



**Committee Reports for
The Belsize Square Synagogue
Annual General Meeting**

**8.00pm
Thursday 6 June 2019**

HON SECRETARY'S REPORT - ANNETTE NATHAN

It is customary for the Honorary Secretary to 'headline' this leaflet, which contains reports from all our active committees. The reason that we compile it, is so that you read the contents and then come to the AGM ready to question, probe, challenge and maybe also to offer your services for the coming year.

It is often said that the same people do all the jobs, or worse, that we are a clique who cannot pass on the baton. I am sure I speak for all of us on the Board when I say that we would relish an election, because it would be so healthy for our Synagogue. Sadly, we have not had that excitement for a few years but I am delighted to say that since the last AGM we have had some very big changes within the working life of our community, which is certainly good news.

We have a new Head of Cheder - Caroline Loison, and with her arrival there is a review of Cheder being carried out by a dedicated team of people taking on feedback from the parents, teachers and pupils. Lucy Bergman makes Belsize history as our first full time Youth Leader, which shows the Board's commitment to our young people. Frank Joseph has taken over as Chairperson of the Education Committee, Miles D'Cruz is our new Youth Choir Master. Judith Sciamma has taken on the role of Chairperson of the Music Committee, Carole Cohen and Deborah Cohen have joined Robert Sacks, so now we have three representatives at the Board of Deputies. Peter Bohm ran his first, and extremely successful, week-long Holocaust Memorial Day Schools event in January, and Michelle Samson took over the planning and organisation of our Purim celebrations.

We have much to look forward to, with our new appointees, and so much to thank all those who held these roles in the past.

Thank you to everyone who has worked on, or with a committee this year, and to all of you who have supported our many events. Thank you to all the Board and Executive for your ongoing commitment and to my fellow Honorary Officers, all led by our supremely competent chair Jackie Alexander.

Finally a big thank you to our ministers, lay readers, and to all those people who do security, sing in our youth and community choirs, and those who give up their time for our wonderful Synagogue. Nothing would happen if it were not for our care-taking and office staff, led so magnificently by Lee, so a big thank you to them.

Now please take this leaflet, read what has been going on this year, come to the AGM, or if you are unable to attend but have anything to say about something you have read, please write to me via the Synagogue Office.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE - DENNIS NATHAN

It's been a busy year for the Facilities Team. There has been lots to do to keep up the good standards that we have become accustomed to. It's been a story of four seasons:

Last Spring the Synagogue office was refurbished and brought into the year 2000 as some of the facilities were not fit for purpose. We also changed much of the old strip lighting to new LEDs which are far more efficient & economical to use.

In the summer we had a major leak which caused quite a bit of damage to the upstairs nursery floor plus the ceiling of our sanctuary. It was eventually traced back to a faulty connection to the dishwasher in one of the nursery classrooms upstairs.

In winter we finally managed to replace the last of the lead pipes with modern ones, which was a big project but was carried out with minimum fuss. We also had a big clear out to try and utilise our space better by getting rid of sack-loads of old items which had mainly been stored under the stage of the hall.

The new year brought us fresh challenges; having to re grout/ cement the window frames & sills, having to replace the hall boiler, repairing the glass sliding doors, as well as everyday repairs. Whilst carrying out these and other day to day jobs we also enrolled into the Eco Synagogue Scheme and under the guidance of Paul Fraylich managed to secure a Bronze award. We are striving to carry out works in an environmentally friendly way where possible and also secured a grant from the Woodland Trust to obtain 30 trees which will be planted outside the hall.

There is still much to do, and we hope that much of what we do is not noticed by the congregation, so that things run smoothly

We have a great team of Gordon, Paul and Jelena, and have the invaluable support of Lee and the office staff to whom we are again indebted. I cannot stress enough what a great job they do.

Last but not least thank you to my fellow committee members Michael, Paul, Peter & Freddy for sharing the load.

SECURITY COMMITTEE JUSTYN TRENNER

We have made good progress on several important fronts in the last year.

The new relationship with SRS Security is proving very successful. We have had very positive feedback both from synagogue members and from nursery staff and parents.

We have established more control over access and a procedure to ensure we can raise alerts from within services, in response to the sad events in Pittsburgh and reinforced by Christchurch. Cooperation from members, as well as the police, in these regards is greatly appreciated.

In response to Christchurch, we have initiated a project with local police, CST, local mosques and community leaders to help others to enjoy improved security at prayer.

My major concern is that we increase the numbers who have CST training – please contact me or the office – and improve supervision of security for cheder. Again, I am begging for volunteers to undertake modest training and commit to one or two Sunday mornings per term. Please, please contact me or the office!

Finally, most importantly, thanks to all our many security volunteers but most especially our volunteer supervisors – the people you see most frequently on the gate waving you in or out and on whom we depend to keep us safe inside.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE - FRANK JOSEPH

The Religion School, or Cheder, saw significant changes in 2018/2019. Jeanie Horowitz stepped down as Head Teacher after 16 years. A generation of Belsize members have benefited from Jeanie's energy, inspiration and expertise, and her legacy continues. Elizabeth Nisbet also stepped down as our long-standing Chair of Education and Jewish Studies GCSE teacher.

In January 2019, Caroline Loison took over as Headteacher. Caroline is an experienced teacher, and a lifelong member of Belsize Square Synagogue. Caroline has already launched several initiatives to improve the Cheder experience for our children. The Aleph Champ scheme has been introduced for learning Hebrew. The children are streamed in colour groups, based on their ability, and progress through the stages, earning wrist bands along the way. Aleph Champ has brought a new "buzz" around the learning of Hebrew and the children are making significant progress in their reading.

The Cheder offers a range of Clubs for children to choose from. These include Israeli dancing, sewing matzah covers and Jewish themed science experiments. Teachers, teaching assistants and members of the community are using their talents to give the children these exciting opportunities.

A new Jewish Studies curriculum is being introduced covering a range of topics from Shabbat, to Israel, to Mitzvot. Running concurrently with these classes is the highly successful GCSE Jewish studies class, giving post-B'nei Mitzvah students the opportunity to continue their studies at Cheder.

A number of new teachers were recruited both externally and from within the community. We also have a dedicated group of teenage Teaching Assistants who support our teachers whilst also spending time with their peer group. The Cheder also benefits from the involvement of Cantor Heller and Rabbi Altshuler, particularly for those young people preparing for their B'nei Mitzvot. Lucy Bergman, our Youth Leader, and Miles D'Cruz, our Youth Choir leader also play a major part, bringing fun and interesting activities, including a fantastic Purim Spiel.

Recent special events at Cheder, included the Purim Fair, Mitzvah Day, a special Inclusion Day and Holocaust Memorial Day. Future events include the "Mock-a-Choc-a-Seder" and a Lag B'Omer celebration. The Cheder will run termly J-POD days, open to all members

of the community, where participants can learn about the practical aspects of Judaism. These events are only possible with the support of parents and community volunteers. Please contact Caroline (caroline@synagogue.org.uk) if you want to share your knowledge and expertise with our children.

Recently the Synagogue carried out a review of the Cheder. The committee was led by Dilys Tausz and Joe Hacker, and involved consultations with Ministers, Board members, teachers, parents and past and present pupils. Once the Committee's report has been presented to the Board, it will be circulated to the community. Many of the recommendations made in the review are already being implemented forming a template for the development on the Cheder over the next 3 years.

Our B'nei Mitzvah programme is led by Cantor Heller and run by four talented tutors. The young people and their parents are eager to do more than the standard Maftir and Haftarah at their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Parents also take the role of the mitzvah of teaching their children and in doing so, they create a special bond with their child. We encourage others with the knowledge to become involved in this process.

We continue with the successful Shabbat Chat once a month and the Tefilin Club one Sunday a term before Cheder. We are also planning a Shabbaton for those in the programme.

We are looking forward to helping prepare the next cohort B'nei Mitzvot in 2020/21. We are committed to our programme, which engages the whole family with the community in order to perpetuate Judaism and Jewish identity.

Adult Education is run by Claire Walford and led by Rabbi Altshuler. The shul library is packed on Sunday mornings with adults eager to expand and enhance their 'Jewish learning Journey'. There is a real buzz and lots of lively discussion. The Rabbi's teaching topic this year of the Ancient History of Israel has captured the interest of many people who have not previously been to Adult Discussion. The material the Rabbi brings is more diverse than standard Jewish History books and is therefore stimulating with lots of food for thought. The second morning session saw many wonderful guest speakers covering topics from lone children refugees coming to England, the Ancient synagogues in Judea/Palestina, the Israeli Elections, the use of the Temple Organ in the synagogue, experience of

working with young adults in Hebron and working with refugee testimonies. We invite everyone to pop in and have a taster. For further details please contact claire.walford@yahoo.com

Shabbat children's services are on the first Shabbat morning of every month. Kikar Kids for the under 5s is led by Richard Pollins and the Junior Shabbat Services for the 5-9 year olds is led by Caroline Loison. They are an integral part of Shabbat morning and allow the youngest members of our community to participate in our own Belsize traditions. New children are always welcome.

Our Holocaust education programme for schools once again took place in February. Over 900 Year 9 students, very few of them Jewish, from diverse backgrounds, visited the synagogue for a half day programme, attending sessions including an overview of the Jewish calendar and the synagogue; a view of the open ark; a presentation on the rise of the Nazis, viewed from the perspective of our late member, Herbert Levy who came to England with the Kindertransport; an interactive session using films and discussion to engage the students in thinking about how extremism can grow from small beginnings, and about tolerance, respect and understanding of minorities. And, finally, talks from survivors, refugees or second-generation presenters. The latter talks always have a profound effect on the young people.

This programme could not take place without a huge contribution from volunteers from the synagogue. This year, there were quite a few new people involved, including some younger members, several with invaluable educational experience. If anyone would like to contribute in any way to next year's programme, please contact Peter Bohm on peterbohm29@gmail.com.

CHANUKAH MARKET 2018 ANNETTE NATHAN

The Chanukah Market team of Cheryl Davis, Pat Hirschovits, Frank Joseph, Freddy Lehmann, Emma Pollins and I were delighted that the 2018 market was such a social and financial success and we will be meeting very soon to start planning this year's market.

We would be delighted to welcome more people to our little team so if you are interested, please do let one of us know when you see us in shul, or through Lee in the office.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE - JOHN ALEXANDER & MICHELLE WAYNE

Our committee works hard and passionately to attract new members, focusing on marketing, selling and promoting the synagogue.

In 2018 we had 83 new adult, and 26 new child members. Of the 60 or so adult members who left last year, 25 of these were sadly due to death. The remaining few either moved abroad or to another part of the UK; only a handful joined another synagogue. In the first two months of this year, we already have 8 new members and 20 or so active enquiries in the pipeline.

Our year-to-date total figure of members is 885 adults and 301 children; this is a healthy number for our synagogue. We, of course, continue to encourage children to become adult members in their own right when they reach the age of 21 and are always trying to encourage families with young children to join our synagogue too.

We closely monitor the reasons for people leaving, and joining, so that we can learn from them. Regarding new members, we are very fortunate that we receive new members from the Rabbi's Introduction to Judaism classes. Cheder numbers are consistent and we now have a new head of Cheder. The office continues to produce a

weekly information leaflet with details of Shabbat services and forthcoming events, and a brief introduction to the synagogue, which is handed out to visitors by those on welcoming duty.

We have marvellous shelving in the foyer of the main synagogue building, with leaflets all about our synagogue, available to potential new members, we have leaflets about our welfare service, together with flyers about Jewish charities, like JAMI, Chai Cancer Care, etc, which could be of great use and interest to members.

We continue to raise the profile of the synagogue in order to attract new members, be it in the Jewish Chronicle, Facebook or other appropriate media; we specifically target the non-orthodox community. We continue to look at ways of actively raising the profile of ministers with articles in the press, attendance at Kikar Kids' services and attendance at Limmud. We are involved in Mitzvah Day annually, which also attracts good coverage.

We continue with our new incentive of looking at, and improving, our 'inclusion' offering. It is our mission to treat everyone equally at BSS and we are, therefore, trying to be as inclusive as possible for all of our members, whether

they have a physical or mental disability, or other such issues. We have visited other Shuls to see how they address this issue. Additionally, we have attended learning disability talks and talks on dementia, which can feed us the information we need to be even more inclusive in future. This March we held a choral, musical, inclusive service in our main sanctuary and we worked together with Langdon on this occasion.

We have BSS magnifying bookmarks for the visually impaired, together with the existing hearing loop and lift up to the Bimah. We again participated in the national, January, 'Mental Awareness' Shabbat, organised by JAMI, at which Michael Segal spoke beautifully and honestly, on behalf of his daughter, Eleanor, about bi-polar; it was parsha Bo, referring to places of darkness. In July our Chazan, Paul Heller, together with Michelle Wayne and Savvy Hersov, attended a mezuzah-hanging ceremony at the Belsize Park Moishe House and we will hopefully attract some young blood from there too. For this event, we produced a new leaflet, introducing Belsize Square Synagogue, which can be used more widely to attract potential new members.

We always welcome new members to our committee with any fresh ideas.

YOUTH COMMITTEE - SIMON CUTNER

It has certainly been a busy year for the Youth of Belsize Square Synagogue!

After a couple of years at the helm both Mel and Zoe decided it was time to step aside. My thanks to them both for the work and dedication they put into raising the profile of youth activities for Belsize.

On reflection, one of the biggest challenges for any youth leader is balancing the demands of the synagogue against other pressures such as full-time employment. The need for consistency was very evident and that is what led us down the path to look to hire on a full-time basis.

We were delighted when Lucy Bergman applied for the job. Not only was she very qualified, but has grown up at Belsize, so she understands our traditions.

The focus is to take a step back and look to really understand what it is the youth (and the parents) of BSS are looking for. It was proving difficult to arrange activities on a monthly basis, and to attract the numbers, so we are taking a fresh approach to this. This will take time, and most of all, Lucy will need support from the community. Our medium to longer term plan is to offer activities that will offer our youth the opportunities to not only have fun, but to learn as they grow into young adults.

Lucy is still early in her role but already the signs are positive. Lucy would be delighted to hear from you, and if you have any ideas or suggestions please do speak with either her or myself.

Oh and Skeet is back so get your application in now!

MUSIC AT BELSIZE - JUDITH SCIAMMA

Over the past year, Music at Belsize continued to organise innovative and inspiring events, in line with our musical tradition. In March 2018, we welcomed talented young singers, gave a performance of *Così Fan Tutte* (in English) in the intimacy of our own sanctuary.

In October, we held a concert featuring four cantors and the Belsize Square Professional Choir. Bringing the finest compositions, Cantors Paul Heller, Gedalya Alexander, Robert Brody and Yohel Heller took us through a journey from Eastern to Western European tradition.

We heard a wide range of tonalities, each cantor having a particular timbre. We also heard a wide range of emotions from sadness to laughter, one

song was even very funny! This well balanced programme showed the participants' passion, authenticity and tremendous generosity in their singing.

We ended the musical year with a celebration of our own members' talents. In January, we organised our third talent show. During this unforgettable evening, our friends shared with us their passion for music through singing, playing an instrument or both. From opera to rock, from traditional Israeli singing to bassoon playing we heard a broad range of styles and origins, with one common link: the incredible talent and dedication of every performer.

We look forward to a new year of musical events, with an exciting and varied programme for 2019/2020.

COMMUNITY CARE REPORT - EVE HERSOV

The role of Community Care Co-ordinator has continued to change and evolve during the 4 years I have been in post. This directly correlates to the needs of our congregation across multiple generations and the issues that affect all of us in terms of ageing, illness, bereavement, and the stresses associated with the challenges of life and transition, now set against a world political climate fraught with uncertainty and division.

My role most often focuses on the needs of older members. We are now a community with 190 members over the age of 75. Generally, all members want a sense of connection to the synagogue and to encounter an ethos of compassionate friendship and support.

Presently a significant proportion of our oldest members are housebound, live at a distance and some may have minimal or no positive family involvement. This group may also have little history of recent synagogue attendance. Sometimes their participation with the synagogue tapered off after their children attended Cheder back in the 1960's. They are people that are often unknown to the current Ministers, the office staff, and they take pride in being independent and private. Mostly these members do not use email so they do not receive the weekly News from the Square. But at the same time they are often lifetime members of the congregation. Now in advanced old age, some face deficits in hearing, sight, memory and mobility. These changes affect their relationship with the congregation at a life stage when emotionally they might benefit from linking with their history and feeling the greater sense of belonging and support that a synagogue can impart.

Fostering connection with and between members is central to my role - in both formal and informal ways. One small change instituted this past year was the creation of a Rosh Hashanah card (with thanks to Adam Rynhold) that is sent out by post to our oldest members. This card was inspired by a member who in her 101st year complained to me when I went to visit her in the nursing home where she lives, that she hadn't received a card from the synagogue for Rosh Hashanah 2017. (It should be noted that we'd never sent out Rosh Hashanah cards). She pointed out all the cards on her shelf that she had received, and I realised that there was a value in our investing in 'snail mail' in certain circumstances. A card is a tangible and beautiful expression of our presence, and the potential connection

we have with members and that they have with us, especially for those individuals who do not use email and also for people whose hearing deficits make phone calls problematic.

Another way of continuing engagements with our older members has been our ability to provide computers to those who did not qualify at first for the equipment and software made available by the SixPoint Foundation. We now have 2nd generation refugee members and members who are not of refugee background who are enjoying learning to use these free, easy to use computers for email, entertainment and to Livestream our services. Additionally, we have members accessing computer assistance via the AJR's Computer Help programme which matches volunteers with our members providing friendly technical assistance with both computers and Smartphones.

I am hopeful that over the next year our ties with the AJR (who are generous in supporting my post), can be further developed for our mutual benefit.

An interesting pursuit of mine this year has been to compile a list of our members and their birthplaces. Again, this grew from the refrain of many older members that they had outlived their friends or that they no longer had people with whom to reminisce who came from their original place of birth. I had been surprised that we had no existing list of our members' origins, nor of those who arrived by Kindertransport. Efforts are now underway to try and connect interested individuals with others who might enjoy communicating about shared background.

The past year has also seen a change of intensity in regard to bereavement needs and issues, with a greater volume of work and time committed to

supporting bereaved congregants and their families.

As with any community, there are sudden deaths that can be traumatic and expose people to the bureaucracies that accompany the unexpected, and there are also losses that alter family dynamics as matriarchs and patriarchs whose presence – in sickness and health – focussed their families on peace and centred all generations on mutual support. Many congregants value having contact with someone outside of their normal social and familiar circle of support, and I feel privileged, as do members of our Bereavement Support Group, to be there to listen and help people to process the complexity of feelings and emotions that accompany loss.

As ever, it is stimulating to work and worship within a unique community of individuals of character. I appreciate the ideas that our members voice, and the support from the Board and the staff team. If you would like to help by making a birthday call, or visiting someone who lives near you, then please do let me know.

RE'UT COMMITTEE - SUZANNE GOLDSTEIN

We have continued to provide lunches around various Chagim that focus on bringing together established older members, with more recently joined older members and volunteers. Attendance was strong for both Shavuot and Rosh Hashanah as well as Mitzvah Day in November. For this event we collaborated with Cheder to create an Inter-Generational meeting as well as featuring a concert by Cheder students that was hugely enjoyed by both young and old.

Going forward we have the Shavuot lunch to look forward to that is planned for Tuesday 11 June. If there are any members of the community who would be able to help with this specific Festival Lunch we would welcome support.

I would like to thank those members who have continued to visit and phone members of the community who have asked for and needed our attention. Our purpose as a committee, apart from preserving a link with BSS, is to be aware of any changes that may happen to which we can respond appropriately. For this reason, volunteers reporting back on their contact with members is vital.

As Eve Hersov has referred to, we are a community with complicated bereavement issues and as such The Bereavement Group will be participating in some much wanted in-service training, allowing those participating to become more skilled in this aspect of the work .

My grateful thanks to this committee for their commitment to our work. We are a small group of people and would welcome new members should they be interested in this important community contribution.

BURIAL & CREMATION COMMITTEE - STEVEN BRUCK

Over the past year any issues regarding individual members using either Edgwarebury cemetery or alternative funeral arrangements have been discussed by email, and we are grateful to Lee for his ongoing efficient administration of all such arrangements.

In this 80th year of our foundation as a synagogue, a substantial cleaning and renovation has been undertaken of the long standing memorial to the victims of the Holocaust erected by the Chevra Kadisha in 1957 at our previous cemetery at Pound Lane, where so many of our founding refugee members have been laid to rest. I encourage members to join us for our Tisha B'Av service at Pound Lane on Sunday 11 August when we will say Kaddish together, standing before this significant memorial which was erected by our predecessors when their emotions and memories were so raw.

The emphasis of our considerable involvement with Edgwarebury Cemetery has continued to be behind the scenes at the level of the Edgwarebury Joint Burial Board ("EJBB"), where we are represented by Brian Harris, John Abramson and myself. Henny Levin recently stood down during the year as an EJBB

member, but continues to be actively involved in the EJBB Operations Committee which, as the name suggests, oversees the Director and his team's day to day operations at Edgwarebury. Freddy Lehman has now taken over the chairmanship of that committee, which also includes Dorothy White, and we are most grateful to him, supported by the other members of the Committee for taking on this important, influential and time consuming position.

It is our turn to take on the role of chairing the EJBB for the next three years, and I am pleased that John Abramson is preparing to take on this chairmanship from September this year, when I will stand down as vice chair whilst, (by request) agreeing to continue to be involved. The message, therefore, is that, notwithstanding our being the newest (and smallest) of the four partner communities, we have earned ourselves a position of influence at the centre of the decision making process.

Developments at Edgwarebury over the past year have included a major mapping project for all reserved, and occupied plots, and reconciliation so far completed with the records of three out of four of the communities (ourselves included). The most visible result is that

a grave search facility is now provided on the cemetery website.

Work continues to obtain the permissions and agreements necessary to progress a major drainage project designed to solve the problem of heavy water-logging at certain seasons. I chair the EJBB steering group for this expensive and complex project. A brief worry that we might lose significant burial land, to accommodate an environmentally required water-holding area, has been quickly overcome by agreement to acquire certain additional neighbouring land outside the existing cemetery for this purpose. I am pleased to report that budgeted funding for this project has already been committed and largely provided to EJBB by all of the communities. I am grateful to Keith Conway for his ongoing support on legal matters concerning this project.

As in previous years I am pleased to report that EJBB continues to be a model of co-operation between the broad spectrum of Jewish communities comprising Spanish and Portuguese, West London, Liberal Judaism and ourselves, which provides an example to the wider Jewish community. I take this opportunity to thank all who have participated to make this possible.

LITURGICAL COMMITTEE - JOE BROOKES

Over the last year the Liturgical Committee has met three times and has reviewed its membership so that it is lean and effective.

The year has been one of successes –

Services – These are the main remit of the Liturgical Committee and, as with last year, members of the Committee have taken the lead in helping to organise these Services.

The Shavuot Tikkun leyl was organised by Rabbi Altshuler, the attendance was high and a great evening of learning and discussion was had by all.

Tisha B'Av was an innovative joint service with New London Synagogue, where we were warmly welcomed by Rabbi Gordon and his congregation for a pre-fast Dinner with bensching led by Cantor Heller who then led Mincha before a discussion and the reading of Eicha (Lamentations) with the evening concluded by Ma'ariv. This format will be repeated this year when we will welcome Rabbi Gordon, Cantor Stephen Cotsen and members of New

London back to Belsize for Erev Tisha b'Av on Saturday 10 August – please put this date in your diaries.

Our **High Holyday Services** were again of the highest order and thanks go to both Rabbi Altshuler & Cantor Heller for leading us through the many beautiful Services from Selichot right through to Simchat Torah where Nick Viner & Joe Hacker were honoured as Chatanim this year.

Again on 1st & 2nd Day **Succot** the synagogue was filled with congregants participating in the Hakafot carrying their own sets of Arba Minim (Lulav, etrog) which they purchased through the Synagogue and we will be offering congregants the opportunity to purchase sets again this year, this an opportunity for the whole family to participate in an easy, fun and beautiful Mitzvah.

Purim this year was co-ordinated by Michelle Samson and was a wonderful evening enjoyed by everyone and included a Purim Spiel written, directed and organised by Lucy Bergman & Miles D'Cruz.

Our **Pesach** Seder led by our Ministers was again very successful with a 5000 year old well-practiced format!

Participation – There has been an increase in participation in our Services, thanks to our lay leaders both young and older. The Gabbaim have made a concerted effort to ensure that Aliyot are spread around members of the Congregation. Remember to contact the office if you wish to participate in the Services such as:

- B'nei Mitzvah Anniversary (Aliyah)
- Yahrzeit (inclusion of name in Rabbi's memorial list +/- Aliyah)
- Special birthdays/Anniversaries/life events (Aliyah/throw a kiddish)
- Recovery from illness (Aliyah, Bensch Gomel)
- Chant Maftir & Haftarah
- Leyn an Aliyah or more

Inclusion – Belsize Square has a long and proud tradition of complete inclusion for all congregants and has a programme of services to celebrate this, most recently with Langdon.

B'nei Mitzvah Service – The Service

(inviting recent B'nei Mitzvah "graduates" to return and lead the Main Service) is a true reflection of the fact that the future of any Congregation lies with its youth and in our case we are delighted to be able to report that the youth is flourishing.

Services off site – As a Community we

are grateful to the small but dedicated band of Lay leaders from BSS who lead Erev Shabbat Services at the Vivienne Wohl complex, Otto Schiff House (previously at Clara Nehab House)

Finally, we are grateful to our Rabbi and Cantor for their spiritual and religious guidance, and to Ben Wolf and Miles

D'Cruz for the beautiful music. As ever, the committee exists to reflect the opinions of the greater community of the Belsize Square Synagogue, so if congregants wish to raise issues with the Liturgical committee, please get in touch with any of the committee or via our Chair, Joe Brookes or Vice Chair, Pat Hirschovits.

CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE - MICHAEL HOROWITZ QC

The Committee has been strengthened this year by the co-option of a new member, Rosalyn Schofield, who is a Solicitor.

The Committee continues to keep an active legal eye open and ready to assist on issues that arise in the work of the Board and all Committees.

Over the past year we assisted the Board in guidance on the duties of newly elected Belsize Square representatives elected to represent us at the Board Deputies especially in regard to the combining responsibility to represent Belsize Square while retaining the right and obligation exercise their own judgment and in accordance with the BoD's own standing orders.

Committee Terms of Reference

We conducted an analysis of Committee terms of Reference (ToR) to assist in advising on uniformity of practice and procedure. Our sweep brought to light some discrepancy in regard to the right of Executive members to attend and/or vote.

Our draft report flushed out a recollection from two former Chairs of the Board (including our own John Abramson) that they would attend but not vote at Committee Meetings. Such practice represented on its face an extension of the written provisions of the Constitution. We have suggested that the Executive should clarify and seek ratification from the Board promoting a clarifying rule regarding voting rights of all members of the Executive when attending Committee meetings. This has been discussed by the Executive and a proposal will be submitted at the next Board meeting.

No other issues have required convening a meeting of the Committee during 2018/2019.

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

THURSDAY 6 JUNE 2019 at 8.00pm

(to be followed by refreshments)

AGENDA

1. Introduction and Report by the Chairman
2. Financial Report
3. Appointment of Auditors
4. The election of Jackie Alexander as Chairman for a period of three years
5. Election of members to the Board
6. Discussion on Annual Reports
7. Any Other Business

Candidates for Election to the Board

John Abramson*; John Alexander*; Carol Cohen; Deborah Cohen; Keith Conway*; Suzanne Goldstein*; Joe Hacker*; Richard Pollins*; Jimmy Strauss*; Dilys Tausz*; Justyn Trenner*

* Members of the present Board
Resignations from the Board - None

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.

If you are interested in joining any of the committees included in this booklet, or any other of the synagogue's committees, please contact the office for further information.

Committees list:

Constitutional:

Communications Committee
Constitution Committee
Education Committee
Facilities Management Committee
Finance & Audit Committee
Investment Committee
Israel Committee
Liturgical Committee
Youth Committee

Non-Constitutional:

BelsizeLIVE Committee
Building Steering Committee
Burial & Cremation Committee
Chanukah Market Committee
Fundraising Committee
Membership Committee
Music Committee
Parents Association
Re'ut Committee
Security Committee

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