

## Thursdays at West Central Synagogue

**8.30 – 9.30 A Quick survey of Medieval Rabbis**...to help us choose one or two to study in more detail in a future term.

**September 19 Saadia Gaon. (882-942)** Exilarch and leader of Babylonian Jewry

**September 26 Solomon ben Judah ibn Gabirol (1020/22? - ?)** Began to write poetry from the age of 16 and his ego brought him into frequent conflict with people of his day, attacked influential men virulently.

**October 3 Bachya ibn Pekudah. (c1050 –c1156)** Little known, I chose him because he wrote one of my favourite sayings, 'days are scrolls, write on them what you wish to be remembered'.



**October 10 no class (day after Yom Kippur!)**

**October 17 Abraham ibn Ezra, (1089–1164)** Spanish-North African biblical commentator. In popular legend, a man with few wants who laughed at his poverty, good sense of humour, witty sayings.

**October 24 no class (Half term)**

**October 31 Judah HeChassid (c. 1150- 1217)** Philosopher, poet, scholar and mystic, of the school of Hassidei Ashkanaz

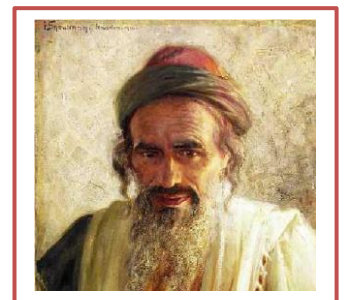
**November 7 Yehuda Halevi, (c. 1175–1241)** 12th-century Spanish philosopher and poet devoted to Zion

**November 14 Nahmanides, Moshe ben Nahman, (Ramban), (1194–1270)** mystic. Talmudist Spanish rabbis of succeeding generations called him HaRav HaNe'eman, the trustworthy rabbi, or simply, the rabbi.

**November 21 Abraham ben Shemuel Abulafia (1240-1290)** founder of the school of "Prophetic Kabbalah".

**November 28 Jacob ben Asher, (c. 1269–c.1343)** German-Spanish Halakhist, he wrote *Arba'ah Turim*, one of the most important halachic books of all times

**December 5 Gersonides, Levi ben Gershom (1288–1344)** French Talmudist and philosopher. He wrote *The Wars of the Lord*, modelled after the *Guide for the Perplexed* but Gersonides strictly adhered to Aristotelian thought



**December 12 Hasdai Crescas, (c. 1370–c.1411)** Talmudist and philosopher. He influenced the controversial 17th-century philosopher Baruch Spinoza.

**December 19 Don Isaac Abravanel, (1437–1508)** philosopher, Talmudist and Torah commentator. In addition he showed a complete mastery of financial matters and became treasurer of King Afonso V of Portugal .