

Kehila

The **Mosaic** | community magazine | Chanukah 2014/5775

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**WISHING
EVERYONE
A HAPPY
CHANUKAH**

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Michael Morris (65)

CONDOLENCES TO:

Henry Altman on the death of his brother, Monty

The family of Cecil Cherns, on his death

HWPS

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

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Joscelyne Kenton

Michelle Latchman

George Vulkan

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Jenny Golding

MOSAIC REFORM

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Jane Frenchman

MAZAL TOV TO

Veronica & Norman Noah on the engagement of their son, Joshua, to Deon Mustafa

Elaine & Bernard Sinclair on the birth of their grandson, Barney

Yvonne & Edmund Goldstein on the birth of their granddaughter, Aerin Katherine
Jemma & Robert Vincent on the birth of their son, Casey

Caroline & Lawrence Chadwick on the birth of their granddaughter, Eva Mae
Sue & David Pollock on the engagement of their daughter, Katie, to Lior Gerenstein

Marilyn & Howard Sanford on the birth of their granddaughter, Nicole

Liz & Richard Specterman on the birth of their daughter, Hannah

Joanne Collett & Lee Greenfield on their recent marriage. Mazal tov also to Loretta & Geoff Collett

Pauline & Barry Pike on the engagement of their son, Adam, to Meryl Hoffman

Judy & Philip Silverton on the marriage of their son, Iain, to Rigel Humbert.

Mazal tov also to Hazel Richman on the marriage of her grandson

Lydia & David Safir on the birth of their grandson, Gabriel Eli

Lynne & Stephen Dorff on their 45th wedding anniversary

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Ilse Dokelman (94)

Marion Ingram (80)

Ian Joyce (75)

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BEST WISHES IN THEIR NEW HOMES TO:

Loretta & Geoff Collett

Sybil Kenton

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Michelle Singer

CONDOLENCES TO

Marion Weihs on the death of her husband, Ernest

Jackie Jacobs on the death of her husband, Albert (Alec)

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Copy Date for the February Issue of Kehila-Monthly is 18th January 2015. Views expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the officers or council of Mosaic or its constituent synagogues.

Dear Reader



It only seems like yesterday that I was signing off the last Kehila magazine. With a relatively quick turn-around for the Chanukah edition, I was quite concerned that I wouldn't have sufficient material. However, I needn't have worried,

as within days of the last publication, articles and features have flooded in. I guess with a total membership of over 900 people in our communities I shouldn't be surprised by the diversity of events and happenings, and the need for folk to use this magazine to express opinion. Of course, it is a 'no-brainer' that most of the activities contained in these articles wouldn't happen if it weren't for the support of a large number of dedicated volunteers who give up their time for others.

This leads me nicely on to highlighting our new regular volunteer section which you will find on pages 42 & 43. Here you will find a variety of tasks which need filling. Some require just a short amount of time, whilst others require a longer commitment. Please do have

a look through; you never know there might be something you fancy! Younger folk should also have a look – universities and colleges are often very interested to see that a prospective student has had volunteering involvement.

Moving on, I have news specifically for the collectors amongst you – the sequencing of the magazine and its sister publication is to change. The magazine will in future be produced just at Pesach, and around October time. The monthly edition will fill the gap to provide up-to-date information for the Community. So this is the first and last Chanukah magazine you will receive. Put it away carefully, and who knows, in years to come it might be worth something – or maybe not!

Have a great Chanukah, and enjoy the doughnuts and latkes!

Best regards

Robert Pinkus

Robert Pinkus
Editor
newsdesk@choosemosaic.org

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When Jonny had lost all hope, Norwood gave him a new beginning

As you reflect this Rosh Hashanah, will you give others a new beginning too?

When Dad died, I hit a real low. I couldn't find happiness in anything. It's unimaginable where I would be now if it wasn't for Norwood.

We've been supporting Jonny and his family since he was thirteen. Now, he says: "I can see the colours in life again", and he owes it all to Norwood. We want to be there for every family who turns to us, but with Government cuts, we need your help more than ever before. Norwood is the UK's leading Jewish charity for families going through challenging times, children with special educational needs and people with learning disabilities and autism.

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What is Mosaic?

Mosaic is a vibrant new Jewish community which comprises the members of three partner synagogues. The three synagogues represent the Masorti, Reform and Liberal strands of Judaism respectively providing Mosaic members with a choice of emphases and ritual across the Progressive spectrum. Indeed, the providing of choice is a key Mosaic principle which extends beyond ritual. Mosaic provides its members with a wide range of social, educational, cultural and recreational activities designed to appeal to diverse interests and age groups.

There is an excellent religion school for younger members with innovative opportunities to extend Jewish learning beyond bar/bat mitzvah.

Most important, we look out as well as in and offer exciting opportunities to get involved with influential social action and inter-faith programmes, whether locally, nationally or internationally. Mosaic is living proof of what can be achieved with goodwill, mutual respect and a willingness to work together.

Find out more at www.choosemosaic.org or contact Membership Officer Lindsey Cohen on 020 8420 7498



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Rabbi Kathleen Middleton's thoughts on Poppies and Chanukah Lights

speaking clearer and define more precisely who we are and what we are about, than words. Chanukah is another example; though only a minor festival, it is to many a festival which defines our identity far more than, for example, a Biblical chag like Shavuot.

This is not only because Chanukah finds itself in a religious competition with Christmas. It would appear from the omission of Chanukah in the Mishnah, and a rather odd introduction in the Talmud, that Chanukah was an interesting case from its earliest times.

The Rabbis' introduction of Chanukah in the Talmud (Bavli Shabbat 21b): 'Mai Chanukah' (What is Chanukah?) seems odd if you consider that Chanukah had been around for quite some time. It is however not such a strange question, if we really contemplate what it is we celebrate at Chanukah. Surely, what we celebrate is the rededication of the Second Temple after its recapture from the Seleucids in 165 BC. (Yet another story of war, which we remember through symbols and rituals, just like the poppies at the Tower!) It is not so clear what the rededication of the Temple has to do with lighting candles, though of course, it is because of the miracle: the oil that miraculously kept the Menorah burning for 8 days...

The problem is that sources earlier than the Talmud, such as the first and second book of Maccabees, or Jewish historian, Flavius Josephus' 'Jewish Antiquities' (XII) do not mention a miracle of oil. Josephus

mentions an 8-day festival which was called 'Lights', but he doesn't mention a miracle. Why did he leave it out? Well, perhaps he didn't. Perhaps it simply wasn't there, and the Rabbis made it up, because the tradition of lighting lights on Chanukah was already so deeply engrained among the people that the Rabbis felt compelled to give it some religious and historical grounding.

The lighting of lights in midwinter was already practised in other cultures; it is a powerful and universal symbol which connects with our need to dispel the darkness of winter; it gives voice to our belief that, no matter the circumstances, goodness will triumph over darkness; that Judaism will be victorious over its suppressors, just as the Maccabees, though fewer in number, were victorious over the more numerous and better trained Seleucid armies.

The Rabbis clearly weren't keen on Chanukah and the history it represented; perhaps they were weary of its revolutionary undertones; or of the military gist of the story and by implication, the elevation of violence, but the ritual symbolism of Chanukah was strong enough to inspire generations of Jews, and therefore worth some radical reinterpretation.

Perhaps we can learn from these examples that some symbols and rituals develop their own meaning: a meaning which might not be historically or theologically accurate, but if it exerts a positive influence on those who hold on to it, we may have to accept it as equally valid.

Some things just take you by surprise. Take, for example, the popularity of the installation of 888,246 ceramic poppies in the moat of the Tower of London by Artists Paul Cummins and Tom Piper - 'Blood-swept Lands and Sea of Red'. Although the installation itself was not without its critics, the simplicity of the symbolism - a poppy for each life lost in the First World War, clearly resonated with the public.

“sometimes symbols speak clearer and define more precisely who we are and what we are about”

The seemingly endless sea of poppies expressed the enormity of the number of casualties in a way that a mere number on a piece of paper cannot express, whilst the aesthetic appeal of the installation confronted us with the darker side of our fascination with the Great War; a chapter in history which both repels and continually fascinates.

The poppies are an example of the fact that sometimes symbols

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At 85 years old, Tony is showing the early signs of dementia, which often leaves him feeling isolated. From mild confusion to memory loss, dementia can make someone's life a lot more challenging.

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They are crucial services, which rely on your help for their existence. What's more, our Stepney Jewish Community Centre, where Tony and Paul are based, is the last remaining Jewish service in the East End of London.

Declining contributions from local authorities mean that every pound you donate adds real value to the lives of our clients.

This Rosh Hashanah, please ensure that people like Tony aren't forgotten, by remembering to donate.

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Paul (carer)

Tony (community centre member)

REMEMBER JEWISH CARE

Reports from the Chairmen

Harry Grant – Mosaic Chairman



I got into trouble with the Editor of Kehila this month, because my article was even later than usual. This was because I wanted to write about a quite exceptional week, not just within Mosaic, but in the wider Community as well, and that week has

only just ended.

The week started on Remembrance Day Sunday, and I needed to spend a couple of hours catching up on earning a living. My office is on Ruislip High Street, and I was moved by the numbers of ordinary people lining the road to watch a march past, including a large number of uniformed groups, ranging from Cubs and Brownies to servicemen from RAF Northolt, as well as ex-servicemen. It reminded me how lucky we all are, and how much we should value the liberty we enjoy, only at the expense of those who have given, and continue to give.

Remembrance Day saw the climax of the poppy display at the Tower of London, which has been taken to heart by the whole population; it is a vivid reminder of how much we owe, to so many.

Remembrance week coincided with the anniversary of Kristallnacht, and we were privileged to have two totally unconnected speakers address us at the beginning and end of the week. Alexandra Senfft spoke of her life as the granddaughter of a Nazi war criminal, and her work in building bridges in the Middle East, and within Germany itself, often at the expense of being ostracised by her own family. Ben Helfgott spoke of his harrowing life as a Polish child, surviving concentration camps and coming to England to build a fulfilling life as an Olympic weight lifter and successful businessman.

The week ended with Mitzvah day, when members of Mosaic performed various acts of kindness in the wider community, including collecting food for a local Moslem charity.

The lighter part of the week comprised a visit

to the beautiful Theatre Royal at Stratford East to see The Infidel, a comic and irreverent look at Jewish-Moslem relationships, not dissimilar to a Brian Rix farce. It wasn't of award-winning standard, and I don't think it will reach the West End. However, it was a light-hearted view of our differences, and a justifiable mockery of the petty issues that divide us.

Adrian Cohen – HWPS Chairman



Belonging to a synagogue means different things to different people.

For the few, it is attending Friday night and/or Saturday morning services when they can. For many, service attendance revolves around the High Holy

Days. Yet synagogue life is about much more than ritualised worship. It is also a place of learning, not just at religion school level but also as an adult through special adult education classes, discussion groups, guest speakers or simply studying Torah. For others it is a place of togetherness, a community through which many friendships are formed and sustained. For some it is a place simply to belong and a burial club. Yet not many of us fit easily into one category. In truth for many of us, we are mixtures of all the above in varying degrees. There is a huge gulf between the amount of people who regularly attend on Friday night services (10 to 20) and Saturday mornings (30) and the amount of people who will turn up for a headline event such as the Rock Shabbat we hosted at Bessborough Road last summer. Quite simply, and it doesn't just apply to our synagogue, churches across the country are finding the same, people are switched off by formal, ritualised worship. The argument that most people are now atheists or agnostics doesn't seem to answer the

problem. In reality most people have a spiritual side that is not being addressed.

So while continuing to run and offer traditional services on a Friday/Saturday for our regular members we also need to try new things.

We have decided, at HWPS, to offer a different kind of service once every two months on a Friday night. That service is a contemplative service with a completely different approach and feel. A service, although structured, with silent passages giving a chance for introspection and the opportunity to share one's troubles and/or joys.

Experience the start of Shabbat in a uniquely and spiritually refreshing way - watch out for these special services, you are all welcome.

Barbara Grant – Mosaic Reform Chairman



This autumn has been a busy quarter in Mosaic Reform. Our Rabbi and lay leaders worked tirelessly over the Yom Tovim, especially introducing many new ideas into our services and minhag. The new Erev Rosh Hashanah prayerbook

included a number of interesting new readings and our Shabbat Shira style Erev Simchat Torah service was well received by all who attended. Every Shabbat Rabbi Middleton conducts the service from 'within' the congregation and this idea was extended to the Yom Tovim this year. Inevitably this initiative was met with mixed reception but on balance it was felt by the Mosaic Reform Council to be one that we would wish to repeat. In October, it was all change on Shabbat Bereshit when Bessborough Road was the home for all three Shabbat Services – Reform, Masorti and Liberal and we came together for a massive Mosaic Kiddush, kindly hosted by the Young family from HEMS in celebration of Nicholas's Bar Mitzvah.

Our Council has met twice since I last wrote and discussion is increasingly focussed on our members – or more specifically their involvement, needs and interests. During the coming months, we are hoping to engage a new member of staff who will assist Rabbi Middleton in her pastoral role within the community and in time develop some new ideas for engaging with our

membership. Council too have been exploring new ways for involving our congregants and this will hopefully be welcomed by existing, as well as new members who are part of our Mosaic family. We are ever grateful to the Mosaic Community Group who continue to entice us with interesting visitors and programmes. During this autumn alone we have welcomed Edie Friedman from the Jewish Council for Racial Equality, Alexandra Senfft who related her painful experiences as grand-daughter of a Nazi war criminal and Ben Helfgott a Holocaust Survivor. These are unique opportunities for us all to learn more about the world in which we live and I commend you all to find time to take advantage of these events when they come along. December too will be a busy month when Chanukah and our major Mosaic fundraising event, when we welcome Jay Rayner, will give further opportunity for us to enjoy being part of this community. There is much to do and much to be done! Please come and support us in whatever way you can – as a participant, a helper, a leader... the choice is yours.

Neil Mendoza – HEMS Chairman



We live in a world of Orange Wednesdays, Grey Thursdays, Black Fridays and even Cyber Mondays. The weird and multi-coloured commercialism that seems to pervade the aspects of our calendar rises to a crescendo at this "festive" period that rapidly crashes into a

sea of depression, diet and debt for the wider community after they have chomped through their over-full shopping trolleys that always ignore the modern fact that supermarkets are only closed for merely 24 hours.

In stark contrast, and resulting from Sue's US frolic, we have adopted the marking of Thanksgiving. All the family gathered together but with no presents, no faux-religion and no one knocking on the door to badly sing annoying carols. It's all a bit like Friday night but with a turkey. Another benefit is decent wine with no need for Palwin. Yes, we like combining our Jewish festivals with this one!

A Rabbi's Word



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For German writer Alexandra Senfft, who spoke to Mosaic members and guests on the anniversary of Kristallnacht, 10th November 2014, there can be no such thing as a family secret. Alexandra's maternal grandfather was Hanns Elard Ludin who was born in 1905 in Freiburg, Germany and hanged for war crimes in 1947 in Bratislava, Slovakia. Ludin joined the Nazi party and the SA-storm troopers in 1931. Reputedly lucky to survive Hitler's murderous purge against the SA in 1934, Ludin eventually became the German envoy to Slovakia. He may have been a diplomat by title but he was judged guilty of being directly involved in the deportation of some 70,000 Jews.

Alexandra's family maintained the fiction that her grandfather was merely a decent civil servant despite his active membership in the NSDAP. This complicit silence was too much for Alexandra's emotionally deprived mother Erika (1933-1998) who learned of her father's execution while at boarding school at the vulnerable age of fourteen. Like other children of perpetrators, Erika died too young after decades of depression and alcoholism.

In her very respected book published in 2007, *Schweigen tut weh: Eine deutsche Familiengeschichte* (The Pain of Silence: A German Family History), Alexandra conveys her personal journey to discover the truth of her grandfather's crimes and the subsequent silence that also destroyed her mother. Along the way, she lost relationships with both relations and friends. But she gained new and supportive friendships such as with the visionary Israeli psychology professor and filmmaker Dan Bar-on (1938-2008) who brought together descendents of Shoah victims and perpetrators. His passion was to overcome walls of silence and hostility.

Like Dan Bar-on, Alexandra is deeply involved with dialogue and conciliation. She is very aware of Rabbi Albert Friedlander's words, 'It's not for me to forgive and I cannot forget; but we must live together anyway'. Her efforts also include peacemaking between Israelis and Palestinians and acknowledging the stories of the two traumatized sides of this conflict. In this regard, Professor Bar-on was an inspiration, too.

Those who attended Alexandra's evening held in the packed HWPS sanctuary on Bessborough Road were deeply moved by her courage and vision. At the end of the evening, when I asked for members of the audience to join Alexandra in a photograph, the very first to volunteer was Hana Schlesinger, a child of Slovakian Jews who lost many relations in the Shoah. This was a precious moment of healing.

Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith



From Right to Left: Hana Schlesinger (HWPS), Alexandra Senfft and Marie Heymann (MR and was in hiding in France during the Shoah).



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Reflections

By Rabbi Paul Arberman

“All who are faithful, follow me!” cried Mattathias to his fellow Jews. And I believe our Masorti ancestors answered that cry and followed. Why do I say Masorti Jews? Because the Maccabees were very similar to the people we are today – they were innovators of Jewish Law.

In I Maccabees (2:29-37), we find the following narrative about a Greek attack on the Jews: “The [Greeks] arose, suddenly, to fall upon [the Jews] on Shabbat, saying to them: How long will you refuse to obey the king... And the men in their midst did not raise their hands to hurl a stone or to silence them... and they [the Greeks] fell upon them on Shabbat and killed all those in the cave... about 1,000 people.”

The deaths of 1,000 Jewish men, women, and children prompted Mattathias and the Maccabees to respond. They decided, the text continues, that if they were again attacked on Shabbat, they would fight a defensive battle:

“They said to one another: If we all act as our brothers have, and refuse to defend our lives and beliefs, we will shortly be destroyed. They decided on that day: Whosoever will attack us on Shabbat, we will fight back; we will not die like our brothers in the caves.”

The regulations now permitted not just self-defence but a posture of defensive readiness (pre-emptive strikes against the enemy on Shabbat were still prohibited). Of course to us, this seems like a ‘no-brainer’ – defend your lives! But back then, it was simply

not part of our practice EVER to fight on Shabbat – whatever the circumstances.

The Maccabees displayed flexibility in the law. When they saw the Greeks taking advantage of their religious practice and cruelly attacking them on Shabbat – they made what was then a radical decision.

“Too often liberal Jews fall into the trap of believing that traditional Judaism is the REAL Judaism and we are engaged in Judaism ‘lite.’ It’s time for us to stand up and say: “I’m not afraid to be a zealot for moderate Judaism” **”**

The Sages concluded, “It is preferable to violate one Shabbat in order to observe many other Shabbatot.” In fact, in Israel today, the considerations that allow the waging of war on Shabbat, both defensive and offensive, have continued to guide the IDF. This is a particularly valuable legacy of the Maccabees.

I would take it one step further. I would argue that Masorti and Reform and Liberal Judaism are the true inheritors of the rabbinic tradition, because we acknowledge



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that we must continue to be active in the development of halachah in our day. My personal belief is that women’s equality, gay and lesbian rights and human rights in general, fall into the category of “important enough” to re-examine Jewish law to see how we can save and improve lives in our day.

Too often liberal Jews fall into the trap of believing that traditional Judaism is the REAL Judaism and we are engaged in Judaism “lite.” It’s time for us to stand up and say: “I’m not afraid to be a zealot for moderate Judaism.” The Maccabees remind us that it was the very flexibility in law that allowed us to survive this long.

Chanukah means rededication, specifically a rededication of the Temple after it was desecrated by the Greeks. Masorti and liberal Jews are already dedicated to authentic religious life – we light our Hanukiot with a spirit of observance of tradition and an openness to change.

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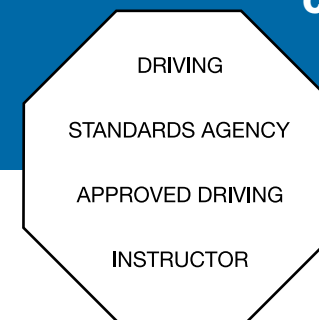
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A working life...

Steve Levinson of Mosaic Reform gives a brief resume of his professional career as an award-winning journalist, working for the BBC, Channel 4 News and the Independent newspaper

My journalistic career was odd from Day one. Turning up as a new boy at the offices of the Shields Gazette and Shipping Telegraph and expecting to be the tea boy, but ending up with the front page splash in that evening's edition.

And who did I have to thank for this strange twist of fate but President Gamil Abdul Nasser, the president of Egypt who had gone to war with Israel in both 1956 and 1967?

My news editor that day greeted me with the words: "go down to the mosque and get reaction to Nasser's death". This was 1970 and I was perplexed as I had no idea there was a mosque in South Shields, or

even any Arabs.

But apparently the Arabs of South Shields were a long-standing community from before the first world war and were actually seaman and their families originally from Aden. At the mosque I learnt my first lesson in journalism – never go to work with holes in your socks.

But I got my interview with the Imam, who spoke English with an Arab/Geordie accent, and my story. That night's headline; "Shields Arabs mourn death of Nasser. By Steve Levinson." Second lesson – you can always find a local angle if you look hard enough.

The local newspaper route into journalism is tried and trusted and highly effective. You start with local

car crashes, and fires – Lesson 3: you can always track down a fire engine by the water trail it leaves as it rolls round corners.

I made it to Fleet Street in the heyday of that famous address. Where journalists met in pubs and worked out their stories together between pints of beer and in a fug of tobacco smoke – Lesson 4: you can phone in your story from a noisy pub and your news desk thinks you are on the front line. "Apologies for the noise mate but there's a lot going on here – it's difficult to think straight".

By now I was the economics editor of the Press Association and had a prized "lobby ticket" allowing me access to Downing Street briefings. I had already interviewed the drowning Labour Chancellor, Denis Healey and Prime Minister Jim Callaghan as the winter of discontent put paid to them, but this was now the heyday of Margaret Thatcher.

“Maggie was without doubt the most impressive prime minister I ever met”

Maggie was without doubt the most impressive prime minister I ever met. Not because of her policies but because of her drive, focus and sheer willpower to get things done. Odd as it may seem she was also very sexy, and used her charms to bring in line her fawning male cabinet colleagues. On the international stage the same

charms worked on EU leaders as well as US presidents and Soviet leaders. Even when she was on the losing side she managed to present the outcome as a great victory. Indeed at EU summit meetings the diplomatic editor of one Tory paper, always had his final story pre-prepared. They always began: "Mrs Thatcher returned in triumph tonight as..."

Fleet street's demise to new technology and Rupert Murdoch was sad, but for me it opened up a new vista as a founding journalist for the newly created Independent newspaper. It is the only paper that survives that rebirth of print titles – The Sunday Correspondent, Today etc all fell by the wayside. I was rather flatteringly poached by the BBC from The Independent and embarked on a completely new career in TV. I was hardly ever

off the screen as economic crisis and currency crashes dominated the news in the early 1990s. Chancellors and Prime ministers were interviewed Howe, Lawson, Major, Lamont, Blair and Brown, while on the international scene I came up against Nelson Mandela, Shimon Perez and US presidents from Carter to Clinton. This was first at the BBC and then at Channel 4 News.

I was privileged more recently to be asked to do another interview with Nelson Mandela on his 90th birthday. More than any other person I interviewed he was a man that exuded calm and authority without ever needing to raise his voice.

So from Nasser to Mandela with a few detours on the way – and hopefully more to come – that's a brief resume of my story so far.

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Desert island discs

Our castaway this month is David Martin from Mosaic Reform, who says one of his hardest tasks was choosing just eight records. However, it has not gone unobserved that he has requested an endless supply of batteries for his luxury item – sorry! The best we can do is to offer him a set of rechargeable batteries and a wind generator!



Many of my choices are film themes, as I have always loved

large orchestras and three of my composer heroes are here. There are some singers whose voices are so pure, they just amaze me. I may not necessarily be a mad fan of the artist, but occasionally someone will release a track which really makes me sit up and listen.

1 **"Tonight", the live album version sung by George Michael (not to be confused**

with the song from West Side story). His voice on this track is spot-on and he sings with such passion, pleading not to have yet another night of fighting and arguing, just wishing to quietly go to sleep. The orchestral introduction lasts well over two minutes and is wonderful as a standalone piece. This track doesn't fail to bring a tear to my eye.

2 **"Africa" by Toto.** The constantly changing African rhythms and harmonies are so contagious that I can't help singing along with them. I've loved this song ever since it was released in 1982.

3 **"Chichester Psalms" by Leonard Bernstein.** As a member of The Zemel Choir I have had the pleasure of singing this beautiful work at St Albans Cathedral and at St John's, Smith Square, with the honour of a small solo part. The work was commissioned for the 1965 Southern Cathedrals Festival at Chichester Cathedral and Bernstein wrote such varied sections, there is something to please everyone here.

4 **"The Titanic Theme" by James Horner.** Here we have one of my heroes. The Titanic theme is actually not the tune (as Juliet, my better half, puts it) sung by "that awful squawking woman", but is the theme which is played throughout the film. This is one of my favourite films and although it's quite cheesy in the main, it is the music which clinches it for me. If Rose had stayed put in the lifeboat

instead of running around the ship saving Jack, the film would have been half the length and therefore much less music, so well done Rose!

5 **"Give me a Smile" by John Barry from his "The Beyondness of Things" album.** For some reason, this track reminds me of holidays in New England and I have no idea why! John Barry is my favourite composer of all time. He wrote well over 140 sound tracks as well as numerous other compositions. His melodies don't go where you expect them to go which, in my eyes, makes him unique. A terrible loss to the world of music when he died three years ago.

6 **"A Beautiful Mind", another by James Horner.** A great film based on the life of mathematician John Nash. The hauntingly beautiful theme is sung by Charlotte Church and I never tire of listening to it. Definitely one of James Horner's finest works, in my opinion.

7 **"This Used To Be My Playground" by Madonna, the theme track from the film "A League of Their Own".** This song, released in 1992, belongs to the period of Madonna's work which I love. She has the most wonderful voice when singing ballads. She's gone through quite a number of reinventions, which I'm not so keen on, but her ballads? Knockout!

8 **"State of Independence" by Donna Summer.** Now, this has a pedigree like few others...written by Jon Anderson and Vangelis, and produced by the

legendary Quincy Jones. When I first heard this song in 1982, I realised there was something really special going on in the chorus. The choir consisted of about 20 well known singers including Michael Jackson, James Ingram, Dionne Warwick, Lionel Richie and Stevie Wonder. WOW! As if that wasn't enough, there was a bonus of guest guitarist Eric Clapton. I will never stop loving this track and once again, Donna Summer - a great loss to music.

My choice of book would be "Gray's Anatomy". I'm hoping I stand a chance of being rescued at

some stage and if I've had the ability to memorise a tome like this, I could give myself a large pat on the back and be the world's greatest expert on anatomy and physiology. Why would I wish for this? Dunno!

Luxury item: An electric piano/synthesiser (with unlimited supply of batteries). I don't play the keyboard and have always wanted to learn, but have never allowed myself the discipline and time required to practise. Looks like I could have both of these on the island.

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RAINBOW JEWS

By Kevin Ziants of HWPS

When deciding what modules to opt for at the Liberal Judaism Biennial Conference, the subject of Rainbow Jews appealed to Olivia and I. We liked the idea of learning about matters that some may consider against the “norm” and have had personal experiences amongst friends regarding the subject matter in hand. We therefore attended a session dedicated to exploring the history of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Jews from the 1950s to today. This session introduced us to the Rainbow Jews pioneering lottery-funded oral history and archive project hosted by Liberal Judaism.

The session was attended by around 15 delegates, including to our surprise two elderly ladies who gave us the impression they were from the “old school”. This was our first error regarding stereotyping.

The early message given was that in the course of a single lifetime, LGBT Jewish identity has been transformed from something not mentioned to something celebrated. We saw a moving film depicting LGBT Jews’ struggles. The common themes amongst them were suppressing their feelings, then a battle to accept themselves and finally the fight for acceptance amongst family and friends. We

“The early message given was that in the course of a single lifetime, LGBT Jewish identity has been transformed to something not mentioned to something celebrated”

were moved by a Hassidic lesbian who described not being able to live her life as she lived in a “bubble” in her community. With the help of the Jewish LGBT, she was able to lead a more secular Jewish life and embrace her true identity.

A gay Liberal convert described his ongoing struggle for acceptance by mainstream Jewish denominations, which meant many were forced to seek support from communities they had formed themselves.

We learned how in December 2005 the Liberal Jewish Movement produced the Berit Ahava (the Covenant of Love) for same sex couples. This was first step in the fight for the right to marry. Rabbi Sheila Shulman, who recently passed away, was the first openly lesbian rabbinical student. She was able to become a well-known rabbi in a synagogue who once opposed her entry to Leo Baeck College. She played a great part in 2014 in the Masorti movement’s decision to allow some same sex commitments.

We need to be mindful that one can be Jewish and LGBT as this is something that happens inside without choice. Why should this be hidden? The wheel has turned a long way, but there are still personal struggles and the Orthodox movements have a long way to go. I am proud that HWPS have supported and positively embraced any LGBT issues.

I’ll finish with a quote from a woman bought up in the United Synagogue who recalled her thoughts on a trip to the Krakow Holocaust camp with her partner. “I am here, we survived despite everything that you did to both gay and Jewish people. You wanted to destroy us, and here I am walking out with the person who makes me happiest in this world”.

I hope this article will help further open our minds.

Anyone interested in Rainbow Jews see website
www.rainbowjews.com

Vienna Revisited

Daniel, George and Mary Vulkan take a trip into the past.

By Mary Valkan from HWPS

Many of you will know that George fled Vienna overnight with his parents in 1938 and until 2003 had returned there only reluctantly on two brief occasions. This changed when an official invitation from the City of Vienna afforded us the opportunity to explore scenes of his childhood and also to visit the cemetery and the graves of his grandparents. His mother’s parents had died in 1938, shortly before the family’s departure. His father’s mother died in 1941 around the time of the deportation of her husband and four of her children. Consequently, he found that none of the graves were marked. We resolved to have gravestones erected with appropriate inscriptions, commemorating not only his grandparents but also those of the family who had perished in the Shoah.

The work was carried out by a local stonemason (designs submitted and approved by e-mail) and upon completion in autumn 2004, we decided to visit the graves again. The Zentralfriedhof Cemetery of Vienna is vast, housing more than 3 million graves and occupying 6 acres of land. Two very large sections are devoted to Jewish graves, with the majority of Jewish burials having occurred after 1874. Finding a particular grave is no easy matter, but the bureaucratic efficiency of the authorities has produced a detailed list of the location of every plot, its occupants, date of burial and last known address of the deceased. Maps are provided. All this information is now available on the Internet.

Armed with the cemetery database on our son’s hand-held computer, the three of us, Daniel, George and myself, were able to track down not only the new gravestones but also the graves of many of George’s ancestors, great aunts and uncles and cousins. Large parts of the Jewish sections are in a



much neglected state, overgrown and dilapidated. As a consequence of heavy bombardment in the area towards the end of World War II, many stones are broken and overturned. There is a programme of restoration work being undertaken by Christian volunteers, but this is inevitably very time-consuming and progress is slow.

One section in which we were particularly interested was laid completely flat, an area with occasional shattered stones protruding through the weeds and ivy, all traces of orderly rows having disappeared. Somewhere in this desolation was the grave of George’s maternal great-grandmother who died in 1907, a lady whom he had never known

but whose photograph is in the family album (see accompanying photograph). We were looking for Section 8, Line 50, Grave 16a, but all semblance of order had gone. Our first instinct was to give up and go sadly away. However we persisted. Treading carefully backwards and forwards over the area we roughly calculated where the plot should be. A few names on broken stones confirmed the location to be correct – but still no trace of what we were searching for. Then Daniel became aware that he was standing on a much harder piece of ground. We started to push the soil away and within seconds revealed the name we had sought: Perl Gottlieb. Ten minutes later after much scraping and with very dirty hands, we had revealed the entire stone, amazingly legible after sixty years beneath the ground. It was a moment of triumph and deep emotion, moving us all to tears. We recited Kaddish and left the cemetery filled with great satisfaction that we had made the journey. Later in the day, on checking the date, we realised that we had made the discovery on the day of Perl’s Jahrzeit.



© Portrait by Italiaander – www.italiaander.co.uk

My Bar Mitzvah – Harry Latham

The build up to my bar mitzvah was extremely nerve-wracking. However, on the day when it was my time to shine, the nerves quickly disappeared and I made myself and all my family and friends proud.

It was tough learning my Parsha as I had a lot to do, including a significant part of the service. Every Sunday before ... yes, before Hebrew classes, I would go to Rabbi Kathleen's house and she would help me learn my portion. She was really great and made sure I knew exactly what my portion was all about. It made me ask lots of questions and was really interesting.

I had been at Hebrew classes for 10 years before my big day and after all those years it finally paid off. My actual bar mitzvah was really good and the party in the evening was amazing and with all my friends and family there, it made it a really memorable day.

My Bar Mitzvah – Nicholas Young

On Saturday the 18th October I had my bar mitzvah. I was just a little nervous as I knew there were going to be so many people in shul but I delivered my portion really well and without any mistakes which surprised me!

I think I made my parents very proud. It was great to have so many family members in shul that had travelled from overseas.

I would like to thank Mosaic Reform for letting us use their shul for my bar mitzvah and all concerned for making that even possible. Jonathan Fenster was a fantastic teacher who really helped me prepare for my bar mitzvah and I would like to thank him for that.

On the Sunday I had the most amazing party with all my family and friends and everyone kept congratulating me and saying how well I had done in shul the day before. Once the speeches were finished I partied the night away.

I would also like to thank my mum and dad for making this weekend so special and one that I will never forget.



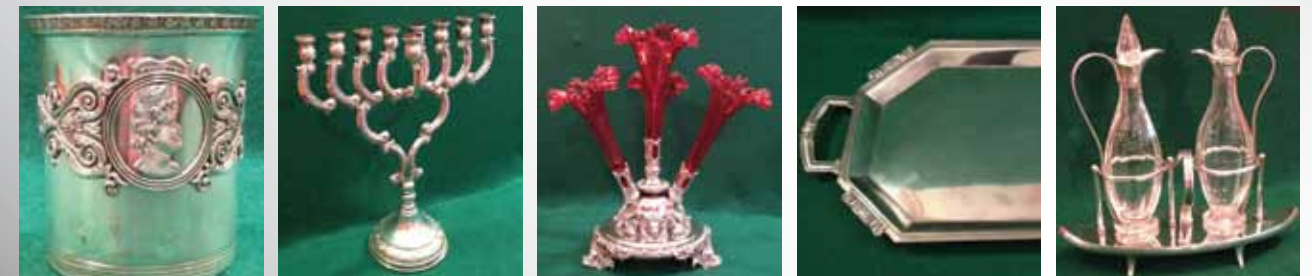
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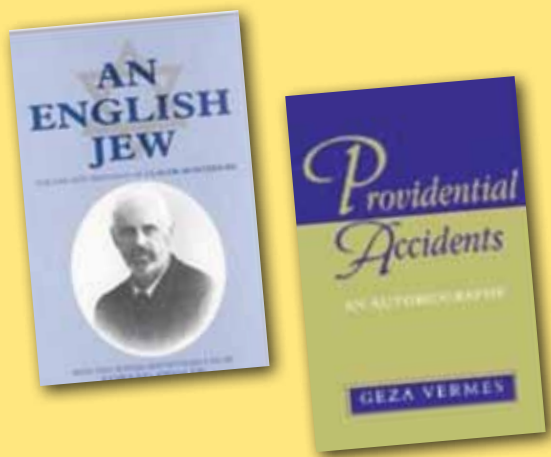
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A tale of two scholars

Maria Landau from HWPS offers a personal perspective on two books

Recently I was in the Synagogue library looking for something ‘worthy’, perhaps historical or biographical, rather than theological. I pulled out “AN ENGLISH JEW-The Life and Writings of Claude Montefiore”. And then, in one of those serendipitous moments that happen when one browses in libraries, my eyes landed on “Providential Accidents- An Autobiography” by Geza Vermes.

Geza Vermes, as a name, has been in the back of what passes as my memory for years. Not so long ago it came up in a discussion with a friend, who knew of him and had some of his books. He passed away at the age of 88 in 2013, just a few days before my friend and one of her books by Vermes is now mine. I took both books from the library in the end, but decided to start with Vermes (rather guiltily) as it appeared an easier read. Although a linguist, Vermes only learned English in adult life so the writing felt a little awkward at times. But it was in a lively style and if one is at all interested in European history and scholarly and religious intrigue, not to say malpractice, this is the book. It is also an insight into the fate of the Hungarian Jews. They were assimilated and that may have lulled them into a false sense of security as when, in 1944, Eichmann decided to occupy Hungary, the ‘final solution’ was implemented with speed and ferocity.

Now, when Vermes reached school age, his parents had decided that they would all convert to Catholicism ‘to give him a better chance’. In the event, at the time of the invasion, he was already a seminarist and the church protected him, but not his parents; their fate was never known. After a hair-raising crossing of war-ravaged Europe, he joined a religious order in Louvain. He became a priest and in another providential move, he completed a doctorate on “The Dead Sea Scrolls” at the University of Louvain. News of the Scrolls had hit the world in 1947 when an Arab shepherd chanced upon them in cliffs in the North West shore of the Dead

Sea. The doctorate was just the beginning. Years later, Vermes (no longer in the priesthood) and with a distinguished career as a scholar, writer and academic (he became professor of Jewish Studies at Oxford in 1989), would be forever connected with the Scrolls. His knowledge of ancient Hebrew and Aramaic allowed him to analyse them and reach the generally accepted hypothesis that they originated in the middle of the 2nd century BCE at the time of the Maccabean crisis.

Claude Montefiore was born into an upper class Anglo-Jewish family in 1858 and had an intensive education which included attending the Hochschule in Berlin. He considered himself a scholar and only reluctantly agreed to be involved in reform Judaism. In the event, he became a founder member of Liberal Judaism and was instrumental in persuading Israel Mattuck to become the first Rabbi of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue.

This book was introduced and edited by Edward Kessler and I found that very helpful. Claude Montefiore’s style can at times be ponderous and difficult to follow, but he is not without humour and his meanderings often lead you somewhere worth the journey. I was surprised that a considerable part of the book is about Jesus and his doctrines, but then Montefiore considers him a prophet after Amos, Isaiah and Ezequiel. He applies criticism and praise to his teachings and to his practices, in the same way as he does to all the other prophets. It seems to me that Claude Montefiore equates the tenets of liberal Judaism with the prophets’ teachings, but this is much better explained in the chapter “The survival of Judaism”. I am not sure how far we have moved away from Montefiore’s ideals. He died in 1938 and therefore he was spared the Shoah and did not witness the birth of the state of Israel. The last chapters would have been different otherwise and I, for one, would like to have read them.

Mosaic has a book club that reviews and discusses a whole range of books. For further information contact Janet Solomon on 020 8866 0335, or admin@choosmosaic.org

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020 8864 0133

admin@choosemosaic.org

Task: School visits host

Time commitment: Occasional mornings by arrangement

Job description: Explaining our ritual to visiting youngsters aged 7-10, accompanied by teachers/parents.
Full training given – Come along and see what happens before you commit!

Task: Labelling envelopes for Kehila magazine

Time commitment: 2 hours per month

Job description: Put members' labels onto their Kehila envelopes
No special skills required

Task: Stuffing envelopes prior to distribution

Time commitment: 1 hour, usually on the last Thursday of each month

Job description: Put members' magazines into Kehila envelopes
Working as part of a team - you can even chat while you work!

Task: Visiting members in their homes

Time commitment: By arrangement

Job description: Visiting members on an occasional basis following hospitalisation or on a more regular basis as a befriender.
Ideal for someone who can engage with other members of the community for whom life may have become a little challenging

The following are required by Hatch End Masorti Synagogue

If you are interested in any of the jobs listed
please contact the Shul Office on

020 8864 0133

office@hems.org.uk

Task: Finding Friday night & Shabbat lunch venues when Rabbi Arberman is here

Time commitment: Approx 1-2 hours per Rabbi visit

Either can be done by e-mail or phone call – whatever suits

Task: Sending out birthday e-mails

Time commitment: approx 1 hour per month

Needs access to a computer

Task: Helping compile rotas twice yearly

Time commitment: 4 hrs each time spread over 2 days

Needs access to a computer and know Excel

Task: Collecting the kiddush food from Noshers and delivering it to the Girl Guide Headquarters

Time commitment: once every 6-8 weeks or so. Approx 20 mins each time in Hatch End area.

Needs someone who drives

Task: Helping with stuffing of Kehila on an occasional basis

Time commitment: approx 1 hr per mailing at Bessborough Road – when needed

Task: Helping with delivering Kehila monthly either in the Northwood, Stanmore or Bushey areas on a monthly or occasional basis

Time commitment: approx 1 hr per mailing including collecting magazines from shul office

Mosaic moments

(October/November '14)



Mazel tov to Jason Miller and Tanya Miller (nee Smith) on the occasion of their wedding on Sunday 26th October 2014 at the New North London Synagogue N3



Simon Glass lays a wreath from HEMS



Rabbi Kathleen on Remembrance Sunday at Harrow Civic Centre



HaMakom visit the Succah



Board of Deputies Reps on Parade



Eva Mae Bown, thirteen-day-old daughter of Jo and James, made her debut at Shabbat morning services on 25th October and Rabbi Frank welcomed her to our community. After the service, Eva joined our distinguished group of October birthdays

A word from the editor!

A big 'thank you' to all the feature writers, proof readers, copy co-ordinators, advertisers, advertising editor, and other people who kindly offered their time and support in the making of this magazine.



Quiz night at HEMS

A recycled life



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By Edwin Lucas of HEMS

I started in recycling by accident, when I worked for Marks and Spencer and was challenged way back in the late 1980s to prove that recycling was a waste of time and money. My then boss would not accept that Tesco and Sainsbury's were saving money and told me I had to "rubbish" them – I couldn't!

With my interest in recycling lit, I left Marks to begin my own company called Rethinking Recycling, where going into rubbish bins, scavenging, sorting, sifting, weighing, were all part of my new found excitement. You may ask how anyone can get excited about waste or garbage or junk. Well it is easy and it does have its funny moments.

I recall that on one occasion before I was married I was walking along Golders Green Road with Linda, my wife to be. She was an optometrist with an interest in opticians' windows and I as recycle man would look in bins. Again on a visit to Vienna with my father-in-law, Fred Stern (from Mosaic Reform), he was interested in the culture from his youth, and I used my time, guess what – looking in bins!

Over the years I have done a lot of work in prisons. (It is a common talking point between me and

“ Going into rubbish bins, scavenging, sorting, sifting, weighing, were all part of my new found excitement ”

the editor as he is the only other Jewish person I have known who also worked in prison!) In one prison I found a 5 feet tall crucifix in the waste. I was very upset and the observant Catholic prisoner I was with was horrified. He took it out of the waste and hung it on the workshop wall. The effect was amazing as bad language and behaviour were eliminated.

All prisons employ prisoners to salvage and recycle. It generates work and more importantly gives prisoners a chance to gain qualifications which they can use on release.

My company promotes products made from prison waste. We have bought a lot of goods over the years, including products made from phone cards, soap, bread, egg shells, clothing, cardboard and plastics. In one prison they made a hundred five-foot Xmas trees out of Cola bottles – they looked amazing.

I also have always taken a keen interest in the work of the Koestler Trust which supports serving prisoners in the Arts and Crafts – some making exhibits from recycled goods.

We have also worked for airlines. Our research indicated that every

aeroplane that landed in the early 1990s was dekkitted and restocked. We showed Sir Richard Branson one week's waste of toilet rolls and he agreed that this should stop, and now part-filled toilet rolls are left in place, until they are used up, just like one would do at home!

My airline work took me to South Africa where the airport caterers were way ahead of their counterparts in the Western World. Packaged food which could not be used is donated to local orphanages. In the West, health and safety, and the possibility of litigation prevents this from happening. I went to Soweto and saw the difference the airline packaged food items made to the needy. In one home they had run out of food, and they blessed the kindness of the airlines and caterers for supporting them.

Hotels are a cornucopia of enjoyment. Waste abounded in every area. Someone else was paying for it, so why save it. Linen, paper, toiletries were always found in our haul. Gone are the days when towels are automatically replaced daily and in many hotels, it is the guest that controls the hotel waste.

So with our motto – waste not want yes – we endeavour to make the best of our planets rare resources.



Lost and found

A report by Jack Lynes on the Harrow Bereavement Care conference on 22nd October at Bessborough Road



John McCarthy speaking to Rabbi Kathleen

“ It is never too late to overcome despair. To turn sorrow into resolve and pain to purpose ”

that we take our liberty so much for granted. The Seder table flashed through my mind, but only briefly, as he spoke about the filthy conditions that awaited him and the shock, terror, bewilderment, even disbelief (“was it all a dream?”) of the situation.

But John was an optimist and so there were findings alongside the losses. There was even humour, especially when after several moves, he was able to have a companion with whom to share his company. The loss of solitude gave way to the finding of another person. A hidden reminder to us all of the misery of solitude, often within minutes of our own abode.

During his years in captivity John had many losses. As a journalist, the means to communicate were obviously high on the list together with the loss of dignity, possessions, and much more. But perhaps what he found was something of great value, and as unexpected as the kidnapping. He found himself. He created 'space' for ideas and ideals. He found self-respect and respect for others, even for his guards and, he said, “those who have set themselves against him.” It was as if he had already seen 'A Jewish Book of Comfort' edited by Rabbis Charles Middleburgh and Andrew Goldstein, a copy of which was

given to him after his talk, and found the verse by Harold M. Schulweis “It is never too late to overcome despair. To turn sorrow into resolve and pain to purpose.”

There were times when he was allowed to read. Not surprisingly, choice was limited, and the Bible was read from cover to cover and analysed sentence by sentence, not always affording him answers as to 'Why?' but often a source of comfort and always offering puzzles to while away the day.

John had learnt of his Mother's passing whilst he was still a prisoner but decided (yes, decided, it was no mere coincidence) to waive any mourning until he was free, which was some six months hence. His reference to this waiting period was a reminder that there is no statutory time limit for grief. Even more so was this evident when he ended his talk by describing his last minutes spent at the hospital bedside with his brother, quite some time ago. As he told us, it was a though we were all listeners in a large drop-in centre and he had come to re-live that awesome experience, when the nurse had advised him that to touch his brother's arm might be stressful for the dying man. We all listened. We each empathised with him. And these were John's own moments of mourning. It was time for a break.

Hannah's Cakes

Gill Gurner meets 20-year-old Hannah Glass from HEMS to talk cakes!



When I went to talk to Hannah Glass about her new enterprise 'Hannah's Cakes', her enthusiasm for what was originally just a hobby shone through. She told me she has always loved cooking, starting at school where she won a prize for being 'Gifted and Talented in Food Technology', the prize being to cook with a leading chef. Holiday jobs in Debenhams' restaurant followed and then at Birmingham University she was on the Friday Night Committee for the Jewish Society (JSOC), which meant she was responsible for planning, ordering, preparing and cooking every Friday night for up to 300 people, up to the highest standards of kashrut, which Hannah says was tough. Each week she thought of a different theme and, being a vegetarian, Hannah says she really improved the menus, offering interesting and unusual veggie and allergy-free options. As well as her involvement with JSOC, she was on the catering team at the University and joined the Baking Society as publicity officer to publicise events, which included a

demonstration from a Great British Bake Off contestant. Despite all these extra-curricular activities, she achieved good results in the first two years of her Business Management degree and is currently on a year's placement in the Human Resources team at GlaxoSmithKline (GSK). Although Hannah would like her career eventually to be in the food sector, she decided that a business degree would give her the best foundation for her future plans.

Inspired by her brother Ben's success in building a business, Hannah decided to turn her hobby into a business and started 'Hannah's Cakes', baking cakes for sale at local fairs, taking over the Glass's kitchen to make and ice up to 300 cupcakes at a time, as well as larger cakes. Any cakes she has left over from her fairs (not too many, I'm sure) are donated to local homeless shelters. Gaining confidence, Hannah has now had a banner printed for her cake stalls and although her work at GSK means she can't do as many fairs, she has taken lots of orders (you will have tasted her delicious desserts at the recent HEMS quiz).

Hannah has taken courses on decorating cakes as well as a course at Leiths, the famous cookery school. She has volunteered at Gefiltefest, the Jewish Food Festival, and has recently joined 'Free Cakes for Kids', anonymously baking birthday cakes for children who wouldn't otherwise have one.

So as you can see, apart from her work at GSK, her life has been taken over by her passion and she plans to finish her degree and go to catering college. I'm sure that she will be successful however she decides to follow her dream. Good luck Hannah.



STOP PRESS

Last minute items

RITA ASBURY'S NOVEMBER REPORT ON MONEY RAISED FOR KIEV KOPPER

At the start of 2014 total donations to our Kiev Kopper account stood at £14,600. I have just added a further £100 in November and our total for the end of this year has reached £15,200. That is £600 for this year, unless we can make it more by the end of December.

On behalf of all our friends in Kiev and especially the children in the two kindergartens, thank you to everyone who is still collecting coppers and silver coins. If you are not yet collecting it is never too late to start supporting this important cause. Our money is so much needed and every penny counts....so as always... KEEP the KOPPERS KOMING.

MEETING BOARD OF DEPUTIES 16TH NOVEMBER

Brief report back from Michael Reik on the comments made by the Israeli Ambassador Daniel Taub.

Israel had great concern that interim agreement had to be reached with Iran in 7 days. There is no conflict in the Middle East that is a classical territorial conflict. All conflicts are based upon fanatical extremism. All of Israel's conflicts are based on the 1948 war and Israel's right to exist.

In the recent Protective Edge War with Gaza the major difference was that Israel used its weapons to protect its citizens. Hamas used its citizens to protect its weapons.

Hamas's main war effectively was not only with Israel but also with its own people. Ten percent of their rockets landed within Gaza in crowded area.

There is presently in Israel a greater consensus of a deal of land for peace but also a greater belief that there will be no peace.

One improvement in recent times, especially with the Iran and Isis situation, is that there is an increase in Strategic Alliance now between Israel and its neighbour.

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Jane Harrison meets Bobbi and Jack

There can't be many couples who have dedicated so much of their lives helping both Jewish and non-Jewish people cope with the loss of a loved one.

Bobbi Riesel has worked with Mosaic Reform's Bereavement Support Group for over 30 years and is responsible for training. She is also on the planning and fund-raising committee, as well as being a trustee of Bereavement Care (formerly Harrow Bereavement Care).

Her partner, Jack Lynes, is a past chairman and trustee of Bereavement Care and they both play a leading role in the annual inter-faith Bereavement Conference, which has boasted such reputable speakers as Trevor Hicks, who lost his daughters in the Hillsborough disaster, and this year, a major coup, John McCarthy, one of the hostages from the 1980s Lebanon crises.

Bobbi, who is a trained Counsellor, said: "I became interested in bereavement matters when I heard

MNS had started a group". She never dreamed she would stay involved for so long with the group which she now runs.

Jack became involved with Bereavement Care soon after a mutual friend introduced him to Bobbi 12 years ago. He said: "I see myself not so much as an intellectual but more of an 'ideas' person. Bobbi said I always had good ideas, so I am now on the conference committee!"

Bobbi, in her 60s, was born in Belfast and aspired to be an actress. She went to a drama school in London and worked in Irish theatre, mainly in stage management. She said: "Due to the Irish troubles, many theatres were closing, so when my father started a new business in the waste trade, I said I would help him until I got my next job - I never worked in the theatre again!"

Much to her surprise she found working for her father, driving across the country as sales director,

challenging, but enjoyable. Later on Bobbi did find herself once again in the acting world when she married her husband, Oscar, an award-winning amateur film maker, famous for his documentaries, travelogues and short feature films. Bobbi said: "That's when my drama training came into its own. We became a two-man band running all over the country and abroad". Bobbi was married for 22 years and had one son Nicky with her late husband.

Bobbi has also been involved in Jewish Women's Aid for the past 15 years. She said: "Jewish People aren't aware that there is domestic violence in our community. JWA provides essential support to women living in threat".

She also spearheaded the 18-month-old Cameo group for bereaved people of all ages, which meets once a month at Bessborough Road. She said: "It is a successful social and therapeutic group - new members are always welcome."

“There can't be many couples who have dedicated so much of their lives helping both Jewish and non-Jewish people cope with the loss of a loved one”

Jack, who was evacuated during the war, recalls having his Barmitzvah in a Wesleyan chapel in Wiltshire. He said: "They had to send a Hebrew teacher down from London to take the service. It wasn't like barmitzvahs are today. My parents came down and every boy had a shilling. That was the party!"

As a young man he went to work

with his father in waste textiles, which he described as "horrible," before entering the air force for his National Service.

After returning, he met his future wife, Daphne Davis. He said: "I was chairing a meeting and she came in late so I glowered at her. She thought I was smiling and we married about a year later!" Jack and his late wife Daphne, who were married for 43 years, had three children and Jack has six grandchildren.

Jack opened a menswear shop in Ealing in 1955 and later took over the sports shop opposite although he says he didn't know a squash racket from a badminton racket, - but quickly learned!

He was president of the Ealing Chamber of Commerce, twice president of Ealing Rotary and is still involved in Ealing Talking Newspapers, where volunteers record articles from the local paper

for the blind and visually impaired.

Jack said: "When you meet the listeners and they say, "Oh, you're Jack! - it's a very lovely, warm feeling that they have recognised your voice." Jack loves writing and is a regular contributor to the Times and JC. He also takes a keen interest in interfaith matters and is involved with Harrow Interfaith Council; he recently spoke at a Stanmore mosque. He says it's very important, especially now, that we all talk to each other. Jack is also an active member of the Rapid Response Ring, which reacts to misinformation and slurs against Israel, through contact with the media.

The couple, who are addicted to Scrabble, enjoy their beautiful, part-Persian cat called Pussy. We wish Bobbi and Jack, a special couple, all the best for the future and thank them for all that they do for our Community.

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MitzvahDay³⁶⁵



Collecting at the Supermarket



Choosing gifts for the Barnardo's Boxes

All four communities, along with HaMakom, joined together to take part in Mitzvah Day on November 16th. We were very busy with a variety of activities.

We wrapped 50 boxes and filled them with toys and gifts which have been taken to the Barnardo's Freeman Family Centre in Harlesden where they will be distributed to families using the centre at their Christmas party. Anita Feldman, whose children helped fill and decorate shoe boxes, said, "Both boys had a great day helping in the community."

Another group of adults and children wrapped themselves up warmly and were near Stanmore Common. Under the direction of Stephen Bolsover from the Harrow Nature Conservation Forum they cut laurel, holly and small sycamore at the Master Oak in Bentley Priory. This year we were joined by BBYO Pinner who had seen what we were doing and wanted to join in. Stephen Bolsover said "the young people did a great job on Sunday. We now have a great pile of material to feed into the chipper, and a lot of invasive laurel and holly has been removed from that woodland area, which will encourage growth of ground level flowers like wood anemone and bluebell."

In previous years we have always been to a Residential Home to entertain the residents. This year we thought we would try something different and invite many of the over 80's from all four synagogues for "Elevenses". We had a large number of children doing this activity, so on the day we actually split them into two groups. Some children and adults including "The Three Plonkers" went to The Haven in Hatch End. There they entertained the residents with some songs and afterwards chatted to the residents whilst handing round cakes and sandwiches. The other group entertained the older members of all four communities

"It was so much fun singing to the elderly as they were all singing along. It was really nice to see them smiling and enjoying themselves."

Ben Green

"For me it was a great experience because we were not only helping people, we were enjoying doing it!"

Zoe Buchalter

back at Kol Chai. They also sang songs and handed round cakes and sandwiches which had been generously made by different people. Many thanks to everyone who made cakes for these activities.

A fourth activity was collecting shopping at the new Morrison's in Harrow. A team of adults asked shoppers to buy an extra item of grocery which we collected on behalf of the Watford New Hope Trust and Sufra which is a Muslim Food Bank initiative. Thanks to the shoppers' generosity we collected 5 full trolleys of goods in the four hours. According to Ali Goldenfeld, "One man gave me a whole trolley. When I started taking bags out, he said all the shopping was for the Food Bank! He had come specially to donate! I wanted to take a photo of the trolley with him, but having thanked him and saying that people like him make a great difference, he



Working on Stanmore Common



Entertainment at the Haven

thanked me and said that so do people like me who give up their spare time and then he dashed off down the moving staircase."

We have also asked members to donate their time and volunteer for a variety services which they would offer to others in our community. At the moment we have the offers but no-one has come back to say they would like to take anyone up on their offer of help. This is the list:

- Raking leaves or Gardening
- Mending clothes
- Baking a cake
- Helping with computer skills/ knowledge
- Providing a lift
- DIY

"I liked putting toys in the shoe boxes."

Adam Feldman

"I liked filling shoe boxes and watching the video about a man who helped children by giving them homes."

If you want to use any of these offers please contact the synagogue office. A big thank you to all those who took part.



Upstairs Downstairs

Harrold Curry reminisces about being a Jewish butler!

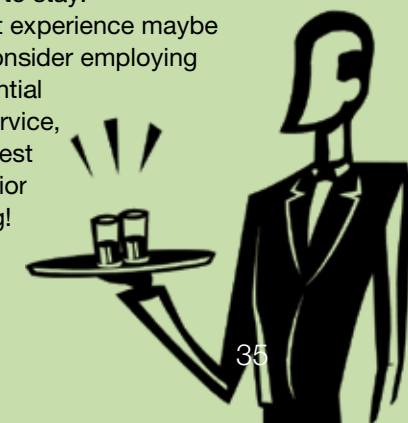
By Robert Pinkus

As a regular visitor to the Princess Alexander Home in Bushey, I often meet up with 93 year old Harold Curry for a chat. Harold is an active member of HEMs who still turns up for services - he also is responsible for sending out the rota reminders. Whilst I was aware that as a younger man he was a fighter pilot, I was fascinated to hear that after retiring from business, he took up the position of head butler at The Athenaeum Gentlemen's Club in Pall Mall.

He told me that the Club's membership included some of the most important and highly regarded people of the day, including an above average number of Jews! Visits by the Royal Family were frequent, and on these occasions he was always listed to head the waiting staff.

He says 'the most frequent Royal visitor was the Queen Mother, "a most delightful Lady who eventually called me by first name". During one visit she was walking around the club, and stopped to laugh at a member laying asleep on a couch and snoring. He also recalls that on one occasion a junior Royal attended without a collar & tie, which was in breach of the rules - without fuss he was quickly provided with a jacket and tie to enable him to stay!

Given Harold's past experience maybe Jewish Care might consider employing butlers in their residential homes. With silver service, it could be the next best thing for our very senior citizens, after cruising!



Don't leave it too late to ask...



Margaret Levin of HWPS writes about her Mother's life and emphasises the importance of speaking and listening to older family members

How did a 12-year-old girl feel when her parents left her and her younger brother with her grandmother in Germany while her older brother and parents went to live in Britain? After having moved to Britain, what was it like being told she was an enemy of the state and would be sent to an island prison camp? How did a child growing up in a very assimilated family in Berlin become so involved in synagogue life as an adult in Wembley?

These are some of the questions I should have asked my mother, Lore Stein (née Rachwalsky) when she was able to answer them, before her devastating illness robbed her of the ability to understand the question, let alone give a considered reply.

I was very lucky that I had a second chance to find some of the answers.

I remember Lore telling me that a volunteer from the Holocaust Survivors' Centre in Hendon visited her at home in 1995 to record her life story. After her death in 2012, I

decided to search for these tapes which I eventually discovered had been lodged in the British Library.

Younger members of the family transcribed the tapes. Some were repetitive (those of you who met my mother may remember that she was very talkative), so I decided to edit them to make them more readable. One of the most enjoyable aspects of creating the testimony was adding suitable photos to accompany Lore's life story.

What more did I learn about my Mum?

In 1935, Lore's father was a successful physician living with his young family in a fashionable Berlin suburb. Due to increasing anti-Semitism, he and his wife decided to move to the UK, where he would have to re-train in order to continue working. Already in his late 40s, he would have to study basic medicine again in an unfamiliar language.

Lore's older brother Henry was sent to board at Mill Hill School, while Lore and her younger brother

Peter, were left in the care of their grandmother and unmarried aunt in Breslau. Despite the difficult circumstances, Lore really enjoyed her year in Breslau. She was very fond of both her grandmother and her aunt who ran the family business, a men's outfitters.

During that year in Breslau, Lore attended a Jewish school – her first real exposure to Judaism. She described feeling really at home, probably re-enforced by the increasingly overt anti-Semitism at her previous school in Berlin.

In December 1939, Lore was separated from her family again. She had joined her parents in London (as had her younger brother, grandmother and aunt) and had settled into a school in London. However, the school was evacuated from Hammersmith to High Wycombe, where it shared facilities with another well-established school. Within a few weeks, her school decided to return to London despite the bombs.

In May 1940, there was a real threat of an invasion. The Government panicked about German nationals in the UK, being unable to distinguish between refugees and spies. Because she had recently been living in High Wycombe (which at the time was a militarily sensitive area), Lore and the other refugee pupils were considered enemy aliens. So that month they and many others who still had German nationality were sent to the internment camps on the Isle of Man.

Then aged 17 and showing an aptitude for languages, she settled very happily into the women's internment camp and gave lessons to help fellow prisoners improve their English. She had gone to the Isle of Man with a school friend, Lieselotte Montagu, who was to

“I was very lucky that I had a second chance to find some of the answers ”

remain a lifelong close friend (and subsequently, a member of MNS as well as HWPS).

Back in London establishing himself as a physician in Wimpole Street, Lore's father couldn't bear the thought that his only daughter was in a prison camp. He used every contact he had to get her out. After just 6 weeks in the camp, Lore was released. A little reluctantly, she went back home and back to school.

Fast forward to the 1960s, Lore was now living in Wembley Park, had qualified as a doctor, married another refugee and doctor, Gerard Stein, and had 3 children (me, Robert and David). She and Gerard had been persuaded by her cousin, Hilde Glazer, to join a local Liberal Synagogue, the then Wembley Progressive Synagogue in Preston Road. She became increasingly involved there, rather than at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue in St John's Wood, where she and Gerard had married.

The height of her involvement with HWPS was in the early 1960s when she was asked by the Rabbi's wife, Eileen Hooker, to set up a Women's Society, to replace the dated Ladies Guild. In her recorded testimony, she said that Eileen had advised her that if she could delegate, she could do anything! The society's activities included a monthly lunch and guest speaker; I came across a photo showing one of the guest speakers, Claire Rayner, surrounded by committee members: Nora Seymour, Martha Lowe, Sally Goodfriend, Kitty de Winter and Lore.

After her father's death in 1962, Lore inherited his involvement with some of the old age homes run by the Association of Jewish Refugees. She went on to become Chair of Osmund House, a home for people with severe dementia. How ironic that over 40 years later, she needed care from a similar home.

The moral of these snippets from Lore's life? Ask questions of older people so that their experiences help your understanding of larger scale events. Although just a single thread, it can be fascinating to see how an older friend or relative's story fits into history's larger tapestry. Don't leave it too late!

Margaret Levin (née Stein) An electronic version of Lore's testimony can be obtained from margaret.lev@btinternet.com

A blog from the CST

Below is an extract from the CST's Antisemitic Discourse Report 2013 (These reports are useful in helping to understand how Jews perceive the complicated relationship between anti-Israel views and activities, and anti-Semitism).

IN NOVEMBER 2013, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) published a groundbreaking survey of Jewish people's experiences and perceptions of hate crime, discrimination and antisemitism in eight EU member states, including the United Kingdom, covering around 90% of Jews in the EU.

The survey asked respondents whether they considered different statements about Jews and Israel to be antisemitic, and also asked in what contexts they heard those antisemitic statements most often.

The survey was carried out online from September to October 2012 by the polling company Ipsos MORI, working with the Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR) in the UK. Across Europe, 66% of respondents said they consider antisemitism to be a "very big" or "fairly big" problem in their countries. In the UK, 48% of respondents said that antisemitism is a very big or fairly big problem (the lowest figure of all eight countries surveyed), while

52% said that it is "not a very big problem" or "not a problem at all".

The survey found that British Jews were more likely to attribute antisemitic sentiments to a person who used classical antisemitic tropes to be antisemitic, than they were for people who criticise Israel or who campaign against it. For example, 80% of British Jews said that a person who says "The Holocaust is a myth or has been exaggerated" is "Definitely antisemitic"; 77% said that a person who believes "Jews are responsible for the current economic crisis" is "Definitely antisemitic"; and 67% said the same about a person who claims "Jews have too much power in the UK".

Only 6% of British Jews said that they would consider a person to be "definitely antisemitic" if they criticised Israel, while 27% said that they would consider such a person to be "probably antisemitic". Therefore around a third of British Jews think that somebody who criticises Israel is definitely or probably antisemitic, while around two-thirds said that such a person is "Probably not antisemitic" or "Definitely not antisemitic".



The rest of the report can be found at www.thecst.org.uk

Jewish Journeys

Michael Reik of Mosaic Reform recalls his recent visit to Jewish Barcelona and Gerona

Bill and I took part in our 5th Jewish Journey with Jeremy Leigh (and 32 others) to learn about the history of the Jewish Community in Barcelona and Gerona.

Back in the 13th Century, 4000 Jews lived in reasonable comfort in Barcelona and 800 in Gerona.

This all changed with the expulsion and conversion of the Jews in 1492.

Only when the fascist dictatorship of Franco took over in 1936 did Jews start to return, specifically to fight Fascism.

As a result, the Jewish Community has grown, such that there are now a number of Progressive Jewish Communities emerging in different parts of Spain. Two in particular in Barcelona are growing, Atid and Bet Shalom, both with new premises. During my stay I attended a delightful erev Shabbat service at Atid with our group and 20 or so members of the Atid congregation.

We started our journey in Barcelona on the Thursday evening, discovering the relatively small area where the Jews lived 'in the Call'. We visited a small underground Synagogue, with a plaque outside that referred to Jews having been there since the year 692 CE.

(A photo of this plaque is provided. However I took this twice, one with and one without a flash. These are attached below.) The Photo with the flash, amazingly, showed paint over the plaque suggesting 'free Palestine' in French. This was not visible to the human eye. We also saw a 'Free Gaza' Banner above an apartment by the Call. It seems there is an Anti Israel faction today right in the area where the Jews lived 700 years ago.

There were inscriptions in this area referring to Public Baths founded in 1160, which included a mikvah.

The next morning, we continued to walk the Call which was directly around the area of the Cathedral (always in the 13th century in whichever city the Jews lived). We finally stopped on the steps of the Royal Palace, where we discussed the 'Great Dispute' of July 20th 1263. In the presence of Lord King of Aragon (King James) and many barons, prelates and clerics, Moses the Jew (Rabbi Moshe Ben Nahman known as Nachmanides) was summoned from Girona to defend the Jewish People against the teachings of the Christian Church. After three days King James agreed that the Jewish People should be allowed to continue to live and pray as Jews in Spain and even two months later, agreed to the building of a Synagogue in the Jewish Quarter of Barcelona.

However, in 1391 there was a Pogrom in Barcelona and many Jews died; and whatever Jews were left had to give up their homes and property, and the conversions started.

However, it was in 1492 that the decree was finally issued and the Jews all over Spain left, mainly for other shores, the immediate and closest being to France and Portugal. A number converted, and those who did needed to prove their sincerity after baptism on many occasions, under threat from the Spanish Inquisitors in the century that followed.

We now move forward to 1936-1938, and the Spanish Civil War. When General Franco started to take over Spain, in particular the Catalan area of Spain including Barcelona, the Communists, the Socialists, the Anarchists and the Republicans, men of many different colours, but all anti fascists came together to fight for the freedom and independence of the Spanish Land. Known as the International Brigade,

this included a few thousand Jews, who fought under their own banner; in particular, a group known as the Dombrowski Brigade. We went up to the cemetery of Montjuic to hear about these Jewish Heroes and to see the graves of these valiant fighters.

On the Sunday morning we went to Girona, where we learnt of the founding of Kabbalah, and of Jewish Mysticism, which continued into the middle Ages, in particular in Safed in Israel of today.

I have provided the bare bones of our Jewish Journey in Barcelona, a beautiful city where of course we also enjoyed many of its beautiful sights.

The official emblem of the Spanish Inquisition



Our Leader/Guide Jeremy Leigh in front of a memorial to the Independent Brigade on Montjuic





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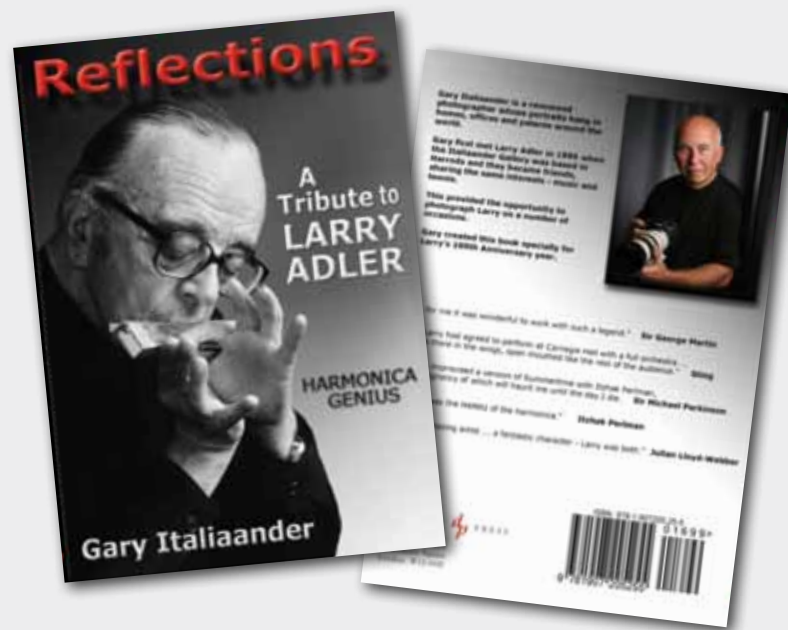
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Q&A to Gary Italiaander of HEMS on the recent publication of his book,

Reflections

A Tribute to Larry Adler, Harmonica Genius



Why Larry Adler?

When I was approximately six years old I was handed a harmonica or mouthorgan which no one played. Apparently, I picked it up and played it (which I don't remember)! It started me onto a very important road – to becoming a professional music teacher having studied under the guidance of a Dr WS Lloyd Webber, the father of Andrew and Julian.

My early musical life was entirely taken up with the harmonica, which I slept and breathed and the name Larry Adler became important to me.

What was your connection with him?

Although I have met many celebrities through my work, I wanted to meet Larry more than anyone else due to his influence on my life from an early age. I was extremely fortunate to be invited to a Variety Club lunch at the Dorchester

Hotel just after I had opened the Italiaander Gallery at Harrods, specifically to meet him.

He invited me to arrange a sitting (aware that I wished to photograph him) but I had no way of knowing when we met that we would become good friends. By coincidence, he lived very close to my studio which was then in Primrose Hill and would pop by regularly and invited me often to concerts where he was playing. Our friendship provided me with the opportunity to create many portraits – a collection that is published in the book and will also be syndicated worldwide through my agent.

What was your motivation for writing the book?

I felt a very personal need to do so. It isn't often that you get to meet someone you have such respect for and to then share time with was very special. When he died, I wanted to create my own personal tribute.

What really pleases you about the book?

Larry was hugely respected around the world – he was known internationally – and when I invited others to contribute their own memories, I was delighted that Sir George Martin, Itzhak Perlman, Sting, Julian Lloyd Webber, Cher, and many others were willing to do so. One of the contributors, Peter Stringfellow, kindly provided the venue for the book launch which was extremely appropriate, as every year he gave Larry a birthday party at Stringfellows nightclub.

“Musically, Larry single-handedly turned the harmonica into a recognised classical musical instrument”

What was Larry like as a person and musician?

Great company, full of fascinating stories and an outstanding musician. Larry was often accused of being a name-dropper which he never denied. The truth is that his friends made an amazing list

of world celebrities including: Fred Astaire, Gene Kelley, George and Ira Gershwin, Charlie Chaplin, Lawrence Olivier, Arthur Rubinstein, Vladimir Horowitz ... simply far too many to list here!

Musically, Larry single-handedly turned the harmonica into a recognised classical musical instrument. When you think Harmonica you think Larry Adler!

Some little known facts?

Larry was an American, born in Baltimore in 1914. He was blacklisted during the McCarthy period and accused of Communist leanings which he refused to accept or deny as he said it was simply nobody else's business. It meant that he could no longer work in the United States. However, he was willing to go from being one of the highest paid entertainers in the world to starting afresh in Britain where he felt people were treated more fairly.

As a kid, at about 16 years of age, he was cornered at an entertainment party one evening by an older man who said he should go to shul regularly and also send his mother flowers every week. After the man left, he turned to a friend saying “who the hell does that guy think he is?” An ashen-faced friend replied, “That was Al Capone!”

What next?

I am now planning an audio version of the book which is extremely exciting as a CD of Larry performing in Australia in 1997 was made available to me to distribute as a download (which is now available in more than 80 countries). This was the only concert recording where Larry played and told his incredible stories.

This recording will allow me to incorporate Larry speaking on the audio book version.

Ben Helfgott



By Trudy Segal

On 16th November Mosaic Community welcomed Ben Helfgott MBE to speak about his extraordinary journey from Holocaust survivor to successful businessman and champion weightlifter representing Great Britain in 2 successive Olympic Games. He spoke movingly about his early life in Poland; deportation to Buchenwald, Schlieben and Theresienstadt; the tragic loss of his parents and other family members and friends.

His interest in sport and the team work involved was something he fostered when he came to the UK in 1945. He also launched the '45 Aid Society for Holocaust survivors and spoke of the need to educate others so that this darkest period in modern times is never forgotten.

A truly remarkable man.

A special visit to Israel

Daniel Marx recalls a recent trip to Israel with Noam – the youth wing of the Masorti Movement



Noam tour was a very important and meaningful experience for me. Not only was it an opportunity to visit all of the sites and attractions of

the land of Israel, it was also an opportunity to learn about the history of the country and the facts regarding the current conflict.

As one would expect from this kind of trip, we spent a good amount of time going to iconic places around the country such as Masada and the Kotel. What really made those places special for me, however, were the different angles from which we saw them (figuratively and literally). An example of this is that rather than going to the main area of the wall, where we would have been gender segregated, we went to the egalitarian section of the wall. This made the experience far more evocative as I was able to share it with people with whom I had made a relationships, instead of just being able to do so with those of my gender.

This is why I'm particularly glad that I chose to go on tour with Noam. They really made a point

of emphasising the equality within the movement and the equality of the way they view those outside the movement. Not only did this make me feel very accepted amongst the group, it also gave us the chance to learn about the different groups of people living in Israel. One of the most meaningful experiences I had on tour was the day we spent in Haifa. During the day we went around the city, meeting people of different religions. These included: the Baha'i, the Druze and a Muslim sect called the Ahmadis. The visit to the Ahmadi mosque was really important for me as we met a group of people perhaps equivalent, in the Muslim world, to Noam and its beliefs regarding other religions. We learned that it is halachically permitted to pray in a mosque, so our leaders thought it would be a nice idea to hold a shortened shacharit service in the mosque in order to share a spiritual space with these people.

One of the key themes of tour was that of the current conflict with Gaza. One of the things that made this aspect of tour particularly special was that we were spoken to by a wide variety of people with an equally wide variety of views. This meant that we were shown an unbiased view of the conflict and

"One of the things that made this aspect of tour particularly special was that we were spoken to by a wide variety of people with an equally wide variety of views"

were able to form our own opinions. Now that tour is over, I feel like I have a well informed, balanced view of the conflict. All of these talks and meaningful group experiences meant that I didn't feel like I was missing out on anything despite the fact that certain activities were cancelled in order to ensure our safety.

As someone who has been to Israel before, I can safely say that Noam Tour was the best Israel experience I could have hoped for. Not only did it give me the opportunity to see Israel and all of its highlights, but it showed me how the people there live. I am also incredibly thankful for the group with whom I spent those three and a half weeks. Tour has given me new friends, well informed opinions and brilliant memories of the country.

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Abbeyfield



Wolfie Heymann

Philip Silvertown reports on Michael Reik's interview with Wolfie Heymann

For the third of our "Elder Statesman" interviews, Michael Reik met Wolfie Heymann. It was a privilege for the community to hear about Wolfie (or Wolfgang, his given name). With Marie's occasional interjection, he set about clarifying a wealth of chronological information. My notes are a brief reflection on this occasion and its significance to our community.

Wolfie was born in 1925 in what is now part of Berlin, where his father was a Junior Minister in the Weimar Republic. His early education was in a school with pupils of all nationalities; there was no discrimination and all pupils spoke only French in their lessons. As the 1930s progressed, the restrictions on the social and business activities of the Jewish population grew, although in Berlin, where the social and diplomatic 'network' was closer, only 'lip service' was often paid to many Nazi edicts until after Kristallnacht.

The thread of our community's future development and inspiration was already running through

Wolfie's family, with friendships and inspiration from Rabbis Van der Zyl, Cassel, Maybaum and Leo Baeck.

On Christmas day 1938, he left for England by sea to stay with an Aunt in Maida Vale. His mother travelled via The Hook of Holland in September 1939, whilst a few months earlier his father escaped, rather less conventionally, in a wine barrel on a barge down the Rhine!

Wolfie went to a boarding school in Bury St Edmunds and with his developing interest in engineering and being surrounded by Bomber Command airfields, it seemed a natural step to join the RAF. He was not at all put off by the Messerschmitt that crashed through the headmaster's office window! Unfortunately, because of his nationality at birth, he was not accepted.

His studies and apprenticeship led him into a long and distinguished career in engineering. This eventually took him across Europe, to South Africa and South America. He and Marie and the family moved to Kingsbury in 1957.

In 1959, the long haul of taking

“He was not at all put off by the Messerschmitt that crashed through the headmaster's office window!”

children to West London Synagogue for Cheder led a group of friends from the Wembley area to start a reform shul locally, so Middlesex New Synagogue was born. Wolfie became the first Senior Warden and had a wide ranging remit. His and Marie's involvement and their influence on the community's growth since 1959 have been invaluable.

I write this article just after Simchat Torah where Wolfie paraded and danced a Sefer Torah around our new Mosaic Reform service. This was indeed a very poignant reminder and celebration of his carrying the Sefer Torah on Simchat Torah into Middlesex New Synagogue at its inauguration in 1959.

Boris – a photographer who bought glamour to Whitechapel Road

Following a feature on Boris the photographer in the HEMS magazine some years ago, we were delighted to see that Joy, and her late husband Gerry, were recently featured in a book review of Boris's life in the Mail online. Joy and Gerry Collins photo was taken in 1954 and was one Boris's last studio photographs. Joy's wedding dress was cutting edge, being made from 'nylon' – a new fabric in those days!

Boris Bennett was born Boris Sochaczewska to a Jewish family in Ozokoff, Poland, in 1900. He was one of eight children. His father had a small cloth factory, and the family later moved to Lodz, which was the centre of the textile trade.

At the age of 18, Boris left Poland for Paris, partly to avoid military conscription. He worked in a photographic studio, and later as a salesman for a German company producing photographs on celluloid. In 1922, he was sent to London as a sales representative.

Boris stayed in London and, in 1927, set up his first photographic studio at 150 Whitechapel Road. It was an instant success. The highly organised studio emulated the glamour of Hollywood photography, and was able to photograph up to 60 bridal couples on a single

Sunday. Crowds would often gather outside to witness the scenes. Boris's distinctive style used romantic flowing dresses, lavish bouquets and immaculate tailoring. Perfection and beauty was his purpose and he made all his brides glamorous. He was the man who brought Hollywood to the East End. As one person was quoted saying "You knew you'd arrived if Boris took your photograph!"

Just before the Second World War, Boris opened the first of his five studios in the West End at 27 Oxford Street, though he also continued with his studio in Whitechapel Road. With the trend away from formal studio photography, he opened a retail camera shop, Bennett Cameras, in Oxford Street, in partnership with his brother-in-law Sidney Vines. Further shops were to follow, run by his sons Michael and Maurice. This part of the business was sold to Dixons in 1963.

As Boris achieved fame and fortune he used his position to help others, including assistance with the purchase a house in Finchley Road to provide shelter and support for young Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany. Later he left photography to become a successful financier. Towards the end of his life he would look back on his days in the East End with much affection and say, "What a wonderful Jewish World it was!" Boris Bennett died at the age of 85 in 1985.



Abraham Fund

Michael Reik introduces the Abraham Fund Initiatives – an essential programme of our time in Israel 2014



The recent conflict Operation Protective Shield, where many Palestinian residents in Gaza were killed as a result of the fighting brought on by the rocket attacks by Hamas on Israel, has again created strife within Israel.

Back in 2000 when the previous Intifada occurred, 14 Arabs were killed within Israel and fighting took place between the Israeli Police and its Arab population. During the current war with Hamas, 1,500 Palestinian Arabs within Israel have been arrested but there have been no fatalities. This has not been by accident.

In the intervening time, The Abraham Fund within Israel has had a major involvement in addressing the issues, particularly in a trust-building process between the Israeli

police and the Arab community and in deepening a civic/public service approach to policing. At the same time the Arab communities themselves have taken up a far more responsible attitude to the difficulties as they see them.

What are the main priorities of the Abraham Fund? To build a shared society of coexistence, inclusion and equality for Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens.

The Abraham Fund has a strategy of 'Advocacy through Action' which involves:

1 Education for a Shared Society – 'Diversity and Citizenship' • 2 Economic Development and Inclusion – 'One Country-One Economy' • 3 Equality, Access and Opportunity – 'Levelling the Playing Field' • 4 Democracy and Participation – 'Creating Shared Spaces'

1 Education for a Shared Society

In co-operation with the Ministry of Education, the Abraham Fund's aim is to improve the language skills within the Israeli Arab educational system to better prepare Arab students for higher education and for competing in the labour market. At the same time there is a programme of teaching the Arab language and Arab culture to currently 25% of Israeli Jewish public elementary schools. The Abraham Fund is continuously advocating for the Ministry of Education to expand this programme to all Israeli Jewish schools.

2 Economic Development and Inclusion

The Fund works with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to raise awareness within Arab society and to combat anti-Arab discrimination in the workplace. It also addresses the economic and social consequences of the early exit of Arab men from the workforce.

3 Equality, Access and Opportunity

The successful work of building trust between the police and the Arab community will continue. The Fund is trying to establish a specific mechanism for community volunteering for young Arab adults and also to advocate for equitable and fair security inspections at border crossings.

4 Democracy and Participation

The Fund is working to recruit and train Arab women and young adults for civic and political leadership; encourage young women to take up higher education, and achieve qualifications to enable them to compete in the job market; and maintain an annual and ongoing dialogue on the core issues in Jewish-Arab relations.

Two supporters express their views:

Matthew Gould, the UK Ambassador to Israel, stated that the Abraham Fund's success for the past 25 years lies with its ability to engage Israelis throughout society – from improving the relationship between Arab

citizens and the police, to providing job opportunities for Arab women, to integrating Arab teachers in Jewish schools.

A message from Daniel Taub, the Israeli Ambassador to the United Kingdom – the Abraham Fund Initiatives have developed unique programmes to foster a more inclusive civic society with specific programmes designed to help hundreds of Israeli Arab citizens out of poverty and a specific programme to train Arab teachers who teach Arabic to Jewish students.

My personal view given the considerable disharmony generated in the past two months is that leadership is required from the top in Israel. President Rivlin spoke recently of the need for good Arab-Jewish relationships. However, to date no similar statement has come from the Prime Minister's office. This is very much needed with suitable action taken should anti-Arab sentiment be prevalent to avoid far greater potential problems. In this scenario the Abraham Fund has a major role to fill in Israeli society.

Mosaic | HaMakom

Report back from Jacky Martin (Headteacher)

As we started the third year of HaMakom, our successful joint synagogue venture, the children were welcomed by Rabbi Frank Dabba-Smith, Rabbi Hilton and Rabbi Middleton at our initial assembly. We also welcomed a new Gan class to HaMakom, as well as a few new families who all received a jar of honey to wish them many more years of sweet learning at HaMakom.

As Rosh Hashanah 5775 saw the start of the Shmitah Year, we have been looking at the idea behind this during the term. Libby Burkeman, from the Movement for Reform Judaism, came in to do a session

for the staff at the start-of-the-year staff meeting. With this guidance, there have been some lessons on this topic in the classroom and as part of our Option sessions.

Some children took the morning after Yom Kippur to recover from their day in synagogue, but many came along either to help decorate the Succah. With great enthusiasm,

many decorations were made and put up and the following Sunday, all the classes were able to enjoy the fruits of their labour and spend some time in the Succah at Mosaic.

By the end of the first term we will have taken part in Mitzvah Day activities and will be ending the term with a Chanukah craft morning.

Children receiving Birthday Certificates at the start of year assembly



Mosaic | Film

Proudly presents for your entertainment
At 20:00 on Tuesday 20th December 2015

At 39, Bessborough Rd, Harrow HA1 3BS
The Multi Award Winning

POKLOSLIE (2012)

(Aftermath)

(In Polish with English Subtitles)

This accomplished Polish Movie deservedly won numerous awards on its release. It is the story of a Polish expatriate returning to his home village from Chicago, in an attempt to understand why his younger brother has lost his wife & family, and the friendship of the entire population of the village in which he grew up. The revelation that the younger brother has taken a sudden and unwarranted interest in a hidden Jewish Cemetery which he has started to clean and tend, on the family land is something that the returning sibling finds almost impossible to comprehend, until...

Poklosie is part of the Polish new wave Cinema, which doesn't flinch from dealing with Poland's anti-Semitic past (and present).

Winner of the Yad Vashem Chairman's Award at the Jerusalem Film Festival in 2013

Film MOSAIC is open to anyone, why not bring a friend.

As usual there will be time for an informal discussion or a chat with friends, with tea, coffee and biscuits after the screening.

Donations for our chosen charity would be appreciated if you care to give.



What's On!

Some big, some small,
and everything in Shul.

December | January

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:

HWPS: 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 9:30 am

Mosaic Reform: Bessborough Road: Friday 19:00, Saturday 10:30

December

Sunday	14th	14:45	Stone-setting - David Emanuel - Cheshunt
Tuesday	16th		Chanukah 1st Candle
		20:00	Mosaic Film - "To Kill A Mockingbird"
Wednesday	17th	12:30	HWPS Seniors Lunch Club
Wednesday			Chanukah 1st Day
Friday	19th	17:00	Mosaic Chanukah Family-Friendly Friday (see page 39)
Saturday	20th	10:30	Shabbat shira and lunch for 80+ year olds. RSVP

January

Thursday	1st		Fast of Tevet
Wednesday	7th	20:00	Council meetings
Tuesday	13th	20:00	Mosaic Photography Group
Saturday	17th	09:30	Parashat haShavuah with Rabbi Middleton
Saturday		11:00	Shabbat Shira service
Sunday	18th		February Kehila copy date
Tuesday	20th	20:00	Mosaic Film - "Poklosie" (see page 47)
Wednesday	21st	12:45	HWPS Seniors Lunch Club
Wednesday		20:00	HWPS Book Group - "Crime"
Thursday	29th		February Kehila distribution
Friday	30th	19:00	HWPS Erev Shabbat service followed by pot luck supper
Saturday	31st	09:30	Torah Tots service

February

Tuesday	3rd	09:00	U3A art class
Tuesday	3rd	20:00	Mosaic Tu b'Shevat Seder
Saturday	7th	09:30	Education: Parashat haShavuah
Monday	9th	11:00	Harrow Friendship Club
Monday	9th	20:00	Group 326
Tuesday	10th	09:00	U3A art class
Tuesday	10th	09:00	Photo group
Monday	16th	11:00	Harrow Friendship Club
Monday	16th	20:00	Group 326
Wednesday	18th	12:30	Lunch club
Monday	23rd	11:00	Harrow Friendship Club
Monday	23rd	20:00	Group 326
Tuesday	24th	09:00	U3A art class
Saturday	28th	09:30	Torah Tots

Every week:

Monday 11:00
Harrow Friendship Club (See below)
Monday 20:00
HWPS Group 326
Sunday 09:45
HaMakom



Mosaic
Choose your Jewish life



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Children's Birthdays (12 years and under)

HWPS	Mosaic Reform
Talia Solomon, 10	Benjy Maginn, 6
Dylan Stiassny, 9	Max Maginn, 6

Harrow Day Limmud 2015



We are delighted to announce that Harrow Day Limmud 2015 will be held at our new venue of JFS School on Sunday 15th March 2015.

Come and find out why this Limmud is different and experience a stimulating and inspiring day-long cultural event in Limmud's unique style offering a variety of sessions at any one time. There is something for everyone, young and old and from all backgrounds.

You can participate in text study, discussions, debates, workshops, art and music, singing and much more.

Registration is now open online at: limmud.org/day/harrow

Get in touch!

The Offices for all 3 shuls are now at 39 Bessborough Road and all are open 09.00-15.00 Monday-Thursday



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Chairman: Barbara Grant: 01923 711 991
Hon. Secretary: Juliet Grainger 01923 822 682
Rabbi Kathleen Middleton: 020 8866 9225 (use only when
Office is closed)
Bereavement Support (Bobbi Riesel):
020 8428 7977
JJBS: 020 8989 5252

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Burials Officer: Edward Kafka: 020 8904 5499
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Free transport to Shul

HWPS and Mosaic Reform members who are unable to travel to Shul for services are welcome to use a specially funded minicab facility. Please contact Lindsey Cohen on 020 8420 7498 or the Synagogue office on 020 8864 0133 for more information.

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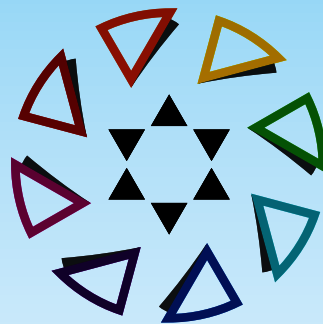
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