

Kehila

The **Mosaic** community magazine | **Monthly**

February 2015

Kehila is brought to you by:
HARROW & WEMBLEY
PROGRESSIVE SYNAGOGUE

HEMS
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PROGRESSIVE SYNAGOGUE

Mosaic
reform
synagogue



Gillian Reik's cousin and her son at the march in Paris on 11th January

Coming soon

- Tu b'Shevat Seder (Tuesday 3rd February)
- In conversation with Humphrey Phillips (Saturday, 28th February)
- Purim activities (Wednesday 4th March)
- Israeli Election night (Sunday 8th March)
- Freddie Knoller at HaMakom (Sunday 8th March)

About our members

Childrens' birthdays are listed on page 18

Hatch End Masorti

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Michael Morris, 65

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: Sharon & Alan Grossman Craig Ellison Tiffany, John & Eli Freeman

GOOD LUCK IN THEIR NEW HOME: Linda & Selwyn Langley

GET WELL TO: Henry Altman Stanley Morris

CONDOLENCES TO: Henry Altman on the death of his brother, Monty Altman Mark Sachon on the death of his father, Peter Sachon

Harrow and Wembley Progressive

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: Alexandre Lyons and Rachel Azoulay Hila Lash

MAZAL TOV: Daniel Benson who has been accepted by Cambridge University Brenda and Alan Hunt on the birth in Israel of their new granddaughter, Eliya. Second child for Mandie and Itamar Brenda and Alan Hunt on the birth of a new grandson, Edward Kaulbars (Teddy), first child for Julian and Tammy. Remembering with love Frances Hunt Julian Hunt & Tammy on the birth of a baby boy, Edward (Teddy) Janet & Alan Solomon

on the birth in Israel of a granddaughter, Michal NEW HOME: Leanne & Russell Snipper Irene Simons

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES: Gina Greenglass Hephzibah Hall Ingeborg Harwood Barbara Jacobs Feo Kahn Maureen Lubert Ray Lubert Dora Mandel Ottie McCrea Shirley Philipp Maisie Phillips Rosa Pinkus Deborah Rozewicz Gerald Shindler Maisie Sinclair John Trafford Doreen Zentner

CONDOLENCES TO: Rhoda Kohn on the death of her brother Jack Rosen Nathan Godleman on the death of his mother Joyce Amelia Godleman The family and friends of Leatrice Sherling The family and friends of Eveline Josephs The family and friends of Eva Genender

GET WELL WISHES TO: Eleanor Haberman Pam Kauders Helena Stone

Mosaic Reform WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: Irene Leigh Andrew Morrow

MAZAL TOV TO: Maureen Daniels on the birth of her grandson, Elijah Hudson Callahan. Susan & Richard Freedman on the birth of their grand-daughter, Callie Pearl Liz & Frank Manches on the birth of their grand-daughter, Ava Rachel Isabel

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES: Marianne Harris (60) Lionel Jacobs (85) Adela Sefton 85 Wilfred Webber (80) Joan Merett (85) Rosemary Hoffman (70) Marion Gold (60) Lisa Newman (50) Stanley Webber (85) Robert Cohen (75) Shirley Glass (80) Sylvia Kesselman (85) Benno Stern (80) Hilda Freeling (90)

GET WELL WISHES TO: Victor Davis Maureen Sclare Alan Young David Leibling

GOOD LUCK IN THEIR NEW HOME TO: Gillian & Robin Goldsmith Pauline & Peter Baars

CONDOLENCES TO: The family of Helen Dini Doris Fishman on the death of her husband, Bill Gordon Marks on the death of his brother, Gerry Helen West on the death of her sister, Maureen Sevelovitch Zella Milstone on the death of her sister, Anna Gramby Linda Boyd on the death of her mother, Nita Boyd



Welcome

It would be trite to wish our readers a Happy New Year, with all the unhappiness that has arisen in recent days. Thanks to Michael Reik for sending us the picture which we have used on the front cover – it is of Gillian Reik's cousin in her hometown of Paris – note the calm defiance, the willingness to stand-up and be counted, the affinity with other tragedies and the optimistic view of the future. Please read Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith's words on page 3 – and perhaps also the heart-felt views of Fred Stern on page 5. At the very least, may 2015 improve us all and improve for us all...

Martin Simonis and Judy Silverton (Joint Editors)

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

STOP PRESS

In line with statements from politicians and the Met police in response to recent events, we have been fortunate to benefit from increased surveillance from the local police several times a day and during services. Of course, this does not preclude us from being extremely vigilant and security-conscious ourselves. Please be sure to check and fulfil your security-duty rota obligations – now more than ever.

A Rabbi's Word

By Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith

I am privileged to work with some very wise and perceptive congregants. In my sermon on the Shabbat immediately following the terrible attacks in Paris, I urged circumspection rather than merely emotional reactions. There are many possible causes contributing to these tragic incidents. Afterwards, one member offered a challenging argument: 'I've lived through the Blitz bombardments, the worry of nuclear attack during the Cold War and the years of IRA bombings; how can we pretend that we can live with perfect security against any threats now? Life is risky because people and societies will always commit violence.' Moreover, in other aspects of our lives, we seem to be hugely more tolerant of far greater risks to life and limb. If you consult the relevant European Commission website for statistics concerning road fatalities in the EU, you will learn that 'in 2011, more than 30,000 people died on the roads' and that 'for every death on Europe's roads there are an estimated four permanently disabling injuries such as damage to the brain or spinal cord, eight serious injuries and fifty minor injuries'. In only one week of one year, more people are killed on the roads than the total number of all murdered by 'terrorists' in the entire time since 2001. My wise congregant offered a valuable historical perspective but traffic statistics tell us that the equivalent of a decent-sized European town is wiped off the face of the earth each and every year. (And it's much, much worse in the United States when it comes to not only road traffic deaths but also when you consider the vast numbers of all day-to-day hand-gun deaths). I am just old enough to remember the mass outcry in America when the federal government mandated the installation and wearing of seat belts in the mid-1960s. Even stranger, then, the mass hysterical reaction about perceived threats to our

'way of life', 'security' and 'safety' when it comes to relatively few extremists misusing Islam let alone ignoring its ethical precepts concerning justice, compassion and caring for the stranger. We will never achieve perfect security as Simon Kuper has noted in the Financial Times Magazine of 17th/18th January. 'Quite simply, it's the very reason why we are here on this earth' There are many, many reasons why an individual might commit acts of violence in the name of religion. In the case of France, there is a background of ruthless colonial behaviour in Algeria, for example, and an ongoing legacy of discrimination, unemployment and poverty in the more deprived Parisian banlieues. Surely, doesn't the best hope for a safer and more cohesive society lie in the long-term and painstaking work of social, academic, economic and political inclusion of all young people into the core of that society? Shouldn't we be capable of sufficiently valuing all human beings so that all feel a sense of belonging, meaning and hope? Of course the causes are complex but does it surprise any of us that the Kouachi brothers were orphaned early in life and that Hayat Boumeddiene's mother died when she was a small child? Should it be any surprise that emotionally deprived and disconnected youngsters might be more inclined to grow up to be insecure and vulnerable young adults who are susceptible to those extremist recruiters who seduce them by saying that their unhappy lives and deaths have a 'great' purpose? One of many outlets of social alienation



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

is anti-Semitism. What a tragedy it is that, so often, human solidarity seems to revolve around hating those in some other group. In this regard, we are all guilty of lumping people into static negative categories. We project the things we can't admit about ourselves onto someone else; usually someone who's somehow different and not the dominant political player. We have said, throughout history, that members of some particular group – Muslims, Jews, Communists, witches – want to take over the world. We thus make ourselves out to be victims in a struggle for our very survival; a truly dangerous outlook. As Jews, we must remind ourselves that in Western Europe today there is no such thing as state-sponsored anti-Semitism. We are considered by most everyone to be simply part of the basic part of the fabric. We are privileged. Let us not fall prey to those within our own ranks who may have an interest in furthering anxiety, fear and crisis among Jews in the Diaspora. Simon Kuper echoes the urgent question asked by Rodney King who was filmed being brutally beaten by Los Angeles police in 1992: 'Can we all get along?' I would go a step further. The real question is, how can we actually support and help each other as humanitarians? Like it or not we are all in the same very leaky capitalist boat. We must support each other's longings for a reasonably decent existence including peace, tranquillity and a sense of belonging and purpose. Quite simply, it's the very reason why we are here on this earth.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

From Neil Mendoza – chairman,
Hatch End Masorti Synagogue



Synagogue management can so often seem a thankless task. Those who give up their time voluntarily turn out for seemingly endless

meetings, engage in numerous emails and are frequently bombarded by queries requiring almost omnipresent knowledge. The ultimate irony is that so much of the time is spent trying to involve the uninvolved and to lay on activities to draw in those who only look to their shul for life-cycle events and a couple of extra days each year. By getting to the end of this paragraph, the reader probably has an interest level above a fair percentage of our overall membership!

Well, for all the demands on our time it can actually be fun and, approached in that spirit, is also rewarding. Looked on as a kind of hobby, shul involvement

provides the opportunity to make new friendships and pass a usually pleasant hour or so chatting away on the matters at hand and, so frequently, all sorts of wholly unrelated subjects! And, as long as we don't take ourselves too seriously and maintain a sense of humour, what might seem like a potential bind in the diary often turns out to be a pleasant experience which occasionally achieves at least something for the greater good!

So, apart from preaching to the converted, why am I reaching out to all? Whether within each of our three constituent synagogues, or at the overall Mosaic level, there are so many opportunities to get involved and contribute to our diverse activities. It need not take up a huge amount of your time; all contributions are of value and help to spread the numerous tasks that go on behind the scenes. And who knows – you may enjoy the coffee and biscuit and have more of a good time than you might have initially expected!

Board of Deputies

Notes from the plenary meeting of the BoD on Sunday
18th January at the British Medical Association

By Michael Reik – Board of
Deputies representative for Mosaic

A eulogy to Rabbi Abraham Schmuël Goldberg who was murdered in the shooting at Har Nof in November was given by his cousin.

Charlie Hebdo's circulation was reducing considerably down to 50/60k and could well have gone out of business but for the murders at their offices. Their circulation has risen to 4 million this week.

Louise Ellman, MP, stated that the murders in Paris proved that anti-Semitism is different to anti-racism. The Board have to ensure that Israel is not attacked as an apartheid and racist state.

At Birmingham University swastikas and anti-Semitic statements were rife – showing no change as a result of recent events in France

The ZF Lobby at House of Commons

on 4th February becomes more important every year.

There is an increased level of security at present time as a direct result of the Paris shootings.

There is overall agreement that as Jews we are well treated in the UK as our own entity and that there is no sign of British Jews generally wishing to leave the UK.

David Ward's recent comments were again brought to the notice of Nick Clegg as unacceptable for a member of Parliament.

Theresa May and Eric Pickles were then welcomed to the meeting

A prayer by Vivian Wineman was followed by a minute's silence. A prayer by a French rabbi was given for the 4 Jews murdered in Paris

We then sang Psalm 121 while holding up 'je suis Juif', 'je suis Charlie' and 'je suis Achmed' signs. Extremely emotional!

We then heard from Eric Pickles.

He professed disgust that the BBC correspondent in Paris should ask a French Jew about Israel policies with regard to Palestinians, as if all Jews in the world were responsible and inferring this could be an acceptable reason to attack Jews anywhere. He finished by stating he was proud to hold up the 'je suis Juif' sign.

Theresa May spoke stating the most telling comment made by the French Prime Minister was that if 100,000 Jews left France, it would no longer be the same country. She assured the delegates that police involvement within the Jewish community in the UK was being greatly increased and that anti-Semitism will not be tolerated by the Government.

A vote of thanks to both ministers was made by Laura Marks – senior Vice President.

Holocaust Memorial Day 27th January – 70 candles around the country will be lit. This year David Cameron has announced special events to ensure the Holocaust will be remembered in the future when survivors are no longer with us.



Terrorism in the heart of Paris

A personal view by Fred Stern



The French values of LIBERTÉ, ÉGALITÉ, FRATERNITÉ have been attacked. The civilised world condemned this attack on free expression, perpetrated by a section of people, purporting to represent a religion which strives to rule the world. It is essential that the paper's editorial immediately expresses its most vehement condemnation of the attack by extremist Muslims on the freedom of expression of a Parisian journal. Silence on this most revolting horror, carried out in the name of Islam, or the toning down of views expressed on this all-important matter which affects the whole world, would be construed as acceptance of terrorism on its citizens. The murder of French journalists was one of the most horrendous crimes perpetrated by extremist Muslims since the destruction of the Twin Towers and the murder of the Israeli Olympic football team.

As if that was not enough, other terrorists simultaneously besieged a kosher supermarket, killing four shoppers. Had it not been for the swift action of the police, more people could have met an early end. To paraphrase Primo Levi: where was God when Paris happened? And just before Shabbat? Every Jew in the world must shudder at this evil deed, as it could happen to any one of us. We must not allow this event to fade into oblivion, or accept this horrific act as a fait accompli, but fight it with every fibre in our bodies and every cell in our brains. Had the perpetrators of this dastardly crime not been allowed to roam freely in the country, their multiple offences and movements having been logged, this evil deed would not have happened! Apologetic Western leaders insist that they are not opposed to the terrorists' religion but to their deeds! Obviously, their deeds and their words are the direct results of the preaching of some of their religious leaders, as we have also experienced in this country. Anti-Semitism is a crime that must not be tolerated!

The world's leaders, gathering in Paris have recognised the devastating cancer

in our midst. Their efforts must now be turned, as promised, into a concerted attack on terrorism to preserve our values. If this were to fail, our progeny would not forgive this generation for its reluctance to fight the evil power. Our historians would condemn us long after our bones will be all that's left of us.

“ Silence, or the toning down of views expressed, would be construed as acceptance of terrorism ”

Rabbi Kathleen has responded to the above article, as follows:

It is clear that the writer of this letter wrote in haste (as he has admitted). This response was an emotional response: one of revulsion at what has happened and of fear and anger: emotions we all felt when we heard and read about the attacks in Paris.

Undoubtedly, the writer is absolutely right in demanding that the efforts of our leaders should 'now be turned, as promised, into a concerted attack on terrorism to preserve our values', but there are different ways to go about doing so.

Condemning Islam, as the source of this evil, is to my mind not the right approach. Obviously there are elements within Islam which lead to the fundamentalist and militant Muslim ideology of the Jihadist terrorists. I do strongly believe that Muslims themselves have to confront this issue. However, that does not mean that Islam itself leads to fundamentalism and terrorism.

Many faiths have gone through periods of militant fundamentalism. Just think of the Crusades and the Inquisition for example, but it would be wrong to condemn Christianity as a militant faith.

Instead of creating more suspicion and fear, we should work tirelessly with the moderate voices within Islam to turn the tide of fundamentalism. Just as we have to stand up for the values of our society, in which there is, and should be, no room for anti-Semitism or any other hatred, and in which each individual should be able to live freely and safely according to their own beliefs and traditions.

Chupah of the year at the Jewish Museum London!

For Richer, for Poorer:
Weddings Unveiled

Everyone loves a wedding! Perhaps no one more so than Mr H. Tenenbaum, who made helping Jewish couples in London's East End his life's profession. It was no easy task. He kept track of each prospect in his ledger, writing notes on potential matches in Yiddish next to each name. It was only when a match was successful that he was finally able to place his stamp – two hands joined together – next to their names.

His ledger dating the 1940s was discovered in a synagogue in Sunderland along with letters in Yiddish and English from parents and prospective partners. For the first time, it is on display as part of the Jewish Museum London's "For Richer, For Poorer: Weddings Unveiled" exhibition. Featuring a rich and rarely accessible collection of dresses, photographs, invitations and objects, the show tells the story of Britain's Jewish community from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century.

Through personal stories and effects, this remarkable exhibition reveals what life was like for London's Jews through the generations. Take a look at the earliest English ketubah in the museum's collection, dating from 1729. Peek into the 1857 wedding of the wealthy Baron Alphonse de Rothschild and his cousin Leonora de Rothschild through an engraving depicting the breaking of the glass under their chupah.

The exhibition will run through to May 31.



For further information visit
www.jewishmuseum.org.uk

EVENTS

All members of Mosaic are invited to come and share a

Tu b'Shevat Seder

at 8.00 pm on

Tuesday 3rd February

at Bessborough Road



Why is this Seder different from all other Seders?
What is a Tu b'Shevat Seder?



Instead of a standard sit down Seder, this will be a social evening with minimal ritual content but maximum impact!

We'll have four tables representing the four seasons and the four Worlds of Creation; each table will be decked out beautifully with the fruits to be eaten, the wine to be drunk and colours and symbols of the season and the world they represent. You will be able to admire the tables and move from table to table hearing about the various symbols, sampling the fruits and the wine.



Michael Reik will be "In conversation with Humphrey Phillips"

The fourth
in our "ELDER STATESMAN" series

Humphrey will tell how he was sent to a Jewish Boarding School, was consigned to a Sanatorium and ended up carrying out 29 missions over Germany with Bomber Command.

Immediately following Shabbat morning service
at 1.00 pm

Saturday 28th February at 39 Bessborough Road

ISRAEL GENERAL ELECTION 2015

MOSAIC invites you to

A VERY SPECIAL PRE ISRAELI ELECTION EVENING

(With just 9 days to the Israeli General Election)

At 7:00pm on

Sunday 8th March

WILL IT BE MORE OF THE SAME OR A STEP INTO THE UNKNOWN?

Professor Alan Johnson of BICOM (Britain Israel Communications & Research Centre) & Editor of Fathom Journal
will chair a panel of experts on Israel and Israeli politics

&

our man on the Street in Israel – Rabbi Paul Arberman (live via Skype link)

The Evening will comprise short talks by our guests followed by a discussion and then a Q&A session where you are encouraged to ask the speakers any relevant questions.

There will be plenty of time to enjoy some very light refreshments and chat with friends and our invited guests.
The evening is free, but donations to MOSAIC's Chosen Charities would be appreciated.

FREDDIE KNOLLER

WILL VISIT HAMAKOM
At 39 Bessborough Road at 11.30 a.m. on

SUNDAY 8th MARCH

To tell his inspiring story

All those over the age of 12 are invited to attend

Freddie Knoller was 17 years old when the Nazis entered Austria in 1938 and he had to leave his parental home for the first time. He illegally entered Belgium and then made his way to Paris where he worked the red light district for the Nazi Troops. Again forced to leave, he fled to central France where he worked with the French Resistance. Compromised by his lover, he returned to Drancy and was ultimately deported to Auschwitz. Forced on a death march from Auschwitz to Bergen-Belsen, Freddie was liberated by the British in April 1945. In 1947, he emigrated to the USA and became a naturalised US citizen. In 1950 he met his wife, Freda, an English girl. After two years in Baltimore, they made their way to London where they now live. They have two daughters, Marcia and Susie.



All those who were able to walk, we had to walk from Auschwitz to Gleiwitz...about twenty or thirty kilometres. It was January, -20°C with our pyjamas on...so many people collapsed and so many people ran away into the woods, the Germans surrounded us - Shooting*.

EVENTS



Where were you on VE day, 8th May 1945?

What were you (or your parents/grandparents) doing 1939 - 45? Have you a story to tell?

We want to remember and celebrate 70 years since VE day.

Photographic exhibition - do you have any photos from VE day or WW2 (either your own or from relatives) that we can borrow or copy?

Can you write a short memory to include in the exhibition?



There will be a special Mosaic "street party" Kiddush on
Shabbat, 9th May

Please come along & share this commemoration.



Do you have any WW2 era recipes or ideas we can use?

Would you like to be part of a team to organise this day and exhibition of memories?
If so, please contact Jane Prentice c/o Mosaic office 8864 0133 or at jane.prentice@mosaic.co.uk

Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith c/o HWPS office 8864 5323

Mosaic Walk

From Soho to Mayfair - Sunday 1st March

Join Mosaic Walk for this, the fourth in a series of five jolly interesting walks in London, from the once cosmopolitan, now sleazy, Soho to the once aristocratic, now just disgustingly rich, Mayfair. Hear about the Great Beer Disaster of 1814 and why you must not run or whistle in Burlington Arcade; see the street where the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York were mugged! The walk concludes with lunch (optional) at a Turkish restaurant in Shepherd's Market, the heart of Mayfair. Numbers are limited for this Sunday morning walk, so please contact John Ashmele [or email: john@ashmele.co.uk](mailto:john@ashmele.co.uk) as soon as possible. There is no fee for this walk, but a suggested donation of £5 pp to a Synagogue charity would be appreciated.

email: john@ashmele.co.uk

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



Purim activities

**Wednesday
4th March 2015**

Members and friends are welcome to attend either or both of our two Purim activities.

At 18.30 there will be a service featuring a traditional reading of the Megillat Esther downstairs in the Mosaic Reform sanctuary led by Rabbi Kathleen de Magtige-Middleton.

At 19.45 refreshments will be served downstairs in the Kiddush Hall.

At 20.15 there will be a special activity upstairs in the HWPS sanctuary concerning the rediscovered fragment of a Purim play performed during the Shoah in the Theresienstadt Ghetto. Our guest scholar will be Dr Lisa Peschel, Lecturer at the University of York, whose book, *Performing Captivity, Performing Escape: Cabarets and Plays from the Terezin/ Theresienstadt Ghetto* was published in 2014 by Seagull Press. The darkly humorous text of this particular Purim spiel speaks of the prisoners' humanity, creativity and persistence of hope despite suffering harrowing persecution. Dr Peschel will be presenting in collaboration with Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith.



Film Mosaic Tuesday 17th February

'Keeping the Faith' (subtitles available)

Jake (Ben Stiller) and Brian (Edward Norton) are friends. They are Jewish and Catholic respectively. They grow up and become a rabbi and priest. Anna (Jenna Elfman), a girl they knew when they were younger, comes back to town a stunning woman. Jake is up to be the head Rabbi of his synagogue but he is not married which doesn't make his appointment any easier. He finds himself attracted to Anna but because she's not Jewish, he can't marry her as it would make his appointment even less likely. Brian also finds himself attracted to Anna, but the priesthood creates an insurmountable obstacle. Their friendship is strained when each learns of the other's feelings for her.

Released in 2000, KEEPING THE FAITH is a gentle, warm, and funny movie, guaranteed to leave you with a wide smile as you make your way home

Harrow Friendship Club

Entertainment for the over-60s

February/March

Mondays: 11:00 to 14:30

- 2nd Feb** Have your say at our AGM
- 9th Feb** Roy Blass entertains
- 16th Feb** Return visit of Leonie Paige
- 23rd Feb** Reminiscence afternoon
- 2nd Mar** Stevie Permutt entertains
- 9th Mar** Purim Party

For further information call

020 8121 2200

Review of past events



An evening with Jay Rayner

By Steve Levinson

An Evening with Jay Rayner proved to be a culinary, musical and social success for all who attended this Mosaic event in December. Also there was the added bonus that it made a profit of £2,500 and provided a hugely entertaining evening for 180 people.

Jay explained in his witty presentation that it was his second appearance at the Synagogue – the first being his Barmitzva. He had spent his youth living just round the corner with his late parents Claire and Des.

He called his talk “My Dining Hell” and provided a catalogue of pet hates – like over attentive waiters and nonsensical menus. His favourite dish turned out to be snails. These were not on the menu for the refreshment break but instead there was an excellent variety of tasty snacks and hors d’oeuvres.

But for me the highlight of the evening was the Jazz session provided by the Jay Rayner Quartet. Jay turned out to be a talented pianist and his quartet also included bassist Robert Rickenberg and saxophonist Dave Lewis. The vocals were provided by Pat Gordon-Smith, a sweet voiced and talented lady, who turned out to be Jay’s wife.

And the music kept with the food and drink flavour of the evening with old favourites like “One More for the Road”, “Love Me tender” (for steak lovers!) and “That Old Black Magic”.

Cairo Geniza Manuscripts

By Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith

Thanks to Rabbi Michael Hilton (Kol Chai) for conceiving and organising the very successful trip to see the Cairo Geniza papers at the Cambridge University Library on 3rd December. Getting forty members to join the trip – coming from a variety of communities and locations – was a great achievement and due to the excellent choice of topic.

The Cairo Geniza contained papers discarded from about 1100 until the 1890s. They are housed in the Cambridge Library and available for study by researchers and for viewing by members of the public. The collection includes correspondence and documents relating to all aspects of everyday life: religious, economic and social.

The picture shows the group looking at a letter signed by the Rambam, Moses Maimonides, who lived in Cairo during the last decades of his life serving as physician to the Fatimid caliphs as well as a leader of the Jewish community.

Even to those familiar with Professor Solomon Goitein’s research concerning Jewish life in the Mediterranean region in the Middle Ages, the trip was rewarding in being able to view the stunning primary source materials first-hand. These tangible reminders of the mutually enriching multi-faith associations and



also the diversity within the Jewish community throughout many centuries of existence in Fustat, as well as all around the Mediterranean, was especially meaningful.

Simchat Torah

THE JEWISH FESTIVAL OF SIMCHAT TORAH, as seen by two non-Jewish guests of Mosaic Reform’s Challat Torah and Bereshit – Sue and Peter Ellis. (This article was published in their Church magazine).

In mid-October, Sue and I were invited to the Middlesex New Synagogue in Harrow to celebrate the festival of Simchat Torah.

This celebration marks the end and the beginning of the yearly reading of the holy scroll (the Torah). The last part (Deuteronomy) of the Torah is read, ending the annual reading. The holy scroll is then rolled back to the beginning, and the first part (Genesis) of the Torah is then read, beginning again the annual reading of the holy scroll. Rolling the scrolls back is a difficult task and often completed by the Rabbi. The scrolls that we saw were very old, one actually having been written in Czechoslovakia several hundred years ago.

We were the guests of two people from Bereavement Care; this charity is supported by Pinner Parish Church and Sue and I are both trustees. One friend had the honour of reading the section from Deuteronomy; this person is called the Kallah or Bride of the Torah (Judy Silverton). The other friend (Karen Pollak) read from the Book of Genesis and this person is known as the Kallah Bereshit or Bride of Genesis.

The festival of Simchat Torah is a very happy occasion. There is singing and dancing within the synagogue. The singing in Hebrew was led by a guitar group. The festival is very ‘child-friendly’: the children dance with special flags and sweets are thrown around for the children to catch (though we managed to catch a few as well!). A little alcohol is consumed by the adults (we managed that as well!). After the festival there was an excellent communal meal in a side room. Everyone was very welcoming and all appeared very happy!

Local

By David Pollak

Another year of school visits is now over and David Pollak shares with us some of the hundreds of letters received from children who have enjoyed their visit to our synagogue and being shown around by Jeanette, Jane, Jacky, Michael, Kathleen and David. All the children are aged between 6 and 11 and come from schools in Harrow. We can’t share the wonderful illustrations that adorn many of the letters, but here are some of the more memorable phrases from the letters. The original spelling and language has been respected throughout. Enjoy...!

...Amazingly Jaki showed us some ancient scrolls and it was an honour to look at them...

....you wer really good on the guitar and I hope you think so to...

....David tuned the guitar beautifully...

.....I enjoyed shaking the lulva. They made a lot of noise...

.....Last but not least, it was an houner to be invited to your stunning, nature-loving sukkah...

....I thurelly enjoyed singing in hebru words....The shofar blast was extremely loud and made me feel a bit dizzy...

....The torahs was surprisingly were very old and long...

....Later on we said blessings before eating cake, bread and blackcurrant juice known as wine...

.....It is probably the best school trip that I have ever been on and one of the best experiences of my life...

.....Dear David the Rabbi of harrow Synagogue....

....I was flabbergasted that you could not touch the torah....

....it was real fun the bit where you gave us real food on a school trip...

....the most fun thing I liked was waving the palm leave thing and something that looked like a lemon...

...PS the great Juice made my tongue num...

school visits

....I also liked looking a suckot it was amazing and very yummy too...

....I had no idea what Shalom ment but it means piece and harmony now I’m much more interested in R.E.....

....Dear David.....I really enjoyed it and my favraite thing we learnt was the other Mrs showing us the Tora...

... the Torah looked very small but surprisingly the Torah is as long as a foot...

...I also found out that the women have to do hard work on Friday and then have a big day off...

...My most interesting fakt was that you sining in Hebrew...

...I enjoyed when Lili and I lit the candle because she is my best friend ever and lv never lit a candel in my entire life...

....It was such a exciting trip that I’d love to go again...

....I loved learning everything. I enjoyed it as much as a dog who has found a HUGE bone!...

....I have learnt prayers about the Torah and Hebrew songs. It was very cool because it was like we were speaking in a different language...

....I realy enjoyed the singing however the Torah was interesting too!...

....Mostly I liked the bit where we lit the candles. I liked that because it brightened the room...

.....Hallelujah was funny because we had to stand up and sit down, stand up, sit down...

.....It was very fun we had some food in the Sukkah which looked like a little hut full of food. I was a bit hungry then so thanks...

....I thought the lemon like fruit was as bumpy as a toads back...

....Since then I’ve been singing shalom over and over and its been driving my family round the bend...

....I loved it at the Synagogue and if I was Jewish I would be back again...

...Firstly I learnt the Torah was as long as a football pitch...

...I was surprised that if the Scriber makes a mistake they would have to start the page again. I am so lucky I have a rubber...

....The tora is really long. Its about the size

of a massive hall...

....I was surprised to know cholla is their holy food...

....I learned that the jewish people write backwards...

....The best thing about being a Jew is you get to eat the tasty challah bread...

....It was a great pleasure to sing. It was hilarious, And by the way, your voice is very nice...

....If someone else (Jewish) wrote another Torah will the old one be replaced?...

....The food was extremely delightful, the singing was stupendous and as for looking at the Torah...

...How many words are there in a tohorah? I would really like to know...

...When we switched to learn about the Torah I learnt that it could take over a year to pray...

...PS: I loved the cake...

...The Scroll looked beutifull with patterns, lions and drawing not to mention the bells on top and silver tablet like pattern on a piece of metal...

...The singing was nice but really funny mostly and seriously I couldn’t even close my mouth...

...In my opinion the singing was hilarious and also informative. I learnt a lot of new hebrew words...

...PS: The food really filled my ravenous stomach...

....I can’t stop singing all of the songs we had learnt...

....I thank you deeply for Sharing your knowledge to me. Shalom...

...The pretend Shabbath was awesome and the crackers tasted great...

...I loved your songs lesson. Song 5 is still in My Head...

....When I saw the tora/Torahs My Mouth was left open...

....I hope you have had a fantastic time with us because we did aswell...

....The best thing about being a Jew is you get to eat the tasty challah bread...

And from a teacher...

.....All the pupils enjoyed the trip and so did the staff!

Foreign Travel

(with a Jewish theme)



Steve and Viv Levinson in Arizona

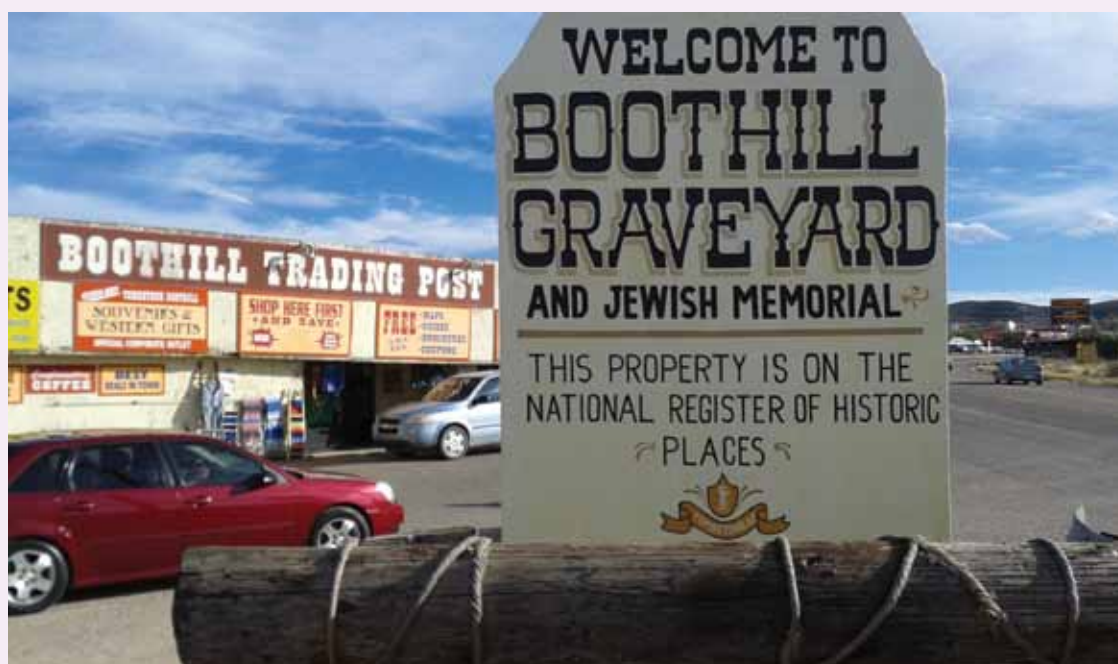
Wild West Roots in Arizona?

The deep south of Arizona is Apache country, made famous by Geronimo, Cochise and other leaders who battled against the US Cavalry. It's also where legendary cowboys, sheriffs and outlaws waged their deadly shoot outs.

So, on our recent driving holiday in the area, we decided to visit those Wild West sites like the Tonto memorial, OK Corral and Boot Hill. Boot Hill Graveyard and

the OK Corral are in Tombstone, aptly named because it was thought that most newcomers were likely to end up under one of these!

Boot Hill is where the Clancey brothers were buried after taking on Wyatt Earp, and Doc Holliday in the Gunfight at OK Corral. So, imagine our surprise when we rolled up to find the signs outside (see pics) directing us to the Jewish memorial and cemetery. We never found the cemetery, as the sign pointed off into the distant Wild West mountains, but the memorial was clear enough, with its dedication to the "Jewish pioneers and their Indian friends". At the top it says "Shalom", which may be Hebrew for "How!". Perhaps we discovered two things: that Doc Holliday was a nice Jewish boy who got to be a doctor, and the Apaches are the lost tribe!



Judy and Philip Silverton in Mexico City

What a familiar tale! (The history of the Jewish Community in Mexico City)

We were able to contact an amazing and dedicated lady, Monica Unikel-Fasja, who led a walking tour around the city centre of Mexico City, tracing the Jewish community's development over the last 120 years or so.

Mexico City has 23 million inhabitants, 23 synagogues and 7 million cars. Virtually all of the Jewish communities are now located in the more spacious and unpolluted outer suburbs.

You could have guessed that we would share the tour with a small group, including a former member of Hendon Reform shul and a pupil of North London Collegiate School!

The community developed in the early 20th century, with Sephardi and Ashkenazi immigrants settling in and around Jesus and Mary Street (yes, really!). As the community expanded and flourished, the inevitable happened and there was a move out to the delightful suburbs surrounding the largest park in the city.

We saw buildings that served

as kosher butchers, bakeries and even the Jewish maternity hospital operating upstairs, above rather less sanitary retailers!

The early immigrants took over shops and workshops with accommodation behind and above. These buildings are still used for similar purposes by newer businesses. In fact, there are still many mezuzot dating from the early 20th century on the door frames.

Some synagogues remain in the area. One is still used for daily Minchah (by the older members of the community) and for weddings. It has been beautifully restored and the original facade has been revealed behind a poorly built brick wall. The other local shul (still behind another facade) is now used as a Jewish history centre and conference hall. This is where Monica has her office and runs her historical research centre.

So, you can see that it's the same old, same old story. We may well have experienced this tour in London or New York. At least we are predictable in our wanderings!

If music be the food of love, play on...

By Lindsey Cohen

“I wanted to write a few words to introduce ‘Berakah’ to Mosaic and to make Kehila readers aware of the treat in store for the community”

Adrian and I have been to several Berakah concerts over the last few years, including one at HWPS's old building in Wembley and the over 80's Chanukah tea party in 2013. Berakah is an interfaith, bridge-building, group of professional musicians which comprises Mo – guitar, Serena – violin, Mark – piano and Chantelle – singer.

Each member of the band is an extremely talented musician in his or her own right, and together they are amazing. Their version of "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For" casts the original by U2 in the shade! We were lucky to hear them in concert together with the interfaith Berakah choir in December. Knowing that Rabbi Frank and Mo are fixing a date to hold a concert at Bessborough Road, as well as music workshops for religion school pupils I wanted to write a few words to introduce them to Mosaic and to make Kehila readers aware of the treat in store for the community.

It's a funny thing to go to a concert and think of "love". The name Berakah means "blessing" in Hebrew AND Arabic – how wonderful that such a wonderful word should be the same in both languages. The group has been writing and playing beautiful music together for ten years with the ethos that music is a bridge between faiths and cultures and could, possibly, be a key to peace between religions and peoples in conflict. They have created a project which, to quote their website, "uses music to transcend barriers built by faith and culture, bringing people together in a spirit of understanding and shared

values". This project has "contacts from all faiths committed to promoting respect, acceptance of differences and explorations of common or shared origins". This is so important during these troubled times when anti-Semitism and Islamophobia are prevalent in the media and on UK streets.

In addition to concerts, Berakah holds music workshops for disadvantaged young people throughout the UK and also runs

workshops in schools. Mo has been to Israel/Palestine to bring children and young adults together through music projects.

How to describe the music? Gentle, acoustic, catchy, Israeli, Arabic, folk and jazz somehow mingle and emerge as a glorious web that somehow settles almost physically on its audience to enfold them with – yes, that's right – love.

STOP PRESS

Save the date of Thursday 4 June when Berakah will be holding a special 10th Anniversary Concert at St James Church, Piccadilly. Well worth the schlep into town! Bring family and friends from all faiths or none to share an incredible experience! You can find more info on their website www.theberakahproject.org and Facebook. Contact me on 020 8428 7428 if you fancy travelling together as a Mosaic delegation.

Once you've heard Berakah once you'll certainly want to hear them again. Frank and Mo are trying to find a date for the group to come to Bessborough Road, so keep an eye out for the notice in Kehila.



Do you have an eye for a bargain?
Would you like to go shopping with our money?
Have you ever fancied becoming a window dresser?
Can you donate a little of your time to the Community?

If the answer to any (or all) of the above is "yes" then have we got a job for you!!

Please contact the Mosaic office to see whether you could help us by re-stocking the Judaica Shop.

No previous experience is necessary!

Why not ask a friend to help you with this venture?

We look forward to hearing from you on 020-8864 0133 or admin@choosemosaic.org.




The Giving Machine
Do You Shop Online?

We know a growing number of you and your friends shop online. So Mosaic Reform has opened an account with The Giving Machine to generate cash donations for us every time you shop online ... and the real beauty of it is that it won't cost you anything apart from the extra click to go via www.thegivingmachine.co.uk into the online shop.

Every purchase you make generates a cash donation to Mosaic Reform, and it all adds up quickly to a significant amount. You shop, they give; it's as simple as that. Visit www.thegivingmachine.co.uk or contact John@Ashmele.co.uk for further information.

Volunteers needed !!

We need a few more people who would be willing to serve tea and coffee for the 'Meet and Greet' from 9:15 to 10:30 before Shabbat morning services.

It is a very sociable 45 minutes and there is no preparation or washing-up required.

If you are willing to help, please contact

Thanks in advance!!

2015 MOSAIC CALENDAR

Our thanks to all those members who have kindly made a donation to Mosaic following receipt of their 2015 Calendars. Additional donations will be gratefully accepted. A few copies of the calendar are available for purchase from the Mosaic office.

Kiev Koppers Update

From Rita Asbury

Thanks to a very large collection of coppers from the sanctuary jar and other donations, I was able to add another £100 in the Kiev Kopper account towards the end of December. This money went towards augmenting the kindergarten Chanukah celebrations.

Our total collected at the start of 2015 stands at £15,300. Last year we added £600 to the fund, (we have raised more in previous years). Let's make this coming year a bumper year. The cost of almost everything in Ukraine has doubled but incomes have stayed the same. It is therefore even more important to keep on collecting.

Thank you to everyone who is contributing and as always..... KEEP the KOPPERS KOMING!

Group 326

In case some of you have been wondering what has happened to us and whether indeed some of us are still around or even perhaps have left this earth, I wish to reassure you that we are certainly still here.

We regularly entertain at many Jewish Welfare homes and have had a very busy year with bookings well into next year. For our new members in "Mosaic", Group 326 have raised a great deal of money over the years for HWPS and many other charities.

If our new "friends" have a favourite charity or a home which perhaps a relative is in, please let Sylvia Freedman know. Telephone:

Mosaic moments

Photograph: FDS

Feo Kahn celebrates her 105th birthday in her own home with HWPS friends including Adrian Cohen (Synagogue Chairperson) and Joy Katz (Care Committee Coordinator).

Letter signed by The Rambam amongst the Cairo Geniza papers (see page 10)

Mosaic Shabbat-Chanukah Lunch

HaMakom Chanukah Craft Day

Please get involved in helping to create our new cookbook



Jonelle Roback and Karen Pollak are putting together a new MOSAIC COMMUNITY COOKBOOK to celebrate our new 3 way community and would love you to share with us your favourite recipe(s) which, once tried and tested, may then be included in the finished glossy cookbook.

The recipes can include anything from Starters, Main courses, Desserts, Biscuits, Breads, Cakes etc Full fat, Non-fat, Gluten Free, Dairy Free...anything goes!

If you would like your recipe(s) to be considered please email us all of the following information to cookbook@choosmosaic.org

For each recipe please share with us:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| (1) Your name and all contact details | (5) Please tell us something about this recipe. Is it an old family recipe that you have chosen to share with us? Does it remind you of someone special? Or do you just love the recipe and are sure we will too? |
| (2) Name of Recipe | |
| (3) Ingredients | |
| (4) Method | |

League of Jewish Women – Pinner Branch

Tuesday 24th February – 20:00

Talk by Andrew Robertson – Chief Executive at King Edward Hospital,

Wednesday March 18th – 20:00

AGM – Guest speaker will be Yvonne Josse – National Welfare Officer at League Head Office

For venue details, etc contact

Ms. Helen 0208 1234 5678

Ms. Sarah 0208 1234 5678



Kehila Quiz No. 5 (Religion)

Compiled by Neil Goodman

1 Who was the founder of the Franciscan Order of Monks?

2 What is the principal religion of Hungary?

3 What religious leader made a first visit to Britain in 1973?

4 The Temple of the Tooth (Sri Lanka) claims to house which legendary dental relic?

5 Whose story is told in Genesis 4:1 to 4:16?

Answers on page 18



The Chairman of
Mosaic Reform Synagogue
requests the pleasure of your company at a

Civic Service
on
Saturday 14th March 2015

Please be seated by 10.15 am.

39 Bessborough Road
Harrow
HA1 3BS

RSVP
by 28th February
Ann Simon 020-8864 0133
Or admin@mosaicreform.org.uk

At Belmont Lodge, part of the
Abbeyfield Camden Jewish Society,
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WELCOME

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We currently have a vacancy.

For rates, availability and more information contact the Admissions Secretary, Nicola Winkler 01923 826402 nicola_winkler@hotmail.com or the House Manager 01923 213964.
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Letters to the Editor

From Helen West

Thank you

My sister – Rita Koten – and I would like to thank everyone for their kindness, overwhelming support, visits and good wishes following the death of our dear sister Maureen Sevelovitch.

From Vivienne Shreir

Thank you

My heartfelt thanks to Rabbi Frank, Chairman Adrian Cohen and to all my many friends at HWPS for their kind help and good wishes following my recent operation.

I hope to be out and about again soon.

From Ruth Barnett

Recipe for love

I believe you called for our favourite recipes for the Mosaic Cookbook:

The best ever Wedding Cake

4lbs of Love
1lb butter of youth
1lb of good looks
2lbs of sweet temper
1lb blindness of faults
2lbs of self-forgetfulness
1lb of wit
1lb of good humour
2 tablespoons of sweet argument
1 pint of rippling laughter
1 wine glass of common sense
1 oz of modesty



Put the love, good looks and sweet temper into a well-furnished house. Beat the butter of youth to a cream and mix well together with the blindness of faults. Stir the pounded wit and good humour into the sweet argument, then add the rippling laughter and common sense. Work the whole together until everything is well mixed, and bake gently forever.

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KEHILA QUIZ NO. 5 (RELIGION) – ANSWERS

1. St Francis of Assisi 2. Roman Catholic 3. Dalai Lama 4. Canine tooth of Buddha 5. Cain and Abel

Childrens' Birthdays

Samson Jacobs, 7
Chloe Shackell, 5
Elizabeth Witte, 3
Victoria de Magtige, 8
Daniella Phillips, 7
Isaac Wolff, 2

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

Get in touch!



Mosaic
Choose your Jewish life

Office 020 8864 0133
Email: admin@choosemosaic.org
Address: 39 Bessborough Road,
Harrow HA1 3BS
Chairman: Harry Grant
Email: chairman@choosemosaic.org
Membership Officer: Lindsey Cohen
Email: membership@choosemosaic.org
Website: www.choosemosaic.org



Office 020 8864 0133
Email office@hems.org.uk
Chairman: Neil Mendoza
Hon. Secretary: Edwin Lucas
Rabbi Paul Arberman (via email in Israel):
rabbi@hems.org.uk
Burials Officer: Edward Kafka
JJBS: 020 8989 5252

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



Office: 020 8864 0133
Email: admin@mosaicreform.org.uk
Chairman: Barbara Grant
Hon. Secretary: Juliet Grainger
Rabbi Kathleen Middleton: (use only when Office is closed)
Bereavement Support (Bobbi Riesel):
JJBS: 020 8989 5252

HARROW & WEMBLEY PROGRESSIVE SYNAGOGUE

Office: 020 8864 5323
Email: admin@hwps.org
Chairman: Adrian Cohen
Vice Chairman: Alan Solomon
Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith:
Membership Secretary: Lindsey Cohen
Rites and Practices: Kevin Ziants
Care Co-ordinator: Joy Katz
Liberal Judaism: 020 7580 1663
Undertakers: Michael King Funeral Directors
0208 368 7453 / 07595 956 936

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 0208 864 0133 for more information.

Some big, some small,
and everything in Shul.

Some big, some small,
and everything in Shul.

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

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

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 09:30

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

February

Sunday	1st	15:00	Cameo – group for bereaved people
Tuesday	3rd	20:00	Tu b'Shevat Seder (see p6)
Wednesday	4th	20:00	Council meetings
Saturday	7th	09:30	Parshat haShavuah with Rabbi Dabba Smith
Tuesday	10th	20:00	Mosaic Photography group
Saturday	14th	09:30	Zionist personalities with Rabbi Frank – Golda Meir
Sunday	15th		Kehila copy date
Tuesday	17th	20:00	Mosaic Film Club – ‘Keeping the Faith’ (see p9)
Wednesday	18th	12:30	HWPS Lunch club
Thursday	26th		Kehila distribution
Friday	27th		HWPS Erev Shabbat service and chavurah fishetarian supper.
Saturday	28th	09:30	Torah Tots
		1300	Michael Reik in conversation with Humphrey Phillips (see p6)

March

Sunday	1st	10:30	Walk 39 – Soho to Mayfair (see p8)
		15:00	Cameo – group for bereaved people
Monday	2nd		Copy Date for Pesach edition of ‘seasonal’ Kehila
Wednesday	4th	18:30	Erev Purim – activities (see p9)
Thursday	5th		PURIM
Saturday	7th	09:30	Parshat haShavuah with Rabbi Kathleen
		10:30	HaMakom Assistants’ Graduation
Sunday	8th	11:30	Freddie Knoller visiting HaMakom (see p7)
		14:45	Stone setting – Renee Phillips – Edgwarebury
		19:00	Pre-Israeli election evening (see p7)
Monday	9th	11:00	Harrow Friendship Club
Tuesday	10th	20:00	Mosaic Photography group
Wednesday	11th	20:00	Council meetings
Saturday	14th	10:30	Civic Service (see p17)
Sunday	15th		Harrow Limmud
Wednesday	18th	12:30	HWPS Lunch Club
Sunday	22nd	14:00	Stone setting – Rosalind Avadis – Cheshunt
		14:45	Stone setting – Stella Leaderman – Cheshunt
Thursday	26th		Distribution of Pesach edition of ‘seasonal’ Kehila
Friday	27th	19:00	HWPS Erev Shabbat service and chavurah fishetarian supper.
Saturday	28th	09:30	Torah Tots
		09:30	Zionist personalities with Rabbi Frank – Moshe Dayan
Sunday	29th		HaMakom – term ends
Tuesday	31st	10:00	Pesach cook-in

Every Week

February | March

Monday 11:00	Harrow Friendship Club
	(see p9)
Monday 20:00	HWPS Group 326
	(see p14)
Sunday	09:45 HaMakom



Mosaic
Choose your Jewish life