



Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2013

for presentation at the 84th Annual General Meeting
to be held at the Synagogue on Sunday 12 January 2014 at 11:00am

Registered Charity No 236711

SOUTH
LONDON
Liberal
Synagogue

South London Liberal Synagogue

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(correct at time of going to press in December 2013)

MINISTER Rabbi Janet Darley BA, MPA, MA

PRESIDENT Philip Walker

VICE-PRESIDENTS Cedric Briscoe, Louise
Freedman, Clive
Hershman, Paul Infield,

HONORARY OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN Eve Samson

VICE-CHAIRMAN Paul Ashton

TREASURER William Cohen

SECRETARY Daniel Kirk

COUNCIL Lianna Etkind
Nicholas Jones
Louise Marks
Peter Phillips
William Summer

PROPERTY TRUSTEES

Derek Aarons, Michael Rich, Philip Walker

RELIGION SCHOOL & TODDLER GROUP

HEAD TEACHER Jacqueline Ashton
Rabbi Janet Darley

ADMINISTRATOR Louise Cohen

TEACHING STAFF Jacqueline Ashton
Caleb Brohiri
Sarit Chen
Fae Clark
Adam Feuer
Matthew Feuer
Nicholas Jones
Lara Hart
Aviva Haylor
Ella Palmer
Aisha Sharif
Shula Sinclair

WHO'S WHO AT SLLS

Administrator Alexa Wilding

Burial and Cremation Scheme

CO-ORDINATOR Louise Freedman

Eitz Chayim Memorial

CO-ORDINATOR Louise Freedman

Friends of Religion School

CHAIRMAN Harriet Neuberger

HON SECRETARY *position vacant*

Librarian

Corinne Lever

Marriage Secretary

Gillian Walker

Additional Secretaries

Jeromé Freedman

Eve Samson

Members' Choir

Vince Daly

Membership

HON SECRETARY Louise Freedman

Rites & Practices

HON SECRETARY Louise Freedman

"South Circular"

EDITOR Louise Freedman

Security & Stewarding

Nicholas Jones

Ron Mortimer

AFFILIATE ASSOCIATIONS

Board of Deputies of British Jews: Representative Jeromé Freedman

Faiths Together in Lambeth

Lambeth Multi-Faith Action Group (LAMAG): Representative Karen Briscoe

Liberal Judaism: Representative Eve Samson

London Citizens: Representative Lianna Etkind

President's Message

It was a great honour to be appointed President of our community in January 2013 and I pay tribute to my predecessor, Jeromé Freedman, who remains a positive source of inspiration. For me, the essence of Liberal Judaism is summed up with the rabbinic concept of 'tikkun olam', which states our obligation to do our best to make the World a better place and is the principle behind so much of what we do. To be truly effective, more members need to take an active role in synagogue life. Involvement isn't onerous and can range from serving on Council, stewarding at services, helping to organise an activity, or something as mundane but as vital as assisting to tidy up the Lily Montagu Hall or pick up litter defacing our premises. There is so much that needs to be done and every act to help, big or small, is an opportunity to perform a mitzvah. Please ask yourself what you can do to make things happen. To take matters forward please contact the office, the rabbi or any Council member. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated. Enjoy this year's annual report.

Philip Walker

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Chairman's Report

This is the last time I will write a Chair's Report. As my term ends, it seems fitting to look back over the last four years as well as the year just gone by. The first thing that strikes me is the way the congregation has thrived, and continues to thrive, under Rabbi Janet; new arrivals, or people who visit, always make a point of saying how friendly and welcoming we are and we owe that, in large part, to her leadership. And while we have always been an outward looking community, I like to think we have become even more involved in local life over the past few years. We have joined London Citizens, regularly contribute to the Lambeth food bank, and have increasingly taken the lead in local Holocaust Memorial commemorations.

The second is that even though money has been tight, we have been able to continue to maintain and renew the building, and respond to emergencies. This year, as I'm sure we all remember only too well, the boilers failed; we now have a modern, energy-efficient replacement. We raised money to repair the Kolin scroll and as I write it is about to be taken off to the soferet for repair. The good times may still be just around the corner, and no one will sustain the synagogue if we do not do it, but I leave office more confident that South London Liberal Synagogue will celebrate a 90th or 100th anniversary than I was when I began.

The third is the number of people who give unstintingly of their time and energy to sustain the community. It can feel as if only two or three people run everything, but in fact, as individuals move on, others emerge to take their place. This Annual Report contains pieces from some of them, but there are many, many more. I have been lucky to be supported by a tremendous Council, but a special mention to William Cohen, our Treasurer, and Louise his wife, who put in a great deal of work, keep us solvent, to produce our accounts, and to ensure things like gift aid forms are in order. It's not glamorous but it is essential, and very hard work. Dan Kirk, the Secretary, and Philip Walker, in his role as subscription secretary, do similar unglamorous but essential stuff.

Jackie Ashton and her team of teachers and helpers keep religion school running, and Friends of the Religion School and parents support them – my thanks to Shai Wade for his FRS chairmanship and Harriet Neuberger for taking over; we have the choir to sing at special services and many service leaders, whom Janet has thanked, and all the stewards. Special thanks are due to Vince Daly who stepped up to lead the choir following Michele's departure and we thank him too for everything else he does to support the 'Janet-and-SLLS Team', especially as we know that he also has many responsibilities at KLS. Louise and Jeromé Freedman, our Past President, continue to contribute tremendously – for example, this Annual Report has been produced by Louise and (I bet) proof read by Jeromé. And every single one of the community has some time set up or put down tables, brought something for kiddush, or just taken the time to talk to someone who was looking a little lost.

And the last thing that strikes me is how much I have enjoyed getting to know people in the congregation better, and how satisfying it has been. I hope that the "refreshed" team of Council and officers find it as rewarding as I have done.

Eve Samson

Rabbi's Report the year in review

It was another busy year for SLLS, my fifth as your minister. It has been an exciting year on many fronts and thanks go to the many people who worked so hard to plan and support these events. I especially thank Council members and Chair Eve Samson, but also the many community members of various ages who have worked so hard at so many activities this year.

We are fortunate to have number of lay leaders who have taken services for us this year: Ba'alei Tefilah Beverley Taylor, Paul Ashton and Peter Phillips as well as Jeromé Freedman, Jane and Lara Hart, Philip Walker, and Simon and Lianna Etkind.

We welcomed a number of new members during the course of the year and held a special New Members' Shabbat. We also remembered those whom we have lost through a number of leaf dedication ceremonies this past year and a memorial service for Joan Rich. We welcomed several Rabbinic Students to our pulpit: Emily Jurman for Lech Lecha weekend, Haim Casas who spoke about the renewal of Jewish life in Spain, and Hannah Kingston.

We also had some special family services—the blessing of our animal companions (not in person) was a real highlight. and we held a special Kolin Scroll themed Family Service. And we had two special birthday kiddushim: for Beverley Taylor and for Simon Benedictus.

Our second year of Garden Shabbatot during the summer was as successful as the first and offers a great way to welcome Shabbat in the great outdoors. We held our second Pride Shabbat and we explored three different types of services (Movement, Contemplation and Chanting as well as a Learning Service) on our special Shabbat 3 Ways in August. We continued our exploration of Jewish Communities around the world on fifth Fridays, looking at the Baghdadi Jewish community, Jews In Cuba, in Spain and in France. These services offered a chance to learn about the history and current life of Jews in other communities.

With many of the festivals falling on Sundays, we were lucky to have many opportunities to celebrate with our families. Sukkot decorating, Simchat Torah and Purim were all well attended and joyous celebrations. We held our annual Tu B'sh'vat Seder, our second night Communal Seder for Pesach and a Shavuot seder as well as regular festival services.

We celebrated as our young people came of age: Zach Ashton, Elinor Haylor and Samuel Cohen all became B'nai Mitzvah. Caleb Brohiri, Matthew Feuer and Annie Watson prepared and led a wonderful Kabbalat Torah service.

We have moved more fully into the digital media age with an active Facebook page which included daily thoughts from the beginning if Elul through Yom Kippur and again daily thoughts during the Omer period.

We also were involved with our neighbours. This was the 4th year of our HMD education project with Dunraven School. We held an "Open Service" during Sukkot, to which we welcomed our neighbours and we hosted a photography exhibit focussed on asylum seekers. We have continued to be involved with London Citizens, expanding the Streatham CitySafe Zone, working for a "Living Wage" and participating with Faiths Together in Lambeth.

Rabbi Janet Darley

Reports on Synagogue Activities

Religion School Team: Head *Jacqueline Ashton*, **Administrator** *Louise Cohen & Rabbi Janet Darley*

The last year has been exceptionally busy for Religion School. The children followed the Liberal Judaism curriculum looking at the heroes and heroines of the Torah before enjoying a term focusing on Israel culminating in a very successful 'Israel Experience Day' where the children had the opportunity to encounter different aspects of Israel. This included the opportunity to visit an Israeli café and try out their Hebrew, taking part in a mock archaeological dig and a guided bus tour of famous sights. We also had the opportunity to investigate the Jewish East End during a fascinating tour led by Philip

Walker. None of this would have been possible without the hard work and enthusiasm of our dedicated teachers and assistants.

Little Stars toddler group has enjoyed another successful year exploring Jewish life through crafts and songs, and joining with the rest of Religion School for the Israel Experience Day where the children displayed their own version of the Kotel.

We joined with the community to celebrate the festivals. Highlights included families helping to create decorations to adorn the Sukkah, and the unrolling of a whole scroll around the Synagogue at Simchat Torah.

It has also been a year of changes. Harriet Neuberger, after several years of teaching, has moved on to lead our Friends of Religion School. Ben Ish-Horowicz, having spent two years inspiring Kitah Aleph, left to spend time travelling before starting university. Both were greatly missed by their classes.

We also said good-bye to Rosalyn Brandon who stepped down as administrator after many years association with Religion School. Ros had been involved for many years, initially with the Friends of Religions School, before becoming our very resourceful and capable administrator. We had the opportunity to thank Ros and wish her well at a celebratory Family Service which was attended by parents, children, family and friends.

Friends of Religion School *Harriet Neuberger, Chairman*

The religion school is an important part of our community; it is where our youngest members meet and learn, and also provides an opportunity for parents to meet each other and other members. The Friends of Religion School also gives parents of religion school students and members of the synagogue who want to get involved in the education of our youngest members, a chance to meet and contribute. We aim to celebrate the synagogue not only as a house of learning and a house of prayer but also as a house of meeting. We have a coffee morning planned for early in the September term and are planning a special kiddush to celebrate the kabbalat torah students and contribute to the Chanukkah spirit on 30th November. In the Spring term there will be another coffee morning on 25th January and we hope to plan a Purim party. To get involved or just to stay informed of our plans contact Harriet on 07974359911 or harriet_travelling@yahoo.co.uk.

Adult Education *Rabbi Janet Darley*

Our Access to Judaism classes continued throughout the year. For most of the year we have also offered two levels of Hebrew. These classes moved to Wednesday this year, as they were too large to meet downstairs while Zumba was in the Lily Montagu Hall. Our other adult education this year has been primarily through our Shabbat Kol Yisrael series which introduced us to the history, development and current growth of Jewish communities in other countries and text studies in lieu of sermons at some services.

Members' Choir *Vince Daly, Interim Choir Director*

During the past year the SLLS volunteer choir has continued to support a monthly choral Shabbat service, with rehearsals preceding the service. The choir's founding director, Michele Freedman, left SLLS in early summer. Fortunately, Michele's leadership had taken the choir to a point where they felt able to continue without her. Rehearsals are well under way and the Choir is planning to sing throughout the High Holydays, accompanied once again by organist Barry Eaton. [The Chair adds: many thanks to Vince for the key part he has played, and continues to play, in ensuring the choir carries on.]

South London Liberal Synagogue

Council's Report

Registered Charity No 236711

The Council presents its report together with the Financial Statements of the Synagogue for the year ended 31 August 2013. These Financial Statements are not statutorily required to be audited and have been independently examined by Ūna Nī Dhōnaill, whose report appears below.

Origin, objectives and principal aims and activities of the charity

The Synagogue was formed in 1929 and has the following purpose:

to advance Liberal Judaism by teaching and practice, in particular by means of:

- (a) providing religious education for children and adults and providing facilities and teaching leading to *Bar Mitzvah* or *Bat Mitzvah* and *Kabbalat Torah* (Confirmation);
- (b) providing and maintaining a place for public religious worship and providing, arranging and conducting religious services;
- (c) providing facilities for the solemnisation of marriages and for burials and cremations.

Council

The Council members who served during the year are as follows: Eve Samson (Chairman), Daniel Kirk (Hon Secretary), William Cohen (Treasurer), Philip Walker (Financial Secretary), Paul Ashton (Vice-Chairman), Lianna Etkind, Samuel Infield, Nicholas Jones, Louise Marks, Peter Phillips, Mike Saunders and William Summer.

Membership – all categories

Total at 31 August 2013: 272 (2012: 254), which included 5 Honorary Members and 24 Friends.

New Members We welcomed Daniel Abelson, Alice Alphandary, Mikaela Altman, Caleb Brohiri, Sylvia Churba, Reuben Comiskey, Matthew Feuer, Nicholas Jones, David Lee, Gary Palmer, Yonatan Smith, Emmanuelle Smith and Annie Watson.

Friends of SLLS We welcomed Barrie Cavalier-Hirth, Martin Cove, Jack Grahl, Melissa Higgs and Aisha Sharif.

Deaths We record with sorrow the deaths of John Pritchard and Joy Sinclair.

Births Although we have wished Mazal Tov to many proud grandparents in South Circular, there have been no births to members during the year under review.

Review of the activities

A review of the activities of the Synagogue is contained in the Chairman's Report on page 4 and in the reports on Synagogue activities on pages 5 and 6 and on page 14 onwards.

Reserves policy

The Charity's principal activities are detailed above.

1. The present reserve level is considered realistic in order to maintain liquid reserves to cover the Synagogue's day to day activities.

2. At each annual Budget meeting, a review of the current level of reserves will be undertaken against Budget predictions.

At 31 August 2013 Unrestricted Funds amounted to £143,905 (2012: £148,709). Total funds stood at £184,950 (2012: £187,819).

Risk management

Council has decided not to prepare a formal risk review report. However, it will continue to review areas of potential risk. The principal financial risks identified in the short to medium term are as follows:

- The possible need for further repairs to the Synagogue building,
- Inflation, which is not easily offset by increased subscriptions,
- A continuing imbalance between income and expenditure.

Statement of Council's responsibilities

Company law requires the Council to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit for that period. In preparing those Financial Statements, Council is required to:

- (i) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- (ii) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- (iii) prepare the Financial Statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

Council is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Synagogue. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Synagogue and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Eve Samson, Chairman

LEGACIES MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

**You have supported the SLLS during your lifetime;
why not in your Will for future generations?**



By leaving a bequest to South London Liberal Synagogue you will support the aims of Liberal Judaism and help to maintain its momentum in South London.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET US IN YOUR WILL

For further information contact

office@southlondon.org

or

020 8769 4787

South London Liberal Synagogue

Independent Examiner's Report to the Synagogue Council

I report on the accounts of the South London Liberal Synagogue for the year ended 31 August 2013, which are set out on pages 10 – 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

examine the accounts (under Section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act), to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act) and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the 1993 Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Úna Ní Dhónaill
15 Hillbury Road
London
SW17 8JT

Date: 4 December 2013

South London Liberal Synagogue

Statement of Financial Activities

Income and Expenditure for the period 1 September 2012 to 31 August 2013

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Designated Funds	Total 2013	Total 2012
	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
Subscriptions	61,885	365	-	62,250	56,128
Donations/Legacies	12,346	295	-	12,641	6,589
Gift Aid repayment	9,034	-	-	9,034	14,769
Appeals income	-	6,258	-	6,258	7,794
Hire of hall	3,669	-	-	3,669	6,774
Fundraising income	1,069	2,055	-	3,124	2,478
Rabbi's Pension	-	1,950	-	1,950	1,870
Burial and Cremation Fees	-	1,340	-	1,340	1,747
Adult Education income	310	-	-	310	200
Bank interest	59	-	-	59	90
Total Incoming Resources	88,372	12,263	-	100,635	98,439
Resources Expended					
Rabbinic costs	23,222	1,838	-	25,060	23,565
Staff costs (not inc. Rabbi)	18,178	-	-	18,178	16,885
Building maintenance	9,427	-	5,000	14,427	20,449
Affiliation fees	12,296	-	-	12,296	9,419
Education	9,039	104	-	9,143	10,457
Insurance	6,187	-	-	6,187	5,872
Utilities	6,097	-	-	6,097	6,274
Management and administration	5,170	-	-	5,170	6,707
Depreciation	3,560	-	-	3,560	3,582
Burial and Cremation Costs	-	1,348	-	1,348	2,000
Repair	-	2,038	-	2,038	575
Choir costs	-	-	-	-	67
Write off of stock	-	-	-	-	1,255
Total Resources Expended	93,176	5,328	5,000	103,504	107,107
Net Movement in Funds £	(4,804)	6,935	(5,000)	(2,869)	(8,668)
Funds brought forward at 1st September 2012	148,709	29,110	10,000	187,819	196,487
Funds carried forward at 31st August 2013	143,905	36,045	5,000	184,950	187,819

South London Liberal Synagogue

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2013

		£	2013	£	2012
Fixed Assets	Note				
Tangible fixed assets	2		135,908		139,468
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Current assets					
Stock	3	261		271	
Debtors		350		0	
Cash at bank and in hand	4	54,847		58,785	
Net current assets			55,458		59,056
<hr/>					
Current Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	5		(6,416)		(10,705)
Total assets less current liabilities			184,950		187,819
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Income funds					
Restricted funds	6	36,045		29,110	
Designated funds	7	5,000		10,000	
Unrestricted funds		143,905		148,709	
<hr/>					
TOTAL FUNDS			184,950		187,819

Notes forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2013

- The principal accounting policies adopted by the charity are described below. They have been applied consistently throughout the period.

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

INCOMING RESOURCES

All Incoming Resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the monies are received.

RESOURCES EXPENDED

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred.

2. Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of assets to their estimated residual values over their expected useful lives as follows:-

Freehold building & improvements - 2% on cost

Furniture & equipment - 25% on net book value

Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property & Improvements £	Organ £	Furniture & Equipment £	Total £
Cost at 31 August 2012	174,676	6,995	16,820	198,491
Depreciation at 31 August 2012	(35,472)	(6,995)	(16,556)	(59,023)
Charge for the year	(3,494)	-	(66)	(3,560)
Net book value at 31 August 2013	£135,710	-	£198	£135,908
Net book value at 31 August 2012	£139,204	-	£264	£139,468

	Freehold property & improvements £	Furniture & Equipment £	Total £
Direct charitable activities	135,710	-	135,710
Management & administration	-	198	198
	£135,710	£198	£135,908

3. Stock

	2013 £	2012 £
Stock of books for resale	106	101
Showcase Stock	155	170
	£261	£271

4. Cash at Bank and in hand at 31 August 2013

HSBC General	9,215
CAF General	14,605
CAF Gold	15,126
CAF Burial and Cremation	15,901
Balance at 31.08.2013	£54,847

5. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year: Creditors comprise of monies received in respect of Board of Deputies Levy £2,795 which was paid after year end, an affiliation fee of £969 and operating creditors outstanding £909 and a provision of £1,743 raised for Kolin Scroll repair

6. Restricted Funds

	2013 £	2012 £
John Rich Memorial Fund	2,386	2,386
Burial and Cremation Fund	16,276	16,284
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund	2,098	1,381
Rabbi's Pension	6,352	4,902
Building Fund	6,029	1,514
Grants	1,524	1,263
Archivist/Scrolls	1,380	1,380
	£36,045	£29,110

7. Designated Funds


£5,000 of the Fund was expended on Building Maintenance.

SLLS Financial Projection 2013 – 2014

Expenses		Income		
	£	£		
London Citizens	600		Appeals Donations	5,000
Board of Deputies	495		HHD Ticket Sales	670
Liberal Judaism	13,000		Total appeals income	5,670
Total affiliation fees		14,095		
Admin+ post +miscellaneous	6,000		Donations & gifts	5,000
General Insurance	6,300		Total donations & gifts	5,000
New/replacement equipment	700			
South Circular/Annual Report	1,500		Eitz Chayim (Leaf Sales)	500
Total management & administration		14,500	Chevra etc.	1,000
			Total fundraising income	1,500
Cleaning & Housekeeping Costs	500			
Lift Maintenance	1,000		Bank Interest	60
Repairs & Renewals	10,000		Total investment income	60
Security Maintenance (fire/alarms)	1,000			
Total premises		12,500	Lettings	4,000
			Total lettings	4,000
Electricity	1,500			
Gas	3,750		Subscriptions	63,000
Telephone	1,000		Gift Aid	12,000
Water	900		Total membership income	75,000
Waste	300			
Utilities		7,450	Total Income	£91,230
Minister's Expenses	500			
Training and Conferences	2,000			
Total Minister's expenses		2,500		
Books	500			
Expenses	200			
Training & Conferences	2,000			
Total religion school		2,700		
Scroll repairs	1,260			
Service costs (wine, etc)	300			
Total services		1,560		
Payroll (inc NI)	27,000			
Rabbi's Salary (incl. NI & pension)	24,100			
Total Payroll		51,100		
Total Expenditure		£106,405	Net Deficit	(£15,175)

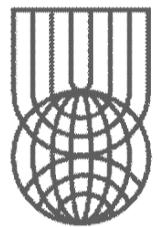


SOUTH LONDON LIBERAL SYNAGOGUE IS A PROUD CONSTITUENT OF LIBERAL JUDAISM WHICH IS PART OF THE WORLD UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM (EUROPEAN UNION) AND IS A SUPPORTER OF THE LEO BAECK COLLEGE.

Liberal Judaism affirms the dynamic, developing character of our Jewish religious tradition. Judaism has never stood still. Its history is a history of continuity and change. liberal judaism 

Questing and questioning, Liberal Judaism is an authentic and modern form of Judaism, rooted in a deep and meaningful engagement with Jewish texts, values, culture and history. It is a movement with a sense of purpose, engaged in community life, study, spirituality and social action. It believes in personal freedom and responsibility and the shared and collective bonds that unite us as Jewish people and members of humanity. Liberal Judaism welcomes those who grew up as Jewish and those who, later in life, have become accepted into Judaism. Liberal Judaism is inclusive and egalitarian, giving equal status within Judaism to those traditionally excluded, helping all its members to embark on their personal Jewish journeys. Liberal Judaism should be a positive, joyous and active part of our members' lives, to be used to enrich their relationships with those around them. www.liberaljudaism.org/

The World Union for Progressive Judaism's over 1,200 congregations around the world – both large and small, some established and others just starting – currently affiliate with Reform, Progressive, Liberal or Reconstructionist Judaism. With an estimated 1.8 million members in 45 countries, the liberal streams of Judaism represent a global community with diverse practices but a similar goal: a contemporary, creative expression of Jewish spiritual and cultural identity that is rooted in our rich Jewish traditions.



The European Union of the World Union, based in London, focuses particularly on the challenges of continental Europe where the increasing Jewish population now provides enormous potential for growth. Communities destroyed during the Nazi period are re-emerging and rebuilding themselves from both survivors who returned after the Second World War and immigrants from the Former Soviet Union, many of whom are settling in Germany where there are now 18 congregations and many education programs. Two rabbinical seminaries, in Germany and the Netherlands, are complementing the work of the Leo Baeck College in the UK in training rabbis for Europe.

Outside the United Kingdom there are substantial congregations in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland, as well as smaller ones in the Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Spain and Sweden. A well-organized European Union Beit Din provides a coherent structure for emerging communities and offers a modus vivendi for individuals and for new groups living under difficult circumstances particularly in former Communist countries. www.eupj.org/

Leo Baeck College is unique – providing information, education and Rabbinic training for Judaism in the 21st century as well as offering educational consultancy, development of community leaders, providing access to Jewish learning for all and working with those of other religions to advance understanding and respect.



The college library, second to none, is a resource not only for its students, but for the whole community. Reader's tickets are available to those interested. Its resource centre is well-stocked with teaching resources to support RS teachers.

With the appointment of Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris as its Principal and its redesign of its Rabbinic Curriculum, LBC is well-placed to continue its leadership role in the 21st Century. www.lbc.ac.uk/

Social Activities

Once again, we had a Chanukkah barn dance with the Black Pig Band, this time with wonderful candle lighting and do-it-yourself Morris dancing. If you want terror, try a band of five year olds waving big sticks! We linked up with the Streatham Festival again; you've heard of the three tenors: we presented Cantor Gershon Sillins, Dean Staker and Franklyn Gellnick for a very successful concert, *Jewish Music Then and Now*.

“Due South” *Corinne Lever, Organiser*

We have had another good year, encouraging us to continue with this group. Irving Lee got us off to a sprightly start in February with a talk about “Spirits”: not the supernatural kind but alcoholic ones, in the manufacturing of which he used to be involved. In April, Lionel Phillips spoke on “The Ingredients of Music”, initiating us into some of the technicalities of that art with illustrations on the piano. Freha Pritchard welcomed us to a shared lunch at her beautiful home in June, during which Rabbi Janet told us about her recent visit to Cuba. The Annual Lunch at Croydon Park Hotel in July provided a happy conclusion to the season. As ever, I would like to thank those members who have hosted meetings.

South Circular *Editor, Louise Freedman*

South Circular is published eleven times each year and particularly for our more isolated members is an important link with SLLS, along with our **Chesed Group**. We welcome news, views, photographs and articles. Please share your news with us because we cannot print what you do not tell us!

Desmond Marks Library *Corinne Lever, Librarian*

The library continues to benefit from donations by members, for which we are very grateful. The outstanding one this year has been the gift of many valuable and interesting books by Ruth Taylor, following the death of her husband Peter. It would be good to see more members using our well-stocked library and I do encourage you to do so.

E-communication

The website has continued to be a key communication tool, and many people who find us say that they did so online. We also have a Facebook page and a Twitter account. The Facebook page was used again this year to particularly good effect during Elul, when Rabbi Janet posted a piece for reflection every day. Our website has an updated calendar of all SLLS events, South Circular is archived there, and we welcome your suggestions and feedback on how to improve our communications overall. The Desmond Marks Library catalogue is now on-line.

Board of Deputies of British Jews *Jeromé Freedman*

The freedoms enjoyed by the Jewish community today can be seen in the number of communal institutions, schools, places of worship and facilities available to young and old, the majority of which operate as charities. The Board monitors and responds to policy and legislative changes to ensure that there is a political and legal framework conducive to the ability of those organizations to provide services freely and efficiently to our community. This includes cultivating close working relationships with civil servants and politicians, the Charity Commission and other relevant agencies to understand and respond to changes in Charity Law and Equalities Legislation.

On occasion, direct or indirect challenges to our Jewish way of life arise and, whether intentional or as the unintended consequence of other developments, the Board must be ready to respond by lobbying and representing the community's concerns at the very highest level in government, in the European Union or in the United Nations.

Congregations elect Deputies every three years and I have represented SLLS since 2003 and Liberal Judaism for six years prior to that. I have served as a member of the Constitution Committee for the past 13 years and as its chairman during the last triennial session with a seat at meetings of the Executive Committee. The Board holds eight full meetings in every calendar year and any member of SLLS may attend having given due notice. Indeed, any member aged under 35 may currently be appointed as an "Under-35 Designated Observer" and with no increase in the annual Representation Fee.

I am always available for further information and my contact details are in "South Circular".

Chaplaincy

We are located in an area with a number of hospitals. We are officially represented by Peter Phillips as part of the interfaith chaplaincy team at Kings. Besides visiting Jewish patients, he conducted a Chanukkah candlelighting. We have recently come to a similar chaplaincy agreement with Guys and St Thomas's.

London Citizens *Lianna Etkind*

This year, SLLS has worked with South London Citizens on several issues, including Living Wage, safety on the streets and pay day loan shops. We held a CitySafe walk on Streatham High Street, asking shops to sign up to become City Safe Havens. Several members participated in the South London Citizens Assembly in Croydon last year, meeting other South London institutions and hearing what other borough chapters had been up to. In January, SLLS hosted people from all over London for the London Citizens two day leadership training and, in the summer, members participated in an action calling for the new Nine Elms development to be a Living Wage zone with new jobs going to local people. I also attended an action in Whitehall for cleaners in government departments to receive the Living Wage. Rabbi Janet met with police about safety in the borough and was part of a delegation to Leader of the Lambeth Council, Lib Peck, requesting action against Pay Day Loan shops.

Interfaith and Community Activities *Rabbi Janet Darley*

We remain involved with LAMAG. With Cedric stepping down from its board during the year, we are pleased that Karen Briscoe has stepped up and joined the LAMAG team.

As a community we have hosted and joined with Faiths Together in Lambeth in a number of ways over the year.

For the third year I spoke at an Iftar at Hyderi Mosque. Several SLLS members also attended and we are always warmly welcomed there. We hosted a group of Anglican trainees at a Shabbat Service and last November we participated in an Interfaith Event in Tooting. In July we held a Jewish Music Concert in connection with the Streatham Festival which was a very successful event.

Lambeth Holocaust Memorial Day and Education Project

We were actively involved in planning the Lambeth HMD ceremony in January, We also again hosted and were key in delivering the Holocaust Education project with Dunraven School, in its fourth year,

expanded to host 150 pupils in two sessions. This project welcomes pupils to watch a film about German rescuers, hear testimony of someone who is a survivor, a hidden child or came on the Kindertransport. This is followed by break-out sessions with trained facilitators in which pupils engage in activities allowing them to process what they have heard, engage with the year's theme and think about the danger signs to watch out for which can lead a society down the path to genocide as well as to think about how they can act to prevent victimization even in small ways. The session concludes with the year's HMD film and with a candle-lighting service. Peter Phillips was the anchor person for the day's events. A number of our members trained as facilitators for this project: Jeromé and Louise Freedman, Philip and Gill Walker, and Lara Hart. We were also joined by David Wirth from Leigham Court Road and Barbara Wilson, who is a co-chair of Lambeth Citizens.

Jewish Walks and more *Philip Walker*

My fascination with Jewish history has continued unabated over the last 12 months, and members will have noticed my ongoing display of late C19th and early C20th Jewish photographs in the Lily Montagu Hall, which remain on loan from the Jewish East End Celebration Society. Coupled with this are two Jewish East End walks I have led on behalf of SLLS – the first being a walk around the amazing Sephardic cemeteries of Mile End and the second being a walk around Jewish Spitalfields with students of the Leo Baeck college as part of their history course. I hope others may come to share my enthusiasm as our Jewish story has so much to teach us and is something of which we can be immensely proud.

School visits

This year more than 20 schools have visited the synagogue with a number of volunteers hosting the visits (Jeromé, Lara, Louise, Philip and Rabbi Janet). The group sizes have tended to be between 30-90 children at a time, ages ranged from Year 2 to Year 7. The total number of children coming to the synagogue over the year is still close to 1000 (despite several visits having to be recheduled because of work to replace our boiler and thanks are due to our administrator, Josephine Farr, for coping so ably with the extra work involved.). Lara's two-part system for the older children continues to be used so that they also get a chance to view the photo display of East End Jewish life in the Lily Montagu Hall. There have also been several visits out to schools by Rabbi Janet, Lara and others. If you are able to spare some time to show a school party round, please get in touch with the SLLS office.

The Synagogue facilities are available for hire for private functions at competitive rates and the Lily Montagu Hall can seat up to 100 people.

To discuss your needs, contact the synagogue office on 020 8769 4787 or email office@southlondon.org



The Lily Montagu Hall dressed for a function.

WHO ARE WE AT SOUTH LONDON LIBERAL SYNAGOGUE?

South London Liberal Synagogue includes **all sorts of people**: some from Jewish families, some from mixed Jewish / non-Jewish families, and some from diverse backgrounds who have become Jews by choice. Our synagogue is a proud constituent of Liberal Judaism, our national movement, and part of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. Along with other LJ congregations we consider as Jewish anyone who was raised as a Jew or who has converted under the auspices of any recognized authority in this country or abroad.

Many SLLS members have non-Jewish partners whom we also welcome. They maintain their connections with their own cultures and traditions, but at the same time they make a valued contribution to our community. Many will have children in Religion School, and are welcome to become involved with Religion School and other synagogue activities. Any Jewish person may become a member of SLLS regardless of gender, sexual orientation or marital status. We also **welcome all individuals** who are sincerely interested in converting to Judaism and who therefore want to learn more about Jewish life and religion. We have a membership category of “**Friend of SLLS**” for those who are not eligible for full membership. A synagogue is more than a house of worship – it is a community. The word synagogue – *beit Knesset* in Hebrew – means a **house of meeting**.

COMMUNITY LIFE AT SLLS INCLUDES:

SERVICES, BOTH EVENING AND MORNING, ON SABBATHS, HIGH HOLYDAYS AND ON ALL FESTIVALS

- 1st Friday Early-Bird Chavurah** with guitar music (Bring & Share meal) at 6:30pm
- 2nd Saturday Family-Shabbat Service** for Religion School pupils & members at 11:00am
- 3rd Friday Kabbalat Shabbat and Study Session** at 7:30pm
- 4th Saturday Choral Service** at 11:00am

Religion School (Cheder) – for children ages 5 – 15 Saturday 9:45am – 12:30pm
Pupils are prepared for *Bar / Bat Mitzvah* and *Kabbalat Torah*
Toddler Group, meets on Saturdays during Religion School term time at 10:00am
Adult Education, Hebrew and Access to Judaism classes

FRIENDS OF THE RELIGION SCHOOL

CHEVRA Social Group ADULT EDUCATION SOCIAL ACTION
↓DUE SOUTH↓ discussion group
Interfaith programmes with other local communities

Pastoral care, visiting, and other types of support

Visitors are always welcome.

For more details, contact the Synagogue office: 020 8769 4787
or visit the Synagogue's website: www.southlondon.org

(Full details of all activities appear in our monthly, **South Circular**, and on our Website)

FESTIVAL	2013/2014 5774	2014/2015 5775	2015/2016 5776	2016/2017 5777	2017/2018 5778
ROSH HA-SHANAH <i>1 Tishri</i>	Thursday 5 September	Thursday 25 September	Monday 14 September	Monday 3 October	Thursday 21 September
YOM KIPPUR <i>10 Tishri</i>	Saturday 14 September	Saturday 4 October	Wednesday 23 September	Wednesday 12 October	Saturday 30 September
1ST DAY SUKKOT <i>15 Tishri</i>	Thursday 19 September	Thursday 9 October	Monday 28 September	Monday 17 October	Thursday 5 October
SHEMINI ATZERET / SIMCHAT TORAH * <i>22 Tishri</i>	Thursday 26 September	Thursday 16 October	Monday 5 October	Monday 24 October	Thursday 12 October
1ST DAY CHANUKKAH <i>25 Kislev</i>	Thursday 28 November	Thursday 17 December	Monday 7 December	Sunday 25 December	Wednesday 13 December
TU BI-SH'VAT <i>15 Shevat</i>	Thursday 16 January	Wednesday 4 February	Monday 25 January	Saturday 11 February	Wednesday 31 January
PURIM <i>14 Adar</i>	Sunday 16 March	Thursday 5 March	Thursday 24 March	Sunday 12 March	Thursday 1 March
1ST DAY PESACH <i>15 Nisan</i>	Tuesday 15 April	Saturday 4 April	Saturday 23 April	Tuesday 11 April	Saturday 31 March
7TH DAY PESACH <i>21 Nisan</i>	Monday 21 April	Friday 10 April	Friday 29 April	Monday 17 April	Friday 6 April
YOM HA-SHO'AH <i>generally 27 Nisan</i>	Monday 28 April	Thursday 16 April	Thursday 5 May	Monday 24 April (28 Nisan)	Thursday 12 April
YOM HA-ATZ'MA'UT <i>generally 5 Iyar</i>	Tuesday 6 May	Thursday 23 April	Thursday 12 May	Tuesday 2 May (6 Iyar)	Thursday 19 April
SHAVU'OT <i>6 Sivan</i>	Wednesday 4 June	Sunday 24 May	Sunday 12 June	Wednesday 31 May	Sunday 20 May
TISH'AH B'AV <i>9 Av</i>	Tuesday 5 August	Sunday 26 July (10 Av)	Sunday 14 August (10 Av)	Tuesday 1 August	Sunday 22 July (10 Av)
S'LICHOT (night of)	Saturday 20 September	Saturday 5 September	Saturday 24 September	Saturday 16 September	Saturday 1 September

* The Jewish festivals run from sunset (as with Shabbat, which begins on Friday evening).
The dates above refer to the days of festivals.

* Most Progressive Jews in the Diaspora observe the eighth day of Sukkot as Simchat Torah,
some may follow the orthodox practice and instead observe the next day.



Our beautiful '**Eitz Chayim**' (*Tree of Life*) Memorial, donated by the family of Sidney Sinclair z"l, a former chairman, is located prominently towards the front of the Synagogue Sanctuary and its leaves record the names and dates of past family and friends. For a modest contribution, a leaf inscribed with the name of your loved one could be added to this permanent memorial. Remembering the departed is ingrained in Jewish tradition.

*For further information, contact Louise Freedman through the SLLS Office,
020 8769 4787 or by email: louise@freedman.org*

