

# Around Alyth

February 2016

## Music and Arts in February

Alongside our love of prayer and learning, music and the arts are at the heart of Alyth life. Together these make Alyth a genuine community centre, with a range of interests and activities to share.

Here are a selection of music and arts activities running in February (and into March). We hope that you can join us.

### Jewish Music Fair

*Sunday 21 February, 10:00-17:15*

Choose from 20 Jewish music sessions throughout the day with a chance to perform, participate, listen, learn, socialise, network, eat, drink and have a stimulating or relaxing day depending on your mood.

Some of Britain's finest Jewish musicians will inspire and teach a vast array of workshops. Application forms can be found online at [www.jewishmusicfair.co.uk](http://www.jewishmusicfair.co.uk).

### Alyth Film Club

*Tuesday 9 February, 20:00-22:00*

The Alyth Film Club opens its doors this month with a screening of THE QUARREL (1991). See inside for more information about this month's film. Screenings will be on every second Tuesday of the month.

### Coffee House Poetry Evening

*Wednesday 17 February, 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](mailto:viv@alyth.org.uk).

### New Music Evening

*Wednesday 2 March, 20:00-21:30*

An opportunity to learn and sing new liturgical music with Rabbi Josh and Katie, Hainbach, our Head of Music and Arts. We will learn a number of new pieces which will be sung across our range of services, as well as discussing how the music fits the liturgy. You do not need to read sheet music to attend this event, which is suitable for everyone including choir members and all those who love to sing in shul. Contact [katie@alyth.org.uk](mailto:katie@alyth.org.uk) for more information.

## Births - Mazel Tov to:

Magda and Robin Alterman on the birth of a son, Nathaniel James, a grandson for Richard and Judith Alterman.

Gracie & Tristram on the birth of their daughter, Otilie, a granddaughter for Joanna and the late Stuart Defries and a great-granddaughter for Maureen Defries

David Yehuda Stern and Robin Nobel-Stern on the birth of their daughter Ora Esther.

To pray. To learn.  
To live. Together

Please find all staff contact details on the back page



# Pray with us

## Erev Shabbat Services

### Kabbalat Shabbat Service

*Fridays, 18:30-19:30*

- 05 Led by Rabbi Josh and Justin Wise
- 12 Led by Rabbi Josh and Student Rabbi Daniel Lichman, with the Alyth Youth Singers.
- 19 Led by Rabbi Colin.
- 26 Led by Rabbi Josh with the Kids Choir. The D'var Torah will be given by Rabbi Dr Lisa Grushcow.

### The Shabbat Den

*Friday 5 February, 16:15-16:45*

Our 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 06 February*

**Classical Shabbat Service, 10:30-12:15**

Includes the Bat Mitzvah of **Jessie Byrne**.

**Tefillah Lab: Renewal-style Shabbat, 11:00-12:00**

A relaxing Shabbat morning service with meditation, singing, gentle movement and a discussion on the week's Torah portion and what it means to us. Come and be refreshed and inspired. Led by fourth-year Rabbinic Student Rabbi Naomi Goldman, who has spent almost 20 years leading services inspired by the teachings of Jewish mysticism.

### *Saturday 13 February*

**Community Shabbat Service, 10:30-12:15**

A Shabbat morning service for the whole community, drawing on elements of our Classical and our Kollot services. There will be no parallel service on this Shabbat morning. The Sermon will be given by MRJ Rabbi for Young Adults, Rabbi Benji Stanley. Includes the Bar Mitzvah of **Leo Gatty**.

### *Saturday 20 February*

**Classical Shabbat Service, 10:30-12:15**

**Big Bang, 11:00-12:00**

Alyth's famous musical Shabbat experience.

### *Saturday 27 February*

**Kollot, 10:30-12:00**

Our informal, participatory minyan, mostly in Hebrew, chanted and sung. Includes a supervised area for children. This week Kollot is in the Beit Tefillah. Includes the Bar Mitzvah of **Kobi Kahn-Harris**.

**Shabbat Healing Service, 10:30-12:00**

A special service including prayer and inspirational texts to help us begin or continue coming to terms with challenges of all kinds. With Lynette Sunderland.

## Weekday Services

### Sunday Shacharit

*Sundays 7, 14, 21, 28 February, 09:00-10:00*

Our lay-led minyan followed by a bagel breakfast.

### Evening Services

Evening services take place before meetings at 19:45. Please contact [bonnie@alyth.org.uk](mailto:bonnie@alyth.org.uk) if you would like evening prayers for the purpose of saying Kaddish.

# Learn with us

## Scholar-in-Residence: Rabbi Dr Lisa Grushcow

**Thursday 25 - Saturday 27 February**



Alyth is delighted to welcome Rabbi Lisa Grushcow, senior rabbi of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, the Reform congregation of Montreal. Ordained at HUC-JIR, where she was a Wexner Graduate Fellow, she also earned her M.Phil. and D.Phil. from Oxford University, where she studied as a Rhodes Scholar. She is the author of **Writing the Wayward Wife: Rabbinic Interpretations of Sotah** (the ritual of the woman suspected of adultery in the book of Numbers). Among other publications, she also edited and contributed to **The Sacred Encounter: Jewish Perspectives on Sexuality** (CCAR Press, 2014), and is a contributor to **The Torah: A Women's Commentary**.

For learning opportunities with Rabbi Lisa Grushcow please see the Learn with us "Special this month" box on the next page.



# Learn with us

## Judaism – The Essentials: Jewish History

*Wednesdays, 20:00-21:45*

A programme of short courses for those looking to consolidate the learning of a lifetime or coming to Judaism afresh. Run on Wednesday evenings in term time, with introductory sessions on the Jewish festivals interspersed throughout the course at appropriate times. Taught by Alyth's rabbis with Jon Epstein. Contact [josh@alyth.org.uk](mailto:josh@alyth.org.uk) to sign up.

**3** Movements, denominations: Historical forces/ new challenges

**10** The 20th Century Jewish Experience in Jewish life

*The second series of short courses, **Jewish Life and Obligation** starts at the end of February and runs throughout March, beginning on **24 February**: Prayer.*

## Hebrew reading from Scratch

*Wednesdays 3, 10, 24 February, 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. For more information, or to sign up, contact [josh@alyth.org.uk](mailto:josh@alyth.org.uk).

Cost £100 for the term (includes the text book).

## Talmud Class

*Thursdays 4, 11, 18, 25 February, 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. Contact [colin@alyth.org.uk](mailto:colin@alyth.org.uk).

## Guest Shiur - The Sugyot Every Reform Jew Should Know: Brachot 30b-31a

*Saturday 13 February, 09:15-10:15*

For the last two years, Rabbi Josh has been running a series of shiurim looking at sugyot (discrete sense-units) in the Babylonian Talmud that are particularly important, interesting or entertaining. In this special guest edition with Rabbi Benji Stanley, we will consider the role of emotion and commandment in Reform Judaism, through the lens of a section from Tractate Brachot.

## Trip: Jewish History in the British Museum

*Sunday 14 February, 10:30-12:00*

Some of the most important extra-biblical artefacts from the ancient near-East can be seen in the heart of London. Together we will use the evidence found in the British Museum to piece together ancient Jewish history. Book with [josh@alyth.org.uk](mailto:josh@alyth.org.uk).

## Special this month

### Many Waters Cannot Quench Love – Or Can They?

*Thursday 25 February, 20:00-22:00*

In the Book of Numbers, we read about a trial by ordeal for a woman whose husband suspects her of adultery. The rabbis of the Mishnah and Talmud dedicate an entire tractate to discuss this ritual. Through their conversation, we discover a window into rabbinic understandings of timeless issues, namely: jealousy, justice, and societal change. In this session, we will engage with key texts which shed light on an ancient ritual and contemporary concerns.

**With Rabbi Dr Lisa Grushcow.**

### Ruach Parents Session: Transmitting Values to Teens - The Jewish Tradition of Ethical Wills

*Friday 26 February, 17:15-18:15*

See the Youth and Education Hub page for more information. **With Rabbi Dr Lisa Grushcow.**

### Idolatry, Adultery, and Keeping the Faith

*Saturday 27 February, 09:15-10:15*

In Ki Tisa, we read about how the Israelites, waiting for Moses to come down from Sinai, built the golden calf. This act is seen as the epitome of betrayal, a prime example of the Israelites breaking faith with God. In rabbinic literature, idolatry often is equated with adultery. In both cases, a covenant is tested; both involve a fundamental challenge to a relationship, whether human or divine. What insight can we gain from the analogy, and what can the Torah teach us about relationships and repair? **With Rabbi Dr Lisa Grushcow**

### Israel Conversations: Diversity Under Fire

*Monday 29 February, 20:00-22:00*

While Israel's state-building achievements are remarkable, a state can only be as strong as the fabric of the society it represents. Join three speakers from Merhavim who come from diverse communities with different perspectives to shed light on some of Israel's critical issues.



# Be with us

## Weekly Activities

### Senior Club

*Mondays, 14:00-16:00*

Weekly activity and tea for our senior members.

**01** Viv Creegor "Trials of a BBC and Sky newsreader"

**08** Discussion with Helen

**15** Lynn Stringer entertains with her guitar

**22** Peter Baskin "Travels with my gavel"

**29** Herbie Goldberg "My music"

### Alyth Choral Society

*Tuesdays, 20:00-22:00*

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

[www.alythchoralsociety.org](http://www.alythchoralsociety.org).

### News, Views, Coffee & Schmooze

*Wednesdays 3 & 17 February, 13:30-15:30*

Join Lynette to discuss topical issues and stories.

Contact [lynette@alyth.org.uk](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk).

### 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](mailto: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

*Saturday 20 February, 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](mailto:katie@alyth.org.uk) if you are interested in joining the choir.

## Monthly Activities

### Sunday Bridge@Alyth

*Sunday 7 February, 19:00-22:00*

For more information please contact Clive on 020 8361 5711.

### Rosh Chodesh Women's Group: My not quite Bucket List

*Wednesday 10 February, 20:00-21:30*

Our monthly celebration of the new moon in which women gather for sharing, learning and discussions. This month we will have a lively and humorous discussion on projects, ideas, places that we would still like to achieve or see - led by Loretta Cohn. Contact Jackie Goymour at [honeyhill@btinternet.com](mailto:honeyhill@btinternet.com) to book your place.

### Alyth Cycling Community

*Sunday 14 February, 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](mailto:laurancemendoza@aol.com).

### Coffee House Poetry Evening

*Wednesday 17 February, 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](mailto:viv@alyth.org.uk).

### Shabbat B'Yachad (Shabbat Together)

*Friday 19 February, 19:30*

Share a Shabbat meal and sing songs. Food is provided. For catering purposes please register, or to arrange transport contact [lynette@alyth.org.uk](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk).

### Singing for Pleasure

*Sunday 28 February, 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](mailto:viv@alyth.org.uk).

### Bereaved Partners Support Group

*Sunday 28 February, 15:00-17:00*

Are you suffering the loss of a partner or spouse? If so, join Lynette and others in a similar situation for support. Contact [lynette@alyth.org.uk](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk) for more information.



# Be with us

## Special this month

### **NEW Film Club: The Quarrel**

*Tuesday 9 February, 20:00-22:00*

The Alyth Film Club opens its doors this month with a film set in Montreal on Rosh Hashanah 1948. Chaim sits in a park when he sees Hersch, an old friend whom he hasn't seen since they quarrelled when they were yeshiva students in pre-war Poland. Hersch, now a rabbi, had his faith strengthened by his ordeal in the Shoah, but Chaim had lost his faith long before. The two reminisce, arguing passionately about their lives, religion, their old quarrel, and their friendship. Contact [colin@alyth.org.uk](mailto:colin@alyth.org.uk).

### **Jewish Music Fair**

*Sunday 21 February, 10:00-17:15*

Choose from 20 Jewish music sessions throughout the day with a chance to perform, participate, listen and learn. Application forms can be found online at [www.jewishmusicfair.co.uk](http://www.jewishmusicfair.co.uk).

### **New Members Dinner**

*Friday 26 February, 19:30-21:30*

For anybody who joined Alyth during 2015 to share a Shabbat meal after the Erev Shabbat Service. A chance to meet members of our Welcome Group, other new members, our Rabbis and professional staff. Email Caronne Graham at [caronne@grahams-home.net](mailto:caronne@grahams-home.net) for information.

# Act with us

## **Monday Club**

*Mondays 1, 8, 22, 29 February, 19:30-21:30*

Our weekly club for people with learning difficulties. Contact Dennis Sher via the Synagogue Office to volunteer.

## **Together in Barnet Winter Shelter**

*Tuesday nights*

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](mailto:nightshelter@alyth.org.uk).

## **Monthly Drop-in for Recent Refugees**

*Sunday 28 February, 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](mailto:bonnie@alyth.org.uk).

## Special this month

### **Shalom Supper**

*Friday 12 December, 19:30-21:30*

Join members of JAMI and Jewish Care's Shalom Centre for a Shabbat evening dinner and entertainment. Contact [lynette@alyth.org.uk](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk).

### **NEW Chat 'n' Soup**

*Friday 26 February, 12:00-14:00*

Come and enjoy a tasty bowl of soup, listen to music, read the papers and enjoy good company. Both our members and people from outside Alyth are welcome to join us. For more information contact [lynette@alyth.org.uk](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk). Chat 'n' Soup will run every 4th Friday of the month.



# 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 1, 8, 29 February, 09:30-11:30*

Toys, singing and refreshments for the children; coffee and chat for carers! £3 per child, £1 for a sibling. Contact [chloe@alyth.org.uk](mailto:chloe@alyth.org.uk).

#### **Year 7 Ulpan**

*Tuesdays 2, 9, 23 February, 17:30-18:30 or*

*Thursdays 4, 11, 25 February, 17:30-18:30*

Our Year 7 provision replacing the Sunday morning class to learn Hebrew and develop Jewish knowledge. There is a choice of attending on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

#### **Kef Zone**

*Wednesdays 3, 10, 24 February, 16:00-17:00*

Our weekly club for all children in Primary School.

#### **Hadracha (Year 9)**

*Thursdays 4 & 11 February, 18:30-19:30*

Our creative, fun and intensive leadership course. Contact [mike@alyth.org.uk](mailto:mike@alyth.org.uk).

#### **Jewish Studies GCSE (Year 10)**

*Thursdays 4, 11, 25, 18:30-20:00*

Expand your Jewish knowledge and understanding.

#### **Ruach Erev Shabbat**

*Fridays 5, 12, 26 February, 16:15-19:30*

Our Friday afternoon B'nei Mitzvah programme.

#### **Sunday Morning Galim**

*Sundays 7, & 28 February, 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 3, 10, 24 February, 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 3, 10, 24 February, 17:00-18:30*

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

#### **Alyth Youth Singers**

*Wednesdays 3, 10, 24 February, 18:45-20:00*

AYS, our youth choir for all post B'nei Mitzvah. Contact [katie@alyth.org.uk](mailto:katie@alyth.org.uk).

#### **Kids Choir**

*Fridays 5, 12, 26 February, 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](mailto:katie@alyth.org.uk).

#### **Alyth Academy of Performing Arts**

*Sundays 7, 21, 28 February, 18:00-21:00*

Our drama group for 13-18 year olds.



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

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

## Special this month

### Year 7 Ruach Residential

*Friday 5 - Sunday 7 February*

The year 7 Ruach Residential takes place at the Kingswood activity centre in Ashford, Kent. This residential is an integral part to the Bar and Bat mitzvah journey and comprises site activities and Alyth run activities all aimed at bonding the year group.

### Breakfast Film Club: Curious George

*Monday 22 February, 10:00-11:00*

(Pre-school age). Join Chloe for a morning breakfast club and screening of Curious George in the Synagogue. There will be a yummy breakfast provided for your little ones and a nice cup of coffee and a croissant for you! Book with [chloe@alyth.org.uk](mailto:chloe@alyth.org.uk).

### NEW Advanced Hadracha

*Thursday 25 February, 18:30-22:00*

(School Years 10-13). Now that you've learnt the basics of Hadracha it is time to delve deeper into Jewish communal leadership and tackle challenging educational topics. Contact [mike@alyth.org.uk](mailto:mike@alyth.org.uk).

### Ruach Parents Session: Transmitting Values to Teens - The Jewish Tradition of Ethical Wills

*Friday 26 February, 17:15-18:15*

The time of bar/bat mitzvah is not always easy when it comes to communication between parents and teens. How do we find ways to talk to our children about what really matters, as they become young adults? How can we transmit the wisdom of Judaism, alongside the values we have learned in our own lives? Come for an exploration of the centuries-old tradition of ethical wills.

## Community News

### We regret to announce the deaths of:

Nadav Ezra, son of Mala and Ahouvi Ezra, brother of Itamar, Mayan and Yasmine, and grandson of Rabbi Maurice and Eileen Michaels.

Shirley Field, wife of Anthony Field.

Lea Ferney, mother of Alan Davidoff.

Lord Greville Janner, father of Rabbi Laura Janner Klausner, Daniel Janner and Marion Janner, and brother of Ruth, Lady Morris of Kenwood.

Pauline Joseph, wife of Michael, mother of Lisa Hart and sister of Michael Miller

Peggy Rose, mother of Pam Morris and Gill Davies, grandmother of Nick Morris and Sami Miller

Renee Rosenhead, mother of Ruth Conroy, sister of Vera Cohen, Olga Halon and Marcelle Bianco.

Daniel Weinstein, father of Simon Weinstein and Nicola Barnard

Joy White, mother of Ian White.

### A warm welcome to our new members:

John Bartholomew, Anne-Marie Kulbinger-Bartholomew and Nathanel Bartholomew

Andrew Brainin and Alice Stone

David Cole and Caroline Rams

Charlotte, Philip, Isabelle and Mylo Kendall

Mark, Tracey, Hannah and Elliot Kieve

Natalie, Richard, Scarlett, Georgia and Willow May

Matthew Robinson

Valentine Scriven

Denise Sloane

Peter Wortsman, Michelle Levene, Annabelle, Elizabeth and Oliver Wortsman

### Mazel Tov to:

Jeanette Rosenberg and David Ereira on being awarded an OBE in the New Years Honours.

Daniel Bayfield on being made a QC.

Rupert Morris, Jade Iglinsky and Abi Aleksander on winning the Jack Petchey award.



# Contact us

## Rabbinic Team

Rabbi Josh [josh@alyth.org.uk](mailto:josh@alyth.org.uk)  
020 8457 8799

Rabbi Colin [colin@alyth.org.uk](mailto:colin@alyth.org.uk)  
020 8455 6763

Rabbi Maurice [maurice@alyth.org.uk](mailto:maurice@alyth.org.uk)  
020 8455 6763

Rabbi Mark (on sabbatical)

## Community Director

Adam Martin [adam@alyth.org.uk](mailto:adam@alyth.org.uk)  
020 8457 8789

## Director of Welfare & Life Cycle

Lynette Sunderland [lynette@alyth.org.uk](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk)  
020 8457 8793

## Head of Music & Arts

Katie Hainbach [katie@alyth.org.uk](mailto:katie@alyth.org.uk)  
020 8457 8797

## Fundraising & Development Co-ordinator

Sarah Langsford [sarah@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sarah@alyth.org.uk)  
020 8457 8787

## Emeritus Director of Music

Viv Bellos [viv@alyth.org.uk](mailto:viv@alyth.org.uk)

## Youth & Education Hub

Sam Brunner [sam@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sam@alyth.org.uk)  
020 8457 8796

Mike Mendoza [mike@alyth.org.uk](mailto:mike@alyth.org.uk)  
020 8457 8782

Chloe Kimmel [chloe@alyth.org.uk](mailto:chloe@alyth.org.uk)  
020 8457 8781

Yael Roberts [yael@alyth.org.uk](mailto:yael@alyth.org.uk)  
020 8457 8782

Farah Josephs [farah@alyth.org.uk](mailto:farah@alyth.org.uk)  
020 8457 8785

## Community Administration Team

Bonnie Lemer [bonnie@alyth.org.uk](mailto:bonnie@alyth.org.uk)  
020 8457 8784

Lesley Lass [lesley@alyth.org.uk](mailto:lesley@alyth.org.uk)  
020 8457 8786

## Accounts Administrator

Lisa Kagan [lisa@alyth.org.uk](mailto:lisa@alyth.org.uk)  
020 8457 8788

## Kindergarten

Cindy Summer [cindy@alyth.org.uk](mailto:cindy@alyth.org.uk)  
020 8457 8792

Mita Khara [Kgadmin@alyth.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:comms@alyth.org.uk)

[www.alyth.org.uk](http://www.alyth.org.uk)

