



# Kehillah

## NORTH LONDON

January 2016

Charity No. 1097713

## Newsletter

### Word from Rabbi Shulamit



The entire world is a very narrow bridge, but the crucial thing is not to be afraid.

There are the words of Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav, a Chassidic leader who knew quite a bit about facing up to hard times. Actually, what he says in Hebrew is, *lo l'fached klal*, which might mean not to fear at all, or it may mean not to fear *the all*. In other words, it is the totality of things, in Hebrew the *klal* that often seems too much. We know this feeling when we think about people in their millions who flee their homes looking for safety in Europe, or when we think about global warming. These are examples of *klal*, an entirety that is so difficult to process. The sensation changes when we are face to face with another human being, and the *klal* breaks down into the particular, or to a person. I felt that very strongly when we spent a morning exploring the different aspects of the current refugee crisis in November with Selam, Nick and Sue, Eritrean activist, journalist and campaigner respectively.

### Welcome to our new members

Betsy in Chingford,  
Robert and Omar in N16,  
Daniel and Ziporah in Central London,  
Ruth and James in Clapton,  
and baby Benjamin, son of Stephanie and Fabien, brother of David



Facing up to the real human experience in front of us makes us more able, I think, to keep on walking across that bridge, putting one foot in front of the other, thinking constructively about the future, and refusing to lose a sense of purpose. Indeed, the bridge itself can be a bridge of joy and creativity. It has been incredible to celebrate 13 years of our Kehillah, to see children born at our beginning now celebrating their own bar and bat mitzvah. To see faces that are only a few weeks old, as well as our own older (hopefully wiser) faces. To know that we are the future. Perhaps we are building this bridge and not just walking across.

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## Coming Up

23rd January **Shabbat morning service** 11am  
29th January **Come Shabbes with Me**, local Friday night dinner in Walthamstow, Archway, Central Hackney 7pm  
6th February **Shabbat morning service** with bar mitzvah of Matteo 11am  
20th February Creativity **Innovation Shabbat, creative art, printing, fabric painting** 11am  
26th February **Come Shabbes with Me** 7pm  
27th February, Kehillah Music Quest, **visiting the Kollot Service at Alyth** Synagogue, NW11 7EN, at 10.30am

Please note that Shabbat morning services and Innovation Shabbat events always take place on the 1st and 3rd Shabbat of the month, and Come Shabbes with me Friday nights on the last Friday of the month

## Children

**Creche** for children under 8 takes place whenever we have a Shabbat morning service at 11am.

**For older children, Hebrew classes** begin at 10am, and **cheder** begins at 11am on the following dates:  
23rd January, 6th and 20th February, 5th and 19th March, 2nd April.

**Welcome to Yaera Ratel, our new cheder teacher. Yaera comes from Paris, lives locally, and is a first year rabbinical student at Leo Baeck College**

Special Events in the next few months include **Kehillah cooks at the Hackney Winter Night Shelter on 4th February from 4.30pm**, venue information will be sent out in advance. This is a chance to cook as a team for the local shelter, supported by us as well as the churches and community groups of Hackney.

**Purim** children's creative extravaganza and tea on Thursday evening the 24th March, followed by drama and celebration for the whole community and dinner

**Pesach** Community seder will take place on the 23rd April

## Come Learn with US

**Adult Learning on Wednesday nights, with warmth, laughter, food, chocolate.... these sessions meet at a member's home so please contact Mel for details, see below. Hebrew at 7pm, and an in depth look at Torah and the Jewish Life Cycle at 8pm on 13th, 20th and 27th January, 3rd, 10th, 24th February, 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd March. The cost for our Adult Learning classes is either £15.00/£7.50 for non-members, or £10.00/£5.00 for members per session, depending on the type and length of course.**



## Kehillah Youth

It was cold, it was raining, but did that stop the launch of Kehillah youth? Of course not. On the first Sunday in January we went ice skating at JW3.



Now we are 13, it's really exciting to have enough teenagers to launch our own youth group, run and led by Kehillah members, for year 7 and older.

Next events are: **7th February Bowling** at Rowan's Tenpin bowl in Finsbury Park at 2pm; **6th March** we will be taking part in the Gender Cartography workshop at JW3; and on **29th April** we will hold a youth only **Come Shabbes Friday night dinner**.

We have a WhatsApp group



## Come Shabbes with Me....

When we launched Come Shabbes with me we wanted to bring ourselves together to get to know people in our neighbourhoods and to celebrate Shabbat in way that is closer to us. Nowadays we can say that yes, Come Shabbes in Hackney and in Archway/Finsbury Park meets regularly, and that Walthamstow has had some amazing gatherings. Stoke Newington is a struggle because the number of people is just too big. With more than 30 people coming along, it felt unmanageable to most of the hosts. As more than half of our members live in Stoke Newington and Stamford Hill or Tottenham, we need to create smaller groups. We also need help with car drivers offering lifts to people who live in the Manor House area. Can you host a small group? Can you offer a lift? [rabbi@kehillah.org.uk](mailto:rabbi@kehillah.org.uk)

## News Trip to the Palestine Exploration Fund in January

A handful of lucky participants were allowed to visit the Palestine Exploration fund in Central London with Dr Sandra Jacobs earlier this month. We were spellbound by Felicity Cobbing's presentation on the exploration of Jerusalem in the mid 19th century, and were lucky enough to see original photographs and drawings of both the old city (which was the only city in those days) above ground and watercolours of the tunnels.

The Palestine Exploration Fund regularly sponsors publications of articles as well as public lectures, and details are easy to find here <http://www.pef.org.uk/forthcominglectures/>



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# We are 13!

Kehillah North London celebrated our bat mitzvah in December with a special shabbat morning service co-led with our teenagers, and with special guest Rabbi Harry Jacobi, who had recently celebrated his 90th birthday. Rabbi Jacobi left us with a moving blessing at the end of the morning, and spoke about our special *ruach*, or spirit. The special kiddush included three cakes decorated by the youngest children. The following week, the New Community Rooms were full for a Mega Chanukkah Come Shabbes 13th birthday party, with Friday night dinner, candles, a magician and music. Special guest Rabbi Danny Rich, Liberal

Judaism's Chief Executive, spoke about our growth as a community and our connection to the wider LJ family.



**Rabbi Jacobi, Rabbi Shulamit and some of the co-leaders of the bat mitzvah service**

## How to Contact Us:

Melanie, Administrator -  
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020 8123 5752

Rabbi Shulamit Ambalu - [rabbi@kehillah.org.uk](mailto:rabbi@kehillah.org.uk) or 020 7403 3779

All our services take place at the following address, unless otherwise stated:

St Mary's New Community Rooms

Stoke Newington Church Street London N16 9ES

Address for Correspondence: 71-75 Shelton Street, Covent Garden, London WC2H 9JQ

## Stop Press

**Kehillah art project...**beginning in February, two innovation shabbat mornings will focus on creativity. Led by Miriam and Cath, we will use print making, fabric painting and appliqué to create our own arts works to transform the Community Rooms. Please email Melanie with answers to this question: which visual images express our Kehillah?