



Limmud<sup>30</sup>

# Hackney

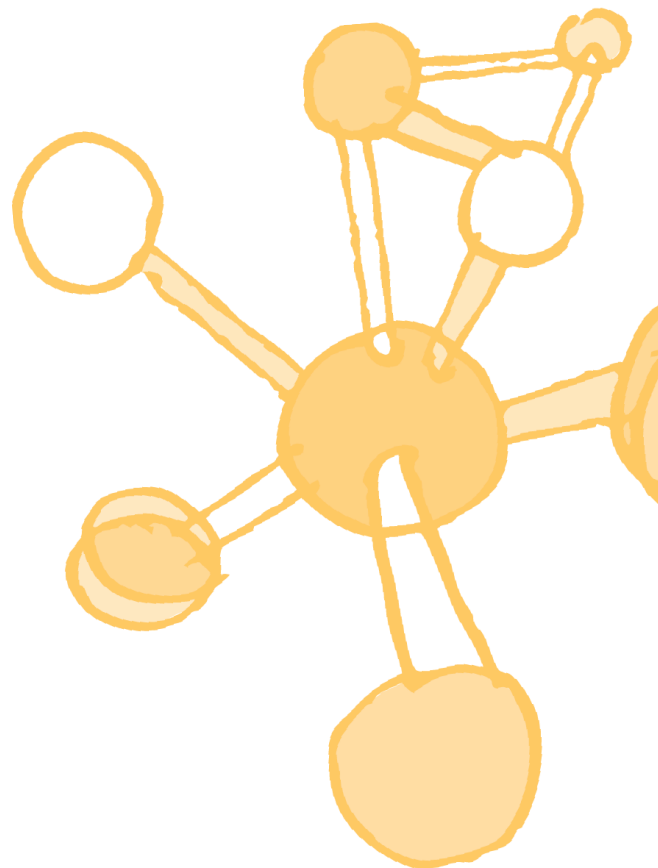
## Mini Limmud 2010

**Sunday 7 November 2010**

BSix College, Kenninghall Road,  
London E5 8BP

### Schedule for the Day

- 13:00 Doors open – Registration
- 13:40 Welcome (Theatre)
- 13:45 Session One
- 14:55 Break
- 15:10 Session Two
- 16:20 Break
- 16:40 Session Three
- 17:50 End

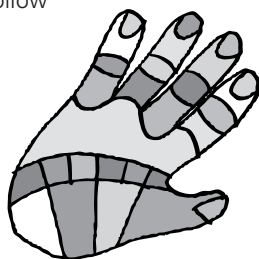


# What you need to know

Welcome to Hackney Mini Limmud 2010. Please read the information below and follow the directions, so that everyone gets the best out of the day.

## Where things are

With the exception of the theatre, which is on the ground floor, the session rooms are on the 2nd floor, rooms 221 – 226. There are disabled toilets within each toilet on each floor.



## Refreshments

Tea and coffee will be available from 13:00 in the cafeteria. There are 3 urns, in different corners of the room. Sandwiches and cakes will be available during the second break.

## Crèche & Young Limmud

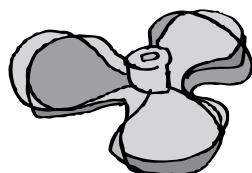
The crèche is in Room 234. Young Limmud for ages five to 12 will run throughout the afternoon, in nearby rooms, at the other end of the 2nd floor corridor from the adult session rooms. We will be offering a range of activities, including music, art, and story telling. Children who are taking part in Young Limmud must stay in their rooms during the sessions, and will be given their refreshments there.

## General Points

- **The lift is purely for the use of those who cannot use the stairs. Since there is only one lift, people with mobility problems will not be able to get to their sessions on time if other people use the lift, so please co-operate with this. We suggest that people who need to use the lift go to it 5 minutes before the start of the session.**
- Help and information is available at the Registration Desk.
- BSix is a no-smoking building.
- Please wear your name badge at all times.
- Please turn off mobile phones during sessions (except for parents, who should put their phones on vibrate only).

## Stalls & Exhibitions

Matanot  
Gallery Gair  
Lubavitch  
Council of Christians & Jews  
Jewish Renaissance  
Behnam Askari  
Five Leaves Books  
Jewish Community Centre for London  
North London Progressive Jewish Community  
AJEX Exhibition



# Thank you

Thank you very much to all the people below, and apologies to anyone we have forgotten.

**Organising Team:** Adam Cohen, Alison Turner, Audrey Droisen, David King, Ed Allen, Gail Chester, Leon Newmark, Melissa Abecassis, Nick Landau, Peter Bergamin, Simon Falush, Simon Lukes.

## All our presenters

**Limmud:** Raymond, Cathryn and Vered from the Limmud Office, Evelyn Tiefenbrun, Clive Lawton, David Szotten, Daniel Vulkan.

**BSix Staff:** Bob Herring, Mark Foster.

Rachel Burns, David Dunbar, Robert Chester, Suzanne Cohen, Dave Pratt, Suzie Klauber, Hazel Babb and the other crèche workers, Michelle Goldberg, Grodzinski's, the residents of AJEX House, the Community Security Trust and, last but not least, everyone who has given their time today.

# Session Information

**Session One**

**13:45 – 14:55**

## Confessions of a Jewish Serial Biographer

**Michael Freedland**

*Theatre*

Michael Freedland has written more than 30 showbusiness biographies – from Frank Sinatra to Morecambe and Wise, including many of Jews, such as Al Jolson, Sam Goldwyn and the four founding Warner Brothers. In this entertaining survey of a century of showbiz history, Michael tells of the people he met, the stories they told him – and how the Jewish contribution to popular culture lives on.

## Israel, Palestine and the Jewish Community: a personal perspective

**David Solomon**

*Room 221*

I will be talking about my experiences as a volunteer teaching English in the Occupied Territories, why I got involved, what I found there, and how this experience has affected my point of view on the conflict. The session will include a discussion about the ethical stance we should, as members of the Jewish community, take towards the issue.

## Liturgical Music of the Spanish & Portuguese Jews of London

**Eliot Alderman**

*Room 222*

A look at the unique liturgical music of the Western Sephardi tradition, as practiced in Congregation Sha'ar Hashamayim – the Spanish & Portuguese Jews' Congregation of London – and a brief history of how this music has developed over the Congregation's 350-year existence.

## The Chronicles of Lena Barden: 93 years of memories

**Lena Barden**

*Room 223*

Talk and presentation of my life story as depicted in my book, *The Chronicles of Lena Barden*, which describes life in pre-war Bethnal Green and post-war Hackney. There will be a display of family photographs.

## Anglo-Jewish Cookery Writers from Judith Montefiore to Evelyn Rose

Jane Gerson

Room 224

A history of Jewish cookery writers in England from Judith Montefiore, whose groundbreaking book *The Jewish Manual* was published in 1846, to Florence Greenberg, dubbed the 'Mrs Beeton' of Anglo-Jewish cookery, ending with a discussion of Evelyn Rose and the emergence of 'kitchen Judaism' and 1960s nostalgia for *haimishe* food.

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## Panel of Jewish Hackney Councillors

Linda Kelly, Barry Buitekant, Simche Steinberger, Ian Sharer

Room 226

We will talk about how our Jewish values led us to being involved in politics, and our experiences of being Jewish on Hackney Council. This will also be a chance for Hackney residents and others to put Councillors on the spot!

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### Session Two

15:10 – 16:20

## Celebrating the Completion of the Steinzaltz Talmud: Rediscovering censored texts

Michael Pollak

Theatre

The corrected text, which Adin Steinzaltz has been working on for the last 30 years, features several crucial excerpts which had been excluded by the Catholic censors over 500 years ago. This session will look at these rediscovered texts, which throw a fascinating light on early Jewish attitudes to Christianity and to Jesus himself.

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## Women, religious leadership and authority: a feminist approach

Joanna Ryam

Room 221

The authority of women as religious leaders will be explored by looking at tradition from new, feminist angles. This will cover key aspects of religion, such as public versus private space, sexuality, how the Tanakh was drawn up, and how it has been interpreted.

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## The Life and Work of Alexander Baron

Ken Worpole

Room 222

I will talk about the life and work of the Hackney-born writer, Alexander Baron, who became one of the most popular writers after the Second World War. Many of his books contain detailed descriptions of Hackney Jewish life in the 1920s and 1930s – housing, politics, street life, love, marriage, war and its aftermath.

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## What is the Jewish Leadership Council and what does it do?

Arieh Kovler

Room 223

This session will explore the work of the Jewish Leadership Council, looking at the major challenges and opportunities that the UK Jewish community faces, and how the JLC works to strengthen and support Jewish life in the UK, in all its aspects.

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## Lock up your coriander: food security in the developing world

Zoe Abrahamson, Jamie Munk

Room 224

After spending time in India and working on issues related to food, come and hear from Tzedek volunteers about their experiences of famine there. Together we will explore solutions and think about what we can do here in the UK. Food security, growing your own, trade justice – what is the answer?

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## International Jewish Short Films

Room 226

This session will comprise three short films, from Britain, Canada and Israel.

**Starting Over** from Canada is the story of Holocaust survivors, Leslie and Clara Reitman, who escaped from Communist Czechoslovakia. This is the first UK showing of the film.

**Bury It** is the story of an Israeli couple struggling with the decision of whether to circumcise their baby son.

**The Vanishing Street** was filmed by Robert Vas in 1961, moments before bulldozers started pulling down the old shops and houses around Hessel Street in the East End. It documents the life of a typical Jewish community in 1960s Britain.

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### Session Three

16:40 – 17:50

## Solomon, Howie and Hibberd

Penelope Solomon, Josh Howie & Tim Hibberd

Theatre

A rehearsed reading of a new comedy show (in development). Written and performed by Josh Howie, Penelope Solomon and Tim Hibberd. An eclectic mix of stand-up, sketches and sheer stupidity. *Be warned, this session is not for the faint-hearted.*

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## Eat Your GM Heart Out: A Big Green Jewish Session on Jewish Ethics and Genetic Tinkering

Philip Rosenberg & Natan Levy

Room 221

Just before you sample our contraband GM sweets, come tuck into the Jewish Ethics of Genetic Engineering in our crops and in our cattle. Using the Torah text as our guide, we will ask: Is it Kosher? And is it Ethical? Plus Phillip Rosenberg will introduce plans for a national and cross-communal 'Big Green Jewish Campaign'.

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## Mental Health in the Charedi Community in Hackney

Jeffery Blumenfeld

Room 222

This session will look at Jewish approaches to mental health, how Chizuk, a charity based in Stamford Hill, tailors its work to the needs of the Charedi community, and how its approach compares to that in other parts of the Jewish community.

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## Zionism and the British Left: The Closing of the Progressive Mind

Colin Shindler

Room 223

Hackney is the epicentre of world revolution. Yet the Left in Hackney has moved from solidarity with Israel in 1948 to de-legitimation in 2010. Colin Shindler argues that this started long before the settlement drive and the election of right-wing governments.

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## New Jewish Writing

Simon Tabak, Adam Taylor, Elizabeth Carola

Room 224

**Simon Tabak** – *Shin Shin 321* is the story of Shimon Shmuel age three to twenty-one. Shin Shin age three has two great loves, Christmas and his German Nanny, Anja. He decides that being three shouldn't stop him from marrying Anja. His journey from early childhood to adulthood is told in story, multiple voices and song.

**Adam Taylor** – Quirky poems inspired by aspects of the Biblical creation story. Themes encompass evil, guilt, atonement, Jewish hell, Jewish singledom and Jewish gangsters.

**Elizabeth Carola** – *Around Here* is a short story about the 'crunch' between the Orthodox and secular communities in Stamford Hill, and life for two people at the interstices, trying to maintain their tested ties with both communities.

# Presenter Biographies

## Zoe Abrahamson

Zoe Abrahamson has recently returned from India, where she was working as Tzedek's India Project Coordinator in the north east of the country. Before joining Tzedek, Zoe worked at Forum for the Future, a leading sustainable development charity. Zoe has a Masters in Sustainable Development from Middlesex University, and a BA in Politics.

## Eliot Alderman

I am Director of Music at the Spanish & Portuguese Jews' Congregation of London, the UK's oldest Jewish congregation.

## Lena Barden

My parents came from Vilna in the early 20th Century. I was born in 1916, the youngest of 8 children. I lived above the family fruit shop in Bethnal Green, and later moved to Hackney. I was President of Hackney Synagogue Ladies Society.

## Jeffery Blumenfeld

I have thirty years' experience in health and social care: as a youth worker and secondary school teacher, former head of United Synagogue youth and community services, and CEO of the Jewish Marriage Council. I am now CEO of Chizuk and Chair of Hackney Mental Health Special Interest Group.

## Barry Buitekant

I have lived in Hackney practically all my life, and was educated locally. I have worked mainly in the Post Office and British Telecom and was an active trade unionist until retirement. I am a Labour Councillor in Haggerston.

## Elizabeth Carola

I am a local writer and (mainly environmental) activist. My first fiction collection, *Hot and other Stories* (Siren Press 2008) will be followed by a sequel in 2011.

## Michael Freedland

Author, journalist and broadcaster Michael Freedland is one of the UK's most renowned biographers of Hollywood legends. His Radio 2 documentaries on Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra and Judy Garland have won him both critical and public acclaim. Michael was also the presenter of the radio show *You Don't Have To Be Jewish*.

## Jane Gerson

I am a lecturer in History at the University of Southampton and have a doctorate on Jewish food in post-war Britain. Prior to that I worked in film and media.

## Tim Hibberd

Tim has written and performed in over 15 internationally touring stage productions, is the voice of an astronomer in a Liverpool museum and a parrot on the telly. For his troubles he has won two Fringe Firsts, a pocketful of yellowing reviews and has made over £36. He currently lives.

## Josh Howie

I am a stand-up comedian. Credits include: Comedy Store, Soho Theatre, Jongleurs, Pleasance (Edinburgh Fringe). Television/Radio: *Movie Geek* (Sky Movies), *World Stands Up* (Paramount), *The World's Most Offensive Jokes* (Channel 4), *4 Stands Up* (BBC R4).

## Anthony Jacobs

Since being taught my skills by Vivian Solomon, I repair Sifrei Torah and go to schools, religion schools and other places to explain the work of a Sofer.

## Linda Kelly

I came to the UK as a child from India, became an elected councillor in 2002, and have worked with the Labour Group on Hackney Council to make Hackney a better place to live for its citizens.

## Arieh Kovler

I am the Jewish Leadership Council's Head of Policy and Research. I also run the anti-boycott Fair Play Campaign. Previously, I was a Jewish educator and youth movement worker.

## Natan Levy

Natan is Head of the London School of Jewish Studies Responsibility Unit and the Rabbi of Shenley United Synagogue.

## Jamie Munk

The newest member of Tzedek's overseas projects team, Jamie has just returned from a summer teaching school dropouts and evaluating Tzedek projects in India. He enjoys cycling, Judaism and training to be a solicitor.

## Michael Pollak

I was educated in Jerusalem at Yeshivat Chevron and subsequently at the LSE. I am currently Director of Professional Studies at the LSJS and Consultant to the J-Lec project of the UJIA.

## Philip Rosenberg

Philip leads on the environment at the Board of Deputies.

## Joanna Ryam

I lived in Israel for 14 years and am a founder member of North London Progressive Jewish Community. My recent MA focussed on feminist analysis of women and religion/spirituality, with a dissertation on women's religious leadership and spiritual authority.

## Ian Sharer

I am a 65 year old insurance broker and councillor in the London Borough of Hackney for the Liberal Democrat Party.

## Colin Shindler

I am a Professor of Israeli Studies at SOAS, University of London. I have written seven books including *A History of Modern Israel*, published by Cambridge University Press.

## David Solomon

I was born in London, and lived for some time in Australia. I work at an FE college in the East End, teaching teenagers from the Bangladeshi community. I started to study Arabic five years ago. I have volunteered in the Occupied Territories during the summers of 2009 and 2010, through the Camden Abu Dis twinning scheme.

## Penelope Solomon

I am a writer/performer. My credits include: Soho Theatre, Royal Exchange Manchester, Pleasance and Royal Festival Hall. Television/Radio: *Fist of Fun* (BBC); *Comedy Nation* (BBC); *Goodnight Sweetheart* (BBC/Alomo) and *Sony-nominated King of the Road* (BBC R2). I am a member of The Solomon Sisters.

## Simon Tabak

I was born in North West London and grew up in Canada. I am currently living in Hackney. I trained in the East End as a painter and have since produced a large body of paintings and graphic novels. *Shin Shin 321*, based on one of my graphic novels, is my first play.

## Adam Taylor

I am a resident poet on *The World Today*, BBC World Service. My performances include Edinburgh Fringe, Jewish Book Week, South Bank, arts and poetry festivals. My poems have been published in national newspapers and poetry journals. [www.adamtaylorpoetry.com](http://www.adamtaylorpoetry.com)

## Ken Worpole

I am the author of many books on history, landscape and architecture. I have lived in Hackney for the past 40 years, and am a Professor at London Metropolitan University.