

HIGHLight

Bromley Reform Synagogue newsletter



Drawing the raffle at the Chanukah Fair. Many prizes were on offer from the raffle at the Fair on Sunday, 3 December. Here Tracy reads the name on a winning ticket while Shane and Michelle look on with great interest.

Happy family at the party



Jodi and Rabbi Jason Holtz with baby Asher were among the many happy guests at Chanukah party on 17 December.

Turn to page 3 of this Highlight for an important announcement by the Rabbi.

January 2018 – Tevet/Shevat 5778

Dr George Stein

Our favourite psychiatrist is back with another of his analytical forays into the Bible

Abimelech, Samson, Saul, Achitophel, Zimri

What do these biblical characters have in common? You can find out when you come to hear George talk on

“Suicide, Suicidal Thoughts and Self Harm in Ancient Israel”

Sunday, 28 January, 2018

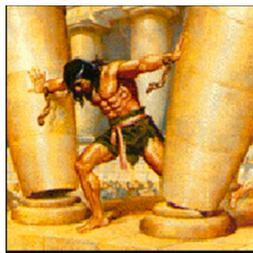
Refreshments, 3.30 pm. Talk 4 pm

In the Garden Room

Further information from **Barbara Kurtz** through the synagogue (020 8460 5460)



David plays to Saul



Samson brings down the Philistine temple

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“Dear Friends” A message from the Rabbi

Dear Friends,

Jodi, Asher and I will be moving to the United States in June. Asher is a year old this month, and we have decided that it is best to be close to family as he grows up.



Bromley Reform Synagogue has been a wonderful home for us for nearly five years now, and we will greatly miss our community.

Five years ago, BRS took a chance on me, knowing that I had relatively little experience at the time and had never even been to the United Kingdom before applying for the position. I’m glad that the synagogue gave me that chance, because our time here will always be treasured.

We are still here for another several months though, and I plan to be fully engaged in synagogue life up until the end. I don’t want to give my long goodbye now. There will be time for that later. In the meantime, I hope to see everyone at Shabbat services and any or all of our great programmes.

L’shalom, to peace,

Rabbi Jason Holtz

I Behold Ancient Graves



I behold graves of ancient time, of days long past,
Wherein a people sleeps the eternal sleep.
There is no enmity among these folk—no envy;
No loving of neighbor and no hating;
And my thought, envisioning them, cannot discern
Master from slave!
Inscription on the back wall of this memorial wall in Toledo translated from the Hebrew of Moses Ibn Ezra by Solomon Solis-Cohen

A great blow to all of us - View from the Chair

You will know by now that *Rabbi Jason Holtz* will be leaving us at the end of May to return to the USA with Jodi and Asher, where they will be close to family. Jason has accepted a position as Rabbi of a Reform congregation of similar size to our own in Atlanta. While it goes without saying that we want Jason and his family to be content in their lives, their departure will be a great blow to all of us at Bromley. Since his arrival some four-and-a-half years ago, we have all gained so much from Rabbi Jason. He has brought profound learning to all his teaching of adults and children and his sermons have been thought-provoking and full of wisdom. In his pastoral care, he has shown immediate and personal responses to people’s differing needs. To the Synagogue Board and the committees such as Education, Ritual and Caring Community, he has been completely supportive, always adding value and advice as well as contributing directly to their activities. He has brought in new members and been a force for change when appropriate. His contributions on the website and his use of digital media have contributed much to all of us. Even his Purim spiels were.... hmm, how shall I say, full of drama! Above all, Jason is a mensch. He cares about people, is thoughtful and kind and is a pleasure to work with.

Well, as he has been eager to point out, he will be continuing to work full time as usual for the next 5 months so we will continue to benefit from all that he brings. Most importantly, we will continue to enjoy Jodi and Asher during that time. Looking to the longer term, we will start the process of looking for a new rabbi. It would be nice to think we might have Rabbi Jason’s replacement in time for the High Holydays but that might not be possible, in which case we shall endeavour to have a visiting student rabbi fill the gap. Whatever the future holds, we can be confident that BRS will continue to thrive. Our lay leadership is strong with a large number of dedicated and able members who support the synagogue in a multitude of ways. At our AGM in March, there will be changes, with some posts being taken over by individuals who already have a track record of getting things done

and realising new ideas. That doesn’t mean that those of us relinquishing positions will be putting our feet up but change is to be welcomed; it is the life blood of the community.



So now is the time for you to consider how you can contribute more to BRS. Would you like to join or rejoin the Board in March? Perhaps you would be keen to take some lessons to become a lay reader or maybe learn to be a warden? Is there something you can do to support the Caring Community? Maybe you can do some teaching or serve as a helper in Cheder or Gan? Have you thought about joining the Education Committee and helping to organise some interesting talks. With our plans to introduce streaming of education sessions and eventually services, maybe you have some IT skills that could help make this happen? And it’s not all about doing things for the shul, it’s also for yourself. For those who missed out on Bar or Bat Mitzvah, it’s never too late and everyone is welcome in adult study – there’s plenty going on. Despite or perhaps because of the challenges ahead, let’s make 2018 a great year for all of us at BRS.

John Posner, Chairman

Volunteers Wanted Video Camera Operator

Our synagogue will soon start live streaming adult education courses. We are looking for volunteers who can help to operate the camera and audio equipment. Absolutely no prior knowledge or experience is necessary. We will learn together!

If you are interested, or want more information, please contact *Rabbi Holtz* through the synagogue (020 8460 5460).

Cheder News

Happy New Year!

Before I begin with our regular Cheder News, I'd like to start with this:

Our first day back to Cheder will be on Sunday, 7 January, 2018. Please make sure your children come to Cheder as regularly as possible. Missing lessons not only disrupts what their teachers have planned but it also makes it difficult for your children to bond with their classmates. If they don't bond, they may not want to come. Cheder is about so much more than just a Jewish education. It's about creating a Jewish community and this can't work unless we parents create it together. So let's encourage those bonds that could keep our kids happy and our community growing and hopefully ensure that our children make friendships that last a lifetime.

1) On **Sunday, 3 December** the Gan and Kittah Aleph delighted us with their Chanukah Play, **8 Little Candles!** We had human candles (large and small) and little human dreidels spinning all over the bimah. Well done to Heidi, Sue and all of the Gan Parents for putting on such an adorable play for us.

2) Our **7th annual Chanukah Party** was very well attended and a great success. A **huge** thank you is in order for Michelle, Amanda, Katia, Sune and Harriet who basically made sure all of us were fed properly, along with Hayley for running our Youth Club party. There were literally loads of people involved in making the evening run smoothly, without whom it simply could not and would not have happened. **THANK YOU!!!**

3) In the next issue of Highlight I shall have the figure of how much your children raised for **Jewish Child's Day**. This charity supports both Jewish and non-Jewish children suffering neglect, abuse or other hardship in the UK. Next term, Kittah Chet have decided to support BLISS, a charity which supports ill and premature babies. Please keep sending in those spare pennies so that we can teach our children the importance giving Tzedakah (charity) as it says in the Talmud: "Tzedakah is equal to all the other commandments combined".

4) Keep an eye out for news from **Sadeh**, our local Jewish farm. They

are thinking of running a **Jewish Day Camp** this summer, so if ever you were interested in your children attending an outdoor Jewish camp this could be for you!

- 5) Our next **Youth Club** is scheduled for **14 January**, but I'm afraid it's officially being listed as an endangered species! If our children aged 12+ do not come to Youth Club we will be closing it down. Hayley is willing to organise trips and events for the Youth Club, but she'll need the numbers. So let's get those kids to Youth Club!
- 6) Please check the **Security Rota** on this page to see if we are expecting you to show up for security. If you realise you cannot attend on the day you've been allocated, please contact **Graham Harris: grahamh4@aol.com**

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

Vicki, Cheder Head Teacher

Cheder Security Rota Purim Term, 2018

<i>Sundays</i>	<i>Names</i>
7 January	Gary Brown
14 January	Aaron Shulman
21 January	Elisabeth/Nigel Megitt
28 January	Flora Spiegel/ Anthony Miller
4 February	Joe Millis/ Roseanne Posner
11 February	Michelle/Stuart Morgan
Half Term Sunday, 18 February	
25 February	Kim Osborne
4 March	Katia/Tenzin/ Nyibum Pisetzky
11 March	Dan Posner
18 March	Polina Revzina



Aimee, Esther and Vicki make festive music at the Chanukah Party

Social Centre News

The Social Centre regularly meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month and welcomes our senior members and friends of the synagogue. We try to make the day as enjoyable as possible and hopefully we do succeed. As a volunteer, I always look forward to coming along and seeing everyone having a good time. Numbers have unfortunately dwindled during the year so – come on, where are you seniors? Come and meet up with old and new friends.

The past couple of sessions we've seen the Garden Room turn into a bit of a 'casino'. People are playing all sorts of games, plus the new addition of Kalooki. This is a card game I know nothing about as my parents didn't play it, but I gather it's very popular. **Miriam** has been in charge and encourages new card players to join in. Perhaps I will when I finish with the volunteering bit!

A big thank you to **Andreas** who gives up his valuable time and regularly comes along encouraging members in gentle exercises. This always looks good when viewed from the kitchen. Must be making you all so supple like Debbie McGee!

The biggest thank you of the year must go to **Dianne**. She has more energy and go in her than the rest of us. She won't mind if I say she is a lady of a certain age. Her dedication to the cause is incredible. Also thanks to the many regular volunteers who come along and give of their time. (Actually, we enjoy it as much as the members).

Lots to look forward to in 2018. **Trudi** is cooking up a programme for us. Watch this space!

Jean Garelick

Dianne would like to add her thanks to all the helpers and participants without whose presence the Social Centre could not function.

The Quiz on 13 December was naturally on the subject of Chanukah and was won by Miriam and Joy, who scored 11 out of 15.

January dates

Wednesdays 10 and 24 January, from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm. No speakers have been booked, but there will be exercises, cards and socialising, plus the usual delicious lunch.

Meeting the Ten-in-Ten challenge by Debra Bourne



Debra (left) braves the storm to display her trophies, shown in detail with her T-shirt on the right

Reaching 50 years of age recently, I decided to celebrate that and raise money for Mission Rabies (because dog-mediated rabies **can** be eliminated if we try), by running a 10-marathons-in-10 days challenge in East Kent. It was way more than I had run before and I didn't know whether my legs would cope. The reality far exceeded my expectations. The organisers and volunteers were always encouraging and cheerful. The support from the other runners was amazing. Out-and-back sections on every course gave plenty of chances to greet runners as they passed in the opposite direction: wave, smile and be invigorated by the smile you got back. So many people telling each other 'well done' and 'looking good' and 'you're amazing'. Several of the routes provided stunning views: endless vistas of the sea and seaside cliffs, together with ephemeral views of wading egrets, oystercatchers and other shorebirds, hovering kestrels, amazing

cloud patterns and a couple of rainbows. Joyful running on trails, particularly the downhill bits of course. Dogged running on tarmac and oh-so-hard concrete sea wall. Uphills where purposeful walking was the best option. Long rain showers when it was time to pull up my hood and just keep going. Hours spent pushing against strong winds to finally reach the turnaround point, and looking for a bit of shelter in which to blow my nose (having a cold was not really helpful!). Highs and lows: day 4 when I felt like I was flying; days 5 and 6 which felt like they would never end; day 10, reaching marathon distance faster than on any of the previous nine days, before setting off on a final five miles to make it a 50K, running for the sake of running and enjoying every footfall. An amazing 10 days, and memories to treasure. If anyone would like to sponsor me please do! <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/debra-bourne>

Debra Bourne

Bad Jews - Directed by BRS member **Julie Binysh**

Performance dates: Wed 24-Sun 28 January 2018 at 7:45 pm at **Bromley Little Theatre**

Greatly acclaimed during its West End run in 2015 at the Arts Theatre following accolades in New York.

There's nothing like a death in the family to bring out the worst in people. This unhappy, universal truth is displayed with deliciously savage humour in *Bad Jews*, Joshua Harmon's 2015 dark comedy. A beloved grandfather, Poppy, has died. In an apartment on the Upper West Side of New York, three Jewish cousins, Daphna, Liam and Jonah, are gathered to mourn his loss, together with Melody, Liam's non-Jewish girlfriend. Already strained family relationships are put to the test when a row ensues over who should inherit a precious family religious heirloom, Poppy's Chai.

The comedy also asks some big questions. How do young Jews now make sense of the Holocaust? Is there an obligation to continue to be observant, or is it OK to slide into secularism? How can we honour the dead?

This is a bar show, with only 45 seats per performance. If anyone wants a ticket, please email **Julie** on julie.binysh@btinternet.com

Bromley Three Faiths Forum

The Three Faiths Forum comprises our synagogue, Keston Mosque and Bromley's Churches Together (17 churches in all). Following an initial panel meeting when a brief introduction to each of the three faiths was heard, it was planned to go more deeply into each of the three faiths.

The first of these three talks was held on 25 October at the Keston Mosque, where Rabbi Holtz spoke about Judaism in his usual informative and entertaining way. Following a break for prayers, during which we non-Muslims enjoyed some tempting refreshments and a chat, there was a Q & A session.

The questions to the Rabbi were many and varied from the covering of heads to a more aggressive exchange about judgement, heaven and hell – and our uncertainty regarding belief in these latter.

We will be hosting the next meeting in the synagogue, at which **Rev. Andrew McLellan** from the church of St John the Evangelist will speak on Christianity. This will take place on **Wednesday, 17 January, 2018, starting at 8.30 pm**

Do come along to hear his talk and have your questions ready. We have a reputation for being welcoming and friendly here at BRS, so please come and make our guests welcome. Help with refreshments would, of course, be most welcome too.

The final session of the three, on Islam, will take place at St Marks Church, Bromley, at a date yet to be arranged.

For further information please contact Rabbi Holtz, or Barbara Kurtz



Jewish Bedtime Stories and Songs

Receive the gift of **Free Children's Books** sent to your home every month!



pjlibrary.org.uk

The Chanukah Fair

Michelle Brooks Evans reports:

I feel like I am giving an speech at the Oscars! There are so many people to thank for the Chanukah Fair this year. Although the fair was held on 3 December, the planning started in the summer with the Hooray Cheder PTA getting together. For those who do not know, the Hooray Cheder PTA consists of myself, Amanda Penn, Katia Pisetzky and Dani Hall. We are parents of children in Cheder and, although we are a small group, we have the mighty help of other parents and community members.

This year we had the usual stalls of the famous Freemans providing their East End bagels, Graham on the Judaica stall, Judi selling her gorgeous cards, the Garelicks with their plants, the raffle and arts and crafts and the very generous Danielle with her books and beauty products. There were refreshments, children's lunches and lots of sweet treats on the cake stall with a cream tea available. There were new additions to the fair with a tombola, the popular Jolly Jar stall, a Guess the Sweets stall, handmade crafts, Erin with her fantastic creations, a brilliant stand from the PJ Library and our lovely duo Esther and Aimee providing music, with Vicki on the piano. All of this raised £721.32.

New for this year was our Auction by the PTA, which had the aim of raising money for Cheder security. This proved to be a great success. So thank you to everyone who donated, bid and supported this. The Auction alone raised £672.90, giving a grand total for the fair of £1,394.22 - THANK YOU EVERYONE!

A mention of our *sponsors* who kindly donated: Anahata, healing; Cineworld, Bromley; Desperados; Lili Evans; Alex Fried, opticians; Michael Grossman, massage; Shane Lask, Chiara Messineo, Sune Markowitz-Shulman, Beverley Morris; Joanna Neil, beautician; Aimee Phillips, massage; Hayley Preston, tutor; Saddles Riding Stables; Mr Simms Olde Sweet Shoppe; Tiger, Bromley; Waterstone's, Bromley; Danielle Woodward.

Seen at the Chanukah Fair



Danielle and son and Lilinaz with their tempting display of cakes for sale



Rachel introduces a young visitor to the wide variety of children's books on offer from PJ Library



Young visitors were kept busy at the craft table



Brian sold genuine Brick Lane bagels



Esther and Aimee, accompanied by Vicki, supplied soft background music at the fair

Welfare officer on camp – RSY-Netzer

29 July – 14 August

2018 (camp begins on 31 July) plus attendance at some pre and post camp meetings, including mandatory training on Sunday 10 June (date to be confirmed) and Shemesh feedback by the end of August. £1500+ (dependent on experience)



RSY-Netzer are looking for a qualified teacher, youth worker, social worker or appropriate therapist with at least 5 years post-qualification experience working with young people in their field, to work on our 2-week residential summer camps, Shemesh.

You will need an understanding of Jewish youth movements and be able to recognise the welfare needs of the young people on camp as well as being an effective communicator with other professionals, parents, volunteer leaders and young people.

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

You will be working within a team of caring, professional and fun people.

If you would like the opportunity to be a part of our summer camps, please contact **Sharon Daniels** for a job description and more information. To apply, send your CV and a covering letter or e-mail, explaining how you meet the person specification to **Sharon Daniels**:

sharon.daniels@rsy-netzer.org.uk

The deadline for applications is 20 January 2018.

A chance to perform in Fiddler on the Roof

The *Utopians*, a non-religious amateur dramatic group based in Sidcup, is putting on 'Fiddler on the Roof' in **March** this year and is looking for people interested in taking parts, both large and small (a Tevye and a Golde are still required), including children aged 9 upwards.

If you fancy a part, contact diane_ash@hotmail.co.uk, who will be pleased to hear from you.

Social and Personal Twin B'nei Mitzvah

BIRTH - A hearty mazal tov to **James and Ta'ir McKeever** on the birth of their daughter Rona in Tiberius on 1 December, a first grandchild for delighted grandmother Marilyn McKeever.

DEATH - We are very sad to report the death of our member **Hugo Berke** and extend sincere condolences to his widow Tessa and his children Rob and Sarah and their families. May Hugo's memory be for a blessing.

GET WELL SOON - Pauline Jeffrey writes: 'We wish well all those known to us who are unwell at this time.'

Consecration of Tombstone - The stonemason for the late **Jackie Alfred** will take place at Cheshunt on **Sunday, 7 January** at 11.15 am. Zibby and Nathan invite you to join them for lunch at the Pied Bull after the consecration.

Many Happy Returns to **Nadia Gilman**, who celebrated her 80th birthday on 29 November. Zena Goodman writes: Nadia started the BR5/6 group and also has been a strong member of the choir. It has been a pleasure to see her enthusiasm for each project over many years.



Nadia (third from left at main table) having a birthday lunch with her friends.

SE10 and Beyond ...

Our November meeting was held in the Shul with the speaker **Jeremy Havardi** providing us with a fascinating talk. Please see page 8 of this Highlight for a report on the meeting. Thank you to everyone for supporting this. We had a great turnout.

Our first date for 2018 is on **Thursday, 25 January** at 7.30 pm. Bring your favourite Jewish short story or poem. This evening is being hosted by **Anna Sedenu** in Blackheath. As usual, all are welcome, but if you would like any more details just contact **Michelle Brooks Evans** through the synagogue (020 8460 5460).



The Burchill twins, Helena and Jacob, celebrated their joint b'nei mitzvah in the presence of family and friends at the synagogue on Saturday, 16 December, Shabbat Chanukah.

Three Faiths Babies and Toddler Group



All parents and care givers are invited to bring their babies and toddlers along to this multi-faith playgroup. Enjoy toys, tea and talking with new friends.

Bromley Reform Synagogue
Thursday 4 January
10:00-12:00

Al Emaan Centre
Wednesday 24 January
10:00-12:00

Contact **Jodi Holtz** for more information through the synagogue. Jointly sponsored by Bromley Reform Synagogue, Bromley Churches Together, and Al Emaan Centre



Some of the Britz family kindle their lights at the Chanukah party on 17 December

The Macmillan Coffee Morning

A thank you note from Pauline

Thank you everyone for all your help in so many different ways to make our Macmillan Coffee morning such an amazing event.

Macmillan write as follows:

"We wanted to say a huge thank you for helping us to make this year's Coffee Morning a huge success.

Whether you baked the perfect sponge or popped to the shops we hope you had a fantastic time bringing your community together for a brilliant cause.

All the effort you put into hosting your morning really does make a big difference. From our Macmillan nurses to our information and support centre specialists, we can help for as long as we are needed thanks to people like you.

Thank you once again for making the World's Biggest Coffee Morning such a success - every slice helps those affected by cancer live their lives."

The synagogue raised £719.91 towards the Macmillan appeal.

Accommodation needed for Jewish student from USA

Hello ... my name is **Suzy Festenstein** and I live in a suburb of Chicago, IL, USA. My son Cole will be attending the Rose Bruford Theatre College from February to the end of May 2018. Is anyone looking to let a flat, home, room etc. near the school or can they recommend a reputable real estate agency in the Sidcup area?

Additionally, I wanted to establish a relationship with a Reform Synagogue near the school should Cole wish to connect with the Jewish community while he's living there. Thank you in advance, Suzy

Email: suzyq2263@yahoo.com
Telephone: 847-207-6511

Late breaking news

Death - Sincere condolences to **Jackie Harvey** and her family on the sad loss of her husband, **David**, who died on 20 December. May David's name be for a blessing.

How anti-Zionism flirts with anti-Semitism

a talk by Jeremy Havardi

Author, journalist and B'nei B'rith representative **Jeremy Havardi** addressed a packed garden room on Wednesday, 8 November.

His first task was to define his terms. He was clear that “mere criticism of Israel is not, per se, anti-Semitic”. This was endorsed by speakers from the floor later on and illustrated by the example of the Jewish Film Festival, which shows films critical of Israel. Explaining that he would approach the subject via four routes, he looked first at outright demonisation of Jews. This is, of course, centuries old. It is practised just as enthusiastically by those who know Jews and Judaism but choose to ignore their good deeds and its positive teachings and those who know nothing but pass on anything that reinforces their prejudices. The current incarnation of this is bloggers who have the tools to disseminate their hatred widely, instantly and with

no cause or context. He described demonisation as not just regrettable but an abomination.

Secondly, he mentioned conspiracy theories – all the old stories of some Jewish power base that has in its grip the whole Western world. Thirdly, there were the self-contradictory stands taken by people who believed that when Jews were seen to be philanthropic they must be too rich and if they were in a position of strength they were aggressors, but if they were not they were cowards and scroungers. In every case, such people inexplicably stated that what you see is not what you get. Finally, there were those who claimed to have no problem with nation states – including many of those surrounding Israel that have terrible human rights records – merely with Israel’s right to self-determination. No other state faced constant calls for its complete annihilation, however badly it treated

its citizens, yet Israel, which could point to many well documented examples of humane treatment of those who sought its harm, was constantly under fire.



A long and animated discussion followed, fuelled by questions and comments from the floor by people with a wide range of backgrounds, experiences and views. Perhaps what was most impressive about Jeremy’s talk was that it was based on historical facts rather than a distorted revisionist version of history, something that the audience clearly appreciated.

BRS owes a vote of thanks not only to Jeremy but to the SE10 and Beyond group, who invited him in the first place, and John Posner and the Board, who realised that he deserved a bigger venue than any individual could offer. Thank you all.

Judi Sheffrin

Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner calls for urgent action on Jewish refugee crisis

Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner, Senior Rabbi to Reform Judaism, called for urgent action in response to “our forgotten refugee crisis”. Since the war in eastern Ukraine began in 2014, 1.8 million people have been forced from their homes by the fighting, including thousands of Jews from Donetsk and Lugansk.

Rabbi Janner-Klausner has just returned from a visit to Kiev, where she heard eye-witness testimony from Jews who fled to the capital after their homes were bombed out. The Jewish refugees – known as internally displaced persons (IDPs) under international law – told Rabbi Janner-Klausner how they left with only the clothes they were wearing and a few possessions. Most have lost everything, including their valuables and houses.

World Jewish Relief, the British Jewish community’s international humanitarian agency, has launched a programme to support the refugees to settle in their host city. The charity, founded in 1933 to rescue Jews from Nazi Germany, now provides counselling and training, helping IDPs to secure new jobs in Kiev so they can continue to feed their families. The graduates of the

programme shared their personal stories with Rabbi Janner-Klausner and thanked her and World Jewish Relief for their support, without which they said they would not have been able to cope. Many explained how they would be on the streets of the city without the life-saving assistance.

Rabbi Janner-Klausner was accompanied on the visit by **Dan Rosenfield**, World Jewish Relief’s Chair, who showed her the full range of World Jewish Relief’s programmes including the support given for vulnerable older Jews living in Kiev. The UK-based charity works with local partners to renovate dilapidated homes and to protect older people during the upcoming bitter winter when temperatures may plummet to as low as -30. The group saw how the home care workers provided by World Jewish Relief enable older Jews, who would otherwise be unable to look after themselves, to live a life of dignity.

Rabbi Janner-Klausner said: “Thousands of Jews are internally displaced people, refugees, in Ukraine. Our community has led the way in responding to the refugee crisis in Europe and now is the time to redouble our efforts for those fleeing

conflict within Ukraine, including Jews. This is our forgotten refugee crisis. World Jewish Relief deserves our support as it leads these efforts.

Dan Rosenfield said: “We thought the idea of a Jewish refugee crisis was a thing of the past. Meeting Jews in Kiev who have lost everything – their homes, their businesses and in some cases their family members – should serve as a wake-up call for our community. I am so proud of what our teams are achieving across Ukraine and in Kiev in particular – putting a roof over people’s heads, finding them jobs and helping them through their psychological trauma. These interventions cost relatively little but are transformational. Quietly, without fanfare, World Jewish Relief is improving the lives of thousands of Jews across Eastern Europe. They need our support. We are hugely grateful to Rabbi Laura for taking time out of her busy schedule to join us in Ukraine and for providing leadership on this vital issue.”

Source: Reform Judaism website

BRS Education Committee

Dates for your 2018 Diary

See the notice on the front page for details of **Dr. George Stein's** talk on biblical suicides (**Sunday, 28 January**)

Bring-and-Share Supper and discussion

"The Language of Prayer"

We continue the discussions of the Rabbis in the Talmud regarding the validity of reading Torah in any language.

Do join us on **Friday, 16 February** following 7 pm service

A Sunday morning Adult Education session on the subject of **Circumcision** is being planned, looking at it from the religious and medical viewpoints with **Rabbi Jason Holtz** and Dr and mohel **Howard Cohen**, as well as current thinking. Do come along and join the discussion, have your questions answered and doubts assuaged.

Sunday, 25 February, 10 am.

Contact **Barbara Kurtz** through the synagogue (020 8460 5460).

Introduction to Judaism

Open without charge to all synagogue members, their families and conversion students. For more information, contact **Rabbi Jason Holtz** through the synagogue (020 8460 5460).

Dates:

7, 14, 21, 28 January and 4 and 11 February from 10:00-10:55 am

Bromley Beit Midrash

All Bromley Beit Midrash sessions are on Sunday mornings from 11:00 am-12:00 noon.

Sunday, 14 January – **Jerusalem, the City of David** with Rabbi Jason Holtz

The Jewish people lived in the land of Israel for centuries before Jerusalem became its capital city. Come and learn the story of how Jerusalem became the capital city according to the Bible and rabbinic literature.

SERVICES

January 2017 – Tevet/Shevat 5778

Fridays at 7 pm, unless otherwise stated.

Saturdays at 10.30 am, unless otherwise stated

Friday 5 January

Saturday 6 January Shemot (19 Tevet)

Friday 12 January

Saturday 13 January Va'era (26 Tevet)

Wednesday 17 January Rosh Chodesh Shevat

Friday 19 January

Saturday 20 January Bo (4 Shevat)

Friday 26 January

Saturday 27 January Shirah (Beshalach - 11 Shevat)

Wednesday 31 January Tu B'Shevat

Chagigah 2018

SAVE THE DATE
22 JUNE - 24 JUNE
Celebrating Reform Judaism
Being part of something bigger

Chagigah is our biennial celebration of Reform Judaism. Chagigah means just that: a celebration. It reflects the special atmosphere we will create over a weekend away, celebrating Reform Judaism and being part of something bigger. The next Chagigah will take place in 2018 over the weekend of 22-24 June.

We look forward to welcoming you as one big Community for Chagigah 2018, 22-24 June at Eastwood Hall near Nottingham.

Last Chagigah we launched our Re-imagining Leadership initiative through which over 150 leaders have been trained. Our Communities that Care initiative has been directly responsible for raising awareness to the issues of loneliness and isolation and creating care teams in at least 2 of our communities.

This year as well as continuing the development of those initiatives we have listened to, and worked with, our communities to launch our newest initiative: Financial Sustainability.

Communities who gain the most are those who come as a team. Let's start thinking about who that team is for YOUR community. Caring is not just the rabbi or welfare officer, leadership is not just the chair and finance is not just the treasurer. Teams could be anything from 2-6 people, but all individuals who would like to come and explore are more than welcome.

Amit, Sarita and the Initiatives teams are here to assist you build your teams. If you are from a small community we will twin you so you can support each other on your learning journey.

Sarita Robinson and Amit Handelsman, Chagigah co-chairs and Reform Judaism Community Partners

For more information about Chagigah 2018 please email chagigah@rjuk.org

Dates for Your Diary

January 2018

M	1	
T	2	
W	3	
Th	4	3 Faiths Baby & Toddler Group , 10 am - 12 noon at the Shul
F	5	
S	6	Shemot
S	7	New Cheder term begins , 10 am Introduction to Judaism, 10 am at the Shul Stonesetting for the late Jackie Alfred , 1 pm at Cheshunt
M	8	
T	9	
W	10	Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul
Th	11	
F	12	
S	13	Va'era
S	14	Introduction to Judaism, 10 am at the Shul Beit Midrash, 11 am at the Shul Youth Club after Cheder
M	15	
T	16	
W	17	Rosh Chodesh Shevat 3 Faiths Forum , talk 8.30 pm at the Shul
Th	18	
F	19	
S	20	Bo
S	21	Introduction to Judaism, 10 am at the Shul
M	22	
T	23	
W	24	Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul 3 Faiths Baby & Toddler Group , 10 am - 12 noon at the Emaan Centre
Th	25	SE10 and Beyond , 7.30 pm at Anna Sedenu's
F	26	
S	27	Shirah (Beshallah) Holocaust Memorial Day
S	28	Introduction to Judaism, 10 am at the Shul Talk by Dr George Stein on 'Suicide ... in Ancient Israel', 3.30 for 4 pm at the Shul
M	29	
T	30	
W	31	Tu B'Shvat

February

Th	1	
F	2	
S	3	Yitro
S	4	Introduction to Judaism, 10 am at the Shul
M	5	
T	6	
W	7	Knit & Natter , 10-12 noon at Pauline's
Th	8	
F	9	
S	10	Shekalim
S	11	Introduction to Judaism, 10 am at the Shul
M	12	
T	13	
W	14	Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul
Th	15	
F	16	Rosh Chodesh Adar Oneg on the Language of Prayer after the 7 pm service
S	17	Terumah
S	18	Cheder Half Term
M	19	
T	20	
W	21	Knit & Natter , 10-12 noon at Pauline's
Th	22	
F	23	Zachor
S	24	
S	25	Discussion on Circumcision , 10 am at the Shul
M	26	
T	27	
W	28	Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul Erev Purim

Reform Judaism Beit Din Residential Weekend
Are you considering conversion, are in the process of converting, or have recently become Jewish?

Join us for a residential weekend at the Eastwood Hall Hotel, Nottingham, 16-18 March 2018.

We will be led by **Rabbi Jackie Tabick**, Convenor of the Beit Din, Reform Judaism's religious court which deals with matters of conversion.

The weekend is open to anyone considering conversion, currently in the process of converting or who has recently converted.

For more information or help with your booking, call **Odelia**: 020 8349 5675

Catford Music Club

presents the band "ETC..."

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A. Robbins Hall
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Join us for an exciting evening with the newly formed band "ETC...", a collaboration of professional musicians, consisting of saxophone/clarinet, bass guitar, drums, keyboard and voice. This five-piece band will perform music ranging from Pop, through to Jazz and Jewish repertoire. This will be accompanied by a hearty three-course dinner with room for dancing for those who so wish.

Tickets: £18.50 pp (pre-bookings only)
 Please contact: catfordmusicclub@gmail.com
 or call 020 8461 1339 (please leave a message)
Final date for bookings: Monday, 8 January 2018

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