

Our Congregation



News and views from Belsize Square Synagogue

CHANUKAH AND THE BATTLE AGAINST EVIL – THEN AND NOW

Shalom Chaverim

Certain events in history are watershed occurrences. Some have moved us forward, some weigh heavily on the souls and fibre of civilisation. The horrific Paris terrorist attack by ISIS, or ISIL, is one such tipping point.

Suddenly there are declarations of World War III, a security crisis and the massive human problem of dealing with hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees. Our eyes have been opened to the necessity of waging war against radical extreme Islam.

ISIS now controls a territory larger than Britain, has recruited at least 60,000 militants and thrives in the heart of Iraq and Syria. It is bent on re-establishing the Sunni caliphate and destroying the "heathen" West. And now it threatens our nations, cities and way of life.

Well, it is Chanukah. The holiday begins on the evening of Sunday 6 December, when we light the Chanukiah, sing, eat latkes and doughnuts and retell the story of the Maccabees' brave stand for freedom against the Greek Seleucid monarch, Antiochus IV Epiphanes, who reigned from 175 to 164 BCE.

The pre-eminent lesson of Chanukah is that in order to retain our values and live as Jews, freely practising our religion, we have to fight for the right simply to exist.

The war of the Maccabees was an existential fight, not so much for numbers, though scores of thousands died, but for the preservation of our Jewish soul, our right to live as Jews.

After being prevented in 168BCE by the superpower, Rome, from pursuing his dream of conquering Egypt, Antiochus returned to his Syrian realm to find that his Jewish subjects had reacted to a false report of his death in Egypt by ousting his choice of High Priest and reinstating the previous holder.

He vented his fury and frustration on Jerusalem's Jews. Some 40,000 men were executed, around the same number of women and children sold into slavery, and their homes demolished.

He then turned on Judaism itself, banning Torah study and circumcision as well as converting the Temple to the worship of Zeus, with a daily sacrifice of a pig – he had already stolen the Temple's golden treasures.

We learn from this heroic episode of Jewish resistance that evil exists, that our people have had to fight against those bent on destroying us.

Earlier this year, archaeologists discovered under a parking lot in Jerusalem the remains of the "acra" fortress built by Antiochus between *Ir David*, the City of David, and *Har Habayit*, the Temple Mount, on the site of demolished Jewish homes. It is all there, an archaeological miracle: the barracks, the watch towers, the spying on all Jewish activity – symbols of despotism and brutality.

In Israel Chanukah will be celebrated in grand style as Jewish history seen from the Israeli view, reminding us of Israel's past and ongoing fight against forces bent on its destruction not just as a sovereign state but increasingly for the right of Jews to be Jewish.

Alarming claims from Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian Authority that the Kotel, the Western Wall, the last remnant of the Second Temple, is an "Islamic shrine", is the clearest denial of Jewish ties to Jerusalem, both historically and religiously.

The western world has been increasingly shocked by ISIS brutality. Its origins lie in the Muslim Brotherhood, founded in Egypt in 1928. Sadat's assassination in 1981 was carried out by a member of a Brotherhood offshoot. The 1979 Iranian theocratic revolution supported Hamas, another Brotherhood offshoot, in Gaza, as well as the Hezbollah militia in Lebanon. All these factors have crippled the last remnants of "secularism". Yes, even the brutal dictatorships of Nasser, Assad, Saddam Hussein and others are looking less threatening than ISIS madness.

The Jewish people, with our experience of fighting terror and evil around Israel,

can play a crucial role in giving others strength and hope against pure evil.

* We light candles to keep faith in our ideals, while never losing sight of the practical and brutal realities needed to stay alive as Jews.

* We light candles in the hope that the Almighty will give us the strength to protect the persecuted and pray that we never give up our hope in a better tomorrow.

* We light candles to remain strong in our Jewish convictions and determined to maintain our way of life.

* We light candles so that we can continue to be a "light unto the nations" and teach our compatriots in this country, in France and throughout the free world that we can and will win this battle. We will never surrender to evil.

God bless our people, Israel, our families, our loved ones, and the vast majority of Christians, Jews and Muslims who desire not war, not terror, but peace.

Chag Chanukah Sameach

Rabbi Stuart Altshuler

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SHABBAT

A Service to commemorate the anniversary of the end of the Holocaust will take place on Friday 29 January at 6.45pm and will include Mazkir for all who died *Al Kiddush HaShem*

National Holocaust Memorial Day will be held on Wednesday 27 January

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A SHARED SHABBAT

Kitty Brod reviews our crowded diary of events

This year marked yet another "first" for Belsize, when our synagogue took part in Shabbat UK, a global celebration of Shabbat. As you will have read in the previous edition of our magazine, the concept of communities observing Shabbat all around the country began in South Africa. All over the UK and far beyond, Jewish communities got together to fulfil the mitzvah of honouring the Shabbat. Each community will have done it differently, and our very own synagogue did it the "Belsize" way.

The Thursday Bake Off

It all began on Thursday night, 22 October. Whilst 5,000 people were baking challah at Brent Cross(!), about 40 of us were privileged to have Jennifer Saul show us, step by step, how to bake challah with her own very special and delicious recipe. You can read about the experience below, then see the rest of the programme on the opposite page.

CHALLAH BAKE RISES TO EXPECTATIONS

The widely publicised challah baking operation, carried out by communities across the country, attracted 43 participants who were presented with two stacked parchment-lined baking trays and all the essential ingredients: a cup of warm water, a wrapped cube of fresh yeast, a thimbleful of oil and a measured amount of sugar in a bowl, while the baking tray held the correct amount of strong bread flour and salt, together with two eggs.

Head chef, Jennifer Saul, told us to put the water and sugar into the measuring jugs we had been told to bring along, then crumble the yeast cube into it. While the liquid fermented for about 10 minutes, we prepared the dough by putting the flour, eggs, oil and salt into the mixing bowls we had provided from home. It was starting to look messy.

Next we added the yeast mixture. Now the fun began. With bare hands (OK, so some of us wore disposable gloves) we sank our fingers into the gooey mess and pinched, punched and pulled the shapeless mass back and forth for a good five minutes or more.

As a form of therapy for working off the frustrations of the day, this exercise is highly recommended. It also provides healthy toning for the biceps and triceps, while from a cultural angle, at least one

person's efforts resulted in a shape that would surely qualify for the Tate Modern.

Next, with our mixing bowls shrouded in cling film, we took a break for the First Rising (no religious connotations intended), or proofing, and listened to a charming and imaginative talk from Antge Heller, weaving together the various aspects of women's vital role in keeping Judaism alive. In particular, we learned about the origins of challah in biblical command.

As the priests, indeed the whole tribe of Levi, were not allocated agricultural land in the Land of Israel, they relied on the tithes and offerings laid down in Torah. For the priests, this included a share of people's bread-making. After the destruction of the Second Temple, this "tax" settled into the custom of removing an "olive's worth" of dough and overcooking it to make it inedible.

Apart from this rule not applying outside Israel, there was also an exemption below a specific quantity (it was more for commercial quantities). But the rabbis decided to maintain the practice in the diaspora and it remains a firm favourite. Today, we still make two challot to symbolise the Friday double ration of manna distributed in the wilderness.

But now, it was back to the baking table to see the miraculous transformation of our irregular and rough-edged lumps into smooth rounded balls, and get ready for part two, the tricky bit.

This involved dividing the dough into two portions for two loaves, then dividing and rolling each portion into three "sausages", pinching three ends together and, finally, braiding each triplet to form a plaited challah. The secret is to keep the centre length of the triplet in position while placing each side piece in turn first over and then under the centre length. At the end of the run, pinch the ends together again.



Ready, steady, knead!
Belsize Square bakers begin work under guidance of Jennifer Saul (front left in striped apron)

We all went home carrying two trays of challah covered with cling film (odd how this isn't mentioned in the Bible). The journey home was also part of the recipe, as it covered the Second Rising. So if you had a long drive, there was a possibility that your challah would be "overblown". Jennifer's tip if this happens is to poke your fingers into the dough and gently work it to deflate it, then plait it again.

Once home, it was ovens on at 180°C (160°C for fan-assisted, gas regulo 4 or 5). Pre-heat for 10 minutes whilst brushing the challah surfaces with beaten egg and (optional) sprinkling of poppy or sesame seeds. Then cook for 15-20 minutes till golden brown.

So far, we haven't had complaints about the results. In fact, it was very good. Thank you, Jennifer and Antge.



A patient trio
Liz Cowan, Helen Toeman and Monica Bard wait for their dough to rise

To make your own Challah:

- * 1 cube fresh yeast (available from Jewish delis) or 30g/1oz dried yeast
- * 1/4 cup (50-60g/2oz) sugar
- * 3 1/2 cups (800g/1lb.12oz) strong bread flour
- * 1 teaspoon salt
- * 1/8 cup (30ml/1oz) oil

For glaze: 1 beaten egg and poppy or sesame seeds to sprinkle

The Friday Nighters

The Belsize Bake Off was followed on Friday night by a series of events. Some 25 young adults aged 18-30, under the leadership and guidance of Joe Hacker, came together after the Friday night service for a delicious supper, schmooze and serious discussion. Their numbers were later augmented by another 20 people from Rabbi Altshuler's conversion class, who readily joined the debate. This marked the start of Shabbat, and an edifying and gratifying time was had by all.

Meanwhile, many members had opened their homes to guests for a traditional Friday night dinner, with kiddush and bensching. During the weeks before this special weekend, hosts had volunteered or been asked to invite other members to their table. Whilst there was great willingness and excitement on the hosts' part, because it was also the half-term weekend and there was little prior notice, we think there was less take-up of the invitations than we hope there will be in future such events.

However, those invited were thrilled to be asked even if, for whatever reason, they could not accept. Similarly many, who were able to participate, made new friends and felt warmly embraced by fellow members and the community as a whole. This was the whole point of the weekend and, hopefully, will be a starting point for the future.

This note from one guest to her host says it all:

"Thank you so much for a thoroughly wonderful Shabbat. I enjoyed the conversation, the camaraderie, the food and drink, and the whole communal atmosphere that you created in your home. It is always so stimulating both to meet new people and to get to know other people like yourselves, whom one already knows, better, and to share personal history and stories. I feel very fortunate to have been invited."

Understanding the Shabbat Service

On Shabbat morning Rabbi Altshuler led a Learning Service. Going step by step through the prayers, he explained their history and structure, their hidden meanings and how they have evolved over the years, revealing some fascinating new insights.

He focused on the creation-related themes that dominate the early part of the service, and how those reflections lead on to the theme of Torah. He also pointed out the clear statement that Shabbat trumps all other mitzvot.

The professional choir, together with the community choir, enhanced the service with the traditional melodies, while the number of leyners during the Torah reading, showed once again how we can be proud of the knowledge and newly-learned skills of so many of our members.

A Song and a Joke

The service was followed by kiddush, and then some 50 people partook of a delicious cold buffet lunch in the hall. Again the atmosphere was warm, convivial and welcoming. Cantor Heller led the bensching and finally, to complete the Shabbat afternoon, we were treated to three very different, but all delightful, events.

Ben Wolf led the group in a "learning to sing" half-hour. This started with warm-up exercises – ah, ahh, ahhh, ahhhh! – and he then taught us variations of the *V'shamru* passage (*And the Children of Israel shall keep the Shabbat*) as well as historic chassidic melodies.

Next we were treated to a session of Jewish comedy provided by stand-up comedian, Philip Simon, who said he had to be on his very best behaviour because of the nature of the venue and the audience, which wasn't the sort he usually plays too! [*He was too modest to tell us that he has won professional awards for his performances and is also the "setter" for this publication, laying out the pages for printing – Ed*]

There was much hilarity and almost the best came when he asked members to tell their own jokes.

Walter Goddard became quite risqué with a torrent of amusing anecdotes, also provided by David and Ruth Rothenberg.

Paths to Judaism

Then came perhaps the icing on the cake. Two new members, Faye and Charlotte, who had recently converted to Judaism, but not for reasons of marriage, explained to a rapt audience why they had chosen this path.

Charlotte was perhaps the easier to get to grips with. Her mother's father was Jewish, and she feels the call of this Jewish side, especially the sense of both a close and wider community. Her few experiences in church had felt

impersonal and "didn't make sense".

A major factor was her trip to Israel in 2013 under the UJIA's Birthright scheme. It was the first time she had "seen so many people being Jewish in so many different ways. But they could all approach one another. It was an open forum. I felt comfortable and welcome." She has been back twice and is planning her next trip.

Both girls felt let down by the response to their questions on Christianity. There was no serious debate and they felt they were not taken seriously.

Faye was also strongly influenced by her first visit, aged 16, on a school trip to Israel, which felt so different to her upbringing in the north of England. She explained that she felt a strong curiosity to learn more about Israel and Judaism.

She found that she loved the debate, learning and direct approach to God that Judaism takes for granted. In Israel, she was suffused with the warmth and interest of the people she met. Her spiritual approach came over strongly to the audience.

The richness of the history and intensity of discussion was a new experience for her, as was the whole spiritual atmosphere of Israel. As she said, she has "enjoyed learning so much more about the culture, people, history and living a Jewish life".

To Next Time

Finally, after this moving and compelling interlude, everyone enjoyed tea and cake at the se'udah – the third meal of the day and – as we all said farewell and returned to our homes, it was agreed amongst the now somewhat reduced group of participants that it had truly been a very special Shabbat.

We hope that this will mark the first of many more such events and also that the idea of coming together with other members – be it for Friday night, Shabbat lunch or tea – will continue throughout the year and not just as an annual occasion.

Once again, to reiterate, the concept is for us all to experience the celebration of Shabbat globally. It is like the feeling on Kol Nidrei of Jewish people around the world coming together for prayer on the eve of Yom Kippur. Here we all were, celebrating Shabbat with communities around the globe, but in our own special way.

Kitty Brod was one of the organisers of our Shabbat UK project.



HOW OUR CONGREGATION GETS RECORDED

Community Care Co-Ordinator Eve Hersov explains the process

Each month four BSS members gather in a small recording studio at the KC Shasha Centre for *Talking News and Books* in Golders Green to produce an audio version of *Our Congregation*.

It takes our speakers about an hour to read the publication. Their work is recorded by experienced sound engineer, Adam Bradley, and the finished product (USB flashdrive or CD) is posted to our listeners.

Who are our listeners? Basically, they are our visually impaired members but there are also others who share a link with our community. One avid listener comments: "*Klopstick brings back such*

memories of my parents." Another adds: "The first time I listened to Klopstick, it made me cry because his voice was so like my Tante's husband."

The recording experience is also valued by our members who volunteer as the voices of what is familiarly known as *Our Cong*. Antony Godfrey finds it a "privilege to read the incisive and wise words of Fritz Klopstick." Jackie Alexander enjoys using her voice that she has often been told "sounds like a Weather Girl on the radio". We have also recently introduced our listeners to new voices as we train members as readers. The range of voices has delighted our audience.

If you are interested in receiving an audio version of *Our Congregation* or know someone who might like to, please contact Eve Hersov or Lee Taylor in the Synagogue Office.



Readers Henny Levin, Jackie Alexander, Eve Hersov and Antony Godfrey

Letter from Israel

A TOURIST IN OUR SHUL

I was born in Sweden and have been living in Israel since 1971. In October, after a gap of 34 years, I made my second visit to London. I had only four days so, as a tourist, I naturally wanted to see as much as possible.

My cousin, Helen Grunberg, invited me for Friday night dinner and I was, of course, happy to meet her and her family. Suddenly on Friday morning I remembered that she is involved with the shul. I had no idea which one.

So I got an idea. I wrote to ask if we could attend the Erev Shabbat service and received a positive answer.

I always have a *kipah* with me when travelling. You never know when you need one. I instantly felt comfortable, realising that this was Helen's second home. Everybody was so polite. I could even speak Swedish with the Cantor and his family.

When the service began, I was

transported back 55 years. It was the same *tefillot* and melodies I recalled when my father took me, as a child, to the Stockholm shul. It was the era of Cantor Leo Rosenbluth. I was so moved to experience, after that long interval, such a lovely *kabbalat Shabbat*.

I want to thank you for giving me this wonderful evening. Hope to be able come again.

David Grunberg, Ra'anana

Annelise Winter Celebrates Her Century

Congratulations to Annelise Winter who celebrated her 100th birthday on 23 November.



Cantor Heller visits Mrs Winter who is holding her card from the Queen

Born in Berlin in 1915, Annelise Clara Goeritz came to Britain in May 1939.

Her father's second cousin had the foresight to leave Germany in 1933 with all his assets and she worked in his Staffordshire factory for 30 shillings (£1.50) a week, paying £1 a week for board and lodging.

Towards the start of war, the factory moved to Edgware and Annelise came to London with it. But she changed jobs to underwear firm Lux Lux Ltd, stitching shoulder straps to vests. She eventually responded to a newspaper ad for typists for the Civil Service. She passed the test and worked in a typing pool.

Both in Staffordshire and London, she experienced great kindness. She went to an AJR Youth Group for 25-35 year olds, where she met her future husband, Oskar Winter. They married on 28

October 1950 at Hampstead Registry Office. They lived in Kilburn before purchasing a bungalow in Mill Hill, where she still lives.

CORRECTION

Our last issue, paying tribute to Sue Heimann (*A Vocal Anniversary*) mistakenly said that the concert arranged in celebration of her husband's life raised funds for her family as well as three charities. This was emphatically not the case.

The concert raised funds exclusively for the organisations with which Peter and Sue Heimann had longstanding ties.

The editor sincerely apologises for the error and the embarrassment and distress caused to Sue and her family.

ISRAEL YOUTH TRIP

Eight of our youngsters went on the four-week Israel Summer Tour that has become a rite of passage for Jewish teenagers. The 16 year-olds, fresh from GCSE exams, were among the 1,230 members of different Jewish youth groups experiencing Israel through the UJIA. Zack Solomons, who travelled with Noam (Masorti youth movement), writes:

This summer I had the pleasure of going on Israel tour. We visited sites all over Israel from Masada to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, Eilat to the Golan Heights.

The tour was a great mix. We had thrilling activities such as rafting and snorkelling, spiritual experiences in Jerusalem at the Western Wall and Yad Vashem, and interesting visits to the

Blind Museum in Holon (Tel Aviv), where you are immersed in the dark, and Makhtesh Ramon, the vast sunken "crater" in a national park in the Negev. This geological marvel was actually formed by erosion.

At the end of our tour we had a Mega Event at the amphitheatre in the Ben Shemen Forest, a huge KKL/JNF wood near Modi'in, when all the different tours came together at various points in their schedules. We had dinner, followed by music from two bands and various speakers.

Amongst all the British and American participants, I ran into the other Belsize people and we took this photo of all of us. We were with either Noam or RSY-Netzer (Reform/Liberal Synagogues

Youth) or, in one case, JLGB (Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade).

The tour was an incredible experience and I definitely want to visit Israel again in the near future.



Jacob Drori, Josh Chalfen, Georgia Burton, Lola Grainger, Zack Solomon, Amy Morris, Ella Inwald and Ben Bilefield in their youth group T-shirts

CHEDER COLLECTION FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN

The Cheder pupils' Mitzvah Day activities will be detailed in our next issue. This letter thanks them for an earlier project.

Dear Jeanie,

Thank you for inviting me to speak to the older Cheder pupils last Sunday morning about refugees in general and separated children in particular. I'm glad to know that it was a helpful session: it was certainly a very engaging one, with many relevant and stimulating questions.

I was also surprised and delighted to see such a large collection of goods for our Arrival Packs project. These duffle bags – stuffed with clothes, toiletries and other basics – are a lifeline for the orphaned and lone refugee youngsters whom we support and who have many needs.

We are very grateful indeed for the contribution made by Belsize Square families. Please pass on our appreciation to them.

Many thanks go to you personally, too, for organising the teaching session and the collection of goods.

With much gratitude and appreciation to you all!

Angela Gluck
Trustee of The Separated Child Foundation

SCHOOL DAYS IN PRE-WAR FLORENCE

Following last month's article on Jewish Florence, Ben Lachmann adds his memories of attending boarding school in Florence during the 1930s:

During the Nazi period there was a German boarding school in Florence for boys, called Landschulheim Florence (literally, Country House School). I was a boarder from 1936 until my aliyah to Palestine in July 1937.

The school was founded by a Dr Goldstein and Dr Peyser. They were later joined by Mr Kempner, who became a prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trials. His son was also a boarder.

The school was located at the Villa Pazzi, built for Florence's second most famous family, rivals and opponents of the de Medicis. The Pazzi leaders were executed after a failed coup in 1478.

The villa, their summer home, stood on a hill opposite the hills of Fiesoli. The dormitories were in the nearby village of Pian dei Guillari. The boys' dormitory was next to Galileo's home. Opposite us was a trattoria with a terrace and a beautiful view over the city. Some of us were caught there drinking wine instead of attending agriculture lessons.

During the summer holiday months the school went to Forte de Marmi, a seaside resort. We really had a lovely time there. Altogether there were about 100 pupils from the ages of 12 to 15.

It was a secular school and did not keep kosher. But a group of us frequently went to Friday night services at the main synagogue. We learnt Italian and English. I played football and tennis.

A few years ago I went back with my

late wife, Steffi. The Villa Pazzi was occupied by an English couple who were not very hospitable. I wanted to show my wife inside but they said no.

.....
The private school for boys (there was another school in Modena for girls) opened with five pupils in October 1933. It closed in September 1938 when Mussolini enacted race laws in Italy and Jews could no longer send money out of Germany. The school arranged for some of the boys to be dispersed among other schools and families in Italy. Others went with the school as it relocated itself for a short time in Nice.

German speakers can learn more about the school's history at https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landschulheim_Florenz



Dear Fellow Members

Soon we will all be arriving at saying goodbye to 2015 and welcoming inside 2016. For my part to 2015 I say good writtens. Apart from the many naturalist disasters, came the horror of the tourist attacks on the innocent und the refugees crisis from ISIS. Then also in this year I personally hat health issues to come over while coping with Mrs Klopstick's re-nude interest in experimenting in the kitchen. Finally for nearly half a year we have hat Finchley Road coming into congestion. The noise und exhaust fumes has brought to many of the residences of Abernein Mansions unwanted cuffs, sneezes und visas on the chest.

Recently we have hat Guy Forks nacht und Diwali more or less on top of one another. Quiet frankly the banging und flashings that went into the early ours of the morning were very upsetting for many of the residents here as it brought back memories from the blitzkrieg. I think that there should be a law restraining banging at night to no later then 9 a clock pm. Earlier was this new thing, Hello-lan from the USA where children bash on doors demanding sweats und money. I have to ask myself what is the world coming to? Don't the parents give them proper food und decent closing, not the peculiar rags they are walking around in on this night?

This Friday I girdled my lions und made my way to Belsize Square for a very special service. It was to honour our chor und in remembrance of the very much missed und respected Henry Kuttner, who sang und conducted the chor for many years und finally took on the mamouse task of reserving the hole Belsize music reservoir digitally inline forever. All the singers came down from their loft for the occasion und from where I was sitting they sounded even better then usual.



They were dressed in black with purple ancillaries, the ladies with scarves which I don't understand at all as the synagogue was so crazy over heated that I hat to unbutton the cardigan I was wearing under my yekke.

The Rabbi gave up his sermonism to the chor leader und conductor Sir Benjamin Wolf. He gave a very fine lecture during witch he spoke over the anormous contribution from Henry Kuttner und the uncouragement he got from him und Sue Mariner. He played special mention that another Sue, Sue Heimann was celebrating 50 years on the chor. This came as a big shock to me, because I didn't even know she was yet 50 years old. She must have either been singing even before her parents conceited her, or she was being treated very heavily with buttocks.

Finally our half shareman, John Abrahamson gave a chaotic presentation where all the chor members received what looked like Eastern eggs und also two bunches of roses, rat ones to Sue Heimann und white to Molly Kuttner, Henry's wonderful wife. It was a very moving service overall und though it started a bit sin off the ground, by the time it was well under the way the congregation was, I am pleased to retort, looking much fatter.

Prompted by the constant thread of tourists und the many knife steppings in London, Mrs Klopstick has joined a marital arts class where she is learning Jew-Jitzu. I hope that she never comes to use it, especially on me. But in a more gentle moat she wishes to convey alongside with me the very best wishes for 2016, may it bring peas und ha-money across the world to everyone of you.

With the best of intentions

Fritz Klopstick

Scripture Readings

Candle Lighting	Date	Sidrah/Festival	Torah		Haftarah	
Friday 4 December Cocoa Wagner	5 December Kislev 23	Vayeishev	Genesis	37:1-36 40:20-23	Amos	2:6-3:8
Friday 11 December Lisa Glynn	12 December Kislev 30	Mikeitz Rosh Chodesh Shabbat Chanukah 6	Genesis Numbers Numbers	41:1-52 28:9-15 7:42-47	Isaiah	2:14-4:7
Friday 18 December Deborah Cohen	19 December Tevet 7	Vayiggash	Genesis	44:18-45:27 47:25-27	Ezekiel	37:15-28
Friday 25 December Eve Hersov	26 December Tevet 14	Vay'chi	Genesis	47:28-48:22 50:23-26	I Kings	2:1-12
Friday 1 January Eva Rembiszewski	2 January Tevet 21	Sh'mot	Exodus	1:1-2:25 5:22-6:1	Isaiah	27:6-28:13 29:22-23
Friday 8 January Sasha Buchler	9 January Tevet 28	Va'eira	Exodus	6:2-7:7 9:33-35	Isaiah	66:1-24
Friday 15 January Emma Fox	16 January Shevat 6	Bo	Exodus	10:1-11:3 13:14-16	Jeremiah	46:13-28
Friday 22 January Nicola Gee	23 January Shevat 13	B'shallach	Exodus	13:17-15:26 17:14-16	Judges	4:4-5:31
Friday 29 January Karen Sanders	30 January Shevat 20	Yitro	Exodus	18:1-20:23 20:21-23	Isaiah	6:1-7:6 9:5-6

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Cocoa Wagner, daughter of Susie & Dan Wagner, who celebrates her Bat Mitzvah on 5 December

Emma Fox, daughter of Micala & Tim Fox, who celebrates her Bat Mitzvah on 16 January

William Gee, son of Nicola & Philip Gee, who celebrates his Bar Mitzvah on 23 January

Isaac Sanders, son of Karen & Sam Sanders, who celebrates his Bar Mitzvah on 30 January

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Mrs A Goodwin (92) on 2 December

Mr G Goodwin (92) on 6 December

Mrs A Badian (104) on 11 December

Mrs T Grosz (94) on 14 December

Mrs A Balint (92) on 28 December

Mrs C Haar (94) on 29 December

DEATHS

We regret to announce the passing of:

Ruth Kollner on 23 November

Sunday Morning Adult Discussion Group

6 December

9.45-11.00

Rabbi Altshuler on The Great Philosophers and the Jewish Response: Voltaire, Leibniz & Montesquieu – the Jewish question

11.15-12.30

Naomi Layish: Jewish Anti-Zionists

10 January

9.45-11.00

Rabbi Altshuler on The Great Philosophers and the Jewish Response: Moses Mendelssohn & Jewish Enlightenment

11.15-12.30

TBC

17 January

9.45-11.00

Rabbi Altshuler on The Great Philosophers and the Jewish Response: David Hume – Trying to prove God's existence

11.15-12.30

TBC

24 January

9.45-11.00

Rabbi Altshuler on The Great Philosophers and the Jewish Response: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Republicanism and the Social Contract

11.15-12.30

Dalia Lichfield on the *Give Peace A Chance* conference in Israel 15 November

31 January

9.45-11.00

Rabbi Altshuler on The Great Philosophers and the Jewish Response: Immanuel Kant (Part I) – Reason as the Path to Ethics

11.15-12.30

TBC

REGULAR SERVICES

Friday evenings at 6.45pm & Saturday mornings at 10.00am

Kikar Kids

Saturday 5 December and 2 January at 11.00am

Under-5s Service in the Crèche

5-9 year-olds Service in the Library

11.30am – Kids Kiddush

Often followed by a Pot Luck Lunch

Contact Frank Joseph on 020 7482 2555 to bring a dish

Religion School

Sunday mornings: 9.30am-12.30pm

Next Term Commences: Sunday 10 January

LOCAL LUNCHEON GROUPS

Still running and happy to welcome new members

Please let us know if you plan to attend

The NW3 and Wembley Group

Giacomo, 428 Finchley Road, NW2 2HY

1.00pm on Wednesday 16 December & 13 January

Please phone Deborah Jay on 020 7435 8835

or Anne Goodwin on 020 8452 3997

The Edgware Group

Orli Restaurant, 295 Hale Lane, Edgware HA8 7AX

12.30pm on TUESDAY 15 December & 12 January

Please phone Inge Strauss on 020 8958 9414

Please note change of day and dates for Edgware Group

Cantor's Courses 2016

How Our Jewish Liturgy is Shaped

Three sessions on the second Tuesday of the month
7.00-8.30pm, in the library

12 January: Structure and elements of the service

9 February: Re-imagining God

8 March: Liturgy as history and identity

Learn to Leyn (chant)

The Ancient Tradition of Reading Scripture

Five sessions on the last Tuesday of the month
7.00-8.30pm, in the library

26 January

29 March,

31 May

23 February

26 April

(Only for graduates of Part 1)



Belsize Square and Cantor Heller invite you to...

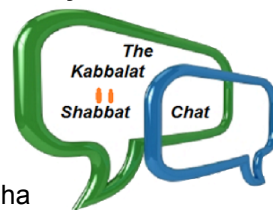
An Erev Shabbat opportunity to learn and share with the future B'nei Mitzvah

Let's Learn: to make Kiddush
to sing Lecha Dodi
the lessons of the Parsha

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

Next sessions: 11 December

8 January



BELSIZE'S NEW CHANUKAH MARKET

Saturday evening 12 December/Sunday 13 December
No entrance fee but silver collection taken at door

Saturday 12 December

5.00pm

Havdalah & Chanukah Candle Lighting (7th Candle) with Cheder Class 3

Stalls Open

5.30pm - 7.30pm

Careers Advice Sessions on the Balcony overlooking the main floor. Meet Reps from medicine, law, marketing, media, tech corporate responsibility and HR. Includes advice on CVs. No appointment necessary

8.00pm

Jazz on the Square with Ralph Freeman Jazz Quintet + Fish & Chips Supper for £20.

Must pre-book through Synagogue Office

Sunday 13 December

9.30am:

Stalls Open and Brunch

All-Day Food & Entertainment

Spa Therapy Treatments:

- * Indian Head Massage
- * Reflexology
- * Deep Tissue Massage
- * Full Body Massage/ Back & Neck
- * Nail Artist

* £15 per 30 minutes

* £30 per hour

* Bookings through thenathans@live.com

3.30pm

Chanukah Candle Lighting (8th Candle) with Cantor Heller and Youth Choir

Cream Tea with Doughnuts

4.00pm

Home Time

Brand New Attractions

Accessories (Clothing and Home Decoration), Tombola now ranging from Shampoo to Champagne, Children's Fun Zone, DVDs, Entertainment from Youth Choir, Busking

Your Old Favourites

Vintage Clothing, Gourmet Groceries, Household, Wrapping Paper, Judaica, Books, Handicrafts, Home-Made Cakes

Street Food

Bagel Bar, Soup, Artisan Coffee, Tea, Cakes, Waffles, Chips, Hot Dogs (vegetarian), Mac and Cheese, Baked Potatoes, Fruit Kebabs, Spanish Delicacies

Meals

Sunday Brunch, Buffet Lunch, Cream Tea (Cream Tea free, otherwise pay per item)



SYNAGOGUE HELP LINES

THE BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

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

Email: office@synagogue.org.uk

SYNAGOGUE OFFICE HOURS

9.00am - 5.30pm

Fridays: 9.00am-2.00pm

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Lee Taylor - 020 7794 3949

BELSIZE MEMBERS' GROUP

Co-chairs: Marion Nathan - 020 8361 2443

and Dilys Tausz - 020 7435 5996

CHEVRA KADISHA

Chairman: Rabbi Stuart Altshuler

Joint Vice Chairs: Helen Grunberg - 020 8450 8533

Cantor Dr Paul Heller

COMMUNITY CARE CO-ORDINATOR &

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE

Contact Eve Hersov on 020 7435 7129

or email eve@synagogue.org.uk

or call the Synagogue Office for a leaflet

FUNERALS

During synagogue office hours phone 020 7794 3949.

Evenings/weekends phone Calo's (Undertakers)

020 8958 2112

JUDAICA SHOP

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

KIDDUSH

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

LIBRARY

Open Wednesdays 10am - 12 noon

At other times please check first with the office

CHEDER

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

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Chairperson: Mandy Brass - 020 8452 6936

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Email Youth Workers Yohel Heller and Michelle Heller - youth@synagogue.org.uk

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO *OUR CONGREGATION*

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or to the Editor: ruth@famrothenberg.com

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Charity Number 1144866

Company Number 7831243

The Belsize Square Synagogue

