

Our Congregation



News and views from Belsize Square Synagogue

MEET MY FRIENDS – OLD AND NEW

Shalom Dear Friends,

One of my greatest thrills is to bring my past into my present – my dear friends from my previous life to my new family at Belsize Square Synagogue. In January we hosted Mona Golabek, the gifted pianist, actress and star of the one-woman show now running at St James Theatre. *The Pianist of Willesden Lane* tells the story of Mona's mother, Lisa Jura, who came to London from Vienna on a Kindertransport in '39.

At 14 Lisa was a budding classical pianist, and it was music that gave comfort to herself and other youngsters in the hostel, known as the "Children of Willesden Lane" through Mona's best-selling book of that name. Most, like Lisa, never saw their parents again. We met Mona in Los Angeles when my wife, Ella, appeared on Mona's popular radio show, *Romantic Hour*.

Shortly we will host another long-time friend of mine, Professor Rabbi Hanan Alexander, Dean of Students at Haifa University and a leading academic authority on Jewish education. The latest of his three books has drawn the attention of the education world through its focus on combining Jewish and secular liberal education. The bifurcation, especially in Israel, between the Jewish and secular world has created two societies, two worlds afraid of and largely ignorant of each other.

On Erev Shabbat 5 February, Professor Alexander will talk about criticism of Israel as opposed to demonisation. On Shabbat morning, after our Kiddush, he will speak about his own field: *How Jewish is Jewish Education?* At our Adult Discussion Group the next morning, he will discuss his latest book, *Re-imagining Liberal Education*.

Hanan and I met as eager young rabbinic students at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles, now called the American Jewish University. At that time, students could study two years in Los Angeles, then transfer to the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) in New York. So that's what these two guys from California did! Our memories and friendships with colleagues and mentors go back 40 years.

On the first Shabbat in April, we will welcome the eminent scholar and former Provost of JTS, Professor Jack Wertheimer, a leading historian of European and American Jewry. His 16 books and prolific articles for academic journals explore every aspect of Jewish life, such as schools and the rise and fall of movements. He will be with us, thanks to the support of our "angels" who have made this week possible, for our Shabbat morning Service and at our Sunday Morning Adult Discussion Group, as well as a special week-long programme for our patrons.

Jack and I met when I started at JTS and we have been close friends ever since. He mentored my doctoral studies, exams and dissertation, helped me edit my book and influenced virtually all my rabbinic studies. A wonderful teacher and brilliant scholar, and another incredible week ahead of us with an important person from my past!

From 1-5 May, I will be joined by a more recent friend, Thomas Harding, author, journalist and product of Belsize, son of our own Frank and Belinda Harding, as he leads a trip to Berlin. Thomas is a brilliant writer and speaker. You all know his first book, *Hanns and Rudolf*, about the capture of the Kommandant of

Auschwitz. His second very personal book, *Kadian Journal*, chronicles his grief and reaction to his teenage son's fatal cycling accident in 2012. With his third book, *The House by the Lake*, he returns to German history, tracing events of the last 120 years or so through their impact on the families who lived in a country house near Berlin, which once belonged to the Alexanders, his grandparents. Thomas is another friend whom I treasure.

And finally, on Sunday 25 September, the world-renowned violinist, Maxim Vengerov, will be joined by his accompanist and my wife for an unforgettable evening. Maxim and I go back some 20 years since we met in Chicago and we have become like close family. As an amateur violinist, I admire his virtuosity and warmth. He admires and loves my devotion to Jewish life and studies, and so we have this mutual admiration society.

Well, I've been in love with my Ella for over 22 years now and have never met anyone so brilliant and talented: composer and singer, with three CD records and film soundtracks – and now an author, with her book, *The Orphan Sky*, published last year. The novel, drawing on her youth in Soviet ruled Azerbaijan, received rave reviews.

The people I love from past and present will meet the people I love at Belsize Square Synagogue. Let's rejoice and enjoy the wisdom, learning and music – together! See you in synagogue this month and beyond. May you all be blessed with a month of goodness, peace and joy.

Rabbi Altshuler

Our Speaker at Friday Eve Service 12 February

SHARON ABRAHAM WEISS

Executive Director of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI)

Sharon will talk about ACRI's vital work in creating a level playing field for all sectors of Israel's diverse population. ACRI is Israel's oldest and largest human rights and civil liberties organisation. Before taking on its leadership in 2014, Sharon spent five years as Equal Employment Opportunity Commissioner for the Tel Aviv and Central Israel Region. She will speak on the deepening social, religious and ethnic challenges facing Israeli society and ACRI's work in combating discrimination and defending human rights.

PURIM

Wednesday 23 March (Erev Purim)

5.30pm Dinner

6.30pm Fancy Dress Parade

followed by MEGILLAT ESTHER

7.20pm Purim Spiel

Thursday 24 March

12.30pm Purim Lunch & Learn

All members and friends invited





A look back to the end of last year's activities

Chanukah Market 2015

Annette Nathan writes: The Chanukah Market on the last eve and day of Chanukah, 12 and 13 December, was a huge social and financial success.

With continuous activities, entertainment and a wide variety of food choice for everyone, from tiny tots to our "golden oldies", the combined efforts of all the marvellous stall holders, along with our very generous sponsors, helped to raise £12,500!

To complement all the traditional favourites, this year saw the introduction of "street food style" eating, more merchandise, including gifts and accessories, and the launch of the Belsize Spa, which proved highly successful as guests were able to have manicures and massages in between shopping and eating!

See page 5 for review of Saturday night Jazz Quintet.



Pictures, Clockwise
It's a bargain: Frank Joseph and Michael Taub at the toys and games stall.

Full house, full tea, full youth choir, full set of eight candles for last night of Chanukah

Street food Jewish-style, as served by Pat Hirschovits and Cheryl Davis



Mitzvah Day

Jeanie Horowitz writes: We had a multitude of Cheder activities on Mitzvah Day, Sunday 22 November, as parents joined their children in an ambitious and successful programme. In an interfaith activity, our 12-year-olds (year 7) attended the Ethiopian Sunday morning service at St Peter's Church next door. Then they all trooped back to our Synagogue for a tour and home-made refreshments.

Donated food was delivered to Camden's food bank and also packed into parcels for 11 housebound members of our congregation. The parcels were decorated by Cheder children and delivered by Cheder families.

Children made get-well cards to send to the international patients helped by the Israeli charity, Save A Child's Heart. More clothing was collected for young refugees under the wing of the Separated Child Foundation.

Year 5 (10-year-olds) went off to plant trees in the newly developed Heartwood Forest, near St Albans. The youth choir went to Temple Fortune with Cantor Heller and Ben Wolf to entertain residents of Clara Nehab House.

The parcel-packing operation was helped along by visitors from the Mitzvah Day organisers: Laura Marks, founder of Mitzvah Day in 2005, and local politicians Andrew Dismore AM, Sadiq Kahn MP and Cllr Phil Rosenberg, who also learned about the Separated Child Foundation. Community and parental volunteers included Suzanne Goldstein, Cllr Neil Nerva, Alasdair Nisbet, Jimmy Strauss and Justyn Trenner.

They were thanked by a song from younger Cheder pupils. The morning ended with most people not wanting to go home.



Mitzvah Day VIPs wearing green tops help Year 8 pupils pack parcels for the elderly. From left: Mitzvah Day founder Laura Marks, our member Cllr Neil Nerva, MP Sadiq Khan, London Assembly Member Andrew Dismore and Cllr Phil Rosenberg



Belsize Square youth choir sings to Clara Nehab House audience



Call of the open: The Salama and Trijbits families add their contribution to planting new woodland at Heartwood Forest

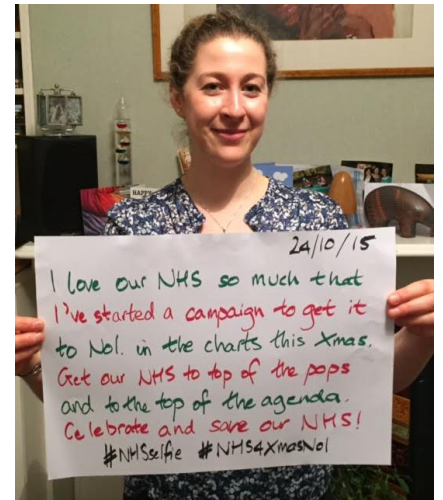
HARRIET PUSHES NHS SONG TO NUMBER 1

Our membership springs all sorts of surprises. One of the most surprising was surely junior doctor Harriet Nerva's involvement in the song which took the number one spot in the Christmas hit list, selling 127,000 copies and beating the teenage heart-throb Justin Bieber (who reacted like a gentleman, as the song's proceeds went to charity).

It was October and Christmas was approaching, when the year's seasonal pop song fills the air waves. Harriet, who works at Hinchingbrooke Hospital in Cambridgeshire, set about promoting the song with a Facebook campaign highlighting the choir's range of work for the NHS. She succeeded beyond anyone's expectations.

A few months ago Harriet happened to turn on the track of a song, *Bridge Over You*, which is a "mash-up" of *Bridge Over Troubled Waters*, written by Paul Simon in 1970, and music by the rock band Coldplay. It was recorded by the choir of the Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust and is available to download. She was so enthused by it that she thought it should take the number one spot.

Dr Harriet Nerva, currently on a GP placement, is following in her parents' footsteps as an activist. Her father, Neil, is a London Jewish Forum member and a Labour councillor for the Borough of Brent. Her mother, Deborah Cohen, is the former treasurer of our synagogue and a senior NHS manager. Harriet is chair of East of England Regional BMA Junior Doctor Committee. She trained in Liverpool and qualified in 2014.



She is thrilled at the success of the record and its fund-raising for Carers UK and the mental health charity Mind. She says she is proud of the role the NHS plays in people's lives and proud of being part of it herself.

JEWISH COMEDIAN OF THE YEAR 2015



Some of you will have enjoyed Philip's Shabbat UK comedy workshop recently, and will be pleased to hear his latest success was as Jewish Comedian of the Year, which he won on 5 December. In the final round at the JW3 venue, he was pitted against five other comedians and delivered a 7-8 minute spiel (normally it's 20-30) on Jewish life.

Although thoroughly professional by now, it was a debut of sorts as this was his first appearance in front of his parents-in-law. He was less concerned about his parents' reaction – they have seen it all before. Fortunately, they were unanimous in approving of his title, trophy and cash prize.

Philip, who trained at the Guildford

School of Acting, has a few other strings to his bow, such as voice-overs and TV and stage experience. You can read more about him on his website (www.philipsimon.co.uk) or by following him on Twitter @PhilipsComedy. He leaves you with a sample of his style:

Dating was always hard in the Jewish community. There was a lot of pressure to meet the right girl. I remember when my Grandma died, my family put an announcement in the Jewish Chronicle:

"Daphne Benjamin passed away peacefully in her sleep. She was surrounded by her 2 daughters and 7 grandchildren, including Philip, 33, average build, GSOH. Likes travelling, reading and long walks in the country."

Congratulations to Philip Simon, without whose work on designing and print-setting the articles, illustrations and adverts, this publication could not appear on your screen or in the post.

Because, apart from all this typographical technology, Philip is an award-winning stand-up comedian.

The Wallace Ensemble and Belsize Square's Professional Choir with Cantor Paul Heller and Soprano Gwendolen Burton

A 70th Birthday Concert in honour of Dr Alexander Knapp

The third season of Music at Belsize is here, bringing an international flavour, prestigious soloists and a wide variety of music. Its first event is a 70th birthday concert on 7 February for Alexander Knapp, the distinguished musicologist, arranger, pianist and composer.

The programme includes two orchestral and choral favourites: Elgar's *Serenade for Strings* and Handel's *Zadok the Priest*, as well as the first part of Ernest Bloch's *Sacred Service* oratorio. Knapp's own varied compositions will show his remarkable range: Mozart set

to Hebrew, arrangements of well-known Jewish melodies, elegiac music for both choir and orchestra, and a setting of an Edward Lear poem not performed since his undergraduate days in Cambridge!

Finally, the concert will include the London debut of a piece by Dovid Ajzenstadt, who died in the Holocaust, whose music has been rediscovered through the newly created Performing the Jewish Archive project, led by Leeds University. This is an exciting setting of the Chad Gadya song from Passover, first performed in the 1930s.

The Wallace Ensemble, a professional chamber orchestra, will be conducted by its musical director, Benjamin Wolf, who is also musical director at Belsize. They will be joined by the BSS professional choir, Cantor Paul Heller, soprano Gwendolen Burton and the synagogue's superlative organist, Michael Cayton.

This promises to be a varied and entertaining concert, a memorable evening of favourites and novelties, both serious and fun. All members of the community are cordially invited to join us for all events.



ENJOYING A WELL EARNED CELEBRATION AT 104

The extraordinary story of our oldest member's survival during the Holocaust

Our oldest member, Antonia Badian, celebrated her 104th birthday on 11 December surrounded by her family. As a Holocaust survivor, her story is unusual. Not only did she survive, but so did her husband, parents and brother all in different and dangerous places.

Born Antonia Platzmann in Vienna in 1911 – and always known by her childhood nickname of Tossi – she studied singing at the Wiener Musikakademie and sang soprano roles at the State Opera and the more light-hearted Volksoper. She met her husband, Hans Joachim Badian, through her favourite aunt, who lived in southern Poland (pre-First World War Galicia and now Ukraine). They married in 1936 and Antonia moved to Poland along with her Blüthner piano.

For the next three years she enjoyed the socialite life of Continental "cafe society". The Badian family owned a hotel (now a historic museum) in the fashionable spa town of Truskavietz (now Truskavets), famous for its sulphuric "Naftuscha" springs which attracted royalty, nobility and celebrities. Their Villa Badiana stood on their large estate, which included a farm, orchards and wells of the prized water, as well as abundant staff housing.

This life came to an end with the Soviet invasion of Poland on 17 September 1939. Hans was warned by a fellow-Freemason friend to get out. The rest of his family refused to leave and were shot on their estate. The young couple were caught by the Russians and handed over to the Germans as political prisoners – "bourgeois class enemies".

Antonia was sent to the political section of Theresienstadt. She was taken for Aryan and thanked her bottle of peroxide for being her "best friend". She sang her way out of prison when the Kommandant, who heard her singing to her fellow-inmates, asked her to sing Ave Maria at his Christmas dinner in 1944. She agreed in exchange for a free pass to Vienna. She worked as a waitress at the Cafe Mozart where, thanks to her dyed blonde hair and dirndl skirt, she went unrecognised

Hans was sent to Sachsenhausen concentration camp near Berlin, where he became a slave labourer working on roads. In spring 1945, as he was being driven with his work unit in a lorry on a country

road, he whispered to a fellow-prisoner that he had a premonition of danger and would make a run for it when the driver and guards stopped for their break. His work mate said he would join him. They dashed over the road into the bordering forest, then stopped, lay down and covered themselves with leaves.

As they waited and watched, they saw the guards get up from smoking their cigarettes, line up the workers behind the lorry and shoot them dead, carrying out the Nazi aim of killing all Jews. Then they drove away. The horrified men crawled on their stomachs through the trees till suddenly Hans found himself in front of a pair of boots. He looked up to see a large black American soldier, who said: "It's OK. The war's over."

He was sent to an American hospital. Once discharged, he went to the Prague flat of an old university friend. Before they were separated, the couple had arranged that if they survived they would meet there. Nine months later, their daughter Elisabeth was born.

Antonia's parents also came home. They had gone up into the mountains, where farmers hid them under a cowshed. In the last few months of war, they were discovered and sent to Theresienstadt but survived.

Eight years earlier, her father, Michael, had handed over his business of linen supplies to hotels and restaurants to his non-Jewish second-in-command, with



Antonia (Tossi) Badian as a newlywed

instructions on pay and financial management. The manager returned everything to him in apple-pie order. His younger child, Marcel, returned from Palestine, where he had been sent around 1938 and had joined the British Army. Marcel now took over Plama, the family business.

Hans, however, had lost his entire family and fortune. With his parents-in-law's help, he rebuilt his career, using his pharmaceutical training. But neither he nor his wife wanted to bring up their child in Vienna. They applied for entry to Britain, America and Switzerland but, receiving no response, they set off with her father in 1949 – a few months after her mother's death from cancer – for the newly established State of Israel to set up a textile factory in Haifa.

It was an unhappy experience. Israel's strong left-wing ideology and trade union grip on production meant they faced every possible obstacle. They were blocked from importing essentials such as yarn. When they eventually gave up and left the country, they were not allowed to take the machinery they had imported, on the grounds that it constituted fittings and fixtures.

Returning to Vienna, the Badians received good news. Britain would admit them. They arrived in 1951, spent a year in Hove and moved to London in 1952, renting an upstairs floor in Golders Green. Hans could not afford the time to requalify in pharmacy to gain British recognition, so he worked at the well-known (now closed) East End institution, the Houndsditch Warehouse. (You needed a card for entry as officially this was not a retail store but there was never any difficulty in getting one.)

After a frustrating attempt to start a knitwear business with Hungarian refugee colleagues, who did not play fair with him, he went to consult an old friend in Switzerland, who put him in touch with a Hong Kong agent. It was the start of his success. He imported fabrics and yarns for clothing manufacturers, including new synthetic acrylic textiles, such as Orlon and Helanca.



Antonia ("Tossi") Badian at her 104th birthday lunch, surrounded by family: son-in-law Hugh on left, younger granddaughter "Aliboo" holding child, older granddaughter Catherine seated, and daughter Liz far right, with all six great-grandchildren.

(continued at the foot of page 5)

DESIGNER HITS 100

Congratulations to Liane Ressler, who celebrated her 100th birthday on 6 December 2015 at B'nai B'rith's Clara Nehab House in Temple Fortune.

Born Liane Anne-Marie Apt, she moved with her parents and younger sister, Kaethe, from her native city of Kattowitz after the post-First World War plebiscite of 1921 resulted in the border town being switched from German to Polish rule, under the name of Katowice. They settled in Breslau but their mother Selma was widowed shortly after.

As life got more difficult under the Nazis, both Liane and Kaethe, now young adults, were reluctant to leave their mother to seek refuge abroad. But the Kristallnacht attack on Jews made Liane realise she had no choice. In 1939 she found work as a house-maid in England and left Germany and her mother forever. On arrival, her first task was to find a job offer for her sister, who followed her to England just before the

outbreak of the Second World War. Sadly it was learned that their mother perished with a thousand others on a dreadful train journey heading east from Breslau in May 1942.

Liane worked hard to better herself. Her life was eventful, with a first marriage ending in divorce but then marrying the love of her life, Michael Ressler, in 1950. She had trained as a dress designer in Germany and by 1950 was successfully building her professional career. Liane was always the artist of the family and also an accomplished painter, fine dancer, lover of theatre and literature, and an enthusiastic linguist and student of history.

She had no children but doted on her nephew, Steven Bruck and his family, who are active Belsize members. She and Michael lived for many years in New Malden, Surrey, close to her work. She moved back to North London a few years after Michael's untimely death in



Liane Ressler sitting next to her sister, Kaethe. Behind on right: her nephew Steven Bruck with his wife, Miriam, holding their grandchild and, left, his son, Jonathan with his wife, Melanie.

1998, having remained a loyal member of Belsize Square Synagogue.

As her health declined, she moved to sheltered housing in Golders Green, and then Clara Nehab House. Sadly, Kaethe died on 16 December, aged 97, but Liane was able to celebrate her 100th birthday with her sister, as well as her nephew and his family.

BOPPING BELSIZE

Dan Matlin reviews Ralph Freeman's Jazz Quintet

The second Jazz on the Square evening, held on Saturday 12 December, again saw some of the UK's finest jazz musicians – who, between them, have worked with the likes of Frank Sinatra, Scott Hamilton and Stacey Kent – play to a capacity crowd in the hall. Led by Belsize Square's own Ralph Freeman, whose superb compositions alternated with familiar standards from the jazz repertoire, trumpeter Steve Waterman, tenor saxophonist Dave O'Higgins, bassist Dominic Howles and drummer Matt Home treated the audience to nearly two hours of exceptional music, enhanced by fish and chips and a generous supply of wine.

As if to underscore the confluence of food and music, the quintet started with *Cheesecake*, a Dexter Gordon number. Two of Ralph's own pieces showcased his range as a composer; the hard-swinging *The Edge of Reason* eliciting some gorgeous harmonising from Waterman and O'Higgins while *The Source* brought a Latin feel with Waterman switching to flugelhorn for a warm and mellow sound.

Waterman's playing on the Thelonius Monk tune, *Ask Me Now*, highlighted his powers as an improvising soloist. The finale to the first set, another of Ralph's originals entitled *Step of Time*, had a jaunty rhythmic lilt that prompted some excellent interplay between Howles and Home and a particularly inventive, exploratory drum solo.

A highlight in the second set was Ralph's composition, *Half Angel*. His own excellent improvisation was complemented by some lightning-fast runs up and down the range of the flugelhorn by Waterman. Another treat came in the form of the ballad, *You Don't Know What Love Is*, with Waterman and O'Higgins both offering up wonderfully lyrical playing.

The evening ended with a boppy crowd-pleaser, Ralph's blues entitled *Grasshopper*. Plaudits go not only to these superb musicians but also to the Chanukah Market Committee, who followed up the success of last year's concert by bringing them back to Belsize Square.

(continued from page 4)

The turning point came in 1965 when he was offered wigs and hair pieces to import. He tentatively took this new merchandise and it made his fortune. This was the era of Mary Quant, Biba and Vidal Sassoon. The family moved from St John's Wood to Mayfair and wintered in Marbella.

"Tossi" worked with her husband in the early days but stopped every Friday for her Viennese baking, whose aroma filled the building. From Saturday evening to Sunday evening, their flat

became a little "Viennese Konditorei" dedicated to recreating the atmosphere of cafe life as she entertained their friends around bridge tables.

Joining the New Liberal Jewish Congregation as soon as they settled in London – the natural choice for Continental Jews – she attended High Holydays services, then held at the Swiss Cottage Odeon with the Mazkir sermon given in German and white flowers laid on the bimah. Hans, who came from an Orthodox family, had lost his faith but set foot in shul for his daughter's wedding to Hugh Taylor in

1970, conducted by Rabbi Kokotek.

After Hans's death in 1987, she moved next door to her daughter in Roehampton, South West London. She became a member of the prestigious Hurlingham Club, driving there daily until forced to give up driving at 97. In July last year she moved to Nightingale House, the South London Jewish old-age home, where her family can easily visit her.

For Liz, her mother has been a mentor, with her outstanding example of courage and joyous attitude to life.



Dear Fellow Members

Also here we are already in the second month of 2016 und how sofa is it looking? Not too good I think. But I really don't want to start off on such an unopitmistisch seam. I have been giving the future much sort in the past weeks und days und have come to no particular inclusion.

Of cause, the floods up in the Norse are up to global warning witch the scientist have been telling us for many years wood happen. Then there is the terrible refugee crisis brought on by ICES und this bad president Basher el Salad. Can't they see that we have enough to content with in naturalist disasters, without man maid ones bringing so much misery upon so many innocence. It appears that we all now are under thread. But what, as Jews, can we do about these things?

First off owl, we should not ever forget our past. We were always refugees. Not just the foundationers from our synagogue who were refugeeed from Germany mostly, but also those who wondered through the dessert with Moses could also be considered not migrains but as refugees too. So we should be sympathetic to these unfortunate people, except for the ones who want to indiscriminally blow us up.

Secondly, we should be always on the outlook for danger und also help where possible. Only the other day Mrs Klopstick stopped some muckers on Finchley Road und told them where to go off. She was jogging along the pavement when just outside Abernein Mansions she sore some hooties trying to steel a credit card from one of our older residue here, Mr Oberbauch. Without a sort for herself she lunched into them und chased them down the road onto a number 113 bus.



**Klopstick's
Komplaint**

I have to confess that I have been laps about my attention to the synagogue over the last months. I have relied mostly on Belsize Life und word from mouse of fellow Abernein Menschioners who actually have bean amongst the congregation in person. But I am pleased to replay that I have maid a New Year's disolution to attend more often Belsize Square. This of cause is independent from health und the condition of the whether.

By the time you dear reader ingest these worts I right, we will only be six oder seven weeks away from the first of the too big Pea festivals. First will come Purim in Marsh und with it toothache from Mrs Klopstick's Haman Taschen. Then the following month comes Pesach witch is yet another gastronomisch challenge for my digestiveness. Und on the object of Pesach, I have only learned today about a second Pesach a farther month on in May. It is called Pesach Sheni und is for those who could not be at the First advent four weeks sooner. I think this is a wonderful idea witch perhaps could be extenuated to other festivals when they fall on inconvenient dates. Mrs Klopstick wood certainly appreciate this where such days crash with one of her sports compositions.

With this terror thread hanging down from all of us we don't really know what 2016 will bring fourth for uns und the rest of the Jewish people. Mrs K und I hope it will be a good year filled to the trim with much reveille und free from plaques.

With the best of intentions

Fritz Klopstick

Henny Levin's Jam Jar Appeal

Over 100 jars of Henny Levin's chutney, jam, and marmalade were sold at the Chanukah Market. Henny is already growing fruit and veg for next season.

She is also stocking up with jam jars. Please bring your empty jars (340g and 370g size), with screw lids, to the Synagogue Office for her to collect. She knows you clean them but would really appreciate it if all labels were removed.

She hopes you are enjoying her jams now and will do so next Chanukah.

The Event You Can't Miss - Belsize Members' Group presents Sunday 21 February, 7.30 at Belsize Square Synagogue Author THOMAS HARDING in conversation with TV news editor JAMES HARDING on his latest book *THE HOUSE BY THE LAKE*

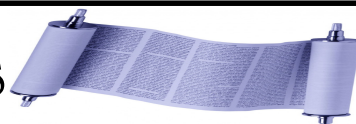
In 1993 Thomas and his late grandmother, Elsie Harding visited a small house by a lake outside Berlin that the family had been forced to leave by the Nazis. He was inspired to trace recent German history through the five families who had lived there, from an aristocratic farmer to a prosperous Jewish family, a renowned Nazi composer, a widow and her children, and finally a Stasi informant.

Entry £5 at door and signed copies of the book will be on sale

**Join the Belsize trip to Berlin 1-5 May led by Thomas Harding with Rabbi Althshuler to enjoy a guided tour of the House by the Lake and its environs.
For further information contact Claire Walford on claire.walford@yahoo.com**



Scripture Readings



Candle Lighting	Date	Sidrah/Festival	Torah		Haftarah	
Friday 5 February Sonia Bronstein-Shah	6 February Shevat 27	Mishpatim	Exodus	21:1-22:3	Jeremiah	34:8-22 33:25-26
Friday 12 February Cira Gaber	13 February Adar I 4	T'rumah	Exodus	25:1-40 27:17-19	1 Kings	5:26-6:13
Friday 19 February Emily Kasriel	20 February Adar I 11	T'tzaveh	Exodus	27:20-28:30 30:8-10	Ezekiel	43:10-27
Friday 26 February Leah Hurst	27 February Adar I 18	Ki Tissa	Exodus	30:11-31:17 34:33-35	1 Kings	18:1-39

Community News

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a cordial welcome to:

Assaf & Galia Weiler-Ofek with children Ari, Ethan & Hillel
Deanna Benedict with daughter Rose
Danielle Tinero with daughter Miranda
Paul Cohen & Claire Levin with children George & Abe
Prudence Rex-Hassan
Henry & Margaret Selby
Elias Raymond with children Mia & Emma
Karen & Charles Green with children Maisie & Carter
Paula & Alexander Keve with children Ruby, Eden & Lea

BIRTHS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Rita Viner & Valery Kisilevsky on the birth of their son
Josephine & Michael Cuby on the birth of their daughter, Bella
Eleanor & Lee Melkun on the birth of their daughter, Delphi

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Joshua, son of Sonia Bronstein-Shah, who will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on 6 February
Benjamin, son of Leah & Adam Hurst, who will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on 27 February

ENGAGEMENT

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Ben, son of Ossi & Paul Burger, on his engagement to Emily Gray

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Miss M Kinstead (89) 3 January
Mrs R Brent (95) 5 January
Mrs A Carson (95) 6 January
Mrs R Eisenfeld (84) 8 January
Mrs L Simmonds (92) 18 January
Mrs I Wolffberg (96) 20 January
Mr J Phillip (90) 23 January
Mrs G Oblath (91) 27 January
Mrs L Freeman (96) on 7 February
Mr A Behrens (95) on 23 February
Mr M Hellman (93) on 27 February

DEATHS

We regret to announce the passing of:

Kaethe Bruck on 16 December
Elsie Tait on 28 December
Zelda Lowit on 5 January

BELSIZE BOOK CLUB

Thursday 10 March at 8.00pm



We will be reading:

That They May Face The Rising Sun - John McGahern

Please contact Paul Lindsay on 020 7435 5926

Or email Dorothy White dorothywhite99@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

**Wednesday 11 May - Erev Yom Ha'atzmaut
CELEBRATE ISRAEL'S 68th BIRTHDAY**

A great evening of music, dancing, and dining in aid of our worthy chosen Israeli charities.

The copy deadline for the next issue of
Our Congregation is Friday 12 February

REGULAR SERVICES

Friday evenings at 6.45pm & Saturday mornings at 10.00am

Kikar Kids

Saturday 6 February and 5 March at 11.00am

Under-5s Service in the Crèche

5-9 year-olds Service 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: Sunday 14 February

LOCAL LUNCHEON GROUPS

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

The NW3 and Wembley Group

Giacomo, 428 Finchley Road, NW2 2HY

12.30pm on Wednesday 17 February and 16 March

Please phone Deborah Jay on 020 7435 8835
or Anne Goodwin on 020 8452 3997

The Edgware Group

The Kitchen, 16-17 The Promenade, Hale Lane, HA8 7JZ

12.15pm on Tuesday 15 February and 16 March

Please phone Inge Strauss on 020 8958 9414

Cantor's Courses

Liturgy

Tuesday 9 February, 7.00-8.30pm in the library

Re-Imagining God

Learn to Leyn (Stage 2 - Only for graduates of Stage 1)

Tuesday 23 February, 7.00-8.30pm in the library

Professor Hanan Alexander

Shabbat 5-6 February

Friday 5 February - During the Erev Shabbat Service

"Mature Zionism – when is it legitimate to criticise Israel and when not?"

Saturday 6 February - After the Kiddush

"What is Jewish about Jewish Education?"

Sunday Morning Adult Discussion Group

7 February

9.45-11.15 Rabbi Dr Hanan Alexander, Dean of Students at Haifa University: Re-imagining Jewish Liberal Education

11.30-12.30 Rabbi Altshuler on The Great Philosophers and the Jewish Response: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Social Contract, Republicanism

14 February - HALF TERM

21 February - 9.30am-5.00pm

Yom Masorti at New North London Synagogue, where Rabbi Altshuler will lead a session. Tickets are £25 and include lunch and refreshments throughout the day.

Book online at <http://www.masorti.org.uk/yommasorti>

28 February Jewish Book Week

Kings Place, 90 York Way, N1 9AG

10.45 Meet in coffee shop area for 11.00 sessions. (Book for your own choice, tickets £6.50-£10.50.) Then discuss speakers over a coffee.





CALLING YEARS 4-10 ROLL UP FOR OUR AMAZING MACHANEH 11-13 MARCH

In the beautiful historic mansion
WOODROW HIGH HOUSE near Amersham, Bucks,
with fantastic facilities for youth groups and young people
indoors and out.

The cost for the weekend
is £135 per person

For more information
contact Yohel and Michelle
youth@syngagogue.org.uk



The Belsize Youth STARS TALENT SHOW

Everyone has a hidden talent,
which one is yours?

This is the time to perform
and show what you've got!
Singing, dancing, magic
tricks, etc.

Convince the jury if you/your group
wants to take the price home!

The stage is yours!



£12, including popcorn, crisps and drinks.

13 February 6pm-8pm

For years 3-8 @ BSS Hall

SECOND NIGHT SEDER

Saturday
23 April

Rabbi Altshuler &
Cantor Heller,
together with their
families, invite you
to join them for
2nd Night Seder
at the Synagogue
following the
Service at 6.45pm

Prices TBA

Please contact
the Synagogue
Office if you wish
to attend

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 Tuesday 7 June 2016. 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 15
vacancies.

Nominations must be in writing, addressed to the Hon. Secretary and
submitted to the Synagogue Office by 12 noon on Friday 15 April
2016. 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 15).

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: John Alexander; Steven
Bruck; Keith Conway; Richard Pollins; David Rothenberg; Hilary
Solomon; Jimmy Strauss; Dilys Tausz; Justyn Trenner

From 18 April, 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.

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

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

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 Youth Workers Yohel Heller and Michelle Heller -
youth@synagogue.org.uk

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR CONGREGATION

Emails to: office@synagogue.org.uk

or to the Editor: ruth@farnrothenberg.com

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CO-CHAIRS

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07946 353340

RABBI

Rabbi Dr Stuart Altshuler

rabbi@synagogue.org.uk

CANTOR

Cantor Dr Paul Heller

cantor@synagogue.org.uk

EMERITUS

Rabbi Rodney Mariner

rodmariner@aol.com / 020 8347 5306



Charity Number 1144866

Company Number 7831243

The Belsize Square Synagogue