

# HIGHLight

Bromley Reform Synagogue newsletter

## Chanukah delights



Flora presided over the Judaica table at the Chanukah Fair

## The Anne Frank House



Turn to page 6 for Stephen Weil's report of Rabbi Chava Koster's talk to the CCJ on 'Growing up in the Land of Anne Frank'

January 2020 - Tevet/Shevat 5780

### BRS Education Committee

#### Dates for your diary

#### Introduction to Judaism

Classes will continue in the Sanctuary during Cheder starting at 10 am.

**Dates** are now as follows: **Sundays, 12 and 26 January, 9 February, 1, 15 and 29 March**

Classes will be led by **John Posner**.

Please contact John through the synagogue for further details:

020 8460 5460

There will be a small charge for non-members. *Contact the synagogue office to register your interest:*

admin@bromleyshul.org.uk

#### Shabbat Study Sessions

The committee is delighted to announce dates for two Shabbat study sessions:

**Saturday, 11 January**

led by **Student Rabbi Anna Posner**

**Saturday, 1 February**

led by **Student Rabbi Mati Kirschenbaum**

The sessions will follow the morning service and a **Bring-and-Share Lunch**

Please contact **Barbara** through the synagogue for further details: 020 8460 5460.

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## Looking Forward and Back - View from the Chair

Welcome to the first *Highlight* of 2020! As I sit writing this, I look back at 2019 and forward to 2020.

J – **January 18** sees student rabbi **Anna Posner** returning to Bromley to lead the service and a study session afterwards. We have been so lucky to have a number of very talented and inspiring rabbis and student rabbis visit us. We have even had the Senior Rabbi of Reform Judaism, **Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner**, leading a Shabbat service. I will also mention that student rabbi **Mati Kirschenbaum** is returning on **1 February** to lead the service and a study session. For those who missed him in December, do come along to meet Mati, who is the first Polish-born Jew to study for the Progressive rabbinate since the fall of Communism.

A – “Another talk” I thought to myself when I went to the 3 Faiths meeting at the Al-Emaan Centre in Keston last month, but when I got there I realised it was much more. It was my first visit to the work of the 3 Faiths group and I was blown away. First of all, by the number of people who turned up, it was so inspiring to see Jews, Moslems and Christians come together in friendship and food. It reminds me of how much we have in common instead of all the problems we see in the news. Then there was the subject of “*Forgiveness in Judaism*”, which was really interesting, and I will mention it again, the food at the mosque was really delicious! The next 3 Faiths meeting is at our synagogue on **Tuesday, 14 January** and this time it is “*Forgiveness in Christianity*”.

N – “**Never forget**” the world said of the Holocaust. There is an overpowering need to preserve the mind-boggling scope of the destruction of more than one third of the world’s Jewish population during Second World War, the annihilation of 6 million Jews from every corner of Europe. **Holocaust Memorial Day** takes place every year on **27 January**. The day also marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. Our world often feels fragile and vulnerable and we cannot be complacent. Even in the UK, we all must challenge prejudice

and the language of hatred. Together we bear witness for those who endured genocide, and honour the survivors and all those whose lives were changed.

U – **United we stand** together at BRS. Last year I faced some challenges as Chair that nobody could foresee. However, with the invaluable support of my Vice Chair **Kieron**, the Board and community I know that 2020 is going to be a great year. The amount of extra work that people have put in is incredible and I thank each and every one of you. Just look in *Highlight* and see the many things going on, spend time in Shul and you can see what a vibrant and joyful place it is to be.

A – **Aleph**: did you know it is the subject of a Midrash that praises its humility in not demanding to start the Torah. In Hebrew the Torah begins with the second letter of the alphabet, Bet. In folktale Aleph is rewarded by being allowed to start the Ten Commandments.

R – Running the **Chanukah Fair** for another year were **Amanda Penn** and **Sonia Hyams** (Hooray Cheder PTA), as well as all their helpers and stallholders. I went along and it was a magnificent affair, buzzing with excited children and adults enjoying the now famous Freeman bagels as well as the many other stalls. I know behind the scenes there was a lot of hard work going on for months, as well as all the setting out and clearing up on the day, so thank you Amanda and Sonia and your team. I know they would really be grateful for more help next time and, remember, the Chanukah Fair is for the whole community, not just the Cheder.

Y – **Youth** at BRS has been given a boost by having our new Youth Group Leader **Rachael Ashmore** take over the role a few months ago. Rachael is also the teacher of Kittah Aleph, all of this and she is only 16 years old! So if you have a child old enough, do send them to Youth Club and look out for all Rachael has planned next year. I have heard that RSY (Reform Synagogue Youth) will be coming to Bromley for a “**Cheder Takeover**” and there is the exciting news that there will be a summer camp next summer at BRS. This will be a day

camp for 5-10 year olds on Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 July run by RSY. Generally, these days run from 9 am to 3.30 pm with an option of early arrivals from 8 am and a late stay until 5 pm. There will be lots going on, such as drama, cooking, crafts and science, all fun and engaging sessions. We have to get a minimum of 20 children signed up for this to happen, so please do get involved and spread the word. More details will be put in *Highlight* once we have them.

**Michelle Brooks Evans**, Chair

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## Welfare Officer on Camp

**When:** 26 July – 11 August 2020 . Attendance at some pre- and post- camp meetings, including mandatory training on Sunday, 14 June 2020 and Shemesh feedback by the end of August.

**Where:** Various locations across the UK

**Remuneration:** £1,500 + (dependent on experience)

**RSY-Netzer** are looking for qualified teachers, youth workers, social workers or appropriate therapists with at least 5 years post-qualification experience working with young people, to work on our 2-week residential summer camps, Shemesh.

You will be responsible for maintaining the health, safety and wellbeing of the young people on camp and act as the named Safeguarding Officer. You will assist leaders to create a positive environment for the young people in their care.

If you would like the opportunity to be a part of our summer camps, download the job description and person specification, or contact **Sharon Daniels**, Wellbeing and Inclusion Manager, for more information.

**To apply**, send your CV and a covering letter/e-mail explaining how you meet the person specification. For reapplication from previous Welfare Officers only, download and return the form. All applications should be addressed to **Sharon Daniels**:

sharon.daniels@rsy-netzer.org.uk

**Deadline for applications: 27 January 2020**

## Cheder News

Happy New Year! I hope you all had an enjoyable festive break and are ready to start the Purim term at Cheder. We have lots of exciting things planned!

1. Our **Chanukah Fair** and **Chanukah Party** were both a great success, with the Fair raising more money than ever before and a fantastic turnout for the party to see **Gilbert Giggles**, eat copious amounts of *latkes* and *sufganiyot* (doughnuts) and celebrate the first night of Chanukah with a magical communal lighting. Thank you to everyone who came, had fun and helped out, and a massive thank you to **Amanda Penn** and **Sonia Hyams**, our wonderful Hooray Cheder PTA leaders.
2. **Our first day back will be on Sunday 12 January at 10 am.** If you want to add a New Year's Resolution to your list, why not make it coming to Cheder regularly and on time? Missing lessons disrupts what the teachers have planned and it also makes it difficult for your children to bond with their classmates. Cheder is about a Jewish education but it's also about creating a Jewish community, and we parents need to create it together. So let's encourage those bonds that can keep our kids happy and our community growing, and hopefully ensure that our children make friendships that last a lifetime.
3. Thank you so much for sending in your **Tzedakah** money to support last term's **Jewish Child's Day**. For the next two terms, Kittah Chet/Zayin have decided to raise money for **Last Chance Animal Rescue** and **Roundabout Drama Therapy**. They'll be giving a presentation to the Cheder during assembly in January. Please keep sending in those spare pennies so that we can teach our children the importance giving Tzedakah, (charity) as it says in the Talmud: "Tzedakah is equal to all the other commandments combined".
4. We have a special activity planned for **Tu Bishvat** on **9 February - Tu**

*Bishvat* is 'the birthday of the trees' and we will be spending some time outside in the Shul garden (weather permitting!), identifying the plants and learning some Hebrew words for the wonderful nature all around us. We will also have the chance to plant some parsley that will hopefully grow in time for Pesach.

5. **Youth Club** this term will also be on Tu Bishvat on **9 February** and again on **9 March** - for more information, contact **Rachael Ashmore**: rachael.freida.ashmore@gmail.com
6. Looking ahead to the spring, **Ella Janner-Klausner** from **Reform Synagogue Youth (RSY)** will be doing a 'Cheder Takeover' on **Yom Ha'atzmaut** on **26 April**, hosting sessions on celebrating Israel's independence day. In the summer, RSY will also be running *Garinim* (day camps) at our shul for 5-10 year olds on **Monday, 27 and Tuesday, 28 July**. There will be activities such as drama, singing, cooking and science, plus crafts to suit younger kids and fun learning sessions. Mark the dates in your diaries and we'll send more information nearer the time.
7. And, last but not least, please check the **Security Rota** on this page to see if we are expecting you to show up next term for security. Any problems, please contact **Katia Pisetzky** at: pisetzky@gmail.com

That's all for now! Until next month, *L'Shalom*,

**Danielle**, cheder@bromleyshul.org.uk

### Cheder Security Rota – Purim Term

Sundays	Name
January 12	Michelle Brooks Evans and Bill Evans
January 19	Rachel Kamhi
January 26	Amelia and Kanatta Kyazze
February 2	Judy and David Taylor
February 9	Tony Miller

## Social Centre News

Well, it was the Chanukah season (actually starting 22 December) so our meeting on 11 December was designated as a Chanukah Party by our wonderful Social Centre team. It was great to see old friends, catching up on news and, of course, playing Rummikub.

We were treated to a brain-teasing quiz all about Bromley devised by **Judi Sheffrin**, which included some great photography by her of various landmarks that had to be identified.

Andreas provided us with gentle exercises to make sure we stay fit, for which we are always grateful.

The special party lunch included salmon en crouete with vegetables, followed by home-made lockshen pudding, all being absolutely delicious. All this was followed by tea or coffee, plus some chocolates.

Thank you **Dianne** and team for a lovely Chanukah Party.

Unfortunately, as the next due date for the club falls on 25 December, there will be no meeting until Wednesday, 8 January 2020. I personally would not miss attending unless there were important reasons preventing me. Please come and join us.

**Maureen Pearlstone**

The **January dates** for the Social Centre are **Wednesdays, 8 and 22 January**, from 10.30am to 2.30 pm. On **Wednesday, 22 January** there will also be a **Hi Kent Hearing Aid Maintenance Clinic** in the Library from 10.30 to 11.30 am.



ALWAYS WANTED TO  
READ OR SPEAK A BIT  
OF HEBREW?

**BEGINNERS/IMPROVERS  
HEBREW FOR ADULTS  
10-week course**

**Sarit Chen** is an expert in GCSE Hebrew, and teaches both biblical and modern Hebrew.

She is also currently Head Teacher of the Cheder at South London Liberal Synagogue.



**DATES:** January 9, 16, 23, 30  
February 6, 13, 27  
March 5, 12, 19

**TIMES:** Thursday evenings from 8 – 9.30pm

**COST:** £80.00 Members  
£115.00 Non-Members

**LAST CHANCE TO BOOK!**

To join us, RSVP by emailing Vicki:  
[vickiashmore@icloud.com](mailto:vickiashmore@icloud.com)

## Remembering Corinne Alexander – 19 May 1957 to 6 November 2019

Hi. For those of you who don't know me I'm Jo, Corinne's youngest daughter and, on behalf of the family, we would like to thank you for joining us whether here in person or in spirit. Mum recently led the neighbours into the wrong funeral so we are pleased that she has made it to the right one today!

Mum was born in Hackney on 19 May 1957 to Maxwell and Minnie Epstein and grew up with her brothers Raymond and Malcolm. Even as a child she turned her hand to many things, including modelling and appearing with Malcolm in the film 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' not that she mentioned it... much!

Within the Jewish community that Mum was brought up in she met a handsome young man called Tony Alexander who, in March of 1969, confidently declared during his Bar Mitzvah speech (when Mum was just eleven years old) that she was the girl he was going to marry! And, on 18 December 1977 he kept his promise.

Mum trained at the Bromley School of Radiography and worked at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital when it was a military hospital as a radiographer - she once asked a rather attractive young man to fully undress and put on a hospital gown - he was only having a *hand* x-ray! However, this career was short lived as, after a year, she found out that she and Dad were expecting their first child, Emma, and the next chapter of their lives began.

Two years later, their second child - and favourite son - Grant was born. Whilst bringing up the family she tried hairdressing, baby sitting, Avon and even tried to do a refresher course in radiography but had to stop because she found out that she was pregnant with her third child - me (Jo)!

While her children were still young, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and, as they got older, her illness progressed, but this did not stop her from living life to the full - she achieved whatever she put her mind to - many would say that she was determined, but if you asked us, we would describe her as stubborn!

She was certain that her children also wouldn't miss out and went to great lengths to make sure that they did not, even convincing her friends to lend a lift here and there!

In 2008, our dad, her husband, best friend and soul mate, Tony, passed away suddenly, which left a hole in her life and she missed him every day. In the years that followed she tried to fill that void by continuing to attend various groups including the Friday Stroke Club, Greenwich & Bexley Hospice, the local MS Club, art classes and events within the neighbourhood community. She was a continual source of inspiration, touched all those she met and found her purpose in offering advice and a listening ear to all those that she met. She even completed a course in counselling and did volunteer work for charity. In fact, for someone who often said that she had nothing to do she was the busiest person we knew!

She also spent time travelling, making many fond memories and friends along the way - cruising the world, visiting Spain and America, and was always looking for the next adventure! Nowhere was too far and nothing was unachievable. In July this year she did 'Up and Over' the O2 and was planning on abseiling down the Orbital ... we did however have to draw the line when she suggested sky diving!

Mum had a love for the garden, although she wasn't born with green fingers, yet somehow always managed to find someone who had and enjoyed watching them work in the sunshine. She also enjoyed going to see musicals at the Orchard Theatre and in the West End and happily spent hours sleeping at the cinema - often returning for a second time to see the end of the film! She achieved all of this with her carers in tow, but heaven help them if they couldn't make a good dumpling or a mean cheese sauce!

She was always smiling and made sure that family and friends felt welcome. Kind, thoughtful and generous - once she bought you a present she just couldn't wait to give it to you ... sometimes we got our



*A happy picture of Corinne Alexander*

Chanukah presents in November! Her strength was endless and her bravery unyielding and we know that you will all cherish the lasting memories that you have of her.

Mum's greatest wish was to see her children happy and settled in life. She was proud of all that they achieved, whether professional or personal. And we were proud in turn that she was able to be a part of the weddings of Grant and Jenny, and myself (Jo) with Michael and to offer support and guidance on Emma's life at sea!

In her later years there were a lot of things my Mum couldn't do - she couldn't run a race, she couldn't jump for joy, she couldn't pick you up off the floor, she couldn't dance a routine BUT she wheeled her chair around the dance floor, she lifted you up with her spirit, she brought joy to others and cheered everyone on in their own race.

Mum didn't see her life through the lens of what she couldn't do. She constantly adapted to the challenges thrown at her. And for that she will always be a source of inspiration, dearly loved by all who knew her and truly missed.

Reunited now with her beloved Tony, may her soul rest in everlasting peace.

*The above hesped was read by Corinne's daughter Joanna at the funeral and also at the memorial prayers in the synagogue on Sunday, 10 November.*

## Growing Up in the Country of Anne Frank

A Talk to the CCJ by Rabbi Chava Koster

On Tuesday, 5 November, Rabbi Chava Koster told members of the CCJ SE London Branch something of the extraordinarily rich story of Dutch Jewry.

The Amsterdam community grew to be significant from the remnants of the Spanish and Portuguese Jewish communities (the Sephardi Jews, the Jews from Spain) and the Jewish converts (“conversos”), who were welcomed to Amsterdam initially for their trading connections at a time when the Dutch were breaking free from Spanish and opening up trading companies both in the East and in the West. Rabbi Chava’s own family came from Portugal, and set up in the diamond trade. Later, Jews came to Amsterdam from eastern Europe, the “Ashkenazi” Jews, fleeing pogroms, often poorly educated. Because of the gap in education levels, the two communities tended to live apart initially.

In the nineteen-thirties, there was a further influx of Jewish refugees, from German-speaking Europe. Anne Frank’s family was part of this group of recent arrivals. So it was, by the start of the Second World War, there were 155,000 Jews in the Netherlands, mainly in Amsterdam and The Hague.

The efficiency of the Dutch state apparatus and railways, in a small and densely populated country, enabled the Nazis to gather most of the Dutch Jews for deportation to collection points at Westerbork and Vught and onward to the death camps. Only 25,000 Dutch Jews survived the war, just over 15%. Rabbi Chava said that, out of her own family members of 80, only 7 survived on account of her great-grandfather bribing an official to remove the classification “Jew” from his family’s passports and going into hiding.

Out of Anne Frank’s family, only the father survived.

As for the non-Jewish community,



*Anne Frank at her writing desk*

many participated in the removal of their Jewish co-citizens. The Dutch railways even made the Dutch Jews pay for tickets to the death camps. Others did what they could to protect the Jews. Rabbi Chava referred to the Amsterdam Dockers strike in 1943, an attempt to protect the Dutch Jews, which delayed the transports by a few days.

One of the non-Jewish Dutch whom we know from the Anne’s diaries protected the Frank family, for as long as she could was **Miep Gies**. When Rabbi Chava was a teenager, she contacted Miep to ask her to tell what had happened to the Dutch Jews. Miep invited young Chava to her apartment and told her whatever she could, the Jewish community preferring on the whole not to talk about what happened.

Rabbi Chava spoke about two other Jews in the period, older than the teenage Anne, whose highly spiritual writings survived their deaths in the camps: **Etty Hillesum** and **Edith Stein**. This was a remarkable talk, deepened by first-hand testimony and quotation from Hillesum and Stein, which enlightened all of us.

Thank you to Bromley Reform Synagogue for hosting and to our Chair, Rev Bernhard Schunemann.

**Stephen Weil**

## SE10 and Beyond

On **Thursday, 23 January** we are being hosted in Greenwich and the inspiration for the discussion for the evening has come from the book “*Civilization - The West and the Rest*” by **Niall Ferguson**. The book makes the point there have been a disproportionate number of Jewish Nobel Prize winners, Oscar winners and Pulitzer Prize winners etc. Why is this?

You don’t have to live in SE10 to come; the invitations to all our evenings are open to everyone. Come once, twice, all the time, we would love to see you. Our usual format is drink, talk, eat, talk more, drink and eat more. Bring something to share or just bring yourselves.

Please email **Michelle** on [michellebrooksevans@gmail.com](mailto:michellebrooksevans@gmail.com) or call on 07956 234309 for details.

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

## JR Tours: Prague to Vienna, 7-14 September

Take a road trip through the Jewish history of the Czech Republic and Austria

Please send expressions of interest to [tours@jewishrenaissance.org.uk](mailto:tours@jewishrenaissance.org.uk) and you will be sent a reservation form. The **deposit** for the trip is £275 per person, which will not be paid in until the tour is confirmed.

**Cost** (excluding the flight): £2,285 per person sharing a double or twin room. The **single supplement** is £695. This cost includes all accommodation, tours, professional English-speaking guides, entrance fees to attractions, plus half-board meals (food will be kosher when available or vegetarian with permissible fish options).

If you are interested in joining this trip please email [tours@jewishrenaissance.org.uk](mailto:tours@jewishrenaissance.org.uk) for a booking form or phone Jewish Renaissance on 020 7794 5254. *This is a Jewish Renaissance trip and is limited to subscribers of the magazine. If you are not a subscriber and wish to join the trip, the annual subscriptions start from just £23.99*

*The trip is organised in association with West End Travel.*

## Social and Personal GET WELL SOON

Pauline Jeffree writes: We send get well wishes to all our members who are recovering from illness or who are unwell at this time.

We are thinking of you and please let us know if the Caring Community can be of any help. Contact the synagogue office (020 8460 5460) and we will respond to your call.

### Tea Parties (by invitation)

Mondays, 13 January and 17 February.

Venue: Pauline Jeffree's home

Time: 14:00-16:00

## Thank you to the congregation from Summer Hype

Emma Mittelman writes:

Thank you so much for this generous donation [which formed part of this year's Kol Nidre Appeal - Ed.], we couldn't be more grateful to the whole congregation at Bromley for their constant support.

Best wishes

Emma Mittelman

Co-Founder of Summer Hype

### The Book Group

The Shul book group will meet again on **Thursday, 9 January** in the shul library at 7.45 pm

We have become a really lively, stimulating and enjoyable discussion group and have read three books, including a memoir.

Our next book is *The Cut Out Girl* by Bart Van Es. This book is a very moving true story of a young girl placed in a safe foster home with a non-Jewish family in Holland. It is a remarkable exploration of two lives and two families in the aftermath of war.

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

**Judy Woolfe**, through the synagogue: 020 8460 5460

## Gifts Galore at the Chanukah Fair



The Taylors had a variety of gifts on offer at the Chanukah Fair

### Bromley Knitters, Stitchers and Natterers

Thursdays 2 and 30 January

Venue: Pauline's home

Time: 10:00-12:00

We continue to support the little ones and sick tiny babies in King's College Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit by making outfits for each baby as well as stitching incubator covers. We are always needing baby double knitting wool. If you would like to support the work we do in this way or would like specific material to make the incubator covers, please talk to Pauline.

If you would like to join the group we would love to have you.

**Pauline Jeffree**, through the synagogue: 020 8460 5460



### Bromley WIZO Eretz Upcoming Events

#### Antiques Road Show Monday, 13 January

2.00 for 2.30 pm at Catford Shul,  
Car parking available.

**Tim Anthonisz** who was a one time valuer on the BBC Antiques Roadshow will talk about his lifetime in antiques and will also talk about and value items brought along by you. (one item per person).

**Donation £15**, which includes refreshments.

#### WIZO International Quiz @ home

Saturday, 1 February

Once again we're putting on the fun-filled online quiz with friends and family in the comfort of your own home.

We're looking for members to host the evening. Please let **Marilyn** know through the synagogue: 020 8460 5460) know if you're willing to do this.

### RAF Stories

Did your grandfather or other relative serve in the RAF during the Second World War? If so, the RAF Museum would like to hear their stories which may have been passed down to you.

**Roman Abramovitch**, owner of Chelsea Football club, has backed an appeal to find the hidden stories of Jewish RAF personnel from the Second World War as part of the club's campaign against antisemitism.

The Chelsea Foundation has joined the RAF Museum in a call to Jewish veterans, their children and grandchildren to share wartime experiences for the Hidden Heroes online project to coincide with the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain in 2020.

Contribute at rafstories@rafmuseum.org or telephone 01902 376237.

*With thanks to the Guardian newspaper for this information.*

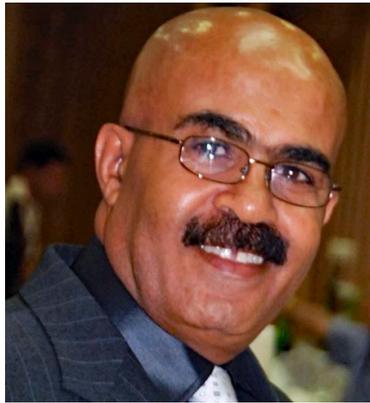
## Sir Charles Clore Jewish-Arab Community Centre, Akko

On Tuesday, 19 November we were delighted to welcome **Mohammad Fahili**, founder and Director of the Sir Charles Clore Jewish-Arab Community Centre, to Bromley for a brief visit.

Fahili (as he likes to be known) gave us a very informal talk about the history of the centre, which has existed since 1985. At the beginning, it was entirely self-funded, rather than receiving any funding from the local authority, which would then have wanted a degree of control. This was, and still is, seen as the best way to retain its independence and its self-help ethos for the community. It does, of course, receive donations from abroad, including 70% of its income from Jewish Londoners.

We listened to Fahili's moving personal story. He is from a Muslim family of eight children, whose impoverished, widowed mother supported them through very difficult times. It was interesting to hear that his first contact with Jewish people was on a kibbutz where he worked in the kitchen and laundry. Every Friday they gave him food for his family – not merely enough to eat but extra to sell at market to raise money for their education – and then lent him a bicycle so he could get it all home!

After going to study and work in the USA, where he became friends with a kind Jew who gave him not only employment but also a donation to help realise his dream, he returned to Israel with enough money for an apartment and a strong mission to help poor children, whatever their background. With incredible hands-on work and unwavering determination, Fahili started the centre, initially as a youth club. Its success and ethos attracted the attention of the Clore Foundation, whose backing has enabled it to grow in size and scope to the extent that it now runs many programmes that support the poorer communities in Akko, from day care for pre-school children to arts programmes and Hebrew language teaching for Arab women who want to enter paid jobs.



*Portrait of Mr. Fahili from his Facebook page.*



*Jewish and Moslem children and young people relaxing together at the Clore Community Centre*

It was very inspiring to listen to Fahili talk about his lifelong dream and his passion to bring people together. When asked about his guiding principle, he simply said, “I want to give back,” and on plans for the future he replied “I just want to continue...” What about religion? “I just want people to be people; human beings. [Beyond] that, I don’t care. Believe what you want to believe. I believe I can love everyone.”

Our thanks go to **John and Janet Posner** for facilitating Fahili’s visit and to the Education Committee for making the evening happen.

**Judy Woolfe**

## A Thank You Letter from Mr Mohammad Fahili

My dear friends from Bromley Reform  
I write to thank you for so generously welcoming me to your community last month. In addition, I want to express my sincere and heartfelt appreciation to all of you for your generous support for the **Clore Jewish-Arab Community Centre’s Partners in Peace Summer Camp 2020** as part of your 2019 High Holy Day Appeal.

The incredibly generous total of £5253 will make a huge difference and will allow many children to attend the three-week camp in July.

As a reminder, the ‘Partners in Peace’ Summer Camp has real impact by:

- enabling children from less fortunate circumstances to have a 3-week vacation with excursions - something we take for granted but they can only dream of;
- facilitating positive encounters between Arab and Jewish children in a safe, nurturing space;
- allowing Arab and Jewish kids to simply have fun together - a rare opportunity in Israel;
- exposing the children to counsellors - our graduates - who act as positive role models in a deprived city where negative influences are never far away;
- contributing to a fairer and more tolerant Israel as spending three weeks together breaks prevalent stereotypes and shows the ‘other’ is not someone to fear.

All of us at the Clore Jewish-Arab Community Centre are so grateful for your kindness and the members and I would be honoured to welcome any visitors from Bromley to our Centre. Not only could you enjoy the amazing city of Akko – a UNESCO Heritage Site - but you would see a grass-roots project first-hand and appreciate why our project is worth your support.

Warmest regards and thanks,

**Mohammad Fahili** - Director



### 3 FAITHS FORUM

Our synagogue, along with Keston Mosque and local churches, has created a very active inter-faith group supporting local refugee families and running events to educate and break down barriers.

We are now putting on a five-session series examining "Forgiveness", the concept of which is fundamental to all the Abrahamic religions but the approach and understanding differ widely.

Each session stands on its own:

**Session 3** – Tues, 14 January 2020 at Bromley Reform Synagogue:

*Forgiveness in Christianity*

**Session 4** – Tues, 11 February 2020 at St John's Church, Park Road, Bromley:

*Forgiveness in Islam*

**Session 5** – Thurs, 2 April 2020 at Al-Emaan Centre, Keston:

*Panel discussion*

All sessions run from 7.15 to 9 pm.

Further details from **Matthew de Lange** through the synagogue:

020 8460 5460.

### Sayings of the Fathers

There are four kinds of temperament:  
Easily angered, and easily pacified - their gain is cancelled by their loss.  
Difficult to anger and difficult to pacify - their loss is cancelled by their gain.  
Difficult to anger, and easy to pacify - such a one is a *chasid*.  
Easy to anger, and difficult to pacify - such a one is wicked.

There are four types of people:

Those who say,  
What is mine is mine,  
and what is yours is yours -  
this is the average type.

(Some say this is the selfishness of Sodom.)

Those who say,  
What is mine is yours,  
and what is yours is mine -  
such a one is an ignoramus.

Those who say,  
What is mine is yours,  
and what is yours is yours -  
such a one is a *chasid*,

Those who say,  
What is yours is mine,  
and what is mine is mine  
such a one is wicked.

*From the Reform Siddur*

### SERVICES

**January 2020 – Tevet/Shevat 5780**

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

**Saturdays at 10.30 am, unless otherwise stated**

**Friday 3 January**

**Saturday 4 January**

**Vayigash** (7 Tevet)

Service led by Hadassah Britz,  
Scroll Reader: Philip Michaelis

**Friday 10 January**

**Saturday 11 January**

**Shabbat evening service at 7pm**

Service led by Marilyn Freeman  
**Vayechi** (14 Tevet)

Service led by Student Rabbi Anna Posner - followed by Shabbat study session

**Friday 17 January**

**Saturday 18 January**

**Shemot** (21 Tevet)

Service led by Stephanie Alberti,  
Scroll Reader: David Zerihan

**Friday 24 January**

**Saturday 25 January**

**Shabbat evening service at 7pm**

Service by led by Judi Sheffrin

**Va'era** (28 Tevet)

Service led by Dan Posner,  
Scroll Reader: John Posner

**Monday 27 January**

**Rosh Chodesh Shevat**

**Holocaust Memorial Day**

### JEWISH MUSEUM LONDON

#### Charlotte Salomon: Life? or Theatre?

until 1 March 2020



Discover one of the most important and powerful achievements of the 20th century – the singular and complex artwork *Life? or Theatre?* by German-Jewish artist, **Charlotte Salomon**.

This major exhibition features over 200 small gouaches on paper which Salomon created as part of a larger body of work in the early 1940s when in hiding from Nazi oppressors. These remarkable gouaches unveil a vivid self-portrait spanning across all facets of Salomon's existence: from a complicated family life, growing up in Berlin, the rise of the Nazis, to her exile to France.

Salomon's life was cut short at the age of 26, and five months pregnant, when she was rearrested and deported to Auschwitz in 1943.

The gouaches will be accompanied by text captions in the form of wall graphics, along with short films and interactive media units, offering insight and understanding of the artwork.

Raymond Burton House, 129-131 Albert Street, London NW1  
020 7284 7384

# Dates for Your Diary

## January

W	1	
Th	2	<b>Knitters, Stitchers and Natters</b> - 10 am to 12 noon at Pauline's
F	3	
S	4	<b>Vayigash</b>
S	5	
M	6	
T	7	
W	8	<b>Social Centre</b> - 10.30 to 2.30 at the Shul
Th	9	<b>Book Group</b> - 7.45 pm in the shul library <b>Beginners' Hebrew</b> - 8 to 9.30 pm
F	10	<b>Shabbat evening service at 7pm</b>
S	11	<b>Vayechi</b> - Shabbat study session with student rabbi <b>Anna Posner</b> after the service
S	12	<b>New Cheder term begins</b> <b>Intro to Judaism</b> - 10 am in the Shul
M	13	Bromley <b>WIZO</b> - <b>Antiques Roadshow</b> - 2 for 2.30 pm at Catford Shul
T	14	<b>3 Faiths</b> meeting on <i>Forgiveness in Christianity</i> , 7.15 to 9.00 pm at Bromley Reform Synagogue
W	15	
Th	16	<b>Beginners' Hebrew</b> - 8 to 9.30 pm
F	17	
S	18	<b>Shemot</b>
S	19	
M	20	
T	21	
W	22	<b>Social Centre</b> - 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul - plus <b>Hi Kent Hearing Aid Clinic</b> , 10.30-11.30 am in the Library
Th	23	<b>Beginners' Hebrew</b> - 8 to 9.30 pm <b>SE10 and Beyond</b> - Book discussion in Greenwich
F	24	<b>Shabbat evening service at 7 pm</b>
S	25	<b>Va'era</b>
S	26	<b>Intro to Judaism</b> - 10 am in the Shul
M	27	<b>Rosh Chodesh Shevat</b> <b>Holocaust Memorial Day</b>
T	28	
W	29	
Th	30	<b>Knitters, Stitchers and Natters</b> - 10 am to 12 noon at Pauline's <b>Beginners' Hebrew</b> - 8 to 9.30 pm
F	31	

## February

S	1	<b>Bo</b> - Bring-and-share lunch and <b>Shabbat study</b> with student rabbi <b>Mati Kirschenbaum</b> after the service
S	2	<b>WIZO International Quiz @ home</b>
M	3	
T	4	
W	5	
Th	6	<b>Beginners' Hebrew</b> - 8 to 9.30 pm
F	7	
S	8	<b>Beshalach</b> - Bat mitzvah of <b>Sophie Taylor</b>
S	9	<b>Intro to Judaism</b> - 10 am in the Shul <b>Youth Club</b> - 12.30 pm in the Shul
M	10	<b>Tu B'Shvat</b>
T	11	<b>3 Faiths</b> meeting on <i>Forgiveness in Islam</i> , 7.15 to 9.00 pm at St John's Ch., Bromley
W	12	<b>Social Centre</b> - 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul
Th	13	<b>Beginners' Hebrew</b> - 8 to 9.30 pm
F	14	<b>Shabbat evening service at 7pm</b>
S	15	<b>Yitra</b>
S	16	
M	17	
T	18	
W	19	
Th	20	
F	21	
S	22	<b>Mishpatim</b>
S	23	
M	24	
T	25	
W	26	<b>Rosh Chodesh Adar</b> <b>Social Centre</b> - 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul
Th	27	<b>Beginners' Hebrew</b> - 8 to 9.30 pm
F	28	<b>Shabbat evening service at 7 pm</b>
S	29	<b>Terumah</b>

### Jewish Museum, London

#### Jewish Britain: A History in 50 Objects

This exhibition showcases highlights from the Museum's collections. The Museum holds around 28,000 objects, including a Judaica (ceremonial art) collection and a social history collection covering subjects such as the East End, refugees from Nazism and the Holocaust.

129-131 Albert Street, London NW1. 020 7284 7384



Seasonal cards, greetings for most occasions and many with no message. To pre-order a particular card/quantity please contact **Judi Sheffrin** through the synagogue: 020 8460 5460.

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**Save the date...**

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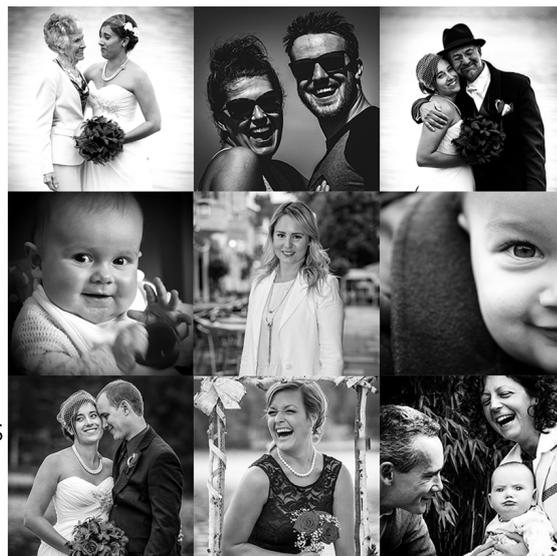
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