

HIGHLight

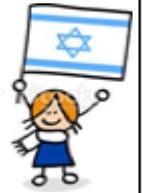
Bromley Reform Synagogue newsletter



Torah brides Marilyn McKeever (left) and Dianne Mathews (right) read their certificates as they stand under the chuppah at the Simchat Torah celebration on 21 October

Hooray Cheder PTA Fundraising Auction

As part of the Chanukah Fair we want to raise funds for the Cheder. This year we are holding an auction which we hope will include some fantastic items. So if you can donate an item, a skill, vouchers, a promise of babysitting, gardening, a pilates class or any such service, please let me know so we can include it in the auction.

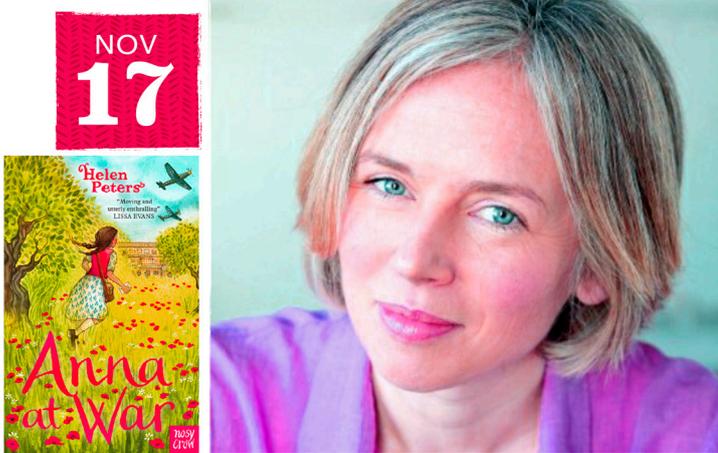


Please email **Michelle** at chair@bromleyshul.org

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November 2019 - Cheshvan 5780



AUTHOR VISIT & BOOK SIGNING

Mitzvah Day event, after Cheder, 12pm on Sunday 17th November

Children's author Helen Peters will be talking about her novel, *Anna At War*, the story of a German Jewish refugee who comes to England on the Kindertransport. She will be signing books on the day and you can buy them for 20% off the RRP, so please bring cash! Linking to the story, for Mitzvah Day, we will be collecting items to donate to refugee charities, so do bring along clothes, personal hygiene items and food.

It is not too late to give - View from the Chair

It is not too late to give to BRS's High Holyday Appeal this year. For those who missed hearing me in person, below is a shortened version.

The Israeli charity we have chosen this year has the lofty name of the **Sir Charles Clore Jewish-Arab Community Centre** and is based in Akko. However, the work it undertakes is truly at grass roots level. Volunteers founded it in 1985 as a simple after-school club. It is a unique model of coexistence in action. The Centre provides opportunities for low income Israeli Jews and Arabs to come together to learn, meet and play, sowing the seeds of peace and improving life for all through shared endeavours and understanding. The Centre provides children's and pre-school programmes, a women's programme and a pensioner programme.

The British Jewish charity we have chosen this year is **Nightingale Hammerson**. Most of you will know it through Nightingale House, based in Wandsworth. The name change is the result of the amalgamation between Nightingale House (south London) and Hammerson House (north London). Many of us have had parents or other relations and friends at Nightingale, as residents or for short-term respite care. Currently we have members who have moved into Nightingale permanently, including one who has been going for regular respite care for eight years. Our appeal is to raise funds for Nightingale's therapies. This service does not come cheap. Health ministers always acknowledge that Nightingale Hammerson is amongst the best care providers in the country, but it is a charity. Although half of the 170 residents are self-funded, the remainder receive only partial funding from their local authorities. Nightingale Hammerson has to raise £600 per week per person to cover the shortfall.

The non-Jewish charity for this year is called **Summer Hype**. It is a creative residential summer camp community for disadvantaged children from Hackney. This charity was co-founded by **Emma Mittleman** the daughter of synagogue members Laura and Michael, granddaughter of Hilda Lask. The charity addresses a very real problem in the United Kingdom, where there are 3.9 million children living in poverty, with London maintaining the highest rates

of child poverty in the country. Summer Hype pride themselves on not turning away any child for admission. For these children the school holidays often mean being hungry, bored and lonely. This can affect their long-term health, educational and social development. The long-term vision of Summer Hype is to create a self-sustaining movement where participants become leaders and future organisers of camp and so are able to give back to their wider community too

The last charity I am going to mention is our **Synagogue**. Although subscriptions should cover the day-to-day expense of running the synagogue, we all know that there are always unexpected costs and special projects we want to undertake. This year we have greatly improved our security by installing CCTV cameras, a new front door system, and a new intercom system. We are also very pleased that we are finally able to stream our services. Installing the hardware to enable this is, we think, invaluable for the elderly and sick and those who live a distance from the synagogue and can only occasionally attend services. Earlier in the year we unexpectedly had to do some electrical work in the kitchen and then replace the forty light bulbs in the Sanctuary with environmentally friendly LED bulbs. These improvements and projects are the foundation of keeping our synagogue running safely and securely. With your donations we would also like to put in a new sound system in the Sanctuary and buy a microphone for the Garden Room and to be able to offer more free events and talks.

Although I am here appealing for your money, I would also like to appeal for something equally valuable: your time. Time is very precious to us all, with our busy lives, our family and work and commitments. However, at Bromley so much of what we do is run by volunteers, so if you have a free hour once a month, once a week, once a day, please consider donating that as well. It could be part of the Caring Community: phoning or visiting the sick or elderly amongst us, joining the Social Group at shul helping organise events, or helping out at cheder or at the Social Centre.

Michelle Brooks Evans, Chair

The Macmillan Coffee Morning

Pauline Jeffree reports:



Judy was in charge of the raffle prizes at the Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday, 27 September, the scene was set. There were posters telling us about our forthcoming annual Macmillan Coffee Morning. On the tables at the entrance to the synagogue there were collection boxes for donations of small change. The downstairs Garden Room was all set up with cups and saucers ready for tea or coffee, plates and napkins and a wonderful array of homemade cakes to choose from. Everyone could have as much tea or coffee to drink and cake to enjoy as they pleased. The raffle table was bulging with amazing gifts to be won: handbag, wine, fruit basket, indoor bulbs to plant, vegetable basket, Waitrose voucher, to name but a few.

At another table we were encouraged to guess the weight of the cake and to guess how many 5p pieces were in the jar. Surprisingly I won the weight of the cake. I was told that was because I had weighed so many babies when I was a midwife, which gave me an unfair advantage? Any way that persuaded me to give the cake away! There was a play area for children with balloons for any child to take home. At mid-morning Harriet, who works at Macmillan headquarters, told us about the projects Macmillan are in process of developing and implementing.

Especial thanks are due to Marilyn and Dianne, who got everything ready in the Garden Room on Thursday afternoon. Thank you too to everybody who helped throughout the morning, both in serving and clearing away and for banking the contributions.

We raised £750.00, as against last year's £719.91, an amazing result. Thank you!

Date for your diary:

Friday, 25 September, 2020

Pauline Jeffree

Cheder News

Term 1 is traditionally a very busy term at Cheder, full of High Holydays and exciting events. I'm happy to report that this year is no different, with even more going on than usual!

- 1) Our Cheder children will celebrate UK-wide **Mitzvah Day on 17 November** by hosting children's author, **Helen Peters**, who will talk about her latest novel, *Anna At War*, at a special assembly in the sanctuary at **12pm**. This event is **open to the whole community**, as well as Cheder parents and families. If you want to bring friends along too, please email **cheder@bromleyshul.org.uk** with details of names so we have a list for security. Linking to the book, we are supporting refugee charities with **donations of clothing, food and personal hygiene items**, so please bring in items to donate.
- 2) The wonderful parents of **Hooray Cheder** are running this year's **Chanukah Fair on Sunday, 8 December from 12.30-3pm**. There will be delicious cakes and doughnuts for sale, Judaica, toys, books and everything you need for a happy Chanukah. Each class will be running their own stall, so make sure you visit them all. New this year is the Adopt-A-Teddy stall and the Secret Gift stall, where kids can use their pocket money to buy and wrap gifts for family and friends. And Simon will be back to take fantastic Chanukah family photos. The money raised 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. And if you can spare an hour of your time to help out at the fair, please let **Amanda Penn** know through the shul: 020 8460 5460.
- 3) Also, on **Sunday, 8 December** Joe Parks and his **Klezmer Band** will be playing for our entertainment, so please stay and enjoy the performance by our brilliant Cheder musicians. **All members of the community are welcome** to come and share in this Jewish music as a thank-you for supporting the Chanukah Fair.
- 4) **Youth Club** will be running next on **Sunday 24 November** after Cheder. Contact **Rachael Ashmore** via the

shul (020 8460 5460) for details.

- 5) Our **Chanukah Party** will take place on the first night of Chanukah, **Sunday 22 December, from 4-6pm**. **Gilbert Giggles** will be on hand to entertain the younger ones, with latkes, sufganiot (doughnuts), dreidels and chocolate gelt everywhere. We'll end the evening with communal candle lighting - please bring along your own chanukiah if you'd like to take part. **Youth Club** will have its own party going on that day, so please contact **Rachael Ashmore** for details: rachael.freida.ashmore@gmail.com.
- 6) A reminder that your children's **Tzedakah** pennies 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, as next term we'll be supporting a different charity chosen by Kittah Chet.
- 7) Please check the **Security Rota** on this page to see if we are expecting you to show up for security. Any problems, please contact **Katia Pisetzky** via 020 8460 5460.
- 8) Last but not least, our final day of Cheder this term will be **Sunday, 15 December**. Cheder will resume on **Sunday, 5 January**.

That's all for now. I look forward to seeing you all at the parties, events and assemblies.

L'Shalom,

Danielle, Cheder Head Teacher

Cheder Security Rota – Sukkot Term

Sundays	Name
November 3	Rachel Kamhi
November 10	Amelia and Kanatta Kyazze
November 17	Judy and David Taylor
November 24	Tony Miller
December 1	Harriet and Dan Posner
December 8	to be confirmed
December 15	Elizabeth and Nigel Megitt – Cheder Term ends
December 22	Chanukah Party – security to be arranged

Social Centre News

Our condolences go to **Avril Gordon**, whose son very sadly died last month. May his memory be a blessing to her.

Unfortunately the talk by Rachel Lucking scheduled for 23 October was cancelled. We are hoping to have a new date for Rachel to come in the new year and will let you know as soon as possible.

This month's meetings are on **November 13 and 27**. On November 13 we have a return visit by **David and Tom**. If you would like them to research and talk about a specific piece of music or simply to play a special piece please let me know. They will welcome requests!

Dianne Mathews

The Chanukah Fair

Our annual Chanukah Fair will be held on **Sunday 8 December** from 12.30 - 3.00 pm. This is the only fundraising event we hold for the Cheder during the year, with lots of Judaica, hand-made cards, plants and raffle prizes, so please save the date!

Raffle and Silent Auction prizes: we need donations for the raffle and silent auction, which were very successful last year. Remember, donations can be in the form of volunteering a service; previous offers have included babysitting, tutoring and dance lessons. Please contact the Cheder PTA at hooraycheder@gmail.com, if you have a donation.

Bric-a-Brac and Secret Gift stalls: We challenge every member of the synagogue to donate at least one item from home in very good condition. It could be a unread book, a toy that is still in its packaging or an unwanted gift. These items will be sold as bric-a-brac or at our secret gift stall, where children can buy a wrapped Chanukah gift for a loved one. All money raised will go to the Cheder so you can rest assured that these items are going to a good cause!

Please leave bric-a-brac and secret gifts under the table in the synagogue foyer and Hooray Cheder PTA will collect.

Searching for the Meaning of Life

The dust returns to the earth as it was; and the spirit returns to God who gave it." (Ecclesiastes 12:7)

Synagogues throughout the world read the book of Ecclesiastes on the intermediate Sabbath of Sukkot. The book, which I believe is one of the most fascinating in the Bible, describes a search for the meaning of life. The Rabbis attributed the book to King Solomon, who in his old age grew cynical. The book begins with the famous phrase, "vanity of vanities, all is vanity" (Ecclesiastes. 1:2). Towards the end of the book King Solomon admits that life seems purposeless. In the end, the dust which is the body is put in the earth, while the spirit which is the soul returns to God.

This is one of the earliest sources that seems to indicate that we human beings have two parts. We have a body, made of physical stuff, which can often be corrupted. And we have a soul, made of spiritual stuff, which will someday return to God. I recite this verse at every funeral I perform. Of course, the verse does not speak of the soul, but simply the spirit or breath (literally wind) which God blew into the body, and which returns to God at death. Nonetheless, the idea that we are made of two parts is known by philosophers as dualism. There are two substances, body and soul, matter and spirit. They come together within us for a period of time, and then they are separated. The soul came from God and eventually returns to God.

Jews affirm this every morning in their prayers. "The soul that you gave me is pure. You created it, you formed it, you guard it within me. Someday you will take it from me. Then you will return it to me at some future time." Yes, Jewish theology teaches that at death the soul leaves us, but someday it will be returned. The body and the soul will be reunited, at the time of the resurrection of the dead. These are fundamental Jewish beliefs. In fact, the Mishnah teaches that anyone who denies resurrection of the dead is in the Torah has no place in the World to Come.

I am about to lose my place in the World to Come. For I can say that the Torah never mentions resurrection of the dead. In fact, the Torah never mentions the soul at all. The idea that when we die our soul goes to heaven for judgment is not part of the Biblical view. When the Bible speaks

of death, it talks of people sleeping with their fathers. If the soul goes anywhere, it goes to this underground place called *sheol* where souls sleep. The worst thing one can do to one of these sleeping souls is to disturb it by waking it up. This is what King Saul does to the sleeping soul of Samuel in the story of the witch of Endor (I Samuel chapter 28). Samuel condemns Saul for disturbing his eternal rest.

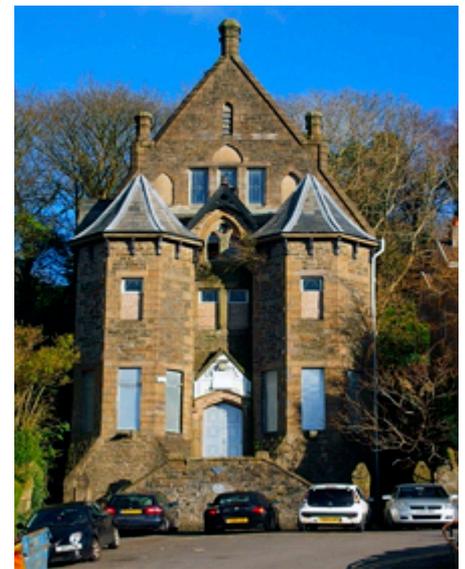
Most of us believe that we have a body and a soul. When we die our soul returns to God where it is judged, perhaps sent to heaven and perhaps sent to hell. Jews never accepted the idea of eternal damnation. In Judaism, the soul may go to Gan Eden (the Garden of Eden, the perfect paradise), or it may go to Gehinnom (literally, the valley of Hinom, where souls are punished for one year at most.) But, at least according to classical Judaism, the soul will some day come back and be reunited with the body. The soul exists only temporarily in the world to come, before returning to this world.

Where did these ideas come from? They are not in the Bible. Yet they are so prevalent in contemporary Judaism that we constantly speak about them in our prayers. The truth is that this body-soul dualism is not in the Bible, because it comes from the Greeks. In fact, it was Plato who conceived this idea. Plato envisioned a perfect unchanging world, the world of the forms. That is where the soul belongs. Plato also saw this physical world as changing and corrupt, a place where that soul is entrapped. But one day the soul will leave this world of decay and corruption, and return to that perfect place. The soul will have come home. Of course, Plato saw no value in resurrection, the soul coming back to this world. Why should it? The soul going to heaven is a Greek idea; the soul coming back to this world developed in Judaism. (see Daniel 12:2)

This Greek idea of the soul became a central tenet of Judaism (and Christianity and Islam). Meanwhile, when we say our Yizkor prayers on Shemini Atzeret and pray that the souls of our loved ones find rest in the Garden of Eden, know that we are expressing an idea that came from the Greeks rather than from the Bible.

Rabbi Chava Koster

Conserving Jewish Heritage



This is a picture of Merthyr Tydfil synagogue, which is the subject of the appeal on page 8 of this Highlight.

Enjoying the Sukkah – A thank you message from Ann Fried



Thank you to everyone who came and "dwelt" in the Sukkah, especially those who brought greenery and fruit and vegetables to hang and decorations to enhance its beauty. The fruit and veg that survived the inclement weather has been given to the Food Bank.

I know that the Cheder pupils did a great deal - many thanks to them, their teachers and parents. We also need to thank the crew who put the structure of the Sukkah together – and took it down.

I would like to suggest to the community that everyone should feel that Sukkot is for them. Sukkot is not just for children! Over the last few years I believe that the community has relied on the Cheder children, teachers and parents to fulfil the task of building and decorating the Sukkah. Let next Sukkot be the one where we **all** come, build, decorate and dwell.

Ann Fried

A big thank you to Ann from all who "dwelt" for even a short time in the Sukkah.

Who is a Carer?

Many carers, including quite probably some who are reading this now, don't even realise they are carers, especially those who are caring for a close relative such as a husband or wife. So, what defines being a carer? A carer is anyone who cares, unpaid, for someone e.g. a family member, friend or neighbour who, owing to illness, disability, frailty, a mental health problem or an addiction, cannot cope without support. The vast army of around 6.5 million unpaid carers across the UK, according to Carers UK, save the economy an incredible £132 billion a year.

Quite often carers tend to neglect their own health and wellbeing, as they are so busy looking after someone else and often lose their own social life on account of the impact of their caring role. Many carers also find it difficult to hold down a job due to the demands of caring.

The Jewish Care Family Carers Team offers emotional and practical support for people who are caring for a relative or friend through one-to-one meetings, support groups or conversations on the telephone or by email. They also support people whose relatives are moving into residential care.

If you are a carer, or know someone who is, here are some tips that may sound obvious, but it's surprising how many carers simply forget to look after themselves as they always put the needs of the person they care for first:

Always let your GP or health professional know you are a carer. If you're looking after someone, look after

yourself too. You matter just as much as the person you are caring for.

Look after your health and make sure you have regular check-ups from your doctor. If you have a symptom you're concerned about, get it checked quickly. Don't leave it to get worse.

Look after yourself emotionally; caring is hard and many carers become depressed or anxious. Speak to a carers' support service, other carers, friends or family members about how you feel. Tell your doctor if you're feeling low and ask what help is available.

Make sure you get a break, even for a few hours. This will help you recharge your batteries. Try to use this for your own interests if you can, rather than for chores. Request a Carer's Assessment via your local social services; it is your right.

Eat well. A balanced diet includes at least five different portions of fruit and vegetables a day, lean protein and some starch (e.g. bread, potatoes), and don't forget to drink, ideally water

If you would like more information regarding the support available call the Jewish Care helpline on 020 8922 2222

Jewish Care and Nightingale Hammerson together provide "The South London Community Support Service" which provides information, advice and helps organise support. **Stephen Ison** is the representative based at Nightingale House in Clapham and can be reached on 07881 86327, sison@jcare.org or via the Jewish Care Helpline mentioned above.

Council of Christians and Jews South East London Branch

Rabbi Chava Koster, who grew up in the Netherlands, will speak on.

"Growing up in the country of Anne Frank"

**Tuesday 5 November
8.00 pm at the Synagogue**
Refreshments from 7.45 pm

The life story of Anne Frank has continued to grow in significance over the years. How has Anne Frank impacted the way the Dutch in general, and Dutch Christians and Jews, in particular, see themselves and the world?

For further details, contact **Stephen Weil** via the shul 020 8460 5460.

The Book Group

The next session of the Book Group will be on

Thursday, 7 November 7.45 pm at the shul, when we will be discussing

Howard Jacobson's 2010 Booker Prize winner *'The Finkler Question'*.

Everyone is welcome

Judy Woolfe: via the shul
(020 8460 5460)

Bromley WIZO Eretz Upcoming Events

Tuesday, 19 November

(please note the change of date):

Afternoon tea when you are invited to meet **Rabbi Chava Koster**. She is familiar with WIZO from when she lived in Amsterdam. 2.30 pm at the home of **Marilyn Burchell**. Donation £7.50. Contact Marilyn 020 8658 4776.

Sunday, 1 December at 2.30 pm:

Our ever popular **Bridge and Games afternoon**, hosted by Marilyn and Joe. Please contact **Barbara Fizzon** to book your place: 020 3685 0945 or bafizz@virginmedia.com. Donation £10.

Please 'phone **Marilyn Burchell** on 020 8658 4776 for more information.

Estate Planning Workshop

Wednesday, 13 November

7.30 pm in the Synagogue

Teas and coffees will be available

"Inheritance tax, powers of attorney, making a will" - how much do you know or understand about these terms? Is there a way to protect your family from spending everything on your care? Whether you are married or living together, have children, parents or grandchildren -- if you have assets, this is for you!

Come and listen to lawyer and experienced estate planning expert **Jeremy Wilson** clarifying many of these concepts and explaining how they can affect YOU. If you have been wondering or worrying about any of these things, you will be much better informed by the end of the evening!

*All enquiries to **Joanna Koenigsberg** via 020 8460 5460.*

Social and Personal

BIRTH - Beverley and Peter Saunders are very happy to announce the birth of a handsome healthy boy to their son Justin and his wife Shelli on 25 September. His name is Jackson Woolf Saunders. Jackson is Beverley and Peter's third grandchild.

BEREAVEMENTS

Sincere condolences to synagogue member **Avril Gordon** on the sad loss of her son **Mark**. May the memory of Mark be for a blessing, *zichrono l'vracha*.

GET WELL SOON

Pauline Jeffree writes: Our thoughts are with all those in our community who are unwell at this time and their respective family and friends. We wish you well. We also wish dear Pauline herself and Webmaster **Kieron Hyams** speedy recoveries after their recent operations.

Thanks to the congregation

Dianne Mathews would like to thank the Synagogue for honouring her as *Kallat Torah* this year and to thank **Philip Michaelis** for helping her so patiently. Bromley Synagogue and its members have given her so much for which to be grateful.

A greeting from Henry

We are pleased to forward greetings from **Henry Clarke**, who remembers happy times supporting the shul at this time of year, and not forgetting the Cheder. He wishes *Chag Sameach* to all.

THANKS TO ALL

Dear Mr Editor

The High Holyday mitzvot

A huge thanks to all our wonderful readers and to those who, whether they'd accepted long in advance or were picked on at the last minute, fulfilled other mitzvot so willingly and conscientiously despite the recalcitrant ark curtain. This includes our two *Kallot*, both first-time Torah readers, who learned their long readings so quickly and well. Di, it is *we* who should be grateful to you. I wish all those who were absent due to ill health better soon.

Judi Sheffrin



Joe Parks and his players provided the music for the *Simchat Torah* procession on 20 October

Please use the "Comms" address

Dear Mr Editor

May I once again beseech everybody - individuals, groups and committees - with something to publicise to use the "comms" address on p.11.

If you write to an individual address there are many reasons why it might be overlooked; send to the group and at least one of us will pick it up and, if necessary, pass it on. I am delighted that so many people are involved with things that they want the rest of us to know about, so please DO write to comms@bromleyshul.org.uk but please check that you have all your facts in a row before clicking "send".

In the post-yomtov rush to get information out, there was an epidemic of old, new and corrected versions of notices flying about that became quite confusing. I hope to see many of you at many of the events. Meanwhile, of behalf of all of us, may I thank our three main editors/mediators for their fantastic work.

Yours etc.

Judi Sheffrin

Bromley Knitters, Stitchers and Natterers

Our next meetings will be on Thursdays 21 November and 12 December from 10 am to about 12 noon at Pauline's home.

We need help because we are now in the throes of making 40 pretty material, draw-string with ribbon bags to be hung at the end of each cot or incubator, duly named and kept by the named recipient. All to be completed by 12 December.

Each pretty bag will be filled with a tea towel-size knitted (double baby knitting wool) small blanket 12"x12", knitted toy and cardigan.

The rest of what is needed for the tiny ones and sick continues so can you help, please?

We thank all those who give generously of their time, gifts of wool and material.

Pauline Jeffree

via the shul: 020 8460 5460

Invest in Peace

Catford and Bromley Synagogue and Lewisham Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin are hosting, on **Sunday, 17 November from 3.30-5.30**, an **Invest in Peace** event where two peace activists - one Israeli, the other Palestinian - will tell their stories. The event will be attended by MP for Lewisham East Janet Daby and Lewisham Mayor Damien Egan.

Invest in Peace is a joint project of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

Tickets are free for the South London event, **but booking is required** at investinpeace.eventbrite.co.uk. The address of the venue will be given once you have registered.

Further enquiries can be made at 07767 811113

Invest in Peace is a coalition of people who support the self-determination of Palestinians and Israelis and are dedicated to championing efforts on the ground that move these societies towards a shared future of coexistence and prosperity.

Its work amplifies the diminished voices of people who are working to change the status quo.

Invest in Peace believes the best way to end the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians is to create economic and people-to-people partnerships among the two peoples.



Discover Something New LIMMUD FESTIVAL Sun, 22 - Thurs, 26 December

The Festival will be taking place in the hotels surrounding Pendigo Lake, south of the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

BOOK NOW

limmud.org/festival

EARLY BIRD PRICE

Book by 28 November to save 10%

Every year, Limmud participants old and new come together for an enriching Shabbat to kick off Festival. **This year, Shabbat will be bigger and better than ever and will take place from Friday 20 - Saturday 21 December.**

Conserving Jewish Heritage: Merthyr Tydfil Synagogue Appeal

The Foundation for Jewish Heritage has purchased the remarkable Merthyr Tydfil former synagogue building in Wales (please see the photograph on page 5).

The synagogue is a 19th century Grade 2 listed stone structure designed in Gothic Revival style, the oldest purpose-built synagogue still standing in Wales, considered architecturally one of the most important synagogues in the UK.

The building had been put on the market and the Foundation proposed creating a 'Welsh Jewish Heritage Centre' that would tell the 250+ year history of the Welsh Jewish community and provide a new cultural venue for Merthyr. This idea was well received by the Jewish and heritage communities in Wales and the local authorities and MP. We also made contact with the office of the Prince of Wales.

The Foundation went on to conduct a feasibility study testing the Heritage Centre concept and the conclusions demonstrated that it was viable. We are now working closely with the municipality to move the process forward, which begins with buying the building and then engaging further with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), which we hope will fund a large part of the overall project.

The Foundation views its role as primarily educational - using these historic buildings to inform about the life and contribution of the Jewish community, building awareness, understanding and empathy, combating ignorance, prejudice and antisemitism. We want such sites to promote inter-cultural dialogue and inclusion and bring wider social and economic benefit, which is so important in a place like Merthyr.

We need to raise £130K to cover the purchase and initial costs to make the building wind and watertight, and safe.

Michael Mail, Chief Executive

Judy Woolfe writes: My grandfather Solomon lived in Merthyr for a while and attended this shul. There may be other Bromley members who have their roots in Merthyr too and will be interested in this project, which is supported by Simon Schama.

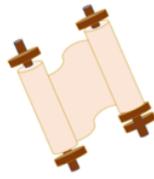
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Foundation for Jewish Heritage

Sort code: 60 10 34

Account number: 12789593

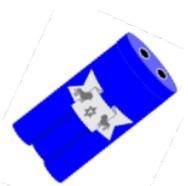
Calling all lay readers, of any experience or none. Would you like to read a Torah portion for BRS?



We would like to invite more members of the congregation to come up to the Bimah and read from the scroll. You could read a whole portion, or just a few verses, completing a reading started by the rabbi or other officiant.

Have you a favourite portion you'd like to read? Perhaps a bar- or bat-mitzvah reading that is still there in your memory, just waiting to be pulled out, dusted off and displayed? You may pick a portion well in advance and help will be available if you would like it.

Please let the Senior Warden know if you are interested! She can be contacted at rrc@bromleyshul.org.uk



Leo Baeck College – Lehrhaus courses, 2019-2020

Leo Baeck College is pleased to announce its Lehrhaus programme for Autumn 2019 and Spring 2020, with more courses still to follow.

All our courses are taught by our outstanding faculty, who very much look forward to having you study with them.

LIVE On-Line courses

Autumn 2019:

Maimonides' Radical Judaism: An enduring intellectual heritage an 8-week course with **Rabbi Mark Solomon** (waiting list)

Jewish Education course: The Route to Hebrew Roots - a 4-week course with **Dr Jo-Ann Myers**

Ulpan: Modern Hebrew - 8-week courses with **Liat Aharonovich**

Spring 2020:

Levinas and us: ethics, politics, religion and art - a 4-week course with **Dr Jakub Kowalewski**

Reflections on the Holocaust and Modernity in Jewish Philosophy and Visual Art - a 4-week course with **Professor Melissa Raphael**

Wandering Jews - a 4-week course with **Rabbi Robyn Ashworth-Steen**

The Warsaw and Lodz Ghettos: Archivists and Photographers as Witnesses and Recorders a 4-week course with **Rabbi Dr Frank Dabba Smith**

Courses taking place at Leo Baeck College – Autumn 2019:

Classical Greek for Beginners a 6-week course with **Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton**

King David in Power - an 8-week course with **Rabbi Professor Jonathan Magonet**

As an incentive, all returning Lehrhaus students will enjoy a 10% discount on any course (excluding Ulpan) and a 20% discount if signing up for more than one course in the semester.

Please go to this link: www.lbc.ac.uk/lehrhaus for details and information about all our courses.

If you have any questions, please contact Jarek: lehrhaus@lbc.ac.uk, 020 8349 5600.

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

Rejoicing in the Law



Two young congregants help to support the unrolled scroll during the Simchat Torah celebration on 20 October

Chanukah is coming

Judi Sheffrin writes:

Believe it or not it will soon be Chanukah. If you would like to volunteer to host a candle-lighting for fellow members in your area, don't be shy. **First night is 22 December.**

I am particularly keen to find hosts for both Forest Hill and Sevenoaks and beyond.

The gathering can be as simple or as elaborate as you like, and you can be sure that your guests will help out.

Please contact me at judishef@aol.com (not comms for this one, thank you!) **before 15 November.**

BRS Education Committee Dates for your diary

Introduction to Judaism

Classes will continue in the synagogue during Cheder, starting at 10 am

Please note the class scheduled for Sunday, 3 November has been cancelled.

Dates are now as follows:

Sundays,

**24 November, 1 December,
15 December**

Further details from Barbara via the shul (020 8460 5460)

There will be a small charge for non-members.

Please contact the synagogue office to register your interest:

admin@bromleyshul.org.uk

Shabbat Study Sessions

It is hoped these will begin soon.

Please contact Barbara if you have any suggestions for topics to study.

SERVICES

November 2019 – Cheshvan 5780

Friday evening services at 7 pm on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month

Saturdays at 10.30 am, unless otherwise stated

Friday 1 November

Saturday 2 November

Noach (4 Cheshvan)

Shabbat morning service to be led by student rabbi **Anna Posner**

Friday 8 November

Saturday 9 November

Shabbat evening service at 7pm

Lech Lecha (11 Cheshvan)

Friday 15 November

Saturday 16 November

Vayera (18 Cheshvan)

Friday 22 November

Saturday 23 November

Shabbat evening service at 7pm

Chayei Sarah (25 Cheshvan)

Friday 29 November

Saturday 30 November

Rosh Chodesh Kislev

Toledot

Delivery of Kosher Meals

A message from Stephen Ison

Many of you already know about Wiltshire Farm Foods but for those who don't – they are an excellent deliverer of frozen meals throughout the UK and have a selection of kosher meals. Open link below:

<https://www.wiltshirefarmfoods.com/ready-meals/kosher>

They have stocked kosher food for a long time but until I pressurised them they would not tell me where the meals came from. It turns out they are from Hermolis (kosher food specialists in Wembley) and consequently under the supervision of the London Beth Din. I managed, with the help of the Beth Din, to get them to state that in the Ethnic Food brochure and online.

To make the point as to the quality of the service (and food), my wife and I ordered meals for our self catering holiday in Scarborough, North Yorkshire and they were delivered to us at the appointed time. Minimum delivery in Scarborough was £15 and we paid on delivery. We believe in London the minimum delivery is £20 or even £25 but even so someone could order just three or four meals. Ideal for those with no access to kosher food, or those who perhaps have come out of hospital and just need some additional meals and even those on holiday! I would recommend though that orders are made a week in advance as not all the local depots stock the full range of kosher food.

Stephen Ison, South London Community Support Service

Direct Contact - Mobile 07881 863237, Jewish Care Direct Helpline 020 8922 2222

Email: sison@jcare.org, Service Website: www.southlondonjewishservices.org.uk

The Bauhaus art school and the visual arts in Britain in the 1930s

This display celebrates the centenary of the founding of the Bauhaus.

In 1933, National Socialist policies in Germany caused the Bauhaus to close. Many artists associated with the school came to Britain in search of safety and work. British artists with similar interests to those of the Bauhaus welcomed their émigré colleagues.

The Bauhaus school was to have a profound effect on modern art in Britain. This display shows a variety of work produced by both Bauhaus and British artists. It highlights their personal relationships and shared concerns.

At Tate Britain until 17 November

Dates for Your Diary

November

F	1	
S	2	Noach
S	3	
M	4	
T	5	CCJ meeting - talk by Rabbi Chava Koster - 7.45 for 8 pm at the Shul
W	6	
Th	7	Meeting of the Book Group - 7.45 pm at the Shul
F	8	Shabbat evening service at 7pm
S	9	Lech Lecha
S	10	
M	11	
T	12	
W	13	Social Centre - Musical entertainment by David and Tom Estate Planning Workshop - 7.30 pm at the Shul
Th	14	
F	15	
S	16	Vayera
S	17	Mitzvah Day - visit by children's author Helen Peters at 12 noon after Cheder Invest in Peace - 3.30 to 5.30 pm - venue to be notified
M	18	
T	19	Bromley WIZO - afternoon tea with Rabbi Chava Koster . 2.30 pm at the home of Marilyn Burchell.
W	20	
Th	21	
F	22	Shabbat evening service at 7pm
S	23	Chayei Sarah
S	24	Introduction to Judaism - 10 am at the Shul
M	25	
T	26	
W	27	Social Centre - 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul
Th	28	
F	29	Rosh Chodesh Kislev
S	30	Toledot

December

S	1	Bromley WIZO - Bridge and Games afternoon - 2.30 pm at the Burchells
M	2	
T	3	
W	4	
Th	5	
F	6	
S	7	Vayetze
S	8	Chanukah Fair - 12.30 to 3.30 pm at the Shul
M	9	
T	10	
W	11	Social Centre - 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul - Quiz about Bromley borough
Th	12	
F	13	Shabbat evening service at 7pm
S	14	Vayishlach
S	15	Cheder term ends
M	16	
T	17	
W	18	
Th	19	
F	20	
S	21	Vayeshev
S	22	Chanukah Party - 4 to 6 pm at the Shul First Candle of Chanukah
M	23	
T	24	
W	25	
Th	26	
F	27	Shabbat evening service at 7pm
S	28	Mikketz
S	29	Rosh Chodesh Tevet Last Candle of Chanukah
M	30	
T	31	

SE10 and Beyond

Thursday, 28 November

Jewish family traditions, the weird and wonderful.

December - we will be celebrating **Chanukah** with a candle lighting in Blackheath, so look out for details.

Please email **Michelle** on chair@bromleyshul.org.uk or ring her via the shul: 020 8460 5460

All are invited, members, non members, locals to SE10 and, of course, beyond!



Come and see me at the Chanukah Fair on 8 December -

Seasonal cards, greetings for most occasions and many with no message. To pre-order a particular card/quantity please contact me via the shul: 020 8460 5460

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UK Jewish Film Festival 2019

6–21 November 2019

6 Nov 8.30 pm

Opening Night Gala: My Polish Honeymoon + Q&A
London BFI Southbank

The main London venue for the festival is JW3 in Finchley Road while some films will be shown at the Phoenix Cinema in East Finchley.

If you're aged 30 or under, tickets are available for only £5 for select screenings!

Tickets are also available on the door for £5 at all screenings (except galas). All you have to do is visit the festival box office at your chosen venue 45 minutes before the start time with a valid ID.

To book and for all inquiries go to ukjewishfilm.org or ring 020 3173 0048



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