

HIGHLight

Bromley Reform Synagogue newsletter

July-August 2015 – Tammuz-Av-Elul 5775



The Parents' (and children's) Choir made its debut on 20 June when it led the rest of us in the singing at the Children's Service, energetically accompanied by Vicki Ashmore on the piano.

'Equilineality' - Sicha
Wednesday, 22 July,
7.30 pm in the Garden Room

'Equilineality' or is it 'Equilinearity' or well never mind how it's spelled and you probably won't find it in your dictionary anyway. What the term is intended to mean is that a Jew by birth may be the offspring of a Jewish father or mother. Now, for many generations, that has not been the case – you could be born Jewish only if you had a Jewish mother and the religion of the father was irrelevant. The proposal to change the status quo has been the subject of intensive discussion by the Reform rabbinate in this country and a decision may be imminent.

There are clearly strong arguments for and against such a change and it's time we, the members of BRS, discussed it. Your chance to express your views / listen to those of others / perhaps change your opinion, will be at our next Sicha (discussion) on **Wednesday, 22 July**, starting at 8.00 pm in the shul Garden Room, preceded by a cup of something from 7.30 pm.

I look forward to discussing the topic with you then.

John Posner
 john.posner@talk21.com



Find us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/BromleyReformSynagogue
 or Tweet us @BromleyShul) ...



Commemorating Tisha b'Av

Erev Tisha b'Av falls this year on **Saturday, 25 July.**

We shall be holding a service in the synagogue on that evening at **7.30 pm**, led by Rabbi Jason Holtz, with readings and a short study session.

All are invited to attend.

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We wish all all our readers a happy summer holiday

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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.

We could do with more evenings like this! – View from the Chair



You might remember that our Jubilee Year was peppered with a series of fascinating lectures, presentations and talks by a series of fascinating people.

Luckily for us, this is still happening! Most recently was a Friday night event which involved a service, a bring-and-share supper, and a presentation from lawyer **Ruth Moshinsky**, who has friends in the congregation.

The topic was the Nuremberg Trials, so to begin she laid out the situation in 1945, explaining the Allies' motivation in trying the leaders of the German government and war effort. Civilians as well as military figures were sought, although by that time Hitler, Himmler and Goebbels had already died.

The speed with which the trials were set up after the end of the war in Europe obviously presented problems, so the task of bringing and preparing the charges was split between the British, the Americans, the Soviets and the French.

It was remarkable to hear that both Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt had always expressed a preference for summary execution of war criminals, rather than trials, while Josef Stalin was more in favour of trials. Personally, I thought he was just the person to approve executions, as they were rather his speciality. But of course he was also extremely fond of show trials before executions, so perhaps this was what he had in mind. But during 1945, Churchill was not re-elected, and FDR died, so the trial preparation was overseen by Atlee and Truman.

Another titbit of information I learned was that the French legal system did not include charges for what the UK legal system describes as "conspiring" or "conspiracy". It's hard to believe that no one in France ever conspires, I mean, how about that revolution? But I'm sure she's right.

Ruth explained that the most creative and ground breaking element of these trials was the charges brought against the defendants. At that time, there was

already a body of international laws and pacts, such as Geneva conventions that could be used against the German. However, the charges were new. They are worth repeating here:

(2) crimes against peace-- participating in the planning and waging of a war of aggression (3) war crimes-- violating internationally agreed upon rules for waging war; and (4) crimes against humanity — which was quite a new concept, but it incorporated recognised crimes like murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, and other inhumane acts committed against civilians. Charge 1 involved conspiring to commit any of the other three charges.

Although as Ruth pointed out, it was "victors' justice", she felt that the many efforts taken to make the tribunals fair had, on the whole, been successful. The defendants had defence counsel, and the established Anglophone adversarial legal tradition was properly observed.

I was particularly struck by the speed with which these trials (and those in Nuremberg were just the headlines to a whole series of trials and tribunals which took place across Germany) were set up, and yet with what professionalism and dedication to the rule of law they were carried out. Of the original 22 defendants, only twelve were sentenced to death. Others were given surprisingly short sentences.

Ruth mentioned that many of the guilty were dismayed that they were sentenced to death by hanging. Clearly they missed the point, complaining that hanging was for criminals, while apparently death by firing squad is for gentlemen. It isn't a distinction I had ever considered before.

I completely refute the notion that Judaism is defined in any way by the Holocaust and the events leading up to it. After all, it is something done TO us, not BY us, and there must be a million other elements of Judaism which are much more worth extolling and concentrating on. However, ignorance about Hitler's Final Solution is also not acceptable.

Elsewhere in this publication, **Stephen Weil** has detailed the Imperial War Museum's film about the liberation of the Third Reich's concentration and death camps in April 1945. This film and other similar footage formed part of the

evidence at the Nuremberg trials.

As with the trials, it stands out that work on the film began in 1945, directly at the war's end. Sometimes history isn't clear to those who are in the midst of living it at the time, but it is clear that the film makers understood the overwhelming nature of what they saw and realised that a wider audience was imperative.

Congratulations to the **Education Committee** for arranging the Oneg. Although the subject matter was sombre, the event itself was very enjoyable, with delicious food supplied by those attending, and an interested and attentive audience. We could always do with more evenings like this!

Joanna Koenigsberg, Chairman,
keesabromley@gmail.com

Social Centre News

The Social Centre meeting scheduled for 27 May was cancelled to allow members to attend the funeral of Desirée Barnett, who had been closely involved with the centre since its inception.

It was a time to reflect on how important Desirée was to the Synagogue that she had helped to found. The funeral was very moving and well attended and it brought out how important community was to us all.

I always look forward to seeing my friends at the Social Centre. I enjoy the talks and other regular activities, such as Andreas' exercises before lunch, which bring us together.

Brenda Houlden

Social Centre Diary Dates

Wednesday 8 July

Mike Brown will talk about the Home Front during the First World War.

Wednesday 22 July

Exercises, discussion and socialising
Hi Kent hearing aid clinic

Wednesday 12 August

Summer Party, with entertainment by the **Shortlands Singers**.

Wednesday 26 August

Exercises, discussion and socialising

The Importance of Memory by Rabbi Jason Holtz



One of the saddest days of the Jewish year is Tisha b'Av, which begins the evening of 25 July this year (technically it's the day before, which is a Shabbat this year, but because the delightful spirit of Shabbat clashes with the mourning of Tisha b'Av, and Shabbat takes priority, Tisha b'Av moves back a day). The day memorialises many tragedies in Jewish tradition, including the day that the Israelites were condemned to wander in the wilderness for forty years before entering the Promised Land and exiles and expulsions from many countries. Perhaps the most significant events, however, are the destruction of both the first and second Temples in Jerusalem, said to have happened on Tisha b'Av.

For a large part of the Reform movement's history, we have not quite been sure what to do with the day. The Reform movement seldom identified much with the historical Temples. In many countries, especially in continental Europe and North America, Reform synagogues are called "Temples." The reason for doing this is to show that modern Reform Jews ascribe as much holiness and significance to their contemporary synagogues as ancient Jews did to the Temple, and therefore they don't need to prioritise the historical institution. Contemporary synagogues have replaced the importance of the Temples and therefore we need not think much about an ancient institution that focused on animal sacrifices, a hereditary priesthood, and other things that modern Jews don't identify with.

Basic Judaism

The Basic Judaism course will begin again in the Sanctuary on **Sunday, 27 September** at 10 am.

Please contact **Janet Burlem** in the office on 020 8460 5460 or janet@bromleyshul.org.uk for further details

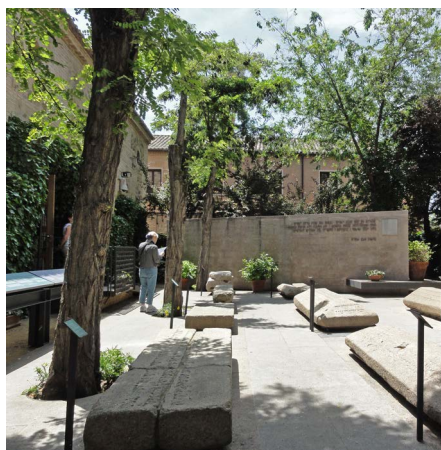
or if you plan to attend any of these sessions.



Despite the Reform ambivalence, and my own lack of interest in re-establishing a Temple along the Biblical lines, I still believe Tisha b'Av is important. It's important because memory and story are important. In nearly four thousand years of Jewish existence, we have suffered many tragedies. To be sure, our history is also filled with Golden Ages, but that doesn't discount our struggles. We need one day to remember — not necessarily three weeks, or nine days, or a few months as some other Jews do, but at least one day when we acknowledge the fact that Jews have had a history that was at times painful and difficult. By doing so, we acknowledge that we too are a part of that people that suffered — suffered, yet are still here. It's a chance to say that our people have been through a lot, but history is not done with us and we are not done as a people. It's a chance to say that those who have been hurt or killed or expelled have not been entirely forgotten — we're here, carrying on the name and legacy of the Jewish people. We have inherited our ancestors' Torah and their stories.

Being Jewish is about having a past. Only by being connected to our past can we have a Jewish identity. When we stop remembering, when we don't know our history, then not only do we lose our past, but we endanger our future as well. Tisha b'Av is not pleasant—it's not supposed to be — but sometimes important things are not. Please join me this year on **Saturday, 25 July** at the synagogue as together we remember our past.

Rabbi Jason Holtz
jsholtz@gmail.com



Memorial garden, Sinagoga del Transito, Toledo, Spain

Cheder News

Hello to you all. Summer is nearly upon us, and this is probably the last you'll hear from me until our next academic year! Here's what's been happening at Cheder:

By the time you have read this, our **Children's Service** will have taken place on Saturday, 20 June. Hopefully, you will have all enjoyed the music and mayhem involved in the Children's Service and I'm sure that all of the hard work the children did to prepare for leading this service will have paid off! Well done to all of you children

1) **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?

2) Will your child start **Year 1** this September? That means your child is ready to leave the Gan and register with **Kittah Aleph!** If you want to register your child, please let me know as soon as possible.

3) We've had some improvement in **punctuality** but it can still be a problem in a Cheder as small as ours. **Please** make sure that your child is in Cheder and ready to start at **10 am**, and do come regularly - your child's Jewish education depends on it!

4) We are hoping that our final day will conclude with our annual **Cheder's Got Talent Show!** Parents are invited as always to come, watch and *shep nachas* along with the rest of us, before wishing Cheder a fond farewell until the autumn...

And, finally, I'd like to personally thank all of the staff and helpers who made sure that Cheder has continued to thrive. I feel privileged to have worked with such a lovely bunch of people, who have committed their time and energy (and nearly every Sunday morning's lie in!) to our children's Jewish education. Thank you all so very, very much.

See you all on our first day of Cheder, Sunday, 6 September.

With warm wishes for a wonderful summer holiday,

Vicki, Cheder Head Teacher
vickiashmore@icloud.com

Hesped for Desirée Janice Barnett, 21 February 1933 - 19 May 2015

Desirée was born on 21 February 1933 to Molly and Joseph de Vries. She had a younger sister, Betty. When she was a young adult, her father persuaded her to go to several Jewish youth groups. One of them was *Ner Tamid* at Streatham Liberal Synagogue and it was there that Desirée and David met. David used to get on his bicycle and travel sixty miles each way from Oxford, where he was stationed, to visit Desirée. They were married by **Rabbi John Rayner** on 4 July 1954, the very same day that food rationing ended.

After they were married, they moved to Upper Norwood and had two children, Richard and Alison. Afterwards, they found their long-time home in Bromley, on the perfectly named Barnet Drive, where they remained until not quite two years ago.

Desirée was a regular learner. She trained in cookery in 1962 and then continued her education and trained as a teacher at Battersea College of Technology — now known as the University of Surrey. She went on to become a domestic science teacher. In 1990, shortly after the Children Act was passed, everyone in the family was studying it diligently, albeit for different reasons. David as a magistrate, Richard as a doctor, Alison as a social worker and, of course, Desirée as a teacher.

When David and Desirée were in their sixties, they bought a boat and enjoyed it immensely, for a number of reasons. It was moored near Richard's place, which gave them the opportunity to see him and his family a bit more. They would babysit and then spend the night on the boat. When David and Desirée were in their seventies, they became regular travellers. They went to Israel, where they stayed with Richard in his flat in Jerusalem, to South Africa and to both the eastern and western parts of the United States.

Desirée was a woman of many talents and interests. She loved flowers, plants and gardens. She came from a long line of fantastic cooks. Her grandmother was the chief cook to the United Synagogue's Chief Rabbi. Desirée was a wonderful cook in her own right as well, whether she was hosting at her home or at Bromley Reform Synagogue. It wasn't just the food that people admired and noticed, but all of the attention to detail. She worked



particularly hard on creating lovely presentations and table displays.

Desirée was central to the life of our synagogue. She and David were founder members and Desirée went on to be involved in nearly every aspect of synagogue life. One of the things that she will certainly be remembered for is her participation and leadership in the Ladies' Guild and the Social Centre. Twice a month, our synagogue welcomes in the older members of the community to spend the day. One of the highlights is lunch which, for many, many years, Desirée helped to prepare. Desirée was an active member of our Caring Community, reaching out to those who, for one reason or another, were having a difficult time. Her participation in the synagogue was largely one where she gave selflessly to the community, but that is not to say that she did not have fun too. At the Cheder sports day there was a family race, and of course, the gold medal went to the Barnett family. Desirée's commitment to Jewish life led to her being recognised in our synagogue as an Honorary Vice President. She was very much loved in the community and many people took the time to share with me their precious memories of her. One synagogue member wrote down a few thoughts and sent them to me. I'd like to relay some of those thoughts to you now:

"The Desirée that I remember is one of a person who would spare no effort to make visitors welcome at home, in shul or on their little boat, who cooked for the elderly in the Social Centre, who visited the sick, who phoned people who needed a sympathetic word, who sent a card of

condolence, who took the trouble, who cared. With David, she was such a positive and constructive member of our shul community, contributing to and participating in everything that was going on. She understood people for what they were, accepted their faults and was kind. She wasn't hung up with religious ritual but was a truly religious person in the way she lived. She will be greatly missed."

As important as all these things were to Desirée, family was central for her. She was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was very proud of her family, and was particularly grateful that she had got to know her great-grandchildren, Jacob and Edward.

With changes in both health and moving out of their long-time home, the last couple of years have been full of challenges for David and Desirée. Just as Desirée had been there for so many others who had gone through difficulties, we who cared for Desirée wanted to be there for her. Whatever challenges she faced, I know this: just as she loved, she was loved and just as she cared for others, others cared deeply for her. She was blessed by having the support and love of those close to her.

The 20th century Russian-Israeli poet Zelda wrote:

*Each of us has a name
given by God
and given by our parents...*

*Each of us has a name
given by the stars
and given by our neighbours...*

*Each of us has a name
given by our celebrations
and given by our work...*

*Each of us has a name
given by the sea
and given by
our death.*

Desirée was known by many, and carries many wonderful names — names that describe her as someone who cared deeply for others, someone who was devoted to her community and synagogue and someone who was loving of her family. As Desirée was a blessing to us in her life, may the precious memories that we have of Desirée continue to be a blessing. Amen.

Rabbi Jason Holtz

Education Committee Announcement

Future events to look out for – dates and details to follow

In October we are hoping that **Helen Simmons**, CEO of Nightingale Hammerson will come and introduce herself to us and talk about the care of the elderly and dementia care in this country.

We are currently in contact with Westminster Synagogue to finalise arrangements for their travelling exhibition on the Czech scrolls – of which our synagogue has two – to come to Bromley. The exhibition will be with us for a week, during which time we hope to have a visiting speaker.

We feel this is an ideal opportunity to extend an invitation to the wider community and may be able to schedule it to coincide with Holocaust Memorial Day.

Many of you will receive regular e-mails from **Anat Hoffman**, Israeli activist and Executive Director of IRAC – Israeli Religious Action Centre. This group is the public and legal advocacy arm of the Movement for Progressive Judaism in Israel, promoting equality, Justice and religious freedom.

Anat is also chair of Women of the Wall working for the right of women to be present and to pray at the Wall in Jerusalem. She makes regular trips outside Israel to promote the work of IRAC and we are hoping she will make Bromley one of her stops on her next trip.

If you have any questions or suggestions for future speakers or events, please contact Education Committee Chairman **Barbara Kurtz** – a.bkurtz@talktalk.net

Justice, justice

Thirty people spent a warm summer evening listening to lawyer **Ruth Moshinsky's** enlightening and chilling description of the judicial process behind the trial of the Nuremberg war criminals – or, at least, the ones that were within reach of the law – from 1945-46.

We heard how due process might not have been a foregone conclusion – the Allies had been planning how to deal with the defeated Nazis since 1943. Churchill would have preferred to execute the surviving leading Nazis – Hitler and Himmler escaped trial by suicide and Goering committed suicide the night before he was due to be executed.

Despite the chaos of post-war Germany, the trial was started in August 1945 - presided over by the four Allies (Britain, US, Russia and France), with judgements handed down on Yom Kippur 1946.

Ruth Moshinsky explained legal procedures in a straightforward manner. She described the defendants and their crimes directly and had obviously been as moved by her research as we were by listening to her.

Were the Nuremberg trials an act of justice or retribution?

That is a question for another (and much) longer article.

Thanks to the Education Committee and particularly **Monica Weil**, for organising this memorable evening.

We hope that Ruth will return to speak to us again.

For further reading: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/imt.asp

From our Roving Reporter

Shirei Chagigah -

A celebration of music and prayer incorporating the MRJ Choirs Festival

9-12 July at North Western Reform Synagogue, Alyth Gardens NW11

Shirei Chagigah is the new name for the Movement for Reform Judaism's biennial music conference. It means 'songs of celebration' and reflects the celebration of music and prayer that we will enjoy over this very special weekend.

It will give you the tools and experiences to learn about and enjoy Jewish music and tefillah (prayer) and is an opportunity to learn from the world's foremost experts in the field of Jewish liturgical music.

Shirei Chagigah is not only for people who love to sing! For the first time we will be adding an extra dimension by having a programming stream dedicated to those in our communities who lead Shabbat services. Our **Shaliach Tzibbur course** is designed for you, whether you have been leading services for many years or it's something you would like to start doing.

In addition the **MRJ Choirs Festival** will take place on the Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm and will be run by **Cantor Cheryl Wunch** and **Viv Bellos**, Director of Music at Alyth. If you wish to join for the whole event, entry to the Choirs Festival is included, or if you wish to attend for the choirs festival only then please select the Choirs Festival option.

For further details please contact viv@alyth.org.uk or cheryl@alyth.org.uk or 020 8445 6763.

Come and join us as part of a truly memorable weekend where you can learn for yourself and learn to take back to your community.



The 999 Club

needs your donations!

Kids' and adults' clothes, food.

Please bring them to shul and earn a thank you from people who don't have as much in life as we do and need a helping hand..



Social and Personal

BIRTH - Joram and Ann Fried are delighted to announce the birth of Emily Nora in Granada, Spain, a daughter for Jonathan and Joanna, a sister for Leo and Miriam.

ENGAGEMENT - A hearty mazal tov to **Esther Flanagan** (daughter of Pauline and Richard) and **Dragos Carmaciu** on the occasion of their engagement. The happy couple plan to marry next year.

MARRIAGE - A hearty mazal tov to **Len and Janine Campling** and their family on the occasion of their Jewish marriage ceremony. They will stand under the chuppah at the synagogue on Sunday 19 July at 3 pm.

GET WELL SOON

Pauline Jeffree writes: Our thoughts are with all those who are unwell, receiving hospital treatment or awaiting hospital investigations or admission. Our thoughts are also with families and friends who are caring for their sick loved ones.

Welcome to New Members

Mr Sam Oliver-Welsh of Charlton (son of synagogue member Susan Oliver-Edwards), and a hearty mazal tov to Sam and his fiancée Eva - Weilin Xu, who will be marrying at Eastwell Manor on Sunday, 19 July. We wish Sam and Eva every future happiness.

and **Miss Kerry Lee Marcus**, daughter of synagogue members Les and Sally Marcus of Croydon.

Thanks to the congregation

David Barnett and his family wish to thank everyone for their condolences and kind messages following the death of Desirée. David in particular regrets he cannot reply to them all personally because of his disability.

Knit and Natter

The next 'Knit and Natter' will be on **Monday, 24 August**, from 2.30 to 4 pm at **Pauline Jeffree's** home. There are parking facilities within the grounds of Park Court or nearby, while buses 162 and 358 stop very close to the building.

Please ring Pauline on 020 8650 4860 or email pauline.jeffree@btinternet.com to say you are coming.



Important Notice

The Transport Fund

The Synagogue is able and wanting to help members to attend our Synagogue activities through the **Synagogue Transport Fund**, which is administered through the Caring Community.

Please contact **Pauline Jeffree** as Chair of Caring Community or **Janet Burlem**, Synagogue Administrator, for further information.

BR5&6 and Friends

I hope everyone is keeping well and and, now that the weather is beginning to look more like summer, that it will be ideal for our future programme.

Friday, 3 July

Lunch at Thompson's Garden Centre, Perry Street, Chislehurst. Your contact for this event will be Jean. She will be emailing the full details as usual, but should you want to contact her, the details are tel. 01689 850668 or email genie.jeannie@btopenworld.com

Tuesday, 14 July

Our annual **Trip down the Thames**.

Unfortunately we had to cancel last year's due to poor weather, so fingers crossed that this year it stays fine. As usual email will follow with full details and your contact will be Gloria. Should you wish to contact her the details are tel. 01689 861493 or email gloria.norman@ntlworld.com

Your suggestions for events are welcome

All members of the Synagogue are welcome at our events

Gloria Norman

SE10 and Beyond

Michelle Brooks-Evans writes:

On **Wednesday, 15 July** we have two members hosting a **Yiddish evening** at my Greenwich home and, in response to popular demand, we are repeating the Yiddish theme on **Wednesday, 16 September** again at my Greenwich home.

For further details contact **Michelle** at michellebrooksevans@gmail.com or on 07956 235309

Supportive Communities Tea Parties

A collaborative venture with Jewish Care – At Home Tea Parties in South London

The aim of the tea parties is to provide afternoon tea for those who would like to meet and chat together over a cup of tea and cake.

At the moment we are planning for the tea parties to take place about once a month in the lounge at Pauline Jeffree's Park Court home. Park Court is served by a number of bus routes, has parking facilities within the grounds and there is nearby street parking. Park Court is disabled friendly.

We are planning to meet on a Monday afternoon, say from 2 to 4 pm and it is proposed that we meet every four to six weeks, ensuring there would be no overlap with 'Knit and Natter', which also meets on Mondays at Park Court. The getting together would be quite free and we would invite only six to eight members in the first instance. There would be support with transport if required through contacting **Pauline Jeffree**, Chair of Caring Community, or **Janet Burlem**, Synagogue Administrator.

Any help with providing refreshments would be greatly appreciated. However, we have already been kindly offered the refreshments for tea and coffee and a home baked cake.

We are looking for:

- **One or two coordinators**, who could possibly job share, to do the inviting and telephone calling;
- **Three or four volunteers** to act as hosts, serve tea, tidy away etc.

We are hoping that these tea parties will provide the opportunity to bring together those who are on their own or lonely.

A Supportive Communities Tea Party is already happily up and running in Bromley South. Jewish Care was of the view that Beckenham would be a good venue to set up another tea party.

If you would like more information or would be interested in volunteering, please contact Pauline on: pauline.jeffree@btinternet.com or 020 8650 4860 and leave a message.

“Factual Survey of the ... Concentration Camps” Stephen Weil reports on a special screening of this documentary film

The CCJ South East London branch arranged a special screening of the documentary film “*Factual Survey of Concentration Camps*” in a London cinema on 9 June. This documentary film was made by British Army cameramen within days of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen 70 years ago, but was then neither completed nor shown publicly until about 12 months ago, due to the sensitivity of the content.

The evening consisted of a short prologue explaining the background to the film, the 70-minute film itself, a new 12-minute epilogue of clips with the team who completed the film, and a 30-minute question and answer session with the head of the Imperial War Museum team film, **Dr Toby Haggith**, and a sprightly survivor of Belsen, **Dr Peter Lantos** (both of whom also featured in the epilogue).

As to my own reaction to this unique film, I had no idea what a brilliant film it is, with a strong narrative from the opening scenes of Hitler’s party rallies upon coming to power and ending with the warning of disaster if mankind does not learn. As a depiction in just over one hour of the Holocaust and the aftermath ... for inmates, soldiers, priests, SS, and German civilians alike ... it has no equal in its power on account of this narrative sense and of the quality and range of the footage.

To give some examples, the way the geography of the Holocaust was set out, showing the sites next to picturesque well ordered villages and towns, was brilliantly done. Also fascinating was how the script emphasised the nature of what was done to citizens of so many different countries, and de-emphasised treatment meted out to any single religious group (the commentary talked about “Lutherans, Catholics and Jews”).

There was much here that I had not thought about before, involving the rapid dismantling of the concentration camps: the mass burials of bodies after the war (difficult for anyone to watch); German mayors and civilians being taken to view the crimes committed in their names; a few of the survivors being restored to normal life by nurses.

The prologue, epilogue and, above all, the answers by Dr Haggith and

Peter Lantos to the questions from the audience helped to make the evening much more of a learning and humane experience and less of an assault on the senses. The questions were dominated by those querying the numbers of deaths cited in the film (which are right overall, but wrong in matching deaths to specific camps) and how to deal with this and whether it undermined the authority of the films. Dr Haggith explained why the team had not wanted to use the epilogue to “correct” any information/assertions in the film. We also learnt some fascinating background on the sixth and final reel of the film, which comprised content from Soviet cameramen of Auschwitz and other camps in the East.

My wife, who lost family in the Holocaust, had not wanted to go, had expected to be upset, and came away saying she was glad she had come. Our 26 year-old son found the evening challenging and worthwhile. A relative, whose family went through Belsen and who saw an earlier screening of the film in Los Angeles, commented that he recognised the buildings and the atmosphere of Belsen and that he appreciated that the film showed Belsen as it was.

Stephen Weil

A Taste of Judaism

Rabbi Jason Holtz will be repeating this very successful series of three weekly talks this autumn. It is an introductory class on Jewish spirituality, value and community, aimed at Jews and non-Jews alike, with an added bonus in that the “taste” is exactly that – a sample of Jewish cooking during the mid-session break.

The schedule is:

Thursday, 3 September

“God and Spirituality”

Thursday, 10 September

“Jewish Values”

Thursday, 17 September

“Jewish People”

All talks start at 7.30 pm.

The course is ideal for anyone who is interested in acquiring a basic knowledge of Judaism, or as a refresher course for all those “coming back” to Judaism after a break.

Remembering Desirée

Judi Sheffrin writes:

A chance remark by another member made me realise that many newer BRS members may not have met David and Desirée Barnett, never mind understood their special place in the history of this synagogue, so I hope you will indulge me if I “introduce” them to you even as we mourn Desirée.

Over Shavuot, our rabbi spoke about how Abraham and Sarah opened up the flaps of their tent and, purely by their example of hospitality, care and inclusiveness, attracted others to join them in their new life, later to become formalised as Judaism. No force or compulsion, just a good and compelling example. That was how the founding generation of BRS, whose achievement we celebrated during our Jubilee last year, established the ethos of our organisation in the 1960s. What a tribute to them that it is being perpetuated with such dedication and enthusiasm by our current generation of members and leaders.

By a quirk of history and geography, David and Desirée found themselves at the epicentre of this activity. They lived just across the A21 from the now legendary village hall where all the early services and meetings took place. Many a newcomer was welcomed over the road for coffee or a meal – Desirée was a great cook – and was thus inspired to offer a similar welcome to those who followed. Much later, David extended this work into the wider Reform Jewish world as community development officer of RSGB (now Reform Judaism) and later still Desirée became one of the stalwarts of the “staff” of our Social Centre where, to this day, the caring, welcoming atmosphere makes such a difference to those who attend and inspires new helpers to join in.

We are lucky in Bromley to have many wonderful people who inspired or were inspired by them. While Desirée’s love for her family is her greatest legacy, I am concentrating here on her impact on the community - where her name is synonymous with food. I’d never come across rice and potatoes baked together or certain Pesach delicacies before dining with Desirée, always to the backdrop of some beautiful music or stimulating radio. May her name and her memory be for a blessing, and I wish David, Richard, Alison and all the family long life and happy memories.

High Holyday Dates, 5775/76-2015

Saturday, 5 September
Selichot

Sunday, 13 September
Erev Rosh Hashanah

Monday, 14 September
Rosh Hashanah

Saturday, 19 September
Shabbat Shuvah

Tuesday, 22 September
Kol Nidre

Wednesday, 23 September
Yom Kippur

Sunday, 27 September
Erev Sukkot

Monday, 28 September
Sukkot

Sunday, 4 October
Erev Shemini Atzeret-Simchat
Torah

Monday, 5 October
**Shemini Atzeret - Simchat
Torah**

High Holyday Greetings

Why not save time and money and benefit the Synagogue by placing your High Holyday greetings in the September issue of Highlight?

Please send your greetings to the Editor c/o the Synagogue, or by e-mail

(bobsymonds@mac.com) by not later than Friday, 14 August.

Please enclose a cheque or postal order for £5, made payable to "Bromley Reform Synagogue".



SERVICES

July/August 2015 – Tammuz/Av/Elul 5775

All Fridays at 6.45 pm, unless otherwise stated.

Saturdays at 10.30 am, unless otherwise stated

**Friday 3 July
Saturday 4 July**

Balak (17 Tammuz)
Numbers 24: 1-25
Micah 5:6 - 6:8

**Friday 10 July
Saturday 11 July**

Pinchas (24 Tammuz)
Numbers 28: 1-15
I Kings 18:46 - 19:21 (1st Haftarah of Rebuke)
BLESSING FOR AV

**Friday 17 July
Saturday 18 July**

**Rosh Chodesh Av
Matot-Masei** (2 Av)
Numbers 35: 9-34
Jeremiah 1:1 - 2:3 (2nd Haftarah of Rebuke)

**Friday 24 July
Saturday 25 July**

Chazon (Devarim - 9 Av)
Deuteronomy 2: 1-19
Isaiah 1: 1-27 (3rd Haftarah of Rebuke)

Saturday 25 July

Erev Tisha B'Av - service at 7.30 pm with readings and a short study session

**Friday 31 July
Saturday 1 August**

Nachamu (Va'etchanan - 16 Av)
Deuteronomy 6:21 - Isaiah 40: 1-26
(1st Haftarah of Comfort)

**Friday 7 August
Saturday 8 August**

Ekev (23 Av)
Deuteronomy 11: 10-25
Isaiah 49:14 - 51:3 (2nd Haftarah of Comfort)
BLESSING FOR ELUL

**Friday 14 August
Saturday 15 August**

**Rosh Chodesh Elul
Re'eh** (1 Elul)
Deuteronomy 14:22 - 15:11
Isaiah 54:11 - 55:5 (3rd Haftarah of Comfort)

**Friday 21 August
Saturday 22 August**

Shofetim (8 Elul)
Deuteronomy 20:10 - 21:9
Isaiah 51:12 - 52:12 (4th Haftarah of Comfort)

**Friday 28 August
Saturday 29 August**

Ki Tetze (15 Elul)
Deuteronomy 24:10 - 25:4
Isaiah 54: 1-10 (5th Haftarah of Comfort)

Race for Life

Erin Frankel writes:

My mum and I will be running the Maidstone Race for Life 5 km event on Sunday, 12 July to raise money for Cancer Research and we would welcome sponsors from members of the community.

They can sponsor us through the following websites:
www.justgiving.com/8t - please specify donation is for Erin Frankel (It is a class sponsorship page) or
www.justgiving.com/tracyfrankel

Kind regards,
Erin Frankel

Beginners' Hebrew

Do you feel Hebrew is just a language of incomprehensible symbols?

Do you wish you could follow and participate in the Shabbat and Festival Services?

John Posner has started a new fortnightly Siddur Hebrew class for Beginners.

It is planned to meet at 7.30 pm on **Tuesdays, 7 and 21 July.**

Contact John for details on john.posner@talk21.com

Dates for Your Diary

July

W	1	
Th	2	
F	3	BR5&6, lunch at Thompson's Garden Centre
S	4	Balak
S	5	
M	6	
T	7	Beginners' Hebrew , 7.30 pm at the Shul
W	8	Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Synagogue - Talk on First World War
Th	9	Shirei Chagigah begins at Alyth Gardens
F	10	
S	11	Pinchas
S	12	Cheder Term ends MRJ Choirs Festival , 10 am - 5 pm at Alyth Gardens
M	13	Torah Text Study Group , 7.30 pm at the Shul
T	14	BR5&6, Boat Trip down the Thames
W	15	
Th	16	Talmud Study , 10.30-11.45 am
F	17	Rosh Chodesh Av
S	18	Matot-Masei
S	19	Chuppah of Len and Janine Campling, 3 pm
M	20	
T	21	Beginners' Hebrew , 7.30 pm at the Shul - tbc
W	22	Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Synagogue, and Hi Kent hearing aid clinic Sicha on Equilineality , led by John Posner, 7.30 pm at the Synagogue
Th	23	
F	24	
S	25	Chazon (Devarim) Erev Tisha B'Av - service at 7.30 pm with readings and a short study session
S	26	Tisha B'Av
M	27	Torah Text Study Group , 7.30 pm at the Shul
T	28	
W	29	
Th	30	Talmud Study , 10.30-11.45 am
F	31	

Torah Text Study Group

This very popular Monday evening study group, led by **John Posner**, will meet on **13 and 27 July**.

It runs from 7.30 to 9.30 pm and there is no obligation to attend every session - just drop in when you can.



August

S	1	Nachamu (Va'etchanan)
S	2	
M	3	
T	4	
W	5	
Th	6	Talmud Study , 10.30-11.45 am
F	7	
S	8	Ekev
S	9	
M	10	
T	11	
W	12	Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm, Summer Party, with the Shortlands Singers
Th	13	Talmud Study , 10.30-11.45 am
F	14	
S	15	Re'eh
S	16	Rosh Chodesh Elul
M	17	
T	18	
W	19	
Th	20	
F	21	
S	22	Shofetim
S	23	AJEX , AGM and summer lunch, 12.30 pm at Wimbledon Synagogue
M	24	Knit & Natter , 2.30-4 pm at Pauline's
T	25	
W	26	Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at the Synagogue
Th	27	Talmud Study , 10.30-11.45 am
F	28	
S	29	Ki Tetze
S	30	
M	31	

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.

The course will meet on Thursdays 16 and 30 July and 13 and 27 August from 10.30-11.45 am.

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

Contact nos. for subcommittees and other groups

<p>BR5 and 6 and Friends: Jean Garelick, 01689 850668 genie.jeannie@btopenworld.com</p> 	<p>J.J.B.S.: Janet Posner, 020 8650 7521 janet.posner@talk21.com</p> 
<p>Board of Deputies Rep.: Joe Millis, 020 8299 3458 roejoebentoby@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Kiddush Rota: Harriet Posner, 07810 361731 posner.harriet@googlemail.com</p> 
<p>Caring Community: Pauline Jeffree, 020 8650 4860 pauline.jeffree@btinternet.com</p> 	<p>Membership Inquiries: Janet Burlem, 020 8460 5460 janet@bromleyshul.org.uk</p> 
<p>Cheder Head Teacher: Vicki Ashmore, 020 8290 4220 vickiashmore@icloud.com</p> 	<p>Newsletter Editor: Bob Symonds, 020 8402 2197 bobsymonds@mac.com</p> 
<p>Cheder Security: Tamir Hargittai, 01689 600142 thargittai@yahoo.com</p> 	<p>Religion and Ritual: Daniel Posner, 07866 761 181 posner.dan@googlemail.com</p> 
<p>Choir: Dianne Mathews, 01689 826096 diannem3@googlemail.com</p> 	<p>SACRE Samantha Barnett, 020 8467 8868 idb001@ntlworld.com</p> 
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<p>Gan Yeladim: Sue Bowyer, 020 8464 6738 sukeydebowyer@live.co.uk</p> 	<p>Security Graham Harris, 020 8656 7611 grahamh4@aol.com</p> 
<p>Tracy Frankel, 01732 843224 6frankels@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Social Centre: Dianne Mathews, 01689 826096 diannem3@googlemail.com</p> 
<p>Horaay Cheder: Dani Hall, 07740 282 562 dani_hall@hotmail.com</p> 	<p>Subscriptions: Janet Posner, 020 8650 7521 janet.posner@talk21.com</p> 
<p>Housing, Health and Safety: Graham Harris, 020 8656 7611 grahamh4@aol.com</p> 	<p>Website: Kieron Hyams, 07980 647108 mail@kieronhyams.co.uk</p> 
<p>Israel Desk: Hugh Lask, 020 8467 0470 hughlask@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Youth: Linda de Lange, 020 8858 6206 lindascottdelange@googlemail.com</p> 

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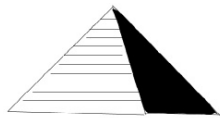
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