

Our Congregation



News and views from Belsize Square Synagogue

2017 – YEAR OF ANNIVERSARIES

Shalom Chaverim,

We are headed into our quiet summer months, a time for reflection, reading, travel and enjoying this time of year.

On Monday night 31 July we will be here to remember the destruction of both the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem, in 586 BCE and 70 CE respectively. As an astonished Napoleon commented on arriving in Jaffa in 1800 to find Jews remembering the Temples and Jerusalem: "A people still weeping over their holy places after so many years will be a people that will indeed return to their holy places and regain sovereignty in their national and historic homeland." Napoleon was no prophet, he was simply observing the inexplicable. The Jewish people never forgot its ties to Jerusalem, to Eretz Yisrael.

This is the year of special anniversaries and a good time to reflect on them, as we will at the High Holydays. What do we remember this year?

1897: 120 years ago in Switzerland, against all the naysayers, Theodor Herzl assembled the First Zionist Congress in Basle. Over 200 delegates attended and the gathering received good media coverage, to the surprise of most, since no one expected to see a Zionist movement started.

It was due to Herzl's organisational and promotional genius that two powerful emblems were introduced: a Magen David painted onto a tallit unfurled at the Congress and the singing of an inspiring Hebrew poem, *Hatikvah (The Hope)*, written in longer form in 1878 by the

Central European-born wandering writer, Naftali Herz Imber, and set to music 10 years later in the new religious agricultural settlement of Rishon LeZion in Palestine by Romanian-born Samuel Cohen, using a tune he remembered from childhood (as did Smetana in Bohemia around the same time).

It was at Basle that the Jewish state began, together with its flag and national anthem and Herzl's promise that there would be an independent Jewish state in Palestine "in 50 years". Almost to the exact date of the prophecy, Israel came into being on 14 May 1948.

1917: Besides being the 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution which forever changed the 20th century (not for the best, with its slaughter of millions), 2 November 1917 was the date of the Balfour Declaration proclaiming the creation of a homeland for the Jewish people on its historic soil without prejudicing "the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities".

That Balfour Declaration was confirmed by the Allied victors of the First World War at the San Remo Conference in Italy in 1920, the forerunner to the granting of a mandate over Palestine in 1922 by the newly created League of Nations, which again confirmed Britain's promise. The sanction of the nations of the world paved the way for the realisation of the "hope" of the restoration of the Jewish people.

1947: 29 November 1947, 70 years ago, when the United Nations voted to create a Jewish state in Palestine together with an Arab state, giving a future Jewish state yet another sanction from the international body of nations. The British were to leave on 14 May 1948 and a Jewish state would be resurrected on its ancient soil after a hiatus of sovereignty from 63 BCE when the last Jewish state came to an end under the Roman general, Pompey.

We know the rest of the tragic

story. The Arab nations rejected the creation of their own state in order to destroy the Jewish entity and, until this day, Israel's recognition and acceptance in the region is still not a certainty.

1967: 5 June 1967, the 50th anniversary of the Six-Day War when Israel's existence was again called into question by Arab nations, led by President Nasser of Egypt calling for the destruction of the 20-year old Jewish state. The story is a heroic one. Israel, fighting for its survival, defeated the Arab armies in six days, in the process occupying the Sinai Desert, Golan Heights and West Bank, and unifying Jerusalem on 7 June. This brought to an end the barbed wire and artillery pointed at civilians in Jerusalem, and liberated the occupied Jewish Quarter, including the Kotel, the Western Wall which forms the ancient remains of *Beit Hamikdash*, the Temple and Temple Mount.

It's all in our memory. We do not forget what has happened and we never will. I do hope that all of you will draw strength from our Jewish memories because, despite all the odds against our survival, we have proved wrong every prognosticator of our demise. Our religious truths have survived to bless the world and Israel remains a shining light to the entire world.

Enjoy the summer months ahead and we will be back in September, ready to prepare for the coming of another New Year 5778.

Blessings and peace

Rabbi Altshuler

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The Annual Memorial Service Of The Chevra Kadisha Sunday 30 July at 11.30am

At the Liberal Jewish Cemetery
Pound Lane, Willesden, NW10 2HG

Tisha B'Av Service Monday 31 July at 9.00pm at BSS

To include the reading of Eichah

TISHA B'AV
A TIME TO MOURN





FUN AND SERIOUS – A SUCCESSFUL ISRAEL DINNER

A full house, attractively arranged venue, enthusiastic Israeli dancing, a tasty and imaginatively presented meal. Our Israel Dinner, celebrating the 69th year since Israel's birth and fundraising for our regular charities, was a delight.

And our speaker Mike Freer, MP for the neighbouring constituency of Finchley and Golders Green, made his pro-Israel views quite clear to the audience, in his interview with broadcaster (and child of the congregation) Rob Nothman. Not Jewish himself, he was exposed to a Jewish environment while growing up in Manchester and visiting his aunt in the strongly Jewish district of Cheetham Hill in the 1960s and 70s.

He became interested in Israel while doing business studies in Glasgow and "fell in love with the country" when he went on holiday to Club Med near Eilat in the mid-1990s.

While acknowledging his frustration with Israeli politics ("It's like watching a car crash, you can't take your eyes off it. You can see democracy in action in the Knesset. It's flawed and disappointing and frustrating but all democracies are flawed"), he stood firmly behind Theresa May's supportive stance and her pride in the historic Balfour Declaration.

"She was furious with the Foreign Office for voting against Israel [rather than abstaining, in company with the US]", he said, referring to last December's UN Security Council resolution 2334, but noted that she had got it "back into line" to oppose the latest UNESCO resolution, which took place on Yom Ha'Atzmaut, denying Israel any authority over Jerusalem. However, Britain is no longer the major influence in the region and Mr Freer looks forward to President Trump's pro-Israel policy – though not sure how steady that will be.

On post-Brexit economics, Mr Freer said ties with Israel are already very strong, notably in the medical field. Israel's pharmaceutical giant Teva supplies one in seven of all NHS prescriptions. The drones used in Afghanistan are made in Israel. His view of Israel boycotters was short and sharp: they are either ignorant or stupid. "They cause self-damage and hurt the Palestinians." But he does "try to explain their idiocy to them."

Questions from the audience included Jonathan Joseph's concern at the lack of measures taken against hate preachers. Mike Freer, who has been attacked twice in a mosque, said you can ban people from entry but not stop them from Skypping their message in from outside. He told a 16-year-old boy, who asked him why he hated Muslims, that he didn't. "You can only explain to the individual and try to break down misconceptions. It's difficult. The real key is to engage."

On the issue of censorship by (not of) students through "safe spaces" and "no-platforming", he noted that Theresa May had written to university vice-chancellors reminding them that freedom of speech was the right of all students. In fact, Israel's ambassador Mark Regev had spoken at SOAS the previous week, despite opposition.

And Mr Freer expressed satisfaction at the election defeat of the president of the National Union of Students, Malia Bouattia, who made the infamous comment at the start of her term of office that Birmingham University was an "outpost of Zionism". [Birmingham, her home city and university, has the largest Muslim concentration in the country, at 21% of the city's population. Her parents came from Algeria.]

Asked about the Palestinian problem by Clive Sheldon, Mike Freer said that, like the Prime Minister, he does not like Israeli settlements but it is more constructive to criticise in private. He also felt that, in the end, Israel should concede more, as the stronger party. "It



Blue and white balloons at the Israel Dinner set off a wall hanging prepared by the Cheder kids displaying the charities we raised money for

is unfair but it promotes trust."

Asked by Nick Viner for his views on the forthcoming General Election, he lamented the predicted wipe-out (which never happened) of pro-Israel Labour MPs like Louise Ellman, who has been abused by her own party, and Luciana Berger. "Good leadership should support its own MPs but good Labour MPs feel they can't speak out. That is the biggest shame of the current leadership."

The final question came from Michael Brod on Hamas' new charter. Another short sharp answer: "They have engaged a very good public relations company to gain respectability and international support. They have not recognised the State of Israel. I would believe them more if they stopped digging tunnels and sending missiles."

The highly illuminating interchange was followed by a film crafted by Allan Morgenthau, featuring children from from the Israeli charities we support. An Ethiopian and a Russian girl spoke about Yemin Orde youth village, school-age children from poor backgrounds talked about their activities at the Jaffa Institute, and physically handicapped children stopped briefly to explain from their wheelchairs how Sports for the Disabled was giving them new life.

With toasts from Harry Sieratzki and Allan Morgenthau, and blessings before and after the meal by Rabbi Rodney Mariner and Cantor Paul Heller, this was an evening well spent.



Robert Nothman interviews MP Mike Freer (right)

Ruth Rothenberg

CHEESECAKE AND QUESTIONS

Our Tikkun Leil Shavuot

For a two-day festival, a lot was crammed into Shavuot, both intellectually and catering-wise. The evening study session, *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*, attracted 35 participants, all prepared to listen and then comment on the contributions of nine speakers.

Subjects ranged from the contradictions in the two versions, verse and prose, of the Song of Deborah (what exactly was Sisera doing when he was killed by Yael?) to the Jewish attitude to abortion (from what point is life counted?) to the Talmud's disapproval of clever schemes of money-making (definitely not keen on short-selling on the Stock Exchange) to the modern era, including the influence of the co-operative labour movement on Theodor Herzl's proposals for joint enterprise between Arabs and Jews in Palestine and the anti-establishment views of rabbinic sage Abraham Joshua Heschel (Polish born, fled to USA 1940, died 1972 aged 65) who opposed the Vietnam War and supported the Civil Rights movement.

If it sounds like a lot to take in, in the space of 3 hours 20 minutes (including salad break and cheesecake with coffee break), it was. Under Alasdair Nisbet's deft chairmanship (he kicked off with Deborah but also looked at Amos and fig production), this was a quick romp through the centuries.

Rabbi Stuart Altshuler highlighted the Prophet Amos as the template for high ethical standards. Cantor Heller

expanded on the eminent 17th-century Central European scholar and communal leader (and namesake) Rabbi Yom Tov Lipmann Heller, as well as commenting on behaviour in synagogue down the ages (to socialise or not to socialise: the old decorum question).

Claire Walford looked at Rashi and other sources to elicit practical responses to problems in giving birth in the era before modern medicine. (Do you prosecute if you put the mother's life before the child? No.) David Inwald (also a doctor, like Claire) used Maimonides as a stepping stone to the problem of dementia. (Is it the same soul in the body or, in the case of other diseases, does the soul inhabit the same body?)

Justyn Trenner, from the world of finance, stepped into contemporary Jewry with the renowned Israeli talmudist Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz and the ancient abhorrence of interest. (My personal take is that the ancient world never grasped the concept of "buying time" or "paying for money". These are perfectly valid services which require regulation like any other service, not a rejection of the whole concept. But instead of listening to me, they concocted an elaborate framework to help solve their fundamental misunderstanding of the problem.)

Dalia Lichfield, in her perceptive analysis of Herzl, told an interesting personal experience in the immediate aftermath of the 1967 Six-Day War. Israel's Housing Ministry drew up a programme for

improving Arab villager's lives in the newly conquered land. The villagers were delighted as they had been utterly neglected under Jordanian rule. The plans came to nothing, not only through complete lack of interest from Golda Meir, who became Prime Minister in 1969, but also because of outright opposition from local Arab "notables" and the UN. Dalia was part of this planning team and had first-hand experience of the Arab villagers' initial reactions.

Clive Sheldon (a leading QC and left-leaning Zionist) was obviously at home with his chosen hero, Rabbi Heschel. But he also pointed to Heschel's observation that holiness (*kadosh*) is first attributed in the Bible not to space (a thing or place) but time – the seventh day of creation.

Finally, psychotherapist Anthony Stadlen produced a short recording of Martin Buber, Austrian-born German-Jewish philosopher who emigrated to Palestine in 1938, aged 60, and became professor of social philosophy at the Hebrew University. He was a friend and colleague for a short time of Theodor Herzl. The recorded interview focussed on Buber's concern with the relationship between people ("I and Thou" in Buber's wording) but needed more explanation than we had time for at the end of a long evening.

Still, we only overran by 15 or 20 minutes. Well done to all – and the cooks!

Ruth Rothenberg

2017/5778 HIGH HOLYDAYS AT BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

Tickets & Information

Members of the congregation will shortly receive in the post a pack with all the information required for our High Holydays Services. This will include tickets for each family member, which are sent out automatically. Application for tickets is now only required for non-members. The pack also includes application forms for non-members' tickets, prayer books and transport requirements/volunteer provision. Please do not discard the contents of this mailing.

Please contact the Synagogue Office if you would like to discuss any aspect of these arrangements.

The Synagogue Office will be open for the collection of High Holydays Prayer Books and non-member tickets on Sunday 17 September from 10.00am to 12.00 noon.

Service Information

ROSH HASHANAH

1st Eve: Wednesday 20 September - 6.45pm

1st Day: Thursday 21 September - 9.30am

2nd Eve: Thursday 21 September - 6.45pm

2nd Day: Friday 22 September - 9.30am

KOL NIDREI

Friday 29 September - 7.00pm (Fast commences at 6.28pm)

YOM KIPPUR

Saturday 30 September - 9.30am (Fast ends at 7.30pm)

Selichot Service

Saturday 16 September - 10.00pm

Havdalah at 8.00pm, followed by Dinner and Discussion

KEVER AVOT

(Visiting the Grounds)

On Sunday 17 September at 11.00am we will come together at Edgwarebury Cemetery in a service to remember our family and friends who are buried at Edgwarebury Lane





JACKIE ALEXANDER LOOKS AT NEW INITIATIVES

When I started in this role a year ago I had some idea of how the Synagogue operated from the different Committees I had sat on. What I had not realised and am completely “blown away” by is the involvement and enthusiasm of the Executive, Board, Committees and individual members, who have come up with ideas and made them happen.

So, what has happened in the past year? We have started a new Committee, chaired by Suzanne Goldstein together with Eve Hersov, our Community Care Co-ordinator. Called *Re'ut* (friendship) it will focus on our older members to ensure that those who cannot get to services or are going through hard times, feel supported by our community and remain involved.

Its most recent event was a happy Shavuot lunch, attended by 40 members with the Rabbi and Cantor. If you are interested, please contact Suzanne as she would love new Friends to join the visiting group.

At the last AGM I also said that I wanted to engage younger members. Simon Cutner, together with Zoe Cowan and Melanie Nathan, have overhauled our Youth offering as detailed in the Committee report. They deserve a huge thank you for their time and effort in developing a very successful programme. Their next major event is a weekend away, 15-17 September, at Skeet Hill House in Kent.

This camp combines the previous mini and major “machanehs”. But how do you get 15 and 16-year-olds interested in going away with 8 and 9-years olds? The solution is to turn the older ones into leaders who run the weekend (with a little supervision). Some 30 youngsters are already signed up. Please encourage your children or grandchildren to join.

For the older age group we are compiling a babysitting register. Our Synagogue is about community and this fits well. For the younger ones, you will have noticed toys and books put out during services to keep them interested. Kikar Kids also goes from strength to strength. With help from the Rabbi, Cantor, Jeanie, Dilys Tausz, Joe Hacker, Elizabeth Nisbet and other enthusiasts, we had an exceptional post-B'nei Mitzvah service. This will now be an annual event.

We are also working on an annual Shabbat service for those coming up to Bar Mitzvah age. We are planning a service for families with babies and toddlers, so watch out for more

information. All ideas welcome!

Of course none of this is possible without the music. I must thank Ben Wolf and Alyson Denza, both so giving of their time and expertise. We hosted the Berlin Pestalozzistrasse Synagogue children's choir after our children's choir visited them. This was a milestone in our history. Many people played a part but I must single out Adam and Leah Hurst for their inspired idea and Alyson for making the music happen.

The other major music event was, of course, the concert given by Maxim Vengerov, arising from our Rabbi's friendship with him and the work of Philip Keller's Music Committee. An astonishing, unforgettable evening.

We have so many activities which I full-heartedly support: Adult Education, Israel Committee and Dinner, Cheder, Belsize Members' Group. It will begin to sound like the Oscars! It is because we are so active that we attract new members. The Membership Committee under John Alexander keeps looking at how to raise our profile. We advertised in the *Jewish Chronicle* and *Jewish News* for the first time and several families have come to us.

Work continues on the building project led by Nick Viner. In January we held two open meetings for members, where we provided an update on progress and, critically, gave attendees an opportunity to comment on and provide input into the thinking. The outcome was reported in *Our Congregation* in April.

Since the open meetings, there have been three main strands of work:

- 1) Lee Taylor and Dalia Lichfield have reviewed our current use of space and future needs. Committee Chairs and the office team have added their input.
- 2) The Building Steering Committee, after a detailed review, has focussed on two preferred development options: a large-scale scheme as set out in the public exhibition (July 2015); and a more contained scheme to redevelop just the scout hut area. After initial financial appraisals, it now awaits further detailed cost analysis to take to the Executive and Board.
- 3) Nick Viner and I meet the Scouts regularly to understand their needs; to help them explore alternative sites in the area; and start updating their tenancy after their lease expires. Lee is working on ideas. If you have any useful suggestions close to Belsize

Square, please let him know.

The Committee hopes to conclude its next stage by the end of June so we hope to report to you more fully after summer and will update you.

You may not be aware but the Hall is used in interesting ways apart from member celebrations. From January to May this year, South Hampstead Synagogue, who are rebuilding their site, used our Hall for their daily worship services. The Central School for Speech and Drama has rented it since 2014 as they do not have enough space for all their classes. During 2016 alone, they held over 100 classes at the Synagogue.

We continue our Holocaust Education led by Sue Leon and Henry Levin. Every year the Synagogue invites schools to an educational study day called “Lessons from the Holocaust”. There are sessions on bullying and racism today, an outline of Jewish practices, and the story of Anne Frank. The day finishes with students hearing personal testimonies from Holocaust survivors and the chance to ask questions. With this year's programme hosting over 900 students and 50 teachers, we had to add an extra day.

The Synagogue also invites local schools throughout the year to learn more about Judaism as part of their religious studies syllabus. Schools from other areas also contact us. Some 8-10 schools visit each year to learn about the Synagogue and its contents, the basic principles of Judaism, festivals and rituals. We have been running this programme for over 20 years and in the last year we hosted over 400 students and 20 teachers and staff. These programmes are free of charge to schools. They have been developed by the Synagogue and are organised and run by volunteers and staff.

None of this would happen without Gordon, Paul and our Security Officer, Ronnie. Justyn Trenner, who manages our security, and Dennis Nathan, who oversees our building, work quietly to ensure everything is in working order for our safety. Thank you, all!

The Synagogue participates annually in Mitzvah Day. For 2017, with my strong support, Elizabeth Nisbet has formed a Committee to publicise it more widely in our Community and bring in more member participation apart from, as ever, the Cheder.

(Continued on facing page)

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP FOR VERA AND JON POLLINS

Like Father, Like Daughter

As many of you know, at this year's AGM, Vera Pollins retired from the Board after 30 years, due to health reasons. Prior to her service on the Board she was an active member of the community and she has served the Synagogue in many areas. She was chairman of the Women's Society, and she continued to manage and oversee its transition to becoming the Belsize Members Group. She served on the Education Committee, Board and Executive and became Honorary Secretary.

For 25 years, every December she became a retailer, managing the grocery stall at the Chanukah Bazaar. Two years ago she took over the running of the all-new Chanukah Market.

For all these achievements and for her selfless dedication to our community, the Board has decided to honour Vera and her husband, Jon, with Honorary Membership. Vera has been a constant source of wise counsel, and no-one understands better the needs and priorities of our members.

When our Chairman, Jackie Alexander, gave Vera the news, she was very touched. Particularly so because she has a childhood memory of her father Lothar Gerard's (pictured below) delight at receiving the same honour after over 30 years' service as a Board member, then as Honorary Treasurer. Vera said that, in his time, the role of Treasurer was even more challenging because the then Chairman, Lily Montagu, was involved in more than one synagogue.



We believe that this is the first time that father and daughter have received Honorary Membership. There could be no more deserving pair than Lothar Gerard and Vera Pollins.

Annette Nathan



Vera's Response

As I tend to get over-emotional, it is perhaps just as well that I was unable to attend my last Board Meeting. The last 30 years have flown by in terms of my enjoying being a member of the Board.

I want to thank the entire Board for the incredible honour of being made an honorary member. Words are quite inadequate to express my humbleness at this. I do feel it has been my pleasure if I have made a minor contribution over the years. I think you all know that after my wonderful family and friends, and there is a big overlap here, Belsize Square is my closest passion. I have been very touched recently by the incredible kindness and support from Ministers, the Office, friends and members who have been so helpful. On the few occasions I have been able to get to shul recently, I have been quite overwhelmed by the welcome from the security staff and everyone else around.

I do truly believe that Belsize Square is a unique community and am proud to have been able to participate in it. I now leave it up to all of you to carry on the good work and ensure that we will always remain the very special Synagogue that we are. Many thanks again for this incredible honour.

Vera

(Continued from the previous page)

Last year I asked for people's ideas. Among several proposals now adopted is the visitors' leaflet giving the week's portion, upcoming events and a brief history of the Synagogue. Each service now also has a Board member present from a rota, who makes the end-of-service announcements. We have introduced BSS World Jewish Relief cards. Please buy them from the Office to give to family and friends instead of flowers or chocolate. Your donation goes straight to the WJR refugee appeal fund. To date we have collected about £2,000.

Going forward, with the help of Joe Brookes, who works with the Rabbi and Cantor as Chair of the Liturgical Committee, we are producing a leaflet containing a short guide to our Shabbat services and a Funeral Book. Do please keep the ideas coming.

I have thanked many people but could not finish without also thanking the Board and Executive as well as the Honorary Officers and all who sit on Committees. You are a pleasure to

work with. As Annette said, a number of Board members are stepping down this year and I wish to thank them personally for their contribution.

As you have also heard, Vera Pollins has decided to leave the Board. Vera's work in the Synagogue has spanned over 30 years. She has served as Honorary Secretary and, more recently, Chanukah Market Chair. Recognising her enormous dedication, the Board has voted to present her and Jon with Honorary Membership. Her father was presented with the same, many years ago, so there is a great sense of continuity, particularly as their son Richard is already on the Board and David will join after today.

What about the coming year? My aims are the same as when I started: to bring the Building Project to a point where we can move forward with the local community and the Scouts on an agreed plan; to attract our youngsters; to grow our membership; and to involve those who do not come regularly to services.

I have added one more item. I have just

begun to form a planning Committee for our 80th Anniversary. Yes, 2019, but we need to start now. I also want to launch a legacy campaign to plug the gap created by our annual operating deficit.

I think that is all for me to say other than two final thank you's. The Office led by Lee makes this place tick. He and his team have held my hand through a few tricky moments. Thank you! And very lastly but not least, where would we be without our Rabbi, Cantor and Rabbi Emeritus? All three have inspired me in the last year and I look forward to working with them in the coming year.

As I said at the last AGM, this speech is not about me, but about all of us and our future as a Community. We should be very proud of what we have achieved and will continue to achieve. As a well-known tweeting American would say: The next year is going to be really, really great!!!

(This is an abridged version of the Chairman's Speech. The Treasurer's Report will appear in the next issue.)



JUDAISM: A PRACTICAL GUIDE

Antge Heller's book now available in English

In the four years she has been with us, Antge Nisimblat Heller, wife of our Cantor, Paul, has endeared herself to the congregation with her charm, warmth, elegance and quiet ability to fit in with our ways. Married for over 25 years, she has always been active in her own right and made her own career.

She was born in Colombia, the grandchild of Jews fleeing Romania before the Second World War. Her parents were also born in Colombia. They were members of the Orthodox synagogue in the capital, Bogota.

Antge, who spent her early years in the beautiful Caribbean island of San Andres, which has historic English connections, went to Jewish primary and secondary school in Bogota. She took herself to Israel for her final year, attending a boarding school in Hod HaSharon.

Back in Bogota, Antge Nisimblat (the first name is Dutch, the surname Romanian) met a certain Paul Heller, whom she married at her family's synagogue. After the birth of her son, Yohel, and daughter, Michelle, the young family moved to Ecuador for four years, where she concentrated on being a full-time mother to her small children while her husband served as spiritual leader of the Jewish community of the capital, Quito.

She started her higher education when they moved to Sweden in 2000 for her husband's new job as chazan of the Great Synagogue in Stockholm. She took her first degree at Stockholm University in cultural studies and followed this up with a master's degree in history of art and another

master's in educational studies, covering museums, exhibitions and learning. She also took a three-year diploma in teaching Judaism at Paideia, the European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden.

On top of that, in 2005 she gained her Stockholm tour guide licence in four languages (English, Swedish, Spanish and Hebrew) and has acted as tour guide in that city almost every August, including this year. Most of her groups come from Spanish-speaking countries and Israel. She simply loves being a tour guide.

When the Hellers returned to Colombia in 2012, Antge found a new mission, explaining Judaism to the Catholic environment where Jews have been a minority, often persecuted, since the 16th-century Spanish conquest. She wrote a book explaining how Judaism is practised at home and in the synagogue. *Guia Practica para entender el Judaismo* is unique in its field and is widely used in religious studies lessons and courses across Latin America.

Now she has had her book translated into English in a self-published format. *Judaism: A Practical Guide* is available from the Synagogue Office at £12.

In order to get a professional view, we asked a Religious Studies teacher, who happens to be Jewish and who teaches at a prestigious girls' Anglican school in central London, to see what she thought. Here is what Louise Summers said: "Thank you so much for letting me see this book. This a fascinating book about Judaism that acts as an introduction to the religion, as well as being detailed and enlightening for



anyone who wants to know more. As a secondary school teacher of world religions, I often find it difficult to find a book that is both academic and accessible.

Judaism: A Practical Guide would be of great interest to other Religious Studies teachers, particularly those who are teaching GCSE or A Level Judaism."

Louise though it could benefit from a more professional design and layout, including adapting the style to a more English flow. But, as she said: "I am proud of being Jewish and proud of my heritage. This book is ideal for me to explore with my own two young children, so that they can fully understand the religion they are part of."

The book's striking front cover, with its strident elongated yellow windows, has its own story. In Antge Heller's words: "I raised a lot of money to repair and restore the ceiling of the beautiful mid-19th century synagogue in the city of Norrköping in Sweden, which is a Jewish heritage site.

"The chairman of the community at that time was a very well-known Swedish artist, Peter Freudenthal. He did a painting called *My Spiritual Home* and made 300 lithographs of it to sell and raise money for the synagogue. The project was a success and, in recognition of my efforts, he gave me as a present the original painting, which I have in my home in London."

PAINTING FOR INNER PEACE

Our member, Lily Freeman, who died a year ago, was an Austrian refugee who became a prolific painter from the age of 46, when she started to study art, till her death 50 years later.

Her work was widely exhibited in London, Vienna and New York, with her last exhibition held in 2009, and her peaceful landscapes were popular for their calming effect. In fact, they emanated from her own search for inner peace after her experiences of fleeing Nazi terror in Vienna, only to be interned in Britain and released to take on menial work.

She married, had a daughter and divorced. It was through her daughter's love of art when a student that Lily was inspired to take up art herself and realised she had found a release from her disrupted past. Her daughter, Ruth Freeman, who lives in New York, is in London during August and needs to dispose of some 700 paintings in her mother's flat in Golders Green.

If you would like to view any of the paintings, please phone 020 8458 5020.



REMEMBERING D-DAY

Congratulations to Henry Brook, who received the Légion d'Honneur as part of the French Government's policy of honouring all surviving veterans of the D-Day landings on the Normandy beaches in June 1944, when the tide finally turned against Germany in the Second World War.

Henry, who will be 98 in October, was born Helmuth Brod in Germany and grew up in Prague. He came to London in 1938 with his brother, Alfred, who also became an early member of our congregation. He joined the Pioneer Corps and then the 5th Royal Tank Regiment, where his name was anglicised in accordance with British Army policy. The army did not want a captured soldier's name to reveal a "wrong" origin.

Henry participated in the Normandy landings on D-Day+6. His tank was one of the first to enter and liberate Hamburg. On 6 June 2017 he was among the small band of veterans who were awarded the medal by the French Ambassador on the 73rd anniversary of the historic military operation. For his delighted son, author Stephen Brook, there is just one toast: *"Vive la France! Vive la Grande Bretagne!"*



Henry Brook receives the Légion d'Honneur from the French Ambassador, Sylvie Bermann, at the Ambassador's residence.

OUR FUTURE IS IN SEFER HANDS

Adam Rynhold writes: On 4 March our Synagogue was packed with proud parents and relatives of last year's Bar and Bat Mitzvah cohort, who showed their mettle by taking the service for the first time. This initiative of Rabbi Altshuler was implemented under the direction of Cantor Heller and with help and support from Adam Rynhold, Leah Hurst, Joe Hacker and Elizabeth Nisbet.

Isaac Sanders led *Shacharit* before Max Cutner took the Torah Service, proudly carrying the Sefer Torah regularly used in the High Holyday Youth Services. Leyning was shared among Sophie Brown, Guy Sherman, Ari Weiler, Isaac Antscherl, Susanna Freudenheim, Sam Shelemy and Mia Brent, with the aliyot given to Alex Godfrey, Agnes Fisher, Max Cutner, Maude Fisher, Oliver Abrahams, Georgia Barclay and Eleanor Fisher.

Following the *Chatzi Kaddish* (Half-Kaddish), Jake Brass was called up to chant Haftarah, with Emma Kentridge chanting Maftir from the Torah. Before Max returned the Sefer Torah to the Ark, Lara Isaacs read the Prayer for the Royal Family, Emma Fox read the Prayer for Israel, and Cocoa Wagner read a prayer for the Community, which included a special mention of children and teachers.

Ben Hurst led *Musaf* and then the whole group joined the Kikar Kids children on the Bimah for *Anim Zemirot*, after which Harry King presented the "Kikars" with a new handmade *Aron Hakodesh* (Ark) for use at their services.

The service showed our Rabbi's belief in the power of education and proved that the future of our community is very much in safe hands.

To quote from Cantor Heller's leaflet prepared for the Service:

My German predecessor in Stockholm called this *nachwuchs*, transmission to the new generation. In Hebrew it is called *l'dor vador*. We could also learn from Maimonides in referring to the biblical Patriarchs: *Ma'asei avot siman l'banim*. The deeds of the fathers are a sign for the sons.

These youngsters all had their Bar Mitzvah in 2016. They are showing what they have learned and what it means to them. It wasn't just a performance on their Bar Mitzvah day. They learned from their course how to do it again. It was not a mechanical learning of their piece by rote, but learning with understanding, so that it makes sense to them and becomes a significant part of their lives as they become responsible Jewish adults.

They are our future and our Synagogue can feel reassured that future generations will grow in yiddishkeit, with values that are carefully handed down. We can be proud of what Belsize Square has achieved in almost 80 years, as can be confirmed week after week, and we look forward with optimism to see the tradition we have received passed on to build a future with those same values. May the Almighty bless you and be with you in all your endeavours.

We are most grateful for their parents' support and to the

Synagogue's lay leadership in encouraging and helping us to get to this point. I must especially thank my dear colleague, Rabbi Altshuler, the driving force behind this enterprise, and everyone else who helped in the preparation: Joe Hacker, the Youth Service Team and Adam Rynhold in the office, without whom this would have been almost impossible. To the youth choir and choirmasters, a big *yasher ko'achachem*. May you grow evermore in strength. I look forward to working on our next Youth Service.

SAVE THESE DATES

The BMG Supper Quiz

Sunday 22 October 2017 at 7.00pm

Please join us with your family and friends

The Belsize Members' Group

Committed to your pleasure and entertainment, whilst raising essential funds for our Synagogue

SHABBAT UK: 27-28 OCTOBER

Following the success of last year's programme, Belsize Square is once again taking part in Shabbat UK. Our plans include:

Thursday 26 October

Challah Bake at the synagogue

Friday 27 October

Sharing your Friday night dinner with members of the community

If you are interested in hosting Shabbat dinner at your home, for fellow members of the community, or would like to be invited to a member who lives in your area, please contact the Synagogue Office. Full details of our Shabbat UK programme will be sent out later.

ANNUAL CHANUKAH MARKET

Saturday 2 December 5.00-8.00pm

Sunday 3 December 9.30am-4.00pm

(1st night Chanukah: Tuesday 12 December)





LIVING THROUGH THE SIX-DAY WAR, JUNE 1967

By Josephine Bacon

Before

During the prelude to the Six-Day War, I was a young mother with a two-year-old daughter living in Jerusalem with my artist husband. I was working at the time at the Israel Scientific Translations Program as an editor and translator. The ISTP building was in the district of Jerusalem known as Kiryat Moshe, right on the border. Pre-1967, absolutely everything in Jerusalem was on the border! After all, we were surrounded on three sides by Jordan. The back of the building faced that part of the Judean Hills then under Jordanian control.

The most frightening part of the war for non-combatants was probably the run-up to it. For weeks, ever since UN Secretary-General U Thant had slavishly capitulated to Gamal Abdul Nasser's demand that UN troops withdraw from the Straits of Tiran, Israel had been subjected to threats and abuse from Sa'ut Al-Arab, the main Egyptian radio station, blaring out its message of hatred and threats in Arabic and other languages (including Hebrew) all over the Arab world and, of course, to Israel.

These messages continued during the war and trumpeted Arab victories everywhere. After the war, a hit record was published in Israel entitled *Tel Aviv Is Burning*, one of the claims made during the war even when the Egyptians knew they were losing.

Once the UN evacuated the Straits of Tiran and Nasser's threats grew worse, Israel was placed on a war footing. All the buses disappeared from the streets. They had been commandeered for the army. This meant that people without a car had to rely on lifts from their fellow-workers.

The most dangerous of my exploits during the Six-Day War was to be given lifts by a woman whose husband was a big noise in the Ministry of Justice, which is definitely how and why she must have passed her driving test! She was the worst driver I have ever encountered because she was terrified every time she got behind the wheel! She once drove us right off the road in a panic!

On 4 June, I had to have an x-ray at the Kupat Holim headquarters in the centre of town. Somehow I got there and as I came out of the building, I saw Moshe Dayan coming out of the Histadrut building opposite. I knew that this is where cabinet meetings were held, and as this was not the regular day for them, I suspected that war was imminent. In a way, it was a relief. The tension had been almost unbearable.

Israel was a much poorer and far more vulnerable country in those days. My mother had been asking me to come home. She remembered what life was like during the Second World War and didn't want me to experience it. I told her I was staying put.

The War

The next day, I went into work as usual, taking my life in my hands in Rachel's car! We were greeted by HAGA (civil defence) who told us the war had started. Around 11.00am we heard shelling coming from Jordan. At the time, I shared a room with Rabbi Rabinowitz, the former chief rabbi of South Africa. HAGA came and told us to get out of our room and go down to the shelter as Jordan had entered the war. We refused at first but were finally persuaded. Just as well, because our room got a direct hit from a shell, from which I still have a piece of the shrapnel as a souvenir.



The author's two year-old daughter, Hanna, on the balcony of her home with her father, Yehuda.

We were eventually told to go home and stay there. My husband, who was in the air force reserve, was not called up. He told me to fill every spare receptacle, including the bath, with water, in case the water was cut off. Some water pipes were damaged by shelling in Jerusalem but in the event we were lucky.

There were few air raid shelters in Jerusalem, as the whole escalation of the war had been so quick. The only part of our house without windows was the corridor. Once the United Nations forces had handed over the UNTSO building (the former British governor's palace), officially in no man's land, to the Jordanians, our home was in the direct line of fire and we heard the shelling getting nearer and nearer on the first and second days. On the third day we heard nothing.

My little girl did not understand why we were sitting in the corridor and she was too young for us to explain. She looked very confused.



Spontaneous joy in the newly cleared square in front of the Western Wall

On the third day, I went out to buy bread, as the local grocer's was open. I also visited a neighbour, Yitzhak Golan and his wife. He was head of news at Kol Israel, the Israeli radio. There was nothing in the news bulletins to tell us how Israel was faring during the war. When Yitzhak came home, he pointed out that although we were not being told what the situation was, we should have noticed that the shelling had stopped.

(Continued on facing page)

CHEESECAKE FOR FORTY

Our Shavuot lunch broke all festival lunch records with 40 people enjoying a meal and celebration of the holiday. The occasion also included birthday congratulations to Charly Fraylich for her 90th birthday and to identical twins George and Peter Summerfield on their joint 84th birthday.

Belated congratulations to Harry Kornhauser on his 88th birthday and apologies for missing him out earlier. Like the Summerfield twins, Harry arrived in England on one of the Kindertransports.

Members came from far afield, from Whetstone, Elstree, Edgware, Kenton and Kingsbury to catch up with old friends and reminisce, sing and eat cake. The lunch brought together friends who had not seen each other or been to synagogue in months and, in one case, years.

Brigitte Flynn expressed her thanks: "It was fantastic, how it was prepared and served and it looked so nice." Harry Kornhauser added, "It worked extremely well. If you get nice people and a reasonable amount of nice food,

what more could you want? The organisation was good, the atmosphere was wonderful and we were looked after well. And I could park my car in the car park!"

Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers, Leila Davis, Lynn Frank, Suzanne Goldstein and Philippa Strauss, for their help in organising the event, and to our staff: Ronnie who kept us safe and Yelena who worked so hard on the preparation and clean-up.

Eve Hersov



(Continued from the previous page)

On the fourth day, I went out again and saw a crowd of people gathered around something. I went to look and saw that it was a jeep with a driver in it, but the jeep was painted in a strange camouflage that did not look like Israeli colours. Sure enough, it was a jeep captured from the Jordanians! We all marvelled and realised that the danger was now over.

Aftermath

Once the war had ended, I was able to travel all over Jerusalem once again. Several buildings showed signs of having been damaged by shelling but there was no serious damage. We were still not allowed into the Old City as snipers were rumoured to be present still. Finally, about ten days later, we were allowed in. It was one of the most memorable experiences of my life, something I had only dreamed of. The spring rains had brought out wild

flowers that now covered the green hillside of Mount Zion.

We walked up the hill, past the Tomb of David and the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu, finally entering the Old City via the Dung Gate, the only gate then open to Israelis. We saw the Western Wall for the first time, not divided up as it is now, but in all its glory. The houses that had hemmed it in had by now been removed by the Israeli army.

Another aftermath of the war was the victory parade. There has never been such a parade in Jerusalem, before or since. Even before the parade we had seen long lines of captured military equipment being ferried up the roads, the sand-coloured Egyptian lorries and tanks, the sand-and-green Jordanian camouflage, and the dark green of the Syrian vehicles. The parade lasted a good hour with masses of captured equipment and guns on display.

Once the war was over, the stock-

taking began. Israel realised that winning the war had created its own set of problems. The Jewish quarter in the Old City needed rebuilding after it had been hideously vandalised by the Jordanians, who dug up gravestones from the Mount of Olives to line latrines and senselessly destroyed centuries-old synagogues.

There was also the problem – that still exists – of what to do with the massive Arab population now fallen under Israeli rule. At first, relations were very friendly. People who had not seen each other since 1948 greeted each other with joy; the Old City was flourishing, with Israelis visiting the markets. Elsewhere in Israel, Israeli Arabs and Jews flocked across the border on shopping sprees.

Of course, the renewed ties of friendship and new friendships between Israelis and Arabs were not allowed to last. The Arab rulers saw to it. It was totally against their interests, and still is.





Dear Fellow Members

I am ashamed to have to write that I have been very neglectful within regards to my attention at Belsize Square. The truce is that I am at the moment having trouble with arthritis in my left knee. Last time I was in synagogue every time I managed to become upstanding everyone else was sitting down again. Und then when no sooner I was down in the seating position again everyone else was up. Feathermore it is difficult for me to stand at the bus stop for very long. The caretaker here in Abernein Mansions says I should have an Übern account. I think he is of his rocket. I am sure you can't have an account with the underground.

On Friday last morning I woke up to the news that Mrs May has made a triumphant mistake with her snatch election und losing her 17 points orthority. Everything is now in chaos und the pound is plumbing even further down against the dollar und euro. Und after giving her advisers a sack, she has called together the committee of 19 und 22 year olds. What these youngsters can do to resuscitate her posture I don't know. I believe that it is a lost course und she should now pass on the rains. I personally like that Mr Mayor who once had a flair with the egg lady. He should come back I think.

The hole situation has brought Mrs Klopstick to the boil. She is next to herself in anger because she thinks that her travel plans will be over costed now. She wanted to abseil down Masada und then join up with the congregational exploration of Israel. Despite of her large age, my wife has an unsquashable wandering lust.

For my part, I am happy to stay here in Old Blimey und potter about. I really do wish Mrs K would now settle down like me



und lead a more quite live. I have tried to persuade her to join the synagogue's pirates class on a Monday, but all my bleeding has come to no unveil. She did once go for bakeing classes und made a challah. Our downstairs neighbour, Professor Dr Schlafbein, who was a top of the tree geologist in his use, said that it was remarkable. It was the hardest new substance he had ever experienced. Unfortunately, this meant he hat to have a new bridge fitted by his orthodontist.

Earlier this month Israel was celebrating the 50th anniversary of the relief of Jerusalem. I am one who can remember this day as if it was tomorrow. I with southends of other Jews from London collected ourselves in the Royal Albert Hall to listen to massages of support from leading politicians from the day. We were all frightened what hat happened to Israel. The only news was coming from Arab proper gender claiming big victories. Then from the House of Commons came the now much dismembered Jeremy Thorpe. He announced that Israel had wiped out the hole Egyptian airfourth und had other successes pushing backwards all the fronts. In just six days tiny Israel hat rebelled all their enemies und recaptured Jerusalem from the grabs of the Jordanians.

Many of you will be soon leaving these shows for your holidays amidst different lands. Some of you will be on luxury crusade ships, others, like my wife who is just pecking her hiking boots und bad pack, will be tripping across mountain passes und many others will just be wallowing up the sun by a bitch oder swimming pool. Mrs Klopstick has expressed me to say that whatever you are going to be up too we wish you a wonderful save time doing it.

With the best of intentions

Fritz Klopstick

Shabbat Candle Lighting



7 July: Katie Hirschovits
14 July: Carol Goldblatt
21 July: Laura Godfrey
28 July: Hannah Viner

4 August: Debra Shelemy
11 August: Ashley James
18 August: Susan Storing
25 August: Dilys Tausz

BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE: HONORARY OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE & BOARD 2017-18

Honorary Officers

Chairman: Jackie Alexander
Hon Secretary: Annette Nathan
Asst Hon Secretary: Rob Nothman
Hon Treasurer: Jimmy Strauss
Asst Hon Treasurer: Adam Hurst

Executive

Suzanne Goldstein
Adam Hurst
Annette Nathan
Elizabeth Nisbet
Rob Nothman
Jimmy Strauss
Justyn Trenner
Nick Viner

Board Members

John Abramson	Dalia Lichfield
John Alexander	Adam Nathan
Joe Brookes	Sarah Percival
Steven Bruck	David Pollins
Paul Burger	Richard Pollins
Keith Conway	Sam Sanders
Simon Cutner	Hilary Solomon
Adam Davis	Anthony Stadlen
Pat Hirschovits	Dilys Tausz
Francis Joseph	Claire Walford
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Community News

The copy deadline for the next issue of
Our Congregation is Friday 11 August

BAT MITZVAH

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Hannah, daughter of Sarah & Jonathan Percival, who celebrates her Bat Mitzvah on 1 July

ENGAGEMENTS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Daniela Kotzmann & Stephen Fried on their engagement

Orly Lehmann & Robert Cohen on their engagement

Paul Joseph & Hannah Saunders on their engagement

WEDDINGS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Charlotte Taylor & Nick Edels, who married on 21 May

Ashley James & Eddie Sternberg, who married on 28 May

Claire Makepeace & Daniel Heilbron, who married on 18 June

Greg Jacobs & Olivia Fox, who married on Sunday 25 June

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Mr G Summerfield (84) on 3 June

Mr P Summerfield (84) on 3 June

Mrs I Feldstein (91) on 22 June

Mrs M Smith (102) on 24 June

Lord P Eden (96) on 27 June

Mr P Koppel (84) on 29 June

Mr G Hellman (92) on 1 July

Mrs L Krieger (95) on 6 July

Mrs G Burns (94) on 8 July

Mrs H Wilson (85) on 11 July

Mr B Lachmann (93) on 12 July

Mrs L Oppenheim (97) on 27 July

DEATHS

We regret to announce the passing of:

Irene Strauss on 12 May

Marion Fisher on 21 May

Inge Strauss on 25 May

Miriam Katz on 6 June

Harriet Jackson on 15 June

STONESETTING

The stonesetting for the late Irene White will take place on Sunday 23 July at Edgwarebury Lane Cemetery at 11.30am

The stonesetting for the late Edgar Davis will take place on Sunday 30 July at Edgwarebury Lane Cemetery at 1.30pm

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Drivers and Befrienders are urgently needed to support our elderly members

Our **drivers** are crucial in supporting the events that Belsize hosts. We want to create a pool of drivers who can pick up and take home members from events.

Our **befrienders** enable members to keep in touch with the Community over the telephone or by visiting. We are looking for committed people who could give up their time four or five times a year.

If you are able to help please contact Lee Taylor in the office on 020 7794 3949 or lee@synagogue.org.uk.

Suzanne Goldstein

REGULAR SERVICES

Friday evenings at 6.45pm

Saturday mornings at 10.00am

Kikar Kids

Saturday 1 July, 5 August, 2 September 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

End of Term: 9 July

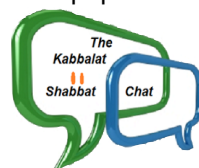
New Term begins: 3 September

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: 7 July & 11 August



BELSIZE BOOK CLUB

Wednesday 19 July at 1.00pm

We will be discussing *My Name is Lucy Barton* by Elizabeth Strout

Contact Paul Lindsey on 020 7435 5296

or email Dorothy White at dorothywhite99@gmail.com



SUNDAY MORNING ADULT DISCUSSION

2 July

10.0-11.15: Rabbi Altshuler: the Great Philosophers and the Jewish Response

11.15-12.30: Tony Ford: Elie Wiesel in Memoriam

Please note: this morning's session will take place at the home of Claire Walford, NOT in the Synagogue Library

9 July

10.00-11.15: Rabbi Altshuler: the Great Philosophers and the Jewish Response

11.15-12.30: Jonathan Paris, political analyst: The Emerging Trump Doctrine for the Middle East

12.45: End of Year Pot Luck Lunch, which will take place at the home of Claire Walford

Discussions resume: 3 September

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

1.00pm on Wednesday 19 July, 16 August, 13 September

Please phone Judy Field on 020 8455 0614

The Edgware Group

EDRS, 118 Stonegrove, Edgware, Middlesex, HA8 8AB

12.15pm on Tuesday 11 July

Please phone Eve Hersov on 020 7435 7129





ALYTH BELSIZE FOOTBALL CLUB



We are now recruiting for the 2017/18 football season and welcome girls and boys from age 6 (school year 2 in September 2017) and upwards. This coming season the Club is particularly looking for children who will be in Years 2, 3, 5 and 7 in September 2017.

If you have children who may be interested, please contact Louise Ross, Club Secretary, on: alythbelsizefc@aol.co.uk.

You can also look at the website: www.alythbelsizefc.co.uk



DON'T FORGET TO BOOK FOR THE B² SKEET WEEKEND Friday 15 - Sunday 17 September

Skeet House is a residential camp for Jewish youth, where children will create, play, swim and have fun. With 30 members of our youth aged from 7 to 18 signed up for a weekend of fun, this will be the largest weekend away organised by Belsize Youth in a very long time!

We want to make sure that everyone has a weekend to remember, so sign up with the Synagogue Office for only £120 to avoid disappointment!

Contact youth@synagogue.org.uk to find out more.

B there and B²!!



WILL YOU HELP US BRING LIGHT INTO THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE LIKE RITA?

Last summer, Rita lost her beloved husband of 67 years. Almost all her friends have passed away. Rita was finding the loneliness terrible. Then she heard about Jewish Care's tea parties. Now she's making new friends. Our tea parties welcome in people like Rita who need companionship, a chat and support. They help make the darkness go away.

We touch the lives of 10,000 people like Rita every week. But it's not a miracle. It's thanks to 3,000 dedicated volunteers, 1,500 professional staff and the generosity of our Jewish community. Will you please help bring light to more people's lives?

Call 020 8922 2600 or visit jewishcare.org/donate

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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EMERITUS

Rabbi Rodney Mariner

rodmariner@aol.com / 020 8347 5306



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