

Our Congregation



News and views from Belsize Square Synagogue

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SAFEGUARDING FREEDOM

Shalom Chaverim,

Passover is coming soon, later than usual this year because of the extra month, a leap year in the Jewish calendar, so we are already well into the swing of spring, sunshine and the renewal of greenery all around us.

The overall theme of Passover is not only particular to the Jewish people, as we retell the story of our nation's origins from slavery in Egypt to freedom on the road to Eretz Yisrael. It also has universal implications.

Freedom, both of the physical and spiritual kind, is a special gift. We know that the human soul cannot function for long without it. Unfortunately, even today, most people on this earth of ours do not enjoy full freedom.

We also know that even when democracy takes place at the ballot box, there is no guarantee that freedom will flourish. The will of the people can be a dangerous thing, as we know from 20th-century history, when the National Socialist Party – the Nazis – gained power in Germany under the guise of a fair democratic election. In Gaza, Hamas, a violent terrorist organisation, was “elected” by the people. And now we are experiencing the wildest election campaign I can ever remember in the United States, with all the features of mudslinging, baiting, occasional violence, promises that can never be fulfilled and plenty more.

Freedom can also lead to a breakdown in Jewish education and commitment. Physical freedom is not enough to sustain our faith and people. As a result of our love affair with being unburdened from the weight of commandments, study, tzedakah and all those other obligations that Jewish tradition imposes on us, we are liable to disintegrate quite quickly.

That is why Passover leads into Shavuot, why we carry out *sefirat ha'Omer*, counting the Omer for 49 days leading up to the holiday of Shavuot, which commemorates the giving of the Torah at Sinai, in order to remind us that freedom without the acceptance of responsibility cannot sustain itself. It is our ability to accept the notion that with freedom comes the mitzvah, the sense of obligation to others, that ensures our survival not only as Jews but as a viable society.

Making Visits Meaningful

We have yet another month at Belsize Square offering opportunities to make this Nisan/April, the month of Passover, a meaningful one for us all.

- Firstly, **Dr Jack Wertheimer**, professor of history at the Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, will be our scholar-in-residence and special guest. On Friday night, 1 April, after the evening service, there will be a Shabbat dinner when Professor Wertheimer will speak on *Judaism in an Age of Recession*. Next morning after Shabbat service and Kiddush, he will address the congregation on *The Religious Lives of Ordinary Jews*.

At the Sunday Morning Adult Discussion Group from 10.00am-12.30pm on 3 April, he will present *Orthodoxies in Transition*, followed by a discussion. In the evening there will be a reception at the home of Miriam and Richard Borchard for those who contributed to making this weekend possible, and an opportunity to hear a final talk in an intimate setting on *Community in an Era of “Do-it-Yourself” Identity*.

Do take advantage of this incredible opportunity to learn from one of the scholarly luminaries of our day.

- Secondly, on Sunday 10 April and Tuesday 12 April we will be visited by **Reverend Craig Brown**, a Methodist bishop from Southern California, who is coming to London with a party of 30, including leading Christian clerical figures. Rev'd Brown, who is a dear friend of mine, will speak to our Sunday Morning Adult Discussion Group on 10 April. On 12 April the whole group will visit our synagogue to meet me with Rev'd Paul Nicholson of St Peter's (Church of England) and anyone who would like to join us. Another great opportunity!

- And thirdly, **Passover**. It is time to clear the house of chametz and make the final preparations for Pesach, which begins Shabbat evening, 22 April. There is a wonderful mitzvah that is too often neglected, the mitzvah of *Ma'ot Hittin*, selling the chametz and making a wonderful contribution to the poor. This is a great way to make the message of Passover clear and relevant.

The freedom we have must be shared with those who have less than us, and we are collecting funds for Manna, an organisation that raises critical funds for Jewish poor in Israel, and with a special purpose of subsidising Holocaust survivors. Ten per cent of these now elderly survivors, mostly from the former Soviet Union, live in poverty conditions. Help them celebrate the yom tov!

A time for renewal, new hopes for freedom and a greater commitment to Judaism and to our shul. Come and learn and give to those in need.

I wish you and your loved ones a delicious and blessed Pesach.

Chag kasher v'sameach,

Rabbi Altshuler

SHABBAT HAGADOL

The Annual Remembrance Service will be held on Saturday 16 April at 10.00am. We remember those who will not be at our Seder table and who have no others to remember them.

2nd Night Seder

Rabbi Altshuler and Cantor Heller, together with their families, invite you to join them for 2nd Night Seder at the Synagogue following the Service at 6.45pm.

Members: £30 Non-members: £35 Under 16: £20
Please contact the Synagogue Office if you wish to attend.

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A Hand-Made Tzedakah Box



Pictured below is the tzedakah box made by Harry King and presented to Belsize Square Synagogue at his Bar Mitzvah.

Harry is dyslexic and told his Cheder teacher, Antge Heller, that he found learning to read the Hebrew of his Barmizvah portion very difficult. So when she suggested that he make a tzedakah box, he leapt at the idea, as he is very creative and enjoys constructing things. He then decided to raise money for charity through gardening, car washing and small household repairs. All this money was put in the box.

Starting in January, he researched and bought the wood and fittings to make the box, which he constructed in the garden shed which serves as his workshop. It is made from oak veneered board and solid oak beading with the brass details added. Harry cut the timber sections and stained, assembled and varnished them before applying the metal details. It took him about six weeks and he had a little help with the cutting and fitting of the lock.

He has never had woodwork lessons at school but, with both his parents working as interior architects, he has learnt his skills by visiting joinery workshops and observing carpenters and builders on the various building sites he has been taken to. He has also built up his own collection of tools and is currently making the props for his school play.

At his barmitzvah, Harry recited all the blessings though the reading was performed by Yohel Heller. The maftir and haftarah were read by his tutor, Yohel Heller. Cantor Heller then brought the box forward and Harry explained what it was and why he had made it. In fact, it was particularly relevant since that week was Shabbat Shekalim, the first of four special Shabbatot before Passover, whose portion contains instructions for a universal half-shekel contribution towards the mishkan, the tabernacle.

As Harry said in his d'var Torah, this maintenance payment later transferred to the Temple and then to synagogues. "The Torah teaches us about the importance for the Jewish community in ensuring that our building, the synagogue,

CELEBRATE 68

WEDNESDAY 11 MAY
The Sanctuary, Belsize Square Synagogue

7.00pm: Reception - drinks & canapés
7.45pm: Dancing with *Shir*
8.15pm: Dinner
Conversation and Q & A with Lord Daniel Finkelstein
APPEAL for our chosen charities
Followed by dessert & music
10.30pm: Hatikva

Please support our charities and their projects

YEMIN ORDE CHILDREN'S VILLAGE
"Music allows for Tikkun Halev" (Repairing the Heart): We will aid their music programme which helps kids find avenues for self-expression

JAFFA INSTITUTE
The Jump Start Proposal: We will support an after-school learning centre in the Jaffa or Tel Aviv area for Jews & Arabs

ISRAEL SPORTS CENTRE FOR THE DISABLED
As in the past, we will help them purchase wheelchairs for their centre

Dinner & Dancing: £35 per person

remains strong and supported."

He also referred to Belsize Square's traditions stemming from its German roots, as well as the Holocaust fate of many of his mother's relatives, and his wish "to take inspiration from the dedication of those in the past to continue to construct for future generations."

His proud and relieved parents, Nicole and David, have engraved a dedication on the box and Harry hopes that it will be used by the Cheder for their charity collections.

BLOOD SWEAT & TEARS



Magen David Adom's paramedics, medics and volunteers give everything they can to save lives in Israel and across the world.

This takes more than blood, sweat & tears alone.

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CHALLENGING DISCRIMINATION IN ISRAEL

An Israeli speaker on safeguarding democracy

Israel's problems are never far from international headlines and no country is held up to such unremitting scrutiny of its actions. But, as our Friday evening speaker in February clearly illustrated – and was sketched in last month's issue – Israel is not blind to these dilemmas. Rob Nothman reports:



The best, most important questions in life are often the most challenging, uncomfortable and difficult to answer.

As the mother of two daughters, Sharon Abraham-Weiss – Executive Director of ACRI (The Association for Civil Rights in Israel) – admitted that “not everything they are doing is so great. Sometimes you need to tell your children they’re going in the wrong direction. Not everything is terrific. How can it be better?” The metaphor of Israel in need of some parental care and attention is all too clear. “How do I want my country, which I love very much and care about, to look?” she asked.

Born in Eilat to an Indian father from the Bene Israel community and a Polish Holocaust-survivor mother, Sharon said it was hardly surprising that she grew up aware of human rights and defending minorities. The Bene Israel were an ancient Jewish community on the west coast of India, cut off from Jewish development for many centuries, which emigrated en masse to Israel in the early years of the state.

Despite high standards of education and skills, they encountered initial prejudice from the early establishment, secular and religious, resulting in numerous protests and strikes. But succeeding generations have successfully integrated into society.

Eloquent, measured yet passionate, Sharon, who is a lawyer, described her role working in social change, dealing with issues of equality and human rights. She used that week's Torah reading, Terumah, with its instructions for building the *mishkan*, the dwelling place of the Divine Presence, to highlight parallels with life in Israel today – the responsibilities we all share to shape the “tabernacle” – and to ask: “What is it going to be for us?”

She continued: “Israel is a challenging environment, because we have to balance the idea of human rights with security. We ask ourselves every day:

‘Can security justify everything we are doing? Morally, where do we stand?’”

ACRI was founded in 1972, in the period which saw protests from the second generation of Mizrahim (Easterners – Jews from Arab lands), who felt excluded by the European secular elite and blocked from making progress in society. Their frustration was channelled into protests, which were harshly repressed by the authorities under Golda Meir's Labour government.

Police action in using force on peaceful demonstrators led a group of American-Jewish liberal academics to view the confrontation in the light of the longstanding civil liberties campaign in the US, ACLU (the American Civil Liberties Union). They thought the time was ripe for a similar movement, aimed at protecting citizens' rights in Israel. So the American-inspired ACRI was born.

It works closely with the New Israel Fund, its biggest funder. Since only some 20% of its funding comes from abroad, it is below the 50% threshold set by the Israel Government's current draft bill to put greater controls on NGOs funded by foreign governments (as opposed to individuals). ACRI opposes the bill as undemocratic.

Sharon's speaking tour was organised through the NIF, one of whose board members is our former chairman, Paul Burger. So we were introduced to ACRI.

The bulk of its work is in the legal field, challenging perceived injustice. Sharon cited the 1994 case of Alice Miller, who wanted to be a pilot in the IDF. For nearly 50 years, women had been excluded from such elite combat roles but, with the backing of ACRI, she won a case in the Supreme Court, and another glass ceiling was broken.

ACRI also educates and promotes “more discourse on human rights and what that means in modern Israel. My job,” Sharon said, “is to bring issues on the periphery into the centre of public

life for proper debate.”

Today, the subject of Arab minority in Israel dominates much of ACRI's time. Sharon explained that the 1948 UN Declaration of Human Rights has in a way produced two different narratives in Israel today. “One group says we should never again discriminate against minorities, while the other says it should never happen again to us.” This has caused a “shrinking democratic space, where the freedom of expression for minorities is sometimes limited.”

Forty cases are currently going through the courts, including a West Bank Arab village's claim for access to water and an attempt to increase the size of prison cells. Cases often go up to the Supreme Court. During Operation Protective Edge in Gaza in summer 2014, ACRI focused on attitudes within Israel. What happened to those who criticised the government? When is the right time to criticise? “Democracy means we can hear lots of voices. When you don't, you don't have democracy any more. Violence and murder are terrible – they can never be justified. But that doesn't mean people shouldn't be able to ask questions, otherwise we give up on our values.”

That also applies to us in the diaspora. When asked what we can do to support human rights and equality in Israel, Sharon replied: “Read as much as you can, be knowledgeable and do not take things for granted. Silence is interpreted as support for everything [as it is].”

In his commentary on the same Torah reading that week, the former Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks discussed the central theme of the book of Exodus: that it is what we do for others that transforms us. The Jewish formula, he believes, is “small state, big society”. Sharon Abraham-Weiss's words were a powerful example of how big that society can be when we are willing to voice the questions of our conscience.



MUSIC AT BELSIZE: Sunday 10 April at 7.30pm The Zemel Choir and Polyphonies Hébraïques de Strasbourg

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

Music
at Belsize Entry £15 (students £10)



THE HOUSE BY THE LAKE

Dilys Tausz on a memorable evening of history, research and hope for the future



The Belsize Members Group's evening on 21 February with cousins Thomas and James Harding (both in the media world) was both enjoyable and informative. After tea and coffee and cakes, James interviewed Thomas, who explained to the audience of around 100 how he had come to write his book, *The House by the Lake*.

Four years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Thomas had been taken to see the house in the village of Gross Glienicke by his grandmother, Elsie Harding, who related to him and her other grandchildren how she, with her parents and grandparents, had spent weekends at the property, a small wooden building, playing tennis, swimming in the lake and eating fruit from the orchard.

Elsie and her family were forced to leave this idyllic world behind in 1936, as Nazi threats to Jewish life and liberty increased. But knowing what the house had meant to her remained with Thomas, and he returned in 2013 on being informed it was in danger.

It had become derelict and was being used as a squat by drug-takers. Thomas discovered that the house could be saved from scheduled demolition by the local authority at Potsdam only if it could be established that it was of historic or cultural importance.

It took Thomas two years of intensive research to prove this. He uncovered what had happened to the house during two world wars, followed by the partition and reunification of Germany. The German authorities were satisfied of its historic importance and the house has now received listed building, or monument, status.

Questions from the audience ranged from the personal, expressed by members of the Harding family, to the general,

such as how is it possible to discover a truthful view of history when two people who have gone through the same experience may tell a totally different version of the same event.

James explored with Thomas how he feels towards the Germans now, given the history of their family. It was interesting that both he and various other members of the audience, whose families had hailed from Germany, all felt a kinship towards modern-day Germans, especially those from Berlin.

Thomas explained how the histories of the five families contained within the book illustrated how all of them had suffered in their own individual ways as a result of the turmoil experienced by Germany during the last century.

He emphasised that an understanding of this suffering and the need for reconciliation will be a central feature in the education centre to be established in the restored house, now that it has been declared a monument. In particular, he pointed out how necessary such a centre is today, when Gross Glienicke has become home to many Syrian refugees.

The evening concluded with a book signing and most of us, who had not already read the book, were aiming to go home and start reading it. Those accompanying Thomas and the Rabbi to Berlin in May had a taster of what a rewarding experience this visit will be.

Ruth Rothenberg adds: Different angles and perspectives, different turning points and crises, different ways to tell a story and a history and affect



16-year-old Elsie Alexander, with plaits, next to her older sister, Bella, with friends at Gross Glienicke Lake in 1928. Their father, Alfred, is in the centre of the line of adult men. (Picture from family archive)

the future. These were the fruits of Thomas Harding's research that culminated in *The House by the Lake*.

The first split in collective consciousness came in the mid-1930s, when German-Jewish professionals, including the Alexanders, who made up a quarter of the village's population, were forced out by Nazi policy. For the rest of the village at the time, life went on as normal. For them, trauma came in 1945 with the arrival of the victorious and female-starved Russian army. That was the first gaping difference of perspective to hit Thomas as he started his research.

Thomas was first taken to Berlin by his 80-year-old grandmother, the formidable Elsie Harding, in 1993. She wanted to show her grandchildren her previous home. This included the country retreat, 30-minutes drive from Berlin, which it was now possible to visit, following the reunification of Germany.

On arrival, a man asked what they were doing and Elsie introduced herself as a member of the Alexander family. He immediately recognised the name and spent the next hour taking them round the house and grounds. Before leaving they exchanged telephone numbers.

That number was used 20 years later, nearly 10 years after Elsie's death, when Thomas got a call from the village to come and see what was happening on the ground. As described above, the vandalised and abandoned house was scheduled for demolition and could only be rescued by proving its historic value. Hence Thomas' two years of research which resulted in this account of the families who successively lived there, as well as the original manor house, burnt down by the Russians in 1945.

Much of the interest of this talk lay in the contrast between Thomas's earlier book on Germany, *Hanns and Rudolf* (2013), a comparatively straightforward intertwining of two historical biographies whose lives crossed in the capture of the latter, the Kommandant of Auschwitz, by the former, Thomas's uncle.

(continued at the foot of page 5)

MUSICAL MEMORIES OF THE HOSTEL IN WILLESDEN LANE

Ruth Rothenberg reviews *The Pianist of Willesden Lane*

This was not a long show but so packed with history and suspense that it became an emotional roller-coaster. The story, which played out on the London stage in February, was a tribute in words and piano playing to the narrator's mother.

Turning her book into a stage presentation at St James' Theatre, Victoria, after a successful tour of the



USA, Mona Golabek took on the persona of her mother, Lisa Jura, who arrived in London from Vienna on a Kindertransport in December 1938 at the age of 14.

The tale began with the shock of Lisa, a musical prodigy, being refused her piano lesson by her teacher in Vienna in obedience to the latest Nazi decree. It ended with her brilliant Wigmore Hall debut, playing Beethoven, Rachmaninoff and Chopin, a few months after the end of war. Among the admirers who thronged her dressing room was a young Polish Jew who had fought with the French resistance.

Michel Golabek followed when Lisa got her American visa – and married her. Mona and her sister were born and bred in the US, their piano lessons from their mother interspersed with her tales of wartime life in London, where she lived in a Jewish youngsters' hostel at 243 Willesden Lane and, crucially, carried out her own mother's departing words to "hold on always to her music".

With the aid of vintage footage screened as backdrop – trams in pre-war Vienna, bombs dropping over London, D-Day soldiers scrambling in the sea to get on shore – Lisa, in her daughter's incarnation, described her escape to London from her first placement as a seamstress to an eccentric couple in a Sussex mansion,

her factory job in the East End making soldiers' uniforms, her delight in window shopping at Harvey Nichols (which she correctly placed in Knightsbridge, unlike the book which drops it into Oxford Street), the hostel's camaraderie of shared excitement and suppressed sorrow under the eagle eye of the formidable matron, Mrs Cohen – whose son Hans, blinded in a school brawl in Berlin, beat strict time to Lisa's practice on the hostel's battered Bechstein and still lives in Willesden.

Through all this, we were treated to powerful passages of Beethoven, Bach, Mozart, Schubert, Rachmaninoff, Gershwin, Scriabin and the musical love of Lisa's life, the Grieg piano concerto.

Mona Golabek is not only blessed with a hereditary musical talent. She is good at the voices. She gave an excellent rendition of the clipped tones of the piano professors at the Royal Academy of Music as they cut short each of her mother's audition passages, to gasps of horror from the audience. But Lisa won the scholarship.

With her generous personality, her obvious devotion to her mother, and her love of her Jewish heritage, Mona Golabek won the London critics over. At the tumultuous standing ovation, most of the audience were dabbing their eyes. Me too.

(continued from page 4)

This second book is a far subtler and more nuanced story of ordinary German citizens as history rolled over them.

To add an extra twist to this already fascinating tale, part of the Berlin Wall wound across the bottom of the garden, putting the actual house in the Eastern Zone. Small boys played in the garden, lobbing objects at and over the wall, to see if they could activate the security lights and alarms and get the border guards running their way.

On their visit in 1993, the Alexanders found that former West Berliners were well versed in Holocaust education. DDR ex-citizens, on the other hand, had been brought up to believe that as communists, they could not possibly have been involved in fascist (i.e. Nazi) activities and so were entirely free of blame. The post-Berlin Wall generation, whom Thomas met in 2013, were very different.

Now there is yet another situation with the arrival of hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees, who know nothing of Germany's history. But Thomas found a personal link in the memory of his grandmother's resentment of being reminded that she was a refugee and today's Muslim arrivals, equally upset at their enforced refugee status.

A "clean-up day" two years ago saw 14 Alexanders fly out to join dozens of people from the surrounding villages to restore the "house by the lake", and work has continued ever since to turn it into an educational centre. At a meeting after the clean-up initiative, the local mayor spoke and then Thomas gave a slide show of old family photos, including Elsie in tennis whites and a very young Thomas. When somebody asked who the little boy was, his father, Frank, replied in German: "Mein Sohn." There was an

immediate buzz of reaction.

Frank finished up giving a 10-minute speech in German, having initially said he spoke the language very poorly, and the atmosphere changed completely. It was just one example of what his nephew James called "the very real effect of history".



The Alexander family and local volunteers take a break during their Clean-up Day last year, as they put the house to rights. Author and instigator Thomas Harding is seated front centre. (Photo taken by his daughter, Sam Cackler Harding)

Dear Fellow Members

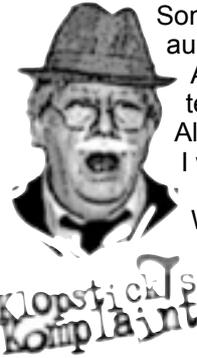
It is really non-believable but I have now been riding my kolumn for Our Congregation for over eight years. This is my 83rd article for this publication und I hope that I am by now not becoming on your nerves. Unfortunately, I receive very little feet-back und so I don't know if I am always hitting my readers in the right spot.

Mrs Klopstick is my number won critic und is not always hole-hardedly agreeing with what I ride. But she has been my prove reader over all the years und has many times saved me from making any grammerical und spelling mistakes. So I can without fear or flavour say that she has always had her hand in my kolumn.

With the extra time, having finally deposed of my button collection, I have recently taken the decision to father my education und so I attended the inter-face classes on extremism und funda-mentalism in the three mongolistic religions. The first from these classes was held in the now Kiddish Room, but what was once our synagogue.

The talk on extremities und mentalism in Christianity was given by Rabbi Paul Nicholsohn from St Peters Church next door. He read quite a lot from passages he found in books that he didn't know he had und from Godspells ridden by John the baptised. Also there was reverents to the Romany Emperor, Constantina, who converted all of himself und his people to Christiandy.

I was a little confused by the seam he was drawing to. It was more about the exstreams in the Christian face rather than how such exstreams effect others outside the religion. When we had questions und commence coming from the floor for me it was more in understanding what this was about. To me exstreamism und mentalism is really a misintrepidation of what a pacific religion should be. But I sort that this was going to be about the Crew Sadists und the Spanish Acquisition und so force.



Some interesting retorts came from the audience over auntie semtismn und general untolerance und Rabbi Altschuler was very good in explaining things in lemon terms und bringing the subjective matter to the front. Although I was not intirely capitulated by this first class, I was looking foreword for the next letcher session.

We now move over to the next week when we are in St. Peter's Church witch was unsuspectedly well heated. Rabbi Altschuler began the procedure in front of a mixed group of Christians, Jews und Buddhists. He gave a fullmost history from the Israelites as we were origin called. He also explained that we Jews never wanted to expose ourselves to other people, unlike Christians und Muslims.

He made a extinction between the three mamolithion religions. Christianity is Face based, Islam is the Wort und Judiasm is the Law. Extremityism was very little among Jews, mostly in the alter orthodox Hasids, but they were a thread to no one. To me extremitism und funda-mentalism are simultaneous with terror und indiscriminate murder.

A man from the floor who later announced that he was a Jewish Buddhist asked if Judaismus is the Law why do we need God. Und when a lady asked about the wall in Israel, Rabbi Altschuler exfoliated that it was not a wall but a fence. There were many readings from und extractions from the Talmud und so wider.

In St.Peters we discovered why church services are much shorter then ours in synagogue. It is the pughs. They are unholstered wood und after a while very painful to the rare end. No wander they shoes to relieve themselves by kneeling on cushion matts now und again.

Next time it is the turn from Shake Ahmed Haneef to give his count of the extremismus und funday-mentalism within Islam.

With the best of intentions

Fritz Klopstick

Scripture Readings

Candle Lighting	Date	Sidrah/Festival	Torah		Haftarah	
Friday 1 April Jane Burns	2 April Adar II 23	Sh'mini Shabbat Parah	Leviticus Numbers	9:1-10:11 19:1-22	Ezekiel	36:16-38
Friday 8 April Kitty Brod	9 April Nisan 1	Tazria Rosh Chodesh Shabbat Hachodesh	Leviticus Numbers Exodus	12:1-13:39 28:9-15 12:1-20	Ezekiel	45:16-46:18
Friday 15 April Ina & Magaly Ram Du Sautoy	16 April Nisan 8	M'tzora Shabbat Hagadol	Leviticus	16:1-17:7 15:31-33	Malachi	3:4-24
Friday 22 April	23 April Nisan 15	Pesach - 1st	Exodus Numbers	12:29-51 28:16-18	Isaiah	43:1-21
Saturday 23 April	24 April Nisan 16	Pesach - 2nd	Leviticus Deuteronomy	23:1-22 16:1-3	Il Kings	23:1-9 21-25
Thursday 28 April Victoria Viner	29 April Nisan 21	Pesach - 7th	Exodus Exodus	14:5-15:21 13:6-10	Il Samuel	22:1-7 17-31
Friday 29 April Rachel Lewis	30 April Nisan 22	Pesach - 8th	Deuteronomy Exodus	15:12-16:17 23:14-17	Isaiah	11:1-10 12:1-6

Community News

The copy deadline for the next issue of
Our Congregation is Friday 15 April

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a cordial welcome to:

Dan Heilbron
Ran Levin
Sophie Hatch
Alice Batkin
Elliott Ross & Amy Dudack

BIRTHS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Vivien and Roger Lewis on the birth of their second grandson, a son to Deborah and Daniel
Dorothy White on the birth of her grand daughter Orelia Pearl, a daughter to Malka and Stuart

BAT MITZVAH

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Ina & Magaly, daughters of Shani Ram Du Sautoy, who celebrate their Bat Mitzvah on 16 April

STONE SETTING

The stone setting for the late Susie Weiss will take place on Sunday 17 April at Edgwarebury Lane Cemetery at 11.00am

Sunday Morning Adult Discussion Group

3 April

10.00am-12.30pm

Professor Jack Wertheimer, Scholar-in-residence, in discussion on Orthodoxies in Transition

10 April

10.00am-12.30pm

Rev Craig Brown, Methodist Minister First United Methodist Church of San Diego, California. Topic TBC.

17 April

No Session

24 April (2nd day Pesach)

No Session

INVITATION TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF THE BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE (THE SYNAGOGUE)

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

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

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

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

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

REGULAR SERVICES

Friday evenings at 6.45pm & Saturday mornings at 10.00am

Kikar Kids

Saturday 2 April, 23 April (1st Day Pesach) and 7 May 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

Spring Term dates: 10 & 17 April (Model Seder)
Closed 24 April and 1 May

PESACH OFFICE HOURS

The office will close at 12.00 noon on Friday 22 April. It will be open from 9.00am-5.30pm on Monday 25, Tuesday 26 and Wednesday 27 April. It will be open from 9.00am-12.00 noon on Thursday 28 April and re-open at 9.00am on Tuesday 3 May.

LOCAL LUNCHEON GROUPS

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

The NW3 and Wembley Group

Giacomo, 428 Finchley Road, NW2 2HY
1.00pm on Wednesdays 20 April and 18 May
Please phone Irene Strauss on 020 7435 3538

The Edgware Group

The Kitchen, 16-17 The Promenade, Hale Lane, HA8 7JZ
12.15pm on Tuesdays 19 April & 17 May
Please phone Inge Strauss on 020 8958 9414

Belsize Square and Cantor Heller invite you to...

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

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

Next session: 15 April (due to half term dates)



SPONSOR A KIDDUSH

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

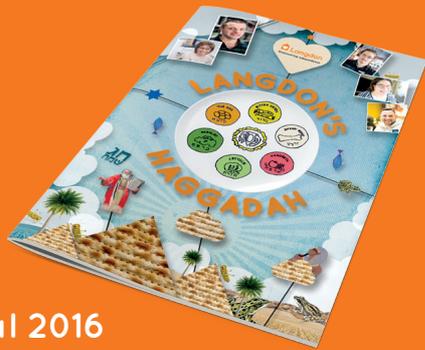
For more information contact Jennifer Saul in the office

Henny Levin's Jam Jar Appeal

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

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





Pesach Appeal 2016

MAKE THIS SEDER ONE FOR EVERYONE

Seder night is, a very special time in the Jewish calendar, when everybody gets together. With your help, we want to make sure people with learning disabilities are also fully included.

Langdon offers education, employment opportunities, social activities and supported living for Jewish people with learning disabilities.

£25 will cover the cost of providing a Langdon member with their own Easy Read Haggadah and help support our Jewish Ethos programme.

Please visit www.langdonuk.org/pesach2016 to donate or call 0845 600 6562. Chag Pesach Kasher V'Sameach.



www.langdonuk.org



WILL YOU HELP PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA STITCH THEIR MEMORIES BACK TOGETHER?

IT COSTS US £1.1 MILLION A YEAR TO RUN OUR DAY CENTRES FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA.

One in three people over 65 will live with dementia at some point in their lives. As we live longer, it will touch more of us.

Jewish Care is committed to giving people with dementia the best care they can receive anywhere. We can only do that with your help.

Memory quilts are just one way we help.

Please help people living with dementia this Pesach. Call 020 8922 2600 or visit jewishcare.org/donate

Charity Reg No. 802559

REMEMBER **JEWISH CARE**

SYNAGOGUE HELP LINES

THE BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

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

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

9.00am - 5.30pm

Fridays: 9.00am-2.00pm

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Lee Taylor - 020 7794 3949

BELSIZE MEMBERS' GROUP

Co-chairs: Marion Nathan - 020 8361 2443

and Dilys Tausz - 020 7435 5996

CHEVRA KADISHA

Chairman: Rabbi Stuart Altshuler

Joint Vice Chairs: Helen Grunberg - 020 8450 8533

Cantor Dr Paul Heller

COMMUNITY CARE CO-ORDINATOR & BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE

Contact Eve Hersov on 020 7435 7129

or email eve@synagogue.org.uk

or call the Synagogue Office for a leaflet

FUNERALS

During Synagogue Office hours phone 020 7794 3949.

Evenings/weekends phone Calo's (Undertakers)

020 8958 2112

JUDAICA SHOP

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

KIDDUSH

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

LIBRARY

Open Wednesdays 10am - 12 noon

At other times please check first with the office

CHEDER

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

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Chairperson: Mandy Brass - 020 8452 6936

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Email Youth Workers Yohel Heller and Michelle Heller

youth@synagogue.org.uk

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or to the Editor: ruth@famrothenberg.com

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Charity Number 1144866
Company Number 7831243
The Belsize Square Synagogue