

HIGHLight

Bromley Reform Synagogue newsletter



The four rabbis cut the two Jubilee cakes at the tea party after their talks on Sunday, 14 December (You can see more pictures of the Four Rabbis event on the BRS website: www.bromleyshul.org.uk)

From generation to generation

By our Roving Reporter

Our series of Jubilee talks ended with an afternoon’s talk by the four rabbis who have served our community during the past 50 years.

Each rabbi told us about his (or her) journey to becoming a BRS rabbi. There was humour - with stories about being interviewed – and history, with memories of tutors at Leo Baeck College, survivors of the lost world of European Jewish scholarship. We also heard about the experience of being one of the first women in the Reform rabbinate.

Each rabbi was attracted to BRS for different reasons – and the same reasons; they all realised that a shul that had been built by its members was the clearest expression of the members’ commitment and determination. All of the rabbis were affected by the warmth of our congregation, members’ willingness to do whatever was necessary to help the shul run smoothly and efficiently and, as always, the well-known BRS welcome to all newcomers.

Even after the former rabbis had moved away from being congregational rabbis, BRS still left an “indelible imprint” on them and they described their time as “fine, moving and beautiful”.

Every shul has different strengths – in a small community like Bromley people know each other and are able to embrace families and to form friendships.

If we can approach the future with openness rather than fear, while maintaining our traditions, we will be following our founders’ example.

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January 2015 – Tevet/Shevat 5775



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

Tell the Community

This cut-out slip is a regular feature in Highlight to enable you to inform the community of any appropriate event - birth, marriage, engagement, illness, bereavement, birthday celebration, examination success etc. Please complete and return to the Editor c/o the Synagogue office.

We would like you to know that

.....

.....

Name Tel. No.

A Year of Celebration - View from the Board

Well, we're nearly at the end of the celebrations of Bromley Reform Synagogue's Golden Jubilee – 50 years of existence, 45 here in our building, Beit Or, in Highland Road. There is just one more special event to come – the Jubilee Civic Service on Shabbat, 24 January, 2015.

It was wonderful to see so many members filling the sanctuary for our Jubilee Service on 8 November, 2014 – from founder members who have been with us all these years and founder members whose lives have taken them away from Bromley, but who came back to celebrate with us, to those who had only recently joined. I for one was delighted to see Sylvia Harris and her family. Sylvia was choir leader while her husband Henry was organist, and I heard many stories of them when researching the synagogue's history, including the time the organ caught fire...

We were fortunate to have three of our four Rabbis, past and present, taking part in the service. One special feature was the calling up of everyone present onto the bima to bless the scroll. We went up in turn according to the decade in which we joined – founder members first, then those who joined in the 60s, 70s and so on. What was remarkable and pleasing was the way in which this demonstrated how our membership has been steadily growing. We are not an ageing community and, while inevitably many move away as their lives change, new members are joining every year. This bodes very well indeed for the next 50 years!

All four of our Rabbis joined us on 14 December for the last of the social events, each reminiscing and telling us what for them made and makes Bromley Shul so special. And they all agreed that it is the people, from those whose vision started it all to those who have followed over the years. As Sylvia said, Bromley members are amateurs in the true sense of the word, the Latin derivation, they do what they do for and with love. The Jubilee Tea Party which followed saw a packed Garden Room enjoy a delicious tea with not one but two special cakes as we caught up with friends – and Rabbis – old and new. The draw was made for the grand Jubilee Raffle - well done to the winners. A total of £1020 was raised for

the Transport Fund, so thanks to everyone who supported and organised it.

It has been wonderful to see “full houses” for many of the talks arranged by the Education Committee, with speakers Leon Smith from Nightingale, Sir Anthony Seldon, Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons, and Rabbi Baroness Julia Neuberger all giving interesting, entertaining – and controversial – talks. Plenty for us to talk about still!

We have enjoyed a Quiz Evening, Treasure Hunt, Picnic and Fashion Show, and had a visiting Cantor for one weekend. I am sure the Board and all our members would like me to thank everyone who has played a part, large or small, in ensuring that these events have happened, been successful – and raised some money for the synagogue. The Caring Community has organised a lasting memory of the anniversary – a wooden seat with commemorative plaque that has now been installed by Bromley Council at the corner of Highland Road and Madeira Avenue – a nice resting place after struggling up the hill!

A history of the first 50 years now exists – I am just waiting for members to send me comments/corrections/omissions before the final edition will be available. Perhaps this is a good point for me to pay tribute to our founder members whose tireless efforts and devotion made Bromley Shul what it is. Those of us who have followed them must make sure that we do not fail in the future to continue what they started. Times have changed over the last fifty years but the synagogue continues to play its part in all our lives in one way or another, be it as Beit Tefillah, Beit Knesset or Beit Midrash – a place for worship, social gatherings or study. It is up to each one of us to make the most of everything it has to offer.

What have we learned from the year? How wonderful it is to see the synagogue full for a service or a talk – would that it happened more often and not just on special occasions. With a full house, every service would be special and sound great as we raised our voices to those wonderful rafters our founders gave to us. Those of us who organise events would love to see so many people each time. How can we achieve this?



Our Four Rabbis - from top to bottom Rabbi David Freeman, Rabbi Tony Hammond and Sylvia Rothschild, Rabbi Jason Holtz

Let us begin by ensuring that the sanctuary is full for the Civic Service on Saturday, 24 January for a start, and show the outside community how vibrant Bromley Synagogue is – we don't want the members to be outnumbered by our special guests! Let us end our celebrations and start the New Year with a bang. Do come along to what we hope to make a very special event.

Barbara Kurtz

Chairman, Education Committee
a.bkurtz@talktalk.net



Cheder News

By the time you read this issue of Cheder News, we'll have celebrated Chanukah! I'd like to recap on some of the wonderful things our children have done since last month:

- 1) Our **Chanukah Fair** took place after Cheder, and it was a real success! Thanks so much to **Barbara Kurtz** for organizing this event - because of you we were able to buy dreidels, Chanukah candles, and all sorts of interesting presents for our families.
- 2) By the time you read this, we will have celebrated Chanukah with our 5th annual **Chanukah Party!** Of course, as I write this it hasn't yet happened, but I'm sure it will be fantastic. Thank you so much to Horaay Cheder for helping to organise this event - without you, these parties simply could not take place.
- 3) And speaking of our Parents' Association, **Horaay Cheder** needs help with our next children's event this January for Tu Bishvat. If you could help us with planting seeds, setting out plates of Israeli fruits, or finding an interesting way to help the environment, will you please let us know by contacting our two wonderful heads of Horaay Cheder: **Dani** at dani_hall@hotmail.com or **Michelle** at mbe@jrwe.wanadoo.co.uk
- 4) There was some bad news this month as we nearly had to close Cheder a week early due to a lack of volunteers on **security**. I must remind you (and I really must, because the insurance people say so) that if we don't have adults on the doors, we cannot run our Cheder and we will close down. So please don't ignore those emails from Tamir. If you have a child in Cheder those emails are indeed meant for you. Let him know which days you will come at thargittai@yahoo.com
- 5) And last but certainly not least, a huge **Yashar Koach** (well done) to **Jacqueline Campling** for being

the first Cheder student to accept the **Great Shema Challenge!** She has learned the entire Shema by heart and will be receiving a prize in January. Just think, if she can do it, so can you...

That's all for now! See you next term at 10 a.m. on Sunday, 4 January.

With best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

Vicki, Head Teacher
vickiashmore@icloud.com

Cheder Term Dates in 2015

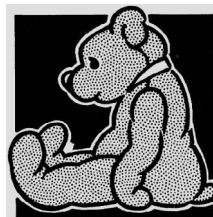
Term	Dates	No. of weeks
Purim Term	Sunday 4 Jan to Sunday 15 Feb	7 weeks
	Half Term: No Cheder 22 Feb	1 week
	Sunday 1 March to Sunday 22 March	4 weeks
	Pesach Break - No Cheder: Sunday 29 March to Sunday 12 April	3 weeks
Shavuot Term	Sundays, 19 and 26 April	2 weeks
	May Bank Holiday - No Cheder: Sunday 3 May	1 week
	Sundays, 10 and 17 May	2 weeks
	Half Term - No Cheder: Sunday, 24 May	1 week
	Sunday, 31 May to Sunday, 12 July	7 weeks

Family Service

Shabbat morning

17 January, 10.30 am

Please bring eager eyes and ears and cake to share.



Social Centre News

The Social Centre met on Wednesday, 10 December. Although it was a rather sparse turn out, we made up for it by interesting conversation (after we had gone through informing each other of our various aches and pains and what happened at the latest doctor's appointment)! The exercise session with Andreas was well received and several members said how much better they felt after the exercises.

Rabbi Jason Holtz joined us for lunch, which, as usual, was very enjoyable. After lunch we settled down to hear a talk about Chanukah. However, to our surprise he said he had changed his mind as, in his opinion, something more important was in the news. He wanted to discuss that the Knesset had been dissolved. He handed out a list of 21 names of the political parties in the Knesset and asked us to pick three that we thought had the most important policies for Israel. To our surprise each political party on the list of 21 had a different agenda.

Naturally, as with the 21 different political parties, we also disagreed in our choice of three, but it was still very interesting to hear everybody's point of view. Unfortunately, we never got down to the end of the list because of the different opinions expressed, but we did end up appreciating what a difficult job they must have in Israel.

Our thanks go to Rabbi Jason Holtz for giving us something to think about and we look forward to many more discussions in the future. I am sure if more members of the shul would come to our meetings they would make a great contribution to our different discussions and would enjoy them as much as we do.

Zelda Stone

Dianne Mathews adds:

On the morning of **Wednesday, 28 January** we'll be having a **vegetarian sushi demonstration** by our Japanese 'origami' friends!

An Exciting Opportunity for You to Travel to Eastern Europe

One of the treasures in our synagogue is a Torah scroll from the Czech Jewish community of Bzenec. Jews lived in that small town for centuries; however, some fled and many more were deported and killed as the Nazis spread across Europe. Whole communities were gone, but their religious artefacts, including Torah scrolls, were left behind. Many of these items were collected and stored in Prague during the war, and eventually came into the custody of Westminster Synagogue about 50 years ago. Westminster Synagogue in turn loaned out approximately 1,500 of these Torah scrolls to other synagogues around the world. Bromley Reform Synagogue has two of these scrolls, including the one from Bzenec.

Recently, **Rabbi Harvey Winokur** of Temple Kehillat Chaim in suburban Atlanta, Georgia contacted me. His synagogue, like ours, has a Torah scroll from Bzenec. Including our two synagogues, there are a total of nine synagogues currently in possession of a scroll from Bzenec (all but Bromley are located in the United States). Last year, Rabbi Winokur travelled to London to take part in the 50 year anniversary ceremony of the Czech scrolls arriving at Westminster Synagogue. The anniversary ceremony was very moving for him. When he returned home, he did more research on Bzenec and decided to help organise a trip for his synagogue members to Eastern Europe, to learn more about the history of the Jewish community. This trip is now planned, and Rabbi Winokur has graciously invited the members of our synagogue, along with the members of the other synagogues with Torah scrolls from Bzenec, to come along. The trip goes from July 13-20, 2015 and begins and ends in Prague. In addition to Prague, the trip will go to Budapest, Vienna, and, of course, Bzenec. Highlights of the trip include:

- Explore the Story of Jewish Budapest over the past 150 Years, including visits to:
 - The Dohany Street Synagogue, the largest in Europe.



Prague - Altneu Schul

- The Jewish Museum, housed on the site of Theodor Herzl's birth.
- The Community Holocaust Memorial.
- Visit the Vienna Temple (Stadtempel), the only surviving synagogue from pre-WWII days, located near the Judenplatz, the main square of the Jewish community for nearly 500 years.
- A tour of Bzenec, where one of our Torah scrolls originated, including a visit to the Jewish cemetery.
- An Inside Look into the Czech Republic- Politics, Economics & Society Dialogue with Mr Peter Brod, former BBC Bureau Chief and Radio Free Europe activist.
- Guided visit through Jewish Prague, including the Old Ghetto, the Precious Legacy Exhibit at the Jewish Museum and the Jewish Cemetery, as well as:
 - The Altneu Shul, the longest continually used synagogue in Europe and site of the first use of the Magen David.
 - The Maisel Synagogue, named after a Jewish mayor of Prague, exemplifies the Golden Age of Jewish Prague.
 - The Pincus Synagogue, a memorial to the Jews of Prague who died in the Holocaust.
 - The Old Cemetery, with the graves of such Jewish luminaries as Judah Loew, the Maharal, and Mordechai Maisels, and the ceremonial hall with the well-known Hevra Kadisha paintings.
 - The Spanish Synagogue built in 1868 on the site of the oldest

Prague Jewish house of prayer ("the Old Shul") and designed in a Moorish style by Vojtech Ignátz Ullmann.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.arzaworld.com/temple-kehilat-chaim-europe-trip-2015.aspx>

This is a custom tour, run by ARZA (Association of Reform Zionists of America) World meant specifically to guide our synagogues around Eastern Europe. Because it is a custom tour, run by a Reform Jewish affiliated travel organisation, this will be a unique, one of a kind experience. I hope that many of you will be able to participate on this exciting trip to learn more about this history of Eastern European Jewish communities as well as the history of one of our very own Torah scrolls.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Jason Holtz,
jsholtz@gmail.com

Talmud Study Classes

Rabbi Jason Holtz, Instructor

The Talmud is the foundational literature of Rabbinic Judaism. Full of legend and law, its teachings have guided Jews for thousands of years, and it is still hugely influential. No prior knowledge is necessary for this course, but it will be challenging and thought provoking for all.

Students will need to bring their own copy of Tractate Berachot, and it is recommended that they bring a Tenach (Bible) as well. Many publishers have printed a version of the Talmud that will work well, but the Koren Talmud, with a translation and commentary by Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, is recommended. This version can be purchased from Amazon.co.uk

The course meets on Thursdays from 10:30-11:45 am and will resume on 15 January 2015.

For more information, please contact **Rabbi Jason Holtz** on 020 8460 5460 or **Barbara Kurtz** by e-mail at a.bkurtz@talktalk.net

Summer Hype

Emma Mittelman writes:

With my friend Manya Eversley I am planning to run a summer camp called Summer Hype. We are hoping to provide a much-needed Summer Holiday Camp for disadvantaged children living in Hackney. We plan to offer this holiday to forty children who would not otherwise have a summer holiday. Each child will be nominated by her/his school. Needless to say, the children will be offered a place on the basis of need alone, regardless of religion or ethnicity. The project is under the auspices of Youth 4 Youth at Finchley Reform Synagogue, although it will be run entirely by Manya and me. FRS is lending us much needed administrative support, but no financial help.

We propose to run a five-day residential camp aimed at those children currently in school years 5 and 6 (aged between 9 and 11). We will offer a range of arts, sports, drama, music, discussion and creative sessions. The camp will be led by trained, experienced and DBS checked volunteers from RSY, our youth movement. For more information about the camp go to the website:
<http://www.i-m.co/summerhype/summerhype2014>.

Manya and I have attended summer camps for the past six years and have led on them for the past two years. Manya is from Hackney and went to one of the primary schools that we are targeting. We both feel that the experiences we had attending summer camps with RSY have been invaluable. Through these camps we have grown in confidence, fostered a sense of community, and made lasting friendships. We aim to provide a similar opportunity to those less fortunate than ourselves.

We are applying for grants from different organisations and are hoping for support from our individual local communities. The easiest way to donate is through our Virgin money page:
<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SummerHype>

Now hiring for a new position:

Music Director for Bromley Reform Synagogue

The synagogue is looking for a talented person to bring their love of music and Judaism to assist in the life of the community. We are looking to fill the new position of music director. This person will work approximately 10-15 hours per month, depending upon where we are on the Jewish and synagogue calendar. Many of these hours will be at the weekend.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities will include

- Teaching primarily liturgical, but also non-liturgical, music to children of all ages at cheder, which meets on Sunday mornings.
- Musical participation in religious services on a regular basis, including planning new, varied approaches to service music. Services responsibilities include approximately two Shabbat services a month, Family Shabbat and some Jewish festivals.
- Assisting and encouraging the choir to learn and perform a variety of musical pieces for a variety of religious events
- Recruiting new choir members
- Planning and scheduling rehearsals and performances
- Developing music throughout the community – including possible performances, concerts, etc.
- Providing musical leadership in music during services
- Planning and preparing special music for events throughout the year

QUALIFICATIONS AND EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Formal musical and teaching qualifications are desirable, but not essential, if experience is relevant. Should have an interest in and knowledge of a wide range of music.

PREFERRED SKILLS

- A good knowledge of Jewish music and Reform (or Progressive) Judaism.
- Ability to work confidently and comfortably with both children and adults.
- Ability to play an accompanying instrument such as guitar and/or piano.
- Dependable, responsible, self-motivated and creative.
- Good organizing and coordinating skills
- Experience in working with volunteers
- Knowledge of Bromley Reform Synagogue's customs and traditions is a bonus, but not mandatory

For more information and to apply

For more information about the post, please contact Rabbi Jason Holtz by phone at the synagogue office, 020 8460 5460 or by e-mail at jsholtz@gmail.com.

To apply, please send a cover letter and CV to Janet Burlem, Synagogue Administrator, janet@bromleyshul.org.uk



KASHRUT - our next sicha (discussion)

Come and join our next sicha on **Thursday evening, 15 January**, starting with a cup of tea at 7.30 pm. Finish no later than 9.30 pm.

What does kashrut mean to you? Where do you draw your line and why? Eat everything anywhere? No pork? No pork at home? Shellfish? Meat from a kosher butcher? Milk and meat? Organic? Vegetarian? Stunning versus shechitah (kosher slaughter)? Commandment versus tradition? Could other people's views change yours?

John Posner

Social and Personal

Adult Bat Mitzvah - A hearty Mazal Tov to **Judith French** and her family on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, 3 January, Shabbat Vayechi.

BAR MITZVAH - A hearty Mazal Tov also to **Jacob Robinson** and his family on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah, which was celebrated in Brussels on Saturday, 22 November, Shabbat Toledot, in the presence of his Holocaust survivor grandparents.

Jacob's mother, Sandra, tells us that this year, as well as his Academic Scholarship and Music Exhibition to Sevenoaks, Jacob was invited to join the Lydian Orchestra, the Kent County Youth Jazz Orchestra, and the Kent County Youth Orchestra.

We wish a very musical Jacob every success, and also wish Sandra, who has been unwell, better health in the coming year.

BEREAVEMENT

Sincere condolences to Rabbi Jason Holtz and his family on the sad loss of his Uncle Gary.

GET WELL SOON

Pauline Jeffree writes:

Our thoughts are with all those of our community who are ill at this time. We wish you well. And get well to Pauline too after her recent fall.

Members' News

A hearty mazal tov to **Debra Bourne** on the publication of her book 'parkrun - much more than just a run in the park' (Chequered Flag publishing, £11.99), which describes the history and activities of the organisation of that name.

parkrun organises free, weekly, 5 km timed runs in many countries around the world. They are open to everyone, free, and are safe and easy to take part in.

The runs take place in pleasant parkland surroundings and parkrun encourages people of every ability to take part; from those taking their first steps in running to Olympians; from juniors to those with more experience; it welcomes everyone.

So to keep fit, why not go on a 5 km around your local park before coming to shul on a Saturday morning?

<http://www.parkrun.org.uk/>



Judith French will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, 3 January



Jacob Robinson celebrated his Bar Mitzvah with his grandparents in Brussels on Saturday, 22 November

"Everything you wanted to know about MRJ and were afraid to ask."

Saturday 10 January

The service (to be followed by a shared lunch and talk on MRJ) will be conducted by the MRJ's **Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner**, who will be accompanied by **Amit Handelsman**, the MRJ's new "Community Partner".

So please come and meet Laura, who was so disappointed to miss our Jubilee Service, and Amit, and bring some vegetarian food to share. The service starts at 10.30 am.

Jubilee Crossword Solution



Crossword winner Judi Sheffrin with crossword compiler Matthew de Lange

I	S	R	A	E	L	I	T	E	L	O	G	I	C	
S	E	X	N	N	A	A	A							
A	T	H	E	I	S	T	D	E	V	A	R	I	M	
A	O	S	E	O	E	M	P							
C	O	V	E	T	R	E	F	O	R	M	E	R	S	
		O	E			W				N		T		
P	O	T	E	N	T	A	T	E	M	A	T	Z	O	
R						C	U	E					O	
O	L	I	V	E		T	A	K	I	N	G	A	L	
P						N				H		Y	M	
H	A	S	M	O	N	E	A	N	A	S	H	E	R	
E	P					A	N			A	N	A	E	
T	W	I	N	S	E	T	Z	E	M	I	R	O	T	
I	R					I				I	A		I	
C	H	E	S	S		C	H	R	O	N	I	C	L	E

Matthew de Lange writes:

There were four correct solutions submitted and the winner, selected at the Four Rabbis event, was Judi Sheffrin, who has nominated the 999 Club to receive a donation of £50

Thanks to the Congregation Bob Harmes writes:

After receiving so many cards, calls and best wishes for my 80th birthday and in respect of my health, I would like to say a general "thank you" to all my well-wishers as a way of expressing my gratitude to all concerned. I am slowly getting well again (but no younger). Thank you everyone.

The Civic Service

Saturday 24 January

This is our very last Jubilee event (the actual year was so packed, it got squeezed out).

Please come and help to make the civic dignitaries and special guests representing local organisations, such as St Christopher's Hospice, welcome.

The Year on the Board

Joe Millis, our Board of Deputies Representative reports

It's been a pretty hectic year at the Board of Deputies, what with a rise in anti-Semitism connected, by and large, to Israel's Protective Edge campaign in Gaza in the summer. Also, this year, after one of the ugliest campaigns in BoD history, the pro-peace, pro-Israel group, Yachad, which lobbies for a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict, gained membership of the representative body. I say ugly - and even Board veterans (and believe me, there are some really veteran veterans at the BoD) can't remember such lobbying. Some of it was disgraceful, close to libellous and, irony of ironies, from people living abroad in Israel.

But in the end it all came good as Yachad was accepted on to the Board by the required two-thirds majority - 135 to 61. I have to say, and despite the ugly anti-Yachad campaign, it was probably one of the best, most informative and well-mannered debates we have had in my two-and-a-half years as your representative.

But back to anti-Semitism, which did rear its ugly head during the summer (although, thankfully, tolerant Britain wasn't as bad as France or elsewhere). One good thing to come out of the summer was the first ever joint statement between the BoD, as the democratic representative body of British Jews, and its Muslim counterpart, the Muslim Council of Britain.

The historic statement - a "significant step forward in relations" - said: "We must continue to work hard for

good community relations in the UK. "We must not import conflict. We must export peace instead. While everyone has the right to voice their political opinion, be that in a rally or on social media, we must be mindful of how we convey our protest. There can be no excuse for racism, violence, or other forms of intimidation, when expressing views in the media, on the streets, outside shops or online. "We condemn any expression of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia or any racism."

Of course, this being the Jewish community, there was a row over whether we should be issuing joint statements with the MCB. But after a debate, the motion to adopt the statement was passed by 140-40.

On the political front, and after its successful manifesto for the European elections, the BoD has issued a comprehensive manifesto for May's general election. It doesn't endorse any party, but sets out the parameters for what the Board sees as defending the Jewish community.

And now we enter the last few months of this three-year term of the Board, before we elect a new president and honorary officers. What I would like from you is to tell me what you would like me to raise in the next three-year stint, as I have already agreed to be your representative once again. All suggestions will be gratefully received at joemillis1959@hotmail.com

Jewish Renaissance

Rebecca Taylor writes:

How do you find love in the 21st century? What's life like for Jews in contemporary Iran? Why is circumcision such a painful subject in Berlin? These are just some of the questions we'll be debating in the next issue of *Jewish Renaissance*, a quarterly arts and culture magazine that is based in London, but has readers all over the world. *JR* is the only magazine of its kind, combining thoughtful analysis of contemporary art, literature, books, theatre and society, along with in-depth examination of Jewish communities across the diaspora: from Brazil to Burma. It also has an exclusive three-month listings section that features arts events across the UK and the world: think Time Out - for Jews! Subscribers also receive a bi-monthly email listings update.

After 20 years in journalism, I've recently taken over as the editor of the magazine and am looking forward to focusing on the vibrancy of Jewish culture - a world that first opened its doors to me growing up as a member of Bromley synagogue many years ago, but of which I have very fond memories today.



To subscribe to Jewish Renaissance (£24 per annum in the UK) please call 0208 876 1891/or see www.jewishrenaissance.org.uk

To send ideas, images or writing for possible publication in the magazine please email: rebecca@jewishrenaissance.org.uk

Introduction to Judaism

taught by Rabbi Jason Holtz

In the new year there will be an *Introduction to Jewish Belief* running for 2 weeks on **Sundays, January 18 and 25** and then an *Introduction to Everyday Jewish Living* on **February 1, 8 and 15**.

All the courses will be held in the Sanctuary and will run from 10:00-11:00 am



Knit and Natter

The next Knit and Natter session will be on **Monday, 12 January**, 2.30 to 4.30 pm at Pauline's, and all are welcome. If you would like to learn to knit we would be very happy to help you achieve this.

We continue to be busy with all the different items we are making. At the moment it is booties for St. Christopher's Hospice locally in Sydenham and for the hospice shop in Orpington.

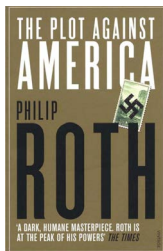
We do enjoy nattering over a cup of tea and cake, so do join us.

Contact **Pauline Jeffree** on 020 8650 4860 to say you are coming.



Book Study Session led by Rabbi Jason Holtz

The Plot Against America by Philip Roth



Published in 2004, this book is an alternative history, in which Franklin D Roosevelt is defeated in the American presidential election of 1940 by aviation hero Charles Lindbergh. Lindbergh

speaks against American intervention in World War II and openly criticizes the "Jewish Race" for trying to force American involvement in the war. His election slogan is in fact, "Vote for Lindbergh or Vote for War!"

This session was postponed from last year and will now take place on

Wednesdays 18 and 25 February 2015
Starting at 7.45 pm.

Participants are asked to obtain and read the book in advance.

The Golden Jubilee Raffle

The following people were winners in the Golden Jubilee Raffle:

Michelle Brooks Evans, Suzanne Blackie, Philip Michaelis, Anna Sedenu, Pam Bradshaw, Benji Butler, Jackie Harvey, Jane Flandrak, Denise Levinrad, Winnie Armah, John Goodman, Jonathan Goodman.



Rabbi Sylvia Rothschild helped to draw the raffle tickets

Thank you to everyone for participating and a particular thank you to **Anna Sedenu** for doing almost all the organisation single handed.

We have raised £1,020 for the Transport Fund to enable access to the shul and shul activities and to subsidise trips.

Matthew de Lange
07711 599488

SERVICES

January 2015 – Tevet/Shevat 5775

All Fridays at 6.45 pm, unless otherwise stated.

Saturdays at 10.30 am, unless otherwise stated

Friday 2 January

Vayechi (12 Tevet)

Saturday 3 January

Bat mitzvah of Judith French

Friday 9 January

Shemot (19 Tevet)

Saturday 10 January

Service led by Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner, followed by Shared Lunch and discussion on MRJ

Friday 16 January

Va'era (Mikketz - 26 Tevet)

Saturday 17 January

Family Service

Wednesday 21 January

Rosh Chodesh Shevat

Friday 23 January

Bo (5 Shevat)

Saturday 24 January

Civic Service

Friday 30 January

Shirah (Beshallah - 12 Shevat)

Saturday 31 January

Bromley Reform Synagogue Calendar – a Reminder

Please submit your art work for our Bromley Synagogue calendar, which will be on sale from May/June 2015. It will run for 15 months, starting with Rosh Hashanah September 2015 and running to December 2016. We still need art of any kind - drawings, painting, photography, knitting, really anything creative that you can produce. The art can be sent to us digitally or by hard copy, but **must be no bigger than A4** in size. If you are emailing the artwork it should be digital 300 dpi in any format e.g. jpeg, pdf etc.

To give you some ideas have a look at some suggestions below:

September 2015 - Rosh Hashanah / Yom Kippur

October 2015 - Simchat Torah

November 2015 - a seasonal picture of the synagogue, a kippah, a shabbat scene, or use your imagination

December 2015 - Chanukah

January 2016 - Tu B'Shevat, the beginning of a "new year" for trees.

February 2016 - be creative!

March 2016 - Purim celebrates the deliverance of the Jewish people from the wicked Haman in the days of Queen Esther of Persia.

April 2016 - Passover (Pesach) celebrates the deliverance of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt.

May 2016 - Israel Independence Day, Holocaust Memorial Day.

June 2016 - Shavuot marks the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai. The Ten Commandments are read in synagogues, just as they were in the desert on Mt. Sinai over 3,300 years ago.

July, August, September 2016 - think summer, think Jewish, think!

October 2016 - Rosh Hashana / Yom Kippur

November 2016 - a seasonal picture of your choice

December 2016 - Chanukah

Please submit your art work by **Sunday 1 February**. You can hand it in at shul to either Rhona Green or Michelle Brooks Evans or email rhonag@btinternet.com or michellebrooksevens@gmail.com

Dates for Your Diary

January 2015

Th	1	
F	2	
S	3	Vayechi Bat mitzvah of Judith French
S	4	New Cheder Term begins
M	5	
T	6	
W	7	
Th	8	
F	9	
S	10	Shemot - Service led by Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner , followed by Shared Lunch and discussion on MRJ
S	11	
M	12	Torah Text Study Group , 7.30-9.30 pm Knit and Natter , 2.30-4.30 pm at Pauline's
T	13	
W	14	Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Synagogue
Th	15	Talmud Study , 10.30-11.45 am Sicha on 'Kashrut' , 7.30 at the Shul
F	16	
S	17	Va'era - Family Service
S	18	Introduction to Jewish Belief , 10-11 am
M	19	
T	20	
W	21	Rosh Chodesh Shevat
Th	22	Talmud Study , 10.30-11.45 am
F	23	
S	24	Bo - Civic Service
S	25	Introduction to Jewish Belief , 10-11 am
M	26	Torah Text Study Group , 7.30 pm at the Shul
T	27	
W	28	Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm, Vegetarian sushi demonstration
Th	29	Talmud Study , 10.30-11.45 am
F	30	
S	31	Shirah (Beshallah)

February

S	1	Intro to Everyday Jewish Living , 10-11 am
M	2	
T	3	
W	4	Tu B'Shvat
Th	5	Talmud Study , 10.30-11.45 am
F	6	
S	7	Yitro
S	8	Intro to Everyday Jewish Living , 10-11 am
M	9	
T	10	
W	11	Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Synagogue
Th	12	Talmud Study , 10.30-11.45 am
F	13	
S	14	Shekalim
S	15	Intro to Everyday Jewish Living , 10-11 am
M	16	
T	17	
W	18	Book Study Session , 7.45 pm at the Shul
Th	19	Talmud Study , 10.30-11.45 am
F	20	Rosh Chodesh Adar
S	21	Terumah
S	22	Cheder Half Term
M	23	
T	24	
W	25	Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Synagogue Book Study Session , 7.45 pm at the Shul
Th	26	Talmud Study , 10.30-11.45 am
F	27	
S	28	Zachor

Riding4Reform 2015





The 12th annual Riding4Reform five-day bike ride is an unforgettable experience and an opportunity to meet fellow Reform and Progressive Israelis and enjoy the beautiful scenery that Israel has to offer.

Ride4Reform is an unforgettable ride through the width of the Galilee, passing by the Carmel region and Emek Jezreel, and a chance to support Israel and Reform Judaism.

The ride will take place in April, starting on **Sunday, 26 April** and ending at the sea of Galilee on **Thursday, 30 April**.

Join those who have already confirmed their participation and send an e-mail with a picture and a few words about yourself to r4r@reform.org.il.

Contact nos. for subcommittees and other groups

<p>BR5 and 6 and Friends: Jean Garelick, 01689 850668 genie.jeannie@btopenworld.com</p>	
<p>Board of Deputies Rep.: Joe Millis, 020 8299 3458 roejoebentoby@gmail.com</p>	
<p>Caring Community: Pauline Jeffree, 020 8650 4860 pauline.jeffree@btinternet.com</p>	
<p>Cheder Head Teacher: Vicki Ashmore, 020 8290 4220 vickiashmore@icloud.com</p>	
<p>Cheder Security: Tamir Hargittai, 01689 600142 thargittai@yahoo.com</p>	
<p>Choir: Dianne Mathews, 01689 826096 diannem3@googlemail.com</p>	
<p>Communications: Judi Sheffrin, 07968 324981 judishef@aol.com</p>	
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<p>Tracy Frankel, 01732 451977 6frankels@gmail.com</p>	
<p>Horaay Cheder: Dani Hall, 07740 282 562 dani_hall@hotmail.com</p>	
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<p>Kiddush Rota: Harriet Posner, 020 8291 9775 posner.harriet@googlemail.com</p>	
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<p>School Visits Coordinator: Marilyn Freeman, 020 8650 7178 marilynfreeman221@btinternet.com</p>	
<p>SE10 and Beyond Michelle Brooks-Evans, 020 8293 4999 michellebrooksevans@gmail.com</p>	
<p>Social Centre: Dianne Mathews, 01689 826096 diannem3@googlemail.com</p>	
<p>Subscriptions: Janet Posner, 020 8650 7521 janet.posner@talk21.com</p>	
<p>Security: Eric Lewis, 020 8460 4353 e.lewis@btinternet.com</p>	
<p>Website: Kieron Hyams, 07980 647108 mail@kieronhyams.co.uk</p>	
<p>Youth: Linda de Lange, 020 8858 6206 lindascottdelange@googlemail.com</p>	



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