

Our Congregation



News and views from Belsize Square Synagogue

CELEBRATING LIFE – THE BEST REACTION TO ANTI-SEMITISM

Shalom Chaverim,

Adar, this March, is the month of Purim, that one-day festival in which we celebrate, eat, drink and refuse all signs of sadness. These characteristics of Purim persist despite the fact that the story, as told in the Book of Esther, is one of the most difficult chapters to comprehend in all of Jewish history.

And that is because the Book of Esther tells us of a Persian plot, probably in the 3rd or 4th century BCE, to annihilate the entire Jewish people. Behind all the celebrating is a dreadful story, one that we have experienced all too often. There have been two streams of assault against the Jewish people since Abraham appeared in the annals of history. We label them under the rubric of that longest and most virulent of ethnic and religious hatreds, "anti-Semitism".

The first is told in the story of Esther: the attempt to destroy the Jews physically. It happened again after Rome defeated the Bar Kochba revolt in 135CE, then sporadic Islamic jihad from the 7th century on, 400 years of crusades from 1096, expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492 and Portugal in 1497, the 1648 Chmielnitski massacres in Ukraine and 19th-century pogroms in Tsarist Russia, leading finally to the Shoah. Jews were murdered because they were Jews.

And then there is the Book of Maccabees, the story of Chanukah and, in 168 BCE, the first attempt to destroy our Judaism, culminating in the first recorded instance of a revolt for religious freedom. With the physical attacks went book-burning (the Talmud in 14th-century Paris), destroying synagogues, desecrating Torah scrolls and eliminating Jewish education,

notably in the Soviet Union.

The practice of difference

Why do we rejoice as we do, for both Purim and Chanukah, when behind them lies a story of such sadness and darkness? I think the answer lies in our cherished tradition of meeting sadness with life, with celebration, without forgetting the countless times we have had to hope, pray and, as now, fight for our right to exist in our own land, Eretz Yisrael, and our sovereignty in the modern State of Israel.

For the best, succinct, single-volume review of the scourge of anti-Semitism, I always recommend Dennis Prager and Joseph Telushkin's *Why the Jews?* This fine book tackles the issue of this endemic and violent hatred. The common thread is the Jews' desire to remain different. This arouses hatred and intolerance of the "different", who reject the majority culture.

In antiquity, it was because the Jews had an invisible God, rejecting paganism. In medieval times it was because they refused to convert willingly to either Christianity or Islam. In the modern period, the refusal of the Jews yet again to obliterate themselves, as they integrated into a new liberal law-bound society, led to the coining of the word *Antisemitismus* by Wilhelm Marr in 1879.

Marr was promulgating his quasi-scientific racial theory that both put Jews at odds with Germans and forecast that Germans would lose out. It was this anti-Semitism that culminated in the Shoah. Today, hate-filled anti-Semitism, attached to the State of Israel and Zionism, still targets Jews.

Our Jewish response

Our Jewish response to all this madness? Life, study and celebration! Join us for our Purim festivities. Join us for this month's joint course with St Peter's Church on "Religious Extremism". (*Full details page 6*)

And get ready everyone: Professor Jack Wertheimer, world-renowned Jewish historian and former provost of the Jewish Theological Seminary, author of over 16 books – and my mentor throughout my rabbinic career – is coming to visit us. He will speak briefly at Friday night service on 1 April and at length after Shabbat dinner that night on "Judaism in an Age of Religious Recession". (*Call the office to reserve your place for a great Shabbat meal.*)

After Kiddush following Shabbat morning service, he will speak on "The Religious Lives of Ordinary Jews". On Sunday morning, 10-12.30, he will address our Adult Discussion Group on "Orthodoxies in Transition".

There will be a special evening reception and talk on Monday 4 April for our generous patrons who have made this scholar-in-residence week possible.

I will see you all in synagogue for our continued first-class offerings. Wishing you all a month of learning, celebrating and rejoicing in our challenging and never dull Jewish life here.

B'shalom tamid,

Rabbi Altshuler



Wednesday 23 March

5.30pm - Dinner & Costume Parade
6.30pm - Megillah Reading
7.30pm - Purim Spiel

Contact the Synagogue Office if you need to purchase parking permits



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A FEAST OF JEWISH MUSIC

Belsize teams up with Jewish Music Institute to honour a composer, player and scholar

Concert-goers to Belsize Square's opening programme of its new season on 7 February had to battle against one of this winter's worst storms. But they were rewarded with an unusually varied and tuneful collection of pieces around Jewish themes, celebrating the 70th birthday of their composer and arranger, Alexander Knapp.

In between the familiar standards of Elgar, Handel and Bloch, we had a series of Dr Knapp's own creations, played by the Wallace Ensemble under its founder – and our music director – Ben Wolf, and sung by soprano Gwendolen Burton, our professional synagogue choir and our cantor in full canonicals (all in fine voice).

The majority of these pieces belonged, unsurprisingly, to the religious sphere but they were not always immediately familiar. Part of the fun was the occasional moment of recognition, as in *Adon Olam*. The mood swung from delicate, mournful and yearning to pure jollity, especially in the Edward Lear nonsense poem set to music by Dr Knapp during his undergraduate days at Cambridge. (Yes, no Jewish connection but the text of *The Cummerbund* is

remarkably similar to Lewis Carroll's Jabberwocky poem in *Alice Through The Looking Glass*, published three years earlier.)

Interesting "finds" included a lyrical Ladino love lament (the suitor who is so alluring at night seems a lot less attractive in broad daylight), a couple of modern Hebrew poems and a delightful version of *Chad Gadya*, composed by one of the myriads of talented people killed by the Nazis. This was only its second performance in the West, following its rediscovery and premiere in Leeds last year. Its composer, Dovid Ajzensztadt, had been choirmaster of a major Warsaw shul.

This tribute concert was a collaborative effort of our synagogue's Music Committee under Philip Keller (Music at Belsize) and the Jewish Music Institute, founded over 25 years ago by our member Geraldine Auerbach, who started off the whole enterprise at a B'nai B'rith Jewish music festival in 1984. She received the MBE in 2000. The JMI is based at SOAS (London University's School of Oriental and African Studies) and the audience included JMI supporters.

It was also a family occasion as Dr Knapp was joined by his daughter Louisa on violin and son Raphael on cello. The trio, with Dad at the piano, played his arrangement of another Haggadah passage, *Hasal Siddur Pesach*, from the end of the Seder. It was gently melancholic, like the classically influenced *Elegy*, one of his own compositions.

This was a gem of a concert with a family atmosphere. The works were introduced by Ben Wolf, a born communicator, and the speeches managed to include everyone in their thanks while staying short and to the point. The only thing that ran late was the birthday celebration itself, since Dr Knapp turned 70 nine months ago. But no one seemed to mind.

Ruth Rothenberg

MUSIC AT BELSIZE

Sunday 10 April at 7.30pm
The Zemel Choir & Polyphonies
Hébraïques de Strasbourg

Heavenly voices of two choirs blend in perfect harmony as they join together once more in a concert of sacred and secular music by European and American Jewish composers.

Entry £15 (students £10)

OPENING OUR HOME

Rob Nothman on our Holocaust Memorial Day schools programme

"Thank you for opening your home to us," wrote one 15-year-old student who attended our Holocaust Memorial Day programme last month. "I learnt so much. It has made me think about life, about helping others and never being silent when something bad happens."

For the last 15 years Belsize Square Synagogue has offered an educational programme to local schools to remember the traumatic lessons of history and to challenge today's youth to

reflect on their conduct towards others. Over 600 students from seven schools (University College London Academy, Quintin Kynaston, St. Aloysius College, St. George's Catholic, St. Marylebone CE, Maria Fidelis and La Sainte Union) took part. They started by gathering to hear Hilary Solomon talk about the rise of Hitler through photos and documents from her late father, Herbert Levy.

Sessions followed on the story of Anne Frank, a discussion on the impact of bullying and discrimination on their own lives, and listening to moving accounts of survivors or the families of refugees.

The comment cards filled in by students at the end of the session were very revealing. "I have found the stories of survivors very sad and moving," wrote one. "So many people stood by and did nothing. I think it shows how ignorant we are now, as we ignore situations that we believe don't involve us."

Each school visit ended with the lighting of six candles in memory of the Six Million Jews who died at the hands of the Nazis. Belsize Square's special candelabrum, which is used for this,

was lit in Westminster Abbey's service commemorating the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz last year.

And our work does not end here. An outreach programme with South Hampstead High School will continue to organise visits of survivors to give their personal testimonies.

Sincere thanks to all who took part and volunteered their time. Henny Levin and Sue Leon have done a wonderful job, developing and enhancing the programme, and even attracting a further four schools this year. The survivors, together with their younger generation, told their stories with enormous dignity, impressing on the students at first-hand their trauma and tragedy and courageous rebuilding of their lives in Britain. Thanks, too, to the presenters, facilitators, support staff and refreshment volunteers, as well as the care-taking, cleaning and office staff.

The words on some of the students' comment cards underline how important and worthwhile the programme is: "Today really opened my eyes and told me I can make a difference."



Students from University College London Academy (Swiss Cottage) and some of our volunteers at our HMD programme surrounding our 6 Million candlestick which is lit by students and survivors at the ends of each session.

ORLY LANDECK'S PROGRESS

A thank you to the community from her parents, Gill and Amir

As spring starts afresh, Amir and I look back on an incredible period of medical and emotional drama.

At the end of 2014 we were told by Great Ormond Street Hospital that Orly (our daughter who suffers from cerebral palsy) would be able to have a potentially life-changing operation called Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy.

Both as parents and as doctors, my husband and I had been anxiously awaiting the results of her assessment and worrying that she would not be accepted for surgery. So when we were given a "yes", we were over the moon.

There was, however, a rather large snag – we would have to self-fund. Even though the operation was to take place on the NHS, routine funding for all was not yet in place and only a tiny number of children would be eligible for funding. Orly was not one of them.

We knew we would need to raise money fast but in January, when we were told that surgery might be in April, the pressure was really on.

I took to Facebook and discovered that we were not alone. Many parents from all over the world had been in a similar position, raising funds to go to the USA for surgery. In many ways we were luckier, as the costs for America would have been even more than the £40,000

we had been told we would need for surgery, physiotherapy and equipment.

As we discussed what to do next, Amir said we should ask Rabbi Altshuler for advice. This turned out to be the best decision either of us had ever made.

Nothing could have prepared us for what happened over the next few months. Spurred on by friends in the congregation and outside, Belsize Square Synagogue community started fundraising in earnest and money started pouring in. We also set up a GoFundMe page for Orly and had a fantastic response from our children's school (Brookland) and from two newspaper articles we wrote, one in the *Ham & High*, the other in *The Telegraph*.

The Synagogue was by far and away our biggest donor in our campaign and we will be forever indebted to the incredible generosity that our wonderful community has shown our family.

So how is Orly? She is now seven and is a wonderful, happy and bright girl with a great future ahead of her.

Compared to a year ago, Orly can now sit unaided on a normal chair, is easier to dress and undress, can self-propel her wheelchair really easily and can ride a horse and a tricycle! She is working hard on her physiotherapy four

to five times a week and has started walking with a frame and sticks.

We were thrilled when, with a little bit of help to lift her over the steps, she went up on the bimah with her twin sister Lilli after last month's Kikar Kids service to collect her Certificate of Achievement for learning the Kiddush.

We will never be able to say it enough times: Thank you, Belsize Square!



Orly on her trike with brother, Benny, on left and twin sister, Lilli, on right

LOVING IT AT LIMMUD

Peter Strauss revels in his experience

At the end of December, my family and I, along with other Belsize members, attended our first full-scale annual Limmud Conference, held at the Hilton Metropole in the NEC complex just outside Birmingham.

We had previously been to a smaller scale summer Fest, which included a children's programme. However, this time I was set free to choose my own sessions. These ranged from highly academic talks by world experts to pure fun events, such as a sing-along *Fiddler on the Roof*.

My Limmud experience started on the tube. I had downloaded the guidebook app but was yet to open it. As usual on the tube, I got bored so I decided to take a look. What I found was a jam-packed schedule with multiple options for each session.

One of the nicest things was seeing friends my own age leading a session. It was entitled: *Dear Adults – A Teenager's Thoughts On Aliyah*. While it wasn't entirely well-planned, it was amazing to see my peers running a complete session without help.

On two of the evenings they ran an "indoor campfire session". This was an amazing reminder of what I love about youth movements – the *ru'ach* (spirit or atmosphere). We all had a great time and made many new friends.

Among the many fascinating academic lecturers, one of the best was world renowned Holocaust scholar, Deborah Lipstadt. I heard her give three talks. The first was on her book about the Eichmann trial, the second was entitled: *Contemporary Antisemitism – How Real A Threat?* But the third and final lecture

was her most interesting. In it she outlined her defence in the famous High Court trial and how effectively she discredited the Holocaust denier, David Irving. She then showed how you might set about trying to deny the Holocaust. This really emphasised her ability to pick out and appreciate both sides of an argument.

If someone asked me: "Do you think I should go to Limmud?", my answer would be, without a doubt, YES! It was a fascinating experience and had something for everyone. In addition, the fact that most of the events were organised by volunteers made the whole experience even more remarkable

I am definitely returning next year and I hope to see even more Belsize members there.



THE HENRY KUTTNER CHOIR SHABBAT

Last November, our second "Thank You To The Choir" service, held after the High Holydays, also became the first to be held in memory of Henry Kuttner, who worked tirelessly to preserve our synagogue's musical heritage. Henry, who died in March 2014, spent 15 years and his aunt's legacy on restoring, updating and computerising our music scores. He came to England with his parents from Berlin in 1939, aged 10. His father, a dentist, conducted our fledgling synagogue's choir and he followed in his father's footsteps, singing in choir along with other family members and conducting, while later working as a BBC producer.

HENRY'S LEGACY – Extracts From Music Director Ben Wolf's Address

We are here this evening both to celebrate and to commemorate – to celebrate the Belsize choir and to commemorate the loss of one of its great champions. And I have found myself wondering, what does the music of Belsize Square Synagogue mean to us, and what did it mean to Henry? It is obvious that it was deeply important to him, that he found the melodies very moving. He was kind enough to congratulate us on some of our performances over the years, though exacting enough, on occasion, to point out some of our misdemeanours.

It could have meant many things, perhaps a symbol of the freedom to practise his religion after the experience of persecution, perhaps the literal, theological meaning of the words. But I suspect that for him, as for us, it also possessed nostalgic meaning, reminding him of the past, of his family, of Germany, of treasured things that he had lost. *[Nostalgia, as Ben had earlier pointed out, comes from two Greek words meaning return and pain.]*

And that meaning is still with us. Through the performance of the music we remember the past and we, too, understand the pain of return. But the painful aspect varies with experience. A few weeks ago I attended a Friday night dinner here which, at the end, was joined by many members in their 20s and early 30s. Many of them referred to their time as teenagers at Belsize and an astonishing number mentioned their time in the youth choir.

They too viewed the music through the lens of nostalgia but a different kind of nostalgia – a memory of childhood and of friendships forged.

Let me be honest – Henry could be exasperating. Indeed even now, when I try to follow Henry's astonishingly precise house style for Belsize sheet music, I find him slightly exasperating. But both Henry and Sue [Mariner, our former youth choir conductor] could also be inspirational. I never begrudged Henry's precise attention to detail nor the fact that he nagged me, ever so gently, if I was not keeping to schedule. And I did not begrudge it because he, like Sue, was so obviously motivated by a deep and abiding love for both the synagogue and its music.

Many others, who are also important to Belsize music, are with us this evening and have been entertaining you with their singing and playing. For, whatever music's meaning may be, that meaning is only enacted through performance and experience and Belsize is fortunate that, in its professional choir, it possesses a group of people who can perform that music both beautifully and inspirationally.

It also possesses a group of people of great loyalty, especially notable this year as we celebrate Sue Heimann's 50th year with the Belsize professional choir. We also have a cantor with an obvious affection for the Belsize tradition, a supportive Rabbi who plays the violin, and a truly world-class organist whose skill at improvisation is almost infuriating. These are things to be treasured.

Ben then read out an email from Henry's sister, Lilo:

You will not know me by my today's name, but to explain: I have only today heard from Molly Kuttner (Henry's widow) and her youngest daughter, Helen Rebecca Kuttner, of the above event which is scheduled to take place tomorrow. I am Lieselotte (Lilo) Kuttner, Henry's sister; later became Leila Silver (widowed 1974) and remarried as Leila Salzedo, (widowed once more 1995). For many years I, too, was a loyal choir member in the soprano section, as well as our late mother Johanna Kuttner plus two aunts, under the efficient batons of our late beloved father, Dr. Hermann Hans Kuttner, later under Henry and Eric Goodman [in between father and son].

I am very gratified to know of this wonderful annual honour that the Synagogue has bestowed on my late highly talented and generous brother and only wish that I, too, could attend. This is unfortunately not physically possible for me as I am now residing in a Care Home in Hertfordshire, having recently celebrated my 90th birthday with family and friends. I will, however, be at the service in spirit and watching the service on my laptop.

With very best wishes and kindest personal regards to anyone who might still remember me.

Very sincerely,

Leila Salzedo
(Alias Silver and Kuttner)

Appreciation from Helen Grunberg and Sue Arnold

We believe that Henry Kuttner's musical heritage, continued by music director Ben Wolf and our magnificent choir, will continue to give enormous pleasure and nostalgia to all our congregants.

We thank the choir, Ben Wolf and organist Mike Cayton for their appreciation of Henry's preservation of our musical heritage through the Sibelius computer programme, assisted by Sue Mariner.

The Friday Evening Service on 13 November was very moving. The choir came downstairs and stood at the side of the bimah, singing the traditional melodies and prayers

with deep feeling. Rabbi Stuart Altshuler and Dr Ben Wolf praised Henry for his devotion.

Henry's widow, Molly, and daughter, Helen, took great comfort from this recognition. Unfortunately, their other daughter, Sue, was detained by work in Scotland and could not get back in time. Mrs Kuttner and the choir members received gifts from our co-chairman, John Abramson.

So, to Dr Ben Wolf and Cantor Paul Heller and Rabbi Stuart Altshuler and Sue Mariner: We thank you for the music at Belsize Square Synagogue.

CELEBRATE – ISRAEL 68

A message from Jeffrey Graham

After a three-year break, BSS is holding a major event on the eve of Yom Ha'atzma'ut, Wednesday 11 May, marking Israel's 68th year of existence. The celebration will be held in style with a superb evening of Israeli music and dancing, fine dining and the opportunity to hear Lord Finkelstein.

Israel needs our support now more than ever. Belsize Square Synagogue has a long and proud history of supporting Israeli organisations that combine the ethos and values of our community. We offer our support to three hugely deserving charities.

Yemin Orde – the youth village and school community that has saved literally thousands of children from poverty.

The Jaffa Institute – the organisation offering social and educational help to children who would otherwise roam the streets and become embroiled in gang wars and a drug culture.

The Israel Sports Centre for the Disabled – the magnificent organisation that offers help and hope to thousands of people whose lives have been physically and mentally challenged by life-changing accidents.

Many of our members have built up close relationships with these wonderful organisations and each of them is delighted to invite you, our members, to be shown round their facilities as they explain their crucial work.

This gives us the chance to see in person how our contributions empower and strengthen people's lives. So next time you visit Israel, make time to visit them. It will be wonderful for them to know they are remembered and connected to a Jewish community in London. But you will have the main benefit when you witness the amazing places we are working with.

Over the coming weeks we will give more information about each

ISRAEL 68: CELEBRATE Wednesday 11 May

- * A great evening of music and dancing with Shir, London's leading Jewish band
- * A conversation with Lord Daniel Finkelstein
- * Superb dining provided by our own chef Adam Nathan
- * Help support our most deserving chosen Israeli charities.

Join us for a wonderful event
More information to follow

organisation and the party you are invited to.

For more information on visiting our supported charities in Israel, contact the Synagogue Office or me directly at joyeam@aol.com.

ISRAEL – THE NEVER ENDING CONTROVERSY

Israel and its perception by the outside world were at the forefront of last month's talks and discussions.

During the first weekend of February we were visited by Rabbi Altschuler's old friend and fellow student, Rabbi Professor Hanan Alexander, now Dean of Students and Professor of the Philosophy of Education at Haifa University. Dr Alexander, who moved to Israel from the USA in 1999, laid out his framework for "legitimate criticism" of Israel when he spoke after the Friday evening service.

Other countries are criticised for their actions or policies, not for their very existence. For Dr Alexander, the Jewish people has an inalienable right to the Land of Israel. But this right entails an equally inalienable right for those already living there – Muslim and Christian Arabs, Beduin and Druze.

If these rights are denied to Israel's minority populations, then the whole "Israel project" of setting an example to the world (a light to the nations) through its religious and secular values is diminished. These rights are so important that, according to Dr Alexander, the world has a responsibility to protect the Israel project and ensure

its success – the very opposite of demonisation.

His points were picked up by the following week's Friday evening speaker, Sharon Abraham-Weiss, executive director of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel. She described Israel's predicament in attempting to "balance the idea of human rights with security" and enthused over her role in working for social change and dealing with issues of equality and defending minorities.

Every day she and her organisation question whether security issues justify everything Israel is doing and strive for the moral stance they believe the state should take.

Founded in 1972, ACRI works mostly in the legal field, challenging perceived injustice – often in the Supreme Court. Sharon is a lawyer and her previous job as Equal Employment Opportunity Commissioner for Israel's central region, including Tel Aviv, has given her plenty of experience. ACRI also aims to educate and foster discussion and awareness.

"Democracy," she said, "means we can hear lots of voices. When you don't, you

don't have democracy any more." She called on diaspora Jews to know the facts and not take things for granted. "Silence is interpreted as support."

Her views certainly chime with our Israel Committee chairman, Jeffrey Graham. For him, *Kol Yisrael arevim zeh le'zeh* – All Jews are responsible for one another. Foremost among Israel's many challenges is the nearly half-century of occupation of the West Bank and Golan Heights.

He deplores the Israel government's attempt to ban foreign funding for NGOs, which targets bodies that oppose its policies and stand up for the human rights of minorities. He is also exercised by rising social inequality.

Jeffrey passionately believes that although we do not live in Israel, we have the right and duty to express our views and support Israeli bodies which seek to ensure civil liberties, to promote economic well being and social justice for all, and to defend and maintain the basic human rights of all its citizens in the framework of our shared Jewish values. Progressive Israelis he meets here urge him on. So join us at our Israel Dinner on Wednesday 11 May.





Dear Fellow Members

Perhaps it is my age, but I am no longer enamelled with winter. When I was younger, I would not mind the cold so much, but I am no longer so sick blooded und when I go out into the frost I loose most of my body heat long before I can say Jock Rabbitsen. Mrs Klopstick is entirely the other way. She is heavily into winter sports und has recently added speed skating to her reservoir of advents. At home we are consistently having a battle over the heating. She wants it off with the windows open und I want it up with the windows close. But now we are coming out of the darkness into the light from spring und live is returning to Abernein Mansions where it was mostly doormat in the past months. So the heating can now be tuned down.

At last I was able to be in attendance at Belsize Square. This was on a particular blowing night with big winds und mine hat was nearly flown off several times. Rabbi Altschuler passed away his sermon to a friend of his Professor Dr. Rabbi Hananan Alexander who was visiting on a latcher tour to Oxford und Cambridge from Haifa University. Both rabbis first met when they came together at university in Lost Angels, but also both have something to do with Burkely in California.

I was not able to understand everything as some parts were in American. He talked quite a lot about alien's rights, although we are no longer called by this name being fully naturised. The professor's main point I think was that we could criticise Israel but we should support it at the same time. This is very much how Mrs Klopstick treats me, but without much support. Also the Professor Rabbi said that people con-damming Israel against the Palestinians were sometimes hiding behind their auntie Semitism.

Und talking from auntie Semitism, with Purim soon to be on



Klopstick's
Kopplaine

us we again feature Haman who wanted to eliminate all Jews just like the Nazis. This story is very closed to our hearts, as Esther is Mrs Klopstick's middle name. She really likes to stomp her feet when Haman's name is mentioned in the ganze megillah. One year she stomped so hard onto my food, I had to have an eggs-ray at the Royal Free in case it was broken.

I am personally very worried about the situation with Europe. I can't understand why we are having a refer-random. What will happen to us if we cut away from our own continent? Where do we go? To Africa, oder Asia, oder will we become the number 52 state from America? The hole idea is dangerous. I hope that we as Jews will stick together und vote to stay where we are. Look at who is behind the leafers; the BPM, Nigel Farage und a bunch of old right whingers who have always been Euro-septic. I believe it is better to be big inside rather than small outside.

Now we come to the election for London Major. I am very reluctant to exorcise my affluence through this median, but here I have very strong opinions. I really believe we should throw completely out our choice from what party und put our white behind the only candy-date who has a Jewish heritage in his blood. This is Zak Goldschmitt. I think he is the best man to follow Boris und is not there just for the money like some of the others.

Finally I should like to thank those of you who read my kolumne und offer me uncouragement to keep going. I would be most happy to receive your commandments which you should address to the synagogue office. I will response all over them in good time.

With the best of intentions

Fritz Klopstick

INTERFAITH TALKS

3-part series on Religious Extremism and Religious Fundamentalism

Tuesday 1 March 7.30pm at Belsize Square Synagogue

Reverend Paul Nicholson: What is Christian fundamentalism and extremism?

Tuesday 8 March 7.30pm at St Peter's Church

Rabbi Altshuler: What is Jewish fundamentalism and extremism?

Thursday 17 March

To be held at an unknown venue, led by Sheikh Ahmed Haneef on: What is Islamic fundamentalism and extremism?



PURIM LUNCH

**Thursday 24 March, 12.30pm
£5 per person**

Join us for lunch, hamantaschen, singing & wisdom
with Rabbi Altshuler & Cantor Heller
Contact the Synagogue Office to book



Scripture Readings



Candle Lighting	Date	Sidrah/Festival	Torah		Haftarah	
Friday 4 March Nicole King	5 March Adar I 25	Vayak'hel Shabbat Sh'kalim	Exodus	35:1-37:16 30:11-16	II Kings	12:1-17
Friday 11 March Hayley Allan	12 March Adar II 2	P'kudei	Exodus	38:21-39:21 40:34-38	I Kings	7:51-8:21
Friday 18 March Hannah & Isabel Klug	19 March Adar II 9	Vayikra Shabbat Zachor	Leviticus Deuteronomy	1:1-2:16 25:17-19	I Samuel	7:21-8:3
Friday 25 March Dilys Tausz	26 March Adar II 16	Tzav	Leviticus	6:1-7:10 8:33-36	Jeremiah	18:1-39 9:22-23

Community News

The copy deadline for the next issue of
Our Congregation is Friday 18 March

BIRTHS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Irisa & Dean Frankle on the birth of their son, Theo

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Harry, son of Nicole & David King, who will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on 5 March

Hannah & Isabel, daughters of Rachael & David Klug, who will celebrate their Bat Mitzvah on 19 March

ENGAGEMENT

Congratulations and best wishes to:

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

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Mrs B Flynn (96) on 5 March

Mrs E Block (90) on 9 March

Mr J Altmann (86) on 14 March

Mrs R Simion (88) on 16 March

Mrs M Suchy (93) on 20 March

Mrs H Heineman (96) on 22 March

Mrs M Altmann (87) on 27 March

DEATHS

We regret to announce the passing of:

Paul Wasserman on 29 January

Sunday Morning Adult Discussion Group

6 March

9.45-11.00 Rabbi Altshuler on The Great Philosophers and the Jewish Response: Immanuel Kant Part 1 – Reason as a path to ethics

11.15-12.45 Film: *Room 514*

13 March

9.45-11.00 Rabbi Altshuler on The Great Philosophers and the Jewish Response – Immanuel Kant Part 2

11.15-12.30 TBC

20 March

9.45-12.00 Rabbi Altshuler on The Great Philosophers and the Jewish Response: Solomon Maimon and Hermann Cohen – Where will Jews get their ethics? Reason? Jewish Law?

12.00-12.30 Open Forum

27 March

No Adult Discussion – Spring Break

Monday 28 March

Bank Holiday group trip to Cambridge to visit the Cairo Genizah – TBC

LAST-MINUTE BOOKINGS

5 places left on the Berlin trip, 1-5 May 2016

Led by author Thomas Harding and Rabbi Altshuler

Cost £395 per person + flights (book your own)

Contact Claire Walford at: claire.walford@yahoo.com

Youth Machaneh for ages 9-15 at Woodrow High House

Cost £135 per person. Contact youth@synagogue.org.uk

REGULAR SERVICES

Friday evenings at 6.45pm & Saturday mornings at 10.00am

Kikar Kids

Saturday 5 March and 2 April at 11.00am
with a special Kikar Kids on 23 April 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

End of Term: 20 March

LOCAL LUNCHEON GROUPS

Still running and happy to welcome new members

Please let us know if you plan to attend

The NW3 and Wembley Group

Giacomo, 428 Finchley Road, NW2 2HY

1.00pm on Wednesday 16 March and 20 April

Please phone Deborah Jay on 020 7435 8835

The Edgware Group

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

12.15pm on Tuesday 15 March and 19 April

Please phone Inge Strauss on 020 8958 9414

Belsize Square and Cantor Heller invite you to...

An Erev Shabbat opportunity to make Kiddush, to sing Lecha Dodi and to learn the lessons of the Parsha

Now on the second Friday of each month
at 5.30pm in the Library.

Refreshments provided.

Next session: 11 March



2nd Night Seder

Saturday 23 April, following the Service at 6.45pm

Join Rabbi Altshuler, Cantor Heller and their families

Members: £30 Non-members: £35 Under 16: £20

Please contact the Synagogue Office if you wish to attend

BELSIZE BOOK CLUB

Thursday 10 March at 8.00pm

We will be reading John McGahern's

That They May Face The Rising Sun

Please contact Paul Lindsay on 020 7435 5926

Or Dorothy White: dorothywhite99@gmail.com



Henny Levin's Jam Jar Appeal

Following the successful Chanukah Market, jam and green tomato chutney making starts all over again for 2016.

Now is the time to replace the jam jars, so please bring your empty jars with screw lids in the standard 340gm and 370gm size to the Synagogue Office, where Henny will collect them. Please remove labels first. It saves so much time and allows her to concentrate on the actual jam making.





Did we save your family?

We can help piece together your family record, like we did for Jerry

In the 1930s and 40s, World Jewish Relief rescued tens of thousands of people from the Nazis. We have the digitised family records of those we helped. Now we want to give them back to you, for free.

Find out if we helped your family at:
www.worldjewishrelief.org/archives
Tel: 020 8736 1250

“These papers are a piece of family history which I will treasure forever”
Jerry Springer



SPONSOR A KIDDUSH

Have you got a Family Simchah coming up? Significant Birthday? Wedding Anniversary? Aufruf? New Baby? Take the opportunity to sponsor a Kiddush on a Shabbat Morning.

For more information contact Jennifer Saul in the office

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

The fourth Annual General Meeting of The Synagogue (the AGM) will be held on Tuesday 7 June 2016. Formal notice will be given in due course.

The Board hereby invites the members of The Synagogue to nominate candidates for the Office of Chairman and for election to the Board for a period of three years commencing from the AGM. There are 15 vacancies.

Nominations must be in writing, addressed to the Hon. Secretary and submitted to the Synagogue Office by 12 noon on Friday 15 April 2015. Each Nomination must be signed by at least five members of The Synagogue who are themselves entitled to vote at the AGM. Only valid nominations which are received by that date can be considered. No member may sign more nominations for the Board than the number of vacancies (namely 15).

In accordance with the Articles of Association of The Synagogue, the following 9 members will be retiring from the Board by rotation but are eligible for re-election if duly nominated: John Alexander; Steven Bruck; Keith Conway; Richard Pollins; David Rothenberg; Hilary Solomon; Jimmy Strauss; Dilys Tausz; Justyn Trenner.

From 18 April, a list of the candidates duly nominated will be available for inspection at the Synagogue Office and the formal notice of the AGM will also include a list of those candidates.

SYNAGOGUE HELP LINES

THE BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

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

Email: office@synagogue.org.uk

SYNAGOGUE OFFICE HOURS

9.00am - 5.30pm

Fridays: 9.00am-2.00pm

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Lee Taylor - 020 7794 3949

BELSIZE MEMBERS' GROUP

Co-chairs: Marion Nathan - 020 8361 2443

and Dilys Tausz - 020 7435 5996

CHEVRA KADISHA

Chairman: Rabbi Stuart Altshuler

Joint Vice Chairs: Helen Grunberg - 020 8450 8533

Cantor Dr Paul Heller

COMMUNITY CARE CO-ORDINATOR & BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE

Contact Eve Hersov on 020 7435 7129

or email eve@synagogue.org.uk

or call the Synagogue Office for a leaflet

FUNERALS

During Synagogue Office hours phone 020 7794 3949.

Evenings/weekends phone Calo's (Undertakers)

020 8958 2112

JUDAICA SHOP

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

KIDDUSH

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

LIBRARY

Open Wednesdays 10am - 12 noon

At other times please check first with the office

CHEDER

Enquiries to the Head, Jeanie Horowitz, in the Synagogue Office, or email jeanie@synagogue.org.uk

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Chairperson: Mandy Brass - 020 8452 6936

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Email Youth Workers Yohel Heller and Michelle Heller

youth@synagogue.org.uk

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR CONGREGATION

Emails to: office@synagogue.org.uk

or to the Editor: ruth@famrothenberg.com

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07946 353340

RABBI

Rabbi Dr Stuart Altshuler

rabbi@synagogue.org.uk

CANTOR

Cantor Dr Paul Heller

cantor@synagogue.org.uk

EMERITUS

Rabbi Rodney Mariner

rodmariner@aol.com / 020 8347 5306



Charity Number 1144866

Company Number 7831243

The Belsize Square Synagogue