







The Mosaic community magazine | Rosh Hashana 2015/5776



About our members

HEMS WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER:

Ilana Spilka

MAZEL TOV TO:

Jack Charkham & Jess Casdan on their recent marriage

Nicole Dousie, and Sue Mendoza & Neil Mendoza, on Nicole's recent engagement to Toby Marks

Marilyn Finester's grandson, Liam on his Bar Mitzvah in Israel

Selwyn & Linda Langley on their 20th wedding anniversary

John & Sue Levy on their 40th wedding anniversary

Edwin & Linda Lucas on their 20th wedding anniversary

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Lilian Flatto, 85 Simone Balkin, 50 Ilana Spilka, 21

MOSAIC LIBERAL **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER:**

Philip Goodfellow

MAZAL TOV TO:

Sandy Amber on the birth of a granddaughter, Leia Amber Freeman, to Irena Amber-Freeman and Carl Freeman on 2 August

John and Linda Matlin on the wedding of their daughter Jessica to Matthew Ralys from the

Joseph Sanderson on graduating from Yale Law School as a Juris Doctor, and best of luck as he starts work in Los Angeles as an Associate at Kirkland & Ellis LLP

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:

Tessa Belling Alan Cohen Toby Drage Irving Harris Derek Kasher

Evelyn Kushin Laurence Leapman Stanley Sussman

Jose Zaraiah

GET WELL: Helena Stone

CONDOLENCES TO:

The family and friends of Pat Jacobs

The family and friends of Martin (Edward) Simons

MOSAIC REFORM **MAZAL TOV TO:**

Sue & David Pollock on the marriage of Katie to Lior Gerenstein

Bekki & Andrew Mullins on the birth of their son, Lucas James Joseph Mazal tov also to Liz & Alan Silverman on the birth of their grandson

Dennis Goodman on the birth of his greatgrandson, Joseph Gabriel Barbara & Harry Grant on the birth of their grandson, Freddie Guy

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Olga Zar, 75 Maureen Caplan, 70 Brian Convisser, 80 Lawrie Nerva, 93 Thelma Rose, 103

Lynn Bulka, 50

Hilda Cohen, 60

Lilian Levene, 85 Marlis Tabizel, 80 Hilda Tichauer, 95 Humphrey Phillips, 95 Fred Stern, 92 Lionel Ostwind, 80

ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Alex Gerlis, 60

Angela & Eddie Donn on their 50th wedding anniversary

Jacqueline & Jack Freeman on their 60th wedding anniversary

Shirley & Barry Freeman on their 60th wedding anniversary

Ray & Larry Frost on their 55th wedding anniversary Sue & Gabby Kessler on their 45th wedding anniversary

GET WELL WISHES

Margot Landes

CONDOLENCES TO:

Graham Zeitlin on the death of his wife. Gilda

To Frances Howard on the death of her husband, Monty, and Helena Grossman on the death of her father

Brenda Marks, 85 Raymond Woolfson, 90 Colin Okin, 70 Sandra Pentelow, 60 Marianne Berns, 70



As befitting the season, this is a one-off, bumper issue - we hope vour letter-boxes are big enough to accommodate it! Please read through the messages from the Chairmen and the Rabbis and the movement leaders (not just those of your own strand) - they are all painstakingly compiled and they have interesting things to say to us all. After that, we commend you to Kevin Ziants' emotional report of the group visit to Poland (on page 12), and Steve Levinson's amazing trip to Romania to find his forebears. Enjoy - and a Happy New Year to all our readers and contributors.

Martin Simonis and Judy Silverton (Joint Editors - Kehila Monthly)

Send your articles, pictures, letters etc to newsdesk@choosemosaic.org

In this Issue

New Year messages	3
Messages from the	
Chairmen	4
Messages from	
Movement Leaders	6
Messages from the Rabbis	8
Jewish Heritage	
Journey to Poland	12
Romanian Roots	14
Holocaust Memorial Day	14
Israeli politician interviews	15
Community Care	18
Hamakom	19
Jewish Women's Aid	19
Past Events	20
Upcoming Events	23
Mosaic Moments	25
Shalev's mountain trip	26
What's On	27
Get In Touch	28

New Year greetings

2015/5776

AHARONI

Maureen and Emmanuel wish all their friends and everyone in Mosaic a happy and healthy 5776

ASHMELE

Annette and John would like to wish a happy, healthy and peaceful 5776 to their Reform, Liberal and Masorti friends within the Mosaic Jewish Community

BALKIN

Simone, Brian, Lili and Maisie wish their family and friends and all the Mosaic communities a healthy and Happy New Year and well over the fast

BANKS

Greetings for the New Year to all at Mosaic from Anne and Jeremy, Debbie, Dan, Josh and Leo

BUCHALTER/SPIVACK

Richard, Traci, Zoe and Connor wish all our family and friends a happy, healthy and peaceful new year and well over the fast

CHADWICK

Wishing all our family and friends at Mosaic a very happy New Year and well over the fast. Best wishes Caroline and Lawrence, Jo, James and Eva Bown and Katie and David Leigh-Ellis

DYSCH

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year - Julie, Andy, Sam & Fave

GRANT

Barbara & Harry wish the whole of the Mosaic community a peaceful, healthy and happy new year

GOODMAN

Dennis and his family wish all their friends at Mosaic a happy new year and well over the fast

HEYMANN

Marie and Woolf wish all members of the Mosaic Community a peaceful and healthy New Year and hope that our friendly relationship will continue for many years to come

KALMS

Jackie and Ashley and family wish Rabbi Arberman and the HEMS community a healthy and happy New Year and well over the fast

LEIBLING

Jeanette and David, together with Trudie, wish all their friends and fellow members of the whole Mosaic community a healthy and peaceful New Year

LEVY

We wish Rabbi Arberman and his family and all at HEMS and Mosaic a happy and healthy new year. Sue and

McLEISH

Good wishes to all Mosaic members for a happy and healthy new year from Wendy and Martin, with Jon. Polly, Freddie and Stan, and Liane, Nick and Ellie

MENDOZA

Wishing all our friends at HEMS and Mosaic a happy and peaceful New Year for 5776 and well over the Fast from Sue & Neil

MIDDLETON

Rabbi Kathleen de Magtige-Middleton and David de Magtige, Emma, Victoria and Alexander wish all members and staff of Mosaic a very happy, healthy, fruitful and peaceful 5776

PHILLIPS

Hag Sameach to everyone in Mosaic from Joanna, Sam and Mark

PRENTICE

A happy, healthy and peaceful New Year to all the Mosaic community from Jane, Nick, Philippa and Kate Prentice

REIK/ROBACK

Our best wishes for the New Year to all our friends at Mosaic - from the Reiks and the Robacks

ROSEN

Stephanie, Stuart and Elliot wish all at HEMS and members of Mosaic a very happy and healthy New Year and well over the fast

ROSS

Gill and David and family wish all HEMS friends and new Mosaic friends a happy and healthy new year.

SANDERSON

Wishing all our friends at Mosaic a Happy New Year and Well Over The Fast - from Steven, Danielle, Joseph, Hannah and Miriam

VULKAN

George and Mary wish all their friends in the three Mosaic communities a Healthy, Happy New Year - Shana Tova!

ZATZ

Best wishes for 5776 to all our friends at Mosaic Liberal and Mosaic Reform. Pat and Paul Zatz

Copy Date for October issue is Friday, 11th September

Messages from the Chairmen









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Harry Grant -Chairman, Mosaic

Our Community has now been in existence for 18 months, and as we approach the Yom Tovim, it gives us all an opportunity to take stock, with 20/20

Your Board, and the Councils of the three Synagogues are continually looking at ways of breaking the mould in which Synagogues have existed, our aim being to pool what material and human resources we have to create a Adrien Cohen more meaningful offering of Progressive Judaism. Not only to our own members but to the thousands of disillusioned Jews, who get nothing from conventional Communal life, but seek something different and better.

Last year the Chief Rabbi introduced Shabbat UK, very much under the auspices of the United Synagogue. Several of our own members, from across Mosaic, wondered why we were doing nothing at the same time. Your Board therefore decided that this year we should.

Since last year we have seen an argument between different Synagogue groups over ownership of the project, with, in a sad reflection of the politics which overshadow UK Jewry far more than elsewhere around the World, little if any coming together. As a result the National movements remain as divided as ever, and the energy that they do have is spent trying to trump each other in what

66 I simply ask, as we must at this time of year "What am I? What are we? And how do we change?" >>

they want to be seen as doing, or not

We in Mosaic remain different, and are focussed on creating a Shabbat which we want to be inclusive of every member of our three synagogues, as well as guests who want to find out what we are really

And what we are about on the weekend of 23rd/24th October is Mosaic Shabbat.

We start on Wednesday 21, baking Challah at Bessborough Road for the whole Community, with facility for as many bakers, be they rank amateurs or 'Bake off' finalists, as want to join in.

We continue on Friday, preparing a Shabbat lunch for as many as will be joining our services and celebrations on Saturday.

We will be holding at least a dozen Chavurah Services and suppers at members' homes throughout our area on Erev Shabbat.

And on Shabbat there will be three separate services (you are welcome to join any of them), in one location, followed by all lunching together, and then a range of programmes to suite all Shabbat afternoon tastes.

Please sign-up for at least one, and hopefully all, of the activities and help us put Mosaic Shabbat on the Communal

And please, as we all prepare for the Yom Tovim, take stock of the way we each give to Mosaic, as well as the wider Community, and strive to do it more and better, for there is nowhere to look for responsibility for making Mosaic succeed other than in the mirror.

Shana Tova to each of you, and to all of

Adrian Cohen -Mosaic Liberal

The High Holy Days are fast approaching and it will soon be the time that we ask ourselves "What am I? What do I do? And how can I repent (change)?" A wise person once said "Don't wait for Yom Kippur to repent, start now". Socrates wrote that an "unexamined life is not worth living". Well, we should go further and extend that to include our collective existence, rather than just the individual. That is after all a major requirement of being a Jew, tikkun olam, or repairing the world, and you can't do that unless you have first diagnosed what needs fixing.

Here in the UK, as in the entire developed world, we are collectively living a very privileged lifestyle. At this particular time in our history we, despite the recession, live in a structured, ordered society with an abundance of fuel, mobility both social and geographical, a bountiful supply of food and of course something we all take for granted....clean water. Open a tap, flush a toilet, wash the car would Sir like still or sparkling? Most of us live in a relatively carefree state where our major problem is likely to be the health of oneself or a loved one, not whether we have enough to eat or drink, or whether we'll be bombed or slaughtered in our

We hide behind high tariff barriers, secure borders and Acts of Parliament when it suits us as a nation. We have acted rashly internationally, intervening sometimes when we shouldn't have and failing to act when we should have. There has recently been a growing movement

of retreating from the European Union and concomitant drift into international isolation, so that we can sit safely and securely behind our pulled up drawbridge. The popular press would have us believe that we are being overrun by economic migrants, whether from the eastern part of the EU or illegals clambering at the Port of Calais rather like the barbarian hordes about to sack Rome. I ask myself, how desperate must these poor people be to risk getting killed by a lorry or falling off a train, not to mention the 2000 or so migrants who have drowned in the Mediterranean this year alone. Many, when interviewed, have pointed out that this is far less dangerous than their everyday existence back in their countries of birth. Anyway. I seem to remember that as a nation we went down to Egypt to avoid a famine, we were the first economic migrants.

I don't offer any practical solutions; I have none, but do offer a willingness to listen, think and above all a readiness to change. I simply ask, as we must at this time of year "What am I? What are we? And how do we change? Pulling up the drawbridge is not an option; we live in an increasingly global age, whereby events thousands of miles away have an impact on us all and failure to engage will be a damning indictment.

Barbara Grant -Mosaic Reform

By the time you read this edition of Kehila. the longest day of the summer will be well and truly behind us, but with luck we are all still enjoying some warm sunny days. September means that the Yom tovim are almost upon us and, hopefully, we will see many members of Mosaic at the various services that are currently in preparation. We are extremely grateful to our dedicated members who give so much time to ensure the smooth running of the ritual of our services throughout the year and for them, this is of course a particularly busy

During the last few weeks, a small hardworking team of members from all three communities have been working on a new idea which we hope will become an annual event. This is our Mosaic Shabbat which will be taking place over the weekend of 23rd and 24th October, with Challah preparation at Bessborough Road on Wednesday 21st. Please make a

Wherever we go, it is so easy to fit in, to be made welcome and to feel at home within our wider Jewish family >>

Neil Mendoza

note in your diaries now and look out for more information in this issue of Kehila and in our weekly notices. There is an opportunity for everyone to attend and turn their personal Shabbat into a special Mosaic Shabbat, so do please come and support this project.

Members of Mosaic Reform may be aware that our Rabbi Kathleen de Magtige Middleton has now completed seven years in our Community and will be taking a period of sabbatical leave after Mosaic Shabbat. She will be spending the subsequent six months away from Bessborough Road and will be engaged in a programme of personal study and enlightenment, which we hope will enhance her role in the community when she returns at Pesach. We hope that members will continue to give their active support to the many areas of running our community during this period; do feel free to contact the office or me if you feel there is any way in which you can assist.

On the wider community front, the Mosaic Reform Council will be considering the recent Reform Judaism initiative regarding Jewish status, a subject you may have read about recently in the national and local press. Each Reform community, under the guidance of their own Rabbi, is entitled to form their own views on how to respond to this proposal and you will undoubtedly hear more about our views over the coming

With all good wishes for the coming New Year and chag sameach to you and your families.

Neil Mendoza – Hatch End Masorti

August took me to the glorious sunshine of Illinois and a wedding in the rather fancy Chicago North-Shore suburb of Highland Park. (Some may recognise this as the home of Alicia Florick in 'The Good Wife'). Of course, with all things American being larger, the shul for the aufruf on Shabbat was of palatial proportions, with a congregation running to several Mosaics,

and sited on a picturesque piece of prime real estate by Lake Michigan that would probably cost the equivalent of the GDP of a small third world nation (or perhaps that of Greece a few years ago!).

Anyway, what was interesting was the service, which was virtually identical to that of HEMS. The differences extended only to a prayer that omitted any reference to HM and crew, and a slightly gung-ho one for the American armed forces in respect of any foreign country that they decide to make a mess of. Kiddush was not that far removed from familiarity, other than probably requiring several deliveries by articulated lorry, and I rather liked the patriotism of the flags either side of the ark - the stars and stripes and that of Israel, I would certainly endorse seeing a variant of this at home - with the Union Flag substituted, of course.

On the Sunday, the wedding ceremony itself was held outside, with a beautiful rustic chuppah of simple wooden staves and flowers. A gust of wind took off a corner of the canopy; this was re-fixed by a quick thinking 'groomsman' actionhero, who whipped off a shoelace to secure it with lightening speed that barely disturbed his red cape. As for the dinner and party, the speeches and obligatory Israeli dancina, it could all have been airlifted from north-west London and delivered intact by FedEx - it was all the same bar the accents and references to someone called "Mom".

So, why do I share all this with you? Well, when we consider our Jewish community. it extends not only through HA5 and a bit north of Watford, but far beyond the seas and across continents. Wherever we go, it is so easy to fit in, to be made welcome and to feel at home within our wider Jewish family. Whatever the trials and challenges that we face, and have faced through generations, it demonstrates a remarkable aspect of Jewish culture and heritage that is our great strength as we globally dip apple in honey, celebrating Rosh Hashanah and we enter 5766.

Messages from the **Movement Leaders**



Danny Rich -**Senior Rabbi** and Chief **Executive of** Liberal Judaism in the UK Let us not doubt it –life is good to us and we are good to life.

Yet the High

Holy Day Season demands a realistic and reflective look around us.

In Britain there are victims of neglect or violence, thousands of refugees have arrived in Europe, and further afield millions are trapped in fractured societies.

As we confess: Ashamnu: We have sinned, so do we pledge that we can, and will, do better in the coming year to ensure that all may share in our good fortune.

On behalf of Liberal Judaism may I wish you a hopeful and successful future.



Matt Plen -Chief Executive. Masorti **Judaism** It's hard to put your finger on just what's so special about Masorti Judaism, especially because no

more than a handful of people join a Masorti community out of theological considerations.

So what is Masorti really about for the people who belong to our communities? Anecdotally, we know people talk about the following things:

"A warm, welcoming community, where people are friendly and we feel at home."

"A shul that reminds me of the one I grew up in, with davening in Hebrew and familiar melodies."

I think, explore ideas and be open about my level of observance, and no-one judges me for it."

"A rabbi who's learned and inspirational - but is also part of the modern world and aets where I'm coming from."

"A place where women are fully included and play a significant role in running the service."

These ideas have never been more important. Recent research has shown that while the UK Jewish community has stopped shrinking, this is largely because of ultra-Orthodox birth rates. The mainstream community is still contracting. And while the Reform and Liberal movements have managed to hold steady over the past twenty years. mainstream Orthodox synagogues lost over 30% of their members - that's over 20,000 families – between 1990 and 2010.

The only mainstream denomination to have shown sustained growth is Masorti. We now have over 4000 adult members compared to 2600 ten years ago - that's better than 50% growth. The number of Masorti communities has also risen from ten to 15.

But this isn't about numbers. I've quoted these stats to show that Masorti Judaism has the potential to do something important: to reach out to Jews who connect with our values and for whom other forms of Judaism don't quite fit. We can offer people an emotionally and intellectually satisfying way in to Jewish life, helping them connect with others. with the tradition, with Israel and, in their own way, with God.

Masorti Judaism is the umbrella organisation for all Masorti communities in the UK. Our job is to support all our communities to do this vital work. Over the next three years we'll be focusing on a number of key tasks to make this possible:

Training and recruiting rabbis to lead our communities. We've just recruited two new rabbis. Oliver Joseph and Roni "There's no hypocrisy - I can say what Tabick, who'll be working with Elstree and

Borehamwood, New Stoke Newington and New North London Synagogues and we're currently providing support for Zahavit Shalev, a Masorti rabbinical student training at Leo Baeck College.

Developing leaders. As well as training rabbis, we want to nurture a new generation of community leaders by giving young people a high level of Jewish commitment, skills and knowledge. We'll be doing this through our work with Noam and Marom (Masorti youth and young adults) and by sending young people on intensive study trips to the Consevative Yeshiva in Jerusalem, We'll also continue to run our ground-breaking Jewish Community Organising leadership training courses for community lav leaders and volunteers.

Outreach. One of our most important goals is to crack the nut of marketing Masorti and bringing new people into our communities. How can we communicate with our audience of potential members, who are they, where can we find them. and what is the most effective message for reaching them? We know the best way of reaching people is through personal connections. How can we enable our existing members to bring in their friends?

As a member of your community, you're also a member of Masorti Judaism. We're here for you, and I invite you to be in touch, ask questions and get involved.

Shana tova - have a successful new



Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner-Senior Rabbi to Reform **Judaism**

"Older people dream dreams and vour vouth will see visions" (Joel 3:1). It's this

prophetic blend of dreaming and vision that works beautifully for us as Reform

The adults in Reform Judaism have often taken the lead from our vouth movement. I think it's the right way around! Our young people have always posed intellectual and ideological questions for the Movement as a whole to respond to.

The changed commitment to kashrut at our central Movement events was inspired by a consistent dedication to kashrut in the early 1980s by RSY. More recently, RSY-Netzer passed a motion at their annual meeting - Veidah - on Jewish status, to proactively involve those with patrilineal Jewish status in RSY-Netzer. This, in turn, galvanised our communities and our lav leaders, the Reform Judaism Board and then our Rabbinic Assembly.

The proposals made to our communities by the Rabbinic Assembly would enable rabbis to confirm Jewish status on people with one Jewish parent. This status would then have to be ratified by the Beit Din. We have aligned our core values of a love of tradition and providing a proactive welcome, with our ability to adapt and our commitment to equality. Here it is - loving Judaism, evolving Judaism, sustaining Judaism.

Next year RSY-Netzer will focus on Reform Zionism. This has inspired me to make one of my key aims for this coming year to re-emphasise teaching Reform Zionism. I am also focussing on Israel education as I believe that increasingly. especially for people under the ages of 35, the arguments for the existence of the State have become too opaque.

Just four words contain the multiple and dynamic concepts of Zionism. The educational exercise of expanding these four small words is one of the simplest and most effective ways of explaining Zionism that I have been taught.

Try this for easy, memorable and enriching: take these four words from the Hatkivah: "lehiot Am chofshi b'Artzeinu." They translate as "To be a free People in our Land", which, admittedly, is slightly Ionger in the English!

Take each word, place it in one part of a grid and start to broaden out these words into a concise and clear explanation of Zionism. For instance: 'lehiot" - "being". It's about the meaning of existing, flourishing and being safe. This brings together the Herzlian idea of Zionism as providing a safe haven for Jews to exist in with the vision of Ahad Ha'Am in which

Israel will provide cultural impetus for the whole Jewish world to live by.

The next tiny word, "Am", is the dynamic concept of "Peoplehood." Jews are far more than a narrow definition of 'religion'. Instead we are a People, like other people who deserve national self-determination. literature, land and religious civilisation.

The third word, "chofshi", is our "freedom" to develop ourselves in a modern democracy.

Lastly "b'Artzeinu" - "in our Land" - in Israel due to Biblical covenantal connections, historical continual Jewish

So as the Prophet Joel said, "the older people dream and our youth will see visions." We need our next year to be one that brings together the dreams of older generations and the new visions of younger generations. This would provide us with a Reform Zionism that encapsulates an inspiring progressive vision for Israel for 5776 and beyond. Shanah tovah!



of Deputies -Jonathan **Arkush** This is my first Rosh Hashanah President the Board following election in Mav

President of

the Board

and I have much to do in order to continue the fine work we have been doing over the past 12 months.

It is a year which we can look back to with some pride in our accomplishments. We have worked closely with the Government to ensure that our community is protected against the evil of antisemitism. The good relations we have fostered led to Home Secretary Theresa May and Communities and Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles attending our monthly Board meeting to reassure our community in the wake of the terrorist attacks against Jews in Paris in January.

This trustful relationship proved its worth in July when a small antisemitic group on the far right threatened to rally in Golders Green. We felt that the whole community should demonstrate its united resolve against bigotry and the Board. in partnership with the London Jewish

Forum and anti-fascist organisation HOPE not Hate, together with the support of the Community Security Trust, formed Golders Green Together to turn a hateful occasion into a positive outcome for our

The result was that all races and faiths We have a common language, culture, in Golders Green came together to celebrate both their unity and diversity while behind-the-scenes work with the Government and police led to the rally being moved to central London - well away from the Jewish community that the racists were hoping to intimidate. The long-term work of the Board in building alliances and deepening mutual respect and understanding often goes unsung, but this episode demonstrates the benefits that it brings to our community.

> We also acted against attempts to boycott Israel and antisemitism masquerading as anti-Zionism and have won some important battles - including against Rev Stephen Sizer, who has now been effectively disciplined by the Church of England after one rant too many. We also took prompt action against an anti-Israel conference at Southampton University and the conference was cancelled following representations led by the Board. We have been very active against those calling for boycotts, divestment & sanctions.

> Our document, 'A Better Way than Boycotts' highlighted a more constructive path to peace in the Middle East and has been very well received by major non-Jewish bodies in Britain and abroad.

> Of course, my election was not the only one in May. There was also the small matter of a General Election. Ahead of this the Board produced its Jewish Manifesto - the most comprehensive ever produced which covered 14 areas of interest including religious freedom, antisemitism, Israel, education, social care and social Action - all produced after consultation with more than 300 organisations and individuals. The Jewish Manifesto and its 10 Commitments which encapsulated the key aims of the document was sent out to every parliamentary candidate. We received videos of support from all three main party leaders supporting the Manifesto and its pledges.

In education, we have been working hard to maintain GCSE Ivrit and Biblical Hebrew and we are promoting Judaism through our Jewish Living Experience exhibitions and tours, in which thousands of non-Jewish children learn about our

Continued on page 8

We have also been reaching out through Jewish Connection, which is supporting small communities all over the UK needing pastoral and social care, networking and advocacy support from the mainstream of the community.

In 5776 we will be pushing ahead with our new, dynamic team of Honorary Officers, dedicated Deputies and professional staff. Jewish core beliefs and practices are not currently threatened in the UK and that is the way we want to keep things - we must retain our ability to continue to practise brit milah and shechitah and there should be an understanding of the importance of these traditions. Our relationship with the Muslim communities of the UK will be a priority. Jews have an important role to play in showing to them and other faiths that it is not only possible but admirable to combine British values with adherence to religious tradition, and that these two things are not mutually exclusive.

We will be working with the Government to safeguard the security

of our community and the continuation of that productive relationship is a priority, particularly in light of the shocking rise in antisemitism. The fact that the Government has pledged millions of pounds to enable effective security to be provided outside schools, synagogues and other institutions is welcome but cannot hide the grotesque fact that such vigilance is still required because hatred of our community remains in some, albeit very limited, corners in our society.

I hope that 5776 is a peaceful one for members of our community. We will continue to represent your interests as only a democratically elected body can.

May this New Year bring you and your families health and strength, and may it be peaceful for Am Yisrael.





Messages from the Rabbis



Rabbi Frank
Dabba Smith
- Mosaic
Liberal

The High Holydays are, as we all know, a time for prayer and reflection:

but do we understand? The root of the reflexive verb 'to pray' means something like 'digging inside of oneself': it's time to strip away defenses when it comes to examining rigorously our own behavior and our relationships with family members and friends, those in our community and the those in the 'world out there'.

This level of introspection involves cutting through the assumptions and myths that we all live by. Such forms of thinking –most often automatic, uncritical and unreasoned – influence a huge portion of our interactions with others. Otherwise, we run the risk of blindness and stagnation as opposed to conciliation and renewal.

The 'stuckness' or unwillingness to negotiate or renegotiate with ourselves and others manifests itself in many ways. Here, I am not referring to the usual transaction where we seek to dominate and to gain maximally while compromising minimally, if at all. Interaction should be characterized by mutual empathy, that is, how both parties can help each other to achieve what they may need. And this requires both having sufficient awareness to distinguish between mere wish versus need.

I have often said that our communal life is kind of a laboratory of interaction. Unfortunately, most of the involvement and giving is done by all too few people. The most important priority of all – pastoral care – is hardly supported by members. It is also the energy of the same few that delivers most activities and

projects. The orientation should not be one of 'customer' and 'server' but rather one of 'giving along with others'. We think of ourselves as being 'caring' and 'helpful' but there could be so much more effort by

When it comes to the 'outside world'. we are all too insular. Here, the mythology of 'chosen-ness/specialness' coupled with a sense of 'victimisation' serves as a real barrier. We spend far too much energy worrying about anti-Semitism than in making mutually beneficial relationships with those of other faiths and backgrounds. My longstanding engagements with Muslim communities and the police in Brent, for example, ultimately result in increased community cohesion and security for all. Many more could be involved with these activities but I sense apathy and from some, sheer incomprehension. Narrow tribal attitudes. it seems, still prevail.

This summer, together with a small group, I spent nearly three weeks with Palestinians and Jordanians who are concerned with the environment in the Jordan Valley. They, together with like-minded Israelis, believe in shared responsibility for adequate supplies of clean water and rehabilitating the Jordan River and Dead Sea. Every person we engaged with - regardless of faith or nationality - was, quite simply, an inspiration. They gave us renewed hope and we gave them renewed strength. As a community, we, too, have the urgent responsibility to support fully EcoPeace in its efforts to attain wider cooperation and peace. This work is not only for the sake of peace but also for those Israelis who value justice and democratic institutions.

The High Holydays are meant as a time for personal and communal challenge. It's not intended to be easy as each of us asks, 'For what greater purposes should I exist in life?'



Middleton
- Mosaic
Reform
My
Sabbatical
During the
past couple
of months
I have met

Rabbi

Kathleen

It's not intended to be easy as each of us asks, 'For what greater purposes should I exist in life?'

Rabbi Dabba Smith

with some curious questions related to my impending sabbatical. From: 'Oh, you are still here! I thought you'd be on sabbatical!', to: 'I hear you are planning to travel the world, study at a Yeshivah in Jerusalem and start your PhD'. Although these suggestions sound tremendously tempting, particularly all at once, the reality is that with a still relatively young family, travelling and studying abroad are out of the question. The PhD would demand a lot more time and study after the sabbatical, which I will not likely be able to afford, for the same reasons why I cannot travel during my sabbatical!

So, how will my sabbatical prove to be the time for study, reflection and growth that it is meant to be? My intention, first and foremost, is to focus more on the study of texts, in particular Talmud and some specific Midrashic texts with my friends and chavruta partners, Dr Chani Smith and Rabbi Rachel Benjamin. I hope that this will inspire many sermons and study sessions in the future.

I also plan to devote some of my time to learning a new skill – painting. Actually, it isn't an entirely new skill, as I spent some time learning to draw and paint in the past. Ever since I can remember, I have wanted to draw and paint things, especially the human face which I find an endlessly fascinating subject to draw, but ever since entering the rabbinate, I haven't found the time and focus to do much of it.

The artistic, creative drive, which so many of us have, but which is often suppressed to make way for other skills needed in our professional lives, can bring an added dimension to the way we see the world and express ourselves. What is more, any professional should, in order to function to their best of their ability, strive

to be as well-rounded an individual as they can be; and for that, they should find and develop all their skills and talents, even if there seems to be no, or only a tenuous connection between the learned skill and the profession itself; it is particularly true that when these seemingly unconnected talents meet, really special things happen.

And for those who have been surprised to see me around these last weeks; I will not start my sabbatical until after Shabbat Lech Lecha; that is, the day after the very exciting upcoming 'Mosaic Shabbat'. I shall be back well in time for Pesach.

Inherited status

Many members will have read in the JC or the Jewish News, or heard through the grapevine or during Shabbat dinner that, after lengthy discussion and due consideration, the Assembly of Reform Rabbis has decided to revise the MRJ policy on the status of unilineal Jews.

Until now, those with a Jewish mother and a non-Jewish father would have been automatically accepted as Jewish in any Reform community, whilst someone with a Jewish father and a non-Jewish mother would, like anyone who identifies as Jewish, but who has no Jewish parentage, have to undergo conversion, which includes a period of study/attendance before the Beit Din, and milah and tevilah (circumcision and immersion in a mikvah) for men, and tevilah (immersion) only for women.

That position has now changed. Now, for any individual who has inherited potential Jewish status through one parent only, irrespective of the gender of the Jewish parent, conversion is no longer required (but if an individual desires to undertake a full conversion process, this is still possible). Status is conferred by the Beit Din after a process determined by the sponsoring Rabbi, which affirms that Jewish learning and practice (such as Jewish home life, a basic knowledge of Hebrew, attending Synagogue etc) are central to the individual's life.

In theory, this decision constitutes a seismic departure from tradition towards more progressive definitions of Judaism. Nevertheless, in practice there is not much change from what has been the Beit Din's requirements, for in most cases a period of study and demonstration of a Jewish way of life is required just as it has

 $oldsymbol{9}$

Under new Reform policy proposals, for any individual who has inherited Jewish status through one parent only, conversion is no longer required >>

Rabbi Middleton

been in the past, for this change certainly does not imply that anyone, who suddenly discovers that their father was Jewish. can walk into a community and claim their membership.

For some, this change, no matter how theoretical, or subtle, will appear a step too far on the slippery slope of Progressiveness. However, one should rest assured that there will still be a process of learning involved, because we, as a Movement, do not feel that the choice of being Jewish can solely be a matter of ethnic identity, nor that there is a fundamental inequality between men and women in regards to conferring this ethnic identity. Moreover, although regrettably, our orthodox co-religionists will not likely accept our status decision, in the past all patrilineal Jews who would have undergone conversion under the auspices of our Beit Din, would unfortunately not have been accepted by our orthodox coreligionists either, because they simply reject all our status decisions, except those concerned with making Aliyah.

For many patrilineal Jews, who have always felt a very strong sense of Jewish identity, which was previously denied them, the Assembly of Reform Rabbis' recent decision will be a welcome acknowledgement of an identity long denied.

The Assembly's decision was not taken lightly, but was made after two years of extensive study and debate, including a thorough research of the subject from a halachic perspective.

cases dealt with in the past.

If you are affected by any of the contents of this article, please do not hesitate to contact Rabbi Middleton through the MR office.



Rabbi Paul Arberman - Hatch End Masorti **Sneakers** On Yom

Kippur "And thou shalt the Day of

Atonement." Rambam adds, in the Guide for the Perplexed, "Converse are also now acceptable."

One of the strangest customs of Yom Kippur is the wearing of sneakers. There is no exact mitzvah about Nike, but the Torah does say: "It shall be a sabbath of complete rest for you, and you shall practice self-denial; it is a law for all time. (Leviticus 16:29-31).

The Rabbis in the Mishnah explained 'self-denial' to mean five afflictions: We don't eat or drink; we don't bathe; we don't anoint ourselves with perfumes; we don't engage in sexual intimacy; and we don't wear leather shoes. We do these things both to show our remorse for our misdeeds, and as a means of focusing solely on the spiritual, we abandon these five ordinary, pleasurable activities.

One commentary connects the custom of not wearing shoes, to Moshe, at the burning bush. God said: "Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you stand is holy ground..." By not wearing leather shoes, we are reminded None of this affects any Beit Din status that on Yom Kippur, we stand in the presence of God, and that this room is holy ground, and we are called upon to do sacred work.

> Because many of the shoes that people wear today are made from leather, it became the custom to use a different kind of footwear. And since a lot of people walk to synagogue on this day,

sneakers caught on.

Sneakers on Yom Kippur are also a way of humbling us. It reminds us that no matter how much we dress up or put on airs — we are all still simple at our core. We care about family and health and

It is also humbling specifically because the practice seems so incongruous to looking our best on the holiest day of the year. For me, it's as if I say, even though I wear the rabbi uniform. I am not perfect. I wear a suit with sneakers to symbolize this. Sorry to say it, but our doctors, contractors, spouses, children and even...you, are not perfect. Moshe was an amazing teacher, but from the sources, not a 'present' spouse or father to his children. We all have our strengths - and we all have things we need to work on in the year to come.

Sneakers on Yom Kippur remind us that what matters is not the suit, the dress, or the jewellery. What matters is our hearts and our mortal souls. It is humbling to wear sneakers on Yom Kippur; but it gives us a running start for the New Year.

Rabbi Leonid Bimbat, congregation Le-Dor va-Dor - MR's twinned community in Moscow

Dear friends.

year of 5775 is coming to an end, and again we are looking forward to the days to come, sometimes frightening but still very exciting and challenging! The past year has not been an easy one for many of us, but we did our best to overcome all our difficulties and problems. Sometimes we got upset and disappointed, but we never lost our optimism and continue to believe that everything will work out! On behalf of Le-Dor va-Dor Moscow Progressive Jewish Congregation, I wish you the chance to fulfill all your dreams, never to get upset and to be in full integrity with yourself!

I wish you to be inscribed in the right book on Rosh ha-Shanah, and to be sealed in the Book of Life on Yom Kippur!

Shanah tova u'metuka!

Union of Communities for Progressive

CST Protecting our Jewish Communities



CST, Community Security Trust, is here to help ensure that our Jewish communities throughout the UK are protected all year round and able to lead their Jewish lives with peace and dignity.

CST's work at Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur depends upon the cooperation and participation of all of our Jewish communities. There is no other time when the partnership is more obvious, nor more necessary, and thousands of volunteers help to make that a reality.

This year, CST will once again be working in close cooperation with Police, synagogues, security volunteers and security rotas at hundreds of synagogues over the chagim, but you may also see more commercial security guards working at synagogues than has previously been the case.

These additional guards are now largely paid for by government and are organised by CST and synagogues, as part of our joint security response to the tragic terrorist attacks in Paris and Copenhagen earlier this year. We regret that the additional security is necessary, but we sincerely hope that it provides a practical and reassuring response to the current situation.

Thank you once again for cooperating with our security teams at this busy time, and thank you for playing your part in our joint security efforts. Shana Tovah and well over the fast to all of our community, and to all of our volunteers and their families, to whom we all owe a special thanks.

Yours, CST.



In an emergency contact the Police on 999, then contact CST, London: 0800 032 3263 Manchester: 0800 980 0668

In a non-emergency, please call the Police on 101, then contact CST, London: 020 8457 9999 Manchester: 0161 792 6666

www.cst.org.uk





Community Security Trust is a registered charity in England and Wales (1042391) and Scotland (SC043612)



By Kevin and Olivia Ziants

the 18th-21st June 2015. fourteen members of the Mosaic communities, three of whom belong to the Kabbalat Torah class, were on our Jewish Heritage Journey to Warsaw and Lodz.

our first impressions of the city were of remnants of the Eastern Bloc skyline nestled amongst Western-styled, corporate buildings with the hustle and bustle of any big city. However, we later that gave us a different perspective.

Our first port of call was the Warsaw Ghetto, which forced a massive shift from the norm of simply being a tourist, once we realised we stood at the site where approximately 300,000 innocent Jews had been incarcerated. There were various memorial statues and sculptures, including two depicting the victims of the genocide, which brought

their suffering chillingly to life. As a sign of acknowledgement and conciliation, we saw a commemoration of the 1970 visit by the then German Chancellor, Willy Brandt, who was depicted kneeling with flowers

Nearby, there was a large stone in memory of the 200 Mila 18 resistance On arriving early in the day in Warsaw, fighters who, realising they would be deported to an extermination camp, bravely carried out military resistance against the Nazis. Our group recited Kaddish at this site. We then stopped at a wall where the wording encapsulated discovered many aspects of the history our previous encounters: " Along this path of suffering and death over 300,000 Jews were driven in 1942-1943 from the Warsaw Ghetto to the gas chambers, to the Nazi extermination camps".

We walked further to find the place near where part of the secret, codenamed Oyneg Shabbos Warsaw Ghetto Archives were buried and dug up after the war. A large team of diarists, led by historian Emanuel Ringelblum, were able

to recount what life was like, not knowing whether each day would be the last, so that future generations would know the truth of what happened.

At the end of our day, we were trying to bounce back to the here and now, but the suffering and bravery that we learned about was still resonating in our minds.

The next morning we visited the Jewish Historical Institute. We heard more about the precious Ovnea Shabbos archives of life which will continue to serve as a witness of those terrible times. We viewed a few scanned pages of the writings on a computer. It was heartening that one of the speakers was non-Jewish and yet, so passionate about this work.

At the Jewish Historical Institute, it is possible to trace ancestral records. Our family, on Kevin's side living in Poland, suffered losses in the Shoah and we are now inspired to try to learn much more about these relations.

Afterwards, we made a pilgrimage to the site of the Treblinka extermination

66 Some of us were in tears as we lit a memorial candle. The magnitude of the devastation is still incomprehensible ??

camp, where some 900,000 Jews perished. We visited the museum, which showed pictures and exhibits from the camp, which provided a feel of the horrific conditions. Then came a moment we will never forget, as we moved to the actual site of the extermination camp, which has now been completely demolished. There were many graphite-stoned artefacts of various shapes and sizes with inscriptions of the countries and cities that suffered a loss of life. Here, our two rabbis conducted a brief and moving memorial service based on the Yom HaShoah prayer book. Some of us were in tears as we lit a memorial candle. The magnitude of the devastation is still incomprehensible. After this humbling experience, we had to face the outside world and try to find some 'normality'.

We could not have found a better way of being revived than the Friday night service at the Etz Chaim Progressive Synagogue,

growing number of non-Orthodox Jews of Warsaw. We were warmly welcomed, experienced a vibrant service with lots of singing from the vouthful congregation followed by a wonderful Chavurah supper. We sat opposite three ladies who travel 300km every other week to attend Shabbat services here. We left feeling uplifted by the warmth of this community

On Saturday we headed to Lodz. We toured the area of the Łodz/Litzmannstadt Ghetto, which has undergone little reconstruction. Here, approximately 300,000 Jews were kept in isolation and worked in harsh conditions for the Nazis in an effort to spare themselves from being sent to death camps. Sadly, after

survived thus far were deported to their deaths. We visited a church that was beautifully laid out for a wedding; this was the place where just over seventy years ago, the Jews' confiscated possessions were sorted and reused by the Nazis. We were able to view the point from where the artist-witness Mendel Grossman took secret photographs with a camera hidden in his clothing. Our group walked to the house where Rabbi Frank believes he lived and he considered knocking on the door to see who lived there now, but chose not to do so this time. As we headed back to our hotel, we were again left with a chilling feeling at the thought of the horrific suffering of the Polish Jews.

On our last day we visited the Lodz Jewish Cemetery. We recited Kaddish at the site where 45,000 Ghetto victims were buried. Seeing the area of unmarked mass graves was a stark reminder of their suffering.

Our final 'port of call' was the Radegast Railway Station deportation site. The museum reinforced what we had learned about Lodz. The sight of the statistics displayed of the huge numbers of those murdered left us feeling numb.

As we headed back to Warsaw and then flew home, there were mixed emotions; sadness, but also immense gratitude for the privilege of being able to make this pilgrimage in freedom. We cannot change the past, but this trip made us even more mindful that we can try even harder to make further small steps to discourage discrimination and persecution and to work for greater inclusivity in our society.





Romanian Roots

By Steve Levinson



Interior Ark at Botosani's surviving synagogue

here's a town called Botosani in North East Romania near the border with Moldova. I had never heard of it a year ago, but then I started trying to track down long lost family roots and so began an incredible journey of discovery.

My research found and reunited remnants of a family which had just about survived the Holocaust, had endured slave labour camps, and even been sold for cash by a Communist regime. A family reunion party eventually brought together members from around the world who had never previously known of each other's existence, and had only faded photographs of people they couldn't identify.

But the discoveries led back to Romania and particularly the town of Botosani. A few weeks ago my wife Viv and I and some cousins hired a local heritage guide and headed back to the town. Botosani is still a bustling centre, and has a Jewish community of 60. But a hundred years ago it had 25,000 Jews who made up 70% of the population. It was from there that my grandfather left and headed for London. (Romanian refugees – very topical!).

This is a part of Romania with a rich Jewish history. The Jewish cemetery in nearby lasi has 100.000 graves. Botosani's large cemetery had, as I discovered, headstones of many family members. I found my great great grandfather, my great grandfather, a great uncle and great aunt. The latter of these contained an even bigger surprise – a broken porcelain cameo photo of her which had fallen out of the headstone and laid on the ground for decades (see picture). The cemetery is in surprisingly good condition and, as elsewhere in Romania. Jewish sites are being expensively restored with Government funding. Unfortunately there aren't many Jews around to enjoy the benefits. In its heyday Botosani had 62 synagogues, now there is only one. But it's astonishingly beautiful and happens to be the one where my family prayed in the 1800s (see picture).

Even if you have no family links there, a visit to Romania will reveal a largely untold Jewish history. The surviving synagogues are beautifully restored, the architecture a spectacular mix of Latin and Moorish flare, and the reminders of a glorious Jewish past lurking around almost every corner.

Porcelain cameo portrait discovered at graveside



Holocaust Memorial Day

By Steve Noble

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on 27th January each year. The theme for 2016 will be "Don't Stand By".

This year the Mosaic community will not be standing by but participating in an education programme for students in years 9 to 13 to ensure they remember the millions who have been murdered or whose lives changed beyond recognition during the Holocaust and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

We will be working with our neighbouring communities who have been running the Northwood Holocaust Memorial Day Events (NHMDE) for 15 years and currently run seminars for 3000 students from 50 schools in the surrounding areas.

Those events focus on the students being able to hear a first hand account of the experiences of a Holocaust Survivor and preparing them with background knowledge to help them get the most out of this unique experience. The outcome is not just remembrance but demonstrating how discrimination, racism and hatred need to be checked and prevented in the modern world to ensure that future generations never have to face the horrors of the past.

If you would like to participate or just to learn more we are organising a meeting soon where we will discuss what you can do to help us participate in 2016 and beyond.

We will be joined by representatives of NHMDE to explain in detail what they do and how we at Mosaic can contribute.

An initial explanatory meeting has been arranged for Friday 11th September at 10:30 am at 39 Bessborough Road. All are welcome.

We hope you can join us. If you can, please contact Alex Gerlis or Steve Noble through the office.

Interviews with high powered Israeli politicians

Some interesting points arising from the interviews with four Israeli politicians that took place on Monday, 22nd June at Portcullis Hose, Atlee Room, House of Commons

By Michael Reik

Silvan Shalom –
Deputy Prime Minister,
responsible for
negotiations with the
Palestinians and for
strategic dialogue with
the United States

He is most concerned at Palestinians going directly to major Institutions, such as at the United Nations, FIFA, etc without any agreement with Israel. He will only sit down with the Palestinians without preconditions. Israel will accept no agreement without direct negotiations.

He asserts that Iran is directly supporting terrorist organisations – in particular Assad, Hezbollah and Hamas. The Iranian leadership is concerned if any of their satellite terrorist group fell, this would directly affect them. Iran is providing help to Palestinians in Gaza financially, but would prefer this to be through Mahmud Abbas.

The Israeli government's view is that the Palestinian Territories do not belong to the Palestinians. After 1946 the Hashemite Kingdom was responsible as dictated by the UK. In 1987 the area was disowned by King Hussein of Jordan. So nobody has ownership. However as part of a Peace

Agreement this could be exchanged by an act of the Israel Parliament.

He is sure that if Iran were to achieve nuclear weapons, then Saudi Arabia will also obtain nuclear weapons, perhaps from Russia.

He believes relations with USA are still very good. They only disagree on the solution with Iran.

Isaac Herzog, Opposition Leader and Zionist Union Chairman

He believes he lost the election to Netanyahu because of a last minute move by Netanyahu in encouraging Likkud supporters to vote because so many Arab Citizens were going out to vote

He believes Netanyahu's comments are unacceptable by a leader of a national state. A leader should give far more emphasis on Israel being the only democratic country in the Middle East.

He will not join the present government, which he does not believe will last for 12 months, so he could then be an alternative Prime Minister.

He believes that Israel must come forward with new initiatives. This would be the only way to stop the current BDS Campaign.

Yair Lapid, Chairman of the Yesh Atid party in opposition, previously a TV Journalist. Disagreement when working with Netanyahu led to dissolution of last Parliament

Yair went into politics because he wanted to see a two-state solution put into practice, but only by direct talks between the two parties.

His major concern with Iran is to question how the inspections would take place if an agreement were signed. He prefers no deal to a bad deal.

He is very concerned as to how Israel can continue being responsible for 3.5 Million Arabs under their control.

Ron Proser, Permanent Head of Israel's Mission to the United Nations, previously Israeli Ambassador to the United Kingdom

Nearly all condemning resolutions at the United Nations are aimed at Israel.

Officially Israel is always criticized, never praised. However, unofficially, representatives from criticising countries visit Israel (under the radar) and then have a different opinion. For example, even though relations between Israel and India are excellent, India always votes against Israel.

The game is changing at the United Nations. Arab Nations are sniping against each other – there are different Arab Blocks emerging.

All the UN forces at the Lebanese Border have moved inside Israel for their own protection.

Every day, Palestinians politicise the situation there to castigate Israel. They are telling untruths about the real situation in the Middle East.

At the United Nations, it is not even considered legitimate for Israel to present a resolution of their own. Israel is always under extreme pressure but is still able to provide representatives on many UN committees.

Two new rabbis ordained

Synagogue on 5th July. and acted as presenter for

Student Rabbis Adam Emily during the ordination Frankenberg and Emily service. Both are very Jurman were ordained at bright and talented and we Southgate Progressive wish them fulfilling careers as rabbis! (To the right of Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith Adam and Emily is Rabbi taught both Adam and Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris, Emily at Leo Baeck College Principal of Leo Baeck College.)





Essays from Believers, Agnostics and Atheists

On the evening of 23rd June, authors Victoria Zackheim, Anne Perry and Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith (pictured above) read from and discussed their essays contained in the recently anthology published by Simon and Schuster in the USA, Faith: Essays From Believers, Agnostics, and

Succot

Making Peace with Ourselves and Others:

A Forgiveness Workshop for Yom Kippur with Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith and Esther Aronsfeld

Sunday, 20th September 2015 14:00-16.30

39 Bessborough Road, Harrow

Regarding the seeking and offering of forgiveness as a Jewish life-skill

Discovering how to begin to heal broken relationships, let go of pain, shame and blame, and make peace with oneself

Suggested donation: £10

To book your place call the Mosaic Office tel: 020 8864 0133

Apple and Honey **Festival**

Erev Sukkot Apple Juice and Honey Festival at Mosaic!

Sunday September 27th 2015

Beginning at 16.30, demonstrations and tastings by local producers

Tea/coffee, cakes and fruit available, too

39, Bessborough Road, Harrow

ROSH HASHANAH IS A TIME FOR FAMILY SO IT'S TIME TO HELP A FAMILY WITH 7,000 MEMBERS.



Last year, we directly supported over 7,000 people and their families every single week.

We also helped over 2,600 people living in their own homes.

Our Community Centres received 170,000

We served over 1 million hot kosher meals.

And we sent out 13,500 Talking Books. newspapers and magazines to visually impaired members of our community.

This year more people than ever will use our services, yet many of these services will receive little local authority funding.

Which is why we simply cannot do what we do without your help.

So please this Rosh Hashanah, remember one of the largest Jewish families in the UK and respond generously by calling 020 8922 2600 or visiting jewishcare.org/donate

JEWISH CARE

GETTING OLDER AND MANAGING THE CHALLENGES

Wednesday 18th November 19:30-21:45

Please join Mosaic Reform for an evening looking at the challenges of growing older and get some practical advice from experts including Dr Suzanne Joels, old age psychiatrist, Jewish Care and a solicitor.

There will be presentations and a panel discussion.

Topics to be discussed will include:

Dementia; what it is, how to recognize it and current treatment.

How to decide whether to stay at home or move into residential care.

Powers of Attorney.

Stalls to include: Jewish Care, Harrow Age UK and Right at Home.

Everyone welcome.

Refreshments will be available from 19:00.

To book your place please phone Gay Saunders or Ann Simon on **020 8864 0133** or email **communitycare@mosaicreform.org.uk**

Together on a Thursday

Some new activities start on Thursday 29th October at Mosaic Reform.

09:45-11:15 Coffee and Chat for mums, dads and grandparents and their pre school aged children

11:30-12:30 Movement to Music gentle exercise to keep you fit – suitable for all ages

14:00 – 15:30 Singalong for people with memory problems and their partners or carers.

If you would like to come along to any of these activities please contact;

Gay Saunders 020 8864 0133 / communitycare@mosaicreform.org

JACS (Jewish Association of Cultural Studies)

Would you be interested in helping to set up a branch of JACS at Mosaic Reform?

JACS is a cultural club for the semi retired and active retired. It meets weekly for discussions on current affairs, historical events, travel, music and many other subjects. There are also organised holidays each year.

If you would like to get involved please contact Gay Saunders on **020 8864 0133**.

communitycare@mosaicreform.org.uk

Kiev koppers update

From Rita Asbury

During the week that Rabbi Alex Dukhovny was with us in August, I was able to give him another £100 for the kindergartens. He was so grateful, as the price of everything is going up and up

Some of the latest purchases for the children include a special type of table-top to enable them to learn about the use of computers, and Alex was also able to buy carpets which are especially for the playgrounds.

In Kiev, things are quiet, but everyone is still so concerned about what is going on in other parts of the Ukraine. Alex and everyone in Kiev at the moment, are going about as normal, and they are hoping this continues.

The two kindergartens that we help to support are thriving, and they are so grateful for our continual interest.

Our total now stands at £15,500 in August... How much before the end of this year?

=The money we are able to collect is needed more and more, so thank you to everyone who is collecting the coppers, and please \dots

KEEP THE KOPPERS COMING

Hamakom

Jack Petchey awards

Three Mosaic teenagers were awarded Jack Petchey Awards at HaMakom at the end of year assembly. They were awarded for:

Ruth Brown (Mosaic Liberal) always takes an active part in the Tefilah sessions and enjoys helping to lead and teach new songs to the rest of the school. For her Bat Mitzvah project she made birthday cards and get well cards for children at her local hospital and collected presents to take to the ward. She encouraged her friends to help her in this worthwhile cause.

Daniel Roback (Mosaic Reform) has volunteered to come in on a Sunday morning and is happy to go where ever he is needed. He is very good at adapting to any class he is asked to go in and is always very helpful.

Miriam Smith (Mosaic Liberal) has returned to HaMakom after her time at university in order to pass on her wealth of knowledge. She is committed to helping the children in her class enjoy their Sunday mornings. She has helped the teenage assistants run the Tefilah sessions passing on her youth group experiences (see picture in 'Mosaic Moments' page 25).

End of Year activities

At the end of a busy year, the last academic Sunday was a roundup of all the festivals we had celebrated. Groups went round fulfilling tasks in order to gain points about each of the Jewish festivals. The youngest children won, but this may have been because they were aided by their class teacher!!

Certificates were awarded at the end of year assembly for various achievements. Some were academic and others were for being kind, helpful and thoughtful. Mazel Tov to everyone who was awarded one (see picture in 'Mosaic Moments' page 25).

Jewish Women's Aid

hat does it feel like to spend most of your waking minutes NOT feeling normal? Ruth (not her real name) told us of the fear that her husband would kick her again, or that he would find the secret mobile phone she held at night in case she had to call the police... She told us how her waking minutes were spent in darkness, she barely went out, and when she was home the curtains were closed and she couldn't look out. It was only after a friend was finally worried enough to take a risk, and give her the number of Jewish Women's Aid that Ruth began to believe that she could reach out for

The first time she called JWA was the first time she had spoken about the abuse to anyone. Typically, a woman suffers 35 incidents of domestic violence before she speaks out: often she is too ashamed, or bewildered, or afraid of not being believed. She may believe that the abuse will stop, but we know that domestic abuse escalates over time. Other times a woman believes that by keeping it to herself she is protecting her children. We know that 90% of incidents take place with children in the same or next room and most children living with domestic violence are affected psychologically, emotionally and educationally. That is why at JWA we have a Specialist Children's Worker who works with children of our clients to rebuild confidence and resilience with patience and gentle expertise.

When Ruth called the JWA Helpline, she was unprepared for tears of relief. Ruth's new keyworker, gave her practical and emotional support, helped her look at her options, and

referred for free JWA counselling. Ruth and her children were taken out outings by JWA with other women in similar circumstances. Being there in the park helped her feel 'normal' again, for the

Woman suffers
35 incidents
of domestic
violence before
she speaks out >>

first time in years.

This Rosh Hashanah, please remember Ruth and others like her. Domestic abuse happens in the Jewish community. Help us to stop it happening is by talking about it, by ensuring it is no longer hidden. Invite us to come and talk to a group about domestic violence and our work – contact Lee Wax (lee@jwa.org.uk) for more information.

We are reaching out to every Jewish woman in the UK to join JWA, and help make it a sweeter new year for Jewish women and children affected by domestic violence and abuse www.jwa.org.uk/membership



www.jwa.org.uk

Reports of Past events



The Reporter's Revenge

By David Safir

In an intriguing encounter on 21st June, some forty Mosaic members and friends were entertained to 'the reporter's revenge' - as former BBC journalistturned-tour-guide Steve Levinson interviewed and interrogated former BBC producer-turned-novelist Alex Gerlis in a 'frank and full discussion'. In arguing that fiction is a great way to communicate facts, Alex described the tortuous process of financing, researching and writing a best-selling novel; and explained (once an editor, always an editor) his preference for weaving a human story around impeccably documented historical events.

While I can reveal that Alex's first novel 'The Best Of Our Spies' is set in wartime France at the time of Operation Fortitude (designed to make the Germans believe the D-Day landings would be in Picardy), the setting of his second 'The Swiss Spy' cannot be disclosed for security reasons. As for the third, Steve could

only establish that Alex had recently visited Vienna, that he had obtained a map of Prague where Czech street names were replaced by German ones; and that he saw his two biggest challenges as drawing characters avoid perpetuating national stereotypes and getting details right so as to avoid upsetting those who had experienced the

events at first hand.

Recognising that it is difficult for a Jewish author to ignore the Jewish perspective on any story, Alex related how his background and personal interests had actually enriched his novels (and educated his readers) by prompting research into subjects as varied as the Nuremberg Laws, daily life under the German Protectorate of Czechoslovakia and European commercial aviation in wartime. However, while confident in his editorial and journalistic skills, Alex admitted that finding the right literary agent and publisher were even more important when contemplating a career as a novelist.

Closing by parrying incisive questions from a lively audience (they were looking forward to tea, cake and signed copies of 'The Swiss Spy' at a discount), Alex also told us that he prefers not to write anything contemporary, that he is fascinated by double agents and their deception; and that he hopes to set a future novel in Scandinavia. Warm thanks must go to both Alex and his inquisitor Steve – the reporter got his revenge and the audience had a very enjoyable and entertaining evening.

Elder Statesmen – Dennis Goodman

By Steve Levinson

As a man who was shot out of the sky in the Second World War and who not only survived, but went on to carve out a successful business career, Denis Goodman provided a fascinating subject for the latest of Mosaic Reform's series of Elder Statesmen interviews.

Now aged 91, and with 13 great grandchildren, Dennis answered questions put by Steve Levinson in front of a large audience following the Shabbat service on 20th June.

His brush with mortality came when, as the flight engineer on a Halifax bomber, his plane was shot down as it came in to land in 1945. Four other crew members died. Denis told the audience that the plane hit the ground at over 230 mph: "The first I knew of it was when I woke up in a field and said: I'm alive! He was still recovering from serious injuries on VE day, so he missed the celebrations, but was presented with a bottle of whiskey.

But there was far more for Denis to relate. His childhood in Cricklewood, his evacuation, his desire to become an engineer, overseas air force postings in Egypt and Italy and, after the war, his growing family and a business career, which saw him rise to become the director of a large engineering company.

Dennis and his late wife Estelle were members of Middlesex New Synagogue from its early years. He spent many years in charge of the synagogue's publicity and helped establish and produce the Bimah magazine. And he's not finished yet! He still volunteers to help out at the Friendship Club, Northwick Park hospital and the Sternberg Centre.



I didn't use the 'spittoons' as much as I should have and went home feeling quite euphoric ??

Wine tasting evening

By Viv Block

In my wisdom I decided it would be rather nice to attend the above evening on 16th June, along with 16 other Mosaic Reform/Liberal members. It was organised and presented by Reform member Robin Goldsmith, who is a freelance food and drink writer and competition judge with a keen interest in wine journalism and education. His articles are featured in domestic and international trade magazines and websites.

Tables had been laid with plates of cheese, crackers, wine glasses (naturally), spittoons and all in cooperation with the excellent Jane Prentice, who poured the wine (quite generously in some cases).

The theme for the evening was

BBQ's and warm summer nights (very optimistic!) The first wine selected was a very nice chilled Prosecco, followed by some very pleasant whites and rosés. Then came a selection of very good red wines (my personal favourites).

Robin gave very concise explanations of the grapes used and the various regions of production, many coming from Italy, Portugal, plus Australia and South America. We were all given very nice brochures to keep, supplied by Lea & Sandeman. Any bottles not quite finished were offered for sale.

I didn't use the 'spittoons' as much as I should have and went home feeling quite euphoric! All in all a very pleasant way to spend an evening and my personal thanks to both Robin and Jane for the hard work involved in organising this event. Roll on June 2016!



Reports of Past events continued



Tim Kwan's Wedding By David Martin

On 1st August, Juliet and I were privileged to attend the wedding of our previous organist - Tim Kwan - and his bride Sarah Baily at St. Mary's church, Standon near Bishops Stortford.

It was a beautiful wedding, wonderfully enhanced by a choir of around 70, which sang (amongst many other things) a piece that Tim composed especially for the wedding named 'Stay'. This was, in our opinion, the highlight of the ceremony.

The new Mr and Mrs Kwan left the church to the rousing Hallelujah Chorus which, sung by that huge choir, was fabulous. They then boarded a tractor to ride to the reception which was a couple of hundred yards down the road.

During the reception a saxophone quartet entertained (for some reason, Tim and Sarah had not asked the synagogue's very own Three Plonkers to play for them!)

It was such an honour to have been

invited and I'm sure everyone at Mosaic Reform Synagogue joins us in wishing Tim and Sarah a long and wonderfully happy marriage.

Mosaic: Walk in Literary Bloomsbury (part 1)

By John Ashmele

After two false starts due to doday weather forecasts. Mosaic Walkers gathered in Tottenham Court Road for the first in a series of jolly interesting literary walks in London led by John Ashmele. From the fictional home of Charles Dickens' Mr Charles Kitterbell (described in Sketches of Boz) in Great Russell Street, we walked to Bedford Square, a well-preserved Georgian square, which until the 1980s was the centre of British publishing. Annette read an extract from 'A Vindication of the Rights of Women' written by Mary Wollstonecraft, who lived close by. We then crossed Gower Street and passed through Senate House. Evelyn Waugh, Dorothy L Sayers and George Orwell

were employed here during the 1930s, and the concrete building provided the inspiration for the Ministry of Truth in Orwell's 1984. "Other people would like to say that we are a ministry that lies, but that is not the case. We like to change the past, just so it could be interesting to read, not dull and boring".

Stopping briefly

outside the former offices of Faber & Faber in Russell Square, where TS Eliot worked, we walked on to Gordon Square, where members of the Bloomsbury Group lived, "Writing is like sex. First you do it for love, then you do it for your friends, and then you do it for

Walking past Tavistock Square, where Wilfred Owen had lodgings, we turned into the delightful Woburn Walk, a tiny, paved walk-through of second-hand bookshops and cafés; this is where WB Yeats would entertain friends at his home on Monday evenings.

We walked on to Brunswick Square, Mecklenburgh Square Gardens and 48 Doughty Street, where Charles Dickens wrote Pickwick Papers, Oliver Twist and Nicholas Nickleby. The glorious, sunny afternoon concluded with tea in the café courtyard of the Charles Dickens Museum (see photograph).

John Ashmele will lead the second literary walk in Bloomsbury on Sunday 6th September, when we will discover more homes and haunts of novelists. poets and playwrights and delight in a further selection of literary quotes. Numbers are limited, so please contact John or email john@ashmele.co.uk for further information. A suggested donation of £5 to a Synagogue charity would be appreciated.





Mosaic EVENTS

Selichot

THE HIGH HOLYDAYS START HERE...

SELICHOT SERVICE SATURDAY 5th SEPTEMBER

At Bessborough Road 20:30 study session, 21:15 refreshments, 21:30 service

Traditionally, the Selichot Service is held during the hours of darkness on the Saturday night before Rosh Hashanah. This service provides an opportunity to prepare for 'The Days of Awe' in a quiet atmosphere, which is enhanced by some of the music of the High Holydays.

Join us at 20:30 for a study session followed by refreshments at 21:15 and then stay for this beautiful service which will commence at 21:30.

Saturday 5th September

Another in our 'Elder Statesmen' series

Michael Reik will be in conversation with

George Vulkan and **Ursula Warner**

George started in Vienna when the Anchluss totally change his life in 1938 Ursula came over to the UK from Berlin after Kristalnacht on the Kinder transport.

Both are stalwart members of Mosaic Liberal **Enjoy two fascinating stories** Immediately following Shabbat service and a light lunch

FILM MOSAIC

At 20:00 on Tuesday 29th September 'WAKOLDA' (The German Doctor - English subtitles)

It is 1960. A German doctor (Alex Brendemühl) meets an Argentinean family and follows them on a long desert road to a small town where the family will be starting a new life. The family welcome the doctor into their home and entrust their young daughter to his care, not knowing that they are harbouring one of the most dangerous criminals in the world. At the same time, Israeli agents are desperately looking to bring THE GERMAN DOCTOR to justice.

An Argentinian, Spanish, Norwegian, French co-production, this movie received only limited theatrical release in 2014 but to excellent reviews.

Mosaic Walk - Bloomsbury







Sunday 6th September

London abounds with literary association. From Johnson, Dickens and Austen to Woolf, Amis and Murdoch, everywhere you look there is a blue plaque or statue celebrating the city's famous writers.

John Ashmele will lead a walk in Bloomsbury on Sunday 6th September (morning). You will discover the homes and haunts of novelists, poets and playwrights and delight in a selection of literary quotes.

Numbers are limited for these walks, so please contact John or email john@ashmele.co.uk for further information. A suggested donation of £5 to a Synagogue charity would be appreciated.

We hope you will enjoy taking part in Mosaic: Walk, but please remember that everyone takes part at their own risk and that Mosaic and its representatives are not responsible for any injuries, loss or damage that may occur during the walk.

League of Jewish Women (Pinner Branch)

Tuesday 8th September

A Ruth Breckman talk on 'Selected Andrew Lloyd Musicals'

For more information please contact our chairman

Harrow Friendship Club

Entertainment for the over-60s

September-October

Mondays: 11:00 to 14:30 Tel (on the day): 020 8423 2903

Seated mobility from 11:30 Lunch from 12:00 Entertainment (as below) from

SEPTEMBER

7th: FionaHarrison presents her 1940s sing-along show

14th: CLUB CLOSED – HIGH HOLY DAYS 21st: CLUB CLOSED – HIGH HOLY DAYS

28th: CLUB CLOSED-HIGH HOLY DAYS

OCTOBER

5th: CLUB CLOSED – HIGH HOLY DAYS

12th: Return visit of singer Bill Smith

19th: Vocalist Stephen Dunnett **26th:** 'Harry's choice'

For further information call Bertha (contact via the Office)

Mosaic moments



The Granddaughter of Liz & Frank Manches, daughter to Sarah & Richard Osborne – Ava Rachel Isabel Osborn born on 30th December 2014 was blessed at Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue by Rabbi Aaron Goldstein on 23rd May. Here she is with her proud parents, Sarah and Richard





Jack Petchey award winners at Hamakom

Shalev Nymark in the Sudetes Mountains

On the 2nd July 2015 four people from Norwood Sports service took on the challenge of a lifetime, trekking across the Sudetes Mountains. Shalev and Mark, who both have learning disabilities, support worker Martyn Smith and Drew Needs, Norwood Sports team leader joined forty five other trekkers all raising money for Norwood's Hope Centre. The trekkers covered up to 20km a day, though the magnificent pine forests and winding trails of one of Central Europe's steepest mountain ranges.

Shalev's participation was supported by the Sydney Fenton Foundation. Shalev trained hard in the run-up to the trek itself, to make sure he was fit enough for the tough physical challenge ahead. He said: "The trek was the most brilliant thing I've ever done, everyone should do it. The views were amazing, and even though it was tough, my legs didn't feel too bad at the end. The people I met were fantastic.'

The trip was not just about the physical challenge, it was also a celebration of the rebirth of Jewish life in the place that was the epicentre of the holocaust. As 2015 marked the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the death camps in Poland, Shalev was given the opportunity to learn about the end of Hitler's attempts to put an end to Jewish life in Poland and he attended a Shabbat dinner that celebrated the renaissance of Jewish life in Poland. Later in Prague he visited Alteneuschul, the oldest working synagogue in Europe.

Drew Needs, Norwood Sports team leader said: "I'm delighted Shalev rose to the challenge, he really was one of the stars of the trek. Not only did he achieve something really worthwhile, he learned a lot and had an incredible experience travelling in a foreign country. It was also fantastic for the other trekkers to meet two of the people Norwood supports so they could see the difference the money they raised makes to peoples lives first hand."



Letter to the Editor

From Brian Balkin

Yiddish music on 78 rpm discs

My sister and I have a collection of Yiddish music on 78rpm records dating back to the 1930s, 40s and 50s. It belonged to my father. We haven't been through it in great detail but much of it is American in origin. We would like to sell the collection to an individual or, if not possible, donate it to a good cause. Call me or email

From Barry and Maureen Caplan Synagogue in Calgary

My wife and I have just returned from visiting our family in Calgary, Canada. While we were there, we visited the Heritage Park and among the exhibits we came across the small Montefiore Synagogue. It was built in a small township called Hanna some miles north of Calgary in the 1912 era. It appears a few Jewish settlers started a farm and were very happy for a several years until a drought ruined the farms. They then all moved to Calgary and made a good living in various trades.

A plaque explains the history in full. The building was reconstructed in the park as an exhibit of olden times. The scroll, I was told, is 300 years old and was brought over from Europe. The first photo is of my wife and myself and the last is of a lady and Zack who knew all about the schul although she was not Jewish. There are 2 synagogues and quite a lot of Jewish people living in Calgary.

I hope this is useful to your magazine as the wondering Jews made it to central Canada as well as other places and started a congregation which has grown.



What's On!

Some big, some small, and everything in Shul

Unless otherwise stated, all events take place at 39 Bessborough Road, Harrow HA1 3BS.

The times/locations of weekly services are as below, unless otherwise stated:

Mosaic Liberal: Bessborough Road: Friday 19:00, Saturday 11:00 (Chavurah Supper last Friday every month, after the evening service)

HEMS: Girl Guide Headquarters (GGHQ), Hatch End: Saturday 09:30 **Mosaic Reform:** Bessborough Road: Friday 19:00, Saturday 10:30

September

Wednesday	2 nd	20:00	Council meetings
Thursday	3 rd	12:00	Honey cake bake-in
		20:00	Mosaic Book Group (in a member's home)
Saturday	5 th	13:00	Elder Statesman' interview (see page 23)
			(George Vulkan and Ursula Warner)
		20:30	MR and ML Selichot service (see page 23)
		21:30	Masorti Selichot service at EMS
Sunday	6 th	09:30	Community visit to Cheshunt cemetery
Friday	11 th		Kehila Copy Date (October issue)
		19:00	Contemplative service
Monday	14 th		Rosh Hashana
Tuesday	15 th		Rosh Hashana (second day)
Wednesday	16 th	20:00	Kashrut adult education
Thursday	17 th	20:00	HEMS Community discussion
Saturday	19 th	18:00	HEMS Havdalah
Monday	21 st	20:00	Group 326
Tuesday	22 nd		Kol Nidre
Wednesday	23 rd	16:30	Yom Kippur
Thursday	24 th		Kehila Distribution
Friday	25 th	20:00	Pot Luck supper
Saturday	26 th	09:30	Torah Tots
Sunday	27 th	09:30	Succah Building and decorating
		16:00	Apple and Honey event (see page 16)
		19:00	Erev Succot
Monday	28^{th}		Succot
Tuesday	29 th	20:00	Film Mosaic – 'Wakolda' (see pag <mark>e 2</mark> 3)

October

OCIU	JCI		
Sunday	4th		Erev Simchat Torah
			Kehila Copy Date (Chanukah issue)
Monday	5^{th}		Sim chat Torah
Wednesday	7 th	20:00	Council meetings
Sunday	11 th	11:15	Stonesetting – Bill Fishman (Che <mark>shu</mark> nt Woodland)
		12:30	Stonesetting – Marie Rowan (Cheshunt)
		13:15	Stonesetting – Rene Bernson (Cheshunt)
Saturday	17 th	11:00	Sha bbat Shira
Sunday	18 th	14:45	Stonesetting – Albert Jacobs (Cheshunt)
		15:30	Stonesetting – Henry Little (Cheshunt)
Wednesday	21 st	12:00	Luncheon Club
		19:30	Challah bake
Friday	23 rd		Erev Mosaic Shabbat – Chavurah supper at a home near you!
Saturday	24^{th}		Mosaic Shabbat (events all day) - see insert
Thursday	29^{th}		Kehila distribution (Chanukah issue)
Friday	30^{th}	20:00	Pot luck supper
Saturday	31 st	09:30	Torah Tots

Every Week

But not on Yom Tovim

Monday	11:00	Friendship Club (see page 24)	
Monday	20:00	Group 326	
Sunday	09:45	HaMakom	