



AN INVITATION TO BIBLICAL SCHOLARSHIP

Shalom Belsize Square Synagogue,

Now that the Holidays have passed, it is time to reflect on what is ahead. With Brexit in the air, political quagmire in Israel, Turkish President Erdogan's invasion against the Kurds in northern Syria, and political volatility in the United States, we all are deserving of a respite. Perhaps it is time to study, to learn about Judaism, our heritage and past.

There are many opportunities ahead. Our Sunday Morning Adult Discussion Group is always open to newcomers and there is not a subject that we miss. Our two core classes are on Jewish Prayer and the Shoah, and I encourage all of you to join us in an exceptional learning environment. In addition to our regular class from 10-11:15am, we always have wonderful guest speakers, and I would ask you to consider coming on Sunday 3 November to hear John Ware, a well-known journalist whom I have come to know through our mutual time on the Israel-Diaspora Trust.

It was John Ware whose Panorama BBC news investigation programme exposed the corruption and blatant

antisemitism in the Jeremy Corbyn-led Labour party. He will be with us for a behind-the-scenes look to see what has happened in the aftermath of his coverage of the Labour Party.

On Sunday 8 December, we welcome Professor John Barton, Anglican priest and professor of Biblical Studies at Oxford University, recently retired as Oriel and Laing Professor of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture. If you have not yet read his magnum opus, *A History of the Bible*, you should. I have arranged for Professor Barton to join our discussion group in his only appearance at any synagogue since the release of his best-selling book.

In his book Professor Barton takes the reader through every critical scholarly debate regarding the biblical text, including Christian Scripture. Not only is his scholarship superb, he is incredibly sensitive to the Jewish essence and roots of Biblical texts, including Christian ones. He is well versed in Judaism and I have complimented him on his knowledge of everything Jewish.

who know little about the breadth, scope and contribution of the Bible to western civilisation. Here is a sample of how he deals with our misunderstanding the Bible – his challenge to biblical purists, especially Christians:

"There are versions of Christianity that claim to be simply "biblical" (no versions of Judaism do so), but the reality is that the structures and content of Christian belief...are organised and articulated differently from the contents of the Bible. This can be seen most clearly in Christian fundamentalism, which idolises the Bible yet largely misunderstands it...The description of the Bible (warts and all) which follows will necessarily make disconcerting reading for those who idealise it, but I will also show that it is not and cannot be the whole foundation of either Judaism or Christianity." As reviewer Kirsty Jane Falconer wrote, his "handling of Jewish Scripture is sensitive and informed."

This is a special treat, to have Professor Barton come from Oxford to be with us. Do consider joining us on 8 December.

I wish you all a wonderful couple of months of learning, peace, commitment, prayer and thought. Rejoice in your health and in your many blessings.

B'shalom,

Rabbi Altshuler

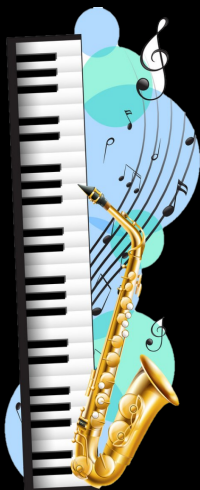
CHANUKAH JAZZ CONCERT @ THE MINI MARKET

WHEN
Sunday 8th
December, 2019

Market opens
at 4pm

Concert begins
at 7pm

WHERE
51 Belsize Square
NW3 4HX



CONCERT
TICKETS: £10
(Free entry to the
market)

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ANNETTE'S
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GRANOLA

CHANUKAH
CANDLES

Professor Barton takes on the fundamentalist religious crowd that ignores modern scholarship in archaeology, comparative literature and history when dealing with Biblical texts. He equally challenges the "secularists"

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Outdoor evening reception in the Synagogue drive for A Night To Remember, our fund-raising Auction of Promises (See Page 3)



The Prague reunion in May of child survivors of Theresienstadt/Terezin, now of grandparental age, accompanied by all generations of their families (See Page 6)



Succah decoration provided by our Cheder pupils



Arms up! Our youth group at Skeet Hill House (see Page 8)

BELSIZE IN MACCABI GB: A note from General Team Manager Joel Nathan **See Page 4 for report on Maccabi Games by Dylan Krikler**

The Maccabi Great Britain U18 Football Squad took Budapest by storm and brought home the gold medal. They were superbly managed by Frank Steinberg and Steve Gordon who gave the squad an unbelievable experience from the start of



Belsize Square's Dylan Krikler, front row 4th from right

the selection process until the last kick of the final against Argentina. The squad consisted of boys from various clubs and areas including London, Leeds and Dublin and, in training, they played against high quality opposition with games against Brighton and Hove Albion and Lincoln FC.

Dylan Krikler's importance to the squad was paramount due to his goal-scoring exploits which culminated in his scoring the goal that got them into the final and then to cap it all, the actual winner in the final itself.

The squad were not only a credit to their families but also the Jewish Community of Great Britain and we hope they continue to represent Maccabi GB in years to come.

The Jewish Chronicle also reported on this tremendous sporting event, which took place in Budapest. You can find it through this link: <https://www.thejc.com/sport/football/maccabi-gb-budapest-football-1.487866?highlight=Krikler>

HIGH HOLYDAYS 5780

Adam Rynhold reports:

The Succah has just been dismantled and the Torah Scrolls are back in their coloured garments rather than the stunning whites we have seen since late September. Therefore the High Holydays are finished, but what a marvellous set they were, from the Selichot discussion evening onwards.

First Day Rosh Hashanah saw a full Synagogue whilst Second Day was a little less cramped! All Services were magnificent from our young men leading the davening, through the leyning and shofar blowing. Yom Kippur was fantastic, as always an emotional roller-coaster from start to finish. Special mention to the Yom Kippur Minchah Service, led by boys and girls. We received an email from someone watching via BelsizeLive to say how wonderful the daveners were. Our future is safe as we see our youngsters coming through.

On the Saturday between Yom Kippur and Succot the Synagogue welcomed the parents of children born in the last year to the Community. Families had a joint Aliyah to the Torah and the children all received a Belsize Teddy

Bear, another welcome addition to our calendar to be repeated next year.

Succot was highlighted during the Hoshanah section where we had twenty sets of Arba Minim parading – another initiative from the Liturgical Committee. For next year if you would like your own set, please contact Adam in the Synagogue Office. As always, the season concluded with Shemini Atzereth and Simchat Torah, where we honoured Simon Cutner and Frank Joseph.

To summarise, between Selichot and Simchat Torah we had a total of 25 Services including the Kever Avot Service at Edgwarebury Lane. Next year the High Holydays begin with Selichot on the evening of Saturday 12 September and the Kever Avot Service will take place the following morning. Look out for more details during the year.

Dilys Tausz reports:

As in previous years, the hall was packed for the Youth Services on First Day Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, with Benji Nathan and Lucy Bergman giving the short addresses (brief talks).

Richard Pollins led the young shofar blowers, who included two new recruits, and they filled the hall with their amazing sound.

On Second Day Rosh Hashanah we departed from the usual service. Instead, the 60-strong congregation sang with the Youth Choir, led by Miles D'Cruz and organist Ashley Jacobs. Volunteers read the prayers. Instead of the usual address, Caroline Loison, head of Cheder, led the congregation in a Rosh Hashanah musical round to the tune of *Frère Jacques*. The ark was ably opened by Melissa Walford and it was a pleasure to see Sophie Burke (granddaughter of Vera and Jon Pollins) taking charge of the small Torah scroll and leading the procession round the hall, accompanied by twins Benji and Zoe Loison. Celia Krikler and Zoe Cutner blew the shofar together with Richard Pollins, and Hannah Percival stepped up to read the Haftorah, with the whole congregation joining in with the blessings.

It might not have been a traditional youth service, but it was enjoyed so much by all those present and there was a real family feeling about it.

AUCTION OF PROMISES

The Auction of Promises on 7 September lived up to its name, with lots such as a stay at luxurious Ragdale Hall spa in Leicestershire raising £2,050, a dance lesson with *Strictly Come Dancing's* Giovanni Pernicet going for £1,150, a private performance by a Glyndebourne opera singer raising £750, and a bottle of rare whisky fetching £600.

This was a sell-out event, attended by 204 people, with superb catering from our own Adam Nathan and hosted by seasoned BBC commentator Rob Nothman. It opened with two popular and significant songs (Barbra Streisand's *Papa, can you hear me?* from *Yentl* and the 1979 Eurovision Israel winner, *Hallelujah*) from 11-year-old Shelly Chitayat, winner of last year's *Jews Got Talent* fund-raiser for Jewish Care. Not surprisingly, her searing performance brought the house down.

Settling us into our places, Rob explained the purpose of our fund-raising in this 80th anniversary year of

the Synagogue's existence. A major part is dedicated to securing our annual Holocaust Education Programme's continuation for the next 10 years, giving thousands of local schoolchildren direct contact with someone who experienced the Holocaust first-hand.

Rob then introduced a short film giving us a glimpse of the fun and magical experiences the charity Rays of Sunshine brings to children suffering from life-threatening illnesses and conditions. This charity received 20 per cent of the evening's total takings, earning it £14,000.

More money was raised through £200 donations to inscribe specific names on the "leaves" of the Tree of Life (now moved from the entrance hall to a back wall inside the synagogue). These would commemorate our refugee founding members, whose names were written on replica wooden leaves placed on each table. As tables funded a name, a light went up on the copy of

the Tree of Life on stage. By the end of the evening, 100 lights shone brightly.

The final highlight of the evening was Jeff Salmon's "Sleight of Mind" performance, baffling us as usual with his ability to tease pin numbers accurately out of roughly mimed ATM transactions and showing the audience in advance what someone would buy in a supermarket (bagels, what else?) His offer to auction a lesson in his skills was won with a £500 bid.

A fitting end to a record evening and many thanks to the Auction Team: Tom, Marion and Dennis Nathan, Lisa and Robi Bernberg, Maggie Brown, Carol Cohen, Cheryl Davis, Oliver Jerome and Deborah Samuelson. The evening's takings were £85,000, raising £70,000 for our causes after deduction of expenses. A separate amount of £35,000 was secured to fund our schools Holocaust Education Programme for the next 10 years.

Ruth Rothenberg





FOOTBALL GOLD

Dylan Krikler scores for Britain in the European Maccabi Games

In August this year, I took part in the European Maccabi Games, playing for Great Britain in the under-18 football category. Over 2,000 athletes from across the world, representing different sports in all age groups, took part. This makes the Games the third largest sporting event worldwide, after the Olympics and Paralympics.

Sport in general, and especially football, is a key part of my life. I have always played football at a high level, but never before for a Jewish team. I was made aware of this team by a school friend of mine at Mill Hill, Zack. His dad, Frank Steinberg, it turns out, was the manager, looking for new players. As I had met Frank on the terraces at Loftus Road [*home of Queens Park Rangers, for the uninitiated*], I thought he couldn't be all bad, and decided to try out for the team. After a gruelling series of trials, with players from around the country taking part, I was fortunate to make it into the team as their striker.

We trained at their facilities in Barnet for over a year, building up a team

spirit, working on tactics, and improving our fitness. Our goal was to perform to a high standard, competing in the tournament in Budapest. The games offered a chance not only to play football, but to really connect with the worldwide Jewish community.

Football-wise, the tournament went as well as it possibly could, both personally and for the team. I was GB's joint top goalscorer, scoring a last-minute header to equalise against the Germans in the semi's and, against all the odds, securing our place in the final. As well as scoring the goal to get us into the final, in the final itself I scored the only goal of the game as we beat Argentina 1-0. This was the first time that an under-18s GB football team had lifted the trophy.

The feeling of winning gold for my country, while representing the Jewish community worldwide, could not be beaten. The tournament's staging in Budapest also presented a very interesting and emotional historical backdrop. In the Holocaust over half a million Hungarian Jews were killed,

many of them either taken to concentration camps or shot into the River Danube.

Before the tournament began, the entire GB delegation took two days off to learn about our history in Hungary in a Jewish identity programme. From partaking in a service in the largest synagogue in the whole of Europe (Budapest's Dohany Street Synagogue) to visiting the "Shoes on the Danube" memorial on the river bank, to lighting candles in memory of Holocaust victims, the experience was incredibly moving. In my opinion it is important to remember our past so that such events never happen again.

It was an honour to represent GB, the Jewish community and Belsize Square Synagogue. Hopefully, I will have the honour of partaking in more Maccabi events, and bringing home some more medals in the future.

An article on our tournament was published in the Jewish Chronicle. (*See Page 2 for link, photo and team manager's words.*)

THE SECOND GENERATION NETWORK

Naomi Levy describes the activities of those whose lives are still affected by their parents' experiences at Nazi hands

In the Synagogue, you may have seen leaflets about the Second Generation Network. I have been involved in the Network for over a year now, as one of the "second generation" in that my late father was a German Jewish refugee – Hermann Guttman who changed his name to Dennis Goodman – and my mother, born Lea Apelsohn, is a child Holocaust survivor.

Essentially, we are a group of people whose parents or grandparents were refugees or survivors of the Holocaust and we organise, on our own or jointly with others, talks and workshops, as well as holding discussion groups. Topics covered over the last year include the controversial 2018 Polish Holocaust Act, the impact of Holocaust research and literature on our families, and last year's 80th anniversary commemoration of Kristallnacht. We were also involved in the panel

discussion *Forum: 1938 in Retrospect* at the Jewish Museum, which explored the German takeover of Sudetenland, Kristallnacht and the Kindertransport operation, and we supported last January's three-day academic Kindertransport Conference.

In my own role, I gave a talk at an event organised in conjunction with the Wiener Library on British internment and the deportation of German-speaking Jewish refugees, based on my late father's experience in Australia, as recorded in his Diary. Another speaker was Roger Kershaw, head of Audience Delivery at The National Archives, based in Kew, Surrey, who explained how research is carried out there. This led directly to a hands-on workshop we set up with him at Kew. And we are supporting a second conference on the History of Internment planned for 16-18 March

2020 at University College, London.

We also produce an excellent three-times-a-year magazine, *Second Generation Voices*, that contains relevant articles by members about their families, reviews of exhibitions, books etc, and an informative listings section of events. We are a welcoming group open to suggestions for events. And it is easy to join us. Just complete the membership form at the back of the leaflet mentioned at the start of this article.

If you cannot get to the Synagogue to pick one up or do not see one there, request a form by email from: info@secondgeneration.org.uk

Further information is available from the Second Generation Network Facebook page or our website www.secondgeneration.org.uk

HEALING FROM GRIEF: BOOKS TO HELP IN BEREAVEMENT

In our July/August edition, Eve wrote about helping people cope with bereavement through reading about the experiences of others. This is her update on her progress.

Death comes to us all but the ways we process grief vary enormously. Helen Grunberg and I attended a session at West London Synagogue where Julia Samuel, author of *Grief Works*, indicated that unresolved grief was a significant factor in cases where people do not respond to treatment for a wide range of medical conditions. Healing from grief takes time but it is also entirely individual. What works for one person may not work for another, and what helps us through one loss might not be effective with the next.

I am interested in the ways we heal and adapt to the challenges of life. The theme of death and loss is explored through theatre, film and literature. Slowly, I am beginning to develop a collection of books for our synagogue library that focus on loss, healing and

transition. I am open to hearing from members about recommendations in regard to books and films that have proven useful to people in coming to terms with loss. Any books I write about will also be available to lend.

The first book I purchased is *Healing After the Suicide of a Loved One*, by Ann Smolin and John Guinan. This book was first published in 1993 and is based on the authors' comprehensive work, running groups for people who have experienced loss through suicide. The first part focusses on this in very easy-to-read chapters.

It is followed by exploring the grieving process for a child whose parent dies, a parent whose child dies, the death of a spouse and the death of a sibling. Each chapter is illustrated with examples drawn from the stories of real people as they move through the healing process. The book is an excellent and accessible resource for anyone whose life has been touched by suicide. We now know from

research that suicide has an extremely wide impact and is estimated in each instance to closely affect as many as 135 people. For this reason I feel it is an important addition to the synagogue library and was still available from Amazon last time I checked.

On a slightly lighter note, many congregants have told me how much they enjoyed watching *Shtisel* on Netflix – a series that subtly examines the impact of death on a family and illustrates the range of behaviour and confusion that can result when our family constellation changes, and as people transition through stages like young adulthood and retirement.

I'd like to think it also demonstrates the value of women in maintaining family peace and nurturing emotional life. I hope the rumour of a third series is true and applaud the series' writers for portraying so many themes that accompany grief and are part of our human struggle with change and uncertainty.

A CALL FROM A TELEFRIEND CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING

Some of our older members appreciate the opportunity to have a "Telefriend." This is a simple service where they are matched with a member who phones every six weeks to catch up on how they are, and share conversation.

Catherine Freeman is one of our most dedicated "Telefriends". I spoke to several of the people she phones regularly who praise her listening and conversational skills. They were eager to supply quotes about their telephone relationship with Catherine in the hope that this article might inspire other members to pick up the telephone and become a volunteer "Telefriend."

One 83-year-old member told me, "It's lovely [to receive a call from Catherine]. The call before last we got to talking about gardening. She's keen, and I do a bit. It was interesting. I used to make calls and now I'm the one receiving them and I appreciate it. It's lovely to have a call from someone in the congregation. It's personal, warm; it's a friendship. Catherine's lovely. I

hope the article will encourage other people to volunteer for the service."

I met up with Catherine to find out more about her experience of being a Telefriend. Although she cannot remember when she started making calls, she got involved because "I just wanted to help out. I have always been interested in how people are and how they relate to others and I took a degree in Psychology at the OU. My first degree and practice was as a lawyer/solicitor where you constantly deal with difficult situations and peoples' conflicting wants and needs.

"Telephoning people once every six weeks is just a continuation of what has always interested me. I set aside time to listen. Some people I might prompt. I like telephoning. It's informative. There's nuance to a person's voice and tone, and I can tell if people are OK or if something is disturbing them.

"As people get older they become

more interesting, and there's a safety to having a telephone friend. It's not a face-to-face relationship. It's wonderful having someone who isn't family to relate to. Interaction is important. It makes us all feel noticed. A call is giving attention, and a call can change everything."

This beautiful attitude of compassion and acceptance that Catherine brings to her phone calls is well noticed by the people she speaks to. One of our members aged 85 told me: "Catherine is delightful. We've had 'conversations'. I find her knowledgeable. I very much appreciate when she calls. And if she calls at an inopportune time, she always calls back."

If you are interested in either becoming a Telefriend or you are a member who would like to have a Telefriend, please contact me on 020 7435 7129.



Catherine Freeman





THE FAMILIES WHO WEREN'T MEANT TO LIVE

Hannah Gelbart, Senior Journalist at BBC News, writes about making a film of her own family

There's an old black and white photograph that's been in my family for years. It's a bit like a school photo, children lined up in rows staring at the camera. It's 1945, these are Jewish children and they are in Prague. Many of them have just been liberated from Theresienstadt concentration camp, some 60km away. They huddle together, some of them smiling, but there are also blank faces and a few scowls. They have all just emerged from the horrors of the Holocaust – but their parents didn't survive and now they are orphans.

Prague in May 2019 is easily recognisable. The same statue is in the background, the same cobbled stones and elegant white windows of the houses. And a few of the children in that old picture are here too. They have come back, with husbands and wives, children and grandchildren, to celebrate their survival. They are back to take a new photo: a photo of the families that were never meant to exist.

I'm going to be in that picture, along with 12 members of my family – but I'm also a journalist making a documentary for BBC News about the stories behind it. My grandfather, David Herman, was one of the children who survived the camps.

My journey begins in Manchester, where two of the survivors who knew my grandpa now live. They greet us warmly and welcome us into their homes, plying us with sandwiches, dips and hummus. When I begin to ask about the horrors they have lived

through, a silence hums in the air.

It's the first time I've ever heard a survivor's experiences first hand in such detail and it strikes a chord that I wasn't really expecting. I've been to concentration camps before: to Auschwitz, one summer when children were crying out for ice cream whilst a tour guide showed us piles of hair and shoes; to Theresienstadt, with my grandpa and my cousins when I was 10 years old. But neither of those experiences have brought me as close to my own history as this has.

Sam Laskier is 91. He pulls back his sleeve and shows me the tattoo on his arm, green letters and numbers burnt into the soft papery folds of his skin: B-2413. He tells me the facts, but the emotions lie deeper. As we look through photos together, he says he still has nightmares about the camps.

"We saw death all the time," he tells me. "You could smell the burning flesh of people in the chimneys of Auschwitz. They gave you about three months to survive, but I was there seven months and survived."

"How did it feel to be a teenager in a Nazi concentration camp?" I ask. The same answer comes up again and again – hunger. A gaping pain in your stomach, not knowing when your next meal will be. "We were traumatised all the time," says Ike Alterman, also 91. "We were worried where the next piece of bread was going to come from. We were starving."

He opens an old cardboard box and lays sepia photos out on the dining table. "This is the moment we found out that the guards had disappeared and we were told we were free. That's me, waving a cap," he says, pointing to a wagon full of emaciated bodies. "We were supposed to be gassed next morning."

Ike speaks slowly, with pauses between each word. In the depths of his eyes, I see a 13-year-old boy, moving from camp to camp, transported in cattle trucks along railway lines, to freedom. Freedom. Sam's face lights up. "Prague brings back nice memories," he says,

"because that's where I was liberated, so we weren't beaten up or shouted at."

The Russians were kind to the children. They shared bread with them, gave them chocolate and let them ride on their tanks. They also gave them 24 hours to do whatever they wanted, even take revenge on Germans. But few, if any, of the freed prisoners wanted blood on their hands. All they were interested in was filling their stomachs up after years of starvation. Some ate so much that their gaunt bodies couldn't cope and they were hospitalised. Others died from indigestion.

Together we visit Theresienstadt (Terezin to the Czechs), the former ghetto and Nazi camp where most of this group was liberated. Today it's a normal town as well as a memorial. An elderly lady pushes a shopping trolley. Tourists groups flock through the former barracks, crematorium and ghetto museum.

We head to the Jewish cemetery and I share a moment with Arek Hersh, who was imprisoned here for eight days before liberation. He describes the surroundings when he first arrived: pile upon pile of corpses. Living skeletons in sick bays. Later I see those faces, the anguish, the defiance, as I trawl through reels of archive to piece my film together. Snapshots of death etched into my mind. Now the mass graves at Theresienstadt are marked by symbolic tombstones.

They say that birds don't sing on the sites of concentration camps, but it's the only sound we hear. A memorial service is held, the air swelling with the cantor's prayer. A minute's silence to remember the dead.

But we are now in Prague to celebrate the survivors, those who got out of the camps alive, my grandpa among them, one of more than 700 children brought to England in summer 1945. They grew up together like brothers and sisters, built successful new lives and had their own children. Their families became part of my extended family.

From an early age I grew up knowing



David Herman at Buchenwald

about the Holocaust, my grandpa's survival and the family we've lost. But only in recent years have we begun to talk about how the trauma of his experiences did not end in 1945. My mum tells me that when she was young, she could never complain to her dad about a bad day at school. What could ever be as bad as the Holocaust?

My sister and I talk at length about the impact of our grandpa's story on our lives. Is it survivor's guilt that makes us live our lives to the full, as if time were running out, living for the six million murdered Jews? All my life, there's been a hollow feeling inside that I can't quite put my finger on, and a flapping of butterflies in my stomach.

More than 200 of us have come to Prague to see where our parents and grandparents stood after they were liberated. We cheer at the chime of the famous astronomical clock. There's a sadness as we remember the dead, but also a sense of unity, joy and determination – to remember the Holocaust, to tell the stories of those who outlived it and those who did not. Standing in that square, we are the evidence that the Nazis' plan to exterminate all Jews failed.

My grandpa died 10 years ago, but I wish he could have been here. I would have asked him so many questions. As I rehearse my piece to camera in the square, I think this must be the most important story I will ever tell. It's a

privilege to work on a project so close to my heart and show it to millions of people around the world.

My grandpa said he didn't hate the Germans. Like many survivors, he encouraged tolerance and an open mind in all his family, values we aspire to keep alive. I have a photo of him aged 17. His head is shaven, he's wearing striped pyjamas. Under his face in block letters is his number: A26 44 328. It was taken on arrival at Buchenwald concentration camp. I see a face of defiance in that photo. My mum sees the look of a lost teenager who has watched his parents being led to the gas chambers. It makes me shudder to think what those young eyes have seen.



THE MAKING OF THIS BBC FILM – IN HANNAH GELBART'S OWN WORDS

"I worked closely with my family and the 45 Aid Society to get all the details of the trip to Prague and prepare a pitch.

I had to say who and what we would film and ask, what form it would take, and give travel and budget details.

It's rare to have a reporter who is also part of the story, so the idea was extremely well received. It was a joint commission from BBC News at Six and Ten, who wanted a 3-minute piece for the bulletins, and our online video team, who wanted a 15-minute piece for the website, YouTube and IPlayer.

I haven't done much reporting before, so I discussed how to present the story and balance my involvement in the three main interviews. Then I arranged the schedule. In May I took camera journalist Jemma Cox to Manchester to interview Sam and Ike in their homes. Then we travelled to Prague with our producer Annie Duncanson.

My role was to consider the visual elements, find the archive and graphics, ask the questions, write the script, voice it and edit the piece in all versions. Jemma did the filming, sound and lighting and Annie produced on location. The film also had to be signed off by all financial contributors.

In total, we filmed for four days and came back with over 10 hours of footage. I spent the next week going through the interviews, finding archive pictures and video, building sequences and piecing the film together. The edit took about two weeks – one week to script and structure the piece and build a rough cut. The second week, I refined the edit, crafted an introduction and started cutting versions for different TV programmes, outlets and social media platforms.

All in all, the project took about a month. The story was shown on BBC News at Six, News Channel and World TV. Online, it went out on YouTube, IPlayer, Facebook, Twitter and

Instagram (IGTV and Stories). I also wrote an article to be translated by the 40 different language services in BBC News. It's hard to tally the total number of viewers but the Six O'Clock News is regularly watched by over four million and, on the BBC News website, the film had nearly a million views."

Hannah's Career

Hannah started working at the BBC after graduating from Cambridge with a degree in Spanish and Portuguese. She gained a place on the BBC's journalism trainee scheme and worked as an intern in Madrid. Over her four years at the BBC, she has worked on programmes including the Jeremy Vine Show, BBC News at Six and Ten, Business News, Social Media News and Digital Video. She is currently working on the launch of a new global children's magazine programme called *My World*, which has partnered with Microsoft and film star-cum-activist Angelina Jolie to bring news and features to teens around the world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Ben Lachmann:

Looking at the photo in the May/June issue, showing the plaque in Prague thanking the Czechs for their support in Israel's War of Independence, reminds me that after 15 May 1948, Czech planes landed during the night at Tel Nof air force base (in the Negev near Rehovot). We unloaded arms and ammunition as well as airplane parts for re-assembling. One of them was a private plane from the shoe manufacturer, Mr Bata himself!

From Cantor Paul Heller:

Your conclusion (in the report on *Tikkun Leyl Shavuot*) that "True Chazanut is only for a soloist" is yours, not mine. I certainly disagree. As a Cantor following the Lewandowski and Sulzer musical tradition, I consider myself a "true Chazan".

[Editor: And I don't disagree. I was looking at the distinction between the art form and the practitioner. I find it fascinating how traditions, musical and otherwise, that would appear theoretically to contradict each other can get absorbed through human ingenuity and enriched by their encounters.]





FUN AND GAMES AT SKEET

Youth Leader Lucy Bergman reports on an active weekend

On 20 September I took 20 children and seven *madrichim* (leaders) away to Skeet Hill House in Kent for the weekend. (The house, run as a countryside retreat for Jewish youth, with excellent facilities, was originally purchased from a large historic estate in 1943 to give Brady Youth Club members a break from London's war-torn East End.)

The children were so excited on the train journey, they just couldn't wait to get there! Once everybody arrived, we had a very yummy Shabbat dinner, with more than enough challah to go around. The sun shone all day on Saturday and the children took part in lots of activities including, among many others, football, cooking, arts and crafts, swimming and water games.

Olympic Games was the highlight of the morning, where the children were split into teams and competed in different challenges to get the highest score. Congratulations again to the winning team.... BRAZIL!! Saturday night dinner was pizza and chips –

everybody's favourite meal of the weekend – followed by *Skeet's Got Talent* show, where Charlie (11) and Eben (8) were joint winners with their dancing and singing acts! Later that evening, everyone headed outside for a campfire Havdalah.

The amazing group of *madrichim* led songs and prayers as well as helping to roast marshmallows on the fire for everybody to have a confection known to the younger generation as S'mores. For the rest of the evening there was music, dancing and a fantastic game of Capture the Flag (in the dark!) The Seniors (12+) stayed up a little later for hot chocolate and ghost stories.

On Sunday morning, the weather threatened rain but that didn't stop the group from heading into the fields for outdoor games including Bulldog, Scavenger and an obstacle course before everyone joined in for a big game of rounders!

Sadly, all good things do come to an end, and the weekend was topped off with a leaving ceremony programme called *Warm and Fuzzy*. This involved the children writing kind and thoughtful notes anonymously to be given to other children and leaders. These notes were slotted into paper bags allocated to each child and leader, and all the bags overflowed with lovely notes.

The weekend was a great success and both children and leaders thoroughly enjoyed their time at Skeet Hill House.

Bring on Skeet 2020!



Fun in the field

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO WAS INTERNED IN THE ISLE OF MAN?

Helen Grunberg and Sue Arnold relay a plea from the island's archivists for information

In September we took a trip to the Isle of Man to find out about the wartime internment of Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany and Austria. These people became a source of panic in May 1940 in case they were really German agents. The experience

affected many of our founding members, who had to go before tribunals as "enemy aliens" and were put into various categories of risk to national security, with many sent off to holding camps around the country. These were often racecourses but they ended up in the Isle of Man.

this period themselves and would like to know more about the people they "hosted".

So if you know of anyone who was interned on the Isle of Man, please email sarah.christian@mnh.im at the Manx Museum Library with the internee's full name, date of birth, nationality and any other information, which nowadays is likely to contain a date of death. They are desperate to have the names and dates of birth of anyone you know of. The men's card details were destroyed after the war but around 75% of some of the women's details survived.

The accompanying photo is of a poster we saw outside Port Erin railway station describing Rushen Internment Camp, based at Port Erin and Port St Mary, for women and children, who were really just placed in boarding houses. It is part of the Insiders/ Outsiders Festival (described on Page 11) exploring and celebrating the contribution of refugees to the country which gave them shelter.



Dear Fellow Members

My wives knees, Gertrude, who has been committed in the World of computers for many years, has given us her old lapdog. In this way we are able now to receive the weakly News from the Square und watch Belsize Life without having to run next door to look at Mrs Hundstein's equipment. I am still learning to lock on, but Mrs K has picked it up very quickly. She still has a mind as sharp as a nodule. I read News from the Square religionlessly every time it comes out. Und from Rabbi Altschuler oder Cantor Powel Heller I am recanted with meanings of portions from the Torah. Of cause this is very informative, but for me sometimes this is very much older news. I would also like to see more on currant a fares please.

I am riding this in the beginning from September when Boris Johnsohn has had his prologue signed by the Queen und when there is chaos in the House from Commons with old timers being thrown out from their party just for having an opinion. When you read my kolumne we might have excited the EU without a deal, oder we might have hat another election, oder be in the throws of one. Und to what Content do we belong to if we are not longer Europeans? Und how as Jews are we infected with this outcoming? I am sure that their will be a big thigh of releaf when I ride that for the time being I will drop the subject of Brexit from my kolumne as like all the people in the medium und MPees I can't predick what will happen.

We will also have bye past the High Holidays on witch I always like to report. I just hope that whoever is in charge of the choreography this year will limit the up und downs to a sensible level. It wood be much better if some of the very



short ups could be put together und some of the longer ones much desiccated. I have noticed that today no won wares a head anymore. It youthed to be that during the days from Or you could see a waive of blag Hombergs und Bowling heads across the Sanitorium mostly from the men. Und the distiguished warders wood wear top heads. Today won is faced with all kinds of couples, some more like fezes und some so small they would not cover Mrs K's fencing scar.

Others have so many clips hanging on to what remains of the last patch of hare, that the tiny peace of cloth is almost redundant.

I am in hope that long before this addition of Our Congregation goes to be pressed things will have settled down on the borders of Israel. Weather it is Hisbowler or Harmus or any of the other of these ill meaning groups supported by Iran they have all pulled the wood over otherwise decent peoples' ice. I don't know how those with a more inside view from above cannot see how this is so manipulated to make Israel look in a bad light. I cannot finish this last kolumne from 2019 without again going back to the object of Global Warning. As I look from my balcon at the blue sky over my hat, I see cross crissing so many viper trials from airoplanes. Then I look down Finchley Road und the traffic is verse then ever. It seems that nothing has changed that will save the planet. Mrs Klopstick has turned completely green und wears a tea shirt saying Shave the World. Unfortunately the printer couldn't read her riding. She wares it anyway und in conclusion with me wishes every won a save und healthy twenty twenty.

With the best of intentions

Fritz Klopstick

NEW EDITOR SOUGHT

After five years in the job, it is time for this Editor to step down. While I would have liked to continue another year to my 80th birthday, age has taken its toll and, quite simply, I get tired. When I last did the job, for 13 years before going back full-time on the Jewish Chronicle in 1988 – and having worked part-time at the long defunct Jewish Observer & Middle East Review, the Zionist Federation's weekly publication – I had the stamina. Now it is time to pass the baton on.

So, who is interested in people and events and able to put this enthusiasm into print? Whether on paper or screen, the basic requirements are the same: the urge to communicate and literacy to do so (grammar, punctuation and all that boring stuff). In practice this means reshaping other people's efforts (known in the trade as sub-editing or "subbing") and, specifically, cutting to fit the space. This doesn't have to be a one-person job, as it has been till now. (Layout and printing are separate.) A team, which will include the Chair of our Communications Committee, Alex Antscherl, may be better, especially since we went bimonthly three years ago. The work rhythm now is a peak of two to three weeks' concentrated effort every second month, with bits and bobs in between.

How about it, you budding journalists? This is an ideal opportunity to spread your wings and create an impressive portfolio. Speak to the Synagogue Office and also contact me through the office. I am happy to show you the ropes, join the office proofreaders and be on hand to overcome (or better still, avoid) problems. We put out a good paper and want to see it continue.

Ruth Rothenberg

SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING



Friday 1 November: Alice Salmon
Friday 8 November: Zoe Cutner
Friday 15 November: Jennifer Fisher
Friday 22 November: Sara Beazley
Friday 29 November: Claire Levin
Friday 6 December: Miriam Borchard
Friday 13 December: Orly Cohen
Friday 20 December: Susan Storning
Friday 27 December: Pearl Aaronson



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





Community News

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a cordial welcome to:

Susan Marmot
Lana & Wolfgang Sauer
Nicole Kaczynski
Adam Markson with sons Nathaniel & Joshua
Suzanne & Paul Gale
Damon Lenszner
Rebecca Lyon
Stephen Fried

BAR & BAT MITZVAH

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Alice, daughter of Lucia & Jeff Salmon, who celebrates her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday 2 November
Zoe, daughter of Sophie & Simon Cutner, who celebrates her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday 9 November
George, son of Paul Cohen & Claire Levin, who celebrates his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday 30 November

WEDDING

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Daniel Morgenthau & Frankie McCoy - 25 August
Susan Marmot & Jeremy Silver - 25 August
Jacqueline Dobrin & Neal Gershinson - 8 September

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Mrs A Bruh (97) on 10 October
Mrs E Maier (93) on 18 October
Mr H Brook (100) on 19 October
Mr W Howard (100) on 21 November
Mrs A Winter (104) on 23 November
Mrs J Levene (85) on 24 November
Mrs V Shevloff Eden (83) on 26 November

DEATHS

We regret to announce the passing of:

Bernard Rebuck, who died on 24 August
Mike Solomon, who died on 7 September
Alexander Carson, who died on 23 September
Marianne Black, who died on 27 September

NW3 WEDNESDAY LUNCHEON GROUP

Giacomo, 428 Finchley Road, London, NW2 2HY

1.00pm on 13 November, 18 December & 15 January

Please call Judy Field (020 8455 0614) if you wish to attend

Course in Jewish
liturgy

LEARN TO LEAD A SERVICE

What is Nusach ?

1. Learn the basics
2. Practical workshop



from Peter Freudenthal's Shmoneh Esreh

Starts Monday 4 November 7-8pm, then fortnightly

Cantor Paul Heller will lead this course enabling you to lead a service as a Shaliach Tzibbur (community envoy)



If you are interested please send an email to cantor@synagogue.org.uk

Belsize Square Synagogue
51 Belsize Square NW3 4HX

The copy deadline for the next issue of
Our Congregation is Friday 6 December

REGULAR SERVICES

Friday evenings at 6.45pm & Saturday mornings at 10.00am

Kikar Kids

Saturday 2 November, 7 December, 4 January

Under-5s Service in the Crèche (Crèche opens 10am)

Junior Service for 5-9 year-olds in the Library

11.30am – Kids' Kiddush

Often combined with a Shabbat Breakfast for Families

Contact Synagogue Office for details

Religion School

Sunday mornings: 9.30am-12.30pm

Term ends: 15 December

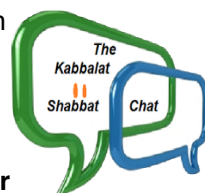
CANTOR HELLER'S KABBALAT SHABBAT CHAT

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: 8 November, 13 December



SUNDAY MORNING ADULT DISCUSSION

3 November 10.00-11.15: Rabbi Atshuler on Prayer (part 3)
The Shema

11.15-12.30 John Ware, journalist and investigative reporter for controversial TV Panorama programme: Is Labour Antisemitic?

10 November 10.00-11.15 Rabbi Altshuler on Shoah history (part 3) 1492-1666 From collapse of the Jewish world towards W European emancipation

11.15-12.30 Rabbi Danny Newman, founder of HaMakom retreats, on Jewish meditation from Maimonides, through Kabbalism and Chasidism to the Conservative & Reform movements

17 November Mitzvah Day - Keats Community Library cleaning. Volunteers for a 3-hour stint please contact Claire on 07802 939740

24 November 10.00-11.15 Rabbi Altshuler on Prayer (part 4)
The Amidah & Kedushah
11.15-12.30 TBC

1 December 10.00-11.15 Rabbi Altshuler on Shoah history (part 4) Modern antisemitism, political & racial antisemitism, social Darwinism
11.15-12.30 -TBC

8 December 10.00-11.15 Rabbi Altshuler on Prayer (part 5)
The Kaddish
11.15-12.30 Professor John Barton, Anglican priest & author of *The History of the Bible*: The story of the world's most influential book

15 December 10.00-11.15 Rabbi Altshuler on Shoah history (part 5) Jewish reactions to 19th-century antisemitism
11.15-12.30 TBC

INSIDERS/OUTSIDERS FESTIVAL

Alex Antscherl looks at a year-long celebration of a special contribution to Britain's culture



This festival has brought together around 100 exhibitions, concerts, dance and theatre performances, film screenings, walks, lectures and literary events (including Jewish Book Week) across the UK, in venues such as Glyndebourne, Chichester and Tate Britain (where an exhibition on *The Bauhaus in Britain* runs until 17 November), as well as smaller spaces, from the Isle of Man to Cornwall.

The project is the brainchild of art historian Monica Bohm-Duchen, who wanted to use the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War to mark the incredible impact that refugees from Nazism had on the cultural life of their new nation. The daughter of a well-known Russian-born photographer, Dorothy Bohm, who came to England as a teenager in 1939, Monica Bohm-Duchen said her aim was to pay tribute to a disappearing generation and explore a subject both historical and contemporary.

As part of the festival, Sotheby's auctioneers held an exhibition called *Brave New Visions* in July and August, focusing on the contribution of these refugees to the art world as gallerists, dealers and publishers. Many credit these incomers, such as gallery founders Andras Kalman and Charles & Peter Gimpel and publishers Eva & Walter Neurath, with overhauling a stuffy, old-fashioned London art scene.

These mostly Jewish refugees introduced artists previously unknown in the UK and set up many influential galleries. Of particular interest is the contribution of women, pioneering gallery owners of their time. Annely Juda was born in Germany in 1914. Her studies in art history at university were interrupted by the rise of Nazism and she escaped in 1934. After three

years in Palestine, she arrived in London in 1937 and worked as a maid to fund her return to the study of art history. She set up her first gallery in London in 1960 and founded the Annely Juda gallery in 1968. She was appointed CBE for services to art in 1998.

Lea Bondi Jaray was one of the foremost dealers in Austrian Expressionism in Vienna before the war. In her gallery, she exhibited work by Oskar Kokoschka, Emil Nolde and Egon Schiele. After the Anschluss (Germany's annexation of Austria in March 1938), her gallery and private collection were expropriated by the Nazis, and Bondi Jaray came to London, where she ran St George's Gallery with fellow Austrian emigré Otto Brill. St George's was one of the first galleries to stage an exhibition of Expressionist art in the UK.

In 1946 she went to Vienna to fight for the return of a painting by Schiele, *Portrait of Wally*, that had been stolen from her and ended up in the Belvedere, one of Vienna's most significant art museums. Sadly, Lea Bondi Jaray passed away in 1969 without having regained her painting or being awarded any recompense. Her family continued the fight and eventually in 2010 received compensation. The painting still hangs on a wall of the Belvedere, with a full acknowledgement of its provenance.

The new generation of art publishers were critical in helping art to reach



Josef Herman's picture *Refugees*, shown at Sotheby's *Brave New Visions* exhibition

those who couldn't frequent West End galleries or afford to buy works. Eva and Walter Neurath met while working at Adprint, a firm set up by another Austrian refugee pioneering new colour printing techniques. After the war they founded art publishers Thames & Hudson (named after the rivers of London and New York) and made a remarkable contribution to the accessibility of beautiful colour art books to readers all over the world.

The Insiders/Outsiders festival has featured many recognisable names including László Moholy-Nagy, Stefan Zweig, Lucie Rie and Judith Kerr, but also brings lesser-known figures into the limelight, many of them women – like photographer Gerty Simon, painter Marie-Louise von Motesiczky, sculptor Margarethe Klopffleisch and ceramicist Grete Marks.

Although the primary focus of the festival is on the arts, there are also events focusing on the contribution of émigrés to other fields such as science and psychoanalysis. The festival is not exclusively about the contribution of Jewish refugees (although of course they are the majority), nor is it only about those who came in the 1930s. It looks too at the influence of survivors who came to Britain after 1945, and includes some second and third generation descendants, whose work reflects their families' experiences.

It also recognises the contribution of those British individuals and groups, such as the Quakers, who extended the hand of welcome to the refugees, often in the face of government and local indifference or downright hostility.

Insiders/Outsiders is a timely reminder of what its website calls the "importance of cultural cross-fertilisation and the deep, long-lasting and wide-ranging contribution that refugees can – and do – make to British life".

Insiders Outsiders is also available as a book with over 20 contributions from notable specialists, edited by Monica Bohm-Duchen and published by Lund Humphries at £40.

For more information see <https://insidersoutsidersfestival.org/>



TRIPLE CENTENARY

Congratulations to our three centenarians:

Richard Fisher, who reached 100 on 9 September.

Henry Brook, who reached 100 on 19 October.

William Howard, who reaches 100 on 21 November.

Is this a record?

Richard Fisher holding his honorary synagogue membership certificate issued to all members on their 100th birthday. The standard congratulatory card from the Queen is on the right.



KRISTALLNACHT SERVICE

Friday 8 November, 6.45pm

Guest Speaker: Ian Austin MP

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Tel: 020 7794 3949

Email: office@synagogue.org.uk

Website: www.synagogue.org.uk

SYNAGOGUE OFFICE HOURS

9.00am - 5.30pm

Fridays: 9.00am-2.00pm

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Lee Taylor - 020 7794 3949

CHEVRAH 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

FUNERALS

During Synagogue Office hours phone 020 7794 3949.

Evenings/weekends phone Calo's (Undertakers)

020 8958 2112

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 Caroline Loison, in the Synagogue Office
or email caroline@synagogue.org.uk

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Chairperson: Frank Joseph - 020 7482 2555

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