

## Joy in July: Quiz Winners



*Mazal tov to Team Sado, the winners of The Big Bromley Quiz on 18 July*

**Welcome** to a new year, a new rabbi and a new-style Highlight. Our synagogue was founded in response to demand for a cheder in S.E. London and nearly 56 years on, it's still the very youngest in our community who are leading the way. Our wonderful Gan, led by Heidi and Sue, started the trend in July by meeting in person, safely distanced, so that they could enjoy their graduation ceremony, then twins Megan and Jake achieved a triple in August when, as well as celebrating their B'nei Mitzvah itself, they became the first people to use the Sanctuary since March – in safe conditions with only immediate family and Rabbi Kirschenbaum present – and for their mitzvah project raised more than four times their target for the charity Bright.

This Highlight celebrates the achievements of all our members and leaders during a very difficult period; looks back at the lives of two strong and resourceful women; reports on what is happening within our community and in the wider Jewish world; and welcomes our new rabbi. Mati Kirshenbaum joined us almost unheralded, hit the ground running and has been working tirelessly and with great humour for BRS since before he was even officially in his post. Every September brings a new academic year and the High Holydays, which this year will be very different and very special. Look out for details from the rabbi and senior warden, and listen out for the community choirs, who've been practising and recording all summer.

### BURIAL GROUND HISTORY MADE

Bromley Reform Synagogue has made history this month by establishing a Jewish cemetery in south London. Our new burial ground is the only active Jewish cemetery within the boroughs that make up south London. Many of our members have wanted a Jewish burial but have not wanted to be buried in the cemeteries in North London as they and their families have no connection to that area. Our new burial ground at GreenAcres Kemnal Park will fulfil the wish to be buried according to the Jewish tradition and provide comfort to families knowing that they can visit their loved one's grave without embarking on a round trip of 70 miles. We have secured a designated lawn area ...

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# Thoughts from the Rabbi

How are the High Holydays here again? Where did the last year go?

**Usually, the first question pops up in the rabbi's mind in June, after Shavuot. But nothing happens until the end of the school - and Cheder - year. This is when the shul can commit with full force to the preparation for High Holydays: choir practices, distribution of festival honours to congregants, and the myriad tasks that need to be fulfilled so the community can successfully enter Yamim Noraim, the Days of Awe.**

Most rabbis ask themselves the second question: 'where did the last year go?' after they come back from summer holidays to discover that, yet again, it's late August and their High Holyday sermons are either unwritten, unfinished or in urgent need of an update. This annual discovery, combined with a post-vacation full inbox makes the 'back-to-shul' time one of most stressful periods in the rabbi's year. Part of the challenge is to motivate congregants to reflect on the events of the previous year when you are preoccupied with hectic preparations to welcome the new.

This year is different. This year, at BRS, we didn't ask ourselves the first question. Already in late spring, it became abundantly clear that preparation for High Holydays could not wait until late summer. We knew we needed to start thinking about our Yamim Noraim early if we wanted to make sure that they would be as meaningful in the 'new normal' as they would have been BC – Before Covid-19. *Ma nishtana hashana hazot mikol hashanim?* How will this year's High Holydays be different from those in years past? This year, we shall meet on Zoom. Myself and those operating the cameras will be the only people who will be physically present. For

that reason, we shall be leading the services from Highland Road, rather than from Crofton Halls.

This year, our services will be shorter as we recognise it is difficult to follow a service on screen for hours. Additionally, our Musaf and Mincha will integrate study-session elements in order to make them more engaging.

This year, our services will be accompanied by choir recordings integrated into the solos, rather than our amazing choir singing live. While we will miss seeing our choir sing together, we will be able to enjoy recording-worthy renditions of our favourite High Holydays tunes. And on Yom Kippur, the voices of the socially distant children's choir will lead us in the singing of the Shema at the conclusion of Neilah.

This year, I will try to keep my sermons short. And if (or when!) I still manage to bore you, you will be able to mute me or go to a different room without me even noticing! Talk of a silver lining...

How will this year be similar to previous years? We might be celebrating Yamim Noraim in a socially distanced way but, as in years past, we will be together in our commitment to each other's wellbeing. As a part of Reform Judaism, we decided against opening synagogues so as to protect the vulnerable in our community. We recognise that togetherness on Zoom is hard, but I am convinced that the spirit of solidarity and readiness to help each other, which, I believe, defines our community, will help us navigate the challenges. Do contact friends and family if you need help with 'the technology'. I am sure they will help you!



We will hear familiar tunes and read familiar words. They will help us connect with the spirit of the festival, if we let them. We will get inspired and tired; we will be challenged, inspired, sometimes distracted; just like we do every year. One thing is certain; this year, due to the newness of it all, we won't be bored. I encourage you to try to turn participation in our High Holyday services into something special. Dress as you would if you were going to shul so you can feel the special character of the day – even if nobody else can see!

We will also have Zoom children's services to make sure that our youngest members hear the shofar and eat apples and honey.

I've spent the first two months as your new rabbi with an amazing group of volunteer lay leaders who have worked tirelessly to make sure this year's High Holydays will be memorable. I hope that you join us this Yamim Noraim to reflect on your way forward in the 'new normal'.

Shana Tova,

**Rabbi Mati Kirschenbaum**



**Rabbi Mati with his ordaining rabbi and dear friend Rabbi Tanya Sakhnovich**

# View From The Chair

“

Without tradition, our lives would be as shaky  
as a fiddler on the roof”

*Tradition is the opening song in the famous musical Fiddler On The Roof. In it, the main character, Tevye, sets up the major theme with the villagers of Anatevka trying to continue their traditions and keep their society running as the world around them changes. Then there is the eponymous fiddler, who opens and closes the film with his sad, sweet melody; his precarious position on the roof being the overarching metaphor for the character's predicament, teetering between old and new.*

As I watched this film during lockdown, it made me think about the parallels with life right now and how the coronavirus has impacted us and our community at BRS. Around us the world is changing, our life now has a new normal, and there is very little we can do about it. Feeling powerless can be very detrimental for our mental health but what we can always rely on is... tradition. The High Holydays give us time for prayer and self-reflection. We look back on the year and review our actions, but we also look forward to the year ahead and for ways to improve ourselves, our communities and our world. This year at BRS, we are embracing the change and along with the traditions we have always had, we are now creating new traditions.

Our newest tradition is the High Holyday music being provided by our choir, who are being joined by a new BRS community choir. Our senior warden, Stephanie Alberti, has been working extremely hard for the past two months along with our Musical Directors Vicki and Olly Ashmore and choir maestro Sally Rosebery, and Rabbi Mati. They have been ensuring that although our High Holydays this year will be very different, they will be even more special, as it will truly be a community effort. I have been lucky enough to be involved with my whole family recording our voices to be added to others, and I have even heard snippets of the songs. They are amazing and you are all in store for a unique High Holyday experience, led by our new Rabbi Mati.

You will have received by post details of our **Kol Nidre appeal** and the four charities that BRS is supporting: Leket (food bank in Israel), Jami (specialist mental health service providers in the Jewish community), The Rainbow Trust (support for families with children with a life-threatening or terminal illness) and BRS itself. At a time when many are suffering an economic impact because of the pandemic, it is still important and part of our very essence of being Jewish that we give to others.



So please consider giving *tzedakah*, however much you can afford, as every donation really does make a difference.

Our **streamed Shabbat services** continue to be enjoyed by many, as well as **Rabbi Mati's study sessions** – and now almost everything that took place inside and outside the shul is happening online. The Social Centre, Tea Parties, Book Club, Friday night candle-lighting... the list goes on and on. Please do check Highlight carefully and get involved – you can tune in and stream the services on YouTube, log into Zoom to take part or even use the phone to request a chat or help from our Caring Community committee.

I wish you all

*L'shanah tovah  
tikateivu v teichateimu,  
and hope that the year  
5781 brings us all together  
soon in person, in health  
and in happiness.*

**Michelle Brooks Evans**  
[chair@bromleyshul.org](mailto:chair@bromleyshul.org)

# HOMESHUL NEWS

As I write this, I'm sitting in the middle of a heatwave in mid-August. The weather has been as unpredictable as the virus, the government's guidance, and the long term plans we can make for Homeshul. I'm not even sure if I will be your head teacher by the time you read this! But there are a few things we can count on, and so here they are below, outlined for you in your September edition of HomeShul News.



*Our good-news story of the summer was that Megan and Jake were able to celebrate their B'nei Mitzvah in shul. Apologies for the quality of the photo, but as it's a screen grab from the streaming and there are reflections from the safety screens it is a miracle in itself! Mazal tov to everyone, including those who made shul safe, and thanks to Bob for the photo.*

## 1) CLASSES WILL START ON ZOOM ON 13 SEPTEMBER AT 10am.

The children will meet their new teachers and break off into their breakout Zoom classrooms from there.

2) We will be using your children's **HEBREW NAMES** during HomeShul, so do make sure your children know their names, or write them down on paper ready for their first day. It would be even more helpful if you could re-name their Zoom boxes with their Hebrew names (phonetically) before joining HomeShul. If you don't have a Hebrew name for your child, please consider choosing one as they will need it for their B'nei Mitzvah before you know it!

3) **STAY WITHIN EARSHOT OF YOUR CHILD DURING HOMESHUL.** We can teach your children remotely, but we cannot make sure they behave!

4) **HELPER DEVELOPMENT** will take place during Homeshul at 10am. Please can all Helpers be signed in by 9.55am to make sure we start on time.

5) Just like last term, you will receive **A WEEKLY EMAIL FROM YOUR TEACHERS EVERY FRIDAY** before the Sunday of Homeshul. This email will have the link to Homeshul as well as things we may need you to have printed or craft materials to have ready for class, so **PLEASE** check your emails every Friday!

**YOUTH CLUB** will resume later in the autumn. Watch this space.

And in other  
HomeShul News  
for the children...

## **ROSH HA-HOMESHUL** will take place on **SATURDAY**

**19 SEPTEMBER at 10am!**

This special edition of Homeshul will take place on Rosh Hashanah with a special assembly where we blow the Shofar. This Saturday session will take the place of the usual Sunday session, so there will be **NO HOMESHUL on SUNDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER.**

There will be a **CHILDREN'S SERVICE FOR YOM KIPPUR ON MONDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER FROM 10-11am.** Look out for more details, coming soon.

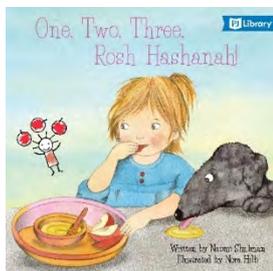
And finally, I know what you're thinking: When will we be back in the building? At present, our best guess is that we will be back in the shul with Cheder in some capacity after the autumn half term, starting in November. Let us all say a collective "B'ezrat Hashem" (with God's help) and hope that we can look forward to a happy and healthy future, going back to Cheder together!

B'shalom,

Vicki

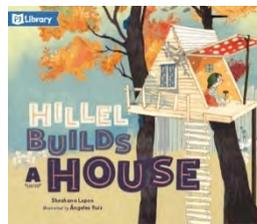
As we have all found in recent months, real life can be stranger than fiction. Yet we often turn to books to provide a much-needed escape from reality. Sometimes a story is a window onto different worlds, other times they serve as mirrors, reflecting and articulating our own thoughts and actions. ‘Windows and mirrors’ is a term that my team and I regularly discuss, ensuring the children and their families we partner with either get a chance to see themselves, or to learn something new, on the pages of a book.

This month, PJ Library sent books about the Jewish festivals to 8,000 children throughout the UK. The titles are pictured below and when I started to read them, I was struck by an unintentional theme running through this year’s choices. They all place a simple children’s game at the heart of the narrative, to depict a more powerful message about the forthcoming festivals, which anchor the Jewish calendar.



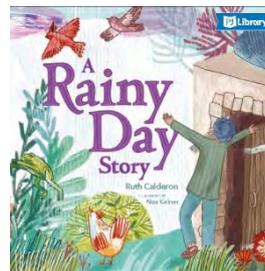
**One Two Three Rosh Hashanah** invites a child to count the different elements

and rituals associated with the New Year – pomegranate seeds, slices of apple, shofar blasts. A counting game is a simple way to keep a young child occupied but also provides an opportunity to pass on precious traditions to the next generation.



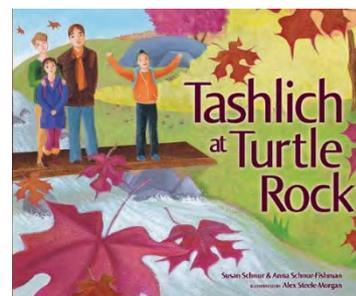
**Hillel Builds a House** tells the story of a small boy who loves to construct hideouts he

can call his own, feeling disappointed that each festival does not require a den, until of course Sukkot arrives! It is the festival that children love to prepare for by building, decorating and (sometimes!) camping out in their own booths. The humble sukkah reminds us that while our regular homes may look sturdy, life is fragile and in the hands of a higher power.



**A Rainy Day Story** tells the tale of Rabbi Hanina who appears to play with the weather

patterns before realising that while something may be good for the individual, it can have negative effects on others. This is a notion we have all been made far too aware of in this difficult year gone by.



Finally, **Tashlich At Turtle Rock** is about a family who go for a walk on Rosh Hashanah afternoon, adapting the age-old tradition of Tashlich for

their own family. Some thought-provoking questions and a picturesque stroll in nature leads to a cleansing, contemplative ritual for them all.

As we say goodbye to a challenging year and usher in the new one with some trepidation, we can take comfort in enabling our children to follow in the footsteps of their ancestors, finding the fun in our games and festivals but also the many layers of meaning they offer, while adding our own personal footprints along the way.



**Lauren Hamburger is the Director of PJ Library in the UK.**

**If you know a child age eight years or under, sign them up for their free Jewish monthly book at [pjlibrary.org.uk](http://pjlibrary.org.uk)**

*Our thanks to PJ Library for this. Many Bromley youngsters are subscribers and speak well of it.*

<https://pjlibrary.org.uk/home>

# Education and Youth

## Broyges in Bromley explained

**Looking at current problems in the light of biblical texts in the study session on August 12, the rabbi spoke of our possible ambivalence about giving financial and other assistance to the people of Beirut. It is a perfect example of cognitive dissonance, he said. How can we as Jews in Israel and the diaspora possibly justify helping an enemy?**

One of the major tenets of Judaism is helping others and we read many times in Torah: "Love your neighbour as yourself". We are exhorted to help not only our fellow Jews but neighbours and strangers; potentially our enemies.

Rambam quoted Proverbs 26 v 24: "An enemy dissembles with his speech, inwardly he harbours deceit. Though he be fair spoken, do not trust him." It is difficult to love someone if you bear a grudge, hard to wish them what you would want for yourself, hard to help others achieve something when you might not be able to succeed in your own wishes. Potential repercussions from our helping Beirut could be renewed enmity from Lebanon - Hizbollah. We could help them recover their strength only for them to turn on us. Turning to Maimonides, Rabbi Mati looked at the Mishnah on Kings and War. Deuteronomy 20v10: "If you approach a town to attack it, you shall offer it terms of peace." Always try to avert war. Joshua saw three parts to making war: make peace, flee or, if all else fails, make war. If a city is besieged, one side should be left open for the inhabitants to flee. Israel could allow those wishing to leave Lebanon to do so, but this could potentially mean being overwhelmed. Experienced Crusaders slaughtered Muslims as they realised that to allow them to flee could result in their being overwhelmed themselves.

The majority in Lebanon don't wish Israel ill, but have been conditioned by Hizbollah to see their neighbour as an enemy. They are like the group in the city who want to stay and fight. Hizbollah achieved strength by helping those who were not being helped by the government. If we help our neighbours in Lebanon, we potentially undermine the strength of Hizbollah and foster peaceful relationships between us.

A proverb illustrates this well: Proverbs Chap 25, v21,22 -

**"If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. You will be heaping live coals upon his head, and the Lord will reward you."**

Rather than punishing your enemy, help him and live coals will be heaped on his head. Interpretations of "live coals" varied. Marsha drew a parallel with Javert's committing suicide, guilt-ridden by the kindness of Valjean, the man he had hunted, in Les Miserables. The promised reward from the Lord would be that such actions on your part would make the enemy ashamed and promote peace. In helping Lebanon, Israel has the potential of reducing the power of Hizbollah and promoting peace.

# SORRY

## in September: Study Sessions and Selichot ...

### 8 September:

Pirkei Avot Chapter 2.  
Continuing with Rabbi Mati the study of Pirkei Avot started during August.

### 12 September:

***"Socially distant Selichot - saying sorry when we feel sorry for ourselves"***.

This session will be instead of a choral Selichot service, which is not possible this year due to social distancing needs.

**Both sessions will begin at 8pm.  
The zoom link for all the rabbi's study sessions is:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81044309130>

There will also be a study session on Yom Kippur entitled **"Journey to Holiness Through Jewish History"**. Details can be found in the letter from the Senior Warden contained in the pack of information about High Holyday services sent out in late August.

## Gan Graduates' Summer Celebration



*The Gan, our kindergarten, met in the open air with its teachers, Sue and Heidi, and parents to celebrate the graduation of its eldest members to cheder proper, starting in September.*

### ADULT HEBREW CLASSES

*You may have seen Vicki's notices about modern Hebrew classes for adults and wondered whether they would be for you. One of the groups that took the plunge, now known as Ivrit 2, reports that it has turned out to be much more than just a class.*

Thanks to the persistent patience of our lovely teacher, Sarit, we have achieved steady progress from raw beginners to a measure of reading, writing and understanding print and cursive Ivrit. As a bonus, beyond our weekly lessons, we have developed into a regular Zoom group that has often helped end the most fraught of locked-in days with laughter, support and friendship. Oh, and Hebrew conversation practice too. We may not be up to speed yet, but we've made a great start and we are already enriched.

### Education, Education Education...

The Education Committee at BRS has responsibility for a wide range of activities. Details from co-Chairs

Barbara Kurtz:

barbarakurtz42@gmail.com

and Vicki Ashmore:

cheder@bromleyshul.org.uk

A list of the other members of the committee can be found in the next column.

### Meet the Ed Comm

*May we, the members of your Education Committee, introduce ourselves.*

**Barbara Kurtz,**  
*co-chair – Adult Education*

**Vicki Ashmore,**  
*co-chair – Cheder and choir*

**Rachael Ashmore,**  
*cheder teacher and youth group leader*

**Ruth Dwight,** *cheder parent*

**Joanna Koenigsberg,**  
*former BRS chairman*

**John Posner,**  
*former BRS chairman*

**Hayley Preston,**  
*ex cheder teacher*

**Mariella Russell,**  
*cheder parent*

**Danielle Woodward,** *cheder parent and ex-cheder head.*

Please contact any of us if you have questions, suggestions even complaints (within reason!)

The Education Committee is always looking for new ways of bringing Judaism and Jewish knowledge to our membership. Please contact us if you have any suggestions of talks, events, lectures. How about a question for a new "Ask the Rabbi" slot we hope to introduce to our education page? Just contact Barbara or Vicki (see left).

### ***Leo Baeck College has announced another packed and interesting ONLINE LEHRHAUS programme for autumn 2020.***

Topics include Discovering Jewish Manuscripts (a live online masterclass); 10-week series on Modern Hebrew; Biblical Hebrew and Classical Greek for beginners (including the chance to look at some Greek Bible texts which are strangely different from the Hebrew); "David Becomes King" – the drama unfolds in an 8-week course; What's Jewish about Jewish Art?; Teacher Training for Jewish Supplementary Schools (in two 6-week parts); The Heresies of Baruch Spinoza; Judaism in the Universe of Faiths; and Wandering Jews (a look at what that means for one's identity). Visit [www.lbc.ac.uk/lehrhaus](http://www.lbc.ac.uk/lehrhaus) for all details.

# Books, Music, Art, Theatre and...

## Our Bromley Book Group

We revitalised the book group a year ago and meet every other month (on Zoom at the moment). In that time we have read some really interesting novels and memoirs with Jewish themes, mostly by Jewish writers. Usually there are around 12 of us having a lively discussion as to the merits of this or that writer and if the plot is believable, or the characters 'real' etc. Two of the books have explored themes around living in restrictive orthodox communities here and in New York. We also read Howard Jacobson's Booker prize-winning *The Finkler Question* and Isaac Bashevis Singer's great novel *Shadows on the Hudson*, which explores the lives of refugees from the Holocaust after 1945.

I think most of us would agree that the most heart-warming read was Aaron Lansky's book *Outwitting History*, which is the wonderful story of how Lansky and his supporters rescued 1.5 million books written in Yiddish from destruction across the USA.

If you would like to join the group, you will be most welcome.

Contact Judy Woolfe: [jwoolfe@ntlworld.com](mailto:jwoolfe@ntlworld.com)

The next Zoom Book Group is on Thursday 10 September at 8pm

We will be discussing *Ridley Road*, a first novel by English writer Jo Bloom.

It is a love story set in London's East End in the early 1960's against a backdrop of Jewish anti-fascist activity and the formation of The 62 Group, set up to oppose Colin Jordan's National Socialist movement. The book is being made into a BBC drama to be shown in the autumn.

Binnie Yeates from our group has fond memories of her mother and Ridley Road street market. Binnie writes:

"Ah - Ridley Road! It conjures up two strong memories for me. We moved from Whitechapel to Hackney in 1939 and, for my mother, it was a question of 'moving' the shopping from Petticoat Lane to Ridley Road. And she soon reached the conclusion that there was nowhere equal to Ridley Road for the fish she wanted. It must have been true - mum was a real maven as far as food shopping was concerned.

The other strong memory is of the post-war political meetings that were held there. By that time, I was at Dalston County Secondary School (in 1942, designated a grammar school, but kept its name, and now, alas, Petchey Academy). Not far from us was the boys' school, Grocer's

(known as Hackney Downs), with whom we joined for lots of extra-mural activities; so we soon learned of any of their extra extra-mural projects, one of which (probably in 1948) was that when the political speaker was a fascist, Harold Pinter and his mates would mingle with the crowd - and disrupt the meeting! We loved to hear about it, and warmly approved, although we were too 'ladylike' in those days to join them. Shame!"

You may also be interested to read Danielle Woodward's interview with Jo Bloom on <https://www.psychologies.co.uk/interview-author-jo-bloom>

## Poems from BRS and beyond

Judy Woolfe has been persuaded to share the following:

### 1954

I remember my eleventh year vividly  
The telegram at the door announcing  
grandfather's death  
in March  
Stalin, another Russian, died the year before  
he made his mark and how!  
his statue on every square in the communist empire  
grandad's life of east-end poverty  
ended in that dank basement in Turner Street, Stepney  
family memories unspoken then  
to an innocent girl of ten

I remember the Coronation we'd seen  
the previous summer  
watched in a marquee  
the rain outside echoing my mother's cold views of  
royalty.  
not for her this opulent display of pageantry  
showing inherited wealth in all its finery  
this history in my memory

The Cold War hung in the air like a looming storm  
darkening lives, threatening peace  
Russians feared in every quarter of this mild land  
McCarthyism at its height across the pond  
The Rosenbergs electrocuted earlier  
to earn their place in history  
my parents still discussing it  
'red' against the grain,  
not under the bed but out and proudly extolling all  
things Soviet  
my father on his bike, taking 'lit' to the members  
with dreams of a different life  
they did not know about the Gulags then  
news of Stalin's horrors still to come  
perhaps their beliefs would die in the wind, like the sun  
going down on  
a winter's afternoon.

Judy Woolfe, 2020

Judy has chosen a further poem to share, relevant for these times:

### Zoomed Out, or What to Do When Everyone You Know, Love, and Dream of a Better World with is a One-inch Talking Head in a Pixelated Box

Praise their presence, grieve their absence.  
Grow in your capacity to be touched by other faces, and to not touch your own.  
Look someone directly in the eyes (they won't know) and send them love and a prayer for the wellbeing of everyone they care about.  
Try to wrap your mind around how they got here, in front of you.  
If that doesn't spark radical amazement, try to explain how \*you\* got here, and who "you" is...  
Wiggle your toes and watch the freshly budding tree rustle outside your window.  
Envision that tree occupying one of the squares on the screen; ask what they would like to contribute to the conversation.  
Take your dreams off of mute and drop your spells in the chat box.  
Then, dazed by days online, unblock the gridlock with a tech Sabbath—  
Recover three dimensions, reach for a fourth.  
And remember, we'll be back at the bonfire before long;  
Gather your poetry, prepare your song.

*Adam Horowitz, March 27, 2020*

The above appears on the author's website with the line "Here are a few spontaneously-arising poems from these times. Feel free to share with attribution," so we are. <http://www.adamhorowitz.org/>

## MISCELLANY

### Websites with information about on-line arts events coming up:

[www.jmi.org.uk](http://www.jmi.org.uk) - Jewish Music Institute

[ukjewishfilm.org](http://ukjewishfilm.org) - has an on demand section with over 40 free short films to enjoy and longer feature films to be paid for

[jewishbookweek.com](http://jewishbookweek.com) - has an archive where you can download past events

[jewishrenaissance.org.uk](http://jewishrenaissance.org.uk) - events coming up in the autumn

[benuricollection.org.uk](http://benuricollection.org.uk) - for on- line art exhibitions

[lbc.ac.uk/lehrhaus](http://lbc.ac.uk/lehrhaus) - for courses covering various aspects of the arts, languages, history, philosophy and teacher training

### What's Jewish About Jewish Art?

*with Professor Melissa Raphael; a 4-week live on-line course, is part of LBC Lehrhaus.*

This short, illustrated course will open by asking what we might mean by the phrase 'Jewish art'. Is it a body of work defined and governed by the biblical Second Commandment's proscription of idolatrous images? Or should the term 'Jewish art' be rejected as an empty classification of a body of work that has no definitively and exclusively Jewish historical, religious, and stylistic characteristics? Visit <https://tinyurl.com/yxd6s2r4> to find out more.

### Music Uniting the Generations

The Bromley-based musical charity Everyone Matters has had a happy relationship with BRS since 2017. This year, an inter-generational project was planned for the summer. Sadly, it was not to be. At least, not as first envisaged. Artistic Director Margaret Archibald writes, "We were greatly looking forward to collaborating with the Synagogue's own musicians this year. Hopefully this project has been merely postponed and not cancelled. To fill the gap three musicians from the Synagogue community have stepped forward with five separate items. You can click on the playlist to listen to the whole programme, or on individual items that take your fancy. Each one has a description where you can read a little about the piece, its composition and the performers. I do hope you enjoy exploring this very varied programme of music." Go to <https://tinyurl.com/y3gggl8j> to enjoy the music.



*Judy and fellow Bromley Book Club member Barbara enjoying their shared love of words*

# In Our Community

Page Contact:  
Bob Symonds:  
[comms@bromleyshul.org](mailto:comms@bromleyshul.org)

**DEATHS** - We are very sad to report the death of our member, **Marguerite Presman**, wife of our former Chairman, Elkan Presman, and mother of Adina, Dylan, Gavin and the late Daniel. Our heartfelt condolences go to them and their families.

Marguerite and Elkan were formerly very active in the life of the synagogue, but they moved to Finchley several years ago and joined the New North London Synagogue while remaining members of BRS.

We are also very sad to report the death of our member, **Renee Gertski**, widow of Dave, who had been unwell for some time. We extend heartfelt condolences to her children Sharon, Maurice and Barbara and her many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

May the names of Marguerite and Renee be for a blessing.

*Please turn to pages 12 and 13 for appreciations of the lives of Renee and Marguerite.*

## From the Caring Community

Dear Shul members, family and friends who are facing personal health challenges, we are thinking of you all and wish you well.

We are very much aware of how difficult these recent months have been trying to follow various and changing instructions in order not only to keep others safe but also ourselves.

If you would like to chat and share how it is for you at this time of change it might be opportune for us to get together via Zoom or telephone so we can share our experiences and feelings and support each other.

Please telephone: **Pauline** (Chair Caring Community BRS) 07745 740114, if I don't respond straight away please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Pauline

## Our Cycling Twins



*Jake and Megan setting out on their fund-raising ride*

As their Mitzvah project **Megan and Jake Frankel** decided to raise money for **Bright** - a charity that helps people who are both deaf and blind by teaching them to communicate with sign language, providing ushers and helping them overcome problems so that they can live life to the fullest. The twins' mother Tracy writes: "A massive thank you to everyone who has donated so generously to their fundraiser!!"

**Mazal Tov to Erin Frankel**, who has been offered a place at Leeds University to study medicine. What a month for the Frankels! Mazal tov to all.

## Macmillan Coffee Morning Friday 25 September

- [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/brscoffeemorning](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/brscoffeemorning)

Please be ready with your coffee and cake at 10.30 am.

\* A Zoom link will be available to access nearer the time and we will be pleased to help you if you need any assistance with joining Zoom.

### \* The programme will include:

- Opening by our **Rabbi**.
- Talk by our own **Harriet Posner**. Harriet is a key worker at Macmillan Headquarters and she will update us on all the happenings there.

Will you sponsor our own **Sue Bowyer**, who is having all her hair cut off and head shaved to support Macmillan?

There will be a cake recipe book for sale, with many of the cakes having been made by members' grandchildren.

### Another guest speaker ....

\* Talk by **John Posner** about the Covid 19 virus with the opportunity to ask questions.



## Monday Afternoon Tea Parties at Pauline's home

Whilst we cannot wait to be together again, at the moment it just is not possible for us to meet. The Lounge where we usually get together is not open to us and, until that is available for everybody, we continue to meet via Zoom, telephone, e-mail or text.

**Pauline Jeffree, 07745 740114**  
[pauline.jeffree@btinternet.com](mailto:pauline.jeffree@btinternet.com)

# In Our Community

Page Contact:  
Bob Symonds:  
[comms@bromleyshul.org](mailto:comms@bromleyshul.org)

## Social Centre News

Such are the wonders of modern technology - the Social Centre is now able to meet virtually by Zoom. It was so wonderful to see everyone.

We were honoured to be given a talk by Zelda's granddaughter **Rebekah Lucking** on the subject of the **Yazidi** people, a sect of a Kurdish religion. This group of people have been persecuted and hounded out of Iraq and other parts of the Middle East with genocide being perpetrated against them. They are now refugees living in camps in various countries.

Rebekah is a volunteer for the Hands Up charity who provide assistance to refugees in the form of teaching various useful subjects, such as English and music. As a qualified English teacher she uses her talents to help these poor refugees. She began her talk by showing slides of how in 2006 the British press displayed misleading headlines about how millions of refugees had come to this country but the truth was there were about only 20,000 at that time. We should give some time to thinking about the plight of all the refugees living in camps after being hounded from their homes by terrible conflicts. As Jews we can think of our own history and help them if possible.

A very big 'thank you' to Rebekah for her talk and for her charity work with those refugees.

## Zoom Meeting, 5 August

The Zoom meeting saw quite a few of us appearing "miraculously" online, which prompted some happy personal

chatter and anecdotes.

Unfortunately, the planned speaker was unable to attend, so our talk on the Sadeh Farm will take place at a future date.

Barbara Kurtz reported the death of **Renee Gertski**, introducing a sad note into the meeting. Renee's *levoyah* had been broadcast via Zoom with some unfortunate glitches leaving some participants unable to follow the proceedings fully. There was also a shiva in the evening, this time more successfully via Zoom, which enabled many others to join in the prayers. Renee had been a much loved Social Centre member over many years and had attended as often as possible despite her infirmity. She was an avid Rummikub player and will be sorely missed.

**Alona Sheridan** talked to us about the proposed **Holocaust Memorial** to be built partially underground in Victoria Tower Gardens adjoining the Houses of Parliament. This project has provoked a great deal of controversy within the Jewish communities and elsewhere. As the saying goes 'Where there are two Jews there will always be three different opinions'.

**Maureen Pearlstone**

We have three meetings in September for the Social Centre: on **Wednesdays, 2nd, 16th and 30th**. On **16 September Taliah Chain** of Sadeh Farm will join us to give her postponed talk about the farm. ***This event will be open to all shul members and not just to the Social Centre.*** The Zoom link for all Social Centre meetings is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83474313573>



*Renee was an avid Rummikub player*

## Knitters, Stitches and Natters

To those of us who are knitting and sewing for King's College Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, making teddy bears for Karen's project and, all too shortly, turning our focus towards the time of year needs for St Christopher's Hospice, we are trying to find extra space in our homes to store the items we have made. I am sorry I have not been able to relieve you of any of the stockpile you have undoubtedly accumulated.

If anyone would like to join us, we would love to have you, please contact me and I can send patterns and keep you updated on what is happening. Please use either my telephone and leave a message: 07745 740114 or contact me by e-mail: [pauline.jeffree@btinternet.com](mailto:pauline.jeffree@btinternet.com)

Just to reassure you, yes ALL the items you are making are and will be needed. I am in regular contact with the Senior Sister of the Unit who keeps saying 'are the lovely ladies still making clothes, blankets and toys for us?' I am told they need everything we make! I was informed that all the items undergo a steam process of

# In Our Community

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deep cleaning before any item is given to any baby or toddler. The moment I hear that KCH are coming to collect our knitting and sewing I will let you know.

It is appreciated how hard it is to remain motivated to knit and sew in this hot weather and within the current situation. If you suffer with troublesome arthritic joints I have it on good authority that knitting is the best exercise for painful joints ... say no more!

I do hope you are enjoying our monthly *Newsletter*, produced by **Ann**. If you would like to receive a copy please let me know and I will ensure you receive the newsletter by post or e-mail (if I have your address and permission).

**Pauline**

## **Renee Rivka Gertski 20.11.1932 to 31.07.2020 mourned as a mother, nan, great-nan, friend and matriarch**

Renee was born in London in 1932 to Maurice and Kate Cashman. She had six older siblings, and outlived them all. In the economic instability of the 1930s, the family's financial situation was volatile. The outbreak of war and the early death of her father, forced her to fend for herself at an early age and contributed to the formation of Renee's fiercely independent character.

After the war, Renee lived in London with her siblings, helping them to survive the poverty of the

post-war years. Through her brother Harold she met Dave and engaged in an unusual courtship. Harold would sell Dave chocolates, which he gave to Renee, who returned them unopened to Harold, who resold them to Dave. Unsurprisingly, Dave was also sold on the idea of marrying her and they tied the knot in 1953, settling in Stamford Hill, where Barbara was born.

In 1959, Dave's work took them to Newark, Notts, where Maurice was born. Trying to find a local *mohel*, Renee looked for Jewish surnames in a phone book and found **Barbara Jacobs**, who became a life-long friend. The two of them worked hard in the markets in Worksop, Chesterfield and elsewhere. At the same time, she had to take care of her family, expanded by the arrival of Sharon. Renee encouraged all her children from an early age to work hard and to grasp the educational and professional opportunities that she had not had, so as to maximise their potential.

Renee was, says Barbara, "from an era when parents and siblings showed love in actions rather than words ... but we understood that." One of the ways in which Renee expressed both love and her Jewishness was showing hospitality. Barbara's friends loved her mum's cooking and the Yiddish she used. When she and her sister heard 'Nisht in front of the Kleiners', they were more attentive than ever.

No one could not pay attention to Renee's words. She was fierce, stubborn and always right. She was known to have removed the Rummikub board half-way through a game as somebody

disagreed with her, later telling this story as 'my board, my rules.' Another of her rules was to take pride in her children, grandchildren and great-grand-children. Both Arron and Dan recall how their nana found it blissful to boast to strangers about her wonderful grandsons. She would also boast to all her friends that Chloe was a vet and, after Jessica graduated from art college, would proudly present her art to her friends.

In 1993, Renee and Dave settled in Beckenham, not far from Maurice, and joined BRS, where she made many good friends and participated in many social groups. She attended synagogue with Sam, who spent every weekend with her and Dave between the ages of 8 and 13. These friendships helped her to deal with the loss of Dave in 2003, after which she found comfort in cultivating her relationships with her ever growing family; playing cards with and going out for tea.

Renee found innovative ways to remain independent, including calling Maurice every night and morning until the last week of her life, rather than let him check up on her. When her mobility decreased, she embraced virtual ways to share in the lives and activities of all her family members around the world. Two years ago it seemed she had lost her fight against time but she recovered to attend Sharon's wedding to Keith in May 2019, and she managed to see Nuska, Milo and Poppy only days before she died.

Renee is lovingly remembered by her large family and will be very

# In Our Community

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much missed by her many friends at BRS and beyond.

*Yihye Zichrona Livracha* - Renee's memory will be a blessing to all who knew her.

## Remembering Marguerite Presman 13.01.1939 to 02.07.2020



*Marguerite teaching her granddaughter Millie to knit*

Marguerite and her sister Reggie were born in Egypt, where her father worked as an electrical engineer for a British government project, inspired by the idea that this was a staging post on his dream journey to Eretz Yisrael. The atmosphere became uncomfortable for the British, however, so Marguerite, her mother and sister moved in with family members in England, and she went to primary school in Hackney - quite a change from the posh English School in Cairo. Eventually the family was reunited in Rickmansworth. Sunday afternoons were devoted to Habonim activities, as a result of which her sister made Aliyah to Kibbutz Kfar Hanassi, where she still lives.

While in the sixth form, Marguerite chose to spend a weekend at a Jewish Agency seminar at Carmel College, where

we met. She was keen on *Rikudei Am* and, when I saw her dancing "*El Ginat Egoz*", I was captivated. I asked my friend Alan who was partnering her to introduce us, and the rest is history! We married in 1960 after she had graduated from Manchester University in Mathematics. We had our first child in 1963 and Marguerite lost no time in parading her new baby on Sunday mornings in Edgware with a placard saying: "This child is well fed. Millions are not. Support Oxfam".

As a result of our joint efforts in establishing an Oxfam Youth Group running the first local Oxfam shop staffed entirely by volunteers, I was invited to join Oxfam's staff, where I ended up running its National Appeals Department, while Marguerite taught maths at a local convent school. Jointly we ran the Oxford Cheder, where - quite ludicrously - she tamely and uncharacteristically accepted the assumption that, as a woman, she would be my deputy!

In 1969 we returned to London, and Marguerite started her career in earnest. She became Head Teacher at Canons High School - motto "a school that works for everyone". We both became councillors in the Borough of Brent, where Marguerite was a dynamic Chair of the Schools Committee and where we enjoyed annoying the Tory councillors by holding hands in Council meetings.

Sadly, she was stricken by a sickness. After a few years of fruitless medical dithering, a brain tumour the size of a ping-pong ball was discovered and removed as an emergency. But, despite the

gory appearance of her shaved head after the operation, she beat me at Scrabble the evening after the surgery. Ten years later she had another dose of brain surgery. Career-wise Marguerite was one of the first wave of Ofsted inspectors, in which role she was frequently thanked by maths teachers for the constructive and inspirational contribution of her inspections.

Marguerite was a dynamo wherever she went and always gave more than she took from any activity in which she was involved. Her work took us to South London and she was taken by the idea of a woman Rabbi (Sylvia Rothschild). As a result, she started to attend shul regularly and shook me out of my faux-orthodox but non-shul-going phase. For family reasons we later moved to East Finchley, but retained our membership of Bromley.

**Elkan Presman**

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## High Holydays in the time of Covid and how to make them work for you

The year 5781 starts with Erev Rosh Hashanah on Friday 18 September, and Bromley Reform Synagogue will celebrate with a service online, starting at 7.30 pm. BRS will hold all the services appropriate to the High Holydays, ending with the conclusion of the fast on Yom Kippur on Monday 28 September at 7.32pm. As we cannot meet in the Sanctuary, the main services will be streamed, via the YouTube icon on the synagogue website or from YouTube directly, with less formal sessions and services for children held on Zoom. The week's e-Light will have all the links. For more details of services and timings, please refer to the mailshot leaflet that you should have received recently. If you have not received or would like another copy, please email [admin@bromleyshul.org.uk](mailto:admin@bromleyshul.org.uk).

The services will be a mixture of the familiar and the innovative, as we make the most of the opportunities (and try to meet the challenges!) that technology can offer. How can you best make these services work for you? They will be led live by our very own Rabbi Mati Kirschenbaum, lay readers from our community and our solo singers, supported by beautiful recordings from our community choir, created by Vicki and Olly Ashmore, our children and Judy Taylor's quintet. They will want you to join in, so do make sure you have enough copies of the High Holy Day Machzor (Forms of Prayer for Jewish Worship, V.III, Days of Awe); connection to the internet (a physical link to your router can help if you are using a laptop or home computer) and a space that feels right for you and your family in your home. Good speakers for laptops can give added zest to the sound! RJ have made "flipping book" versions of the Machzor

# Services September 2020

**Friday evening** candle lightings will continue via Zoom at 7pm, unless otherwise indicated, at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/578441665>

**Shabbat morning** services will continue in an online/streamed format beginning at **10.30 am**. Please subscribe to BRS' YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/BromleyReformSynagogue/videos>

**Please do not come to Highland Road**

<b>Saturday 5 Sept</b> 15 Elul 5780	Ki Tavo: Deuteronomy 27: 9-26; Isaiah 61: 1-10 Rabbi, Matthew, Stephanie and Hadassah
<b>Saturday 12 Sept</b> 22 Elul 5780 <b>plus, at 8.00pm :</b>	Nitzavim-Vayelech, Deut 30:1-20; Isaiah 61:10 – 62:12 and 63: 1-9. Rabbi, Marilyn, Barbara. <b>Selichot study session – see Education page.</b>
<b>Friday 18 Sept</b> 1 Tishri 5781  <b>Saturday 19 Sept</b> <b>Sunday 20 Sept</b>	<b>Erev Rosh Hashanah. 7.30pm (Streamed)</b> Rabbi Kirschenbaum and lay readers. Readings as per High Holyday Machzor (see left) <b>Rosh Hashanah 10.00am</b> <b>Second Day Rosh Hashanah – 10.30am-12.30pm</b> <b>via Zoom:</b> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88532732294">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88532732294</a>
<b>Saturday 26 Sept</b> 8 Tishri 5781	<b>Shabbat Shuvah – Ha'azinu (streamed)</b> Deuteronomy 32: 13-18 and 19-29; Hosea 14: 2-10 and Micah 7: 18-20. Service led by members of Religion and Ritual Committee.
<b>Sunday 27 Sept</b> 10 Tishri 5781	<b>Kol Nidre 7.30pm</b> <b>Service as per High Holyday Machzor</b> Led by Rabbi Kirschenbaum
<b>Monday 28 Sept</b> 10 Tishri 5781	<b>Yom Kippur 10.00 am (Streamed)</b> Morning Service as per High Holyday Machzor Led by Rabbi Kirschenbaum and lay readers
<b>Monday 28 Sept</b> 10 Tishri 5781	<b>Yom Kippur</b> Additional and Afternoon services, led by Rabbi and lay readers. Will include a study session and innovative Jonah readings.
<b>Monday 28 Sept</b> 10 Tishri 5781	<b>Yom Kippur</b> Yizkor and Neilah services Led by Rabbi Mati Kirschenbaum.
<b>Friday 2 October</b> <b>Saturday 3 October</b> 15 Tishri 5781	<b>Erev Sukkot</b> <b>Sukkot Festival Morning service</b> <i>Please watch e-light for arrangements, which will depend on precautions in force at the time</i>

which will be on screen each day, but a physical book does help. New copies are available from Manor House Books; visit <http://www.manorhousebooks.co.uk> and select "Festivals" then "Days of Awe Machzor, Reform Judaism". If you need help with

anything here, please let us know and we will do our best to assist.

**Your Religion and Ritual Committee wish everyone at BRS well for 5781.**

# BEYOND BRS

To contact Marilyn McKeever to contribute to Beyond BRS, please see the details on page 18

## Extracts from Reform Judaism's New Year message from Rabbi Laura

“Over the last nine years I have been privileged to be able to visit our communities around the UK and I have learned something new from every one.

Nothing has more highlighted the importance of reducing the distance between our communities than the ongoing pandemic. As physical synagogue doors closed, the hearts of our communities have remained 100% open. The speed with which we have innovated and reimagined our entire Jewish communal life has been an unbelievable feat.

We come to Rosh Hashanah, known alternatively as Yom Ha'Zikaron in our liturgy - the day of remembrance. Over nine years of being Senior Rabbi, there is a lot for me to remember fondly. So many great moments of celebration and joy, interspersed with times of reflection and mourning, have been enhanced by the community we have built. Rosh Hashanah teaches us that remembering alone is not enough - it is about applying that memory to improving our future.

I know that the future for Reform Judaism is a bright one. Every year I have been to RSY-Netzer's Mega Chalutz - the gathering of the leaders of our Youth Movement before they disperse to make summer camp happen. When you see how our Youth Movement and community youth programmes shape and

develop these young adults, you cannot help but be optimistic about what lies ahead.

Like the Shofar which will ring out into each of our homes during this High Holy Day period, we must all do our parts to enable Reform Judaism to continue to make waves which can be felt across the country.”

You can sign up for a weekly update from Reform Judaism at: <https://tinyurl.com/y52a5clp>

## Update from the Clore Jewish-Arab Community Centre



### Learning together

As the Centre in Akko re-opens after lockdown, Director Mohammad Fahili has shared this picture of children in the daycare facility. As they learned through play, their parents were able to work or seek employment while the older children will soon be having fun together at the annual 'Partners in Peace' Arab-Jewish Summer Camp. The new academic year promises to be a busy one as more families from the mixed communities of Akko have signed up to join the Centre's highly subsidised and high-quality daycare and the new university entrance preparatory

programme is proving to be a meeting a need, opening new opportunities for the young adults of Akko.

## Watch the ordination of our own Rabbi Mati Kirschenbaum:



Visit Leo Baeck's site to watch the video <https://tinyurl.com/y42n3zyt>

## New year message from the Community Security Trust

CST is here to protect you and facilitate the flourishing of Jewish life. This works best when you work with us. Please be mindful of basic security procedures and of our many dedicated volunteers who are devoting their time and efforts to ensure our safety, allowing us to spend the High Holy Days in peace. We wish you a safe, happy New Year, and a meaningful fast.

[www.cst.org.uk](http://www.cst.org.uk)

# Mitzvah Day

Mitzvah Day will be on  
November 15 2020  
**Watch this space.**

## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL AT VICTORIA TOWER GARDENS

*(article written 8 Aug 2020)*

Have you been following the campaign opposing the controversial plans for a Holocaust Memorial and Education Centre in a small park in Westminster, beside the Houses of Parliament? It sounds like a project that any Jew would want to support – doesn't it?

Victoria Tower Gardens (VTG) is a Grade 2 listed and very popular smallish park between Millbank, the River Thames and Houses of Parliament. It is well used by office workers and local residents in an area with very limited public green space. Other sites were originally proposed but former PM David Cameron marked VTG as the best location.

I first learned of the proposal and concerns through the London Friends of Greenspaces Network (LFGN) amid anxiety that opposition would be branded anti-Semitic. The principal objections against using VTG from a green space perspective are the location and environmental impact including the likely significant damage to the root protection zone of the Park's 180-year old plane trees.

Over time it became apparent that influential Jews have concerns too, including Baroness Deech and Barbara Weiss. There are clear arguments against the plans from a Jewish perspective, including academics and religious leaders.  
<https://www.thejc.com/comment/opinion/the-conflation-of-opposition-to-the-shoah-memorial-with-antisemitism-is-offensive-to-the-memory-of-t-1.487346>

Westminster City Council planning committee refused planning permission in February this year.

MP Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, applied for planning permission for this project. His department called in the project for a Planning Inquiry which is due to take place in early autumn. His junior minister Christopher Pincher is the man chosen to make a decision on the application. There are concerns about this.

<https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/jenrick-facing-questions-over-holocaust-memorial-call-in> and  
<https://thecritic.co.uk/the-jenrick-method/>

The London Gardens Trust (LGT) has applied for a Judicial Review to the High Court, due to take place in September, to stop what is in effect the government approving its own project to build the memorial on a public park  
<https://londongardentrust.org/campaigns/>

The Trust has a fundraising page with Crowdjustice to help towards extensive legal costs, accessed through its campaigns page.

I am concerned about this proposal and the way that Government is pushing for this Memorial at VTG without re-considering other locations not only in London. I have written this in a personal capacity and I realise that others are likely to have differing points of view about the proposal and location including religious and ethical considerations.

### Alona Sheridan

*Do you agree or disagree with Alona? Please email your views and comments to*

[comms@bromleyshul.org.uk](mailto:comms@bromleyshul.org.uk)

**Nightingale Hammerson**  
wishes everybody  
**Shana Tova**

Nightingale prides itself on being a home where new residents will feel very comfortable and will live fulfilling active lives; relatives can be assured that their loved ones' physical health and mental wellbeing will be properly catered for in a safe and stimulating environment; and there are on-site physiotherapists, occupational therapists, GP surgery and pharmacy. It is open for new admissions now. Information: 020 8673 3495, [residentsservices@nightingalehammerson.org](mailto:residentsservices@nightingalehammerson.org)

### A Very Close Shave for Macmillan Cancer Support

The annual coffee morning will go ahead on 25 September, despite lockdown. This year, our very own Sue Bowyer, whose ever-changing locks may be familiar to you, asks us to sponsor her to shave off her hair in aid of this great cause.



A video of the shaving will be shown on the morning!

Please use:

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/brscoffeemorning](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/brscoffeemorning)

or send a cheque to the synagogue made out to Macmillan Cancer Support

# CALENDAR

September		October	
<b>Tue 1</b>		<b>Thu 1</b>	
<b>Wed 2</b>	Social Centre, 3.00pm <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83474313573">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83474313573</a>	<b>Fri 2</b>	Erev Sukkot service 7.30pm
<b>Thu 3</b>		<b>Sat 3</b>	Sukkot morning service 10.30am
<b>Fri 4</b>	Candle lighting 7pm. Zoom: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/578441665">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/578441665</a>	<b>Sun 4</b>	HomeShul Cheder 10.00am
<b>Sat 5</b>	Shabbat Morning service, 10.30am: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/c/BromleyReformSynagogue/live">https://www.youtube.com/c/BromleyReformSynagogue/live</a>	<b>Mon 5</b>	
<b>Sun 6</b>		<b>Tue 6</b>	
<b>Mon 7</b>		<b>Wed 7</b>	
<b>Tue 8</b>	Study Session, Pirke Avot, 8.00pm	<b>Thur 8</b>	
<b>Wed 9</b>		<b>Fri 9</b>	Erev Simchat Torah
<b>Thur 10</b>	Book Club 8.00-9.00pm (Zoom info from Judy W)	<b>Sat 10</b>	Simchat Torah festival service
<b>Fri 11</b>	Candle lighting 7pm (zoom as above)	<b>Sun 11</b>	HomeShul Cheder 10.00am
<b>Sat 12</b>	Shabbat Morning service, 10.30am Selichot 8.00pm	<b>Mon 12</b>	
<b>Sun 13</b>	HomeShul Cheder Resumes 9.50am	<b>Tue 13</b>	
<b>Mon 14</b>		<b>Wed 14</b>	Social Centre, 3.00pm
<b>Tue 15</b>		<b>Thur 15</b>	
<b>Wed 16</b>	Social Centre, 3.00pm	<b>Fri 16</b>	Candle lighting 7pm (zoom as above)
<b>Thur 17</b>		<b>Sat 17</b>	Shabbat service 10.30am
<b>Fri 18</b>	Erev Rosh Hashanah 7.30pm	<b>Sun 18</b>	HomeShul Cheder 10.00am
<b>Sat 19</b>	Rosh Hashanah, inc Children's Service 10.30am	<b>Mon 19</b>	
<b>Sun 20</b>	Second Day Rosh Hashanah <b>10.30-12.30</b> <b>No HomeShul Cheder</b>	<b>Tue 20</b>	
<b>Mon 21</b>		<b>Wed 21</b>	
<b>Tue 22</b>		<b>Thur 22</b>	
<b>Wed 23</b>		<b>Fri 23</b>	Candle lighting 7pm (zoom as above)
<b>Thur 24</b>		<b>Sat 24</b>	Shabbat service 10.30am
<b>Fri 25</b>	<b>Macmillan Coffee Morning</b> Candle lighting 7pm (zoom as above)	<b>Sun 25</b>	Half Term Daylight saving begins
<b>Sat 26</b>	Shabbat Morning service, 10.30am	<b>Mon 26</b>	
<b>Sun 27</b>	HomeShul Cheder 10.00am Kol Nidre 7.30pm	<b>Tue 27</b>	
<b>Mon 28</b>	Yom Kippur: Services begin 10.00am	<b>Wed 28</b>	Social Centre, 3.00pm
<b>Tue 29</b>		<b>Thu 29</b>	
<b>Wed 30</b>	Social Centre, 3.00pm	<b>Fri 30</b>	Candle lighting 7pm
		<b>Sat 31</b>	Shabbat service 10.30am

**Highlight** is the monthly newsletter of Bromley Reform Synagogue.

*Opinions expressed in Highlight are not necessarily the official policy of the Synagogue.*

**Deadline:** Please send contributions for each month's edition **no later than the 15th of the preceding month** to [comms@bromleyshul.org.uk](mailto:comms@bromleyshul.org.uk)

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## **NEW BURIAL PLOTS AT GREENACRES, KEMNAL PARK**

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We have secured a designated lawn area in GreenAcres Kemnal Park with 50 double depth burial plots of which 30 plots have been generously funded by a loan from the Jewish Joint Burial Society (JJBS). The double depth graves can accommodate two coffins and containers of cremated remains. Members can purchase a double depth burial plot for £3,619. The premium cost for burial at Kemnal Park is required to repay the loan from JJBS. Interested members are opting to pre-pay for their burial plot so they know their families will not need to find the money when they pass away. Once a shul member has paid for the burial plot there are no further funeral costs; these are covered by the JJBS subscription assuming you are completely paid up with JJBS. Although the lawn burial area is not large, it will be surrounded by an evergreen hedge with a beautiful wrought iron gate leading on to a path.

Rabbi Kirschenbaum has confirmed that the plan of the burial area meets the requirements of a Jewish burial ground with the graves facing towards Jerusalem. In line with Progressive Judaism mixed faith couples can be buried in a double depth grave. GreenAcres Kemnal Park have assured us they can manage funerals within 24 hours and are only too ready to conform with any of our wishes. Our Jewish Cemetery is in operation now even though we are waiting for the hedges to be planted and the gate to be erected.

I want to particularly thank Beverley Morris, our lawyer and member of the shul, who has worked extremely hard to ensure there is a secure legal agreement in place between Bromley Reform Synagogue and GreenAcres Kemnal Park.

I wish to make clear that our new cemetery increases funeral options for members of the Synagogue. Members can still choose to be buried at Cheshunt – either in the Western section or the Woodland cemetery. Members also have the option of cremation.

Please contact me if you would like any further information about the new burial grounds at Kemnal Park or any other issue regarding funerals.

**Janet Posner**