

Our Congregation



News and views from Belsize Square Synagogue

"SETTLEMENTS" AND THE HISTORY OF CONFLICT

Shalom Chaverim,

I have been asked by several congregants to explain the Israeli "settlements". What are they? Why are they an international problem? Why are Jewish organisations so upset with the recent United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 declaring all Israeli "settlements" beyond the borders of 4 June 1967 to be "illegal".

I particularly recommend Alan Dershowitz's brilliant legal analysis for those following these aspects of events (look it up on Google). But my concern is broader. I worry about what it means for the future of our people as anti-Semitism increasingly takes the form of attacking our institutions as "Zionist". What happens at the UN or in Jerusalem affects us all.

Israel itself contains divergent views on settlements. Are they out of control, an obstacle to peace, a mistake, illegal? Or, as many believe, do Jews have a right to live anywhere in Eretz Yisrael, so long as their presence is legal. In fact, many cases of disputed legal rights have come before the Israeli Supreme Court. So here is a brief history.

"Palestine", covering most of today's Jordan and part of today's Iraq, was governed by pagan, Christian and Muslim rulers, starting from the Romans' destruction of Judea in 74 CE. Apart from the Crusaders' Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem from 1099-1187, no group ever claimed Jerusalem as its capital. "Palestina" was mainly governed from Damascus as a province. Its population was sparse, mostly Bedouin nomads who lived off the land. Landholdings belonged to absentee landlords.

The Zionist movement brought Jews to settle in the area from the late 19th century, starting the process that led to the Jewish State of Israel. In 1917, as an ally of Germany in the First World War, the Ottomans lost their empire and Britain took over colonial oversight of Palestine, while France took Syria and Lebanon, under the 1916 Sykes-Picot agreement.

To accommodate Jewish aspirations in Palestine, Lord Balfour declared on 2 November 1917 that Britain supported a Jewish homeland in Palestine, meaning both sides of the Jordan. That plan was altered in 1922 by Colonial Secretary Winston Churchill to enable Britain to create a further Arab state in addition to Iraq and the future Saudi Arabia (formed 1932), in fulfilment of promises made during the war to tribal chieftains, including the Bedouin Hussein family.

Thus we had the arbitrary creation of Transjordan while Palestine was officially shrunk down to west of the Jordan. During the British Mandate of Palestine, granted by the League of Nations in 1921, Jews settled throughout Palestine, including in today's "disputed" areas. Huge pockets of Jews lived around Jerusalem, in Gush Etzion and Hebron as well as other areas.

Arab opposition to growing Jewish immigration, especially from central Europe after Hitler came to power in 1933, resulted in the 1936 general strike, which turned into a three-year revolt. Britain responded with a Royal Commission of Inquiry, headed by Lord Peel. In 1937 the Peel Commission recommended partition. The Jews were offered 20% of mandatory Palestine, a compromise they accepted. The Arabs rejected their much larger share.

The outbreak of the Second World War put the issue on hold. On 29 November 1947, the two-year-old United Nations voted for the creation of a Jewish and an Arab state. The Arab nations quickly prepared for war to destroy a new Jewish state.

On 14 May 1948 the British left and Ben-Gurion declared the State of Israel. The very next day seven Arab nations attacked Israel, vowing to destroy the Jews and drive them into the Mediterranean. That effort failed and, in talks in Rhodes from February to July 1949, Israel and her Arab neighbours signed a series of General Armistice Agreements. These armistice lines have never been formally recognised as borders.

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PURIM

SATURDAY 11 MARCH - from 5.30pm

JOIN US FOR
DINNER AND FANCY DRESS PARADE
THE MEGILLAH READING
WITH SOME NEW SONGS PERFORMED BY OUR YOUTH CHOIR

For catering purposes - contact the office to book!

Belsize Square Synagogue
51 Belsize Square, London, NW3 4HX
T: 020 7794 3949 E: office@synagogue.org.uk





CHAZANUT IN PRAGUE AND BERLIN

Cantor Paul Heller at Two Liturgical Events

I was honoured to represent our synagogue at the European Cantors Association's annual convention, which took place in Prague over a long weekend in mid-November last year. I went with my family to the Czech Republic to meet 30 colleagues and participate in memorable events.

The focus of the meeting was naturally on cantorial music and singing. Of major importance to me was a master class I attended with my son Yohel under Cantor Naftali Herstik, who began his career at Finchley (United) Synagogue in the 1970s while studying at the Royal College of Music.

From there he became chief chazan of Jerusalem's Great Synagogue for 27 years. In 1984 he co-founded the Tel Aviv Chazanut (or Cantorial) Institute (TACHI) and still serves as its director. Among his pupils are such well known international cantors as Meir Helfgot, Azi Schwartz, Simon Cohen and Moshe Haschel. I was delighted when he agreed to accept Yohel as a future pupil.

Our venue was the Kehilah, the 500-year-old Jewish community building of Prague, where we gave and heard lectures on chazanut and synagogue music. There was much emphasis on Lewandowski's legacy and the style and methods of the "Golden Age" cantors of the 1920s and 30s.

Central to this was *nusach*, the traditional and ancient prayer modes, reaching far back into our history. As Master Cantor Herstik said, *nusach* is the crown of our liturgy and is unalterable.

The 12th-century German mystic Yehuda Hahasid called it "*nigun hayadua*", the "known" or familiar tune. Tradition says that Moshe Rabeinu brought *nusach* from Sinai. It may in

practice have evolved but, on account of its holiness, it cannot in principle be changed.

In my talk, I showed how the Lewandowski tradition does not depart from the mainstream. Rather, by balancing the old forms of prayer with Western tradition, he elevated the service to a majestic level. The old school of Eastern Europe, as represented by the TACHI-trained chazanim, has a more emotional feel but both styles have the same aim and we respect each other.

Interestingly, Louis Lewandowski, a towering, not to say dictatorial, figure in the cantorial world, never held the position of cantor. He was choirmaster, first in the old Berlin Synagogue where he worked on his monumental arrangement of the liturgy in the 1840s, then in the Neue Synagoge when it opened in Oranienburger Strasse in 1866. Shortly before that move he was appointed Prussia's Royal Music Director.

Prague's eight synagogues, sadly no longer in use, have been converted into museums. The main one is the 747-year-old gothic-style Altneuschul (Old-New Synagogue) completed in 1270. There was an even older synagogue, known as the Altshul (Old Synagogue) which has given its name to several families originally involved with the synagogue, including our own Rabbi.

It was demolished in 1867 and replaced by the magnificent Spanish Synagogue, where we held our Shabbat morning choral and chazanut service. Shacharit was led by Cantor Herstik himself, an experience I had not expected and which left me stunned. The evening saw a public concert by his pupils, virtuosi whose colossal voices could fill any opera house.

Bringing together Orthodox and Liberal voices in a co-operative spirit and shared respectful endeavour is the great achievement of the European Cantors Association. I pray it will grow and make more synagogues aware of the importance of chazanut.

The conference was not restricted to professional cantors. Several lay people interested in the subject also attended. It would be



Cantor Paul Heller in Prague with fellow-cantors Jason Green of New London Synagogue (left) and Benjamin Maissner of Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto

nice if we got a group of enthusiasts together for next year's conference to enjoy the experience my family had during those four days.

A month later I was in Berlin for a cantorial concert to launch the Lewandowski Festival, based at the Pestalozzistrasse Synagogue. As in Prague, I proudly represented both Belsize Square Synagogue and our Lewandowski tradition. Once again I sang *Ki keshimcha* accompanied by organ, as suggested in the original composition, and *Kevakarat*, both from Lewandowski's High Holydays liturgy. This concert took place in a church in neighbouring Potsdam.

My programme included two other pieces: Edward Birnbaum's *Hashkiveinu*, which I brought from Stockholm and have introduced into the Friday night service, and *Iti Mi'Levanon* (*Come with me from Lebanon*) a love song from *Shir Hashirim* (*Song of Songs*) by Israeli composer Nira Chen, which is also popular at weddings. Only three months earlier I was here with all our choirs to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Oranienburger Strasse Synagogue.

Unfortunately, I could not stay till the end since I had to leave with my wife for our long-planned trip to South America to visit family and enjoy some sunshine. So I was unable to hear our Youth Choir in the Gala Concert which closed the festival. But you will read about it separately.

Belatedly, I wish you all a 2017 full of peace, light, good things and, above all, good health.

THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL

A Choral Celebration with our Youth, Community and Professional Choirs
Sunday 26 March - at the Synagogue

Recently returned from two special trips to Berlin, as reported in this issue, our choirs perform repertoire from the Romantic to the Modern.



OUR YOUTH CHOIR SINGS IN BERLIN

With ages ranging from 7 to 14 years, 13 members of our Youth Choir went to Berlin to sing at the 6th Louis Lewandowski Festival over the weekend of Friday-Sunday 16-18 December. Accompanied by parents, except for a few brave souls, and their conductor Alyson Denza, they stayed with families of the host synagogue's youth choir and sang at two synagogues: the Pestalozzistrasse Synagogue in Charlottenburg (in former West Berlin) on Shabbat morning and the Rykestrasse Synagogue in Pankow (former East Berlin) for the final concert on Sunday.

For Benjy Lesser, one of the organisers and father of two children in the choir, it was an emotional experience. "To go to Berlin and hear our Belsize children sing in both synagogues, now fully restored, was a very moving experience indeed," he said. "My grandfather, Alfred Lesser was Bar Mitzvah in Berlin. He would have been immensely proud to hear his great-grandchildren sing the same melodies there again!"

The Sunday afternoon concert focussed on Jewish Renaissance and Baroque music. Our young choir sang three pieces they had been taught by Alyson Denza, joining the combined adult choirs for one song and the Pestalozzistrasse youth choir for the other two, under its conductor Regina Yantian – who, apart from being the festival's artistic director and the choral director and organist at the Pestalozzistrasse Synagogue, also arranged the children's stays with local families.

As well as versions of the familiar *Adon Olam* and *Maoz Tsur*, the choir also sang *Hishki, Hizki* (*Be Desirous, Be Strong*) a

17th-century lilting plea for light to dispel darkness, written for the then newly built Amsterdam Synagogue of the Spanish and Portuguese Jewish community.

For Alyson, who trained the children and was instrumental in getting them invited to the festival, it was a rewarding experience. It was not her first visit to Berlin. She has participated in this festival in previous years and took senior choir members there for the 150th anniversary of the Oranienburger Strasse Synagogue last September.

She said: "I felt very honoured that the festival had not only invited our Youth Choir to sing, but also offered such a generous bursary for flights to enable more kids to go, and my hotel room for the trip."

She praised the Berlin organisers for their care of the children. "The kids were very nervous when we arrived at the airport and met the families but, after the fabulous Saturday afternoon and evening they had with the specially appointed local youth leader (which also gave me time off), they got to know the Berlin choristers really well and were very sad to leave their new friends behind."

Alyson's biggest musical concern was that, without her as conductor, the



Youth Choir conductor Alyson Denza with young singers (from left) Maya Brookes, Isabel Lesser, Jack Lesser

young choristers might feel rather lost. "They know me and trust me," she said. "But they knew they were well prepared as long as they concentrated. Without me conducting, they were thrown a little but they rallied and sang beautifully." They also managed well at the Shabbat service, she reported. "It was not identical with Belsize Square but about half the music was familiar," she said.



The Youth Choir performing in the Pestalozzistrasse Synagogue

"Not being Jewish, I don't necessarily get the significance of the occasions but, from a musical perspective, they are excellently organised and a joy to take part in," she explained. "There is always excitement and a good audience, which adds to any performance opportunity. And Berlin is so friendly and great for shopping!"

The community was shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death of our long-serving chorister, the bass John Milne, who was found dead in his flat at the end of December. John, who was 65, started singing in our choir in 2003 at the High Holydays and took over as First Bass in summer 2007. We send our condolences to his wife and two brothers (one of whom is his twin).

Last September John went with the Professional Choir to take part in the 150th anniversary of the Neue Synagoge in Berlin's Oranienburger Strasse. We shall greatly miss him.





CHANUKAH MARKET SUCCESS

The Chanukah Market Team write:

The Chanukah Market, held on the first weekend of last December, ticked a lot of boxes. It was a huge social and financial success, raising just short of £10,000.

We were delighted to welcome new people who, together with our regular helpers, volunteered to get involved either by working on stalls, helping with the organisation, or by simply coming to enjoy the warm, family atmosphere, eat some delicious food, have a spa treatment, buy gifts and listen to our incredibly talented buskers,

who entertained throughout the weekend.

Saturday evening started well with a beautiful Havdalah service. Then the fun began and went on until Sunday afternoon, when we were delighted by the Youth Choir who sang out the festivities. A big thank you to everyone involved, in whatever capacity.

And please, SAVE THE DATE, 2 and 3 December, for the next amazing Chanukah Market.



Busker Alan Greenberg on his soulful saxophone

Doughnuts for sale from Melanie Nathan (left) and Jackie Alexander

Mitzvah Day Photos

(Top) Luc, Michael and Eliza prepare plant pots

(Middle) Izzy and son Harry Abrahams pause to pose

(Bottom) Busy painting pots

This letter was written to Jeanie Horowitz, Head of Cheder, by one of the 25 recipients of a Mitzvah Day basket created by our Cheder children last November.

Dear Jeanie,

Once again it was a delight to receive a Mitzvah Day gift from the Cheder. Many thanks for thinking of me.

It was lovely to meet Petra [Morris] and her son Raphael and be able to talk about the religion school in the days of her mother Susan and grandfather Rabbi Kokotek z"l, especially as [my daughter] Patricia was with me. This contact is so important for us senior members of the congregation.

I much appreciate being able to give something back to the youngsters - my memories of the early days especially as it was to someone who knew of those life and times directly from her mother and grandparents. Learning about Raphael's aspirations was heart-warming.

Though I didn't say it at the time I recalled afterwards that the age gap between the birth of my first grandchild and that of Rabbi and Valli Kokotek was only one week and was eagerly awaited by both families.

Once again many thanks for the thoughtful gift and also the beautiful cards that came with it.

May the Religion School go from strength to strength.

With kindest regards, Martha Tausz



BACK TO PRINT

After making the decision to publish *Our Congregation* online in November 2014 (following a six-month period of duplicating the print and online versions), the Board has come to the conclusion that readers are happier with the printed version. In practice, people do not sit down in front of a computer to read through a paper or magazine. They like to pick it up, put it down and pick it up again. They like it to lie around until they have finished reading it.

So after this February issue, we are going back to print-and-post but with a difference. The paper will come out every two months and is likely to go up from eight pages to

twelve. The deadline for each issue will be three weeks before its appearance (rather than two weeks) but, as always, the deadline will be given in each issue for the next one. So no excuse not to give me your news!

An online version will still be available – useful for looking at back numbers. And the photos will look better in colour.

So look forward to our issues for March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October and November/December. We aim to continue to bring you news of things past, present and future.

IT'S FUN TO VISIT

Our Community Care Co-Ordinator, Eve Hersov, reports on a happy link-up

Two 11-year-olds, Lea Trijbits and Eva Salama have been visiting our 91-year-old member, Gerda Oblath for two years.

It all started when they made a gift basket in Cheder, which was delivered to our long-time member. She found a card at the bottom of the basket from the two girls and was so touched by their efforts that she wrote them a thank you note, care of the synagogue office.

The girls, in turn, were so excited to get the letter that Eva's mother phoned Mrs Oblath to ask if the girls could come and visit her. So they came with their mothers to Gerda's house for tea, bearing home-made biscuits and flowers. Gerda, who understands and loves young people, suggested the girls bring a game to play.

The visits have since continued for two

years, so both sides obviously enjoy them. For last Rosh Hashanah, the girls made a card for Gerda and performed a little dance they had created for her. As Gerda told me: "We always have fun."

She has a fund of knowledge of the synagogue's story and the older generation, which the girls' mothers find fascinating. But she keeps up with developments and thinks that Bat Mitzvahs for girls (unknown in her day) show progress. She has watched the growth of the synagogue Cheder with great satisfaction.



Gerda Oblath with Lea and Eva

She also listens to the service on Livestream, enjoys the sermons and wishes that all the Rabbi's classes could be made available to Livestream as well.

(continued from page 1)

After 1948 Jews were driven out of the "West Bank" and the Old City of Jerusalem. Jewish holy sites and synagogues were completely destroyed. The Kotel (Western Wall) was turned into a donkey latrine, the cemetery at the Mount of Olives destroyed and desecrated. Not one UN resolution ever called upon the "occupier", Jordan, to allow Jews to worship in Jerusalem, a supposedly international city. Not a single one.

All Jewish settlements in the West Bank were illegally occupied by Jordan (only two nations recognised that occupation, Pakistan and the UK). Jerusalem was divided by barbed wire, no-man's land and artillery fire. Jews were not allowed even to visit the Old City – all Jews, not just Israeli Jews.

In 1967, Nasser and the allied Arab nations were again bent on destroying Israel, cutting off its southern port, Eilat, to choke its economy. Not one UN resolution condemned this barbarism. On 5 June 1967, in a war that lasted six days, Israel made its pre-emptive strike, resulting in the capture of the Sinai, Golan Heights and West Bank. Levi Eshkol's government warned Jordan not to enter the conflict but King Hussein rejected the advice. Responding to Jordanian fire, Israel liberated Jerusalem and returned Jews to the Old City, Jewish Quarter and Mount Scopus.

We know the rest of the story: terrorist attacks, the emergence of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, repeated threats to wipe out Jews, the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood, Islamic extremism, Hamas and Hezbollah.

In the early 1970s, Israel's Labour government decided to react to the Arab world's "Three Noes" passed at their Khartoum conference some two weeks after the Six Day War (No Peace with Israel, No Negotiations with Israel, No Recognition of Israel). They asserted the right of Jews to settle in areas whose status needed resolution but technically and legally belonged to no one.

Since then, two sets of negotiations, offering to return over 98% of the disputed territories for the creation of a Palestinian state, have been turned down: by Arafat in 2000 (involving Israeli Prime Minister Barak and US President Clinton) and by Abbas in 2005 (Sharon and George W Bush). The result is the stalemate we see today.

Israel's peace movement was shattered by the Palestinian rejections. Israelis increasingly feel that Jews have as much a right as anyone else to live in "disputed" territories. Almost all Israelis feel that resolution can only come through direct negotiations and recognition of two peoples and two states. Abbas and the Hamas organisation have clearly rejected that essential path to peace. They have

attempted to isolate and delegitimise the Jewish State under the aegis of international bodies.

Abbas and other Palestinian leaders have frequently stated that no Jewish Israelis would be permitted in the West Bank, including the pre-1949 Jewish areas. Sadly, that was the sentiment expressed in last December's UN Resolution 2334.

In my view, there is no reason why Jews cannot live anywhere in the world, even in a future State of Palestine, just as Arabs should and do live in the Jewish State of Israel. I see the vehement and violent rejection of Israel, not the "settlements", as the heart of the conflict. Israel dismantled settlements in Sinai and Gaza in order to open up negotiations. She was met with increased violence and terror.

I hope this brief review helps. It is a complicated situation, where passions run high on all sides. Whatever your thoughts, the facts of history are crucial for understanding the difficulty of creating peace for all.

God bless the State of Israel, one day, with real shalom, peace, as we also pray for the peace of Israel's neighbours. Dignity, peace, security and freedom for all.

B'shalom,

Rabbi Altshuler



Dear Fellow Members

Much water has flown under the bridge since last my kolumn came out. By the time you will be reading this worts it will be the beginning of Febrewery und Donald Tramp is already nearly two weeks in charge of the World. For me this is just like a very bad episode of Badman und Robin. But I suppose we have no choice other then to close our eyes, cross our figures und hope for the best.

Also not good is the situation for us in Briton. In Abernein Mansions, our gardener is a Polish doctor of philosophy, the plumber is a Rumanian lady und the caretaker is a Bulgarisch man with a prenonced limb who also doubles as the handyman. Mrs Klopstick is worried what will happen to these people when we exit Brexit, but I wander what will become off the garden und who will deal with our waterworks when they are gone. I personal don't have much face with Prime Minister Mrs May. She hardly says anything und does even less, but this is what happens if you ware leather trousers that are too tight.

Now we have again the United Nations mostly of Islam gagging up on Israel plus with no objection from the USA oder Briton. Frequent readers will know that I am not unarmoured with Natan Yahoo, but at a time when so many atrociousnesses are being done in other parts of the Middle East what is the purpose of such a vote? I think that this organ of nations is without a real tooth und long passed its shell life.

Now I come to a much more impotent matter. On the Friday erev to erev Chanuka I und Mrs Klopstick were awarded the honour of being the welcoming party for visitors to the service. Unfortunately Mrs K had already been committed. She won a trip to Lapland to join the annual Elk heardings there. She was also introduced to the local culture of Lap



**Klopstick's
Komplaint**

singing und Lap dancing which she most enjoyed. But this left me to do the greetings on my own.

On top of this responsibilities it is now part of the duties that the greeters pull out the library of childrens books on wheels from a wardrobe in the Kiddish room und then put it back after the Service again. I think this is a very badly sort through idea. In the first place, already put out was a table with unser Shabbas books und there were several beclothed tables already ready for Kiddish on Shabbas. I hat to remove one table to get to the wardrobe with the wheeled books und move another table to make room for the library on wheels. Why whoever made the outlay of the room is not also putting out the books I can't understand? Und why must the books on wheels be put back in wardrobe just to come out again in the morning? To add to this, my energetics were entirely waisted as there were no children on this night. In the nearly worts of Fagin from the musical Olivier, "I think someone ort to think it out again".

I got very confused at the what was once the Chanuka Bazaar. In one place was the main cause from lunch und in another part was the coffee und kuchen. Worse, our carer Gordon had to serve ships in the outside. When I did sit down I found that I was exhausted from all this walking. So I am in future more immobile, I have now decided to overtake a resolution this year. From now till Pessach I will like to drop my wait by a half of a pound a day. For every pound I drop I will give a pound to chairity und every pound I don't drop I will give two pounds to chairity. For me this should not be too difficult provided Mrs Klopstick is home to do her normally unusual cooking.

With the best of intentions

Fritz Klopstick

RABBI AND REV'D INTERFAITH TALKS

The Life Cycle: Jewish & Christian Perspectives on Birth, Marriage, Conversion, Confirmation and Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and Rites of Mourning

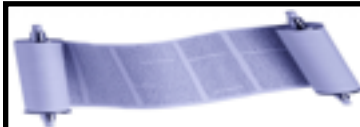
Our annual joint course with St Peter's Church will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesdays 28 February, 7 March, 14 March and 21 March. Members will be informed of venue details.

SECOND SEDER: TUESDAY 11 APRIL

Rabbi Altshuler and Cantor Heller, with their families, invite you to join them for 2nd Night Seder at the Synagogue after the Service, which starts at 6.45pm.

Members £30 Non-Members £35 Children under 13 £15

Please phone the Synagogue Office on 020 7794 3949 or email: office@synagogue.org.uk if you wish to attend.



Scripture Readings



Candle Lighting	Date	Sidrah/Festival	Torah		Haftarah	
Friday 3 February Emma Krikler	4 February Shevat 8	Bo	Exodus	11:4-12:28 13:14-16	Jeremiah	46:13-28
Friday 10 February Geraldine Auerbach	11 February Shevat 15	B'shallach	Exodus	14:15-16:10 17:14-16	Judges	4:4-5:31
Friday 16 December Deborah Jay	18 February Shevat 22	Yitro	Exodus	18:1-20:23 20:21-23	Isaiah	6:1-7:6 9:5-6
Friday 17 February Carole Joseph	25 February Shevat 29	Mishpatim Shabbat Sh'kalim	Exodus	22:4-23:19 30:11-16	Il Kings	12:1-17

Community News

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a cordial welcome to:

Valerie & John Gewirtz
Maurice & Pamela Mendel
Emma Clostermans & son Ruben

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Congratulations and best wishes to:

4 February - George, son of Emma & Alex Krikler

ENGAGEMENT

Mazel Tov to:

Jacqueline, daughter of Susan & David Karmel, on her engagement to Aaron Collins, son of Sara Collins.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to the happy couples:

20 November 2016 - Michelle Sarsby & Asher Headley
17 December 2016 - Ben Burger & Emily Gray

SILVER WEDDING

Mazel Tov to:

Cantor Paul & Antge Heller, who celebrate 25 years of marriage on 1 February

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Miss M Kinstead (90) on 3 January
Mrs R Brent (96) on 5 January
Mrs A Carson (96) on 6 January
Mrs R Eisenfeld (85) on 8 January
Mrs L Simmonds (93) on 18 January
Mrs I Wolffberg (97) on 20 January
Mrs G Oblath (92) on 27 January
Mr A Behrens (96) on 23 February
Mr M Hellman (94) on 27 February

DEATHS

We regret to announce the passing of:

Mrs A Badian on 6 January
Mrs S Cohn on 17 January

Sunday Morning Adult Discussion Group

5 February

10.00-11.15: Rabbi Altshuler - The Great Philosophers and the Jewish Response: Frederick Nietzsche and "the death of God"
11.15-12.30: Susan Storing on Journey to Lithuania: from the search for her mother's shtetl to friendship projects to heal the deep wounds between Litvaks and Lithuania.

12 February - No Adult Discussion - Cheder Half Term

19 February

10.00-11.15: Rabbi Altshuler - The Great Philosophers and the Jewish Response: Sartre, De Beauvoir, Foucault, Derrida, Bertrand Russell, Wittgenstein and modern philosophy
11.15-12.30: Dave Rich, deputy director of communications, Community Security Trust, on The Left's Jewish problem: Jeremy Corbyn, Israel and Anti-Semitism.

26 February - 11:00am - Jewish Book Week at Kings Place

5 March

10.00-11.15: Rabbi Altshuler - The Great Philosophers and the Jewish Response: Sigmund Freud and modern psychology
11.15-12.30: Professor Sammy Smooha, sociologist, Israel Institute Visiting Professor, Near and Middle East Dept of UCL & SOAS on Israeli Democracy: Civic and Ethno-National Components.

The copy deadline for the March/April issue of *Our Congregation* is Friday 10 February

REGULAR SERVICES

Friday evenings at 6.45pm
Saturday mornings at 10.00am

Kikar Kids

Saturday 4 February and 4 March at 11am
Under-5s' Service in the Crèche (Crèche opens 10am)
Junior Service for 5-9 year-olds in the Library
11.30am - Kids' Kiddush
Often followed by a Pot Luck Lunch
Contact Frank Joseph on 020 7482 2555 to bring a dish

Religion School

Sunday mornings: 9.30am-12.30pm
Half Term: 12 February

LOCAL LUNCHEON GROUPS

Still running and happy to welcome new members
Please let us know if you plan to attend

The NW3 Group

Giacomo, 428 Finchley Road, London NW2 2HY
1pm on Wednesday 15 February & 15 March
Please phone Irene Strauss on 020 7435 3538

The Edgware Group

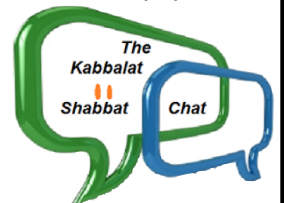
EDRS, 118 Stonegrove, Edgware, Middlesex, HA8 8AB
1.30pm on Tuesday 14 February
Please phone Inge Strauss on 020 8958 9414

CANTOR HELLER'S KABBALAT SHABBAT CHAT

An invitation and opportunity for Bar Mitzvah class pupils to make Kiddush, sing Lecha Dodi and learn the lessons of the Parsha.

On the second Friday of the month,
5.30pm in the Library

**Next sessions: 10 February
10 March**



SAVE THE DATE

**Tuesday 2 May
Erev Yom Ha'atzma'ut**

Come and celebrate Israel's 68th birthday

A great evening of music and dancing with Shir, London's leading Jewish band

Speaker to be announced

Superb dining by our very own chef, Adam Nathan

Support our deserving chosen Israeli charities

BELSIZE TRIP TO ISRAEL

Wednesday 7 June - Tuesday 13 June

The programme will allow you to meet Members of the Knesset, leading Rabbis and Arab figures, visit the Temple Museum, the West Bank and settlements, and have a spectacular Shabbat experience

If you are interested in joining this trip, please let Rabbi Altshuler know.





ALL ABOARD
CHARITY SHOPS
"...it's all about the charities we support"

we turn your unwanted items into HELP & SUPPORT for over 60 CHARITIES*

WE COLLECT:

- clothing
- bric-a-brac
- jewellery
- linen
- household items
- books

CONTACT US to arrange a collection

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Wishing you a happy & healthy, sweet NEW YEAR!

Invitation to Nominate Candidates for Membership of the Board of The Belsize Square Synagogue (The Synagogue)

The fourth Annual General Meeting of The Synagogue (the AGM) will be held on **Monday 5 June 2017**. Formal notice will be given in due course.

The Board hereby invites the members of The Synagogue to nominate candidates for the Office of Chairman and for election to the Board for a period of three years commencing from the AGM. There are 11 vacancies.

Nominations must be in writing, addressed to the Hon. Secretary and submitted to the Synagogue Office by twelve noon on **Friday 21 April 2017**. Each Nomination must be signed by at least five members of The Synagogue who are themselves entitled to vote at the AGM. Only valid nominations which are received by that date can be considered. No member may sign more nominations for the Board than the number of vacancies (namely 11).

In accordance with the Articles of Association of The Synagogue, the following 9 members will be retiring from the Board by rotation but are eligible for re-election if duly nominated:

Adam Davis, Pat Hirschovits, Freddy Lehmann, Adam Nathan, Elizabeth Nisbet, Rob Nothman, Anthony Stadlen, Ruth Vered, Claire Walford.

From **24 April 2017**, a list of the candidates duly nominated will be available for inspection at the Synagogue Office and the formal notice of the AGM will also include a list of those candidates.



BELSIZE MEMBERS' GROUP BAGEL BREAKFAST



Saturday 4 March at 9am before Service starts

Fresh coffee, bagels and a warm welcome to members who have joined us over the past year. Just let the Synagogue Office know, so we know how many bagels to buy.

SYNAGOGUE HELP LINES

THE BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

51 Belsize Square, London, NW3 4HX
Tel: 020 7794 3949

Email: office@synagogue.org.uk

SYNAGOGUE OFFICE HOURS

9.00am - 5.30pm

Fridays: 9.00am-2.00pm

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Lee Taylor - 020 7794 3949

BELSIZE MEMBERS' GROUP

Co-chairs: Marion Nathan - 020 8361 2443

and Dilys Tausz - 020 7435 5996

CHEVRA KADISHA

Chairman: Rabbi Stuart Altshuler

Joint Vice Chairs: Helen Grunberg - 020 8450 8533

Cantor Dr Paul Heller

COMMUNITY CARE CO-ORDINATOR &

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE

Contact Eve Hersov on 020 7435 7129

or email eve@synagogue.org.uk

or call the Synagogue Office for a leaflet

FUNERALS

During Synagogue Office hours phone 020 7794 3949.

Evenings/weekends phone Calo's (Undertakers)

020 8958 2112

JUDAICA SHOP

Open during office hours and on Sunday morning during term time only

KIDDUSH

Rota enquiries to Jennifer Saul in the Synagogue Office (not Thursdays or Fridays)

LIBRARY

Open Wednesdays 10am - 12 noon

At other times please check first with the office

CHEDER

Enquiries to the Head, Jeanie Horowitz, in the Synagogue

Office, or email jeanie@synagogue.org.uk

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Chairperson: Mandy Brass - 020 8452 6936

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Email the Youth Workers, Melanie Nathan & Zoe Cowan

youth@synagogue.org.uk

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR CONGREGATION

Emails to: office@synagogue.org.uk

or to the Editor: ruth@famrothenberg.com

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CANTOR

Cantor Dr Paul Heller

cantor@synagogue.org.uk

EMERITUS

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Charity Number 1144866

Company Number 7831243

The Belsize Square Synagogue