

Our Congregation



News and views from Belsize Square Synagogue

KRISTALLNACHT ONWARD – HOW ANTI-SEMITISM CONTINUES

Shalom Chaverim,

9 November 1938 will forever remain indelibly etched into the consciousness of world Jewry. For on that day the "night of broken glass", Kristallnacht, was launched throughout Germany and Austria. Synagogues were burned to the ground, thousands of Jews arrested, many more beaten in the streets and humiliated. But most of the world, witness to the destruction of Jewish life, did nothing to alleviate the violence.

"It is an internal affair of the German government" was the mantra of the day. With the world's passiveness and inability to respond to the impending demise of German and Austrian Jewry, the tools were put in place for the first steps towards the Final Solution.

Belsize Square Synagogue will not forget that night. Our guest for Friday night's service on 11 November will be Jonathan Arkush, President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Jonathan has been a courageous and visionary leader, almost single-handedly taking on the anti-Semitic outrages of the Labour Party, unafraid to address attacks against our Jewish past and attachment

to Israel, and challenging Mr Jeremy Corbyn on his failure to understand the stain of anti-Semitism. We are honoured to have him join us and I look forward to welcoming him. Our thanks to Robert Sacks and Eric Moonman, our Board representatives, for arranging this.

The onslaught against Jewry has not gone away. It is just repackaged differently, centred round Zionism and Israel. The BDS boycott movement and UNESCO's resolution on 13 October denying any Jewish link to Jerusalem, especially the Temple area, was frightening and hateful. I hope you will all protest to your neighbours and MPs that erasing Jewish history is just the latest example of the 3,500-year-old obsession with Jew hatred. It's real.

Only six countries voted against it: Estonia, Germany, Holland, Lithuania, the UK and USA. We should express our gratitude to them for their sanity and resistance to base anti-Semitism in the United Nations. There were 33 in favour, including France, Russia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden, and 17 abstentions. Many other countries not on the

governing board, including the Czech Republic, solidly denounced the vote.

Two other points of interest: Irina Bokava, UNESCO's director, disavowed the vote and called it a disgrace to the world's nations and the UN. And a Jewish member of Mexico's UNESCO delegation, on the point of resigning in protest at his government's support for the resolution, stayed on to fight at the urging of Israel's delegate. Oddly, Mexico renounced its earlier support but fired its courageous Jewish delegate.

There is so much else going on this month, notably the US Presidential election, where we pray the winner will help our troubled world. But we still have a full programme with Shabbat UK, Adult Discussion on philosophy and Bar Mitzvah services. Come to our services and activities and become part of the Belsize miracle!

Wishes for a joyous month of learning, goodness, mitzvot, reading and friendship. B'shalom

Rabbi Altshuler

SHABBAT UK

Thursday 10 November 7.30pm

The Great Belsize Challah Bake in the Synagogue Hall

Friday 11 November 6.45pm

Kristallnacht Service - followed by Shabbat Dinners hosted at members home. If you would like to host or be hosted please contact the Synagogue Office

Saturday 12 November 10.00am

Shabbat Morning Service led by younger members of our community

THE GREAT BELSIZE BAKE OFF

Whether you're a beginner or a star baker, join our very own head chef, Jennifer Saul, to learn how to prepare your Shabbat challah. All ingredients are provided and each participant will prepare and take home a challah ready to be baked that night and used at your Shabbat meal.

There will also be a talk by professional baker, Georgia Green, and a free cookie for all participants.



Limited spaces so contact the office to book your place and avoid disappointment!!

£10 per person

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KRISTALLNACHT SERVICE

**Friday 11 November
6.45pm**

Our guest speaker will be
JONATHAN ARKUSH
President of the Board of



Deputy





THE VENGEROV CONCERT

Ruth Rothenberg enjoys an inspirational event



Two serious violinists and friends: Maxim Vengerov and Rabbi Stuart Altshuler

What an extraordinary evening! Packed out with a 355-strong audience, our synagogue was the setting for a musical event which would have been the highlight of any major concert hall and the envy of the rest. World-class violinist Maxim Vengerov brought not just his violin but a bouquet of budding musical talent that will surely blossom into the music stars of the future. And we saw these new kids on the block at Belsize Square! That's what I call privilege.

Introducing a long list of distinguished guests to the audience, Rabbi Altshuler recalled meeting Maxim 23 years ago after a concert in Chicago. (In fact he was so impressed by his inspirational playing that he went up to him to tell him so.) "He gives himself to worthy causes, rarely says no, entertains the Israel Defence Forces to lift morale, and is a UNICEF ambassador," Rabbi Altshuler expounded.

When Maxim Vengerov spoke, he spoke of his memory of a young man in a leather jacket, who introduced himself as a rabbi and became a firm friend and mentor. "One of the wonderful teachers in my life," he said, while also recalling earlier "wonderful teachers in Siberia".

Those helping hands in his youth inspired him to encourage other young musicians in turn, including the four who performed in the same programme. It was also his motive for creating the Vengerov Foundation to help talented musicians of whatever background. Maxim expressed his gratitude to the Rabbi for sharing the evening's proceeds between his new foundation and synagogue funds.

He launched the programme with a flowing rendition of Rachmaninov's *Vocalise*, accompanied by his stylish

pianist, Polina Osetinskaya. Then, in her first London performance, she played a series of short Rachmaninoff pieces, showing both her technical mastery and her range of feeling from shy sensitivity to brazen bravura.

They were joined by 21-year-old cellist Liav Kerbal, looking for all the world like a lanky barmitzvah boy, far too guileless to undertake Shostakovich's tense, haunting and ultimately nightmarish *Trio Number 2*. But he, too, had a maturity that belied his years. His pizzicato rhythm in Shostakovich's disjointed vision underpinned its dramatic power with a deft touch. His later solo piece, *Prayer* from Bloch's *Jewish Cycle*, showed him in tender mode.

After the brief interval we were introduced to the most charming double act, 23-year-old identical twin clarinetists, Alex and Daniel Gurfinkel, in three pieces by Saint-Saens, Paganini and Povolotsky. As Maxim Vengerov explained in his introduction, they compete with violinists in their repertoire, which is rearranged for their instrument, and they play with the same panache.

But these boys don't just play superbly. They choreograph their movements, swaying their clarinets in counterpoint, and they dress to perfection – as young bankers or estate agents. Who else wears a suit and tie nowadays? Certainly not the rest of the players, who wore open-necked shirts, black or white, and only two of whom wore a jacket, favouring a shawl collar – and they were both of the older generation.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not complaining, just observing an interesting social trend.

Next, we were treated to another "first", a composition written specially for Maxim Vengerov by Ella Leya. *Reflections* is deceptively simple, a bittersweet moment of nostalgia, looking back perhaps to the experience of a Soviet Union childhood. Both left after the collapse of Communism in 1991, Ella from Azerbaijan to the USA where she met and married Rabbi Stuart Altshuler, Maxim for Israel. He played this piece with a delicate, light touch. This was a look back in fondness, without affecting the present.

The lilting finale, Prokofiev's *Overture on Hebrew Themes*, brought three new players on stage: Rabbi Altshuler in his violinist capacity – as a student he combined rabbinic and violin studies; Liav's viola player father, Leonid Kerbel, born in Ukraine, left for Israel at 11 with his family and now, among many other things, professor at the Royal College of Music; and Philip Keller, chair of Music at Belsize, who took up conducting at a later age than usual and conducted this touching medley (following a very different tradition from our synagogue's Lewandowski model) to enthusiastic acclaim.

The standing ovation which followed was spontaneous and richly deserved. Thanks to Music at Belsize (our music committee) and its producer Peter Petzal, as well as Philip Keller and Rabbi's Altshuler's boundless enthusiasm for the project.

Pictures by John Rifkin.



From left: Rabbi Altshuler, Maxim Vengerov, Polina Osetinskaya, Leonid Kerbel, Philip Keller, identical twins Alex & Daniel (or Daniel & Alex) Gurfinkel, Liav Kerbel

A MEMORABLE WEEKEND OF SONG

Stephen Wiener partakes in a Five Choir Festival in Berlin's Historic Synagogue

Our three choirs joined two Berlin synagogue choirs on the weekend of 10-12 September to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Neue Synagoge (New Synagogue) in Oranienburger Strasse situated in the heart of Berlin.

Ironically, this "cathedral" synagogue was saved in the Kristallnacht attack of November 1938 by a German police officer, but destroyed by Allied bombing in 1943. The ruins were cleared in 1958 by the East German authorities, who completed the demolition of the interior and left only the facade standing.

After German reunification in 1990, the front section was rebuilt, complete with its magnificent dome situated between two mini-domes. Since 1995 it has functioned as a museum, school and monument.

On Friday night and Shabbat morning, the Belsize Professional Choir sang at the Pestalozzi Strasse Synagogue, a fully working shul in the city centre (formerly in West Berlin), together with

that synagogue's Professional and Youth choirs.

Then on Sunday, our Professional, Youth and Community Choirs joined forces with the Pestalozzi Choirs for a series of celebratory concerts in the open-air space at the back of the Neue Synagoge, which has not been restored.

The Jewish music pieces included many compositions of Louis Lewandowski, whose music is still extensively used at Belsize Square services. Other pieces were less familiar, but all were enthusiastically received by large crowds at this *Tag der Offenen Tür* or Open Day.

Our conductors were Regina Yantian, musical director of the Berlin Choir, and our own Ben Wolf and, for our Youth Choir, Alyson Denza. We were wonderfully supported by Michael Cayton, Belsize's own highly talented organist, whose tremendous and faultless playing of both the organ and the piano accompanied all of the choirs

throughout the memorable day.

Our Cantor Paul Heller and Cantor Isaac Sheffer of the Pestalozzi Synagogue added their wonderfully tuneful voices as soloists throughout the day, although Cantor Heller, suffering from laryngitis, was forced to give way to Belsize Professional Choir tenor soloist, Matt Pochin, for the afternoon and evening concerts – a task which, all agreed, he fulfilled to perfection.

Exhausted not only from singing, but also by the 30°C+ temperatures during the day, our party of around 30 people left at the end of the day's concerts, content in the knowledge that we had been fully able to uphold Belsize Square Synagogue's enviable reputation for musical excellence.

Our thanks go to Ben and Alyson for their perfect organisation as well as to our hosts from the Berlin Jewish Community for inviting us and making the whole experience so happy and memorable for us all.



Our adult choirs, with conductors, organist and ministers, in the open space at the back of the synagogue



The restored frontage of the Neue Synagoge in Oranienburger Strasse



Belsize Square's CCF (Combined Choral Forces) the Professional, Youth and Community Choirs



AN ARAB CHRISTIAN SPEAKS OUT DESPITE DEATH THREATS

Helen Grunberg and Sue Arnold report on a remarkable "witness"



A fascinating talk at the end of June, under the auspices of Israel Bonds, gave us an unusual perspective on the longstanding Arab-Israel conflict.

25-year-old Christy Anastas is an Arab

Christian woman born in Bethlehem in June 1989 during the first intifada or Arab uprising (December 1987 to September 1993). Now based in London, she is a slight, beautiful and soft-spoken young woman who speaks with passion. A devout Christian, she said she felt God had led her to travel to unexpected places to tell her story of Christians under persecution and in danger of extinction in the Middle East.

Growing up in her family home near Rachel's Tomb on one of the three ancient routes to this biblical site – which she always felt was a privileged spot – she lived a fairly peaceful life until the second intifada in September 2000. Then it became a war zone with a military camp behind their house.

For the next five years she worried constantly that her parents, two brothers and sister would be shot. Right at the start, one of her two closest friends was shot dead in crossfire between Israel and Palestinian militants, when her family drove in front of an identical car being chased by Israeli soldiers. This was a real eye-opener for 11-year-old Christy. She often had to evacuate during the night. Looking back, she said she found it difficult to believe what she went through. She was heartbroken by it all but at that time had no interest in God.

A curfew was imposed on Christians by the Muslims. They were short of food and money and burdened with punitive taxes for not bearing arms due to their policy of passive resistance. Her uncle was later jailed for not paying, though there was no case to answer. [He had complained they were not getting the protection they were paying for. On release he was shot dead and his land later taken.]

Then the war stopped and, to the family's shock, a wall was built around three sides of their house. ["Security fences" were put up by Israel in 2005.] Her mother decided to take lodgers to have a little income. Between 2009 and 2011 she sank into depression due to

the suffocating economic and political situation. Looking for a room, an independent professional mediator came to stay at their house. In their many talks he led her back to God. He talked about the Bible and God's covenant promising the Land of Israel to the People of Israel.

[Howard Stern is a Christian professional mediator in the commercial and private fields, who has researched extensively into views on all sides in this disputed territory. Christy was now a law student, learning about human rights and freedom of speech and keen to discuss things with this interested and concerned outsider.] She wondered why Israel is still here if the rest of the Middle East is so determined to get rid of it. She came to the conclusion that it exists because God exists and is protecting Israel and also her.

In November 2011 she applied for a permit to enter Israel and was given six months. [West Bank Christians are normally granted up to a month at Christmas and Easter but a bureaucratic error gave her six months. She explored Israel, including a visit to Yad Vashem. She began to understand why Jews wanted their own land and to live in peace and why they built the wall.]

Back home, she spoke out and asked questions, which resulted in death threats. She wondered if she was willing to die for God. But within a few weeks she decided to go away. On 3 July 2012 she left everything – home, family, law studies – and arrived in London the next day, obtaining asylum within three days. [Taking a much-needed break and waiting to see what God expected of her next, she stayed initially with Howard Stern's family. His friends became curious about her story and invited her to speak at events, from a Birmingham pub to the House of Lords.]

In April 2014 she went public when invited to Sweden to speak at Uppsala University. This has put her family in danger and brought death threats against her but, she said, it was God's will. She had intended to remain anonymous but now felt that God insisted on her speaking out openly.

A year later she was looking for a new home when she met Deborah Paul, a devout Christian originally from California but long resident in Britain,

and has since been hosted by her. Deborah, a freelance photographer, has visited Israel, become firm friends with Christy's parents and decided to make a photographic record of what she has seen both sides of the border and build bridges. Christy told us she realises that God's influence on her life is to try and bring Israel and Palestine together.

In questions from the audience, she was asked why Christians do not do more to rescue Syrian and Middle Eastern Christians but her belief is that they should help them find a peaceful path with their Muslim countrymen.

She talked briefly about Canon Andrew White, the former vicar of St George's Church in Baghdad. Canon White fostered the growth of the Baghdad church and became a prominent figure for Christianity in post-Saddam Iraq. He left only when Archbishop Justin Welby ordered him home in November 2014 after ISIS placed a \$57 million (£36 million) bounty on White's head.

Iraq had 1.5 million Christians before the US-led invasion in 2003 but in 2014 only 250,000 were left. Christy explained that they were displaced from the north of the country by the advance of ISIS. A 95% majority in the region is now down to less than 10%. [In her home town of Bethlehem, the 85% Christian population went down to 7% after 2000.]

She also told us that aid sent to Palestine ends up in the pockets of corrupt officials and is not used to improve people's lives. [Elsewhere, she has questioned the morality of using teenage boys to throw rocks at Israelis or as suicide bombers, on the promise of "72 virgins in heaven". Not only are minors not being protected, she notes, but their families benefit financially from their deaths and injuries.]

She calls upon her people to accept responsibility for their actions and restrain those amongst them who choose violence over diplomacy.

We felt this young lady was a peacemaker to be listened to and followed. If only words and understanding could bring peace to the Land of Israel, Christy Anastas is that peacemaker.

[Extra information provided separately by Christy Anastas, and also from official statistics]

THE "NIGHTINGALE'S" VOICE TRILLS ON

Edith Bach, the singing star mother of our member, Eddy Kaczynski, featured in two events this summer, celebrating anniversaries linked to the Second World War and Germany's reunification.

On 1 July a university in eastern Germany named a new campus building *Edith-Bach-Haus*. This is now the official name of the administrative headquarters of the Hochschule für Finanzen Brandenburg, a state-run business and economics college in Königs Wusterhausen, 25 miles south-east of Berlin.

Berlin-born Edith Bach, a member of an illustrious musical family going back to Liszt's day, was a famous singer of the 1920s and a pioneer of music broadcasting in Germany. She was "rediscovered" locally two years ago, when the "Transmitter and Radio Technology Museum" (Sender und Funktechnikmuseum), based in the same town, finally discovered what had happened to the singer known as "The Nightingale of Königs Wusterhausen". She had apparently disappeared off the face of the earth after 1933. It seems not to have occurred to the museum's curator, Wolf-Dieter Säuberlich, that Edith Bach was Jewish and had been forced out of public performance.

In June 1939 she came as a refugee to

London with her husband, Martin Kaczynski, and two small sons. She brought up the family and helped her husband restart his millinery manufacturing business. She never sang professionally again though she was a member of our synagogue choir. She died in 1975, aged 79.

Eddy, her younger son (who confesses to not inheriting her musical talent) was contacted by an English visitor to the German museum, who in 2012 volunteered to try to track her down. Eddy asked his niece's partner, Oliver Bloom, to help make a DVD of his mother's remastered old recordings with mementoes such as programmes and posters. In 2014 he sent the disc to the museum to fill in the gap in their records. *Our Congregation* told the story in December 2014/January 2015. Oliver's work can be viewed and heard on screen by Googling "Edith Bach".

When the university decided to name its four new buildings after prominent local victims of Nazism, they found three candidates: top financial civil servant Rolf Grabower, police official



The Nightingale of Königs Wusterhausen

Marta Mosse (both Jewish) and the non-Jewish judge Lothar Kreyssig, who spoke out against Hitler's euthanasia programme. But they were stuck for a fourth. It was the museum curator who suggested Edith Bach. The museum now has a full display about her.

Eddy, who went with his older daughter, Michelle, and two nieces (his brother and sister-in-law being unable to attend due to ill health), said it was "a bit overwhelming". Asked to speak at the ceremony, he noted that had the Nazi authorities been aware that he was physically handicapped through rolling off the bed at birth and crushing his arm, because his mother was left unattended in the Jewish hospital when the staff were all rounded up, he would not have been alive to address the audience. "To my surprise, they actually applauded," he said.

His mother's second commemoration occurred in an exhibition on the Isle of Man in August for the 75th anniversary of the "Collar the Lot" internment of "enemy aliens", mostly Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany. The exhibition focussed on Rushen camp at Port Erin, the only all-female internment camp in Europe, which housed over 3,500 women. The material used included recordings of Edith Bach and copies of postcards and letters of the time collected by Eddy's older brother. William Kaczynski, a stamp enthusiast, published his collection of terse messages, which was mostly all that was allowed under censorship, in 2011. His co-authored book, *Fleeing from the Führer: A Postal History of Refugees from the Nazis*, includes his own family's correspondence.



Our choir in the 1950s. Front row from left (seated): unknown; Dr Hans Kuttner (conductor, otherwise dentist); Paul Lichtenstern, professional organist and pianist (Friday evening organist at Belsize Square, Saturday mornings at LJS)

Middle row (female singers): Franzi Goodman (married to Eric); Selma Basch (cousin of sisters Johanna Kuttner and Elsa Dzialiner); Hanni (Johanna) Lichtenstern (professional singer and teacher and conductor of children's choir, married to Paul); Edith Bach-Kaczynski; Hanni (Johanna) Kuttner (married to Hans and mother of Henry); next three unknown; Elsa Dzialiner; unknown

Back row (male singers): Eric Goodman (who took over baton from Dr Kuttner); Walter French; unknown; Henry Kuttner (son of Hans and Hanni)

If you can name any of the "unknowns", please tell the Synagogue Office.

(Continued on next page)



Dear Fellow Members

I don't understand what is happening to us Britishers. On the one hand the Jeremy Putinites say that all the rich people have to give their money to the poor, and the Government still want us to have a mean Brexit. But when I look over the balcon from Abernein Mansions, all I can see are road workings und houses being admonished und converged very expensive flats for the super reich. Every morning the traffic is in uprow und the entire arena toworts Belsize Square looks like it is unter siege from terror wrists. I have to wander where all this money is coming from. Is it the lottery or from a benefactory, or the Shinies interpreteneurs?

My great grand nephew's father is best friends with a top financial analysis. He is projecting that this country will be in a precession next year. Also he says that in the rest of Europe they think Boris Johnson is a really bad choise for foreign mister. They think of him in the same way as this Ronald Trump-Towers. Not a good image for us Britains. I personal hope that together with Davis Davis und this Dr Fox the three of them will make such a matzo pudding that they will end up with faces on there eggs.

What has this got to do with Belsize Square I here you crying. Well, if there is a schlump it will infect all of us. In such conditions we need to come even closer together to wither the storm. Und to remonstrate what I mean by together, I have just discovered that next month is this Shabbas OK just after Kristalnacht. It is on the Friday night when we are to invite those near bye from our commune to join us for the shabbas meal after synagogue. I think Mrs K's reputation in the kitchen has is gone far after her, because



somehow we are always the guests never the hosts on this occasion, witch personally suits me up to the ground. At least I get a chance to consummate something hot und pal-at-table for a change.

Und while I am on the object of food, what was the reception food at the Maximus Vengerov concert all about. Apearently it is called Sue-cheese, but I could find no cheese at all, mostly cold rice with bits. It smacked nice enough, but was not so easy to eat with these shop sticks. The concert itself was wunderbar. I could hear every word from the violin, the cello, the great piano, the twin cabinets. Every performance was grated with much clapping und shears especially a new composition by our Rabitsohn Ella Leya. In the end all the musicians clubbed together for the finale witch featured our Rabbi also on the fiddle with his very clothed friend Vengerov. The only thing missing was Mrs Klopstick's trombone.

Now I come to Roshoshono. Unfortunately I postured myself under the air conditioner, so I couldn't hear everything. Und after a vile my hole hat was frozen. Thank goodness for my new tallis that kept my body warm. The Rabbi's sir man on conspess of God was as far as I could hear well received und for the most part grasped my attention on the louder bits. The Quire und Chasan were in full stream so I could almost follow the service. It was a grate surprise for me to be asked suddenly to take the Ark open as the proper opener was not to be found. Unfortunately I lost my place und so when the Rabbi und Chazan prosted themselves on the bima I was left hanging only a bit bent.

With the best of intentions

Fritz Klopstick

(Continued from previous page)

Rushen was a unique camp, run by local landladies under the Home Office rather than the War Office. It was surprisingly harmonious with cultural events like the men's camps. Edith gave concerts and singing lessons.

Her fellow-inmates included the late Hanni Lichtenstern, also a professional singer and much loved mistress of our children's choir, who handed over the baton to Sue

Strauss (now Mariner) in 1977, and a young soprano, the late Ilse Wolf, who made her name by introducing Lieder, German classical songs, to the BBC promenade concerts at the Albert Hall in 1969.

Eddy said he found his visit to the exhibition with his younger daughter, Karen, "very moving. When I heard my mother's voice being played, I was really flabbergasted," he said. His coloratura mother was famous for her bell-like trill, which she could hold for 32 seconds.

He remembers her singing in the choir at North West London Reform Synagogue, Alyth Gardens, and Liberal Jewish Synagogue, St John's Wood Road, before they joined the New Liberal Jewish Congregation (as we were) in Buckland Crescent. In 1951 he was the first Bar Mitzvah on moving into the old Belsize Square vicarage before building work even began.

Today, his mother's "legendary description" is remembered above Eddy's front door: *The Nightingale*.

Scripture Readings

Candle Lighting	Date	Sidrah/Festival	Torah		Haftarah	
Friday 4 November Julia Kobrin	5 November Cheshvan 4	Noach	Genesis	8:15-10:32 11:29-32	Isaiah	54:1-55:5
Friday 11 November Nicola Gee	12 November Cheshvan 11	Lech L'cha	Genesis	14:1-15:21 17:24-27	Isaiah	40:27-41:16
Friday 18 November Sara Collins	19 November Cheshvan 18	Vayeira	Genesis	19:1-20:18 22:20-24	Il Kings	31:1-20
Friday 25 November Judith Sciamma	26 November Cheshvan 25	Chayei Sarah	Genesis	24:10-52 25:16-18	I Kings	1:1-31

Community News

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a cordial welcome to:

Gabriel & Renate Sassower

Jenny Hirsch

Karen Avramoff, together with children Idan & Nicole

Michael Farber

BIRTHS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Frank Orman & Laura Bolick on the birth of their son, Isaac

Sara & Richard Pollins on the birth of their daughter, Maggie

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Yoni, son of Julia Kobrin, who celebrates his Bar Mitzvah on 5 November

Yakob, son of Patricia & Paul Trijbits, who celebrates his Bar Mitzvah on 26 November

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Mr W Howard (97) on 21 November

Mrs A Winter (101) on 23 November

Mr L Weiss (93) on 23 November

Mrs V Shevloff Eden (80) on 26 November

Sunday Morning Adult Discussion Group

6 November

10.00-11.15: Rabbi Altshuler on The Great Philosophers and Jewish responses: Charles Darwin

11.15-12.30: Rabbi Altshuler and all: What is your ideology? Left-wing, right-wing, conservative, liberal, socialist, communist etc?

13 November

10.00-11.15: Rabbi Altshuler on The Great Philosophers and Jewish responses: Søren Kierkegaard.

11.15-12.30: Speaker - TBC

20 November

10.00-11.15: Rabbi Altshuler on The Great Philosophers and Jewish responses: Marx and Engels

11.15-12.30: Speaker - TBC

27 November

Group Outing - Details TBC



THE BELSIZE MEMBERS' GROUP ARE DELIGHTED TO INVITE YOU TO THE POPULAR SUPPER QUIZ

Please join us with your family and friends on

Sunday 13 November at 7.30pm

Tickets £20 per person

To book a table of 10 or 12 people, or to be added to a table to get to know people, please call the Synagogue Office on 020 7794 3949 or Marion Nathan on 020 8361 2443

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

REGULAR SERVICES

Friday evenings at 6.45pm & Saturday mornings at 10.00am

Kikar Kids

Saturday 5 November and 3 December 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

Term restarts: **Sunday 6 November**

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, London NW2 2HY

1.00pm on Wednesday 16 November & 14 December

Please phone Irene Strauss on 020 7435 3538

The Edgware Group

Edgware & District Reform Synagogue (EDRS)

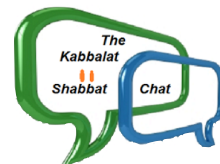
118 Stonegrove, Edgware, Middlesex, HA8 8AB

1.30pm on Tuesday 8 November & 13 December

Please phone Inge Strauss on 020 8958 9414

CANTOR HELLER'S KABBALAT SHABBAT CHAT

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



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

Next session: 11 November

BELSIZE BOOK CLUB

Wednesday 16 November at 8.00pm

We will discuss *The Boys in The Boat* by Daniel James Brown



Venue: Rommy Lis's home

Contact Paul Lindsey on 020 7435 5926

or email Dorothy White: dorothea99@gmail.com

Look forward to seeing you then.

CONGRATULATIONS

A belated Mazel Tov to all those who took GCSE this year.
Excellent results and good luck for those A-levels in two years time !

Chanukah Market

3 December: 5-8pm

4 December: 9.30am-4pm

Following last year's success the Chanukah Market is back.



Introducing a street food court, spa, children's market and all your other favourites in a new, exciting layout.





LOOKING BACK TO SUMMER

On 23 July Karen (Kaczynski) and Sam Sanders, together with their sons (from left) Joey, Jacob and Isaac walked up Mount Snowdon in Wales, to mark Isaac's Bar Mitzvah in January, and raise funds for two worthy causes.



Karen says: "The trek was fairly arduous but our hired guide showed us the least crowded and most interesting route to the summit. It was typical summer weather for Wales – very cloudy, damp and drizzly, interspersed with the odd patch of blue sky. It took about six hours there and back, but was an enjoyable challenge. Any late donations still welcome via these links."

Friends of Israel Sport Centre for the Disabled (£671 so far)
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/isaacsnowdoniatrek>
Magen David Adom (£573 so far)
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/isaacsnowdoniatrek2>

On 28 July Philippa and Jimmy Strauss saw *The Merchant of Venice* in Venice, marking 400 years since Shakespeare's death and the 500th anniversary of the first ghetto in Europe.

Philippa says: "We found it completely overwhelming. The play was performed in a mixture of Italian, Ladino and English and powerfully illustrated the position of Jews at that time. Shylock was performed by five different actors and there were moments when more than one of them was on the stage, illustrating the complexity of the character. A truly memorable experience."

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Wishing you a happy & healthy, sweet NEW YEAR!

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

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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

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youth@synagogue.org.uk

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