



Southport & District Reform Synagogue

L'Chayim



1st September - 31st October 2017
10th Elul 5777 - 11th Cheshvan 5778

Shabbat services commence 11am

Date	Parasha / Event	Service Leader	Reading	About
2nd Sept.	Shabbat.	Susan Fox	Ki Teitzei Deuteronomy 23:22-24:18	Laws;divorce
9th Sept.	Shabbat	Joan Brooke	Ki Tavo Deuteronomy 27: 9-26	Curses for transgressions, blessings for faithful.
16th Sept.	Shabbat	Jennie Ferrario (Menorah Syn.)	Nitzavim-V-yeilech. Deuteronomy 30:1-20	Value of repentance
20th Sept.	Erev Rosh Hashanah, Service commences 7pm	Rabbi Ash		
21st Sept. 1st Tishri 5778	Rosh Hashanah Service commences 10.30am,	Rabbi Ash	Genesis 22:1-19	Binding of Isaac
22nd Sept.	2nd day Rosh Hashanah		No service	
23rd Sept.	Shabbat Shuvah	Matt Suher/ Fortune Chamberlain	Ha'azinu Deuteronomy 32:19-29	Song of Moses
29th Sept.	Erev Yom Kippur (Kol Nidrei). Service commences 7pm.	Rabbi Ash		
30th Sept.	Yom Kippur. Shacharit 11am Yizkor (Memorial service) 5pm approx. Shofar 7pm approx.-.Fast ends 19.42: Soup, salad etc. in synagogue.	Rabbi Ash Shacharit 11am Yizkor	Exodus 33:12-34:9 Leviticus19:1-18 Deuteronomy 30:8-20	Moses encounters the divine presence. Holiness code. Choice between life and death

Date	Parasha / Event	Service Leader	Reading	About
4th October	Erev Sukkot. Service commences 7pm. Kiddush in sukkah	Dr Stephen Waldeck, Menorah Syn.		
5th October	Sukkot 1st day, Service commences 11am. Kiddush in sukkah	Dr Stephen Waldek, Menorah Syn.	Leviticus 23:39-44 Deuteronomy 28: 1-6	The Laws of Sukkot Blessings
7th October	Shabbat Chol Hamoed	Mina Abram-Hebblewaithe	Deuteronomy 8:1-18 Deuteronomy 16:13-17	God protects the Israelite wilderness wanderers. The Laws of Sukkot.
11th. October	Erev Simchat Torah. Service commences 7pm. Kiddush	Student Rabbi Peter Luyendijk		
12th October.	Simchat Torah. Service commences 11am Kiddush	Student Rabbi Peter Luyendijk	Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Genesis 1:1-2:3	The death Moses. The Creation.
14th October	Shabbat Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan: Daniel Colwyn's Bar Mitzvah . Kiddush	Rabbi Elf & Daniel Colwyn	Bereshit Genesis 4:1-16	Cain and Abel
21st. October	Shabbat	Richard Choueke	Noach Genesis 11:1-9	Babel and the division of nations
28th October	Shabbat	Matt Suher	Lech L'cha Genesis 17:1-21	Covenant of circumcision.

THIS YEAR HAS SEEN A FURTHER INCREASED THREAT OF VIOLENCE AND HATE CRIME IN GENERAL.

THE PROFESSIONAL SECURITY DETAIL ,AT THE FRONT GATE, ON HIGH HOLY DAYS, WILL **ONLY** LET PEOPLE THROUGH ON THE CHECKED LIST.

YOU MUST HAVE INFORMED THE OFFICE OF YOUR INTENT TO ATTEND IF YOU ARE NOT A FRIEND OF THE SYNAGOGUE OR A FULL MEMBER, OTHERWISE YOU ARE LIKELY TO BE DISAPPOINTED AT NOT BEING ABLE TO ATTEND THE SERVICE.

Members of other Reform Synagogues will be welcome (at no charge) by advance application to the synagogue office, including those North West congregants associated with Rabbi Robert Ash.

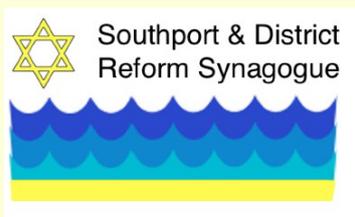


Congregants are requested to be seated 10 minutes prior to service commencement. Seats are allocated on a first come first served basis. No seats can be reserved prior to the service. Please commence your seating nearest to the Ark.



Thank You!!!

Member of the Movement
for Reform Judaism



Registered Charity 227576

Synagogue Office:

Lisa Sachs

e mail : southportsynagog@btconnect.com

(Administrator Wed & Fri 10am-3pm),

website: www.southportreform.org.uk

Princes Street,
Southport, PR8 1EG
Tel. & Fax.

01704 535950

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



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

Editorial

We have a fantastic, small team of synagogue people that keep 'the show on the road'. As we turn our attention to High Holy Days, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, and Daniel Colwyn's Bar Mitzvah (see invite that follows), we are very grateful for the planning, organisation, and the practical help that goes on to ensure that we have a functioning synagogue. A special mention to our hard working, administrator, Lisa Sachs, who manages to keep the wheels of the machine,

functioning so smoothly. We have now a Facebook site for the synagogue. Please feel free to use this (by application on Facebook) to keep up

to date with your friends.

We are indebted to Rabbi Ash , who for the second successive year, has helped us in our High Holy Day services, not to mention our other lay readers, student rabbis, and the support of the readers from Menorah Synagogue.

There is so much going on. The Menorah weekend away, in the Peak District, is 8-10th September (see later in the newsletter). Sukkah building, is on Sunday 1st October-, at 1.30pm., included is a light lunch, There is a Council meeting on 3rd October , at 7.30pm. There is also Leeds Limmud on Sunday 29th October. (see later).

We, the editors of L'Chayim, wish you a rewarding time at the synagogue, best wishes for 5778, and your enjoyment of your reading of L'Chayim. If there is anything you want included, please let us know.



European Jewish collection box for charity (Pre-Holocaust)

Kol Nidrei is an Aramaic phrase which means far more than its literal translation, “All Vows.” This statement of annulment of vows has become such a dominant part of the erev Yom Kippur service that its name is now synonymous with that service.

What makes this service special?

Customarily, on the eve of the most solemn day when all of creation is judged, Strictly orthodox Jews come to their synagogues dressed in white *kittels* – thin, laced robes, which symbolize purity and majesty – and *tallitot*. For us and them, this is the only evening prayer service during the entire year when the *tallit* is worn.

The scrolls are taken from the ark and symbolically will serve as the *bet din* (court of judgement), in front of the congregation

symbolically examining the sincerity of their desire to repent, chanting Kol Nidre prayer three times, each time louder than the last.

The origins of the Kol Nidrei prayer are somewhat indefinite. One theory is the wording of the prayer comes about because of the religious dilemma facing medieval Spanish Jews. In 15th-century Spain, at the height of the infamous Inquisition, the Roman Catholic Church embarked on a determined hunt to seek out and punish all non-practicing Christians. In response to extreme anti-Semitism earlier that century, a sizeable number of upper-class Jews chose to convert to Christianity in order to, at the very least, avoid social disdain. The Kol Nidrei prayer, according to this theory, was created in response to these Jews’ desire to nullify their vows of conversion. We can see the potential validity of this historical claim in a literal translation of Kol Nidrei:

“All vows and oaths we take, all promises and obligations we made to God between this Yom Kippur and the last we hereby publicly retract in the event that we should forget them, and hereby declare our intention to be absolved of them.”

This legal formula may have allowed marrano Jews to rid themselves of guilt they felt when, under social and religious duress, they converted to Christianity. By setting Kol Nidrei at the beginning of the first Yom Kippur service, these Jews developed a way to confront the gravest sin imaginable so that they could devote the remainder of Yom Kippur to address their other transgressions.

Like all things Jewish, there is some debate about this as the wording of the prayer seems to mimic other legalistic contracts of the Babylonian Jewish community of the 6th and 7th centuries.

The first undoubtable citation appears in an early comprehensive siddur edited by Rav Amram in the 8th century.

Why is Kol Nidrei associated with giving to charity?

There are three religious cornerstones of Yom Kippur which is a time for looking at oneself personally; a time for passing judgement firstly upon yourself, and then in front of God. The three key elements to the Humanistic and rabbinic liturgies for Yom Kippur are **teshuva, tefilla, and tzedaka.**



Teshuva is a Hebrew word, usually translated as “repentance,” but which actually means return. For Humanistic Jews, teshuva is the action of returning to our values and ideals, renewing our commitment to the highest standards of our ethics.

Tefilla is traditionally translated as “prayer,” but comes from a word that means self-reflection. For Humanistic Jews, tefilla directs us toward self-evaluation.

Tzedaka usually signifies “charity,” but the deeper meaning conveys what kind of human beings we wish to be: tzadikim are people who embody the highest ideals of the Jewish people.



Contemporary Jewish collection box for charity.

This year’s Kol Nidrei appeal has been approved by Council having had many suggestions. The issue of whom to support was decided by lottery as it was thought unfair to distinguish between good causes.

Once again we have some great causes to support. Last year’s appeal was very successful. I am grateful that the synagogue is seen to be a source of financial support to both the Jewish community and the community as a whole.

This helps to promote the ethos of what it means to be Jewish (see above).

Teshuva, tefilla, and tzedaka – meaning a return to our ideals, self-reflection, and putting our ethics into action – are the cornerstones of the Humanistic celebration of Yom Kippur.

This year we will be supporting the following Charities:-

Jewish Blind & Disabled



The only Jewish charity dedicated to providing a life of independence, dignity and choice for any adult, from the age of 18 upwards, who is physically disabled or vision impaired. We enable this independent lifestyle via the provision of state-of-the-art mobility apartments, with 24/7 on site support from our own resident house managers. Without these unique facilities many of our tenants would have no choice but to live a life of dependence on others, or even be forced to move into residential

care often at a relatively young age.

Our core philosophy is that every individual is entitled to a life of dignity, independence and choice. Our mission is to provide this life for any adult in our community, from the age of 18 upwards, who is physically disabled or vision impaired. Our state-of-the-art mobility apartments are located within modern, well-maintained custom designed buildings providing a caring, Jewish environment where our tenants can get on with their lives safe in the knowledge that support is always on hand 24/7 if required.

The Bloom Appeal



Merseyside against
blood cancers

The aims are to support and care for patients with blood cancers, fund and invest in scientific research and make a difference for blood cancer patients in **Merseyside and surrounding areas**.

The Bloom Appeal was established in 2014 by healthcare professionals, patients, carers and scientists. We are dedicated to helping patients through treatments, as well as investing in facilities and research.

There are at least 60 different types of blood cancers which can affect both young and old. Every year another 1250 people in the region will be diagnosed with Leukemia, Lymphoma, Myeloma etc. Although some are cured, a large majority have to live with the disease and its consequences. Here in Merseyside we offer world class facilities that provide the best and most up to date treatment and care – along with an internationally renowned programme of research that includes clinical trials and a vibrant patient support network.

You may have been following their work in our local paper. Southport Hospital itself has an active haematology/oncology unit, aiming to make day procedures, such as chemotherapy, as pleasant as possible for these cancer patients.

Orphans for Orphans (The Gandys Foundation)



Inspired by the the loss of their parents in the 2004 Tsunami – Rob & Paul founded Gandys from their bedroom in London, together with their charitable foundation; 'The Gandys foundation'. The Gandys foundation supports the Orphans for Orphans initiative - aiding underprivileged children with education, medication and nutrition.

Rob, Paul and their siblings were fortunate to return to the UK where friends and family helped and supported them. Having being tragically orphaned at the age of 17 and 15 the brothers felt passionate about making a significant difference in the world, too. The kindness that was bestowed upon them during this difficult time is essentially what inspires the brothers to improve the lives of fellow orphans who find themselves in a more challenging social position.

The 'Orphans for Orphans' initiative essentially provides a common ground for communities to gather together at a functional facility. The Orphans for Orphans facility in Sri Lanka encompasses a broad range of focus areas - including academic support, woodwork lessons and various sports activities. The Foundation is currently fundraising for their second large project - a new childrens home in Malawi.

As Friends and Members of Southport and District Reform Synagogue, I urge you to reach into your hearts and your pockets and give generously to our chosen charities for this year's Kol Nidrei Appeal, in the true tradition of Yom Kippur, and what it means to be both Jewish, and to have or have not, to be fortunate in life.

As we look upon the year that has just gone, for better or worse, we are still around to ruminate, when others may not be so fortunate. Start the New Year making a difference to someone else's life. Please give generously to the good causes of the Kol Nidrei Appeal.

Doctor Selwyn Goldthorpe, Chairman of Synagogue Council.



Gillian and Selwyn Goldthorpe
wish you all a happy and
healthy New Year.
Shana Tova.

L'Shannah Tovah from Fortune and Neil
Chamberlain - best wishes to family
and friends for health, happiness and
prosperity in 5778 - a new year as
sweet as apples dipped in honey



"Shanah Tovah Umetukah to
each and every member and
friend in the Congregation for
5778"

Susan Fox

I wish all my dear friends at Southport Reform Synagogue,
a very happy, contented, and healthy New Year.

Warmest wishes to you all.
Ruth Bloom



Happy New Year The Pavion Family

**Wishing everyone a
Sweet and Happy
New Year,**

Mina



**Happy
New Year**



We send our very best wishes to all the members and friends of the southport community for this Rosh Hashanah.

May you all be blessed with health and happiness.

Brachot leshana tova and g'mar chatima tova.

**Shelley, Tali and Maor,
The Yavetz family.**



Joan Brooke

wishes everyone a fruitful and prosperous New Year and well over the fast.



Lisa and Richard Sachs,
together with Jake, Daisy and Benji
would like to wish all
the Members and Friends of Southport & District
Reform Synagogue
a sweet New Year.



*Audrey and Martyn
Swade wish family
and friends all the
best for Yom Tov.*



Bar Mitzvah

בַּר מִצְוָה



The family of **Daniel Colwyn** are pleased to inform the congregation that Daniel will be celebrating his bar mitzvah at Southport and District Reform Synagogue on shabbat

14th October 2017

Rabbi Elf will be taking the service, 10.45 am.



Shelley Yavetz and her family invited all of our synagogue members and friends to a special celebratory Shabbat service and kiddish, marking Shelley's 70th birthday, the celebration kiddish (taking part with a baby blessing) was 8th July at Liverpool Reform Synagogue. Rabbi Elf officiated at the service.

The service was attended by a large number of our congregation and by Shelley's family.

There was the opportunity for everyone to catch up with our friends from Liverpool Reform Synagogue, and with Shelley's family.

We wish Shelley many more years of health and happiness. Shown on the left, the photograph of Shelley with our synagogue member Rodney Jackson, at Shelley's 70th birthday celebration.

Shelley has contributed greatly to the life of Southport and District Reform Synagogue, along with other synagogues in the area. We are delighted to have her as a synagogue member, and accordingly, Council has asked her to be the Kalat Torah for the forthcoming Simchat Torah festival. She will be joined on this occasion with our Chatan Bereshit **Matt Suher**, who has also contributed to synagogue life, and is now a regular lay reader and service attender. We can look forward to the occasion of Simchat Torah 5778!



Synagogue News

Great Friday night service and chavurah on 21st July with our friends from Menorah synagogue kindly making the journey to join us in sunny Southport.

Many people read the newspaper religiously every day



Southport-Menorah Friday Night
21st July 2017



Friday night
with Menorah Synagogue and
Southport & District Reform
July 2017

Thanks to Reuben Saffer (Menorah), and Fortune Chamberlain, for making the service so enjoyable for young and old alike.



Kiddush Friday, 21st July 2017
Noah and Meira



We regret to tell you that our caretaker of some years standing, Mr Richard Swift, has resigned.

The post is at present vacant. If you know of someone who can fulfil the role, please contact either the Chairman, Selwyn, or Lisa at the office. The job is being reclassified as security and maintenance and includes out of hours key holding responsibility.

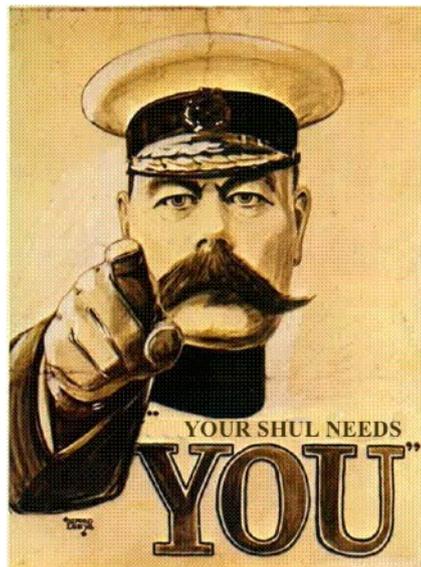
The opening and closing of the synagogue is at present all of our's kind, responsibility.



Thanks to the Neil and Fortune Chamberlain, and Anne Kletz, who helped us (Gillian and Selwyn) to catch up with the weeding and tidying of the grounds. I am pleased to say that the trees were trimmed, up and until the point I cut through the power supply to my chain saw, with my chain saw! Pathclear has been put down, and the sukkah tidied. Please don't forget:

Sukkah building, Sunday 1st October, at 1.30pm., included is a light lunch.

We need greenery, fruit, and flowers. Thank you, and we need,



Young and the 'more mature'- all are welcome to decorate us a sukkah to remember.

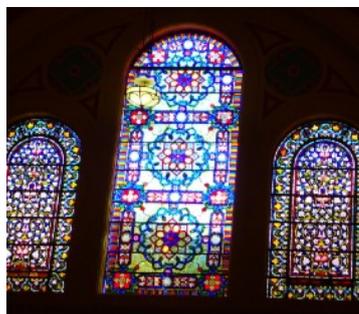


Rabbinic Support

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.

**West London synagogue:
in support of Kath Vardi for her rabbinic ordination. (7th July 2017)**

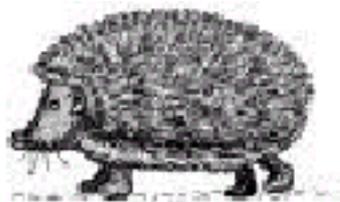


We were able to acknowledge the great contribution Kath Vardi has made to our synagogue life in the last few years by being present, with 500 others, at The West London Synagogue, for her ordination as Rabbi Vardi. Her class is shown above.

Seven new European Progressive rabbis were ordained by Leo Baeck College, including the first ever Spanish born Progressive rabbi. Six of the rabbis will serve Reform communities.

Rabbi Haim Casas will make history when he returns home to begin work in communities in Spain, as well as France and Switzerland. Rabbi Kath Vardi joins the North West

Surrey Reform Synagogue. Our loss is their gain. We wish her, and her family, every success.



You can't beat a good Friday night with friends. Last Friday (18th August) saw both Menorah and Southport Synagogues supporting our friends in Preston- thanks to Jeremy and Savannah Dable for letting their home be invaded by 35 people, including two rabbis, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Preston. Rabbi Fabian Sborovsky led the service and the singing , though it was a pleasure to see a relaxed Rabbi Ash.

We had a lovely evening with plenty of singing, and so much food. The conversation was great. The only reason we had to leave was to ensure our electric car had enough charge overnight to go to Blackpool Synagogue the next day. I could not help but take our host out for a little drive in the car, and nearly stood on the hedgehog when coming down the front steps. Even the hedgehog was trying to come the chavurah.

A number of us journeyed to Blackpool Reform Synagogue, the next morning. We were made very welcome, Fortune Chamberlain reading the haftarah. I hope Blackpool Synagogue will be able to visit us in Southport. Their synagogue has a cabinet with some of the historical articles of the synagogue on display. The building was designed by our own Rabbi Sidney Kay (may his memory forever be a blessing).

News by Selwyn Goldthorpe

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

during this issue of
L'Chayim

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

Joan Brooke
Daniel Colwyn
Helen Kay
Enid Marcus
Brian Maylott
Jacky Samuels
Marcia Stoller
Hilary Wilson

Clare Colwyn
Selwyn Goldthorpe
Jean Gould
John Hirshman
Caroline Kaye
Eileen Lippa
Deborah Wilson
Daniel Wilson



Well, to all of us, **mazeltov** - another year older, another year wiser!



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

There are reduced rates for synagogue members!

Go on, have a party!



If you do hear of a member of the community who is unwell, please let the office know so that we may be of help if needed.

We are pleased to see Neil Chamberlain and Mary Kessler make a good recovery after their surgery.



Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers that arrived a few minutes ago. What a delightful surprise! They certainly took my mind off the few aches and pains in my new knee and I'm making a good and so far, speedy recovery.

**Yours gratefully,
Mary Kessler**



yahrzeits (יָאָרְצֵיט)

during this issue of
L'Chayim

We remember their contribution to our lives:

Yahrzeits in September

Mariam Rivilis – Mother of Estelle Mannheim
Edith Morrison – Mother of Edna Davis
Myrtle Pavion – Mother of Stephen Pavion
Jack Hakim – Father of Fortune Chamberlain
Max Schneider – Father of Bella Chilton
Louis Swade – Father of Martyn Swade
Leslie Myer – Father of Deborah Hirshman,
Husband of Jacqueline Katz
Isaac Zachariah – Brother of Marcel Zachariah

Yahrzeits in October

Ann Kessler – Mother of Harry Kessler
Norman Stephens – Brother of Betty Eckstein
Harry Pavion – Father of Stephen Pavion
Minna Mayze – Mother of Rodney Jackson and
Gina Luxemburg

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.

DENIAL - at Southport Hebrew Synagogue

by Carole Suher

We joined, on Sunday 30th July, with our friends from the Arnside Road shul, for a showing of the film "Denial". There was a good turn out from our synagogue.

In 1996, the historian Deborah Lipstadt was pursued in the UK courts by the notorious Holocaust denier David Irving, for calling him a falsifier of history in her book Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory. This movie is a version of those events,

The film starred Rachel Weisz as Deborah Lipstadt an American lecturer in Holocaust Studies, Timothy Spall as "historian" and Holocaust denier David Irving and Tom Wilkinson as Richard Rampton QC the barrister for the defence.

Particularly poignant were the scenes at Auchswitz where the defence team visited as part of their preparation for the trial.

To its credit the fact that we all knew the outcome of the trial did not detract from a very powerful and absorbing film.

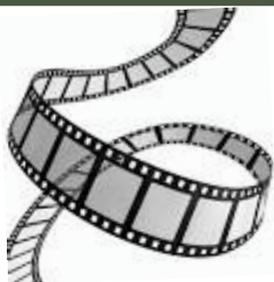


This was a great film, demonstrating the clarity of thinking involved in the British legal system, where logic rules. A film that should be seen, not only by those emotionally involved with the holocaust, but by those seeking to understand the thinking of lawyers (if that is possible!). The real-life Irving, even as we speak, is using the film's release to raise his profile and flog more books. To contain people like that, you have to understand them. Denial, thanks to Spall, gets to the heart of the horror. (*Selwyn Goldthorpe*)



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

Your opinion matters.



FILMS to see, presented by Matt Suher

at **THE HOME, 81 Albert Rd, Southport PR9 9LN**

Monday 25th September at 1 pm

"The Last Klezmer"



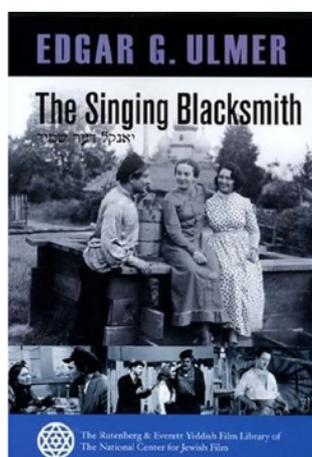
(1 hour 20 minutes) - a documentary about the last klezmer musicians in Poland. Made just after the fall of Communism around 1990 it is Polish/ Yiddish in colour with English subtitles. The filmmaker goes to Poland in search of one of the last known Klezmer musicians who is still living in Poland, once the heart of Jewish Klezmer music.

What this film does so well is put a human cultural face behind the grim statistics of the Holocaust. By showing us the rich musical legacy that was virtually destroyed by the Nazi death machine, one is able to more firmly grasp just how horrific the Holocaust was.

The music is beautiful, and the focus of the documentary, Leopold Kozłowski, is a lively charismatic man and keeps this film entertaining to watch.

Monday 30th October at 1 pm

"The Singing Blacksmith"



(1 hour 45 minutes) - made in 1938 in Poland. It is in black and white in Yiddish with English subtitles. It stars Moshe Oysher a renowned cantor and star of Yiddish radio as a passionate shtetl blacksmith in a musical version of a well-known Yiddish play. A musical version of David Pinski's play Yankl der Shmid. Singing, dancing, and flashing his eyes, Oysher gives his most robust performance as a passionate shtetl blacksmith who must struggle against temptation to become a mensch. Recently rediscovered footage makes this the most complete extant version of Ulmer's lively folk operetta, replete with an example of Yiddish swing.

These films, presented, free of charge, are a must see. (editors)



NEXT YEAR IN ~~JERUSALEM~~ THE PEAKS !

The Menorah Weekender, 8–10 Sept 2017

For young, old & inbetweeners | Affordable Prices | Games Room | Luxurious Hartington Hall | Speakers | Arts & Culture | Party ! | Intense Injection of Community | Israel & Politics | The Great Outdoors

For more information email: weekender@menorah.org.uk



& KIDS GO FREE !



REFORM JUDAISM

Save the date!
Northern Chagigah
3-5 November 2017
The Hawkhill, Easingwold
For details contact
sarita@rjuk.org or 07415 274362

The United Youth Movement of Reform Judaism



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 Saturday 23 December. We look forward to you joining us there!

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 renew old friendships and build new ones too.

Join us at Limmud Conference 2017, not just to take part, but to actively take one step further on your Jewish journey with the global Limmud community.

Get in touch

phone +44 (0)20 3115 1620-
email office@limmud.org
office address

1A, Hall Street
North Finchley
London N12 8DB

also on Facebook and Twitter.



PARASHAT R'EIH with BLESSING FOR ELUL

19th August 2017/25th Av 5777

Torah reading - Deuteronomy 12:29-13:12

D'var Torah by Mina A Abram-Hebblethwaite

Why are there no saints in Judaism? Without doubt, we have significant leaders who in some ways we may wish to emulate: Moses, Miriam, King David, Deborah. All of whom have human frailties - just as we do. Perhaps that is the point: recognising their human weaknesses and vulnerabilities helps us to live, perhaps more easily, with ourselves and with the other, whoever the other might be.

If this is our starting point, that none of us are saints and all of us share the (sometimes acute) awareness that we are not perfect, what follows? We could be complacent: "So, we are not saints. So what. 'Get over it' as some young folks might say." But is that really enough? In our best moments is that truly what we believe life is, and should be, all about? Or is there something better, some higher aim we might reach for, without the perfectionism required of a saint?



Our Tanakh readings today clearly indicate that there is a good, very good, Jewish way of leading a worthwhile, valuable life. But what, if anything, have false prophets to do with living in today's world? Do they really exist in our time? And how, if at all, might we be susceptible to them? Well, perhaps more than we might immediately realise. For the crux of the matter has to do with choice. Both readings advise us to guard against the words and works of false prophets: the danger they pose of leading us astray from our true calling to be the people of Israel and our unique covenant with the Eternal. Clearly the choice is about who we listen to.

If we had to pinpoint the most significantly used slogan of our age, it would probably be that we can choose. On line, in book stores, libraries, airport news stands, and elsewhere, a plethora of information is readily available - how to be more successful, slimmer, better parents, richer, more attractive, etc., In schools our children learn early to choose what to eat. Young folk are led to believe "you can be whatever you want to be - you choose". Parents are told they may choose the best schools for their children.

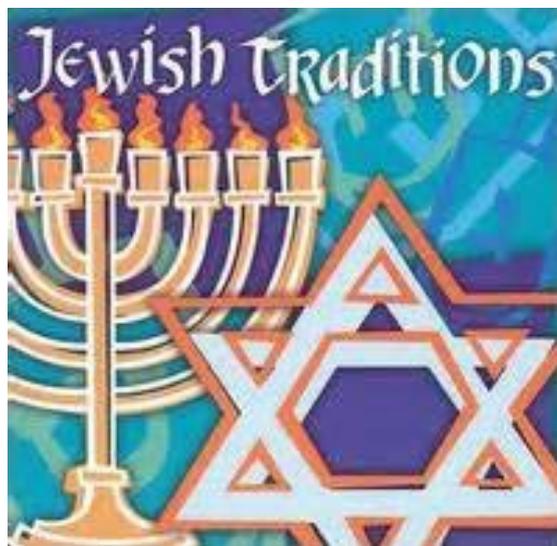


But is this really how things are - for all of us? Or does closer examination reveal deep flaws in this currency of belief? We do not have to look too deeply to find something amiss: concern about child obesity; short-term or zero hours contracts; recognising it is articulate, well-informed parents who gain the best schools. Perhaps then we begin to see through the chimera of choice. The illusionary options it may place before us.

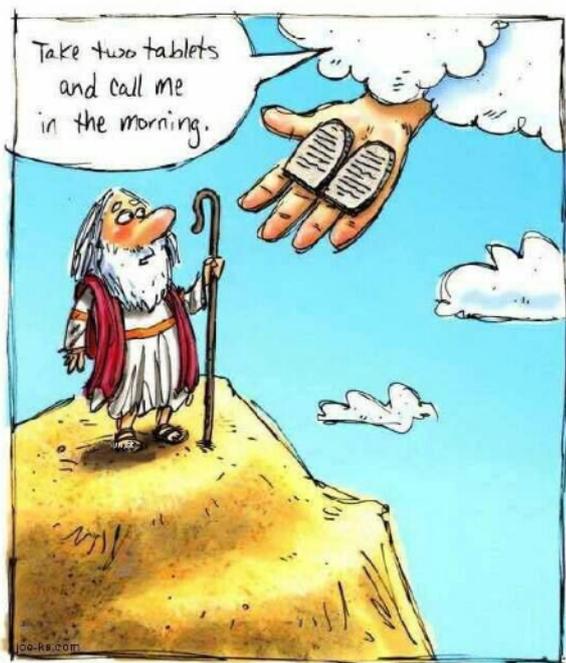
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Of course, this need not mean that all choices will have only negative consequences or that the option to choose is futile. But could it be that the present day choices constantly pressured upon us are in fact something akin to the false prophets in our readings? Both Deuteronomy and Jeremiah remind us, not that we do not have choices, but that the choices we do make have serious implications for how we live, who we become, and how that affects others and the world entrusted to us. Perhaps, like false prophets, much media communications may lead us away from who we are truly intended to be.

As Israel, we are the inheritors of a rich ethical legacy and tradition. In choosing to follow Torah teachings and instruction, observances and practices, the fruits of our lives have the potential to enrich not just our community and ourselves, but the whole world. Today, in our thanksgiving for food and the blessing for the month of Elul we have been firmly reminded of our privileges and responsibilities as Jewish people. In such ways we choose to follow and continue our tradition, for we ourselves are chosen, the Chosen People. Chosen to live according to the Instructions of Torah: that we might be both blessed and be a blessing. And that is our real choice - today, tomorrow, and everyday of our lives.



“Shabbat Shalom”.



WANTED

A Saturday morning security/maintenance person
3 hours/ week+ opportunity for extra hours.
Job description, rate of pay, contract of employment available
from the synagogue office.
(Must be able to be a key holder for out of hours)



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.
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Facebook :

Southport Reform Shul

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.

Rates are very reasonable, and there is a deduction
for synagogue members.



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 alterna-
tive 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.

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In need of



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Also available : self-contained flats

Enquiries to Dee on 01704 531975



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 Julie 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.

