

Around Alyth

January 2016

Learn with us in 2016

Make 2016 your year of Jewish learning. In January we will be welcoming interesting guest teachers who along with our own rabbis will create opportunities for us to study, debate and discover together.

Scholar-in-Residence: Rabbi Dr Michael Marmor

We are delighted to welcome Rabbi Dr Michael Marmor back to Alyth. Michael is the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Provost of the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, responsible for coordinating the pedagogic and academic activities across HUC-JIR's four campuses in Israel and America. From the age of 7 (when his father Dow became our rabbi) until his late teens, he was a child of Alyth. Michael teaches homiletics and Jewish thought and lectures on a variety of themes around the world. His book Abraham Joshua Heschel and the Sources of Wonder is due for publication later in 2016.

Special Talmud Class - Tradition and Rebellion

Thursday 21 January, 13:00-14:15

We will look at a section from Tractate Nedarim in the Babylonian Talmud and consider the ways it presents questions of conformity and non-conformity.

Teaching Rabbis Then and Now

Thursday 21 January, 20:00-22:00

What do rabbis need to know and how should they go about learning it? Join Michael and our own Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris, Principal of Leo Baeck College as they discuss the challenges of Rabbinic education in ancient times and today, starting with an ancient tradition about Rabbinic training.

How do we think about God in the 21st Century?

Friday 22 January, 17:15-18:15

In the course of the last five decades a great deal has changed in Jewish life. Has our way of thinking and talking about God kept pace with these changes? This session will run in parallel with Ruach and may be of special interest to parents of B'nei Mitzvah who are thinking about the role of God in their lives and life cycle events.

Shabbat Shiur - Heschel Reads the Weekly Portion

Saturday 23 January, 09:15-10:15

Some key verses and motifs of this week's portion will be considered from the perspective of Abraham Joshua Heschel (1907-1972) one of the most significant Jewish thinkers of the twentieth century.

Special Guest Sessions:

Shabbat Shiur with Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers

Shabbat Shiur: From COP21 to SHVAT15 - Is climate change the Jewish issue of our time?

Saturday 09 January, 09:15-10:15

As we prepare to enter the month of Shvat, during which we celebrate Tu B'Shvat, the New Year for Trees, join Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers (Community Educator at the Movement for Reform Judaism) for a shiur looking at a range of texts to explore environmental ethics in Jewish tradition. This leads us to ask, do the commitments made in Paris last month reflect our Jewish ideals?

Israel Conversation with Gershon Baskin

Alyth's Israel Conversation: Will we be Zionists in 2030?

Monday 25 January, 20:00-22:00

What will the relationship between Israel and the UK Jewish community look like in 15 years time? Is there any hope of a peaceful coexistence? How might Israeli civil society evolve? Join one of Israel's foremost activists and commentators, Gershon Baskin in conversation with two of our future leaders, Deborah Blausten (student rabbi at Leo Baeck College) and Arieh Miller (Executive Director of the Zionist Federation).

New Short Courses "Judaism - The Essentials: Jewish History"

Wednesdays 20:00 - 21:45

The first in a new programme of short courses for those looking to consolidate the learning of a lifetime, or coming to Judaism afresh. The courses will run on Wednesday evenings in term time, with introductory sessions on the Jewish festivals interspersed throughout the course at appropriate times in the calendar. Taught by Alyth's rabbis with Jon Epstein. For more information or to sign up for the course, please contact josh@alyth.org.uk.

January

- 06 Epoch Changing Moments in Jewish history
- 13 Anglo Jewish history (with Jon Epstein)
- 20 The Jewish Year: Tu B'Shvat and Jewish Environmental Ethics
- 27 18 Figures in Jewish History of whom you should have heard

February

- 3 Movements, denominations: Historical forces/new challenges
- 10 The 20th Century Jewish Experience in Jewish life

The course will end with a trip to the British Museum with Rabbi Josh on Sunday morning, 14 February. Book with josh@alyth.org.uk.

We will also enjoy special guest sermons from **Rabbi Ron Kronish**, the Founding Director and Senior Advisor, for the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel, **Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers** and **Rabbi Dr Michael Marmor**. To mark Holocaust Memorial Day we welcome **Professor Michael Berkowitz**, Professor of Modern Jewish History at UCL and expert in the Armenian Genocide.

To pray. To learn.
To live. Together

Please find all staff contact details on the back page



Pray with us

Weekday Services

Sunday Shacharit

Sundays 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 January, 09:00-10:00

Our lay-led minyan followed by a bagel breakfast.

Evening Services 19:45

Evening services take place before meetings. If you would like evening prayers for the purpose of saying Kaddish, please contact bonnie@alyth.org.uk.

Erev Shabbat Services

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Fridays 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 January, 18:30-19:30

01 Led by Rabbi Colin and Louis Graham.

08 Led by Rabbi Josh with the Alyth Youth Singers.

15 Led by Rabbi Josh.

22 Led by Rabbi Josh with the Kids Choir and D'var Torah by Rabbi Dr Michael Marmur.

29 Led by Rabbi Josh.

The Shabbat Den

Friday 8 January, 16:15-16:45

A new Shabbat experience for pre-schoolers and their families with Chloe, our early-years educator and Rabbi Josh. Join us for song, stories and to meet new friends in Alyth's Shabbat Den.

Shabbat Morning Services

Saturday 02 January

Shabbat Service, 10:30-12:15

The sermon will be given by Rabbi Ron Kronish.

Saturday 09 January

Classical Shabbat Service, 10:30-12:15

Kollot, 10:30-12:00

Our informal, participatory minyan, mostly in Hebrew, chanted and sung. Includes a supervised area for children.

The Sermon and Kollot D'var Torah will be given by Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers.

Saturday 16 January

Classical Shabbat Service, 10:30-12:15

Big Bang, 11:00-12:00

Alyth's famous musical Shabbat experience with Rabbi Josh and the Big Bang musicians.

Saturday 23 January

Classical Shabbat Service, 10:30-12:15

Kollot, 10:30-12:00

Our informal, participatory minyan, mostly in Hebrew, chanted and sung. Includes a supervised area for children.

The Sermon and Kollot D'var Torah will be given by Rabbi Dr Michael Marmur.

Saturday 30 January

Classical Shabbat Service, 10:30-12:15

Special this month

Saturday 30 January

Tefillah Jam, 11:00-12:00

Bring your instruments and your voices to the Alyth Tefillah Jam. Join Rabbi Josh to learn six prayers from different parts of the morning liturgy before we 'jam' them together. Contact josh@alyth.org.uk to get a copy of the music in advance.

Learn with us

NEW Judaism – The Essentials: Jewish History

Wednesdays, 20:00-21:45

A new programme of short courses for those looking to consolidate the learning of a lifetime or coming to Judaism afresh. Taught by Alyth's rabbis with Jon Epstein. See the front page for more information. Contact josh@alyth.org.uk to sign up for the course.

NEW Hebrew reading from Scratch Wednesdays from 20 January, 19:00-20:00

Taught by Alyth member Jan Roseman, who has been one of the UK's leading Synagogue-based Jewish educators for the last few decades. Take an hour a week in term time to learn to read Hebrew from scratch. There is a small fee for the class of £100 for the term, which includes the cost of the text book. For more information, or to sign up, contact josh@alyth.org.uk.

Talmud Class

Thursdays 7, 14, 21, 28 January, 13:00-14:15

Our stimulating and friendly class which is open to all levels of Jewish knowledge. While Rabbi Mark is on sabbatical the class will be taught by Rabbi Colin, who will be joined by Rabbi Dr Michael Marmur on 21 January. Contact colin@alyth.org.uk.

Special this month

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Saturday 09 January, 09:15-10:15

Join Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers as we prepare to enter the month of Shvat, during which we celebrate Tu B'Shvat.

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With Rabbi Dr Michael Marmur, this session will run in parallel with the Ruach programme and may be of special interest to parents of B'nei Mitzvah who are thinking about the role of God in their lives and life cycle.

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Alyth's Israel Conversation: Will we be Zionists in 2030?

Monday 25 January, 20:00-22:00

What will the relationship between Israel and the UK Jewish Community look like in 15 years time? Join Gershon Baskin (one of the most recognisable names in the Middle East Peace process who was responsible for the secret back channel between Israel and the Hamas that successfully negotiated the release of Israeli abducted soldier Gilad Schalit) in conversation with Deborah Blausten and Arieh Miller.

Please see the front page for more information about this month's special learning programme.

Be with us

Weekly Activities

Senior Club Mondays, 14:00-16:00

Weekly activity and tea for our senior members.

04 Quiz with Rachel

11 Paul Coleman entertains

18 Norman Factor "What do you know about London"

25 Barry Leigh entertains

Alyth Choral Society Tuesdays, 20:00-22:00

Exploring new repertoire while continuing to develop strengths in cantata and oratorio. www.alythchoralsociety.org.

Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Wednesdays, 20:00-21:00

Peace, quiet, contemplation and meditation in our Alyth Meditation Room.

Mellow Yoga for All Ages Thursdays, 11:00-12:00

Contact Maxine Levy maxinelevy@mac.com or 07957 270899.

Thursday Bridge@Alyth Thursdays, 14:00-16:30

Please contact Sheila or Michael on 020 8455 9878 or Andrea on 020 7722 3993.

Synagogue Choir Rehearsal

Saturdays 16 & 30 January, 09:00-10:00

We are always happy to welcome new members who are interested in learning about the liturgy and music of our service. Please contact katie@alyth.org.uk if you are interested in joining the choir.

Monthly Activities

Sunday Bridge@Alyth Sunday 3 January, 19:00-22:00

For more information please contact Clive on 020 8361 5711.

Alyth Cycling Community Sunday 10 January, 08:30-13:00

We meet at Alyth at 08:15 and leaves at 08:30. For registration and more information please email laurancemendoza@aol.com.

News, Views, Coffee & Schmooze

Wednesdays 6 & 20 January, 13:30-15:30

Join Lynette to discuss topical issues and stories. Contact lynette@alyth.org.uk.

Rosh Chodesh Women's Group: Being a Rabbi in the Navy

Tuesday 12 January, 20:00-21:30

Our monthly celebration of the new moon in which women gather for sharing, learning and discussions. This month we are at a private home in Finchley and are pleased to welcome Rabbi Daniella Kolodny who will speak to us about being the first female Rabbi to the United States Navy. Contact Jackie Goymour at honeyhill@btinternet.com.

Coffee House Poetry Evening

Wednesday 20 January, 20:00-21:30

Bring your favourite poem to share and discuss over delicious coffee and cake in a convivial atmosphere. Contact viv@alyth.org.uk.

Singing for Pleasure Sunday 24 January, 15:00-17:00

Viv will guide you through the vocal and musical requirements to enable you to have a great time singing. Contact viv@alyth.org.uk.

Special this month

New Year's Day Ramble, Friday 1 January, 10:30-16:00

Walk through the Chiltern Hills and Woods (6 miles). Some hill climbs but not steep with lunch in The Fox and Hounds Pub, Christmas Common, OX49 5HL. Contact viv@alyth.org.uk.

AYS at Barnet Council's Holocaust Memorial Day

Sunday 17 January, 13:00

Alyth Youth Singers are proud to once again be the chosen as the youth choir at Barnet Council's Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration. Contact katie@alyth.org.uk for details of the performance.

CST Security Training

Sundays 24 & 31 January, 10:00-13:00

CST are running a two morning training course at Alyth for anybody who volunteers on security. Sign up with bonnie@alyth.org.uk by Monday 18 January.

Holocaust Memorial Day: The Armenian Genocide - exploring the photographic heritage.

Wednesday 27 January, 20:00-21:30

This year to mark Holocaust Memorial Day Alyth welcomes guest speaker, Michael Berkowitz, Professor of Modern Jewish History at UCL and expert in the Armenian Genocide.

Act with us

Monday Club

Mondays 11, 18, 25 January, 19:30-21:30

Our weekly club for people with learning difficulties.

Monthly Drop-in for Recent Refugees

Sunday 31 January, 14:00-16:00

We welcome refugees recently arrived in the UK and offer them support and friendship in a warm and safe environment. To volunteer please contact bonnie@alyth.org.uk.

Together in Barnet Winter Shelter

Tuesday nights January - March

We are part of this exciting project to provide a warm meal and place to sleep during the winter months. If you would like to cook a meal or help to move bedding from one venue the next please contact nightshelter@alyth.org.uk.

Bar and Bat Mitzvah - January

09 Hannah Fairnington

16 Joshua May

23 Rosalind Hall

Mazel Tov to

Carly and Leor Klier on the birth of a son, a grandson for Zvia and Michael Klier.

Eve and Stephen Naftalin, on the birth of their twins, brother and sister for Hannah and Libby.

Lyle and Katie Schwartz, on the birth of Ava Grace Schwartz, a granddaughter for Peter and Barbara Backman.

We regret to announce the deaths of:

Robert Saunders, father of Susan Miller and Michael Saunders.

A warm welcome to our new members:

Katie Bobroff and Joel Kersen

Learn with us and Be with us - Youth & Education Hub

Please contact Sam Brunner for information about the provision for our younger members.

Youth & Education

Alyth Toddler Group *Mondays 11, 18, 25, 09:30-11:30*

Toys, singing and refreshments for the children; coffee and chat for carers! £3 per child, £1 for a sibling.

Year 7 Weekday Classes *Tuesdays or Thursdays, 17:30-18:30*

Our new Year 7 provision replacing the Sunday morning class. There is a choice of attending on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

Kef Zone *Wednesdays 6, 13, 27 January, 16:00-17:00*

Our weekly club for all children in Primary School.

Hadracha (Year 9) *Thursdays 14, 21, 28 January, 18:30-19:30*

Our creative, fun and intensive leadership course. Contact mike@alyth.org.uk.

Jewish Studies GCSE (Year 10) *Thursdays, 19:45-20:45*

Expand your Jewish knowledge and understanding.

Ruach Erev Shabbat *Fridays 8, 15, 22, 29 January, 16:15-19:30*

Our Friday afternoon B'nei Mitzvah programme.

Sunday Morning Galim *Sundays 10, 17, 24, 31 January, 10:00-12:45*

Our Sunday morning learning programme is a nourishing space for young people to build, develop and explore their Jewish identity.

Choirs & Drama

PACT - Upbeat Drama

Wednesdays, 17:00-17:30

(ages 4-7) If you like to sing, dance and act, then this musical theatre group is for you! Led by Jane Gordon from Upbeat Drama.

Alyth Children's Theatre

Wednesdays, 17:00-18:30

ACT, our children's theatre group for those in Years 3-7.

Alyth Youth Singers

Wednesdays, 18:45-20:00

AYS, our youth choir for all post B'nei Mitzvah.

Contact katie@alyth.org.uk.

Kids Choir

Fridays 8, 15, 22, 29 January, 17:30-18:00

For anyone aged 4-12 years old. Join us and sing regularly at the Erev Shabbat Service. Contact katie@alyth.org.uk.

Alyth Academy of Performing Arts

Sundays 10, 17, 24, 31 January, 18:00-21:00

Our drama group for 13-18 year olds.

Special this month

Mentoring Training

Sunday 10 January, 13:30-15:30

For everyone who has completed their B'nei Mitzvah journey and is looking for a great way to stay involved and make a difference. Join Mike, Alyth's Youth and Education Hub worker, as we take the first steps in becoming leaders and help others as they prepare for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah. To find out more about mentoring please contact mike@alyth.org.uk.

Year 6 Chavurah Supper

Friday 15 January, 18:30-21:30

Start your Bar/Bat Mitzvah journey by joining other families for a communal dinner. A great opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share. Contact sam@alyth.org.uk.

Tu B'Shvat Tea

Wednesday 20 January, 16:00-17:00

A festival tea for Primary School children full of Tu B'Shvat activities, songs and games (includes food). Contact chloe@alyth.org.uk.

Year 6 Bar & Bat Mitzvah Introduction Evening *Friday 15 January, 17:15-18:15*

Find out more about having a Bar or Bat Mitzvah at Alyth and what programmes are available for B'nei Mitzvah children. There will be a parallel session provided for your children at the same time.

Contact us

Rabbinic Team

Rabbi Josh	josh@alyth.org.uk	020 8457 8799
Rabbi Colin	colin@alyth.org.uk	020 8455 6763
Rabbi Maurice	maurice@alyth.org.uk	020 8455 6763
Rabbi Mark (on sabbatical)		

Community Director

Adam Martin	adam@alyth.org.uk	020 8457 8789
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Director of Welfare & Life Cycle

Lynette Sunderland	lynette@alyth.org.uk	020 8457 8793
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Head of Music & Arts

Katie Hainbach	katie@alyth.org.uk	020 8457 8797
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Fundraising & Development Co-ordinator

Sarah Langsford	sarah@alyth.org.uk	020 8457 8787
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Emeritus Director of Music

Viv Bellos	viv@alyth.org.uk	
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Youth & Education Hub

Sam Brunner	sam@alyth.org.uk	020 8457 8796
Mike Mendoza	mike@alyth.org.uk	020 8457 8782
Chloe Kimmel	chloe@alyth.org.uk	020 8457 8781
Yael Roberts	yael@alyth.org.uk	020 8457 8782
Farah Josephs	farah@alyth.org.uk	020 8457 8785

Community Administration Team

Bonnie Lemer	bonnie@alyth.org.uk	020 8457 8784
Lesley Lass	lesley@alyth.org.uk	020 8457 8786

Accounts Administrator

Lisa Kagan	lisa@alyth.org.uk	020 8457 8788
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Kindergarten

Cindy Summer	cindy@alyth.org.uk	020 8457 8792
Mita Khara	Kgadmin@alyth.org.uk	020 8457 8792

North Western Reform Synagogue

Alyth Gardens, London, NW11 7EN

T 020 8455 6763 F 020 8731 8175 E mail@alyth.org.uk

Out of hours emergency care line 07726 631 808

Copy date: 10th of every month. Please email comms@alyth.org.uk

www.alyth.org.uk