



L'Chayim

1st November - 31st December 2017
12th Cheshvan - 13th Tevet 5778

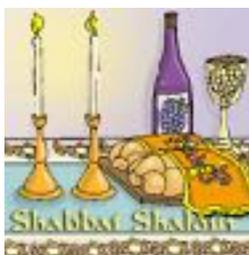
Date	Parasha / Event	Service Leader	Reading	About
4th Nov. Saturday	Shabbat.	Joan Brooke	Genesis 21: 1-21	Birth of Isaac, expulsion of Ishmael
11th Nov. Saturday	Shabbat, chavurah lunch	Martin Herr from Liverpool	Genesis 24:53-67	Rebekah comforts her hubbi, Isaac
18th Nov. Saturday	Shabbat. Blessing for Kisslev. Machar Chodesh	Matt Suher & Fortune Chamberlain	Genesis 27:1-29	Jacob deceives Isaac to receive his blessing.
19th Nov. Sunday	Mitzvah Day+ Synagogue Tea			
25th Nov. Saturday	Shabbat. Lunch time with the Not So Dead recipe Society. (see later) Chavurah Lunch	Fortune Chamberlain	Genesis 31:36-32:3	Jacob departs from Haran
1st Dec. Friday	Erev Shabbat at Harry & Mary Kessler's house Chavurah supper			Brenda Dinsdale from Reform Judaism visits us
2nd Dec. Saturday	Shabbat- special musical event. Chavurah lunch	David Hoffman	Genesis 35:9-29	Jacob becomes Israel
9th Dec. Saturday	Shabbat	Sue Fox	Genesis 40: 1-23	Joseph and his dream interpretation.
13th Dec.	1st Day of Chanukkah			



For those receiving L'Chayim by e-mail, you can print off your own calendar for display at home.

Date	Parasha / Event	Service Leader	Reading	About
16th Dec. Saturday	Shabbat: Chanukkah celebration	Clive Gilbert from Menorah Synagogue	Genesis 44:1-17	Joseph deals with his brothers
23rd Dec. Saturday	Shabbat	We regret there is	no service at our synagogue	Genesis 47:1-22
30th Dec Saturday	Shabbat	We regret there is	no service at our synagogue	Genesis 50:7-26

On occasions when we are unable to offer a service, we have been advised we can go to The Home (81 Albert Road) to attend the service there. If you wish to attend, you must contact Mr Brian King (Chairman of the Home), tel. 01704 565621, no later than Thursday afternoon prior to the service for security reasons. The home is orthodox, men and married women will need to cover their heads.



Refreshments are available from 10.30am., on Saturdays. Please ensure these are not taken into services. Services start punctually 11am on Saturdays, 7pm Friday nights. Please ensure mobile phones are switched to not disturb the service.

Please mention to the wardens prior to the commencement of the service any special prayers or inclusions you wish for in the service.

Chavurah meals are always vegetarian.- please bring something suitable for this community meal so that your kindness can be shared by all.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Member of the Movement for Reform Judaism



Registered Charity 227576

Synagogue Office:

Lisa Sachs
(Administrator Wed & Fri 10am-3pm),
Princes Street,
Southport, PR8 1EG
Tel.& Fax.

01704 535950

e mail : southportsynagog@btconnect.com

website: www.southportreform.org.uk



Southport Reform Shul

EMERGENCIES: contact the office: if it is closed, there is a directive answer machine.

The Sternberg Centre
home to the Movement for Reform Judaism



General Enquires:
02083495724

www.reformjudaism.org.uk

Editorial



Happy Chanukkah

(13th December)



*Selwyn and Gillian Goldthorpe,
editors of L'Chayim*

Well it is now **5778**. We hope you celebrated the New Year and appreciated the activities at Southport & District Reform Synagogue. We have the pleasure, within this issue of L'Chayim on telling you about the highlights of the festive season, should you have missed something.

It was nice to see visitors to our synagogue. We have made it easier to follow your friends, in between the issues of L'Chayim, by developing a **Facebook** site. Please feel free to put up your own stories once you have become a friend. The site is for us all to contribute to our Jewish community, so don't be shy.

Although not now meeting in the synagogue as they cannot find someone to be responsible for its opening and closing the synagogue, I am pleased to say that the **Bridge Club** continues to meet in their own homes. If anyone wishes to join the Bridge Club, please contact the office for further details.

We would love to have a big turn out for **Mitzvah Day** (19th November) where, as you will read below, we have activities to suit and benefit all. We are planning to have a synagogue lunch that day so that we can all meet up over food- that very important ingredient of Jewish life.

As we think food is important, we have, on 25th November, a special shabbat with a visit from the **Not So Dead Recipe Society** (Menorah Synagogue). With conversation of food, a quiz, sharing of our favourite Jewish recipes, and learning a thing or two in the process, there is something to whet everyone's appetite. We all have our experiences to share, and lunch, for that chavurah, should be something special.

We welcome Brenda Dinsdale (December 1st), back to our synagogue, all the way from Newcastle. We all plan to kick off this special shabbat at Harry and Mary Kessler's home on the Friday. Brenda, if you remember her visit in 2014, represents us at Reform Judaism in London, and as she herself has run a very successful musical programme in Newcastle, we are pleased to welcome David Hoffman to teach us some service music variations on the Saturday.

Phew! I forgot to mention **Chanukkah**.

Come to the synagogue to celebrate: 16th December.

Follow the synagogue on Facebook.

What better way to stay in contact with your friends?



Become a Facebook friend of the Southport & District Reform Synagogue. Circulate your photographs of our events and get together.

Make new friends. Keep in contact.

Facebook : **Southport Reform Shul**

To bed , with thoughts of Bonny Prince Charlie

September 8th-10th. Weekender

It can be a strange feeling to sleep in the same bedroom as Bonnie Prince Charlie. That is exactly what happened when we stayed at Hartington Hall (Peak District) YHA, for the Menorah Weekender programme.



Hartington Hall is a fine old house dating from 1611. Although it's a Youth Hostel, you would not know it. Our bedroom, complete with shower, sink, double bed and fireplace, was the original bedroom of the house, the access in 1611 being by ladder. Perhaps, a good idea, as you needed to stoop to bed through the door, or bump your head!



Bonnie Prince Charlie's room is named after the fact that the 'Young Pretender' is said to have stopped the night here in 1745, as he marched from Macclesfield to Ashbourne on his way to London to overthrow King George.



Hartington Hall , YHA

(photo by Selwyn)

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It has been suggested that the bedroom dates from the 1400s, and that by Tudor times it looked very similar to nowadays, with carved, dark, oak panelling, mullioned windows and wooden floor, though we did find the central heating to be a welcomed addition. The fireplace is no longer used.



The standard of accommodation in YHA's hostels has seemingly changed. Nowadays you are treated like Royalty. We had a shower (hidden behind oak panelling) and a sink in the bedroom. It was Youth Hostelling, but not as I remembered it. We used to sleep in iron bunk beds, within an all male dormitory, clutching my sleeping sheet, with a covering of coarse blankets. What a good start to the Menorah Weekender residential programme at Hartington Hall.

Tucked amongst the hills of the Peak District, to the far side of Buxton, I wondered why I had never visited Hartington previously. The villagers are very friendly, with some great little shops (including the award winning cheese shop) around the village, not to mention the duck pond.

The Hall, is up a hill, overlooking the village. There is plenty of car parking space. I even managed to find a space within the Hall grounds within proximity of an electric socket so that our electric car could be fully charged for the journey home. So much for YHA facilities!

Tea and coffee were in unlimited supply on a help yourself basis, and as I have said we were accommodated in the Prince's bedroom. It was a nice touch, from the organisers of the weekend, to find two small bags, on our Prince size bed, containing soap and chocolate.

With over a hundred people taking part in the weekender, the Friday night service and the chavurah was always going to be fantastic, and so they were. Rabbi Debbie Sommers joined Rabbi Fabian Sborovsky, from Menorah, to introduce into the service a freshness to both the prayers and the music.

After the chavurah, the quality of which had to be eaten to be believed, I joined the Klezmer music session led by the talented Jane Lawrence, learning how the scales and music comprising Klezmer is put together. Tone deaf- not a problem. The singing was helped by a certain amount of alcohol, and was a fine overture to the hot chocolate, guitars, whisky and whimsy session at the end of the evening.

There were alternative activities for the young, sober, and the older, as my Gillian made a beaded kippah, this being just one of Rabbi Debbie's string of talents.

Shabbat breakfast was of top hotel quality with enough variety and quality to suggest I should rejoin the YHA! Before the shabbat service, I enjoyed a talk, by Baron Frankal (see baronfrankal.com), on the background and formulation of The Balfour Declaration. This year will be the 100th year anniversary of the Declaration of support for the foundation of the State of Israel. Poor Baron, who had done a PhD in the subject (though not especially for the Weekender!), had to condense all that knowledge into a 40 minute slot.

The shabbat morning service was led by both rabbis and lay readers. It was very inclusive. I was honoured to be asked to open the service by reading some thoughts from the siddur about the Community. How nice that Southport & District Reform Synagogue were acknowledged, Fortune Chamberlain having an individual aliyah, though all of us from Southport were given a group aliyah. The service was a real education as to how to use the Reform Siddur to expand on the meaning of some of the prayers we are so familiar with, and as to how they dovetail into the rest of the liturgy. Quite clearly, Rabbis can be very picky!

I missed the sessions on Jewish literature, Candle making, or Vintage photography prior to lunch as I was arranging the table-tennis tournament. There was so much happening at once. After lunch, there were local walks (with afternoon tea in the village), a talk on the Palestinian-Israel conflict, and of course the table-tennis. Just a little bit of competitiveness.

Now if you want to see real competitiveness you try a Jewish Bake off. Perhaps the highlight of the weekend for us, was that our very own Fortune Chamberlain came a worthy third, out of a very stiff competition, for the best Bake Off at the Weekender. Her apple cake was judged to have just the right amount of filling and moisture- no soggy bottom there! I expect apple cake for Council meetings from now on.

After a youthful Havdalah service (see photos and the young peoples wishes we were given at the end of this account), the evening was really one of Daniel Cainer, the comedian and Jewish/ Yiddish ballad singer. Almost everyone came to his performance. Daniel was fresh from the Edinburgh fringe festival, with an hilarious account of his Jewish upbringing. Introduced, by Rabbi Debbie, who herself should have had a performers place at the fringe, we were treated to probably the best Jewish humour with music I have ever heard. It was quite fitting that I managed to catch the bagel and now treasure his free CD, that otherwise was on sale. I may try to play the CD for you at some time whilst we are in shul.

The evening did deteriorate into whisky and whimsy, we were able to chat and find new friends. It was so nice to have the opportunity to relax with members of the wider North West Reform Jewish Community.

Sunday: those that managed to make it out of bed for another sumptuous breakfast were later treated to a variety of activities. I went to a talk about the life of Judge Charles Bloom, QC, who was able to give an amusing insight of what it takes to get to be a High Court Judge, when you are from a poor, Jewish, Manchester background. I believe that the alternative talks from Professor Raphael Cohen-Almagor, about the Dark Side of the Internet was quite thought provoking. I also attended a leadership discussion offering some insight as to how a larger synagogue is organised.

Now, finally, some of the thoughts for the new week, given to us (by drawing pieces of folder paper out of a box, at the Havdalah service, from the young people present at the weekend:

Don't wait around for things to happen. YOU make things happen!

Happy new week.

No one is born with a successful life, but if you work and try hard, it can happen!

Never stop dreaming.

You mean everything to me.

The forthcoming week was brighter for having been a part of the Menorah Weekender.



At the recent Menorah weekender in the Peak District, our very own Fortune Chamberlain (photo right) , won 3rd prize in the Great Jewish Bake Off competition judged by food writer Clarissa Hyman. Fortune's apple cake was judged to be "delicious, light, moist, with a good texture, a nice layer of apple in the middle, you could taste the fruit, a good balance with filling and crumb, nice accent of cinnamon and looked pretty". So well done Fortune!



Following this success, we have invited celebrity cook, Clarissa Hyman, to visit us in Southport and host a "**Not So Dead Jewish Recipe Society**" event on **Saturday 25 November 2017**. We will have a very fun foodie quiz, with food samples to taste and prizes. Clarissa would also like people to bring along their favourite family recipes to share.

You are invited to our special shabbat for an entertaining insight into Jewish food by
THE NOT SO DEAD JEWISH RECIPE SOCIETY
Shabbat 14th November at your synagogue .

שָׁנָה טוֹבָה וּמְתוּקָה

A good and
sweet year.



We were pleased to welcome a few guests, not seen before, from around the area, to our synagogue. With humour, the password to get through the door security was “Shanah Tovah”. Those failing were sat upon by our rather large security guard and now can be found squashed in the back yard of the synagogue. The system of not having tickets for this year’s High Holy Days, and having to inform the office of your intent, certainly worked well. We were pleased to greet all our non squashed guests once they had been through security.

We had a few stars in shul. We are indebted to Rabbi Ash, for yet another year, of insights into the meaning of the High Holy Days (please see his erev Rosh Hashanah sermon reproduced in this magazine, later, for all those that were not able to hear this at first hand). You live and your learn (hopefully!). I had never made the connection between the Torah reading and the shofar. Funny, isn’t it how you just take things for granted? Rabbi did his best to update the meaning of the High Holy Days and put this in a modern context. The point, I think, he was making concerning his sermon on Yom Kippur, was not whether you agreed or disagreed with his progressive views, rather that you should critically think about what we read when we study Torah. Surely, this is the fundamental concept of what it means to be Jewish...“And the study of Torah leads to them all.” These words, from the Mishnah, are traditionally recited every day towards the beginning of our morning prayers. The Mishnah gives us a list of “...things that are limitless,” including honouring our parents, visiting the sick, celebrating with a wedding couple, and comforting mourners. The closing line, that the Torah encompasses them all or is equal to them all, teaches us an important lesson. It centres our focus squarely on Torah, and in its broadest sense the value of learning.

I really thought we were about to get a Post Horn Gallop overture, such was the quality of his shofar blowing. It was, as it should be, rather rousing.



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No services can be complete without singing. So much of our services are musical. The melodies often stay with us all our lives, from when we were young, for ever. Paul Lipa, and Stephen Pavion, did much to rekindle our memories with some of the melodies they have been singing for 50 years. Some things never change. Thank you for the lovely singing. However, yet again, in true progressive style, Rabbi Ash introduced some new melodies, Shelley Yavetz seemingly knowing every melody (thank goodness she was sat behind me!). Shelley also hosted a very useful insight as to the meaning of prayer, in the Yom Kippur service. I think everyone found her insight very instructive. Thank you. Lastly, but not least, Fortune Chamberlain led the singing for most of the services- thank you to her. If she had been part of an orchestra, she would have been wonderful. I must say, she took her cue from Rabbi when to start singing, as if he was a conductor and she a soloist. Very professional!

For those daring to stay until 7.42pm, the end of the fast, we were treated to a rather refined eat in. Table clothes, napkins, and so much to eat ! It was great to break the fast as an extended family, especially as a lot of us are from out of town and the thought of driving back along the dual carriageway in a state of trans-meditational starvation, was not appealing. Our grateful thanks to all those helping with the catering and clearing up, your efforts were very welcome.

What a way to start of the New Year! The heavens rumbled. We had flashes and bangs. Were angels debating Torah? Who knows? It was strange that Southport chose to celebrate Yom Kippur for us with fireworks.

Article by Selwyn Goldthorpe



*Rabbi Robert Ash,
High Holy Days,
Southport & District Reform
Synagogue, 2017 (5777-5778)*

We thought you may like to think again about the New Year message Rabbi Robert Ash gave us in his sermon on erev Rosh Hashanah, 2017:

Today we begin a New Year and one of the themes of the ten-day period between now and Yom Kippur is *teshuvah*, repentance. The Torah, in the book of Numbers (5: 5–6), speaks about the importance of confession (in Hebrew: *vidui*) as part of the process for repairing a wrong done to another person. The medieval philosopher and commentator Maimonides emphasizes that this confession must be done using audible spoken words. *Teshuvah* cannot be limited to an internal process of reflection or thought. Maimonides stresses that any internal commitments must ultimately get expressed with words, and advises that the more one engages in verbal confession and elaborates on this subject, the more praiseworthy one is (Laws of Teshuvah 1:1).

The twentieth-century Jewish founder of psychotherapy, Sigmund Freud also placed much emphasis on the role of language in

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psychotherapeutic processes. In Freud's experience, talking was not simply seen as a means for diagnosing the conflicts troubling the patient. Rather, talk itself was a substantial part of the treatment. People can better understand the motivations for their behavior if they try to express the thoughts and feelings of the inner life in words.

Since Freud's time we have become used to the label 'talking cure' for psychotherapy. The process of 'talking things out' creates an opportunity to explore undefined feelings and conflicts. It is suggested that verbally expressing this inner life allows individuals to begin to see the coherence of the narratives which link up their past with the present and the yet-to-be future. It is not so much what we say, but rather it is the process of exploring the inner life that creates healing. Talking, articulating thoughts into audible language, is itself a transformative process.

The importance of speech is clear to Rabbis and teachers as we prepare for a sermon, a lesson or a presentation. There are times when you can prepare for hours for a presentation or a lesson, convinced that you have really grasped the material. Teachers may rehearse, going over the lecture dozens of times in their minds. Yet it is often only when a presenter begins to speak and explain their thoughts to other people that they properly appreciate areas where more clarity of thinking is needed. Likewise, perhaps only when you are delivering a sermon or lecture do you see some of the implications of the statements and claims you are making which had not occurred to you earlier. One cannot always anticipate everything. I always stressed to postgraduate students whom I worked with that the process of putting thoughts and ideas into words, especially the act of writing them down, creates a more intense dialogue with the subject. This dialogue, spoken or written, helps clarify thinking, and this fact lies behind the practice whereby students of Talmud study in pairs or havrutot, or students of philosophy, law or politics are encouraged to hone their critical thinking in debate and argument with others. By the means of 'talking out' the material and explaining it to other people, the ideas are more deeply clarified and refined.

So, let us turn our attention back to teshuvah. Teshuvah is not only about expressing regrets over past behaviour and the desire to change one's ways and to be a different and a better person in the future. Teshuvah, at its best, acts as a positive kind of therapy. It resembles most fundamentally a process through which we come to know who we are now in this world, and who we aspire to be. It is more than diagnosing or identifying areas we wish to change in our lives. Maimonides' emphasis on the importance of elaborate, verbal articulation highlights teshuvah as a clarification process that needs to address the most fundamental questions of our lives:

Who do we really want to be in the world?

What are the values that we most cherish and wish to nurture in ourselves?

What would we have to do to best nurture these values?

What are the things that keep us from embracing certain visions of our best selves?

Each of us has many 'selves', or many aspects of our 'self' which together make up our total identity as a person. We can challenge ourselves through teshuvah: which are the selves that we wish to cultivate? What are to us the most important aspects of our identities? What do we do with those aspects of our selves which we, at times, enjoy, and which are significant parts of who we are, but which may stand in the way of creating the lives we most deeply aspire to live?

What type of community(ies) do we wish to be part of, or do we aspire to create?

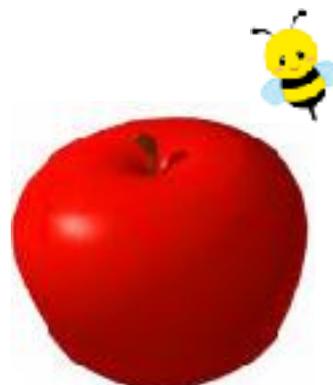
It is this concept of teshuvah that may allow us to understand a striking statement found in the Talmud: 'Before God created the world, God created the process of teshuvah' (BT Pesachim 54a). Teshuvah is much more than the antidote for wrongdoings against other human beings and against

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God. The term repentance does not adequately capture the meaning of this religious concept. As this claim of the Talmud seems to indicate, the Rabbis thought of teshuvah as part of the very fabric of Creation. Teshuvah is the creative process by which we continually (re)imagine ourselves.

May we all come to recognize that a process of genuine teshuvah can be a positive and valuable spiritual and psychological therapy. It can be a powerful step towards being who we really would like to be. The benefits can even be physical, since it is well documented that people who feel themselves to be 'right with the world', and happy as a result of that, often exhibit signs of overall physical good health too.

And in the spirit of that last remark, I pray that the New Year of 5778 will be a year of health, contentment and peace for all of you.



“The Last Klezmer” at the Jewish Home.

A film review by Gillian Goldthorpe

On Monday 25th September 1.00pm, Matt Suher showed his DVD of “The Last Klezmer” at the Jewish Home. This was an interesting documentary of Leopold Kozlowski (photo right) who now lives in Krakow Poland and according to the newspaper Haaretz is a regular visitor to the Klezmer Hois in the Jewish quarter Krakow .Leopold was born in 1918!



The video show Leopold training new non Jewish musicians the art of klezmer, much of which is not actually written down but is played from the heart and soul and tells the history and traditions of the Jewish people when it has been handed down from generation to generation in eastern Europe. It showed the similarity to Gypsy or “Roma” music from the same regions. Much of the documentary was about Leopold returning to his childhood home and looking for the places where he lost his parents who were shot in the woods outside their village and his brother who was a gifted violinist but was killed by bandits in the woods where he and his brother were hiding after they escaped the “camps” during the holocaust.

Although klezmer is very popular in Poland , it is now played by non -Jewish musicians to mainly non Jewish audiences. The irony of this was not lost on me. On our visit to Krakow a few years ago we were amazed by how so much Jewish artefacts and buildings and religious items were really well preserved. The Nazis has saved them to show in museums in the future about an extinct civilisation !

Quote from the newspaper Haaretz:-

What is it like for a Jew his age, a Holocaust survivor, to live in Poland?

"My father, my brother, my whole family lie in this soil, I cannot leave them."

How long will he continue to play?

"Music is my revenge, my life, I intend to keep playing to the last moment."

There will be a **Klezmer** workshop that Vivi Norris will be running at the Liverpool Reform Synagogue Hall.

The workshop will run for 7 weeks on Sundays from 1.00-3.00pm at a cost of £2 per session.

The first workshop is on Sunday, 29th October.

You can learn and practice a few songs and, if you want to, you can join Vivi in playing some of the songs for the residents at Stapeley Care Home as a Channukah treat. But if you don't want to perform and just want to come and learn to play the songs, that's equally fine.



LIVERPOOL REFORM SYNAGOGUE
28 Church Road North, Liverpool L15 6TF
Mob: 07729 562174; Tel: 0151 733 5871
Web: www.lrshul.org



Don't forget our special musical shabbat at your own synagogue with our guest service leader

David Hoffman on **shabbat 2nd December.**

**We are also joined, from the North, by
Brenda Dinsdale who will be
discussing the work of the
Reform Movement.**

Great shabbat

Brenda Dinsdale is visiting the synagogue on shabbat 2nd December:

Brenda Dinsdale was born in Newcastle upon Tyne and joined Newcastle Reform Synagogue (NRS) in 1990. She served as Guild Chair in and then went on to serve two terms as Chair, the last being from 2007 to 2011.



She is the community's volunteer caterer preparing monthly Shabbat dinners. Educated at Dame Allan's Girls' School and Durham University, Brenda also holds counselling qualifications and achieved level 5 NVQ in Business Management in 2007. She has been honoured at home and abroad for her service and deep commitment to the voluntary sector: she was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship by Rotary, the Whitbread Award and the Gramata, the second highest civilian honour in Belarus.

Brenda took over The Bed Centre from Michael and Sylvia Rowlands but retired six years ago. She has remained co-ordinator of Chernobyl Continuity and works part-time as a counsellor.

She has served as Vice-President of the Representative Council of North East Jewry and was then elected as the first Reform President of that organisation. She still serves as an ex-officio member. She is on the Board of Directors of the Philip Cussins House Jewish residential home in Newcastle and also serves on the executive of the local Council of Christians and Jews.

She has served on the Reform Rabbinic Remuneration Working Party and was instrumental in developing a mediation course for MRJ.

She has special experience of working with small Jewish communities.

We look forward to seeing her again at our synagogue 2nd December.



Rabbi Norman Zalud

To mark Rabbi Zalud's retirement from Sha'arei Shalom Synagogue, Elms Street, Whitefield, Manchester M45 8 GQ, the synagogue is holding a special kiddish on Shabbat, **11th November**, service commencing 10.30am.

Anyone interested in attending, please contact the Sha'arei Shalom shul office on 0161 796 67 36 by 2nd November.



Limmud Conference 2017 will be taking place from **Sunday 24 to Thursday 28 December 2017**. It will be preceded by Limmud Shabbat from Friday 22 to Sat-

Where?

[The hotels surrounding Pendigo Lake](#), just outside Birmingham, UK.

For more information on the site and accommodation options, see the ["Accommodation"](#) and ["FAQ"](#) pages.

What is Limmud Conference?

Bringing together around 3,000 people of all ages and from across the globe, Limmud Conference offers something for everyone - whether you want to debate burning contemporary issues, jam with a band, study Torah, create art, or just re-new old friendships and build new ones too.

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Many people read the newspaper religiously every day

Synagogue News

On behalf of all of Daniel's family I would like to thank everyone who helped to organise the shule and kiddish, for the fabulous effort in making Daniel's bar mitzvah day so successful.

Many thanks,
The Levine and Colwyn family



THE PRIME MINISTER



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

It gives me great pleasure to extend my best wishes to all those celebrating Rosh Hashanah in Britain and around the world.

I want to take this time, as a New Year begins, to convey my appreciation for the important input of the Jewish community in British society. Your community makes a valuable contribution across the fabric of our country: from business and the arts and from politics to our public services.

Rosh Hashanah is a time for reflection and you should be proud of your presence in the UK which adds so richly to our diverse culture.

As you gather together for prayer and celebration, I encourage you to do so with confidence that it is the values we share that will in the end prevail.

Shana Tova!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'T. May'.

Fortune and Neil Chamberlain represented Southport at the Sha'arei Shalom new Sefer Torah dedication ceremony on Sunday 8 October.

The new torah scroll was brought in under a decorated chuppa and Rabbi Norman Zalud lead the procession and conducted a moving service on this special occasion.

From Pastor Dorothea Pape (who visited our synagogue a year or two ago) in Germany :

I discovered today that September 21st is not only the Jewish New Year and International Peace Day, but also the Muslim New Year. I pray and hope that the confluence of the three on the same day is a positive sign. For a good New Year of peace!

All the best. Healthy and Blessings!

When we have sung Alwinu Malkenu I thought of you all and Rabbi Ash. He has sung it so nice and I love the melody and the text...

Shana towa,
Dorothea



Jewish people in Kendal

Our members Fortune and Neil Chamberlain, and Paul Stoller and Paul's children Ayla and Koby attended a successful Friday night service and chavurah supper in Kendal. It was organised by Menorah Reform and took place on 6 October at the home of Andrea and Beren Aldridge. There was a very warm welcome and friendly atmosphere, an excellent turnout, lots of delicious food and the unexpected added bonus of a beautiful sukkah in the back garden!

(Below photos for lulav shaking in the sukkah in Kendal with Rabbi Fabien)



Sukkot 5778 at Southport & District Reform Synagogue

(photos below)



Photo removed



Photo removed



Many thanks to all of you that helped with the sukkah decorating, It was a team effort from the cleaning to the catering for the workers.

A special thanks to **Phil Levine** for the greenery - I don't know what happened to his neighbours hedge!

Also a special thank you to **Dr Stephen Waldek** who kindly came over from Menorah Synagogue to lead our sukkot services so professionally.



A match made in heaven



Shelley Yavetz and Matt Suher, above, greet each other as the Bride and groom of the Torah, and lead the dancing and celebrations of the end reading and the beginning of reading of the Torah.



For Simchat Torah this year's celebration we were able to honour our Kallat Torah, Shelley Yavetz, and our Chatan Bereshit, Matt Suher for the work they have done in leading the synagogue life.

The celebrations were led by Student Rabbi Peter Luijendijk, who kindly left his studies at Leo Beck College, to join us in Southport. Student Rabbi Peter had the pleasure of presenting Shelley and Matt with their certificates of honour.

Many thanks to all those that helped with the sumptuous kiddish.





Matt Suher – Chatan Bereishit – 2017

Matt spent his childhood in North America, moving to London to work, Matt has spent most of his adult life living in different parts of London working for both Government and non-Government agencies as an advocate for people with disabilities.

After his marriage to Carole, Matt lived in North West London and was actively involved in both Reform and Liberal congregations.

Since moving up to Southport 18 months ago Matt has become involved in our synagogue and has been a particular help with leading interesting services and discussions concerning the Torah. He is both knowledgeable and insightful concerning Judaism, and willing to share his knowledge with us.



Shelley Yavetz – Kallat Torah - 2017

Shelley was born in Liverpool in 1947. A pupil at King David School; head girl of Greenbank Drive Cheder in 1962; and youth leader at Habonim (the Zionist Youth Movement) from age 15 onwards.

Shelley made “alyiah” (emigrated to Israel) in 1967 and lived on Kibbutz Amiad in the Galil.

After her studies at Haifa and Jerusalem Universities, Shelley worked as a language teacher and a translator for many years in both Arab and Jewish sectors, on kibbutzim and in development towns, specialising in remedial teaching and reading therapy.

Shelley lived in Jerusalem for many years and in 1998 she opened her own remedial teaching practice serving special needs students in regular mainstream schools.

Whilst in Israel Shelley was active for many years in interfaith work and in the Peace Now movement.

Shelley is the mother of two children, her daughter Tali (aged 41) works in research at Columbia University, NY, USA and her son Maor (aged 27) is studying Education in London at the Metropolitan University.

Shelley returned to England at the end of 2009 to be close to her late mother Gertie (z”l) then living at the Jewish Rest Home in Southport.

Shelley loves classical music, art history and studying anything interesting in Judaism. Shelley enjoys being part of the Reform communities both in Southport and in Liverpool and is happy to attend orthodox services and Judaism lessons in the Home too. Shelley believes in breaking down barriers between orthodox and progressive Judaism. She is proud to be a committed Zionist and Jewish woman!!

Shelley is very grateful for the honour bestowed on her as Kallat Torah!

Daniel's Barmitzvah- 14th October

photo removed

We were pleased to see the synagogue filled to overflowing for Daniel Colwyn's bar mitzvah on 14th October.

Daniel competently lead the shabbat service and cantillation of the scroll. It was a pleasure to have him lead the service - there may yet be a permanent position for him in doing this!

Rabbi Elf very kindly came to take part in the service and deliver the traditional blessing to Daniel on attaining his bar mitzvah.

Daniel's success was met with a hail of sweets and hearty "mazeltovs".

A credit to his family and teachers. We should be proud of both Daniel, and of our cheder teaching under the auspices of Anne Kletz.

On behalf of the synagogue, Daniel was presented with a siddur and a book about his parasha.

Daniel's family kindly invited the whole congregation to a lovely kiddish - thank you from us all, and a big thank you to all the helpers that made the kiddish popular.

The celebrations went on throughout the day, the evening proving to be particularly challenging when Daniel had to hold tightly onto his chair for the traditional chair hoisting associated with such an occasion. I even think at one point Clare Colwyn, Daniel's Mum, was in an equally precarious position!

A day for all of us to remember. Thanks
(SG)

photo removed

Rabbinic Support

Although the synagogue does not have a full time Rabbi, we do have Rabbinic support and of course the co-operation of other nearby communities.

Rabbi Norman Zalud now offers the synagogue pastoral support for personal issues. Rabbi Robert Ash offers support to our services and for Jewish learning. Rabbi Elf supports our services on request. Student Rabbis will continue to support our synagogue for services and education, thanks to the MRJ. We also use the services of lay readers within our community and those of other North Western communities.



Chairman's News



from Dr Selwyn Goldthorpe

Phew! We have all been so busy over the High Holy Days and subsequent festivals and celebrations. I am so grateful for those of you that contributed to the effort in making all of these occasions happen.

You would think that we all deserved a holiday, however if you see the calendar of forthcoming events there is quite a lot happening throughout the rest of 2017.

With regret, towards the Christmas and New Year holidays, we feel that there will not be sufficient support to hold a shabbat service on the 23rd and 30th December.

Should there be sufficient numbers then please make representations to the Office or myself, then this situation can be reversed, otherwise we are welcome to join our orthodox friends at The Home, for services on these shabbats.

We are trying to develop more ties with the Reform Jewish Community of the North West. Mutual support is important as our numbers are small, and on occasions very stretched. You could say, you cannot have too much of a good thing, so why not join in with other community's special events? I would particularly like to commend to you the Balfour Declaration Celebrations at Menorah Synagogue:

Balfour Shabbat at Menorah Synagogue Saturday 4 Nov at 12.30 pm - 4.15 pm

*Following a Balfour themed Service,
please join us for a **Balfour Kiddush**
... after which we shall hear from two eminent speakers:*

PROFESSOR CHARLES TOWNSHEND, FBA (Professor Emeritus
of International History, Keele University)

“The Balfour Declaration: Britain’s Palestine Adventure”

... and...

PROFESSOR TONY KUSHNER (Professor of Jewish/non Jewish
Relations, University of Southampton)

**“The Balfour Declaration and its Aftermath: From
Exodus 1947 to Lampedusa”**



Chairman's news continued:

In the past, with a greater number of active synagogue members perhaps we would have had our own Balfour celebrations. The reality is we have a good percentage of the synagogue members that either live outside of Southport or are not so active.

My concern is how do we as a community, and now a more diffuse community, provide for the Jewish support of our less able members?

As we struggle to combat the problems of isolation and loneliness, the synagogue is intent on improving communication with our members. We are in the process of apply for a grant from the Reform Movement to obtain some funding for social visiting on a regular basis. I am very aware that we do not have a retained rabbi who would normally represent the synagogue and its members.

It is possible that if other small communities feel that they have the same problem, then something could be done on a collective basis.

Southport and District Reform Synagogue is well established. Did you know this coming year will be our 70th synagogue anniversary? We are planning for the occasion. The lead rabbi of the Reform Movement will be visiting us (again!), Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner for our celebrations on shabbat **30th June 2018**. We hope to also see lots of our long standing friends that are associated with our synagogue. I hope to see John Cowell's book published, next year, concerning the Jewish history of Southport. It would be fitting for our 70th anniversary to have such a detailed account of our synagogue's development.

Most young people (and some not so young!) communicate on a social level via Facebook. As Southport Reform Shul, our Facebook site is there to improve communication within our synagogue friends group. Do become active users of the Facebook group if you can. Invite into the group others that may be interested in Reform Jewish life in Southport. Just be aware of the the usual safeguards when using Facebook that you should not publish personal contact details etc.

Do support the work of **Mitzvah Day on Sunday 19th November**. You have the option of work in the synagogue, work for the National Trust, or work for The Home. All followed by a tea and get together back in the synagogue by 5.pm Be part of what is happening that Sunday. There is something for all abilities.

Well, I am looking forward to the **Not So Dead Recipe Society meet on shabbat 25th November**. We are really fortunate in having **Clarissa Hyman** come to the synagogue. She is an award-winning freelance writer, specialising in all aspects of food and travel taking in producers, ingredients, restaurants, recipes, food policy and consumer trends, and she uses food as a means to explore a wider world of culture and history, art and agriculture. She contributes to a wide range of newspapers, magazines and guides, and is the author of *Cucina Siciliana* (Conran Octopus 2001), *The Jewish Kitchen* (2003), and *The Spanish Kitchen* (2005). She has been shortlisted for all of the major cookery writing awards, and twice has won the Glenfiddich Food Writer of the Year Award. She contributed the Fruit section of Dorling Kindersley's *Ingredients* (2010). In 2013 Reaktion published her *Oranges: A Global History*.

Support your synagogue. Make time to be part of your community. I wish you a very happy couple of months to the year's end.

Selwyn

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

NOVEMBER

Mina Abram-Hebblethwaite
Joanna Barnett
Louise Hazrati
Josef Hazrati
Henry Hipps
Anne Kletz

DECEMBER

Laura Hoskin
Mary Kayne
Adele Kletz
Nina Silveston
Marcel Zachariah



If you wish to use the synagogue function room for a celebration, please contact the office.

There are reduced rates for synagogue members!

‘The woman who woke us up’

Elizabeth Gaskell: (Unitarian author & social reformer)

a presentation by **Susan Fox**

Further information from ark@menorah.org.uk
on **Sunday December 3rd 2017 11.15 am.**
@ Menorah Synagogue



yahrzeits (יָאָרְצֵיט)

during this issue of
L'Chayim

We remember their contribution to our lives:

Yahrzeits in November

Jo Sefton, Father of Lynn Pavion
Dora Lippa, Mother of Paul Lippa
Jean Levine, Mother of Phil Levine
Frank Kessler, Father of Harry Kessler
Sam Myerthall, Father of Audrey Swade
Trevor Kletz, Father of Tony Kletz
Samuel Eckstein, Brother of Betty Eckstein
Alfred Morrison, Father of Edna Davis

Yahrzeits in December

Norman Coleman Francis, Fiancee of Gertrude Knight
Maurice Schneider, Brother of Bella Chilton
Rosa Fagel, Mother of Bella Chilton
Anthony Simon Pavion, Son of Lynn and Stephen Pavion
Rabbi Sidney Kay, Father of Helen Kay and Truda Bell
Samuel Elton, Father of Adele Davis
Alfred Zachariah, Father of Marcel Zachariah
Tom Kayne, Husband of Mary Kayne
Jeanette Globe, Dear friend of Adele Dixon
Annie Podd, Mother of Adele Dixon
Alec Pierce, Brother of Cyril Polansky
Pearl Gold, Sister of Bella Chilton

The congregation on shabbat have the opportunity to reflect on those that have helped to make us, make our community, and contribute to the world we at present live in. **MAY THEIR MEMORY BE A BLESSING.**
Please be in shul so we can together remember our loved ones.

Yahrzeit candles are available for purchase from the synagogue. Do try to be in shul for your yahrzeit.

If you wish to sponsor a page in L'Chayim, this can be done for a minimum of £10. You can pay more if you wish. Please contact the office.

To advertise a business or an event, there is £10 minimum charge, or for a full page £40. L'Chayim is distributed around the Jewish community with an interest in Southport and District Reform Synagogue, this includes country members, and friends of the synagogue. (ed).

Why waste postage? Place a greeting in L'Chayim to all your friends.

The Joint Jewish Burial Society (JJBS) is an insurance scheme paid on behalf of you by the synagogue as part of your membership. It covers all the costs of a Jewish funeral. Other synagogues may have alternative schemes. Please be aware of this if you have to move, or cease to be a member, and speak to us.

The scheme will pay for any type of funeral including cremation.



L'Chayim would be pleased to have you share your thoughts with the wider community on any aspect of Judaism relating to our community or of a general religious nature. What would you like to see happen in Southport & District Reform Synagogue? If you read something in L'Chayim you would like to comment on - just let us know.

southportsynagog@btconnect.com (FAO The Editors of L'Chayim)

We also appreciate Jewish humour, reminders of the past, news of family and friends.

Your contribution matters.

We would like to hire out the synagogue hall during the week to interested groups. If you know of an organisation, or group that wish to use a modern hall, then please put them in contact with the office. The hall could be used for anything from chess clubs to yoga groups.

We have rented the second car parking space at the front of the synagogue, Monday to Friday. Sorry for any inconvenience- it all helps to keep the synagogue open for a longer period as we continue to endeavour to not have a financial deficit.



Mention the Hall to a mate!



Need a break?

In need of care?



The Southport Rest Home

*Choice of long, or short stays, permanent residency
(Jewish and non Jewish, single or couples)*

- *Home from home
- *24 hour care
- *Rooms available at reasonable rates
- *Excellent food from our Kosher kitchens
- *Conservatory overlooking Hesketh Park
- *Beautiful synagogue for your convenience
- *Self-contained flats available

Enquiries to Dee Culshaw (Manager) tel. 01704 531975

e-mail: thesouthportresthome@hotmail.co.uk

www.thesouthportresthome.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 1123524



The Home is looking for volunteers to take chair-bound residents out to the nearby local park and amenities.

If you can spare a little time for this mitzvah, please contact Dee on the above number. You are only young once!



A rabbi was once passing through a field where he saw a very old man planting an oak tree. ‘Why are you planting that tree?’ Said he. ‘You surely do not expect to live long enough to see the acorn grow up into an oak tree?’ ‘Ah,’ replied the old man, ‘my ancestors planted trees not for themselves, but for us, in order that we might enjoy their shade and fruit. I am doing likewise for those who will come after me’
Talmud Ta’anit 23a

A legacy to Southport and District Reform Synagogue today is a special gift to our tomorrow.

After considering your family and friends, you may also want to leave an amount in your will to charities. Please consider making S&DRS one of your charities. S&DRS future will be all the more secure so that our children may continue to practice the religion of their choice in Southport.



The responsibility to protect what was given to us, build on it and pass it on to the next generation in a better, stronger state is incumbent on us all. The gift of continuity in your will, whether large or small, will help to ensure that our community will continue for generations to come.

L’dor v’dor—from generation to generation.

Remember S&DRS when writing your will. Even if you have already made a will, you can amend it at any time and make your gift by using a simple document, a codicil. We can provide the correct wording for this. It is always advisable to seek professional advice when drafting something as important as a will. S&DRS can supply you with details of a number of local solicitors who are willing to offer advice.

Please give this some thought - your contribution can make a significant difference.

