



Our Congregation



News and views from Belsize Square Synagogue

THE PRIVILEGE OF FREEDOM

Shalom haverim,

Following our intense time together during the Holyday season – from the serious observation of our lives during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur to the celebration of joy, nature and gratitude during the Sukkot week, to the reflections of Shemini Atzeret and then to the end of the yearly Torah reading cycle marked by Simchat Torah – we are now back to the days of routine, or as routine as they can be during this strange pandemic.

It is one thing, say our Sages, to have heightened spiritual and Jewish awareness during these moments of celebration, and another to take the affirmations we made, the prayers we uttered, the hopes that we shared, and to inculcate them all into our daily lives. That is the challenge for each of us, and I hope that these days are used to learn, bond with our Jewish heritage, affirm our relationship with God, increase love and justice in the world, and to enable us to always be mindful of the preciousness and sanctity of each passing moment of our lives.

This month there is an important Presidential election in the United States and, regardless of the result we would like to see, it is good to remember that there are precious few nations in the world whose citizens can freely choose their leaders. I am often expected to 'answer' for America – its President, the country, its people, its faults and blemishes, along with its strengths, of course. It's an unfair burden on me, one of over 330,000,000 citizens of a country as diverse as any in the

world. I do hope that no matter who is elected to take on the next four difficult years, they will always heed the words of Abraham Lincoln, in his address at his inauguration for his second term as President in March 1865:

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

Those words were delivered as the United States was in the last throes of a brutal Civil War, a country divided by internecine conflict that took the lives of almost a million citizens. The message is a reminder to us all about the value of democracy, of our values, of healing wounds rather than stoking mindless hatred and violence. This is my prayer for the United States, and for every nation in the world. As many of you know, I recently became a citizen of the United Kingdom, in addition to my United States citizenship. Both countries have provided our people with the freedom and dignity that few places around the world have given to Jews.

But democracy, as we all should know, is a fragile institution that will rise or fall depending on the values of its citizenry and we must protect it.

That protection comes from each citizen accepting responsibility for the culture and values of decency and goodness. That is the only way our great nations can survive.

My own appreciation of democracy and freedom was crystallised in the 1980s, when I made numerous trips to the former Soviet Union, a country that deprived its citizens of basic freedoms of speech, of the media, of culture, of language, of religion. I saw first-hand what oppression was all about, especially the way the Soviet regime persecuted and tyrannised its Jewish citizens. During those trips I was reminded why my own grandparents left Belarus, Russia and Ukraine to seek freedom in the United States, and why my grandmother kissed the soil of a country that gave her family freedom, Jewish freedom. I am certain that we all have similar feelings regarding our families that sought haven here in the UK from Germany, from Austria, from Eastern Europe, or earlier from tsarist Russia. I believe that we should express our gratitude each day that our ancestors had the courage and resolute will to leave the past behind and seek a better future for us, their descendants.

Therefore, regardless of the challenges facing the United States and the rest of the world, let us remember where we are, the context of history which brought us to these lands of freedom, and do everything in our power to sustain that gift. And in the spirit of Chanukah, when our Maccabean ancestors battled for religious freedom, let us also remember what it was and is like to fight foes who try to take those freedoms from us.

May you all have a wonderful couple of months. Celebrate Chanukah and rejoice in the freedoms that we too often take for granted. Remember our history and our heritage.

In shalom always,

Rabbi Altshuler

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Synagogue Snapshots

We continue our new series with two more stalwarts of the synagogue staff

NAME: Eve Hersov
JOB TITLE: Community Care Co-ordinator



What does your job at Belsize involve?

The primary focus of my role is engagement with our oldest members, with special attention to those with no family or who are experiencing a crisis or setback. I also provide support for carers and to bereaved members.

What's your favourite thing and the hardest part of your job?

Every day is different and each week can be completely unpredictable. This is bittersweet: it is both stimulating and frustrating in my part-time role to manage time so that people who need my assistance get prompt attention without my overtime spiralling out of control!

If you could do any other job for one day, what would you choose?

I chose to study and work in Ageing back in the 1970s and that choice was informed by a passionate interest in the societal and biomedical aspects of growing older. There's nothing else I ever wanted to do except work with people, and our older members are truly exceptional individuals who have led their lives against the backdrop of history. Our synagogue has one of the highest rates of centenarians and members over the age of 90, almost all of whom were refugees. They are people who have impressed me with their vibrancy and strength of character.

How did you come to be a member of Belsize Square?

After marrying elsewhere and then doing a bit of 'synagogue shopping', I needed to find a cheder. I wandered into Belsize Square one day and was warmly welcomed by Henny Levin, the Synagogue Secretary at the time. Having grown up in an American congregation with a significant German Jewish population there was something familiar about the atmosphere, which I hadn't experienced elsewhere.

What's your favourite festival?

As an adult, Rosh Hashanah is the holiday that prompts me to reflect on where I am spiritually, what I've achieved, and what I want in future. But as a child, Chanukah and Purim were my favourite festivals.

Where do you like to sit in Shul and why?

I prefer to sit in the balcony, to be closest to the choir and the organ and for the unobstructed view of the bimah. It's no joy for a petite person to sit on the level ground floor in a crowd of taller people!

NAME: Lee Taylor
JOB TITLE: Chief Executive



In a sentence, what does your job at Belsize involve?

Everything and anything!

What's your favourite thing about your work?

The people I work with. We have an excellent staff team and supportive leadership from the Executive and Board.

What is the hardest part of your job?

The new Covid-19 restrictions have been the biggest challenge of my time at Belsize.

If you could do any other job for one day, what would you choose?

Definitely an astronaut as I'm fascinated by the planets and space.

How did you come to be a member of Belsize Square – or if not, why not?

My family are members of Mill Hill East Jewish Community. It's close to where we live and we have always been members of the United Synagogue.

What's your favourite festival?

Pesach. I remember it fondly when growing up as a time where all of the family got together. We try and recreate that now with my family. Also I love matzah!

Where do you like to sit in Shul and why?

Anywhere quiet.

A 90th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AT NIGHTINGALE HOUSE

Eve Hersov

Belsize Square member Cecilia Krasner turned 90 on 25th September. She is a resident at the Sampson Unit at Nightingale House in Clapham, where other residents and the staff held a joyful party for her.

They joined in the singing, led by their religious coordinator Rafi Fuchs. With piano accompaniment he sang 'Jerusalem of Gold', which was particularly appropriate given Cecilia's years living in Israel. 'I had a fantastic birthday,' she said, with a huge number of presents, cards and people to visit. 'It was a lovely day. I was amazed by the loving words and messages – I have never had so many messages. I didn't

expect anything but there were phone calls, letters and cards." Cecilia said that the cards were still arriving days later.

Cecilia told me that she had 'come from the middle of nowhere in Africa and had to go on in life – and I just did it. I lived my life the way I saw fit.'

But when you have lived a life in Africa, Israel and the UK, and possess the engaging spirit that Cecilia has, it's no surprise that people all over the world remember you and want to express their affection, especially in these unusual times. This is a time when it's important to reflect on the people we care about, wherever they are.



Cecilia Krasner and her carer on her 90th birthday

News from Abernein Mansions

Dear Fellow Members

I am pleased to announce that my kolumn is now only featured in Our Congregation. I am also transposing my at-vice sextion to this publication, see billow on the bottom.

First the braking news from hear in Abernein Mansions. Campden Consul has deegreed that the giant Menorah billed in our communal gartens must be dismentalled. Mrs Klopstick constructed this eddyfees single hended, but apparently it contra weens both the health und savety lows und also fire regulations. Otherwise it was OK.

Last year Mrs K baked a dredl into all her Chanukah doe knuts as a surprise for everyone here. The only won two really benefit was our haus dentist Dr Julius Bissberger. Now the jop of baking them has gone to Mrs Blumenkohl. You can imagine how my wive feels with such rejection on too of her fronts. So two consoul herself she has taken too sum knew sports on witch she can take her aggression out, arschery und kley pigeon shouting.

Since setting up the big screan in the communal lunge, the attendance for BelsizeLIVE has shot abwards to almost won hundert present. We have so far been very lucky not too

have hat any serious cases off this disease here. I have insisted, as much as I dare, that Mrs Klopstick wares a mask und wiser when she leafs the front door. We also have no danger of contacting Corbin-19 from our son Melvyn, as he never calls us from his retirement coglomorate in Florida.

If any of you are looking for a save investment, you might like to consider becoming an engel for my autobiography 'A Live in Buttons'. It is a know holes bard account of my long und very eventual live. I am hoping that once I have ridden it, the film rites will be quickly up taken und so the return on your investment will be astrominimal.

A serious of lectures on the object of Jews in trade is being mounted hear in Abernein Mansions und streammed life on the inter web. The first is been given by my good friend Hermann Hempstein, who will be talking about his courier in closing fixtures. This goes from the hook und eye to the zip fastner und then on to whale-crow. This will be accompanied by illustrations on the big screan. It is an evening not two be missed. He will of cause not be covering buttons as this is my demean.

With the best of intentions

Fritz Klopstick

ASK
FRITZ

As this felicity is for the first time in Our Congregation, I have received no indiividual requisites. So I will answer a question I am always being askred. How doze my wive manage so much fizzical ectivity at her advance time of live? I can now rewheel her secrete. She putz it down to the three As: Asleticks, Airobotics und JimnAsticks. There are heartly any sports oder adventures that she has not dribbled in und this why she is such a specimen.

If you have any questions oder queers, weather they are personnel problems oder just sings in general to get of your breast oder even button-related experiences you neat explained, I am hear to offer you my best vice. Contact my management at antonygodfrey@aol.com

On behalve of Mrs Klopstick und myself we wish you a save journey into 2021und so see you necks year.



OUR UNIQUE HIGH HOLYDAYS 5781

While some people were in shul for the main services on this year's most unusual High Holydays, many other congregants and guests tuned in to BelsizeLive online. The Youth Services were all held on Zoom to allow real-time live participation by our young people.

A SPECIAL ROSH HASHANAH Sasha and Olivia Vered

This year we knew that Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur would be different. We wouldn't be getting dressed up in our best clothes, we wouldn't be arriving at shul early to practise the parts of the service we would be performing, and we wouldn't be greeting our families and friends, wishing them Shana Tovah. This year we would be 'zooming' the High Holyday services. We weren't sure how this was going to work or how we would feel about it BUT it was fun, different, cosy and warm. It gave us a sense of being together as a community even though we were all in our homes and, most importantly, it felt special.

We had all recorded our parts of the service during the summer holidays so that they could be played if there were connection difficulties or if some people didn't want to do it live on the day. It was nice seeing people do their parts in their gardens or kitchens, on sofas or in bedrooms.

Dilys, Caroline, Joe and Adam worked so hard to make us feel confident and happy on the morning of each service, giving us lots of praise once we'd done our parts. They made second day Rosh Hashanah even more interactive by creating a Kahoot online quiz. Not that we are competitive, but it was great fun seeing who was on the leader board after each question.

This year may not have been the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur we are all used to but in spite of the circumstances, the Belsize family spirit shone through. A special thank you to Dilys for her years of commitment and support. We are going to miss seeing you up on the bimah.

MY FIRST YOM KIPPUR SERVICE ONLINE Reuben Polonsky

This has been a crazy year for the world. After months of lockdown even at Yom Kippur when we could leave our houses, we still couldn't have normal synagogue services.

My first Yom Kippur experience last year was so different. Nobody had to wear a mask. Nobody was stuck without a working device. Then I was excited about missing a day of school but after lockdown this wasn't new any more!

Last year, I was disappointed I didn't have a part so this time, I was very excited. It was great but if it had been in the synagogue I might have succumbed to stage fright! I am really looking forward to next year's service, hopefully in the synagogue. I also hope I will know enough Hebrew by then to be able to perform one of the blessings.

YOM KIPPUR AT HOME Ellen Polonsky

Last Yom Kippur I went to my auntie Leah's house to break the fast. My dad's whole family was there! We ate chicken soup with matzo balls, and we listened to my grandpa sing his songs.

But this year I couldn't do a reading in synagogue as Covid-19 had arrived. We were doing Yom Kippur on Zoom! Although I am pretty familiar with Zoom after seven months of using it for lessons, joking with friends and talking to relatives, it was still weird speaking in front of a crowd of about fifty people on the computer. I'm used to *using* Zoom but not *talking in front of a crowd*.

I can't wait until next year when I can experience the youth service in person.

PREPARING FOR THE HIGH HOLYDAYS Chaim Sciamma

During the summer holidays, I was asked to film myself singing for a video service ahead of the High Holydays. I did everything wrong.

First, we were on holiday and I had forgotten to bring a nice shirt to film in. Luckily, I always have my kippah with me! Then I kept making mistakes in the recordings, then... you get the idea. It took me a lot of time, and honestly, a lot of the problems were self-inflicted. Sometimes during these moments, it's easy to forget why you do things like this, especially when the occasion is so far away.

And then, almost before I noticed it, Rosh Hashanah was upon us and the video was going to be used during the Children's service.

Watching the Children's service was truly amazing. Despite the distance, despite not being there in person, and despite uncertainty, it was heartwarming to see many people I know on Zoom, with whom I usually sing and pray. Everyone else had prepared their part, too, and done their best. You could tell that we were all motivated by the same reason: the belonging to a community which has found a way to come together during

uncertain times to keep our values and beliefs.

And suddenly, I was glad that I had said "yes" when I was asked to do the recording, and very honoured that I had been asked to contribute.

The synagogue was really able to come together during coronavirus, and I can't think of a better way of handling this major obstacle than how Belsize did it. I would like to thank Caroline and Dilys for this amazing achievement. It made a difference for me and I sincerely hope it brought joy to others as well.

OUR ISRAELI CHARITIES

Allan Morgenthau

We've received updates from the charities we support in Israel, detailing how they are responding to Coronavirus and why our help is needed more than ever.

ASSAF

Coronavirus has made the asylum-seeking community in Israel more vulnerable than ever, not just from the virus but from financial crisis and stress caused by the lockdown: domestic violence increased by 400% during the first two months of the lockdown and over 90% of the refugee and asylum-seeker community have lost their jobs and do not have any government benefits or services. Thus, if asylum seekers cannot work, they cannot pay for food or for rent. Since mid-March ASSAF has distributed over 500,000 NIS in food vouchers and financial aid and extended its open hours by 16 hours per week.



In the face of the crisis, ASSAF has continued the youth club activities using creative ways to continue to meet the needs of the teens and to ensure that they remain safe during these turbulent times. Through the funding of Belsize Square Synagogue, ASSAF continued to meet or contact club participants and give them ongoing support, recreational opportunities, and homework assistance according to continually updated guidelines and health regulations. ASSAF mapped the needs of the participants and their families and provided youth club members and their families with food, baby supplies and financial aid. In addition, the staff and volunteers meet with and speak to participants, even during lockdown, to ensure club participants remain safe and have the support they need.

The Jaffa Institute

Through its partnership with the Jaffa Institute, a non-profit organisation dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty in Israel, Belsize Square Synagogue serves as a beacon of hope.



When COVID-19 struck, anxiety gripped 15-year-old Ron. In the previous two years, Ron had participated in the Jaffa Institute's Jump Start programme for at-risk adolescents. Before Coronavirus, Ron attended the programme twice a week. After eating a snack, he would discuss how things were going for him socially and academically and receive individualised assistance from his tutor, Sabine. Thanks to this support, Ron advanced from his school's remedial maths to the mainstream class.

In March, Israel, like the UK, closed school doors. Ron worried about falling behind again and having no one to talk to about his stress. His fears were put to rest when he received a laptop from the Jaffa Institute, which allowed him

to participate remotely in both his classes and Jump Start. At the end of the year, Ron's school once again suggested a new maths class for him, this time moving him to the highest level possible!

Ron's success demonstrates what can be achieved with kindness and support. Thanks to the generosity of its donors and volunteers, the Jaffa Institute has been able to expand its services during the pandemic to meet participants' growing needs. In addition to providing students with laptops, the organisation extended Jump Start to operate during the summer, delivered special food packages to 8,700 impoverished households during Passover and Rosh Hashanah alone, and provided virtual therapy and outdoor serenades to 300 vulnerable seniors.

Yemin Orde

During this time, we at Yemin Orde are thinking of you and hoping that everyone is staying as safe as possible. For us, we have been working hard to stay open and be there for our youth; at the moment we have 90% occupancy in the Village.



When Israel's second lockdown went into effect, we were initially required to send youth with family in Israel back home. For those without, they stayed in the Village with the benefits of a daily routine and spending the high holidays together. For everyone, we provided four hours a day of online learning and phone calls checking in on emotional well-being.

At the same time, we developed a plan to allow youth to return after Sukkot, even with the rest of the country remaining in lockdown. With most having returned, they must stay within designated capsules. Each capsule has staff members working only with them as they learn, eat and take part in activities together. We are creating memorable experiences over the long days and making sure Shabbats are meaningful.

For our graduates, the pandemic has continued to take a toll on many: those who have lost their jobs, who have families to support and so much more. We have stressed the importance of contacting our graduates and providing crisis stipends to those who need.

This pandemic has its challenges, but we are making the most of the moments we have and are proud of our dedicated team that has created such an uplifting environment. We hope you realise just how much you are part of helping us do all that we can and send our warmest appreciation.

For photos of Yemin Orde, see page 8.





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nothing New Under The Sun

Does this look familiar? In response to an 1831 cholera epidemic in Poznan [Posen] the following edict was issued by strictly orthodox Rabbi Akiva Eiger:

With regard to prayer in synagogue, in my opinion it is honestly not right to gather in a confined space. But it should be possible to pray in very small groups, 15 people only. They should begin at dawn, then another group, and each should be given a specific time to come and pray.

And to make sure that more people than this do not push their way in, you

should station a police officer to enforce the rules . . . This guard must not allow anybody else in until after the existing group has left. And be careful to stay warm, and everyone should wear clothes of flannel tied tightly around the waist. And do not eat bad food, especially gherkins.

In every synagogue, in both the men's section and the women's section, it is only permitted to fill half of the seats on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur – so that, next to every occupied seat, the seat adjacent to it should be empty.

Given this, only half of the members will be able to enter the synagogue on these holy days. And given that all the members have an equal right to

attend, the half who attend on the two days of Rosh Hashanah should give way to the half who attend on the evening and day of Yom Kippur, and vice versa . . . The av beit din will draw lots. Anyone who draws a number 1 will attend on Rosh Hashanah, and anyone who draws a number 2 will attend on Yom Kippur.

The synagogue administrators shall take care of printing tickets, in a different shape for each festival. For the maintenance of order, a military guard will be stationed at every entrance to the synagogue. Attendees must show him their tickets. Furthermore, police community support officers will take care of order inside the synagogue.

David Rothenberg

Fritz Klopstick

We read in the Sept/Oct magazine that Mr Klopstick planned to bough out over the last two months of 5780. It has been a horrible anus year and, as he said, we'd like to see it behind us.

On the weekly News from the Square he said his auf wiedersehen as he threw in the towel after 28 weeks. We're glad Mr Lee encouraged Mr Klopstick's cheery words in these frightening times.

We look fourword to Mr Klopstick's biogravy of 'My Life in Buttons'. We might even see him in the Finchley and

Frognal Ego. We are sure that 'Ask Fritz' will be a success, despite having to go as far afield as Barnet, Southgate and Neasden.

Although Mrs Klopstick was taking charge of events in Abernein Mansions, we hope Roshhashana was enjoyed on Belsize Live. We, at home, thank you for your Mr Strations of amusements without censorship throughout the year.

Till we meat again, with best intentions,

Helen Grunberg and Sue Arnold

Never fear, Helen and Sue! I'm delighted to say that Herr Klopstick will continue to appear in these pages to share his wise advice – Ed.

Our chairman Jackie Alexander received many appreciative emails in response to this year's High Holyday services:

I would just like to thank Rabbi Altshuler, Cantor Heller and your beautiful choir for the Yamim Noraim services. I have never before heard such a moving and emotional Yarzheit service and it was wonderful to see your younger members davening Mincha. I am a member of [another] synagogue and not being able to attend live services due to shielding, I have been streaming your Shabbat and Yomtov services. This has kept me fully connected to my Judaism . . . The rabbi's sermons are always so interesting . . . I would also like to thank the lovely gentleman who helped [me] buy a set of your machzorim and ensured that they arrived in time. Maybe post-COVID I will even come in person!

My profound thanks to Paul Heller, for his beautiful and moving singing, especially of 'Kol Nidrei', which caused a tear or three to drip from my eyes and to Rabbi Altshuler, who certainly played a blinder at Neilah.

By streaming the services my mom and my brother were able to be 'together' for these services. Please will you pass on my thanks to Rabbi Altshuler and in particular to Cantor Heller who was magnificent over the holidays.

Sincere thanks to you all for showing so much thought, diligent care and for making such a huge effort to make the Rosh Hashanah services as good as they could possibly be in the current circumstances. It was clear . . . that a great deal of thinking about the logistics and sourcing equipment had taken place to keep everyone comfortable and safe.

Community News

The copy deadline for the next issue of
Our Congregation is Friday 4 December 2020

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a cordial welcome to:

Michelle & Asher Headley
Arthur Oppenheimer
Martha & David Myers
Dustin Walpert

B'NEI MITZVAH

Mazel Tov to:

Harry, son of Izzy & Gary Abrahams who celebrates his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday 7 November
Jack, son of Nicole & Matthew Walsh who celebrates his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday 21 November
Celia, daughter of Emma & Alex Krikler who celebrates her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday 19 December

BIRTHS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Katie & Adam Hirschovits, on the birth of their daughter Noa, a sister for Woolf and granddaughter for Pat and Roni Hirschovits, Cheryl and Adam Davis and the late Mark Shine
Adela & Ben Miranda, on the birth of their daughter Amelie

DEATHS

We regret to announce the passing of:

Diana Lindsay, who died on 21 September
Beatrice Schiffman, who died on 1 October

HONOURS LIST

Mazel Tov to Richard Pollins on being awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List

KRISTALLNACHT SERVICE

Friday 6 November at 6.45pm

Notice is hereby given that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

will take place on Monday 2 November at 8.00pm

Due to current restrictions on large gatherings, the meeting may be held virtually using Zoom. Join the Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88159151780?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88159151780?pwd=SE1FNlh0bzZlZVBkSVBMDWlnWjQ5Zz09)

[pwd=SE1FNlh0bzZlZVBkSVBMDWlnWjQ5Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88159151780?pwd=SE1FNlh0bzZlZVBkSVBMDWlnWjQ5Zz09)

Meeting ID: 881 5915 1780

Passcode: 050030

A G E N D A

1. Introduction and Report by the Chairman
2. Financial Report
3. Appointment of Auditors
4. Election of members to the Board
5. Discussion on Annual Reports
6. Any Other Business

Candidates for Election to the Board (* Members of the present Board)

Adam Davis* Pat Hirschovits* Frank Joseph* Freddy Lehmann* Adam Nathan* Rob Nothman* Sarah Percival* David Pollins* Claire Walford*

Resignations from the Board – Anthony Stadlen

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.

SERVICE TIMES

Friday evenings at 6.45pm

Saturday mornings at 10.00am

Contact Adam Rynhold in the synagogue office to book tickets to attend, in compliance with current restrictions, or watch online via the Belsize Live button on www.synagogue.org.uk

Kikar Kids

Every Saturday morning at 11am

At the Synagogue on 7 November, 5 December, 2 January

11.00am (under 5s) Service in the Crèche

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

11.30am – Kids Kiddush

often followed by a family Pot Luck Lunch

Please contact Frank Joseph on 020 7482 2555 if you would like to bring along your favourite dish.

ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP

Sunday 1 November

10.00 - 11.15 Rabbi Altshuler - Psalms 1-3

11.30 - 12.45 Deborah Cohen - Willesden Jewish Cemetery:

A Slice of British History under our Feet

Sunday 8 November

10.00 - 11.15 Rabbi Altshuler - Themes from Rabbi Jonathan Sacks' book *Morality*, Chapters 2-4 Limits of Self-help, Unsocial Media and the Fragile Family

11.30 - 12.45 Anat Hoffman, Executive Director IRAC (Israel Religious Action Centre) - Doctor's orders: How Israel's Health Workers are Helping to Heal Israeli Prejudice

Sunday 15 November

10.00 - 11.15 Rabbi Altshuler - Psalms 4-6

11.30 - 12.45 Topic and Speaker TBC

Sunday 22 November

10.00 - 11.15 Rabbi Altshuler - Question time with the Rabbi

11.130 - 12.45 Jonathan Paris, Political Analyst and Journalist - Middle East update

Sunday 29 November

10.00 - 11.15 Rabbi Altshuler - Themes from Rabbi Jonathan Sacks' book *Morality*, Chapters 5-7 The Market & the State
11.30 - 12.45 Professor John Strawson, Co-Director, Centre for Human Rights in Conflict, University of East London - The British Communist Party and the *Daily Worker* 1948

Sunday 6 December

10.00 - 11.15 Rabbi Altshuler - Psalms 7-10

11.30 - 12.45 Speaker TBC

Sunday 13 December

10.00 - 11.45 Rabbi Altshuler - Themes from Rabbi Jonathan Sacks' book *Morality*, Chapters 8-10 Democracy in Danger
11.30 - 12.45 Ami Aylon, Former Shin Bet Chief (featured in documentary *The Gatekeepers*) and Author - Friendly Fire: How Israel Became its Own Worst Enemy and Hope for its Future

Sunday 20 & 27 December

No Adult Discussion – Winter Break





IKIKAR IN A KIKAR IN A KIKAR

Richard Pollins

Kikar Kids is back, zooming away from your screens and meeting in person. We have now had two very successful and very safe services and look forward to them continuing. We believe we're one of the first synagogues in the UK to bring back children's services.

How are we keeping everyone safe? We have space for eight families – each in their own *kikar* (square) spaced far apart. Attendees book in advance, the adults wear masks and we take temperatures.

Singing has been replaced by musical instruments, dancing, games and stories. It's the new normal and it's just lovely to have families and children seeing each other again within the community. We also have the only Covid-secure kiddush in town. Biscuits, drinks, challah are all plated up and ready for collection by an adult from each group.

We meet on the first Shabbat of the month, currently for families with kids under 7. Please get in touch with me (rgpollins@googlemail.com) or the office If there is interest for older children, or for more information, to offer ideas and especially if you'd like to help.

Life at Yemin Orde

See report on page 5



SYNAGOGUE HELP LINES

BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

51 Belsize Square, London, NW3 4HX

Tel: 020 7794 3949

Email: office@synagogue.org.uk

Website: www.synagogue.org.uk

SYNAGOGUE OFFICE HOURS

9.00am - 5.30pm

Fridays: 9.00am-2.00pm

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Joint Vice Chairs: Helen Grunberg - 020 8450 8533

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EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR CONGREGATION

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