

# OUR

## CONGREGATION

Issue 730



MARCH/APRIL 2024 | ADAR II/NISAN 5784

News and views from  
**Belsize Square Synagogue**

### DOUBLE COUNTING

## Leaping over the Moon (and the Sun)

**Rabbi Gabriel Botnick** focuses on a Jewish leap year

When I was a child, I wondered what it would be like to be born on 29 February. I figured it would feel rather special to have such a unique birthday. But then I worried it would mean you could only celebrate your birthday every four years. One could settle most years for an annual 'birthday' party on some random day, which didn't seem fun to my young mind. Then the big concern would hit me: what about birthday presents? Would you receive only a fraction of the gifts that your friends at school would get? And when your friends would all celebrate turning 16, would you still be just a mere four years old?! As you can see, the concept of leap years used to send my developing brain into hyperdrive.

With this year being a leap year, this question recently – and unexpectedly – came back to my mind. As it so happens, not only is this a leap year on the secular calendar, but it's also a leap year on the Hebrew calendar. But instead

of adding just one extra day to the year, we get a whole extra month!

The secular Gregorian calendar is a 'solar' calendar, based on the time it takes the Earth to orbit the sun – approximately 365¼ days. A lunar calendar, on the other hand, is based on the cycle of the moon, which takes roughly 29½ days to fully wax and wane. A lunar year consists of 12 lunar cycles – or 354½ days – which makes a lunar year rather shorter than a solar year, so holidays based on the moon's cycle shift every year in relation to the secular calendar. For example, because the Islamic calendar is lunar, Ramadan can occur some years in the winter and other years in the summer.

So what about the Hebrew calendar? This is where things get confusing. While Judaism is indeed focused on the cycles of the moon, we actually follow a hybrid 'lunisolar' calendar. This means our months are based on the moon while our year is based on the sun. By combining these two systems, we are forced to find a way to resolve the 11-day disparity between the lunar and solar years. This is how we arrive at the idea of a leap month. In every 19-year cycle of the Hebrew calendar, there are seven leap years, during which we add an extra month, Adar I, in addition to the usual Adar, which becomes Adar II. During these leap years, the holidays can feel later than usual, as they might fall nearly a full secular month later than the prior year. This is why we may often find ourselves saying, 'Rosh Hashanah is late this year' or 'Chanukah is early'.

Adar, of course, is the month in which Purim occurs. But in which Adar should we celebrate? The answer is Adar II. In fact, during a leap year, we must wait until this additional month to celebrate anything that occurs in Adar. Were you married in Adar? Lucky you – you get a whole extra month to find the perfect anniversary gift for your partner!

What happens to the Torah reading cycle in a leap year? Well, we still need to complete the full cycle by Simchat Torah, but now we have an extra month, which means we have to break up the Torah portions a bit differently. You may have noticed we sometimes read a 'double' portion, such as 'Acharei Mot-Kedoshim'. During a leap year, these portions are split, meaning we read 'Acharei Mot' one week and 'Kedoshim' the next. And with 54 unique portions in the Torah, there are numerous ways we can merge or separate them so that the Hebrew calendar will always work out just right.

I realise all these numbers and variables might have your head spinning by now. But if you're like me, then you too might think it's pretty amazing how our tradition gives us so much to think about. So, this year, while the rest of the world gets to consider the implications of a single leap day, we get to ponder the wider complexities of a whole leap month. If only I had known about these things when I was a child, my imagination really could have run wild.

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## SYNAGOGUE SNAPSHOTS

### Emily Kasriel

Media executive, promoter of Deep Listening, trustee of the Wingate Foundation



#### What's your favourite thing about your work?

I recently left the BBC after many years to write a book about Deep Listening for Harper Collins US and UK. Deep Listening is about having more profound encounters

in conversations that matter, with our family, friends, colleagues and foes. It feels an immense privilege to be researching a subject I feel passionately about. As well as writing, I sit on the board of the Wingate Foundation (alongside our Chair, fellow BSS member Jon Drori) and oversee the Wingate Prize which celebrates books of Jewish interest. So I get to read (sometimes skim) the books on the long list. It's wonderful to host our Prize event at JW3 and to talk to the authors and judges about the books.

#### What is the hardest part of your job?

I've never written a book before, so every stage is new for me – but I'm very much enjoying that feeling.

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

That's a hard one. I just feel excited to be doing what I am doing right now – and after all this is that 'other job'!

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

James and I were members of a United Synagogue, but we wanted our daughter Maya to have the same Jewish education and Bar/Bat Mitzvah as her brother Ben. My father was a refugee from Czechoslovakia and James' grandparents were refugees from Berlin, so Belsize was a natural choice, and we've got to know many wonderful people here.

#### What's your favourite festival?

Yom Kippur isn't as 'festive' a festival as most others, but I love having a day out of time. For the last few years, I've spent the whole day in shul, sometimes enhanced by a thought-provoking book from the shul library.

#### Where do you like to sit in shul?

On Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur we tend to sit upstairs on the right with friends, although if we are with my mother we are downstairs on the right.

Emily will host the Wingate Literary Prize event at JW3 on 13 March. Tickets are free. More details at [jw3.org.uk/whats-on/wingate-literary-prize-1](http://jw3.org.uk/whats-on/wingate-literary-prize-1)

## NEWS FROM ABERNEIN MANSIONS NW.3.

Dear Fellow Members

Hear in Abernein Mansions we are all heavenly involved in preparations for Purim. Mrs Klopstick has ridden a knew virgin of the Spiel und has also schosen herself to become the producer. At the present, she has cased herself as Esther, but is finding it impossible to find an inmate villing to be the evil Hamas. No won wants to be in this roll. So it looks like I mite be wolunteared to play this part und have to suffer all the poeing und schtompung from the audience.

Wonce Purim is over the next mayor ewent is Pesach. As those wisching to attend has groan out from all preporition, we have enraged a local would-worker to make a knew table four the communal lounge. This year Helga Finkleman will reed the Manischtanoo, being the youngest at only eighty-two. Last year the effikomen vent completely missing as Dr Himmelbeer hat forgotten where he hit it. It was ewentually fount by our cleaning lady behind the foto of Cosmo Restaurant that we have on the mental peace.

I have decided to tern over a knew leave this year. Instead of spending my spare time undating my button collection und trying to discarriage Mrs K from her schports acts, I will devout myself to pastors knew. In this respekt, I am looking into the arts. I have scene anne advertisement for artist modelling. I have mate my implication und a parently won can do this up the rode at the Hempsted Art Center. I have not bean asked too bring any clay, oder protected closing, but I should bring with me my dressing gown. Why won wood need this four working on a putters wheel, I don't know. Maybe it is very chile in the room.

My wive has become absessed with American Fussball. She wants to play the part of a quarterbag und so has formed the first senor ladies team, The Haverstock Hildas. She has bean advised by a wisiting carer to best play her metches as near as possible to The Royal Free Hospital.

With the best of intentions  
Fritz Klopstick

### ASK FRITZ

How do I keep my mined so sharp, comes out often in my male-back. My secrete is that every morning I do the Times crossward. I don't look at the clews, I just fill in the squares with warts. But sometimes I neat to adjust sum spellings to fit.

## HISTORY

# What was Harry Houdini really trying to escape?

Julie Carpenter sheds new light on the famous showman

Has there ever been a greater showman than the legendary escape artist and illusionist Harry Houdini? Amongst his modern equivalents – think Derren Brown, David Blaine, Dynamo or David Copperfield – he is still hailed as the master.

'Nothing on earth can hold Houdini a prisoner!' his posters extravagantly claimed – and they were never proved wrong. You could restrain him with as many ropes, chains or handcuffs as you liked, confine him inside locked chests, vaults or high security jails or manacle him upside down in containers brimful of water – and he would always, somehow, break free, usually with a theatrical flourish and to thunderous applause.

This March marks the 150th anniversary of Houdini's birth and, while the celebrated magician died in 1926, it's not hard to see why he continues to fascinate. Not only did he make the seemingly impossible possible but, in a world full of struggles, Houdini embodied the spirit of liberation, his act almost a metaphor for the ability to free oneself from all earthly shackles. And you can add to this the fact that his story is a triumph-over-adversity tale, with many biographers now claiming that Houdini's greatest escape was from the poverty and struggle of his childhood.

The theory holds water. Most of my own knowledge of Houdini's background came from research for my new children's book, *Harry and the Highwire*, set when Houdini was just seven. Houdini was then known as Ehrich Weiss and was the immigrant son of a Hungarian

rabbi. He had come to America in 1878 at the age of four, after his father, Mayer Samuel Weiss, secured a job leading the Jewish community of Appleton, Wisconsin.

However, he was dismissed as the town's rabbi after just a few years. As Houdini recalled, 'One morning my father awoke to find himself thrown upon the world, his long locks of hair having silvered in service, with seven children to feed, without a position, and without any visible means of support ... Hardships and hunger became our lot.'

Houdini ended up working alongside his father in a sweatshop. His mother, Cecilia, had to turn to the charity of their local Hebrew Relief Society for coal to heat their home. Was it, then, a desire to escape those 'hardships and hunger' that instilled in the young Harry the ferocious drive that would lead him to push his body and mind to the limits of what was deemed possible?

As his father lay on his deathbed, he reputedly made his then 18-year-old son promise to always look after his mother. It was a promise Houdini seems to have taken incredibly seriously. He had already identified his route out of poverty – show business – something that was becoming a well-trodden path for many immigrants. A childhood trip to the circus had instilled in him a love of performing and he developed an obsession with magic after reading the autobiography of celebrated French illusionist, Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin, in whose honour he invented his stage name.

He began trying out different acts but it was only when he concentrated on what he did best –

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escapes – that he got his big break. He gained an almost forensic knowledge of locks and used his immense athleticism to transform himself into The Handcuff King, exhaustively practising and honing his skills. He went on tours around the US and Europe, and his fame skyrocketed.

He broke out of high security jails for publicity – including from London's Scotland Yard – and constantly upped the ante. He wrestled free from his many manacles while dangling precariously from 400-foot-high skyscrapers, while being plunged into icy rivers, or while buried deep beneath the earth. His 'buried alive' act once nearly killed him but the danger, Houdini knew, was part of the lure.

His dazzling spectacles were truly death-defying and it was perhaps unsurprising that he was hailed as America's first 'superhero'. But Houdini's actual death from a ruptured appendix at the age of 52 proved, finally, that he wasn't invincible. His memory lives on and, while his acts have been much copied, they have arguably never been bettered. His name will continue to resonate for many years to come. Happy 150th birthday, Harry.

**Harry and the Highwire, written by Julie Carpenter and illustrated by Laura Catalan, is published by Green Bean Books.**



## LETTER FROM JERUSALEM

**Ilan Evyatar**, journalist and author of *Target Tehran* (Simon & Schuster) gives us his take on life in the Israeli capital, 9 February 2024

A quick visit to London earlier this month to deal with family affairs was also a respite from the relentless news cycle back home in Israel, after an intense period that seems to have stretched on forever. Four months into the war Israel has returned to a semblance of normalcy, but one where tragedy is ever present. In my immediate circle, friends have lost relatives in the fighting in Gaza; my daughter's army-age peer group continues to pay the heaviest price, some with their lives, others wounded, some scarred by the sights they have witnessed, all exhausted from months of combat. Nevertheless, the shock that followed the events of 7 October has subsided: entertainment venues have reopened, restaurants, bars and cafes are full, political disputes are beginning to resurface. We live now in a war-time routine, one that swings at a frenzied tempo from calamity and catastrophe to a normal life with all its small joys and celebrations. As spring nears, the impenetrable sadness that settled upon us after the massacre is melting away. 'A season for everything, a time for slaying and a time for healing, a time for weeping and a time for laughing, a time for war and a time for peace.' Right now, we are somewhere in limbo between those

seasons, where we seem close to an end-game in Gaza, but the hostages have yet to be freed, where one war has yet to end and another may yet begin.

What lies ahead? 'Prophecy was taken from the prophets and given to fools' says the Talmud, but one thing we do know is that hard choices lie ahead on all fronts. Do we prioritise saving the hostages or eliminating Hamas, do we agree to a Palestinian state in exchange for a Saudi peace, do we progress to an all-out war with Hezbollah if no diplomatic solution can be found to push Iran's proxy away from the border and allow 100,000 Israelis to go home in northern Israel? And perhaps more than anything, how do we solve the inner disputes within us that died down after 7 October and are now resurfacing? To quote Rav Huna (Sanhedrin 7a), 'a quarrel between people is comparable to a split in a hose caused by a burst of water, emptying into a field; once the split in the hose widens, it widens even more and can no longer be repaired. To save the field, the hose must be repaired as soon as it splits. The same is true with regard to a quarrel; it must be stopped as soon as it begins.'

## HISTORY

# Exodus to Shanghai

**Susan Antscherl** on an excellent recent radio play

A remarkable drama-documentary, *Exodus to Shanghai*, on BBC Radio 4 in January told the true story of a little-known part of the Jewish escape from Austria and Germany. In 1938, at a time when emigration visas were almost unobtainable for all except the lucky few, the port city of Shanghai in China offered visa-free entry to Jewish refugees. Based on stories his late grandmother told him, in the late 1980s Professor Steve Hochstadt managed to track down and interview some of the elderly survivors who had escaped to Shanghai. Their journey had taken months by ship from Italy and had cost many of them their last savings. In total some 20,000 Jewish refugees spent the war years in Shanghai.

In this new radio play the story of some of them is told through the words of five people who were children at the time, and includes the harrowing memories of a Viennese woman of what she witnessed on Kristallnacht, and her memories of leaving for Shanghai.

This programme was beautifully brought to life by actors including Anton Lesser and Henry Goodman. It has a particular significance for the Antscherl family. My husband's Aunt Mitzi, a single middle-aged woman, made the journey to Shanghai from her home in Vienna, and spent the war years running a business making sauerkraut and pickled cucumbers.

Despite the difficult living conditions, poverty and illness prevalent in old Shanghai, she survived and returned to Austria after the war where she lived for several years.

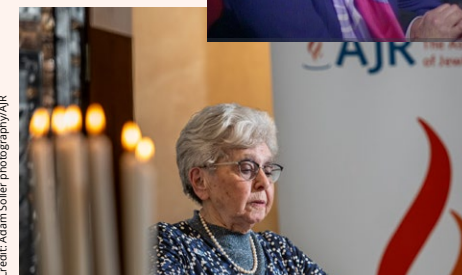
## HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION

# A surprising Belsize connection

**David Horwell**

Many, if not most, of our readers will by now have seen *One Life*, the heartwarming film about Nicholas Winton's rescue of 669 Czech Jewish children in 1939. One of those Kindertransport children was Milena Fleischmann, then aged 9, who settled in England and in 1954 married the eminent architect George Grenfell-Baines. One of his projects had been to design a major pavilion for the 1951 Festival of Britain, in collaboration with a German Jewish refugee colleague, Heinz Reifenberg. And seven years later Reifenberg was the architect of our new Synagogue!

Lady Milena Grenfell-Baines and Nicholas Winton, *That's Life!* 1988



Lady Milena Grenfell-Baines at the 2024 AJR Holocaust Memorial Day Service

Grenfell-Baines later received a knighthood and his wife became Lady Milena Grenfell-Baines. She sat next to Winton, unbeknownst to him, in the famous 1988 episode of *That's Life!*, portrayed so movingly in the film, when Esther Rantzen introduced him to an audience of the people he had rescued.

On 22 January this year, the Association of Jewish Refugees held its annual Holocaust Memorial Day Service at our Synagogue. The principal speaker was Lady Milena Grenfell-Baines, now aged 93 and wonderfully lucid and lively. She has been awarded an MBE for her services to charity and the arts, she is a Freewoman of the City of Preston and she tirelessly supports the work of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. She gave her address from the bimah that had originally been designed by her late husband's colleague. A distant connection, perhaps, but one that will resonate with those who know of our building's history.

# The fragility of freedom

The theme of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day was the fragility of freedom. This highlighted how perpetrators of genocides usually erode the freedom of their victims in a gradual process, long before they resort to murder. Simultaneously, they restrict the freedom of others in society, to prevent them challenging the regime. Our Beit Mitzvah class examined this topic and responded to it in poetry. Some of their moving work is included below.

Freedom is like a moth  
Delicate and intricate  
Curiously innocent  
Peculiarly beautiful  
Many people see the moth  
As a curse  
Gnawing away at the edge of the society  
But the moth doesn't care  
It remains  
Perseveres  
And war is like the wind and rain  
That buffets the moth away  
**Sacha Livingstone**

I sat on the floor my head on my knee  
And I started to wonder what if I was not free?  
Would I go out every day  
Feel free to say  
Would I be trapped in a cage  
Captured in a fiery blaze  
Could I say what I please  
Not being free is like a poisonous disease  
Someone out there is not free  
**Isla Wantman**

Freedom does not have a form  
If it were handled by those most deserving of it  
Freedom would be a medal of honour  
Adorned around the necks of the wise, good and honest  
It is not  
If it were lashed out freely and unhaltingly  
Freedom would have no shape or size  
It would exist without sight like a thin and delicate  
mist of smoke  
It is not  
If it were withheld from all  
Freedom would be a perfect, intricate,  
untouched gold ring  
Despaired of and deeply craved by all  
It is not  
And if it were a thing to be shared fairly  
To be treated carefully, yet not too sparingly  
What would it be?

**Leah Livingstone**



Our regular report from our Board of Deputies representatives **Deborah Cohen**, **Peter Strauss** and **Dilys Tausz**

We are now approaching the Board's elections for its next three-year term. Belsize Square Synagogue is entitled to have three representatives – its Deputies – and Deborah, Peter and Dilys would all be honoured to continue to represent our community. We are all active in the Board's work and we take our responsibilities seriously. At this time of growing antisemitism, it is more important than ever that our own community has input into a body that has influence over government and the media. Your deputies will ensure that this continues.

The weekly community briefing on the BoD's website, [bod.org.uk](https://bod.org.uk) provides the latest news about rallies and vigils to be held in support of Israel. It is also very informative about all the Board's activities, including the visits that the BoD's President and Vice-Presidents make to synagogues around the country, to inform them of the important issues that affect the Jewish community.





## Invitation to nominate Candidates for Membership of the Board of The Belsize Square Synagogue (The Synagogue)

The eighth Annual General Meeting of The Synagogue (the AGM) will be held on **Monday 3 June**. Formal notice will be given in due course.

The Board hereby invites the members of The Synagogue to nominate candidates for election to the Board for a period of three years commencing from the AGM. There are 12 vacancies.

Nominations must be in writing, addressed to the Hon. Secretary and submitted to the Synagogue Office by twelve noon on Friday **12 April 2024**. 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 12).

In accordance with the Articles of Association of The Synagogue, the following seven members will be retiring from the Board by rotation but are eligible for re-election if duly nominated:

**Joe Brookes, Simon Cutner, Michael Horowitz, Adam Hurst, Annette Nathan, Marion Nathan & Nick Viner**

From **15 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.

### ELECTION OF DEPUTIES

Election of up to three Deputies to the Board of Deputies of British Jews to be undertaken as a postal vote. Nominations should be sent in writing to the Hon. Secretary not later than **Friday 12 April 2024**, with names and addresses of the persons nominated, whose consent should be obtained.

Any person eligible for nomination as a representative to the Board of Deputies must have been, for at least one year prior, not under 18 years of age or an undischarged bankrupt or convicted of a serious criminal offence or a paid employee of the Board of Deputies. Retiring Deputies are eligible for nomination. Should there be more nominations than there are places, a postal ballot will take place.

Our present deputies are **Deborah Cohen, Peter Strauss and Dilys Tausz** who are all eligible to continue in their role.

## NEW YEAR'S HONOURS

Mazal tov to two Belsize Square members recognised in the 2024 New Year's Honours list



### PAUL BURGER

Paul Burger was awarded the OBE for services to the music industry and to charity. After graduating from university in Philadelphia, he progressed through jobs with major record groups in Israel and then worldwide. His love of music and talented artists plus his fascination with how best to present them to the public led him to found Soho Artists in 2003. His inspiration was the chance to continue working with musicians, offering them consultation, management and representation. Among the artists he represents is folk musician Sam Lee, only discovering long after he signed him that Sam grew up at Belsize Square, the son of Steffi and Ian Lee!

Paul has been involved with numerous music-related charities, as a governor of the BRIT school, fundraising for Nordoff and Robbins music therapy and on the board of the Hofesh Shechter contemporary dance company. He has held many positions of responsibility in industry bodies. Paul is a board member of the New Israel Fund, working to promote human rights and social justice for all residents of Israel. And of course he was also on our own Board for 20 years, including three as BSS Chairman.

### VANESSA CROCKER

Vanessa Crocker was awarded the MBE for services to charity, having co-founded Spread a Smile in 2013. She had previously volunteered as a telephone counsellor for other children's charities. Spread a Smile takes entertainment to the bedsides of children in hospital and was inspired by the hugely positive impact a magician's visit had on the 9-year-old nephew of co-founder Josephine Segal while he was receiving gruelling intensive treatment for cancer at Great Ormond Street Hospital.



Vanessa and Josephine, who was also awarded an MBE, started the charity by making just two visits a month to GOSH with a group of four entertainers. Spread a Smile now reaches over 12,000 bedsides a year, with partnerships with 32 major and speciality NHS Hospitals and four hospices across the country, with plans to expand. They also organise events for the children's families, taking them away from the hospital environment for a few hours for parties, theatre visits and cooking lessons for teenagers.

Although she would not originally have imagined the huge growth of the charity, Vanessa is not surprised, as there is such demand for the support they give.

## PURIM PARTY

SATURDAY 23 MARCH



### Join us for a HEROES AND VILLAINS themed Purim Party!

Whether it's superheroes or a historical figure,  
we want to see your best costumes!

DINNER • DISCO • FANCY DRESS COMPETITIONS

7.00pm Megillah reading 8.00pm Purim Party

All ages welcome

NO CHARGE BRING A BOTTLE

Email [office@synagogue.org.uk](mailto:office@synagogue.org.uk) to book

## SAVE THE DATE



BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

## ISRAEL CHARITY DINNER

Monday 13 May 2024

In support of our charities

BEIT URI | ASSAF | YEMIN ORDE

Tickets on sale soon  
EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT JUST £70

Can't wait? Book now by  
emailing [office@synagogue.org.uk](mailto:office@synagogue.org.uk)  
or through the website  
[www.synagogue.org.uk/  
payment](http://www.synagogue.org.uk/payment)

## BELSIZE INITIATIVE

# Working with KeshetUK

Lee Taylor, Belsize Square's Chief Executive, introduces new developments in the Synagogue's provision for its membership

Over the past few months, the Synagogue has been working with KeshetUK, the only LGBT+ education and training charity working within the UK Jewish community, to strengthen the support we can provide to our LGBT+ members. They have a vision of a world where no one is forced to choose between their LGBT+ and Jewish identities.

We originally asked them to provide a training session for our staff team at the Synagogue. However, we had an opportunity to help them with their new in-depth partnership programme, the Consultation Support Service (CSS), which gives them the ability to work with a community over the course of six months. We felt that this was an important chance to ensure that LGBT+ members of Belsize Square can have a rewarding experience that is free from bias.

The CSS is being offered to our community as a pilot which means that, in addition to it being free for us, KeshetUK will be looking for our input and feedback before offering the service to the broader Jewish community. This is an exciting opportunity for us to help improve our offering while being the first community in the country to try this partnership.

The first stage of the process is to help KeshetUK collect the information needed to get an accurate picture of our current level of support for LGBT+ members. We have already been completing a self-assessment as an organisation, looking at aspects of our community such as our policies and procedures, our communications, our physical spaces and our pastoral care. Next, we will shortly be sending out a



survey to our members to hear your perspectives on LGBT+ inclusion in our community. While the survey is open to all members, we especially look forward to hearing from our LGBT+ members. There is no obligation to complete the survey, but a high response rate will give us and KeshetUK the best understanding of our community's perspectives.

Once they have completed their analysis, we will work with KeshetUK to identify key changes that we should make. Some examples might be changes to the wording of our forms and policies, or looking at how our external communications signal our commitment to welcoming LGBT+ people. During this assessment period, we will be meeting regularly with KeshetUK to seek their advice and we will be open to feedback at each stage of the process.

This is an exciting opportunity for Belsize Square to be the first synagogue community to draw on KeshetUK's experience. They have already provided a training session to our cheder team and they have spoken to the Synagogue board. We hope that taking part in this process will help members understand the work we are doing to ensure inclusiveness for LGBT+ Jewish people at Belsize Square and why this is important given our shared values. We look forward to giving you updates as the partnership continues.



## SERVICES

**Friday evenings** at 6.45pm  
**Saturday mornings** at 10.00am

### Kikar Kids – Junior Shabbat Service

Saturday 2 March, 6 April, 4 May  
11.00am in the crèche for under 5s Service  
11.00am in the library for 5–9-year-olds  
11.30am Kids Kiddush

Often followed by a potluck lunch

Contact Richard on rgpollins@gmail.com  
for more information

## PURIM

Saturday 23 March at 7.00pm. Megillah reading  
followed by Purim Party

## PESACH

1st Night: Monday 22 April at 6.45pm  
1st Day: Tuesday 23 April at 10.00am  
2nd Eve: Tuesday 23 April at 6.45pm  
followed by Communal Seder  
2nd Day: Wednesday 24 April at 10.00am  
Shabbat Chol Hamoed Pesach  
Night: Friday 26 April at 6.45pm  
Day: Saturday 27 April at 10.00am  
7th Night: Sunday 28 April at 6.45pm  
7th Day: Monday 29 April at 10.00am  
8th Night: Monday 29 April at 6.45pm  
8th Day: Tuesday 30 April at 10.00am including Yizkor

## CHEDER AND BEIT MITZVAH

**Sunday mornings** 9.30am–12.30pm  
Enquiries to Head: Caroline Loison  
caroline@synagogue.org.uk

End of Term Sunday 24 March  
Start of term Sunday 14 April

## ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP

Meetings take place on Sunday mornings in term-time.

Programme and Zoom joining details for each meeting will  
be in the News from the Square emails every Thursday.

For further information, please contact Claire Walford  
claire.walford@yahoo.com.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### NEW MEMBERS

We extend a cordial welcome to:  
Dylan Lazarus & Suze Miller | Andrea & Peter Mitchell  
Sarah Roeder & Richard Wald with children, Max, Oliver  
& Zoe | Linda Kattan

### BIRTH

Mazal tov to:  
Rabbi Rose Prevezer and Rabbi Gabriel Botnick  
on the birth of their son Paz

## SYNAGOGUE HELP LINES

### BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

51 Belsize Square,  
London NW3 4HX

020 7794 3949  
office@synagogue.org.uk  
www.synagogue.org.uk

### SYNAGOGUE OFFICE HOURS

Mon–Thu: 9.00am–5.30pm  
Friday: 9.00am–2.00pm

### SYNAGOGUE LIBRARY

Open to members during  
office hours

### RABBI

Rabbi Gabriel Botnick  
rabbi@synagogue.org.uk

To book an in-person,  
video or telephone  
appointment with Rabbi  
Botnick, please email his  
PA Claire Austin:  
claire@synagogue.org.uk

### CANTOR

Dr Paul Heller  
cantor@synagogue.org.uk  
07949 078366

### RABBI EMERITUS

Rabbi Rodney Mariner  
rodmariner@aol.com  
or 07956 352267

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Lee Taylor  
lee@synagogue.org.uk



### CHAIRMAN

Jackie Alexander  
chairman@  
synagogue.org.uk

### CHEDER AND YOUTH

Caroline Loison  
caroline@  
synagogue.org.uk  
020 7794 3949

### COMMUNITY CARE CO-ORDINATOR & BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE

Eve Hersov  
eve@synagogue.org.uk  
07944 574676

### FUNERALS

During Synagogue office  
hours phone Synagogue  
Evenings/weekends phone  
Calo's (Undertakers)  
020 8958 2112

### OUR CONGREGATION

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alexantscherl@me.com or  
the Synagogue office

### BNEI MITZVAH

Mazal tov to:  
Ellie Horwell Roche & Simon Roche on Florence's  
Bat Mitzvah on 9 March  
Natalie & Tim Godfrey on Alice's  
Bat Mitzvah on 16 March

### DEATHS

We regret to announce the passing of:  
Judy Field on 20 December  
Harry Kornhauser on 30 December  
Rosalie Ronel on 5 January  
Joan Lynn on 25 January