

BEIT KLAL YISRAEL

(A company limited by guarantee)

P.O. Box 1828

London W10 5RT

Company Reg. 2593458

Charity Reg. 1034202

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2003



BEIT KLAL YISRAEL

(A company limited by guarantee)

P.O. Box 1828

London W10 5RT

Company Reg. 2593458

Charity Reg. 1034282

DIRECTORS REPORT

1. ACTIVITIES

The principle activities of the company are to advance religion in accordance with the Jewish faith by the provision of a synagogue for the purpose of public worship and to advance the education amongst children and adults in contemporary Judaism, Jewish history, culture, theology and liturgy and the understanding of multi-cultural Judaism.

The directors consider that these activities will remain unchanged in the future.

2. TRANSFER TO/FROM RESERVES

The net incoming resources for the period of £6,625 (2002: surplus £7,118), after accounting for an unrealised loss on an investment of £1,880 (2002: £0), resulted in a retained surplus of £4,745 (2002: £7,118). Reserves carried forward at 31 March 2003 were £35,112 (2002: £30,367), of which £9,227 (2002: £8,345) were for restricted purposes.

3. STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS RESPONSIBILITIES

The directors are required to prepare the financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the company and of the income and expenditure of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the group will continue in operation.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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DIRECTORS REPORT (CONTINUED)

4. DIRECTORS

The directors who served during the period since are as follows:

Jon Burden	Avril Hurwitz
Catherine Daniels	Judith Rosen-Berry
Kathryn Fuller	Susan Sutcliffe
Michael Hornsby	Lesley Urbach

In preparing the above report, the directors have taken advantage of special exemptions applicable to small companies provided by Part II of Schedule 8 to the Companies Act 1985.

Approved by the Board of Directors
and signed on behalf of the Board

S. A. Sutcliffe Director

Jon Burden Director

29 JUN 03 (Date)

BEIT KLAL YISRAEL

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Accountant's Report to the Directors of Beit Klal Yisrael

I report only on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2003 set out on pages 5 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of the directors and the reporting accountant

As described on page 2 the directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, and they consider that the charity is exempt from an audit. It is my responsibility to carry out procedures designed to enable me to report my opinion.

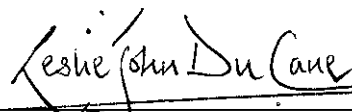
Basis of opinion

My work was conducted in accordance with the Statement of Standards for Reporting Accountants, and so my procedures consisted of comparing the accounts with the accounting records kept by the charity, and making such limited enquiries of the committee as I considered necessary for the purposes of this report. These procedures provide only the assurance expressed in my opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion

- a) the accounts are in agreement with the accounting records kept by the charity under Section 221 of the Companies Act 1985;
- b) having regard only to, and on the basis of, the information contained in those accounting records:
 - (i) the accounts have been drawn up in a manner consistent with the accounting requirements specified in Section 249C(6) of the Act; and
 - (ii) the company satisfied the conditions for exemption from an audit of the accounts for the year specified in Section 249A(4) of the Act, as modified by Section 249A(5), and did not, at any time within that year, fall within any of the categories of companies not entitled to exemption specified in Section 249B(1).



Leslie Du Cane, BSc

Hanover Lodge, 14 Lansdowne Road, London, W11 3LW

29 June 2003

BEIT KLAL YISRAEL

(A company limited by guarantee)

P.O. Box 1828

London W10 5RT

Company Reg. 2593458

Charity Reg. 1034282

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the Year Ended 31st March 2003

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Turnover	3	22,925	24,662
Expenses		<u>16,585</u>	<u>17,942</u>
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for the period		6,340	6,720
Bank Interest Received		285	398
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before adjustments		6,625	7,118
Realised and unrealised gains/(losses) on investments		<u>(1,880)</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Movement in Funds		4,745	7,118
Balances Brought Forward at 1 April 2002		<u>30,367</u>	<u>23,249</u>
Balances Carried Forward at 31 March 2003		<u>35,112</u>	<u>30,367</u>

BEIT KLAL YISRAEL

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P.O. Box 1828

London W10 5RT

Company Reg. 2597458

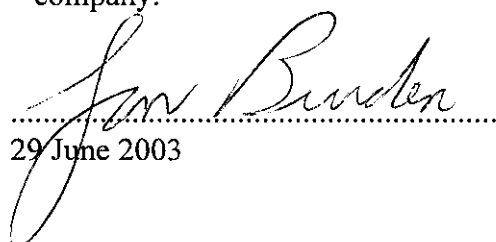
Charity Reg. 1034282

BALANCE SHEET – Statement of Assets and Liabilities For the Period Ended 31st March 2003

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at Bank		6,345	10,004
Cash in Savings Account		22,047	14,763
Money Market Mutual Fund (At cost)	5	<u>7,120</u>	<u>6,000</u>
		35,512	30,767
CREDITORS			
Accounts Falling Due Within			
One Year	6	<u>400</u>	<u>400</u>
		<u>35,112</u>	<u>30,367</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>35,112</u>	<u>30,367</u>
RESERVES			
Restricted Funds	7	9,227	8,345
Unrestricted Funds		<u>25,885</u>	<u>22,022</u>
		<u>35,112</u>	<u>30,367</u>

The directors have:-

- taken advantage of the Companies Act 1985 in not having these accounts audited under Section 249A(2) [partial exemption]
- confirmed that no notice has been deposited under Section 249B(2) of the Companies Act 1985
- acknowledged their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 221 of the Companies Act 1985
- acknowledged their responsibilities for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the company and of its net movement in funds for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of Section 226 of the Companies Act 1985 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of this Act relating to accounts, so far as is applicable to this company.


.....
29 June 2003

Director

BEIT KLAL YISRAEL

(A company limited by guarantee)

P.O. Box 1828

London W10 5RT

Company Reg. 2593458

Charity Reg. 1034282

NOTES

1. STATUS

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The Memorandum of Association provides that all members are liable to contribute a sum not exceeding £1 in the event of the company being wound up. The company is also registered as charity (1034282).

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the statements of standard accounting practice issued by UK accountancy bodies. The particular accounting policies adopted are described below.

a) Accounting Convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention. The accounts are presented in a receipts and payments format.

b) Memberships

Membership income is credited to the income and expenditure account on an earnings basis.

3. TURNOVER

Turnover comprises memberships, newsletter subscriptions and donations from activities in the UK.

4. DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES

The directors received no remuneration during the period and there were no employees.

5. CURRENT ASSETS

Funds held in the Friends Provident Stewardship Trust are shown at their recent market value of £7,120 (27 June 2003). A total of £9,000 (2002: £6000) has been invested in this fund, and thus the accounts take account of an unrealised loss of £1,880.

6. ACCRUALS AND PREPAYMENTS

The sum of £400 has been allowed for accountancy fees. Any membership fees not yet collected will not be taken into account this year.

7. RESTRICTED FUNDS

The Education Fund of £250 at 31 March 2003 may only be used for the purpose of education courses. The Restricted Fund of £8,095 at 31 March 2003 may only be used for special projects agreed by the directors in consultation with the donors.

The change in restricted funds for the year were:

	Education £	Retirement £	Welfare £	Other £	Total £
Brought forward at 1 April 2002	250	7,446	349	300	8,345
Income for the year	0	1,050	0	0	1,050
Expenditure for the year	(0)	(0)	(18)	(150)	(168)
Carried forward at 31 March 2003	<u>£250</u>	<u>£8,496</u>	<u>£331</u>	<u>£150</u>	<u>£9,227</u>

7. NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Current Assets:			
Cash at Bank	0	6,345	6,345
Cash in Savings Account	19,165	2,882	22,047
Money Market Mutual Fund	7,120	0	7,120
Creditors	(400)	0	(400)
	<u>£25,885</u>	<u>£9,227</u>	<u>£35,112</u>

BEIT KLAL YISRAEL

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Company Reg. 2593458 Charity Reg. 1034282

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Payments and Receipts

For the year ended 31st March 2003

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2003 £	Total 2002 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Membership	10,234	1,050	11,284	11,124
Income Tax Recovered	3,752	0	3,752	1,842
Services/Activities	1,983	0	1,983	2,006
Donations	5,906	0	5,906	9,690
Bank Interest Received	285	0	285	398
Sub-Total	22,160	1,050	23,210	25,060
RESOURCES USED				
Direct Charitable Expenditure				
Consultancy Fees	8,150	0	8,150	8,387
Festival/Activity Expenses	848	0	848	673
Printing, Postage & Stationery	430	0	430	946
Advertising/Publicity	617	0	617	0
Insurance	881	0	881	631
Conferences	0	0	0	0
Burial Society Subscriptions	1,809	0	1,809	1,814
Venue Hire	3,114	0	3,114	4,382
Regular Services	(26)	0	(26)	52
Travel	0	0	0	0
Books	0	0	0	0
Training/RIST	0	0	0	0
Telephone	134	0	134	139
Gifts, Affiliation Fees, Etc.	60	0	60	152
Restricted Funds	0	168	168	336
Sub-Total	16,017	168	16,185	17,512
Administration				
Accountancy/Bookkeeping/Companies House	400	0	400	430
Total resources used	16,417	168	16,585	17,942
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before adjustments	5,743	882	6,625	7,118
Realised and unrealised gains/(losses) on investments	(1,880)	0	(1,880)	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS				
Balances brought forward at 1 April 2002	22,022	8,345	30,367	23,249
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD				
AT 31 MARCH 2003	25,885	9,227	35,112	30,367

North Kensington Reform Synagogue

Chair's Report

I am writing this having spent much of the day attending the intensely emotional Jewish funeral of a 22 year-old son of a friend, killed in a road accident. On my way home from the cemetery, one of the thoughts that moved me was an awareness of the immense value of communal spirituality and its rituals, and my sense of good fortune in having found BKY, a Jewish context in which I could feel so at home. On arriving home, I completed my membership renewal form (with full and legible details for the JJBS), wrote out my cheque, and left the envelope ready for posting as soon as this report is written.

Thinking about BKY as my valued spiritual home I am reminded of Janet Burden's piece in our Newsletter last September, "Yet Another BKY Rabbi ...", and her thoughts on star ratings for shuls – welcome, atmosphere, rabbi, music and so on. Janet's notion of the 4-star shul is a great incentive; *four stars on a shoestring is a tough call*, but I think we can claim many really good achievements in the past year. We have run a full programme of vibrant and well-attended festivals – the Haggim, through to a very noisy and jolly Simchat Torah, a charming Channukah, billed as 'for the inner child', and Tu b'Shvat and Purim, both full of colour and life, and each, in true BKY tradition, *beautifully conceived, combining traditional significance with contemporary concerns*. As I write, we are in the final run-up to what I am confident will be another inspiring BKY Seder, with a novel and imaginative exploration of the theme of slavery and liberation. Credit for the BKY approach to Festivals goes primarily to Sheila, and also to Erlene Wahlhaus and Sef Townsend for Channukah, Naomi Goldman, Cathy Daniels and Irina Laski for Tu b'Shvat, Rachel Gurevitz and Aviva Dautch, both rabbinic students, for Purim, and to Sheila and Shulamit Ambalu for the Seder. Also, of course, to all the many behind-the-scenes helpers at each festival.

In addition to the Festivals, there has been a lot of activity on other fronts. We have managed to give our Rabbi sabbatical leave, during which the lay leadership initiative was crucial, with several BKY members coming forward to run services or parts of services and lead the singing. Cathy Daniels and Judith Berry kept the Shabbat morning services going, while Erlene, Janet, Sef and Shulamit took care of Friday evenings, with the

help of Donal Savage, Sam Tabak and other members.

Lesley Urbach has organised a wonderful programme of speakers on second Friday evenings, covering a huge range of subject areas, with speakers already booked well into 2004. Vivi Lachs and others have organised a secular book group. Vicky Grosser as leader of Community Support Group has again done some excellent work setting up support for members in times of trouble. Donal Savage has taken on an enormous amount of additional work since we found ourselves with neither a Membership Secretary nor a Newsletter Group. He has single-handedly implemented the idea of a roughly-monthly News-sheet with clear information of upcoming BKY events and short reports and other articles. Grateful thanks to Rebecca Ferguson for the marvellous work she did for so many years putting together the Newsletter, and to Varda Bondy and Marion Brady for their work as Newsletter Group until recently.

We would now tremendously welcome editorial help with the News-sheet and the occasional longer Newsletter, and continue to need items for publication: meditations on BKY events or any other topics, personal news, poems, pictures and appropriate advertisements.

Our links with JGLG have continued; groups of members have organised BKY contingents at public events, notably Pride, a Women and Men in Black presence at the autumn rally for Israel in Trafalgar Square, and a group at the Stop the War march. Our expanding email network was crucial in the arrangements, so if you would like to receive hot information about BKY activities, please send your up-to-date email address to us at info@beit-klal-yisrael.org.uk Our child-friendly policy continues, with a gratifyingly growing number of small people coming to BKY events. Before we know it we'll be busy with bar-bat mitvahs for our members' children, then it'll be the weddings.

This is my last Chair's report, as I shall be stepping down at the AGM. I would like to end with my warmest thanks for the help I have had from Council members during my three years. I have had fantastic emotional and practical support, most importantly from Sheila, who has always been there (even when in Boston) with a ready ear or shoulder, ever willing to help me think through a dilemma.

Donal Savage was for two years my Vice-Chair, and found himself being leaned on frequently and hard. He couldn't have been more generous with his time and ideas, and continues to be, even though no longer in post. Jon Burden has been a rock in countless ways, firstly as Treasurer, the safest, most dependable pair of hands imaginable for a vital and difficult job, but also always willing to advise me, and always quick to volunteer for the sort of tasks that nobody really wants.

Kathryn Fuller has also done a huge amount of behind-the-scenes work, not only as a wonderfully efficient Minutes Secretary, but also as a key ideas-person on Council. Lesley Urbach and Mike Hornsby got me through my very first few Council meetings, Mike by persuading me that I *could* do it when I so felt that I couldn't, and Lesley, my predecessor, by giving me enormous encouragement and by being so generous with the experience she had gained in the job. She has also provided a reliable flow of wicked quips, so often saving Council meetings from becoming mechanical and dreary. My thanks go also to Judith Berry, Cathy Daniels and Avril Hurwitz who joined Council a year ago, and Cathy Burnstone more recently – all delightful presences and imaginative, energetic thinkers and doers.

Finally, I must mention Erlene Wahlhaus, whose wise and loving advice I have so appreciated throughout my time as Chair. I must also thank all the many people who have brought lovely food to services, washed dishes, swept floors, humped shopping, made decorations, responded to requests from the CSG, stuffed envelopes – all those essential mundane tasks that make BKY a functioning community.

It has been a happy experience working with you all – thank you.

Susan Sutcliffe

Rabbi's Report

It's been a curious year. Celebrating Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in what felt like the middle of summer, then dashing off to the States immediately after Simchat Torah to begin a three-month sabbatical. As many of you know I was a 'visiting scholar' (I think they called it) at a small Women's Studies Research Institute at Brandeis University outside Boston.

Once I got the incomprehensible logistics of living in a New England suburb taped (I hadn't lived there for 30 years or so), it was refreshing to be able to think about ONE thing for most of my time. I spent a lot of time mooching around the University's wonderful library, lost in the stacks, checking out leads, or not, as the case might be.

I came away at the end of my time having written a rather cumbersome paper I suspect may be the skeleton of a book.

But even if, as is all too likely, the hypothetical book never gets written, I did manage to think about stuff that's been on my mind one way or another for a long time, but about which I had neither the time nor the head space to do anything about till I went away. I think I arrived at the beginnings, at least, of a new and I think potentially fruitful kind of connection between Judaism and feminism. I'm glad about that, about having had that chance, and/but I'm also glad to be back here with you all, which is where, if anywhere, I belong.

Sheila Shulman

BKY Secular Events

The secular book group has been meeting regularly at festivals. 6-8 people attending, the discussions have been lively and very engaging and we always run out of time. The food has been plentiful, the atmosphere warm and it has given a space to a bunch of folks who rarely go to BKY to celebrate festivals in an appropriate way. The books have been varied, from Naomi Klein's "No Logo", on Tu Bishvat to Myra Syal's "Life's Not all Ha Ha Hee Hee", on Purim, to Primo Levi's "If Not Now, When", on Pessach. The next book group is on Shavuot, and all are welcome secular or not. It's worth noting that secular events are going to be a regular feature of BKY and this year over Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, there will be events concurrent with all services.

Vivi Lachs

Patrilineal Group Report

We have met a number of times during the last year to discuss issues of identity and experience which are important to us. We had a visit to the Green Burial Site at Wrabness in Essex which was part of our exploration of alternatives to the traditional forms of burial and memorial which are not open to those of us who are unwilling to submit to the Beth Din definition of identity. This is not the only area where we have found that our preoccupations are not so far from those of other members of BKY- even if our reasons for exploring them are different. We have looked at how we live with the separate identities of our parents, in particular those of us who have visited our fathers' countries of birth recently. For us the combination of non Jewish mother and Jewish father has forced us to cope with rejection and the anger that it brings, but all of us live lives that are compartmentalised and contradictory. Our situation is perhaps more extreme and we are

more conscious of it, but it is one that affects us all.

We are leading a Friday Evening Service in May on the subject of our personal journeys towards a spiritual life that is strengthened by contradiction rather than weakened by it. We hope that our struggle will contribute to the life of BKY.

Cathy Daniels

Secretary's Report

This section of the Annual Report fulfils the statutory reporting requirements about the structure of the organisation.

The North Kensington Reform Synagogue, also known as Beit Klal Yisrael, is governed by Memorandum and Articles of Association for a charity operating as a limited company. There is not a principal office due to the small size of the charity. Services are held in rented accommodation and meetings are held at member's homes. Directors of the company are elected annually at the AGM. The directors are vested with the power to make all decisions necessary for the operation of the charity and company.

The principal activities of the company are to advance religion in accordance with the Jewish faith by the provision of a synagogue for the purpose of public worship and to advance the education amongst children and adults in contemporary Judaism, Jewish history, culture, theology and liturgy and the understanding of multi-cultural Judaism.

The directors consider that these activities will remain unchanged in the future.

The directors who served during the period since are as follows:

Jon Burden	Avril Hurwitz
Catherine Daniels	Judith Rosen-Berry
Kathryn Fuller	Susan Sutcliffe
Michael Hornsby	Lesley Urbach

Treasurer's Report

BKY saw a small decrease in income this year. This was due to primarily to a reduction in donations of £3,600. Membership remained roughly the same as last year. Income recovered from taxes increased due to the large increase in donations last year, primarily an anonymous donation of £5,000. Our savings account with Triodos Bank contributed approximately £300.

Restricted Funds increased because of the Retirement Fund. As agreed this year's increase in Consultation Fees was placed in the Retirement Fund as opposed to paid to our rabbi. The Retirement Fund now contains £8,496. This equates to approximately 8% of Consultation Fees over the last twelve years and will cover contributions for the next year.

Expenses were generally the same as last year. Venue Hire decreased by £1200 because more events were held at the Unitarian Church.

For next year, a deficit of £10,655 is projected. Of this, £8,500 will come from Restricted Funds to cover the cost of paying into the rabbi's Retirement Account when it is set up. The operating budget is therefore predicted to be in deficit by £2,155. This is due to a projected drop off in donations. Donations have been very good for the last two years due to special causes (Retirement Fund) or large anonymous donations. These are not expected to continue in this financial year. Unrestricted Reserves are high (£25,000) and can be used to cover deficits.

The charity currently holds £34,388 as Accumulated Surplus. Almost half of this results from a bequest received on the death of a member in 1999, Frank Kurer z'l. Mr. Kurer's estate did not place any restrictions on the use of this bequest. When the funds were received in the 2000/01 financial year, the directors, with the approval of the membership, agreed to invest £9,000 as a long-term nest egg. The remainder of the bequest will be used for special projects of interest to members. The long-term investment has been placed with Friends Provident in their Stewardship Fund. The remainder of the Surplus is held in a savings account with Triodos Bank, PLC.

The charity does not provide grants nor does it engage in significant fundraising activities. Since most funding comes from membership fees and liability insurance is held, there are deemed to be no major risks to which the charity is exposed.

Jon Burden

BEIT KLAL YISRAEL
Summary of Accounts for Current Year (2003), Previous Year
(2002) & Budget for the year ending 31 March 2004

	Budgeted 2004 £	Total 2003 £	Total 2002 £
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Membership	11,000	11,284	11,124
Income Tax Recovered/Interest	3,000	3,907	2,240
Services/Activities	2,000	1,983	2,006
Donations/Restricted	1,000	6,036	9,690
Sub-Total	17,000	23,210	25,060
RESOURCES USED			
Direct Charitable Expenditure			
Consultancy Fees	9,450	8,150	8,387
Retirement Fund	8,500	0	0
Festival/Activity Expenses	1,000	848	673
Printing, Postage & Stationery	750	430	946
Advertising/Publicity	150	617	0
Insurance	900	881	631
Conferences	145	0	0
Burial Society Subscriptions	2,100	1,808	1,814
Rent	3,500	3,114	4,382
Regular Services	100	0	52
Travel	60	0	0
Books	50	0	0
Training/RIST	50	0	0
Telephone	150	134	139
Gifts, Affiliation Fees, Etc.	200	89	152
Restricted Funds	100	319	336
	27,205	16,390	17,512
Administration			
Accountancy/Book-keeping/Companies Hse	450	400	430
Total	27,655	16,790	17,942
NET INCOMING RESOURCES	(10,655)	6,420	7,118

Community Support Group Report

This year has included some new experiences for the Community Support Group, and some on going support.

In many ways it has been quiet for us as a 'committee'. Our contact has been mainly to support several people in the community who have had bereavements or health crises, as well as to continue to think about one member who has an on-going long term health situation. A couple of members have also wanted support in different ways when family or others close to them are ill. I am pleased that we seem to have a quiet

but increasing confidence in one another for such support through BKY.

Rebecca and her partner Dan asked for support from the CSG earlier this year when Rebecca had a major operation. We set up several people to go to their home and cook meals and spend time with their three wonderful children. Rebecca wrote to me later: "I am writing to thank BKY for the support I've had over the last few months. I've had flowers and cards and calls and visits and emails and presents and they've all been much appreciated and have made this period a much happier time that it could have been....I think it's invaluable in terms of giving us all a sense of belonging and of being part of a community".

I have had my sense confirmed that people always know what they need when they are having health or other struggles. Sometimes a member of BKY has been in touch with me as the Chair of the CSG, or with Sheila to mention another member's need. I usually support that person to go back to the member and find out what they would like in terms of support. Sometimes this results in a request for practical or emotional support from the CSG. Usually I have found that the support comes directly from others in BKY, as well as from other people in that person's life (friends, family, etc). I get a stronger sense of the CSG being a part of the wider support which many people have when needed. However we are aware that not everyone has a lot of people to turn to for support outside BKY. This is a major reason why the CSG was first set up.

I encourage those who may be newer to the community, or who know that asking for support can be a challenge, to ask for help via the CSG. Our role is to assist to think through what you need and provide practical support and some supportive listening if you need it.

Vicky Grosser

Membership Report

Paid-up memberships stand currently as follows: Members – 54; Friends – 8; Newsletter Subscribers – 19. These figures represent a significant decline since the same time last year, explainable partly by the large number of active BKYers who have moved away from London in the last couple of years.

We have also been dogged in the past year with practical difficulties which seriously affected membership issues: firstly, the complete crash of the computer database of membership information (since fully retrieved), followed by the resignation of the Membership Secretary, who was not replaced. Without an active Membership Group, or even a Secretary, we have not been able to put into effect the various ideas we have on boosting membership. We are, however, very hopeful that in the coming BKY year we will be able to do take some imaginative initiatives on the membership front.

Susan Sutcliffe

Newsletter Report

All members of the newsletter group had to step down early in the year, after providing such excellent stuff for us to read and mark in our diaries for so many years. Rebecca performed for many years laying out the newsletter, Marion and Varda commissioned and edited for a number of years. Producing our multi page newsletter six times a year, and to such high quality was a

momentous task. Trisha Stone packed the envelope for us. Each Newsletter took about two days of volunteer time. To fill the gap when they all retired, BKY started a trial monthly newsheet and regular event updates by Email. As soon as a small group gathers together, we will continue with regular single sheets and irregular fuller editions.

David Rubin has carried on his painstaking and exacting work of maintaining the central BKY list of events. This shaves a day of the production of each Newsheet by presenting accurate and comprehensive event details in one simple document. Let David know if you have event details for the community.

A.G.M.

Sunday 29th June, 2003 3.00 p.m.

West London Synagogue 33 Seymour Place W1

AGENDA

1. Present and Apologies
2. Approval of Minutes of last AGM
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Confirmation of Auditor
5. Membership rates – 2004 - 2005
6. Other reports
7. Appointment of Company Secretary
8. Election of new Council
9. Election to other voluntary posts
10. Relocation of premises
11. BKY affiliation (RSGB ULPS JRF)
12. A.O.B.

TEA – strawberry tea

Beit Klal Yisrael

North Kensington Reform Synagogue

**Beit Klal Yisrael
Annual General Meeting
Sunday 23 June 2002**

MINUTES

Present: Susan Sutcliffe, Jon Burden, Janet Burden, Kathryn Fuller, Donal Savage, Berta Freistadt, Lesley Urbach, Laura Belin, Kieran Williams, Lillian Mohin, Michael Hornsby, Michael Glazer, Judith Berry, Sheila Shulman, Cathy Daniels, Francine Glasman.

Apologies: David Rubin, Erlene Wahlhaus, Sharon Seager, Avril Hurwitz, Vicky Grosser

1) Minutes

- a) Minutes of the 2001 AGM were read and approved.

2) Matters arising

- a) The search for premises should continue

3) Reception of Reports

- a) Chair's Report – The Chair asked members to consider adopting a particular festival and to play a part in organizing that event. Detailed notes are available to help anyone planning an event.
- b) Rabbi's Report – The Rabbi will be going on sabbatical in the autumn. She trusts that everything will run well in her absence. Members who are interested in participating in the Haggim were asked to notify her.
- c) Patrilineal Group – Group has visited the Green Burial Site, which provides an alternative way of being commemorated, with trees and wooden plaques. It is anticipated that another visit will be arranged.
- d) Membership Group – Membership has stayed relatively stable over the year. We need to get more members. The Group has not functioned at full strength this year.
- e) Community Support Group – The Group has functioned well this year. The group will re-gather when Rabbi returns from her sabbatical. Members were reminded of

the suggestion that the Rabbi and the Council might promote local events for members in specific geographical areas in London, e.g. Shabbat dinners in members' homes.

- f) Lesbian Group – Group has not had many functions this year.
- g) Community Development – Produced a range of events, with some disappointment with attendance. A vote of congratulations was given to the organizers for the range of Second Friday events that they organized. Lillian Mohin and others made a strong request that this programme not be discontinued. It was suggested as an alternative that we go back to the old system of having speakers after the meal on the second Friday.
- h) Peer Hebrew – There has been a lack of volunteers to do the teaching.
- i) Treasurer's Report – There are not enough new members. Money has been set aside for the Rabbis' retirement fund. The accounts, having been posted to all members, were approved as presented. Lesley Du Cane was accepted unanimously as the auditor. Proposed by Jon, seconded by Lesley Urbach.
- j) The Annual Report, having been posted to all members, was accepted by the AGM. Proposed by Janet Burden, seconded by Lillian Mohin. Agreed unanimously.

4) Resolutions

- a) Resolution 6.1. Proposed by Lesley Urbach, seconded by Donal Savage that fees not be changed. Accepted unanimously.
- b) Donal Savage spoke on resolution 6.2 regarding discussion about affiliation with the Reconstructionist Movement. We can be associate members of the Reconstructionist Movement without losing our RSGB status. Our Burial Society status would remain unchanged as long as we are a synagogue. Sheila will explore our status as regards the Beit Din. It was suggested that we allow a year suggested for discussion. Proposed by Donal Savage and seconded by Lesley Urbach, voted unanimously.

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5) Election of Council

- a) Standing down: Donal Savage, Sam Tabak.
- b) Susan Sutcliffe, Jon Burden, Michael Hornsby, Lesley Urbach, Kathryn Fuller, Sheila Shulman (present members) and Avril Hurvitz, Cathy Daniels and Judith Berry were nominated as Council Members and Directors by Donal Savage and Michael Hornsby.
- c) David Rubin to be membership/ data base management person.
- d) Donal Savage was thanked for his work on the Council.
- e) *The new Council proposes on a trial basis to meet only every two months.*
- f) It was agreed that Jon Burden would continue to serve as Treasurer and Company Secretary. Susan Sutcliffe proposed, Lesley Urbach seconded.

6) Subgroups

- a) Newsletter – same as last with Donal.
- b) Access - Wait for Sheila to return.
- c) Community Support Group – Vicky Grosser, Erlene Wahlhaus, Michael Glazer, Sef Townsend.
- d) Siddur – If anyone wants to rewrite ours, please let us know.
- e) Membership Group - Should be people living in London.
- f) Educational/ Cultural – Lillian might be interested.
- g) Lay Readers Group – Those interested should see Donal.

7) AOB

North London Progressive Synagogue is closing down in the autumn. Some members of NLPS are interested in starting a cheder. Link with BKY if we had more involvement of children? Cathy Daniels and Francine Glasman are our contacts with NLPS. Discuss next step at next Council meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 11 - BKY AFFILIATION

Reconstructionist Federation Report

This is the first report on contact with the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation about possible affiliation. It has been possible over the August vacation month and the Haggim period to have only a small amount of conversation across the Atlantic but here are the answers to the first most obvious questions:

Q1 What are the implications of fully affiliating with the JRF?

A1 The JRF does not believe that it can provide full federation services to an international affiliate and expects the local community to maintain whatever current synagogal affiliations it currently subscribes to. In BKY's case, JRF sees no issue with us maintaining Affiliate Member status with the RSGB – allowing us to maintain access to the RSGB Beit Din, amongst other services.

Q2 What does international affiliation cost?

A2 JRF offers a charge of \$18 per member household. This is roughly £12 on top of the standard BKY fee. For this JRF sends across a bulk mailing of its quarterly magazine, Reconstructionism Today. BKY would then distribute this out to members – we may have to figure in an extra postage charge. BKY would also get the right to note JRF affiliation on our paperwork, advertising etc. I note that JRF already points people inquiring about Reconstructionist communities to our direction. On a question of member status, the JRF considers that if you were brought up Jewishly..... then you are Jewish.

Q3 Must we use JRF service books at all events?

A3 JRF attempts to provide a range of informed, inclusive, and practical service books for all events in the Jewish year. Each JRF affiliated congregation makes its own choice about what or how to use such texts. So there is no "Must" but we already use JRF texts and might use more.

Q4 Do we still keep JJBS burial rights.

A4 Yes.

Q5 Can we join up tomorrow?

A5 No. JRF needs us to go through the kind of discernment process – community meetings, Council discussions, meetings with representatives – that BKY would do anyway. Some of their representatives need to meet with us face to face. When we decide to go ahead, we submit an application form that, amongst other things details our process of discernment. Their Membership group then votes on whether to accept us or not.

Q6 Have we found any practical reason for not joining?

A6 Not so far – The questions raised by Council and Members have been about what might we lose. But we seem to be able to keep all our practical advantages of our current associations.

Q7 So why do it?

A7 The Progressive movement in the UK is Lesbian and Gay accepting. The JRF is Lesbian and Gay affirming. UK Progressives are very positive about inclusivity in language and structures. JRF acts to ensure all the materials and process are inclusive. JRF talks about Jewish status not by parenting but by upbringing and identity. JRF talks about Jewish culture – it sees a JRF community as being the place for Jewish humanists and theists alike. BKY finds itself, in its ethos and practices, one step ahead of the UK Progressive movement in policies and ethos. BKY would find itself in step with JRF.

Q8 So why not do it?

A8 The JRF is not the universal quick fix. We can pay our £12 pa extra, put the logo on the Newsletter and the web site, and wonder what it was all about. We can keep on using JRF service books without affiliating. We can match or surpass the JRF on policy and process without affiliating. We can find them too culturally foreign (how does one put this? They are very much part of the American "Can Do" culture.) We are physically very far away from them. We would be one of the first community to try for international affiliation, so no one has yet to work out the day to day practicalities of living with an adopted extended family. Sometimes it feels like being distant cousins with RSGB in Finchley, never mind people in Philadelphia. We might decide to develop our relationship with RSGB, or indeed, with ULPS. We might decide to give it all up.

Q9 So what is the next step?

A9 Council would plan a community meeting. There will be more and more printed material available. Some people may have seen the JRF material at the Haggim. We have limited copies of their Newsletter so write in for a copy. Have a look at their web site at www.jrf.org – for those planning to say a Divrei Torah at a BKY service, you might want to look at their list of online Divrei Torah at www.jrf.org/recondt.html

Donal Savage, October 2002

R.S.G.B.

BKY has, since its foundation in 1990 operated under the umbrella of the RSGB, from which we have had, and would continue to receive the following benefits:

1. We have access to the RSGB Beth Din.
2. We have access to the synagogue support services provided by the RSGB.
3. We are part of the community of RSGB Rabbis

and synagogue Chairs; meetings of Chairs are held regularly, providing a sense of belonging to a wider community of shuls, and valuable personal contact with other Chairs, from which genuinely useful ideas can and do emerge.

4. We own and use the RSGB Machzor at our High Hold Days services.
5. The RSGB did for many years print our newsletter at below commercial rates - and would presumably do so again if we requested this service.
6. We frequently use accommodation at the Sternberg Centre for meetings, for our Access to Judaism courses and for other events.
7. The RSGB runs a Centre for Jewish Education and Professional Development, whose resources are available to us.
8. The RSGB is engaged in a major forward-planning exercise in which BKY is invited to participate.

U.L.P.S.

1. Emphasis on ethical approach to Judaism - equality/Justice/Tikkun Olam/inclusion.
2. Patrilineal Jews treated equally.
3. Jews in mixed faith relationships treated equally, including blessings.
4. Year of Inclusion planned - which will highlight policy on mixed faith relationships and on commitment ceremonies for lesbian and gay Jews.
5. New high holy day Machzor in inclusive language; and Liberal liturgy for RH and YK does include Musaf service - and did so in old machzor.
6. Inclusive siddur (1995) both radical and traditional (following traditional structure of service too).
7. Prayers/meditations by non-Jews too in the siddur.
8. An outreach office, dedicated to reaching out to Jews on the margins.
9. Commitment to making Judaism meaningful.