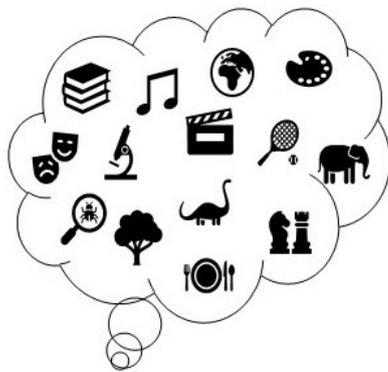


# HIGHLight

Bromley Reform Synagogue newsletter



*Cheder Prizegiving - the Cheder prizewinners display their awards at the end of the Cheder term on Sunday, 30 June.*



Calling all quiz and trivia fans – join us for a fun general knowledge team quiz at

## THE BIG BRS QUIZ NIGHT

**Saturday, 14 September**

**7.00 to 10.00 pm**

Bring your own team of up to 8 people or join others on the night – members and non-members welcome

Soft drinks and nibbles provided – bring your own tippie

Tickets: £10 from [admin@bromleyshul.org.uk](mailto:admin@bromleyshul.org.uk)

## Security Training

The CST have agreed to do security training at the Shul on **Wednesdays, 11, 18 and 25 September** from 7.30 to 10.30 pm. You need to attend all three sessions.

This is open to all members. You need not have had any previous experience or be big or strong, just keen to do your bit in keeping our community safe.

Please email **Graham Harris** via the synagogue ([admin@bromleyshul.org.uk](mailto:admin@bromleyshul.org.uk)) to enrol. Please do so asap as you need to be enrolled to attend.



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September 2019 - Elul 5779-Tishri 5780

## 5780 and the year ahead - View from the Chair

I hope that you have all had an enjoyable summer wherever you were. If you were in this country you will have experienced all the seasons in a few days, or sometimes in just one!

When you read this we will be in the month of September, which brings a new school year for some people or a return to work for others. For all of us we begin the count down to the High Holydays. Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, is a time of prayer, self reflection, and repentance. We look back on the year and review our actions, but we also look forward to the year ahead and for ways to improve our communities, our world and ourselves.

On Rosh Hashanah, Jews often say to one another, "May you be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life". This is from the belief that on Rosh Hashanah names are written in the book, and on Yom Kippur the book is sealed. During the 10 day period from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur we as Jews we are asked to make amends through repentance (*teshuvah*), prayer (*tefilah*), and charity (*tzedakah*). It is a key moment, a time to reflect on past mistakes and resolve in front of God to not repeat them in the coming year. It is also a celebration of our free will and the choices we have.

I could not, as Chair of Bromley Shul, write about these things and ask you to think about them without reflecting on how I would like to address repentance, prayer and charity. The High Holydays give me the time and peace to sit and think. It is so hard in our busy, noisy world to do this.

There are words that I wish that I had never said and actions I wish I could undo. However, I cannot so I will endeavour to say sorry to those on the receiving end and try to be more patient and think before I dive in. I pray for strength, energy and positivity for the year ahead, but foremost in my mind is the happiness, health and peace of not just my family, but my friends, my community and the world around me. The High Holyday Appeal is a way of fulfilling the mitzvah of *tzedakah*. Each of the charities deserves recognition



and our family will be donating. Please take the time to read about the charities when you receive your High Holyday tickets. Whatever you can donate goes a long way and really makes a difference.

It is not too late to join the "Big BRS Quiz" on **Saturday, 14 September**, 7 to 10 pm at the Shul.

Bring your own team or join others; members and non-members welcome. I can't wait to see who are going to be winners of what we hope will be a yearly event. Thanks to **Lisa Williams** for heading this social event up. I have already got my tickets but you can get yours for £10 from Janet on [admin@bromleyshul.org.uk](mailto:admin@bromleyshul.org.uk)

As we reflect upon what more we can and will do, we should look back and be proud of the resilient and vibrant community we have built together. I pray that 5780 will be a sweet, calm and peaceful year. From me and my family: *Shana Tova U'Metukah*.

Michelle Brooks Evans, Chair

### High Holyday Mitzvot

Judi Sheffrin writes:

Dear Mr Editor

I am proud to belong to a shul in which such a high proportion of the members are actively involved that there are not enough mitzvot to honour all of them at the High Holydays. Thank you to everyone - also a high proportion - who this year responded very quickly to their mitzvah letters.

If you have received one and not replied, please would you do so by 10 September.

There are a few new mitzvot this year, so if you haven't yet had a letter it could be that it has disappeared into the ether, as some do every year, or because it is still in preparation. Either way, please tell me ([judishef@aol.com](mailto:judishef@aol.com)) and I will get back to you by mid-September too.

Meanwhile, I wish all of you a very happy, peaceful and, above all, healthy new decade.

Judi Sheffrin

### Visit to Cheshunt

As in previous years, we are arranging a visit to the Jewish cemetery at Cheshunt on **Thursday, 3 October**.

We will be leaving from the synagogue at 9:15 am, travelling in a minibus. We will spend 1-2 hours at the cemetery.

**Rabbi Koster** will accompany the group and lead prayers at Cheshunt.

There will be a stop at a nearby pub for light refreshments after the visit to the grounds.

The return journey will start at 2:30 pm and we will arrive at Highland Road at about 4:30 pm.

There will be a nominal charge for the journey.

Please inform **Pauline Jeffree** through the synagogue (020 8460 5460) asap if you wish to join the visit, so that we can finalise transport and other arrangements.

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



As the Jewish calendar approaches Yom Kippur/Day of Atonement "**Fasting and Feasting in Christianity and Judaism**"

**Tuesday 17 September  
at 8.00 pm**

*Refreshments from 7.45 pm*  
at **St Stephen's Church,  
College Road, SE21** (beside Sydenham Hill railway station)

**Rev'd Cecile Schnyder**, vicar at St Clement with St Peter, and chaplain at JAGS; and **Matthew de Lange**, former Chair of Bromley Reform Synagogue, will lead a discussion

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

## What's in a Name?

As always I spent most of the month of August reading, looking for material for the High Holydays. I found the following article in the column called 'My Turn', which appears each week at the front of Newsweek Magazine.

The article is written by a man whose name is now Tom Rosenberg. And this is what it says. "My parents left Nazi Germany in 1938, when I was 6, and my mother was pregnant with my sister. They arrived in America with a lot of baggage, guilt over deserting loved ones, anger over losing their home, business and a lifelong fear of anti-Semitism. Shortly thereafter, whether out of fear, a desire to assimilate or a combination of both, they changed our family name from Rosenberg to Ross. My parents were different from the immigrants who landed on Ellis Island and had their names changed by an immigrant bureaucrat. My father and mother voluntarily gave up their identity."

"I spent much of my youth denying my roots and vying for my peers' acceptance as Tom Ross. Today I look back and wonder what kind of life I might have led if my parents had kept our family name. As it was, I moved west to San Francisco. Only after I married and became a father did I begin to acknowledge my Jewish heritage. So last year, when I decided to tell my children that I was legally changing my name back to Rosenberg, I wondered how they would react. While in a restaurant, celebrating the publication of my first novel, they toasted my tenacity for staying with fiction for some thirty years and then I made my announcement. 'I want to be remembered by the name I was born with.' I explained that the kind of discrimination and stereotyping that still exist today had made me rethink the years that I'd spent denying my family's history, years that I'd been ashamed to talk about with them. The present political climate, the initiatives attacking social services for immigrants, bilingual educative, and affirmative action, made me want to shout out, "Hey, I'm an immigrant too!" My children were silent for a moment before they smiled, leaned over and hugged me.

The memories of my years of denial continued to dog me as I told friends and

family that I planned to change my name. The rabbi at the synagogue to which I now belong with my second wife suggested that I go one step further. 'Have you ever thought of taking a Hebrew first name?' she asked. She must have seen the shocked look on my face. I wondered, is she suggesting that I become more religious, more Jewish? 'What's involved?' I asked, hesitantly.

The rabbi explained that the ceremony would be simple and private, just for family and friends. I would make a few remarks about why I had selected my name, and then she would say a blessing. It took me a moment to grasp the significance of what the rabbi was proposing. She saw my name change, as a chance to do more than just reclaim a piece of my family's history and my identity.

A few months later, I stood at the pulpit, in front of an open, lighted ark, flanked by my wife and the rabbi. Before me stood my children, holding their children. I had scribbled a few notes for my talk, but felt too emotional to use them. I held on to the lectern for support and I winged it. This is what I said. 'Every time I step into a synagogue, I am reminded that Judaism has survived for more than five thousand years. It has survived because it is a positive religion. My parents, your grandparents, changed their name, out of fear. I am changing it back, out of pride. I hereby choose the name, Tikvah, because it means hope.'

It happens over and over again in every generation. Theodore Herzl was almost out of Jewish life and then there came the shock of the Dreyfus Affair and he returned. Franz Rosenzweig was at the door of the church, planning to convert, on Kol Nidrei he went to the synagogue to say goodbye to Judaism and something happened. He realized that he did not have to convert from Judaism in order to find God, and that if he did not have to, then he must not. Will



Herzberg came to Reinhold Neibuhr to tell him that he was no longer a believing Communist, and to ask for his help in becoming a Christian. Reinhold Neibuhr guided him across the street; he took him from the Union Theological Seminary to the Jewish Theological Seminary and Herzberg came home and became first a student of Judaism and then a teacher of Judaism to many people."

Our tradition says, Why was Israel redeemed from Egypt? One of the answers which it gives is: *Shelo shinu et shimam* that they did not change their names. Perhaps we will be worthy of being redeemed out of our modern day Egypt and exile when we change our names back and reclaim our heritage.

Elul is the season for doing *teshuvah*. for returning and reclaiming, but most of all of recognizing our names and identities. Have a gentle Elul, see you all in September.

Rabbi Chava Koster

### Bromley WIZO Eretz Upcoming Events

#### Tuesday, 5 November:

**Afternoon tea** when you are invited to meet **Rabbi Chava Koster** from Bromley Reform Synagogue. She is familiar with WIZO from when she lived in Amsterdam. 2.30 pm at the home of **Marilyn Burchell**. Donation £7.50.

#### Sunday, 1 December at 2.30 pm:

Our ever popular **Bridge and Games afternoon**, hosted by Marilyn and Joe. Please contact **Barbara Fizzon** through the synagogue (020 8460 5460) to book your place. Donation £10.

Please contact **Marilyn Burchell** through the synagogue 020 8460 5460 for more information if you wish to join us in any of our events and we look forward to seeing you.

Your WIZO committee wishes all our members and the community a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year and well over the fast and, as always, peace in Israel and the world over.

# Cheder News

## Cheder is back!

Hello everyone! My name is **Danielle Woodward** and I'd like to introduce myself as the new head of Cheder and to welcome you all back to Sunday School this September. I hope you've had a wonderful summer and are ready to hit the ground running. This is what is happening on the first day of Cheder:

- 1) **Classes will start on Sunday, 8 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) **Helpers will begin at 9.15 am on 8 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!
- 3) All parents are invited to a **Welcome Back Coffee Morning** in the downstairs foyer. This is where parents of Kittah Aleph can sign their children's registration forms and hopefully catch up with the rest of us after the long summer holidays. You can also pick up your new **welcome packs** which will include the Cheder Calendar and your Collection Cards, which you will need to access the building while Cheder is in session. I'll also be there to answer any questions you may have about Cheder and how it runs. Coffee, tea and delicious cake will be provided.
- 4) In case you're new, **Cheder runs from 10.00 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 hear about all of the events at the Shul, see what the kids have been learning about and maybe learn a song or two with us.
- 5) 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.
- 6) Please, **no phones or iPods in Cheder** - they are very disruptive! If your children **MUST** bring them, please tell them that they are to be switched OFF when they arrive, and on again when Cheder is over.
  - 7) Please remember that it is the Shul's policy that **all food brought into the synagogue must be vegetarian and nut free**. 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. We will provide biscuits at break-time, but if your child cannot have them for allergy or other reasons, please send them in with a light snack.
  - 8) **Break time is usually outside**, so please send your child with a jumper in case it's chilly and a waterproof jacket if it's rainy – we'll send them out for fresh air if it's light rain but not if it's torrential. Remember, there is no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing!

And now some other holiday events for the children:

- 1) There will be a **Rosh Hashanah service for the under 12s** on Rosh Hashanah, **Monday, 30 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. There will be a short prayer and story 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 **Wednesday, 9 October** from 10.30 am-12.30 pm, also during the adult services at the same venue.
  - 3) We have a very exciting event for **Mitzvah Day** this year – children's author **Helen Peters**, whose latest novel *Anna At War*, about a German Jewish refugee who came to England on the Kindertransport, will be leading a special assembly and signing copies of her books to buy on the day, so mark **Sunday, 17 November** in your diaries. The theme this year is helping refugees, so we will be raising money for the charity Refugees At Home.
  - 4) **Save the dates: the Chanukah Fair** will take place on **Sunday, 8 December**, while our **Chanukah Party** will be on **Sunday, 22 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, 8 September.

*L'Shalom,*

**Danielle**, Cheder Head Teacher

## SACRE

### Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

On behalf of the membership, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to Sam Barnett for so ably representing our synagogue and the wider Jewish community on Bromley SACRE. Our *June Highlight* contained a notice giving details of SACRE's remit which shows what a valuable part it plays in ensuring pupils receive a balanced religious education. Sam has looked after our interests for the past eight years and has decided the time has come to hand the role over to someone new.

I'm delighted to welcome as our new representative **Donna Gold**. Donna has been a teacher for many years, one of her many roles being that of teaching Religious Education, so she is well qualified for the post. So our thanks to her for agreeing to take over from Sam. Donna can be contacted at donnagold@hotmail.uk

**Barbara Kurtz**

## Member profile - Danielle Woodward

*Danielle is taking over from Vicki Ashmore as head of Cheder, so Highlight asked her to write about herself and her family in order to introduce herself to the membership*

### What brought you to BRS?

I grew up in Barnet, North London in a Reform Jewish community. My parents still live there and my sister, who has severe learning difficulties, is in an assisted-living facility in Golders Green, run by the Jewish charity Kisharon. I always had a diverse circle of friends from different faiths and backgrounds but I never felt completely at home in the Jewish world that was on my doorstep. It was when I got a job working at a magazine publishing company in Croydon that I discovered the leafy South London suburb of Bromley! I had a workmate who lived in Beckenham, and I got to know the area through her. I rented a studio flat for a year, then bought a flat nearby and, soon after, I met my husband David, and we got married in 2009. It was when I was pregnant with our son Samson soon after that I came to BRS and saw what a warm and welcoming community it was. Samson and his younger sister Abigail, started going to *Gan Yeladim* from when they were babies, and I love seeing how 'at home' they are in the Shul and how much they have absorbed from going to Cheder - Samson was able to tell his whole class at school about Sukkot last year from what he learned at Cheder - and it's great that both children are gaining a Jewish identity, learning to be proud of their culture, and are making friends for life, and it is all down to the wonderful community at BRS.

### Why did you apply for the headteacher role at Cheder?

I'm a journalist and my career has been in magazine publishing; in sub-editing, production and also interviewing and writing. I was made redundant from my staff role at a magazine in 2017 and have been juggling freelance work with being at home for the children, but I was looking for something more permanent.

Although I don't have a teaching background, when I heard that Vicki was moving on, I jumped at the chance to continue the good work she has done as headteacher, for a community that I love. I will do my best to make sure Cheder runs smoothly, that the children are happy to come every week, that the teachers feel supported and the parents feel welcome too. I have a few exciting events planned and can't wait to get started!



*Handing over: Vicki Ashmore (left) formally handed over her duties as Cheder Headteacher to Danielle (right) at the end of the Cheder year on Sunday, 30 June. Also in the picture are the synagogue Chair, Michelle Brooks Evans and the Chair of the Education Committee, Barbara Kurtz*

### Into the Mouth of the Lion by A.B. Kyazze – Crowdfunding now!



BRS member **Amelia B. Kyazze**, local writer and photographer, has the backing of Unbound, a creative independent publisher, for her debut novel.

The story is about Lena, a struggling photographer, who flies from London to the war-torn highlands of Angola, after hearing the news of a suspicious explosion.

She tries to piece together the reasons behind the disappearance of her sister, but she gets entangled in the country's conflict for minerals and power.

The book is written, we just need your support in a crowdfunding campaign to bring it to print. In return, you can get some great prizes and gifts and your name in the first edition as a supporter of new fiction. Please join us!

<https://unbound.com/books/into-the-mouth-of-the-lion/>

Calling everyone interested in crafts and being creative!

We are hoping to start a

### Creative Workshop

to be held in the Shul, approximately six-weekly. Sessions could be in the mornings 10-12 am, or afternoons - 2-4 pm, dictated to a degree by parking restrictions. We would welcome your views on this point. Are you interested in learning something new? No experience necessary. Or do you have a skill you would like to share?

We have come up with some possible topics:

*Creative writing, poetry or play reading*

*Drawing, painting, glass or china decorating*

*Jewellery making*

*Knitting, crochet, embroidery*

*Music, singing*

We would very much like to hear from you and, subject to response, are planning to hold an introductory meeting after the High Holydays. Refreshments will, of course, be served.

Please contact

**Pauline, Ann** or **Barbara** through the synagogue (020 8460 5460 or admin @bromlyshul.org.uk)

### SE10 and Beyond

**Dates for September and October:**  
**Saturday, 14 September** at Bromley Shul from 7 to 10 pm:

**Quiz of 2019**, please see front page of this *Highlight* for further details.

**Wednesday, 16 October** at Bromley Shul at 7 pm

The rescheduled evening with **Damien Egan**, Mayor of Lewisham.

He will be talking about politics and antisemitism within the Labour Party and sharing his experiences and thoughts on the subject. All are invited, members, non-members, locals to SE10 and, of course, beyond!

Please contact Michelle through the synagogue (020 8460 5460 or admin@bromlyshul.org.uk) for further details.

**Michelle Brooks Evans**

## Social and Personal

**BIRTH** - A hearty mazal tov to **Benjamin Stein** and **Jessie Lockwood** on the birth, on August 16, of **Logan Jacob**, a grandson for proud grandparents **George** and **Suzannah Stein**.

**DEATH** - We are very sad to report the death of our member **Lionel Cohen** and extend our deepest condolences to his widow Valerie, their children Robert and Susie and their families. We plan to print an obituary in next month's *Highlight*.

**RUBY WEDDING** - A hearty mazal tov to **Tina and Neil Higgins**, who will celebrate their Ruby Wedding anniversary on 1 September. There will be a blessing in the synagogue by Rabbi Koster during the Shabbat morning service on 7 September.

**Mazal tov - Dr Pauline Jeffree BEM** - Our synagogue Chair writes:

You are all invited to a special kiddush after the service on Saturday 7 September to celebrate our dear member Pauline Jeffree, who was awarded a British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours. The award was given in well deserved recognition of Pauline's tireless work for the local Jewish and non-Jewish community.

It would help if you would please email Janet on: admin@bromleyshul.org.uk if you are coming so we have an idea of the numbers.

**Michelle Brooks Evans**, Chair

**GET WELL SOON** - to **Zelda Stone** after her recent fall in her home.

Pauline Jeffree writes: To all our dear members, beloved family and friends who are unwell just now. We are thinking of you and wish you well.

Please let the Caring Community team know if we can be of any help by leaving a message at the synagogue office 020 8460 5460.

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER**  
**Miss Melanie Dupin** of Lee Green.

### **Bromley Knitters, Stitchers and Natters**

The group will be meeting at Pauline's on **Thursday, 19 September** from 10.00 am until midday.

**Pauline Jeffree**  
Caring Community

## **MacMillan Coffee Morning**

**Friday 27 September - from 10 am**

Let us have a cup of coffee and enjoy a slice of cake together and help support the work of MacMillan.

The monies raised go towards:

### **Physical support**

MacMillan provide information to help people with cancer make their best decisions about treatment and guidance about dealing with its effects.

### **Financial support**

Macmillan help with money and work matters, including benefits and grants.

### **Emotional support**

MacMillan are there for people with cancer at diagnosis and beyond, providing reassurance for them, friends and family.'

If you would like to help prepare for the morning please contact **Pauline Jeffree** through the synagogue office.

We are planning, all being well, to start preparations on the previous day, **Thursday, 26 September**, in the afternoon from 2 pm and to complete getting ready from 9 am on Friday, 27 September. You can help by: blowing up balloons (we do have a pump!); security on the coffee morning; baking cakes; delivering flyers locally; putting up posters; preparing a corner for children; putting together collection money boxes and leaving them in the foyer; setting out cups and saucers ; filling and switching on the urn and kettles on the Friday morning; switching on the dishwasher; putting out cakes and making up soft drinks etc!



## **The Book Group**

**Judy Woolfe reports**

We all enjoyed a lively and thought-provoking discussion at our first session of the Book Group on 11 July. **Eve Harris's** book *The Marrying of Chani Kaufman* elicited strong views about the life of a fictional Charedi community, in particular, the roles of women and arranged marriages.

The next session will be on **Thursday, 5 September** in the Garden Room at 7.30 pm, when the book will be *All who go do not return* by the American author **Shulem Deen**. It is a factual account of his loss of faith in an ultra-orthodox community.

### **Future Books**

*The Finkler Question* by Howard Jacobson;

*The Cut Out Girl* by Bart Van As;

*Shadows on the Hudson* by Isaac Bashevis Singer

*Outwitting History* by Aaron Lansky

All are welcome even if you haven't read the book.

**Judy Woolfe**: through the synagogue: 020 8460 5460 or admin@bromleyshul.org.uk

## לשנה טובה

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

**Brenda and Jay Houlden** wish their friends at Bromley Reform a Happy and Healthy 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 everyone at BRS only good things in 5780.

To all Synagogue members, friends and family may you be recorded in the Book of Life for a good and happy year; from the Caring Community Committee

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

## Preserving the Power of Testimony

When Anita was nine years old her mother, Naomi, cuddled up in bed with her and told her the appalling story of what had happened to her in Auschwitz. Unsurprisingly, the memory of what she had been told had a lasting effect on the child and now Anita is one of the founder members of **Generation 2 Generation (G2G)**, an organisation that supports and encourages second and third generation descendants of Holocaust survivors to retell the experiences of their parents or grandparents.

Helen's mother, Emmy, was equally frank with her daughter, who grew up knowing that her grandfather had been in Dachau concentration camp and that her mother and grandparents had escaped death by the skin of their teeth, arriving in Britain just before the outbreak of war. Helen, too, is a founder member of G2G.

Lesley's mother, Eva, spoke often about her experiences in Germany before and after Hitler and the Nazis were in power and of how she and her younger sister, Ulli, had to leave their beloved parents to come to England on the Kindertransport. Lesley, who is now co-chair of G2G with Helen, is already busy sharing her family's story, including what happened to her grandparents left behind in Germany. These three examples illustrate the wide variety of Holocaust experience and demonstrate the importance of preserving testimony in all its forms.

You may be wondering why we need yet another Holocaust organisation. Those that exist already recognise fully that in ten or fifteen years' time the current dedicated group of survivor speakers, already in their 80s and 90s, may no longer be with us to talk about their experiences of surviving persecution. The question arises of what we, the next generation, can pass on from those who have passed on.

We believe that it is vital that the next generation should be ready to take over the work of their parents, so that their unique memories will not be lost to young people in the future. Our aim is to supplement the pool of first generation survivors with well-prepared, high quality second and third generation presenters who will make full use of modern multimedia techniques to engage the attention and spark the empathy of today's teenagers.

Critics will say that this is just not the same as hearing a prime historical account. It can never be the same. A second generation speaker can, however, bring something else. The voice may be stronger and more dynamic, while the emotion and passion that stem from the close family link are still maintained.

Our approach provides the compelling immediacy of hearing a real live person engaging with an audience - a person who knew the survivor intimately.

Since Generation 2 Generation was formed, some two years ago, we have trained and supported a number of speakers who can step in at short notice to deliver powerful and engaging presentations to groups of young people. When Helen's phone rang one evening last February the voice was anxious and the tone urgent. The caller was one of the organisers of Northwood Holocaust Memorial Day Events educational sessions. "Our speaker is unwell. Can you take her slot tomorrow morning?" As one of a handful of second generation Holocaust speakers prepared and willing to present a parent's story, she was able to step in to replace the elderly lady survivor. The two hundred or so teenagers assembled from non-Jewish schools throughout the Northwood area did indeed hear a highly personal account but in a slightly different format and from a different perspective.

Our hope is that we can work with the existing Holocaust education organisations who promote and design Holocaust education programmes by providing speakers for a range of establishments. So far the response to our initiative has been very positive. There are many members of the second and third generations eager to get involved in our work and who appreciate the support we can offer.

G2G aims to raise awareness of the Holocaust and to create empathy especially amongst young people. We want to challenge all forms of discrimination and prejudice and create a greater understanding of the plight of refugees. Finally, we want to combat Holocaust denial and promote greater tolerance of "the other." These are highly ambitious aims but ones that we must not lose sight of in our current political and social situation, in which antisemitism and other forms of

*Continued at the foot of col. 3*

## Social Centre News

**Zelda Stone** reports on the Social Centre meeting of 26 June:

We had another enjoyable time at the Social Centre. The usual games were played, followed by our exercises with Andreas. We also had quite a lively discussion on whether the public should bear the cost of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex's renovations to their cottage. Judi then presented us with her latest quiz, which some of us found interesting but others gave up too quickly. [*Judi promises the next quiz will be easier and about places in Bromley borough.*] Lunch followed. As usual it was delicious. We then had a surprise as a cake was brought out to celebrate two birthdays. I am not sure how many candles should have been on the cake but to play safe there were only two, one for each of the birthday girls.

**Dianne Mathews** reports on the **Summer Party** held on 14 August:

Although it was nothing like a summer's day, we carried on with our Summer Party and were delighted that so many came to enjoy each other's company. The meal was well received, but the entertainment was not what we expected. However, there was some participation in the dancing and movement and it was completely different!

This month we look forward to **David Coronel** and **Tom Shiels** coming to tell more interesting facts about the music and performers they present. These are always fascinating occasions and everyone is welcome to join us so if you're free do come along.

The High Holydays are rapidly approaching and the Social Centre wishes everybody a happy and healthy New Year.

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*continued from col. 2*

racism are once again a threat – one that can be best combated in the long term by education.

If you think you have a compelling story to tell of a parent or grandparent who survived the Holocaust and could pass it on to young people in a powerful and engaging format, please do get in touch with Generation 2 Generation at [office@generation2generation.org.uk](mailto:office@generation2generation.org.uk). We would love to hear from you and you would be welcome to join us at one of our regular coffee evenings, at which you will hear extracts from completed presentations and can ask questions about the process of creating your own presentation.

## Rosh Hashanah Message from the President of the Board of Deputies, Marie van der Zyl

Last year, my Rosh Hashanah message told of the way the Jewish community came together to proclaim in a loud and firm voice, "Enough is Enough" on antisemitism in the Labour Party.

Since then, the antisemitism crisis has not gone away. However, our campaign against those who pursue this most ancient form of racism has had great successes, notably the suspension of serial offenders including Chris Williamson and Peter Willsman and the expulsion of Jackie Walker.

There is understandable anxiety in our community about the way racists within Labour have been emboldened to express their disgraceful views by the indifference, and at times the collusion, of the party's leadership. However, as I have been saying since I assumed the presidency of this great organisation in 2018, there is another story to be told.

This is the story of a longstanding community that has lived peacefully in the UK for centuries; a community which, since we were allowed back into this country by Oliver Cromwell, has had the freedom to practise our religion and live a truly Jewish life within a respectful society.

In return, our community has contributed great things, in the arts, in society, in business and in politics and science. .... With the prevailing conditions of freedom and respect our community has flourished over the past centuries, and, despite worries over the revival of mainstream antisemitism, most of us lead happy Jewish lives.

Our contribution to UK Jewish life is crucial. We will continue to represent you in the coming year to ensure we continue to live freely and safely as Jews as we have done here for centuries.

May this Rosh Hashanah bring you, your families and all of Am Yisrael health, strength and peace.

**Marie van der Zyl**  
President

*This is an extract from the President's Rosh Hashanah message to the Jewish community, the whole of which has been downloaded to the synagogue website: [www.bromleyshul.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Rosh\\_Hashanah\\_5780\\_Message.pdf](http://www.bromleyshul.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Rosh_Hashanah_5780_Message.pdf).*

## SERVICES

September 2019 – Elul 5779/Tishri 5780

*Friday evening services will be held on ... starting at 7 pm  
Saturdays at 10.30 am, unless otherwise stated*

<b>Sunday 1 September</b>	<b>Rosh Chodesh Elul</b>
<b>Friday 6 September</b> <b>Saturday 7 September</b>	<b>Shofetim</b> (3 Elul) - <b>Festive kiddush</b> after the Shabbat morning service
<b>Friday 13 September</b> <b>Saturday 14 September</b>	<b>Ki Tetze</b> (10 Elul)
<b>Friday 20 September</b> <b>Saturday 21 September</b>	<b>Ki Tavo</b> (17 Elul) <b>Selichot</b> - 7.30 pm in the synagogue
<b>Friday 27 September</b> <b>Saturday 28 September</b>	<b>Nitzavim</b> (24 Elul)
<b>Sunday 29 September</b>	<b>Erev Rosh Hashanah</b> Service at 7.30 pm in the synagogue
<b>Monday 30 September</b>	<b>ROSH HASHANAH 5780</b> Service at 10.30 am at Orpington

## News from the Film Library

Three new exciting films to borrow from the Film Library

- 1. The Infidel**, (2010). Hilarious comedy about an admittedly "relaxed" Muslim, played by Omid Djalili whose life is turned upside down when he discovers he is Jewish. (Cert. 15 years)
- 2. Driving Miss Daisy** (1990), Oscar winning film. Miss Daisy, a stubborn Southern widow, crashes her car and her son decides to hire her a driver. (Cert. General viewing)
- 3. Norman, The Moderate Rise and Tragic Fall of a New York Fixer** (2016). A compassionate drama about a man whose downfall is rooted in a human frailty. (Cert. 15 years, some strong language)

Films can be borrowed by any member of the synagogue aged 18 or over. Please email **Ann Fried** on [joram.fried@btconnect.com](mailto:joram.fried@btconnect.com) or telephone 020 8778 5938.

Ann can post the films to you with return postage enclosed or she can leave them at the synagogue for collection.

A full list of films is available on request.

## BRS Education Committee Dates for your diary Introduction to Judaism

A new session of classes will be held in the synagogue during Cheder, starting at 10 am on the following dates:

22 September – topic will be the High Holydays  
3 November – topic tba  
24 November – topic tba  
15 December – on Chanukah.

Further details from Barbara – [a.bkurtz@talktalk.net](mailto:a.bkurtz@talktalk.net)

There will be a small charge for non-members. Please contact the office to register your interest – [admin@bromleyshul.org.uk](mailto:admin@bromleyshul.org.uk)

## Shabbat Study Sessions

These sessions will resume after the High Holydays. Details in next month's *Highlight*



# Dates for Your Diary

## September

S	1	<b>Rosh Chodesh Elul</b>
M	2	
T	3	
W	4	
Th	5	<b>The Book Group</b> - 7.30 pm in the Garden Room
F	6	
S	7	<b>Shofetim</b> - Festive kiddush after the Shabbat morning service
S	8	<b>Cheder resumes</b> at 9.45 am
M	9	
T	10	
W	11	<b>Social Centre</b> - 10.30 am to 2.30 pm Musical entertainment by David and Tom <b>CST training</b> - 7.30-10.30 pm
Th	12	
F	13	<b>Shabbat evening service</b> at 7 pm
S	14	<b>Ki Tetze</b> <b>Big BRS Quiz Night</b> from 7 pm
S	15	
M	16	
T	17	<b>CCJ meeting on Fasting</b> , 7.45 pm at St Stephen's Church, Sydenham Hill
W	18	<b>CST training</b> - 7.30-10.30 pm
Th	19	<b>Knitters, Stitchers and Natterers</b> - 10 am at Pauline's home
F	20	
S	21	<b>Ki Tavo</b> <b>Selichot</b> - service at 7.30 pm in the synagogue
S	22	<b>Introduction to Judaism</b> , 10 am at the Shul
M	23	
T	24	
W	25	<b>Social Centre</b> - 10.30 am to 2.30 pm <b>CST training</b> - 7.30-10.30 pm
Th	26	
F	27	<b>Macmillan Coffee Morning</b> from 10 am at the Shul <b>Shabbat evening service</b> at 7 pm
S	28	<b>Nitzavim</b>
S	29	<b>Erev Rosh Hashanah</b> - service at 7.30 pm in the synagogue
M	30	<b>ROSH HASHANAH</b> - service at 10.30 am at the Crofton Halls, Orpington

## October

T	1	
W	2	
Th	3	<b>Visit to Cheshunt</b> - leave the synagogue at 9.15 am
F	4	
S	5	<b>Shuvah</b>
S	6	<b>Erecting the Sukkah</b> during Cheder
M	7	
T	8	Kol Nidre - service at 7.30 pm at the Crofton Halls, Orpington
W	9	<b>YOM KIPPUR</b> - services from 10.30 am at the Crofton Halls, Orpington
Th	10	
F	11	
S	12	<b>Ha'azinu</b>
S	13	<b>Decorating the Sukkah</b> during Cheder <b>Erev Sukkot</b> - service at 6.30 pm in the synagogue
M	14	<b>SUKKOT</b> - service at 10.30 am in the synagogue
T	15	
W	16	Rescheduled evening with <b>Damien Egan</b> , Mayor of Lewisham -7 pm at the Shul
Th	17	
F	18	
S	19	<b>Chol Hamoed Sukkot</b>
S	20	<b>Erev Shemini Atzeret-Simchat Torah</b> - service at 6.30 pm in the synagogue
M	21	<b>SHEMINI ATZERET-SIMCHAT TORAH</b> - service at 10.30 am in the synagogue
T	22	
W	23	<b>Social Centre</b> - 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul
Th	24	
F	25	
S	26	<b>Bereshit</b>
S	27	
M	28	
T	29	
W	30	<b>Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan</b>
Th	31	



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