

# HIGHLight

Bromley Reform Synagogue newsletter



The Beatles of Sushan acted as the chorus at Bromley's Purim spiel on Sunday, 8 March

## Your new Executive and Board

At the AGM of 17 March 2015, the following persons were elected Executive officers and members of the Board:

Chairman: Joanna Koenigsberg  
 Vice Chairman: Matthew de Lange  
 Treasurer: Sandra Hurley  
 Secretary: Anna Sedenu

## Board

Elka Carr Judith French  
 Graham Harris Adrian Jackson  
 Barbara Kurtz Lisa Lewis  
 Janet Posner Marilyn Freeman  
 Jason Friedler Kieron Hyams  
 Pauline Jeffree Shane Lask  
 Daniel Posner Ruth Rolle

**Senior Warden:** Daniel Posner

The AGM thanked those who were standing down for their service to the community.

*The report of the Board to the AGM is printed on pages 3 and 4 of this Highlight.*

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### Jubilee Lecture, 2015

Sunday, 10 May, 7.15 pm refreshments, 8 pm start

Come and listen to our very own Baroness

### Professor Alison Wolf



Sir Roy Griffiths Professor of Public Sector Management at Kings College London, who will speak on

### "Not Quite Utopia?"

"There are now many millions of educated, professional working women, who are transforming our societies around them.

But have we got the world that feminists and reformers dreamed of?

Or have new problems and injustices been created along the way?"

Professor Wolf has recently published a book covering this topic –

"The XX Factor: How Working Women are Creating a new Society"

Barbara Kurtz – [a.bkurtz@talktalk.net](mailto:a.bkurtz@talktalk.net)

April 2015 – Pesach 5775



### Find us on Facebook!

[www.facebook.com/BromleyReformSynagogue](http://www.facebook.com/BromleyReformSynagogue)  
 or Tweet us @BromleyShul) ...



# BROMLEY REFORM SYNAGOGUE

A constituent of the Movement for Reform Judaism

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**Minister: Rabbi Jason Holtz**

07454 021 892

**Synagogue Administrator: Mrs Janet Burlem**

## HONORARY OFFICERS

**President:** David Barnett

**Vice-Presidents:**

Desirée Barnett	Zena Goodman	Sally Rosebery
Norman Goldberg	Ivor Lask, MBE	Bob Symonds
Ronnie Goldberg	Dianne Mathews	David Zerihan

## Executive Officers

<b>Chairman:</b>	Joanna Koenigsberg	020 8309 1061	keesabromley@gmail.com
<b>Vice-Chairman:</b>	Matthew de Lange	020 8858 6206	matthew_delange@yahoo.co.uk
<b>Secretary:</b>	Anna Sedenu	020 8297 5249	anna@mrmos.demon.co.co.uk
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Sandra Hurley	07770 661 898	llkulparis@hotmail.com
<b>Senior Warden:</b>	Daniel Posner	07866 761 181	posner.dan@googlemail.com

## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

(in the event of a bereavement)

**Contact Mrs Janet Posner: 020 8650 7521 (Mobile: 07841 373 309)**

**or Stephen Weil: 020 8299 4141 (Mobile: 07764 475209)**

**Editor: Bob Symonds:** 020 8402 2197; bobsymonds@mac.com

*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. ....

## Report of the Board to the AGM, 17 March 2015



During the past year, Beit Or has experienced many special and noteworthy events. Many of these were linked to the fact that it was our 50th year, our Golden Jubilee, during 2014. Thanks are due to everyone who was involved in all the organising which took place, starting from the group which oversaw all the events (cleverly detailed by **Anna Sedenu**) to those who washed up after yet another talk, service or quiz.

It is always easiest to remember the most recent events the most clearly, so I am grateful to the chairs of the various committees who have reported to me on the full year, reminding me of what was happening 11 and 12 months ago. This has been **Rabbi Holtz's** first full year with us. He has his own report to give, I know, so I won't pre-empt him, except to say that I think it has been very successful. In current parlance I think it can safely be said that he "gets" Bromley, and he and Jodi have both made significant contributions to all parts of shul life over this period.

**Larry Shall**, the departing Chief Warden emphasised that the religion and ritual committee really want new lay readers to step forward and are keen to urge anyone who would like to participate in leading any part of the service no matter how large or small to come forward. He mentioned that family services have been well attended and with the appointment of **Rabbi Holtz** there has been more variation to the services, which is to be applauded.

Here are a few highlights from Larry's report: the Selichot service was moving, but unfortunately the congregants were outnumbered by the choir. He (and I) would encourage more people to attend. For the first time **Rabbi Holtz** led the High Holydays; the choir, led again by **Peter Lurie**, were in fine voice and **Rabbi Holtz's** sermons were particularly well received. The lay readers, wardens and shleppers all excelled and all services ran smoothly and almost to time. Thanks are due to everyone involved. The Chanukah party was very successful as were candle-lightings in people's homes. The Purim spiel, The

Beatles of Shushan, was an enormous success played to a full house. Many thanks to the Rabbi and cast for such a successful production, it will be a hard act to follow. In conclusion, Larry wants to pass on his thanks to all the members of the committee for their dedication and hard work. He adds that after serving the community for 8 years it is time to hand over the running of the committee. He and I are sure that R & R will continue to move from strength to strength under the guidance of the new senior warden (**Daniel Posner**) and the Rabbi.

Next came a report from the **Education Committee**, which was in two parts. **Barbara Kurtz** wrote:

It was a very busy year for the Education Committee, centred round our efforts to mark the synagogue's Golden Jubilee. Instead of our usual *single* Jubilee Lecture, we arranged a series of 4 special speakers, accompanied by some special refreshments. Judging from the response of members, I think I can say that our efforts were a success and we brought top-class speakers to Bromley. Leon Smith from Nightingale was followed by Dr (now Sir) Anthony Seldon, a former Bromley member with a talk on "Pleasure, Happiness, Bliss". The Speaker of the House of Commons, the Rt Hon John Bercow confounded many of the media-derived views we had of him with an entertaining and illuminating talk on his "job" and, to round off the series, **Rabbi Baroness Julia Neuberger** left us all talking for weeks with her thought-provoking views on end-of-life issues. Our last Jubilee event was a less controversial event featuring our four Rabbis, past and present, concluding again with a very convivial Jubilee Tea Party.

The synagogue enjoyed a weekend with **Cantor Janece Cohen** from Tucson, Arizona, who enhanced the Shabbat service, gave a concert and joined the children at Cheder. This year **John Posner** introduced a new idea – a discussion group "Sicha" which is as yet an occasional event, but which promises to be a forum for informal and wide-ranging discussions. John's loyal group of Torah students continues to meet and learn. **Marilyn Freeman** continues to fulfil the ever increasing demands of local schools, showing groups of children round our synagogue, enhancing their knowledge of basic Judaism which forms part of their school curriculum. These visits are much

appreciated by the schools and children concerned, and can be considered a valuable PR exercise for the synagogue. Very many thanks are due to **Marilyn** and also to **Sandra Hurley** who has helped many a cub scout or brownie acquire a Faith badge for his or her sleeve. Demand for visits continues to grow and **Marilyn** really could do with some help in what is a very important aspect of Beit Midrash.

With regard to the **Cheder** the head teacher **Vicki Ashmore** reminds us that the synagogue is deeply indebted to all our teachers and helpers. They work tirelessly to maintain Cheder excellence. She is proud to be associated with them. The Cheder children raised over £240 in tzedakah collections for the first term this year, to support Jewish Child's Day. This term they are collecting tzedakah to support **Emma Mittleman's** charity Summer Hype, and are all very proud to support this home-grown talent! There is a new bulletin board in the foyer where the children's work can be displayed, or which can be used as a teaching aid linked to events at Cheder. Have a look at it some time.

**Pauline Jeffree** reported on the work of the **Caring Community Committee**. This group keeps in touch by visiting, telephone, e-mail, SKYPE and Talking Highlight with those members of the Synagogue who are known to us as being housebound, unwell, in hospital, residential care or nursing homes. Everyone should be assured that the confidentiality levels are very high and that no private circumstances are revealed to those not involved.

**Pauline** reminded us that this year's Macmillan coffee morning at the shul, raised £627.10. She also brought up the **Travel Fund**, which was the recipient of the funds from our successful Jubilee raffle. More people should be accessing this fund, established to make sure that no one is unable to attend a shul event simply because they need some financial support to pay for their transport.

Thanks are due to **Pauline** and her team for their excellent work.

**Graham Harris** reported that in this past year we had all the classrooms and offices painted. A new and better second water pump replaced the old one to serve the disabled loo downstairs. Those who

*continued on page 4*

continued from page 3

washed up might have noticed a temperamental tap in the kitchen sink earlier in the year. It has now been repaired. To satisfy the terms of our insurance we had to have some overhanging trees trimmed. Our fire extinguishers and fire alarms have all been checked out and there is a new maintenance contract for them. To promote fire safety, we have also had all our small electrical appliances tested. At the back, some of the path was slipping down the hill, an obvious danger, and we had that repaired, with a new path. We have also had a new fence put up at the back. The old one came down in strong winds.

On the technological front, we have a new **Wi-Fi system**, thanks to all the work put in by **Toby Allin**. Another technological advance will involve the installation of a couple of CCTV cameras at the front. An anonymous donor is kindly contributing to this installation. Coming soon: a new caretaker and a contract to service the heating system. We hope to be able to understand how to programme the system to save energy and to ensure members aren't obliged to wear their coats throughout services or events!

The **Social Club** held a successful quiz night that was hosted by **Susan Radford** and **Gloria Norman**. My particular favourite was the fashion show, which featured some of our members as models and was something I'd be happy to see become annual! **Jean** and **Alan Garelick** arranged a cunning picnic/treasure hunt event which, sadly, was not well attended. It was also a pity that the Summer Party was cancelled due to disappointing ticket sales. The group will meet again shortly to plan the next year's events, and would welcome suggestions from interested members about the type of events they would like to see or participate in. Contact **Lesley Freeman** if you are interested in getting involved, please.

**Judi Sheffrin** reports on the work of the Communications Group – a very 21st century facet of the activities of the synagogue. She stressed that the team are keen to publicise and publish details of events at Beit Or, but that often they are not contacted in time. The address is [comms@bromleyshul.org.uk](mailto:comms@bromleyshul.org.uk), and it should be used by anybody wanting any-

thing publicised via any of our media, as it feeds the information to several of us at once.

Judi also mentioned **Highlight**, which the brilliant **Bob Symonds** has been editing for 35 years! The Group are seeking assistants and apprentice editors to start to learn about all the aspects of publication of this magazine. Along with this “guest editors” are sought to work on just one issue and find out what is involved. If you are interested yourself or can think of somebody who might be suitable, please let Judi know. Judi enthusiastically thanked her extraordinarily creative, practical and dedicated team, Kieron, Bob, Alison, Rhona, Matthew, Claudia, Anna, Toby and the Rabbi, almost all of whom have had more than enough on their plates in the past year without worrying about our communications.

Another effect of trying to report on 12 months' of events and happenings is that I know I have forgotten exactly who needs thanking for each event. Please know that I, the Board, and the community as a whole deeply appreciate all the effort which goes into making things happen around Beit Or. Please, even if you haven't been singled out and named, accept thanks – we are such a fortunate community to be able to call on the talents of so many. And, as the Rabbi pointed out at the meeting, performing these tasks for the sake of the community is all holy work.

Thank you for entrusting me with the post of Chairman of the Board for another year, I will strive to polish my performance!

**Joanna Koenigsberg**, Chairman

## 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.

Students should bring their own copy of Tractate Berachot and they are recommended to bring a Tenach (Bible) as well.

**The course meets on Thursdays from 10:30-11:45 am.**

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

## All you need is Purim

The 'Fab Four' go to Shushan?



*Haman and his scheming wife Zeresh played a big part in our Purim Spiel*

A capacity audience enjoyed our Purim Spiel, accompanied by Beatles' songs, or name-checked in the script and popping up in puns. And, of course, joining in familiar choruses.

The cast – younger and older members – performed with great enthusiasm and their performance was obviously the result of much hard work.

From “Hey Jude” to “Back in the USSR”, Lennon and McCartney's lyrics were affectionately replaced with lyrics that retold the familiar story of Esther's chutzpah, Haman's hubris and genocide averted.

The serious story behind the fancy dress and fun of Purim was enhanced by the pop songs that have become modern classics. As with last year's 'Wizard of Shushan', familiar tunes gain extra poignancy and significance through the filter of the Megillah. Every generation interprets the Purim story differently, but the message of courage and unity remains the same. Well done to everyone involved.

*From our Roving Reporter*

### Introduction to Judaism

*taught by Rabbi Jason Holtz*

This Sunday morning series will resume in May with a new topic: **Introduction to the Jewish Life Cycle**, with sessions on Sundays, **10 and 17 May.**

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



## Cheder News



There were over 75 children and adults at the Cheder Seder on the last day of term. All the classes joined together with the Gan for a pre Passover Seder. This was spectacularly led by Vicki and supported by all the Cheder teachers and helpers. Thanks to the Cheder PTA for all its support and to everyone for helping make this such a great success.

Hello, all of you interested in our Cheder News! Want to see all the lovely ways we're bringing Judaism to our youngest members? Come take a look:

- 1) The whole Cheder celebrated Purim by watching a fantastic **Purim Shpiel**, led by our Rabbi. The cast was fantastic as the Beatles led us through their hits including "Keep us Free" and "Hey Jews". We rounded off the day with a feast of tea, coffee and yummy hamantaschen baked by the children in the Cheder.
- 2) The first day back after our Passover Holidays is traditionally our day to remember the victims of the Holocaust. Parents, please set a good example and join your children at this shul-wide event to show the importance of this memorial service. Our **Yom Hashoah Memorial Service** will take place on Sunday, 19 April at 11am. Children in years 4-7 will automatically be there, but you may bring younger children to sit with you if you wish. You may also take your children home immediately at the end of the service.
- 3) **Family Services** are continuing, with one planned every other month. These are Rabbi-led family friendly services (not to be confused with *Children's Services*,

which are led by the children). They're shorter and the music is a bit bouncier than regular services, so why not give one a try?

- 4) Our next **Children's Service** has been planned for 20 June. That is a Saturday, and you know what that means? **Cheder will be on Saturday instead of Sunday!** Please make sure you come on Saturday, as the children will be leading this service full of songs. And whatever you do, don't come on Sunday the 21st or you will be very lonely and on your own! (It also means you can celebrate Father's Day that Sunday. You're welcome!)

That's all for now... With wishes for a happy and healthy April,  
Vicki, Head Teacher  
vickiashmore@icloud.com

### Call for Sponsors

Judi Sheffrin, Jo Jaekel and their friend Jenny are swimming in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care on 19 April and plan to swim a total of 5,000 metres.

They would welcome your financial support.

Their team giving page address is <https://my.swimathon.org/sponsor/not-waving-but-drowning>



## Social Centre News

The Social Centre met on 10 March. Quite a few members came and, as usual, we were a talkative bunch. Sometimes its difficult to get a word in edgeways!

The usual discussion was initiated by Lionel, this time about the anti-Semitism that seems to be sweeping Europe. Unfortunately nobody had a reason for this and were only glad that we lived in England where we all still felt safe.

Lunch was good, especially the bread and butter pudding, which was delicious. Despite worrying about our weight, most of us still managed to have a second helping. Rabbi Jason Holtz joined us for lunch, which was an added bonus.

**Stephen Ison** from Jewish Care came to give us a talk about driving when we are old. He suggested many ways to be careful if we are still active enough to drive, which gave us food for thought and made some of us think twice about giving up driving altogether. Among his alternatives was to walk more (which would be a little difficult for some of us) or alternatively get a motor scooter, and of course there was always Dial-a-Ride. He had quite a few pamphlets which gave examples of how to drive safely. There were also tests we could take.

Stephen also had lists of shops that sold some kosher food. I felt this was not too helpful, because a majority of the shops were quite a ride away from Bromley and if we had to give up driving they were too far to walk to. If we had a motor scooter I can visualise being stranded half way to Wimbledon (for instance) on the scooter because the battery had run out. Not a pleasant experience I would imagine.

However, it was very interesting and we very much appreciate Stephen coming to talk to us.

**Zelda Stone**

### Social Centre Diary Dates

*Wednesday, 8 April*

Exercises, Socialising and Lunch

*Wednesday, 22 April*

Musical entertainment by David Coronel and Tom Shiels

## Now What? by Rabbi Jason Holtz

I love Israel and I fear for it. I love Israel because of what it is and what it stands for, a proud, defiant, free, democratic, Jewish state reborn after thousands of years. Not only that, but all that Israel has achieved, it did so in the most difficult of circumstances. Only a few years removed from World War II and the Holocaust, the Jewish state was born. And it was born when every surrounding country tried, through war, to stop that from happening. Time and time again, tiny Israel was attacked and tiny Israel prevailed. And through it all, it maintained its commitment to being a caring society, guided by the highest values in the Jewish tradition. I fear for Israel for several reasons. Outside threats still exist, particularly Iran. Yet, I also fear for Israel because the values that Israel was founded on, most especially democracy and fairness, seem to be in danger.

At the time of me writing this, we are now less than a day removed from the Israeli elections and it seems most likely that Benjamin Netanyahu will continue as the Prime Minister. I fear because right before the election Netanyahu said that as long as he is the prime minister, there will be no Palestinian state. If there is to be no Palestinian state, then the only other option is a single state from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River. If that state is to be a democracy, then all Palestinians must be granted citizenship, and the uniquely Jewish identity of the state will cease. To be sure, following a fair judicial process, all convicted criminals and ter-

rorists should not be afforded the right to vote. However, that still leaves millions of people voting and distancing Israel from its Jewish character. The only other option is to permanently deny Arabs in Gaza and the West Bank citizenship and accompanying rights and that is no option. The Torah states, "There shall be one law for the citizen and the resident alike." Maintaining a separate legal structure, separate set of rights (or lack thereof), and so on, runs completely counter to our tradition. Judaism affirms one God and one law. Discrimination without cause, denial of rights without reason, is not simply not Jewish. It is antithetical to everything our legal tradition stands for. For the first time in thousands of years, Jews have real power. This is the test of our tradition, our beliefs and our justice—to see if everything that we have learned over the last several thousand years works in practice. For too often, we've learned the hard way of what it means to be oppressed. With that in mind, will we use the power afforded to us to promote a fair, equal and democratic society, or will we use it to unjustly deny an entire people equal rights, either in their own state or in Israel? Mr Netanyahu said what the future will not entail so long as he has power – a Palestinian state. So the question is, now what? What will Israel be, fair and democratic, but not particularly Jewish, or unfair, undemocratic, favouring Jews over others (but still not particularly Jewish, as all of this runs counter to our highest values). I'm waiting, with no small amount of fear over the

future of a country that I love.

We're now in the month of Nisan, the month of the Exodus from Egypt. Year in and year out, we remember and celebrate with a seder. The whole point of the Passover is to teach the importance of freedom and a fair society, where one people does not rule over another. We must love both citizen and stranger alike, for we were strangers in the land of Egypt. We must stick with what we know, that any people that intends to rule over another is behaving inherently counter to the morality of the Torah. It's simply wrong. Rather, let Israel be worthy of the name - a people and a country that remembers what it's like to be denied freedom and therefore is always freedom's champion, a people that was the first to proclaim that as there is one Creator, we are all equally God's creatures, equally deserving of dignity. That's the people that we've historically been. That's the people we should continue to be.

**Rabbi Jason Holtz**  
jsholtz@gmail.com



### **Riding4Reform 2015**

**Riding4Reform** 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 R4R event is suitable for all levels of riders and walkers.

This year the ride will hit the road on **Sunday, 26 April** and end at the sea of Galilee on **Thursday, 30 April**.

Send an e-mail with a picture and a few words about yourself to [r4r@reform.org.il](mailto:r4r@reform.org.il)

## Social and Personal

**DEATHS** - We are very sad to report the death of our member **Dr Gerald Taylor** and extend sincere condolences to his widow, Dr Phyllis Taylor, and their daughter Claudia Goodman and her family.

We are also very sad to report the death of our member, Derek Wellbrook, and extend sincere condolences to his widow, Miriam, and their children, David, Deborah, Ali and their families. A tribute to Derek appears on page 8 of *Highlight*.

**BEREAVEMENT** - Sincere condolences to **John Goodman** and his family on the sad loss of his sister, Pearl Godfrey, at the age of 91.

### GET WELL SOON

Pauline Jeffree writes:

We are thinking of all those who are unwell at home and in hospital. Our thoughts are with David Barnett, David Besser, Daniel Harris, Kieron Hyams, and others who do not wish their names to be publicised.

### Welcome to new members:

Miss Polina Revzina of Shortlands, Ms Flora Spiegel of Orpington, the Campling family of Eltham and the Waterman family of Orpington.

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## SE10 and Beyond

**Michelle Brooks-Evans writes:**

Welcome to all regardless of postcode!

We will be meeting on **Friday, 10 April** for Passover; in May to discuss "marrying out"; in June for a Yiddish evening and in July (to be finalised). We always meet in the evenings at one of our homes. There is always good company, a good discussion and, of course, good food!

Contact **Michelle** for all details: michellebrooksevans@gmail.com or 07956 235309

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## The 2014 Accounts

*A note from the Treasurer*

The complete set of Financial Statements for 2014 and the AGM one-page hand-out are available on request (pdf files) from the Synagogue office.

Please email **Janet Burlem** at (janet@bromleyshul.org.uk).

## The Jewish Joint Burial Society's New Ohel



*The JJBS new ohel at the Woodland Cemetery in Cheshunt. The ohel is expected to be completed by April and the surrounding area landscaped.*

**The JJBS Woodland Cemetery** at Cheshunt took another step towards full operation with a service led by Rabbi Larry Becker for the unveiling of the foundation stone of the new ohel (prayer hall) by Jerome Karet, a founding Governor and President of the Society

This is the first Jewish woodland cemetery in Europe and provides a beautiful facility for those who wish to be buried in a natural setting. The new ohel, which has been designed by David Green of MR Partnership, uses natural materials to complement the woodland environment and has been positioned to minimise the effect on the surrounding woodland. It will also have a columbarium for the interment of ashes following cremations. Twenty-five funerals have already taken place in the Woodland Cemetery, which also has facilities for the burial of non-Jewish partners of our congregants.

If you have any questions regarding the Woodland Cemetery or burial of non-Jewish partners please contact **Janet Posner** 020 8650 7521 or janet.posner@talk21.com

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### The Grove Bridge Club is holding a Visitors Evening on Monday, 20 April at St Paul's Church Hall, Lawn Road, Beckenham.

This is an opportunity for players with some experience to come along and try duplicate bridge at a friendly club. The evening will start at 7.15 pm and play will continue until 10.30 (with a break for tea).

There will be no charge and partners can be provided if required.

For further details telephone **Chris Ellwood** on 01689 859751 or **Malcolm Cedar** on 020 8290 1002.

You can find out more about the club at [www.thegrovebc.co.uk](http://www.thegrovebc.co.uk).

## Keeping in touch

*A request from the Caring Community*

There are a number of our members who would love to receive regular visits or to be telephoned so that they can keep in touch with Shul happenings.

If any members would be willing to add one or two more people to their contact list, please e-mail or telephone:

**Pauline Jeffree,**

Chair Caring Community

020 8650 4860

[pauline.jeffree@btinternet.com](mailto:pauline.jeffree@btinternet.com)

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## BR5&6 and Friends

As we no longer put a regular update in *Highlight*, I would like you to know that we still have our events and that notification is sent out by email from Jean Garelick. As we approach our 24th year (not bad) we have already got a few things planned and are waiting for you to enjoy.

If at any time you have a suggestion for an event or a query regarding one, you can always contact me either at [gloria.norman@ntlworld.com](mailto:gloria.norman@ntlworld.com) or on 01689 861493.

Wishing you all a good Pesach

**Gloria Norman**

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## Knit and Natter

The next 'Knit and Natter' will be on **Monday, 27 April**, from 2.30 to 4 pm at Pauline Jeffree's home.

### Pauline writes:

"If you need details of my address or how to find me, please contact me. N.B. you really don't have to be able to knit or crochet, although we can help you to do both if you would like to do so. Our projects continue.

All are welcome.

There are limited parking facilities within the grounds, but usually available places in nearby roads."

Please ring Pauline on 020 8650 4860 or email [pauline.jeffree@btinternet.com](mailto:pauline.jeffree@btinternet.com) to say you are coming.



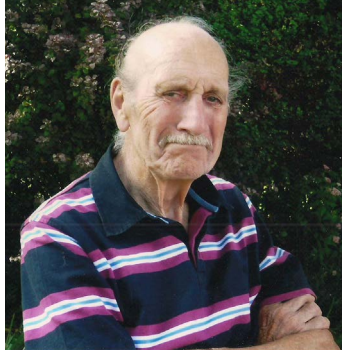


## Remembering Derek Wellbrook

14 November 1929 - 08 March 2015

My father, **our** father.

As your parents get older, it dawns on you that one day, sooner or later, you'll have the privilege, and it **is** a privilege to stand up in front of your family and friends and tell them what, from your perspective, your Dad was all about. What our



Dad was about was honesty, integrity, fairness, a sense of right and wrong. He was hard working - good grief he was hard working. He was kind, he was considerate, he was **always** ready to help. These are characteristics that five young men and indeed two young women sat here today would do well to aspire to. As should we all. If those five young men and two young women ever need a role model to help them through life's twists and turns, they should look no further than their grandfather. He was a funny man and the last thing he said in front of me made me laugh. He was someone that everybody looked up to. He was always ready to advise. In truth, I wish I'd asked him more.

He was a wonderful husband to my mother. She was and still is a very lucky lady. She chose well. I'm reliably informed that they met at a dance class. 16 year-old Miriam went along with a friend and like most 16 year-old girls I guess, was drawn to a group of men opposite. "He's nice and tall" thought my mother, "I'll have that one." And that's the one she got.

I didn't know this, but it seems my father used to ride a bicycle and because his arms were so long his wrists would get cold. Never one to miss a chance to show off her knitting skills, my mother knitted him some woollen wristbands to keep him warm on those long bicycle rides from Coldharbour Lane back to East Dulwich, where Dad lived. It seems at first my mother was reluctant to marry as during one of their many evening walks she told him that obviously she needed to marry someone who could provide her with a maid and didn't feel that he would have enough money to accommodate her with that most important part of marriage. Naturally a

parting of the ways took place, but my mother very quickly relented. She was having a party at home and realising how much she wanted my father there and intriguingly knowing where he was, she contacted the Locarno Ballroom in Streatham, who

announced over their Tannoy system that she missed him and could he come to her party. As you may already have guessed, he jumped on his bicycle, adjusted his wristbands and the rest, as they say, is history.

He was also father to two loving daughters. Deborah came first and, as the bible says, is wise, strong and courageous. He was absolutely proud of everything that she achieved, which made going out at midnight or even later to pick her up from wherever she had been much, much easier. Alison arrived as a rather extravagant 41st birthday present for him, sharing as they do the same birthday. Both my sisters spent many a happy hour on a Saturday afternoon watching the wrestling on television combing his hair and arguing over who had created the most extreme hairstyle. As the years passed, their scope for creativity waned somewhat and my father threatened to sue.

It's a fact that he's responsible for there being ten new people in this world who would not otherwise be here without him. And, as the years pass, no doubt that number will grow and grow and grow. I reckon that's quite a legacy.

On Sunday evening I sent some texts to a few of my closest friends from school, those who would have known my father on and off for over 40 years, telling them about our sad news. I had some lovely texts back - one or two telling me how **they** saw our father. "He always made me smile" one said. Another said that it was obvious that he loved his family very much and always looked after us. I think I would like that to be his epitaph. Thank you Daddy. We shall all miss you terribly.

*Eulogy delivered at Derek's funeral by his son David on 12 March 2015*

### Jewish Kent

#### Join the celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut Sunday 19 April at 2 pm

Discussion on "The current state of Israel"

followed by Israeli music, tea and workshops for the children.

A Jewish Kent Event to be held at **Chatham Memorial Synagogue**, 366 High Street, Rochester, Kent. **Briefing & Discussion by Nicholas Saphir**, Chairman of the New Israel Fund

Workshops suitable for all ages led by the Team from the JNF

**Nicholas Saphir** considers himself a proud Zionist. He is descended from the Hebrew poet Bialik, he is passionately committed to Israel and is a past Chairman of Chatham Memorial Synagogue. The discussion is sure to be engaging, informative and educational.

**£5 Adults, £3 Children under 16, under 5s free**

Tickets from **Jo Freeman**:  
07980 050 456  
email [joevfied@hotmail.com](mailto:joevfied@hotmail.com)

**RSVP by 14 April**

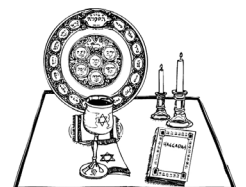
For further information go to:  
[www.chathamshul.org.uk](http://www.chathamshul.org.uk)

*Wear something blue to celebrate the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948*

### Passover Poem

*Palates can be palettes of the soul,  
As tastes can paint a picture of the past.  
So might ritual foods make memories last,  
Summoning up fond fragments of the whole.  
Of matzah, then, charoset, bitter herb,  
Vivid harbingers of what has been,  
Each Pesach sing, and with your tongue again  
Recall the revelation that they serve.*

<http://www.poemsforfree.com/passover-poems.html>





**Jewish Legacy Shabbat**  
Saturday, 14 March (Shabbat Parah) was Jewish Legacy Shabbat

**Adam Overlander-Kaye**, MRJ  
Director of Fundraising, writes:

Imagine someone gave you an envelope and inside was £1000 with an instruction to distribute to charity. Who would you give it to and why? To one charity? To ten? How do we decide who needs what?

These questions underpin the idea of Jewish Legacy Shabbat, which took place on 14 March. This initiative aims to encourage our community to leave a legacy gift to Jewish charities/organisations/synagogues so that the array of activities we benefit from continue into the future and are supported well.

That week's Torah portion was about the construction and decoration of the *mishcan*. The *mishcan* is a portable sanctuary that our Israelite ancestors carried with them – creating a space for God to be with them and them to be with God. The Torah tells us that everyone who cared gave. It was a community effort. They wanted to do it. Our task as a community is to give in whatever way we can.

You might ask, 'but what can my legacy fund?' After the *mishcan* was finished they brought it to Moses... 'with all its furnishings...planks, bars, curtains, poles, lamps etc.' (Exodus 39:33). We can fund the big picture, our vision of what the Jewish world could and should look like, but it's made up of so many other smaller items – education programmes; newspaper articles; pastoral work; bursaries for events; student work. The Torah describes all the intricate work needed to create the 'big idea/vision' (i.e. the *mishcan*) because inherent is the understanding that you can only have a big idea/vision if you have all the other nuts and bolts to bring it to fruition.

We are sometimes uncomfortable with discussing wills and legacies (and death), however, the Talmud teaches us that, 'I found a fruitful world because my ancestors planted it for me and so I will plant for my children' (Ta'anit 23a). Leaving a legacy gift in our will is not only beneficial to charity, but also enables us to demonstrate further to our loved ones the causes and ideals dear

**SERVICES**

**April 2015 – Nisan/Iyar 5775**

All Fridays at 6.45 pm, unless otherwise stated.  
Saturdays at 10.30 am, unless otherwise stated

<b>Friday 3 April</b>	<b>First Seder Night - no Friday evening service</b>
<b>Saturday 4 April</b>	<b>1st Day of Pesach, service at 10.30 am</b>
<b>Friday 10 April</b>	<b>7th Day of Pesach, service at 10.30 am</b>
<b>Friday 10 April</b> <b>Saturday 11 April</b>	<b>Shemini (22 Nisan)</b>
<b>Friday 17 April</b> <b>Saturday 18 April</b>	<b>Atzma'ut (Tazria-Metzora, 29 Nisan)</b> Service of dedication of the new Board
<b>Sunday 19 April</b>	<b>Yom Hashoah</b> commemoraton with the Cheder, 11 am
<b>Friday 24 April</b> <b>Saturday 25 April</b>	<b>Acharei Mot-Kedoshim (6 Iyar)</b>

to us and perhaps encourage them to be philanthropic themselves. Transmitting the importance of *tzedakah* to our descendants after we die is surely a legacy we can be proud of.

When the *mishcan* is completed the presence of God fills it. Leaving a legacy enables you to be part of the task of bringing God, holiness and go(o)dliness into our community and into our world. If giving gifts to the *mishcan* brought God's presence to the biblical Israelites, so too your legacy can make the world a better place – the ultimate act of *tikkun olam* perhaps. As it says at the end of the Aleinu prayer – *l'taken olam, b'malchut Shaddai*, fixing the world through the sovereignty of God.

To discuss further, please contact **Adam Overlander-Kaye** on aok@reformjudaism.org.uk or 0208 349 5686 or go to www.jewishlegacy.org.uk for more details.

**Maccabi GB**  
**Family Fun Run**

**Sunday, 14 June,**  
**at Allianz Park NW4**

1, 5 and 10 Km, plus new 5 Km walk and Tri-Run

Come and help raise funds for MRJ

**5th Annual**  
**Jewish Music Fair**  
**Sunday, 12 April 2015**

**Alyth (North Western Reform Synagogue), London NW11**

**10 am to 6 pm**

Choose from 30 Jewish music sessions throughout the day with a chance to perform, participate, listen, learn, socialise, network, eat, drink and have a stimulating or relaxing day depending on your mood. Some of Britain's finest Jewish musicians will inspire and teach a vast array of workshops.

**Tickets** – Adults: Full day, £30; Half day, £20 – concessions on request

For more information, brochure and application forms visit the Jewish Music Fair website or contact viv@alyth.org.uk



9-12 July 2015

REFORM JUDAISM

# Dates for Your Diary















## April

W	1	
Th	2	Talmud Study, 10.30-11.45 am
F	3	First Seder Night - No Friday evening service
S	4	First Day of Pesach Communal Seder, 7 pm
S	5	Cheder Pesach Break
M	6	
T	7	
W	8	Social Centre, 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Synagogue
Th	9	Talmud Study, 10.30-11.45 am
F	10	Seventh Day of Pesach SE10 and Beyond, 7.30 pm at Michelle's in Greenwich: 'Passover'
S	11	Shemini
S	12	Cheder Pesach Break MRJ Jewish Music Fair, 10 am to 6 pm at Alyth Gardens
M	13	
T	14	
W	15	
Th	16	Talmud Study, 10.30-11.45 am 7th Bet Debora Conference begins at Hoddesdon, Herts
F	17	
S	18	Atzma'ut (Tazria-Metzorah) Service of dedication of the new Board
S	19	New Cheder Term begins - Yom Hashoah service at 11 am Jewish Kent - Yom Ha'atzmaut event, 2 pm at Chatham Memorial Synagogue
M	20	Rosh Chodesh Iyar Grove Bridge Club Visitors' Evening, 7.15 at St Paul's Church Hall
T	21	
W	22	Social Centre, 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Synagogue
Th	23	Talmud Study, 10.30-11.45 am Yom Ha'Atzma'ut
F	24	
S	25	Acharei Mot-Kedoshim
S	26	
M	27	Knit and Natter, 2.30-4 pm at Pauline's
T	28	
W	29	
Th	30	Talmud Study, 10.30-11.45 am

## May

F	1	
S	2	Emor - Bar mitzvah of Toby Millis
S	3	
M	4	
T	5	
W	6	
Th	7	Lag b'Omer Talmud Study, 10.30-11.45 am
F	8	
S	9	Behar
S	10	Introduction to Judaism, 10-11 am Jubilee Lecture by Prof. Alison Wolf, 7.15 for 8 pm at the Shul
M	11	
T	12	
W	13	
Th	14	Talmud Study, 10.30-11.45 am
F	15	
S	16	Bechukotai
S	17	Introduction to Judaism, 10-11 am
M	18	
T	19	Rosh Chodesh Sivan
W	20	
Th	21	Talmud Study, 10.30-11.45 am
F	22	
S	23	Bamidbar Erev Shavuot - Service at 7.30 pm followed by a tikkun on "What Does it Mean to Become Jewish? Learning from the Book of Ruth"
S	24	SHAVUOT - Service at 10.30 am
M	25	
T	26	
W	27	Social Centre, 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Synagogue Hi Kent clinic, 10.30-12 noon
Th	28	Talmud Study, 10.30-11.45 am
F	29	
S	30	Naso
S	31	

## Contact nos. for subcommittees and other groups

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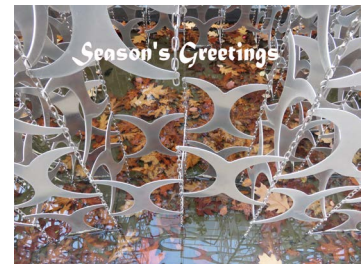
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