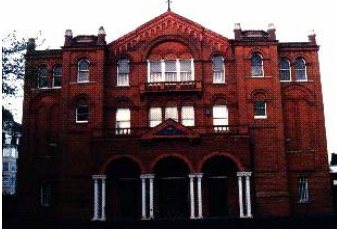


# New London News

New London Synagogue 33 Abbey Road London NW8 0AT  
Tel: 020 7328 1026 Fax 020 7372 3142 nls@masorti.org.uk



## September 2005

### Elul 5765

European Day of Jewish Culture and  
Heritage

## Sunday 4th September

### "And the Memory Lingers On"

A virtual tour of Jewish London  
from the City to the East End.

by Blue Badge Guide

### Rachel Kolsky

"Evoking memories of the Jewish Community in the  
City and East End of London. Images bring to life  
the personalities and buildings which shaped the  
culture and heritage of these fascinating areas."

The talk is preceded by a short tour and historical  
overview of our beautiful 19th century Synagogue.

Please book your places via the Synagogue

Time: 6.00 pm

Cost: £6—includes refreshments

NLS presents an illustrated talk by

## Michael Heppner

Director of the Czech Memorial  
Scrolls Trust

### "The Czech Torah Scrolls"

## Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September

at 7.30pm

*In the early 1960s, British businessman and  
philanthropist, Ralph Yablon, negotiated the acquisition  
and removal of about 1500 Torah scrolls from Prague  
to London where they were entrusted to Westminster  
Synagogue.*

*Today, the scrolls have been permanently loaned to  
important institutions and Jewish communities,  
throughout the world, including the New London  
Synagogue. It is a fascinating story.*

Tickets £5.00 including refreshments

## 10<sup>th</sup> September

### The AltMinyan meets at 10.00 am with Rabbi Jeremy Gordon

Followed by a "**Lunch and Learn**"  
programme on the theme of Teshuva (Repentance)  
. Cost is £10 (students/unwaged £5) please book  
via the Synagogue Office



## 11<sup>th</sup> September

Ladies Association

### Bridge Club

3.30 – 7.00 pm

In the New London Hall

For more information, please call  
Hanni Mann (020) 8452 9352

Entrance fee £8.00

Includes refreshments

## LESSONS FOR THE NEW LONDON SYNAGOGUE?

I recently came across the substantial 1991 Kalms Committee Report on the United Synagogue (US) called *A TIME FOR CHANGE*. It occurred to me that, despite the time which has elapsed, some of the comments made by respondents to the Kalms questionnaire, together with Kalms' analysis of US members' views, could well be significant for the New London Synagogue today.

The following are some points and quotations excerpted from the Kalms Report, with a few personal observations on their relevance to the New London:

1.1. Those who were dissatisfied with the US would not go to a Reform synagogue, but 'For the reasonably Orthodox, Masorti was a powerful magnet'. Kalms noted that the attraction of Masorti was striking, given that it was not a well-known movement (that is, in 1991). For respondents who considered themselves traditional, many were annoyed by the perceived new-found extremism of the US. 'For this group – commented Kalms - Masorti synagogues are a very real attraction, especially those that still retain separate seating for men and women'.

1.2. The Report lay stress on the demand in the US for beginners' and explanatory services. Among both regular and irregular attendees, there was a wide desire (60% of respondents) for explanations during the main service also. The *siddur* was not straightforward and there was a need for guidance, particularly in regard to the key prayers and the *Torah* reading.

1.3. 'Rousing singing, removal of all elements of a performance (including canonicals) and a steady, consistent speed' were favoured.

1.4. There was no wish for mixed seating but 48% of the respondents preferred same-level seating.

1.5. There was much criticism of the 'club-like' behaviour of the regular attendees, who tended to ignore newcomers.

1.6. 'The distant activity of the *Bimah* is not involving...'

## RELEVANCE TO THE NEW LONDON SYNAGOGUE TODAY.

1. The views of most of our members today probably do not differ substantially from those of US expressed in 1991. The figures at our last EGM favouring the retention of separate seating (though on the same level) corresponded to those in the US in 1991 (i.e., slightly, but not overwhelmingly in favour) of parallel seating for men and women..

2. The US respondents found the *Bimah* distant and excluding (this suggests that a central *Bimah* helps participation and a feeling of inclusion. Some more thought might be given to restoring our *Bimah* to its original place in the centre, as well as to closing off parts of the synagogue when attendances are low and to moving the Wardens' box so that a newcomer does not feel that three sets of eyes are fixed on him across empty rows of seats.

3. While it is true (and the Report accepts it) that with regular attendance at services and other activities the feeling of being excluded lessens, and that we deserve the accolade given by the Report to Masorti synagogues in general, perhaps there should be as a matter of course a system for welcoming a new attendee in order to avoid the impression of being too inward-looking.

4. The respondents to Kalms were strongly supportive of explanatory and informal alternative services, as well as the introduction of some such elements into the main service. We do not have this in the New London, where the major motor behind the practice of the alternative service seems to be less educational or an introduction to the service, than mixed seating, even though it allows more people to lead the service and read *Torah* (but fewer to read *Haphtarah*).

5. It follows that we may be acting counter-productively by antagonizing those of our members and potential members who, like US respondents in 1991, do not want mixed seating and think that in today's climate it puts us too clearly on the Reform side of the Anglo-Jewish divide. At the same time, we may be losing the chance of attracting newcomers by not introducing other progressive features and by not taking a closer look at the practices of our main service, its content and pace.

**Michael Alpert**

## **TWO SERVICES, ONE COMMUNITY**

**By Roberta Rosefield and Ariella Levine**

In 2001, the AltMinyan (Alternative Minyan) started at NLS. It meets in the hall every month, (every 3 weeks from after the Chagim). The AltMinyan is a Torah-egalitarian service with mixed seating. That means women play an equal part in the Torah service but only men lead the statutory services. It is a participatory service encouraging everyone to join in the singing and learning.

Writing for the newsletter gave us the opportunity to tell our stories about why we are participants in both the main service and the AltMinyan. Roberta has been a member of NLS since she was six. Ariella is a newcomer, having joined in 2004. As our stories show, both services have much to offer all members of the NLS community.

### ***Roberta***

"I have been coming to the NLS since the shul came into existence, as my parents were founder members. I attended the NLS cheder, was a bat mitzvah here, married here, and both my children have celebrated their bar/bat-mitzvah at NLS.

"NLS has been the only shul I have known and I have always felt at home with the traditions and approach of our community.

"When the AltMinyan first began meeting I, like many other members of NLS, occasionally visited their services for 10 or 15 minutes, but always returned to the service in the main shul. However, once I started to learn to layn at Stephen Cotsen's Sunday morning classes, I began to look forward to taking an active part in the Shabbat service.

"On the Shabbat that I first layned in the AltMinyan I was nervous but felt greatly supported not only by my family but by the members of the AltMinyan and also by members from the main service who kindly popped in to witness my layning.

"I really enjoyed the service, particularly the fact that everybody joined in and both men and women were able to participate in all aspects of the service. I felt more at home in the AltMinyan than I had expected – the two services are in fact very similar: both services use the Singer prayer book and the Hertz Chumash; the main differences being that the Torah reading is on the triennial basis, there

is as yet no Haphtarah although that will start in the autumn, and the sermon is more often a time for teaching and discussion.

"The AltMinyan is sufficiently small to ensure that most attendees will get a chance to play a role in the service, whether by laying or by opening the ark or by reading English Prayers and thus is very friendly and welcoming. After the service we meet up with the members of the main service at the regular Kiddush and this provides a good opportunity for the two groups to get together and I like the fact that I can then catch up with my friends from the main service.

"I still regularly go to the main service and enjoy the more traditional service, particularly hearing our Chazan sing, but I appreciate the different form of service offered by the AltMinyan."

### ***Ariella:***

"I am newcomer to NLS, having only joined in 2004. I moved to London from the United States and was shul-shopping. I first came to NLS to Kabbalat Shabbat in the AltMinyan. In many aspects, it reminded me of the services that I had grown up with and knew that my search for a shul was complete.

"Soon after, I came to a 'regular' Saturday morning service. Although it is a different service from the AltMinyan, I liked it and began to come more regularly to NLS to either service.

"When I am at the AltMinyan, I am impressed with all of the participation. The AltMinyan feels very "homey" and welcoming. I had learned to layn for my bat mitzvah, but shied away from it ever since. When I began coming regularly to the Alternative Minyan, it seemed natural for me to start laying again. I was a part of the community and was eager to contribute. It is nice to see the service appeal to a broad range of members of the NLS community.

"As our stories show, having two services at NLS broadens the appeal and attractiveness of the shul to both new and existing members. The AltMinyan provides a draw for people who might not otherwise attend NLS. Although there are two services at NLS, they are complimentary and **can** help build one strong community."

***The next AltMinyan will be on 10th September led by Rabbi Jeremy Gordon.***

## **THE MASORTI MOVEMENT – A RETHINK**

This year a Steering Group was set up, comprising of representatives from each of the communities (I represent NLS), the Rabbis, the executive officers, vice presidents and two senior movement workers, to look at parameters necessary to take the Masorti Movement into the next 10 years. Their brief was to re-examine areas of the movement in order to enhance Masorti Judaism in Britain and to develop a strategy for the future.

They have raised many interesting questions. Now, we in the communities can offer our feedback and thoughts. Here is just a sample.

- What do we want the Masorti Movement to be like in 10 years time?
- Will the current structure of our head office help us achieve our 10-year goals?
- Do we really understand what is distinctive and definitive about Masorti Judaism?
- Are our information packs still relevant and attractive?
- Do we need to rethink our funding policy?
- Is the Masorti movement involved enough with the wider, cross-community Jewish life envisaged for the future? Or are we isolationist?
- Is enough being done to increase the number of our home-grown Masorti Rabbis?
- Do we do enough to track people with all kinds of potential leadership talents from an early enough age?
- Are we complacent about the number of Masorti communities in existence?
- Maybe you think we can do without a movement at all.

**We want to know what you think!!**

You are invited to a consultation meeting on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30 – 10:30** at **New North London Synagogue**. Please put the date in your diary so you can give your feedback in person.

You can even put your views across from the comfort of your own home by consulting the website <<[itsthewayyouthink.co.uk](http://itsthewayyouthink.co.uk)>> where papers arising from these discussions are available.

There are also copies of a report issued by the Steering Committee available from the office either by email or post.

**We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30 pm.**

**Your thoughts are vital to our future**

**Gina Sanders**

*Join us for a*

# **Sit-down Kiddush**

*On*

## **Shabbat 10<sup>th</sup> September**

*Special guests;*

**Gill Caplin  
AMS Chairman**

**Michael Gluckman  
AMS Executive Director**

***“Kiddush with a  
nice cup of tea”***

## LEARN A SKILL AND BE MORE INVOLVED IN THE SERVICES AT NLS

We need many more members who can read from the Torah, lead services, sing a Haphtarah and have received many requests for a basic Hebrew reading course. So we are happy to offer the following opportunities to members of either service to learn or "brush-up" on their skills – all free of charge.



### Laying Workshop

A new beginner's course, with **Stephen Cotsen**, will start on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September** at 11.00 am in the Rabbi's Study.

Members now read the Torah regularly at both services. Previous participants have found the experience most fulfilling.

You can re-learn your Bar Mitzvah portion, learn a portion for a special birthday or read your own portion when called up for a Yahrzeit.

Come and join us. There will also be an opportunity for more experienced layers to come and practice their portions and rehearse in the Torah Scroll

### Learn to read Hebrew in SIX WEEKS



With  
**Rabbi Elaina Rothman**

*This course is designed for beginners and nearly beginners and will run on the following*

*Sundays at NLS  
from 10.00 – 11.00 am*

**October 2<sup>nd</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup>  
November 13<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup>**

*The course is free - the cost of the workbook is £5 payable when enrolling*

**To join, please return the enrolment form on the leaflet enclosed.**

**YOU COULD READ**

# ANY HAPHTARAH

## IN JUST SIX LESSONS

By learning to read the musical notation for the Haphtarah you will be able to easily learn any Haphtarah.

The dates of this course are

**19<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> September  
10<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> October  
7<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> November**

**Monday evenings 8.00 p.m. at NLS**

**Teacher: Stephen Cotsen**

### One-to-one tuition for members wishing to learn how to lead services.

We have very few members able to lead sections of the service and wish to redress this inadequacy as a matter of urgency.

A first priority is to teach members to lead **P'Sukei D'Zimrah** the opening section of the Shabbat morning service, and the weekdays **Minchah** (afternoon) service..

We feel it is so important to teach these skills that free tuition is available in the comfort of your own home by Stephen Cotsen.

**To get started please telephone Stephen on 07976 802 555 or email [stepcots@msn.com](mailto:stepcots@msn.com).**

## CHEDER

Our Cheder outing for the summer term was to St Albans where we looked at the Roman influence on Jewish culture. We met up with children from the older classes of the St Albans' Cheder, some of whom were already known to the students at NLS through NOAM camp. Rabbis Weiner and Gordon organised activities and role play in the Roman amphitheatre. We then headed to the park for our picnic lunch, eaten like Romans reclining whilst being served by slaves. We learnt that after eating many courses the Romans' feasts would end with entertainment, in our case exotic dancing by Saskia and Samara, this finale was called the "Afikomen"! After a treasure hunt in the playground we sat under the trees and discussed what we'd found and ate chocolate coins before heading back to London.

The last day of term was Prize Day when we said good-bye to our graduating Bar/Bat Mitzvah students, Lottie, Roly and Miranda. We all then walked to Stephen Cotsen's house where we had a fabulous barbeque followed by jelly and ice-cream; a wonderful end to a super day.

The new term will start on **11 September**; with our enrolment day programme. Please will everyone arrive promptly at 10.00am when we will have a family treasure hunt which will familiarise the children with synagogue geography and the Hebrew names for various items in the Synagogue. The children will then meet their teachers and have a short activity and snack in their classes while the parents will have a meeting to fill in the enrolment forms and discuss the year's curriculum. A crèche will be organised for small children to enable all parents

to attend the meeting. The enrolment day programme will end at 11.30 a.m. so that the teachers can have a planning meeting.

Our first outing this year will be on a water theme for Sukkot on 23 October with Rabbi Chaim Weiner. Water is one of the central themes of Sukkot and Chaim is especially talented at creating original educational programmes in a way that just enthral children.

The Family Shabbat will be on Friday 18 November also with Rabbi Chaim Weiner, and we hope that as many of you as possible will attend – these events are open to all children/grandchildren in the community and their families. This year, there will be an educational outing and a Family Shabbat dinner each term open to all families in the community.

All members can help the Cheder to grow, by giving some thought to finding families with cheder-age children and encouraging them to come along on enrolment-day. Perhaps younger members of your family or extended family could be interested or maybe there are new families recently moved into your neighbourhood that could be looking for a Shul or Cheder.

## GCSE JEWISH STUDIES

Would anyone like to take a GCSE in Jewish Studies? We are considering offering a class if there are enough post Bar/Bat Mitzvah students interested. Classes could be either held in the Shul or in a student's house. Telephone Louise Spencer-Hope or Stephen Cotsen for further information.

**Louise Spencer-Hope**

### *Any one for golf?*



I would be interested in organising an NLS Golf Day early next summer, both as a fund-raising exercise for the Synagogue and for the enjoyment of Golfing members, provided there is sufficient interest. This would be open to men, ladies and juniors. If you might be interested in taking part, please contact me at

[richardqraham@districtandurban.com](mailto:richardqraham@districtandurban.com)

### *Any one for Bridge?*



Have you always wanted to learn Bridge?

Would you be interested in attending an introductory lecture explaining the rudiments of the game?

If you have answered "yes" to both these questions, please contact Marie Alpert on 020 7624 9116 or [malpert@onetel.com](mailto:malpert@onetel.com)

## From the Membership committee

It's at this time of year that people think about going to synagogue. We search out our festival books, start inviting the family over for a meal or two and wonder what news we will find out from our friends at New London. It is often a time where we think about what it means to us to be Jewish; to be part of a community. At New London most of our members feel that we are part of something special, a synagogue built on traditional values and practice, learning and intellectual quest.

The membership committee needs your help in attracting new members – the whole future of this community depends on it - It is during this festive period that people 'Shul Shop'. Do you know any new Jewish families in your area that are looking for a synagogue to attend? You may have friends or younger relatives who have not yet become members of a synagogue. Invite them to one of our

services. It is up to each and every one of us to help ensure our community has a future. There is always a member of the Membership Committee in synagogue each Shabbat to provide information and a warm welcome.

We are also hoping to encourage greater involvement by members in the life and running of this community. There are many activities to be involved with as you can see just by reading this Newsletter. You could also give some time to help with the running of the shul. This can be just a couple of hours a month perhaps helping in the office or running an activity. Last month I was able to help out by giving the hall skylights a spring clean thereby saving the synagogue the cost of getting the work done professionally.

Shanah Tovah

**Ian Green**  
Chair



## NLS Book Club – 8<sup>th</sup> September

The Book Club meets regularly in member's homes. We discuss books of Jewish interest or by Jewish authors. This month we are discussing

**“The House of Spirits” by Isabel Allende, &  
“The Puttermesser Papers” by Cynthia Ozick**

For details call **Ronnie Cohen** at NLS.

### Social and Personal

#### Bereavement

We send our condolences and wish long life to the family of the late **Eric Townley**.

**The Stonesettings in loving memory of the following members will take place on September 4<sup>th</sup> at Cheshunt**

10.00 am for **Millicent Barkoff**

3.15 for **Barbara Davis**

#### Refuah Sh'leima

**Alfred Shields** remains in hospital and we send him our love and prayers for a complete recovery

#### Bar Mitzvah

Mazel tov to **JoJo Weiner** on his Barmitzvah on September 4<sup>th</sup>, and course to Rabbi Chaim, Judy, Josh, Yoni and Kobi

Mazel tov to the families of

**Nicola Atkins and Darion Pohl.**

**Benjamin Marks and Michelle Brown**

#### Wedding

Mazel tov to **Richard Greenwood and Gina Elliott** who will be married here at NLS on 25<sup>th</sup> September. The family invite you to join them for Kiddush on 17<sup>th</sup> September – Richard's auf ruf

#### New Grandchild




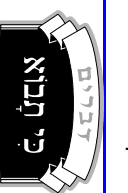

Mazel tov to **Julian and Ann Rau Dawes** on the birth of their first grandchild, Samuel, born to Ann's son James and his wife Anna

#### 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Mazel tov to **Edward Teeger**. Edward invites the community to a celebratory Kiddush following the service on 24<sup>th</sup> September

**Closing date for articles for the October (Rosh Hashanah) edition – 16<sup>th</sup> September**

# September 2005 Elul 5765

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Shabbat
				1	2	3 
4 <b>European Heritage Day</b> Rachel Kolsky talk 6.00 pm First day Rosh Chodesh Elul	5 Rosh Chodesh Elul Service 7.30 am followed by breakfast	6	7 Art Group am	8 NLS Book Club 8.00 pm	9 Shabbat begins 7.13 pm	10 Shabbat ends 8.35 pm 
11 Cheder Enrolment 10.00 am Ladies Association Bridge Afternoon 3.30pm	12 Quest Committee 8.00 pm Membership Committee 8.00 pm	13	14 Art Group am	15 NLS Council 7.30 pm	16 Shabbat begins 6.57 pm	17 Shabbat ends 8.18 pm 
18 Cheder 9.45 am Laying Workshop 11.00 am (new term) Michael Hepner lecture 7.30 pm	19 Haphtarah beginners course begins 8.00 pm	20	21 Art Group am	22 NLS Council 7.30 pm	23 Shabbat begins 6.41 pm	24 Shabbat ends 8.01 pm 
25 Cheder 9.45 am Laying Workshop 11.00 am	26 Haphtarah beginners course 8.00 pm	27 Ladies Association outing to Queen's Gallery	28 Art Group am	29	30 Shabbat begins 6.25 pm	1 Oct Shabbat ends 7.28 pm 

Shabbat Services - Friday evening 6.30 pm Shabbat morning - Shacharit 9.15 am Torah service 10.15 am Children's Service 11.00 am