

## Hull Day Limmud – Presenter Info

### **Raphael Almagor-Cohen**

Rafi is Professor/Chair in Politics, University of Hull and received his DPhil in political theory from Oxford University (1992). He has published 17 books and more than 200 papers in the fields of political science, media, philosophy, law and ethics. Professor Cohen-Almagor is now writing two books, one on the failed peace process between Israel and the PLO, and another tentatively titled *Reasonable Multiculturalism*. He is the author of a widely read and often cited blog about politics in the Mideast called "ISRAEL: Democracy, Human Rights, Politics and Society."

### **Simon Caplan**

Simon is an experienced educator having taught in a range of secondary and primary schools in Israel and England. He also served as Primary Strategy consultant with Bury LA and has experience of working in the voluntary sector focussing on adult Jewish education. He is currently also a part time Chazan at the Mead Hill Synagogue in Manchester as well as a visiting Chazan in Hull. When not teaching or Chazaning, Simon plays the violin in the Salford Symphony Orchestra of which he is also Chairman.

### **Howard Cuckle**

Howard is a Hull native who now lives in Israel. He is a professor of reproductive medicine in Leeds, New York and Tel Aviv. His professional research skills are also applied to a passionate interest in family history, his own and others. This is focused largely on Eastern Europe where he has travelled extensively.

### **Nicholas Evans**

Hull born Dr Nicholas J. Evans is Lecturer in Diaspora History at the University of Hull. He has lectured around the world about Jewish migrant history. Alongside scholarly publications he has served as historical advisor to the London Jewish Museum, Manchester Jewish Museum, Scottish Jewish Archives Centre, Cape Town Jewish Museum, National Archives and BBC. Most recently his work formed a central part in 'Arrivals and Departures' an installation at The Deep that was part of 'Made in Hull' - the opening event for the 2017 UK City of Culture.

### **David Finlay**

David Finlay is a writer and performer of story songs - performance pieces bringing aspects of modern Jewish history to life. As well as guiding people in The Magic Of Songwriting, he has also written and performs two one man shows on modern Jewish history: How Rich They Are on the life of Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai and A Promised Land which tells the story of the creation of the state of Israel through the speeches and writing of Herzl, Ben Gurion, Peres, Rabin and others.

### **Sam Grant**

Sam is the campaigns manager for René Cassin. René Cassin works to get the UK Jewish community more involved with human rights issues. They campaign on a number of UK based human rights issues including immigration detention, modern day slavery and discrimination of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. René Cassin works with Jewish schools, communities, youth movements and more to provide a platform for the Jewish community to engage on human rights issues that connect to Jewish values and experience.

### **David Hakeney**

David's love and passion for antiques stems from growing up in Hull always surrounded by a houseful, due to his parents' business. With more than 45 years experience, he is a recognised expert who has become well known for his appearances on the TV programme Dickinson's Real Deal

over the past 10 years. David has particular interest and expertise in jewellery, watches and silver. He enjoys meeting people and hearing the stories behind their belongings every bit as much as the precious items themselves.

### **Esther Hugenholtz**

Esther was born in Amsterdam and spent the majority of her childhood in southern Spain. She currently serves as the Associate Rabbi at Sinai Synagogue in Leeds and is very excited to be the incoming Rabbi for Congregation Agudas Achim, Iowa City, Iowa. Esther takes an interest in issues of multiculturalism and social justice and firmly believes in representing a socially-relevant and spiritually-compelling Judaism for today's world.

### **David Lewis**

David was born in Hull and has been the principal archivist of the Hull Jewish Community since 2002. He works tirelessly 'behind the scenes' to ensure the richness of our past is recorded and preserved for all to learn from and enjoy for many years to come. Developed in collaboration with local historian Ann Bennett, David has now been presenting the Heritage Walk Around Old Jewish Hull for more than 10 years.

### **Naftali Lifschitz**

Gateshead born Naftali has been the Hull Hebrew Congregation's rabbi since 2012. As spiritual leader he is responsible for having breathed new life into what is now an active and vibrant community, with increased Jewish education, communal functions and delicious cholent lunches! He is a practising counsellor/therapist and provides a unique Jewish perspective on personal development.

### **Eli Ovits**

Eli is chief executive of Limmud. Representing Limmud globally in 43 countries, he supports the development of Limmud and its volunteers. Eli is a Captain (res) in the IDF Spokespersons Unit. He has lectured and travelled widely working to combat extremism and strengthen the global Jewish community. Eli has served in organisations including JNF, the Embassy of Israel, The Israel Project, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Bnei Akiva, the Mizrahi Federation and Jerusalem University.

### **Fabian Sborovsky**

Fabian was born in Paraguay and has lived in Israel, the United States, Sweden, and Germany before deciding to settle in Manchester to serve Menorah as the community's rabbi. He earned an M.A in Jewish studies from Vanderbilt University in the U.S. and was ordained from the Abraham Geiger Kolleg in Berlin. Prior to becoming a rabbi, Fabian worked in Jewish education in Sweden as well as with various Jewish social entrepreneurship projects across Europe.

### **Hagai Segal**

Hagai M Segal is an award-winning academic, consultant and analyst specialising in Middle-East affairs and terrorism. A frequent expert contributor on radio and TV, Hagai lectures at New York University in London, advises agencies/police forces and companies and corporations across the globe, and serves on the London First Security & Resilience Advisory Board.

### **Michael Westerman**

Michael is a retired Head of Maths and a former Headteacher of the Hull community's cheder. He has volunteered for JNF for more than 50 years and is currently serving a second term as President of the Hull Jewish Representative Council. He has been with SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on

Religious Education) since its inception in 1988, when the first agreed syllabus on RE was introduced to schools in Hull and the East Riding, and is actively involved in HERI (Hull and East Riding Interfaith).