



# **Limmud Thames Valley 2018**

**One step forward in your Jewish journey**



**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2018**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> Iyar 5778**

Theale Green School  
Church St, Theale, RG7 5DA

# Welcome

Dear Friends

It is with great pleasure that I am writing to you to wish mazel tov to everyone at Thames Valley Day Limmud 2018 and to congratulate chair Clair Sirkis and all her team of volunteers who have put together another successful event. As with everything Limmud does, this event has been entirely organised by a team of hard-working volunteers, who have worked tirelessly to put together a fabulous programme with outstanding presenters resulting in a day of world class Jewish learning.

Limmud events are planned and implemented by volunteers at every stage and in every way, and you can play a role in ensuring that Thames Valley Limmud continues to thrive, joining some 4,000 other Limmud volunteers worldwide. Please do become involved yourself, if you're not already.

On behalf of the Limmud organisation, our thanks to Richard Rowlands, Hila Bram, Janet Lawson, Zoe Smith, Hilary Harris, Judi Lyons, Clair and the team of volunteers, and all those who are helping to make today happen in any way; to all those who have worked behind the scenes to support them, especially Cathy Knowles and Nadia Lipsey, our UK communities liaisons; our dedicated staff, especially Eli, Alanna, Max and Clive; and all those volunteers involved in the leadership of the organisation who make possible all that we are able to achieve.

With warmest wishes

David Hoffman, Limmud Chair

---

Welcome to Thames Valley Limmud Day 2018,

In 2008, soon after I came to England, I was lucky enough to hear about Limmud and to give it "a try". Armed with two friends and with scepticism as my (usual) companion, I didn't expect much of Thames Valley Limmud day.

It has surprised me in all fronts; the variety of topics, the quality of the sessions, the atmosphere, the people.

Like Ali Baba in the treasure cave, I couldn't decide which precious, shining part of it to grab and I tried not to regret too hard the treasures that I had to leave behind...

Since then, I had grown used to Limmud events. Like getting used to beautiful scenery or indeed any other exciting stimuli, I pay too much attention to the mundane aspects and take the learning and meeting great people part for granted.

As the chair of Thames Valley Limmud, all aspects of the event are under my responsibility. None of them could be achieved without the wonderful Thames Valley Limmud team (mainly but not only): Hila Bram, the spark behind many of our initiatives (including the venue), Ruth Weinberger, who was the last to join us, but her contribution is invaluable, Richard Rowlands ("May the 4th be with you" and more), Judi Lyons, Noya Noble, Janet Lawson and Harry Sassoon; creativity, diligence and dedication are only few of their many qualities.

Special thanks are reserved to CST for their advice and help from the very early stages of planning.

Words can hardly express the appreciation and gratitude that Thames Valley Limmud presenters deserve; for their efforts, for being so wise and learned and for so generously and willingly sharing their wisdom.

Whether or not you have a formal role today, we are all participants in Thames Valley Limmud day and as a participant you have a role and a task to fulfil; to indulge yourself with learning.

As the poet William Yeats said: "Happiness is neither virtue nor pleasure nor this thing nor that, but simply growth; we are happy when we are growing."

Best wishes,

Clair Sirkis, Thames Valley Limmud 2018 Chair

# Contents

Welcome .....	2
General Information .....	3
Session 1: 10:00 – 11:00 .....	4
Session 2: 11:15 – 12:15 .....	5
Morning Sessions.....	6
Afternoon Sessions .....	7
Session 3: 12:30 – 13:30 .....	8
Session 4: 14:15 – 15:15 .....	9
Session 5: 15:30 – 16:30 .....	10
Session 6: 16:45 – 18:00 .....	11
Forthcoming Limmud Events .....	11
Floor Plan and Site Map.....	12

## General Information

### Badges

Please wear your badge at all times. If you lose your badge, head to registration.

### Lunch & refreshments

Tea, coffee and cold drinks will be available during the day. Lunch runs between 13:30 and 14:15 and is served in the Common Room; it can be taken outside if weather permits or to the hall. Schmoozing during lunch is highly recommended. **Mincha will be at 14:00 in M8, led by Rabbi Nataf.**

### Accessibility

The sessions are on the first floor. There is a lift from near registration and all the rooms are close to each other. There are also toilets on the ground floor. The gala and Israeli dancing are in the School Hall on the ground floor.

### Children & Young Limmud Programme

There is a separate area for the youth programme. If you have booked with children, please ask at registration.

### Toilets

In addition to the toilets adjacent to the common room, there are additional toilets on the ground floor. See site map for locations.

### Shuk

Don't miss out on our Shuk which will be found in the common room

A chance for Jewish shopping to come to your doorstep.

Look out for the Jewish book stall, Jewish joke mugs, arts and crafts, Jewish cards, handmade Ethiopian tallitot and kippot, Judaica items, honey, jewellery and much more. We will also be selling books by many of our speakers

We will have information stalls about Israel bonds, UJIA legacy and the Jewish Volunteer Network

In addition please drop off any buttons you have for "B's Button Project". Read all about the project on the stall.

Our Youth programme will be involved in this special project which aims to collect and count buttons which will form part of a permanent memorial, in Windermere, to the 1.5 million children who perished in the Holocaust.

# Session 1: 10:00 – 11:00

## **J S Bach and the Jews**

**Talk with Q&A**

**John Dunston**

**Room 1**

Bach's great choral works have moved listeners for three hundred years, and continue to do so today. Yet the Jews come out of the Passion stories of St Matthew and St John with a pretty bad press.

This session is an attempt to put the antisemitism of the texts in its historical and musical context, and to see whether, as Jews, we can somehow reconcile it with the enjoyment of some of the greatest music ever composed. As someone once said to me: "How can you even sing this stuff, you know, being Jewish?!" Come and find out.....

John Dunston may be the only person to have appeared on both Top of the Pops and as one of the Elders of the Children of Israel with the Hamburg State Opera, but in the end he chose a career in education. He was Head of two Quaker schools, from one of which he led the live broadcast of Sunday Worship on Radio 4. John is a former Vice-President of the Oxford Jewish Congregation, where he conducts OxfordShir, the choir he founded 24 years ago. He is a now remote supporter of Reading FC.

## **The Septuagint: The Hebrew Bible in Greek Dress**

**Talk**

**Jan Joosten**

**Room 2**

Translating the Torah into Greek, at the beginning of the Hellenistic period ( $\pm 275$  BCE), was a momentous undertaking. The lecture will present the historical circumstances of the translation and the way it affected the message of the Hebrew scriptures.

Prof. Jan Joosten is a Biblical scholar. Since 2014, he has been Regius Professor of Hebrew at the University of Oxford. He was previously Professor of the Old Testament at the University of Strasbourg. He is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature.

## **Are religions properly protected by human rights law?**

**Talk**

**John Bowers**

**Room 3**

I will take several cases to illustrate protection of religions in human rights law

John Bowers Principal of Brasenose College Oxford, a member of Littleton Chambers and a Deputy High Court Judge.

## **The Disappearance of the INS DAKAR. A 50 Year Mystery**

**Talk/discussion**

**Andrew Levine**

**Room 5**

Come and learn about the mystery of the Israeli Submarine DAKAR – which left Portsmouth in 1968. Along the way it disappeared and was never heard from again. What happened to the 69 Crew? Why did it take 30 years to find her? What can we learn from the wreckage: Was it sabotage, Cold War espionage or Mechanical failure?

Andrew Levine is an Entrepreneur and accomplished Public Speaker on topics ranging from Business Strategy to Jewish Ethics and their applicability to today's challenges. In this session, Andrew brings to life the Social-Political tensions of the Cold War and the human stories of the DAKARs sailors.

## **Thank God for not making me a slave**

**Talk/Discussion**

**Hannah Swirsky**

**Room 6**

Slavery looms large in Jewish text, history and memory. But slavery is not something of the past. It is happening here and now. In this session we will examine what modern day slavery looks like in 2018 and the role that our community should play in tackling and ending modern day slavery.

Hannah Swirsky is Campaigns Officer at René Cassin, a charity working to promote and protect universal human rights, drawing on Jewish experience and values. We achieve this by campaigning for change in defined human rights areas – through a combination of advocacy, policy analysis, public campaigning and education and building the capacity of activists to promote and protect human rights.

## **Revelation of a hidden God: Connections between Shavuot and Purim**

**Talk/discussion**

**Shira Solomons**

**Room 7**

We all know the story of receiving the Torah on Mount Sinai, right? Yet the Sages teach that it was actually on Purim that we really received the Torah. Discover how book of Esther teaches us that the most powerful revelations of God can happen when God is so hidden he does not even get mentioned once.

Community Director at the Jewish Community of Berkshire in Reading, Shira organises cheder, community events, and Judaism talks at schools. She is passionate about practical spirituality and Jewish education that enables children, women, and men to expand their intellectual and spiritual horizons.

# Session 2: 11:15 – 12:15

## Greatest War Poet?

Talk Janet Lawson & Louise Robinson Room 1

In 2017 the Royal Mail commemorated the First World War with a range of stamps and included one that had an extract from 'Dead Man's Dump' one of Isaac Rosenberg's now celebrated poems. In this session we will discuss how the works of an immigrant Jew whose first language was Yiddish became placed on a par with those of Sassoon, Owen and Graves.

Janet Lawson is the great niece of Isaac Rosenberg - her grandmother was Isaac's sister. Although he died a generation before Janet was born, Isaac was always a presence in the house as his self-portraits would brood and stare out from the family's walls. Louise joins Janet analysing and reading the poems in a tribute to one of the lives wasted by what was meant to be the war to end all others.

## Josephus on trial

Talk Martin Goodman Room 2

The writings of Josephus are the primary source of our knowledge of Jewish history in the late Second Temple period, but for the last two centuries many Jews have treated his evidence as tainted because of his political career during and after the Jewish war against Rome which ended in the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE. The lecture will examine the origins of Jewish hostility to Josephus and the ambivalence of Jewish attitudes to his worth as a historian over the past two centuries

Martin Goodman is Professor of Jewish Studies in the University of Oxford and President of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies. His most recent book is *A History of Judaism*, published by Allen Lane/Penguin in 2017.

## Noah's Ark : The Real Story

Talk Norman Solomon Room 3

We all read the same Torah. Or do we? Orthodox, Masorti and Reform congregations now have their own, separate commentaries. I shall use those commentaries to demonstrate how the Torah text has now been utilised to support contrary agendas.

Norman Solomon has been in turn a United Synagogue Rabbi, an Interfaith Consultant, and a University Lecturer, latterly at Oxford. His books include *A Very Short Introduction to Judaism*, *A Historical Dictionary of the Jewish Religion*, *the Penguin Classics Talmud Selection*, and most recently *Torah from Heaven: The Reconstruction of Faith*.

## Can we Believe the Media?

Talk/discussion Nomi Benari & Sami Hussein Room 5

We are often misled by the media. Why and how does this happen, and how can we defend ourselves against the misinformation? With numerous visual examples.

Nomi and Sami work for Middle East Education (MEEDU), giving talks together in schools on *The Arab-Israeli conflict Both Sides of the Story* and *What is happening in the Middle East?*

## Mindfulness for better living

Talk + practice Hagit Amsterdam Room 6

In this talk, we'll walk through different theories and scientific findings, experience at least 3 different mindfulness practises which lead to peace of mind and inner clarity and will get practical tips and tools on how to bring more mindfulness to our daily life and boost our well-being.

Hagit Amsterdam is a mindfulness specialist and teacher who's spent years travelling, practising and consulting around the world. Originally from a Kibbutz in Israel, she holds a degree in Psychology and Political Science and a Masters in Conflict Resolution from the Hebrew University.

## Jews and the Suffrage movement

Talk Sybil Sheridan Room 7

As we celebrate 100 years since women first had the vote in England, let's look at the role the Jewish community played in the debate. Find out what happened when suffragettes interrupted a synagogue service on Yom Kippur, when one of the Anglo Jewish aristocracy gave Winston Churchill a whipping – and what the Rabbis at the time thought of it all.

Sybil Sheridan was formerly Rabbi at the Reading Liberal Jewish Community. She is now Rabbi at the West London Synagogue and Newcastle Reform Synagogue. She is chair of the charity MEKETA, set up to support Ethiopia's remaining Jewish community in Gondar.

# Morning Sessions

	<b>Session 1</b> 10:00 – 11:00	<b>Session 2</b> 11:15 – 12:15	<b>Session 3</b> 12:30 – 13:30
<b>Room 1</b>	<p><b>J S Bach and the Jews</b></p> <p><b>John Dunston</b> Talk with Q&amp;A Music/History</p>	<p><b>Greatest War Poet?</b></p> <p><b>Janet Lawson &amp; Louise Robinson</b> Talk Poetry/History</p>	<p><b>A promised land: those who dared to dream</b></p> <p><b>David Finlay</b> Performance Israel/History/Poetry</p>
<b>Room 2</b>	<p><b>The Septuagint: The Hebrew Bible in Greek Dress</b></p> <p><b>Jan Joosten</b> Talk History</p>	<p><b>Josephus on trial</b></p> <p><b>Martin Goodman</b> Talk History</p>	<p><b>Text, Tradition and Creativity - How to Write Your Own Commentary</b></p> <p><b>Francis Nataf</b> Talk/discussion Text/Religion/Faith</p>
<b>Room 3</b>	<p><b>Are religions properly protected by human rights law?</b></p> <p><b>John Bowers</b> Talk Law</p>	<p><b>Noah's Ark : The Real Story</b></p> <p><b>Norman Solomon</b> Talk Text/Religion/Faith</p>	<p><b>Martin Luther and the Jews</b></p> <p><b>Henry Cohn</b> Talk History</p>
<b>Room 5</b>	<p><b>The Disappearance of the INS DAKAR. A 50 Year Mystery</b></p> <p><b>Andrew Levine</b> Talk/discussion Israel/History/Poetry</p>	<p><b>Can we Believe the Media?</b></p> <p><b>Nomi Benari &amp; Sami Hussein</b> Talk/discussion Contemporary/Israel</p>	<p><b>An Introduction to Jewish Genealogy</b></p> <p><b>Leigh Dworkin</b> Talk with Q&amp;A Genealogy</p>
<b>Room 6</b>	<p><b>Thank God for not making me a slave</b></p> <p><b>Hannah Swirsky</b> Talk/Discussion Social Action</p>	<p><b>Mindfulness for better living</b></p> <p><b>Hagit Amsterdam</b> Talk + practice Self development</p>	<p><b>Humanitarian Issues In the Drive for Peace</b></p> <p><b>Jonathan Taylor</b> Talk Contemporary/Israel</p>
<b>Room 7</b>	<p><b>Revelation of a hidden God: Connections between Shavuot and Purim</b></p> <p><b>Shira Solomons</b> Talk/discussion Contemporary</p>	<p><b>Jews and the Suffrage movement</b></p> <p><b>Sybil Sheridan</b> Talk History</p>	<p><b>An exciting new treatment for dementia - invented in Israel</b></p> <p><b>Danny Allen</b> Talk Science/Technology</p>
<b>Hall</b>			
<b>Lounge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tea &amp; Coffee</li> <li>• Social area</li> <li>• Shuk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tea &amp; Coffee</li> <li>• Social area</li> <li>• Shuk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tea &amp; Coffee</li> <li>• Social area</li> <li>• Shuk</li> </ul>

# Afternoon Sessions

Lunch 13:30	Session 4 14:15 – 15:15	Session 5 15:30 – 16:30	Session 6 16:45 – 18:00	
	<p><b>How did the Labour Party get into such a mess over Israel, Jews and antisemitism?</b></p> <p><b>Luke Akehurst</b> Talk Politics</p>	<p><b>Confessions of a Rabbi</b></p> <p><b>Jonathan Romain</b> Interactive talk Community</p>		Room 1
	<p><b>Our place in the ecosystem</b></p> <p><b>Zvi Solomons</b> Talk/discussion Text/Religion/Faith</p>	<p><b>Jewish Almanac – Creating your very own life-story</b></p> <p><b>Marvin Shaw</b> Talk/Workshop Self development</p>		Room 2
	<p><b>'No Asylum for Infiltrators': Israel's dysfunctional asylum system</b></p> <p><b>Ruvi Ziegler</b> Talk Contemporary/Israel</p>	<p><b>Hidden objects, hidden lives: uncovering Jewish history in the Ashmolean Museum</b></p> <p><b>Rebecca Abrams</b> Talk History</p>		Room 3
	<p><b>Letters, secrets, and survival: A family story through and beyond the London blitz</b></p> <p><b>Sherron Mayes</b> Talk with Q&amp;A Literature/history</p>	<p><b>WIZO's Centenary – Going Forward Another 100 Years</b></p> <p><b>Ronit Ribak Madari &amp; Maureen Fisher</b> Talk/discussion Social Action</p>		Room 5
	<p><b>Overseas support for the 21st century: the art of giving and volunteering</b></p> <p><b>Hila Bram &amp; Sybil Sheridan</b> Talk/Discussion Social Action</p>	<p><b>Call the Midwife: Midwifery in the Bible and Talmud</b></p> <p><b>Sarah Montagu</b> Talk Text/Religion</p>		Room 6
14:00 Mincha in Room 8		<p><b>Esther and Feminism - Unravelling the Purim Megillah</b></p> <p><b>Stephen Games</b> Talk Text/Literature/History</p>		Room 7
	<p><b>Israeli Dancing</b></p> <p><b>Annita Tischler</b> Dancing</p>		<p><b>The Crowning Glory: Multiplying Our Learning</b></p> <p><b>Clive Lawton</b></p>	Hall
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tea &amp; Coffee</li> <li>• Social area</li> <li>• Shuk</li> </ul>			Lounge

# Session 3: 12:30 – 13:30

## **A promised land: those who dared to dream**      **Performance**      **David Finlay**      **Room 1**

As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the creation of the State of Israel David Finlay brings to life the drama of the years leading up to this epic event in his specially written performance piece. Drawing on the writings and speeches of those who were at the centre of these events including Herzl, Weizmann, Ben Gurion, Rabin and many others the performance brings to life the hopes and plans of those who dared to dream a Jewish homeland could be a reality.

David is a writer and performer of story songs and performance pieces on aspects of Jewish history. He is a former leader of the Jewish Youth Voluntary Service and is currently a volunteer for Tzedek, the Jewish charity which supports overseas projects. He is also Chair of the National Youth Agency.

## **Text, Tradition and Creativity - How to Write Your Own Commentary**      **Talk/discussion**      **Francis Nataf**      **Room 2**

We will be looking at the forgotten and major role personal creativity has played in traditional Torah study. After examining various sources celebrating creativity in the Jewish tradition, participants will engage in a short workshop designed to develop their own creative juices to interpret Jewish texts.

Rabbi Francis Nataf is writer, educator and translator.

## **Martin Luther and the Jews**      **Talk**      **Henry Cohn**      **Room 3**

In 1517 Luther began his breach with the Papacy. Was he a precursor of the Nazis or just a man of his times in his attitudes towards Jews and Judaism? Putting Luther in the context of medieval antisemitism and the political and economic turmoil of his day, this talk will provide not a whitewash for a controversial figure but some shades of grey.

Dr Henry Cohn, historian and lecturer, has taught at Glasgow, Leicester and (mostly) Warwick universities. He is a member of Birmingham Progressive Synagogue and Alyth Reform Synagogue, having made aliya to north London a few years ago.

## **An Introduction to Jewish Genealogy**      **Talk with Q&A**      **Leigh Dworkin**      **Room 5**

If you have investigated your family tree, or always intended to do so but never got around to it, come and hear the Jewish Genealogy session and learn what you can find out about the sweep of Jewish history and geography, new languages and just why genealogy can be so addictive as you research your ancestors.

Know them to truly know yourself. Who do you think you are?!

Leigh Dworkin has been Chairman of the JGSGB since May 2016.

He is a passionate amateur genealogist and has been working on his own family tree for about 35 years. Genealogically speaking, he considers himself to be  $\frac{5}{8}$ th Polish,  $\frac{1}{4}$  Lithuanian and  $\frac{1}{8}$ th Belarusian, judging by his great-grandparents' nationalities, which is far more interesting and exotic than being just an Essex lad.

## **Humanitarian Issues In the Drive for Peace**      **Talk**      **Jonathan Taylor**      **Room 6**

MEEDU is educating students in British schools and Universities that both sides need to work for peace to ensure a long-term solution to the Arab-Israel conflict.

In an attempt to keep the momentum for a drive for peace, Israel is endeavouring to maintain a humanitarian approach with its own people and with its neighbours.

Jonathan Taylor was born and educated in the UK, spent an extended period living in Israel, including serving in the Israel Defence Forces.

Member of MEEDU Presenting Team educating students in British Schools and Universities

## **An exciting new treatment for dementia - invented in Israel**      **Talk**      **Danny Allen**      **Room 7**

A description of RTMS - Coq, an evidence-based treatment, which reverse symptoms in mild to moderate dementia.

Danny Allen has worked for over 23 years as a consultant psychiatrist. He is currently a liaison psychiatrist at Stoke Mandeville and Wycombe and has a private practice near Beaconsfield.

# Session 4: 14:15 – 15:15

## How did the Labour Party get into such a mess over Israel, Jews and antisemitism? **Talk**

Luke Akehurst uses his unique insider knowledge as a former Labour National Executive member and expert on the forces behind anti-Zionism to explain how and why the Labour Party has got into such a dire predicament regarding Israel, Jews and antisemitism.

**Luke Akehurst** **Room 1**

Luke has been Director of *We Believe in Israel* since 2011. *We Believe in Israel* is a BICOM initiative and is a broad coalition of over 16,000 supporters of Israel.

## Our place in the ecosystem **Talk/discussion**

Vegetarianism and veganism have become more popular in recent years. What do traditional Jewish texts have to say about the way we relate to animals, and our place in the ecosystem. This session will examine meat, farming, hunting and the sacrificial system.

**Zvi Solomons** **Room 2**

Zvi is the founding Rabbi of the Jewish Community of Berkshire, the only Orthodox community in the Thames Valley with its own rabbi. He and Shira run a lively Cheder (Sunday school) and their community has grown fast since it was founded in 2015. For more details contact Rabbi@JCob.org

## 'No Asylum for Infiltrators': Israel's dysfunctional asylum system **Talk**

The session takes stock of the legal predicament of Eritreans and Sudanese asylum-seekers in Israel through the lens of an academic advising NGOs and engaged in public advocacy. It explores the paradox of a country that played a role in drafting the refugee convention but never enacted asylum legislation, reflecting on how Israel treats (uninvited) non-Jewish arrivals.

**Ruvi Ziegler** **Room 3**

Dr Reuven (Ruvi) Ziegler is an Associate Professor in International Refugee Law at the University of Reading, School of Law, where he is Director of the Global LLM programmes in Human Rights, International Law, and Advanced Legal Studies.

Ruvi is an Academic Fellow of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple; Convenor of the 'Civil Liberties and Human Rights' Section of the Society of Legal Scholars; Editor-in-Chief of the Refugee Law Initiative (Institute for Advance Legal Study, University of London) Working Paper Series; and a Researcher at the Israel Democracy Institute, analysing the treatment of asylum seekers in Israel as part of the Democratic Principles project.

## Letters, secrets, and survival: A family story through and beyond the London blitz **Talk with Q&A**

After discovering her mother's memoirs after her death, and becoming aware of her own Jewish ancestry, Sherron tells how this inspired her new novel, *Letters to the Pianist*. Part biographical, part fiction, the author explores her mother's survival after she was orphaned in the blitz, and why she chose to make her the unlikely heroine of her WWII story.

**Sherron Mayes** **Room 5**

Sherron Mayes – Author and Journalist

## Overseas support for the 21st century: the art of giving and volunteering **Talk/Discussion**

How do we achieve Moses Maimonides highest level of charitable giving so that the recipient need never ask again?

The charitable world today has gone a long way since the days of Lady bountiful. Giving aid is fraught with difficulties. How can we make sure that what we give is not wasted, that our intervention is not counterproductive, and that we foster good relations with the locals that we leave behind?

We will use examples from the challenges and achievements we have faced in providing support for the Jewish community in Gondar in Northern Ethiopia in the areas of education and economic wellbeing.

**Hila Bram & Sybil Sheridan** **Room 6**

Hila and Sybil are co-founders of a small charity, Meketa, supporting the Jewish community in Gondar in Northern Ethiopia.

## Israeli Dancing **Dancing**

Come and experience a session where Israeli culture and the rhythmic language of dance are intertwined to enhance our connection as the Jewish people! A selection of both traditional, modern, circle and line dances. A fun, musical, active session is promised and no previous experience is required!

**Annita Tischler** **Hall**

Annita has been doing Israeli Dancing for the last ten years and enjoys teaching children at some of the London Jewish Schools and other one off events under the umbrella of the Israeli Dance Institute. She has also taken groups of dancers to entertain at various Jewish Care Homes over the years.

# Session 5: 15:30 – 16:30

## Confessions of a Rabbi

Interactive talk

Jonathan Romain

Room 1

Congregational life is laid bare, and the true life of a rabbi is revealed: a rollercoaster of crises, emotional traumas, moral dilemmas, attempts at seduction, multiple murders, Machiavellian families, funerals that go wrong, weddings that are hijacked, and fighting a way through other people's sexual fantasies. It will be an interactive session.

Rabbi, writer and broadcaster, Jonathan Romain is minister of Maidenhead Synagogue. He is chaplain to the Jewish Police Association, chair of the Accord Coalition (campaigning for inclusive education) and a Patron of Dignity in Dying. His latest book is *Confessions of a Rabbi*.

## Jewish Almanac – Creating your very own life-story

Talk/Workshop

Marvin Shaw

Room 2

Jewish Almanac is an exciting new project conceived and developed by Jewish self-help author Marvin J Shaw. Discover how by combining Jewish teachings, natural creativity and simple relaxation techniques, we can literally re-create our life whilst boosting our emotional and mental health.

Marvin J Shaw is a Jewish philosopher, author and poet. *Mindful Judaism – A Jewish Guide to Beating Stress and Anxiety* (2017) is his fifth ground-breaking book. Marvin's mission is to promote mental and emotional well-being through Jewish teachings, simple relaxation techniques and the creative arts.

## Hidden objects, hidden lives: uncovering Jewish history in the Ashmolean Museum

Talk

Rebecca Abrams

Room 3

Amongst the treasures in Oxford's Ashmolean Museum is a collection of remarkable but little-known Jewish artefacts, spanning 4000 years of Jewish history. This talk shines a light on some of these 'hidden' Jewish objects, and reveals the stories of hidden Jewish lives that they in turn contain.

Rebecca Abrams is an award-winning author and journalist. Her titles include *The Jewish Journey: 4000 years in 22 objects*, *Touching Distance*, *The Playful Self*, *Woman In a Man's World* and *When Parents Die*. She is Writer-in-Residence at Brasenose College, University of Oxford and a literary critic for the Financial Times.

## WIZO's Centenary – Going Forward Another 100 Years

Talk/discussion

Ronit Ribak Madari & Maureen Fisher

Room 5

The presentation will be about WIZO past and present and highlight how people can become involved with this great charity.

WIZO Vice-Chairman

## Call the Midwife: Midwifery in the Bible and Talmud

Talk

Sarah Montagu

Room 6

Sources from the Bible and Talmud which reveal the rabbis' understanding of birth, and human development and show that midwifery has a far better claim to be the oldest profession.

Sarah read Hebrew studies at Cambridge but retrained as a midwife after the birth of her first 3 children. She practiced for 20 years in the NHS and independently and took early retirement from the NHS in 2014. She currently teaches a *Judaism 101* course at Oxford Jewish Congregation and works part-time as the OJC Centre Manager.

## Esther and Feminism - Unravelling the Purim Megillah

Talk

Stephen Games

Room 7

The Book of Esther is one of only two biblical works that makes no mention of God (The Song of Songs is the other). Why is that? Why would the editors of the Bible include a story about the survival of the Jewish people in the face of almost certain destruction, and not publicly attribute it to divine providence? In this new and revelatory analysis, the designer and historian Stephen Games looks closely at the curiosities of the book as a piece of literature and of political history, and identifies two different authors with two agendas and not a lot of common ground.

Stephen Games is a designer with a doctorate from Cambridge in architectural historian. He is an award-winning architecture critic for the Guardian, arts reporter for the Independent, and a broadcaster for BBC Radio 3. Last summer he ran the first multi-disciplinary conference at the RIBA on the consequences of the Grenfell Tower fire.

# Session 6: 16:45 – 18:00

## The Crowning Glory: Multiplying Our Learning

In this closing session, Clive will lead us all far more deeply than we might have expected into all that this Limmud has been

Clive Lawton

Hall

Clive is Limmud's Senior Consultant, having been one of its founders in 1980. He is scholar in residence at the London Jewish Cultural Centre, a broadcaster and writer, and a magistrate on the North London Bench. He works worldwide as an educational consultant, within and without the Jewish world.

## Forthcoming Limmud Events



Limmud Bristol SW will be the first Limmud event in the South West of England .

### Topics include:

Jews & Atlantic Slavery, The Jewess as Pariah, Archaeology & the Bible, the Jewish response to the refugee crisis, Stanley Kubrick, How many ways can you sing Kaddish?

Limmud Bristol SW will be held at®

Bristol Cathedral Choir School, College Square, Bristol BS1 5TS

Please go to [www.limmudbristolsw.co.uk](http://www.limmudbristolsw.co.uk) for more information and a link to our Facebook page. If you want to contact us, please email [info@limmudbristolsw.co.uk](mailto:info@limmudbristolsw.co.uk)

Early bird discounts end 8th May 2018. You'll find a link to the booking form on our website.

Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018



## Limmud Cambridge



Save the Date

Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2018



## Limmud Festival 2018

23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> December

Shabbat 21–22 December

Booking opens summer 2018!

# Floor Plan and Site Map

