

Our Congregation



News and views from Belsize Square Synagogue

A TIME TO LOOK FORWARD, A TIME TO LOOK BACK

Shalom Chaverim,

It is indeed that time of the year. We are approaching our summer break and taking stock of what has transpired over the past year and what we plan for the future. Here are some reflections on past events and future challenges.

Religion & Judaism: We had a busy schedule with an overflow of B'nei Mitzvah celebrations, aufrufs, baby naming, conversions, new members, anniversaries and special birthdays. Our High Holiday attendance keeps growing, our Friday night attendance is creeping upwards and on Shabbat morning is improving. We continue to get amazing feedback, especially from guests. We will continue to work on increasing participation.

Education: I still measure the uniqueness of a congregation by its commitment to Jewish education. We are doing better all the time but still need to inspire more people to take advantage of our educational opportunities. We have seen steady growth in our Sunday morning study group. We held a more than successful Lehrhaus in November, attracting people from across the community for a stimulating day of learning. The four-part course taught by Reverend Nicholson and myself, alternating between next-door St Peter's Church and Belsize Square Synagogue was a real treat.

Our Monday night Introduction to Judaism course, designed for converts but open to all members, continues to enjoy steady growth. Four students have passed through the door of the Bet Din to throw in their lot with the Jewish

people. I am proud both of them and the way they have been integrated into our congregation. They are a huge part of our future.

Next year: a Cantor's class on learning to leyn; three Hebrew Reading Marathon sessions; a trip led by our member, Professor Antony Polonsky, and myself to Warsaw. Professor Polonsky, the world's leading authority on Polish and Eastern European Jewry (I read his work long before I came to Belsize Square Synagogue) is now Director of the new Jewish Museum in Warsaw. Stay tuned for details.

Community Relations: Thanks to so many people's efforts, our synagogue continues to lead in teaching the lessons of the Shoah to London youth.

With the help of Reverend Paul Nicholson, I have begun a Camden Area Interfaith Forum. Starting in January with six clergy members, we now have over 20 from the Anglican, Catholic, Muslim (Shia and Sunni), and Jewish communities, including two local Orthodox rabbis.

I would like to develop our Social Justice Committee and make those efforts a greater part of our synagogue mission. Our religious vision depends on our efforts towards *tikkun olam*, making the world a better place.

Music: A real highlight this year were the four superb concerts. The peak, of course, was the playing of the Bach Double Violin Concerto in D Minor, with the famous duo of Maxim Vengerov, world-renowned violinist, perhaps the

finest in the world today, and your rabbi! I've given many sermons, led many services and had to officiate at some very difficult funerals but this concert was the real crucible for me.

Time now to thank our brilliant Cantor, Music and Choir Directors, our three choirs and all who make Belsize Square Synagogue the centre of London's Jewish music. We are indeed blessed with a high calibre of musicianship.

We have mourned pillars of the community, Norbert Cohn and Herbert Levy, all shining stars and angels who continue to bless us. We will never forget them in our prayers and memories.

We have battled anti-Semitism this year at the Tricycle Theatre in the debacle of the UK Jewish Film Festival boycott and seen the rise of anti-Semitism at home and across Europe. We have taken part in the General Election and seen Israel's election give a fourth term for Netanyahu – love him or hate him, Israelis have spoken at the ballot box during difficult times. There's Iran, ISIS, beheadings, the continuous threat of terror – and then there are our prayers and our deeds.

Let us keep our faith, our faith in each other, our faith in our Judaism, a religion that goes back further than any other "ism" in history. With God's blessing, we face our future with joy and shalom.

Have a wonderful summer of reflection, learning – and peace.

Rabbi Stuart Altshuler

Notice is hereby given that the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE** will be held in the Synagogue Hall, 51 Belsize Square, London NW3 on MONDAY 1 JUNE 2015 at 8.00pm (followed by refreshments).

AGENDA

1. Introduction and Report by the Chairmen
2. Financial Report
3. Appointment of Auditors
4. Election of Chairmen
5. Election of 14 members to the Board
6. Election of two Board of Deputies Representatives
7. Discussion on Annual Reports
8. Any Other Business (followed by film made by our Cheder pupils)

Candidates for Election to the Board

*Philip Brass, *Joe Brookes, Simon Cutner, *Paul Burger, *Adam Hurst, Dalia Lichfield, *Annette Nathan, *Vera Pollins, *Sam Sanders, Nick Viner (*members of the present Board)

Under clause 17(c) of the Constitution, every member of the Synagogue not being in arrears with more than one year's subscription shall be entitled to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting. Voting is by secret ballot of those present at the AGM and entitled to vote.





THE MEMORY QUILT: A Tribute to "The Boys"

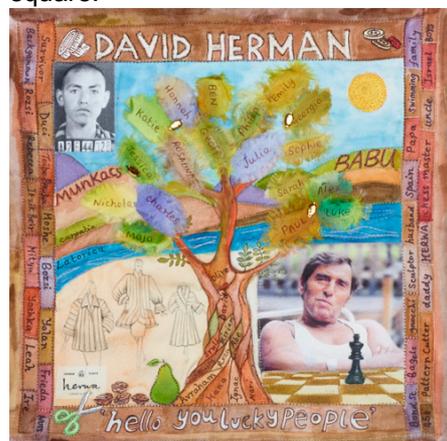
A giant quilt, measuring 756 square metres, was unveiled last month among the many projects celebrating the end of the Second World War 70 years ago. It was a very special quilt as each of its 168 squares commemorated one of "The Boys" – the 732 teenagers (including some 80 girls) rescued from the Nazi camps and flown to England. Their stories are collated in Martin Gilbert's book, *The Boys* – the term they used to refer to their tight-knit group.

The year of their arrival, 1945, is commemorated in the name they chose when they set up their own charity 18 years later, the '45 Aid Society. The quilt was unveiled at the charity's annual dinner on 3 May.

The quilt project, inspired by textile artist Sheree Charalampous, was led by Julia Burton and Ros Gelbart, daughters of David Herman, one of "The Boys", who died in 2008. The family are longstanding members of our congregation.

Hannah Gelbart, David Herman's granddaughter, a former cheder teacher at Belsize and now a budding journalist, takes up the story:

The Holocaust survivors, many of whom are now in their 80s, attended workshops with their families at the Holocaust Survivors Centre in Hendon to make the quilt. The designs are a combination of beautiful abstract paintings, charcoal drawings and photographs stitched onto fabric. The panels are accompanied by a book explaining the contents of each square.



My family worked together to design a square in memory of my grandfather, David Herman. The description of the square reads: The Carpathian mountains and the Latorica river form the backdrop to an idyllic childhood cut short by the horrors of war.

The pear and walnuts are from stories of David's childhood – many revolved around climbing trees. The roots of the walnut tree are intertwined with the names of David's grandparents, parents and three siblings. David and his wife Olive's names are inscribed on the trunk, their children and families' names on the leaves, along with jewels. David said "his four children were his jewels, his 10 grandchildren were his diamonds."

His grandfather owned a brick factory, represented by the brick border containing names of family members who perished and words representing David's interests – sculpture, chess, backgammon, swimming – and things he loved: nuts, bagels, gnocchi, Israel, The Boys.

David was 12 when the war started. As his hometown of Munkacs, in former Czechoslovakia, was taken over by Nazi Germany, he and his family were moved to the Jewish ghetto, sharing an apartment with 24 other people. Three years later an SS officer appeared at their door giving them minutes to pack their bags before herding them to the station. Their destination: Auschwitz. On arrival at the

infamous death camp, SS officers beat them brutally with sticks. David was separated from his family, his mother led to one side. He never saw her again.

My grandfather lied about his age so many times during his lifetime that, when he died seven years ago, not even he could remember how old he was. But those lies saved his life. In Auschwitz, women, the young, the elderly and the infirm were sent straight to the gas chambers. At 16, David was at risk of being considered too young to work. By saying he was 18 and had a trade, he was certain of being judged useful enough to live.

From Auschwitz, he was transferred to five more concentration camps. In Rhemsdorf, he was miraculously reunited with his younger brother, Abe, who had also survived Auschwitz. They kept each other alive during their imprisonment and on the bitter and painfully long Death March to Theresienstadt, where they were eventually liberated by the Russians in 1945. By then, David was suffering from typhus and weighed four-and-a-half stone.

Along with The Boys, David travelled from Prague and Munich to residential hostels in Britain, where they were given the chance to build a new future in England. My grandfather made fur coats and, as a fashion designer, he met my grandmother, Olive, who modelled his designs.

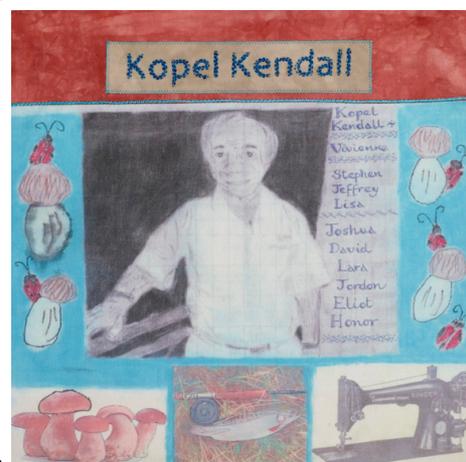
David Herman's daughter, Julia Burton, said: "I have been overwhelmed by the response to this project and the amount of effort and emotion that has gone into making every single square. I know for many of the Second Generation, they found it quite a catharsis."

Her sister, Rosalind Gelbart, added: "I think it's a very moving tribute to some very amazing individuals. Everyone has a wonderful story and the families have managed to capture the personal stories of this unique group of people."

The Holocaust Memory Quilt is planned to go on display in museums around the country and the world.

Kopel Kendall's Square

Another of the squares has been created in memory of much loved former member, Kopel Kendall, whose family remains active in our congregation. Its accompanying description, written by his wife, Vivienne, reads:



Kopel Kendall, formerly Kandelcukier, was born on 7 March 1928 in a little town called Bialobzgi in Poland. Life was very good for him, he had lots of friends and they often went to the forest to play and pick mushrooms, which is why they are on his square. He also thought ladybirds were very lucky for Jewish people.

In 1939 everything changed when Germany invaded Poland. The town was turned into a ghetto, his father was taken

away and never seen again. Kopel was only 11 years old and had to look after his mother and two sisters. He was then sent to Skarzysko-Kamienna, a forced labour camp and was told to say that he was 16 years old and a carpenter. In 1941 he was sent to Buchenwald concentration camp where he worked in an armament factory. While there he met some of the Boys who ended up coming to England with him after liberation. Afterwards he was sent to Schlieben in Germany and then finally to Theresienstadt where he was liberated by the Russians on 8 May 1945.

He arrived in England on 13 August 1945. He was taken to Windermere with some other child survivors and was given his own room with clean sheets and looked after very well. They all became a new family and even today they are still

one big family. They really needed each other to talk to as they all understood each other, having lived through similar experiences.

I met Kopel in London in 1955 and got married in 1956. He had a successful life as a tailor with his own shop which is why the sewing machine is included in his square. We had three children and six grandchildren. The youngest of them drew the pictures on his quilt square. We were very happy together for 53 years. Kopel died in 2009 and I miss him all the time.

A square has also been created around Belsize Square member Alan Greenberg's father, Victor, and our member Jan (Janek) Goldberger.

WELCOME TO EVE HERSOV

Our new Community Care Co-ordinator has been in post since mid-April



Eve joined the congregation in 1997. Like her predecessor, Dorothy White, Eve hails from Philadelphia, a city she describes as

"having more Jews than the whole of the UK." She studied and started her career there in an award-winning locked-ward Crisis Intervention psychiatric hospital before moving into the field of ageing.

It was in 1977 while working at her hospital job that she met Londoner Jonathan Hersov. He was working for a year as a Congressional intern and his interest in social and health care led him to become a hospital volunteer.

It might have been love at first sight but it took another eight years for Eve Kuhr to finally make the move to London and to marry. Meanwhile she developed a career in ageing and mental health, earning a master's degree that combined the biomedical and social aspects of ageing with the development and management of social and therapeutic services.

On graduating from Temple University's Institute of Ageing, she became Director of Geriatrics for a large section of the

city where she developed services focussed on empowering older people to share their skills, network and use their collective strength.

She credits her grandparents with inspiring her career, especially her *Zeida* David, a front-line political activist for the rights of older citizens and an early member of the "Grey Panthers". He campaigned for Kosher Meals on Wheels.

Eve married Jonathan and made the move to Hampstead in 1985. She quickly found work as Director of the Northeast London Jewish Day Centre in Stamford Hill, then run by the Jewish Blind Society and the Jewish Welfare Board. These two organisations went on to merge in 1990 to become Jewish Care.

It was the perfect introduction to British Jewry, social services, the National Health Service and a position that helped counteract the homesickness of leaving Philadelphia.

The centre had 750 members and was a thriving hub of activity where Eve felt warmly welcomed. As much as she loved her work, by the late 1980s she left to form a professional partnership with her husband, offering social care training and consultancy services throughout the UK.

The partnership allowed them to spend more time together while developing a business that helped people, while also fitting their work around a close home life with their two young daughters, Savannah and Lily.

It was the search for a Cheder that led Eve to knock on the shul door at Belsize Square, and Henny Levin's brilliant tour and spiel helped convince her that the synagogue felt homely, and different to any other shul – a little bit of Philadelphia in Belsize Park.

Eve sees her new role as a way of returning to her roots; working with families, volunteers and older members to help smooth out problems and strengthen connections.

The part-time job also allows her to continue her earlier work in evaluating and improving the quality of services for several national care providers, as well as undertaking Clinical Advisor work with the NHS and Care Quality Commission.

One month into the new position, Eve says she feels heartened by the affection of Belsize Square staff and members, and is impressed by the kindness she encounters amongst congregants who so easily give their time to visit those who are ill or in need of gentle support.

Eve's First Request: Beautiful Speaking Voices

Every month *Our Congregation* is recorded in a professional sound studio by a small team of volunteers. This recording of the synagogue magazine is then distributed as a CD or on USB to our members with visual impairment and helps keep them informed and connected to the community.

We would like to expand our team of volunteers who help out with the recording process, so if you have a clear reading voice and can spare an hour once a month or even every few months, please let Eve know by e-mail: eve@synagogue.org.uk or telephone: 020 7435 7129.

Also, please let her know if you are aware of any members who might like to receive an audio recording of the magazine.



HISTORY OF THE ALEXANDER TORAH SCROLL

John Alexander explains the story behind the largest and oldest Sefer Torah in our Ark, now restored to its pride of place after essential repairs. (See pictures on page 8.)

Let me tell you the story of the Alexander Torah. It is very special for lots of reasons. It is the very first Torah used when this congregation was established in 1939 by refugees from Nazi Germany.

We now have lots of Sifrei Torah but for a long time the Alexander Torah was our only Torah. For this reason it is very special and has pride of place in our Ark where it sits, always in the centre of the front row.

It is probably one of the oldest Sifrei Torah in the world still in use. A Torah has to be perfect to be used in services. Most scrolls last only two or three generations, say 70 or 80 years, before they become worn out, letters fade and the parchment gets torn, when they can't be used any more. At that stage the Torah is traditionally buried in a Jewish cemetery in the grave of someone special, such as a Rabbi.

Because this Torah was special to the Alexander family and this synagogue, it wasn't buried but it has been kept, restored and is perfect again so it can go on being used in services and will last another few generations.

This Torah is about 225 years old. It was written in about 1790. The breast plate, the *yad* (the hand used as a pointer) and the *rimonim* (the bells) were made at that time. It was commissioned, probably by my great-great-great-grandfather.

The embroidered lettering on the Torah mantle we see today tells us it was made on behalf of the Alexander Family in memory of the donor's parents or grandparents, Moshe son of Avraham, and Merat Chana, daughter of Avraham. They lived in Thalmässing in Southern Germany, near Nuremberg in the centre of Bavaria.

My great-grandfather was born there in 1841 but then moved to Bamberg, also in Bavaria, where my grandfather, Alfred Alexander, was born. Alfred Alexander is the one who brought the Torah to Belsize Square. Let me tell you how that happened.

Alfred married my grandmother, Henny, who came from Frankfurt, in 1909. He was a doctor and they decided to build a small hospital or clinic in which he and other doctors could treat their patients in comfort, a bit like the London Clinic here in Harley Street. They considered setting up in Switzerland or Italy but in the end decided on Berlin, which was the up-and-coming still new and exciting capital of Germany and where lots of wealthy Jews lived. (As it turned out, this may not have been the best choice!)

By this time Alfred had inherited the Torah from his father, who had died young. The family tradition is that the Torah gets passed down from father to son – or nephew, as in my case. It came to me via my uncle Hanns. Family tradition also stipulates that it should be used in the synagogue where the eldest son worships but it must not be given to the synagogue. It can only be on loan as it must always belong to the family.

When Alfred arrived in Berlin, he joined the Neue Synagogue in Oranienburger Strasse – a very grand,

cathedral-like and fashionable synagogue in the west end of town. As a wealthy community, it had all the Sifrei Torah it needed. Because this was such a special scroll, already old even then, the synagogue said they would happily keep it in their Ark but only if they owned it. Alfred said family tradition meant he couldn't give it away. That proved to be a bit of luck!

So Alfred Alexander kept the Torah and all its silver and mantle accessories neatly wrapped in the back of a cupboard in his Berlin home, where it lay comfortably for almost 30 years. During this time my aunts Bella and Elsie were born as were the twins, Hanns and my father Paul. Alfred went to war – the First World War – running a field hospital for the Germans and afterwards resumed his medical practice in Berlin. Things were great ... for a while.

In 1933 Hitler and the Nazis came to power in Germany and immediately things got tough for the Jews. Alfred's non-Jewish staff and doctors all had to leave the clinic and he was only allowed to treat Jewish patients. There were lots of other restrictions. There were also times when Nazi thugs went round breaking into Jewish homes and arresting prominent Jews. This all happened even before Kristallnacht in November 1938, the worst of these pogroms.

In 1933 my Aunt Bella married and moved to London and in 1934 my cousin Peter Sussmann was born there. When Alfred was in London in 1934 visiting his new-born first grandchild, he began to make arrangements to bring the rest of his family over.

During another visit in early 1936 there was another attack on Jewish businesses in Berlin. But a fellow officer and good friend of Alfred from the First World War stood outside the Alexander clinic and protected it from the thugs. He warned Alfred not to return as he would be arrested and taken to a concentration camp.

So Alfred stayed in London while his wife Henny sold the clinic to pay the exit taxes that Jews leaving Germany had to pay. She took a break from this and met up with Alfred for a short holiday in Switzerland in the summer of 1936. Alfred would not let her go back to Germany to finish sorting out their things. He said it was too dangerous. So she came to London with Alfred and there she stayed.

They sent back word to their housekeeper, Hilde, to pack everything up, and arrangements were made for their boxes to be shipped to London. In 1936 this was still possible, so long as one was able to pay the heavy taxes charged by the Nazis. So Hilde packed up everything, absolutely everything, including the Alexander Torah which was packed with a pile of books and bed linen, Hilde probably having no idea what it was. She was asked to pack everything, so she did!

Thus the Alexander Torah arrived safely in London. Had it



been accepted by the Oranienburger Synagogue, it would have been burnt with all their others on Kristallnacht.

After a couple of years, when more Jews from Germany had arrived as refugees in London, many speaking little or poor English, they gathered together, forming a group to pray together in the way they were used to in Germany, creating a community in which they felt comfortable and safe.

However, they had few of the basics needed to hold services. Because he had managed to bring his household contents over, Alfred was able to provide the menorah still in use today to the right of the Bimah. More importantly,

however, they didn't have a Sefer Torah. So it was to this community that my grandfather Alfred loaned the Alexander Torah.

For many years it was the only Sefer Torah in use. More recently it has been used for Alexander family barmitzvahs and other significant occasions. Having now fully restored it, we and future generations of synagogue members will be able to continue using it here at Belsize Square Synagogue.

It is also particularly appropriate that we are celebrating the Alexander Torah today, as this weekend marks the 65th anniversary of the death of Alfred "Papi" Alexander, who died on 15 May 1950.

Putting Together The Synagogue's Holocaust Memorial Day

Unfortunately, there was a mysterious technical hitch in the print version of Our Congregation last month, resulting in the loss of the final part of Henny Levin and Sue Leon's article on page 3. For those who missed the relevant section, we reprint it here. For those who saw the article in full online, sorry to take up space. We apologise for the mishap – and hope the gremlins do not visit us again – Editor.

There are four main sessions: firstly a PowerPoint introduction to the Holocaust starting with the early life of the late Herbert Levy. (A stalwart of our programme, Herbert died in January, leaving us a very important legacy which his daughter Hilary, passes on in these sessions.) This is followed by the history of the Holocaust and the impact it had on Jews throughout Europe, finishing with the story of Anne Frank – especially as she was the same age as the students, 13-14, when she wrote her diary – and a session on bullying then and now.

After a break for a drink and biscuit, the students spend time with a survivor or refugee who tells them about their lives before, during and after the Holocaust. The intimacy of this session gives the students personal contact with someone who went through this terrible time and survived an experience which is quite unique to Belsize Square Synagogue and the core of our programme.

Finally, we have our closing ceremony in the Synagogue, students and survivors together. We light the Six Million Candle, one each for the six million Jews who died in the

Holocaust. This year, the same candelabrum [as pictured in last month's issue] was also lit the day before our first session – in Westminster Abbey at a Service commemorating the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. An appropriate prayer is recited. This is a very quiet and poignant moment, a time for reflection of the day's events for teachers, students and our volunteers.

Sadly, many of our survivors and refugees who have told their stories over the past 10 years are no longer with us or unable to tell their story any more. So that we may continue our work, we have instigated a programme whereby the second generation now tell their parents' stories. The poignancy and intimacy still remain as the emotions of the family member is ever-present.

We cannot undertake such a programme without the help of our volunteers, some of whom were mentioned in the April article. We would like to add the following, who also participated this year: Alan Greenberg, Victor Greenberg, Jennifer Lake, Peter Leon, Vivien Lewis, Harry Spiro, George Summerfield and Marion Summerfield.



The Zemel Choir
The UK'S leading mixed voice Jewish Choir



Music at Belsize collaborates with the Zemel Choir for their 60th anniversary for the Fourth European Jewish Choral Festival, welcoming choirs from all over Europe

Friday 12 June, 6.45pm at Belsize Square Synagogue
Grand Choral Service led by Cantor Paul Heller

Saturday 13 June, 10.00am at Belsize Square Synagogue
Choral Service featuring the Belsize Square Synagogue Choir and the Synagogal Ensemble Berlin

Sunday 14 June, 7pm at West London Synagogue, Upper Berkeley Street, London, W1
Gala Concert with Ensemble Choral Copernic, Leipziger Synagogal Chor, Synagogal Ensemble Berlin, Coro Ha-Kol, The Zemel Choir and Varnitshkes Ensemble

For tickets and more information email: tickets@zemelchoir.org or call: 020 8947 9542

SYNAGOGAL
ENSEMBLE
BERLIN



Dear Fellow Members

Unfortunately I messed out on two impotent events this weekend. On Friday I had to have a procedure in which I became electrocuted and this brings my heart back into rhyme. For me the weekend was a complete wash-up as I was recovering from the sanitation pumped into the vane in my arm.

For this reason it was not possible for me to be at the service of dedication to Dorothy White on the occasion of her re-tyrement. I have come to know her quiet well, as were often locked into a boose together when recording Our Congregation. She will be sourly mist. Then on the following day was the re-scripting of the Alexander Torah which I also had to bypass. I very much regret not hearing the Scripters words and those from the Alexander and Harding familiars.

Und talking of Harding, I was very pleased to hear that the book *Hanns und Rudolph* by Thomas Harding has won the best book price. I am very much encouraged by this and so have started writing my own auto biology. I am able to do this because Mrs Klopstick is going away on an advanced stone wall building cause in the Lake Ditrect.

Now we all know that Mr Cameron has been able to make a non-collision government. For my part I don't know whether this is a good thing oder not, but I am frightful overwhat is going on in the Knesset. Natan Yahoo has made a collision with other right winkers and this in my opinion is not going to be helpful. His pronouncement that there will be no Palestine



*Klopstick's
Komplaint*

is, I think, unnecessary provarication.

But I do not like the way Obama has to make a stir-fry up from this and put his nose where it dozen concern him in these matters. He should rather make his opinions on his own backyard where there are riots, tornados und murders every five minutes.

These are troubling times with so many bad things happening all over the world. It is very difficult to keep up being cherry. But I have decided that mopping around Abernein Mansions is not the answer, so whenever the whether is dry und warm I go for a walk to Hampstead Heath und at a nearby bench I look at nature. I find that being a naturist at my time of live is very therapeutic.

I am looking forward to my first attention at Tick und Lily Shavuos with the study seam of Are Jewish Ethnics Different. Mrs Bluhmenkohl thinks that if I bring along some milk I can swab it for some piazza free from charge. It dozen sound quite right to me, but I am prepared to be guided by her.

Soon it will be mid-sommer und when the days will become short again but warm. I hope all of you will have wonderful time, but always remember the sun blog.

On behalve of Mrs Klopstick und I, we wish those of you who are going on holyday the very nicest time and also to those of you who are not going anywhere, like me.

With the best of intentions

Fritz Klopstick

Sports Day with Belsize Youth
 Sunday 28 June, 1.00pm - 4.00pm at Primrose Hill
 Years 6-9

Join us for a fun sports day, preparing ourselves for the Mega Machaneh in July, where we will be using teamwork skills and testing our listening senses.

There will be lots of fun games, including sack and egg & spoon races and a Mega Football Tournament.

The cost will be £8 - including a picnic, snacks and drinks.

RSVP to youth@synagogue.org.uk

Mega Machaneh!!!
 Friday 14 July - Sunday 19 July for Years 7-9
 @ Phaselswood Activity Centre



A fun & unforgettable weekend with Belsize Friends!
 Fun activities from morning till night
 £115, including accommodation & tasty food
 Friends from other synagogues are also welcome
 RSVP to youth@synagogue.org.uk

 **Scripture Readings** 

Candle Lighting	Date	Sidrah/Festival	Torah		Haftarah	
Friday 5 June Naomi Stadlen	6 June Sivan 9	B'ha'alotcha	Numbers	10:35-12:16	Zechariah	2:14-4:7
Friday 12 June Henny Levin	13 June Sivan 26	Sh'lach L'cha	Numbers	15:8-41	Joshua	2:1-24
Friday 19 June Sophie Raitz	20 June Tammuz 3	Korach	Numbers	17:25-18:32	I Samuel	1:14-12:22
Friday 26 June Emma Orman	27 June Tammuz 10	Chukkat	Numbers	21:11-22:1	Judges	11:1-33

Community News

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a cordial welcome to:

Gabrielle Joseph
Jonathan & Clara Bentata
Alex Davis

BIRTHS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Melanie & Jonathan Bruck on the birth of their daughter, Eliana Katie Yvette Bruck on 18 May. Also to grandparents, Steven & Miriam Bruck and Great Grandmother, Kathe Bruck

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Mr G Summerfield (82) on 3 June
Mr P Summerfield (82) on 3 June
Mrs I White (98) on 8 June
Mrs I Feldstein (89) on 22 June
Mrs M Smith (100) on 24 June
Lord P Eden (94) on 27 June
Mr P Koppel (82) on 29 June
Mrs M Katz (92) on 30 June

BAR MITZVAH

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Benji, son of Sophie Raitz and Alan Paling, on 20 June

DEATHS

We regret to report the passing of:

Peter Rosenthal on 27 April
Ursula Gilbert on 29 April

STONE SETTING

The stonsetting for the late Jasa Almuli will take place on Thursday 4 June at Edgwarebury Lane Cemetery at 12.45pm

Sunday Morning Adult Discussion Group

1st session: 9.45-11.00am

Rabbi Altshuler's course continues - The Great Philosophers and the Jewish Response

2nd session: 11.15am-12.30pm

7 June: Naomi Layish, Journalist and Author - The 'new' Israel Government

14 June: Rabbi Lee Wax - Jewish Women's Aid & Domestic Violence

21 June: Pulpit Exchange - Rabbi Altshuler to deliver sermon at St Peters Church, Belsize Square

28 June: Richard Verber, World Jewish Relief - Supporting Nepal and non-Jewish causes

Tisha B'Av Service

and the Annual Memorial Service of the Chevra Kadisha will be held on Sunday 26 July at 11.30am at the Liberal Jewish Cemetery Pound Lane, Willesden, NW10 2HG

TISHA B'AV
A TIME TO MOURN

The copy deadline for the next issue of *Our Congregation* is Friday 19 June 2015

REGULAR SERVICES

Friday evenings at 6.45pm & Saturday mornings at 10.00am

Kikar Kids

6 June and 4 July at 11.00am

Under-5s Service in the Crèche

5-9 year-olds Service in the Library

11.30am – Kids Kiddush

Often followed by a Pot Luck Lunch

Contact Frank Joseph on 020 7482 2555 to bring a dish

Religion School

Sunday mornings: 9.30am-12.30pm

Summer Term begins: Sunday 7 June

LOCAL LUNCHEON GROUPS

Still running and happy to welcome new members
Please let us know if you plan to attend

The NW3 and Wembley Group

1.00pm on Wednesday 24 June and 22 July
Giacomo, 428 Finchley Road, London, NW2 2HY
Please phone Deborah Jay on 020 7435 8835
or Anne Goodwin on 020 8452 3997

The Edgware Group

12.30pm on **TUESDAY** 16 June and 14 July
Amaretto, 12 The Promenade, Hale Lane, HA8 7JZ
Please phone Inge Strauss on 020 8958 9414

Please note change of day and dates for Edgware Group

BELSIZE BOOK CLUB

Tuesday 30 June at 1pm

We will be reading Rachel Joyce's
The Unlikely Journey of Harold Fry

Call Dorothy White on 020 8445 6388 for information



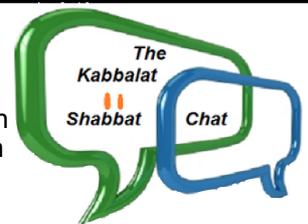
Belsize Square Synagogue and Cantor Heller invite you to...

An Erev Shabbat opportunity to learn & share with the future B'nei Mitzvah

Let's Learn: to make Kiddush,
to sing Lecha Dodi
the lessons of the Parsha



4 September 2015 at 5.30pm in the Library
Then the first Friday of the month
Refreshments will be provided



SAVE THE DATE: CHANUKAH BAZAAR

Saturday 12 December 5.00-8.00pm
Sunday 13 December 11.00am-4.00pm

A MESSAGE FROM DOROTHY WHITE

I would like to thank the congregation for the lovely Kiddush marking my retirement. Those of you that know me, know that the decision to retire was a difficult one for me, but after 13 years it felt like it was time to get on with the next part of my life. I have been blessed with a wonderful family, friends and work that I have loved. I can only hope that my next chapter will be as full and interesting. I will continue to be a member of Belsize and will continue to take part in the community. My leaving the job has been made easier by the fact of passing the baton to Eve. I feel I am leaving things in a safe pair of hands. So thank you all for the support and friendship I have had in my official role at Belsize. This is a thank you and not a goodbye.

RETURN OF THE ALEXANDER SCROLL

The rededication of the repaired Alexander family Torah scroll was a historic occasion for our shul. Peter Sussman, as senior family member made a dramatic entrance carrying it to the bimah where the Sofer, scribe Mordechai Pinchas, sat at a desk under a specially erected chupah. He explained the intricacy of the work while John Alexander related the scroll's history (see page 4).

The scroll was unrolled and the final 10 letters were filled into the prepared outlines by Alfred Alexander's grandchildren. The Rabbi declared the scroll kosher and blessed the cheder children who came to join in the ceremony, which also marked Jerusalem Day.



Scrolls are held by Stephen Jakobi, Julian Jakobi and Tony Sussmann on the left, Frank Harding facing the bimah, Michael Harding on the bimah with John Alexander behind him and Peter Sussman, face hidden by the chupah fringe but with the Alexander Torah visible.

Photo: Richard Bierman



The Sofer, Mordechai Pinchas, points out a letter.

Photo: Richard Bierman



Sofer Mordechai Pinchas surrounded by Peter Sussman and younger family members

Photo: David Rothenberg



Peter Sussman holds the Alexander Torah

Photo: David Rothenberg

SYNAGOGUE HELP LINES

THE BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

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

Email: office@synagogue.org.uk
SYNAGOGUE OFFICE HOURS

9.00am - 5.30pm

Fridays: 9.00am-2.00pm

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Lee Taylor - 020 7794 3949

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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

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