

Our Congregation



News and views from Belsize Square Synagogue

LOOKING BACK 100 YEARS TO NOVEMBER 1917

Shalom Chaverim,

This month of November 2017 is historic, for it was on 2 November 1917, one hundred years ago that the Balfour Declaration was delivered to Lord Rothschild, committing the British government to the creation of a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

On 7 and 8 of November of that same year, 1917, the Bolshevik Revolution led by Vladimir Lenin overthrew the Provisional Government of Alexander Kerensky and changed the world in a dramatic sweep of power.

On 9 November 1938, the Nazi regime led a nationwide pogrom against every Jewish community and Jew in Germany and Austria, in a horrific foreboding of the coming Shoah.

These three watershed events affected us all. The **Balfour Declaration** set in motion the realisation of 2,000 years of Jewish dreams, the return of our people to the Land of Israel, and recognised the nationalist aspirations of the Zionist movement. It cemented international recognition of the plight of the Jewish people, as confirmed by all the leading Western nations at the San

Remo Conference, held in 1922.

The British government accepted a mandate to lead the Jewish people to statehood. The government also made promises to the Saud and Hussein families, leaders of the Arab world at the time, which created much of the tensions that ensued in the region. Jewish history and life was never the same after 2 November 1917. Zionism, the sanction for a future Jewish state, became embedded in the hearts of the Jewish people.

The **Bolshevik Revolution**, marked the end of Russia's brief experiment with liberal democracy, the end of its tsarist monarchic rule and beginning of the profound experiment of Communism.

The Bolsheviks, who seized power without much popular consent (a little-known fact), took over the apparatus of government and the media by force and bloodshed. The country lost millions in a civil war lasting till 1924.

The Jews, mostly still in the Pale of Settlement in poverty-stricken rural areas, were caught between the White and Red Armies. They suffered from both sides, which viewed the Jewish population with equal contempt.

I should know. My maternal grandparents left Ukraine in 1924, young and fit enough to leave pogrom-filled Russia, walking across Ukraine and the rest of Europe to arrive in America on a rat-infested ship in 1924.

The ultimate failure of the Soviet Union experiment, the outrageous years of famine and terror during Stalin's long reign, the decimation of so much of Russian life and lives, the economic failure, the virtual imprisonment of its people, had an enormous impact on our own development: the nuclear arsenals, clashes of economic systems and the demise of religion, especially the practice of Judaism.

And then there is **Kristallnacht**, the events of November 1938, when the Jewish world was set on fire. We know the details: arrests, destruction of Jewish property, street gangs, imprisonment in vile conditions, and the announcement to the world that Jews were facing a war of destruction. All became clear in November 1938, 79 years ago.

We are honoured to welcome **Ambassador Peter Ammon**, Germany's Ambassador to the UK. He is a true friend of our community and looks forward to addressing us at our synagogue. Not only has he turned down many other invitations, he is missing the major Germany-England football match at Wembley, all just to be at our Kristallnacht Service on Friday evening 10 November!

Do come to welcome the Ambassador. He is a fine speaker, but, most importantly, a true friend of ours. This is a historic event for our congregation.

My best wishes to all of you for a month filled with historic memory and reflection.

Rabbi Stuart Altshuler

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KRISTALLNACHT SERVICE

Friday 10 November
6.45pm

Guest speaker:

HE Dr Peter Ammon,
Ambassador of the Federal
Republic of Germany to the
United Kingdom



CHANUKAH MARKET 2017

Saturday 2 December 5.00-8.00pm
Sunday 3 December 9.30am-4.00pm
(First candle: Tuesday 12 December)

Food, fun, gift stalls!

Meet your friends and enjoy yourselves
at this annual jamboree
to support our Synagogue funds





BABY BLESSING WITH BABY BEARS

The Synagogue's celebrations of Succot were enhanced on Shabbat Chol Hamoed Succot when we welcomed to the community parents with babies born in the last two years.

On arrival the congregation was greeted by the sight of Belsize Bears climbing the Shabbat candlesticks on the Bimah, supporting the Rimonim on the Sifrei Torah and others keeping a close watch on the Menorah either side of the Bimah, whilst wardens for the day John Alexander, Peter Leon and Paul Fraylich had bears popping out of their jacket

pockets. Rabbi Altshuler took the opportunity during his sermon to wave a bear as well.

The last aliyah saw eight families ascend the Bimah for a joint aliyah with a giant tallit held over the heads of the families. The B'rachot were read, Cantor Heller leyned the aliyah and, after the concluding B'racha, each baby was presented with a Belsize Bear, as shown in the accompanying picture.

With the service falling on the first Shabbat of the month, a number of

families took the chance to join Kikar Kids before returning to the Bimah for Anim Zemirot, followed by Adon Olam, to a medley of nursery rhymes.

This service is now firmly established in the Synagogue Calendar and the next one will take place on Saturday 29 September 2018 – Shabbat Chol Hamoed Succot. It must be emphasised that families are actively encouraged to have a baby naming during the year and then return to participate in this extra service.

Adam Rynhold



MUSIC AT BELSIZE
FOURTH SEASON 2017

SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER 7pm

ROMANTIC VIENNA & THE JEWS

Stories and Sentiments

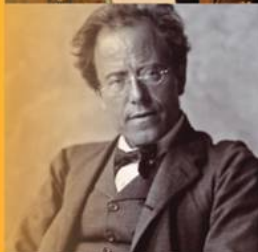
with the **Wallace Ensemble, Benjamin Wolf,**
and guests **Cantor Heller and Philip Keller**

On this important weekend of remembrance we present a concert of music from Vienna, cultural capital of Europe and home to many famous musicians, both Jewish and non-Jewish.

Our programme includes two of Mahler's most romantic orchestral excerpts, as well as favourite melodies by waltz kings Strauss and Straus, both of Jewish heritage. Schubert's Unfinished Symphony – a favourite with audiences all over the world – rubs shoulders with new arrangements of music by his friend Salomon Sulzer, Vienna's most famous cantor, and one of Belsize Square's house composers. Join us for beautiful memories and romantic moments.

PROGRAMME includes

Mahler : Blumine; Adagietto from Symphony no 5
Schubert : Unfinished Symphony no 8
Waltzes by Strauss and Straus
Solo items by Sulzer (arranged Wolf)



TICKETS £15
STUDENTS £10
including strudel & coffee

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Remember Belsize Square Synagogue in your Will
and help secure the future of your community



Although the community continues to grow and attract new members, we cannot flourish on membership fees alone.

We depend on the generosity of you, our members, to provide the inspiring religious services, a wide variety of education for adults and children, social events, burials and pastoral care for all members of our community and also to preserve our unique musical heritage.

Any legacy, large or small, will make a difference!

Any questions? For a confidential discussion please call Lee Taylor on 020 7794 3949

THE HIGH HOLYDAY CYCLE

This year's High Holyday Services seemed to creep up on us very quickly after the end of the summer holidays, with the Synagogue resonating to the sounds of choir rehearsals, the Cantor warming up his vocal chords and, of course, the children practising for the Youth Services and Yom Kippur Mincha in the Adult Services.

The planning worked as the chairs and marquees arrived on time and the flowers around the Bimah looked fantastic so that our building was as welcoming as ever to our members, both new and longstanding, and over 300 visitors. It is worth remembering that from Selichot to Simchat Torah there were 23 Services in the Synagogue itself – full credit to our Rabbi, Cantor and Choirs for being at every one.

Our Selichot Service, which includes all but three of the most rousing prayers of the High Holydays (*Ki Keshimcha* in Yom Kippur Musaf, the German Kedushah at Ne'ilah, both composed by Louis Lewandowski, and naturally, Kol Nidrei) led by Cantor Heller and the Professional Choir, was up to its usual exemplary standard, providing a musical

and religious prelude to the Services.

Rosh Hashanah saw the Synagogue full to capacity on first day. The second day was quieter but still full of expectation and the buzz that always greets Rosh Hashanah. On first day we were able to listen to the wonderful Shofar blowing of Rudy Brass. He was followed on second day by Patrick Sciamma, a new addition to our growing band of Shofar blowers.

The Youth Services were again of the highest quality, thanks to the hard work put in by Dilys Tausz and her team, while the crèche was very busy. Thanks to Richard Pollins, the Services were meaningful for the children who, if they were lucky, had a visit from the "sweetie Rabbi".

On to Yom Kippur, which began with Kol Nidrei and a Synagogue full to the rafters for the start of the fast. The packed Synagogue was also a theme throughout the day, which concluded with Havdallah, when all the children came up to the Bimah to hear the final Shofar blast from Richard Pollins. An innovation this year was the provision of a packed lunch for children under Bar Mitzvah age, an idea contributed by

Caroline Loison and which will be repeated in future. For a small advance payment the children received a cream cheese or strawberry jam sandwich, a drink and an apple, followed by an activity led by Victoria Slotover.

No sooner had the shrill Tekiah Gedolah blast ended than Succot was upon us and it was wonderful to see 15 sets of Arba Minim being held during Hallel and the Hoshanot sections of the Service. This initiative was suggested by the Liturgical Committee and again will be repeated next year, so please get your orders in early.

On Shabbat Chol Hamoed the Bimah was filled for the seventh aliyah with the parents and babies born in the last couple of years. Each baby then received a Belsize Bear.

Shemini Atzeret saw the Cantor change into his white robe for Geshem (Prayer for Rain) and Rabbi Altshuler led Mazkir. The festivities were rounded off with Simchat Torah, where Adam Davis and Roni Hirschovits were honoured as our Chatanim

Adam Rynhold

ZUBIN MEHTA – CONDUCTOR OF GOOD DEEDS

The Jewish Film Festival from 9-26 November, a highlight of the Jewish year, has special significance for one of our members, Mira Ross.

The film in question is about Zubin Mehta, the Indian non-Jewish music director and chief conductor of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra for nearly 50 years. His life has been tied to the IPO since he stepped in at short notice in 1961 and joined as music advisor in 1969. Since then he has conducted over 3,000 concerts in Israel and on tour around the world.

His chance came when Eugene Ormandy, the scheduled conductor, fell ill and cancelled all engagements. This included a concert with the IPO. As an up and coming conductor in his 20s, Mehta was recommended to the IPO's impresario and lead violinist, Zvi Harel, by John Barbirolli, conductor of Manchester's Halle Orchestra.

Mehta and the orchestra bonded. He became music director in 1977 and music director for life in 1981. He has received awards from the State of Israel for his dedication. He conducted the IPO at the 2011 BBC Proms, when the

broadcast was switched off as pro-Palestinian demonstrators disrupted the concert. But the orchestra played on. Mehta is concerned at Israel's increasing isolation and works at bringing Western musical training to young Israeli Arabs.

In December 2016, he announced his intention to retire in October 2019. Among those who congratulated him after his 80th birthday concert in April that year was Harel's widow, Chaya Claire, who is approaching her 104th birthday. Her daughter, Mira Ross, staged an exhibition about her father at our synagogue in 2014.

Mira and her husband Stephen have sponsored the film of Zubin Mehta's life, commissioned for German TV. Entitled *Good Thoughts, Good*

Words, Good Deeds: The Conductor Zubin Mehta, it has already been seen in Germany and Israel. It will be shown at the Phoenix Cinema, East Finchley, on Monday 13 November at 9.00pm, followed by a Question and Answer session with the director, Bettina Erhardt. There will be a second showing on Thursday 23 November at 6.30pm at the JW3 Cinema in Finchley Road.

Mira says: "He does more for Israel in one tour than a diplomat in three years."





NEW LIFE FOR BelsizeLIVE

BelsizeLIVE, our on-line streaming service, received a big shot in the arm a few months ago through a generous and thoughtful donation from the Ann Hirschfield Trust. Ann was affectionately known to many as "Mrs Hirshy". Her husband Louis was, of course, well known to generations of Bar Mitzvah pupils as "Hirshy". Sadly, their son Richard died in September.

This donation means that we can

continue streaming our synagogue services and maintaining our equipment for much longer. The project itself was started by a donation from The Six Point Foundation, which was created as a short-term charity in 2012. Funding continued up to the final distribution last year before the foundation closed down in March. The burden of funding the project now falls on the Synagogue. This kind gesture, which covers two years' expenses, is extremely welcome.

This year our High Holyday services were viewed via Livestream by a record number of our housebound members, outnumbering the full capacity of our extended synagogue space and gallery.

The BelsizeLIVE Committee thanks the Ann Hirschfield Trust and, to prove its point, committee chair Annette Nathan shares two emails she received after Rosh Hashanah which show how much the service is used and appreciated.

Dear Annette

Due to our being unable to attend the Yomtov services as we weren't well enough, we called up the incredibly useful BelsizeLIVE. With our Rosh Hashanah books on our laps, we were able to immerse ourselves in the services, following and singing and praying as if we were in Belsize Square Synagogue. Viewing the Bimah with our Rabbi and Cantor, as well as all the congregants (mostly) familiar to us reading, leyning, holding and dressing the Torah, was a delight. We felt involved as the two magnificent shofar blowers swept us spiritually high. The sound system worked perfectly, too, as the voices of the choirs and sermons were so audible. In poor health, we now appreciate the wonder of BelsizeLIVE, that started with the now defunct Six Point Foundation. Our sincere thanks to all those involved in keeping this great innovation going.

Warm regards.

I was not feeling well, so unfortunately I could not come to the New Year service but I watched the whole service on my computer. I think it is a brilliant idea to have this service, especially for the old or disabled people. I know that we have to pay for this service now but please do not give it up. I know that some of my friends who are over 90 years old watch it a lot. I think it should be advertised more.



Our Rabbi and Cantor as seen on BelsizeLIVE

Another message from a housebound member who received a computer in her home (thanks again to the Six Point Foundation) so that she could view the BelsizeLIVE service, was relayed by the installation organiser:

"This lady was almost in tears of joy when I visited her last year after Simchat Torah as she told me how incredible it had been to be able to watch the Kol Nidrei service after years of being trapped at home, not feeling safe enough to attend. So amazing that you can reach out to so many members."

Annette adds: Thank you again to the Trustees of the Ann Hirschfield Discretionary Trust. Please contact Lee in the office if you are able to make a donation to BelsizeLIVE. In addition to the annual fee we pay the Livestream company, we have to ensure that our equipment is maintained and upgraded to enable us to continue providing this much needed and hugely appreciated service to the isolated, infirm or vulnerable in our community.

AU REVOIR TO ALYSON

In mid-October, at the end of four intensive weeks of services culminating in Simchat Torah, we said goodbye to our Youth Choir and Assistant Music Director, Alyson Denza, who is off to pastures completely new as the propriétaire of a farm and gîte (self-catering accommodation) in the French countryside, an hour and a half's drive from La Rochelle in west central France.

Alyson came to us in 2006 as a stand-in professional soprano for Sue Heimann, who took leave after her husband Peter sadly died, and was asked to stay on as a permanent alto on Sue's return. Upon the sudden departure of the then Youth Choir leader Ayelet in summer 2010, she was asked to step into the breach and take it over. Since she already took two school choirs, a church choir, a large community choir, and taught singing both privately and for Camden Saturday music, it wasn't a huge leap.

However, she confesses that her first task, taking the choir through the High Holyday Youth Services, was (to use a possibly misappropriate phrase) a baptism by fire! Although not Jewish,

she learned the Hebrew texts through transliteration into Roman characters for the Professional Choir. She subsequently taught herself to read Hebrew text and insisted that the Youth Choir have full printed music with the transliteration, just like the Professional Choir.

She studied music at Birmingham Conservatoire and The Guildhall School of Music, took opera courses and had fantastic teachers. Alyson has always loved singing and, after a three-year full-time stint at a piano bar in Sydney, returned to the UK determined to make music her occupation. She has sung lead roles in many operas and oratorios and entertained us at Belsize both in Professional Choir concerts and in her jazz and opera performances.

She threw herself enthusiastically into our Youth Choir's work and has always got the best out of them. She says: "The kids drive me mad but they always rise to the occasion. Despite giving me a heart attack or headache most weeks, it is wonderful to see that they do actually take in some of the things I say. They have learnt not only how to sing as individuals but also to work with me as a team to create a fantastic sound. I am very proud of what we have



Alyson with chicken

accomplished as a choir and being invited twice to sing in Berlin. I got comments there like 'How do your kids manage to sound like adult singers?' That was a high point for me." She was thrilled with her leaving gifts: a set of our prayer books and a woman's tallit.

She grew up in Warwickshire from the age of four, having been born in Toronto, and it has long been her dream to run a small farm, after having chickens in her backyard in Cricklewood and a cottage in deep west Wales. After searching fruitlessly for a property within commuting distance of Belsize, she decided to look slightly further afield and stumbled upon this beautiful farm in Deux-Sèvres, complete with animals and a tractor, plus the added benefit of a built-in income from the gîte.

But she does not intend to sever her ties with Belsize Square and is looking forward to seeing members visit and stay under her new roof. It is ready to go and bookings are already being taken on AirBnB from 1 November (La Ferme de la Vallée). Attractions include outdoor heated salt water swimming pool, a large spa jacuzzi, and, of course, hearing her sing as she runs her new business. (Helping with the animals is not compulsory!)



Alyson with Youth Choir, rehearsing in the choir loft

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SHABBAT

Friday 26 January 2018
6.45pm

A Service to commemorate the anniversary of the end of the Holocaust. Mazkir will be recited for all those who died *Al Kiddush HaShem*, as martyrs in God's name.

A Thank You from the Friends of Israel Sports Centre for the Disabled from its chairman, Brian Harris, to the Chair of our Israel Committee, Emma Brookes

"We were absolutely delighted to receive the very generous donation of £11,500 as a result of the Israel Dinner [in May].

As you know, the fund will be applied for the acquisition of wheelchairs.

The support of the Synagogue over so many years has been appreciated by all our Trustees and by Boaz Kramer, the Executive of ISCD.

Personal best wishes."





Ruth Rothenberg concludes THE ISRAEL TRIP: PART 2

Friday

Our Friday morning walk on 9 June finished up being diverted from its planned destination to what is in effect a film centre showing imagined reconstructions of ancient pilgrims' visits to the Temple, complete with purchases of suitable sacrificial animals. One is always struck by the excellent English the Children of Israel speak on screen (Hebrew subtitles available) but it's nice to sit down, anyway.

Instead we had a scenic walk on a fine June day in the Yemin Moshe district, where Dalia Lichfield proudly pointed out the home of an Israeli writer she knew and hoped would be able to talk to us. Unfortunately, he was not at home.

But be warned if you want to follow in our footsteps. This beautiful hillside area is made for younger and nimbler limbs than most of our party now possess. Still, it was a welcome experience to be walking in the open after the previous day with its five intensive lectures. We also enjoyed a brief after-lunch visit to Machaneh Yehuda, Jerusalem's wonderful covered market, brimful of colourful fruit and vegetables laid out as only old-fashioned greengrocers know how. Some of us also got to the film.

Shabbat dinner in a Jerusalem hotel is also an experience. Tables are laid for families and parties, and the joy and intensity of each group is infectious. Dotted around our table were three "lone soldiers", volunteer conscripts from abroad who have no family to go home to on weekend leave.

Our trio comprised two Americans and one Canadian. A fourth soldier from England was also invited but could not join us as he was kept on base. All three were religious and wore tzitzit as well as having their rifles with them. Having been told we were Progressive Jews, they were most surprised when the Rabbi led us in *Shalom Aleichem*, recited Kiddush and said some welcoming words.

We were also joined by Karin Rosenbaum from the Jerusalem office of Israel Bonds International. She had arranged the selection of these lone soldiers, who share a flat in Jerusalem. They really appreciated a good meal, made and eaten at leisure. One of the American boys, who was planning to make his life in Israel after his army service, told us about his experience of the (fairly quiet) Lebanese border where he drove an armoured truck at night

without lights. The main problem was when other trucks from the UN turned up in poor visibility to monitor the situation.

Saturday

Confession time: Your editor went to the wrong shul. Instead of holding everyone up by arriving late in the hotel reception area, she actually got down bang on time. But no one else was there. In fact, she was early. Big mistake. Convinced that everyone had gone off without her, she stormed off, husband in tow, to Jerusalem's Great Synagogue two doors away. At least it wasn't far to go though the stairs to the ladies' gallery seem endless. There was a sprinkling of worshippers, mostly surrounding the barmitzvah of a young American lad, lost in the vastness of space. Her husband was similarly lost in space.

But it was a calming experience and a journey back to childhood services. Meanwhile the rest of the party took a longer walk to Shira Hadasha, an egalitarian community based in a cultural centre with services that seat men and women separately but allow women to conduct parts of the service. An unorthodox form of Orthodoxy.

But it was here that Rabbi Altshuler scored a major goal by adding another distinguished speaker to our roster. Recognising Professor Deborah Lipstadt, who came to world (as well as world Jewish) attention in 2000 when she was sued for libel by Holocaust denier David Irving, he invited her to speak to us. Her response was to invite us to an interview two days later at the concurrent Jerusalem Book Fair. She promised to keep places for us.

After lunch back at the Prima Kings Hotel came the opportunity for those keen, or maybe mad, enough to walk along the ramparts of Jerusalem's city walls, under the guidance of our Rabbi. Starting at the Jaffa Gate, it was not as nerve-racking as first feared, once you got used to putting one foot carefully in front of the other on the narrow walkways.

More worrying was the question of which gate to finish the walk at, for exit purposes. Rabbi Altshuler decided that the New Gate in the Christian Quarter was a safer bet, from a security point of view, than the Damascus Gate in the Arab market. We all got back on in one piece.

Sunday

Back to school again, this time to listen to the Director of Interreligious Affairs of the American Jewish Committee, something akin to the Board of Deputies of British Jews. But this fluent speaker, who served earlier in Cape Town and as Chief Rabbi of Ireland, has a very British voice. In fact **Rabbi David Rosen** is the son of Rabbi Kopul Rosen who founded Carmel College in 1948 as a Jewish boarding school incorporating both the English public school and Orthodox Jewish ethos. It closed in 1997, largely due to cost.

As an ambassador for Judaism to other faiths, including Islam and Hinduism, Rabbi Rosen is a much decorated man. In 2005 he was made a papal knight for his contribution to promoting Catholic-Jewish reconciliation, having been involved in the 1993 establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and the Vatican.

In 2006 he received an American award for his work on human rights. In 2010 he was appointed CBE for his contribution to interfaith relations. In 2016 he received an award from the Archbishop of Canterbury for reconciliation and interfaith co-operation.

Yet, as he freely admitted, 98% of mankind has no interest in "interfaith". Israel is the exception. With 120,000 Arab Christian citizens, 150,000 foreign Christian workers (especially Filipino carers) and a sizeable Russian citizen community, as well as 1.5 million Muslim citizens, Jews are keenly aware of other faiths but don't meet them. With memories of missionary activity, they are suspicious of the church. In practice, Israel is a segregated society by choice. The education system is tailored to each group and people don't mix until they undergo army service – which rules out Muslims and Charedim.

In a culture going back to Ottoman times, all religious sub-groups are protected, thereby allowing for pluralism. As it happens, the Islam strain in Israel is purely Sunni but there are 12 recognised Christian denominations. The odd one out is Judaism, where the Chief Rabbi has a monopoly and the chief rabbinate has been taken over by the increasingly powerful Charedim. Jewish pluralism is absent, giving rise in particular to problems of Jewish marriage. For Rabbi Rosen the absence of civil marriage is a "serious flaw in Israel's democracy".

A further paradox is the fact that Rabbi Rosen works as the representative of the American Jewish community, with no Israeli official standing. But as a member of CRIHL (Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land, founded in 2005), he meets the religious leaders of Israel's other faiths to "keep channels of communication open and promote an environment of mutual acceptance and respect between Israelis and Palestinians".

For many Muslim clerics he is the first rabbi they have ever met. For all Muslims, the challenge is to adapt to the modern world into which they have been "thrown overnight". Westerners, especially in the diplomatic and political sphere, need to appreciate Muslims' religious perspective on life. Religion is at the heart of the problem, so is an essential part of the solution.

In the lively discussion which followed, Rabbi Altshuler mentioned that in the local interfaith group he has started in Belsize, the imam refused his invitation to speak at our synagogue. He was afraid he would get a question on Zionism.

Dalia Lichfield takes over the rest of the day's events.

A minibus was waiting as we came out of the lecture and we were driven towards Mount Carmel in Haifa, to visit an "expanding" university. Aha, I thought, this must be an expansion of the Haifa Technion, where I acquired my Architecture and Town Planning degrees some 60 years ago. I was looking forward to seeing my old *alma mater*. It was a long drive on a new road up the mountain and, when we alighted, I could see none of the buildings of my time. Could they have redeveloped the entire site? What a waste of resources, I thought.

We were received by **Professor Hanan Alexander**, Dean of the Education Faculty, who explained the university's origin and aims. (It opened in 1972, now has 18,000 students and reflects Haifa's diverse population of Mizrahi and German-origin Jews, Arabs, Ethiopians and Russians, with plans to open branches across northern Israel.) So this university was inaugurated after I had graduated from my studies and was located higher up at the other end of Mount Carmel. No wonder I didn't recognise it! But there is collaboration as students at the Technion (founded 1924) can take a one-year arts and humanities course at the university.

We had lunch on the roof veranda with wonderful views and nice food bites on small round tables, each attended by a university student or teacher for a warm welcome to the occasion. Then a friendly **Professor of Social Studies, Eran Vigoda-Gadot**, spoke about the steady progress of integrating the different communities (Druze, Muslim, Christian) into Israeli society so that they begin to feel part of the modern world and enjoy an improved standard of living.

He gave us his views on the health of Israel's democracy (institutions such as the Supreme Court are strong and the health system is trusted despite a long-running crisis at Hadassah Hospital but there is danger from the ruling party being in power for too long) and changes within Israeli society (the left is now a minority but there are far more initiatives aimed at bridging the gaps between communities). Again we heard that the tension between religion and democracy is a key issue.

It was a novel university indeed, covering both science and arts, with a remarkable programme for incorporating and encouraging Arab students to develop their skills in all subjects, especially music. As a treat, we attended one of their creative rehearsals. At the other end of the scale, we saw students in various sections of the laboratory testing medicines on brain cells as part of the international effort to find cures for conditions such as Parkinson's Disease.

The determined efforts to involve Muslim students in both creative and scientific subjects and boost their confidence was a remarkable experience. These students come from the surrounding areas of Acco and Galilee. But there were also student researchers from Mexico and Holland. A real mix!

The second event that impressed me deeply that day was the children's village of **Yemin Orde**, where our coach stopped on the way home. This beautiful residential mountain home, which used to cater for a wide age range, now concentrates on 14-18 year-olds, the period between barmitzvah and army service. There are some 430 teenagers, most from Ethiopia, then the former Soviet Union, then French of North African origin.

The concept of bringing kids from horrible family environments into a new society of mutually supportive children, under well-conceived and trained guidance, was impressive. We spoke to

three youngsters, including a girl who described her "coming out of hell" and becoming a carer and teacher for other deprived kids. It was very moving indeed.

We were also treated to a concert with boys from France, Ukraine, Russia and even Haifa on guitars and drums, singing Israeli rap while wearing T-shirts with shorts and tritzit. So much energy!

Monday

After our exciting but also exhausting day excursion, we met for next morning's meeting in our hotel. Our speaker was **Dr Mor Altshuler**. She and our Rabbi are related. They just haven't worked out how. (Maybe second or third cousins, possibly at one remove?) Her family looked after Stuart while he studied in Israel.

Her academic field is Jewish immigration and settlement in the Holy Land prior to Herzl's political and secular Zionist movement with its first Zionist Congress in 1897. She is herself the product of these earlier waves.

Her Altshuler great-grandfather came from the Ukraine in the so-called First Aliyah, a religious response to the pogroms of the 1880s. This movement founded Rehovot, where he settled, as well as Zichron Yaakov and Petach Tikva. They started as agricultural settlements, *moshavot*, which developed into towns. Herzl described his 1898 visit to Rehovot on his only visit to Palestine in his book, *Altneuland*. Our Rabbi said he was learning his family history. His forefather had left Ukraine in the same period but for America.

But on her mother's side, Dr Mor Altshuler's Palestinian/Israeli roots go back much further. That side of the family arrived in 1777 as part of a Chassidic group with a mission to hasten the coming of the Messiah and the resurrection of the dead. They settled in Safed, spreading later to Tiberias and Hebron. Mor (to differentiate her from her distant cousin) noted how the Chassidic vision "to redeem and be redeemed" became recast in the later Zionist version as "to rebuild and be rebuilt".

In fact, there is a continuous history of Jewish immigration from various European countries, notably Lithuania, Hungary, Ukraine and Germany, from 1700 onwards, inspired by religious zeal. The persecution motivation, including the Dreyfus affair which spurred Theodor Herzl into action, did





not arise till nearly 200 years later.

But so strong was the academic world's belief that Israel owes its existence solely to Herzl's secular Zionist movement that any discussion of the contribution or value of earlier religious settlement activity was considered heresy. Dr Mor Alshuler, for all her acknowledged scholarship, never gained an academic post.

Only now, after fighting for her ideas as an outsider for so many years, she told us, has she won recognition. Her latest book on Rabbi Joseph Caro, author of the authoritative 1565 codifying of Jewish law, known as the *Shulchan Aruch (Laid Table)*, which took her 14 years to write, is published by the Tel Aviv University Press.

Elegant, cultured, soft-spoken but with a core of steel, this formidable scholar finally feels vindicated for her championing of this spiritually oriented era. It is now officially recognised as a chapter in the history of the return to Israel.

After lunch, a brisk walk up the road and turn right to the *Sochnut*, the Jewish Agency, to meet the chairman of its executive, **Natan Sharansky**, who spent nine years in the Russian prison system (the gulag) for human rights activism before being released and going to Israel in 1986. He entered Israeli politics in 1995 and was elected to his current position in 2009 by the Jewish Agency Board of Governors. Our Rabbi met him in Russia during the 1970s Soviet Jewry campaign and has been a fan of his ever since.

Mr Sharansky started with a brief history of the Jewish Agency (created in 1929 by David Ben Gurion and Chaim Weizmann as a forum to connect Jewish communities worldwide in advance of a future Jewish state) and the historic features of the room we were sitting in.



Natan Sharansky in his Jewish Agency office

It had been Ben Gurion's cabinet room. The Zionist archive at the back covered the entrance to the secret weapons store in what is now the gym. Despite being searched several times by the British, the weapons were never discovered. Today Mr Sharansky is busy with new waves of immigration from Russia, Ukraine and France.

Then it was on to questions. These divided into internal (immigration issues, especially of Russians) and semi-external (Palestinian/West Bank relations). As with most things in Israel, immigration has been both hugely successful and beset with huge problems.

Children do well at school and soon catch up with native kids but old people are left to depend on very modest benefits. And every *aliyah* brings halachic non-Jews who are cold-shouldered by the rabbinate, which refuses to absorb them in the Jewish community. "They should be open, not putting obstacles in the way [of conversion]," he said.

On the various Arab and Palestinian issues, he has clearly been scarred by experience. "Thirty years ago when I came to the country, I wanted the Palestinians to have everything I have. But I don't want them to destroy me." He now emphasises the need to build up civil society, to proceed slowly and not to trust dictators, including those who rise to power through the ballot box only to destroy democracy. "Elections are only the start."

But he is unhappy with Israel as an occupying country and Palestinians still in refugee camps, now for a fifth generation. It is an "unhealthy situation ... We are building up the biggest terrorist base." Yet he sees a glimmer of hope with the beginning of an independent economy in the last three years. The Palestinian plan to build a new city means that people can be moved out of the camps into decent housing.

And finally, a short walk to the Knesset for our last official engagement to meet American-born **Michael Oren**, who emigrated to Israel aged 24 in 1979, and was Israel's ambassador to the USA from 2009-13, for which he had to give up his American citizenship. He was elected to the Knesset in 2015 as a member of the newly formed Kulanu centrist party, now in coalition with Likud, and is deputy minister of diplomacy.

The Knesset building, incidentally, was designed in the early 1960s by the architectural firm for which Dalia Lichfield worked. She planned the Committee Rooms floor where our meeting took place. It hasn't changed.

In our short time, curtailed through being called to vote, Mr Oren took a sharper view on Palestinian issues than our previous speaker. For him the Palestinian Authority is an oxymoron, lacking unity and cohesion. "We don't want another failed state on our borders" harbouring Hamas or maybe ISIS. But nor did he want to be "saddled with 2.5 million Palestinians".

He noted that neither Egypt nor Jordan show any wish to take back their former outlying territories. He distrusts the word "peace" which, for the Arabs, means an interim peace, a truce. "They reject the Jews as a people. They believe in two states but not in two states for two peoples." (One wonders how the word "people" is defined.)

The most he would be prepared to offer was limited autonomy. If Palestinians wish to build a state, he recommended that they do it gradually as Israel did between the 1880s and 1940s. Little disagreement there, then.

And that was the end of our scheduled programme. Except that we now had an optional extra, *Truth and Denial*, an interview of American academic **Deborah Lipstadt** by the distinguished veteran, and often controversial, Israeli historian and newspaper columnist, **Tom Segev**.

For those of us who found our way to the Jerusalem International Book Fair, down by the old railway station, and then located the marquee entrance among all the stands and attractions (I still don't know we managed it), this was an illuminating and fascinating experience.

In 1996 New York-born Professor Lipstadt, together with her British publisher Penguin, was sued by Essex-born Holocaust denier David Irving for libelling him in her 1993 book, *Denying the Holocaust: the Assault on Truth and Memory*. The trial in early 2000 resulted in a damning condemnation of David Irving and became the subject of the 2016 film *Denial*.

Professor Lipstadt, who said she enjoyed the film but wished she looked more like Rachel Weisz, described how shocked she was when her London

Dear Fellow Members,

I hope that you have all come over the High Holidays rephrased und have experienced some uplifting.

After reaching to an uncertain age, you, like me, will properly discover that one's herring is not up to stretch. Because the Rabbi hat a cold in the throat, I found a little difficulty catching every nuisance of his sermons on Roshoshono. The main problem was that Mrs Klopstick burrowed the batteries in my herring aid for her eye-pat and the lady who sat in my front hat such big hair I couldn't see the Rabbi's mouse to lib read. I think I did catch one of the seams, that while some Jews find a difficulty with the conscript of God, they can still be Jews und play apart in Judy-ism. They just have to live there live as Jews und so become a sample to the rest of the world. The Rabbi also printed a very dark picture of how the world is today with drunks, funny mentalists, und a decline in religious intention at worshipful places.

On Yom Kipper one of the Rabbi's main objects was the reformation of Jewish pride. This pre-empted me when I got home to ask Mrs Klopstick if she was proud of me. She is a women with little warts, but sometimes warts are not needed. I now know that she really is proud in me. As soon as I asked the question she let out a big laugh, which I think was definitely a sign of the infirmative.

At the moment I am suffering from a severe fruit injury. Mrs K forced the caretaker here in Abernein Mansions to constrict a Sukka on our balcon. For the first night she insisted that I should sleep inside it. When there are no walls there is not



much inside at all. She couldn't join me because there is not room for too und she hat to be up early in the morning for her Thai Quango classes.

Sleeping on the balcon, even just for won, is easier sad than done. With traffic running up Finchley Road all night und drunk yards shouting there way home, plus the cold und wet, I only managed a drop off in the early morning ours. The sooner I hat done this I was woken with a big pane in the nose. This was coursed by a falling pineapple. That is when I took to my real bet, from where I am now riding this article und awaiting the house nurse with my nose bandage.

Just coming over the corner we have Chimney Atzeret und Simchas Thora und not far in the behind is Channukka. I am breaking my head trying to think of what I can get Mrs Klopstick for a present this year. Last year it was a new set of hiking boots and a Baklava helmet. She has hinted that she would like a cooking book. I can't account for how many of these books I have brought over the years. She will not stick with the menus und always tries too intro-wise her own ingradients. We end up with something more like a weapon than something to eat. I am worried that one day police will find out und come down on us like a ton of brits.

Before I conclude, I would like to play a tribune to the Rabbi, Chasan, Sir Benjamin Wolf und the quire, plus the warders und southends of admonistrators und security people who organised und kept us saved over these times.

With the best of intentions

Fritz Klopstick

Shabbat Candle Lighting



Friday 3 November	Katie Levene
Friday 10 November	Eliza Paling
Friday 17 November	Victoria Freudenheim
Friday 24 November	Gine Chant-Grostern

Friday 1 December	Emily Marbach
Friday 8 December	Ashley Sternberg
Friday 15 December	Deborah Jay
Friday 22 December	Susan Storning
Friday 29 December	Melanie Wiener

ENCYCLOPAEDIA JUDAICA

John Abramson writes:

I have a complete set of the first edition of the Encyclopaedia Judaica which was first published in 1972.

This is the third printing from 1974, and comprises sixteen alphabetic volumes. Each volume is 12.5 in tall and 8.5 inches wide, with varying thickness. The set is in excellent condition, having belonged to my mother from new.

I am offering to donate the set to anyone that would like to have this amazing reference work. Please email me (john982002@aol.com) to arrange delivery or collection.

Our member, **Estelle Maier**, who turned 91 in October, is multi-talented in the arts field. Although she no longer sings, she writes poetry, sculpts and paints. An exhibition of her work, under her professional name of Estelle Angel, is currently on display at Hampstead School of Art till 8 December. Born in Manchester, she spent her married life in Coventry and was widowed when she met German-born David Maier, a senior executive in motor manufacturing, who was also bereaved. They came to London and married at Belsize Square Synagogue in 1983. David, who edited *Our Congregation* from 1990-98, died in 2013.



Estelle Angel (Maier) with carved wooded head

The poem printed here expresses Estelle's reaction to the huge amount of development she was struck by on a recent visit to Eilat, and generally in Israel.

BREATHING SPACE

Ever widening
Ever lengthening
Push
Push
Cover the sand.
But leave a little
of the Milk and Honey.

Ever growing
Ever reaching
Eating into the
stone and sand.
Just leave a little
of the Milk and Honey.

Spread, spread
Buildings, roads.
High tech now
sweeps through this
tiny speck of land.
Please leave a little
of the Milk and Honey.





Community News

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a cordial welcome to:

Corey & Heather Berse with son Bodhi
Ashley Sternberg
Rachel Kunz
Adina & Ben Miranda with son Zachary
Eve & Julian Harris with children Rose & Noah
Sara & Darren Dein with children Jessica, Olivia & Dylan
Philippa Ross with children Blaise & Sonny
Paul Huttner
Michael & Susan Schraer

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Luc, son of Katie & Tim Levene, who celebrates his Bar Mitzvah on 4 November
Eliza, daughter of Sophie Raitz & Alan Paling, who celebrates her Bat Mitzvah on 11 November
Max, son of Victoria & Adam Freudenheim, who celebrates his Bar Mitzvah on 18 November

ENGAGEMENTS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Lara Kendall, engaged to Daniel Rothman
Jennifer Balcome, engaged to Charles Goldblatt
Michael Seal, engaged to Jamie Klein

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Mrs A Bruh (95) on 10 October
Mrs E Maier (91) on 18 October
Mr H Brook (98) on 19 October
Mrs G Hirsch (89) on 31 October
Mr W Howard (98) on 21 November
Mrs A Winter (102) on 23 November
Mrs V Shevloff Eden (81) on 26 November

DEATHS

We regret to announce the passing of:

Michael Hellman on 31 August
Grace Weinstein on 1 September
Lilli Oppenheim on 4 September
Richard Hirschfield on 27 September
Liane Ressler on 29 September
Lothar Weiss on 15 October

BELSIZE MEMBERS' GROUP SUPPER QUIZ

Sunday 18 February 2018 at 7.00pm

Please join us with your family and friends

LOCAL LUNCHEON GROUPS

The NW3 Group

Giacomo, 428 Finchley Road, London, NW2 2HY
1.00pm on Wednesdays 15 November & 13 December
Please phone Judy Field on 020 8455 0614

The Edgware Group

EHRs, 118 Stonegrove, Edgware, Middlesex, HA8 8AB
12.15pm on Tuesdays 14 November & 12 December
Please phone Eve Hersov on 020 7435 7129

Edgware and District Reform Synagogue (EDRS) has now become Edgware and Hendon Reform Synagogue (EHRs)

The copy deadline for the next issue of
Our Congregation is Friday 10 December

REGULAR SERVICES

Friday evenings at 6.45pm
Saturday mornings at 10.00am

Kikar Kids

Saturdays 4 November, 2 December, 6 January - 11.00am

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

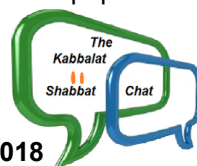
Sunday mornings: 9.30am-12.30pm

End of Term: 17 December

Next Term Starts: 7 January 2018

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: 12 January & 9 February 2018

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT DISCUSSION

5 November

10.00-11.15 Rabbi Altshuler: Theodor Herzl and the Breakthrough of the Zionist Dream
11.15-12.30 Sam Grant, Campaign & Programme Manager of René Cassin Institute of Human Rights: How the young Jews of Budapest are resisting the rise of hate (postponed talk from 15 October)

12 November

10.00-11.15 Rabbi Altshuler: Max Nordau – The Jews and the Crisis of Western Civilisation
11.15-12.30 Maurice Mendel: The Jews of Medieval Norwich

19 November

10.00-12.30 Mitzvah Day activity. Details to be announced

26 November

10.00-12.30 Film morning followed by discussion. Details to be announced. (Rabbi Altshuler away)

3 December - No session (Chanukah Market)

10 December

10.00-11.15 Rabbi Altshuler: Ahad Ha'am and the Spiritual Dimensions of the Jewish State (Cultural Zionism)
11.15-12.30 Jonathan Charles, former London Anchor of BBC World News: Reporting the Middle East – Is the BBC biased?

17 December

10.00-11.15 Rabbi Altshuler: Nahum Syrkin – Nationalism and Class Conflict
11.15-12.30 Tamir Oren, Stand With Us: Challenges in Gaza and the Disengagement Plan – Evacuation of Israelis from Gaza and part of the West Bank

23 December - No session (Winter Break)

30 December - No session (Winter Break)

solicitor, Anthony Julius, refused to call any Holocaust survivors or even let her testify. He aimed to discredit the method, not the man who, he insisted, should not be allowed the limelight.

The strategy of "following the footnotes" worked. She gave the example of Irving's treatment of a meeting on 16 and 17 April 1943 between Hitler and his Foreign Minister Ribbentrop with Hungary's Regent, Admiral Horthy.

Although Horthy had passed anti-Semitic racial laws, deported non-Hungarian Jews to Ukraine to be massacred there and placed Hungarian Jews in forced labour camps, he balked at the idea of murder. Hitler, according to the minutes of the meeting, said there was no need. They would be sent to concentration camps like other Jews.

When the subject came up the following day and Horthy repeated his protest that Jews couldn't just be beaten to death, Ribbentrop said they must be either annihilated or sent to concentration camps. Hitler then ranted about Jews being like "tuberculosis bacillae" which had to be exterminated to protect the health of surrounding nations.

In Irving's 1977 book *Hitler's War*, the exchanges on the two days were presented as having taken place the

other way round, so that Hitler got his feelings about Jews off his chest on day one. The second day supposedly ended on a softer note, with Hitler saying there was no need to kill them. Ribbentrop's remarks were demoted to a footnote.

Irving also linked this meeting with Hitler's concern about the dangerous example set by the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and the problems it was causing. Only, the uprising did not start till April 19 and, also, not with 50,000 Jews as Irving claimed but around 10,000. It was this deliberate distortion of facts, with dates and figures changed to fit an ideology, that brought about Irving's discrediting as a historian and the loss of his case, as well as his bankruptcy when Penguin forced recovery of costs.

The interview covered the relationship between anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial (anti-Semites don't necessarily deny the Holocaust but Holocaust deniers are always anti-Semitic) and the unintentional usefulness of Holocaust deniers in forcing historians to sharpen up their work.

After all, as Tom Segev asked, in a hundred years from now, how will the world know the Holocaust happened? There were deliberately no documents. But in the post-war trials, the accused never said it did not happen. They denied their part in it. The Eichmann trial in 1961 serves the same purpose.

Professor Lipstadt now worries about the current "soft" form of anti-Semitism in the shape of the BDS movement, the subject of her new book in preparation. "The people behind it want the end of Israel," she said. "Even if we win on the student vote, as happens in 60% of

cases, we lose. Their failures are ascribed to Jewish power. BDS is successful in spreading a hostile view of Israel and its policies."

This was an eye-opener of an interview, including Segev's view of Ben Gurion's attitude (he took the Shoah as a crime against the State of Israel but "didn't really understand it") and a wonderful observation from Deborah Lipstadt on people's beliefs against all odds ("More people in the US think Elvis is still alive than deny the Holocaust").

So, to sum up, what did we take away with us? My strongest impression is how different the view is when on the spot and not at a safe distance like the British Isles. What we heard most often is the centrality of religion in the Middle East and the challenge of modernity. Modernity is not just using technical innovations but accepting and allowing for other people's differences.

Within Israel itself, where modernity and democracy are strongly entrenched, there is fear of the growing power of religion in the shape of the Charedi monopoly of the chief rabbinate and, in particular, the lack of civil marriage.

What is recognised as being the most helpful in making people more contented is raising the standard of living for all Arabs under Israel's authority. Whether this will reconcile Arab Muslims to Jewish rule was not part of our discussions. But the vibrancy of debate and depth of thought that go into it (as well as noise) are undeniable.

And a big thank you to Rabbi Altshuler and Claire Walford for organising it all.



Professor Deborah Lipstadt and Tom Segev



In the old Cabinet Room

(Standing from left): Sue Leon, Peter Leon, Rabbi Stuart Altshuler, Natan Sharansky, Lilian Levy, Patrick Storrington, Anthony Stadlen, Josephine Bacon, David Rothenberg, Ruth Rothenberg, Brigid Lowe. Brigid, a old family friend of Josephine Bacon, worked as a senior lawyer for Shell. Her father was a member of the Liberal Friends of Israel and this was her first visit to Israel.

(Seated) Dalia Lichfield, Claire Walford, Susan Storrington

Rabbi Altshuler with Deputy Minister Michael Oren



Dr Mor Altshuler with her book on Joseph Caro





Youth News

ALL ABOARD THE B2 BUS

On 15 September, 37 Belsize youngsters aged 7-16 boarded the B2 bus with youth leaders Mel and Zoe, plus our seven young leaders, bound for Skeet House in Orpington, Kent. The coach journey was eventful with two teeth lost before we even reached the M25. Luckily, nothing else was lost and, as soon as we arrived, Friday night kicked off with Shabbat dinner, games and singing, before hitting the sack ready for a day full of activities.

Saturday started bright and early so we could fit in activities from breakfast all the way through to bed. We split into teams to earn points to win privileges at any time during the day, including not having to tidy up after meals. We spent the day swimming, cooking, doing arts & crafts, tennis, football, kick cricket, mini Olympics and finally a bonfire with yummy food and campfire songs. Needless to say, we were all exhausted by bed time.

On Sunday we played rounders to earn more team points before our last meal together. It was so close we needed to continue the competition after lunch with an assault course to rival all others. The winner got the best prize of all; first choice of the tuck shop! Then it was time to board the B2 bus back home, having spent a fun-filled weekend.

We hope those who missed the fun will join us next year, as we can't wait to do it all over again! My voice should be back by



then. Until then, join us for our monthly activities on the last Sunday of every month!

Melanie Nathan
(Still taking throat pastilles)



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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

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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: Frank Joseph - 020 7482 2555

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Email the Youth Workers, Melanie Nathan & Zoe Cowan youth@synagogue.org.uk

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