



Session Details

Limmud Tour of Britain

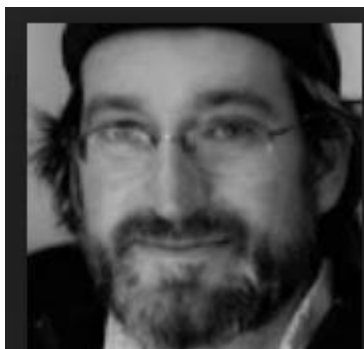
Tuesday, 8th September 2020

Session 1* 7:30 – 8:20	Session 2* 8:30 -9:20
Taking the Knee: Gestures of Protest in Biblical and Rabbinic Sources Bill Shackman	From Clothing to Corona - the Life and Legacy of Sir Montague Burton of Leeds Nigel Grizzard
Michael Rowe Sings Seasonal Jewish Favourites Michael Rowe	Midrashic, Talmudic and Kabbalistic Themes in Stanley Kubrick's The Shining Nathan Abrams
The Only Jew in The Village Fiona Frank	Understanding God Isaac Ansell Forsyth
Reflections on Forgiveness Ruth Drapkin	

*Zoom IDs and password will be shared with all attending participants before event.

Session 1

Bill Shackman



Bill Shackman serves as honorary lay-chaplain to the Jewish Student Society at the University of St Andrews where he lives with his wife and three wonderful children. He has taught Torah in synagogues, schools and universities in Chicago, New York, Jerusalem, Florence, and Salt Lake City. He plays guitar and bouzouki, and is also an avid paddleboard surfer.

Taking the Knee: Gestures of Protest in Biblical and Rabbinic Sources

What does taking the knee, the Black Lives Matter gesture of defiance, have in common with Mordechai's refusal to bow down to Haman's unjust authority? How did the Rabbis of antiquity see their mission to teach Torah as an act of defiance against the injustice of Roman rule? Does being Jewish call for protest?

Together, we will read Biblical and Rabbinic texts that explore themes of protest and inequality.

Michael Rowe



Michael Rowe is well known in the Birmingham Jewish community for his musical performances. He studied Chazzanut under Cantor Steve Robins and singing under David Wynne of the Birmingham Conservatoire. He often performs at events across the city and sings with the Singers Hill Synagogue Choir. 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. He can be found on Twitter @MichaelRowe150

Michael Rowe Sings Seasonal Jewish Favourites

Michael will be performing a range of Jewish music, much of which will be Chazzanut (Cantorial music). These will include some well-known favourites from the synagogue service as well liturgical music from the high holiday repertoire. The music will be varied and it is hoped that you will join in from wherever you are watching, even if no one will be able to hear you!

Fiona Frank



Fiona Frank has been the Projects and Outreach Manager for SCoJeC, the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, for the last nine years and is about to retire and spend more time promoting the art of her aunt - Glasgow artist Hannah Frank (1908-2008) - amongst other things. She did a PhD on Scottish Jewish Identity, a study of five generations of a Scottish Jewish family, at the Scottish Oral History Centre, University of Strathclyde, and last year her book "Candles Conversions and Class: Five Generations of a Scottish Family" was published by the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre. She was a keen Klezmer dancer and dance teacher before lockdown and is now a Zoom expert!

The Only Jew in the Village

What's it really like, being Jewish in a small community - or, literally, being the 'only Jew in the village'? All are welcome at this session where you'll have a chance to talk about your experiences with others who've been there. All welcome - (even if you live in London, Leeds, Manchester or Glasgow and would like to listen!)

Ruth Drapkin



Ruth grew up in Ealing, one of London's small communities, and now lives in Worcestershire. Ruth served as a magistrate for many years, and worked as a counsellor for Relate. She is a trustee of Anawim, a Birmingham based charity supporting women who have problems with substance abuse and victims of abuse.

Reflections on Forgiveness

In this session Ruth will reflect on why she struggles to forgive. She will examine approaches to forgiveness in Judaism and other faiths. Participants will be invited to contribute personal perspectives on why it can be so hard to say sorry.

Session 2

Nigel Grizzard



Nigel Grizzard was born in the London Borough of Stepney and was raised in North East London. He moved north to work in Bradford and live in Leeds, West Yorkshire where he is now the Jewish Heritage Guide and Researcher.

He wrote the Demography Chapter in the academic textbook "Leeds and its Jewish Community 2019" (Manchester University Press), and is now undertaking research on Montague Burton and the Jewish involvement in the Leeds clothing industry, especially the large manufacturers. He enjoys guiding and lecturing and helping people reconnect with their roots. Nigel was awarded a grant to "Research Jews living in the Leeds Inner City - a Minority Left Behind" and ran a Heritage Lottery Project "Making their Mark on Bradford Jewry".

From Clothing to Corona - the Life and Legacy of Sir Montague Burton of Leeds.

Montague Burton was born in Lithuania in 1885 and died in Leeds in 1952. He came to Yorkshire in 1900, going on to establish a chain of men's clothing shops and then a huge manufacturing plant on Hudson Road in Leeds in the 1920s.

Burtons, as it was known, produced 25% of Britain's male clothing output at its height. The session will look at who Sir Montague Burton was, what he achieved in both industrial and charitable spheres, and also look at Jewish involvement in the men's clothing industry Leeds where Burtons was by far the largest of a number of large manufacturers. The session will discuss the problems that the UK faced in acquiring PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) during the Coronavirus crisis and how things might have been different if there had still been a manufacturing base in Leeds.

Nathan Abrams



Nathan Abrams is Professor of Film Studies at Bangor University in north Wales, where he lives. He's a long-time Limmud participant and has written extensively on Jews in film for academic and popular publications.

Midrashic, Talmudic and Kabbalistic Themes in Stanley Kubrick's *The Shining*

Stanley Kubrick's legendary horror film turned 40 this year. Kubrick was an intellectual, Jewish, and "Talmudic" filmmaker. Of his films, *The Shining* is particularly Midrashic, Talmudic and Kabbalistic. In this session we shall explore some of those themes, as well as why it attracts such obsessive attention four decades later. No prior knowledge needed.

Isaac Ansell Forsyth



Isaac is Scottish, currently studying at the Mir Yeshiva and teaching Talmud in Jerusalem. He spent many years working in youth leadership with Tribe in the UK, international development in South Africa and Special Needs Education. He has an MA in Psychology from the University of Glasgow.

Understanding God

In what sense is God "one"? We explore five alternative belief systems to gain a deeper understanding of the theology of the Torah.