

19-21 MAY 2023

DAVENTRY

# BIENNIAL WEEKEND



## TRACKS

ROOTED

RESPONSIVE

INCLUSIVE

DIVERSE

COLLABORATIVE

EFFECTIVE

PROUD

JOYFUL

MEANINGFUL

ACCESSIBLE

# THE SPACE TO SHARE WHAT MATTERS TO YOU



**The NLPS Trust**  
for Progressive Judaism



**liberal judaism**  
The home for your Jewish story

WELCOME TO THE LIBERAL JUDAISM

# BIENNIAL WEEKEND 2023!

THIS BIENNIAL CONFERENCE HAS THE THEME OF  
LJ MATTERS...



The idea is that throughout the weekend we look at what matters to Liberal Jews and why Liberal Judaism matters to the world today and as we move into the future. It is really important that we are able to hear each other's voices and explore some of the big ideas that Progressive Judaism has to offer.

There will be four sets of workshops over the weekend with ten options, each themed along the things that 'MATTER' to Liberal Jews. You can stick to a track for all four workshops or zig zag your way through dipping into the session that matters to you or even follow our amazing keynote speakers who appear across all tracks. However, by the last session we will be looking for each track to present their most important message for the future.

Interspersed you will see we have keynote speeches - find out more about them below, meaningful and joyful services led by many different rabbis and plenty of opportunities to socialise and meet new and old friends and even some dancing!

If you have never been before it is the perfect chance to become part of a larger family. You can come on your own and not worry about being on your own as we will ensure you are never lonely. On the other hand, if you have been before, there will plenty you have not seen or heard before. Last but definitely not least, there is also a full LJY Netzer programme for all young people and a professional creche for the youngest members of the family.

## INTRODUCING OUR TRACKS...



### ROOTED

Ritual & tradition. What unites us as Jews? How do we preserve our internal identity?

### RESPONSIVE

What responsibility do we have, as Liberal Jews, to the outside world?

### INCLUSIVE

What are our priorities for an inclusive Judaism? Are we meeting any of those objectives?

### DIVERSE

How do we ensure a multiplicity of voices, representation and opinion across our movement?

### COLLABORATIVE

What are the fundamentals of community?

### EFFECTIVE

A strong collaborative voice to speak on social justice, and a strong collaborative community to act on it.

### PROUD

A track led by youth but not just for youth. What are the questions for tomorrow's world?

### JOYFUL

We don't always take ourselves so seriously. Sometimes it's just about taking some joy from life!

### MEANINGFUL

Exploring Liberal Jewish Spirituality

### ACCESSIBLE

Communities are back in their buildings. How are we making sure we're still accessible?

Use the hashtag #LJBienial2023 when posting about Bienial on social media.

## FRIDAY...

16:00	Registration & Check-in Open
18:15	Kabbalat Shabbat
19:30	Shabbat Dinner
21:00	<b>Evening Sessions</b> - Leo Mindel brings his Torah Tech chats to Biennial or test your knowledge with a quiz on the last 120 years of LJ or join our (LJ) traditional oneg!

## SATURDAY...

07:30	Breakfast
09:00	Shacharit
11:00	<b>Keynote 1</b> – Dr Joel Hoffman is a pioneer of applying modern translation techniques to ancient languages, bringing insight and accessibility to ancient texts. He opens our post-Shacharit journey.
12:15	Our opening track sessions are generally text-based, giving us an introduction to the topic that asks, 'What does Judaism say?
	<b>Rooted</b> – Rabbi Dr Judith Rosen-Berry
	<b>Effective</b> – Rabbi Richard Jacobi
	<b>Responsive</b> – Dr Joel Hoffman
	<b>Proud</b> – Hava Carvajal
	<b>Inclusive</b> – Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn Harris
12:15	<b>Joyful</b> – Student Rabbi Rafe Thurstance
	<b>Diverse</b> – Rabbi Gabriel Kanter-Webber & Tania Townsend
	<b>Meaningful</b> – Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman
12:15	<b>Collaborative</b> – TBC
	<b>Accessible</b> – Rabbi Rene Pfertzel
13:30	Lunch
15:00	<b>Keynote 2</b> – Rabbi Dr Lawrence Hoffman, Two-time winner of the National Jewish Book Award, Professor Emeritus at HUC-JIR & international lecturer continues our journey with an uplifting call to arms on the future of Judaism.
16:15	Our second and third track sessions explore the topics or an aspect of the topic in a bit more detail and focus on your opinions
	<b>Rooted</b> – Remembering the Holocaust Panel featuring Kick It Out, HMD & AJR
	<b>Effective</b> – Rabbi Lea Muehlstein
	<b>Responsive</b> – Rabbi Dr Lawrence Hoffman
	<b>Proud</b> – LJY-Netzer Alumni
	<b>Inclusive</b> – Rabbi Judith Levitt
	<b>Joyful</b> – Ethan Kelly
16:15	<b>Diverse</b> – TBC
	<b>Meaningful</b> – Rabbi Monique Mayer
16:15	<b>Collaborative</b> – Rabbis Charley Baginsky & Josh Levy, CEOs of LJ & MRJ
	<b>Accessible</b> – Dr Joel Hoffman

## SATURDAY CONT...

18:15	Drinks Reception
18:45	Havdallah with LJY-Netzer
19:30	Dinner
21:15	Sat Evening Sessions - Party time with our band Hot Cherry! If you'd rather chill out, you can join Rabbi Gili Zidkiyahu for poetry or Josie Kinchin for a card making masterclass which will be around all weekend.

## SUNDAY...

07:30	Breakfast
09:00	<b>Rooted</b> – Dr Joel Hoffman
	<b>Effective</b> – Social Action Panel
	<b>Responsive</b> – Rabbi Danny Rich
	<b>Proud</b> – Jess Mindel
	<b>Inclusive</b> – Rabbi Dr Lawrence Hoffman
09:00	<b>Joyful</b> – Mich Sampson
	<b>Diverse</b> – Michael Wegier, Board of Deputies CEO
	<b>Meaningful</b> – Rabbi Gili Zidkiyahu
09:00	<b>Collaborative</b> – Collaborative Communities Panel
	<b>Accessible</b> – TBC
10:30	Keynote 3 – Rebecca Soffer, author of critically acclaimed 'The Modern Loss Handbook' - An interactive session that acknowledges that before we move to the future we must examine our losses.
12:00	Our fourth, take home sessions are our calls to action, where we set our priorities for the years ahead.
	<b>Rooted</b> – Rabbi Dr Lawrence Hoffman
	<b>Effective</b> – Rabbi Igor Zinkov
	<b>Responsive</b> – Ruth Seager & Paul Langsford, Chairs of LJ & MRJ
	<b>Proud</b> – Jess Baker
12:00	<b>Inclusive</b> – Rabbi Rebecca Birk & KeshetUK
	<b>Joyful</b> – TBC
	<b>Diverse</b> – Simon Rothstein
12:00	<b>Meaningful</b> – Dr Joel Hoffman
	<b>Collaborative</b> – Alex Gellnick
12:00	<b>Accessible</b> – Rabbi Aaron Goldstein
13:15	Lunch
14:15	Closing Session with Dr Ed Kessler & Rabbi Charley Baginsky
15:30	Closing Mincha

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

WE'VE PICKED OUT A FEW OF OUR  
TRACK SESSIONS TO GIVE YOU A FEW  
MORE DETAILS ON WHAT TO EXPECT!



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### THE FUTURE OF PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

- RABBIS CHARLEY BAGINSKY & JOSH LEVY

In the wake of Liberal Judaism and Reform Judaism's historic joint announcement, join Rabbis Charley Baginsky & Josh Levy, the CEOs of the respective movements, as they discuss their thoughts for the future of Progressive Judaism.

### GOD, HOW DO WE MOVE ON FROM HERE? THINKING THROUGH THE CONTRADICTION THAT IS LIBERAL JUDAISM

- RABBIS DR JUDITH ROSEN-BERRY & LEA MUEHLSTEIN

Rabbi Dr Judith Rosen-Berry teaches modern Jewish thought/theology at Leo Baeck College, London and in Oxford where she lives. Rabbi Lea Muehlstein is a Senior Rabbi at The Ark Synagogue and International Chair of Arzenu UK. Join these two prominent rabbis as they explore how, although being Liberal and Jewish is often seen as a contradiction, it is in fact the source of Liberal Judaism's ongoing dynamic and unique identity.

### THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES & LIBERAL JUDAISM

- MICHAEL WEGIER, BOD CEO

Michael Wegier has worked as a Jewish Educator, Strategic Planner and Chief Executive for Jewish organisations in the UK, Israel, and the United States. He has been the Chief Executive of the Board of Deputies of British Jews since 2021. Join him to discuss Liberal Judaism's and the Board's relationship, and how the Board approaches balancing a multiplicity of voices under one 'roof'!

### RE-IMAGINING RUTH (AND NAOMI AND BOAZ)

- RABBI DR DEBORAH KAHN-HARRIS

What's the difference between polyamory and polygamy and why might either of those terms be relevant to reading the Book of Ruth? Just ahead of Shavuot, come along to study together a wholly new, 21st century approach to reading this story with Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris - Principal of Leo Baeck College, where she has taught Hebrew Bible, particularly the Megillot, for more than 15 years.



**TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE! BOOK YOURS NOW AT**

[www.liberaljudaism.org](http://www.liberaljudaism.org)

**ANY QUESTIONS?**

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**FINANCES ARE NEVER A BARRIER TO ATTENDING ANY LJ EVENTS.  
TO DISCUSS OPTIONS PLEASE CONTACT**

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