

## This Purim should we cheer and boo or is it time for something new?



*Remember “old normal”? This is how we became accustomed to celebrating Purim – fancy dress, a story, some music, acting or reading out the megillah, hamantaschen and drinks... So...*

### How is this Purim different from all other Purims?

Rabbi Mati anticipated the need to travel to Shushan virtually for this year’s celebration, and sent for the Gossip Scribe. Who? Turn to pages 3 and 9 for a bit of a clue, but you will have to join everyone on 25 February from 6pm to find out all the details. And all the gossip.

Talking of clues, the good news is that the **Family Quiz** held over from December has been rescheduled for **30 January**. There will be questions for all members of the family, young and old, and a prize for the winning household! “Household” can be any number from one upwards. Each Household is asked to donate £10, which will raise funds for our cheder. Once you have registered and made your donation, you will receive a link.

If you registered and paid your donation in December, there is no need to re-register. The information will be sent to you. However, if you still need to register please go to the Eventbrite site – see blue box to the right.

*Inside you will also find news from all your favourite regular Highlight correspondents and advice from our Chair about how to survive online.*

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### STOP PRESS

Come and join us for a Family-Friendly Service with Vicki and Rabbi Mati from 10.30am on Saturday 20 February

## DON'T MISS THE FAMILY QUIZ!

**30 January, 6pm on Zoom**

You must book in advance for the quiz; there is a suggested donation of £10.

If you booked for the original date, your booking will be held over and you will be contacted with joining information.

If you didn't, please go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bromley-shul-family-zoom-quiz-2021-tickets-136588121749>

# View from the Chair

## Lockdown lingo!

**Lockdown hasn't been easy for any of us – you could say it's been a bit of a 'coronacoaster'!**

**I would like to take the opportunity this month to introduce you to some BRS lockdown lingo.**

**'Coronacoaster'** – refers to the ups and downs of your mood during the pandemic. One minute, you love the fact that you can wear your pyjamas all day and don't have the daily commute to work; the next, you are suddenly weeping because of home-schooling and anxiety.

**'ShulTubers'** – the team behind our live streaming on YouTube every Shabbat. Although you see the Rabbi and others on screen, also there with the video turned off is one of the ShulTubers. Kieron Hyams, who has led the merry group since the services went online, coined this lingo.

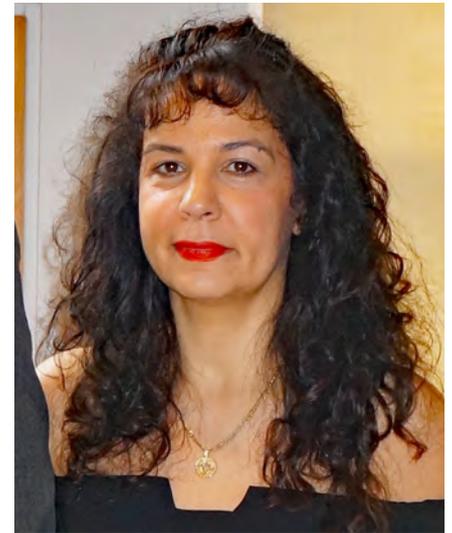
There are some in the group that find the technology and pressure of having the whole service at the tip of your finger easy to deal with. However, I, for one, have found it petrifying! I think this started when the streaming box in the shul failed and, just as we were about to start the streaming of Jake and Megan Frankel's b'nei mitzvah, nothing happened. The panic was paralysing, but thanks to a friend of the Frankel family in South Africa, we managed to get a Zoom meeting going. At the same time, it was recorded on an iPhone and later put on our YouTube channel.

Another ShulTuber incident I had recently was when Zoom failed to connect to YouTube on my laptop. This resulted me running around the house in a panic trying to find another laptop, with some rather fruity language being aired live! So I had to go back and edit the first few minutes from the beginning of the stream. If you look very carefully at the Boxing Day service, you will see Rabbi Mati and Marilyn trying very hard to stifle their amusement!

**'HomeShul'** – since our regular Cheder could no longer operate in the synagogue building, it was moved online to create Vicki's linguist term 'HomeShul' and our teachers, helpers and children have met every Sunday term-time morning via Zoom. This is no mean feat with all the classes in breakout rooms, then everyone being brought back together for assembly. HomeShul has proven to be a wonderful creation of learning, fun and mayhem.

**'The elephant in the Zoom'** – a glaring issue during a Zoom call that nobody feels able to mention. It could be a bad DIY haircut, a bombsite room in the background, questionable facial hair (yes, you know who you are!) or just taking the meeting wearing a towel as nothing fits anymore!

**'Zoomed'** – are we doomed or 'Zoomed' to hear over and over again these phrases while on a Zoom meeting or catch-up with friends? Come on, you must have said or heard them... "you're on mute", "can you see my screen?" "hello, are you there?", "can you hear me?"



**'Zoover'** – that time in the day or week that you have had enough of Zoom. You have been working on Zoom, you have been home-schooling online, you have been socialising on Zoom... you're just over Zoom; you're 'Zoover' it.

Lastly, my favourite piece of lockdown lingo that could apply to many of us is **'fattening the curve'**. It doesn't matter how many Joe Wicks workouts you do (or watch, in my case), it won't cancel out all the home-baking you have done and general comfort-eating and drinking, but who cares? We all know normal rules don't apply during lockdown!

Right, I am off to a Zoom meeting now with a piece of banana cake...

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

**Thinking of writing your memoirs?  
Or that novel you've imagined?  
A blog? 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**  
[abkyazze@yahoo.com](mailto:abkyazze@yahoo.com)



# Thoughts from the Rabbi

## PURIM CELEBRATIONS, THE 2021 WAY

Last time I led a service in a synagogue filled with people was during Purim in early March 2020. Back then, we exchanged elbow bumps and joked about those who'd started stockpiling toilet paper. I did not anticipate that our Jewish lives would go online the following week. Even if I had, I couldn't have imagined that I would be preparing for an online Purim celebration a year later. In fact, in our socially distant world, the way we used to celebrate Purim in years past seems like a distant memory. But I believe that this situation has two silver linings: first, it can teach us new ways of marking Purim. Second, it inspires us to get more creative to make this year's Purim at BRS a festival to remember.

### **Food, not fancy dress**

In Progressive communities, our Purim celebrations tend to revolve around the reading of Megillat Esther, followed by a boozy fancy-dress party. This means that we sometimes prioritise these important traditions over other Purim customs. Two Purim customs that we tend to overlook are *mishloach manot*, sending gifts consisting of food and beverages to family, friends and others, and *matanot la-eyyonim*, donating charity to the poor. Importantly, both these customs can be done in a socially distant way. In fact, even though *mishloach manot* can be delivered in person, sending gifts via an intermediary has been a well-established tradition since way before social distancing became a thing. Similarly, *matanot la-eyyonim*, can mean a donation to a charity of your choice.

In our socially distant world, I find the custom of *mishloach manot* a wonderful way of showing our family and friends that we care about them. It can be done very easily – simply arrange an online food delivery. That's what *mishloach manot* means in Hebrew – to send somebody a meal. So, what food can we send as a part of our *mishloach manot* package?

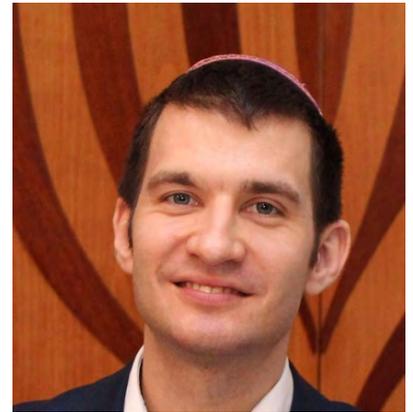
It is generally agreed that *mishloach manot* should contain ready-to-eat food and beverages. Popular options are wine, hamentaschen, other sweets, dried and fresh fruits. Having said that, *mishloach manot* is about sending your family and friends a physical reminder of your affection. So don't be afraid to be original and send your loved ones a packet of crisps that they really like, perhaps! Importantly, *mishloach manot* is not about spending a lot. Our sages understood that in difficult times money can be tight and they believed that even a package containing only two different types of food and beverages qualifies as *mishloach manot*, sending someone a meal. The important bit is that the delivery reaches our loved ones by the day of Purim.

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### **It means a lot**

**This Purim, we can't celebrate together, but we can lift others up by sending them food and some tipple. I added *mishloach manot* to the list of my online food deliveries and encourage you to do the same.**

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This Purim would be unforgettable no matter what we did. After all, it's not like we have ever celebrated Purim entirely online (and, hopefully, we won't have to do it again!). At BRS, we have looked for a way of celebrating Purim that will make us all feel like we are together – both in the shul at Highland Road and at the palace of King Ahasuerus.

### **The Gossip Scribe?**

This is why we asked a number of our members to travel to ancient Persia during lockdown! While they were there, they met the mysterious Gossip Scribe who gave them scrolls with regular updates on the developments in the Royal Palace. After they returned to the present-day lockdown era, they re-enacted the Purim story in their homes and sent their recordings to us. Miraculously, the Gossip Scribe also travelled to the present day! Who was the Gossip Scribe and what did they see, I hear you ask? And who travelled back in time to ancient Persia? If you want to find out the answers to these questions, join us on

**Thursday 25th February  
at 7pm on Zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84952258056>.

I very much look forward to joining you to celebrate.

**Rabbi Mati Kirschenbaum**

# HOMESHUL NEWS with Frankie Gruzd

## And Adult Education



## Shalom L'Kulam

This month we will be looking at the ancient Israelites' building of the Mishkan; it was the first thing the Israelites made in the wilderness. The Torah tells us that they all worked together and brought forward different contributions to make this possible. So, what can we learn about working together and what it takes to build a synagogue community? We'll be reflecting on the second chance G-d gave the Israelites after building the Golden Calf, and the *Aseret HaDibrot*, the 10 statements. Esther's story will be revealed this year by *The Gossip Scribe*, as the month ends with Purim (read more in the Rabbi's column!).

**Cheder Half-Term  
is on Sunday,  
14 February**

## Rabbi's study Sessions

**Wednesday, 3 February** –

Parashah study

**Tuesday, 9 February** –

Pirkei Avot continued

**Tuesday, 16 February** –

Broyges in Bromley

*All these begin at 7.30 pm at*

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

**and.... Shabbat 20 February,**

post-service study session  
starting at 12.30pm

*Barbara's note, right, arrived just too late for us to make a fuss of her this month. HighLight hopes to find an opportunity soon.*

## HomeShul reminders

1. **HomeShul will continue on Zoom from 10am until further notice.** You can log on 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 us to put you in your virtual classroom and then go make a cup of tea, ready to begin at 10am.
2. It would be especially helpful at this time if you **join us with your child/children's names and classes when logging on to Zoom.**
3. **Please stay within earshot of your child when they are learning.** We can teach your children remotely, but we can't make sure they behave!
4. **Helper development** will continue during HomeShul at 10am. Please make sure all Helpers sign in by 9.55am to make sure we start on time.
5. 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 is asking you for things you may need time to collect for craft. Your regular Friday email will also talk about the theme of the week and will always have the Zoom link to HomeShul, which is the same every week.

## NEW: PARENTS' DRINK & DROSH

I'll be staying online for 20 minutes after HomeShul so we can host a short weekly social for Parents. This is a chance for you to drop in and chat with other parents, and catch up with friends post Assembly. So, please feel free to grab a tea or coffee and join this drink & drosh. If you'd like to chat with me one-to-one or have any queries, please email me at [cheder@bromleyshul.org.uk](mailto:cheder@bromleyshul.org.uk). I'm also available (Tuesdays-Thursdays) on 07505 950795 during term time and holidays.

## 40 years at the top. Time for another challenge!

"I was first invited to join the Education Committee over 40 years ago and have served on it or the Board or both ever since. I have decided the time is right for me to step down from the committee. I would like to thank everyone who has supported me since I became Chair – too many to name. I know that education is in very good hands with Vicki Ashmore at the reins with very able and supportive fellow members.

Can I just ask BRS members to help by supporting them, attending zoom sessions etc. If you have suggestions, requests, offers of help for the committee or Rabbi Mati for talks etc, please get in touch via email at [education@bromleyshul.org.uk](mailto:education@bromleyshul.org.uk) **Thank you, Barbara Kurtz"**

*Barbara has not, of course, retired completely. Look out for her name attached to future information about Social Centre and other activities.*

# IN OUR COMMUNITY

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

## Social and Personal

**DEATH** - We are very sad to report the death of our member, **Gloria Goldberg**, wife of Ronnie and mother of Justin and Julia (Williams), to whom we extend our sincere condolences. May Gloria's name be for a blessing. An appreciation of Gloria's life, contributed by her family, appears on the page 7.

**BEREAVEMENT** - Sincere condolences to **Olly Ashmore**, husband of Vicki, and his family on the sad loss of his brother, Simon.

**MAZAL TOV** - Congratulations to **Miriam Wellbrook** on the birth of a great-granddaughter, **Annabelle**, on 18 October to Simon and Yulia Kale. Simon is the son of Miriam's daughter Deborah, and Stuart Kale.

## Caring Community

*Pauline writes:* I trust all is well for you and your family. It is a most challenging time for us all.

Many of us have had to remain within the confines of our homes for nearly a year now, missing friends and family, and just the freedom of being able to go out. Any length of time being alone is very hard. We assure you that we are thinking of you, whatever your challenge might be during this really difficult time. If you have family or friends who are ill, we wish them and you well.

If you would like to chat or need help in any way please contact the Caring Community via Pauline – details in the middle column.

**We are always pleased to hear from you.**

## Knitting, Sewing and Quilting Group:

The weather and the pandemic lockdown have resulted in many more knitters asking about what we do!

We continue to make the traffic light hats, cardigans, small and large blankets, and 4-inch squares (light colours). One member makes the most gorgeous toys - elephants, rabbits, dogs and wonderful teddy bears, to name but a few. Another member makes special sets for any little one who sadly dies to be dressed in, with a teddy bear for the little one and one for the parents.

Some of our members are helping other Special Care Baby Units at Princess Royal Hospital, Farnborough and Croydon University Hospital.

If you would like patterns I would be happy to post them to anyone wanting to help. We can usually provide double knitting baby wool but this is not possible at present.

We are next meeting via Zoom on: **Monday, 1 February**, from 10.30am on Zoom:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86544081595>.

**Happy sewing and knitting!**

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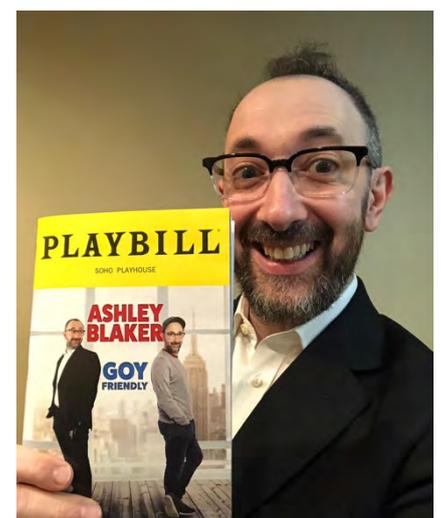
**Please do feel comfortable to contact me on [Pauline.Jeffree@btinternet.com](mailto:Pauline.Jeffree@btinternet.com) or 07745 740114 anytime.**

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## Tea Parties and Stand-up at Park Court

*Pauline writes:* It perhaps goes without saying that Tea Parties at Park Court are on hold at the present time. However, it would be lovely if we could continue to meet via Zoom. I appreciate that not everyone is comfortable meeting in this way but it is about the best we can achieve and it does mean we can see each other, have a chat and continue to keep in touch.

We are planning on getting together on **Monday, 8 February** from 3-4pm or thereabouts. We are going to have the Jewish comedian **Ashley Blaker's** (photo below) stand-up routine, which he recorded for a BRS special. Ashley's presentation lasts about 40 minutes. So please come with your cup of tea and piece of cake and sit back and enjoy!



The Zoom link will be sent out nearer the date. I am looking forward to being with you.

## Social Centre

Understandably, the main topic of conversation at our last two meetings of 2020 was Covid and, more particularly, the long-awaited vaccine. Who had received their first dose – who hadn't – and who had been sent away because of allergies. We spoke also of plans for the festive season which had to be cancelled when the new lockdown was announced, so we all needed something to take our minds off these problems.

### Exercising brains and limbs

On 23 December, we pitted our brains against one another to find the answers to a quiz set by Barbara and her grandson Joe. Congratulations to Judy Besser and Alona who came out top scorers with 17 points. No prizes for the winners, sadly – just the glory of coming first! We ended the meeting with exercises from Andreas.

### Klezmer Revisited

On 30 December we were joined by BRS Chair Michelle, who provided some more much-needed entertainment. When a Chanukah "party" was held for the older members before Gilbert Giggles amused the children, musical entertainment was provided. A glitch in the Zoom link meant many of us were not able to join the party, but Michelle had recorded the music and very kindly came along to play it to us. So it was that we all were able to listen to and very much enjoy our very own BRS Klezmer Band. **Joe Parks** was in charge of the arrangements and rehearsals and was joined by Lloyd Brooks-Evans, James and Aimee Ashmore and Sophie and Sarah Taylor. We clapped and sang along and had a thoroughly good time.

### Very Varied Music

Our first meeting of 2021 brought slightly better news about the vaccine and music was again on the menu when our old friend David Coronel came to play us songs old and new. Despite sound problems, members were able to enjoy a varied selection of music from Handel to Des O'Connor, via Pavarotti and Frank Sinatra, with lots of us joining in as usual. Tom was unable to be with us because of lockdown, but I have pencilled them in for November when we hope to be back in the Garden Room again. A big thank-you to David and to Tom for his input. Once again we were able to exercise with Andreas to conclude the meeting.

### Dates for February – Wednesdays, 10 and 24,

same time of 3pm, same place on Zoom, and exercises from Andreas.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83474313573>

### Coming Soon:

#### Artists and Composers with Bernie V

I'm delighted to announce that on 24 February, BRS and Social Centre member **Bernie Victor** will be giving us a talk and presentation on "Women Impressionist Artists", with promises of further talks on "Great American Song Book Composers", an encore of talks previously given to us.

All are welcome to attend our meetings, and any offers of talks or entertainment of any kind will be gratefully received.

Barbara Kurtz

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## GLORIA'S LIFE JOURNEY

By her husband and children, Ronnie Goldberg, Justin Goldberg and Julia Williams, as spoken by Justin at the funeral of Gloria Goldberg on 7 January.



Gloria photographed at daughter Julia's wedding in 2004

They say that life is a journey and mum went on so many separate journeys through her life.

## From the East End to Petra, via Mousehole

From the little girl born and raised in the heart of the East End of London, with an outside toilet, (other than in the war years, when she was evacuated to Mousehole, Cornwall – being looked after by a lovely lady called Mrs Bolitho, whom we got to visit with mum in later life), who, certainly unbeknown to me and Julia, used to have riding lessons and trained to be a secretary, to the elegant, glamorous and loving mother that Julia and I knew and loved, who had travelled south of the river (to those from North London, a long journey in itself) and made the London Borough of Bromley her home for almost 60 years; who wouldn't let us buy any house with fewer than at least one more bathroom than occupants; and who used to ride horses, as Julia and I only learnt (to our great surprise, since it definitely did not align with the person we knew) when dad complained that she was much more comfortable than him during their ride down into Petra!

That was one of the other amazing journeys and adventures that mum and dad enjoyed together through their more than 57 years of marriage. They loved travelling and were never scared of a challenge - exploring India and China as well as large parts of America, Canada, Europe and Australia – oh, and North Wales in our Renault 4 in the pouring

rain, with a roof that only protected me and Julia in the back seat. And mum never forgot their travels, often reminding dad of how happy he had made the taxi driver on their honeymoon when he tipped by a factor of ten times more than he should have! Mind you, dad also reminded mum of one of their early dates, when she got locked in her office and almost stood him up. I am glad he forgave her and they managed to get lost and trapped in many places together after that.

Their memories were aided by the figurines and models of elephants they collected from everywhere they visited, along with their art. Mum loved exploring galleries and going to the theatre with dad – almost as much as she loved shopping with her sister, Frances! They had a weekly trip "into Town" for many, many years. She was such a regular in the M&S stores in Bromley and Marble Arch that the staff could tell you if mum was in the store! And dad became her personal shopper way before anyone else had identified this niche in the market. He should never have had offices in central London across from John Lewis, a large M&S and Selfridges!

When not shopping or on the telephone (even though mum and Auntie Frances saw each other regularly, they could still find plenty to discuss on the 'phone almost daily, for hours), mum was involved behind the scenes at the shul with the Ladies Guild. We have fond memories of events and lunches at the shul and appreciate the many kind messages we have received from the community.

## Pavlovas and Chips

Meals, particularly during the festive period, were often a journey too – with mum and Auntie Frances vying each year when we met up over who could provide more food and courses. The pavlovas and meals continuing until 11pm (broken up only by hard-fought games of cards, Monopoly and Trivial Pursuit) were legendary! However, dad also worried whenever mum took out the old deep fat fryer - ever since she burnt out the kitchen while making chips, since it could herald another journey: the regular design and redesign and redecoration of the house. Mum had an amazing eye for

style and for detail. As dad recalled, she was more than a match for any builder or decorator delivering anything less than perfection.

And yet, through all these different journeys, some things remained constant – her love of family and friends, with friends, like Iris, being friends for a lifetime, literally; her warmth and generosity of spirit; her desire to let no one leave the house thirsty or hungry; her Jewish roots and commitment to supporting the Jewish community; and her determination and sometimes fiery nature – which allowed her to face and deal with the challenges that accompanied her on her various journeys through life, such as her MS, which she never let define or defeat her.

Despite living south of the river away from the rest of the family, including her sister Frances and brothers David and Michael, there were so many times when the family gathered together, from birthday parties when we were small to b'nei mitzvah and weddings as time progressed, to more recent visits by Michael and Frances once mum became an early advocate for the "stay at home" message.

## Dangerous Bridge

Her spirit also made for some exciting moments when mum and dad were playing bridge if dad made a mistake. I quickly realised that playing bridge with your marriage partner was a brave thing to do! She so inspired and encouraged me and Julia to succeed and be the best that we could be. She embraced Geraldine and Simon (our respective partners) and loved her time as a grandmother – actively engaging with all her grandchildren, taking them to see musicals such as 'Cats', that so delighted me and Julia when she and dad took us originally.

While her final years robbed her and us of this vivacity, fun and keen intellect, it is these memories that will be the ones we all remember, cherish and celebrate and why she was, and will continue to be, loved by us all. Missed very much, but never to be forgotten.

*Gloria Goldberg; 7 February 1938 to 5 January 2021*

## New Member Profile: Bethany McDonald Shepherd and the Shepherd Family



### Bethany and Edith

Bethany has joined Bromley Reform Synagogue with her husband Tristan and her five-year-old daughter Edith, who is a member of the Cheder. Tristan, who is a filmmaker, supplied the photograph.

Bethany grew up in Connecticut, New England, USA. She grew up in an interfaith family; her mother is Jewish and her father Catholic. She had both a Jewish and a Catholic education, although she tells me her Hebrew would be better if the classes had not clashed!

Graduating with a BA in Theatre from the University of Vermont in 1997, she has been making theatre and working in the arts ever since. In 2005 she moved to the UK to take the LAMDA Director's course. At LAMDA she met her husband Tristan and her plans to return to the US were shelved.

Bethany went on to do a Masters in Arts Policy & Management at Birkbeck College and currently works as Head of Social & Charitable Innovation at LAMDA, spearheading projects in the areas of Knowledge Exchange, Access & Widening Participation, and Enterprise.

Bethany also undertook study in the subject of Arts in Prisons at Goldsmiths College and from 2013 – 2015 she was an associate at Clean Break, a theatre company dedicated to women affected by criminal justice. At Clean Break, Bethany met her creative partner Laura and together they founded Blank Cheque ([blankcheque.org](http://blankcheque.org)) which uses drama-based activities in working with underrepresented and marginalised groups to develop life skills, be creative, and connect with communities. Blank Cheque is currently developing a playwriting project, particularly to support women during lockdown.

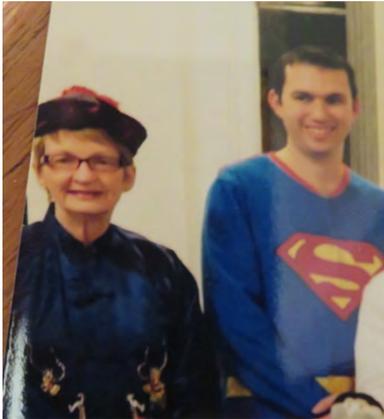
It is very important to Bethany and Tristan that their daughter Edith grows up with compassion for those who are oppressed and a sense of her own history in this regard. This was a big part of Bethany joining Bromley Reform Synagogue. Edith's Hebrew name is Shoshana Ydit, named after her great-grandfather Samuel Bloom (Hebrew name Shmuel). Shoshana Ydit means 'The Best Rose' which is significant because during the rise of the Nazi Party, when members of the student resistance movement were brutally and publicly executed by guillotine in Munich in 1942, survivors used the white rose as their symbol of resistance to evil. Therefore Shoshana Ydit, The Best Rose, represents compassion and resilience, values that the Shepherd family bring to their practice and understanding of Judaism.

### “Thank you” from Leket

#### Join us on February 10 to learn more about its work

Leket, which helps the needy in Israel, was one of our Kol Nidre charities last year. Clare Gilboa, its UK Resource Developer, has written to thank us for our support and offered to talk to BRS members about how our donation is being put to good use. She'll join us at 3pm on **Wednesday, 10 February** on the usual Social Centre zoom link. Clare explains, “We have many demands on groups who are helping to feed the ever-increasing number of hungry families during this pandemic.” Although it's the Social Centre link, EVERYONE is welcome to attend and hear about the current situation, using <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83474313573>.

# SERVICES



More photos from Purim in years gone by: Our retiring Education Committee head, Barbara, top, with a bashful-looking Superman, and bottom as one of the Fab Four. Centre, Sue and Hayley from cheder with a melting snowman and right, former BRS minister, Rabbi Jason Holtz, as Haman, engaging in a bit of rabble rousing.



## Services February 2021 / Shevat-Adar 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/videos>  
Please do not come to Highland Road

Friday February 5 Saturday February 6	<b>Shabbat Yitro</b> – 23 Shevat Exodus 20: 1-18; Isaiah 6: 1-13 Led by Rabbi Mati with Tracy and Marilyn Blessing for Adar
Friday February 12 Saturday February 13	<b>Shabbat Shekalim (Mishpatim)</b> – 1 Adar Shabbat Rosh Chodesh Exodus 24: 1-18, 2 Kings 12: 1-17; Genesis 1: 14-19; Exodus 30: 11-16 Led by Rabbi Mati, with John P, Matthew, Joanna B and Judi
Friday February 19 Saturday February 20	<b>Shabbat Zachor</b> – 8 Adar <b>Family Friendly Service with Vicki and Rabbi Mati</b> Exodus 27: 1-19; Deut 25: 17-19; 1 Samuel 30: 1 -18. (readings will be abbreviated) Followed by study session at 12.30pm
Thursday February 25 Friday February 26	<b>PURIM</b> Led by Rabbi Mati via Zoom, <b>7pm Thursday. Join Zoom Meeting at</b> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84952258056">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84952258056</a> Meeting ID: 849 5225 8056
Friday February 26 Saturday February 27	<b>Shabbat Tetzaveh</b> – 15 Adar Exodus 29: 38 - 30:10; Ezekiel 43: 10 - 27 Led by Rabbi Mati, with David Z, Judi and Sally. <i>Readings and leaders are correct at time of compilation</i>

# Literature, Music, Medicine and More

Page Editor: Marilyn McKeever, [marilynmckeever@icloud.com](mailto:marilynmckeever@icloud.com)

## Are you passionately curious?

Leo Baeck College's *Lehrhaus* programme for Spring 2021 comprises an incredibly varied series of courses on everything from Greek to Witchcraft. Tutors include our own Frankie Gruzd. Find out more at [lehrhaus@lbc.ac.uk](mailto:lehrhaus@lbc.ac.uk) Or go to...

**SOAS Centre for Jewish Studies**, which is presenting virtual one-hour events, including, on 10 February at 6pm, a lecture on **18th Century Jewish Physicians of the Ottoman Period** by Raphael Mordechai Malki and Tobias Cohen. Full details of this and other talks (including, in May, **"Vaccination and Rabbinic Literature in the Pre-Modern(a) Era"**) at [www.soas.ac.uk/jewish-studies](http://www.soas.ac.uk/jewish-studies) (tickets from Eventbrite).

Or how about supporting Nightingale and hearing some wonderful music on **JMI's World Tour** - to be broadcast online on **Thursday 11 February at 7.30pm**? All-Star line-up includes Lord Grade, Dame Maureen Lipman, Sir Simon Schama and Suzy Klein, as well as **Steven Isserlis, Nicola Benedetti, Henry Goodman** and other stunning international guests. **20% of all net funds raised** will go to Nightingale Hammerson to help develop vital new music programmes for residents. Go to [www.jmi.org.uk](http://www.jmi.org.uk) to book

### Insiders Outsiders in February

Insiders Outsiders Festival group has organised many talks, including: 10 February. 6.30-7.30pm: **Hungarian Composer Matyas Seibor and** 15 February, 6pm London-based artist Sophie Herxheimer on **"Poems in my Grandmothers Inklisch"** about her German Jewish Grandmother. Full details of these and others at [www.insidersoutsidersfestival.org/events](http://www.insidersoutsidersfestival.org/events)

### Jewish Book Week events [www.jewishbookweek.com](http://www.jewishbookweek.com)

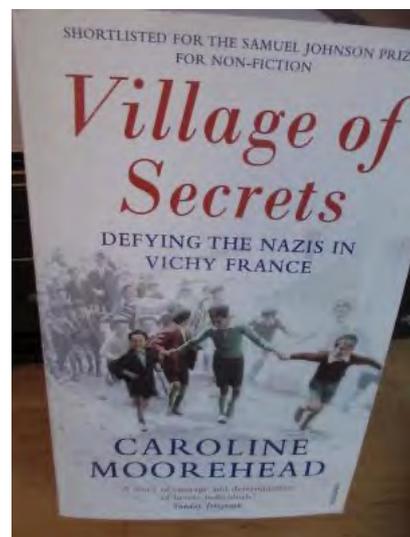
1 February, 7 pm Barbara Amiel will talk about her book **'Friends and Enemies'**

8 February, 7 pm Film director Oliver Stone will talk about his book entitled **'Chasing the Light' and...**

15 February, a talk about Karl Marx with an emphasis on his Jewishness - presented by Shlomo Avineri

### After sitting in lectures and concerts, get outdoors

Sadeh farm reports that it welcomed three new hens into the coop in January! Two are already named and sponsored, Leonard Co-Hen and Fraulein Marzipan. To name the third, contact [sadehfarm.co.uk](http://sadehfarm.co.uk). They are also egg-cited to invite you to apply to join the spring's first Sadeh Farm Fellowship, starting on 22 February (Covid guidelines pending). It's a three-month immersive and residential programme where you can re-imagine how we can live together, work together, rest together and produce beautiful vegetables and flourishing biodiversity. For the application, costs and more information check out <https://sadehfarm.co.uk/volunteering>.



## Book Club

The Shul book club meets every other month, which means there is plenty of time to buy a book and read it without too much pressure. Our next book is

**Village of Secrets: Defying the Nazis in Vichy France** by Caroline Moorehead – described by The Sunday Telegraph as *'A story of courage and determination, of heroic individuals.'*

We will meet on

**Thursday 11 March** at 8pm

by Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/169700693>



## CALENDAR February-March 2021, Shevat-Adar-Nisan 5781

*Please note that all services, meetings and events are taking place online until further notice.*

*Contact details may be found on the on the relevant pages and in each weekly e-Light.*

FEBRUARY	
Mon 1	Knit, Natter and Stitching, 10.30am Hebrew from Scratch, 6.15pm Hebrew 1, 6.30-7.30pm
Tue 2	
Wed 3	Teachers' Ulpan, 6-7pm Study Session with Rabbi, 7.30pm
Thur 4	Hebrew 2, 7.30pm
Fri 5	Shabbat Candle-Lighting, 7pm
Sat 6	Shabbat morning service, 10.30am
Sun 7	HomeShul Cheder, 10am
Mon 8	Caring Community Tea, 3.00pm Hebrew from Scratch, 6.15pm Hebrew 1, 6.30-7.30pm
Tue 9	Study Session with Rabbi, 7.30pm
Wed 10	Social Centre, 3pm Teachers' Ulpan, 6-7pm
Thur 11	Hebrew 2, 7.30pm
Fri 12	Shabbat Candle-Lighting, 7pm
Sat 13	Shabbat morning service, 10.30am
Sun 14	Half term
Mon 15	Hebrew from Scratch, 6.15pm Hebrew 1, 6.30-7.30pm
Tue 16	Study Session with Rabbi, 7.30pm
Wed 17	Teachers' Ulpan, 6-7pm Fancy Seeing You Here, 8.00pm
Thur 18	Hebrew 2, 7.30pm
Fri 19	Shabbat Candle-Lighting, 7pm
Sat 20	<b>Family-friendly service</b> (and shortened) with Rabbi Mati and Vicki, 10.30am Study Session with Rabbi Mati, 12.30 pm
Sun 21	HomeShul Cheder, 10am
Mon 22	Hebrew from Scratch, 6.15pm
Tue 23	
Wed 24	Social Centre, 3pm
Thur 25	Hebrew 2, 7.30pm <b>Purim event, 7pm by Zoom, see page 4.</b>
Fri 26	Shabbat Candle-Lighting, 7pm
Sat 27	Shabbat morning service, 10.30am
Sun 28	HomeShul Cheder, 10am

MARCH	
Mon 1	
Tue 2	
Wed 3	
Thur 4	Hebrew 2, 7.30-8.30pm
Fri 5	Shabbat Candle-Lighting, 7pm
Sat 6	Shabbat morning service, 10.30am
Sun 7	HomeShul Cheder, 10am
Mon 8	
Tue 9	
Wed 10	Social Centre, 3pm
Thur 11	Hebrew 2, 7.30-8.30pm Book Club, 8.00pm
Fri 12	Shabbat Candle-Lighting, 7pm
Sat 13	Shabbat morning service, 10.30am
Sun 14	
Mon 15	
Tue 16	
Wed 17	
Thur 18	
Fri 19	Shabbat Candle-Lighting, 7pm
Sat 20	Shabbat morning service, 10.30am
Sun 21	
Mon 22	Hebrew 1, 6.30-7.30pm
Tue 23	<b>AGM 8.00pm</b>
Wed 24	Social Centre, 3pm
Thur 25	
Fri 26	Shabbat Candle-Lighting, 7pm
Sat 27	Shabbat morning service, 10.30am
Sun 28	Clocks go forward
Mon 29	
Tue 30	
Wed 31	

**BROMLEY REFORM SYNAGOGUE 28 Highland Road, BR1 4AD : 020-8460 5460 : [www.bromleyshul.org.uk](http://www.bromleyshul.org.uk)**

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

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

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

Vice Presidents:

Hadassah Britz, Ronnie Goldberg, Dianne Mathews, Sally Rosebery, Bob Symonds, David Zerihan.

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

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

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## Your HighLight, e-Light and comms team

**Judi Sheffrin:** creates the front, back, diary and services pages while co-ordinating everyone else's, as well jointly editing e-Light with Jo.

**Bob Symonds:** responsible for the Community pages, still the heart of every HighLight.

**Danielle Woodward:** our former Cheder head is now making sure that the Chair and Rabbi have their pages ready every month.

**Amelia Kyazze:** a writer and a Cheder parent, looks after our Education and Cheder pages.

**Marilyn McKeever:** in charge of the "Beyond BRS" and Books pages, with **Judy Woolfe** providing much of the material.

**Eileen Fry:** has bravely offered to interview members for our Profiles. If there's someone you'd like to see featured, please *let us know*.

**Joanna Biggin:** having hugely improved e-Light, Jo now proofreads everything before it goes to *almost* the final stage,

**Kieron Hyams:** webmaster and now Zoom-master extraordinaire, creates the link so you can access your own Highlight every month.

We are deeply grateful to our Chair, Rabbi, Cheder and Education people who supply so much information every month, but we welcome **NEW CONTRIBUTORS**. If you would like to submit or suggest an item, please email any or all of us at: [comms@bromleyshul.org.uk](mailto:comms@bromleyshul.org.uk)

## Hamantaschen – Haman's ears or pockets, depending where you are from

Ingredients

Serves: 24

- 3 eggs
- 200g (7 oz) caster sugar
- 175ml (6 fl oz) vegetable oil
- 2 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 110ml (4 fl oz) orange juice
- 675g (1 1/2 lb) plain flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 300g (11oz) jam, any flavour, chocolate spread, lemon curd etc. to taste.

Prep: 30min Cook: 12min

Ready in: 42min

1. Preheat oven to 180 C / Gas mark 4. Grease baking trays.
2. In a large bowl, beat the eggs and sugar until light and fluffy. Stir in the oil, vanilla and orange juice.
3. Combine the flour and baking powder; stir into the egg mixture to form a stiff dough. If dough is not stiff enough to roll out, stir in more flour. On a lightly floured work surface, roll dough out to .5cm (1/4 in) in thickness. Cut into circles using a pastry cutter or the rim of a drinking glass. Place circles 5cm (2 in) apart onto the prepared baking trays.
4. Spoon about 1 dessertspoon of jam or other filling into the centre of each circle. Pinch the edges to form three corners.

5. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes in the preheated oven, or until lightly browned. Allow biscuits to cool for 1 minute on the baking tray before removing to wire racks to cool completely.

### Tips:

Most years in the past we have had a bake-in at cheder and we have always found that we need more than a dusting of flour for the work surface. Keep plenty to hand!

There is also a debate about whether it's best to chill the dough overnight or use it fresh. Chilled is far easier!

The filling really is up to you. Poppy seeds used to be favourite but they don't half get in your teeth.

The hamantaschen in the photo were made at BRS Cheder three years ago.