



A SUKKOT AND SIMCHAT TORAH CHALLENGE

How and when can we build the sukkah? Who can decorate it mid-week? Our old-normal questions went out through the cracks in the virtual roof when it became clear that we would not be able to dwell in our physical sukkah this year. Instead, our Rabbi and BRS sages have been dwelling on the challenge of how to make the autumn festivals extra special for 5781.

We might not be able to entertain real guests in a real sukkah but we can still use the opportunity to help the wider community. Rabbi Mati explains inside how to get started.

Our liveliest celebrations in “old normal” were often to be found at Simchat Torah. These, too,

will be very different this year and we hope that you will join some or all of them; look out for all the service and Zoom links inside and in each week’s e-light.

This month we shine the Highlight spotlight on the Social Centre, just one of many links in the Bromley social chain helping to strengthen the community on- and off-line. If you’d like to join or help this life-enhancing group, find out more on the Community pages.

At the other end of the age range, our Cheder and Gan continue to bring both parents and children together. For the new year they have a new Head, Frankie - watch this space for her debut in the November issue!

CONTENTS

Rabbi’s Page	2
From the Chair	3
Education	4-5
Cheder	6
In Our Community	7-9
Books, Music and	10
Beyond BRS	11
Services and Festivals	12
Calendar	13
The last word/contacts	14



Thoughts from the Rabbi

'To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven'

Kohelet (Ecclesiastes) 3:1-5

I am writing these words before Rosh HaShanah. Usually, my post High Holyday piece would encourage you to come to shul during Sukkot and Simchat Torah. I would entice you to come by mentioning our sukkah, beautifully decorated by our Cheder children. But this year is different. As it would be very difficult for us to gather in a sukkah in a way that would keep in line with social distancing regulations and still be meaningful, we have decided not to have a community sukkah this year. For similar reasons, we will not be meeting in person on Simchat Torah to dance with the scrolls. So, how can we mark the festivals in a different way?

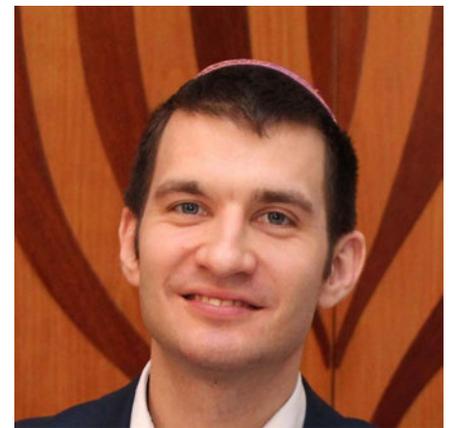
Ushpizin, one of the lesser-known Sukkot traditions, can serve as inspiration. *Ushpizin* translates as 'guests' in Aramaic and is a custom of 'inviting' a different biblical character to our sukkah on each of the seven days of the festival. This medieval custom was embraced by Isaac Luria (1534-1572), the father of contemporary Kabbalah. Luria believed that each of the traditional guests – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron and David – represented a different *sefirah*, an aspect of Divine presence. The all-male list has been expanded in modern times to include seven women described in our tradition as prophetesses: Sarah, Miriam, Deborah, Hannah, Avigail, Huldah and Esther - the *Ushpizot* ('female guests' in Aramaic).

The tradition of *Ushpizin/ot* inspires a few socially distant approaches to Sukkot. First, it tells us that we don't need to invite many guests to our sukkah. One or two are enough, as long as they boost our spirits.

Second, it teaches us that there are ways of connecting with others on Sukkot that don't require their physical presence. Kabbalists believed that the *Ushpizin/ot* were with them in spirit. We have an advantage over them; our 'guests' can be with us both in spirit and on our screens/smartphones!

Third, *Ushpizin* reminds us that the only way for humans to experience the Divine presence is through deep encounters with others. This Sukkot, we can boost the diversity of our social lives by reaching out every day to one person who is not a part of our immediate 'bubble'. It will expand our horizons and make us feel less isolated.

Importantly, Rabbi Luria believed that one should host seven poor people during Sukkot to prove one's commitment to the values embodied by the *Ushpizin/Ushpizot*. Some Sephardi Jews set aside a chair in the sukkah for the guest of the day. That chair remained empty throughout the meal, but a plate of food was set by it which was then sent to the poor. Of course, in the 'new normal', we can't share food in this way. But we can support charitable causes by donating to a food bank. Sadly, our help is needed now more than ever.



It is not easy to always be in good spirits when we don't know how long the pandemic will last. If you are feeling overwhelmed, I encouraged you to seek solace in the words of Kohelet (Ecclesiastes) 3:1-5, which are traditionally studied during Sukkot:

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven/A time to be born, and a time to die/A time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted/A time to kill, and a time to heal/A time to break down, and a time to build up/A time to weep, and a time to laugh/A time to mourn, and a time to dance/A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together/A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing.

Kohelet's main message is that nothing lasts forever; everything has its time and will pass. COVID-19 shall also pass one day. Then, we will embrace freely, dance with the scrolls on Simchat Torah and sit together in our shul sukkah. For now, I wish you a meaningful, healthy Sukkot and Simchat Torah.

חג שמחה

Chag Sameach!
Rabbi Mati Kirschenbaum

View from the Chair

“When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves.”

“Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one’s own way.”

--Viktor E. Frankl

Reading this quote reminds me that although we are now living in a new normality where we may feel helpless to change what is happening around us, we are able to change ourselves, adapt and make the best of the situation. I know we all want things to go back to normal as soon as possible, and it is really difficult when we cannot predict when this will happen. We are constantly looking at the guidelines coming from the government and Reform Judaism. In the meantime, our new normal is online services, virtual study sessions, Cheder on Zoom (HomeShul), and a lively cyber-Social Centre, and much more.

I could never have imagined conducting the High Holyday services online but this year we welcomed 5781 in virtually. The Religion and Ritual committee, headed by our Senior Warden Stephanie Alberti, along with Rabbi Mati, has been working on this since June. Stephanie – we are eternally thankful to you, your dedication to our community is amazing.

I was blown away by the High Holyday services this year. I thought not being together in person might impact on how I felt, but I was spiritually uplifted and moved. The Rabbi and service takers provided us all with the ability to connect, and the beautiful

music enhanced this experience. The choir have outdone themselves, and this year they were joined by the community choir and Cheder children. The music was recorded individually at home, and then put together by our Musical Directors, Vicki and Olly Ashmore. So not only has Vicki been stepping in as Cheder Headteacher, but she has also been working on the High Holyday music. And behind the scenes, enabling the “ShulTuber” volunteers to stream and Zoom the services has been Kieron Hyams. Thank you to all of you!

Please don’t forget the High Holyday appeal is still open and very much in need of donations, even though we can’t remind you in person.

We are pleased to welcome our **new Cheder Headteacher, Frankie Gruzd**, who is joining us on 1 October. Frankie is coming to us with experience as a Cheder Headteacher, an MA in Jewish Educational Experience and lots of enthusiasm. Children and parents will be able to meet Frankie online, and once we are back in the building, we will arrange a “meet the Head” session.

In October, the festivals of **Sukkot and Simchat Torah** will again be celebrated via Zoom and streaming on YouTube. Please keep a lookout for further details in e-Light.



As we move into autumn and winter, I would be interested to hear from anyone who has ideas to brighten up the time we spend together. Another quiz, comedy or theatre experiences online, walks in local parks or countryside? We can’t forget those who are elderly or unable to access technology or get out and about. What can we do for them? Please email me with your ideas and suggestions at chair@bromleyshul.org.uk or give me a call on 07956 234309.

Sending thoughts of health, peace and happiness.

Michelle Brooks Evans
chair@bromleyshul.org

Always wanted to write?

A novel? A blog? Your memoirs?

A gift for a loved one? I can help! I am a writer and professional editor, trained in facilitation and helping people bring their ideas to life!



Contact me,
Amelia Kyazze,
on
abkyazze@yahoo.com

On friendship – loving your neighbour



As a gentile, I had been curious about Judaism for a long time. I managed to take a few courses, and accompanied a Jewish friend to a synagogue when I was on holiday.

Imagine my fear and trepidation, about 7 years ago, when I ventured out all alone to Bromley shul one Friday evening. I needn't have worried. I was given a warm welcome and supported both by the congregants and Rabbi (Tony Hammond). Such was my experience that I returned again and again, and I could relax into praying and learning more about Judaism in that warm environment.

Without that outward expression of 'loving one's neighbour' towards me, my journey of faith could well have ended there and then on that initial Friday night. Instead I became a regular attender and began the process of conversion with Rabbi Jason Holtz, but by the time this was almost complete, I had made up my mind to emigrate to Canada and we thought it best for me to convert as part of my new Jewish community, which I did.

So, what has all this got to do with education? Well, with all the horrific events of COVID-19 - and there have been lots - a few good things have happened as a result. One of these has been our ability to connect with family, friends and acquaintances via Zoom. For me, personally I have taken full advantage of Rabbi Mati Kirschenbaum's Zoom study sessions during the past month.

Once more I was apprehensive. I was no longer an associate member of Beit Or and was fearful about 'gatecrashing' the congregation's study sessions. I needn't have worried. I was immediately welcomed with 'virtual' open arms and an eagerness of those present to connect with me. I felt that I was with my 'root community' again and it felt good.

I am reminded of the words of Elizabeth Tikvah Sarah, reminding us that a community is a place where all are welcome:

"No two individuals are alike, and each one of us is infinitely precious. And so the community is not simply the sum of its individual members: it is what happens when persons meet and share and live with one another."

Patricia Lawrence



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.

DAYS AND TIMES TBC

(Courses to start in the next few weeks)

COST:

£120 Members

£130 Non-Members

LAST CHANCE TO BOOK!

To join us, RSVP:

education@bromleyshul.org.uk

What's SACRE and what's it got to do with me?

SACRE stands for the **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**. Every local authority has to have a SACRE by law, and the London Borough of Bromley is no exception. Its main role is to advise the local authority on Religious Education, including collective worship, in local schools.

Religious Education (RE) is not part of the National Curriculum; it is a local responsibility and by law must be taught in all schools. Because it is the responsibility of the local authority, local communities and teachers have an opportunity to influence and support what pupils learn in RE, developing a locally agreed syllabus. SACREs monitor the provision that schools make for teaching RE, including uptake of RE examinations, and can support schools where necessary to improve this. SACREs must report annually to the Department of Education.

On each SACRE there are elected councilors, representatives of local faith communities, teachers and those representing other educational interests. The Bromley SACRE has a chair and an RE Advisor who guide our termly meetings at Bromley Civic Centre. These are likely to take place virtually for the foreseeable future. A locally agreed syllabus for RE has to be reviewed and updated every five years and the Bromley Agreed Syllabus 2020 for schools was launched this year, unfortunately without fanfare! However, the RE advisor was key to ensuring that schools and teachers are supported with the implementation of this to ensure high-quality RE teaching.

Early in the summer of 2019 I became a voluntary representative on Bromley SACRE representing the Jewish community. I taught in Bromley schools and am passionate

about the provision of engaging, thought-provoking, and high-quality education for all.

My role on SACRE is to represent the perspective of our Jewish community in the work of SACRE (a tall order as I'm by no means an expert) and to provide a means of constructive dialogue between our community and the Council. It is also an excellent means to influence and promote social cohesion in Bromley along with interfaith groups.

So, what does this mean for BRS?

I suspect that many or most of our Cheder pupils attend local multi-faith schools. It is important that the RE they receive in school is sensitive to the teaching of Judaism with regard to their beliefs, traditions and values. SACRE is one way to influence this.

In the current world climate, it is important for all children to be taught about differing worldviews, faiths and practices in order to overcome ignorance and intolerance. We need to prepare children for life in a multi-faith society where stereotypes and racism have no place, and where harmony is promoted and diversity celebrated. I'm happy to be the voice of our community in SACRE, but I don't have all the answers so will definitely be calling on the wider community for advice and support, and this is where my first '**big ask**' comes...

Teachers are always looking for real-life examples or experiences to support children's learning. I have some very fond memories of taking Rosh Hashanah assemblies as the 'expert' teacher in school, for example.

Our Bromley RE Advisor has asked each faith community to find volunteers who might be contacted by schools. Schools may ask for guest visits (possibly virtually in the current climate) or a short video clip, or perhaps Q&A sessions about how we celebrate festivals and navigate life-cycle events, or how our faith

influences our values. If anyone would like to share their Jewish practice, please could you supply your name to the Education Committee. You are an invaluable resource!

Don't be shy; each and every one of us navigates our Judaism in different ways and to more or less of an extent, but each experience adds value. I thank you in advance!

Donna Gold



One thing everyone knows about Judaism: every festival has a connection with food!

Study sessions with Rabbi Mati this month.

Thursday, 15 October –
Parashah Study Session

Tuesday, 20 October –
Pirkei Avot – continuing our
look at the Sayings of the
Fathers

Tuesday, 27 October –
More Broyges in Bromley –
discussing the latest news
through traditional Jewish texts

Please note the new start time
for all these sessions : **7.30pm**
(not 8pm as before).

The link is
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81044309130>

Finally, some good news to share with you! I may not have any insight into the future of the Coronavirus, or whether the government guidelines will change again, or even when cheder will be back in the building... But I'm happy to report that I DO know who our next Head Teacher will be! It's Frankie Grudz, an experienced Cheder Head Teacher (and all-round lovely lady) who is currently working as head of South Bucks Jewish Community cheder. I'm sure you'll join me in welcoming her with open arms.

HomeShul will continue on Zoom from 10am on Sundays until further notice. You can log on at any point from 9.45am – in fact it's best that you join us from then so we don't have everyone trying to join at the same time. You can always log in at 9.45am, allow Kieron to put you in your virtual classroom and then go and make a cup of tea, ready to begin at 10am.

We are using your children's **Hebrew names** during HomeShul, so if you can, please join us with their Hebrew Names in their Zoom boxes (spelled out in English of course. We don't expect miracles!)

PLEASE STAY WITHIN EARSHOT OF YOUR CHILD DURING HOMESHUL.

We can teach your children remotely, but we can't make sure they behave!

And remember to **check for an email from your teacher every Friday** before the Sunday of HomeShul. Occasionally you may receive one even earlier if the teacher will be asking you for things you may need time to collect (shoeboxes, egg cartons, toilet roll tubes, that sort of thing). Your regular Friday email will still talk about the theme of the week and will always have

the Zoom link to HomeShul, which is the same every week.

And that's all from me, as this is my final HomeShul news before Frankie takes the reins. Before I sign off again, I'd like to thank each and every teacher who has made HomeShul such a success. It was great working with you again! And remember, I won't be going far as all three of my girls will still be at cheder (though now they're helping and teaching!) So instead of "Shalom" (as in, goodbye) I will say "Li-Hitra-ot" (As in, see you later)!

With best wishes to you and all of your lovely children

Li'Hitra-ot,

Vicki



Remember decorating a Sukkah with your class during cheder?

This year it's all online... unless you know differently. How will you make Sukkot special this time? Let us know what you did!

Introducing... deafPLUS's new ONLINE classes for people with hearing loss, offered for free to BRS members who express an interest.

deafPLUS is offering to organise a special class to explore hearing loss in a friendly, informal online environment.

Living with Hearing Loss classes offer:

- Lipreading 'taster' sessions, to give you a feel for the basics
- Information about the latest technology and advances in hearing loss aids
- A chance to learn how to manage your hearing loss
- Information about what support is available
- Lifestyle adjustments that can help protect the hearing you have
- A chance to explore hearing loss as a loss process and to share that experience with others



In Our Community

Page Contact:
Bob Symonds:
comms@bromleyshul.org

Social Centre News

Social Centre Zoom Meeting Report, Wednesday 2 September

Once again we gathered in front of our individual screens to meet together with the benefit of our online appearances. It is so reassuring to see and talk to people with whom it would not now be possible to socialise during these difficult circumstances.

Denise Levinrad told us about her visit to see her sister in Bournemouth where they saw cruise ships sadly lined up offshore with some boats available offering to take people on a tour of a ship. Denise also told us that she and her husband Arnie were to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on 4 September and were expecting congratulations from the Queen! Many congratulations to them both.

Some of us had taken advantage of the "Eat Out to Help Out" 50% offer in restaurants. The garden centres were highly recommended as being places to eat, where the tables were widely spaced and you could eat outside beside a view of the plants. Directions were marked on the floors with guards guiding the customers.

The "flu" jabs were discussed and, as we head towards winter, appointments were already being made to make sure we will be protected. Miriam mentioned that a grandson with about thirty

others had gone on a cycling tour, at the end of which five returned with the virus. Barbara had gone shopping with her granddaughter in the West End and Dorothea mentioned her visit to Broadstairs with her family.

We were looking forward to the following meeting on 16 September when **Talia Chain** would be giving us her postponed talk on Sadeh Farm. Watch out for the report on Talia's talk in next month's *Highlight*.

The planned meeting dates for October - whether "Zoomed" or in person - are Wednesdays 14 and 28 October.

I look forward to seeing you all again.

Maureen Pearlstone

Do you have an Interesting Tale to Tell?

The Social Centre members are currently meeting on Zoom and would love to hear from you. Perhaps you have an unusual hobby to share, a holiday experience or an interesting ancestor. Can you spare about half an hour to tell us all about it? Covid has meant our members don't get out so much and would love this extra addition to their chats. We meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at

3pm on Zoom. **Please contact Barbara** at a.bkurtz@talktalk.net

THANK YOU DIANNE



Dianne Mathews is standing down as coordinator of the Social Centre

We have, until now, been privileged to enjoy the benefit of having Dianne successfully run the Social Centre, the club that meets fortnightly for older members of the Synagogue. Unfortunately, this will not be the case in the future as Dianne has decided it is time to retire from the task and will be handing over the position as soon as a replacement can be found.

Those who attended the club have experienced the wonderfully friendly atmosphere Dianne created, which was not to be missed - no matter what the weather. We all remember the very enjoyable lunches Dianne organised with her loyal helper cooks and assistants - we especially enjoyed her home-made bread. Tables were laid invitingly with fresh flowers creating a welcoming

In Our Community

Page Contact:
Bob Symonds:
comms@bromleyshul.org

atmosphere. Since the rise of the dreaded virus which has precluded physical meetings in the synagogue, Dianne has organised fortnightly Zoom meetings which the members have attended eagerly.

Dianne and her late husband Victor, together with their family, devoted their energies as founder members of the Synagogue, together with other families, by helping to acquire the BRS building and converting it into the synagogue we know today. She has also been a pivotal member of the Ladies Guild, supervising the kitchen with respect to Health and Safety regulations and preparing the kitchen for Passover.

The synagogue showed its appreciation of her devotion to its success by appointing Dianne Vice President in 2003, which she well deserved.

It is difficult to contemplate the

Social Centre without Dianne at the helm but we are assured that she will be content to become a regular attendee, so we will have the benefit of her good company and cheerful smile.

Thank you Dianne for making the Social Centre the welcoming and successful club that it is. We look forward eventually to a return to meeting in the Garden Room with you in our midst, until which time we shall be waving at and talking to each other on our screens.

Maureen Pearlstone

OUR SOCIAL CENTRE NEEDS YOU!

Now that Dianne has hung up her oven gloves and moved to the other side of the kitchen door to relax and chat with our members, we “helpers” are urgently seeking new recruits.

The Social Centre meets twice a month on the second and fourth Wednesdays, usually from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm. At the moment, meetings are held on Zoom but – as and when we return to the Garden Room – we will urgently need some “new blood” to help in the kitchen. We set up, devise menus, buy ingredients and together cook the tasty meals for which the Social Centre is renowned. We are a friendly bunch and have an enjoyable time – perfect for anyone looking to meet other members. You’ll soon feel at home. Please give us a try – why not join us on Zoom for a chat?

Contact Barbara at a.bkurtz@talktalk.net; we look forward to hearing from you

Personal Bereavements

We are very sad to report the death on Erev Rosh Hashanah of our member, **Madeleine Harmes**, and extend our sincere condolences to her son, David, and his family.

Sincere condolences to **Ian Burgess** and his family on the death of his mother, Jean Burgess, at the age of 93. Sincere condolences also to **Rabbi Kate Briggs** on the sad loss of her brother Charles.

May the names of Madeleine, Jean and Charles be for a blessing.



In Our Community

Page Contact:
Bob Symonds:
comms@bromleyshul.org

CARING COMMUNITY

Pauline writes:

Often in our thoughts are those known and dear to us who are ill, awaiting investigation, treatments or are recovering from hospital in-patient care. Shana Tova, wishing you all joy, happiness and good health for Tishri 5781.

UPDATES:

Bromley's Knitters, Natterers and Sewers - The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at King's College Hospital assure me that the need for cardigans, traffic light hats, two-sized blankets: 12"x12" and tea-towel size, teddies and our Noah's Ark of animals, pretty bags individually hung on each little one's incubator or cot continues, whether for Christmas or for a new little one admitted to the Unit. The need for expertly sewn Incubator covers continues too.

It is with sadness that I report that Pat, who lived in Yorkshire and was one of our prolific knitters of everything, passed away in September. I have written from our Knit and Natter Group to Pat's husband and two daughters, sending our deepest sympathy and condolences.

Tea Parties

Pauline writes: We are missing our Tea Parties and being able to be together. We trust our Tea Party-goers are well and ask them to contact us if they need to or would like just to chat. We will keep you informed on when we are able to reconvene.

Macmillan coffee morning *Our contributions bring vital help to those who need it*

By the time you have read HighLight or e-Light or have listened to Talking Highlight, our **Sue Bowyer** will have had her head shaved to support Macmillan; a wonderful effort towards what we hope will be a huge achievement by BRS. Mazal Tov, Sue.

It has been alarming to read that so many people, both those known to us and others, have had their cancer treatment postponed or not even started. With an estimated shortfall from overall Coffee Morning giving of £21,000, we at BRS are continuing to collect through Just Giving and by cheque. Please make cheques payable to Macmillan Cancer Support and

send to Highland Road or go to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/brscoffeemorning>

STRAWBERRY HOUSE CLINIC **BACK PAIN?**

We offer effective treatment for back and neck problems, sciatica, sports injuries and much more.

Andreas Jochim DO MSc
Charlotte Parker M.Ost
Ernesto De La Cruz
Valdes B.Ost

12 Station Approach Hayes
Bromley BR2 7EH

020 8650 0509

www.strawberryhouseclinic.co.uk

TAKEN BY SIMON^{CO}.UK COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

BAR/BAT
MITZVAH

FAMILY

BIRTHDAY

EVENTS

CELEBRATIONS



ALSO A
COMMERCIAL
DRONE PILOT

LAND
SURVEYING

PROPERTY
ROOF
INSPECTION

LARGE
PROPERTY
ESTATE
VIDEO
& PHOTO

SIMON@TAKENBYSIMON.CO.UK 07721-649901

"ENGAGING PHOTOGRAPHY. ENDLESS MEMORIES"

Books, Art, Music, Theatre and ...

Compiled by Judy Woolfe and Marilyn McKeever. Please send contributions to marilynjmckeeper@icloud.com

Sunrise, Not Sunset

BRS member Julie Binysh plays a role in "Sunrise, Not Sunset," which has been chosen for The Jewish Film Festival, a BAFTA-qualifying festival! Julie plays the daughter of elderly parents. The selectors said they found the film extremely powerful. It will be a digital festival with all the films available on the festival online platform from 5 to 19 November.

The film raises awareness about the Human Rights Act, which is under threat again, and will promote the work of Rene Cassin, the Jewish human rights charity for which the film was made.

MISCELLANY

The following are now open to visitors and have exhibitions which will be of interest to all of us. You need to pre-book timed entry tickets. Details on each website below.

The Weiner Holocaust Library; www.weinerlibrary.co.uk, has an exhibition called Jewish Resistance to the Holocaust until 30 November. It is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 11.00am -3.00pm

The British Library; www.bl.uk has a major exhibition called **Hebrew Manuscripts, Journeys of the Written Word**, until 11 April 2021. Cost £8 (some concessions)

The Victoria and Albert Museum; www.vam.ac.uk has a free display called **Concealed Histories: Uncovering the story of Nazi looting**

Jw3.org.uk, the Jewish cultural Centre, has some very interesting online courses starting in October. Some have a literary focus and others look at historical/topical themes.

Cont. at foot of opposite column

A Poem for Rosh Hashanah 5781

A wonderfully apt poem by cheder teacher Janvier Palmer

Twass the day before New Year and all through habayit,
Abba was asking for sheket (or quiet).
The yeladim needed to vacate the room,
So he could continue his meeting on Zoom.
Ima came home, placed her bags on the ground.
This week she'd bought challah, not braided but round!
Before getting on with some more Yom Tov plans,
Mum went to the sink so she could wash her hands.
We chopped up some apples for dipping in honey,
And picked out a cause for our tzedakah money.
But Rosh Hashanah would be different this year,
No trips to the shul to spread holiday cheer.
No shaking of hands, no "haven't you grown!",
No hugging from Savta, no "this year has just flown".
Our number one value - pikuach nefesh
Means High Holydays must be an online sesh!
We'll crowd around screens in each of our homes,
Our TVs, computers, our tablets, our phones.
We'll still have a service, though it'll be streamed.
We'll still pray and ask that we can be redeemed.
TEKIAH! TERUAH! TEKI' GDOLAH!
We'll still hear the blast from the rabbi's shofar!
So even though we're physically all apart,
The community's strong, we're in each of our hearts.
Pray next year we'll say "ain li Corona",
For now, l'culam we say "Shana Tova!"

Bromley Shul Book Group

Our lively book group meets once every two months and we only choose inexpensive readily available paperbacks, mostly novels, but sometimes non-fiction of Jewish interest.

The next (Zoom) meeting of our book group is on **Thursday 19 November at 8pm**. We will be discussing *The Golem* and *the Djinni* by Helene Wecker. It is described as a work of Historical Fiction with elements of fantasy, set in 19th Century New York. Do join us if you are interested, even if you haven't been before as we are a lively, friendly group. **Contact Judy Woolfe 07989091066 jwoolfe@ntlworld.com**.

You can also visit www.jmi.org.uk for music events, ukjewishfilm.org - lots of free short films and feature films to download at different prices - and www.jewishbookweek.com has an archive of on-line talks.

BRS AND BEYOND

Events involving organisations associated with but not part of the synagogue

Page editor:
Marilyn McKeever:
please send contributions to
marilynjmckeeper@icloud.com

Successful Summer Hype



Co-founder Emma Mittelman reports on successful summer activities for young people made possible by donations from BRS members and others

It gives me great pleasure to bring you some positive news. This year we were fortunate enough to be able to put on a small day-camp, based in a school in Hackney, which was amazingly successful!

We were able to open it up to all of our regular participants and even some new younger ones. During the week we did art sessions, sports sessions and “Big Chats”. The sessions were planned and run by our wonderful leadership team who also hosted our conversations/debates on various contentious topics such as fake news around COVID-19 and Black Lives Matter. Our participants were very passionate and really valued having an open and safe space to discuss some of the challenges they have been facing over the past six months - it was incredible to see the quality of conversation and how well everyone articulated themselves.

As the week continued, we handed over the reins (a bit) to the older participants who took charge leading their very own sessions. It was a joy to watch them improve and become more confident, taking on some constructive feedback along the way. This year we are hoping to start our formal leadership training with a view to having our older participants become junior leaders in two years' time, which they are very excited for.

Although this year's was not quite the camp we had planned, we were absolutely thrilled to be able to put something on for our young people. We cannot wait for next year and have our fingers crossed for a more “normal” Summer Hype camp. Thank you to all who help make this possible each year.

999 CLUB BACK IN ACTION

The 999 Club will be re-opening soon to help those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. We will ensure volunteers, staff, visitors and clients will be safe with social distancing, a limited number of people in the centre at one time, and regular cleaning.

If you would like to donate, here is the link to the donation page on the 999 Club's website:

<https://999club.org/make-a-donation/>

The Club is looking for volunteers in the following areas:

999 To answer the phone Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.

999 Helping the fundraising team

999 Helping with Social Media - creating and posting events on Social media platforms

999 Helping on reception in the Gateway Centre, Monday-Friday 9am-12pm, carrying out initial assessments, helping clients with form-filling and sign-posting people to other agencies.

999 Helping in the Gateway Day Centre, Monday-Friday, 8:45am-12:15pm, with breakfast, cleaning up after breakfast, helping with client laundry etc.

If you are interested, please email the Volunteer Coordinator, Zisca Burton: Zisca@999club.org or phone her: 07443 730011.

For news from Bromley Three Faiths Group, please turn to page 14.

High Holydays 5781 - Reflections and Thanks

At Pesach we ask “Why is this night different from all other nights?” In these first days of 5781 we might be asking “Why were our High Holydays different from all others?” There was the online format, then there was the phenomenal music and, last listed but first in importance, there was – is – our inspirational new rabbi. Rabbi Mati did have a great team. You got to meet the people on screen - our lovely leaders, readers, solo singers and brilliant shofar blowers, Lloyd and Josh.



But behind the scenes? Without Kieron there would be no streaming. He and his team (Dan and Janet Posner, Michelle Brooks Evans) were at every service, encouraging and advising. Without Judy and David Taylor and their friends, we’d have had no unaccompanied singing. Without Vicki and Olly Ashmore, our choir – extended by many from across the community – would not have had a voice. And what a voice Olly gave us! Sally Rosebery kept the singing traditional, John Posner enabled our scrolls to be with us. Our wardens, Jon, Tracy, Judi and John (and Stephanie herself – ed), made sure everyone “arrived” on time. My grateful thanks to all of them, to Rabbi Mati and to everyone in the congregation who made these services, as one Cheder parent put it, “by us, for us”. I cannot think of a more wonderful endorsement.

Stephanie Alberti, Senior Warden



Bromley Reform Synagogue Live Stream Rosh Hashana Morning Service - 19 September 2020

SERVICES October 2020 - Tishri/Cheshvan 5781

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/live>

Please do not come to Highland Road

Friday 2 October Saturday 3 October	Erev Sukkot, 15 Tishri Service via YouTube starting with candles at 7.00pm. Festival Morning Service for Sukkot, from 10.30am. A flipping book for the new Reform Machzor is available for these services; please check e-light for details. Page numbers will differ from our 'hard copies', but service leaders will do their best to keep you up to date! Leviticus 23: 39-44, Deuteronomy 28: 1-6 Haphtarah: 1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43
Friday 9 October Saturday 10 October	Erev Simchat Torah, 22 Tishri Candles, Kiddush and traditional readings from the end of Deuteronomy and beginning of Genesis. Join Rabbi Mati at 7.00pm via Friday evening Zoom link, above. Festival Morning Service for Simchat Torah, via YouTube from 10.30am. See the note above regarding the flipping book Machzor. Deuteronomy 34: 1 – 12, Genesis 1: 1 - 2:3 Haphtarah: Joshua 1: 1 -9
Friday 16 October Saturday 17 October	Shabbat Bereishit, 29 Tishri Candle Lighting, 7pm via Zoom, as above Morning Service 10.30am via YouTube, as above Genesis 4: 1-16; Haphtarah Zachariah 7:8 – 8:15 Blessing for Cheshvan
Friday 23 October Saturday 24 October	Shabbat Noach, 6 Cheshvan Candle Lighting, 7pm via Zoom, as above Morning Service 10.30am via YouTube, as above Genesis 11: 1-9; Haphtarah 1 Kings 12: 1 - 24
Friday 30 October Saturday 31 October	Shabbat Lech Lecha, 13 Cheshvan Candle Lighting, 7pm via Zoom, as above Morning Service 10.30am via YouTube, as above Genesis 17: 1-21; Haphtarah Isaiah 59: 1-22

DIARY

October/November 2020, Tishri/Cheshvan/Kislev 5781

October	
Thur 1	Hebrew 2 – 7.30pm
Fri 2	Erev Sukkot – 7.00 pm, Streamed
Sat 3	Sukkot Service - 10.30 am Streamed
Sun 4	HomeShul Cheder – 10.00 am
Mon 5	Hebrew 1 – 7.00pm
Tue 6	
Wed 7	Ulpan - 6.00pm
Thur 8	Hebrew 2 – 7.30pm
Fri 9	Erev Simchat Torah – 7.00pm, Zoom Candle Lighting and Festival Readings
Sat 10	Simchat Torah Festival Morning Service – 10.30am, Streamed
Sun 11	HomeShul Cheder – 10.00 am
Mon 12	Hebrew 1 – 7.00pm
Tue 13	
Wed 14	Social Centre – 3pm, Zoom; Ulpan - 6.00pm
Thur 15	Hebrew 2 – 7.30pm Study Session on Parasha – 7.30pm
Fri 16	Candle Lighting – 7pm
Sat 17	Shabbat Morning Service - 10.30am
Sun 18	HomeShul Cheder – 10.00 am
Mon 19	Hebrew 1 – 7.00pm
Tue 20	Study Session on Pirke Avot, 7.30pm
Wed 21	Ulpan - 6.00pm
Thur 22	Hebrew 2 – 7.30pm
Fri 23	Candle Lighting – 7pm
Sat 24	Shabbat Morning Service – 10.30am
Sun 25	HALF TERM – NO CHEDER
Mon 26	Hebrew 1 – 7.00pm
Tue 27	Broyges in Bromley study session with Rabbi Mati, 7.30pm
Wed 28	Social Centre – 3pm, Zoom; Ulpan - 6.00pm
Thur 29	Hebrew 2 – 7.30pm
Fri 30	Candle Lighting – 7pm
Sat 31	Shabbat Morning Service – 10.30am

November	
Sun 1	HALF TERM – NO CHEDER
Mon 2	Hebrew 1 – 7.00pm
Tue 3	
Wed 4	Ulpan - 6.00pm
Thur 5	Hebrew 2 – 7.30pm
Fri 6	Candle Lighting – 7pm
Sat 7	Shabbat Morning Service – 10.30am
Sun 8	
Mon 9	Hebrew 1 – 7.00pm
Tue 10	
Wed 11	Ulpan - 6.00pm
Thur 12	Hebrew 2 – 7.30pm
Fri 13	Candle Lighting – 7pm
Sat 14	Shabbat Morning Service – 10.30am
Sun 15	
Mon 16	Hebrew 1 – 7.00pm
Tue 17	
Wed 18	Ulpan - 6.00pm
Thur 19	Hebrew 2 – 7.30pm Book Club – 8.00pm
Fri 20	Candle Lighting – 7pm
Sat 21	Shabbat Morning Service – 10.30am
Sun 22	
Mon 23	Hebrew 1 – 7.00pm
Tue 24	
Wed 25	Ulpan - 6.00pm
Thur 26	
Fri 27	Candle Lighting – 7pm
Sat 28	Shabbat Morning Service – 10.30am
Sun 29	
Mon 30	

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.

Thank you to everyone who has submitted photos and articles in response to requests. If they have not yet been used, it means that we are saving them for the right occasion.

BROMLEY REFORM SYNAGOGUE 28 Highland Road, BR1 4AD : 020-8460 5460 : www.bromleyshul.org.uk

Office open 9.30 am to 12.30 pm Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Email: admin@bromleyshul.org.uk

Minister: Rabbi Mati Kirschenbaum (rabbi@bromleyshul.org.uk)

Chair: Michelle Brooks Evans (chair@bromleyshul.org.uk)

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY (in the event of a bereavement)

please contact Janet Posner (07841 373309) or Stephen Weil (07764 475209)

High Holydays Appeal 2020/5781

What is important in life? - Love, health, sustenance, a community. This year for our High Holiday Appeal the Board has chosen four charities trying to address this need. All need and deserve our financial support. Please give as generously as you can.

Bromley Reform Synagogue has a new Rabbi who we are glad and proud to say brings with him new ideas and enthusiasm. We want to ensure that we can take our community to the next level, be that through facilities, equipment or people. Everything we do is funded and managed by members of the community, where we treasure both Jewish tradition and Judaism's ability to evolve in the contemporary world. This is apparent in BRS's response to Covid-19 where we have risen to the challenge to improve our virtual presence and technology, during the HHDs you will be able to experience this and the innovative music that has been produced.

Twenty percent of Israel's population suffers some level of nutritional insecurity, while significant amounts of good food are destroyed by Israel's food industry each year. **Leket Israel** collaborates with over 1,000 food producers to save excess produce and distributes it to organisations such as homeless shelters, soup kitchens, elderly centres, battered women's centres, and schools for at-risk youth, benefiting approximately 175,000 Israelis in need every week, regardless of age, gender, religion, or ethnic background.

Jami's vision is for a Jewish community that accepts, acknowledges and understands mental illness and it is a lifeline to anyone in the UK Jewish community affected by poor mental health. With Covid-19 affecting so many of us mentally as well as physically, this help is more vital than ever. Jami is 99% voluntary funded and is therefore reliant on donations from the community and grant making organisations to deliver its vital services.

The Rainbow Trust supports families who have a child aged 0-18 years with a life-threatening or terminal illness and need support. Thousands of families struggle every day with the very real possibility that their child might die. The Rainbow Trust's lifeline extends to the whole family at home, in hospital and in the community. Any family can receive support from the moment of their child or young person's diagnosis.

A donation form was sent out in August but if you cannot find it just send donations direct to Bromley Reform Synagogue, Sort Code 40-15-05, Account no. 01862499.

"Even vows for charity are not desirable. If one has money, let him give it at once without a vow; and if not, let him wait until he has it."

Shulchan Aruch

Bromley Three Faiths Group

The Synagogue, as part of the Bromley Three Faiths group, continues to work with Lewisham Refugee Welcome (LRW) supporting Syrian and Iraqi refugee families in Lewisham. Most recently a team of sewers, co-ordinated by Julie Binysh, made over 150 masks for the refugee families. All of the materials were paid for by the Three Faiths Group and the sewers came from all our communities. LRW has continued to support all the families through the crisis, providing emotional, educational and material support. While volunteers haven't been able to visit families until recently, they have been running both one to one and group Zoom courses. As lockdown has eased, some volunteers have been able to visit families, and LRW is now also running a six-week English language support course, open to all the families. LRW continues to look for new volunteers, as both befrienders and language support providers - if you are interested please contact Howard Binysh (howard@binysh.co.uk) or visit the LRW website - www.lewishamrefugeewelcome.org

Birthright Israel booking now

Birthright Israel runs 10-day, free trips to Israel for young Jewish people between the ages of 18 and 32. Participants have the opportunity to explore the best beaches, trek the deserts, tour ancient sites, and enjoy Israel's delicious and varied cuisine. You will dive deep into local culture and make memories, and new friends, that will last a lifetime. Find out more at: <https://int.birthrightisrael.com>.