

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

COOK-A-LONGS

Join us in July for ice-cream and cocktail lolly making - open to all adults Page 7

YOUNG FAMILIES

Join us for Kuddle Up, Torah & Tots and Summer Stay & Play Page 9

THE MONTH OF ELUL

Join us for a series of events as we prepare for the High Holy Days Page 4

YOUTH CENTRE

Kaytana & Kadima is back and ready to welcome your children this Summer Page 6

SELICHOT

Come along to EHRS for this year's Selichot Choral Service & Film Page 11



CONTACT US

At the time of writing, we are in between the government COVID-19 roadmap steps 3 and 4. Only a few synagogue activities are taking place, although we hope more to restart depending on government regulations. There is no access to the building without prior appointment. The synagogue departments are trying to operate as normal as is possible within the government regulations at this time. The telephone is operated during the normal office hours. Although some of the staff are operating from home, they are reachable via the usual telephone numbers and email addresses. Please listen to the menu when you call, to be connected as appropriate. Please try to make any payments online

via the synagogue website at www. ehrs.uk/payment, via bank transfers or otherwise please phone to pay with a credit or debit cards. Please can we ask you not to send cheques and certainly please do not bring in (or send) cash.

BEREAVEMENT

During office hours: in all cases of bereavement please contact June Lewis, the Rabbis' Personal Assistant.

Out of office hours: in all cases of a bereavement outside office hours requiring a burial at any cemetary or cremation please call the Jewish Joint Burial Society on 020 8989 5252 and listen to their full message.

JJBS email info@jewishfunerals.org.uk

THE RABBIS

Our EHRS Rabbinic Team are always happy to hear from you, please contact their Personal Assistant, June Lewis on 020 8238 1002 or june.lewis@ehrs.uk You can contact them directly:

Rabbi Mark Goldsmith (Senior Rabbi)
020-8238 1020, rabbi.mark@ehrs.uk
Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers
020-8238 1019, rabbi.debbie@ehrs.uk
Rabbi Roberta Harris-Eckstein
020 8238 1017, rabbi.roberta@ehrs.uk

Outside office hours our 24/7 EHRS Emergency Line is **07708 731862**, it will be answered by one of the Rabbinic Team.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Have you Got News for Us? Whether it be a birth, anniversary or special birthday, please let us know so it can be announced. Please email communications@ehrs.uk

RIRTHS

Kane Benjamin, a son for Gary and Ruth Green, a grandson for Victor and Trudi Green.

Indie Opal, a daughter for Jennifer Stollar and Chris Davis, a granddaughter for Laura Stollar, and a great granddaughter for Carole and Stanley Stollar.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

as currently scheduled

24 July - Jayden Singer, son of Lauren and David.

28 August - Joe Blackstein, son of Mandy and Keith.

4 Sept - Harry Mero, son of Emma and Dean.

BIRTHDAYS

Mazel Tov to Michele Hartman on her 70th birthday.

Mazel Tov to Clive Geller on his 80th birthday.

Mazel Tov to Robert Van Creveld on his 80th birthday.

Mazel Tov to Gerry Gorb on his 85th birthday.

Mazel Tov to June Leader on her 90th birthday.

ENGAGEMENTS

Mazel Tov to Alex Gold, son of Graham and Debra Gold and grandson of Marian Gold, on his engagement to Maya Solnitsky.

AUFRUFS

14 August - Ashley Moss and Dani Popeck.

28 August - David Weinberg and Alexandra Trebulova.

WEDDINGS

Mazel Tov to Daniel Rissen and Zoe Wolfson and their families on their wedding.

Mazel Tov to Laurence Judah and Charlotte Spillman and their families on their wedding.

ANNIVERSARIES

Mazel Tov to Clive and Terri Geller on their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Mazel Tov to Lawrence and Sonia Cohen on their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

CONDOLENCES

To Ruth Gosschalk on the loss of her husband, Joseph Gosschalk.

To Nina Langer on the loss of her husband, Melvyn Langer.

To Deborah Nathan on the loss of her husband, and Justyn Nathan on the loss of his father, Michael Nathan.

To Arnold Blass on the loss of his wife, Helene Blass.

To Sydney Reece on the loss of his wife, and Steven Reece on the loss of his mother, Ann Reece.

To Ema Bilgora-Kelly on the loss of her father, Alan Bilgora.

To Sharon Sine on the loss of her father, Derek Shine.

To Michele Moss on the loss of her father, Anthony Solomons.

To Bradley Trainis on the loss of his mother, Natalie Trainis.

To Rebecca Shurz on the loss of her mother, Alison Shurz.

To Cynthia Leigh and Elaine Hall on the loss of their mother, Hyla Newblatt.

To Robert Zeiderman on the loss of his mother, Betty Zeiderman.

To Neil and Martin Berliner on the loss of their mother, Sylvia Berliner.

To Clare Lubin and Daniel Austin on the loss of their mother, Ruth Austin.

To Shelia Curtis on the loss of her son, Stephen Curtis.

To Anna Flash on the loss of her mother, Wendy Penrice

To Beth Summers on the loss of her mother, Lesley Summers.

To the family of June Solomon.

To the family of Ruth Livingston.

To the family of Doreen Kern.

NEW MEMBERS:

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members of our community:

Shelley Lenz.
Charlotte & Malakai Ingram.
Nikolas, Rebecca & Eve Burkoff.
Jennifer, Danny & Talia Silver.
Natalie, Sienna & Harrison Press.
Katie, Leo & Gemma Tyler.
Ewen, Lisa, Jacob & Brooke Goldsobel.
Marc and Theo Kohn.

SERVICES

For Service Zoom details please see forthcoming Our Week Ahead emails, or email admin@ehrs.uk.



Erev Shabbat Service

Every Friday Evening, 18:30

Led by our Rabbis through the EHRS Livestream Classic Channel.

Shabbat Morning Service In Person, 10:30-12:30

We are able to welcome an in person congregation to the EHRS Beit Tefillah (sanctuary). You will be able to book in directly and simply through the calendar on the EHRS website, www.ehrs.uk. If you are not able to use the Synagogue website, then please call the EHRS office by the Friday at 12:00, of week of the service to give us the details we need. Hand sanitising is available in the Beit Tefillah. The service is also available on the EHRS Livestream Classic Channel.

Sunday Shacharit in Person, 09:30-10:00

Join our Sunday Shacharit back now in the EHRS Beit Midrash. We can accommodate up to 15 participants socially distanced. If you would like to join the in-person minyan, please ensure you register. For safety and traceability you will need to register that you would like to join us by Friday at noon before the service and we apologise that we cannot let anyone in who has not pre-registered. Also available on the EHRS Livestream Classic Channel.

Kuddle Up Shabbat by Livestream

Every Friday Afternoon, 16:15-16:45

Go to the EHRS website at 16:15 and join our Rabbis and their Shabbat Dinosaurs for Shabbat stories and songs through our livestream on the Learning and Soul Channel. Best for younger children. Please check the EHRS Our Week Ahead email for the opportunity to join on Zoom so we can hear your suggestions for what to put in the chicken soup pot and where you have your Shabbat feelings!

Kuddle Up Shabbat In Person

Fridays 23 July & 13 August, 16:15-16:45 On these dates Kuddle Up Shabbat will be held in person at EHRS in our spacious Community Centre, or weather permitting, outside in the Synagogue courtyard. You will need to book in for either of these on the Synagogue website or call the Synagogue office.

Friday Night Lights

Friday 30 July, 20:00-20:45

Join Rabbi Mark on Erev Shabbat for a warm and friendly candle lighting and Shabbat songs, on Zoom or the EHRS Facebook page through Facebook Live.

Friday Night Lights Bank Holiday Summer Special

Friday 27 August, 20:00-20:45

Join Rabbi Debbie live from Woolacombe in Devon for an extra special candle lighting on (or at least near!) the beach. Shabbat with a summer twist! On Zoom or the EHRS Facebook page through Facebook Live.

Shabbat for the Soul

Saturday 3 July, 10:30-12:15

Rabbi Mark is leading this Shabbat morning service using a selection from our regular prayers, poetry ancient and contemporary, silence, a contemplative reading of the Torah and the space to experience a special sense of rest (menuchah) on Shabbat. Join us on Zoom or the Learning and Soul Livestream or in person at EHRS (please book in through the EHRS website calendar).

HaKol B'Seder Service

Saturday 10 July, 10:30-12:15

Join Student Cantor Rachel Weston for a special service which includes new music from the Reform and Conservative Jewish world, an interpretative Torah reading and plenty of participation. The service uses our regular Reform Judaism Siddur. You can join us on the EHRS Facebook page or on Zoom.

The EHRS Shabbat Family Service

Saturday 10 July, 11:00-12:00

Our innovative and participative Shabbat service for young people aged 6-12 and their families uses Zoom so we can pray, sing, learn and question together. It is led by our Rabbis and the young people of our community. Join us in person on Zoom or the LeDor VaDor Livestream.

Torah and Tots Service

Saturday 10 July, 11:00-12:00

Our Shabbat morning in person service for the youngest in our community. Specially made for 0-6 year olds and led by EHRS's Young Families Lead, Sarah Koster.

Erev Tisha B'Av Service

and exploring the Art and Music of Lamentations with Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris, Principal of Leo Baeck College Saturday 17 July, 20:00

On Tisha B'Av we commemorate the

destruction of both temples, and many other Jewish disasters. We will share a beautiful, candlelit service, with specially selected readings, moving music and the reading of the book of Eichah. Following the service we will also have the chance to study (using art and music) with renowned scholar Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris, Principal of Leo Baeck College: "How can we

sing a song to the Eternal on alien soil?"

Babel's Blessing Adult B'nei Mitzvah Service

Saturday 24 July, 10:30-13:00

EHRS's Student Rabbi Lev Taylor has been working with a group of young adults this year to help them to celebrate a group Bar and Bat Mitzvah, which they had not been able to do earlier in life. Come and join them for this service in the EHRS Community Centre and help share their joy in reading from Torah and giving their Divrei Torah interpretations.

Shabbat b'Ya'ar (in the Forest!)

Saturday 31 July, 10:30-11:30

This will be an extraordinary Shabbat service for the summer, taking place outside in the woods on Stanmore Common. In the tradition of Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav we will pray and meditate outside with a special Torah reading. Led by Rabbi Mark. Meet in the car park for Stanmore Common on Warren Lane (near the junction with The Common) (near postcode HA7 3HQ) at 10:30 – we will walk into the forest at 10:35. Wet weather plan: bring an umbrella! No siddur necessary.

Shabbat B'Bayit

Saturday 7 August, 11:00-12:00

Join Rabbi Debbie LIVE on the EHRS Facebook page or on Zoom for Shabbat B'Bayit, a fun Shabbat morning service with songs, stories, and reflections to give you Shabbat flavour without the formality.

Archaeology Service

Saturday 21 August, 10:30-12:00

WWe are so used to the prayers we say in synagogue that we may never think of their background and history. Many of the prayers we say on Shabbat are of very great age - some even come from the Bible itself. Archaeologists and historians can illustrate some of these prayers; so come and learn with Rabbi Roberta about treasures from our ancient past that will throw light on our services. Join us in person or on Zoom.



WHO CAN WE BLAME? TISHA B'AV AND THE PANDEMIC

Over the last 18 months there have been many theories posited about how and why the Covid 19 Pandemic started. Was it started by contamination from a wet market? Was its origin a bat or a pangolin? Was it released from a lab; either deliberately or by mistake? We may never

know the answer to the origins of our woes through 2020 and 2021, although David Attenborough's amazing documentaries have suggested the real lessons to be learned here are about the impact we collectively are having on our own health and on the planet through our modes of consumption and behaviour.

1500 years ago debate was still raging about the causes of the greatest disaster to befall the Jewish people some 500 years earlier when the Second Temple in Jerusalem had been destroyed. In the Talmud, there is a debate over the causes of the 'churban' – the disaster of the destruction of the Temple. The debate begins in the tractate of Shabbat. Some claimed it was because Shabbat had been desecrated, others that prayers were not being said in their right time. Then the debate gets really interesting – Rav Hamnuna suggests the Temple was destroyed because the education of children had been neglected, while Ulla says it was because people felt no shame about the sins of others around them. Rav Amram continues this theme suggesting the Temple was lost because people refused to rebuke one another. Another suggestion is that the tragedy came because respect for scholars had vanished – an interesting angle in a time where we have seen the wisdom of 'experts' mocked and ignored.

The debate continues in another tractate – Gittin, where a story is told about Kamza and Bar Kamza, who have fallen out.

The conclusion of the story is that the Temple was destroyed because of baseless hatred. In all of these discussions the Rabbis are trying to understand why this huge disaster, seen by them as a punishment from God, befell the community. While I'm not one for a theology that suggests disasters are God's way of punishing us, there is something fascinating about the ability to identify behaviours that can create longer term problems.

When a community neglects the education of their children, ignores the advice of experts, and allows hatred for one another to flourish, it seems logical that the outcomes sociologically will be on a downward trajectory. Similarly, while it seems likely that no single person is responsible for the global pandemic, collectively major changes to our behaviours could prevent it from happening again. Acting alone can at times feel pointless, but when we act collectively, and help one another along the way, amazing things can be achieved – another thing we have seen throughout the hard months of the pandemic.

On the evening of Saturday 17 July we will come together as a community to remember the destruction of the Temple, as well as many other disasters that have befallen the Jewish people throughout history. We will take time to sit with the losses that these events have meant to us communally. But the Rabbis also seem to be asking us to consider what we can all do, collectively, to prevent such disasters in the future. The debate around the destruction of the Temple leaves me wondering if the lesson is really about the importance of a collective valuing of education, respecting scholarship and expertise, embracing rituals that can help to support us, and tackling baseless hatred wherever we find it. There is still a lot of work to do, but as Rabbi Tarfon says in Pirkei Avot (The Sayings of our Sages) – "it is not our duty to complete the work, but neither can we refrain from it".

Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers

Elul Series

To help us prepare for the High Holy Days we are gifted the month of Elul. Elul also marks the new year for animals, so our Elul programme will kick off with a community dog walk.

Elul is the New Year for Animals

EHRS Dog Walk in Canons Park, Edgware - Just as there is a Jewish New Year for Trees in the month of Shevat and a New Year for the Earth on Rosh Hashanah in Tishri there is a traditional Jewish New Year for animals on the first day of the month of Elul. Join Rabbi Mark at the Canons Drive entrance (by the 'fallen trees' sign) for a walk with our dogs in beautiful Canons Park, including prayer recognising the role of animals in our lives, a run in the park for our furry friends and a celebration of the history of the Jewish relationship with animals. If, like Rabbi Mark, you do not actually own a dog just come and join us for the fun of it. Wet weather plan - bring an umbrella!



2019 Elul Dog Walk

21 August, 9:15-10:00

We will talk about how we celebrate Rosh Hashanah and how we take stock of our lives on Yom Kippur. With Rabbi Roberta.

Beyond the Music of Selichot

Late on the Saturday night before Rosh Hashanah every year we enjoy the hauntingly beautiful music of the Selichot service. Rabbi Mark asks what is the meaning of these songs and the special prayers that make Selichot the perfect introduction to the High Holy Days season. How do different Jewish communities, Ashkenazi and Sephardi, help us to feel ready for the peak of the Jewish year? Join us on Zoom. (Our Selichot Choral Service & Film will take place on Saturday 28 August - please see page 11 for details)

Soul Candles

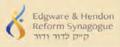
Thursday 2 September, 20:00-21:30

Join Rabbi Debbie for a very special evening of memory and sharing. We will be learning about and performing the ritual of making soul candles - a rite that comes to us from the Shtetls of Eastern Europe and allows us in the month of Elul to recall and honour those we will remember at Yizkor on Yom Kippur. If you wish to you can bring the soul candles to our parallel Yizkor service where we will be able to share who we are remembering.

First Shabbat Shiur

Saturday 4 September, 9:15-10:00

Repentance and Teshuvah in Judaism and Christianity - Join Rabbi Debbie and a Christian guest as they explore the different faith approaches to repentance.



COMMUNITY CARE

We are pleased to announce the introduction of fortnightly tea and coffee social mornings for those who are on their own and would like to meet others in the same situation. These will be held in the EHRS lounge starting on **Wednesday 14 July, 10:00**- 11:30, and will be held on the second and fourth Wednesday monthly. Please contact Shirley Lever for more information on 020 8958 8220.



EHRS member Sue Casale has started an informal, friendly and caring social group aimed at those aged 60 plus who have lost a partner or someone close, either during Covid or in recent years. If you would like to connect with others and are interested in this group please contact Val Joseph.



(Both the above groups are open to the wider community).

Monthly Lunch Club

If the Government and country keeps on track we will be resuming lunch club on Tuesday 13 July and contacting all regular guests during the week before. If you have not attended in the past but would like to, please contact us to register your interest as this regular event is subject to advance booking and numbers will be restricted initially. A volunteer team runs the lunch club and we are always looking for more help so if this interests you please contact us.

Let's Talk

The country may be opening up with restrictions easing but the impact on our mental health has been huge. If you wish to listen to the recording of our online forum Let's Talk Mental Health



Bereavement Support at EHRS

Have you suffered the loss of a partner, relative or friend?

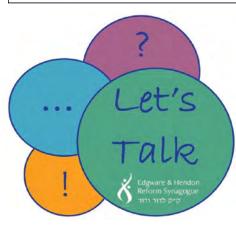
Would you welcome the opportunity to talk to someone who will listen to how you are feeling?

EHRS offers reassurance, comfort and the chance to explore your emotions.

If you are recently bereaved and would like more information please contact the Community Care Department on 020 8238 1013 or email communitycare@ehrs.uk

118 Stonegrove, Edgware, Middlesex, HAB 8AB
Telephone: 020 8338 1000 Email: admin@ehrs.uk Web: www.ehrs.uk
Charitys172448 Companys10623031





and Social Media held on Sunday 2 May with mental health experts discussing the impact of social media on mental health, please subscribe to our YouTube channel by searching Edgware and Hendon Reform Synagogue. Panellists included mental health campaigner

Jonny Benjamin MBE, Ian Russell of the Mollie Rose Foundation, Louisa Rose CEO of Beyond and a young person concerned that her peers do not seem to understand the impact of using social media in a negative way. The panel discussed how we can educate, support and protect ourselves and our young people

with their online activity and suggested steps and tips that can be taken to do this.

Val and Marissa maintain a list of useful resources ranging from care agencies to handymen, so please contact us as we may be able to help.

communitycare@ehrs.uk

Val: 020 8238 1013 Marissa: 020 8238 1015



Val Joseph

Cornerstone, our introduction to Judaism course is open to everyone in the community, and those exploring conversion.

Join us on Tuesday evenings to explore a wide breadth of Jewish knowledge including making Shabbat meaningful, Jewish History, how does Talmud work, what does keeping kosher mean to us as Progressive Jews, and understanding the festivals and lifecycle celebrations. As a part of Cornerstone we are also offering introductory and next steps Hebrew classes.

Please contact rabbi.debbie@ehrs.uk for more details.



YOUTH CENTRE UPDATE

Hello from me, Sara, the new Lead Youth Worker at EHRS! I was born and bred in Manchester where I was a dedicated leader in Habonim Dror and my enthusiasm for youth-work has not stopped since I led my first session aged 17. Having spent the last year working on an organic vegetable farm in North Yorkshire, and the last two years studying Judaism in both Jerusalem and Stockholm whilst training to be a Hebrew Priestess... I am embarking on a new adventure in London and I am so excited to be joining the team and bringing myself to EHRS.

EHRS Youth Centre's first ever Spring Break Scheme in June was an adventure-filled week bursting with fun, games and laughter. We played forest-school games in the park, sung our hearts out with Rabbi Mark, planted seeds, sculpted clay, made





puppet shows and so much more. It has felt especially precious to welcome young people back to the youth centre after this very quiet year, and I am so excited to be building up amazing programmes and projects for youth in the coming months. Of course our flagship Kaytana and Kadima Summer Scheme is back and will be better than ever before, with an inspiring staff team, loads of fun activities, new friends to make, and things to learn.

Watch this space for upcoming events and do get in touch with Sara if you want to discuss any ideas or want your loved ones to get involved.

Sara Moon, youth@ehrs.uk, www.ehrs.uk/youth



YOUNG ADULTS

Our Young Adults Programme includes our monthly learning opportunity 'Beer and Shiur' currently held on Zoom, and we will continue to consult about when it is sensible to begin to meet in person. Past discussions have been on the topics of Is Mikveh really for Everyone?, Teshuva in the Movies, MeToo & Dina, The 10 plagues: Science and Theology, Purim gets.... alternative, and Lilith: Demoness or Jewish Heroine.

Beer and Shiur, 20:00

Zoom details are: Meeting ID: 839 2128 5866 Password: 978112

Wednesday 14 July: Beer Goggles and Queer Lenses - Why Do Gays look for stories about donkeys in the Torah? Join Student Rabbi Lev Taylor as we delve into Torah with an eye to queer readings. You are welcome regardless of your own sexuality, but do bring your own drink!

Wednesday 11 August - Can dialogue make a difference? When it comes to Interfaith Dialogue, the Israel-Palestine conflict is often the elephant in the room, or the destroyer of all conversations. Can dialogue actually make any difference, or is that not the point? Join Rabbi Debbie and interfaith friends to explore more!

ALL ADULTS



Monthly Cook-a-Longs

Our Cook-a-Long's led by Rabbi Debbie are open to all adults who would like to join us. To join our Cook-a-Longs, please email rabbi.debbie@ehrs.uk for Zoom details and ingredients lists.

In the last few months we have experimented with hamantaschen for Purim, made easy Pesach Florentines, found Shavuot alternatives to cheesecake, created wild garlic salt - just one of the many things we learnt how to make at our freebies and foraging Cookalong, and made delicious loaf cakes and cookies to enjoy with a cuppa!





Wednesday 28 July: Summer Loving - Making your own Ice cream (dairy and vegan options) and Cocktail Ice Iollies!

SOCIAL ACTION

SUPPORT THE HOMELESS IN BARNET

TThe hotel project that we were supporting with Together in Barnet (TiB), alongside 20 other communities came to an end in May. Together we gave 21 homeless people safety, food and accommodation during the pandemic. Thank you for your support!

Government guidelines for this coming autumn/winter state that once again dormitory style night shelters won't be permitted. So Together in Barnet are seeking funding to provide accommodation based in a hotel starting in October. When this starts we will be seeking volunteers to provide evening meals again and deliver them to the hotel.

In the meantime, Together in Barnet are designing a new mentoring and befriending scheme. Watch this space for more information, or email Lisa & Audrey at nightshelter@ehrs.uk or Amanda Weiss of TiB directly on amanda@togetherinbarnet.org

Many Thanks for your support



EDGWARE AND STANMORE ROTARY

We have had some lovely volunteering opportunities which Edgware and Stanmore Rotary, of which a number of our congregation are members, has been and continues to be involved with. I can't over emphasise that the need is still there and even more so as life post Covid gets back to normal and the pool of volunteers evaporates.

We have also worked with the lovely chefs from Compassion In Food, professional chefs who give up their time to create 1000 community meals.

We have donated climbing roses to cover the shack at the My Yard allotment in Bushey. Where we a are building a

little oasis of calm for children from the Grange Farm Estate to come and relax, grow fruit, vegetables, and flowers for their community. It is a very family friendly activity. I am there every Sunday morning from 10:30.

Our club Edgware and Stanmore Rotary, were delighted to be co-sponsors of the My Yard van which supports over 13 different local charities with food aid. I myself delivered food parcels to Anne Butler for Age Concern clients. We are able to supply not only vegetarian food but Kosher food, and you would be surprised what we get given, bagels and smoked salmon which always goes down well. Our grandchildren enjoy writing little notes to them, and bunches of flowers really lift their spirits.

We put personalised food packages every Monday and Tuesday at OneStonegrove. The more help we get, the more we can support the vulnerable and lonely in our community.

If anyone is interested in helping, please contact me or Lisa Bard

Peter Bradley, peterbradley4450@gmail. com Community Chair, Edgware and Stanmore Rotary

Thinking of volunteering?

Good for you.

It's good for young people, and it's good for you too.

making friends, having fun and building memories.

Whether you want to support young people or if you're more comfortable planning an adventure from the sidelines, we've got space for you.

info@third.org.uk



EHRS Family Fun Day

Sunday 4 July, 11:00-14:00 at EHRS

Inviting all families for fun in the sun, with

Prices per family:

Please go to www.ehrs.uk/youngfamilies to



Some comments from our Brownies

'I love brownies because I get to make lots of new friends and the activities are fun. I love getting badges and have a great time every week.' (Sophie)

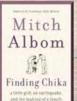
'Brownies is magnificent and everyone is kind. The Owls organise really fun activities and my favourite is when we do cooking. We look forward to each week.' (Saskia)

'I love brownies because they include everyone and we do fun activities.' (Lottie)

'Brownies is so much fun. I would tell everyone to join. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to grow, learn and have fun.' (Leah)

Rabbi Kraft Memorial Book Club Tuesday 13 July, 19:30

In honour of Rabbi Neil Kraft we will be reading one of his favourite authors, 'Finding Chika' by Mitch Albom.



Chika Jeune was born three days before the devastating earthquake that decimated Haiti in 2010. She spent her infancy in extreme poverty, and when her mother died giving birth to a baby brother, Chika was brought to the Have Faith Haiti Orphanage that Mitch and his wife, Janine operate. Chika's arrival made a quick impression. Brave and self-assured, even as a three-year-old, she delighted the other kids and teachers. But at age five, Chika was suddenly diagnosed with a terminal disease that no doctor in Haiti could help with. Mitch and Janine took Chika to America, hoping that treatment there would enable her to go back home. Instead, Chika became a permanent part of their lives, as they embarked on a two-year, around the world journey to find a cure. As Chika's boundless optimism and humour taught Mitch the joys of caring for a child, he learnt that a relationship built on love, no matter what blows it takes, can never be lost.

For more information on the books, and to book your place, please go to www.ehrs.uk/bookclub Book Club is still currently via Zoom, we hope to meet in person very soon.

Author and EHRS member Debra Barnes runs this book club. For more information and to give your suggestions for future books to discuss, please email debrabarnes@outlook.com or education@ehrs.uk



YOUNG FAMILIES

It has been a busy and exciting time for us, welcoming lots of young families back into the shul for our array of young families programming.

It has been wonderful to see parents and carers in person (albeit behind a mask), hear the laughter, singing and excitement of their children, and all be together as a community.

We've had so much fun at **Shabbat Stay** & **Play** on a Friday morning. Our sold out sessions, have welcomed members and non-members alike to enjoy socialising with other families with preschool aged children, while the babies and toddlers enjoy toys and activities, before coming together for a song session and Kiddush led by our Rabbis. Last day of term is Friday 23 July.

We have also managed to **Kuddle Up in Person**, which brings the zoom sessions to life, once a month. Inviting families to join our Shabbat Dinosaur for an intimate, and engaging service including an activity and Kiddush. Next in person Kuddle Up's are Fridays 23 July & 13 August at 16:15.

The launch of our brand new **Torah & Tots Shabbat morning service** was a success, welcoming families of children 6 and under to an immersive, song and activity filled Shabbat service. This service is held on the third Saturday each month,





alongside the Families service for older children. Next dates are Saturdays, 17 July & the 21 August at 11:00.

On Sunday 16 May, fifteen families joined us to **celebrate Shavuot** together at our sold out family afternoon tea. In their bubbles families were set the challenge to create Mt. Sinai, and they did not disappoint. From building mountains to assembling cheesecakes, the families enjoyed a rest, and some yummy cheesecake consumption! The afternoon





tea ended with a lovely Shavuot story for the children.

Sarah Koster, Young Families Lead youngfamilies@ehrs.uk, 020 238 1025, www.ehrs.uk/youngfamilies



NEW OPTIONS

For the active retired and semi-retired (60 plus)

Schmoozing with the Rabbis - A light hearted topical discussion, in an informal setting, currently on Zoom. Join Rabbi Mark on Zoom on Wednesday 21 July, 11.00-12.00. Zoom details will be provided in the Our Week Ahead email.

Bridge – Our popular and friendly Wednesday afternoon sessions are currently suspended, but we hope to re-start sometime soon.

For any other enquiries about 'NEW OPTIONS', contact Jeffrey Fisher on 020 8958-0424 or email newoptions@ehrs.uk

Our other EHRS groups, Not The Women's Guild, Yoga and Israeli Dancing, all hope to return in person later in the year when it is safe to do so. Please check the weekly Our Week Ahead email for updates. We look forward to seeing you all at EHRS soon.



Mondays & Thursdays 10:00-11:15

Neurobics specialise in cognitive health for adults over 60, energising the body, stimulating the brain & enriching the soul.

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EDUCATION UPDATE

Well we did it, we restarted in person Orot and B'nei Mitzvah Friday classes after Pesach and it has gone well. We worked hard to ensure that everything was in place to safely welcome back our young people and staff and keep updated on changing government guidelines as they happen. Every single person has complied with EHRS guidelines to ensure everyone stay safe and well. All our teachers test before they come into the classes.

Nearly all of our children have returned to in person classes Orot on Sunday mornings and two thirds of the b'nei mitzvah children attend the in-person Friday sessions. Sara Moon our new youth worker has opened our drop in for the students to come and enjoy activities before the b'nei mitzvah sessions and our youth have enjoyed making bonfire cupcakes and getting dirty hands making mud balls and even foraging in the EHRS Memorial Garden to make pita bread with rosemary from the garden, and very delicious they were too. This term our b'nei mitzvah students are working on tikkun projects that they will present to the community at the Friday night Service on 2 July.

We have started a new mentoring training programme this term for young people who have had their bar or bat mitzvah to train to support and mentor the upcoming b'nei mitzvah students. Areas they are training to mentor on include how to be more confident when standing on the bimah and reinforcing the Shema and Kiddush.

Apart for our on-going learning of Hebrew and the curriculum for each year group, we have held some lovely and special events in Orot on Sunday mornings which have included a mezzuzah making workshop, another joint event for Shavuot with other chedarim where children had 14 different session to choose from ice cream making to a scavenger hunt, Kahoot Shavuot quiz and cookery. We also joined in with the celebration of Sephardi Jewish life in Tzvat, the Caribbean and Baghdad. You can see some of the hamsas the children designed for the Tzvat session. If your children attend Orot ask them to tell you what the synagogues have on floor in the Caribbean and if you want to learn about Jewish Pirates here is a link that will tell you more: www.youtube.com/watch?v=XH3xADwuAWo We hope what they lent from this special morning is that Jews

come from all over the world. Maybe you could talk to the children in your families about where your family come from originally, do you have Sephardi or Ashkenazi roots? These



events were all made more special by the guest presenters which included Miriam Halahmy a popular children's and youth author, whose planned new book is based on the true life story of her husband who grew up in Iraq.

To celebrate the end of year we are holding a family fun event on Sunday 4 July, at EHRS, jointly with Youth and Young Families. It's going to be a great event with inflatables, police car, crepe van and lots of art and crafts activities for all ages, please see page 8 for more information.

I hope by the time I write our next report all restrictions will be lifted because there truly will be no need for them, all our children and youth will return to classes in September and adults will be able to return to events at EHRS. We are now registering new students for Orot if you would like your child to join Orot, (from Reception to Year 6) please email education@ehrs.uk for an enrolment form. Our first Sunday back will be Sunday 12 September when we will be helping to decorate the sukkah. Upwards and onwards.

Marian Cohen, Director of Education

Selichot Choral Service & Film Saturday 28 August, 20:30-00:10 at EHRS

Selichot is a beautiful way to bring yourself towards the High Holy Days and to enhance their spiritual impact. We come together on a Saturday evening to hear for the first time the sound of the High Holy Days and the poems which search our souls.

We will start the evening with the 2017 film Remember Baghdad. On the hundredth anniversary of the British invasion in 1917, Remember Baghdad is the untold story of Iraq, an unmissable insight into how the country developed from a completely new perspective - through the eyes of the Jews who lived there for 2,600 years until only a generation ago.

With vivid home movies and archive news footage, eight characters tell their remarkable stories, of fun that was had, and the fear that followed as Iraq laid foundations for decades of unrest.

Amid the country's instability today we follow one Iraqi Jew on a journey home, back to Baghdad. It is a moving and dramatic story of remembrance and return.

After a break for refreshments, we will begin our beautiful choral service led by our rabbis, Ann Sadan, our Cantors and featuring the EHRS Choir.

20:30-22:45 Havdallah and Film

22:45-23:00 Tea Break

23:00-00:10 Selichot Choral Service

Please go to www.ehrs.uk/event/selichot21 to book your place.

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ALL THINGS JEWISH

Rosh Hodesh: All About Eve with Eleanor Davis

Torah Study via Zoom (For Zoom details please email atj@ehrs.uk) Monday 5 July, 20:00-21:00 - this will be the final session in the series

For Zoom details please see Our Week Ahead emails, or email atj@ehrs.uk



All About Eve: The New Moon is a traditional women's holiday, but this monthly study group is open to all. This year we're exploring Eve's story in Torah and Rabbinic literature, to investigate the first woman as an

individual and as an archetype. Join us to discover how Eve is far more than just a spare rib. Please see website for future dates.

First Shabbat Shiur, 9:15-10:00

Our First Shabbat Shiurim are on all kinds of areas of Jewish life. You can join us in person at the Synagogue or at home using Zoom. If you then wish to attend the main Shabbat Service after the Shiur please ensure you have booked via the website.

Saturday 3 July - What are the Prophets Going on About? Have you heard a Haftarah portion and found it tough to follow even when it is in English? Rabbi Mark will help to make the context of our secondary bible readings every Shabbat make sense. What was motivating Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos, Micah and the other prophets we hear each Shabbat?

Saturday 7 August - Psalm 27 and other beautiful Psalms - Our Psalms are the original Jewish poetry, some are thought to be over 3000 years old. They are an insight into the emotions and deepest feelings of our Jewish ancestors and their music, ancient and contemporary enliven our services. As we enter the month of Elul we say Psalm 27 daily. Why? And what do Psalms bring us in our spiritual life. Led by Rabbi Mark.

Saturday 4 September - Repentance and Teshuvah in Judaism and Christianity - Join Rabbi Debbie and a Christian guest as they explore the different faith approaches to repentance.

Zoom details in Our Week Ahead or email admin@ehrs.uk

Bite of Torah for everyone interested in Torah

Learn Torah with our Rabbis at home using Zoom or in person. These sessions are full of new insights which bring Torah to life. If you then wish to attend the main Shabbat Service after the Shiur please ensure you have booked via the website.

Saturday 17 July, 09:15-10:00

Shabbat Chazon means the Shabbat of Vision, taken from the Haftarah read this week to prepare us for Tisha B'av. How have Jews held on to a positive vision of the future through so much tragedy, and what visions do you have for the future today? With Rabbi Debbie

Saturday 21 August, 09:15-10:00

Elul - The High Holy Days are nearly here, so our Bite of Torah has an Elul theme. Today we talk about how we celebrate Rosh Hashanah and how we take stock of our lives on Yom Kippur. Why is it that celebration and solemnity are so closely allied in the Jewish calendar? With Rabbi Roberta.

Selichot Choral Service & Film

Saturday 28 August, 20:30-00:10 at EHRS

Selichot is a beautiful way to bring yourself towards the High Holy Days and to enhance their spiritual impact. Join us for this evening to hear for the first time the sound of the High Holy Days and the poems which search our souls. Please see page 11 for full details.

ANTHONY HOROWITZ OBE: IN CONVERSATION, Monday 19 July, 19:30

The renowned Author & Television Writer behind the 'Alex Ryder' series, amongst countless other titles, joins us via Zoom for a very special event. He discusses his life and work. He also talks about his difficult relationship with Judaism. This is an event not to be missed. Restrictions permitting, this will be a hybrid event, where you can join us over Zoom or in person. In person attendance will be carefully socially distanced.





Talmud Class Sundays 4 July, 25 July & 29 August, 10:00-11:00

EHRS's stimulating and friendly Talmud class is open to all levels of Jewish knowledge. Join Rabbi Mark to grapple with the ideas of our classical Rabbis. Join the discussion of 2000 years ago and its remarkable relevance to issues today. No previous Talmud study experience necessary, just a thirst to get deep into the foundational texts of Judaism. This class is conducted online through Zoom as discussion and argument is what it is all about! Please email rabbi.mark@ehrs.uk to get the Zoom details and the Talmud texts we are studying.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 6 September - Erev Rosh Hashanah

Tuesday 7 September - First Day Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday 8 September - Second Day Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday 15 September - Kol Nidre (fast begins 19:01)

Thursday 16 September - Yom Kippur (fast ends 20:00)

Monday 20 September - Erev Sukkot

Tuesday 21 September - Sukkot

Monday 27 September - Erev Simchat Torah

Tuesday 28 September - Simchat Torah



