



EXODUS – FROM EGYPT OR THE USSR

Shalom Chaverim,

Looking back at my own experiences, the events that led to my deep appreciation for our religious tradition, law, narrative and faith that make up Judaism, I would say that despite my many trips to Israel and the incredible times I had travelling, studying, living there and marvelling at the rebirth of the Jewish people in the Land of Israel, nevertheless, the trips I made to the former Soviet Union were the most significant Jewish experiences in my life.

I went numerous times between 1984 and 1992, some visits more successful than others: visiting refuseniks, teaching Judaism, Hebrew and Jewish history to young and old, dissidents and students, and smuggling dissertations, books and photos, which have become part of the legacy of our people's freedom movement for Soviet Jewry.

Between 1988 and 1992, almost 1½ million Jews found their way to freedom in Israel and outside it. As I said in the introduction to my book, *From Exodus to Freedom*, the

liberation of Soviet Jewry will rank as one of the greatest miracles of our people's history, second only to the founding of the modern state of Israel. Israel absorbed almost a million Jews, the equivalent of the United States absorbing the entire population of France into its borders, and within just four years!

My many visits to the USSR enabled me to understand what it is like to live in a nation of oppression, of suppression of basic human rights. They could not study, speak the language of their choice or learn about their religious faith without fear of arrest and imprisonment. The bravery of the Jews I met, from Sharansky to Begun to Edelstein to Astrakhan, is forever emblazoned in my heart and soul. They taught me what the struggle for freedom is all about, the strength that comes from a deeply rooted faith in right versus wrong, and the sacrifice necessary to protect the freedom of Jewish life today.

It is an amazing narrative we are about to tell once again to ourselves and to

world, Egypt, strengthened by hope and faith in an unseen God and unseen virtues, taught in our Torah.

We learn from the story of the Exodus from Egypt that the strength of our people which has enabled us to outlive every mighty empire since the beginning of time is based not on chariots, arms or armies, not on statues or monuments, power or wealth, but founded upon the humility of belief in the power of God, a God of redemption, history and vision who has taught the world that the sanctity of human life is non-negotiable, and that human beings are destined to be free, not slaves. This is the story of a God who has maintained this special relationship with the people of Israel, to be His eyes and ears to the rest of humanity until our world is redeemed for all.

And we tell the story of Passover around our dinner tables, focusing on the future, on our children. We parents and grandparents teach them that our memories will not be held in monuments but carried through the generations in words, values and hope. This is a faith greater than anything on earth, that binds the past and future, forever a witness to the human spirit and its connection to a God Who is the greatest Power on earth, the unseen force of life as we know it. Our task is to build a world of human freedom, based upon responsibility and the dignity of all.

(Continues on page 3)



Wednesday 28 February at 5.30pm

Falafel Dinner / Fancy Dress Parade,

Megilah Reading / Songs performed by the Youth Choir

Booking is required for catering purposes. Please contact the Office on 020 7794 3949 or office@synagogue.org.uk and also for parking vouchers as restrictions apply till 6.30pm.

our children and grandchildren, how 3,300 years ago, a small slave people, powerless, without territory or army, left the mightiest empire in the

IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 2:** Recent Events: Photo Gallery
- Page 3:** Purim Reflections
100th Birthday
- Page 4-5:** Obituary: Eric Moonman
- Page 6:** Gay Development
- Page 7:** Belinda Harding: Art Show
Music of Exile
- Page 8-9:** Obituary: John Altmann
- Page 10:** Klopstick
- Page 11:** Community News

ANNUAL ISRAEL DINNER

**Join us in celebrating ISRAEL'S 70 BIRTHDAY
Thursday 19 April at Belsize Square Synagogue**

- A great evening of music and dancing with Shir, London's leading Jewish band
- A conversation with Jonathan Freedland
- Superb dining by our own chef, Adam Nathan
- Help support our deserving chosen Israeli charities

Tickets £50.00 from the Synagogue Office





RECENT EVENTS AT BELSIZE SQUARE

CHANUKAH LUNCH 2017

On 16 December, 38 of us enjoyed a special Chanukah celebration, combining songs and stories with a delicious home-cooked warm meal and, of course, latkes.

Gerda Oblath: *"It was a beautiful meal. I thoroughly enjoyed it; lovely food and lovely warm atmosphere that enabled us to enjoy the lunch."* Helen Kissen: *"As a newcomer I was made to feel at home; a delicious meal and such good company."*

Many thanks to everyone who helped to create what member Maurice Mendel said was *"the best ever"* of our recent lunches. And warm thanks to Claire Walford, for catering.



1st row on left: Maurice Mendel (partial view), Walter Goddard, Jacqueline Goddard, Malka Baker, Helen Kissen, Cantor Paul Heller, Margot Kinstead, Stephanie Rothner (crown of head) and friend. Volunteer Suzanne Goldstein standing at side.

2nd row: Paul Fraylich and his mother Charly Fraylich, Vivienne Kendall, Vera Kovacs, Gerda Oblath (crown of head), John Hersov (Eve's husband), volunteer Sue Schraer.

3rd row: Volunteer Philippa Strauss, Rabbi Stuart Altshuler (standing), volunteer Jackie Alexander.

4th row: Volunteers Claire Walford (cook), Clive Goldstein, Jimmy Strauss, Jeannie Cohen and

Jenny Lake, Brigitte Flynn, volunteer John Alexander, Joe Behrens and his carer, Abi.

Other guests included Alice Frank, Brigitte's Flynn's daughter Enid, and Anne and Gerard Goodwin.

Report by Eve Hersov



Cantor Paul Heller (baritone) with the Wallace Ensemble under conductor Ben Wolf at the BSS Music Committee's highly enjoyable Romantic Vienna Concert last November.



From barrister to barista:

Adam Davis, QC in real life, became a barista at our highly successful Chanukah Market. Thanks to all who took part, as cooks and bottle-washers, stall-holders, suppliers, servers and just plain customers.



SECOND SEDER SATURDAY 31 MARCH

Rabbi Altshuler and Cantor Heller together with their families are delighted to invite you to join them for Second Night Seder at the Synagogue following the Service at 6.45pm.

Members - £30.00 Non Members - £35.00 Children under 13 - £15.00

Please contact the Synagogue Office if you wish to attend:

Telephone: 020 7794 3949
Email: office@synagogue.org.uk



REFLECTIONS ON PURIM

As a member of the Liturgical Committee, I chose Purim as my "remit". Having a fun time seems a good way to move forward and I've been having fun playing around with it for the last five years.

Fun, however, can be quite problematic to achieve, one of the reasons being possibly that Purim, like other Jewish festivals and holy days, never seems to fall on the right day or at the right time. Too early, too late – the great parental outcry. And of course you can only have fun with help!

Now, however, it is time to let go and hand over to new, fresh and young blood. Michelle Samson is going to be Lead Purim Player from next year onwards, although I shall continue to tuck into what's on offer if required. I am greatly indebted to her, she's a young mother and active participant in

Kikar Kids. She and they are our future and need our full support at all times.

I suppose I'd like to say that this has been a huge undertaking requiring amazing skills and great expertise. But of course I'd be lying and doing a disservice to our wonderful Belsize team who are actually the Purim Producers: Cantor Paul Heller, Jeanie Horowitz, Alyson Denza now succeeded by Miles D'Cruz, Lee Taylor, Adam Rynhold and, last but by no means least and always supportive of what we undertake, our Rabbi, Stuart Altshuler.

I have not mentioned our choir or megillah readers but that does not mean they are not included in my thanks. They are all at school, in some cases doing exams, mocks, and so on. Yet they rehearse during cheder hours, they rehearse after cheder hours and

they rock up to the Purim Service after school to do their bit, which they do so well. No doubt their parents are now wondering where they are in my thanks – and, yes, parents, you are good. You are producing our next and continuing Belsizers, a very important job.

Have I had any worrisome moments that, actually, Purim isn't going to happen? Well, yes, there have been some, which ones would be telling. But hats get pulled out of bags, voices come out of throats, fingers move the puppets and, somehow or another, we have what I hope has been and will continue to be, a fun time.

Photos and reports of this year's celebration will have to wait till the next issue of *Our Congregation* but will, of course, be worth the wait.

Pat Hirschovits

100th BIRTHDAY PARTY - Eve Hersov Reports

Our member, Dr Geoffrey Radford, celebrated his 100th birthday at a large party arranged by his family at his care home, Jewish Care's Lady Sarah Cohen House. The party included live musical entertainment, accounts of his life and the presentation of the Queen's congratulations card from the Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London, Martin Russell, who happens to have been born in Belsize Square itself.

Dr Radford was a GP in Johannesburg and moved on retirement with his wife Grace to be near their children and grandchildren, who were already in Britain. When he married Grace Graff, who was left a young widow, he adopted her four children (three boys and a girl). The Radfords joined our synagogue in 1998 (Grace sadly died in 2012) and many of their younger Graff-Radfords are also Belsize Square members. The three sons and a grandson became doctors.

Geoffrey is known in the family for never missing a simchah. He has attended every Bar and Bat Mitzvah, wedding and birth. His birthday was on 30 January but the party was held two days early to allow guests to come on a Sunday afternoon.



The Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London, Martin Russell, hands the Queen's congratulations card to Dr Geoffrey Radford, surrounded by his family. From left: grandson Keith, son Neil, daughter Jill. Sitting opposite: granddaughter Mia and grandson Jackson. A carer is seated at the end of the table.

(Continued from page 1)

When we open the Ark in readiness for the Torah reading, we sing, "Vayehi binsoa ha'aron vayomer Moshe, kumah Adonai, v'yafutzu oyvecha, v'yanusu m'sanecha mipanecha." (Whenever the Ark set out, Moses said: Arise, O Lord, and may Your enemies be scattered and those who hate You flee before You.)

I never understood what that verse from the book of Numbers (10:35) meant until I went to the Soviet Union. How can the Torah scroll "scatter our enemies, cause those who hate us to flee from us?" On all my trips to the USSR, I brought siddurim, tallitot,

Bibles, sacred Jewish texts. And on almost every entry into the country I was grilled, at times for hours, asking me what I was bringing and told how "dangerous" these books and items were to the mighty Soviet Empire. I wondered how that was possible. How could an empire with nuclear weaponry be afraid of any book, especially a prayer book or *chumash*?

But then I understood the fear. Authoritarian regimes are paranoid about "ideas", about values that challenge the supremacy of might and power. And then I knew the power of my Judaism, the power of the word, the spirit, of God, without armies and nuclear bombs. The fear was palpable,

the fear that Jewish ideas might destroy the basis of oppression.

What has changed in 3,300 years? Virtually nothing. Our religious tradition stands as strong as ever today, our mission the same: to bring about a world based upon God's might and not the ephemeral power of weapons and war. Some day, Elijah will come and the Jewish people will be free, and then all humanity will be free, under God. Next year in Jerusalem!

My wishes to all of you and your loved ones for a blessed, joyous and meaningful Passover 5778.

Rabbi Stuart Altshuler





ERIC MOONMAN 1929-2017

MP of many parts

Eric Moonman, who died on 22 December 2017, aged 88, described himself as being "in the advice business". This was indeed the common thread in his many-sided career, whether as MP, industrial relations and management academic, local council leader, health authority chairman or think tank director in the wider community – apart from the Jewish field, where he held office in the Board of Deputies and Zionist Federation and researched terrorism and anti-Semitism.



Eric Moonman with Lib Dem leader Paddy Ashdown at an event held by the Zionist Federation, where Eric served as chairman and president

Eric was the child of Yiddish-speaking immigrants from eastern Europe. His father, Borach Moonman, came from Berdichev, near Odessa, which he left after serving in the 1904-5 Russo-Japanese War. His mother, Leah Bernstein, left Lithuania with her sister. They met in Liverpool, where they settled on landing, and set up a milk delivery service, which included collecting the churns from a nearby farm. They had eight daughters before Eric was born on 21 June 1929.

All the children helped with the milk round. They were part of a poor but hard-working, close Orthodox community. Eric was enrolled in the children's choir of the historic Princes Road Synagogue to keep him out of the cinema. He enjoyed the camaraderie and singing but took offence at one young singer's higher earnings and left the choir, as he did not think the other boys would join him in a strike.

The other boy became a popular singer and entertainer from the 1950s-1990s and changed his name to Frankie Vaughan, although there was little indication at the time of his future career. Eric remained proud of his first foray into industrial disputes.

With Liverpool a major target for German attacks on its port and industry, the Moonman family home was struck in December 1940 by a bomb. The family were dug out of the wreckage, fortunate to sustain only minor injuries, and relocated to a daughter's small flat in Southport, a quiet seaside resort 20 miles away. His father, deprived of a living, devoted himself to the shul, which became packed with evacuees.

Eric spent the next 18 months at three different schools, disliking all of them

except one teacher at the third school, who encouraged him to edit the weekly school magazine. He also celebrated his Bar Mitzvah, despite getting into trouble for throwing sticky cream cakes from the back of the ladies gallery. It was done for a dare and ruined several hats.

Desperate to leave school, he applied for a vacancy in the local office of the *Liverpool Echo* newspaper. This was six months before his 14th birthday, the minimum school-leaving age, and he had to apply for special permission. Under pressure from wartime shortages, which also affected labour, this was granted. His job was mostly stamping the latest news – usually racing and football results – onto the Stop Press columns of the street sellers' piles of papers. He loved it.

After doing this for over a year, he took up, with his father's encouragement, a seven-year apprenticeship at a small printing firm in Liverpool, where he now commuted daily. Seven years seemed an eternity but Eric used it to catch up on his education, studying economics at night school at Liverpool College of Commerce and taking part in regular talks with members of Southport Labour Party, which he joined at 16, and formal debates at the YMCA.

He imparted his ideas to fellow-apprentices and started a Guild of Young Printers under the aegis of their typographical union. His activity was rewarded with a trade union scholarship to an economic and political conference at the International Labour Office in Geneva – his first trip abroad.

At 21 he was called up for National Service, going on educational courses for the next two years. He then applied for a place at Liverpool University. His

father died the day before the entrance exam but a week later he was told he could sit a special exam under an invigilator. He graduated in a diploma course in Social Studies in 1955. In 1953 he worked as a volunteer clearing rubble from the earthquake that struck the Greek Ionian islands.

With no openings locally, he went to London to work for the *Daily Mirror* on the production side. But the next year he moved to the British Institute of Management (today the Chartered Management Institute) as human relations adviser until 1962, then lectured for two years at South West Essex Technical College.

At the BIM, he dealt with personnel issues, incentive schemes and communications, admitting to "learning on the job". In 1962 he married his research assistant, Jane Dillon from Lancashire, at the New Liberal Jewish Congregation (our Synagogue), under Rabbi Jakob Kokotek.

Eric knew him from when he ran a Jewish student cultural group and came into contact with Liverpool's Reform Rabbi. Rabbi Kokotek served there from 1951-1957 before succeeding Rabbi Salzberger in London. The newly-weds, now living in Islington, joined the synagogue and their three children, Daniel, Natasha and Joshua, went to Cheder and were Bar and Bat Mitzvah there.

Eric served on the synagogue board from 1962-2007. He immediately entered into its thriving activities, editing this publication from 1964-1967 and establishing the Israel Committee, which he chaired till 1993. The 1971 inaugural dinner was attended by Israel ambassador, Michael Comay. A sub-committee ran a lively cultural programme. Jane was involved in the 1970s Soviet Jewry campaign.

When Eric arrived in London, he stayed at the Stepney settlement of Toynbee Hall, a vibrant and high-minded centre for social reform. He entered local politics and was elected onto Stepney Council in 1961. He was its leader from 1964 until Stepney merged with Bethnal Green and Poplar in 1965 to become Tower Hamlets, and remained a councillor till 1967.

His shock at the terrible domestic

circumstances of so many children in the area made him sympathetic to young people who came to him for advice. He encouraged their sense of their own abilities and worth and often mentored them. He also helped a shy young sculptress, Leeds-born Frances Segelman, by introducing her to friends who were interested in a sculpted portrait of themselves.

His parliamentary success came in 1966 when he won Billericay in Essex. He lost it in 1970 but regained part of it in the redrawn constituency of Basildon in 1974. He finally lost his seat in the 1979 election which brought in the Thatcher era. He had a promising start as parliamentary private secretary to cabinet minister Patrick Gordon Walker, but it came to an abrupt end with Gordon Walker's departure from Harold Wilson's cabinet in 1968.

He remained a backbencher but chaired two parliamentary committees, the all-party mental health committee and Labour's new towns and urban affairs committee. He also became known for his strong support of Israel. In 1968 he opposed a parliamentary campaign to ban shechitah. Shechitah was saved, thanks to a devout Christian MP, Peter Archer, and Eric was invited to be his synagogue's representative at the Board of Deputies, which he did for the rest of his life.

In between his two terms as MP he worked as a research fellow at UMIST (University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology) on organisational changes. His work led to an MSc in industrial relations and yet another addition to the 10 or so books he wrote on management and society, as well as numerous articles for the press and a 2017 memoir.

After losing his seat, he became director from 1979-1990 of the Centre for Contemporary Studies, a research group which closed in 1992. It focused on football hooliganism and racism, riots (the Brixton riots took place in 1981), National Front recruitment at schools and rock concerts, and international terrorism.

During this time he chaired Islington Health Authority, retiring in 1990. In 1991, the year of his divorce, he was appointed OBE. Eric was always concerned with the human aspect of problems rather than ideological purity and clashed with hardline Labour members over private participation in the NHS. Realising its endless need for funds, he was prepared to consider outside sourcing.

He clashed even more strongly when he refused to implement a left-wing MP's (Michael Meacher's) questionnaire on the political affiliation of health authority members, and resigned from the Labour Party in 1990. He rejoined a few months later, after the questionnaire was dropped. Following his health authority term, he was asked by the International Red Cross to advise Namibia in its plans for a national skills and education programme. For three years he went to Namibia for a three-month stay to see this project launched.

He also became busy in the Jewish community. A self-confessed *macher*, he was senior vice-president of the Board of Deputies from 1985-1991 and 1994-1999, and chaired its Community Research Unit. In 1997 he co-led a secret meeting with Yasser Arafat in a London hotel to persuade him to meet Israeli leaders – which led to nothing.

In 2000 he became president of the Zionist Federation, which he had chaired from 1975-1980. He was also chairman of Poale Zion (now the Jewish Labour Movement) and served on the World Jewish Congress committee on anti-Semitism.

He indulged his love of popular entertainment as governor of the British Film Institute from 1974-80 (finally allowed to go to the cinema without parental disapproval), as chairman of Essex Radio from 1991-2002, and as member of the Natural History Museum Development Trust from 1989-1991. This involved a visit to Canada to get ideas for the presentation of dinosaurs – a project which immigration officials thought



Bust of Eric Moonman by Frances Segelman in the family house in Islington

dubious, especially when combined with the unusual name of Moonman.

He returned to the academic world as visiting professor of management and information at the Medicine Research Centre of City University, London, from 1992-2011, and held another visiting professorship at Liverpool University from 2007-2009.

In 1986 he became a board member of Bipac, the British-Israel Political Affairs Centre, a pro-Israel lobby group from 1976-1999. His extensive research into anti-Semitism and terrorism made him an invaluable adviser but he misguidedly tried to disguise himself as a source, perhaps to exert greater authority, by using a pseudonym which also served as an address to receive and distribute fees, including his work on Bicom's *EEC Monitor*. The resultant fuss when his cover was blown in 1987, inevitably led to his resignation, which he felt very sore about.

Other activities included setting up an association of ex-MPs, aimed not only at getting easy access to their former work place but speaking to schools and colleges about parliamentary life and work. In 2010 he became a trustee of the Everton Former Players Foundation, his lifelong football club, to help retired players (who in those days did not earn vast sums) to deal with illness and injury later in life – and get a pass to matches.

Among his many talks was one on the work of the Board of Deputies, delivered in February 2000 to the Jewish Representative Council in Southport, the town of his youth. The vote of thanks was given by an optometrist, who told him she had studied at City University where he lectured. When he phoned later to enquire about her, he was told she had enquired about him. Eric and Gillian Mayer were married in 2001.

He never wanted to retire and remained (almost) as active as ever, commuting between London and Southport. After a fall in his Islington home in December, where he appeared at first unharmed, he showed signs of deterioration a few days later and died in hospital. He was buried at Duke Street Cemetery in Southport.

He is survived by Gillian, his three children and seven grandchildren.

Eric Moonman's stone-setting will take place on 15 July at 3pm at Duke Street Cemetery, 10 Duke Street, Southport, PR8 2LE. A Memorial Service will be held in Westminster on 22 May, 7-9pm.





CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF LEGAL EXISTENCE

Helen Grunberg and Sue Arnold appreciate a turning point in social attitudes

A celebration marking 50 years since the passing of the Sexual Offences Act 1967 was held on Sunday 29 October 2017 at St John's Wood Liberal Jewish Synagogue (LJS).

Some 150 people were welcomed with a delicious and plentiful tea and cakes in the Montefiore Hall. We then moved to the Sanctuary, where Rabbi Rachel Benjamin introduced us to the Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Ian Adams, and his husband. Ian Adams spoke movingly about his privileged position as a Jewish and gay mayor, now able to attend a synagogue with his partner.

Rabbi Elli Tikvah Sarah from Brighton and Hove Synagogue spoke on the impact of the "partial decriminalisation" of laws aimed at men, through the step-by-step reduction of the age of consent.

The 1967 Act decriminalised sexual acts in private between consenting males over the age 21. It was passed 10 years after the publication of the seminal Wolfenden Report, which paved the way for this major shift in the law of the land. In 1990 the age of consent was reduced to 18 and in 2001 to 16, in line with the general age of consent, except in Northern Ireland which had to wait till 2009.

Next we heard from Judge Robert

Rinder who spoke on how the change in law allowed him to "come out", as well as the contrast between the freedom one has in London and other major cities with the position in the provinces and rural areas, where people are reluctant to declare their homosexuality. He also emphasised the 70 countries that still have laws punishing homosexuality, in some cases by death.

Siddurs were then distributed for the musical Mincha service led by Rabbis Shulamit Ambalu, Aaron Goldstein, Emily Jurman and Josh Levy. Based at North West London Reform Synagogue, Alyth Gardens, Rabbi Josh Levy teaches at Leo Baeck College and is currently its Rabbinic Vice-Chairman as well as a governor of Akiva School. His special interest is conversion.

Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris, principal of Leo Baeck College, spoke about the work of Rabbi Dr Leo Baeck and appealed for funds to establish chairs at the Progressive rabbinical seminary in the names of the late Rabbis Lionel Blue and Sheila Shulman. Our speakers and organisers included both "gay" and "straight".

A 10-minute break allowed people to split up into discussion groups. One, led by Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner and Robert Rinder, discussed the

support needed for young people who want to "come out". Another group, led by Rabbis Colin Eimer and Daniel Lichman, looked back over the past 50 years of change. Lev Taylor and Anna Posner, both Leo Baeck rabbinical students, looked at "queer themes" in liturgy.

Rabbi Mark Solomon, who also led the closing session, discussed the relevance of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) marriages. In 2005, while minister of LJS, he edited the *Covenant of Love: Service of Commitment for Same-Sex Couples*, published by Liberal Judaism in 2005 to coincide with the introduction of Civil Partnerships in British law. He also wrote the text for the new "gender-neutral" ketubot (marriage documents) introduced by Liberal Judaism in September.

All these discussions were so relevant and poignant to all age groups. The combination of Leo Baeck, Keshet, Reform Judaism, Liberal Judaism and JGLG (Jewish Gay and Lesbian Goup) brought a great mixture of Progressive Gay Jews together for this celebration, which allowed so many people to follow their Judaism and their natural inclination for same sex relationships.

Our thanks to St John's Wood Liberal Jewish Synagogue, who so generously hosted this event.

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

The fifth Annual General Meeting of The Synagogue (the AGM) will be held on Monday 4 June 2018. 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 11 vacancies.

Nominations must be in writing, addressed to the Hon. Secretary and submitted to the Synagogue Office by twelve noon on Friday 13 April 2018. 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 12).

In accordance with the Articles of Association of The Synagogue, the following 11 members will be retiring from the Board by rotation but are eligible for re-election if duly nominated:

Joe Brookes, Paul Burger, Simon Cutner, Michael Horowitz, Adam Hurst, Dalia Lichfield, Annette Nathan, Marion Nathan, Sam Sanders, Nick Viner, Michelle Wayne.

From 23 April 2018, 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.

Election of Deputies

Election of up to two Deputies to the Board of Deputies of British Jews to be undertaken as a postal vote. Nominations should be sent in writing to the Hon. Secretary not later than Friday 13 April 2018, with names and addresses of the persons nominated, whose consent should be obtained.

Any person eligible for nomination as a representative to the Board of Deputies must have been, for at least one year prior, not under 18 years of age or an undischarged bankrupt or convicted of a serious criminal offence or a paid employee of the Board of Deputies. Retiring Deputies are eligible for nomination. Should there be more nominations than there are places, a postal ballot will take place.

Our present deputy is: Robert Sacks.

BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE ARTIST ON SHOW

Belinda Salmon Harding, the professional name that Belinda Harding uses as an artist, is holding a retrospective exhibition of her work at Burgh House, the Hampstead Museum, on Wednesday-Friday 7-9 March and Sunday 11 March. It will feature paintings, drawings and sculpture from her life's work. Burgh House is in New End Square, NW3 1LT.

Belinda's career started at the Byam Shaw School of Art (now absorbed into the Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design), where her teachers included Bernard Dunstan RA and Peter Greenham RA. She won the Drawing Prize for her year and graduated three years later with a Diploma in Fine Arts.

She has since obtained a BA in Humanities, majoring in art history, at the University of West London

and, more recently, a Masters Degree from the University of the Creative Arts in Farnham, Surrey. She has exhibited her works in many group and one-man shows, including the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, the Young Contemporaries Exhibition and the Mall Galleries, and the Edinburgh Festival, Ben Uri Gallery and Boundary Gallery.



Detail from sketch by Belinda Harding of customers at the 1976 Chanukah Bazaar

A large glass diptych, *Dust to Dust*, which she created following her visit to Majdanek, is on permanent display at the National Holocaust Centre at Laxton, Notts, and a second piece is due to go up there soon.

Belinda's work reflects her huge breadth of talent as she paints in water colour, acrylic and oil and sculpts in stone, bronze, metal and glass. "I paint what I see and make what I feel", is how she sums it all up. The Burgh House exhibition brings together all elements of her work. She uses her skills as a draftsman and her visual capacity to reflect what she sees in the gaps between forms.

"I love to set myself challenges", she says. "So the physical effort of sculpture is essential to me, and learning basic physics and chemistry has been exciting – better than cooking!"

MUSIC OF EXILE: THE GENESIS SUITE Alasdair Nisbet listens to an extraordinary performance

Sir Simon Rattle's return to London has been spectacular. In his first season as Principal Conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra he is bringing a series of exciting works to the Barbican. A group from Belsize Square went to hear *Music of Exile*. At its heart was the *Genesis Suite*, a little known work written by refugees.



The Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden projected over the London Symphony Orchestra

Towards the end of World War II, with the overwhelmingly appalling news of the Holocaust, the destruction of old Europe and the impending migration of millions of refugees filling all the news media of the time, Nat Shilkret, the New York-born son of Jewish immigrants from Central Europe, persuaded six other mainly Jewish composers to come together to create the *Genesis Suite*. Accompanied by the words of the King James Bible, they musically depicted the dramatic stories of the first chapters of the Bible.

Shilkret's vision and message were clear. The stories of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, the Flood and Tower of Babel are all tales of broken promises, murder and destruction, leading to displaced peoples. The piece ends with the words "and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the

face of all the earth." It begins with the evocative chaos of Arnold Schoenberg, which gains form, texture and rhythmic focus in the *Prelude*. Shilkret takes chaos and forms a musical world in *Creation*. Alexandre Tansman depicts *Adam and Eve* in eight scenes in the Garden of Eden, ending with their eviction. The *Cain and Abel* story is described in the 1945 programme notes as "the story of discord and violence deftly underlined in music by Darius Milhaud."

Europe had been covered by the storm clouds of war and *Noah's Ark* was buffeted in the musical storm of Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco but eventually the sun came out and a *Rainbow* appeared. The opening fugue, by Ernest Toch, is heard underscoring

the sanctity of the Divine promise to Noah. Finally, Stravinski gave a downbeat portrayal of the *Tower of Babel* story. Interestingly, he refused, on religious grounds, to allow a solo voice to represent the voice of God. Instead, he assigned biblical quotations to the chorus.

In this performance, music and text were enhanced with a fabulous

film compiled by Gerard McBurney and Mike Tutaj. It was projected onto a screen arching, like Noah's rainbow, over the orchestra. News reel images of the horrors of war and plight of survivors and refugees, as well as political figures, were shown with dramatic effect.

It was fitting that Rattle chose to include Bartok's *Concerto for Orchestra* written in 1943. Bela Bartok had originally agreed to write the *Prelude* section but was prevented by ill health. This was a tour de force and a brilliant contrast to the earlier suite. Rattle conducted without the score, demonstrating true mastery of the works.

Alasdair Nisbet is a Trustee of the Barbican Trust





JOHN ALTMANN 1930-2018

Kindertransportee, Israel Volunteer Fighter and Cook

John Altmann, who died on 3 January 2018 aged 87, had a crowded and active youth. He was a Kindertransport arrival who stayed in a hostel run by the Sainsbury family of grocery fame. As a volunteer in Israel's 1948 War of Independence, he sailed on the ill-fated *Altalena*. He fought in three locations and ended up seeing an Egyptian ex-prisoner-of-war he had guarded, walk into his Edgware Road shop 30 years later as a customer.

Born in Stettin (now Szczecin in Poland) on 14 March 1930, he remembered clearly hearing the windows smashed on the ground floor of their building when the leather clothing shop there was looted on Kristallnacht, 9/10 November 1938. The torched synagogue smouldered for two days before being pulled down. His father and two friends hid in the loft as Jewish men were arrested in the street. There was nothing of value to take from their flat as his parents had dutifully taken all their cutlery (meat, milk and Pesach) to the Finance Ministry and, of course, been issued with a receipt.

His father, a trouser manufacturer, tried to get permits for all the family but gave up and sent Hans and his older brother Wolfgang, soon to be known as John and Wilfred, on a Kindertransport in March 1938. John had just turned nine.

Wilf, who became a journalist, described how their parents had driven along the route as far as they could go, waving goodbye to the boys. Their mother was seven months pregnant but they never saw their baby brother Raphael or their parents again. The Jews of Stettin were deported to the Lublin Ghetto on 12 February 1940. All had died by the following winter.

John and his brother were among those children not adopted by a British family and placed in hostels. With 25 other boys they were sent to a house in Putney, rented by the Sainsbury family and complete with cook and matron. They were sent to school and introduced to native food such as kippers, stew and custard.

"Granny Sainsbury" visited daily and her two sons, directors of the grocery chain (in pre-supermarket days) came weekly to check their progress in English and dole out pocket money. "Granny" was born Mabel Miriam Van den Bergh into a Dutch Jewish family of margarine manufacturers.



Some of the "Sainsbury Boys" in April 1939 in the garden of the Putney house provided by the Sainsbury family. John, known for his cheeky grin and twinkle in his eye, is in the centre of the boys kneeling at the front. His brother Wilf is 2nd left in the back row.

When the London blitz started in September 1940, the boys were evacuated. John was fostered by the Owen family in Reading, with whom he remained in touch for over 60 years. But at school he was bullied as an enemy German and told by his social worker to forget his dream of staying on after 16 and studying engineering at university (his parents' ambition for him) since taxpayers' money should not be spent on alien refugees.

He then became seriously ill with osteomyelitis and faced amputation of his arm but was saved at the last minute by a young doctor who knew about penicillin, which was only mass produced in 1940, and got some. John bore a deep scar for the rest of his life.

Returning to London after the war, he entered catering college and joined Betar, the youth wing of the revisionist movement founded by Vladimir Jabotinsky and inherited by Menachem Begin, commander of the militant Irgun Zvi Le'umi. John had no interest in left or right-wing politics but he was angry that Jews were still killed while the rest of the world re-adapted to peace, and he liked the movement's readiness to stand up and fight as Jews for Jews.

Hanging around Speaker's Corner at Hyde Park, a man asked if he was interested in joining the cause. He was given a prestigious nearby address and

found it was the home of the English Betar leader, Major Weiser, a former British Army officer now recruiting for Begin. John accepted enthusiastically.

Shortly after the United Nations vote in November 1947 to recognise Israel, John received a train ticket to Paris. He joined 20-30 other English recruits and set off for secret army training in a DP (Displaced Persons) camp near Stuttgart in the American zone in Germany. When the Americans realised what they were up to, they left for a *hachsharah* (agricultural training) farm near Munich.

One night they were taken in a hay cart to a spot in the nearby forest and told to dig. A German soldier had sold the secret of his army's weapons cache. The recruits dug up the guns, degreased and got them working, then wrapped them in old clothing and packed them in boxes as "Used Clothes for Palestine".

The American authorities again got wind of their activities and told them to leave. The group took their boxes to Munich railway station, where they were joined by 700-800 DP camp survivors as they travelled for three days on a sealed train through to Marseilles. They stayed in a tent camp till their ship's previous cargo was unloaded.

Down at the docks, they saw their ship, renamed the *Altalena*, was a large tank-landing craft. John was told it was a "revisionist" ship. This meant nothing to him (the name was an alias of Jabotinsky) but when the North African dockers saw the boxes labelled for Palestine, they refused to load them, so the Jews did it.

They also loaded cratefuls of guns supplied by French army surplus with semi-official approval. It took a week to load and over a week to reach Kfar Vitkin, near Netanya, on 20 June 1948, five weeks after Israel's declaration of independence by the executive head of the World Zionist Organisation, David Ben Gurion.

At Kfar Vitkin some 800 passengers left, taking 20% of the small arms by agreement with Ben Gurion, and Begin came aboard. Next day at Tel Aviv she caught on the wreckage of a previous immigrant boat opposite the Kereta Dan (now the Dan) Hotel. Ben Gurion would not let the ship land unless the remaining arms were handed to him.

Begin, his political rival, refused. The ship was fired on from the hotel balconies by the Palmach, the pre-state army's elite force. It had no effect, so the soldiers moved along the shore to the site of today's Hilton and fired a 25-pounder field gun. It killed eleven people, including four boys from Cuba whom John had taught to use guns. He himself was nearly shot. After that, he steered clear of Israeli politics.

The ship was exploding and on fire. John was among the 100 or so people who jumped into the sea, about two metres deep. But he and another man were first ordered by the captain to toss two large crates overboard. He later found out they were highly sensitive detonators which could have demolished the ship and sea front.

John, a non-swimmer, made it to the shore. Everyone became ill from the sewage in the sea. John was sent to a family in Bnei Brak for a few days to recover. He then walked to the nearest army camp to volunteer. In July he was sent to Latrun, at the foot of the western road up to Jerusalem, where the Arab Legion from Transjordan blocked access to the city. After two days of severe losses, Ben Gurion arranged a ceasefire and sent the surviving men north to the Galilee.

John was now based in Acco at the northern end of Haifa bay, facing 8,000 Arab irregulars under the Syrian warlord, Fawzi el Kaukji, who had French 25-pounders. The Jewish side had to wait a month before receiving Czech machine guns and mortars and it took another month to push the Arabs out of Galilee to Lebanon.

Their problem was that they did not know to operate these heavy weapons and the instructions were in German. Having left Germany at nine, John's linguistic range did not extend to technical terms. He sat down with a Jerusalem veteran of the First World

War and translated the instructions into English without fully understanding them. The experienced veteran then translated them into Hebrew. John also used his school geometry and trigonometry to plot the trajectory.

They used the same method for the German manual which followed with Czech night sights, packed as "shoe boxes". These gave the volunteer unit a technological edge at Mishmar Hayarden, north of Safed, and Ma'alot-Tarshiha close to the northern border. Then John got malaria and went to hospital. That was the end of his front-line duties.

Coming out of hospital with two weeks' convalescence leave, he was sitting in a cafe in Naharia when his sergeant drove by and spotted him. He cancelled his leave and sent him to the Negev where the Egyptian army was surrounded in the "Falujah pocket" by Israeli forces. This "siege" lasted for four months till the signing of the Rhodes armistice agreement in February 1949.

John had to shoot at Bedouin camel convoys to warn them off smuggling food to the trapped Egyptians. Then, when the rest of the Egyptian army surrendered at the end of December and the United Nations evacuated the ordinary Egyptian soldiers, John was assigned to escort 30-40 officers, who became prisoners-of-war, and guard them at Atlit prison, south of Haifa. At night, he played cards with them.

Because of his malaria, he was released from the Israel Defence Forces at the end of 1949. His army service entitled him to free continuation of his interrupted education and he enrolled at the Hadassah School of Hotel Management in Jerusalem. He worked in a Naharia restaurant and in Jerusalem, training under famous Chef Nicholai, credited with bringing haute cuisine to Israel. When Yitzhak Ben Zvi became Israel's second president in December 1952, his wife Rahel asked John to prepare his special matzah balls for visiting dignitaries. He made this speciality until his 87th year.

In 1953 his brother wrote to him from London to say that Germany was now making reparations. In Israel this was a hugely emotional and

controversial issue, causing riots. John decided to claim from Britain. His compensation for loss of family property and business was just enough to buy a second-hand Ford Escort Estate. He was also called up for National Service but rejected on the grounds of his malaria.

Staying in Belsize Park with his father's cousin, Julius Rosenbaum, and his wife, Adele Reifenberg, both Berlin artists, John met his wife, Marlene Goldschmidt, on the platform of Belsize Park Station. They chatted and found they came from the same part of northern Germany. Their first date was at the legendary Cosmo Restaurant.

They were the third couple married in the newly bought synagogue in what is now the kiddush room, in 1955. John soon found that Marlene, a Holocaust survivor with her own story, had strong views. With a sick, elderly father she did not want to go to Israel and she did not like a chef's unsocial working hours. John worked by day in a hotel in Victoria and at night in another of the refugees' favourite haunts, the Dorice Restaurant in Swiss Cottage.

With money from his father-in-law, he bought into a second-hand kitchen equipment shop run by an ageing Viennese couple looking for a successor. He said the "stock was greasy and dreadful but it was a good location – the Marble Arch end of the Edgware Road." After a trial fortnight it became his living. He switched to selling new goods, expanding across three shops and was eventually joined by his son-in-law. A customer who came to buy a new oven in 1979 thought the owner looked familiar. He turned out to be one of the Egyptian officers in John's custody in Atlit. He visited John in the shop every time he came to London for over 25 years.

In the 1960s, John was an active member of our Synagogue and the long-running first Chair of Governors at Barclay House, subsequently Mathilda Marks-Kennedy Jewish Primary School, which his children attended. He was a volunteer cook, with Marlene, for the Leo Baeck Lodge day centre lunches and saw to its equipment. In his late 70s he received an award from the Fire Brigade Service for fighting his way into his neighbour's burning house to rescue the occupants.

Marlene predeceased him by nearly five months. He is survived by his daughter Alisa, son Daniel, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



John Altmann in front of the Kindertransport Memorial at Liverpool Street Station





Dear Fellow Members

We have now dropped out from the winter months and soon will be in the darling butts of spring. I hope that you have waived good writtens to the schniffs und schnuffs of the commoners cold that most did ketch at some junction in recent times. It is a good sing that the flew academic that was projected did not turn out. This would have been hard for us olden goldies to come over especially with the NSH in such term oil.

I recently took an old friend of mine, Hermann Steinreich, to a Friday night service. He is semi-orthodox und was blown apart by the musical contempt at Belsize Square. Both the quire und Chasan Heller were on the top of there frum. The Rabbi also made a deep impression shaking him on the hand with great wormth. The only thing I would remark about the music is that I found the first part very eglisi-estical. For a moment I sort I was in Westminster Abbey. Then it turned more to the traditional with what I am more used. Hermann new nothing from this und was enamoured with it all. I have to retort that at a recent batmitzvah the children quire were particular standing out. I give them won hunderdt procent out of won hunderdt.

Maybe it is because I am no longer in the first flash of use, but I find that the constant up und down very disturbing. No sooner have I struggled to get up, then we are sitting down again. At won point I found myself completely out of sink with the rest of the congregation. I would like to suggest that we have some prayer books marked up for the olderly pre-warning them about when to prepare to go up und when to prepare to come down again.

I am sorry to have to inform you that I am at the moment not



on speaking turns with Mrs Klopstick. I can't tell you how many occasions I have becked my wive not to do any more baking, but she won't listen to me und plops on regardless. But it is me who hat to explain to the fire brigade why there was black smoke bellowing out from our balcon window onto Finchley Road. Und even verse, I also hat to try to calm down all the inmates from Abernein Mansions who were vacated from the building in there night entire.

This hole sing came from Mrs K's attempt once again to make Hamantaschen. In the first plaice because she couldn't find any poppy seeds, she decided to use some other seeds witch she brought at the garden center. She said it would be fine. I am happy to say that I never found out if this was true oder knot. Whatever she made for the pastry und the rest of the filing, it turned out to be highly flameable. Why my wive decided to go out yogging to Swiss Cottage vile leaving the oven on, I will never know. Unfortunately, in this time I fell asleep watching a documemory programme about narcolepsy. When I woke up I was hardly able to breeze as the flat was enveloped in sick smoke. I am pleased to report that no one was hurt und the only sing to become charred to a sinner were the Hamantaschens.

Because Pesach this year collapses right on top of Eastern, Mrs Klopstick has come up with the idea of chocolate covered matzo balls witch she will hide in the communal garden for the children to find. She is calling them afkommen eggs. I call them chocolate covered cannonballs!

With the best of intentions

Fritz Klopstick



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

Shabbat Candle Lighting



Friday 2 March Leora Hacker
Friday 9 March Ruth Kersley
Friday 16 March Deborah Samuelson
Friday 23 March Susan Schraer

Thursday 5 April Hilary Solomon
Friday 6 April Gillian Wray
Friday 13 April Jennifer Van Der Werth
Friday 20 April Hilary Woolfe
Friday 27 April Daniela Kotzmann

ANNUAL INTERFAITH TALKS RETURN

The topic for this year's course is **Exchanging Scripture, responding to each other's sacred Scriptures**

27 February at St Peter's Church, Reverend Nicholson will look at how Christianity understands the 10 Commandments

6 March at Belsize Square Synagogue, Imam Stubbla will look at Mark 10:17-22, which deals with issues of "salvation, life after death, the reward for deeds of lovingkindness".

13 March at St Peter's Church, Rabbi Altshuler will look at al-An'am, Sura 152-154, which deals with "when it is appropriate to slay another, relations between children and parents, capital punishment, the balance between justice and compassion".

20 March at Belsize Square Synagogue will take the form of a round-table discussion, including you as participants, on the state of Christian, Jewish and Muslim relations, how we view each other and reviewing lessons from the first three sessions.

This is a huge opportunity for us all to welcome visitors from the Muslim community, as well as our "old friends" next door.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a cordial welcome to:

Rosalyn Schofield
Robin & Evy Eden
Nicholas Kissen
Mark Kissen
Adam Graham & Sarah Cohen
Dana Rembiszewski
Leanne Thomas
Hannah Strauss
Jessica Bernberg
Diana Brookes
Tanya Magasiner
Janine Asserson

ENGAGEMENTS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Melanie Nathan on her engagement to Daniel Cattle
David Kendall on his engagement to Natalya Dorfman
Joshua Kendall and Sarah Goodman on their engagement.
Mazel Tov to parents Sue & Steve and Sally & Peter, brothers and sisters David, Lara and Emily and grandparents Florence & Charles Benaiah, Vivienne Kendall and Jose Levene.

WEDDING

Mazel Tov to:

Jacqueline Van Der Werth & David Wiener who were married on 7 January

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Mr A Behrens (97) on 23 February
Mrs B Flynn (98) on 5 March
Mrs E Block (92) on 9 March
Mrs R Simion (90) on 16 March
Mrs M Suchy (96) on 20 March
Mrs H Heineman (98) on 22 March

DEATHS

We regret to announce the passing of:

Eric Moonman who died on 22 December
Walter Block who died on 29 December
John Altmann who died on 3 January
Philip Evans who died on 7 January
Peter Batkin who died on 12 January
Alan Kay who died on 22 January
Michael Wheeler who died on 5 February

LOCAL LUNCHEON GROUP

The NW3 Group

Giacomo, 428 Finchley Road, London, NW2 2HY

1.00pm on Wednesdays 21 March & 18 April

Please phone Judy Field on 020 8455 0614

SHAVUOT SERVICES & STUDY

1st Eve: Saturday 19 May at 6.45pm
followed at 8.00pm by study session

1st Day: Sunday 20 May at 10.00am

2nd Eve: Sunday 20 May at 6.45pm

2nd Day: Monday 21 May at 10.00am including Mazkir

Our Tikkun (study session) theme is **War and Peace**

Speakers: Professor Antony Polonsky, Jonathan Paris, Cantor Paul Heller, Susan Storrington & Claire Walford, Rabbi Dr Stuart Altshuler

REGULAR SERVICES

Friday evenings at 6.45pm & Saturday mornings at 10.00am

Kikar Kids

Saturdays 3 March, 7 April, 5 May at 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 – Sunday 25 March

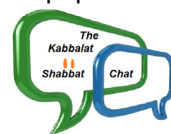
Term Starts – Sunday 15 April

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: 9 March & 13 April



BELSIZE BOOK CLUB

Wednesday 7 March at 3:00pm

We will be discussing *Imperium* by Robert Harris, a great page-turner.

Please contact the Synagogue Office for details



SUNDAY MORNING ADULT DISCUSSION

4 March

10.00am-2.00pm Jewish Book Week. Book your own tickets.
Meet at 10.00 for coffee at Kings Place, Kings Cross

11 March

10.00-11.15 David Ruderman Lecture: Baghdad and the Gaonic Age

11.15-12.30 Lilian Cordell on *Miriam's Table*, the Bukharian cookbook

18 March

10.00-11.15 Rabbi Altshuler on Rabbis Avraham Isaac Kook & Yehiel Michael Pines: Mizrahi/Religious Judaism

11.15-12.30 Jonathan Charles, former BBC World News London anchor, on Reporting the Middle East: Is the BBC biased? (Rescheduled from December due to snow!)

25 March

10.00-11.15 Rabbi Altshuler on Martin Buber's Zionism: Vision of a Bi-National State, *Brit Shalom* (In dialogue with Mahatma Gandhi)

11.15-12.30 *In the Shoes of Sholom Aleichem* - 2014 film co-written by and starring Theodore Bikel

1 April, 8 April: No sessions - Pesach break

15 April

10.00-11.15 Rabbi Altshuler on Intellectuals in Search of Roots: Bernard Lazar, Edmond Fleg and Ludwig Lewisohn
11.15-12.30 TBC

22 April (Rabbi Altshuler away)

10.00 - 12.30 *Carvalho's Journey* - film and discussion

29 April

10.00-11.15 Rabbi Altshuler on In the New World: Responses to Zionism - Solomon Schechter, Louis Brandeis, Horace Mayer Kallen and Mordecai Kaplan
11.15-12.30 TBC





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sure Alan
celebrates
every
festival**

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There's something special about coming together to celebrate all festivals. That's why for someone like Alan, who lives with dementia every day of the year, we try and make every festival memorable. We need to raise £3,000 every single day just to care for people living with dementia.

Will you help make sure that no one has to face dementia alone this Pesach and beyond?

To donate please call 020 8922 2600 or visit jewishcare.org/donate

#PeopleOfJewishCare

JEWISH CARE

Music at Belsize invites you
to a Night at the Opera

COSI FAN TUTTE

Sunday 18 March at 7pm
Tickets: £25

Mozart's comic masterpiece, sung in English by some of London's finest young opera singers, with by a young professional orchestra. This production premiered at Waterperry Festival in Oxfordshire last summer and we are thrilled to see it come to Belsize Square.

Due to the number of performers, seats are more limited than usual. So book your places quickly on the website or via the Synagogue Office.



Belsize Squared presents
SLEIGHT OF MIND
Sunday 29 April at 6pm

Our member, Jeff Salmon, star of TV's "Four Rooms", will recreate his sell-out Theatre show, using "five senses to create the illusion of a sixth sense".

Adults £10, Children £5
(Includes falafel supper)
All proceeds to the Synagogue

Book by Sunday 15 April.
Contact the Synagogue Office on 0207 794 3949 or office@synagogue.org.uk

Watch demonstrations that are thought-provoking, funny and unbelievable. Plus bid for an opportunity of an afternoon at his home, where Jeff will teach some of his skills.



SYNAGOGUE HELP LINES

THE BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

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

Email: office@synagogue.org.uk

SYNAGOGUE OFFICE HOURS

9.00am - 5.30pm

Fridays: 9.00am-2.00pm

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Lee Taylor - 020 7794 3949

BELSIZE MEMBERS' GROUP

Co-chairs: Marion Nathan - 020 8361 2443

and Dilys Tausz - 020 7435 5996

CHEVRA KADISHA

Chairman: Rabbi Stuart Altshuler

Joint Vice Chairs: Helen Grunberg - 020 8450 8533

Cantor Dr Paul Heller

COMMUNITY CARE CO-ORDINATOR &
BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE

Contact Eve Hersov on 020 7435 7129

or email eve@synagogue.org.uk

or call the Synagogue Office for a leaflet

FUNERALS

During Synagogue Office hours phone 020 7794 3949.

Evenings/weekends phone Calo's (Undertakers)

020 8958 2112

JUDAICA SHOP

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

KIDDUSH

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

LIBRARY

Open Wednesdays 10am - 12 noon

At other times please check first with the office

CHEDER

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

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Chairperson: Frank Joseph - 020 7482 2555

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

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

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