Limmud
BRISTOL SW

PROGRAMME & PRESENTERS

Sunday 19 June 2022
Bristol Beacon

Media Partner
THE JC
THE JEWISH CHRONICLE

PROGRAMME

Text or texting? What should Jews be good at in the 21st century?

Clive Lawton

Clive will consider the place of text study in contemporary Jewish life. When we can look things up on Google, is there any point in cultivating skill with classical Jewish texts? Text study is a popular feature of Limmud events but is this cultural nostalgia or is it offering something real? … And what about texting? Is it good for the Jews?

My family as Jewish partisan fighters in the Belorussian forests 1942-44: Reflections on its significance today

Dave Weltman

I will be telling the story of how during World War II my grandparents became part of the famous 'Bielski brothers' group of Jewish forest partisans in the area of modern-day Belarus. What political and psychological reflections can we draw from this experience of resistance, including in the light of the current threat from the far-Right?

Ein Od Milvado – We Are All Connected

Marc Frank

How can we understand the message of our mystics, when they tell us that "Everything is One"? Together we will dive deeply into Jewish sources throughout the ages that point towards this truth. Through a series of short meditations, we will drop into the abiding silent stillness beyond the words, thoughts and ideas that seem to separate us.

African Jewish Lives

Sybil Sheridan

Some African communities claim their origins in the ten lost tribes, others are descendants of Jews who settled to trade. The result is a rich diversity of culture and practices which share our biblical roots. Are they Jewish? Does it matter? We will look at Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, and Uganda with video clips and interviews.

Do Black lives still matter?

Edie Friedman

Two years after the murder of George Floyd, we look at some of the ongoing issues impacting the black community in the UK. We will look at how the Jewish community has responded, the consequences of inaction and what the Government, the community and individuals can do to decrease racial inequality in Britain.

A taste of the Queer Yeshiva

Joanna Phillips, Hava Carvajal, Daniel Lichman

Join us to study the Talmud, a beautiful and subversive text at the heart of traditional Judaism. Created by radicals who wanted to reinvent their religion, it teaches us how to think outside of binaries. Part of this session will be spent looking at Talmud in chevruta (study pairs). All levels of Hebrew, genders and sexualities welcome.

Exploring inherited trauma as creative practice. Three stories.

Richard White, Lorna Brunstein

The session explores Lorna Brunstein's creative process as a Second Generation Holocaust Survivor and her collaborative projects with Richard White. Art, photos, and film clips punctuate their conversation. Memories of three close family members' experience of resistance and survival provide starting points for the art works discussed.

Stanley Kubrick: New York Jewish Intellectual

Nathan Abrams

In this illustrated session, we'll explore the legendary director's New York Jewish background and how it influenced such classic films as 2001: A Space Odyssey, A Clockwork Orange and The Shining. No experience necessary!

Mizrachi Food? Is there such a thing?

Michal Nahman

This session will involve an interactive cookery demonstration and talk about Mizrachi identities and food. I will discuss my own family's foods and migration in relation to the migration histories of other Jewish Mizrachim in Bristol and to the growth in Mizrachi food in Bristol's thriving restaurant culture.

Public Holocaust Memorialisation in Britain - Exploring the Debates and Controversies

David Tollerton

In April 2022, the High Court quashed planning permission for a major new Holocaust memorial in central London. The project – now in a state of limbo – has a contested history going back nearly a decade. This presentation will explore some of the debates and situate them in the broader context of 21st century public Holocaust memorialisation.

Voices and Images of the Welsh Jewish Community

John Minkes

This session is about the work of the Jewish History Association of South Wales (JHASW), established in 2017 to uncover, document, preserve, and share the cultural heritage of the Jewish communities of South Wales by recording oral histories and preserving documents and artefacts.

Dances of Universal Peace inspired by the Jewish tradition

Ruth Stone

We dance in a circle, singing words from sacred writings (in Hebrew) and the niggun tradition. The words, melody and movements for each dance are taught, so no experience is needed, and everyone is welcome. This is not performance, more a form of spiritual practice. The dances range from joyful and celebratory to quietly profound.

Ukraine Conflict - The Jewish Response to a Global Crisis

Thomas Edwards, Kai Hopkins

World Jewish Relief is a Jewish humanitarian agency. This session – led by the organisation's Head of Humanitarian Programmes and Head of Major Giving - will discuss their response to the Ukraine crisis, helping both Jewish and non-Jewish communities with basic life-saving aid and support for longer term recovery.

A Chassidic Cultural Rennaisance? Yiddish Culture in the 21st Century

Izzy Posen

The Chassidic community has been dragged, kicking and screaming, into the age of the internet. A new virtual world is emerging, and Chassidim are creating art and culture in it. A different type of Chassidic culture, and a more humanistic and worldly one. Could this be the start of a Chassidic cultural renaissance?

The Hidden History of Jews in Bristol and Bath

Christina Hilsenrath, Shanie Hagan

Christina will present the history of the Jewish community in Bath, told through the history of its Burial Ground and the remarkable lives of the people buried there. Shanie will take us through Jewish sites in Bristol, from the Jewish quarter between The Quay & Small Street to the Bristol Blue Glass, unveiling the untold history of the city's Jewish Community.

You Can't Keep a Good Woman Down: Latest Developments in the Orthodox World

Lindsey Taylor-Guthartz

We'll explore perhaps the most contentious issue in the Orthodox world today, in Israel, the USA, and the UK. Come and learn about the latest amazing developments in women's Jewish education, participation in Jewish ritual, leadership opportunities, and … yes, Orthodox women rabbis! What's up next? Come and find out! Women AND men welcome.

Transition and Translation in Isaac Bashevis Singer's 'Yentl the Yeshiva Boy'

Lyman Gamberton

Would the real Anshel Mendel please stand up? This session takes a contemporary queer lens to Isaac Bashevis Singer's beloved folktale, considering Yentl's many transitions - from Yiddish to English, from page to stage to screen, and across the many borders of embodiment, gender, and desire.

Let's Talk About Water: An Environmental Scientist's Perspective on Sustainability Challenges in the Horn of Africa

Michael Singer

Communities in East Africa depend on rainfall for subsistence agriculture and pastoralism, so they are extremely vulnerable to water scarcity and food insecurity during droughts. Based on Tikkun Olam, I will tell you about climate change and the impacts on lives and livelihoods for rural communities in this beautiful region.

What does a Jew look like? Photographing British Jews

Keith Kahn-Harris

Since 2019, Keith Kahn-Harris has been collaborating with Rob Stothard - the photographer who took the most widely-used stock photo of British Jews - to produce a photographic portrait of our community. In this session Keith will discuss the challenges and dilemmas in visually representing Jews in the media.

PROGRAMME

Fifty Shades of Black

Dovi Wieder

In this session we will uncover the mysteries of the urban phenomenon called Bnei Brak, where I was born and raised. Bnei Brak is one of the most crowded cities in the entire world, and the largest ultra-Orthodox city in Israel. We will get to know the nuances, shades and challenges that exist within this seemingly homogeneous society.

Introduction to Mussar: Making the world better one person at a time!

Monique Mayer

Mussar is not therapy and the focus is not on us. So what, exactly, is it? Mussar is an ancient Jewish ethical tradition that helps us to bring holiness into the world by becoming a mensch. You will come out of this session with an idea of how Mussar practice works and where you might go to learn more. No prior knowledge required.

Daniel Cainer in Concert

Daniel Cainer

Dan is just back from New York after a four-week run of his unique stories-in-song. Smart, warm, funny and profound (so they say). Brilliant rhyming, wordplay, great musicianship and haunting tunes you won't forget. His music is for anyone who has ever wrestled with their home, their heritage and their heart (and is partial to beigels).

PRESENTERS

NATHAN ABRAMS

Nathan Abrams teaches film at Bangor University in north Wales, where he lives with his family and dogs. A popular presenter, he's been writing and lecturing about Jews and film, television and popular culture for many years and is currently writing a biography of the major Jewish director, Stanley Kubrick.

LORNA BRUNSTEIN

Bristol and South West Second Generation Network

Lorna's upbringing was dominated by the experience of her parents, both Holocaust Survivors. Creativity is her process of articulating a way to live with that legacy. Inherited trauma is always at the core of her work. She makes immersive installations exploring themes of identity, memory, loss and displacement. Recent work: 'After Auschwitz' London

DANIEL CAINER

Limmud favourite: multi-award winning songwriter, storyteller, broadcaster, veteran of six off-Broadway runs, 15 years at Edinburgh Fringe and concerts all around the world with his ever evolving Jewish themed stories-in-song. He also writes music for TV, theatre, radio and synagogues. AKA 'The Comic Bard of Anglo Jewry' (*The Jewish Chronicle*).

HAVA CARVAJAL

The Queer Yeshiva

Hava Carvajal is a teacher at the Queer Yeshiva, and is currently completing an MA in Jewish Studies at UCL before beginning a six-month course at Paideia, the European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden. She's a queer transfem who hopes to begin their rabbinic studies soon.

THOMAS EDWARDS

World Jewish Relief

Tom Edwards is the Head of Major Giving at World Jewish Relief. Tom is responsible for securing income from philanthropists to fund World Jewish Relief's growing programme portfolio. Tom's background is in the international development sector and he was previously a Trustee of the South West International Development Network.

MARC FRANK

Totnes Jewish Community, Devon Faith & Belief Forum

Therapist, Jewish Community Facilitator, Mental Health Worker and Maverick Mystic. My involvement in Interfaith work sparks a keen interest in finding unity in diversity. I am passionate about the possibilities for peace in coming home to our divine nature as open awareness, alive as the essence of everything

EDIE FRIEDMAN

The Jewish Council for Racial Equality (JCORE)

Edie Friedman was born in Chicago and moved to the UK more than 40 years ago. Concerned to strengthen the link between social justice and Jewishness, in 1976 she founded the Jewish Council for Racial Equality (JCORE), of which she is now the executive director.

LYMAN GAMBERTON

Lyman Gamberton is a recent PhD in Anthropology from SOAS with a specialisation in Transgender Studies. A diaspora enthusiast and translator in more ways than one, he is committed to the flourishing of queer Jewish life in community. When not on fieldwork, he enjoys cycling, klezmer music, and figuring out how much Judaica it is possible to knit.

SHANIE HAGAN

My name is Shanie Hagan. I am a history graduate with a masters in Jewish History and Culture. I currently live in Bristol and work in the heritage and culture sector. As a Jewish woman, I continue to research my local Jewish history in Bristol and grow my understanding of this small but significant community.

CHRISTINA HILSENRATH

Friends of the Bath Jewish Burial Ground

Christina Hilsenrath is an experienced genealogist and local historian. She is chair of the Friends of the Bath Jewish Burial Ground, the only remaining physical site of Bath's nineteenth century Jewish Community. For the last two years Christina has been researching its history, the lives of the people buried there and Bath's Jewish community.

KAI HOPKINS

World Jewish Relief

Kai Hopkins is the Head of Humanitarian Programmes at World Jewish Relief and has over 15 years' experience responding to the world's most pressing development challenges and the most severe humanitarian crises. He manages all World Jewish Relief's global humanitarian activities.

KEITH KAHN-HARRIS

Leo Baeck College and Institute of Jewish Policy Research

Keith Kahn-Harris is a senior lecturer at Leo Baeck College and runs the European Jewish Research Archive at the Institute for Jewish Policy Research. The author of seven books, his eighth, 'What does a Jew look like?', a collaboration with the photographer Rob Stothard, was published in April 2022.

CLIVE LAWTON

Commonwealth Jewish Council

Clive, Limmud's co-founder deeply engaged in its international growth, is now CEO of the Commonwealth Jewish Council, scholar in residence at London's JW3, an NHS tribunal Chair and a volunteer for Bristol's Lifeskills charity. He is to be found most shabbatot at Park Row shul and tries to play his part (badly!) at Bristol Jewish Snooker Club.

MONIQUE MAYER

Bristol & West Progressive Jewish Congregation

Monique Mayer was ordained through Leo Baeck College in London and is rabbi of Bristol & West Progressive Synagogue. She has taught Mussar for 13 years through the Mussar Institute both in the community and at LimmudFest. Monique teaches Mussar –

an ancient ethical practice – to help others to make the world and their lives better.

JOHN MINKES
Jewish History Association of South Wales

John Minkes grew up in Birmingham but his family were all from South Wales and he has lived in Cardiff since 1990. He has been a trustee of the Jewish History Association of South Wales since it was established in 2017.

MICHAL NAHMAN
The Mizrachi Food Project

Michal is an anthropologist and cook whose work centres on the politics of reproduction, women's labour, identities, borders and nationalism. She is currently examining how identities and ideas of home and belonging are expressed through cooking and eating together within the Sephardi and Mizrachi Jewish communities in Bristol and the UK.

JOANNA PHILLIPS
The Queer Yeshiva

Joanna Phillips is a Talmud nerd and teacher at the Queer Yeshiva. The Queer Yeshiva is a project creating something new in the UK: rigorous, radically inclusive multi-day Talmud learning through an explicitly Queer lens. Joanna is also a trustee of Babel's Blessing, a grassroots language school that funds free English classes for migrants.

IZZY POSEN

Izzy Posen is a commentator and educator on the Chassidic community. He also works in Yiddish research.

SKY RATCLIFFE

SYBIL SHERIDAN
Lyons Learning Project

Sybil Sheridan is a rabbi currently serving the Newcastle Reform Synagogue and Executive Director of the Lyons Learning Project, promoting Jewish culture history and textual study online and in London. She is a founder of the charity, Meketa: supporting the Beta Israel – Ethiopians of Jewish descent awaiting Aliyah in Gondar Ethiopia.

MICHAEL SINGER
Cardiff University

Dr Singer is an academic at Cardiff University. Singer is a watershed scientist with a research aim to reduce uncertainty about the impact of humans and climate on water resources, water balance, hydrologic fluxes, erosion/sedimentation, and topographic evolution of landscapes.

RUTH STONE
Dances of Universal Peace International

I'm a mother and a grand-mother, now living in Oxford close to my family. My working life has been as a yoga teacher and therapist, and I continue to practise spiritual healing. I first came across the Dances of Universal Peace thirty years ago and have been leading these dance circles in Oxford and elsewhere since 2010.

LINDSEY TAYLOR-GUTHARTZ
Centre for Jewish Studies, Manchester University; London School of Jewish Studies

Lindsey Taylor-Guthartz has taught at LSJS since 2005. She's a Research Fellow at the Centre for Jewish Studies, Manchester University, and has lectured at Cambridge, Oxford, and other universities. In 2019 she founded the Pop-Up Beit Midrash, and in 2021 received Orthodox rabbinic ordination from Yeshivat Maharat, New York.

DAVID TOLLERTON
University of Exeter

David Tollerton is Associate Professor in the College of Humanities at the University of Exeter. He has written extensively on Holocaust memory and his most recent book, 'Holocaust Memory and Britain's Religious-Secular Landscape' was published with Routledge in 2020. He is also Secretary of the British and Irish Association for Jewish Studies.

DAVE WELTMAN

Dave previously taught psychology at Bath University before moving into his current clinical role working in a local NHS community mental health team. He is a UNISON workplace representative and a long-standing activist involved in a variety of social justice campaigns. He is actively involved in Bristol Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) campaigning.

RICHARD WHITE
Bath Spa University

Artist/researcher: through walking and asking questions, Richard builds alertness to memories, spectres and uncomfortable histories, attending to response-abilities and social justice. Recent work: 'Walking the Names' at Bath Union Workhouse Burial Ground (BBCR4 Open Country 28/4/2) and 'Botany, Empire and Deep Time' at Bath's Sydney Gardens.

DOVI WIEDER
The Jewish Agency for Israel and The Union of Jewish Students

Shalom, I am Dovi Wieder, the Jewish Agency for Israel Shaliach to the Union of Jewish Students, covering the Greater London area and South England. I was born and raised in Bnei Brak, a fascinating city in the centre of Israel. I am excited to explore Bnei Brak's story with you!