

JuniOur Cong

www.synagogue.org.uk BSS's FAVOURITE YOUTH NEWSLETTER - Issue 2 Nov 2021 -

Belsize is back with a bang

September marked the return of several exciting events for our young people at BSS: High Holydays youth services were back LIVE on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur!

Cheder sessions were back LIVE from 12 September!

B² (BSS Youth) events were back LIVE on 19 September!

We held a Pot Luck Friday night dinner LIVE on 24 September!

And our amazing new Beit Mitzvah programme started LIVE on 26 September!

Read on to find out more about all of these things and enjoy some Chanukah fun in the JuniOur Cong - BSS's favourite youth newsletter!

LIVE B² event!

It has been nearly a year since BSS held a live B² (BSS Youth) event and, despite Caroline running several ONLINE quizzes for youth and families during the pandemic, the excitement of doing something special together at a B² event has certainly been missed during the pandemic.

On Sunday 19 September a large group of 15 participants were shown how to create a polystyrene printing tile by professional artist and Belsize Square member, Sara J Beazley.

Everyone enjoyed yummy pizza before taking inspiration from a huge variety of fruits and vegetables to create some incredible "fruity" tiles, which were then used to print onto paper as a practice run, before printing onto a T-shirt that everyone got to take home and wear IRL!

In between printing, the group enjoyed some fruit and biscuit treats and they also giggled at some classic Tom and Jerry cartoons while waiting to be collected.

We hope you enjoy the photos of the event opposite →



Don't forget to see the back page for Cheder dates this half-term!

LIVE HHs!

It is hard to believe just how much the world has changed since the start of the Covid pandemic in January 2020. Nobody knew how much of an impact this virus would have on all of our lives. Lockdowns, homeschooling and "zoomitzvahs" are just a few of the things that we have learnt to live with over the last two years but we hope that these are all things of the past and life is returning to "normal".

Last year, BSS was left with no choice but to hold our annual High Holydays youth services via Zoom. Children read their parts from home or videos were shared instead of the usual interactive service. Although Zoom services were really successful, people missed the live experience.

This year, LIVE High Holyday youth services were back and just as good as ever! Children read beautifully and everyone was able to enjoy a special moment together, with parents and grandparents "kvelling"!

A huge "Yasher Koach" (well done) to everyone involved. Looking forward to next year already!



BSS Cheder Chaverim



NEW BM @ BSS

Beit Mitzvah

Rabbi Botnick, Cantor Heller, Caroline Loison and a whole host of other people have been working hard over the summer break to create a new and exciting programme for the children of B'nei Mitzvah age at BSS.

BM pupils will be encouraged to attend sessions on Sunday mornings, as well as joining us at BSS for Shabbat services, discussion groups with Cantor Heller & Joe Hacker, doing fun/creative

projects, getting together for Shabbatons and, we hope, sharing an amazing BM experience.

Competition Time

Are you a budding designer? Have you always got ideas for creating an even better version of an object?

We want to hear from YOU!

Design an exciting new (and kosher) Chanukiah and we will choose the best one and publish it in the next **JuniOur Cong** issue, as well as sending you a £20 Amazon voucher as a prize.

So, get designing and send your entry to caroline@synagogue.org.uk

N.B. The Competition closes at 9am on Sunday 28 November and entries should be drawn on a piece of A4 paper ☺



Chanukah - The festival of lights

A short-ish version of the Chanukah story courtesy of the PJ Library website (<https://pjlibrary.org/home>) - Please visit the website to sign up for free books!!!

A long, long time ago in the land of Israel, the most special place for the Jewish people was the Temple (Synagogue) in Jerusalem. The Temple contained many beautiful objects, including a tall, golden menorah. Unlike menorahs of today, this one had seven (rather than nine) branches. Instead of being lit by candles or light bulbs, this menorah burned oil. Every evening, oil would be poured into the cups that sat on top of the menorah. The Temple would be filled with shimmering light.

At the time of the Chanukah story, a mean king named Antiochus ruled over the land of Israel. "I don't like these Jewish people," declared Antiochus. "They are so different from me. I don't celebrate Shabbat or read from the Torah, so why should they?" Antiochus made many new, cruel rules. "No more celebrating Shabbat! No more going to the Temple, and no more Torah!" shouted Antiochus. He told his guards to go into the Temple and make a mess. They brought mud, stones, and rubbish into the Temple. They broke furniture and knocked things down; they smashed the jars of oil that were used to light the menorah.

Antiochus and his soldiers made the Jews feel sad and angry. A Jewish man named Judah Maccabee said, "We must stop Antiochus! We must think of ways to make him leave the land of Israel." At first, Judah's followers, called the Maccabees, were afraid. "Judah," they said, "Antiochus has so many soldiers. His soldiers carry such big weapons, and he uses huge elephants to fight his battles! How can we Jews, who don't have weapons, fight against him?"

Judah said, "If we think very hard and plan very carefully, we will be able to defeat him." It took a long time, but at last the Maccabees chased Antiochus and his men out of Israel. As soon as Antiochus and his soldiers were gone, the Jewish people ran to Jerusalem to clean their Temple. What a mess! The beautiful menorah was gone and the floor was covered with trash, broken furniture and pieces from the shattered jars of oil. The Maccabees built a new menorah. At first, they worried that they would not be able to light their new menorah, but they searched and searched, until at last they found one tiny jar of oil - enough to light the menorah for just one evening. The Maccabees knew that it would be at least eight days before they could get more oil, but they lit the menorah anyway. To their surprise, this little jar of oil burned for eight days. The Jewish people could not believe their good fortune. First, their small army had chased away Antiochus' large army, and now the tiny jar of oil had lasted for eight whole days!

The Jewish people prayed and thanked God for these miracles. Every year during Chanukah, Jews light menorahs for eight days to remember the miracles that happened long ago.

Word unscramble ...

Are you able to unscramble all 14 of the Chanukah-related words below? Have a go and find the answers at the bottom of the back page of **JuniOur Cong**.

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|--------------|-------------|
| 1. CAHAUHNK | 8. GEITH |
| 2. SRNSPETE | 9. GLTE |
| 3. BMCEAAECS | 10. SEATLK |
| 4. NREHAOM | 11. ILO |
| 5. ESLVAIFT | 12. GIHLT |
| 6. SCDNEAL | 13. IMLACER |
| 7. SGIFT | 14. EEDDIRL |



Turn over the page to find out what this year's **MUST-HAVE** knitted Chanukah item is →

LIVE BSS Cheder

Head of Cheder and Youth, Caroline Loison, has been delighted to see so many BSS Cheder pupils returning to us after such a long time online.

All pupils have enjoyed learning about the festivals including Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Succot and Simchat Torah as well as taking on some really interesting projects.

Years 1 & 2 have been learning all about the story of creation and using cupcake cases to create "Creation scenes". We hope to display them around the Synagogue soon!

Years 3 & 4 have been learning all about their Jewish identity and they loved finding out more about their Hebrew names and Hebrew birthdays. They all thought they might try to get their parents to let them celebrate their birthdays twice, just like the Queen!

Years 5 & 6 have been learning about various Biblical characters and they have enjoyed learning the stories behind our forefathers and our foremothers and having great fun doing various activities related to these including crosswords and word searches!

BSS Cheder families also enjoyed a wonderful "Pot Luck" Friday night dinner on 24 September, where adults and children enjoyed yummy pasta bakes, sushi, apple crumble and fruit compote, to name just a few of the dishes that were brought along. We were lucky enough to eat together in the Kiddush room as an extension of the Succah and the Synagogue provided ice lollies for everyone to enjoy too! We plan to have another "Pot Luck" dinner in the new term so please keep your eyes open and join us next time. We would love to have you with us!

For more information about BSS Cheder, please contact caroline@synagogue.org.uk ☺



BSS Cheder

Succot/Autumn 2 dates

Join us, every Sunday morning:
 9:45am to 12pm for BSS Cheder - Jewish Studies, Aleph Champ reading and Ivrit Club for children in Years 1 to 6 OR 10am to 12pm for our new and inspirational Beit Mitzvah program for Years 7 & 8 OR 10am to 12pm for our amazing iGCSE in Religious Studies for Years 9 & 10. For more information contact caroline@synagogue.org.uk
 Sunday 7 November 2021 - **Projects**
 Sunday 14 November 2021 - **J-POD**
 Sunday 21 November 2021 - **Mitzvah Day** and **Chanukah Market**
 Sunday 28 November 2021 - **Chanukah** theme
 Sunday 5 December 2021 - **Projects**
 Sunday 12 December 2021 - **Trips**

A Knitted Chanukah Mask!



Well done if you guessed correctly! I wonder if anyone will knit you your very own Chanukah mask?!?!

Answers to Chanukah Word unscramble:
 1. Chanukah 2. Presents 3. Maccabees 4. Menorah 5. Festival
 6. Candles 7. Gifts 8. Eight 9. Gelt 10. Latkes 11. Oil 12. Light
 13. Miracle 14. Dreidel