

HIGHLight

Bromley Reform Synagogue newsletter



Helpers of the Trussell Trust collect the trolley full of food and toiletries donated by synagogue members in observance of the mitzvah of Matanot Le'evyonim at Purim

Shul Social Group



Do you have some time to spare?
Would you like to help with social events at the Shul?

The commitment is very small but the impact huge. We have a Klezmer-Jazz live music event and a quiz planned, but we cannot do this without YOU.

Please contact me for more details:
Michelle via the synagogue:
020 8460 5460

Bromley Beit Midrash

Sunday Morning Adult Education Classes

Rabbi Chava Koster is to give a series of classes

Introduction to Judaism

Are you looking to improve or revise your knowledge of basic Judaism? Maybe you are a parent needing to keep up with your child in Cheder. Perhaps you are looking at conversion to Judaism. These are for you.

Classes will be held on Cheder mornings when no other event is being held, as follows:

Sundays, 19 May, 16 and 23 June

Starting at 10 a.m.

Further information from

Rabbi Koster or Barbara Kurtz via the synagogue:

020 8460 5460

A small charge is usually made to non-members. Please contact the synagogue administrator on the above number.

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or Tweet us @BromleyShul) ...



Putting in the Effort -

View from the Chair

During my first month as Chair the first thing I have realised is that it would be easy to forget just how much effort people put

in to managing the day to day dealings of our Synagogue. We are lucky to have a Rabbi full of new ideas, our administrator Janet who puts in valuable and endless work for us, and Vicki our Cheder Head who has nurtured our Cheder into a vibrant place, tirelessly supporting children and their parents.

However it is easy to forget about the selfless involvement of many who are volunteers. They serve on committees, do security, provide Kiddush, organise the Communal Seder, help with events, produce Highlight and talking Highlight, the list goes on and on. Volunteering has often been undervalued in Britain. It is seen as an amateur version of work that could be better done by the State. Politicians speak about it, and in the background all we hear is the sound of budgets being cut. Voluntary work is actually something else altogether. It is an expression of shared responsibility for common good. It is personal engagement in pursuit of an ideal. It proves to us that not all compassion can be paid for by taxes or subscriptions. A place where there are high levels of voluntary activity will simply be a better, happier place than one where there are not. Ask any volunteer why they do what they do, and they will usually tell you that they gain more than they give. They don't do it for recognition or praise. They do it because it helps change the world because it changes us.

Our community could not exist for a day without its volunteers. They are the lifeblood of our Synagogue. It is a tradition going back to the Babylonian exile when, for the first time since Egypt, Jews found themselves without a land or home of their own, without rights or power. They knew if they were to



Asking a Jewish Question – from the Rabbi's desk



Did you know there are three conditions for asking a Jewish question? The first is that we seek genuinely to learn, not to doubt, ridicule, dismiss and reject. Second

is that we accept our own limitations of understanding. Not everything can be grasped by our intellect at any given moment. There were those who refused to understand that a young man's dream of gliding down a beam of light would give rise to the relativity theory and others who thought that a dream of a return to Zion was just a sentence to be removed from our prayer books. Third is that when it comes to Torah, we learn by living and understand by doing. I learnt to love literature by reading it, not about it. I am learning about music by listening to it and playing it. So too with our Jewish lives; they can only be understood from the inside out. Judaism remains and always has been a faith in motion, our text on rollers require movement, a listening to coupled with action. A tradition that had been sparked and sustained by your interaction, your questioning.

As we prepare our Seder tables, may our homes be filled all sorts of questions, may we answer them with knowledge, and humour and love for our tradition. From my home to yours, have a *zisn pesakh*

Rabbi Chava Koster

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I maintain a communal infrastructure they would have to do it for themselves. So began a tradition of collective voluntary responsibility.

I would like to ask for more help though. There are never enough volunteers and there is so much more we would like to do, especially now Rabbi Koster is here and we have lots more new ideas. Please don't wait to be asked. Give me a call, email me or just catch me for a chat.

Let me finish by thanking the Rabbi, Janet, Vicki and all our volunteers, past and present. Without you we wouldn't be here.

Michelle Brooks Evans, Chair



Two of the young finders of the afikomen at the Communal Seder

Friday Evening Services

Friday evening services are starting up again with the traditional type of service on Fridays **10 and 17 May** at 7 pm, led by the Rabbi, and a new form of service on **7 and 28 June**, again at 7 pm, led by the Rabbi and with music from *Orot* (Lights), the newly formed Bromley synagogue music group, followed by a shared Friday evening supper.

We do hope our members will give these services their full support.

Cheder celebrates YOM HA'ATZMAUT



Don't forget to send your kids to Cheder on Sunday, 12 May, when we'll be celebrating our relationship with Eretz Yisrael, the Land of Israel.

This will be a day full of stories and crafts, dancing and (of course) food.

The Mayor of Greenwich Christine May, Deputy Mayor Mick Hayes and Councillor Danny Thorpe will be joining in to help us celebrate.

Parents (and all shul members) are invited to attend our earlier assembly at 12 pm to help welcome the Mayoress and learn some extra Israeli music in honour of the day.

Cheder News

Hello, all of you interested in our Cheder News!

All parents please note: We are entering a part of our calendar full of bank holidays and half terms. This means that the Cheder's "Opening Hours" can become a bit unpredictable - PLEASE check the calendar or the website if you're unsure whether or not Cheder is open on any given Sunday.

1. This year we will have our **Yom Hashoah Memorial Service on 5 May at 11am**. This will be followed by a talk from **Roosje Steenhart Drukker**, who will talk about her life as a Hidden Child. Please come at 11 am to show your children that we as a community must never forget those who died and indeed those who survived the Holocaust.
2. We'll celebrate **Yom Ha'atzmaut - Israeli Independence Day** - on **Sunday, 12 May**. The Mayor of Greenwich will be joining us to help us celebrate this day full of Israeli culture and cuisine. Please join us for a special musical assembly at 12 midday to show her a warm welcome!
3. And speaking of special assemblies, I have **great news**: This term we'll be having regular music classes with our new **Cheder Music Teacher, Joe Parks**! Joe is a student at the Royal College of Music and will be teaching the children traditional as well as modern Jewish music to the whole of our Cheder, starting with a **Special Music Assembly at 12 midday on Sunday, 12 May** in honour of Yom Ha'atzmaut. If you would like to learn some music, why not join us?
4. In other musical news, Joe will also be starting a **Klezmer Band**. If your child can play an instrument, or even just wants to have a go with a triangle, please keep an eye out for rehearsals, which will take place directly after Cheder between **12.30 and 1.30 pm**. This month's rehearsals will take place on **5 and 12 May**, so if you want to take part please come along!
5. **Youth Club** will be going to see the Czech Scrolls on **Sunday, 19 May**. Rabbi Chava will be on this trip

accompanying all of the b'nei mitzvah students, so if you have a child aged 11+, please let **Lili** know you are coming:
lili.evans@live.co.uk



Last but not least, 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 have been allocated, please contact **Katia Pisetzky**: pisetzky@gmail.com

Enjoy a happy and healthy May,
Vicki, Cheder Head Teacher

Cheder Term Dates

Shavuot Term 2019

Sundays, 28 April to 19 May

Half Term: NO CHEDER on Sundays, 26 May and 2 June

Sundays, 9 to 30 June

Sunday 9 June: **Shavuot**, Festival service at 10.30 am

Last Day of Cheder: Sunday, 30 June ending with **Awards Assembly**

Cheder Security Rota – Shavuot Term 2019/5779

Sundays

5 May:	Rachel Kamhi
12 May:	Elisabeth Megitt
19 May:	Antony Miller
26 May:	Cheder Half Term
2 June:	Cheder Half Term
9 June:	Danielle Woodward
16 June:	Michael Abrahams
23 June:	Ru Elson-Gant
30 June:	Judy Taylor

Bromley Knitters, Stitchers and Natterers

will meet again at Pauline's on Thursday, 16 May from 10 am until around noon.



All are welcome

Please contact Pauline through the synagogue to say you are coming: 020 8460 5460

Social Centre News

We had a good attendance on 27 March. There were the usual games, exercises and a delicious lunch with second helpings to those who could manage the trifle.

Because we had a full attendance, the discussion was especially lively this time, ranging from the films we had seen to the visits we had made and, of course, telling each other about our various ailments.

We welcomed **Alisa Jaffa** as a new member. Alisa is a former synagogue member and was a good friend of Eva Byk. It was interesting to hear about her travels round the world.

Time to go home seemed to come round very quickly, probably because we had enjoyed the whole morning in each other's company.

Dianne Mathews adds:

We had another good attendance at the meeting on 10 April when **David Coronel** and **Tom Shiels** presented another of their music programmes, which was both entertaining and informative. They would be delighted to receive requests from anyone who would like to hear music by their current or past favourite composers or artists. Just tell me (Dianne) and I'll pass the message on to them. You will probably learn some little known but interesting facts after David and Tom's research.

Our meetings this month will be on Wednesdays, **8 and 22 May** from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm.

Young Adult Learning Series

We will be exploring the role of the **Outsider in Judaism** with **Rabbi Chava Koster**.

Everyone is welcome; you don't have to be a member of Bromley Reform Synagogue, and we encourage everyone to get involved, no matter what your Jewish educational background.

We will be meeting at The Ivy House Community Pub in Nunhead SE15 on **Wednesdays, 1 May and 26 June** at 7:30 pm.

Further details from **Lilinaz Evans**, through the synagogue: 020 8460 5460

From π to PI – an illustrated history of computing

From our Roving Reporter

Professor Bernie

Cohen is one of our most popular and regular speakers. On March 15, he returned to BRS to give a talk exploring the history of computing. Although computing is often presumed to be one of the newest sciences, we discovered that its origins date back to Ancient Greece – the Antikythera mechanism (named after the island where the artefact was retrieved) is probably the earliest analogue computer. It was used for astronomical purposes and was fundamental in the creation of the Hebrew calendar, ensuring that major festivals coincided with the correct seasons.

However, until the 20th century, most computers were human – a person who makes calculations with a calculating machine (Oxford English Dictionary). Jewish mathematicians made significant contributions to the development of computing – **John von Neumann** (1903-57) designed the model that provided the basis for the modern digital computer.

John Kemeny (1926-92) developed BASIC (Beginner's All-Purpose Symbolic Instruction Code) which made computers accessible to non-scientists.

J Lyons and Co recognized the future importance of computers in commerce and commissioned their own digital computer, **LEO** (Lyons Electronic Office), in 1951, the world's first business to use a computer for company accounts and logistics

Professor Cohen's enthusiastic delivery gave us an enjoyable evening with a bonus – examples of his personal collection of vintage computers (including the classic Apple II) and the Curta calculator, which combined function with aesthetic appeal, created by **Curt Herzstark** (1902-88).

Many thanks to Professor Bernie and the Education Committee for arranging this one.



Brexit, BBC, Labour ... what does the Ambassador think?

As the country fell apart over the B-word and members of BRS convened for the first AGM of the Koster era, two intrepid (mad?) southerners shivered their way to deepest NW London on the notorious Thameslink. We'd heard a whisper that the Israel Ambassador, **Mark Regev**, was being interviewed by South London-based broadcaster **Nick Ferrari** in aid of an Israeli charity. An interesting combination, we thought.

The event was hosted by Mill Hill Synagogue, which was warm and welcoming on that wild, wet, windy night and was in aid of **Keren Malki**, of which more later. It was an amusing and, to a point, informative evening. The only problem was that Mr Regev is such a master of the diplomatic arts that he was able to answer many of Ferrari's questions with enormous sincerity and passion while saying nothing at all.

However, when he did respond directly, he made some very strong and interesting points. On a question about whether Israel should enter into talks with Hamas, he reminded the audience that as far back as 2004 the UN had made three conditions for dialogue between itself and the organisation, none of which has yet been satisfied, so if the UN cannot have such discussions, why should Israel? Back in July 2005, President Chirac declared, "Hamas is a terrorist organization that cannot be an interlocutor of the international community so long as it does not renounce violence and does not recognize Israel's right to exist. This is the unambiguous position of the EU and it will not change."

The ambassador also made many allusions to the strides that Israel has made in trade and technology in general and as a trading partner with the UK in particular, and mentioned co-operative ventures such as that between our respective air forces. Diplomatically side-stepping all questions about the UK Government, B**x*t and the BBC (when asked whether it gives him a fair hearing he stated that it is its job to give him a hard time), he did answer head-on the one about whether Jews in the UK today could feel comfortable supporting the Labour Party. He suggested that it is solely the current leadership that is

hostile, praising the support of former leaders, particularly Harold Wilson. It was said in 2016, on what would have been Wilson's 100th birthday, "... shortly after the Yom Kippur War [we] told Harold that we would happily volunteer to fight for Israel if she were under threat of extinction. Neither of us is Jewish but that was the strength of our feeling. He was very sympathetic to that point of view. He was a great supporter of Israel," and, "[Lord Wilson] would be ashamed that we seem to have lost our way on Israel. His support of Israel was never in doubt. He realised the responsibility that the Labour Party had in the run up to the creation of the state ... Israel is built on the founding principles of socialism in this country."

"What makes you most proud of Israel?" he was asked. "That it is an amazing success story. From defenceless, hopeless, weak victims and refugees we are now strong in a strong democracy, technologically in the forefront and a force for good in the world. We have only two faults: our driving and our grasp of politeness." Indeed, talking about the threats in Europe from both the far Left and the far Right, the ambassador asserted that the big difference between the 1930s and now is the existence of the state of Israel, as Jews now have their own land. He also made what I thought was a fascinating distinction between the attitudes of the UK and the USA to Israel. As a former colonial power the UK is inclined to see and judge Israel by its own standards whereas the USA, as a country formed by pioneers, sees Israel in that light and judges it by different criteria.

And what did he think were the big challenges of the next 4 – 5 years? "Moving forward with our neighbours in peace. We are speaking to many neighbouring countries. Common threats have brought us together in dialogue and co-operation." He also mentioned bringing minorities into the workforce, particularly Palestinian women and Charedi men, whose respective men and women already do work.

The only question, it seemed to me, that he neither side-stepped nor got to grips with was one on how to counter

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antisemitism on campuses, something about which many in the audience felt strongly. Like them, I should have liked to hear whether he had any constructive suggestions.

The evening concluded with a film featuring a recipient of support from **Keren Malki**, a woman whose son was born with such severe disabilities that she was told he had little chance of developing normally, and was advised to place him in an institution. However, she was determined to bring him up with a stimulating home life. He responded well but, although she and her husband had well paid jobs, they soon ran out of funds. Desperate, and demoralised from years of hearing “NO” from other agencies, they heard by chance of the tiny Malki charity, which gave them not only financial and material help but the most important gift of all, reassurance, encouragement and moral support. As a result, their son now goes to a mainstream school and wishes to become a lawyer. More information about Keren Malki can be found at www.kerenmalki.org

So, was it worth the trek? Yes. Do I regret having missed the Bromley AGM? Of course. Will I be supporting Keren Malki? Yes, indeed, and I hope we will choose it as one of our Kol Nidre Appeal charities this year or some time soon. And how about Thameslink? Despite its reputation, it did us proud in both directions. As John Goodman so often says, “I can complain.” Happily, this time I didn’t have to.

Judi Sheffrin

**FUNDRAISER FOR BROMLEY REFORM SYNAGOGUE
KLEZ-JAZZ**
- an evening of live music
Featuring jazz chanteuse Rachel Sutton, sax & clarinet Jeremy Shoham, piano Roland Perrin
SATURDAY 15 JUNE
7 pm to 10 pm
BYO Wine & Beer
Nibbles provided
Admission: £10 per person
For tickets and inquiries, ring 020 8460 5460.



A trio of Frankels. Megan, Nick and Jake Frankel as they appeared in the production of *Oliver* in Maidstone last month, reviewed on the opposite page

Yom Hashoah Community Commemoration Morning Sunday, 5 May

We hope all our Synagogue community will join us to remember this important day. *Parents especially are requested to join their children on this special Sunday morning.*

11 a.m. Short Memorial Service followed by a talk from Roosje Steenhart Drukker
on her life as a “Hidden Child” in Amsterdam during the Second World War.

On a dark September evening in 1942, Fietje Drukker dresses her little daughter in a double set of clothes, puts her in a pram and pushes her in the direction of Koninginneweg in Amsterdam. As agreed with the underground, she places her daughter in the upstairs porch of number 9, rings the doorbell and walks home with the empty pram. Roosje lands in the state orphanage, where she is given the name Irma van Schinkel. The events that follow shape the story of a lost and entangled youth and of unresolved fears and sorrows.

Join us to hear Roosje’s story, now preserved in a book by Mink van Rijsdijk

**Dear Mr Editor,
Want to communicate with the community? Write to comms.**

I very much regret having to use your columns yet again to remind anyone who wants to submit something for one more of our publications, particularly e-light, to use **only** the email address that you kindly print so prominently on the contacts page in Highlight: comms@bromleyshul.org.uk

Please, people, it is for your benefit, not ours. If you write to this central address, then whoever is editing/distributing the publication will receive it and deal with it. If you send it to the private email address of an individual and that person is not “on duty” that week or month, it will go nowhere and you will miss the deadline. Even our Highlight editor has been ill twice in the past 40 years and others have needed access to contributions!

Finally, please remember that we are all volunteers. Most of us have day jobs and/or family commitments so we cannot always keep up with you. For example, once I am at my desk at the Agency for Misinformation, Non-essentials, Euphemisms, Shambles, Irregularities and Anomalies (people *do* keep asking what I do - hope this fails to help), I am unable to attend to shul matters. So, if an email is urgent it’s in the sender’s interests for someone else in the comms group who *is* free to see it and take action. We love the fact that you want to communicate with other members of the community and we want to help you to do so, so please help us!

Thank you, Judi Sheffrin,
comms@bromleyshul.org.uk



Sunday 30th June

Lunch 12.30 pm

CPR & First Aid training

1 to 2 pm in the Garden Room

All are invited straight after Cheder. We will provide you with a light lunch. Please bring nibbles, fruit or cake to share.

An invaluable and practical talk by our very own **Dr Dan Sado**.

Ring the synagogue on: 020 8460 5460 to let us know you are coming.

Social and Personal

BAR MITZVAH - A hearty mazal tov to Leo Campling and his family on the occasion of his bar mitzvah, which he will celebrate on 4 May, Shabbat Atzmaut (Kedoshim).

GET WELL SOON - Pauline Jeffree writes: We are thinking of and wishing well to members of our community and others known to us who are unwell or undergoing treatment.

Welcome to New Members

Mr. Anthony Akerman of Otford,
Mr. Raymond Epstein of Sidcup,
Drs Joel and Elsa Raffel and family
of Peckham

and welcome back to Mrs Tina Higgins
of Send near Woking, a former member
who has returned to the fold.

"Consider yourself at home"

Of course, everyone in Bromley will recognise this enduring BRS welcome but, guess what, an obscure musical has just come to light promoting the same sentiment (okay, so it was written some years before we were founded but don't let the facts get in the way of a good story). *Oliver!* was performed by Maidstone Amateur Operatic Society in early April with an evocative set, a fantastic orchestra and a colourful cast that included not one, not two but three of our very own **Frankel family**, including **Jake** in the title role, where he struck a perfect balance between vulnerability and defiance while siblings **Megan** and **Nick** danced their feet off and sang themselves hoarse. (*See the picture on page 6, opposite.*)

We often hear at Cheder that so-and-so will be absent because (s)he is singing/dancing/playing sport or an instrument, so it is wonderful to have the occasional opportunity to see the result of all that effort. Please don't forget to tell us if you or your children are involved in something that is open to the rest of us and, if possible (and legal, taking data protection into consideration), send us a photo or a report. Otherwise, how will we know what to think when we're "reviewing the situation"?

Judi Sheffrin

Food Bank Donation

Matanot Le'evyonim

The following thank you letter was received from the Trussell Trust following the receipt of the generous donation of food and toiletries at Purim in the spirit of *Matanot Le'evyonim*

Dear Bromley Reform Synagogue,

Over 90% of the food distributed by food banks in the Trussell Trust network is donated by the public – that's why your food donations are absolutely vital to our ability to give everyone referred to us a balanced and nutritious three-day supply of food. Without your goodwill, our food banks would really struggle to operate.

So thank you to all within your community who have generously donated food items. They will be welcomed and enjoyed by local individuals and families.

Thank you.

The Trussell Trust

You can see the picture of the recipients from the Trust posing with the trolley-full of our donations on the front page of this Highlight.

SE10 and Beyond

Tuesday 7 May in Greenwich at 7 pm we have a special guest talking about politics and antisemitism within the Labour Party. **Damien Egan**, Mayor of Lewisham will be speaking of his experiences and thoughts on the subject.

Saturday 15 June at Bromley Shul from 7 pm an evening of **Klez-Jazz**, live music starring jazz chanteuse Rachel Sutton, sax and clarinet Jeremy Shoham, and piano Roland Perrin. **Tickets £10.** Bring your own drinks and we will provide the nibbles.

Sunday 7 July in Greenwich Park from 3 pm a **free concert** at the Bandstand by KIX Jazz Orchestra. Bring a picnic and enjoy good company and good music.

Saturday 14 September at Bromley Shul from 7 pm, save the date for the **Quiz of 2019!**

Michelle Brooks Evans
michellebrooksevans@gmail.com
Mobile: 07956 234309

The Communal Seder



Rabbi Koster (right), accompanied by Cheder Head Teacher Vicki, ably led the joyful Communal Seder on 20 April



Rabbi Koster making Havdalah with the help of Cheder pupils before the Seder proper began

Take It Away!

A Maxi-Cosi Rodi Car Seat

Suitable for a 3.5 - 12 year-old child. 15 - 36 kg, Nomad Black. If you would like it, you can pick it up from the shul free of charge.

Contact **Barbara Kurtz** or **Effie** via the synagogue: 020 8460 5460.

Reviving the Book Group

Judy Woolfe writes: I am interested in resurrecting the shul **book group**, which used to meet monthly in the evenings. If enough people are interested I would be very happy to co-ordinate it. It would be useful to know if there is a preference for a daytime or evening group

You can contact me via the synagogue on 020 8460 5460.

Memorial plaques to the late Gerda and Herbert James, Ivor Lask and Malcolm Mathews will be dedicated in the synagogue foyer on Saturday, 18 May after the Shabbat morning service.

A Visit to Belarus - from Our Eastern Europe Correspondent

Tom Thelander, known to many as the big guy who helps out with security and at the social centre, has been on an extended visit to Belarus which was, he points out, the birthplace of no fewer than three Israeli Prime Ministers, Begin, Shamir and Peres. He sent us a series of bulletins, starting on 8 March.

Dobry Veechor and Shabbat Shalom from Minsk. It feels like a place that is being pulled in two directions, towards Moscow and towards the West. Parts of it look seedy but the cruelly beneficial factor of being semi-authoritarian means you can feel relatively safe. No litter or graffiti, either. It's also dated and a bit run down, especially the ugly, badly built Soviet-era flats that are everywhere. In fairness, it had to be rebuilt after WW2. Another way to summarise Belarus is this: There is a busy major street in Minsk that is still named after Lenin, but this is where you will find a McDonald's. The forests here are wildly beautiful, though. The saddest thing of all is that just over a century ago the majority language in Minsk was Yiddish.

Last Shabbat I visited a WW2 memorial site, The Yama, otherwise known as Zaslavskaya Memorial, where I said Kaddish. It reputedly marks the boundary of Rakovskaya suburb, where the Minsk ghetto was situated.

While in Minsk I visited the Museum of Jewish History and Culture. It's only in one room but it contains interesting information about Jewish life here. It is part of a facility known as the Minsk Jewish Campus. It may be of use in establishing links with what Jewish community still exists in Minsk.

As for further observations of Minsk, it is a city that pays an enormous tribute to WW2. There's a huge Victory Park, combined with a war museum. A major intersection with an eternal flame, 40-metre tower and underground war memorial within the Metro station. It goes without saying that this city and country suffered unimaginably during WW2. Belarus is a country with huge forests. Within them, numerous partisan groups formed. Minsk even has a Metro station named after them. It's heartening to know that there were many Jewish partisan groups too, perhaps the most famous of them the Bielski group depicted in the film Defiance. A good book about this is *Fugitives of the Forest*. I often wonder whether this history is an important factor in the strength of the IDF and Mossad, which might well have learned lessons from these experiences.

More famous Jewish sons of Belarus include Lazar Meir, or Louis B Meyer of MGM Studios, Mafia figure Meyer Lansky; Irving Berlin; Michael Marks of M&S; first Israeli President Chaim Weizmann. Sadly, this is not the case today, but pre-1917 Minsk may have had a majority Jewish population. Today, although the population is much reduced, Judaism still exists here.

Shirei Chagigah 2019

11-14 July at Alyth Reform Synagogue London NW11

Shirei Chagigah is absolutely about singing, about being together, creating community and learning new melodies but that's not all. Shirei Chagigah is an opportunity to relax, enjoy and be spiritually uplifted. Whether you are in a choir, a musician, lead services or just love to sing in the shower Shirei Chagigah is for you!

Shirei Chagigah blends the traditional and the new. Whether you want to incorporate *nusach* or drumming, new melodies or old standards into your services this is where you will find like-minded individuals and teachers to support you.

We are delighted to be joined by three fantastically talented musicians and educators as well as our very own **Cantor Zöe Jacobs**.

Stephen Glass is an internationally renowned composer and choirs director.

Cantor Rosalie Boxt is the Director of Worship for the Union for Reform Judaism. A past Vice President of the American Conference of Cantors, Rosalie serves as faculty of the URJ Music and Songleading Workshop *Hava Nashira*, is on the Vision Team for the URJ's Campaign for Youth Engagement and is the executive director of *Kesher Shir*, a venture which brings together diverse Jewish musicians to study, collaborate, and create meaningful music.

Noah Aronson was with us in 2015 and 2017 and we are delighted that he will be with us again in 2019. Noah is an extremely talented songwriter, composer and musician, having produced two full-length albums and song books.

Reform Judaism strongly believes that none of our members should be prevented from joining an event because of finances. For a confidential discussion please call Sarita on 020 8349 5716 or sarita@rjuk.org

For further details and to book go to the Reform Judaism website:
[www.reformjudaism.org.uk/events/
shirei-chagigah-2019](http://www.reformjudaism.org.uk/events/shirei-chagigah-2019)

Dulwich College on

Thursday, 16 May at 7.30 pm

Dulwich Festival in association with AJR Refugee Voices present opportunities to explore the impact of the **Kindertransport** on the 80th anniversary of the arrival of the children

The Morris and Manja Leigh Memorial Lecture

Antisemitism: a clear and present danger?

Professor Deborah Lipstadt

Date: Wednesday 22 May

Venue: Jewish Museum, Raymond Burton House, 129-131 Albert Street, London NW1

Deborah Lipstadt is Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory University. Her books include *The Eichmann Trial; Denial: Holocaust history on trial; Denying the Holocaust: the growing assault on truth and memory; Beyond Belief: the American press and the coming of the Holocaust, 1933–1945*. Her latest book, *Antisemitism here and now*, is a timely analysis of the new antisemitism, by the historian who defeated Holocaust denier David Irving in court.

In the chair: **Lord Leigh of Hurley**, President, Institute for Jewish Policy Research

17:00 – 18:30: Museum open for viewing and light refreshments

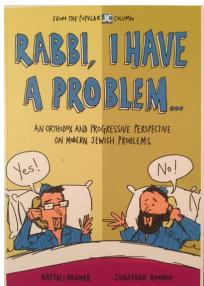
18:30–18:45: What the data show: a brief empirical view of contemporary antisemitism by **Dr Jonathan Boyd**, JPR Executive Director

18:45 – 20:00: Lecture by Professor Deborah Lipstadt, followed by Q&A

20:00 – 21:30: Museum open for viewing; Professor Lipstadt will be signing copies of her latest book, which will be available to buy.

A new book bridging the Orthodox/Reform divide

What does Judaism say about 150 pressing topical issues in family problems, sexual mores, faith questions and business ethics? And what is the difference in the Orthodox and Reform approach?



A remarkable collection of answers has been compiled by the Jewish Chronicle's two rabbinic columnists – **Rabbi Naftali Brawer** and **Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain** of Maidenhead Synagogue – who respond (and periodically contradict each other) in a book that will both entertain and inform.

Questions such as:
Should I inform my best friend that her husband is cheating on her?
Is it acceptable to accompany a friend to a suicide clinic abroad?
Can I lie to my children about taking drugs when I was a teenager?

Our father wants to be cremated, but my mother wants him buried – what should we do?

Can I be Jewish if I do not believe in God?

Can you have a virtual minyan through skyping?

Is a circumcision performed by a non-Jewish surgeon valid?

The book costs £12.99 and is available from The Jewish Chronicle online or by calling 020 7415 1570.

World Jewish Relief Commemorative Berlin to London Kindertransport Bike Ride, 16 to 21 June

The 600-mile 6-day route emulates the journey taken by the children 80 years ago, setting off from Berlin and travelling to London via the Hook of Holland and the overnight ferry to Harwich.

Register at
www.worldjewishrelief.org/berlin2london

Further information from **Zara Kletz**, Community Engagement Officer, on 020 8736 1250.

SERVICES

May 2019– Adar II/Nisan 5779

Friday evening services will be held on 10 and 17 May, starting at 7 pm
Saturdays at 10.30 am, unless otherwise stated

Friday 3 May

Saturday 4 May

Atzmaut (Kedoshim - 19 Nisan)
Bar Mitzvah of Leo Campling

Sunday 5 May

Rosh Chodesh Iyar

Friday 10 May

Saturday 11 May

Shabbat Evening Service, 7 pm

Emor (6 Iyar)

Bring and share lunch and Study Session after the service (see notice below)

Friday 17 May

Saturday 18 May

Shabbat Evening Service, 7 pm

Behar (13 Iyar) - Dedication of Memorial plaques after the service

Friday 24 May

Saturday 25 May

Bechukotai (20 Iyar)

Bring and share lunch and Study Session after the service (see notice below)

Friday 31 May

Saturday 1 June

Bamidbar (27 Iyar)

Bromley Education Committee invites you to attend

Shabbat Study Sessions on Saturdays, 11 and 25 May, and 29 June

There will be no sermon during the normal Shabbat morning service. Instead we hope members will join us afterwards for a

Bring and Share Lunch

followed by a study session

"Re-Reading the Rabbis of the Talmud"

led by **Rabbi Chava Koster**

French bread and drinks will be provided. Please bring cheese, salads, fruit or similar.

Please contact Barbara Kurtz via the synagogue (020 8460 5460) to avoid duplication.

Jewish Museum – Special Exhibitions

Great British Jews: A Celebration

A celebration of the contribution made to the UK by Jewish immigrants and their descendants. Discover some very recognisable inventions, innovations, products and people that you never knew were Jewish, from the worlds of culture, commerce, science, sports and more. *Until 23 June*

Jews, Money, Myth

Explore the role of money in Jewish life and its problematic stereotype in relations between Jews and non-Jews. The exhibition looks back over 2,000 years, drawing together manuscripts, prints, Jewish ritual and ceremonial objects, art, film, literature and cultural ephemera. *Until 7 July*

Raymond Burton House, 129-131 Albert Street, London NW1 7NB. 020 7284 7384.

Dates for Your Diary

May

W	1	Young Adult Learning , 7.30 pm at the Ivy House Community Pub, Nunhead SE15
Th	2	Yom Hashoah
F	3	
S	4	Atzmaut (Kedoshim) - Bar mitzvah of Leo Camping
S	5	Yom Hashoah - Commemoration Service with the Cheder at 11 am, followed by talk by a Holocaust survivor
M	6	Rosh Chodesh Iyar
T	7	SE10 and Beyond - Talk by Damien Egan on Politics and Antisemitism, 7 pm in Greenwich
W	8	Yom Hazikaron Social Centre - 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul
Th	9	Yom Ha'Atzmaut
F	10	Shabbat evening service , 7 pm
S	11	Emor - Study session led by Rabbi Koster on the 'Rabbis of the Talmud' after Kiddush with bring-and-share lunch
S	12	Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration from 12 noon, with visit from the Mayor of Greenwich
M	13	
T	14	
W	15	
Th	16	Knitters, Stitchers and Natterers - from 10 am at Pauline's The impact of the Kindertransport , 7.30 pm at Dulwich College
F	17	Shabbat evening service , 7 pm
S	18	Behar - Dedication of Memorial plaques after the service
S	19	Bromley Beit Midrash - Introduction to Judaism , 10 am in the Shul Youth Club visit to the Czech Scrolls
M	20	
T	21	
W	22	Social Centre - 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul Prof Deborah Lipstadt on anti-Semitism - 6.45 pm at the Jewish Museum
Th	23	Lag B'Omer Mental Health and Wellbeing Conference , 9.15 am - 4.30 pm, W.L.S.
F	24	
S	25	Bechukotai - Study session led by Rabbi Koster on the 'Rabbis of the Talmud' after Kiddush with bring-and-share lunch
S	26	Cheder Half Term
M	27	
T	28	
W	29	
Th	30	
F	31	

June

S	1	Bamidbar
S	2	Cheder Half Term
M	3	
T	4	Rosh Chodesh Sivan
W	5	
Th	6	
F	7	Friday evening service with the Rabbi and music from Orot, and shared Friday evening supper
S	8	Naso Erev Shavuot - 7 pm service followed by Cheesecake and Tikkun Leyl
S	9	SHAVUOT - Festival service at 10.30 am
M	10	
T	11	
W	12	Social Centre - 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul
Th	13	
F	14	
S	15	Beha'alotecha Klez-Jazz Evening - 7-10 pm at the Shul
S	16	Bromley Beit Midrash - Introduction to Judaism , 10 am in the Shul
M	17	
T	18	
W	19	
Th	20	
F	21	
S	22	Shelach Lecha
S	23	Bromley Beit Midrash - Introduction to Judaism , 10 am in the Shul
M	24	
T	25	
W	26	Social Centre - 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Shul Young Adult Learning , 7.30 pm at the Ivy House Community Pub, Nunhead SE15
Th	27	
F	28	Friday evening service with the Rabbi and music and shared Friday evening supper
S	29	Korach - Study session led by Rabbi Koster on the 'Rabbis of the Talmud' after Kiddush with bring-and-share lunch
S	30	Last day of Cheder term CPR & First Aid Training , 12.30 to 2 pm

REFORM JUDAISM
**Communities that
Care Initiative**
MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING CONFERENCE

23 MAY, 9:15 am to 4:30 pm

at WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

Featuring a variety of interactive and experiential workshops including:

- Self Care
- Singing for wellbeing
- Mindfulness
- Resilience
- LGBTQ+ and mental health
- CBT café — Cake Before Therapy!
- End of life support
- Emotional literacy for children

Bookings open now:
www.reformjudaism.org.uk/conference

Email: careinitiative@rjuk.org

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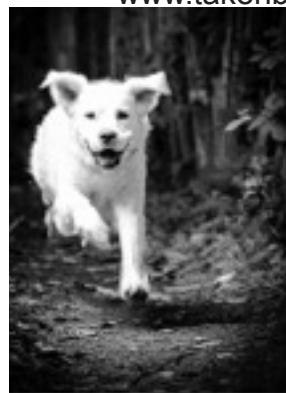
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