

Brighton & Hove Reform Synagogue

Sha'are Shalom

Brighton & Hove Reform Synagogue, Palmeira Avenue, Hove, East Sussex BN3 3GE
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Office hours: Monday to Thursday 9.30am—3.30pm, Friday 9.00am—2pm, Closed Tuesday afternoons
Charity No: 1155461



Michael Harris, Joint Chair

I am missing the services in our Shul. I mean the services when everyone is there physically. I hope you may agree that the services we have via

Zoom are about the best substitute you can get in the circumstances. Of course, some of you don't like the way the sound works, or have difficulty connecting, and simply don't like it! But for those of us who attend the regular services (even if you don't attend regularly, but occasionally), the Zoom service can surely never be more than second best. Getting to a service and chatting or schmoozing after (also before and even during!) is such a missing feature. But also, don't we miss seeing the Torah, and the ruach which comes from being together as we sing or say the prayers.

Your Council meets weekly at the moment and we debate what more can be done to improve the substitution whilst we persevere with the necessary restrictions on socialising. We are determined, if at all possible, to see a limited opening of the Synagogue for the High Holy Days. We are still working out the preferred format. We'll let you know as soon as we have solutions, solutions that will permit as many as possible to attend, albeit that numbers must necessarily be limited. Naturally, whatever the freedoms may be by September, and whatever precautions are put in place, we fully recognise that individuals will make their own decisions as to whether to attend or not. And, whatever we say and whatever we hope, everything we do will be subject to latest government requirements and recommendations. (Although I have to admit that I haven't always found it that easy to work out exactly what the changing requirements are!)

I am aware that there are some criticisms that we haven't done enough for members during this period when other organisations have. I have tried to explain our position. In particular we decided to throw much of our effort behind what the Sussex Jewish Representative Council (Rep Council/SJRC) was doing in terms of organising support. So, it appeared that support you were getting was from the Rep Council, and not us. But in a way it was us, at least it certainly included us.



I do want to emphasise again that what the Rep Council was doing included your own Synagogue's support and several of our members have been, and continue to be, involved. (By the way, I did volunteer for shopping myself and, as a result, I am far more knowledgeable than you would ever believe about the layout in Waitrose and where to find so many items I never knew about!)

Having said all that, we will try to do more. For a start, we are going to organise a Kiddish for a Shabbat in July (see elsewhere in Sha'are Shalom for details). We'll deliver what you need. Please do join in.

We'll re-double our efforts to stay in touch.

And let us know if you want to make any comment, and especially let us know if you want to volunteer to help in any way.

So, having talked about our Zoom services, I want to thank Rabbi for maintaining these services during the lockdown, getting so many others involved and keeping the daily services going, three times per day. Quite some effort.

Thanks also to the Rep Council for all their initiatives and to every one of our members who have helped in the implementation of their programmes. Did you get your mask? Yes, we contributed to that also.

Now turning to a totally different subject. As you know, our Shul is a member of Reform Judaism, briefly known as RJ. To the best of my knowledge, we have never had a representative from BHRS on the RJ Board. That is about to change, all being well. I have decided to stand for election to the RJ Board. The election will take place during RJ's AGM on Sunday 28 June. Wish me luck! You'll no doubt hear how I get on!

Finally, I hope you and your families all continue to stay well and safe.



***Mazel Tov** to Michael Harris who has been elected to the Movement for Reform Judaism Board of Trustees, which is the first time a representative from BHRS has held this position.*



From Rabbi Andrea

THE JEWISH PIZZA AND BLACK HISTORY

Like everyone on social media, I have my share of trolls - people who follow me on Twitter with the purpose of annoying me. Some weeks ago, they went all out, with the usual smirks, after it became public that a scholar may have found a mention of pizza in some ancient Hebrew manuscript. They probably thought that the combining of an Italian and Jewish element was bizarre.

But a Jewish pizza, indeed, does exist. Just take a walk in Rome, stop by at Portico d'Ottavia, look for the kosher bakery (follow the smell!), and ask for the Jewish pizza. It's delicious and sweet.



Portico d'Ottavia

You'll probably have to find your way in a crowd of tourists. The Jewish neighbourhood in Rome, has become a tourist attraction over the last 20 years. Not only that, synagogues have been restored, and Italian

Jewish history is now acknowledged as part of the general Italian culture. It used to be that Jews were conspicuously absent from school textbooks, now every cultivated Italian is aware of thousands of years of Italian Jewish history.

Such a history includes dark pages, pogroms and expulsions, instigated by Franciscan preachers, segregation in ghettos, centuries of existence as second-class citizens and the fascist persecutions. Those seemingly enlightened dukes and sovereigns, who had opened and subsidised charitable institutions (for the Christians), and gave their names to so many hospitals and almshouses, had the nasty habit, of on occasion, expelling the Jews from their dominions, in order to pocket the money that Jewish moneylenders happened to have at their disposal.

When you walk around the ancient buildings of some Universities, you have no choice but to pass in front of the portrait of some academic who had been a fascist, a racist, and had benefitted from the expulsion of his Jewish colleagues, during fascism.

How often, in my academic years, have I experienced the desire to deface the bust of Agostino Gemelli, a psychologist, but also a rabid anti-Semite? (There is a hospital in Rome named after him). Or at least to put a note under the portrait of Amintore Fanfani, a valuable scholar of economic history, who after the war became a prominent politician. As a politician, he built an impressive number of council houses but as a young academic he published horrendous anti-Semitic propaganda.

And so, I followed with some morbid fascination the end of the monument to Edward Colston, who I learnt from Wikipedia was a "slave trader and philanthropist". I could find this amusing, but as I said I am familiar with "benefactor and anti-Semite" and his offspring.

I understand that all the previous attempts to move the statue into a museum, or at least to amend the inscription at its base, had been delayed or for some mysterious reason never carried out. I must say that I understand the frustration of the citizens of Bristol, who are rightly ashamed of the past of their city.

My gut feeling is that Edward Colston does not deserve any honour. But then I wonder. Abolishing the honour, throwing the statue into the sea... is it going to change anything? Is racism less virulent, or less threatening, as a consequence of the eradication of that statue? Hardly.

Let me mention once again Italy, the land of Jewish pizza, Jewish tourism and that Jewish history that eventually became part of the national curriculum.

And now I ask - how much African history do we know? I must admit, speaking for myself, very little. What I do know is what I have been taught about the African Empires, their highly sophisticated administration, the cities with thousands of inhabitants. I did not learn at school which kind of sophisticated civilisations had been destroyed for the benefit of people like Edward Colston. I was not taught about this, and British students are still not taught about these pages of history.

Make no mistake. The assumption that Africa is a place without civilisation, without history is a prejudice, is racist and it is wrong. If you entertain such an idea, you end up accepting that Africans are savages, uncivilised and not like us. And you probably begin to accept that slavery was inevitable (after all they were not civilised) or justifiable.

I still have mixed feelings regarding the fate of the monument to Edward Colston. In the American south city councils have democratically decided to remove the monuments of Confederate so-called heroes. Those monuments, by the way, were not erected after the war, to honour the fallen, which would be



Edward Colston

understandable, but they were put in place some decades after the end of the war, as a warning and threat to the black community. And when eventually those communities decided to get rid of the monuments, countless bureaucratic obstacles were raised, and you can so easily see the family of the memorialised slave owner, or the administrators of his estate, at work.

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I don't know whether this is the case in Bristol, but I would not be surprised if it was. For this reason, I hope that investigations will be carried out regarding what happened on that Sunday, and how we got to this situation.

So, I'm sorry, if you ask for my opinion you've had to accept the very Jewish and very Rabbinic "it's complicated!"

I only can say that I am a Jew and I believe in education.

I am a Rabbi and I know that Judaism has many things to teach.

I come from Italy, land of the Jewish pizza (hello racist trolls!) and where the national curriculum includes Jewish history.

I want my children to grow up in a multicultural country.

I want to live in a society which is not racist anymore, whose leaders are aware of racist tendencies and can, really can, make things better.

It's my hope, and I hope it's yours too.



The Jewish Pizza



Masks For All

Thousand 4 1000

is a local charity providing housing and support to asylum seekers and refugees in Brighton and Hove. We are giving cash support to more than 50 forced migrants in the city during these tough times. You can support our work by making a donation in return for high quality masks sewn by a refugee seamstress.

www.thousand4thousand.org.uk/masks

Rabbi's Shiur

for BHRS members



'Dipping into the Siddur'

Learn & Practice Hebrew Prayers
with Rabbi Andrea

Every Wednesday

at 6.20pm AND 8.30pm.

(same shiur - join the time that suits you)

Join via Zoom:

Please register with the Synagogue Office
for log in details

If you don't have a Siddur, please
contact Rabbi Andrea or the Shul
Office, and...
then you can stay for Maariv!



Rabbi's Shiur

THEY
Say:

WE
Say:

Why and How to be a Reform Jew
and what difference does it make?

Join Rabbi Andrea
on Tuesday, 14th July at 6pm.


Via Zoom:
Contact the Synagogue Office
for log in details



This is not a cycle of
classes, and you do not
need to attend all
the sessions.

Knowledge of Hebrew
is not required.

An illustration of a person with brown hair, seen from behind, sitting at a desk and participating in a video conference. The person is wearing a red shirt and a blue backpack. They are waving their right hand. On the desk in front of them is a computer monitor displaying a video call with a woman who has blonde hair and is wearing a white shirt. The woman on the screen is also waving. To the right of the video feed on the monitor is a sidebar with a profile icon and several blue circular buttons. A laptop is partially visible on the desk in front of the person.

A close-up photograph of a white ceramic coffee cup filled with dark coffee, sitting on a matching white saucer. The cup and saucer are placed on a dark, textured wooden surface. To the right of the coffee, the silver and black keyboard of a laptop is visible, with the screen partially open and dark. The lighting is warm and focused on the coffee cup.

T

from Sara & the Cheder Team

מזל טוב ל..

... Alfred Abrahams, Doreen Benjamin,
Mary Goodwin, John Smith, Susan Paddenburg,
Shirley Simon, Richard Levy, Linden Barnett,
Vivienne Spiro and David Turton on their **special**
birthdays in **July**,
and Jonathan Brook on his special birthday in **August**.



Happy Birthday

...to the youngsters of our community, who include:
Orli Becker, Tor Stuart, Isaac Sorokin, Nikhita Lissauer, Reuben Kaiser,
Ben Krauss, Talia Dovrat, Joshua Morrison, Jasmine Lazarus & Samuel
Buchalter for **July**,
and Nathan Bodner, Asher Ingleby, Benjamin Naylor, Solly Kay, Leah
Berman, Shaked Peer, Joshua Quinn, Solomon Becker & Ziva Ingleby for
August.



...as new members to
BHRS

Oliver Harris, Gemma Sturtridge
& Barbara Glynne



We wish a **big mazel tov** to Rosalind Pantooock on
becoming a great-grandmother for
the second time and to Margaret &
Robin Wood on becoming grand-
parents to Oillie Alice Wood born 22nd May.



Condolences:

We wish long life to the families of
Vicotoria Pashaei-Nia, Jan Etkin, Shirley Burke, Edwina (Rose) Levy,
Renee Kramer, Sebastian Korby, Edna Sugarman and Eileen Berlis z"l.

MARTIN GROSS

Funeral Director and
Funeral Consultant
to Jewish communities

01273 439792

07801 599771

07540 066566



Norman Grant Of Gary Green Memorials



The Recommended Mason for the
Brighton & Hove Reform Community
and all Jewish Cemeteries Countrywide
New Memorials, Renovations
and Additional Inscriptions
Home Visits by Appointment

01273 885874
Mobile: 07769 515 045
ngrant37@gmail.com



JOIN US ON-LINE



Shabbat Services

Erev Shabbat Services at 6.30pm

Join our service via the following link:

Go to: <https://zoom.us/join>

type 666-517-106 ~ password BHRS

or copy & paste this link:

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/666517106?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/666517106?pwd=T2x4WTdLZGdTNmczZk5pWFRSTWhrdz09)

[pwd=T2x4WTdLZGdTNmczZk5pWFRSTWhrdz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/666517106?pwd=T2x4WTdLZGdTNmczZk5pWFRSTWhrdz09)

Shabbat Morning Services at 10.30am

Join our service via the following link:

Go to <https://zoom.us/join>

type 729-324-760 ~ password BHRS

or copy & paste this link:

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/729324760?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/729324760?pwd=aW9seDZsY3lEcGpVK0RHc2N0UXJEUt09)

[pwd=aW9seDZsY3lEcGpVK0RHc2N0UXJEUt09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/729324760?pwd=aW9seDZsY3lEcGpVK0RHc2N0UXJEUt09)

Daily Services

You don't stop being Jewish when you are at home!

Join in the virtual tefillah (prayer) led by Rabbi Andrea on 'Zoom'.

(download the app)

Many options available every day:

Shachrit every morning at 7:30am (not on Saturdays!)

If you want to lay tefillin, Rabbi is available to teach, feel free to ask!

Go to: <https://zoom.us/join> ~ type 790-285-615 ~ password BHRS

Mincha everyday at 2:30pm (not on Saturdays!)

Go to: <https://zoom.us/join> ~ type 571-620-138 ~ password BHRS

Ma'ariv everyday 9pm (Sundays to Thursdays!)

Go to: <https://zoom.us/join> ~ type 258-315-566 ~ password BHRS

'Rabbi I have a question, or maybe two.'

Join Rabbi Andrea on Zoom (where else?) on Tuesdays to Fridays at 5-5:30pm.

Go to: <https://zoom.us/join> ~ Type 967-848-265 ~ password BHRS

Contact rabbi.andreaz@gmail.com for the details.

He also offers a tutorial on how to use Zoom to join the crowd!

Kuddle up Toddler Group and Rosh Chodesh also run their sessions on-line.

For more details please contact the Shul office.



SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS DURING THIS TIME

The Synagogue Welfare Team has joined forces with the Brighton & Hove Jewish Community Support Network, to provide support to our members in isolation, during this difficult time.

Anyone who has been advised to self-isolate by the government, should receive a friendly phone call from one of the Support Network volunteers. In addition to a weekly chat they can advise how to obtain help with shopping, collecting prescriptions etc.

If however you would like a call from our Rabbi, please let the office know, and he will be happy to call.

Community Support Network: Tel: 01273 747722 / Email: hhcov19@gmail.com

Shul Office: Tel: 01273 735343



Is your body feeling tight, achy, lethargic?



Free Weekly Stretch & Flex Session

Join Barbara every
Thursday from 11.15 to 11.30am
for a stretch and muscle release



All levels of fitness are welcome
All you need is a chair without arms

Join us via Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9650148808> --

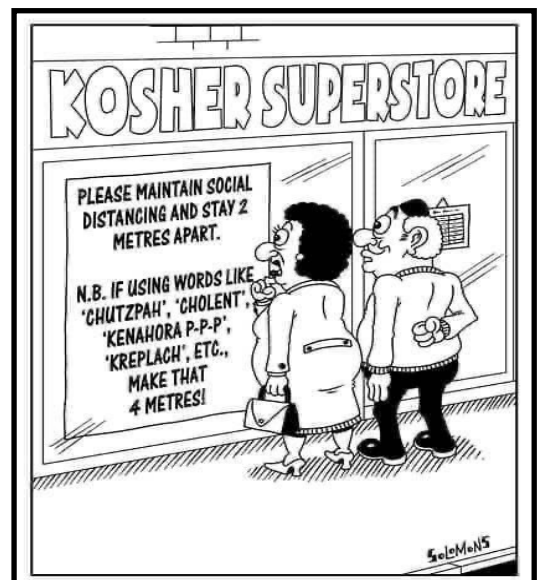


Do We have your Email address??



We send out weekly emails and announcements to keep you up to date with news, services and events.

If you do not receive these emails but wish to do so, please send your email details to the Shul office as soon as possible.



SPECIAL SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

(to celebrate the beginning of the reading of Deuteronomy)

...FOLLOWED BY KIDDUSH!



Since the beginning of lockdown our members have been able to attend Zoom services every Shabbat morning, but sadly have not been able to attend a Kiddush, so...

Join us on Shabbat, 25th July
for a
Special Virtual Kiddush
*We will bring the Kiddush to you (!)
to share together after the service*

How will this work?

- Your Kiddush will be delivered to your door on Friday, 24th July
- Zoom Details will be sent through on Wednesday, 23rd July
- Let us know if you need help connecting to Zoom
- If you would like to participate, please RSVP by Friday 17th July to the Shul Office
- If you are unable to participate on line but would like the Kiddush anyway, please RSVP by Friday 17th July!



CAN YOU HELP? We are also looking for Kiddush packers and delivery drivers for Friday 24th July.
If you would like to volunteer please let the Shul Office know.