



The Second Limmud Midlands 2019

Sunday 31 March 2019

The Education Centre
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Birmingham
Tel 07464 423595

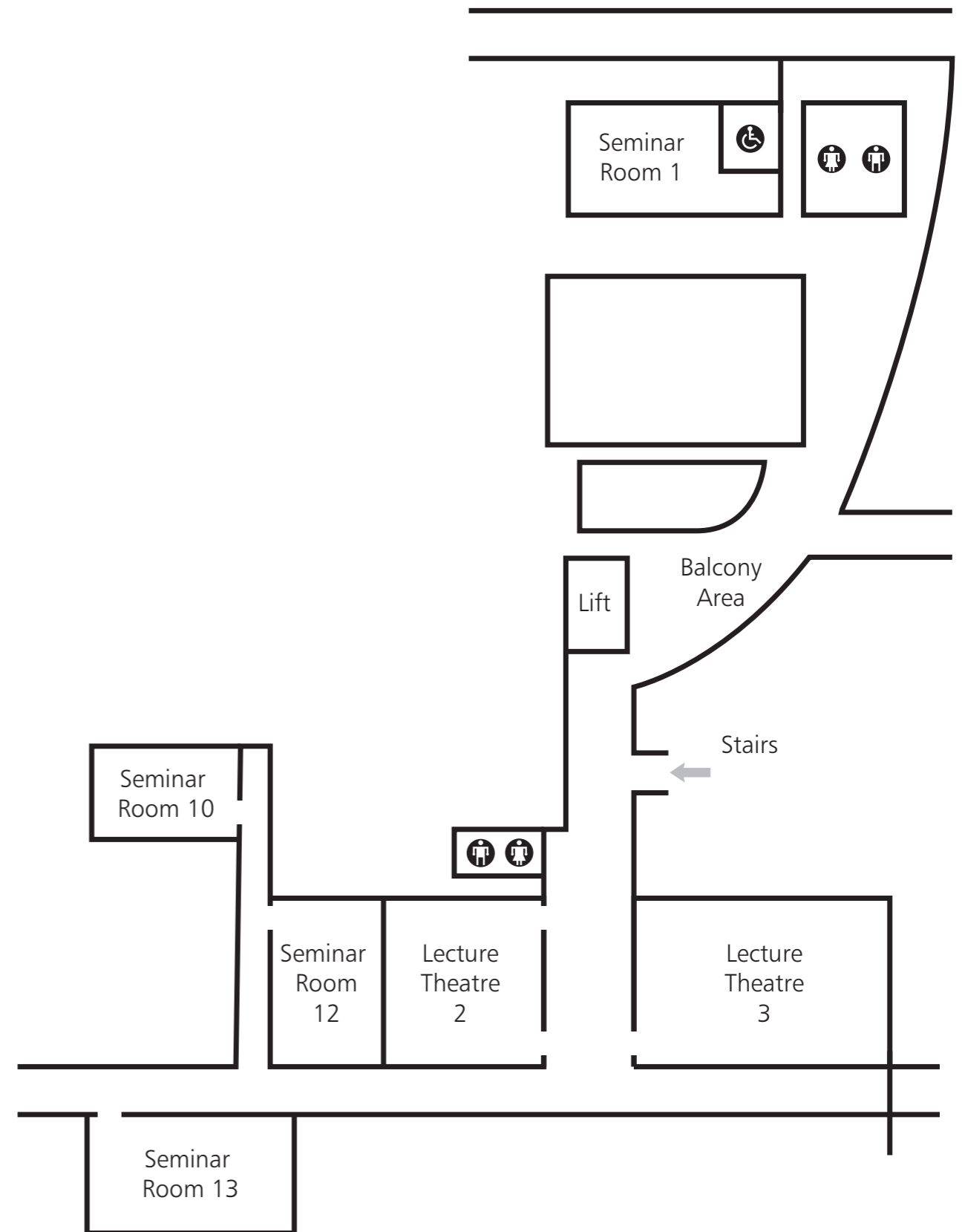
In partnership with

University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

This book belongs to

	LECTURE THEATRE 3	LECTURE THEATRE 2	SEMINAR ROOM 1	SEMINAR ROOM 10	SEMINAR ROOM 12	SEMINAR ROOM 13	BALCONY AREA
9:45 – 10:00	Welcome Richard Wharton						
SESSION ONE 10:10 -11:10	The Hidden Dynamics of the Seder Clive Lawton	The Future of Jews in Europe Phillip Carmel	Do We Have a Right to Damage Ourselves? Eliazar Symon	The Working Lives of Earlier Generations: Jewish Cabinet Makers, 1880-1960 Len Smith	Medicine or Magic? How do we Decide? Margaret Jacobl	Litvak Fiction Stephan Collishaw	
COFFEE BREAK							
SESSION TWO 11:35 – 12:35	Why I Left the Labour Party Over Antisemitism Ian Austin	The Boy Who Followed His Father into Auschwitz Jeremy Dronfield	Is Israel "A Racist Endeavour"? Nori Tsalic	Jewish Volunteers in the Spanish Civil War Ross Bradshaw	Sibling Rivalry: Early Jewish-Christian Relations and Their Legacy Today Ann Conway-Jones	Can Women Become Orthodox Rabbis? Nechama Atlas	
LUNCH							
SESSION THREE 13:25 – 14:25	Personal Experiences of Antisemitism in the Labour Party Barry Henley, Ruth Smeeth, Ella Taylor	A Lifetime (Mis?)spent in Searching for Ancestry Anthony Joseph	Despite Everything, Price Still Includes Biscuits Naomi Paul	Two Breslau Jews Face the Nazis: Willy and Ernst Cohn Henry Cohn	Jewish Architects After the Bauhaus Stephen Games	Cardiac Jews Mendy Lent	
SESSION FOUR 14:35 – 15:35	How Rich They Are: The Life Story of Yehuda Amichai David Finlay	Mental Health and the Jewish Community Barry Henley, Estelle Rowe, Alfred White	The Almost Lost Tradition of Dazzling Ashkenazi Chazanut with Specific Modes for Defined... David Prager	Conversion to Judaism. Why Make It So Difficult? Norman Solomon	The Civil Rights Movement Through the Lens of "Ordinary Heroes" Carrie Supple	Amid Signs of Warming Ties, What Prospects for Israel-Gulf Relations? Anna Kirschuck	Inside the Ancient Hebrew Kitchen. Hints, Tips and Recipes Angela Doren
COFFEE BREAK							
SESSION FIVE 16:05 -17:05		Can You Beat Judaism Into Your Child? Alan Stanton	An Imam, a Priest and a Rabbi Meet in Shul... Lior Kamnitsky, Nasir Akhtar, Alison Richards, Muhammad Amin Evans, Gerry Sykes	Our Unknown Brother: Roma/Gypsies in Europe from 1400 Until Today Margaret Breatley	Shiret! to Ambridge - Haimishing the Archers Annette Margolis	The Attack on Free Speech in Israel Anna Roiser & Maya Ilany	
17:15- 18:15	Community Concert Kol Kinor, Naomi Rowe, Michael Rowe						

MAP OF THE EDUCATION CENTRE AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL



LIMMUD MIDLANDS 2019 PARTICIPANT'S HANDBOOK

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WELCOME TO LIMMUD MIDLANDS

As the organising team for Limmud Midlands it is a pleasure and privilege to welcome you to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for the second day Limmud in the Midlands. We hope that you will agree that we have an interesting and engaging programme, with something for all tastes. Feel free to follow your interests, develop new horizons, and be prepared to challenge and be challenged. Remember that at Limmud, there is no audience, everyone is either a participant or a presenter- and the presenters are also participants!

We are very grateful to the University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust who have allowed us to use their excellent conference facility and in particular to the Chaplaincy team headed by Richard Wharton for their patience and support.

WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL BIRMINGHAM

University Hospital Birmingham (“UHB”) is delighted to be able to host this Limmud, and on behalf of the Trust I would like to welcome you here for this exciting occasion.

UHB is one of Europe’s leading hospitals with a proven international reputation for quality of care, information technology, clinical education and training and research. Alongside this reputation, we seek to be an organisation that listens well to our patients, staff and the local community.

The Trust employs a group of Chaplains from a diverse cross-section of the city of Birmingham, and although we come from specific religious traditions, the presence and support we offer is not limited to people who are religious. We understand that there are times when we all need a compassionate, listening ear, and we are frequently called upon to be alongside

Volunteers form the backbone of any Limmud venture. If you want to help Limmud Midlands happen again then why not volunteer, we would love to have you.

So, above all, enjoy the day, and thank you all for your contributions to making Limmud Midlands a great day out.

The Limmud Midlands Team

people during their visits to hospital. There is a long-established relationship between Chaplaincy at UHB and the Jewish community. Yossi Jacobs holds an Honorary Contract with the Trust and provides an invaluable link with the Jewish community in the city.

I hope that this day is nourishing and enlightening, and we look forward to strengthening further the links that already exist.

Reverend Canon Richard Wharton (Chaplaincy Team Leader)

FROM THE CHAIR OF LIMMUD

It is an incredible honour and privilege to wish Limmud Midlands a huge Mazal Tov on what promises to be an inspiring and transformative gathering! Limmud Midlands is the result of the passion and commitment of a dedicated team of volunteers and we owe them all a huge thank you.

In addition to the Limmud team, we are very grateful to Richard Wharton and the Chaplaincy team at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham for all their help enabling this amazing Limmud to happen and to the University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust for providing the venue.

Thank you also to all those who have worked behind the scenes to support the Limmud Midlands team, especially Cathy and Nadia, our UK communities’ liaisons and our dedicated staff with a special mention to Alanna, Max, Jon, Eli, Suzy and Clive.

Another thank you is for YOU. You are one of over 40,000 people who have participated in nearly 90 Limmuds across 42 countries around the world in the last year. You might even be one of the 4,000 volunteers who make this happen globally. The numbers may be big but we appreciate the part that every one of you has played in building a truly remarkable global Limmud community – one that started here in the UK nearly forty years ago.

Limmud’s unique model of volunteer-led, cross-communal, multi-generational and transformational Jewish experiences is now truly global and by the end of 2019 will have taken place on every continent in the world – including Antarctica! We invite you to travel and experience Limmuds in other parts of the UK and other countries and parts of the world. Whichever Limmud you travel to, you will feel right at home.

On a personal note, I spent three wonderful years being welcomed by the Birmingham community when I was a student at the University of Birmingham. It comes as no surprise that such a warm community, together with others including the Nottingham community where I experienced my first ever Limmud, have come together to celebrate and inspire so many of us at Limmud Midlands.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you everyone who has played a part – as volunteer, presenter or participant. Limmud is what it is because of you.

B’shalom,

Shoshana Bloom Global Chair, Limmud

FROM THE CO-CHAIR OF LIMMUD FESTIVAL 2019

The Limmud Midlands and Limmud Festival teams hope that today will inspire you to take part in another Limmud experience in Birmingham in 2019 – Limmud Festival. We are delighted to offer Limmud Midlands participants a special local discount. Since Limmud Festival takes place right here in Birmingham, day and non-residential places are ideal options, which you can secure now with prices frozen at the 2018 early bird discount rate!

The discount runs from today, 31 March, until Thursday 11 April. For more information and to book, go to <https://events.limmud.org/limmud-festival-2019/apply>, or call the office on 020 3115 1620 (Monday – Thursday 9am-5pm).

We look forward to seeing you there!

Dan Heller Co-Chair Limmud Festival 2019

DIRECTIONS TO THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL BIRMINGHAM (QE)

By Train

The nearest station to the hospital is University station, which is less than 10 minutes' walk from the hospital. The hospital is clearly signposted from the station. University station is on the Cross City line. There are trains approximately every 10 minutes from New Street station in Birmingham city centre (final destination: Longbridge or Redditch). Certain services from Birmingham New Street station towards Hereford and Cardiff also stop at University station, but please check before boarding.

By Bus

Visit <https://www.uhb.nhs.uk/travelling-by-bus.htm> for information about buses to the hospital.

By Bicycle

It's easy to get to the hospital by bike. There are lots of cycle paths to the hospital, and cycle storage is available at the main entrance to the hospital.

By road

From the M5

- Leave **M5** at **Junction 4** and follow **A38** Birmingham for 6.75 miles, after which you will encounter a major set of traffic lights
- Turn left following **A4040 Harborne/Queen Elizabeth**, passing the large Sainsbury's store on your right
- At the roundabout take the **second exit** onto **Aston Webb Boulevard**
- Continue over the next roundabout onto **New Fosse Way**.
- At the next roundabout, turn **left** onto **Hospital Way** and park in **Car Park A**
- **Disabled parking** for blue badge holders is available in **Car Park A2** (accessed via the entrance to Car Park A)
- Follow the signs from the car park to the **main hospital entrance**. Limmud Midlands is on the first floor.

From the M6/M1

- Leave the **M6** at **Junction 6**
- Follow the signs for **A38** (Bristol Road) towards Bromsgrove
- After leaving the city centre, continue along the A38 towards Selly Oak, following signs marked "**Queen Elizabeth / H / A&E**"
- At the fork in the road, near the Esso petrol station, take the right fork, again following the A38 and signs for "**Queen Elizabeth**"
- At the first roundabout, turn **right** onto **New Fosse Way**
- At the next roundabout, turn **left** onto **Hospital Way** and park in **Car Park A**
- **Disabled parking** for blue badge holders is available in **Car Park A2** (accessed via the entrance to Car Park A)
- Follow the signs from the car park to the **main hospital entrance**. Limmud Midlands is on the first floor.

Car parking charges

Time	Tariff
1 hour	£3.00
3 hours	£4.50
4 hours	£5.20
5 hours	£6.00
6 hours	£6.70
8 hours	£7.50
Over 8 hours	£14.90

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE DAY

Arrival and Badges

You can arrive any time after **09:00**. You will not be admitted to Limmud Midlands unless you have booked in advance. For everyone's security, please make sure that you wear your name badge at all times and please remember to **hand in your lanyard** (the cord holding the badge) at the end of the day, so we can reuse it at another Limmud event.

Information, First Aid and Emergencies

The Helpdesk is located in the balcony area. This will be staffed throughout the day. Please contact the Helpdesk if you need first aid or if you need assistance in an emergency. Any lost property you find should be brought here.

You can call a member of the team on the Limmud Midlands mobile phone number which is 07464 423595 and will be accessible all day if you need to contact us for any reason.

In the event of a fire or other emergency, the muster point is the atrium in the main entrance of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Accessibility

All rooms are on the first floor and are fully accessible. The first floor is accessible by stairs or lift – please follow the signs.

Wheelchairs provided at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital are for the use of patients. If you require a wheelchair you must bring your own.

Sessions

Sessions, **which will start on time**, last for one hour. Please be courteous to the presenters and switch off mobile phones during sessions. **Please do not enter a session after it has started or leave during the middle of a session. This is disruptive for both presenters and participants.**

For everyone's safety and comfort please do not attend a session if there is no seating available. Please do not block aisles or doorways in the rooms as this creates a fire safety risk.

Drinks (with the exception of water) and food may not be taken into sessions.

Lunch and Refreshments

Lunch will be served between **12:35** and **13:25** in the **balcony area**. Afternoon sessions will start promptly at **13:25**. All food is kosher – lunch is catered by Hermolis.

There will be a morning break for tea and coffee between **11:10** and **11:35** and an afternoon break for tea and coffee between **15:35** and **16:05**. Tea and coffee will be served in the **balcony area**.

No Smoking

Limmud Midlands is a no smoking event. Smoking is not allowed anywhere in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital building.

Hospital Patients

As it is Mothering Sunday, there will be religious services taking place all day in the Faith Centre at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital during Limmud Midlands. Since this is next to the Education Centre patients attending services will have to use the balcony area. Please be courteous to them.

Photography and Recording of Sessions

Photographing and recording of sessions at Limmud Midlands is **forbidden**. The only exception to this rule is photographs taken by Limmud Midlands' official photographer. If you do not want to be in photographs (which may appear in reports or publicity for future events) please let the photographer know.

THANK YOU

An event like this does not happen without lots of help. We would like to thank all those people who have helped to make this event possible. Apologies to anyone we have forgotten.

Thank you to:

All our Presenters

All our Volunteers

The Limmud Midlands Team

Michal Arrowsmith, John Boulton, Ruth Drapkin, Ruth Jacobs, Enid Korn, Mike Kretzmer, Marion Kinshuck, Hannah Nagar, Neil Pike, Naomi Rowe and Anthea Shaylor.

Our Partners at the University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

Richard Wharton, David Harrison, Jackie Gayle and Maureen Foxall from the Chaplaincy team at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

The National Limmud Team

Cathy Knowles and Nadia Lipsey our Regional Day co-ordinators; John Freedman, Alanna Lewis, Max Naar and Suzy Margulies – the amazing staff in the Limmud office.

CST and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital's Security Staff

To all those people, especially those who stand in the wind and rain, so that we can be safe.

The Catering Team

Lizzie Gardner, Sara Wagstaff and Hermolis, our caterer.

Also

Claire Lobel for designing and printing this handbook.

And finally...

To all our participants for coming to Limmud Midlands. We hope that you enjoy the day. Please remember to complete your evaluation form before you leave.

LIMMUD MIDLANDS NEEDS YOU

Help create the next Limmud Midlands

Limmud Midlands is run entirely by volunteers and we will soon be planning the next event. But it may not happen if you don't play your part to help keep Limmud alive and kicking in the Midlands.

Please email us at midlands@limmud.org or speak to any of the team today if you think you can help make Limmud Midlands even better.

There will be a follow-up event for volunteers soon – we'll be in touch with details.

Thanks in advance for your help



CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF LIMMUD?

Save the Date for these UK Limmud Events in 2019:

Manchester Limmud

Sunday 30 June

Leeds Limmud

Sunday 15 September

The return of Scotland Limmud (in Edinburgh)

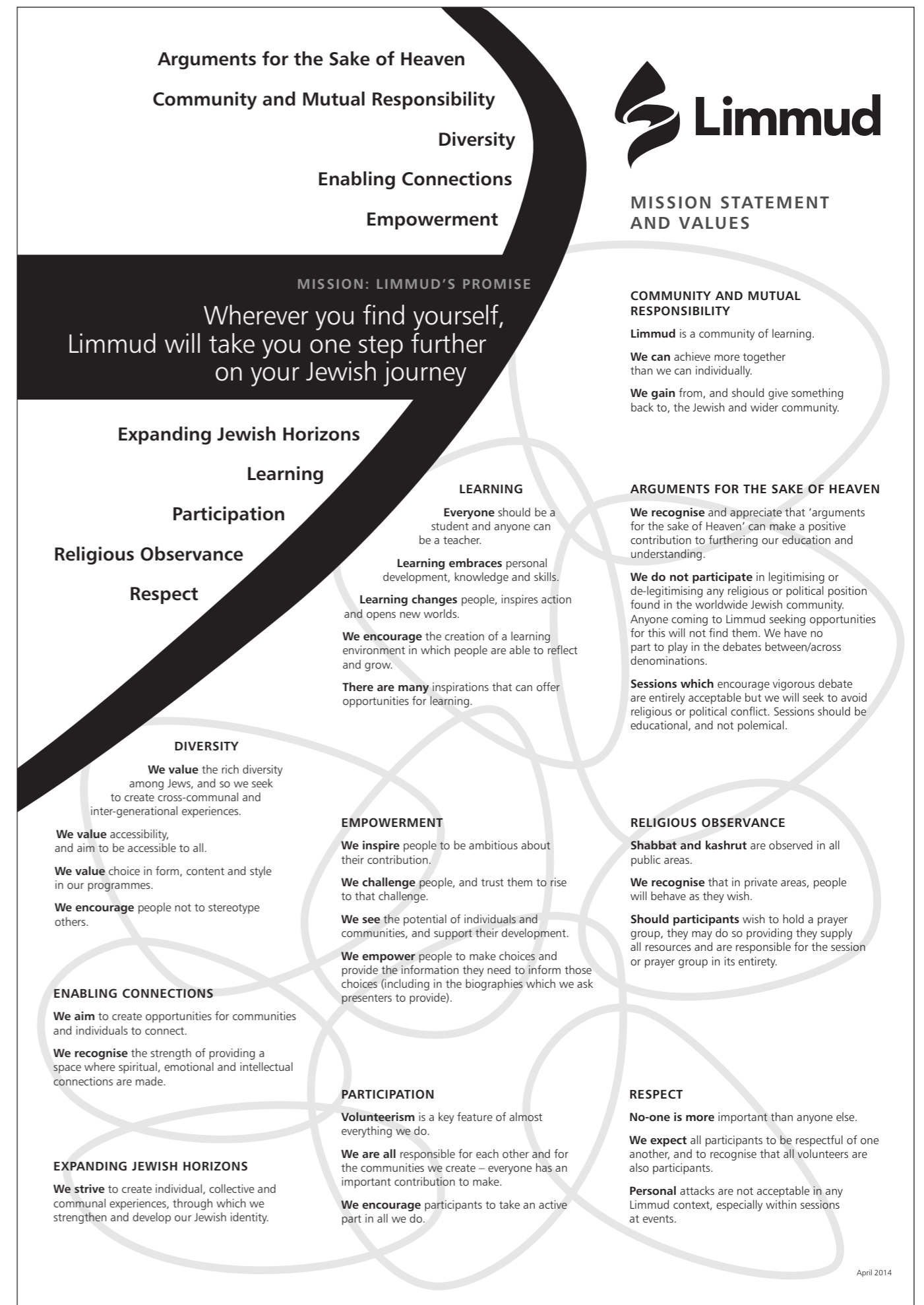
Sunday 24 November – First event in 4 years

Limmud Festival

Sunday 22 to Thursday 26 December 2019

preceded by Shabbat Limmud

Friday 20 to Shabbat 21st December 2019



SESSION INFORMATION

Welcome
9:45 – 10:00

Session One
10:10 -11:10

The Hidden Dynamics of the Seder

Clive Lawton

Room: Lecture Theatre 3

Many people nowadays find that the seder needs jazzing up. They amend it, seek to ‘make it relevant’, cut it short, change it for the children and so on. Clive will explore whether any of this is necessary or whether a deeper understanding of what is really going on will make the bog-standard seder compelling enough.

The Future of Jews in Europe

Phillip Carmel

Room: Lecture Theatre 2

The session will examine the new challenges facing Jewish communities in Europe. The concentration on large community centres, antisemitism, an increase in nationalism and populism and relations with Israel. Can Jews adapt to new models in 21st century Europe?

Do We Have a Right to Damage Ourselves?

Elazar Symon

Room: Seminar Room 1

According to the Mishna, our oldest book of rabbinic law, it is forbidden for a person to physically damage themselves. But what is the Biblical source for this prohibition? What aspect of this deed is so troubling? What deeds does this prohibition include?

In this session we will be reading a short section of Talmud dealing with these issues. We will dig under the technical discussion and find fascinating approaches to a person’s connection with his/her body. Hopefully you can then judge for yourself if smoking should be forbidden according to Jewish law, and what Rabbi Akiva would say about plastic surgery.

The Working Lives of Earlier Generations: Jewish Cabinet Makers, 1880-1960

Len Smith

Room: Seminar Room 10

Cabinet-making was one of the most prominent Jewish occupations in Britain during the first half of the twentieth century, occupying several thousand men in London and the provinces. This session will outline the historical development of the industry, particularly following the large-scale Jewish immigration that began around 1880. It will consider issues of ethnic identity and conflict, working conditions and industrial relations. The material presented is largely drawn from contemporary reports, autobiographies, and interviews conducted with people who were formerly engaged in the furniture trades.

Medicine or Magic? How do we Decide?

Margaret Jacobi

Room: Seminar Room 12

How do we know if a treatment is effective? How do we distinguish ‘snake oil’ from genuine medicine? At a time when ‘alternative medicine’ is flourishing, the randomised controlled trial still remains a measure of what therapies really work. But the problem was also addressed 1500 years ago in the Babylonian Talmud. We will look at their discussion on ‘refuah’ and ‘the way of the Amorites’ in tractate Shabbat (as well as discovering what this has to do with Shabbat). Their way of approaching the problem can still guide us in our thinking today.

Litvak Fiction

Stephan Collishaw

Room: Seminar Room 13

Tomas Venclova called Grigory Kanovich, ‘the last link in the chain of Litvak fiction’. But what is Litvak fiction? And who is Tomas Venclova? The session will be a brief survey of the eclectic treasure chest that characterises Jewish fiction from Lithuania – from one of the first novels written in Hebrew, to the twentieth century classics written in French, Yiddish, Russian and Lithuanian. Has Litvak fiction really hung up its boots and gone into retirement? The session will briefly survey Grigory Kanovich’s work and launch his novel ‘Devilspel’, published in English in March 2019.

Session Two
11:35 – 12:35

Why I Left the Labour Party Over Antisemitism

Ian Austin

Room: Lecture Theatre 3

In this session Ian will outline why he is a Friend of Israel and why he decided to leave the Labour Party over antisemitism.

The Boy Who Followed His Father into Auschwitz

Jeremy Dronfield

Room: Lecture Theatre 2

The true story of a father and son’s fight for survival in the Holocaust. Gustav and Fritz Kleinmann were sent to Buchenwald concentration camp in 1939. When Gustav was transferred to Auschwitz, his son Fritz volunteered to accompany him, knowing it was a virtually certain death sentence. Together they survived more than 5 years in the camps, enduring starvation, disease, torture and injury. Throughout, Gustav kept a secret diary in which he recorded their experiences. This, together with extensive research, forms the basis of author Jeremy Dronfield’s recent book, The Boy Who Followed His Father into Auschwitz.

Is Israel “A Racist Endeavour”?

Noru Tsalic

Room: Seminar Room 1

Antisemitism or freedom of speech? It is undeniable that “the circumstances around Israel’s foundation” (ahem!) included the displacement of a majority of the Arab population in Mandate Palestine . The session will discuss those “circumstances” in context and will assess their consequences for Israel’s legitimacy as a state.

Jewish Volunteers in the Spanish Civil War

Ross Bradshaw

Room: Seminar Room 10

Jews joined the International Brigade to fight for the Republican cause in hugely disproportionate numbers in 1936, from Palestine, Poland, Britain, America and elsewhere, with many giving their lives in what many saw as being the first shots in what became the Second World War. The first and last international casualties in the Civil War were Jews. On the front line the Polish Botwin Brigade published a newspaper in Yiddish. Jews also formed a significant part of the medical teams, and outside Spain raised money for the Republic. This is their story.

Sibling Rivalry: Early Jewish-Christian Relations and Their Legacy Today

Ann Conway –Jones

Room: Seminar Room 12

Jesus was an observant Jew who was circumcised, attended synagogue, and celebrated Jewish festivals. Today, Judaism and Christianity are separate religions. How did this happen? Ann presents the latest scholarship on what is known as ‘the parting of the ways’, and discusses the implications for how Jews and Christians should relate to each other today.

Can Women Become Orthodox Rabbis?

Nechama Atlas

Room: Seminar Room 13

In this session we will consider Jewish sources which have considered this question. The sources will span the period from Biblical times to the present. We will “encounter” some exceptional women from our history, and will explore what is currently happening around the world concerning Orthodox women in Rabbinic positions and consider the challenges they face.

Session Three
13:25 – 14:25

Personal Experiences of Antisemitism in the Labour Party

Barry Henley, Ruth Smeeth, Ella Taylor

Room: Lecture Theatre 3

An MP and a student activist describe their personal experiences of antisemitism in the Labour party.

Despite Everything, Price Still Includes Biscuits

Naomi Paul

Room: Seminar Room 1

Naomi Paul uses dry Jewish humour to comment on contemporary political issues, share personal stories and perform original songs. Set sail on a surreal journey – sometimes poignant, always funny and ultimately uplifting. With biscuits. Of course.

A Lifetime (Mis?)spent in Searching for Ancestry

Anthony Joseph

Room: Lecture Theatre 2

Anthony’s genealogical interest started aged ten and still persists. The “voyage” has paralleled the transformation of genealogy from a hobby of the elderly few to a universally popular leisure pursuit. Modern Jewish interest has lagged behind other societal/ethnic groups: a paradox considering the religious emphasis on patriarchal genealogy and the frequent Torah mention of lineage. We have caught up, and Anthony has had personal involvement with about four thousand genealogical “clients” from the serious to the ridiculous, worldwide.

Two Breslau Jews Face the Nazis: Willy and Ernst Cohn

Henry Cohn

Room: Seminar Room 10

A double biography of two German Jewish academics (not related), prolific authors in different fields, whose responses to the challenges of the 1930s had contrasting outcomes.

Jewish Architects After the Bauhaus

Stephen Games

Room: Seminar Room 10

The Modern Movement offered Jewish architects the opportunity to construct a new world, free from the prejudices of the past. In Weimar Germany they flourished but when the Nazis came to power, they were no longer wanted. Many fled. Where did they go and what did they do there? In this centenary year of the Bauhaus, Dr Stephen Games looks at the efforts of Bauhaus migrants and others to rebuild Weimar in foreign lands.

Cardiac Jews

Mendy Lent

Room: Seminar Room 13

"Rabbi I'm a good Jew – I'm a mensch. I might not be observant but G-d knows what's in my heart". Do all the minutiae of religious observance really make a difference to being a good Jew? Doesn't G-d see the bigger picture? Text based with discussion. No prior Hebrew knowledge required.

Session Four
14:35 – 15:35

How Rich They Are: The Life Story of Yehuda Amichai

David Finlay

Room: Lecture Theatre 3

A performance which explores how the poetry of Yehuda Amichai tells the story of both the hopes and wars that were the landscape of the birth of the State of Israel.

Mental Health and the Jewish Community

Barry Henley, Alfred White, Estelle Rowe

Room: Lecture Theatre 2

What are the mental health issues in the Jewish Community? How do they differ from those experienced by the wider community? Consultant Psychiatrist Dr Alfred White will explain in non-technical terms and will also provide a guide to communication with Jewish patients. Estelle Rowe, Director of Andrew Cohen House, will describe the treatment of dementia. Dr Barry Henley, a non-executive director of Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust will outline research results which show that spiritually integrated treatment is culturally appropriate for Jewish service users.

The Almost Lost Tradition of Dazzling Ashkenazi Chazanut with Specific Modes for Defined Seasonal Prayers

David Prager

Room: Seminar Room 1

The session will present the main Ashkenazi musical prayer modes/scales with beautifully sung rare recorded exemplars by the Cantorial Greats. These demonstrate the means by which these famous interpreters disaggregated and elegantly re-aggregated the ancient prayer paragraphs into finely woven compositions to communicate their substance and placement within the Jewish calendar.

Conversion to Judaism. Why Make it so Difficult?

Norman Solomon

We will read and reflect on the famous stories in the Talmud (Shabbat 31a) about the three converts rejected by Shammai but accepted by Hillel. Why is the conversion process nowadays so very different from the simple and straightforward way it was handled by the "Fathers of Judaism"?

Room: Seminar Room 10

The Civil Rights Movement Through the Lens of "Ordinary Heroes"

Carrie Supple

Room: Seminar Room 12

We will explore the work of "Journey to Justice" as an example of human rights education. We believe that learning about the role of 'ordinary' people in human rights movements and the arts of social protest can galvanise us to take action for social justice.

Using stories from the US civil rights movement and UK struggles for freedom, we created a multi-media travelling exhibition which has visited 11 communities. We tell stories of less well-known men, women and children who were involved and we explore factors essential for a human rights movement to succeed in the hard fight for freedom.

Amid Signs of Warming Ties, What Prospects for Israeli-Gulf Relations?

Anna Kinshuck

Room: Seminar Room 13

Israel and Gulf Cooperation Council countries have inched closer in recent years, bringing long-rumoured behind-the-scenes cooperation into the open. The thawing ties have emerged as Israel's interests have grown increasingly aligned with those of several Gulf states amid shared fears of Iranian regional expansionism.

While the solidifying ties have been touted by some as a prelude to more spectacular developments such as a full diplomatic normalisation, the Palestinian issue continues to undermine the potential for a breakthrough. After a recap of recent developments, we will analyse the political, economic and security drivers behind the Gulf-Israel engagement and look at the outlook for bilateral relations.

Inside the Ancient Hebrew Kitchen. Hints, Tips and Recipes

Angela Donen

Room: Balcony Area

Angela is amazed by the inconsequential in the Bible. When taken together these details provide an insight into the lives of our ancestors, what they ate and how they ate it, what their homes looked like and the technology they had at their disposal. A meal will be served during the session which could have been eaten by our forebears.

Session Five
16:05 -17:05

Can You Beat Judaism Into Your Child?

Alan Stanton

Room: Lecture Theatre 2

What do Jewish sources, from Proverbs through to contemporary Chasidic writings, have to say about corporal punishment of children? What does modern psychology teach us on the subject, and how have these two approaches interacted over time? Have Jews been positive role models in shaping attitudes to children? Come and find out; as always the truth is surprising, and nuanced.

An Imam, a Priest and a Rabbi meet in Shul...

Lior Kaminetsky, Nasir Akhtar, Alison Richards, Muhammad Amin Evans, Gerry Sykes

Room: Seminar Room 1

No it's not a joke but a reality in Birmingham. Local faith leaders joined Lior Kaminetsky's recent initiative to form a Madrasa / Beit Midrash Learning Programme for Abrahamic faith leaders from the West Midlands. The group gathered for four intense weekly sessions at Birmingham Central Synagogue to learn together about the similarities and differences regarding some core theological issues between the three Abrahamic faiths. A panel of participants in this initiative will discuss what they learnt from the experience.

Our Unknown Brother: Roma/Gypsies in Europe from 1400 Until Today

Margaret Brearley

Room: Seminar Room 10

This session will aim to give a vivid outline of the fascinating but often tragic history of Roma/Gypsies, a persecuted people until today, and a glimpse of Romany culture, language and beliefs, and some of their non-Romany and Jewish champions.

Shtetl to Ambridge – Haimishing the Archers

Annette Margolis

Room: Seminar Room 12

This session will ask the question how Jewish is the Archers? to what extent can the trope of the shtetl be intertwined with Radio 4's long-running agricultural soap-opera. It will involve us developing realistic Jewish members of the Ambridge village scene, and considering their impact on the rest of the community and the area as a whole.

The Attack on Free Speech in Israel

Anna Roiser & Maya Ilany

Room: Seminar Room 13

All democracies have some limits on freedom of speech – but where should the line be drawn? How should democracies deal with dissenting political voices? After exploring Israel's historical approach to this question from 1948 onwards, we will look at recent events including legislation, court decisions, border detentions and political rhetoric, and argue that Israel is on a dangerous trajectory in its approach to political dissent.

Community Concert
17:15- 18:15

Community Concert

Kol Kinor, Naomi Rowe, Michael Rowe

Room: Lecture Theatre 3

A concert to send you on your way with musical memories of a great day out in Birmingham.

PRESENTER INFORMATION

Nasir Akhtar

Nasir is a British born and trained Imam. He has served in Birmingham and Sandwell since 2005. Nasir’s passion, however, is in community activism. In 2009, he helped co-found The Abrahamic Foundation which was set up to be a beacon of 100% Muslim yet 100% British Islam.

Muhammad Amin Evans

Muhammad has been a Muslim for nearly thirty years and is a graduate of the Al-Mahdi Institute. As Director of Theology to the Association of British Muslims, a member of the Centre for Intra-Muslim Studies, Imam, and teacher he promotes the deeper reading of all textual sources and accepting differences as blessings for humanity that should cause honest conversation.

Ian Austin

Ian Austin has been the Member of Parliament for Dudley North since 2005. He served as a minister in Gordon Brown’s government from 2008-2010. He is a member of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee and a supporter of Labour Friends of Israel. Ian left the Labour Party in February 2019 because of antisemitism.

Nechama Atlas

Nechama Atlas, of the Yeshurun Hebrew Congregation, is a trained Child Counsellor and has an M.Ed in Tanach. She is Yahel Center trained counsellor, addressing intimacy issues with Orthodox couples. She worked as an Educational Counsellor in Israeli schools and was Rebbetzen at the Port Elizabeth Hebrew Congregation in South Africa and at the Birmingham Central Synagogue. She is a graduate of the Chief Rabbi’s Ma’ayan Programme. Nechama particularly enjoyed the Ma’ayan training which encourages women to take part in the Halachic and learning development within the Orthodox community. Nechama, loves hiking and Torah study, was born and raised in Israel, is married to Chanan and is a mother of five.

Ross Bradshaw

Ross Bradshaw has been the publisher at Five Leaves since 1995. Their list includes a number of titles related to secular Jewish culture and history, and the only book published in the UK on Yiddish film and in Ladino! He opened Five Leaves Bookshop in Nottingham in 2013 and last year Five Leaves won the Independent Bookshop of the Year accolade at the British Book Awards. He has written for Jewish Socialist, Jewish Renaissance and European Judaism, and has presented at Glasgow and Leeds Limmud.

Margaret Brearley

Dr. Margaret Brearley studied at Oxford, Cambridge, and Münster, Germany. She has held academic posts at Birmingham University (as Lecturer in German Medieval and Renaissance Literature), Selly Oak Centre for Judaism and Jewish-Christian Relations and the Institute of Jewish Affairs. She founded and ran the Kinmos Day Centre for mentally ill people in Birmingham and the West Midlands Israel Information Centre. She has lectured and published widely in Britain, Israel, the USA and Europe, and has been consultant to films and TV documentaries, judge of the Times Preacher of the Year Award, a member of WIZO’s National Executive, and full-time Chair of The Compassionate Friends, the national charity supporting bereaved parents.

Phillip Carmel

Philip Carmel has held senior positions in major European Jewish organisations for almost 20 years. Born in Manchester, he made Aliyah in 1987. In 2004, he was appointed International Relations Director for the Conference of European Rabbis, based in Brussels, and subsequently worked as Special Advisor on European Affairs for the European Jewish Congress. He is a former co-chair of the Israel Foreign Ministry’s Global Forum on Antisemitism. Philip set up the ESJF European Jewish Cemeteries Initiative in 2015 and has been its Chief Executive Officer since its foundation. He currently lives in Birmingham.

Henry Cohn

Henry taught European history at the universities of Glasgow, Leicester and, latterly Warwick, and researches in German history. He is Vice-President of Birmingham Progressive Synagogue, but now lives with family as a member of Alyth Reform in the North London ghetto.

Stephan Collishaw

In 2004 Stephan Collishaw was selected as one of the British Council’s 20 best young British novelists. The Guardian wrote that his first novel was ‘immediately impressive’, while Newsweek called it ‘spectacular’. He has written four novels. Alongside writing and teaching he runs Noir Press, a boutique publishing house dedicated to showcasing fiction in translation from Central and Eastern Europe.

Ann Conway-Jones

Dr Ann Conway-Jones is an honorary research fellow at the University of Birmingham, specialising in early Jewish-Christian relations and biblical interpretation. She has been involved in interfaith dialogue for over thirty years, and is Chair of Birmingham Council of Christians and Jews.

Angela Donen

Angela is a lawyer and mediator who is intrigued by the Bible as a recipe book. Using it as a starting point she has developed a menu which might have sustained our ancestors.

Jeremy Dronfield

Jeremy is a biographer, historian and novelist. His previous books include Dr James Barry: A Woman Ahead of Her Time. His latest, the Sunday Times bestseller The Boy Who Followed His Father into Auschwitz, was published in 2019 by Michael Joseph.

David Finlay

David is a writer of songs and performance pieces which bring to life aspects of modern Jewish history.

Stephen Games

Stephen Games is editor and publisher of Booklaunch, the UK’s second biggest literary magazine. A graduate of Central St Martins and Cambridge University, he won a British Press Award for his writings on architecture for the Guardian and made radio programmes about architecture for Radio 3. In his architectural career he worked on the expansion of Southern Tripoli and the maintenance of Blenheim Palace. He has taught at British and American universities, and published extensively. In his spare time he works. He has a daughter who plays ice hockey and a wife who edits for BBC News.

Barry Henley

Barry is a lifelong member of the Labour Party. He has been a Birmingham City Councillor for Brandwood Ward and held various Party offices including Secretary of a Constituency Labour Party (Selly Oak) and of a Branch Labour Party in Moseley and Kings Heath. He has worked in industry in the UK, Asia and Australia; headed up a University faculty of engineering and computing; and worked in the NHS for 10 years as a non-executive director. Barry is Chair of the Trustees of Birmingham Jewish Community Care and a former Chair of Governors of King David School.

Maya Ilany

Maya is the Deputy Director of Yachad. She has previously worked in Parliament for MP Ian Austin. Growing up in Israel, Maya served in the IDF for three years as a journalist and presenter in the official forces radio station, broadcast across the country.

Margaret Jacobi

Margaret Jacobi is the Rabbi of Birmingham Progressive Synagogue. She studied medicine at the University of Birmingham and was a medical researcher before becoming a Rabbi. She bridges the arts and sciences with PhDs in Physiology and Talmud. She has published articles on Jewish medical ethics and has a fascination with Talmudic logic.

Anthony Joseph

Born in Birmingham and educated at Abbotsholme School, Cambridge University and St. Bartholomew’s Hospital, Anthony qualified as a medical practitioner in 1961. He has been a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists since 1970 and is the author of “My Ancestors were Jewish”. Anthony is a member of the executive of the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy & Heraldry, a founder member and Emeritus President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain and a past president of the Jewish Historical Society of England. He has been corresponding member for the UK of the Australian Jewish Historical Society and was member at large of the Council of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies from 2000 to 2004.

Lior Kaminetsky

Lior Kaminetsky is the Rabbi of Birmingham Central Synagogue. He has established a Madrasa / Beit Midrash Learning Programme for Abrahamic faith leaders from the West Midlands. The group recently gathered for four intense weekly sessions to learn together as chavruta about the similarities and differences regarding some core theological issues between the three Abrahamic Faiths.

Anna Kinshuck

Anna is a political risk analyst for a London-based boutique consultancy and specialises in the Middle East North Africa region, with a particular focus on Iran. She previously worked as a journalist for a global media organisation, covering political developments in the Middle East.

Kol Kinor

Kol Kinor or Voice of the Lyre took this title on its formation in 1993. A mixed voice, cross community group, they aim to perform Jewish music at the highest standard to a wide range of Jewish and non-Jewish audiences. The choir sings a wide range of Jewish music from synagogue, secular and folk music traditions and always aim to sing in the original language of the song, usually in Hebrew, Yiddish or Ladino. Over the years they have performed in many venues around the country and the USA.

Clive Lawton

One of the founders of Limmud, Clive has just stood down after more than ten years as its Senior Consultant. He is currently CEO of the Commonwealth Jewish Council, scholar-in-residence at JW3, London's flagship Community Centre, of which he was a founding trustee, and is a Magistrate on the Bristol Bench. He has published over a dozen books, broadcast widely on BBC radio, founded the field of school-aged Holocaust education in the UK in the 80s, is currently President of Shap, the premier Religious Education lobby group, and has Masters' degrees in Theatre and Film Studies, Management Science and Hinduism and Islam. His first degree was in Literature and Education.

Mendy Lent

Together with his wife Brocha, Mendy Lent has co-directed the popular Nottingham Chabad house since 2008. Hundreds of people each year enjoy the warm hospitality and engaging programming and inspiring classes. Mendy previously worked as a researcher and editor at Kol Menachem Publishing House, and as a Jewish educator in Connecticut. Originally from Manchester, he studied at various Yeshivot worldwide and studied for his Semicha in Melbourne. He was also part of a team running Jewish educational and social activities for teenagers in Leeds. His current hobbies include graphic design and looking after his vegetable plot with the help of his children.

Annette Margolis

Annette came back to the UK after living in Latina near Rome for 23 years, and discovered that life in Ambridge, Borsetshire, hadn't changed very much. She is a member of Birmingham Progressive Synagogue where she teaches basic Hebrew.

Naomi Paul

Naomi Paul writes and performs her own work UK-wide. She premiered her debut solo show at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and the Tristan Bates Theatre, London. She also headlined a new writing festival for Pulse Ensemble Theatre in New York. She comperes events, performs at spoken word nights, and runs writing workshops. She has recently toured a double bill story-cabaret show Truth and Truffles to rural venues. Her song The Librarian's Lament was runner-up in the Best Original Song category at the Stratford-upon-Avon Fringe. Naomi has an MA in Creative Writing and is a member of Birmingham-based Big Script.

David Prager

David Prager was born in Manchester. A chemist by profession, he retired following a prestigious career in BP Chemicals and its successor companies. He has studied the recordings, films, music and biographies of the leading cantors of the world. He has analysed the integration of beautiful, emotionally-intense singing with traditional Ashkenazi prayer modes. David is married to Jill and lives in Surbiton.

Alison Richards

Alison is Co-Superintendent of Birmingham Methodist Circuit and Minister of Lozells Methodist Church and Community Centre and Villa Road Methodist Church, Handsworth. Before studying at Queens Ecumenical Foundation College, she worked as a nurse for 30 years. Alison was ordained in 2010 and served in Malvern for 7 years before moving to Handsworth. Her interests include Social Justice issues and community engagement.

Anna Roiser

Anna Roiser is the Engagement & Outreach Coordinator at the New Israel Fund ("NIF"). NIF is a partnership of Israelis and supporters of Israel worldwide who are dedicated to a vision of Israel as the Jewish homeland, a thriving democracy, and a shared society at peace with itself and its neighbours, as enshrined in Israel's Declaration of Independence. We support Israeli organisations promoting democracy, equality and justice for all. Previously a family lawyer, Anna spent seven months in 2017 living in Jerusalem where she discovered her passion for progressive Israeli causes.

Estle Rowe

Estelle Rowe studied Natural Sciences at Cambridge University and came to the West Midlands to work in engineering. After her career break she moved to the charity sector to encourage young people to make well informed decisions about their futures. She ran Young Enterprise in Birmingham and then the Engineering Development Trust. She was appointed MBE for services to education and engineering. Estelle wanted to make a contribution to the local Jewish community so became a Trustee of Birmingham Jewish Community Care and then its Director. Her husband's family connections to Singers Hill Shul go back 5 generations.

Michael Rowe

Michael Rowe is well known in the Birmingham Jewish community for his musical performances. He studied chazanut under Cantor Steve Robins and singing under David Wynne of the Birmingham Conservatoire. He regularly performs at events across the city and sings with the Singers Hill Synagogue Choir, regularly performing solos. He is also the first recipient of the Kol Kinor music scholarship. He is a keen piano player and very much enjoys sharing his music with others. Michael is currently studying Political Science at the University of Birmingham where he has also been awarded a music scholarship. Aside from this, Michael Chairs the Birmingham Young Conservatives and is always willing to share his views with others!

Naomi Rowe

Naomi is a HCPC registered music therapist who moved back to Birmingham over 3 years ago to pursue her career. She specialises in working with children and young people, those with learning difficulties and the neurodiverse as well as the LGBT+ community, but is open to working with clients of any age and background. Her website is <https://www.linkedin.com/in/naomi-rowe-mt>. Naomi is the concert organiser for Limmud Midlands 2019 and will be performing as part of the Kol Kinor choir and as a solo vocalist.

Ruth Smeeth

Ruth was elected as the Labour Member of Parliament for Stoke-on-Trent North and Kidsgrove in 2015. Ruth was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, but was educated in London and Bristol. She graduated with a degree in Politics and International Relations from the University of Birmingham in 2000. Ruth is a former trade union officer, who has also worked in the private and not for profit sectors. Immediately prior to her election she ran HOPE not hate, the anti-extremism campaign. Since being elected to Parliament Ruth has run campaigns to tackle child poverty and to protect local ceramics jobs in Stoke-on-Trent. She is a member of the Defence Select Committee and a strong advocate of Armed Forces and veteran's issues.

Norman Solomon

Norman Solomon was born in Cardiff, and educated there and at St. John's College, Cambridge. He served as Rabbi to Congregations in Manchester, Liverpool and London and in 1983 founded an Interfaith Institute in Birmingham. Since 1995 he has lived in Oxford, where in addition to teaching at the University he has published many books and articles, including A Very Short Introduction to Judaism, Historical Dictionary of Judaism, The Talmud: A Selection (Penguin Classics), and Torah from Heaven.

Len Smith

Dr Len Smith was born and educated in London. He attended the London School of Economics, gaining an MSc degree in Economic History. He subsequently qualified as a psychiatric social worker, and has worked in mental health services throughout his professional career. He gained his PhD in social history at the University of Birmingham in 1982. He has published several historical books and numerous articles in academic journals. He is currently an Honorary Senior Research Fellow in the Institute for Applied Health Research at the University of Birmingham.

Alan Stanton

Dr Alan Stanton is a Consultant Community Paediatrician working for UHB NHS Trust. He is a Designated Doctor for BSOL CCG Safeguarding Children, and has held senior honorary academic posts at Warwick, Birmingham and UCL. At the other end of the age range, he is Gabbai at the Andrew Cohen House synagogue.

Carrie Supple

Carrie Supple, Director of Journey to Justice. Carrie has 40 years' experience of working in education and human rights as a teacher and project manager. She set up Youth Act at the Citizenship Foundation which trained intergenerational groups how to campaign and in 2013, working with scores of volunteers, created Journey to Justice. Her website is www.teachingforsolidarity.com.

Gerry Sykes

Gerry is currently Vicar of St Alban's Church, Chaplain to Ark St Alban's Academy, and is a member of Highgate Interfaith Forum. Gerry's first career was in science: using biochemistry to study fossil shells. It was only after 10 years that Gerry felt called to the ministry and started training in a seminary. A scientific, analytical outlook and a passion for human rights has always informed his theological thinking. A desire to learn from other faiths has led Gerry to be involved in interfaith work throughout his ministry.

Elazar Symon

Elazar Symon was born and raised in Jerusalem. After graduating from high-school, Elazar studied for two years at the Otniel Yeshiva. In 2012 he joined the IDF where he served as a commander. After his army service he completed his rabbinical studies and served as an assistant Rabbi in Otniel. Elazar has been immersed in the pedagogy of Talmud, participating in and establishing diverse learning groups in Jerusalem. At the same time, he was studying for a BA in Philosophy. Elazar currently works as the Jewish Chaplain in Nottingham, and is married to Alissa.

Ella Taylor-Fagan

Ella Taylor-Fagan is a recent graduate of the University of Oxford. She was involved in Oxford's Labour Club in 2016 when issues of antisemitism were brought to the fore. She has written and campaigned for a more transparent system within the party for tackling antisemitism after she felt betrayed by the party's poor dealings with her complaints. Ella is currently undertaking a law conversion course in London. She remains passionate about activism and edits the journal Zionish and is a member of Yachad Youth.

Noru Tsalic

Noru is Jewish by identity, Romanian by birth, Israeli by citizenship and British by current residence. He is a management consultant by occupation and a political commentator by passion. Noru writes for Politically-incorrect Politics, the Times of Israel and Israel National News. He also delivers presentations and participates in debates in front of Jewish and non-Jewish audiences. A former IDF soldier, Noru serves as the UK envoy for the Israeli NGO Reservists On Duty.

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