is always a great opportunity for synagogues to share and learn from one another. I look forward to reporting back what I've learned.

While I am looking forward to the sabbatical, I will always miss our community. My thoughts will be with everyone regularly, and I look forward to our return.

L'shalom, to peace,

Rabbi Jason Holtz



Hesped for Rene Dale - 08 August 1923 - 28 Sept 2017

The Hebrew poet **Hannah Szenes** wrote: *yeish kochavim sh'oram magiah artzah rak ka'asher heim avdu v'einam*. There are stars whose light reaches earth only after the star itself is gone. Though Rene is no longer here, her light is reflected off those who loved her.

When Rene was a small child, she was a member of the Daily Mail's "Teddy Tail League" following the popular comic in the paper. However, when the paper's editorial line supported Hitler, she immediately cancelled her subscription and returned her badge.

During the war, she was in the Women's Air Force and, in 1946, she was posted to Berlin. That year, just after World War II and the Holocaust, she celebrated the Passover Seder in Berlin with other Jewish servicemen and women. She told her son Richard that it was, "quite something."

Rene had an extraordinary amount of energy. As a younger woman, she would cycle everywhere, often with one of her children on the front of the bike.

When Rene moved to Pilgrove's Farm, where she lived for over thirty years, she became a ferocious gardener. She told her daughter Heather rather sadly that she had dug up every single nettle in a particular patch, but they had all grown again. She was very happy living there, even after her husband Maurice died.

Rene was also a great reader, something that she encouraged in her children. Reading was always an excuse not to have to do something. Heather, unfortunately, remembers being surprised at school when the same rule did not apply. Rene's favourite author was Jane Austen. She once went to a Women's Educational Association Jane Austen study school and came back very amused that the lecturer had misquoted one of Austen's books and had been corrected by gales of laughter from the class. After Rene's stroke in July 2013, reading remained one of her great pleasures, along with maintaining a keen interest in the world.

Rene once learned braille, something very difficult to do. She joined a group from the synagogue who transcribed the *Jewish Chronicle* into braille. She also spent many years reading to blind lecturers, particularly **Fred Reid**, to whom she became very close over the years.

Perhaps one of her most appreciated skills was baking. Her daughter Angie remembers her making a mean apple pie and Alex loved her rice pudding, which was to die for.

Richard remembers her strongly held left-liberal views, which she had from an early age. Rene's values are shared by him. Rene inherited toughness and outspokenness from her father, not caring how her words would be received or how "important" the recipient was. **Marjorie Ziff** says she "stood up to anybody". While not everyone might have appreciated that quality, Richard did and sees it as simple honesty. Her views were strongly held, freely expressed and based on good values.

About ten years ago, Rene went to a luncheon sponsored by the magazine "The Oldie". The guest speaker was the Jewish actress, **Maureen Lipman**. Afterwards, Rene observed Ms Lipman chatting to **Richard Ingrams**, the magazine's editor. Rene walked over and calmly said, "He (Richard Ingrams) is a raving anti-Semite you know." Maureen Lipman responded, "Let's not go there." Rene replied, "I'll go where I want to, chuck"

Rene's stroke left her—an eloquent woman—unable to recall the words she needed to speak and in need of full-time care. Nevertheless, she managed to retain her personality and interest in life, reading the *Spectator* and *Jewish Chronicle* every week and pointing out interesting articles or ones where she had strong opinions.

After her stroke, Rene might have had a desperately frustrating life, were it not for two special people. Rene's granddaughter Zoe took her out to lunch nearly every Sunday along with Angie, and Zoe worked with all of Rene's carers to make sure that she received the best possible care. Rene's last carer was **Joan Minja**. The two struck up a real friendship, sharing jokes, walks in the country, TV and cups of tea. Joan gave Rene her life back for the two years that they were together.

Today, as we remember Rene, let us give thanks for her, a tough, outspoken woman, who loved and was beloved by her family. May her memory be for a blessing.

Hesped delivered by Rabbi Jason Holtz at Rene's funeral on Sunday, 1 October

Cheder News

Well, the Cheder year is rolling on and we seem to have survived the super-busy Jewish holidays. That means it's time for the super-busy post-holiday events. Here are just a few you may like to know about:

- 1) A reminder that this term your children's **Tzedakah** money will go to support the charity **Jewish Child's Day**, which supports both Jewish and non-Jewish children suffering neglect, abuse or other hardship in the UK. Please send in your spare change to support this very worthy cause.
- 2) Our Parents' Association, **Hooray Cheder**, holds regular meetings during Cheder time. Our leader Michelle Brooks Evans (mum of Lili, Esther, Lloyd and Ezra) has been working all of the hours that God sends to make sure our children are getting the most out of their time with us. Please look out for their emails - they will be full of events for our kids and really simple ways that you can help with events or fundraising- vital for our Cheder's "extras".
- 3) Bromley Reform Synagogue will celebrate **National Mitzvah Day on Sunday, 19 November** with a special visit from the **Greyhound Trust**. You will remember that last term the Cheder children raised £250.00 with their Tzedakah money to support this rescue charity chosen by Kittah Chet. Because of this mitzvah, **Graeme Marshall** will be bringing one of the dogs in to meet the children and to 'woof' a thank you, while we learn about the mitzvah of *tza'ar ba'alay chayim* (looking after animals) and what that money has meant for those dogs. Please make sure not to miss this special day.
- 4) Our next exciting event will be our **Chanukah Fair on Sunday, 3 December**, directly after Cheder, from 12.30-3 pm. Lunches will be on sale, as well as doughnuts, Judaica, second-hand Jewish books, toys, pottery - and anything else you might think might make a good Chanukah gift for the ones you love. Best of all? The money you spend will help support the Cheder and other Shul events, so before you leave with your kids that Sunday, please pop downstairs and have a look!



This mum and daughter were among those Cheder members who helped decorate the sukkah on the day after Yom Kippur

- 5) Our **Chanukah Party** this year will be on the last day of Cheder, **17 December**. Later Cheder will be on from **4 to 6.30 pm**. **Gilbert Giggles** will be on hand to entertain the younger ones, with latkes, sufganiot (doughnuts) and dreidels everywhere. **Youth Club** will have its own party with details TBC. We'll end the evening with a communal candle lighting.
- 6) And speaking of **Youth Club**, our club for children aged 12+ is still meeting once a month under the superb direction of **Hayley Preston**, but remember: if the kids don't use Youth Club, they'll lose Youth Club. Do encourage your older children to attend regularly. Next date: **19 November**.
- 7) Last but not least, please check the **security rota** on this page to see if we are expecting you to show up for security. If you realise you cannot attend on the day you've been allocated, please contact **Graham Harris**: grahamh4@aol.com

That's all for now! Until next month, *L'Shalom*, **Vicki**, Cheder Head Teacher

Cheder Security Rota, November to December 2017

Sundays	Names
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

Social Centre News

The Garden Room doors open on to such a welcoming sight - tables elegantly laid with gleaming cloths and cutlery. Each table also has a vase of artistically arranged fresh flowers. Then we are greeted by a band of smiling ladies' faces headed by **Dianne Mathews**, who run the club and prepare the enjoyable lunch for the members.

Tea or coffee is offered with a variety of tantalising biscuits; then we sit and chat or divide into groups to play the popular game of Rummikub. For those people who would prefer different board games these are also available. Alternatively, there is going to be the card game of Kalooki on 25 October (after this *Highlight* has gone to press).

The club meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, so please consider coming along to join us, as the effort the organisers put into its running should be rewarded by an increased number of people joining us between 10.30 am and 2.30 pm on those dates.

About mid-morning our friend Andreas arrives to take us through some gentle exercises, keeping us fit. We are privileged by the donation of his professional services for our benefit.

Dianne and her helpers serve a delicious lunch, followed by tea or coffee. Often we are presented with a quiz plus an occasional musical entertainment, or an interesting talk is organised.

Those of us who attend regularly have struck up wonderful friendships - we feel like members of a big family. Holidays or illness are usually the only reasons for non-attendance. Please come along and join us, as the club can only function if we maintain sufficient numbers - you can be assured that you will be pleased you came.

Maureen Pearlstone

Social Diary Dates

Wednesday, 8 November

Musical entertainment by Tom Shiels and, hopefully, David Coronel.

Wednesday, 22 November

Exercises, cards, lunch and socialising.

Conversation Café

Jewish Care's Holocaust Survivors' Centre is working in partnership with Nightingale Hammerson holding two types of meeting on alternate months.

The first is for Survivors born in Nazi-occupied Europe living in Nightingale and in the wider community, and the second meeting is a closed discussion session offering a safe environment to talk about any issues.

Wednesday 8 November Remembering Kristallnacht

A closed group discussion session at 1.30 pm with Moshe Teller for survivors and refugees

Wednesday 20 December Chanukah Party

kindly hosted by Nightingale Hammerson in conjunction with Jewish Care's Holocaust Survivors' Centre and the AJR

Lunch – 12.30 pm in the Activity Centre (Survivors and Refugees welcome) followed by special Chanukah entertainment, 2.30 – 3.30 pm, followed by refreshments

Should you wish to attend or require further information please call **Stephen Ison** on 07881 863 237 or **Ann Sugarman** on 020 8202 9844

Bromley WIZO-Eretz

Our next event will tell the story of our own WIZO member **Trudi Sealey**. 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 contact Barbara through the synagogue office.

Donation £12.50, including tea/coffee and cakes.

Hooray Cheder PTA

Fundraising Auction

As part of the Chanukah Fair we aim to raise £1,000 towards Cheder security. This year we are holding an auction with some fantastic items:

Dinner for two - babysitting services - 4 tickets to the Royal Academy of Arts 2018 summer exhibition - 1-hour massages - Ray-ban sunglasses - Private horse riding lesson (child) - Thames Clipper riverboat family roamer ticket - Eve Lom beauty gift box - Luxury Cole & Mason salt and pepper mills - A pair of Ray-bans

How to Make Your Bid:

1. Go to <https://www.auctionofpromises.com/search.aspx> and search for "Hooray Cheder"
2. Email hooraycheder@gmail.com and state the item and amount of your bid
3. Bid on the day at the Chanukah Fair – we will have bidding sheets

If you have any services or items to donate towards this worthy cause, please email us and we can add it to the auction.

Let the bidding begin!



Jolly Jar Tombola

As part of our Chanukah Fair fundraising, we are introducing a **Jolly Jar Tombola**. A number of parents have seen this organised for school fêtes. It is an easy fundraiser that kids really enjoy.

So what is a Jolly Jar?

A Jolly Jar is a small jar that is filled with goodies like sweets, chocolate, small toys, stickers, erasers, small pencils / pens, or things you might find in a party bag. You can decorate your jar if you wish with stickers, glitter, ribbon – the choice is yours!

Jolly Jar Tombola is a lot of fun, but there are a few rules to consider:

1. Please ensure contents are vegetarian
2. Remember not to add nuts or food containing nuts inside your jar.
3. Ensure your jar does not contain sweets or toys which might be unsuitable for smaller children (e.g. boiled sweets, marbles etc.).
4. Try to make your jar appeal to either a boy or a girl.
5. Any **clean** jar can be used, such as a coffee, jam, pickle or small mason jar.

Here are a few examples

Your Jolly Jars can be brought into the Shul (handed to a Cheder teacher or left in a labelled box in the cloakroom) from now up to and including the day of the Fair.



Lastly, the more jars we have, the more funds we raise, so we have introduced a little competition for the Cheder. The class that brings in the highest average number of jars per student will win a class prize!

If you have any questions, please reach out to Gan teacher **Heidi Small** through the synagogue office.

Social and Personal

DEATHS - We are very sad to report the recent deaths of three of our members: **Rene Dale**, widow of the late Colonel Maurice Dale, on 28 September, **Dr. Gerald (Gerry) Carp** on 30 September and **Margaret Goldstein** on 13 October. We extend our deepest sympathies to their families and pray that their memories may be for a blessing.

The Rabbi's *hesped* for **Rene Dale** appears on page 4 of this *Highlight*.

A eulogy for **Gerald Carp** by his son Jonathan appears on page 9 of this *Highlight*.

A eulogy for **Margaret Goldstein** will appear in the December *Highlight*.

Thanks to the congregation - Eunice, Malva (Black) and Jon Carp would like to thank all members of the community for their good wishes, messages and support following the recent sad passing of Gerald. Their kindness was very much appreciated.

GET WELL SOON - to Phil Michaelis, who has returned home after his recent operation. We hope he continues to make steady progress.

Pauline Jeffree writes: We are thinking of and wish well to all those known to us who are presently ill or are recovering from recent operations. Please do not hesitate to contact the Caring Community Chair - Pauline - through the Synagogue Office.

Knit and Natter

Thursday 9 November
from 10.00 am - 12 noon at Pauline's

We would love to see anyone who likes to Knit and Natter!

Please can you help with any double knitting baby wool and pillow case-size fun material for incubator covers? We don't knit all the time and stop for coffee and cookies.

Sometimes you might see us going across the road to enjoy a snack lunch together.



Pauline Jeffree, through the synagogue office: 020 8460 5460

Brides of the Torah



Tracy Frankel and Judi Sheffrin were Kallat Torah and Kallat Bereshit, respectively, at our Simchat Torah services in October.

SE10 and Beyond..... comes to Bromley

On **Wednesday, 8 November** from 7.30 pm at Bromley Reform Synagogue (note the change of venue) we have an exciting speaker, **Jeremy Havardi**, to follow up on our discussion about Israel. He is speaking on "A very liberal form of hatred: how anti-Zionism flirts with anti-Semitism".

Jeremy is 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.

Bromley Friends, a social group for older people, organised by Jewish Care, meets at a private home in Bromley on the last Thursday of every month from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. for tea, chat and laughter.

Next meeting:
Thursday, 30 November.

Contact: **Liane Segal** on 020 8290 5984 or **Stephen Ison** on 07881 863237.

Living with Hearing Loss for people over 50

This informal course, which began in October, will run every Tuesday until 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 lip reading activities and equipment demonstrations and 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
Lip Reading with Hearing Loss

A Chanukah Treat Every Day!

"Thank you" to those who have generously offered to welcome people to their homes over Chanukah. Full details will appear next month so that you can plan your visiting schedule! Now I am looking for volunteers for December 12, 13 and 18 - nights 1, 2 and 7. The idea is **either** to host a candle-lighting party at home **or** to visit members who cannot get out to such gatherings, and bring Chanukah to them.

The BRS party with Gilbert Giggles is on Sunday, 17 December; Sadeh, the lovely Jewish farm at Skeet Hill, Orpington has offered to host on Thursday, 14 December and there are gatherings in Beckenham, Blackheath and Sydenham. It would be nice to cover our other areas, from the "Kentish Fringes" to Forest Hill. You can choose your start and finish times and what, if anything, you ask guests to bring.

Please contact me **before Wednesday, 15 November** through the synagogue office, so that we can be sure to get the details in the all-important December *Highlight*.

Judi Sheffrin

Remembering Gerald Carp, 3 September 1927 - 30 September 2017

On 3 September this year we celebrated my father's 90th birthday. Dad had a life of 90 years that, for the most part, would be alien to generations that followed.

Gerald Woolf Carp was born on 3 September 1927 to Esther and Morris Carp. Both immigrants, from Russia and Poland respectively. Born in Hackney, East London within the sound of the Bow Bells, making him a true Cockney – this was something he was very proud of. Dad was the middle son of three, wedged between Alec and Rubin. His father was a tailor and, whilst the family did not enjoy great wealth, he described his family as extremely loving, close and caring – traits he carried on throughout his life towards his family, friends and patients.

Dad was highly intelligent and won a scholarship to the famous Grocers' Company's (later Hackney Downs) School in Hackney. He described this as an academic pressure cooker. He once told me how the class would sit reciting the times tables with their hands on the desks – any error would result in a whack across the knuckles. Whenever I complained of hardship in my youth he would tell how he would walk three miles each way to school and back, do his homework then go to Cheder every night. It did mean that he was fluent in Hebrew and very learned in his Jewishness. His Jewishness was clearly ingrained in him from an early age and this would never leave him, although clearly the orthodox mentality was relaxed as he got older. To me, no one could do a Seder like Dad.

Dad's school years were not plain sailing. The war was in full swing during this time and, because his father could sew, they were moved to Nottingham to stitch parachutes. At some point the family returned to the East End, where he continued his education. He left school at 18 determined to become a doctor and had been offered a place at medical school. But in those early post-war years it cost money to go to medical school and money was short in the Carp family. Dad found a way. To the horror of his family he enlisted in the army for three years as they would fund his place on completion of his service. The army were very keen on good language speakers and his German, I am sure influenced by fluent Yiddish, meant he was offered to go to Germany – basically as a spy. Not surprisingly he turned this

down and instead spent his three years at the army barracks in Aldershot playing rugby. Dad finally qualified as a doctor in 1954.

In 1954 Dad's younger brother, Rub, got engaged to Joyce. They were to have a party and there were two reluctant attendees – both claiming they would not know anyone. One was my father and the other was **Eunice Finkle**. Both were heavily encouraged to go to the party by their families and in later years they often considered whether this encouragement had been planned. At the party, whilst Eunice sat alone she was joined by Gerald and from the first moment they started laughing together. They swapped details and Eunice eagerly awaited a call from this tall, handsome, soon to be qualified, doctor. But no call came for four months. Gerald had a final exam and, typically, did not want any distractions but as soon as he had completed the exam and qualified the call came. It was love at first sight and six months later they were engaged. On 17 June 1956 Gerald married his beloved Eunice at Egerton Road Synagogue – a marriage that lasted a wonderful 61 years. In all those years he was absolutely devoted to our mother. Right to the end of his life when they went out together he would grab her hand and walk proudly hand in hand with her.

Gerald realised his ambition when he got his own practice in Peckham, South London. Eunice and Gerald moved to Bromley from Hackney in 1964. In those days it was not easy to achieve your own practice and it took a certain amount of wheeling and dealing – but what a doctor he was. He was absolutely loved by his patients. He was a proper old school community GP. He really cared about people. He was available at any time for them be it at the surgery or on home visits. But he went further. Any call, day or night from patients, friends, members of the synagogue or anyone, he would go and see them and make them better. Every year during the holiday period he would come home, night after night, with bottles of whiskey, brandy, packets of cigars given to him by his patients. Our house was completely full of alcohol. At Chanukah and Christmas my sister and I had so many presents given to us by his patients. They had never met us but they loved my father so much they spent their hard earned cash on showering him with

love and appreciation in any form. When he finally retired from general practice in 1987 his patients clubbed together to throw a party – about 200 people came, bearing gifts. They don't make doctors like him any more.

The 1960s were a big decade for Eunice and Gerald. In 1962 their beautiful and adored daughter, Malva, was born. In 1964 I was born, inheriting all my father's best traits – good looking, charming, generous to all, loving to others and in return loved by everyone. I have so much to thank him for. At the same time Eunice and Gerald made a big decision in their lives. They decided to join the Reform movement and became founder and involved members of Bromley Reform Synagogue.

Gerald also started to get involved in the world of professional boxing. He initially acted as a medical officer before becoming a member of the British Boxing Board of Control. Known affectionately as 'The Doc' he mixed easily with boxers, celebrities and even royalty. He attended all the big fights of the 1960s, '70s and '80s, sometimes going three nights a week and I always enjoyed watching on TV to spot Dad ringside, in his dinner suit puffing on a fat cigar. At home I have programmes of the biggest fights of the time where, on the centre pages, the main scorecard can be found, with Dr Gerald Carp proudly listed as the medical official. On Sunday mornings he would go to the Thomas a Becket pub in the Old Kent Road, where he would decide if boxers were fit enough to get their professional licence. He took me a couple of times and, whilst I was unable to go into the gym to watch, he left me in the company of a couple of ex-world champions who would regale me with their stories and tell me how wonderful my Dad was. He took my mother to the Boxing Board ladies' nights, where they mixed and danced with all the celebrities. He was so proud of his involvement in boxing and was greatly respected within that fraternity.

My parents had a wide circle of close friends and he loved them all and they loved him. He enjoyed the fun, the conversation, the eating, the drinking, the latest news about them and their families. He cared deeply for them all. He would do anything for them and in return they would do the same. He respected them all and right up

Continued on next page

Eulogy for Gerry Carp

continued from page 7

until his last days they were a very important part of his life.

Despite all his academic, career and social achievements, it was as a family man that Dad really excelled. To my sister and me he was just the best father. More than loving, caring and proud. As we grew up he was hugely supportive in (almost) all that we did without pushing his dreams on to us. With our mother he loved Malva's husband Dorian and my wife Fiona, treating them as if his own son and daughter. He supported us all in whatever paths we took and never told us to do differently. He idolised his grandchildren, Joshua, Natalie, Samuel and Jordan more than I can describe. His interest in their wellbeing and achievements knew no bounds. All he wanted was for us all to be OK. As the head of the family his values have filtered down to us and he was so proud of what we have all achieved.

So when we celebrated his 90th birthday one month ago we also celebrated the life of a very special man. A proper *mensch*. A generous, caring, loving man, who was deeply loved and respected by his family, friends and all who ever met him. He was a very, very special man.

Before he died Dad told me that I would have to think of some nice words to say about him. Dad... it really was not very difficult ... God bless you.

Jonathan Carp

NWSS 2017 Foundation Lecture
Sunday, 12 November,
7.30 p.m.

'Israel: Balfour and Beyond'

Do join us for this timely lecture marking the 100th Anniversary of the Balfour Declaration and looking at Israel now.

Our speaker will be **Professor Colin Shindler**, emeritus professor at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London and the first professor of Israel Studies in the UK.

There will be a short Q&A period after the lecture, followed by refreshments.

For more details, email **Jean Cohen**:
pressofficer@nwss.org.uk

North West Surrey Synagogue,
Horvath Close, Rosslyn Park,
Oatlands Drive, **WEYBRIDGE**,
Surrey, KT13 9QZ

SERVICES

November 2017 – Cheshvan/Kislev 5778

Fridays at 7 pm, unless otherwise stated.

Saturdays at 10.30 am, unless otherwise stated

Friday 3 November

Saturday 4 November

Vayera (15 Cheshvan)

Dedication of memorial plaque to the late Robin Bloom after the service

Friday 10 November

Saturday 11 November

Chaye Sara (22 Cheshvan) - Morning

service led by Stephanie Amiel, Torah reader Ronnie Goldberg

Friday 17 November

Saturday 18 November

Toledot (29 Cheshvan) - Morning service

led by Dan Posner, Torah reader Judi Sheffrin

Sunday 19 November

Rosh Chodesh Kislev

Friday 24 November

Saturday 25 November

Vayetze (7 Kislev) - Morning service led

by Janet Burlem and Barbara Kurtz, Torah reader Sandra Hurley

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.

Everyone Matters

"MUSIC FOR A WHILE SHALL ALL YOUR CARES BEGUILE"



Dates for Your Diary

November

W	1	
Th	2	Bromley WIZO-Eretz - talk by Trudi Sealey - 2.30 pm at the Shul
F	3	
S	4	Vayera - Dedication of memorial plaque to the late Robin Bloom after the service
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 - Musical entertainment by Tom Shiels and David Coronel Talk by Jeremy Havardi on 'A very liberal form of hatred', 7.30 for 8 pm in the Shul
Th	9	Knit & Natter - 10 to 12 am at Pauline's
F	10	
S	11	Chayei Sara
S	12	Gan and Cheder parents meeting, 11.30 am
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 - visit by Graeme Marshall of the Greyhound Trust. Youth Club after Cheder
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	Bromley Friends - 2.30-4.30 in a Bromley home. Ring Stephen Ison on 07881 863237

December

F	1	
S	2	Vayishlach
S	3	Chanukah Fair - 12.30-3.00 pm in the Garden Room
M	4	
T	5	Living with Hearing Loss - 10 am at Pauline's
W	6	
Th	7	
F	8	
S	9	Vayeshev
S	10	
M	11	
T	12	Living with Hearing Loss - 10 am at Pauline's First candle of Chanukah
W	13	Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul
Th	14	
F	15	
S	16	Chanukah (Miketz)
S	17	Chanukah Party - 4-6.30 pm in the Garden Room
M	18	
T	19	Rosh Chodesh Tevet Living with Hearing Loss - 10 am at Pauline's Eighth Candle of Chanukah
W	20	Conversation Cafe - lunch and Chanukah party at Nightingale
Th	21	
F	22	
S	23	Vayigash
S	24	5-day Limmud Festival - at Pendigo Lake near Birmingham
M	25	
T	26	
W	27	Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul
Th	28	
F	29	
S	30	Vayechi
S	31	

Limmud Festival

Limmud Festival 2017 is one of the biggest celebrations of Jewish learning and culture in the world - and it's made by you. Book now at <https://limmud.org/festival/> to be part of the experience!

Festival 2017 takes place Sunday 24 - Thursday 28 December at Pendigo Lake near Birmingham.

Limmud Shabbat will take place before the main Festival starts on 22-23 December.

What is Limmud Festival?

Limmud Festival is made by you. You create your own journey through the event by selecting from a huge array of options - from history and politics, to religion and philosophy, to arts, culture and food; or even just schmoozing at the cafe or bar!

Being part of Limmud Festival isn't just being an attendee, it's being part of a community. We believe anyone can be a teacher and everyone should be a student - each and every participant has something to offer to make Festival a truly unique event.

Keep up to date with everything Limmud related - follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



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