

September / October /  
November 2010

Number 41

# NLPJC Newsletter

North London Progressive Jewish Community



## NLPJC events....

- **High Holy Day tickets**

It's not too late! For last minute HHD tickets, see page 4....

- **Sukkot & Simchat Torah**

Come and join us for...

**Sukkot on Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept** at the Community rooms.

5pm – decorating the Sukkah (please bring fruit, your children's creative work to hang, foliage etc), followed at

7pm by service, kiddush & supper in the Sukkah. And join us for....

**Simchat Torah on Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Sept** at

6 for 6.30pm for service, celebrations & supper.

**Children & adults welcome to all.**

*Please bring vegetarian dish to share for suppers.*

- **Adult Learning**

**Programme ~ new term**

A four week Tuesday evening intensive course will run from 5<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November

7pm Conversion course

8pm Hebrew – all levels

Details coming soon....

Please phone 020 7403 3779 or email [nlpjc@liberaljudaism.org](mailto:nlpjc@liberaljudaism.org) if you are interested in joining.

- **“Women, Leadership & Religious Authority”**

Join us for an insightful discussion on Erev Shabbat, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October ~ see page 2 for details

- **The Thorny Issue of Chanukkah & Christmas**

Following the success of our first “Talking With Our Children about...” event, this community discussion, led by a guest facilitator, will be an opportunity for everyone involved with children as parents, grandparents, teachers, aunts, uncles and friends, to discuss the thorny questions of Chanukkah and Christmas.

This will run before the service on **Shabbat 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 10am – 11am** and Hebrew / cheder / crèche will run as normal during this session.

See our website at [www.nlpjc.org.uk](http://www.nlpjc.org.uk)

## The light is changing

The light is changing. The days are growing shorter and the sun is sliding lower in the sky, bringing longer shadows, cooler air and a hint of colder times to come. Rosh Hashanah is approaching. How right it is that this time of introspection takes place at the turning of the seasons, towards the quieter times. When the nights draw in we move inside. This move inside can also happen within.

Jewish tradition has always seen a link between ethics and the weather. Drought was seen as a

punishment for sin, and the remedy was a national fast, rituals of mourning and the blowing of the ram's horn. Rain was seen as a blessing, both gentle rain and hard, an answer to their prayers, a sign of divine mercy.

It seems very likely that we will once again read the story of our human ethics in the weather. Parts of our world have been facing terrible floods, and others have baked in unseasonal heat.

Should we do as our ancestors did: pray and

fast? Probably not, or not as a first step, since our climate needs a different kind of action. We need to be part of a global move towards taking responsibility.

Yet this ethical relationship to our world, our climate, reminds us always that we are part of a totality, profoundly inter-dependant with all other life. As fragile as the world around us, and also as strong, growing and capable of change. Shanah tovah.

Rabbi Shulamit Ambalu



Ella Tober Collins (centre) at her bat mitzvah on 19<sup>th</sup> June, with her family, members & children of NLPJC and Rabbi Shulamit (right)

"I really enjoyed my Bat Mitzvah. It was lovely to see so many people there. Thank you all for coming, and for the gifts"

liberal judaism

NLPJC is a constituent congregation of Liberal Judaism

# Women, Leadership and Religious Authority

If you were in shul in early June, you will know that I recently completed my MA in Religion and Society, which focussed on women, religion and spirituality. Rabbi Shulamit has suggested that we have a "siyyum" to mark the occasion. This traditional way of completing a period of study will take place at the Erev Shabbat Service on 22 October and will be followed by a festive meal, so please bring vegetarian food to share.

As indicated in the above title, I will be outlining aspects of my dissertation research and findings on women's contemporary religious leadership and spiritual authority. By taking a gendered view of religious authority, drawing in particular on the work of leading Jewish feminist theologian Judith Plaskow, I will address how it has impacted on women's religious and spiritual leadership. All of which I trust will lead to some interesting discussion!

My studies took a very long time - the full four years allowed to complete a part-time degree. Along the way I left my job and London in order to focus on studying, and went to live in Brighton with my brother Jonathan. It was thanks to his generosity and support that I was able to do nothing but research and write for a while. The result was my first paper to receive a high mark, and set the standard I was then able to maintain. So this siyyum evening is dedicated to his memory and will take place on the Shabbat following his first yearzeit.

Joanna Ryam

*Joanna will lead this discussion on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 7.15pm Erev Shabbat service / 8pm supper followed by discussion. At the Community Rooms – see calendar. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share for pot luck supper.*

## NLPJC Network is up and running!



What a great start! The NLPJC network is up and running. So far 25 members have joined and the site is attractive and interesting. The network is also international. We can keep in contact with members and friends wherever they live and whatever their age. There are videos, super photos including some from the recent family camping trip. Each member has their own page and can communicate with others either privately or publically. Discussions and requests for information are beginning to appear. Some interesting events are also being listed. Most importantly, the network is safe as all members have to be approved first. We have the most basic network arrangements, so it is easy for even the most hesitant IT user. So, don't be shy, join today and feel part of our very own network. Go to [www.NLPJCnetwork.ning.com](http://www.NLPJCnetwork.ning.com) and follow the simple instructions. For those who have already joined, continue to visit and keep the network buzzing!

Jackie Richards

## Who built the first Temple? Play your joker now!

Liberal Judaism Inter Synagogue Quiz 5770, Elstree 6<sup>th</sup> June 2010

The place was packed. One could hardly walk from table to table there were so many people. And not all nerds by any means, although there were those (obviously).

NLPJC showed up with not a total compliment – since one of our number was ill – but these included Jackie and Pete Richards, Laura Miller and Tony, Claire Helman, Alison Turner and a "ringer" – David Pratt. We were ready for action.

The quiz consists of 10 rounds, of 10 questions each, with one point for each correct answer, and a marathon of 15 pictures also with one point each and a theatre word quiz of 5 points. Plus there is the Joker – if a team thinks it knows the answers to a particular round (The Natural

World anyone? Judaism and Jewish Life? Is There a Doctor in the House?) they play their Joker, which adds 10 points to the team's score. It was a lengthy afternoon, with a break for food, but our brains were definitely picked.

NLPJC came in the top 10, but not in the first three. We clearly need to bone up on our Pictures (7/15), Music from the Movies (6/10) and Songs from the Shows (4/10). Perhaps we need an intra-synagogue quiz to bone up on our topics? Still, we knew our "General Round" (10/10) (And which general was the 34<sup>th</sup> President of the US? Answers on a postcard please...). We didn't do badly on "A Round Britain" (9/10) or Captain's Round (9/10). Our Judaism and Jewish

Round was OK (8/10) but perhaps we need to pay more attention in shul? Claire was the information maven par excellence. We were all in awe of what she knew.

The instructions said we should have "An enjoyable if taxing afternoon" and it was that. And a great deal of fun.

Elstree came first with 117 points out of 130, Kingston second with 111 points and Harrow and Wembley and Northwood and Pinner tied for third with 108. Our score of 92 was a valiant try, although next year, we need to bone up on our Dr Seuss for the "Doctor" Round...Green Eggs and Ham was one of the answers.

Laura Miller



**Yeshaya Lomotey** at his bar mitzvah on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2010 with his uncle, Kwansah (left) and father, Michael (right)

*Photo by Ian Jacko Jackson*



Some members of NLPJC's children's Klezmer band *Yentl and the b sharps* play along with the professional musicians at **Ella Tober Collins'** bat mitzvah (see front page)

## NLPJC Members News

### A warm welcome to our new members:

- ❖ Jeremy Rubel & Krisztina Kovacs

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### Our 100 club winners were....

- ❖ Sue Lukes (June ~ and a big thank you to Sue who always donates her 100 club win straight back to NLPJC...!)
- ❖ Robin Samson (July)
- ❖ Gill & Jeff Ackerman (August)

The winning total each month was £45 – it's not too late to join! Email Julia at [nlpjc@liberaljudaism.org](mailto:nlpjc@liberaljudaism.org) for details

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### Condolences

- ❖ **Kerry McCarthy-Balwah**, a much loved former member of NLPJC and previously NLPS passed away on Saturday 20th August. Kerry will be remembered for her compassion, humour and friendliness and as a teacher, carer, plumber and NLPJC shofar blower. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Our sincere condolences go to her husband Prince Balwah, and son Kieran Schreiber.

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*In the event of the death of an NLPJC member, please contact the Funeral Directors M.M. Broad & Son on 020 8445 2797 and Rabbi Shulamit Ambalu on 020 7403 3779.*

## From Seville to Salonika ~ NLPJC's July 4<sup>th</sup> Fundraising Concert With (L-R) Rebekka Wedell, Sef Townsend and Ishmael Nacar



## High Holiday Ticket Applications

Not a Member and Need Tickets for the High Holidays?  
Already a Member and want to buy extra tickets?

Most of us feel that we would like to avoid the crush of people buying tickets at the door during the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Services.  
**Once again, we will only be selling tickets in advance, either**

- Through ordering them directly by post (to arrive no later than **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August**) using the application form sent to you in July
- By buying them in person on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September between 6 – 8pm** at the Community Rooms, St. Mary's Church, Stoke Newington Church St N16. Please bring your completed application form with you.

Please email Julia at [nlpjc@liberaljudaism.org](mailto:nlpjc@liberaljudaism.org) to let us know if you intend coming on the 5<sup>th</sup> to buy tickets, or if you need another ticket application form. Forms can also be downloaded from our website: [www.nlpjc.org.uk](http://www.nlpjc.org.uk)

**Copies of Machzor Ruach Chadashah will also be available for purchase.**

*NB: We can accept cash or cheques only.*

## Can you help at the High Holy Days?

We are in need of volunteers to help with....  
....setting up the hall, clearing up the hall, washing up (Rosh Hashanah), making honey cakes, donating a large bowl of salad or a large pudding, working on the door ....  
If you can offer your time for any of these things, we would be very grateful. Please contact Julia URGENTLY at [nlpjc@liberaljudaism.org](mailto:nlpjc@liberaljudaism.org). Thank you!

## HHD Charity Appeal

This year we have chosen the following two charities for our High Holy Day Appeal, for which we will be collecting at the services:

Hackney Migrant Centre  
[www.hackneymigrantcentre.org.uk](http://www.hackneymigrantcentre.org.uk)  
and ourselves, NLPJC.

More details about each charity will accompany your HHD tickets.

## NLPJC Cheder & Crèche Camping Trip ~ 24<sup>th</sup> July 2010 At the Montefiore Synagogue in Ramsgate.



## CHEDER CORNER

It's hard to think about school in the middle of the summer, but close your eyes and try to remember back to the cheder year 2009-2010. Ah yes, Jewish Journeys. We had some wonderful talks from members of the community about how their families came to Britain. We looked at maps and followed our own families in their journeys. We learned about music of different communities. We talked a lot about how and why our people move from one country to another. At the end, the Cheder students all made pictures of the countries their families had passed through, and some wrote articles. These will go up on the website, as soon as I can see through the building site that is my home at the moment.

But next year - now next year is going to see a real change. We've gotten so big that we are splitting our cheder - two classes! Amazing. I will be sending out a Cheder Newsletter with all of the dates for next year and the details of how this is going to work, but we are all very excited.

The topic for next year is "Rituals". Both classes will be discussing what rituals are, where they come from, why they are when they are and looking at both Jewish rituals - from our own and other Jewish groups - and non-Jewish groups.

I'm very much looking forward to 2010 - 2011 except for one thing: I remember when I was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and my teacher got us to figure out how old we would

be in 2010. (A sneaky way of getting us to add and multiply.) My birthday is not until the end of the year, and I remember thinking "End of 2010, I'll be so OLD....." And here it almost is. Sigh.

Laura Miller

### A snippet ....

Inscriptions on Jewish gravestones often include as a word the letters tav nun tzaddi bet hei. These are an abbreviation of Hebrew words in Samuel 25-29: 'May his soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life.'

[www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/tombstones.html](http://www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/tombstones.html)

Roger Harris



## Westlon Housing Association

### Sheltered Accommodation

Westlon is a Jewish Housing Association founded by members of the West London Synagogue.

We have vacancies in our friendly, comfortable warden-assisted sheltered housing for Jewish people aged 55 and over, in East Finchley and Hendon.

We provide 24-hour warden support, 7 days a week, a residents' lounge and kitchen, laundry, a sunny patio and garden.

For further details and application forms, please contact Westlon Housing Association on 0208 201 8484 or email [johnsilverman@btconnect.com](mailto:johnsilverman@btconnect.com)

## Thinking of joining us?

- High Holy Day tickets are included in your membership – so why not join now?
- The membership year begins in January but we offer a pro-rata system for anyone joining throughout the year.
- You can contact our administrator, Julia Chalfen, at [nlpjc@liberaljudaism.org](mailto:nlpjc@liberaljudaism.org) for a membership pack or phone Rabbi Shulamit Ambalu on 020 7403 3779 to discuss membership options.

## NLPJC 'Who's Who'

All officers and chair can be contacted at [nlpjc@liberaljudaism.org](mailto:nlpjc@liberaljudaism.org) or by post to PO Box 42702 London N19 5WR

**Rabbi** : Rabbi Shulamit Ambalu  
**Chair** : Claire Helman  
**Hon. Secretary** : Liz Reiner  
**Treasurer** : Hannah Forbes  
**Education Chair** : Sue Lukes  
**Head & Cheder Teacher** : Dr Laura Miller  
**Cheder / Jewish Studies Teacher**: Rachel Epsom  
**Hebrew Teacher** : Nogah Ofer  
**Volunteer Creche Worker** : Anna Sklair  
**Parent Representative**: Leila Baker  
**Prayers & Spirituality Co-ordinator**: Maria Egan  
**Senior Warden**: Joanna Ryam  
**Administrator** : Julia Chalfen  
**Fund-raising Coordinator**: Joanna Ryam  
**Membership Secretary**: Jackie Richards  
**Marketing & Promotion**: Claire Helman  
**Social Action Co-ordinator**: Dan Ozarow  
**Befriending Co-ordinator**: Sheila Melzak  
**Vacant Posts**:  
Youth; Intergenerational

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NLPJC Newsletter is edited by Julia Chalfen. The deadline for the Dec/Jan/Feb issue is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November. Please send articles for publication to Julia at: [nlpjc@liberaljudaism.org](mailto:nlpjc@liberaljudaism.org)

If you are a member of NLPJC and are interested in joining one of the groups, or would like to fill one of the vacant roles, we would be delighted to hear from you.

# NLPJC events calendar

## September – November 2010

Most events are held at *the Community Rooms adjacent to St. Mary's Church, Spensley Walk, Stoke Newington Church Street, London N16 9ES*, unless otherwise stated

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> Sept	10am 10.40am 11am	Torah Breakfast Kol b'yachad service for children Shabbat Service ( <i>NO CHEDER OR CRECHE but toys available</i> )	
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept	6pm – 8pm	Last Minute HHD ticket sales ( <i>see pg 4</i> )	
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept	7.30pm	EREV ROSH HASHANAH	
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept	10.30am / 1.30pm	ROSH HASHANAH (with cheder & crèche) / Lunch	
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept	7.30pm	KOL NIDRE	
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	10.30am	YOM KIPPUR (with cheder & crèche)	
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	5pm / 7pm	Decorating the Sukkah / SUKKOT SERVICE & supper ( <i>see front pg</i> )	
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept	7.15pm / 8pm	Erev Shabbat Service / Supper & Event tba	
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	6 for 6.30pm	SIMCHAT TORAH Service, Celebrations & Supper ( <i>see front pg</i> )	
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Tuesdays in October 5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup>	7pm / 8pm	Adult Learning: Conversion Course / Intensive Hebrew ( <i>see front pg</i> )	
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	10am / 10am 10.40am / 10.50am 11am	Torah Breakfast / Children's Hebrew Kol b'yachad service for children / Cheder & crèche Shabbat Service	
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	10am / 10am 10.40am / 10.50am 11am	Torah Breakfast / Children's Hebrew Kol b'yachad service for children / Cheder ( <i>no crèche but toys available</i> ) Shabbat Service	
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	7.15pm / 8pm	Erev Shabbat Service / Supper & "Women, Leadership & Religious Authority" discussion led by Joanna Ryam ( <i>see pg 2</i> )	
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Tuesdays in November 2 <sup>nd</sup> only	7pm / 8pm	Adult Learning: Conversion Course / Intensive Hebrew ( <i>see front pg</i> )	
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10am 10am 10.50am 11am	Children's Hebrew "Talking to our children about Chanukkah & Christmas" ( <i>see front pg</i> ) Cheder & crèche Shabbat Service	
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10am / 10am 10.40am / 10.50am 11am	Torah Breakfast / Children's Hebrew Kol b'yachad service for children / Cheder ( <i>no crèche but toys available</i> ) Shabbat Service	
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	7.15pm / 8pm	Erev Shabbat Service / Supper & Event tba	

Dates for your diary.....

CHANUKKAH PARTY ~ Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December from 3pm – 6pm at the Community Rooms

### Contact us at:

**North London Progressive Jewish Community, PO Box 42702, London N19 5WR.**

**Call Rabbi Shulamit Ambalu on 020 7403 3779**

**email [nlpjc@liberaljudaism.org](mailto:nlpjc@liberaljudaism.org) or visit our website [www.nlpjc.org.uk](http://www.nlpjc.org.uk)**