

Our Congregation



News and views from Belsize Square Synagogue

TWO MAJOR ANNIVERSARIES

Dear Chevra,

This month of May marks two outstanding accomplishments and features of Jewish history: Israel and the giving of Torah at Sinai. Frankly, my love of Israel (both state and people) and my love of Judaism have been pillars of strength every day of my life. And both, Torah and Israel, are miracles outside the logic of history and ideas.

On Thursday 14 May, the secular date, we celebrate the 67th anniversary of Israel as a modern nation state. No state was ever established by any people after a 2000-year hiatus of dreams and hopes. In 1948, when Israel was founded, the population was approximately 660,000. Today it is a state of more than eight million.

In 1948, six Arab armies attacked Israel, vowing to destroy the fledgling nation state – just three years after the liberation of Auschwitz. With one tank and a completely volunteer army, Israel defeated its attackers and has sought security and recognition ever since.

In 1948, Jerusalem was divided into two sections, separated by barbed wire, and the ancient Jewish Quarter evacuated. Despite guarantees of Jerusalem's international status and the protection of religious sites, all synagogues were destroyed and cemeteries desecrated. Until the miraculous restoration of 1967, Jews – and not just Israelis – could not even visit our most sacred sites.

And when Israel's place among nations, alongside a new Arab state, was approved by the United Nations on 29 November 1947, the Arab nations rejected the very idea. In consequence, 650,000 Arabs became refugees, a situation still unresolved. We all know that as long as the goal of Israel's neighbours is its destruction, there will be no peace.

One day there will be security and room for both peoples. One day Israel will not have to spend 18% of its hard-earned GNP on defence. Children on both sides will grow up in peace and with respect for each other. Hatikvah – that is our hope on Israel's 67th birthday.

And then there is the miracle of Torah, celebrated this year from the evening of Saturday 23 May right through to Monday 25 May, the holiday of Shavuot, Matan Torateinu, the gift of receiving the Torah at Sinai. On that day, 6 Sivan, in approximately the year 1290 BCE, our people received a Law, a Scripture, an ethic, a theology, a constitution that revolutionised humanity. The dignity of all human life was emblazoned into the hearts of our people to share with the rest of humanity.

I measure my own success as a rabbi not only by the numerous services and life cycle events that I officiate at, but in large part to the students I teach. In fact, every service, every sermon is a

learning opportunity to my mind. And there is nothing more precious than delving into Talmud Torah, the study of Judaism, with full resources and depth.

So after the 6.45pm evening service on Saturday 23 May, and a break for refreshments, our Tikkun Leyl Shavuot sessions will begin with the first of our five distinguished speakers. This year's theme is ethics and the role of justice. Please join us. This is an enormously popular part of our annual schedule and an enriching experience for us all. There will be plenty of coffee and scrumptious dairy desserts and delights.

My thanks to our Shavuot Tikkun chair, Alasdair Nisbet, as well as to Claire Walford, organiser of our thriving Adult Discussion Group. They are gifts to our community, helping to perpetuate our most important agenda – Jewish learning.

So to us all, in celebration of two miracles: the birth of the state of Israel in 1948 and the gift of the Torah, around 1290 BCE. We should never forget who we are and the glory of what our people have given to the world.

I wish all of you and your loved ones a delicious, meaningful and blessed Shavuot, filled with Jewish learning and celebration.

Rabbi Stuart Altshuler

TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT

Tzedek, Tzedek Tirdof: Justice, Justice You Shall Pursue - Are Jewish Ethics Different?

We continue the tradition of study during Shavuot. Join us at 8.00pm after the Erev Shavuot service. Bring something for a pot luck milky meal. We will provide cheesecake and some pizza.

Our five speakers will use texts from the Torah and beyond to illuminate their discussion of different aspects of legal, medical and business ethics in relation to this year's theme, Jewish Ethics.

Judge Lenny Krikler: Jewish Ethics from *Mishpatim* (Judges) to Present Day

Dr Claire Walford: Four Patients and Three Ventilators: Whom Do You Save? Distributive Justice in Action

Rabbi Stuart Altshuler: Allocating Public Money - What is the Government's Responsibility towards Public Welfare?

Professor Harry Rajak: The Perennial Problem of Debt - Some Biblical Perspectives

Alasdair Nisbet: Governance - An Ancient System for the Modern World

SHAVUOT SERVICES
1st Eve: Saturday 23 May at 6.45pm
1st Day: Sunday 24 May at 10.00am
2nd Eve: Sunday 24 May at 6.45pm
2nd Day: Monday 25 May at 10.00am

SHAVUOT OFFICE HOURS: The office will close at 2.00pm on Friday 22 May & re-open Tuesday 26 May at 9.00am





PUTTING TOGETHER THE SYNAGOGUE'S HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAMME

Every February, the Synagogue becomes the focus of intensive school visits and all other daytime activity is put on hold while a vast operation takes place in our building. Henny Levin explains.

Last month, Sue Leon and I outlined our Holocaust Memorial Day programme and highlighted some of the moving comments that students made after the event. This programme does not just appear around February. In fact, it now being May, we are starting the process all over again ready for the 2016 programme, which will be the tenth anniversary of its commencement at BSS.

In 2005 this concept was beginning to appear on the agenda of synagogues and the National Curriculum for schools. Following various meetings with other synagogue co-coordinators, I attended Northwood and Pinner Synagogue's day to get an idea of what could be achieved. Adjusting slightly their programme, we opened our doors to schools in February 2006. Since then we have refined the programme to suit our conditions, the main one being that the students meet the survivor or refugee in small groups rather than listen to one speaker in a hall of 200 students.

The first thing we do each year is to collate all the comments our volunteers make from the sessions that have just taken place. Sue and I then meet and highlight which points could enhance the following year's programme. We also work through the programme itself to see how we can improve the content and smooth running of the sessions.

This year, the layout of the programme was improved. The changeover from last year was simple but effective. All the students stayed together for the session tracing the Holocaust through the early life of the late Herbert Levy, instead of being split into smaller groups as previously done. This gave them the broad basis for understanding the sessions that followed.

A schools flyer is produced this month. In June we will phone all the schools within a five-mile radius of BSS to check the contact details of the Heads of Year 9 (14 year-olds) for the subjects – Religious Studies, History and PSHE which includes Citizenship. (Personal, Social and Health Education was introduced into the national curriculum in 2000.) Schools individually decide under which heading the Holocaust – also part of the National Curriculum – is taught. We cover all areas in order to give schools the opportunity to take advantage of our unique programme. We then send out emails to all those on that list with our programme details and application forms.

Teachers are very busy both at the end of term and the beginning of the new academic year. They are also bombarded with information about outreach programmes, which they need to balance against their needs and the curriculum, so it may take numerous reminders to draw the teacher's attention to the benefits of this programme.

Unfortunately, although some schools would like to attend, it is not always possible because of timetabling difficulties, financial constraints (although we do not charge for this event, staff need cover if they are on an outing), clashes with other programmes on offer and other reasons of which

we may not be fully aware. Sue Leon, Jennifer Lake and I follow up this work, which continues up to and including the dates of the actual programme.

Having booked in the schools, in October we contact all our volunteers, who include survivors, refugees, facilitators and those who help arrange the refreshments. Dates are put in their diaries and also in the synagogue events programme. The volunteers tell us how many sessions they would like to participate in and give us their availability. All this needs to be collated and organised into an ever-changing timetable. In our programme, the pupils are divided up into no more than 20 per group. Each group has a facilitator who chaperones them around the building as they move from room to room for each part of the programme.

The facilitators answer their questions and, during the final session with the survivor or refugee, they introduce the speaker and, if necessary, guide the schoolchildren through their story. The facilitators also oversee the cards that each student is asked to complete about their experience at the synagogue. These give us feed-back on how our programme has been perceived by them. Because of this arrangement, we can only accommodate up to 800 students over a two-week period. For us at BSS, quality is far more important than quantity. This can be witnessed by the responses we receive from teachers and students alike.

New volunteers come forward. We talk to them about our work and then, if we all agree, they spend the first year shadowing one of our regular contributors. If all goes well, the following year they can take on the responsibility themselves of participating in the programme.

Volunteers and schools are updated regularly so that the sessions run smoothly. This is in part due also to the wonderful assistance of the office and caretaking staff, who make sure the building is ready on the dates requested.

When the students arrive, they are introduced to Jewish Ritual. Many of them have never been inside a synagogue and have very little background information about our religious practices. We collect items relating to our festivals and services from the synagogue and from our members.

The students are taken around six tables representing Shabbat, Rosh Hashanah, Purim, Holocaust Memorial, Pesach and Chanukah. The objects and their ritual meanings are explained to them by the facilitator. This is followed by an introduction and welcome to the synagogue by our Ministers or a member of the congregation.

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 Candelabrum, one candle for each of the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust. This year, the same

candelabrum 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 on 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.

BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE'S SECOND SEDER

For the second year running, our communal Second Seder was a sell-out with a full house of 60 people, both families and individuals on their own. In the absence of our Cantor, due to his sudden return to Colombia for a tragic family bereavement, the Seder was conducted by our music director, Ben Wolf, together with the Rabbi who, between them, made this an enchanting and meaningful occasion.

Thanks to a donation from the parents of a recent Bar Mitzvah boy, we were all supplied with a brand new *Haggadah of Contemporary Voices*. This American edition incorporates contributions from a long list of authors, mostly American or Israeli, which set the ancient texts

against today's issues and problems and bring it all bang up-to-date. For instance, poverty is spelled out along the lines of a charity campaign and the four sons each have their own section saying what it feels like to be thought of as the wise, wicked, sweet or dumb child.

The discussions on this, plus the excellent catering from the Menachem brothers kosher butchers in Golders Green, made this a really fulfilling evening. What is so gratifying is how popular our Second Seder has become in so short a time after a long period of ever dwindling numbers. Here's to next year at Belsize Square Synagogue!

Adam Rynhold

Community's Sorrow at Cantor's Loss

The congregation was taken by surprise when our chazan, Paul Heller, did not appear for the Pesach service and his place was taken by our music director, Ben Wolf. We were shocked when we discovered the reason: he had returned to Colombia on being informed of his nephew's horrific murder there.

In brief, on 29 March, Steven Heller, a successful architect aged 42, was attacked while cycling with his girlfriend and long-term partner near woods outside the town of San Francisco. During a struggle, he was stabbed and left for dead while the robbers marched his girlfriend off into the woods and left her tied up. She freed herself and walked back to find Steven dead.

The community offers its sincere condolences to the Heller family over this tragedy and is grateful to Ben and everyone who stepped in to help Rabbi Altshuler conduct our Pesach services and Second Seder.

Steven Heller ל"צ

My beloved nephew was murdered, details can be read at my blog (www.kantor.com). My family has been devastated. Your support and condolences have been precious. Thank you all. Le'Chaim!

Cantor Paul Heller and Family

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 members to the Board
6. Election of Eric Moonman and Robert Sacks as 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.

THANK YOU DOROTHY WHITE

A Tribute from Vera Pollins

After 13 years of looking after all of us at Belsize Square, our dedicated and able community care co-ordinator, Dorothy White, has chosen to retire.

First and foremost, Dorothy has been the initial point of contact for anyone who has needed advice or practical help. Her extensive knowledge of what is available, coupled with information on which benefits our members may be entitled to receive, has been very useful to many!

Dorothy has liaised with local authorities, medical staff, care homes and of course, where appropriate, the AJR, as well as Jewish Care – indeed any organisation with whom she could make plans or arrangements for the benefit of our members. Of course, primarily Dorothy has also constantly kept in touch with our volunteers, both our visiting volunteers and our tele-friends, all of whom are asked to “feed back” to her regularly.

The necessity of keeping all her work confidential means that most people will be unaware of the huge number of tasks she has undertaken over the years. In addition, she has also been the force behind setting up many new groups during her tenure as our care co-ordinator: local lunch

groups, book club, outings, festival lunches, our bereavement support group, Mitzvah Day, community lunches, to name just a few!

You may not be aware, for example, that Dorothy finds a small group of volunteers each month to record *Our Congregation*, so that our visually impaired members can receive an audio version of our magazine. Birthday visits, which had previously ceased, have been re-started and she has been involved with the distribution of the food from our Square Meals freezer. All these activities have been set up, supported and regularly monitored by her. Most recently she has spearheaded the setting up our new social action project at The Winch in Swiss Cottage.

As a community we are truly indebted to Dorothy for all her devotion and the warmth and kindness she has brought to her role. We are sorry to see her leaving our staff but glad to know that she will still be around as, hopefully, an actively involved member.

Dorothy now has new interests in her life, particularly the joy of spending time with her delightful granddaughter, Dasha. We wish her every happiness for the future.

IN DOROTHY'S OWN WORDS

I grew up in Philadelphia where my parents were founding members of our synagogue. My mother worked for it almost until her death at the age of 87. It has been rather ironic but equally fitting that I have spent my last working years at a synagogue.

I did my initial degree in biology at the University of Pennsylvania. On graduating, I went to Israel where I met an Englishman on a kibbutz. I married him and came to live in Cheltenham. After three years we moved to London (much to my relief). Eventually we divorced and I remarried. Oscar and I were together over two decades.

I have a daughter, Malka, who is married to Stuart. They have produced an exceptionally wonderful baby called Dasha, which my daughter tells me is Dorothy in Russian. I also have a son, Daniel, who is a fire-fighter. I feel very blessed that both my children live close and we are very involved.

We came to live in Barnet in 1984 and I was introduced to Belsize by a friend of my daughter, whose family were members. I wanted to join a synagogue and I thought it would be nice to go where my daughter would have a friend. Also, though my background is not German (don't think I'd ever met a German Jew until coming to Belsize), the service was very similar to what I had been used to in American Conservative tradition.

My social work training was at Middlesex University and I qualified in my mid-30's. I then worked in various local authority settings, including spinal cord injury at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore. After many years as a social worker, I moved into further education, first at Hendon College and then Uxbridge College, where I managed the Care Department.

After my husband died in 2000, I left the college. I was visited by our synagogue's Community Care Co-ordinator, Irene Walters, on a bereavement visit and I became involved as a synagogue volunteer. When she decided to retire, she suggested I apply for her job, which I did and was appointed.

So consequently, I have been working for Belsize Square Synagogue for the last 13 years, the longest period I have ever spent in one job. I have been very happy working in the community. I have met so many interesting, good people and I have learned so much. I have really struggled with the decision to leave the post, but I feel it is now time to start the next chapter of my life. I will still remain a member of the community, so you will not have seen the last of me.

I am happy to be handing over the Community Care role to Eve Hersov, who I feel is a safe pair of hands, and I hope she will enjoy the role as much as I have. For me this is not a goodbye, just a change.



RECORD FUND-RAISING FROM NIGHT OF PROMISES

Two years after the last Auction of Promises, the Synagogue was again the setting for a marvellous evening of chat, music, food and fun, as 200 members and friends turned up to raise the fantastic sum of over £80,000. The objective was to deliver a West End standard event in North London.

Thanks to caretaker Gordon Larkin's creativity with light bulbs, guests arrived on 21 March at a fairytale illuminated entrance at the synagogue gates. As they picked up their table place cards from the reception desk, you could feel the anticipation levels rising.

Once guests were seated, Master of Ceremonies David Prever introduced Tom Nathan, who gave a warm welcome and brief overview of our fund-raising motivation, which included a display of the yellow star worn by his great-grandmother. Adam Nathan catered the excellent canapés and then dinner of a pan-fried cod main course.

A clear and attractively designed brochure was supplied at each place for perusal during supper. Lots ranged from work experience opportunities to signed football shirts to personal trainer sessions to restaurant meals.

With plates cleared away, we saw a moving short film about the charity, Rays of Sunshine, which received 20% of the evening's takings, the rest going to synagogue funds. The charity gives children suffering from a life-threatening or limiting illness the opportunity to enjoy a "wish come true" and brighten up their hospital-bound lives.

David Prever then got down to the main business of persuading the audience to part with their money in an updated version of the traditional auction. No more hammer and table or high-speed patter. Instead we heard a quick resume of the highest bids to date (thanks to sterling efforts by the Synagogue Office to garner bids beforehand) before the final amount was squeezed out of bidders present.

Using the technology of online auction house Ibid, iPads for bidding were on placed each table so that a simultaneous "silent auction", transferring bids from the iPads to a central screen, proceeded in parallel. The result was that nearly 200 lots were concluded swiftly and smoothly in record time. The final wind-down was provided by Wayne Hernandez and his band with soft jazz and soul music.

Tom Nathan

(See pictures on back page)

ALEXANDER SCROLL RE-DEDICATION SERVICE

Sunday 17 May at 11.00am will see the re-dedication of the treasured Alexander Scroll as it is returned to our Synagogue, restored after essential repairs.

The sofer (scribe), Mordechai Pinchas, will explain what he has done, in accordance with Jewish tradition and law. The Alexander family will give us a brief history of the Scroll and what it means to the family and the community. The children of our Cheder will prepare the 10 letters to be filled in by members of the Alexander and Harding families.

Cantor Heller and the choir will sing as the Torah is taken in procession round the synagogue under a Tallit. Rabbi Altshuler will formally declare the Torah *kasher* and fit for use once again, ready for leynung at our services.

The Torah Scroll is a magnificent work of calligraphy, written in the late 18th century. It was hidden from the destruction of Kristallnacht by the Alexander family and brought to London under their watchful care in 1939, when they gave it on loan to the fledgling synagogue. This is indeed a precious legacy.

You are all invited to take part in this wonderful celebration of the triumph of life and spirit over the combined forces that attempted to destroy what the Torah represents to every Jew in the world. There will be a Shacharit service preceding the festivities at 10.15am.

Enjoying The Winch Family Meal

On Wednesday 11 March, a group of volunteers from Belsize Square served dinner to 29 young children and their parents. We were at the Winch, which is Swiss Cottage's long-established youth centre close to the synagogue. We set up the furniture, chatted to the children, and helped them to eat a professionally cooked delicious meal. The staff were inspiring. Our volunteers were: Helen Kuttner, Gill Solnick, Dorothy White and me. We are hoping to do more with the Winch in future months and that members of the synagogue will give their skills as their contribution to tikkun olam.

Judith Farbey

A Change of Undertakers

Following a successful trial period, we are delighted to announce Calo's Funeral Directors as our new undertakers.

Calo's is an independent family-run business with over 45 years of experience in organising Jewish burials and cremations. Based in Edgware, close to Edgwarebury Cemetery, their professional team run a 24-hour service, seven days a week, and are fully aware of the needs of our community. For further information visit their website www.calosfuneraldirectors.co.uk.

If you wish to report a bereavement, contact Calo's on 0800 170 1176 or 020 8958 2112. Explain that you are a member of Belsize Square Synagogue and they will take over from there. Please also inform the Synagogue Office.

Our previous undertaker, MM Broad & Son, was sold to Funeral Partners in 2014. Following the takeover, a new staff team was appointed who had not previously been involved in organising Jewish funerals. The service we received was not of the standard we had been accustomed to under MM Broad and it was this that led to us trialling Calo's.

The handover has been extremely smooth and we look forward to a long and successful partnership with Calo's, while hoping that we do not have to use their services too often!

Dear Fellow Members

I see now coming out the Darling Butts of May und with this summer is nearly on top of us und soon we will again be barking in the glorious sunshine. You will probably be reading this words a few minutes before the General Election. Soon we will know who will be the next occupant from 10 Downing Street. I hope it is someone who has sympathetic with Israel und at the same time looks well after the economy here in England where we abide.

I am very worried about this approach from President Obama to climb into bet with Iran. The one good thing is that this Ayatolla Ali Who-Many will never agree to anything. I don't trust him. Just because this mad dinner jacket fellow is now retired it dozen make the regime any better. They still give Israel a real und present thread.

Mrs Klopstick is at the moment deep in trainers. She is preparing for the Edinborough marathon where she is running together with a team from Abernein Mansions. The team is made of three, Mrs Klopstick, Dr Schlaffuss the retired dentist from number 15 und Professor Schwitzhosen the reknown psychociartist from the panhouse on the top floor. Only Mrs Klopstick will be running the full cause. The Dr und Professor are both in there nighties so they will only be walking the last hundred meters. I have seen them both out training und judging by this I think they could still come last, or even give up before the end.

Of course May is also the month of Shavuos when we celebrate the giving of the ten commandants in two tableaux. After seven weeks walking in the dessert from the exit doors



*Klopstick's
Komplaint*

Moses brings the children from Israel out of Egypt to the bottom of Mount Siniai. Und from there he climbs to the top where he meets God who hands over the tableaux. This day is also known as the festival of Weeds, because this is the time of the year to bear fruit und vegetables of the harvesters.

Mrs Klopstick has just seriously deflated my ergo. She says I should come into the twentieth century und learn the proper Saphari pronunciation of the festivals. Apparently Shavuos should now be Shavuot. If this is the case then what should happen with all the spare Ss? Personally, I think I am too short in the gums und too sad in my ways to change now. I really believe that my wife thinks of me as an old stick in the muck. But I know that my outlook is as modern as clockwork as I try to keep up with all the new ideas, like not wearing white tallises, shirts without cravats und telephones without courts.

Again I am very sad to have to miss the concert given by the Wallace Collection which will have taken place already. This is due to familiar birthdays occurring on the same day und lasting right up to the beginning of June und wider.

The Edinborough marathon is taking place in Edinborough on 31st May. Off course Mrs K would very much appreciate your support und those who might have holiday homes nearby might like to shear her on. In the meantime until my next submissive at the beginning of the busting out of June, I wish you, on behalf of myself und Mrs Klopstick a good start to the start of the second half of the year.

With the best of intentions

Fritz Klopstick

BOOK PRIZE NEWS: Congratulations to Thomas Harding on winning the Jewish Quarterly-Wingate Book Prize for non-fiction for *Hanns and Rudolf*, his thrilling account of the not-so-parallel lives of the Kommandant of Auschwitz, Rudolf Hoess, and the Nazi-hunter who captured him, Thomas's great-uncle (and member of our congregation), the late Hanns Alexander. The prize was announced on April 20.

Congratulations also to Professor Antony Polonsky, shortlisted for his three-volume work, *Jews in Russia and Poland*.

Scripture Readings

Candle Lighting	Date	Sidrah/Festival	Torah		Haftarah	
Friday 1 May Rebecca Trenner	2 May Iyar 13	Acharei Mot-K'doshim	Leviticus	19:15-20:27	Amos	9:7-15
Friday 8 May Ruth Rothenberg	9 May Iyar 20	Emor	Leviticus	23:23-24:23	Ezekiel	44:15-31
Friday 15 May Micala Fox	16 May Iyar 27	B'har-B'chukotai	Leviticus	27:1-34	Jeremiah	16:19-17:14
Friday 22 May Irisa Frankle	23 May Sivan 5	B'midbar	Numbers	3:14-4:20	Hosea	2:1-22
Saturday 23 May Elisabeth Nisbet	24 May Sivan 6	Shavuot - 1st	Exodus Deuteronomy	19:1-20:23 16:9-12	Isaiah	6:1-13
Sunday 24 May Eve Herzov	25 May Sivan 7	Shavuot - 2nd	Deuteronomy	5:1-6:3 4:12-15	Jeremiah	31:27-37
Friday 29 May Lisa Bernberg	30 May Sivan 12	Naso	Numbers	7:1-89	Judges	13:2-25

Community News

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a cordial welcome to:

Saul Zur-Szpiro
Sophie Becker

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Mr D Rothenberg (75) on 10 May
Mrs O Herman (84) on 12 May
Mrs K Bruck (97) on 13 May
Mr I Rynhold (86) on 16 May
Mr C Kissen 85 on 19 May

DEATHS

We regret to report the passing of:

Ellen Kalfus on 30 March
Vera Milton on 19 April

STONE SETTING

The stonsetting for the late Lawrence Lowenthal will take place on Sunday 17 May at Edgwarebury Lane at 2.00pm

Sunday Morning Adult Discussion Group

3 May

9.45-11.00 Rabbi Altshuler on The Great Philosophers and the Jewish Response
11.15-12.30 Guest Speaker TBC

10 May

9.45-11.00 Rabbi Altshuler on The Great Philosophers and the Jewish Response
11.15-12.30 Guest Speaker TBC

17 May

9.45-11.00 Rabbi Altshuler on The Great Philosophers and the Jewish Response
11.15-12.30 Naomi Layish on The Newly Formed Israeli Government

Saturday 23 May: Tikkun Leil Shavuot after Evening Service
Topic: Aspects of Justice

Sunday 24 May: No meeting – Cheder Half Term

Sunday 31 May: No meeting – Cheder Half Term

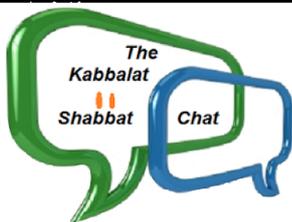
Belsize Square Synagogue and Cantor Heller invite you to...

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

Let's Learn: To Make Kiddush,
To Sing Lecha Dodi
To Sing the lessons of the Parsha etc.....



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



Retirement Kiddush for Dorothy White

After 13 years Dorothy White is retiring as our Community Care Co-Ordinator.

We invite the whole Community to join us on Saturday 16 May for the Service and Communal Kiddush

The copy deadline for the next issue of Our Congregation is Friday 15 May 2015

REGULAR SERVICES

Friday evenings at 6.45pm & Saturday mornings at 10.00am

Kikar Kids

2 May and 6 June 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

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 **20 May and 24 June**
Giacomo, 428 Finchley Road, London, NW2 2HY
Please phone Debra Jay on 020 7435 8835
or Anne Goodwin on 020 8452 3997

The Edgware Group

12.30pm on Wednesday **27 May and 17 June**
Amaretto, 12 The Promenade, Hale Lane, HA8 7JZ
Please phone Inge Strauss on 020 8958 9414

BELSIZE BOOK CLUB

Wednesday 13 May at 8.00pm

We will be reading Jumpa Marina's book
The Lowlands



Call Dorothy White on 020 8445 6388 for information

B'nai B'rith Leo Baeck (London) Lodge



Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 6 May at 7.45pm

Rabbi Reuven Livingstone on: The Unlikely Warrior Jewish Military Service Throughout The Ages
Rabbi Livingstone was formerly Rabbi of Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue and is currently Principal Jewish Chaplain to HM Armed Forces. He lectures at the UK Defence Academy. All welcome.

Wednesday 20 May at 7.45pm

**Annual General Meeting
Members Only**

Venue: Leo Baeck Hall,
11 Fitzjohn's Avenue, NW3 5JY

BIDDING FOR BOOTY

A Magical Evening at the Night of Promises

The title says it all. See article on page 5
(Photos © Ed Jacobs)



*What am I bid?
Auctioneer David Prever at work*



*Alan Morgenthau in discussion
with Freddy Lehmann, with Vera
Pollins in the background, centre*



The synagogue entrance as you have never seen it before

A WEEKEND IN AMSTERDAM

Twelve of our Cheder pupils, aged around 14 (year 9), enjoyed a weekend trip to Amsterdam in March under the leadership of Mia Zur-Szpiro and her cousin, Aaron Burke.

Their busy schedule included a visit to the Amsterdam Museum, enjoying a Friday night meal as guests of the Amsterdam Liberal Synagogue, then visits the next day to the Resistance Museum and Anne Frank House, as well as a tour of Amsterdam, and finally on Sunday a visit to the historic Portuguese Sephardi Synagogue, completed in 1675 and the model for Bevis Marks in London, built 25 years later.

A lot to take in but all interesting and enjoyable. "We learnt a lot about the anti-Nazi movement in Holland," said Alex Percival. He was also surprised at how small the Anne Frank house on the Prinsengracht canal was – "for 10 people".

For Cheder head, Jeanie Horowitz, this trip had a special quality. It was an entirely Belsize venture. "Usually we join up with youth groups from other synagogues but this time it was just ours," she said.

SAVE THE DATE

This Summer's Mega Machaneh for ages 9 to 13

17-19 July at Phasels Woods Activity Centre in Hertfordshire
Cost per person: £115
Friends from other synagogues also welcome

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 7794 3949

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

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Email Youth Workers Yohel Heller and Michelle Heller -

youth@synagogue.org.uk

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