



## Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2016

for presentation at the 86th Annual General Meeting  
to be held at the Synagogue on Sunday 29 January 2017 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 2016)*

**MINISTER** Student Rabbi Nathan Godleman

**PRESIDENT** Louise Freedman

**VICE-PRESIDENTS** Cedric Briscoe, Eve Samson,  
Clive Hershman, Paul Infield

## HONORARY OFFICERS

**CHAIRMAN** Alice Alphandary

**VICE-CHAIRMAN** Louise Freedman

**TREASURER** William Cohen

**SECRETARY** Lianna Etkind

**COUNCIL** Jacqueline Ashton  
Paul Ashton  
Alexander Clark  
James Krikler  
Harriet Neuberger  
Gillian Walker

## PROPERTY TRUSTEES

Derek Aarons and Michael Rich

## GESHER & LITTLE STARS TODDLER GROUP

**HEAD TEACHER** Jacqueline Ashton

**DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER** Ella Palmer

**ADMINISTRATOR** Louise Cohen

## TEACHING STAFF

Jacqueline Ashton Zach Ashton

Sarit Wilson-Chen Samuel Cohen

Jane Feuer Adam Feuer

S R Nathan Godleman Aviva Haylor

Sarah Ish-Horowicz Samuel Vickers

## WHO'S WHO AT SLLS

**Administrator** Sereena Goolab

## Burial and Cremation Scheme

CO-ORDINATOR Louise Freedman

## Due South Group

CO-ORDINATOR Corinne Lever

## Eitz Chayim Memorial

CO-ORDINATOR Louise Freedman

## Friends of Gesher

CHAIRMAN Harriet Neuberger

## Librarian

Corinne Lever

## Marriage Secretary

Gillian Walker

## Additional Secretaries

Jeromé Freedman

Eve Samson

## Members' High Holyday

### Choir Director

Maya Jaffe

## Membership

SECRETARY Louise Freedman

## Rites & Practices

SECRETARY Louise Freedman

## Security

James Krikler

Ron Mortimer

## Stewarding

Harriet Neuberger

## "South Circular"

EDITOR Louise Freedman

## AFFILIATE ORGANISATIONS

**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 Alice Alphandary

**London Citizens:** Representative Lianna Etkind

# President's Message

The end of the 87<sup>th</sup> year of the Congregation marked 19 months of Alice Alphandary's first term as our Chair leading a younger, newly-energised Council with expertise. We thank her, the Officers and Council for their dedication and enthusiasm and we look forward to their continued leadership with confidence.

Rabbi Janet Darley, our minister for the past seven years, retired from the pulpit as she left us to begin what will, no doubt, be a very busy retirement. We are grateful to Janet for all she has accomplished in her time with us.

Our gratitude is due to the many members who have contributed to the President's Appeal. We have now received over £21,000 which is nearly half way to our target of £50,000 to provide much needed funds for the continued life of our community.

Louise Freedman

## CONTENTS:

Who's Who at SLLS	inside front cover
President's Year	1
Chair's Report	2
The Year in Review	2
Reports on Synagogue Activities	3
Financial Section (centre section)	i-viii
Reports on Synagogue Activities (continued)	5-6
Notable Jewish dates	back cover

## Chair's Report *Alice Alphandary*

2016 has been a year of change at SLLS. In July we said farewell to Rabbi Janet Darley as she retired after seven years' service within our community. We marked this with two wonderful services - one led by Geshher, who presented Janet with a bespoke Tallit; and one civic ceremony with the many people Janet has worked with throughout Streatham and the Liberal Jewish community. As with so many rabbis, she has not entered a quiet retirement - she is now devoting much of her time to working with Citizens UK on the campaign to bring refugees into the safety of the UK. We marked her retirement with the informal launch of the project to convert part of our building back into use as a flat for a refugee family - this will begin in earnest in 2017.

We were delighted to have Student Rabbi Nathan Godleman joining us this year, starting formally in September (so technically after the end of the year under review). He is already forming strong links within the community and I would enjoin anyone who has yet to meet him to come to a service soon to see him in action and hear his lovely singing.

It is also lovely to recognise the number of Simchas we have celebrated in the past year. We welcomed several future members of Geshher into the world - Anya Matia Cavalier-Hirth, Faye Elsa Doolan, Shoshannah Eliza Georgina Fried and Elliot Arthur Lewys Shocolinsky-Dwyer. And we had the pleasure of watching several current students mark important points on the way to becoming Jewish adults - B'nei Mitzvah - Arthur Kirkler, Rachel Feuer, Lori Bennison and Kezzie Campbell-Golding all became B'nei Mitzvah and we look forward to them growing further as they progress on to Kabbalat Torah. Sam Cohen, Sarah Ish-Horowicz and Zach Ashton all celebrated their Kabbalat Torah in December 2015. I am delighted to report that they all continue to inspire our younger members in our community as assistants in Geshher. Finally, *mazal tov* to Enrica Fantini & Giovanni Mancuso; Polly Whybrow & Dan Abelson; and John Clark & Alexander Ross-Parkinson on their marriages last year. We wish each couple a very long and happy married life.

A big thank you to the many people who support me as Chair - from those who serve the community on Council to those who provide hands-on help every Shabbat in Geshher, in stewarding and in performing door duty. The list of people getting involved seems to get longer every year, which is pleasing, so I have taken the liberty of not naming anyone individually here, but I do value everyone who gives up their time to help run the community.

**Alice Alphandary**

## The year in review

We are fortunate to have a number of lay leaders who have taken services for us this year: Ba'alei Tefillah Beverley Taylor, Paul Ashton and Sara McConnell as well as Jeromé Freedman, Jane and Lara Hart, Alice Alphandary, Geoffrey Laventhall and Enid Rubenstein.

Marriage: Polly Whybrow & Dan Abelson;

Marriage Blessings: Enrica Fantini & Giovanni Mancuso and John Clark & Alexander Ross-Parkinson.

Deaths: Maisie Hayon, Margaret Lefcovitch, Coleman Myers, Martin Tack, Derek Tisman, Edna Young and Robert Zackham.

We welcomed a number of new members during the course of the year and remembered those whom we have lost with several leaf dedication ceremonies. We celebrated as young people came of age: Lori Bennison, Kizzie Cambell-Golding, Rachel Feuer and Arthur Krikler.

We had birthday kiddushim, baby namings and admission ceremonies.

Thanks to Alice and Lianna we had an interesting schedule of Torah breakfasts (see separate report).

Our summer Garden Shabbatot continued to be popular although the wet summer weather meant that not all the services were held outside!

In July we held a Valedictory Civic Service to mark Rabbi Janet's retirement.

We also were involved with our neighbours in arranging the annual Lambeth HMD Commemoration, hosted by the Surrey County Cricket Club at the Kia Oval. The theme for the year was "Don't Stand By". Lord Alfred Dubs was the keynote speaker with contributions from Dunraven School and the choir from Corpus Christi School. We were again invited for Iftar at Hyderi Mosque. We have continued to be involved with Lambeth Citizens (see separate report).

## Reports on Synagogue Activities

**Gesher Team: Head** *Jacqueline Ashton*, **Administrator** *Louise Cohen* & **Adviser** *Rabbi Janet Darley*

5776 has been an enjoyable and successful year for Gesher. In Jewish Studies, the children explored Jewish values and how these are expressed in our lives. Following a review of our Hebrew curriculum, a more child-centred programme was introduced which allows each child to progress at their own pace. Our Little Stars Toddler Group has produced some lovely projects under the leadership of Jane Feuer. Family services were run by the parents and children of Gesher using the Siddur we created.

The children at Gesher also spent the year designing and producing a patchwork tallit as a retirement gift for Rabbi Janet to show their appreciation for her work. Each child created a small piece of artwork which was incorporated into the large tallit which Rabbi Janet wore at her valedictory service. The tallit was presented by Gesher children at our annual service to celebrate our children's achievements.

The end of year service was also a time to say thank you to three of our teachers who, having grown up in Gesher, were leaving to pursue further study. Noah Vickers and Adam Feuer left to go to University, and Elinor Haylor has begun a gap year. All three were inspiring teachers and will be missed by the children and teaching staff; we wish them every success.

Gesher's development and success would not be possible without the dedication and tireless work of our teachers, assistants and Lou Cohen (our administrator). Their creativeness and dedication continues to ensure that Gesher provides a fun, Jewish atmosphere for the children.

**Friends of Gesher** *Harriet Neuberger, Chair*

Friends of Gesher had another successful money-raising race night for Chanukkah in 2015 and coffee mornings were held throughout the year. Parents and Friends of Gesher staffed the door on shabbat mornings during term time, and this facilitated contact between congregants who attend services and those who bring their children to Gesher. A very well-attended Mitzvah Day event at Nightingale House was attended by Gesher parents, children and other congregants and enabled the oldest and youngest members of our community to meet. If you have ideas for Friends of Gesher, would like to attend our coffee mornings or otherwise get involved, please contact me: [harriet\\_travelling@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:harriet_travelling@yahoo.co.uk).

### **Torah Breakfasts** *Alice Alphandary*

We had an interesting schedule of Torah breakfasts: Student Rabbi Elliott Karstadt on “David, Bathsheba and Uriah, Temptation, Baths and Corrupt Kings”; Student Rabbi Danny Newman, “An Introduction to Mindfulness and Native Jewish Mindfulness Practice”; David Rosenberg, ‘The Battle of Cable Street; Surat Shaan Rathberger Knan on “Twilight People”; Rachel Godfrey on “The Haskalah (Enlightenment)” and Rabbi David Hulbert, “Let’s talk about Tisha B’Av”. Once again, everyone was well fed with Brick Lane bagels and pastries at the breakfasts!

### **Interfaith**

We remain involved with the Lambeth Multi-Faith Action Group, LAMAG, where Karen Briscoe is our representative. As a community we have joined with Faiths Together in Lambeth (FTiL) in a number of ways over the year. For a sixth year, Rabbi Janet spoke at an Iftar at Hyderi Mosque where we are always warmly welcomed. An important aspect of our Interfaith work is our schools programme; pupils visiting us at SLLS and, on occasion, our visits to local schools.

### **Music at SLLS**

During Janet’s time at SLLS, a volunteer choir of SLLS members and friends under the direction of her husband, Vince Daly, made a valuable contribution to High Holydays services, the monthly choral services and to other events throughout the year. We thank Vince sincerely for his dedication and his contribution to the musical life of the congregation. Musical Chavurah supper services, led by Rabbi Janet with support from Vince and other choir members, continued throughout the year. Organist Barry Eaton, provided the musical accompaniment for the choir during the High Holydays.

### **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 together with the telephone contact from Elizabeth Cove. We welcome news, views, photographs and articles. Please share your news with us because we cannot print what you do not tell us! Part way through the year our administrator, Sereena Goolab, took over the packing and mailing of South Circular. Previously, the Women’s Society Alumni had performed this task and we are most grateful to the Women’s Society for more than 80 years of service.

### **Website**

Our thanks to Zach Ashton who continues to manage our website.

### **Desmond Marks Library**

We have a well-stocked library, excellently maintained over many years by Corinne Lever. Members are encouraged to make use of this outstanding facility. The catalogue is available on our website,

### **“Due South”**

The Annual Due South Luncheon was held at the Croydon Park Hotel in July.

### **Chaplaincy and Caring**

Elizabeth Cove continues to lead Keeping in Touch for us and contacts elderly and unwell congregants. We have a continuing need for volunteers to visit people in hospital or who are sick at home so, if you are able to offer help and would like to be put on our volunteers list, please contact the SLLS office in the first instance.

# 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 2016. These Financial Statements are not statutorily required to be audited and have been independently examined by Úna Ní Dhónaill 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 were: Alice Alphandary (Chair), Lianna Etkind (Hon Secretary), William Cohen (Treasurer), Louise Freedman (Vice-Chair), Paul Ashton, Jacqueline Ashton, Alexander Clark, Daniel Kirk (part year), James Krikler, Harriet Neuberger and Gillian Walker.

## **Membership – all categories**

Total at 31 August 2016: 221 (2015: 237) which included 5 Honorary Members and 20 Friends.

**Members** We welcomed Alexander Fried, Deb Burgess, Polly Whybrow, Enrica Fantini, Clare Rich, and Nick Sidi.

**Friends of SLLS** We welcomed Marianne Elliott Sidi, Kirst O'Neill and Timothy Hallan

**Deaths** We record with sorrow the deaths of Maisie Hayon, Margaret Lefcovitch, Coleman Myers, Martin Tack, Derek Tisman, Edna Young and Robert Zackham.

**Births** Mazal tov and welcome to: Anya Matia Cavalier-Hirth, daughter of Barrie and Mikaela Cavalier-Hirth; Faye Elsa Doolan, daughter of Robin Marcus and Steve Doolan; Shoshannah Eliza Georgina Fried, daughter of Alexander and Sainabou Fried; Elliot Arthur Lewys Shocolinsky-Dwyer, son of Roseanne and Shelley Shocolinsky-Dwyer.

## **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 15 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 2016 Unrestricted Funds amounted to £148,355 (2015: 127,560). Total funds stood at £182,319 (2015: £162,684)

## **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.

**Chairman**

### **PLEASE DON'T FORGET US IN YOUR WILL**

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

### **LEGACIES MAKE THE DIFFERENCE**

*By leaving a bequest to SLLS you will support  
the future of Liberal Judaism in South London.*



**For further information please 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<sup>st</sup> August 2016, which are set out on pages iv-vi

## 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 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 Commission. 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

## 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, requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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:** 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016

# South London Liberal Synagogue

## Statement of Financial Activities

Income and Expenditure for the period 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2016

<b>Incoming Resources</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2016 £</b>	<b>Total 2015 £</b>
Subscriptions	52,960		52,960	55,944
Donations/Legacies	11,111	1,410	12,521	12,282
Gift Aid repayment	15,337		15,337	9,558
Appeals income	* 21,728	3,890	25,618	5,008
Hire of hall	3,755		3,755	4,800
Fundraising income	904		904	1,624
Rabbi's Pension		2,040	2,040	2,040
Burial and Cremation Fees		1,302	1,302	1,454
Adult Education income	1,240		1,240	550
Bank interest	58		58	52
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>107,093</b>	<b>8,642</b>	<b>115,735</b>	<b>93,312</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>				
Rabbinic costs	25,457	2,290	27,747	25,146
Staff costs (not inc. Rabbi)	19,431		19,431	18,821
Building maintenance		4,786	4,786	6,228
Affiliation fees	12,925		12,925	13,675
Education	6,522		6,522	9,029
Insurance	7,383		7,383	6,853
Utilities	5,818		5,818	6,844
Management and administration	5,240		5,240	8,937
Depreciation	3,522		3,522	3,531
Burial and Cremation Costs		2,726	2,726	900
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>86,298</b>	<b>9,802</b>	<b>96,100</b>	<b>99,964</b>
<b>Net Movement in Funds £</b>	<b>20,795</b>	<b>(1,160)</b>	<b>19,635</b>	<b>(6,652)</b>
Funds brought forward at 1st September 2015	127,560	35,124	162,684	169,336
Funds carried forward at 31st August 2016	148,355	33,964	182,319	162,684

\*£21,728 is from the President's Appeal

# South London Liberal Synagogue

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2016

	2016 £	2015 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Tangible fixed assets	125,311	128,833
<b>Current assets</b>		
Stock	233	219
Debtors	15,504	0
Cash at bank and in hand	45,033	38,344
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>60,770</b>	<b>38,563</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(3,762)	(4,712)
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>182,319</b>	<b>162,684</b>
Restricted funds	33,964	35,124
Unrestricted funds	148,355	127,560
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>182,319</b>	<b>162,684</b>

## Notes forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2016

### 1. 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 incurred.

### 2. Tangible 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 2015	174,676	6,995	16,820	198,491
Depreciation at 31 August 2015	(45,954)	(6,995)	(16,709)	(69,658)
Charge for the year	(3,494)	-	(28)	(3,522)
<b>Net book value at 31 August 2016</b>	<b>£125,228</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£83</b>	<b>£125,311</b>
<b>Net book value at 31 August 2015</b>	<b>£128,722</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£111</b>	<b>£128,833</b>

	Freehold property & improvements	Furniture & Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Direct charitable activities	125,228	-	125,228
Management & admin	-	83	83
	125,228	83	125,311

3. Stock	2016	2015
	£	£
Stock of books for resale	138	123
Showcase Stock	95	96
	233	219

#### 4. Cash at Bank and in hand at 31 August 2016

	£
HSBC General	2,867
CAF General	10,435
CAF Gold	15,204
CAF Burial and Cremation	16,527
Balance at 31.08.2016	45,033

5. **Debtors:** Gift Aid plus interest repayment made after year end £15,504

#### 6. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year:

Creditors comprise of monies received in respect of Board of Deputies Levy £2,704 which was paid after year end, and operating creditors outstanding £1,058.

7. Restricted Funds	at 31.08.2016	at 31.08.2015
	£	£
Burial and Cremation Fund	16,860	18,284
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund	117	497
Rabbi's Pension	11,442	9,902
Building Fund	5,545	6,441
	33,964	35,124

# South London Liberal Synagogue

Financial Projection 2016 – 2017

Income	£		£
Subscriptions	53,000		
Donations/Legacies	5,000		
Gift Aid repayment	10,000		
Appeals Income	5,000		
Hire of Hall	3,600		
Fundraising Income	1,500	Etz Chayim (Leaf Sales)	300
		Chevra	700
		HHD Tickets	500
			<hr/> 1,500
Burial & Cremation Fees	1,200		
Adult Education	0		
Bank Interest	40		
<b>Total Income</b>	<hr/> £79,340		
<b>Expenses</b>			
Rabbinic Costs	20,000	Administrator & Cleaners + NI	
Staff Costs	20,000		
Building Maintenance	7,500	London Citizens	700
Affiliation Fees	14,600	Board of Deputies	500
		Liberal Judaism	13,400
			<hr/> 14,600
Education	7,500	Teachers' pay+NI+Gesher	
Insurance	7,000		
Utilities	7,000		
Management & Administration	6,000		
Depreciation	3,500		
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<hr/> £93,100		
<b>Net Deficit</b>	<b>(£13,760)</b>		



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. 

Questioning 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/](http://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/](http://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 whilst 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 Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris as its Principal and the redesign of its Rabbinic Curriculum, LBC is well placed to continue its leadership role in the 21st Century. [www.lbc.ac.uk/](http://www.lbc.ac.uk/)

## **Board of Deputies of British Jews** *Jeromé Freedman*

The Board, in the first year of its current triennial session, lists below its many activities in the community and beyond and has circulated these to the members of all its constituent synagogues:

- Combated antisemitism - met with the Leader of the Opposition, submitted a robust response to the Chakrabarti inquiry and given evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee.
- Secured Mayor of London Sadiq Khan's signing of the 'European Mayors United Against Antisemitism' declaration.
- Expressed the community's bond with Israel
- Engaged with BBC News and Sky News on the quality of their reporting of the Middle East.
- Promoted the Shalom declaration, enabling over 130 churches and ministries to declare their support for Israel.
- Defended Jewish education and educated about Judaism
- Successfully defended Hebrew study at GCSE and A Level when it was under threat.
- Published the first ever balanced resource for educators teaching Judaism as part of the new GCSE Religious Studies syllabus.
- Continued to educate about and defend religious freedoms including Shechita and Brit Milah.
- Advocated for Jews beyond our borders
- Raised numerous issues at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office including the Iran deal, antisemitism in central Europe and post- Holocaust restitution in the Balkans.
- Engaged with dozens of embassies, making us the foremost point of contact in the Jewish community for the diplomatic community in London.
- Built bridges through interfaith relations
- Launched and developed Nisa-Nashim: The Jewish / Muslim Women's Network which has already hosted dozens of events bringing people together and changing perceptions.
- Initiated a coding project at Twitter UK for Catholic, Jewish and Muslim schoolchildren with partner organisations.

As I said a year ago, in an age of almost instant news, the most practical way to learn about the Board's activities is through its website, [bod.org.uk](http://bod.org.uk), and to subscribe to the "Community Briefings" that it publishes weekly. Anyone can be involved in the work of the Board, not only elected Deputies, and I am happy to answer questions at any time.

## **London Citizens** *Lianna Etkind*

Plenty has happened this year in the Lambeth Citizens group. We have continued to focus our energies on three main issues: Refugees Welcome; Living Wage and affordable housing.

In April, we joined six thousand other London Citizens members from chapters across the capital at the Mayoral Assembly. We asked the two main Mayoral candidates, Zac Goldsmith and Sadiq Khan, whether they'd agree to our Mayoral Manifesto, with our demands, reached from thousands of conversations with Citizens members. Then on Mayor Sadiq Khan's first day at City Hall, we were there to welcome him with a croissant and a friendly reminder we'd be there to hold him to account on his agreements!

We have continued to press for the Living Wage and are delighted that there are now over 45 Living Wage employers in Lambeth - including the synagogue!

In August, we held a meeting at SLLS with the Cabinet Member for housing in Lambeth, Matthew Bennett, to discuss potential solutions to the housing crisis and urge him to consider a Community Land Trust as one way to ensure that families could continue to afford to live in the borough. We were glad that he agreed to consider it, and joined Lambeth Citizens members for a tour of a Community Land Trust in Mile End to understand more about how this works.

Partly due to the excellent campaigning that SLLS participated in (remember our Windrush Square sukkah?), Lambeth Council agreed to accommodate twenty refugee families and was the first borough in the UK to welcome children from Calais. Members of SLLS were among the volunteers welcoming children and teenagers off the coach from Calais as they arrived at the Home Office centre in Croydon. We also welcomed the first families (mainly from Syria) at a dinner in September. There is now a thriving Refugees Welcome group in Lambeth to help people settle in. If you'd like to be more involved in Citizens activities this year, whether across all the projects or with a particular focus on refugees, on housing or on the Living Wage, drop me an email: [lianna.etkind@gmail.com](mailto:lianna.etkind@gmail.com).

### **Lambeth Holocaust Memorial Day and Education Project**

For a seventh year, we were actively involved in planning the Lambeth HMD ceremony in January. Sadly, we were unable to host and deliver the Holocaust Education project with Dunraven School as we were not able to attract sufficient trained volunteer facilitators. This was most unfortunate as each year, this project has welcomed pupils who are shown information about German rescuers, perhaps a hidden child or someone who came on the Kindertransport and they see testimonies of survivors. This has been 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 the ways they can act to prevent victimization, even in small ways.

**School visits** continued through the year. We hosted 17 school visits this past year with groups ranging from 25 to 90 pupils at a time and covering school grades Year 1 to Year 7. The total of students visiting was just over 700. If you are able to spare some time to show a school party around, please get in touch with our SLLS administrator Sereena Goolab.

## WHAT WE ARE AT SOUTH LONDON LIBERAL SYNAGOGUE?

South London Liberal Synagogue includes **all sorts of people**: Jewish families, mixed Jewish / non-Jewish families, and those from diverse backgrounds who have become Jews by choice. Our synagogue is a proud constituent of Liberal Judaism, the national movement, and part of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. As 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.

Some SLLS members have non-Jewish partners whom we also welcome. Some 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 Geshet (Religion School) and are welcome to become involved with Geshet and other synagogue activities. Any Jewish person may become a member of SLLS regardless of gender, sexual orientation or marital status. We **welcome all individuals** who are sincerely interested in converting to Judaism and who 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 assembly**.

### COMMUNITY LIFE AT SLLS INCLUDES:

SABBATH SERVICES, FRIDAY EVENING AT 6:30PM (not 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays) & EACH SHABBAT MORNING AT 11:00AM  
HIGH HOLYDAYS AND FESTIVALS SERVICES – FOR DETAILS SEE SOUTH CIRCULAR

**Monthly Erev Shabbat Chavurah** (Bring & Share meal) at 6:30pm

**Regular Shabbat morning Family Service** led by GESHER גשר pupils & members at 11:00am

**Exploring Judaism Study Session** most Saturday mornings at 9:45am

**Regular Torah Breakfasts** at 9:45am

**GESHER גשר** – for children ages 5 – 15 Saturday 9:45am – 12:30pm

Pupils are prepared for *Bar / Bat Mitzvah* and *Kabbalat Torah*

**Little Stars Toddler Group** meets on Saturdays during **GESHER גשר** term time at 10:00am

### FRIENDS OF GESHER גשר

#### SOCIAL ACTION

↓DUE SOUTH↓ social and discussion group open to all members

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](http://www.southlondon.org)

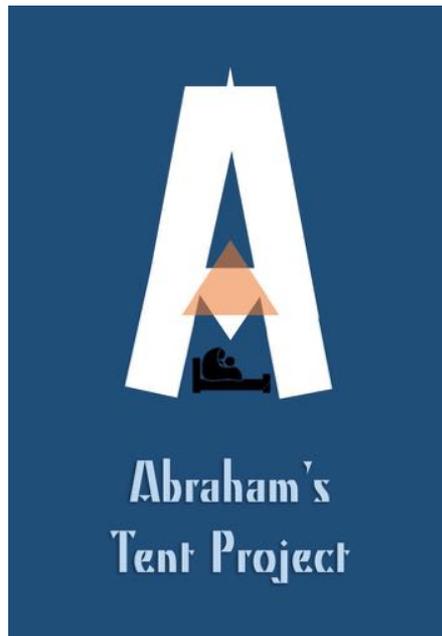
(Full details of all activities appear in our monthly **South Circular** and on our Website)

## **OUR HELP IS NEEDED**

### **HOW WE CAN HELP REFUGEES**

The refugee crisis is not going away; in fact every day more people are being forced to flee their homes. There are lots of ways to help.

- Contact James Asfa at [James.Asfa@citizens.uk.org](mailto:James.Asfa@citizens.uk.org) to join our Lambeth Refugees Welcome group. It's a great way to meet our new neighbours!
- London authorities have agreed to resettle refugees, but spaces must be found in the private rental sector. Do you have a flat or house to rent, or know of someone who does? The landlord will be paid at the local authority housing rate which is usually about 80% of market rate. If the place is in Lambeth, contact [vlake@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:vlake@lambeth.gov.uk). If elsewhere in the London area, please contact: [Janet.Darley@citizens.uk.org](mailto:Janet.Darley@citizens.uk.org).
- Some refugee children need foster families, but these are always in short supply. Even if you don't feel able to foster a refugee child, taking another child frees up a place. Please visit: <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/fosteringandadoption/fostering/what-makes-good-foster-parent> or contact [fosteringduty@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:fosteringduty@lambeth.gov.uk)
- Do you have a spare room you could offer to a refugee or asylum seeker temporarily? This could be someone with asylum, who needs temporary housing while they can get on their feet or a young person who has aged out of foster care, or someone waiting for their asylum claim to be heard. There is no rent to be had as these people are usually destitute but you will make a real difference to someone. Please contact **Refugees at Home**. You can read more at: <http://www.refugeesathome.org/>.



South London Liberal Synagogue is in the process of launching an appeal to turn part of the synagogue building into a home for refugees.

Called the 'Abraham's Tent' project, this is the community's most ambitious ever fundraising drive, as it looks for £50,000. With that money, they'll be able to house a family of refugees in the former caretaker's flat attached to the building. The home will come complete with a kitchen, bathroom and bedrooms.

A group of committed volunteers is working to fundraise. Lambeth Council is actively working with the synagogue to help a refugee family make a new home in Streatham.

Other local religious buildings have already taken in refugee families. South London's Jewish community is active in supporting the cause of refugees, and has already worked to reunite children in Calais with their families in the UK.

There has been a lot of media interest in the project - this started with an article in the Observer and to date, stories have also run in the Independent, HaAretz and the Times of Israel.

Alice Alphandary  
January 2017

FESTIVAL	2016/2017 5777	2017/2018 5778	2018/2019 5779	2019/2020 5780	2020/2021 5781
<b>ROSH HA-SHANAH</b> <i>1 Tishri</i>	Monday 3 October	Thursday 21 September	Monday 10 September	Monday 30 September	Saturday 19 September
<b>YOM KIPPUR</b> <i>10 Tishri</i>	Wednesday 12 October	Saturday 30 September	Wednesday 19 September	Wednesday 9 October	Monday 28 September
<b>1ST DAY SUKKOT</b> <i>15 Tishri</i>	Monday 17 October	Thursday 5 October	Monday 24 September	Monday 14 October	Saturday 3 October
<b>SHEMINI ATZERET / SIMCHAT TORAH *</b> <i>22 Tishri</i>	Monday 24 October	Thursday 12 October	Monday 1 October	Monday 21 October	Saturday 10 October
<b>1ST DAY CHANUKKAH</b> <i>25 Kislev</i>	Sunday 25 December	Wednesday 13 December	Monday 3 December	Monday 23 December	Friday 11 December
<b>TU BI-SH'VAT</b> <i>15 Shevat</i>	Saturday 11 February	Wednesday 31 January	Monday 21 January	Monday 10 February	Thursday 28 January
<b>PURIM</b> <i>14 Adar</i>	Sunday 12 March	Thursday 1 March	Thursday 21 March	Tuesday 10 March	Friday 26 February
<b>1ST DAY PESACH</b> <i>15 Nisan</i>	Tuesday 11 April	Saturday 31 March	Saturday 20 April	Thursday 9 April	Sunday 28 March
<b>7TH DAY PESACH</b> <i>21 Nisan</i>	Monday 17 April	Friday 6 April	Friday 26 April	Wednesday 15 April	Saturday 3 April
<b>YOM HA-SHO'AH</b> <i>generally 27 Nisan</i>	Monday 24 April <i>(28 Nisan)</i>	Thursday 12 April	Thursday 2 May	Tuesday 21 April	Thursday 8 April
<b>YOM HA-ATZ'MA'UT</b> <i>generally 5 Iyar</i>	Tuesday 2 May <i>(6 Iyar)</i>	Thursday 19 April	Thursday 9 May <i>(4 Iyar)</i>	Wednesday 29 April	Thursday 15 April <i>(3 Iyar)</i>
<b>SHAVU'OT</b> <i>6 Sivan</i>	Wednesday 31 May	Sunday 20 May	Sunday 9 June	Friday 29 May	Monday 17 May
<b>TISH'AH B'AV</b> <i>generally 9 Av</i>	Tuesday 1 August	Sunday 22 July <i>(10 Av)</i>	Sunday 11 August <i>(10 Av)</i>	Thursday 30 July	Sunday 18 July <i>(10 Av)</i>
<b>S'LICHOT (night of)</b>	Saturday 16 September	Saturday 1 September	Saturday 21 September	Saturday 12 September	Saturday 28 August

- 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.