

# Our Congregation



News and views from Belsize Square Synagogue

## PURIM AND PASSOVER – TWO FESTIVALS CONFRONTING ANTISEMITISM

### Shalom Chaverim.

In the coming months we celebrate Purim and Passover, two very different *chagim* (holidays) but with common themes and lessons. Both point to two real challenges to the continued existence of the Jewish people. Both tell us that Jewish history contains real and brutal efforts to destroy our people, pointing to a constant aim in the arc of Jewish history – the attempt to hurt us, destroy us, wipe us off the map.

The book of Esther, which contains the story of Purim, reminds us of Haman's attempt some 2,500 years ago to annihilate every Jewish man, woman and child. It is the first description of the existential threat that springs up periodically, reminding us that Jew hatred can arise at any juncture, often without much of a coherent ideology. As scholars of antisemitism have correctly suggested, it is also a barometer of society, an indication of an inherent weakness in the society from which it originates.

Perhaps that is why we are so troubled today because we know that the dramatic rise in antisemitism across Continental Europe, the Arab Middle East and even in Britain as well as the USA, indicates fundamental weaknesses at the core of our society. Going after the Jews never ends well for anyone – certainly not for the Jews, but not for the rest of society, either.

What saved the Jews in ancient Persia, before the rule of Ayatollahs? The drama of Esther points to the heroic

behaviour of the Queen who, with the support and direction of her cousin Mordechai, went straight to the King, Ahasuerus, and demanded freedom for the Jews of Shushan. When she realised what was really afoot, she was not afraid to speak out and expose Haman's murderous plot. In other words, the message of *Megillat Esther* is that cowardice and fear of exposing antisemitism allows Jew haters to succeed. Stand up and speak out, yesterday, today and tomorrow!

At Passover the Jewish people, as we read in the Haggadah, faced excruciating bondage in Egypt, whips and burdens that constituted our people's unbearable suffering at the hand of others. But through Moses' courageous leadership and his challenge, together with his brother Aaron, to the Pharaoh of Egypt, the Israelites, precursors of the Jewish people, were liberated from bondage and found the gift of freedom that enabled them to create a nation state based on Torah and the word of God.

One of the most startling facts of the Exodus is that the Israelites celebrated Passover, the Seder, BEFORE they left Egypt, not after liberation. The reason, according to our Sages, is that the value of freedom had to be articulated first, assimilated inside every member of Israel, before they could be truly free. In other words, freedom begins from inside. No external enemy can defeat us or destroy us if we are free inside, if we stay loyal to our religious values and heritage. No enemy can destroy us if we remain true to ourselves.

So, to Jeremy Corbyn and all his antisemitic followers, to so many in the Arab Middle East, to supporters of the rising BDS movement, we must affirm our commitment to pride in ourselves, to combat assimilation and rampant acculturation, the breakup of the Jewish family, and the scourge of Jewish self-hatred. The internal struggle against all those

factors that weaken Jewish observance and understanding of who we are and what we represent to the rest of the world, will be the test as to whether antisemites succeed in weakening us. From Esther and Mordechai, Moses and Aaron, and the resolve of all those Jews who knew who and what they were, we are here today, under orders to keep our Judaism and Jewish identity strong and mighty, impenetrable to attack.

The argument as to which factor is more important, freedom from external threats or from internal weakness and assimilation, is clearly spelled out in the Haggadah. Shmuel (2nd century rabbi) argues that the greatest threat to the Jewish people is the external enemy ("We were slaves in the land of Egypt"). Rav claims it is idolatry or, in modern terms, our abandonment of Judaism, our exit from Jewish life ("My father was an Aramean", meaning an idolator, as Abraham was brought up to be).

What do you think is the greater threat to Jewish existence? Enemies bent on destroying us or the enemy within us? There is ample material here for a good discussion in synagogue when we celebrate Purim in March, and at your Seder tables in April.

I extend my warm wishes to you and your loved ones for a joyful celebration of Purim and a meaningful and blessed Passover.

*Mo'adim l'simcha* (times for joy)

**Rabbi Altshuler**

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 2:** Photo Gallery: Belsize Has Talent, Holocaust Memorial Speakers
- Page 3:** Talent Show report, Babara Sieratzki z"l, Welcome to Berlin Youth Choir
- Page 4:** Canon Andrew White (Vicar of Baghdad)
- Page 5:** Anne Frank talk by Gillian Walnes Perry
- Page 6:** Kindertransport Anniversary Concert
- Page 7:** Israel Dinner Message; AJR Computer Help; Kindertransport German Payments
- Page 8:** Mental Health Awareness Shabbat
- Page 9:** Maccabi sports prize for Hannah Viner; Sale of Chametz; Bronze Eco Plaque
- Page 10:** Klopstick; Chanukah Market Thanks
- Page 11:** Community News



## Purim Party

**20th March at 5:30pm**

Please join us at the synagogue for a spectacular evening of Purim partying!

**FALAFEL DINNER | COSTUME PARADE  
CROWN COMPETITION | DANCE  
MEGILLAH READING  
YOUTH PURIM PRODUCTION**





## BELSIZES HAS TALENT

*Dan Patterson and Joe Brookes (orange kipah) invite us to a guitar sing-along*

*MC Judith Sciamma*

*The AutistiX Band on top form*

*Little girls have fun. And they sing, too*

*Max Charles on piano*

*Annabel Sher, 13, voted to play her violin at the Israel Dinner*

*The late Barbara Sieratzki, in whose name her son Harry made a major donation towards funding our Talent Show*



## ERIC PICKLES SPEAKS AT BSS TO AJR FOR HMD

Holocaust Memorial Day was observed by the Association of Jewish Refugees at Belsize Square Synagogue, as every year, on the afternoon of 22 January, five days earlier than the official date. Its theme of *Torn From Home* focussed on the 80th anniversary of the Kindertransport and included the interview of a *Kind*, who related his experience of leaving home forever.

Rabbi Altshuler introduced the memorial prayer, led by Cantor Heller and followed by Kaddish recited by a packed congregation. The first four candles of Belsize Square's special candelabrum were lit by AJR members, the fifth by a grandchild and the last by special guest, Lord Eric Pickles, co-chair of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation and the government's Special Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues.

Addressing the audience, Lord Pickles praised the

concept and design of the proposed Memorial and Learning Centre in Parliament Square. While objections have been raised on the grounds that construction will interfere with dog walkers' freedom and block the view of the Houses of Parliament, he said that dogs and people would still be able to roam there, the design is good and the location ideal, as it faces the seat of power. Its tapering design in fact allows for an excellent view of the buildings.

"It reminds people that Parliament is the protector of liberty. Parliament has power to protect or oppress," he said. "As people of that generation die out, there is more and more denial. The new learning centre, together with the Imperial War Museum, will keep true history flourishing."

The Holocaust Memorial is due to be completed in 2022.



*Eric Pickles (front, centre) with four AJR members and the granddaughter of a fifth who, like him, lit a candle on our Six Million Candelabrum*



*Four ambassadors with AJR chairman Andrew Kaufman (2nd left): Israel's Mark Regev (far left) Rehak L'ubomir (Slovakia), Peter Wittig (Germany), Michael Zimmerman (Austria). Photos by Edward Serotta/Centropa*

BELSIZES SQUARE SYNAGOGUE  
**80 YEARS**  
 The Ministers, Chairman & Honorary Officers  
 are delighted to invite you  
 to celebrate the  
 80th Anniversary of the Establishment  
 of  
 Belsize Square Synagogue  
 at a Civic Service followed by a Reception  
 on Sunday 24th March at 3pm

at Belsize Square Synagogue  
 51 Belsize Square  
 London NW3 4HX

RSVP by Sunday 10th March  
 Email: [office@synagogue.org.uk](mailto:office@synagogue.org.uk)  
 Telephone: 020 7794 3949



# YES, BELSIZE HAS TALENT

Who would have believed that Belsize had such an array of talent? And not just from the youngsters whom we expect to wow us with their musical, academic and sporting achievements. Out of over 20 performers on 13 January, nearly two thirds were adults, the rest the expected child prodigies.

It was an extraordinarily varied programme, from Puccini and Verdi arias sung by a clear-voiced budding soprano, Natasha Jouhl, whose first action was to kick the microphones out of the way, to fireside camp songs from Joe Brookes and Dan Patterson on a

twanging guitar, to Saul Zur-Spiro drumming with his AustistiX band, to 13 year-old violinist Annabel Sher who was voted to perform at our Israel Dinner on 9 May after playing the Romance from 19th-century Polish Jewish composer Henryk Wienawski's 2nd Concerto (another child prodigy violinist in his day), to pensioner Emily McLeish who belted out old favourites like *Shall We Dance*, to the youngest child, Luella Gee aged 9, who sang Adele's *Someone Like You* with touching fervour.

Another attraction was the New York

violinist Miriam Kramer who held us all in her grip as she showed her mastery of the fiddle. She came as a friend of our impresario, Judith Sciamma, chair of the Music Committee, whose brainchild this event was. Judith said that double the number of performers chosen came to the audition. With donations gratefully acknowledged, the event not only covered costs but made £1,000 to go to synagogue funds.

"The idea was to bring people together through music and make them feel a community," Judith said. "I hope I succeeded."

## BARBARA SIERATZKI 1926-2018 A WOMAN OF VALOUR AND STYLE

Barbara (Batia) was born in Cracow, Poland, on 28 March 1926 and grew up in a loving extended family in a vibrant Jewish community. Her businessman father, Yehiel Tennenbaum, was well educated in Jewish studies. Her mother Gitel (Gusti) also came from an observant family but, as a modern working woman, refused to wear a *sheyitel* (wig). Despite limited means, Barbara and her older sister, Ida, attended the local Chaim Hilfstein Hebrew Gymnasium.

When Germany invaded Poland in September 1939, their parents were in Prague in search of business. Barbara was smuggled out in a coal tender to join her parents. Ida had already escaped east to Russian-occupied Poland. Two years later Barbara and her parents escaped to Budapest, taking Polish-Catholic identities. They were arrested in autumn 1944. Her father, whom she never saw again, survived Auschwitz and the death march to Germany but perished in the last days of the war in Dachau.

Barbara and her mother were deported to Mauthausen concentration camp and liberated by Soviet troops in April 1945.

Returning to Budapest, she was visiting Bratislava in Slovakia with her mother when she noticed a familiar-looking face. She said: "If our Ida is still alive she would look like this Russian officer". It was Ida. Together they moved to Allied-occupied West Germany and settled at the displaced persons camp at Bergen Belsen. Fluent in Polish, Hebrew, German, Yiddish, English, French, Czech and Hungarian, Barbara acted as officer co-ordinating Jewish refugee organisations with the British Forces.

In December 1949 she married Heinrich (Yehekel) Sieratzki and lived in Frankfurt am Main. They made nylon stockings before venturing into property. They raised their two children, Luba and Harry, in an Orthodox home and sent them to state schools in Frankfurt. Her revered mother died in 1971. Five years later,

her husband died, aged 62.

Barbara had to use all her strength and ability to defend her interests in business and in private life, and succeeded. In 1982 Luba married in London. A few months later, Barbara was introduced to Bernard Sandler and for 14 years they enjoyed travelling around the world and sharing their cultural interests. Bernard died in 1996.

Barbara was not only a survivor but loved and lived life to the full. With her unique charm, intelligence, elegance, and warm loving nature, she was determined and inspirational, generous and philanthropic with natural nobility. Rabbi Rodney Mariner, a friend for many years, called her the "Countess of Cracow". What she loved most at Belsize Square Synagogue was children's participation in services.

She died on 23 March 2018 and was buried at Jerusalem's Sanhedria Cemetery, close to her husband and mother.

## WELCOME TO OUR BERLIN VISITORS From Our Youth Leader Lucy Bergman

Welcome to our Berlin visitors – 17 young choristers of the Pestalozzistrasse Synagogue youth choir, accompanied by choir mistress Regina Yantian and Rabbi Jonah Sievers, plus five parental helpers.

We look forward to hearing them as they join our youth choir to sing for us at our communal Friday night dinner and Shabbat morning service. A programme has been arranged for the youngsters for Saturday afternoon

followed by an evening of socialising. We currently have 24 people visiting from their synagogue. Seventeen of them are children in their youth choir and seven are adults, including their choir master Regina Yantian and their Rabbi (Rabbi Jonah Sievers). They arrive on 1 March to attend our Friday night service where Rabbi Sievers will give the sermon. After the service, there will be a Friday night dinner held at the synagogue where we will be entertained by the youth choirs from

Belsize Square and the Pestalozzistrasse Synagogue.

On Saturday, the Pestalozzistrasse Synagogue youth choir and our own will sing together in the morning service, we will make kiddush together and then we will all head out for an afternoon activity. We will come back to make Havdalah and also have dinner together in the evening. They return home on Sunday after what we trust will have been an enjoyable excursion for them.





# A CHRISTIAN CANON ON JEWISH LIFE

## Andrew White's Middle East Experiences

We have rarely had as entertaining, yet serious, a speaker as Canon Andrew White, who addressed us at the end of our Friday evening service on 11 January. Speaking from his wheelchair on the bimah – he suffers from MS – he first informed us how much he liked the service, especially the music, and how relieved he was to find the synagogue frum enough for him. "Being frum is important for me," he said.

His humour, and its deadpan delivery, belie the horrors he saw and suffered as Anglican chaplain to Iraq from 2005 to 2014, based at St George's Church where he became known as the "Vicar of Baghdad". Specialising in reconciliation, he became a priest after first qualifying and working as a hospital Operating Department Practitioner in anaesthetics, and served in churches in South London and at Coventry Cathedral before being sent out to Iraq. He was finally ordered to leave Iraq by the Archbishop of Canterbury on the grounds of being more use to the church alive than dead.

He is now based in Jordan but also spends much time in Israel, which he notes is the safest place in the Middle East for Christians. This does not include the West Bank, where Christians have been driven out from Bethlehem. He also commutes to England, visiting his wife and two sons

every six weeks or so. He is now trying his hand at reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

His embrace of Judaism rests on his understanding of Christianity's historical development. The new religion was a persecuted sect of Judaism until it was adopted by the Roman Emperor Constantine, who converted in 312CE. Constantine in effect hijacked the new religion by aligning it with pagan practice, such as moving Shabbat from the seventh day of the week to the following day which, in Roman and Greek mythology, was a major day as the day of the sun god.

This doubtless made it more acceptable to the general population but the result was not just to sever Christianity's ties to Judaism but to make it an enemy of Judaism. According to Canon White, who has detailed the consequences in his booklet *Older Younger Brother*, more Jews have been killed over the centuries by Christians than by Muslims. (Available from the Synagogue Office, £5)

He has been on a personal mission to study Judaism and compensate, in effect, for antisemitism. Having studied at an Orthodox Jerusalem yeshivah, he told us he now has mezuzot on the doors of his Jerusalem base and checks them himself. In Baghdad he took it on himself to stay in close touch

with the seven remaining Jews of a once vibrant community and celebrated Pesach with them. In many ways his personality appears to match Jewish attitudes. When confronted by the senseless brutality of ISIS, which includes the slaughter of some of his adopted Iraqi children, his faith in God has never wavered. But he does question why God allows it.

Clearly feeling at ease, he titillated us with his experiences of getting people from opposing sides to come together rather than dwell on the harrowing times he has been through. His observations were enjoyed not only by our congregation but by guests including two representatives of Israel Bonds, as well as Rev Paul Nicholson of next-door St Peter's Church and Christian Zionist activists Barbara Dingle, a trustee of Christian Friends of Magen David Adom, Lady Carol Baker who took part in bringing Soviet Jews to Israel by boat from Odessa to Haifa in the 1990s Ebenezer Operation Exodus while her late husband was Tory MP for North Dorset, and Rev Nick Gray, former director of Christian Middle East Watch.

But he left us on a serious note with a verdict on BDS, the Boycott, Disinvestment and Sanctions movement. "It's antisemitism and don't believe otherwise."

**Ruth Rothenberg**

## HOW DID CANON WHITE COME TO VISIT OUR SHUL?

### Susan Storing "tells the story"

My husband Patrick and I like to go to Christian gatherings in support of Israel, as our personal way to say a Jewish thank you. [Patrick is not Jewish but strongly supports his wife.] In November we attended a crowded celebration concert at the Albert Hall for the centenary of the Balfour Declaration. We had earlier learned from North London Friends of Israel that Canon White was coming to speak to a Christian congregation in Hitchin.

Of course we know of Canon White, not only as the Vicar of Baghdad, but from having read his booklet *Older Younger Brother*, which, as the Rabbi has said, is a monumental treatise. It is one of the clearest and most definitive statements on Christianity's indebtedness to the Jewish people and Judaism for its theological foundations

and for the basic fact that, without Judaism, there would never have been Christianity – and it is a documentation of the long and immoral history of Christian antisemitism.

At Hitchin, speaking to a Christian congregation, he told them he is "a goy who loves Shabbat, challah and gefilte fish". He then had to explain each of

those terms to them. He said that when he first came to Iraq, he found enormous antisemitism among Christian Iraqis and he taught them this is wrong. He also said that he brought together the founders of Hamas with Israeli political leaders. At the end of his talk I asked him to our shul, an invitation he accepted eagerly.

On 27 October, the Pittsburgh synagogue attack took place. I felt I must have him to stand with us, so that we could feel that we Jews are not alone. With Rabbi Altshuler's agreement, I emailed to invite him and he responded immediately from New Zealand, where he was, agreeing to come. The generosity of this man's heart is amazing. As if he didn't have enough to do, he came to stand with us at this time of rising antisemitism.



Front row: Canon Andrew White & Rabbi Stuart Altshuler. Centre row: Susan & Patrick Storing  
Back row: Christian activist Barbara Dingle & Callum, one of Canon White's two assistants

# ANNE FRANK IN AND AROUND THE WORLD

Belsize Square Synagogue has a long and close association with the travelling exhibition that keeps Anne's memory alive and teaches the importance of tolerance and staying clear of prejudice and discrimination. Since hosting its launch in 1991, when the Anne Frank Trust UK was established, we have provided expert guides and guide training.

So no surprise that we were addressed on 13 January by the founder of the Anne Frank Trust UK in 1991, Gillian Walnes Perry, who has used her three years of retirement to chronicle the educational charity's work. She gave us highlights from her book, *The Legacy of Anne Frank* (Pen & Sword, £14.99).

The famous diary of the Jewish girl in hiding in Amsterdam was published in 1947 as *The Diary of a Young Girl*. After being translated into English in 1952, as well as German and French, it took off and was dramatised as an award-winning Broadway play in 1955, which in turn became a Hollywood film in 1959. Anne wrote not only about her changing self as a young teenager but her thoughts on identity, attitudes to others and the need for inward strength and honesty. "The final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands," she wrote.

The building where she lived in hiding from age 13 to 15 became a museum in 1960. (There were protests at its proposed sale for redevelopment in 1955.) None of this would have happened, had not the diary been rescued after the war.

The person who found the diary in the wreckage of the ransacked hiding place – the back of an office building accessible only through a door covered by a bookcase – was Miep Gies, the woman who secretly looked after the families and had been p.a. to Anne's father, Otto Frank when he ran the business on the premises. (It supplied pectin for jam making and similar preservatives.) She hid the diary and returned it to Otto, the sole survivor of his family from Auschwitz. She persuaded him to get it published.

On Sunday 3 November 1991, on her first ever visit to London, she formally opened the Anne Frank In The World exhibition in our synagogue. We were also addressed by the international director of the Amsterdam Anne Frank Foundation, established in 1957.

The choice of Belsize Square was a

natural step. Many of our founding German-speaking refugee members were still alive. Otto Frank came from Frankfurt, where he was a member of Rabbi Georg Salzberger's Westend Synagogue. Rabbi Salzberger became our first rabbi soon after the formation of the New Liberal Jewish Congregation (as we then were) in 1939. They met again after the war.

Britain's first Anne Frank exhibition came to London from Amsterdam in 1986. It then visited provincial towns, including Bournemouth, home to a young Jewish mother active in the Soviet Jewry campaign of the 1970s, Gillian Walnes (she became Gillian Walnes Perry in 2012). She was asked by Rabbi David Soetendorp of Bournemouth Reform Synagogue, whose Dutch father knew Otto Frank, to help him bring the exhibition to their town in 1988. She eagerly accepted. Its success inspired her to keep the exhibition on the road. She went to Amsterdam to see the director of the Anne Frank House and came home as its official British representative.

Around the same time as Anne Frank's "extension" to Britain, the exhibition was invited to Russia. The Soviet system had crumbled and Anne Frank was among the first Western projects requested. Gillian was invited by the Amsterdam organisers to attend the 1990 Moscow opening but when she got there, she was refused entry as persona non grata, due to her previous Soviet Jewry activities, as revealed in her interesting and entertaining book.

The Moscow exhibition was a revelation. It allowed people to open up for the first time about the Holocaust, previously a taboo subject.

This happened again at the next stop, Kiev, in Ukraine. Pictures released from Soviet archives showed firing squads killing group after group. This prompted one woman to reveal how bullets missed her, aged 12. She played dead, crawling out of her family in the dark. Other women revealed for the first time they were "hidden children".

This is an educational

exhibition, regularly updated for different audiences and contexts. Its vital ingredient is having trained guides to explain the historical background and enduring message.

This is where Belsize Square synagogue has played a key role. Our members, both the older generation and now their children, have provided the backbone of volunteer guides. Gillian paid tribute to Tamara Alexander, Ursula and Harry Gilbert, Irene White, Rolf Weinberg and Steffi Lachmann, sadly no longer with us, as well as Ben Lachmann, Helen Grunberg and Henny Levin.

But pride of place went to Herbert Levy, principal guide and trainer of guides. From 2002 he specialised in taking the exhibition into prisons, where it had a remarkable effect. Herbert died in January 2015 but it was through his inspirational guiding of Tony and Cherie Blair round the exhibition in Southwark Cathedral in early 1997 that Holocaust Memorial Day was established in 2001. The Labour leader was so moved by the exhibition and Herbert's telling of it that he promised an annual commemoration if he won the May election – a promise he kept.

Herbert Levy's wife, Lilian, who introduced the speaker, paid tribute to the "dynamism of this amazing lady".

Volunteer guides are sought for the next exhibition which will run at Swiss Cottage Library from 25 April to 22 May. It will be open to the public and school groups with a range of community events.

**Ruth Rothenberg**



*Gillian Walnes Perry with the Dean of Southwark Cathedral, where she spoke last October*





The Memorial Concert at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue in St John's Wood on 22 November marking the 80th anniversary of the Kindertransport was outstanding, yet typical, not just for the quality of the music played and speeches made but for the story of how it came into being in the first place – yet another example of the individual stories of Holocaust victims and survivors. **Helen Grunberg and Sue Arnold report:**

## KINDERTRANSPORT MEMORIAL CONCERT

The inspiration for this concert came from the distinguished Hanover-born German cellist Friederike Fechner. Having bought and renovated a decrepit townhouse in Stralsund on Germany's Baltic Sea she and her husband discovered that up to 1938 the house had belonged to a Jewish couple, Selma and Julius Blach.

Through a search notice in the AJR Journal, she contacted members of the Blach family, meeting for the first time last year. Among them was Gaby Glassman, psychotherapist, AJR trustee and great-granddaughter of Selma and Julius. Gaby had done her own family research at the Wiener Library, the repository of Nazi era records. Friederike's persistence in tracing the family prompted the idea of a concert and the Wiener Library's head of development, Dr Toby Simpson, organised the event.

Library director Ben Barkow gave an introduction, and then Friederike Fechner played one of Mendelssohn's *Songs Without Words* on cello, accompanied by Hamburg-born composer-conductor Mathias Husmann on piano. Next Anthony Landes, library chairman, introduced Dame Esther Rantzen who talked of her family's wartime involvement. Her aunt, Jane Levy, was among the first ambulance drivers to enter Bergen Belsen in 1945. But of course for a Jewish audience she had to mention the seminal 1988 *That's Life* episode.

[To recap, this highlighted the hitherto unknown pre-war rescue work of a young stockbroker, Nicholas Winton who, after being alerted by English friends to the plight of Czechoslovakian Jews, changed his holiday plans for Christmas 1938 to stay in Prague and set up a Kindertransport operation manned by British and Czech volunteers. He then went home to campaign for funds, permits and homes for the 669 children he got out on eight trains. The ninth train was stopped by the outbreak of war.

Winton (who was

knighted in 2003 among many other honours and died in 2015) had pushed the episode to the back of his mind. But his Danish, non-Jewish wife found a file of lists of children while tidying their house and it finished up with Esther Rantzen. Winton agreed to discuss his pre-war activities on her programme and was invited back for a second session. At the end of that programme, she asked the TV studio audience to stand up if any of them had been saved by Mr Winton. He was gobsmacked when the entire audience stood up.

But since his parents were Jewish converts to Christianity and had baptised their son at birth, Yad Vashem did not count Nicholas Winton as a gentile, however righteous. They had emigrated from Germany a generation earlier and kept their surname, Wertheim, till 1938. Also, as a British citizen, his life was not at risk at that time (another of Yad Vashem's conditions for recognition). He considered himself just part of a British humanist group bringing help to others, not glory for himself.]

Back to music, the next piece was Beethoven's *Variations* on Handel's *See The Conqu'ring Hero Comes* from his oratorio, *Judas Maccabeus*. Bloch's *Sacred Service* was also on the programme. Then Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, Minister of Faith, announced plans by the House of Lords to host a debate on the Kindertransport, involving Lord Dubs. Alf Dubs, former Labour MP and a campaigner for human rights and refugees, left Prague aged six but was ignorant of the circumstances until the

Winton story came out. His Jewish father had already fled Czechoslovakia and met him at Liverpool Street Station. His non-Jewish mother was eventually allowed a visa to join them.

Rabbi Alexandra Wright, senior Rabbi of the LJS, then introduced the *Kinder* who lit the six memorial candles: Ann and Bob Kirk, Professor Leslie Brent, Ernest Simon, Eve Willman and Vera Schaufeld, all active in Holocaust education. Friederike Fechner and Mathius Husman returned to play Ravel's *Reflections* and more of Mendelssohn's *Songs Without Words*. Mathius Husman's mother, also a professional musician, deliberately flouted Nazi policy by playing Jewish composers like Mendelssohn.

Both performers gave their services voluntarily in this fund and profile-raising event for the Wiener Library, as did the venue and caterers. With donations on the night, over £30,000 was raised for the Library.

To finish, award-winning actor Roger Allam read extracts of the journal written in 1935 by Julius Blach's nephew, Carl-Philipp, the son of his half-brother Felix. This was very moving, as he recorded how the family leather goods business contracted and disintegrated as laws to prevent trade with Jews escalated. The business finally closed in 1938. Ravel's *Two Hebrew Melodies of Kaddish* and Bruch's *Kol Nidrei* were then played before Shakespearean actress Mariah Gale read from the memoirs of Julius' daughter, Cornelia, recalling her journey with her brother to London on a Kindertransport. Cornelia's two daughters were among those listening intently.

The older generation of the Blach family did not survive the Holocaust. Julius was murdered in Auschwitz in 1943. Projections throughout the evening showed photos of their family home and the shop in Stralsund, all part of Friederike's research. Her focus on one family brought home the impact of the Shoah and the life-saving testimony of the Kindertransport.



Original photos of the Blach family and their business premises

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE – A MESSAGE FROM THE ISRAEL COMMITTEE

Yom Ha'atzmaut 5779 sees us supporting three inclusive and life-changing projects for our three carefully chosen charities at our Israel Dinner on 9 May. With a desire to refresh and renew our engagement with Israel, we have undertaken a review of our charities and the projects that we support, which in each case has been for over 10 years. We aim to support one new charity every year and hope to maintain at least three years of support for each organisation selected.

In Israel's 71st year we are looking to the future. Our focus with each project outlined here is on the youth of the country:

**Assaf** – A young charity working with some of Israel's neediest and most vulnerable refugee children as they prepare to move out of the safety of the State School sector and into adult society where they have no protection.

**Yemin Orde** – a Children's Village located in the Carmel Hills that provides a loving and safe home from home for Jewish children from all over the world. These children, for various reasons, cannot live with their families.

**Jaffa Institute** – a charity that supports the most needy inhabitants of Tel Aviv and Jaffa. Our support concentrates on child welfare in educational and social activities.

We are delighted to announce our guest speaker, **Michael Grade**, Lord Grade of Yarmouth CBE, from a family of theatrical impresarios at the heart of show business, in his case television with involvement in such showstoppers as *Doctor Who* and *Neighbours*. We also have another treat – entertainment by the winner of our recent BSS Has Talent competition, 13-year-old violinist Annabel Sher. And we are planning a delicious new (fish) menu and dancing to the music of Shir.

This will be a fabulous evening at a cost of only £50 a head if you book and pay before 1 April (£60 thereafter). We look forward to your reply to the letter we send out.

## COMPUTER HELP FOR 2nd GENERATION REFUGEE MEMBERS

Marian Goldberg is one of our second generation refugee members who benefits from the Computer Help programme run by the Association of Jewish Refugees.

Every fortnight Marian is visited by an AJR volunteer who helps her get the most out of her smartphone and the easy-to-operate specially adapted



computer provided through the SPF Connect project. (SPF, the Six Point Foundation, operated from 2014-17 using funds from the sale of the old age homes in The Bishop's Avenue,

themselves originating from German reparations.)

As Community Care Co-ordinator, I visited Marian and her AJR volunteer, Margo Howie (*pictured*). Margo told me: "We usually see each other every other Friday. We chat and then see if we should find out how to use the smartphone or computer, like cleaning up apps, learning Citymapper or managing photos and videos."

Both Marian and Margo enjoy their time together as well as the benefits of mastering technology which helps one to stay in touch and be informed and entertained with, of course, livestream Belsize Square services, concerts and events.

Claude Vecht-Wolf, co-ordinator of the AJR's Computer Help programme

said: "The programme was established in 2013 to assist AJR members with basic computing skills. Today around 40 people are receiving volunteer help to use their devices and computers.

"Aside from helping us care for our members, our volunteers also gain from the experience. It helps mental and physical health, social and career opportunities, self-esteem and sense of purpose. As one of our volunteers said: 'It's a fulfilling experience both for yourself and for the client. They truly value your time.'"

If you are interested in getting help or becoming a volunteer, call me on 020 7435 7129 or email: [eve@synagogue.org.uk](mailto:eve@synagogue.org.uk) or contact: [www.ajr.org.uk](http://www.ajr.org.uk)

**Eve Hersov**

## KINDERTRANSPORT FUND SET UP BY GERMAN GOVERNMENT

Kindertransport survivors have started applying for the payments offered by the German government in recognition of the 80th anniversary of the start of their arrival in Britain in December 1938.

The announcement was made by the German government in December, following lengthy negotiations with the New York-based Conference for Material Claims against Germany. Each surviving *Kind* will receive 2,500 euros (approximately £2,250), regardless of personal circumstances or previous payments, including those

that were made in the 1950s.

Stuart Eizenstat, the chief negotiator for the Claims Conference, said: "This payment comes at a time when we are commemorating 80 years since these children took their fateful journey from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia to Great Britain. After having to endure a life forever severed from their parents and families, no one can ever profess to make them whole; they are receiving a small measure of justice."

The Kindertransport Fund opened on 1 January. Application forms are

available on the Claims Conference website:

[www.claimscon.org/what-we-do/compensation/background/kindertransport-fund/](http://www.claimscon.org/what-we-do/compensation/background/kindertransport-fund/)

The Association of Jewish Refugees will help applicants fill in the form (tel: 020 8385 3070; email: [enquiries@ajr.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ajr.org.uk)). Where documentary evidence is sought of a person's status as an unaccompanied child refugee to Britain, World Jewish Relief may be able to help from its archive (tel: 020 8736 1250; email: [info@worldjewishrelief.org](mailto:info@worldjewishrelief.org)).



## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS SHABBAT

*Deborah Cohen writes:* Our congregation was privileged to mark UK Mental Health Awareness Shabbat by hearing from Mike Segall and his daughter Eleanor about their stories of achieving mental well-being in the face of the challenge of a diagnosis of bipolar affective disorder.

This was the third year of holding a UK Mental Health Awareness Shabbat but the first time it came to Belsize. It is an initiative by JAMI, a charity that runs mental health services within the Jewish Community to raise the profile of mental health in the community.

Mike spoke to us in shul on Shabbat morning and left us with three messages: (1) It is good to talk. Talking about mental illness helps people on their recovery journey. (2) A mental health diagnosis is not the end. Mike has been on medication for many years and it has kept him staying well. (3) Talking about mental health removes stigma and fear. After talking about his experience, Mike read out his daughter's story, as she did not feel up to speaking in public.

Next year's Mental Health Awareness Shabbat will take place on the weekend of 31 Jan/1 Feb. We hope to mark it again and make this an annual event.

*Deborah Cohen, a former Board member and Synagogue Treasurer, has spent a large part of her career as a director in Mental Health Services for the NHS. She says: "I feel very passionately about mental health and well-being."*

### LIVING WITH BIPOLAR DISORDER Eleanor Segall Tells Us Her Experiences

Before I share my story, I want to thank Rabbi Altshuler and Deborah Cohen for inviting us here to speak today on *Parshat Bo*, which talks about the plague of darkness. My story has been difficult and at times dark, but it has taught me to find the light.

I was diagnosed with bipolar affective disorder at 16, while studying for my AS levels at Immanuel College. Bipolar is a serious mental illness. It is a mood disorder where you have both depressive low and manic high mood episodes. My Dad and I have the most severe type but there is a spectrum. Bipolar is helped by medication to even out the mood states and therapy helps but it's about finding the right course of treatment for each person.

I was admitted to The Priory Hospital in 2004 after a year of depressive and anxious episodes, followed by a smaller episode of mania, which left me very unwell. I would describe my hypomania as becoming quite vulnerable while feeling extremely excitable with a short period of over-the-top happiness. Full blown mania for me is more dangerous, as my mind starts to become very unwell and I lose touch with real life.

At 16, sitting in a hospital room with my parents, I finally accepted the diagnosis. There is evidence that bipolar can be genetic and bipolar runs in my family. My Dad was diagnosed just four years before me. But no one suspected my depression and hypomania could be such a serious illness. With my mixed mood state of depression and psychosis (where your mind loses touch with reality and you

believe things that aren't real), I needed urgent medical care to bring my mind back to normal functioning. I was highly anxious and needed time to sleep and recover.

Luckily, after four months of medication and careful monitoring, I recovered and was able to go home. I was given a special form of psychiatric medication called a mood stabiliser to keep the mood states in the brain stable. This, with other medication, meant that I could live a fairly normal life for several years, helped by the amazing support of friends and family, psychiatrists and a great therapist.

Despite having to go down a year at school to complete my A levels, I achieved them and made it to university against the odds! I completed a BA and Masters in Drama and English. I travelled with friends to India and Ghana, regularly took my new medications and was supported by professionals, parents and friends. I did develop anxiety and panic attacks as a result of all I had gone through and started therapy for this. I struggle with anxiety to this day, as I am sure many of you do. I began work as a teaching assistant in Jewish primary schools, feeling quite well for some years.

But over time, we believe my main medication stopped working. This, coupled with several difficult events in my family's life, meant I became unwell fast. In autumn 2013, almost 10 years after hospitalisation, I began to sink into a very low depressive state where I couldn't work, slept all the time and couldn't get out of bed till evening. My

mind was overwhelmed by darkness. I became very unwell but, supported by my family and psychiatrist, I got better again. Slowly I managed to get out of bed and back out into the world. However, this was short-lived.

In March 2014, just months later, I spiralled into the worst manic episode of my life. I had racing thoughts and pressured speech, was very fearful of those around me, and began to experience false beliefs about the world, which felt real. I was incredibly vulnerable and unwell and needed hospitalisation. The episode happened very quickly and I suddenly found myself in A and E with concerned family members, waiting to be treated. I had no insight into how unwell I was.

Being in hospital this time was hard. It took a while for the psychiatry team to bring my mood down from manic back to Eleanor. I became an in-patient for four months, attending therapy groups and working with occupational therapists, nurses and a wonderful psychiatrist who believed I would get well again, which I did in time. I received a further few months of support after I left the ward, having been put on the correct medicine for me, Lithium, which has helped keep the extreme moods at bay and which has also helped my Dad.

I attended day hospital therapy sessions and slowly came out of my shell with the help of supportive therapists. I was in shock at what had happened to me, as it had been a decade since my previous manic state. Over time I accepted it and began to recover.



Since that difficult time, five years ago now, I have volunteered with mental health charities and supported a number of communal projects including Mental Health Awareness Shabbat, created by Jami (the Jewish Association for Mental Illness, founded in 1991.) I was a volunteer behind the scenes in its launch two years ago, in 2017, in over 100 shuls and organisations, and this is why it is such a privilege to speak today for the first time in a shul.

I now work as a mental health blogger and freelance journalist. I started my blog, *Be Ur Own Light*, in 2016 to explain to family and friends about my mental health, bipolar and recovery. It

has been read worldwide and its aim is to tackle mental health stigma. I also write for *Metro*, *Glamour* and *Happiful Magazine*, as well as being recently published in the *Telegraph*.

My aim is to battle stigma and explain about bipolar through writing. I am currently also writing a book which I hope will be out later this year. My message is that the right medical team, coupled with support networks, psychotherapy, medication and doing things you love, can help you feel much better and find recovery. I, like so many with mental health issues, am still a work in progress but to reach any form of recovery is a big milestone, and I will fight to remain well.

Make sure you look out for signs that your loved ones are unwell and reach out to organisations like Jami or the Samaritans for support.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Jami

Martin B Cohen Centre  
Gould Way, Edgware, HA8 9GL  
Website: [jamiuk.org](http://jamiuk.org)  
Email: [info@jamiuk.org](mailto:info@jamiuk.org)  
Telephone: 020 8458 2223

### The Samaritans

Free 24-hour helpline: 116123  
Email: [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)



## MACCABI PRIZE FOR HANNAH VINER

Congratulations to Hannah Viner, 22-year-old Belsize Square member and champion runner, who was awarded

Maccabi GB's prestigious Susan Halter Elite Athlete Award 2018 in December.

The award is named after a 21-year-old Jewish Hungarian Holocaust survivor who competed in the 100m freestyle swimming in the first post-war Olympics in 1948 in London. It's been an outstanding year for Hannah, which saw her compete for her country and ranked in the national top 10 in her age

category for several races.

She is currently UK number 1 in the under-23 age group for the 5k park run event. She represented England in a 10km road race in France in October, coming third and taking England to the team gold. Hannah said, "It was an amazing experience, representing my country in an international road race."

Hannah's favourite track distance is the 10k but she also competes at 800m, 1500m, 3k and 5k, as well as road running and cross-country. She runs about 110 kilometres every week and sometimes trains twice daily, enjoying the support of a group from her running club, Highgate Harriers.

This year got off to another successful start as Hannah and team-mates from Highgate Harriers took the silver medal at the South of England cross-country championships on 26 January, on "home turf" at Parliament Hill. Coming up later this season are National and Inter-County championships.

A significant upcoming change for Hannah in 2019 is her 23rd birthday in July, which will move her into the senior age category. Her ambition is to represent England at this age group too. We wish her the very best of luck and look forward to reporting on that achievement in the future, too!

**Alex Antsheri**

## BRONZE PLAQUE AWARD

Congratulations to our hard working team, led by Paul Fraylich, which culminated in a Bronze Award presented to our synagogue on 29 January for its eco-friendly practices. Paul, a keen and long-standing environmentalist, is our representative on the Eco Synagogue movement set up by Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg of New North London Synagogue in January 2018, itself patterned on a recent church initiative.

Paul Fraylich, together with chairman Jackie Alexander, chief executive Lee Taylor, Facilities (formerly Building) Committee member Peter Leon and our caretaker Gordon Larkin, carried out a survey of our premises to see where improvements could be made in such things as energy saving and waste management. They have already started putting this into practice.

But this is not the end of our new-found environmentalism. Paul reports that we have also won a grant from the Woodland Trust to plant a hedgerow in our synagogue grounds. Saplings expected imminently!

## WHEAT SALES FOR PASSOVER NEEDS "Ma'ot Chittin" explained by Rabbi Altshuler

Since the beginning of the rabbinic period 2,000 years ago, it has been the practice of Jews to "sell" our Chametz (food forbidden during the week of Passover), following the Torah's instruction to rid our homes of Chametz during the holiday.

Instead of burning every food substance in our homes, the rabbis devised a scheme that would not involve unnecessary loss of food, while still allowing us to keep the Torah commandment in a meaningful and dignified way. Sell your Chametz to someone who is not

Jewish and make a contribution to providing for Passover needs for the poor by giving of what you own.

That is why the tradition of "selling the Chametz" (*Ma'ot Chittin*) is accompanied by sending tzedakah ("deserved" charity) to the poor. In the past, our congregation has sent hundreds of pounds to Meir Panim (known in this country as Manna UK), an organisation providing for the needs of the poor in Israel, including Holocaust survivors, many of whom still live in poverty, especially those coming from the

former Soviet Union.

Help us this year to send a significant gift to Meir Panim and help bring dignity to our people during Passover week. Through your contributions, every Jew in need receives a shopping card from Meir Panim which allows them to enter the markets in Israel and provide for their family Seder and week of Passover needs.

It's a good cause. Make your cheques out to The Belsize Square Synagogue and please be among the donors to those Jews in need this Pesach.





Dear Fellow Members

I am having now in my time of live to become much more self-efficient. This is because Mrs Klopstick is leaving me for another man. She is doing this now three times a weak at lunge times in preparation for her drek across the Alterkarma desert. She has taken on with a personal drainer called Mikesh who shows her how to build her core blimey muscles up. For someone of this age I think that the phrases that he puts her threw are over ambiguous.



when I am long gone into my coughin.

In just three weaks from when you reed oder ignore this kolumne it will be Purim again. It is quiet frightening how time flows. To me it seems like only yesterday that Mrs K was creating her idea of Haman taschen with garden seeds instead of poppy won's. This year she is concentrating her killanory skills on Pesach und making her own matzos again. Her last tempt at such a project produced not something eatable, but buy chance she created an entirely knew building material that was fire prove und unbreakable. We are still waiting for the patient to come threw.

Personally I don't think my wive needs any extra draining at all. Earlier in the year she dragged me threw the sales at all the furniture shops looking for a periodic table. I could hardly keep up with her flashing from won store to the other, but it was no youth. Antic furniture is completely out of fashion, so not awalable. The publication of this article will coincidence precisely with hour synagogue's eighteenth celebration. I am won of the phew who have been their from the worry beginnings when we used to meet in a room in 27 Belsize Avenue. In this haus I think I was barmitzvared. At that time we couldn't begin to remember that one day we would be opposite in hour own home in Belsize Square.

Looking four-word I see that their is going to be another expedition lead by Rabbi Altschuler und organised by Clear Walford. This time it is to Prague the capital town of Czechoslovakai. I don't know if it is specially for this outing, but I have seen that the Rabbi has groan his own bard. I suppose in certain counties a bard is compulsive for some won in a rabbinical posture.

A lot of water has washed over the bridge in this eight decays. We have been thermonised by four Rabbis und chanted too by six Chasans. The synagogue has expended itself several times with schools und classes not just for the use, but also for groan ups und many disgustions groups. I am proudt to be apart from this vigrant commune. When I see knew faces in the seats it always gives me a shrill to think that the congregation will go on in importunity

As this is taking place after we are supposed to have left Breaksit, I hope that all passports und weasers are up to date und probably in tagged. We don't want to have to exorcise an extraction order to get our Rabbi und members back on terry former. No one really nose what in future will happen, but as Mrs Bluhmenkohl always says, it is better to be save then surrey.

With the best of intentions

Fritz Klopstick

### CHANUKAH MARKET A RESOUNDING SUCCESS A Thank You From Annette Nathan

On behalf of the Chanukah Market Team, I would like to thank everyone who participated in making the first weekend of December such a resounding financial and social success. So many people were involved in the production of this quirky, iconic event:

- The stall-holders who shop, procure, make, prepare and sell
- Everyone who came to buy goods or to enjoy the refreshments in the Belsize Brasserie
- Our many volunteers who turn up to help, often being asked to move to a different stall, depending how busy we are. We appreciate your support and your flexibility
- Gordon and his staff who have to rearrange the entire building – moving furniture, putting up banners and helping in any way they can
- Our ministers for their grace and understanding in allowing us to relocate the Shabbat services
- The Parents Association, its chair Frank Joseph, youth leader Lucy Bergman, and all the parents and kids for helping to create such a fun children's market!
- The Youth Choir under its conductor Miles D'Cruz for their beautiful singing at the end of the day and for helping us to bring in Chanukah

The market raised just over **£11,000!** So thanks again to **all** who took part. Whatever part you played, you were invaluable

We will rest for a couple of months before starting to plan the 2019 market. If you have any comments or suggestions or want to be more active in the Market, please contact us through Lee in the office. Thanks again from the Chanukah Market Team:

**Annette Nathan, Pat Hirschovits, Cheryl Davis, Emma Pollins, Freddy Lehmann**

### Shabbat Candle Lighting



Friday 1 March	Jennifer Balcombe
Friday 8 March	Sandra Clifton
Friday 15 March	Susan Chester
Friday 22 March	Lilian Levy
Friday 29 March	Lucy Walford
Friday 5 April	Angela Schluter
Friday 12 April	Prudence Rex-Hassan
Thursday 25 April	Hilary Markson
Friday 26 April	Kitty Brod



Although the synagogue continues to grow and attract new members, we need to encourage membership fees as well.

We depend on the generosity of our members to provide the ongoing religious services, to offer support and education for adults and children, to offer social and cultural care for all members of our community and also to preserve our unique historical heritage.

**Any legacy, large or small, will make a difference!**

Any questions? For a confidential discussion please call Lee Taylor on 020 7734 2543

# Community News

The copy deadline for the next issue of  
*Our Congregation* is Friday 5 April

## NEW MEMBERS

*We extend a cordial welcome to:*

Joshua Crocker  
Emily & Arie Pilo together with Moises  
Jessica & Ben Lampert  
Danielle Saul-Tickner

## BIRTHS

*Congratulations and best wishes to:*

Katie & Adam Hirschovits on the birth of their son Woolf  
Andrew Laderman & Martina Tafreshi on the birth of their daughter Olivia  
(Apologies for mistakes in names in our last issue)

## BIRTHDAYS

*Congratulations and best wishes to:*

Mrs J Van Vlymen (82) on 1 February  
Mr G Sassower (87) on 2 February  
Mrs R Sassower (82) on 2 February  
Mrs Y Alweiss (86) on 26 February  
Mr J Danziger (82) on 26 February  
Mrs J Danziger (75) on 26 February  
Mrs B Flynn (98) on 5 March  
Mrs B Harding (81) on 10 March  
Mrs R Simion (90) on 16 March  
Mrs M Suchy (96) on 20 March  
Mrs P Mendel (83) on 25 March

## DEATHS

*We regret to announce the passing of:*

Elizabeth Block on 14 December  
Gabrielle Goldman on 3 February

## STONE SETTING

Alfred (Joe) Behrens on Tuesday 30 April at 10.30am  
at Edgwarebury Lane Cemetery



## TEFILLIN CLUB

Teaching boys studying for their Bar Mitzvah and anyone else who wants to learn how to lay tefillin. Next Sunday 9.30am sessions (during Cheder term) on 17 March and 5 May (not 19 May as previously announced).

## HENNY LEVIN'S JAM JAR APPEAL

In the same way the Festivals come around each year, so do the fruits and vegetables that grow and mature on my allotment which I pick to make jams and chutneys for our Chanukah Market. It is wonderful to hear that 2018 was again a great success. In order to continue my labour of love, I need jam jars, especially those of the 425gm size. It's never too early to start saving them, especially if you can take off their original labels before leaving them in the synagogue office for me to collect. Thanks for your help and I hope that you enjoy the fruits of my labour.

## ISRAEL DINNER, THURSDAY 9 MAY

Celebrate Yom Ha'Atzma'ut, Israel's 71st Birthday

- \* A great evening of music and dancing
- \* Guest speaker: Lord (Michael) Gee of Yarmouth, CBE
- \* Superb dining by our own chef, Adam Nathan
- \* Support our chosen well-deserving chosen Israeli charities

Cost: £60 per head or £50 if paid before 1 April

## REGULAR SERVICES

Friday evenings at 6.45pm & Saturday mornings at 10.00am

### Kikar Kids

**Saturday 2 March and 6 April**

Under-5s Service in the Crèche (Crèche opens 10am)  
Junior Service for 5-9 year-olds 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

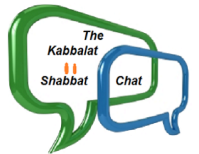
### Religion School

Sunday mornings: 9.30am-12.30pm  
**Term ends: Sunday 7 April**  
**Summer Term begins: Sunday 28 April**

## CANTOR HELLER'S KABBALAT SHABBAT CHAT

An invitation and opportunity for Bar Mitzvah class pupils to make Kiddush, sing Lecha Dodi and learn the lessons of the Parsha. On the second Friday of the month 5.30pm in the Library

**Next session: 8 March**



## NW3 LUNCHEON GROUP

Giacomo, 428 Finchley Road, London, NW2 2HY  
**1.00pm on Wednesday 20 March, 17 April & 15 May**  
Please call Judy Field (020 8455 0614) if you wish to attend

## SUNDAY MORNING ADULT DISCUSSION

**3 March** Jewish Book Week - Meet 10am at Kings Place, York Way, N1 9AG

**10 March** 10.00-11.15: Rabbi Altshuler's History of Ancient Israel series - Independent Kingdoms, North( Israel) and South (Judah) 950-722 BCE

11.15-12.30 Alan Mendoza, founder and executive director of political think tank, the Henry Jackson Society

**17 March** 10.00-11.15 Rabbi Altshuler - Assyrian Conquest 722 BCE, siege of Israel

11.15-12.30 Charlotte Littlewood "Becoming the Voice", work with young adults in Hebron

**24 March** 10.00-11.15 Rabbi Altshuler - Judah/Hezekiah 715-687 BCE

11.15-12.30 Jeffrey Graham - Bibi or not Bibi - The Israeli Elections

**31 March** 10.00-11.15 Rabbi Altshuler - 8th-century Prophets Amos/Hosea/Micah/Isaiah 1

11.15-12.30 Bea Lefkowitz - Working with Testimonies: Post-memory and 2nd generation

**7 April** 10.00-11.15 Rabbi Altshuler - King Josiah's reforms (Book of Deuteronomy)

11.15-12.30 Hilary Curtis - Anointment in ancient Israel and British royalty

**14 & 21 April: No Adult Discussion- Pesach Holiday**

**28 April** 10.00-11.15 Rabbi Altshuler - Fall of Judah 587/86 BCE

11.15-12.30 TBC

## SHABBAT HAGADOL

The Annual Remembrance Service will be held on  
Saturday 13 April at 10.00am

We remember those who will not be at our Seder table  
and who have no others to remember them





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**MUSIC AT BELSIZE PRESENTS**  
**THE BAT KOL CHOIR**  
**HAVDALAH CONCERT**  
**SATURDAY 13 APRIL at 7.15pm**

Award-winning singing dancing youth choir of the Israel Conservatory of Music, Tel Aviv



Also featuring *The Belsize Square Synagogue Youth Choir*

Followed by a post-concert, post-Shabbat MELAVEH MALKA MEAL  
 All for £15 per ticket  
 Must be pre-booked via the synagogue office or website

**SECOND NIGHT SEDER**  
**Saturday 20 April**

Rabbi Altshuler and Cantor Heller invite you to join them for Second Night Seder at the Synagogue following the Service, which starts 6.45pm

Members £30.00; Non Members £35.00; Under 13 £15.00

Please phone the Synagogue Office on 020 7794 3949 or email: [office@synagogue.org.uk](mailto:office@synagogue.org.uk) if you wish to attend

**Invitation to Nominate Candidates for Membership of the Board of The Belsize Square Synagogue (The Synagogue)**

The sixth Annual General Meeting of The Synagogue (the AGM) will be held on Thursday 6 June 2019. Formal notice will be given in due course.

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

Nominations must be in writing, addressed to the Hon. Secretary and submitted to the Synagogue Office by twelve noon on Sunday 14 April 2019. Each Nomination must be signed by at least five members of The Synagogue who are themselves entitled to vote at the AGM. Only valid nominations which are received by that date can be considered. No member may sign more nominations for the Board than the number of vacancies (namely 15).

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

From Wednesday 17 April, a list of the candidates duly nominated will be available for inspection at the Synagogue Office and the formal notice of the AGM will also include a list of those candidates.

**SYNAGOGUE HELP LINES**

**THE BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE**  
 51 Belsize Square, London, NW3 4HX  
 Tel: 020 7794 3949  
 Email: [office@synagogue.org.uk](mailto:office@synagogue.org.uk)

**SYNAGOGUE OFFICE HOURS**  
 9.00am - 5.30pm  
 Fridays: 9.00am-2.00pm

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**  
 Lee Taylor - 020 7794 3949

**CHEVRA KADISHA**  
 Chairman: Rabbi Stuart Altshuler  
 Joint Vice Chairs: Helen Grunberg - 020 8450 8533  
 Cantor Dr Paul Heller

**COMMUNITY CARE CO-ORDINATOR & BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE**  
 Contact Eve Hersov on 020 7435 7129  
 or email [eve@synagogue.org.uk](mailto: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 Caroline Loison, in the Synagogue Office or email [caroline@synagogue.org.uk](mailto:caroline@synagogue.org.uk)

**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
 Chairperson: Frank Joseph - 020 7482 2555

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES**  
 Email: [youth@synagogue.org.uk](mailto:youth@synagogue.org.uk)

**EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR CONGREGATION**  
 Emails to: [office@synagogue.org.uk](mailto:office@synagogue.org.uk)  
 or to the Editor: [ruth@famrothenberg.com](mailto:ruth@famrothenberg.com)


**LAYOUT AND DESIGN**  
 Philip Simon: [www.philipsimon.co.uk](http://www.philipsimon.co.uk)

**CHAIRMAN**  
 Jackie Alexander  
[chairman@synagogue.org.uk](mailto:chairman@synagogue.org.uk)

**RABBI**  
 Rabbi Dr Stuart Altshuler  
[rabbi@synagogue.org.uk](mailto:rabbi@synagogue.org.uk)

**CANTOR**  
 Cantor Dr Paul Heller  
[cantor@synagogue.org.uk](mailto:cantor@synagogue.org.uk)

**EMERITUS**  
 Rabbi Rodney Mariner  
[rodmariner@aol.com](mailto:rodmariner@aol.com) / 020 8347 5306 / 07956 352267



**Charity Number 1144866**  
**Company Number 7831243**  
**The Belsize Square Synagogue**