

HIGHLight

Bromley Reform Synagogue newsletter



We were pleased to welcome the Mayor of Bromley, Councillor Kim Bottling (second from left) to open the proceedings on Mitzvah Day, 22 November. To the right of the Mayor is our Chairman, Joanna Koenigsberg, to her left Cheder head teacher Vicki Ashmore, while Mitzvah Day organiser Benjie Butler is on the right of the picture. The Mayor's consort is standing behind the Mayor on the left, while the Chairman's husband Tim is standing to her right.

Help us celebrate Shabbat at our next Children's Service

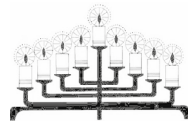


Date: Saturday, 12 December
(There will be NO CHEDER on Sunday, 13 December!)
TIME: 10.30 am-12 noon
WHERE: At shul, of course!

Join us as the children lead our shorter, family-friendly Shabbat service full of stories and songs, followed by a bring and share Kiddush.

Please support us. We hope to see you there!

Come one, come all to Bromley Reform's
 6th annual
CHANUKAH PARTY!



For the young and young at heart:

Gilbert Giggles will be there to entertain!

Hot dogs, latkes and sufganiyot (Chanukah doughnuts) will be served - all with dreidels and chocolate coins to play with!

And for ages 10-16?

A room **just for you** with a MockTail Bar, canapés and a film, ready to join us for candle lighting at the end!

Bring your chanukiah to light and we'll do the rest.

Date: 1st Night of Chanukah,
Sunday, 6 December Time: 3.30 - 6.00 pm

Place: The Synagogue

In This Month's Highlight

Letter from America	3
View from the Chair	3-4
Cheder News	4
Social Centre News.....	5
A Very Special Place	5
Care for the Carer?.....	6
Back by Popular Demand!	6
Jewish Care	6
Social and Personal.....	7
Knit and Natter.....	7
Talmud Study Classes.....	7
Trekking for Life.....	8
Introduction to Judaism.....	8
Bromley Beit Midrash.....	8
Services	9
Statement from Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner	9
Chanukah Candle Lightings.....	9
Dates for Your Diary	10
Synagogue Contacts.....	11
Advertisements	12

December 2015 - Chanukah 5776

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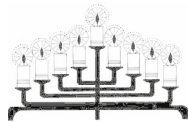
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Care for the Carer?.....	6
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Jewish Care	6
Social and Personal.....	7
Knit and Natter.....	7
Talmud Study Classes.....	7
Trekking for Life.....	8
Introduction to Judaism.....	8
Bromley Beit Midrash.....	8
Services	9
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Chanukah Candle Lightings.....	9
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Synagogue Contacts.....	11
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BROMLEY REFORM SYNAGOGUE

A constituent of the Movement for Reform Judaism

28, Highland Road, BROMLEY, Kent, BR1 4AD

Telephone: 020 8460 5460

E-mail: janet@bromleyshul.org.uk

Website: www.bromleyshul.org.uk

(Office - 9.30 am to 12.30 pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays)

Minister: Rabbi Jason Holtz

07454 021 892

Synagogue Administrator: Mrs Janet Burlem

HONORARY OFFICERS

President: David Barnett

Vice-Presidents:

Norman Goldberg	Ronnie Goldberg	Zena Goodman	Ivor Lask, MBE
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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.

Letter from America - the Rabbi reports on The Biennial Convention of the Union for Reform Judaism

Dear Friends,



This past month I have been very fortunate to have been on the first sabbatical of my career. I took the opportunity to attend the Biennial

Convention of the Union for Reform Judaism in Orlando, Florida (which coincidentally is very close to where I grew up as a child).

For nearly a week, 5,000 Reform Jews from around North America, and the world (including just over a dozen from the United Kingdom), came together to learn, to pray, to discuss and to celebrate. It was my first time attending Shabbat services with that many people! The choir, which included Cantor Zoe Jacobs of Finchley Reform Synagogue, was larger than what most synagogues get on any given Shabbat.

For me, the highlight of the Biennial was seeing how involved and engaged our Reform movement is in contemporary issues. On the first full day of the Biennial, all 5,000 attendees unanimously passed a resolution calling for full equality for people who are transgender. I was very proud that the only teenager to speak out in favour of this resolution was a former student of mine in Arizona. We heard from rabbis, journalists and activists about how the Reform movement has fought and is continuing to fight for issues of civil rights—and winning. US Vice President Joe Biden addressed us and instantly won over the crowd when he said that in the United States every major position that the Reform movement has ever advocated for, the country has eventually come around to support or will in time. He cited civil rights legislation that worked to end legal discrimination against racial minorities in the United States which was drafted and signed in the offices of the Reform movement in Washington, DC.

The impact of our Reform movement goes beyond the domestic politics of the United States, though. I was very

moved when I heard Rabbi Ambassador **David Saperstein** speak. As an aside, his brother, Rabbi Marc Saperstein, teaches at Leo Baeck College here in London. I first met him when I was fourteen years old. At the time, he was a rabbi in Washington, DC advocating for social justice on behalf of the Reform movement. He ran seminars for teenagers from Reform synagogues around America and Canada on how we could translate our religious ideals of equality, dignity and so on into political action. Needless to say, his seminar had quite an impact on me! Nowadays, he has a different position. He is a United States ambassador and the highest ranking diplomat in the United States government whose sole portfolio is to advocate for religious freedoms around the world. As an example of his work, he talked about trips he has taken to places like Iraq and Saudi Arabia, where he is working to change laws that oppress religious minorities, to end the practice of punishing people for violating the laws of religious orthodoxies and to achieve reconciliation between conflicting religious groups. When he was introduced to the crowd, the Yiddish word, “nachas” or “pride” was projected onto the screen behind him. I think that Reform Jews around the world can share in the pride in knowing that one of our rabbis, shaped by our movement and our values of freedom and respect, is now in such a position to advance those values.

Of course, many things happened at the Biennial. We studied Torah together. There was always a concert going on somewhere. There were discussions on trends in synagogue administration, Jewish education, and more. I’m fortunate that I had the chance to attend and I’m so very glad that I was joined by our synagogue chair, Joanna.

By the time this is published, I’ll just be arriving home in Bromley. But at the time I am writing it, I am in Cincinnati, Ohio. I’m enjoying my time here, but I am also looking forward to coming back and seeing everyone soon.

L’shalom, to peace,
Rabbi Jason Holtz

View from the Chair

Your North America
correspondent writes:



Would you recognize this prayer?

“Listen up, God-wrestlers – the Holy one of Blessing, our source of life, is unique”

This was just one of the variations on the Shema that resulted from a workshop I attended during the American Union of Reform Judaism’s Biennial convention, held this year in Orlando, Florida.

The woman leading this particular session, a charismatic teacher named Shira Kline was trying to get us to consider the words and terms we use to describe or refer to God. Did the ones we hear and use every day resonate with us? Or did they actually make God more distant? The audience were both amused and moved by some of the new combinations we came up with. How important it is to realise that the person next to you in Shul might not (in fact, almost certainly isn’t) hearing and experiencing the service in the same way you are.

Another session, which both Rabbi Holtz and I discovered we were attending, was a presentation by the Society for Classical Reform Judaism, I think the name of the Society was what intrigued me first – what could be meant by ‘classical’ reform Judaism? Secondly, the specific topic was about congregational inclusivity, which is something I wanted to learn more about. One of the conference themes was “Audacious Hospitality” – that is, creating an actively welcoming movement, reflected in the affiliated shuls. Certainly it was clear that the synagogue members who spoke at this session had experienced warm welcomes for themselves and their non-Jewish partners. It was encouraging to hear about this aspect of reform.

And the ‘classical’ aspect of ‘classical reform’? It seemed to involved services principally in English, as they were perceived as more welcoming/

continued on next page

less incomprehensible. I don't see this trending in Bromley, though.

New technology was in evidence in various conference sessions. I attended a service in the style of a shul in Charleston NC with screens next to the bimah. These were used to project any new or specific prayers which didn't appear in the Siddur (perhaps regarding a specific event). In another presentation, a Rabbi from Cleveland showed videos which were made by her congregants to communicate with each other and of course with the outside world. They were made to a very high standard, and served as excellent publicity material. It was great to be able to see and experience some innovative ideas. Even if we never decide to use these ideas or find them relevant to our congregation's needs, it is worth seeing them in action. These might become the 'classical' ideas of the future!

The MRJ were well represented in Orlando; I believe they hosted a tea party! Some of these ideas from the dozens of sessions might creep across the Atlantic. Progressive Judaism can't stand still (Hint- the clues is in the name) and the Biennial provided many thought provoking concepts for consideration.

Joanna Koenigsberg, Chairman

Syria Refugee Crisis

As a result of the Rabbi's sermons over the High Holy Days the Board has donated (on behalf of our synagogue) from a Discretionary Fund the sum of £1500 to the Syrian Aid Fund, via World Jewish Relief.

They have since thanked and informed us that 2000 educational packs, including school supplies and hygiene kits, have been distributed to refugee children in Turkey, allowing them to settle into their new school surroundings. They also intend to provide temporary accommodation to the most vulnerable, along with humanitarian packages including food and medical supplies.

More news can be accessed via www.worldjewishrelief.org.

Cheder News



Can you believe the end of the year is nearly here? With so much happening in our shul, 2015 seems to have flown by. Here's a little recap of what's happened

in November, and what will be happening in December so you don't miss a thing:

- 1) By the time you read this, we'll have celebrated our very first **National Mitzvah Day** on Sunday, 22 November. Although I'm writing this before the event, I'm sure that many of you came to support local charity **Deaf Access** and learn the importance of doing *Mitzvot*, or good deeds. After all, what makes our Judaism so important to so many of us is the passage in *Pirke Avot*, telling us that the world itself stands on 3 things: Torah, Service, and Good Deeds. Thank you to **Benjie Butler** for organising this wonderful event for us and Ann Fried for pretty much coordinating our entire craft! Thanks also to Horaay Cheder and all parents for your fantastic support of this worthwhile and very necessary charity, which will also benefit from all of our tzedakah money collected during our autumn term.
- 2) Our next exciting event was our **Chanukah Fair** on Sunday, 29 November. The money you spent will help support the Cheder and other Shul events. Special thanks go to all of the members of our Horaay Cheder parent group, and especially **Michelle Brooks Evans** and **Dani Hall**, without whom the event simply would not have taken place. Another special mention goes to **Heidi Small**, who so graciously organized the **Second Hand Toy Stall** for us. Not only did it raise

- 3) **Sunday 6 December** is the first night of Chanukah, and you know what that means? **Chanukah Party!** Cheder will be **cancelled** that morning, so you'll all be able to come from **3.30 to 6pm** instead. **Gilbert Giggles** will be on hand to entertain the younger ones, with latkes, sufganiyot (doughnuts) and dreidels everywhere. This year, a special **Teen Party Room** will be set up for ages 10 and over with a MockTail bar, canapés, and a movie. We'll end the afternoon with candle lighting and a singsong. I hope you'll come along!
- 4) Our last day of Cheder this term will be our first **Children's Service** on **Saturday, 12 December from 10.30 am - 12 noon**. There will be **no Cheder** on Sunday 13 December, to allow you to come on the Saturday instead. There will be a Bring-and-Share Kiddush afterwards. Please bring a dish to share with us - Dani and Michelle will let you know what to bring.

Last but not least, please check the security rota on this page to see if we are expecting you to show up for security. If you realise you cannot attend on the day you've been allocated, please contact **Graham Harris**: grahamh4@aol.com

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

Vicki Ashmore, Head Teacher
vickiashmore@icloud.com

Cheder Security Rota

Sunday 29 November Tamir Hargittai
Sunday 6 December Kieron Hyams
Saturday 12 December Children's Service Ben Kraft

Social Centre News

We have a double report from Zelda this month:

The Social Centre met on 28 October and, although there were not many regulars, we still managed to have a good time chatting and giving our views on many topics including the latest news about cutting benefits from the less well off. Most of us were shocked at this latest abomination of the Conservatives.

Apart from our discussion there were also a few remarks/jokes from some of the members, one of which was quite funny. One of our members reported she had to phone her insurance company which is attached to the Motability scheme and the girl who answered asked “are you normal or Motability”? Unfortunately the member in question did not think of a suitable reply quickly enough but when she did it was unprintable!

Lunch was good, as usual and Rabbi Jason came for a short chat, which was nice.

I would also like to mention **Tom**, who is always there to greet us and is pleasant to talk to.

The Social Centre met again on 11 November and there was a good turn out. We all honoured the two minute silence.

We did not have our usual discussion as Lionel and Valerie did not come (Lionel usually initiates some topic for us to discuss), but plenty of talk amongst ourselves.

Some of our members are knitting clothes for the King’s College Baby Unit and its amazing to see how small the garments are.

At lunch we were joined by Dave and Tom, our two “semi-resident” DJ’s, who played a selection of their LP’s, most of which were ‘golden oldies’. It was an interesting selection, ranging from an aria from “Macbeth” to an orchestral version of ‘Danny Boy’. They also played a song by David Hughes, who apparently started as a pub singer and then went on to become an opera singer. They seem to have a huge selection of LP’s and I am not sure where they get them from, although the David Hughes sleeve had a 50p mark-up, so I assume Tom goes round all the charity shops buying up records that other people

continued at foot of next column

A Very Special Place

A dark evening, at the end of October, was lightened by a talk given by **Helen Simmons**, Chief Executive of Nightingale Hammerson - South London’s Nightingale House and North London’s Hammerson House have amalgamated to form Nightingale Hammerson

Every talk is unique, but this particular one was also a historical landmark; Helen Simmons is the first non-Jewish Chief Executive in Nightingale House’s 175-year-old history and first female CEO. Helen Simmons is an engaging, warm and direct speaker. We heard how her experiences of working in the voluntary sector and, specifically, with Jewish organisations, had affected her, professionally and personally.

When she described visiting Yad Vashem, she said that she “wasn’t the same person afterwards.” Her listeners sensed that her response was truly heartfelt.

The future of Nightingale Hammerson looks as optimistic as it is possible for any charity to be – she answered questions clearly – Nightingale Hammerson provides and will continue to provide care, exclusively for the Jewish community, for people who have lived a Jewish way of life.

As a former financial director for Jewish Care, she has found – and continues to look for – opportunities to secure the future. An NHS trust has successfully used unoccupied areas of the existing Nightingale House site for

Social Centre News, cont. from col. 1

discard. They are very entertaining and are certainly knowledgeable about the records they are presenting. I think that they would like to play some jazz or big band music from the 1950’s or 60’s but they obviously play music which they think their particular audience would enjoy. I am sure if they did play some big band music they would be surprised at our reaction.

Zelda Stone

Dates for your Social Centre Diary

Wednesday, December 9
Chanukah Party

Wednesday, December 23
NO Social Centre meeting today



Education Committee Chairman Barbara Kurtz presents Helen with flowers at the end of her talk

hospital patients who are almost – but not fully – ready for discharge. Also, the present site is continuing to be upgraded to meet the needs of older members of the Jewish community now and for the future; our expectations of room sizes and facilities having changed. Nightingale also hopes to host a Jewish nursery on site from next September.

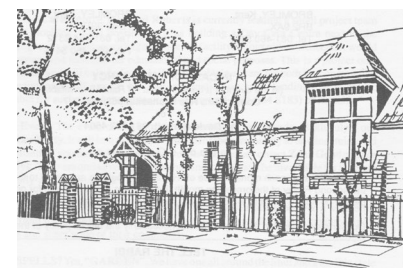
Everyone who attended the talk had a connection with Nightingale House – from volunteering and fundraising to memories of family and friends who were cared for in the past or receive care now. A warm, informal evening with a Chief Executive sounds unlikely, but Helen Simmons is an exceptional woman, who describes Nightingale House as a *very special place*.

And Nightingale Hammerson has a very special CEO.

Many thanks to the Education Committee for making this evening possible.

From our Roving Reporter

Our Shul/Your Shul



Community Conversations

Join shared discussions and be part of our future

Date for your Diary

Sunday, 10 January
10 am to 3 pm

Care for the Carer?

Lesley Wines, Social Work & Family Carers Team Manager, Jewish Care

According to Carers UK, 1 in 8 of the UK population is a carer and there are hundreds more young carers supporting parents or siblings who are hidden from that statistic. The number of carers is growing daily, with an estimated 6,000 people taking on a caring responsibility every day. Over 1 million people care for more than one person, often juggling their caring responsibilities with work and other commitments.

Without these carers our local health and social care system would fall apart. The vital role that carers play is often taken for granted, even at times by those closest to them.

On top of their day to day lives, carers devote most of their time and energy to their caring role, leaving little or no time for themselves. Many carers struggle on with the stress of caring without asking for help, feeling isolated and on their own. Whilst there is support available for carers from organisations like ourselves we realise it has its limits. That's why an offer of a little bit of help from a friend, shul member or neighbour can make a huge difference.

As we approach 2016, New Year's resolutions or not, why not take a few minutes to stop and think about those neighbours or friends around you who could do with a little bit more help to make their day a bit brighter. Every bit of support helps when you are caring – the small things that other people do help to make the role of being a carer a bit more manageable.

It doesn't take huge amounts of time to make a real difference, just doing one thing to allow a carer to take a break from caring can make the day so much brighter. Offering to visit or have a cup of tea with a person cared for so that their carer can have some time to themselves. Lending a hand with the shopping, going out for a coffee and just listening to a carer talk can help to lighten the load so they know they are not on their own and there are others in their community who care about them too.

If you are a carer and would like to know about support available or simply to talk to someone in confidence call Jewish Care's helpline JC Direct on 020 8922 2222 or email helpline@jcare.org.

Back by popular demand!

Following his much lauded talks on Ezekiel and Jeremiah, psychiatrist **Dr George Stein** has more ready for us:

“Job: a man with a severe depression”

“Suicide – self harm and suicidal thoughts in Ancient Israel”

with a session on Saul in preparation.

These will be held on **Sunday afternoons** from 4.30 – refreshments; 5 p.m. – talk

on **7 February** (to be confirmed) and **3 April, 2016**

Full details in next month's *Highlight*



PLEASE REMEMBER JEWISH CARE WITH A GIFT IN YOUR WILL.

Every day, Jewish Care serves 8,000 delicious hot kosher meals to people in our community centres, to people living at home and to people in our care homes. We can only do it thanks to the kind people who have remembered us in their will.

To find out more about including a gift in your will to Jewish Care, please call Alison Rubenstein on 020 8922 2833, email arubenstein@jcare.org or visit jewishcare.org/legacy

REMEMBER **JEWISH CARE**

Social and Personal

GET WELL SOON (רפואה שלמה)

Pauline Jeffree writes: We wish well to **David Barnett** and to **Lionel and Valerie Cohen**. Our thoughts are with those members of our community and others known to us who are currently attending hospital for investigations and tests.

Thanks to the congregation

Vicki Ashmore writes: Thank you to our lovely members for their generous contributions of materials for Mitzvah Day. Anything left unused at the end of the day will be kept for future projects. Thank you for being involved in our Mitzvah!

All the best from **Cheder and Deaf Access**.

Knit and Natter

Wednesday, 16 December, at Pauline's home. **10.30 am - 12.30 pm**, coffee and doughnuts.

We need your help with:

- making little babes' outfits, cardigans, bonnets, bootees and mittens.
- blankets 12" x 12"
- incubator covers made from pretty material
- cotton cot sheets
- scarves, hats and gloves for soldiers
- knitted teddy bears

We have the wool, knitting needles, and patterns! All are welcome and we can help anyone who wants to learn how to knit. Thank you to so many who have given wool and material to support Mitzvah Day and the Knit and Natter projects.

Pauline Jeffree, 020 8650 4860
pauline.jeffree@btinternet.com



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.



Three in the U.S.A.

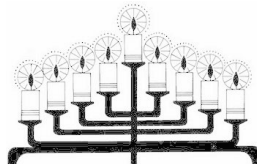


Our Rabbi Jason Holtz, accompanied by our Chairman Joanna Koenigsberg and his wife Jodi, attended the Biennial Convention of the Union for Reform Judaism in Orlando, Florida, last month. You can read their reports on pages 3 and 4 of this Highlight.



Chatham Synagogue celebrated its 150th anniversary on Sunday, 25 October with a civic service led by representatives of all the local Jewish communities – Liberal, Reform and Orthodox. Our vice-chairman **Matthew de Lange** read the loyal prayer.

Chag Sameach Chanukah to all our readers



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 resume on Rabbi Holtz's return from his sabbatical, meeting on Thursday mornings from 10.30-11.45 am on the following dates: 3 December 2015 and 7 and 21 January 2016.



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

Trekking for Life

As you may know, the **Alice Faith Mittelman Foundation** was established almost 16 years ago after the tragic loss of Michael and Laura Mittelman's 2-year-old daughter Alice from pneumococcal meningitis over the course of one truly dreadful weekend. The onset of this disease was not only very rapid, but it carried no significant warning signs so that one moment she was laughing and playing with her sisters, Molly and Emma, and almost the next she was on life support machines in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit. The hole she has left behind can never be filled.



Since its inception, the Foundation has raised significant funds for meningitis research. Its supporters have undertaken various challenging climbs, including Mount Cotopaxi in Ecuador, Machu Picchu in Peru, the 3 Peaks Challenge in Britain and the Three Volcanoes in Italy, trekking to the Base Camp of Everest, cycling from London to Paris and completing the London 100 bike ride. The Foundation has helped to fund important research projects at the Universities of Sussex and Manchester and at the Children's Hospital in Boston, USA. It was also instrumental in the adoption of the pneumococcal vaccine into the childhood immunisation programme in the UK and contributed to the Parliamentary report on pneumococcal disease prevention in the developing world.

In February 2016 the Alice Faith Mittelman Foundation is teaming up with Meningitis Now to mark their 30th anniversary in the fight against meningitis in a new fundraising initiative. Like the Alice Faith Mittelman Foundation, the vision of Meningitis Now is to see a future free from meningitis and to support those who have already been affected by this dreadful disease. **Michael Mittelman**, together with his eldest daughter **Molly** and his sister-in-law **Shane Lask** and a group of 35 other friends and supporters will be taking part in a nine-day trek through Patagonia, crossing from Argentina to Chile through some of the most rugged terrain of the Andes to raise much needed funds to continue the vital work of research, public education and ongoing support.

For ease of giving Michael, Molly and Shane have set up just giving pages: www.justgiving.com/shane-lask1 and www.justgiving.com/mollyandmichael-mittelman. If you prefer, you can send a cheque made payable to the Alice Faith Mittelman Foundation and if you are a UK taxpayer and can offer Gift Aid, please write Gift Aid with your name and address on the back of the cheque and send it to AFM Foundation, 75 College Road, Dulwich SE21 7HH.

Michael, Molly and Shane thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

The Bromley Beit Midrash

A new advanced course with Rabbi Jason Holtz

Sunday mornings, 10–11 am on the following dates:

17/24/31 January, 2016

A taste of Maimonides: an Introduction to Rational Judaism:

Week One: *God*; Week Two: *Torah*; Week Three: *Humanity*

28 February, 2016 *Justice, Democracy and the Israeli Supreme Court*

6 March, 2016 *Tzedekah and the Obligation to the Poor*

13 March, 2016 *Human Rights and Jewish Obligations*

10 April, 2016 *The Flames of Justice: Justice and Mercy in Kabbalah*

Each session is completely stand-alone, so you can pick and choose which ever topics look interesting to you.

Further information from the Rabbi or Barbara Kurtz on a.bkurtz@talktalk.net

N.B. The session on “*Why is there Evil?*” scheduled for Sunday, 21 February has been replaced by the postponed talk and discussion on “*I’m Jewish, my Partner isn’t*”, led by Rabbi Holtz and also starting at 10 am.

Introduction to Judaism

- Series of in-depth introductory courses
- Each course is stand-alone. Take whichever ones you want
- Free to all synagogue members and people in the conversion programme. Open to all others at a small charge.
- All sessions take place on Thursday evenings from 7:30-8:45 pm.
- The courses in the Introduction to Judaism series for 2015-2016/5776 are:
 - *The Path of Life: Introduction to Jewish Lifecycle* - 3, 10, 17 December 2015
 - *Seek My Face: Introduction to Jewish Prayer* – 7, 14, 21 January 2016
 - *We Shall Do and We Shall Listen: Introduction to Everyday Jewish Practice* – 4 February 2016
 - *God Was in This Place: Introduction to Jewish Belief* 11, 18 February and 3 March 2016
 - *From Generation to Generation: Introduction to Jewish History* – 10, 17, 24 and 31 March 2016
 - *The People of the Book: Introduction to the Jewish Library* – 7, 28 April and 5, 12 May 2016
 - *All Your Questions Answered (or Dodged): Ask the Rabbi* – 19 May 2016

To RSVP or for more info call 020 8460 5460 or e-mail janet@bromleyshul.org.uk

Statement from Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner on the attacks in Paris

Reform Judaism condemns the shocking attacks in Paris. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the innocent victims. When I visited Paris in the aftermath of the Charlie Hebdo and Hypercacher shootings earlier this year, the recurrence of terrorist attacks on an even larger scale would have been unthinkable. Tragically that prospect has now become reality.

This is a battle of ideas: between those who believe in those universal values of liberty, equality and fraternity, and those who do not. These attacks must not result in increased discrimination against our Muslim brothers and sisters and already vulnerable refugees, Muslim or otherwise, who have come to Europe in search of safer shores. As British Jews, we above all stand in solidarity with the people of France at this time, and send prayers of healing and consolation.

May the One who brings peace in the highest, bring peace to us and to all Israel and to the whole world.

A Good Read

We warmly recommend *Tales from the Rabbi's Desk, Vol. 1* just published by Rabbi **Dr Walter Rothschild**.

The book is a collection of short stories that give an insight into the rich tapestry of human lives that Walter and his colleagues have touched. They are classed as "not true but authentic" in that they are fiction but largely based on real events and experiences (LJ Today).

Available as an ebook (£3.99) downloadable from www.lulu.com, or as a paperback (£6.99) from the same source.

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SERVICES

December 2015 – Kislev/Tevet 5776

*All Fridays at 7.00 pm, unless otherwise stated.
Saturdays at 10.30 am, unless otherwise stated*

Friday 4 December **Vayeshev** (23 Kislev)

Saturday 5 December

Sunday 6 December **First Candle of Chanukah**

Friday 11 December **Mikketz** (30 Kislev)

Saturday 12 December **Children's service**

Sunday 13 December **Rosh Chodesh Tevet
Eighth Candle of Chanukah**

Friday 18 December **Vayigash** (7 Tevet)

Saturday 19 December

Friday 25 December **Vayechi** (14 Tevet)

Saturday 26 December

Chanukah Candle Lightings

Sunday 6 December: At Shul towards the end of the Chanukah Party (3.30 – 6 pm). Come and see Gilbert Giggles first and enjoy some food and schmoozing before the mass candle lighting.

Monday 7 December: Sydenham – A musical Chanukah with Stephen and Monica. Please bring your own chanukiah if you wish. Latkes and doughnuts will be served. Starting 7.45 for 8 pm. Contact for directions and other details: weil@ti-partners.com or 020 8693 2051.

Tuesday 8 December: Beckenham – a quiet night with Judi. Please bring your chanukiah and candles plus items for a clothes and accessories exchange (proceeds to Nightingale). 6.30 to 9 pm latest. Directions etc. judishef@aol.com

Wednesday 9 December: Beckenham – a livelier night with John and Janet, starting 8 pm. Directions: 020 8650 7521 or janet.posner@talk21.com

Thursday 10 December: Before Rabbi's 7.30 pm class at Shul.

Friday 11 December – At Shul before 7 pm service.

Saturday 12 December – EITHER Shared meal at Dianne's in Orpington with BR5&6 and Friends. Details/directions from Dianne: 01689 826096 or diannem3@gmail.com

OR join Chairman Joanna and Tim in Sidcup at 6.30 pm. They will provide candles, dreidel, song sheets, Chanukah gelt, latkes and doughnuts. They invite guests to bring some food as well if they want to. Directions (vital!) from: 020 8309 1061 or keesabromley@gmail.com

Sunday 13 December – the grand finale: Join SE10 and Beyond at Matthew and Linda's in Blackheath, 5-7 pm. Details/directions: 020 8858 6206 or matthew_delange@yahoo.co.uk

If you cannot get to any of these, but would like somebody to join you to light your candles, please contact me and I will see whether there is anybody living close enough to you to do that.

Judi: judishef@aol.com

Dates for Your Diary

December, 2015

T	1	
W	2	
Th	3	Talmud Study , 10.30-11.45 am Introduction to Judaism - 7.30-8.45 pm at the Synagogue
F	4	
S	5	Vayeshev SLYG Chanukah Party , 7.30-10.30 pm at Croydon Synagogue
S	6	First Night of Chanukah Later Cheder and Chanukah Party 3.30-6.00 pm
M	7	
T	8	
W	9	Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm Chanukah Party
Th	10	Introduction to Judaism - 7.30-8.45 pm
F	11	
S	12	Miketz - Children's Service 10.30 -12 noon - Bring-and-Share Kiddush Cheder Term ends
S	13	Rosh Chodesh Tevet Last Night of Chanukah
M	14	
T	15	
W	16	Knit and Natter , 10.30-12.30 at Pauline's
Th	17	Introduction to Judaism - 7.30-8.45 pm
F	18	
S	19	Vayigash
S	20	
M	21	
T	22	
W	23	
Th	24	
F	25	Shabbat Limmud in Birmingham begins
S	26	Vayechi
S	27	Limmud Conference in Birmingham begins
M	28	
T	29	
W	30	
Th	31	Limmud Conference in Birmingham ends

January, 2016


F	1	
S	2	Shemot
S	3	
M	4	
T	5	
W	6	
Th	7	Talmud Study , 10.30-11.45 am Introduction to Judaism - 7.30-8.45 pm
F	8	
S	9	Va'era
S	10	Community Conversations 10 am to 3 pm at the Synagogue
M	11	Rosh Chodesh Shevat
T	12	
W	13	Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm
Th	14	Introduction to Judaism - 7.30-8.45 pm
F	15	
S	16	Bo
S	17	Bromley Beit Midrash , 10 - 11 am
M	18	
T	19	
W	20	
Th	21	Talmud Study , 10.30-11.45 am Introduction to Judaism - 7.30-8.45 pm
F	22	
S	23	Shirah (Beshalach)
S	24	Bromley Beit Midrash , 10 - 11 am
M	25	Tu B'Shvat
T	26	
W	27	Social Centre , 10.30 am to 2.30 pm
Th	28	
F	29	
S	30	Yitro
S	31	Bromley Beit Midrash , 10 - 11 am

South London Jewish Youth Group
Chanukah Party on Saturday 5 December,
7:30 to 10:30 pm at Croydon Synagogue.

This will be a fun game show evening including all your favourites. Salt beef, latkes and soft drinks and magic are all included in the price of £7.50 per person.

Please let **Stephen King** know as soon as possible if you wish to attend: stephenking32@sky.com; tel: **07984 185407**.

Contact details 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 Burllem, 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 B'nei Mitzvah Kiddushim Elka Carr, 020 8699 2138 elkacarr@gmail.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> 
<p>Communications: Judi Sheffrin, 07968 324981 judishef@aol.com</p> 	<p>School Visits Coordinator: Marilyn Freeman, 020 8650 7178 marilynfreeman221@btinternet.com</p> 
<p>Education (including Josef Hausmann Library) Barbara Kurtz, 020 8650 1284 a.bkurtz@talktalk.net</p> 	<p>SE10 and Beyond Michelle Brooks-Evans, 020 8293 4999 michellebrooksevans@gmail.com</p> 
<p>Gan Yeladim: Sue Bowyer, 020 8464 6738 suekeydebowyer@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>Horay 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 Information: via e-light judishef@aol.com</p> 	<p>Youth: Linda de Lange, 020 8858 6206 lindascottdelange@googlemail.com</p> 



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